

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION TO:

Development and validation of a microRNA-based signature (MiROvaR) to predict early relapse or progression of epithelial ovarian cancer: a cohort study.

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miRNA expression profiling from formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) and fresh frozen samples and quality controls

RNA from the OC179 FFPE case material, derived from MITO2 trial ¹, was extracted from three 20- μ m-thick FFPE sections using the miRNeasy FFPE kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA, USA). RNA concentration was determined using the ND-1000 spectrophotometer (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA USA). A quality check was carried out using RT-qPCR and Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer Small RNA assay (Agilent Technologies). Briefly, RNA quality was evaluated by RT-qPCR amplification of two amplicons of different length for three housekeeping genes (GAPDH, RPL13a, ACTB) according to Ravo et al. ². Samples with short/long amplicon ratio lower than 5 were considered of acceptable quality for microarray analysis. In addition, 3 miRNAs (hsa-miR-16, hsa-miR-21, hsa-miR-451) expected to be highly expressed by literature data, were detected by RT-qPCR and samples with Ct values lower than 28 cycles were considered of acceptable quality for microarray analysis. miRNA expression profiling was performed using custom Agilent Sureprint G3 8 \times 60K microarrays designed on miRBase 17.0 and identifying 1520 miRNAs. 100 ng of total RNA were labelled and hybridised following the recommended Agilent's protocols. Microarray slides were then washed and scanned with a DNA microarray scanner (Agilent Technologies). Raw data were generated using the Feature Extraction Software v10.7.3.1 (Agilent Technologies) and data normalisation and filtering procedures were performed by means of the AgiMicroRna R package ³. The robust multiarray average algorithm (RMA) was used to summarise the results. Data were log₂-transformed and normalised, using the quantile algorithm; eventually, miRNAs flagged as absent were removed.

Fresh frozen tumour specimens from the OC133 case material included in the OC263 series were mechanically disrupted and homogenised in the presence of QIAzol Lysis reagent (Qiagen) using a Retsch MM200 dismembrator (Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO, USA). RNA was extracted using the miRNeasy Mini kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. RNA concentration and quality were assessed using the NanoDrop ND-100 Spectrophotometer and the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer using the RNA 6000 Nano kit (Agilent Technologies), respectively. Samples included in the study had a RIN (RNA Integrity Number) score >6. miRNA expression profiling was performed using the Illumina Human_v2 MicroRNA expression profiling kit, based on the DASL (cDNA-mediated Annealing, Selection, Extension, and Ligation) assay, according to the manufacturer's instructions (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, USA). Briefly, 300 ng/sample total RNA was converted to cDNA followed by annealing of a miRNA-specific oligonucleotide pool consisting of: (i) a universal PCR priming site at the 5' end; (ii) an address sequence complementary to a capture sequence on the BeadArray; and (iii) a miRNA-specific sequence at the 3' end. After PCR amplification and fluorescent labelling, probes were hybridised on Illumina miRNA BeadChips, washed, and fluorescent signals were detected by the Illumina BeadArrayTM Reader. Data were collected using BeadStudio V3.0 software and raw data were quantile normalised using GenomeStudio v2011.1 and Illumina Expression module v19.0 (Illumina).

Concerning miRNA profiling, the TCGA used only frozen tissue while we used both frozen as well as FFPE samples. However, as previously reported in Bagnoli et al. ⁴ for the dataset OC130 (included in validation set 1 OC263), data obtained on frozen samples could be highly reproduced in FFPE samples and vice versa.

Our previous work ⁵ clearly demonstrated the inter-platform reproducibility of Agilent and Illumina platform. Since the microarrays are designed on different miRBase versions, instead of developing multiple signature (one for each dataset) containing different list of miRNAs that cannot be confirmed because of their absence in the validation sets, our strategy was to build a single model that could be validated. The number of miRNAs shared in all platforms that entered the process of model development was 385. The complete list is reported in Supplementary Table 2.

Assessment of miROvaR performance.

