



Contingut i funció dels miRNAs de l'espermatozoide humà: implicacions reproductives

Memòria presentada per Albert Salas-Huetos
per optar al grau de Doctor per la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
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Supplemental Table 1. Demographic characteristics and seminal parameters of the individuals included in the study.

| Samples | Age (years) | Ejaculate volume (ml) | Concentration (spz./ml) | Motility (%PR+%NP) | Morphology (%NF) | Karyotype | Proven fertility |
|------------|-------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Sample 01 | 28 | 3.2 | 1.10x10 ⁸ | 52 | 7 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 02 | 20 | 3.7 | 5.93x10 ⁷ | 47 | 7 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 03 | 22 | 2.2 | 8.70x10 ⁷ | 50 | ND | Normal | √ |
| Sample 04 | 25 | 5 | 5.00x10 ⁷ | 59 | ND | Normal | √ |
| Sample 05 | 30 | 5 | 6.00x10 ⁷ | 31 | 5 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 06 | 33 | 6 | 3.00x10 ⁷ | 65 | 8 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 07 | 30 | 2 | 9.50x10 ⁷ | 53 | 18 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 08 | 29 | 3.4 | 3.23x10 ⁷ | 56 | ND | Normal | √ |
| Sample 09 | 24 | 1.8 | 1.03x10 ⁸ | 44 | 6 | Normal | √ |
| Sample 10 | 24 | 4 | 4.50x10 ⁷ | 55 | ND | Normal | √ |
| Mean (±SD) | 26.5 (±4.1) | 3.6 (±1.4) | 6.72x10 ⁷ (±2.94x10 ⁷) | 51.2 (±9.3) | 8.5 (±4.8) | - | - |

Spz.: Spermatozoa, PR: Progressive, NP: Non-progressive, NF: Normal forms, ND: No data.

Supplemental Table 2. RNA isolation data.

| Samples | Total number spz. | Total RNA (ng) | RNA/spz. (fg) | Purity (260/280 nm) |
|------------|---|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Sample 01 | 5.78x10 ⁷ | 3697 | 64 | 1.92 |
| Sample 02 | 1.96x10 ⁷ | 1229 | 63 | 1.94 |
| Sample 03 | 1.73x10 ⁷ | 828 | 48 | 1.93 |
| Sample 04 | 8.20x10 ⁶ | 696 | 85 | 1.84 |
| Sample 05 | 7.45x10 ⁶ | 737 | 99 | 1.85 |
| Sample 06 | 1.31x10 ⁷ | 712 | 54 | 1.84 |
| Sample 07 | 1.09x10 ⁷ | 402 | 37 | 1.84 |
| Sample 08 | 1.79x10 ⁷ | 458 | 26 | 1.97 |
| Sample 09 | 1.14x10 ⁷ | 428 | 38 | 1.85 |
| Sample 10 | 8.85x10 ⁶ | 373 | 42 | 1.96 |
| Mean (±SD) | 1.72x10 ⁷ (±1.48x10 ⁷) | 956 (±997) | 55 (±22) | 1.89 (±0.054) |

Spz.: spermatozoa

Supplemental Table 3. Brief description of the ubiquitous miRNAs.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Target Sequence 5'>3' | DIANA microT ^b | Novel sperm miRNA ^c | Biological functions related to gametogenesis or embryogenesis | Localization | References |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| hsa-let-7a-5p | MIMAT0000062 | UGAGGUAGUAGGUUUAUAGUU | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human germ cells and seminal plasma | (28,45) |
| hsa-let-7b-5p | MIMAT0000063 | UGAGGUAGUAGGUUUAUAGUU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-let-7c | MIMAT0000064 | UGAGGUAGUAGGUUUAUAGUU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-let-7d-5p | MIMAT0000065 | AGAGGUAGUAGGUUUAUAGUU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-let-7f-5p | MIMAT0000114 | UGAGGUAGUAGGUUUAUAGUU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-7-1-3p | MIMAT0004553 | CAACAACACACUCUGCCAAU | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human seminal plasma | (46) |
