

Direct long-read RNA sequencing identifies a subset of questionable exitrans likely arising from reverse transcription artifacts

Laura Schulz^{1*}, Manuel Torres-Diz^{2*}, Mariela Cortés-López^{1*}, Katharina E. Hayer^{3*}, Mukta Asnani², Sarah K. Tasian⁴, Yoseph Barash⁵, Elena Sotillo^{2&}, Kathi Zarnack⁶, Julian König^{1#}, and Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko^{2,7 #}

¹ Institute of Molecular Biology (IMB), Ackermannweg 4, 55128 Mainz, Germany. ² Division of Cancer Pathobiology, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19104, US. ³ The Bioinformatics Group, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19104, US. ⁴ Division of Oncology, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 19104, US. ⁵ Department of Genetics, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, US. ⁶ Buchmann Institute for Molecular Life Sciences (BMLS), Goethe University Frankfurt, Max-von-Laue-Str. 15, 60438 Frankfurt, Germany. ⁷ Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, US.

* These authors contributed equally.

& Present address: Stanford Cancer Institute, 265 Campus Dr., Stanford, CA 94305

Corresponding authors: Julian König (j.koenig@imb-mainz.de) and Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko (andreit@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)

SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

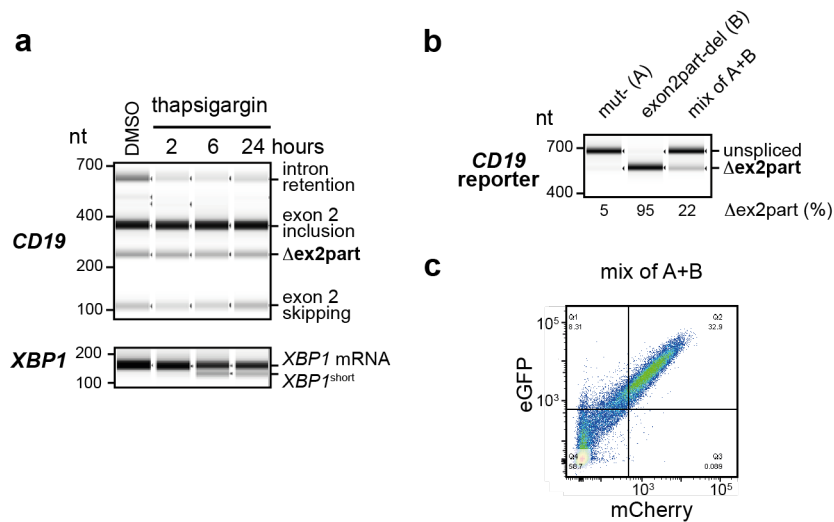


Figure S1. Levels of the Δ ex2part product are not affected by thapsigargin treatment. **a)** RT-PCR experiments followed by capillary electrophoresis to quantify different *CD19* and *XBP1* isoforms. NALM-6 cells were treated with thapsigargin for indicated time intervals. **b)** RT-PCR experiments followed by capillary electrophoresis to quantify different *CD19* isoforms in HEK293T cells transfected with a mixture of mut- (A; does not produce Δ ex2part band) and exon2part-del (B; the reported intron is removed at the DNA level) reporter constructs. **c)** Flow cytometry-based assay performed on the same cells.

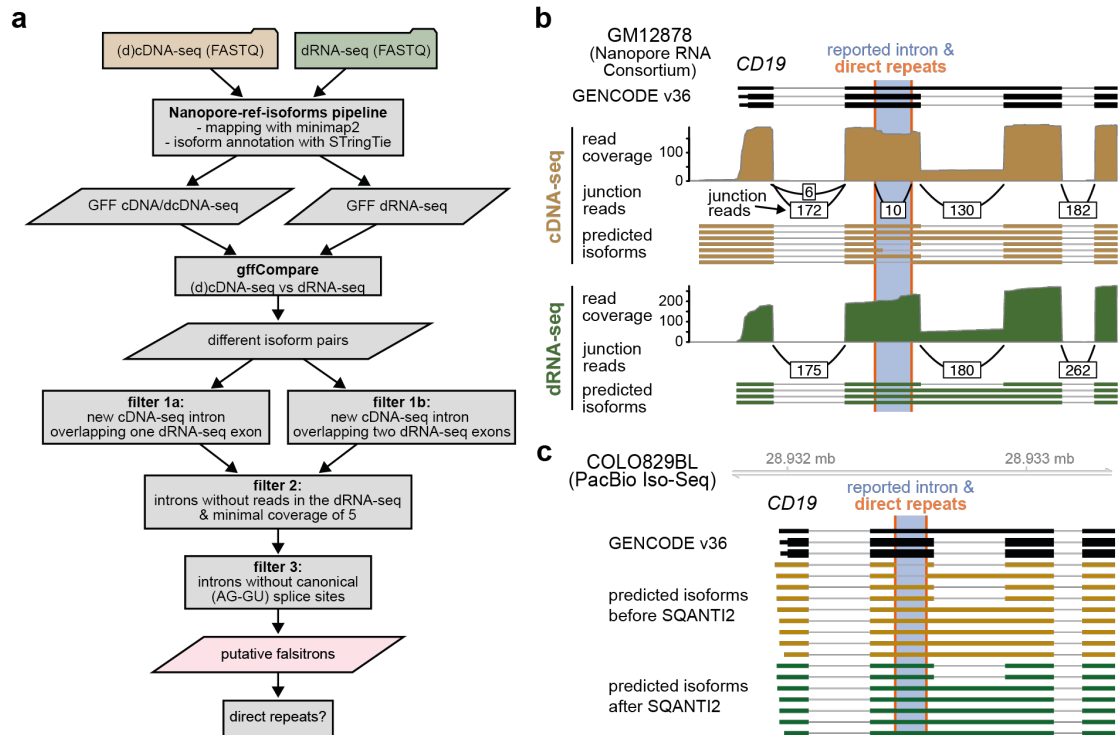


Figure S2. The workflow to detect falsitrons captures the truncated *CD19* Δ ex2part product. a) Extended schematic representation of the workflow to identify questionable exitrons (dubbed “falsitrons”). **b)** Genome browser view depicting detection of the *CD19* falsitron (Δ ex2part) in ONT cDNA-seq, but not dRNA-seq data from the Nanopore RNA Consortium. **c)** Genome browser view shows that the *CD19* falsitron (Δ ex2part) is detected in PacBio Iso-Seq experiments but is filtered out when applying SQANTI2.