MiROvaR performance was evaluated by ROC curves, following the guidelines established by Steyerberger et al. ⁶ Prediction accuracy was evaluated at maximum time point of follow-up using time dependent ROC curves, computed using SurvJamda R package ⁷ in training and validation sets. A non-parametric estimator for censored survival data, based on nearest neighbor bivariate distribution developed by Heagerty et al. ⁸ was applied to estimate time-dependent sensitivity and 1-specificity. The accuracy of the prediction was plotted as the mean and standard deviation following a 10-time cross-validation procedure (see Supplementary Figure 3A) We then decided to analyze the performance of our predictor in the sub-set of high-grade serous cases present in the OC263 validation set for a more direct comparison with the second validation set OC452 derived from TCGA data. The analysis of Type II sub-set was done taking into consideration the new proposed classification of ovarian cancer that, besides HGSOc, includes in this sub-set also endometrioid high grade, undifferentiated ovarian cancer and Malignant mixed mullerian tumor. The performance of MiROvaR in separating patients included in these two sub-groups of OC263 is reported in Supplementary Figure 3B and is definitely higher than the performance on TCGA data-set.

Definition of clinical end-points and statistical analysis.

PFS was chosen as primary end-point. The identification of molecular classifiers like MiROvaR is based on an a priori choice of the outcome of interest. In our case, since the main goal of our predictor was to identify early relapsing patients, we reasoned that PFS would be the more appropriated end point. PFS is widely accepted as a reasonable end-point in ovarian cancer ⁹, both clinically and in terms of new drug development, particularly in the first-line of treatment

due to the fact that post-progression survival may be quite long and affected also by different and heterogeneous second-line treatments diluting the differences eventually seen in PFS. Since the training set OC179 derived from the MITO2 clinical trial (see supplementary Figure 1), we necessary used in this analysis the same definitions of PFS used in the MITO2 clinical trial¹. Therefore, PFS is defined starting from the date of randomization and this is an out-of-discussion rule in randomized trials and within the intention-to-treat analysis. Date of surgery in OC179, could not be used as a starting point for several reasons: for many patients there would be a window time between surgery and informed consent; for some patients surgery might have been diagnostic only and certainty and quality of data might not be warranted because pertaining to procedures out of the study. As regard with median follow-up and data maturity, they are very high in the MITO2 trial, from which OC179 training set has been derived, and this is typical of prospective clinical trials. Therefore, we don't believe that further updates are possible within this data set, also because increasing the follow-up there will be a growing effect of competitive non-cancer-related death. The same applies for the two validations sets (OC263 and OC452). Since no other public datasets with fully annotated clinical data are available, to further validate MiROvaR we are already working on subsequent MITO trials where tumor collection has become mandatory to possibly avoid attrition bias (MITO 16 program NCT01706120 and NCT01802749).

We used multivariable analysis by Cox regression model to evaluate the independent prognostic impact of MiROvaR. Among the variables with known prognostic value we selected those considered as the stronger ones in terms of PFS prediction, i.e. FIGO stage and residual disease after primary surgery and the impact of the latter was independent of the categories use: SOD vs. OD (see Table 3) or NED vs. mRD vs. GRD (Supplementary Table 3).

MiROvaR confirmed its ability in classifying high vs. low risk patients both in training and in the two validation sets also when overall survival was considered as an alternative endpoint (see Supplementary Figure 4 and Supplementary Table 4)

Distribution of MiROvaR high- and low-risk patients according to clinical and pathological characteristics is reported in Supplementary Table 5.

Supplementary Table 1

Characteristics of the 179 MITO2 patients evaluable for miRNA expression compared with the whole MITO2 population

	OC179		Overall population	
	N° (179)	%	N° (820)	%
Age				
Median (range)	59	(28-78)	57	(21-77)
Histology				
Serous	124	69	530	65
Endometrioid	24	13	98	12
Clear cell	6	3	27	3
Mucinous	0	0	25	3
Undifferentiated	10	6	60	7
Mixed or other	13	7	44	5
Missing information	2	1	36	4
Stage (FIGO)				
Ic	17	10	74	9
II	15	8	79	10
III	123	69	493	60
IV	24	13	174	21
Grade				
G1	5	3	32	4
G2	27	15	137	17
G3	126	70	453	55
Undifferentiated	10	6	60	7
Missing information	11	6	138	17
Amount of residual disease				
None	73	41	298	36
< 1 cm	42	23	149	18
> 1 cm	53	30	227	28
Not operated	11	6	146	18
Treatment assigned				
Carboplatin – paclitaxel	78	44	410	50
Carboplatin – Caelyx	101	56	410	50

Supplementary Table 3. Multivariable analysis (Cox regression) of progression-free survival for clinical and biological variables in the test set (OC179) and validation sets (OC263 and OC452): three categorizations for residual disease.