| hsa-miR-9-5p | MIMAT000441 | UCUUUGUUUAUCUAGUUAUGA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-9-3p | MIMAT000442 | AUAAAGCUAGAUACCGAAAGU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-10a-5p | MIMAT000253 | UACCCUGUAGUCCGAAUUUGUG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-10b-5p | MIMAT000254 | UACCCUGUAGUCCGAAUUUGUG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-10b-3p | MIMAT0004556 | ACAGUUCGUAUUCAGGGGAU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | MIMAT000417 | UAGCAGCACUAUGUUUACA | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa | (29) |
| hsa-miR-16-5p | MIMAT000069 | UAGCAGCACUAUUAUUGGG | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa, Total human ejaculate | (29,44) |
| hsa-miR-17-5p | MIMAT000070 | CAAAGJGCUUACAGUGCAGGUAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-19a-3p | MIMAT000073 | UGGCAAAUCUAJGCAAAACUGA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | MIMAT000074 | UGGCAAAUCUAJGCAAAACUGA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-20a-5p | MIMAT000075 | UAAAGJGCUUUAJGCGCAGGUAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-20b-5p | MIMAT000113 | CAAAGJGCUUUAJGCGCAGGUAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-21-5p | MIMAT000076 | UAGCUUUAUCAGACUGAUUGA | ✓ | ✓ | Self-renewal of mouse spermatogonial stem cells | Mouse spermatogonial stem cells | (47) |
| hsa-miR-22-5p | MIMAT0004495 | AGUUCUUCAGUGGCAAGCUUUA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-24-3p | MIMAT000080 | UGGUCAGUUUCAGCGGAACACAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-25-3p | MIMAT000081 | CALUUGCACUUGUCUGGUUUGA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-26a-5p | MIMAT000082 | UUCAAGUAAUCCAGGAUAGGCU | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa, Total human ejaculate | (29,44) |
| hsa-miR-26b-5p | MIMAT0004500 | CCUGUUCUCCAUUUAUUGGUC | ✓ | ✓ | Embryonic cell growth and regulation | Human Embryonic Stem Cells | (48) |
| hsa-miR-27a-3p | MIMAT000084 | UUCACAGUGGCUAAGUUCGCG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | MIMAT000085 | AAGGACUCACAGUCUAUUGAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-28-3p | MIMAT0004502 | CACUAGAUUGUAGCUCUGGA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-29a-3p | MIMAT000086 | UAGCACCAUCUGAAUUGGGUUA | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-29c-5p | MIMAT0004673 | UGACCGUUUUCUCCUGGUGUUC | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30a-5p | MIMAT000087 | UGUAAACAUCCUCGACUGGAAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30a-3p | MIMAT000088 | CUUUCAGUCGGAUUAUUCAGC | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | MIMAT000420 | UGUAAACAUCCUACACUCAGCU | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa | (29) |
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | MIMAT000244 | UGUAAACAUCCUACACUCAGC | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30d-5p | MIMAT000245 | UGUAAACAUCCCGACUGGAAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30d-3p | MIMAT000451 | CUUUCAGUCAGAUUUUGGUC | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-30e-3p | MIMAT0000693 | CUUUCAGUCGGAUUAUUCAGC | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-31-5p | MIMAT000089 | AGGCAAGAUUGUUGCAUAGCU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-31-3p | MIMAT0004504 | UGCUAUCCCAUAUUGCCAU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-34b-5p | MIMAT0000685 | UAGGCAGUGUUAUUGCUAGUUG | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa | (29) |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | MIMAT0004676 | CAUACUAUCCUCCAGUCGCAU | ✓ | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human spermatozoa | (29) |