Datasets	Variables	HR	95% CI	P value
OC179 (n=179, events=124)	Stage			
	III–IV vs I–II	2.60	1.23–5.49	0.012
	Surgical debulking			
	mRD vs NED	2.35	1.43–3.87	<0.0001
	GRD vs NED	2.19	1.37–3.49	0.0011
	miRNA predictor			
	High vs Low risk	1.85	1.29–2.64	<0.0001
	Stage			
	III–IV vs I–II	1.76	0.95–3.28	0.072
OC263 (n=262, events=194)	Surgical debulking			
	mRD vs NED	1.57	1.03–2.40	0.035
	GRD vs NED	2.06	1.35–3.13	0.00079
	miRNA predictor			
	High vs Low risk	2.96	2.14–4.10	<0.0001
OC452 (n=409, events=300)	Stage			
	III–IV vs I–II	1.50	0.86–2.61	0.14
	Surgical debulking			
	mRD vs NED	1.70	1.23–2.35	0.0012
	GRD vs NED	1.87	1.31–2.67	<0.00051
	miRNA predictor			
	High vs Low risk	1.32	1.04–1.69	0.022

HR=hazard ratio; CI=confidence interval; mRD=minimal residual disease; NED= no evident residual disease; GRD= gross residual disease.

Supplementary Table 4

Univariate analysis (Cox regression) of overall survival for MiROvaR in the three dataset

		Univariate analysis		
		HR	95% CI	P value
<i>OC179</i> (n=179, events= 77)	<i>miRNA predictor</i>			
	High vs Low risk	1.79	1.12–2.79	0.015
<i>OC263</i> (n=263, events= 105)	<i>miRNA predictor</i>			
	High vs Low risk	3.24	2.13–4.93	<0.0001
<i>TCGA</i> (n=452, events= 223)	<i>miRNA predictor</i>			
	High vs Low risk	1.33	1.01–1.76	0.046

HR=hazard ratio; CI=confidence interval;

Supplementary Table 5

Test for interaction miRNA-predictor-treatment in OC179 cohort

		HR	95% CI	P value
<i>OC179</i> (n=179, events=124)	<i>miRNA predictor</i>			
	High vs Low risk	1.66	0.97-2.86	0.06
	<i>treatment</i>			
	Platinum-Caelyx vs Platinum-Taxane	0.91	0.52-1.58	0.73
	miRNA H : Platinum- Caelyx	1.2	0.58-2.48	0.62

Supplementary Table 6

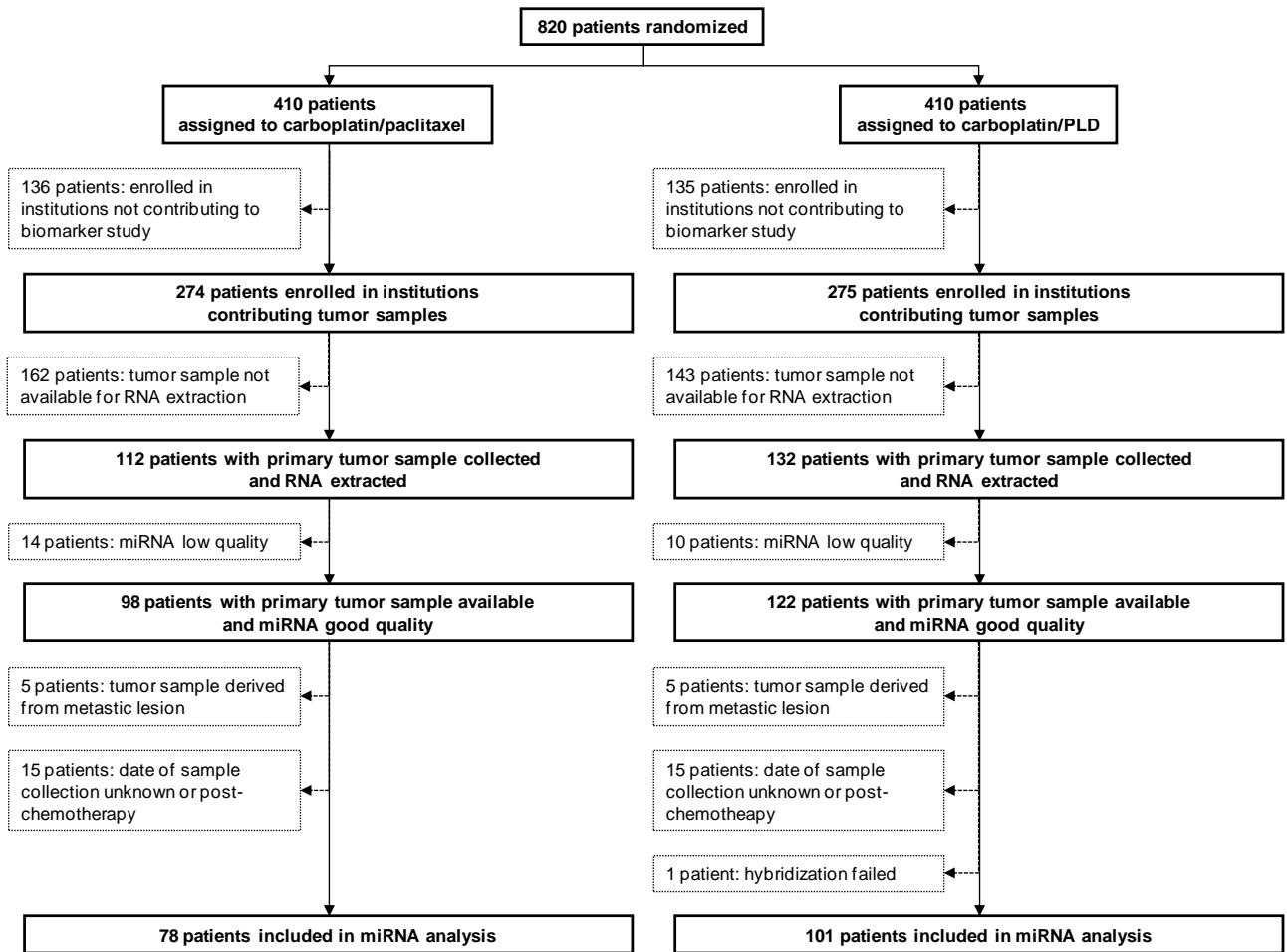
Distribution of MiROvaR high- and low-risk patients in relation to clinical and pathological variables

	<i>OC179 (N 179)</i>				<i>P value</i>	<i>OC263 (N 263)</i>				<i>P value</i>	<i>TCGA (N 452)</i>				<i>P value</i>
	<i>Low risk</i>		<i>High risk</i>			<i>Low risk</i>		<i>High risk</i>			<i>Low risk</i>		<i>High risk</i>		
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>		<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	
<i>Stage (FIGO)</i>															
I/II	23	72	9	28	0-013	15	60	10	40	0-19	12	44	15	56	0-54
III/IV	67	46	80	54		107	45	131	55		157	37	267	63	
Missing information													0	0	
<i>Amount of residual disease</i>															
OD	64	56	51	44	0-055	90	56	71	44	0-0005	122	39	188	61	0-32
SOD	26	41	38	59		32	32	69	68		34	34	66	66	
Missing information						0	0	1	100		13	31	29	69	
<i>Histology</i>															
Serous	63	51	61	49	0-39	82	43	108	57	0-28	169	37	283	63	na
Undifferentiated	5	50	5	50		10	43	13	57						
Clear cells	2	33	4	67		4	58	3	42						
Endometrioid	15	62	9	38		15	58	11	42						
Mucinous						0	0	1	100						
Others + Mixed	4	31	9	69		10	62	5	38						
Missing information	1	50	1	50		1	100	0	0						
<i>Grade</i>															
Borderline					0-93	2	67	1	33	0-25	1	100	0	0	0-46
1: well differentiated	3	60	2	40		4	57	3	43		2	40	3	60	
2: moderately differentiated	15	56	12	44		30	59	21	41		25	46	30	54	
3: poorly differentiated	62	49	64	51		75	42	102	58		138	36	244	64	
Undifferentiated	5	50	5	50		10	43	13	57						
GX											3	37	5	63	
Missing information	5	45	6	55							0	0	1	100	