| hsa-miR-92a-3p | MIMAT0000952 | UAUUGCACUUGUCCCGCCUGU | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-93-5p | MIMAT0000953 | CAAAGJGCUUUAJGCGCAGGUAG | ✓ | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|------------|
| hsa-miR-93-3p | MIMAT0004509 | ✓ | ACUGCUGAGCUAGCACUUCUCCG | | | |
| hsa-miR-95 | MIMAT0000954 | ✓ | UUCAACGGGUUUUUUUGAGCA | | Human spermatozoa | (29) |
| hsa-miR-99a-5p | MIMAT0000987 | ✓ | AACCCGUAGAUCCGAUCUUGUG | | | |
| hsa-miR-99b-5p | MIMAT0000689 | ✓ | CACCGGUAGAACCGACCUUGCG | | | |
| hsa-miR-99b-3p | MIMAT0004678 | ✓ | CACGUCUGUCUUGUGGUCUCCG | | | |
| hsa-miR-100-5p | MIMAT0000988 | ✓ | AACCCGUAGAUCCGAUCUUGUG | | Total human ejaculate | (44) |
| hsa-miR-103a-3p | MIMAT0001011 | ✓ | AGCAGAUUUGACAGGGCUAUGA | | | |
| hsa-miR-106a-5p | MIMAT000103 | ✓ | AAAAGUGUUAACAGUCGAGGUAG | | | |
| hsa-miR-106b-5p | MIMAT0000680 | ✓ | UAAAGUGUCGACAGUCGAGAU | | | |
| hsa-miR-106b-3p | MIMAT0004672 | ✓ | CCGCACUGUGGGUUAUCUUGCC | | Human spermatozoa, Total human ejaculate, Human seminal plasma | (29,44,49) |
| hsa-miR-122-5p | MIMAT0000421 | ✓ | UGGAGUGAGACAAUUGGUUUUG | | | |
| hsa-miR-125a-5p | MIMAT0000443 | ✓ | UCCUCGAGACCCUUUAACCUUGA | | | |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | MIMAT0004602 | ✓ | ACAGUGAGGUUCUUGGGAGCC | | | |
| hsa-miR-125b-5p | MIMAT0000423 | ✓ | UCCUGAGACCCUAUUGUGA | | Early embryo development: Mice preimplantation embryo | (50) |
| hsa-miR-126-5p | MIMAT0000444 | ✓ | CAUUUUAUUUUUGGUACCGC | | | |
| hsa-miR-126-3p | MIMAT0000445 | ✓ | UCUUAACCGUGAGUAUAUUGG | | | |
| hsa-miR-130a-3p | MIMAT0000425 | ✓ | CAGUGCAUUGUAAAAGGGCAU | | | |
| hsa-miR-130b-5p | MIMAT0004680 | ✓ | ACUUUUCCUGUUGCAGUAC | | | |
| hsa-miR-130b-3p | MIMAT0000691 | ✓ | CAGUGCAAUGAUAAAAGGGCAU | | | |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | MIMAT0000426 | ✓ | UACAGUCUACGCCAUUGGUG | | | |
| hsa-miR-132-5p | MIMAT0004594 | ✓ | ACCGUGGUUUCCAUUUGUACU | | | |
| hsa-miR-133a-3p | MIMAT0000427 | ✓ | UUUGUCCCUUCAACCGAGCUG | | | |
| hsa-miR-135a-5p | MIMAT000428 | ✓ | UUGGCUUUUUAUUUCUUAUGA | | | |
| hsa-miR-135b-5p | MIMAT0000758 | ✓ | UAUGGUUUUUAUUUCUUAUGA | | | |
| hsa-miR-139-5p | MIMAT0000250 | ✓ | UCUACAGUCGACGUGUCUCCAG | | | |
| hsa-miR-140-5p | MIMAT0000431 | ✓ | CAGUGGUUUUACCCUUAUGUAG | | | |
| hsa-miR-146a-5p | MIMAT0000449 | ✓ | UGAGAUCUAGAUUCCAUUGGUU | | | |
| hsa-miR-146b-5p | MIMAT0002809 | ✓ | UGAGAUCUAGAUUCCAUUGGUU | | | |
| hsa-miR-146b-3p | MIMAT0004766 | ✓ | UGCCUUGAGACUACUUCUUGG | | Total human ejaculate | (49) |
| hsa-miR-148a-3p | MIMAT0000243 | ✓ | UCAGUGCAUACAGAAUUGU | | | |
| hsa-miR-149-5p | MIMAT0000450 | ✓ | UCUGGUCUUGUUCUACUCCU | | | |
| hsa-miR-149-3p | MIMAT0004609 | ✓ | AGGAGGGAGCGGGGUGUGC | | | |
| hsa-miR-150-5p | MIMAT0000451 | ✓ | UCUCCAACCCUUGUACCGAGUG | | Embryonic development: Zebrafish zygotes | (51) |
| hsa-miR-151a-5p | MIMAT0004697 | ✓ | UCGAGGAGUACACAGUUAU | | | |
| hsa-miR-152 | MIMAT0000438 | ✓ | UCAGUGCAUGACAGAAUUGG | | | |
| hsa-miR-155-5p | MIMAT0000646 | ✓ | UUAAUGUUAUUGGUAUUGGGU | | | |
| hsa-miR-181a-2-3p | MIMAT0004588 | ✓ | ACCACUAGCCUUGAGUUAUCC | | | |
| hsa-miR-183-5p | MIMAT000261 | ✓ | UAUGGCACUGUAGAAUUAUCCU | | | |
| hsa-miR-183-3p | MIMAT0004560 | ✓ | GUGAAUUAACCGAAGGGCCAUAA | | | |
| hsa-miR-184 | MIMAT0000454 | ✓ | UGGAGGGAACUUAUUAUAGGGU | | | |
| hsa-miR-186-5p | MIMAT0000456 | ✓ | CAAAGAAUCCUUUUUGGGU | | Mice testis and brain | |
| hsa-miR-190b | MIMAT0004929 | ✓ | UGAUUUAUUUAUUAUUGGUU | | | |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | MIMAT0000440 | ✓ | CAACGAAUCCAAAAGCAGUG | | | |
| hsa-miR-191-3p | MIMAT0001618 | ✓ | GCUGCCUUGAUUUCGUCCUCC | | | |
| hsa-miR-192-5p | MIMAT000222 | ✓ | CUGACCUUAUUAUUGACAGCC | | | |
| hsa-miR-193a-5p | MIMAT0004614 | ✓ | UGGGUUAUUGGGGCGGAGAUGA | | | |
| hsa-miR-193b-3p | MIMAT0002819 | ✓ | AACUGGCCUCAAUUGCCUCCU | | | |
| hsa-miR-193b-5p | MIMAT0004767 | ✓ | CGGGUUUUUUGAGGGGCGGAGAUGA | | Human spermatozoa, Total human ejaculate | (29,44) |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|---|---|------|
| hsa-miR-194-5p | MIMAT000460 | UGAACAGCAACUCCAUUGUGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-195-5p | MIMAT000461 | UAGCAGCACAGAAUAUUGGC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-197-3p | MIMAT000227 | UUCACCACUUCUCCACCACAG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-199a-3p | MIMAT000232 | ACGUAGUGUCACAUUGGUUA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-200a-3p | MIMAT000682 | UAACACUGUCUGUAACGAUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-200b-3p | MIMAT000318 | UAUACUGCCUGUAUUGAUGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | MIMAT000617 | UAUACUGCCGGUAUUGAUGGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-202-3p | MIMAT0002811 | AGAGUAUAGGGCAUGGAA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-203a | MIMAT000264 | GUGAAUUGUUAGSACCACUAG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-204-5p | MIMAT000265 | UCCUUUGUCAUCCUAGCCU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-205-5p | MIMAT000266 | UCUUCAUUCACCGGAGUCUG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-210 | MIMAT000267 | CUGGCGUGUGACAGCGGUGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-211-5p | MIMAT000268 | UCCCUUUGUCAUCCUUCGCCU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | MIMAT000289 | UACAGUGUCCAGUCACAGGCC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-214-3p | MIMAT000271 | ACAGGCGCACAGAGCGCAU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-215 | MIMAT000272 | AUGACCUAUGAAUUGACAGAC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-218-5p | MIMAT000275 | UUUGCUUUAUUAUCCAUUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-221-3p | MIMAT000278 | AGCUACAUUGUCUGUGGUUUC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-222-3p | MIMAT000279 | AGCUACAUCUGCCUACUUGGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-223-3p | MIMAT000280 | UGUCAGUUUGUCAAUACCCCA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-224-5p | MIMAT000281 | CAAGUCACUAGUGUCCUUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-226-5p | MIMAT000690 | AGGCCCCUCCAAUCCUUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-320a | MIMAT0000510 | AAAAGCUGGUUGAGAGGCGGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-320b | MIMAT0005792 | AAAAGCUGGUUGAGAGGCGAA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-323a-3p | MIMAT000755 | CACAUJACAGGUCGACCUCU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | MIMAT000762 | ACUGCCCGAGGUGGUGGUGG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-328 | MIMAT000752 | CUGGCCUUCUUGCCUUCUCCGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-331-3p | MIMAT000760 | GCCCGUGGCUAUCCUAGAA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-335-5p | MIMAT000765 | UCAAGAGCAUAACGAAMAUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-335-3p | MIMAT0004703 | UUUUUAUUUUGUCCUUGACC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-339-3p | MIMAT0004702 | UGAGCCUUCGAGCAGAGCGCG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-342-3p | MIMAT000753 | UCUCACAGAAUUCGACCCCGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-345-5p | MIMAT000772 | GCUGACUUCUAGUCAGGCCUC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-346 | MIMAT000773 | UGUCUGCCGCAUGCCUCCUCU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-361-5p | MIMAT000703 | UUUACAGAAUUCUCCAGGGUAC | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-363-3p | MIMAT0000707 | AUUUGCAGGUUAUCCUUGUUA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-365a-3p | MIMAT0000710 | UAUUGCCCUAAAUAUCCUUUAU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-370 | MIMAT000722 | GCCUUGGCGGGAACCCUUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-371a-3p | MIMAT000723 | AAGUCCGCCCAUCUUUUGAGUGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-372 | MIMAT000724 | AAAGUGCUGCGCAUUUUGAGGUGU | ✓ | ✓ | (52) |
| hsa-miR-374a-5p | MIMAT0000727 | UUUAUAUACAACCUGUAUAGUG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-374b-5p | MIMAT0004955 | AUAUAUAACAACCUGUAAGUG | ✓ | ✓ | (49) |
| hsa-miR-375 | MIMAT000728 | UUUUGUUCUUGCCUUGGUGA | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-376a-3p | MIMAT000729 | AUCAUAGAGAAAUUCCACGU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-378a-3p | MIMAT000732 | ACUGCAUUGGAGUCAGAAG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-382-5p | MIMAT0000737 | GAAUUGUUGGUGGUGGAUUGG | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-409-3p | MIMAT0001639 | GAUUGUUCUUGCCUUGAACCCU | ✓ | ✓ | |
| hsa-miR-423-5p | MIMAT0004748 | UGAGGGCAGAGAGCGAGAUUU | ✓ | ✓ | |

| hsa-miR-425-5p | MIMAT0003393 | AAUGACACGALCACUCCCGUUGA | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Human seminal plasma, Human sperm | (29,46) |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| hsa-miR-425-3p | MIMAT001343 | AUCGGAAUGUGUCCCGCCC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-429 | MIMAT001536 | UAUAUCUCUCUGSUAACCCG | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | | |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | MIMAT0004761 | AAGACGGAGGAACCAAGGGAG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-484 | MIMAT0002174 | UCAGCCUCAGUCCUCCCGGAG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-486-3p | MIMAT0004762 | CGGGCAGCUCAGUACAGAG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-486-5p | MIMAT0002177 | UCUUGACUGAGCUGCCCGAG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | MIMAT0002807 | AGUGGGAACCCUCCALGAGS | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-495-3p | MIMAT0002817 | AAACAAACAUUGGUGCACUUCU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-505-5p | MIMAT0004776 | GGGAGCCAGGAUAUUGAUGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-508-3p | MIMAT0002880 | UGAUGUGCCUUUUGGAGUAGA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-512-3p | MIMAT0002823 | AAGUGUCUCAUGCAGAGGUC | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Total human ejaculate | (44) |