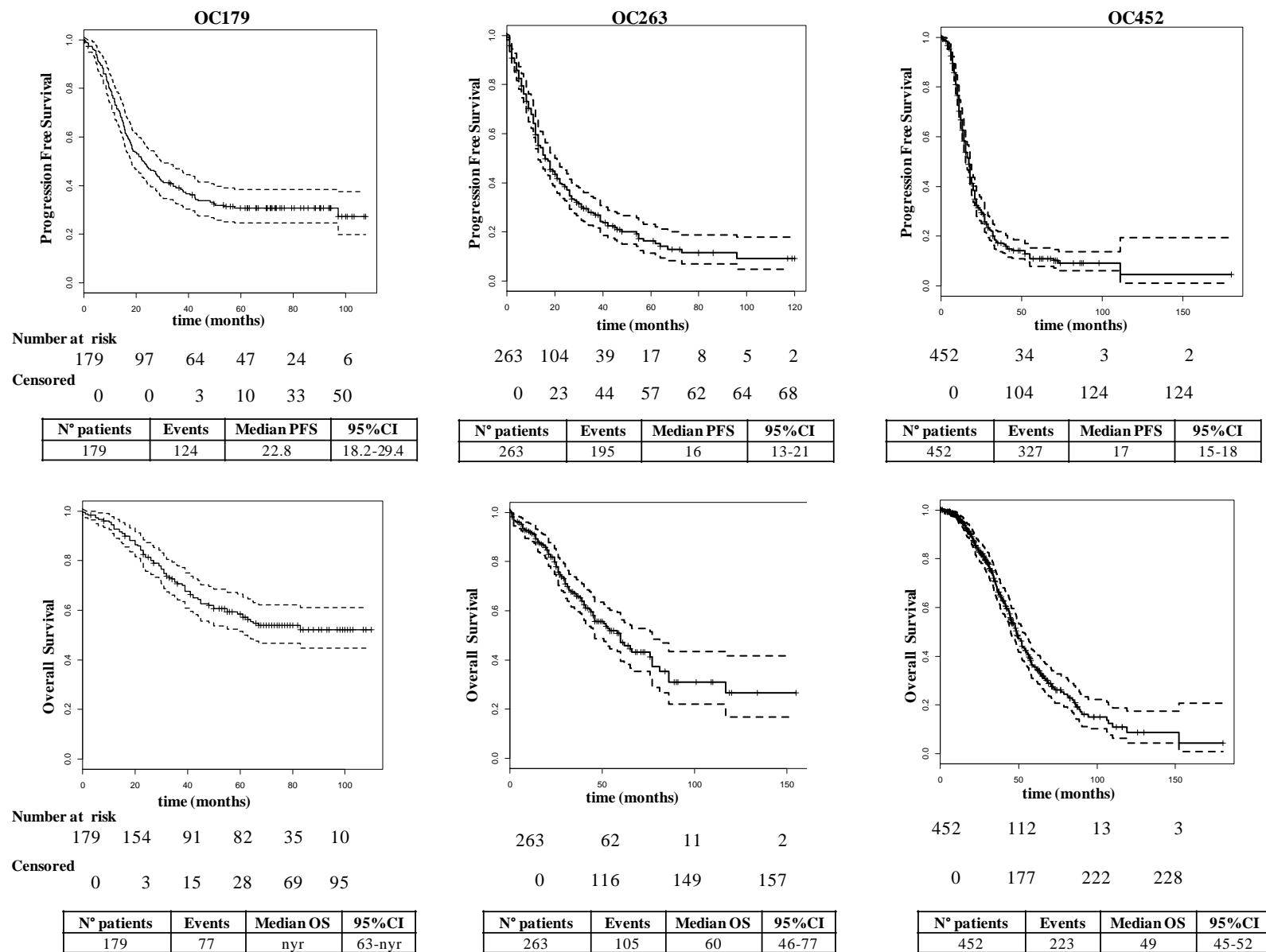
N= number; na=not applicable; OD= optimal debulking; SOD =sub-optimal debulking.