| hsa-miR-516a-3p | MIMAT0002860 | UGCUCCUUUCACAGGGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-517-5p | MIMAT0002851 | CCUCUAGAUUGGAAGCACUGUCU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | MIMAT0002852 | AUCGUGCAUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-517c-3p | MIMAT0002866 | AUCGUGCAUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-518b | MIMAT0002844 | CAAAGCCUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-518e-3p | MIMAT0002861 | AAAGCCUUCUUCACAGUG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-519a-3p | MIMAT0002869 | AAAGUGCAUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-519c | MIMAT0002853 | CAAAGUGCCUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-520c-3p | MIMAT0002846 | AAAGUGUCCUUUAGAGG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-520g | MIMAT0002858 | ACAAAGUCUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-520h | MIMAT0002867 | ACAAAGUCUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-522-3p | MIMAT0002868 | AAAAGUGUCCUUUAGAGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-523-3p | MIMAT0002840 | GAACGCUUCCUUUAGAGG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-526b-5p | MIMAT0002835 | CUCUUGAGGGAAGCAUUCUUGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-532-5p | MIMAT0002888 | CALGCCUUGAGUAGGACCGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-532-3p | MIMAT0004780 | CCUCCACACCAAGGCUUGCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-539-5p | MIMAT0003153 | GGAGAAUUCUCCUUGGUGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-543 | MIMAT0004954 | AAACAUCGGGUGCACUUCUU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-564 | MIMAT0003228 | AGGCACGUGUCACGAGGC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-572 | MIMAT0003237 | GUCGCGCGGGUGGCCCCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-574-3p | MIMAT0003239 | CACGCUCAUGCACACCCACA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-592 | MIMAT0003260 | UUGUICAAUAUUGCGAUGAUGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-598 | MIMAT0003266 | UACGUAUCUUGUUAUCGUCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-601 | MIMAT0003269 | UGGUCUAGGAUUGUUGGAGG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-616-5p | MIMAT0003284 | ACUCAAAACCUUUCAGUACUU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-622 | MIMAT0003291 | ACAGUCUGCUGAGSUAUAGGC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-625-5p | MIMAT0003294 | AGGGGAAAGUUCUUAUAGUCC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-625-3p | MIMAT0004808 | GACUUAAGAACUUCUCCCUCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-628-3p | MIMAT0003287 | UCUAGUAAGAGUGGCAGUCGA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-629-3p | MIMAT0003298 | GUUCUCCAAAGUAAGCCGAGC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-636 | MIMAT0003306 | UGUCUUGUCUCCCGCCGCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-638 | MIMAT0003308 | AGGGAUCGGGGGUGGGCGGCU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-650 | MIMAT0003320 | AGGAGCAGCUCUUCAGAC | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-659-3p | MIMAT0003337 | CUUGGUUCAGGGGUGCCCA | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-660-5p | MIMAT0003338 | UACCAUUGCAUCCGAGUUG | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-661 | MIMAT0003324 | UGCCUGGUCUUGGCUCCGCGU | ✓ | | | |
| hsa-miR-663b | MIMAT0005867 | GGUGGCCGCGGUCUCCGAGG | ✓ | | | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| hsa-miR-664a-3p | MINAT0005949 | UAUUCAUUUUAUCCCGACCCUACA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-671-3p | MINAT0004819 | UCCGGUUCUCAGGGGCUCCACC | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-744-5p | MINAT0004945 | UGCGGGCUAGGGCUAACAGCA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-744-3p | MINAT0004946 | CUGUUGCCACUAAACCUAACCU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-766-3p | MINAT0003888 | ACUCAGCCCAACAGCCUACGC | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-769-5p | MINAT0003866 | UGAGACUCUGGUUUUCUAGCU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-885-5p | MINAT0004947 | UCCAUUACAGUACCCUCCUUCU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-888-5p | MINAT0004916 | UACUAAAAGCUGUCAGUCA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-890 | MINAT0004912 | UACUUGGAAAGGAUACAGUUG | ✓ | Epididymis sperm maturation | Corpus and cauda of the human epididymis (53) |
| hsa-miR-897a | MINAT0004902 | UGCAACGACCCUAGCCACUGA | ✓ | Epididymis sperm maturation | Corpus and cauda of the human epididymis (53) |
| hsa-miR-892a | MINAT0004907 | CACUGUCCUUUCUGCGUAG | ✓ | Epididymis sperm maturation | Corpus and cauda of the human epididymis (53) |
| hsa-miR-892b | MINAT0004918 | CACUGUCUUUCUJGGUAGA | ✓ | Epididymis sperm maturation | Corpus and cauda of the human epididymis (53) |
| hsa-miR-935 | MINAT0004978 | CCAGUACCGCUUCCGCUACCGG | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | MINAT0004962 | UGGGAGCGGAGGCUUCUGGGGUG | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-942 | MINAT0004985 | UCUUCUCUGUUUUGGCCAUGUG | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1180 | MINAT0005825 | JUUCCGGCUCGUGGGUGUGU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1183 | MINAT0005828 | CACUGUAGGUGUAGGUGAGUGGGCA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1208 | MINAT0005873 | UCACUJUUCAGACAGCGGA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | MINAT0005888 | UGAGCCUUGUCCUCCCGGAG | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1247-5p | MINAT0005899 | ACCCGUCUCCUUCUGUCCCGGA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1254 | MINAT0005905 | AGCCUGGAAAGCUAGGCGCUGCAGU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | MINAT0005945 | CGGAUGAGCAAAAGAGUGGUU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1260a | MINAT0005911 | AUCCACCUCUIGCCACCA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1275 | MINAT0005929 | GUGGGGAGAGGCUUGUC | ✓ | Spermatogenesis | Total human ejaculate (44) |
| hsa-miR-1282 | MINAT0005940 | UCGUUUUCCUUUUUUCUGUUU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1285-3p | MINAT0005876 | UCUGGGCAACAAGAGUGAGACCU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1290 | MINAT0005860 | UGGAUUUUUUGAUACAGGGA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1291 | MINAT0005881 | UGGCCUGACUGAAGACCAGCAGU | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1296 | MINAT0005794 | UUAGSGCCUUGGCUUCCAUCC | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1298 | MINAT0005860 | UUCAUUUGGCUUGCCAGAUUA | ✓ | | |
| hsa-miR-1825 | MINAT0006765 | UCCAGUGCCUCCUCCUCC | ✓ | | |

a. Information obtained from miRBase data base (<http://www.mirbase.org/>).

b. Information obtained from DIANA microT data base (<http://diana.cslab.ece.ntua.gr/microT/>), tested with mirBase ID and mirBase Accession Number.

c. miRNA not previously detected in human spermatozoa (24, 29, 44).

Supplemental Table 4. Brief description of the constantly absent miRNAs.