REFERENCES to supplementary information

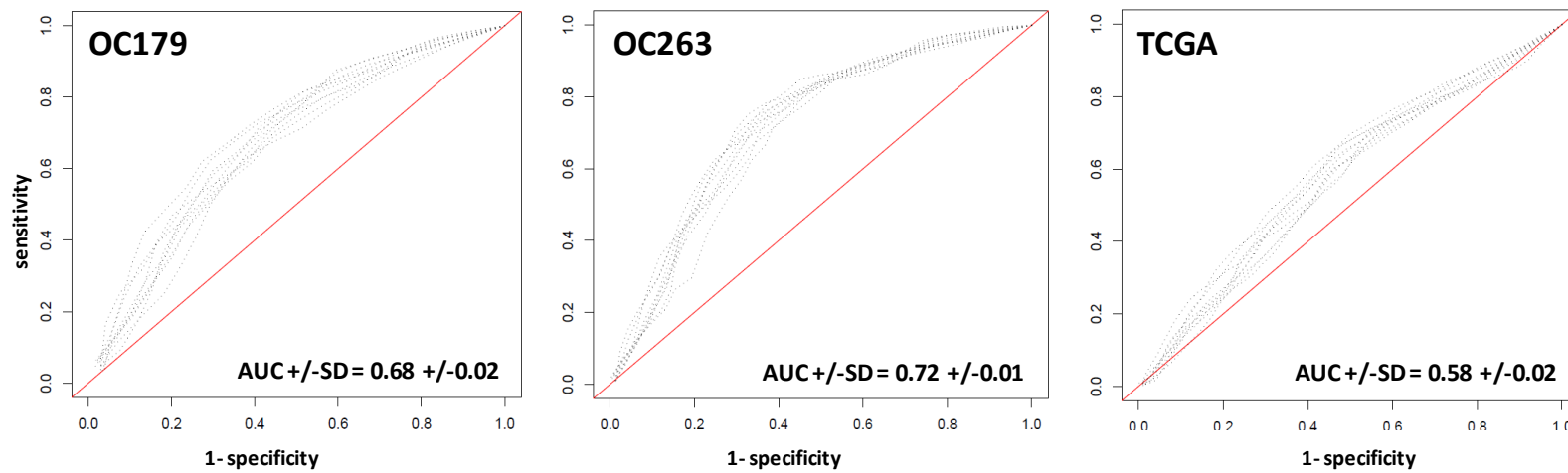
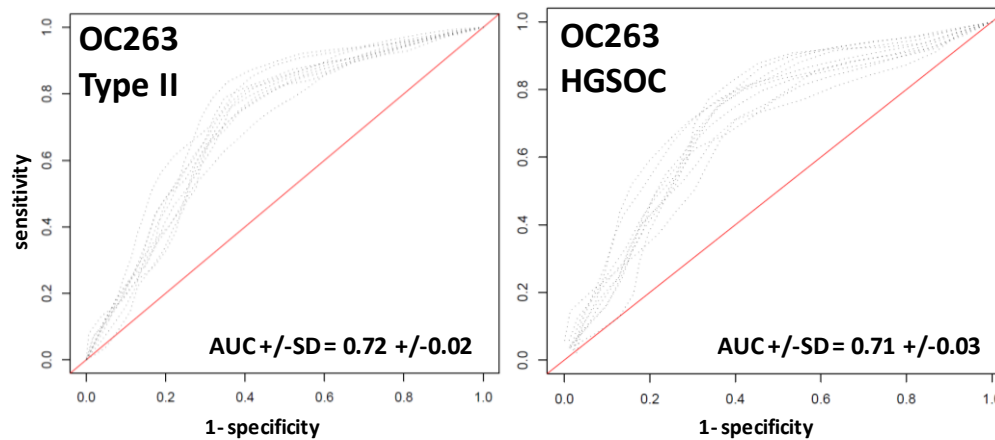
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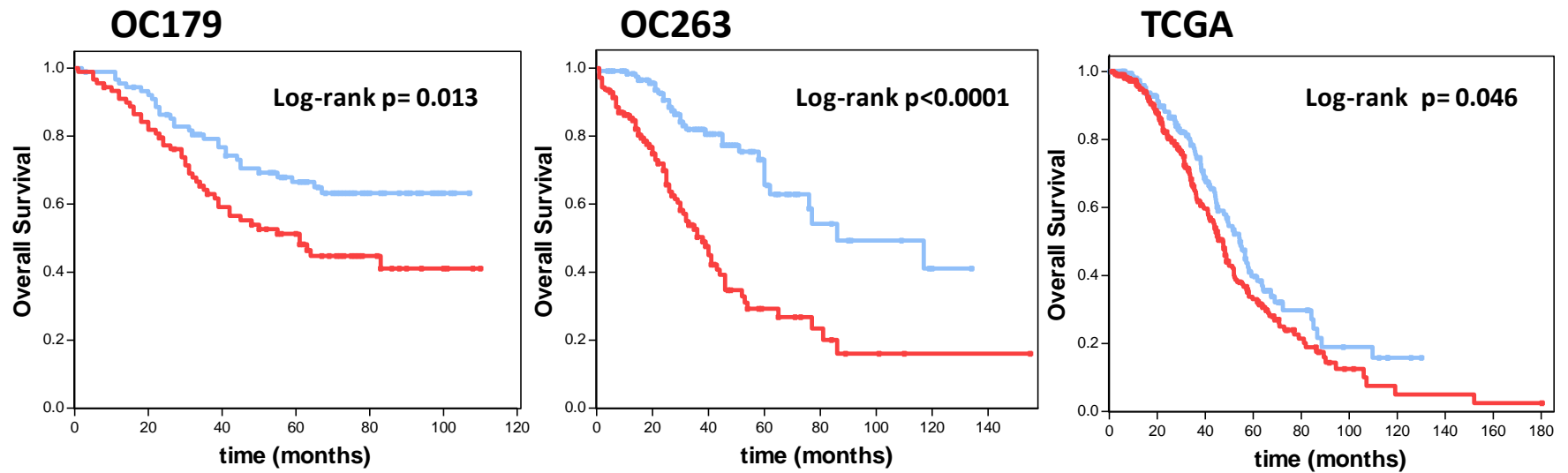
Supplementary Figure 1. Consort diagram for inclusion criteria of OC179 case material used as a training set and derived from samples collected for translational research purposes from the MITO2 clinical trial ¹.



Supplementary Figure 2. Progression Free Survival (upper panels) and overall survival (lower panels) curves for the three case materials included in the study: OC179, training set (left panels); OC263, validation set 1 (middle panels); OC452, validation set 2 (right panels). Solid lines=survival curves; dotted lines=95% CI.

A**B**

Supplementary Figure 3. A: Performance of miROvaR to detect high risk patients in all populations. ROC curves from training set (OC179), validation set1 (OC263) and validation set2 (TCGA) are reported. **B:** Performance of miROvaR in Type II and High Grade Serous (HGSOC) subgroup of OC263 validation set1 population. Accuracy of prediction was tested in 230 Type II and 185 HGSOC cases from OC263 validation set. The accuracy of the prediction (AUC) was plotted as the mean and standard deviation (SD) following a 10-time cross validation procedure.



Number at risk

Low	—	90	81	64	49	22	5	1	122	99	58	29	13	8	3	1	169	119	67	31	14	7	3	1	1	1	
High	—	89	74	48	34	14	5	1	141	81	35	13	8	4	2	2	283	200	108	47	18	7	3	3	3	1	1
Censored																											
Low	—	0	2	7	13	38	55	59	0	19	46	69	80	84	89	90	0	40	65	77	88	91	94	96	96	96	
High	—	0	1	8	15	31	40	43	0	32	49	60	63	65	67	67	0	54	90	110	126	131	132	132	132	132	

Risk prediction	N° patients	Events	Median OS	95%CI
Low	90	31	nyr	nyr-nyr
High	89	46	39	39-nyr

Risk prediction	N° patients	Events	Median OS	95%CI
Low	122	32	86	66-nyr
High	141	73	38	30-46

Risk prediction	N° patients	Events	Median OS	95%CI
Low	169	73	54.3	48-62
High	283	150	47.4	42-51

Supplementary Figure 4. Overall survival curves of patients stratified according to the miRNA predictor in the three dataset included in the study: OC179, training set (left panels); OC263, validation set 1 (middle panels); OC452, validation set 2 (right panels). High-risk (red line) and low-risk (blue line) curves were compared using a log-rank test. Nyr = not yet reached