| miRBase ID | miRBase accession number ^a | Target Sequence 5'>3' ^a | Previously described sperm miRNA ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| hsa-let-7d-3p | MIMAT0004484 | CUAUACGACCGUCGUCUUCU | |
| hsa-let-7i-3p | MIMAT0004585 | CUGCGCAAGCUACUGCCUUGCU | |
| hsa-miR-18b-3p | MIMAT0004751 | UGCCCUAAAUGCCCUUCUGGC | |
| hsa-miR-19a-5p | MIMAT0004490 | AGUUUUGCAUAGUUGCACUACA | √ |
| hsa-miR-30b-3p | MIMAT0004589 | CUGGGAGGUGGAUGUUACUUC | |
| hsa-miR-32-3p | MIMAT0004505 | CAAUUUAGUGUGUGUAUUU | |
| hsa-miR-105-3p | MIMAT0004516 | ACGGAUGUUUGAGCAUGUGCUA | |
| hsa-miR-106a-3p | MIMAT0004517 | CUGCAAUGUAAGCACUUCUAC | |
| hsa-miR-137 | MIMAT0000429 | UUUUUGCUUAAAGAAUACGCGUAG | |
| hsa-miR-185-3p | MIMAT0004611 | AGGGGCGGCUUCCUCUGGUC | |
| hsa-miR-196a-3p | MIMAT0004562 | CGGCAACAAGAAACUGCCUGAG | |
| hsa-miR-218-1-3p | MIMAT0004565 | AUGGUUCCGUAAGCACACUAGG | |
| hsa-miR-218-2-3p | MIMAT0004566 | CAUGGUUCUGUCAAGCACCGCG | |
| hsa-miR-221-5p | MIMAT0004568 | ACCUGGCAUACAAUGUAGAUUU | √ |
| hsa-miR-302b-5p | MIMAT0000714 | ACUUUACAUGGAAGUCUUUC | |
| hsa-miR-325 | MIMAT0000771 | CCUAGUAGGUGCCAGUAAGUGU | |
| hsa-miR-337-3p | MIMAT0000754 | CUCCUAUAGUAGCCUUUCUUC | |
| hsa-miR-367-5p | MIMAT0004686 | ACUGUUGCUAAUAGCAACUCU | |
| hsa-miR-367-3p | MIMAT0000719 | AAUUGCACUUUAGCAAUGGUGA | |
| hsa-miR-369-5p | MIMAT0001621 | AGAUCGACCGUGUUUAUUCGCG | |
| hsa-miR-374a-3p | MIMAT0004688 | CUUAUCAGAUUGUAUUGUAUU | |
| hsa-miR-376b-3p | MIMAT0002172 | AUCAUAGAGGAAAUCUAGUU | |
| hsa-miR-448 | MIMAT0001532 | UUGCAUAGUGAUGUCCCAU | |
| hsa-miR-450a-5p | MIMAT0001545 | UUUUGCGAUGUGUUCUAAU | |
| hsa-miR-500a-3p | MIMAT0002871 | AUGCACCGGGCAAGGAUUCUG | |
| hsa-miR-503-5p | MIMAT0002874 | UAGCAGCGGGAAACAGUUCGAG | |
| hsa-miR-524-5p | MIMAT0002849 | CUACAAGGGAAAGCAUUCUC | |
| hsa-miR-542-5p | MIMAT0003340 | UCGGGGAUCAUAGUCACGAGA | |
| hsa-miR-548d-3p | MIMAT0003323 | CAAAAACCACAGUUUCUUUGC | |
| hsa-miR-548e | MIMAT0005874 | AAAAACUGAGACUACUUUUGCA | |
| hsa-miR-548h-5p | MIMAT0005928 | AAAAGUAAUCGCGUUUUUGUC | |
| hsa-miR-548m | MIMAT0005917 | CAAAGGUUUUUGGUUUUUG | |
| hsa-miR-548n | MIMAT0005916 | CAAAGUAAUUGUGAUUUUGU | |
| hsa-miR-555 | MIMAT0003219 | AGGUUAAGCUGAACCCUCUGAU | |
| hsa-miR-556-5p | MIMAT0003220 | GAUGAGCUCAUUGUAUUUAGG | |
| hsa-miR-561-3p | MIMAT0003225 | CAAAGUUUAAGAUCCUUUAGU | |
| hsa-miR-569 | MIMAT0003234 | AGUUAAUGAAUCCUGGAAAGU | |
| hsa-miR-570-3p | MIMAT0003235 | CGAAAACAGCAAUJACCUUUGC | |
| hsa-miR-599 | MIMAT0003267 | GUUGUGUCAGUUUAUCAAC | |
| hsa-miR-603 | MIMAT0003271 | CACACACUGCAAUUACUUUUGC | |
| hsa-miR-607 | MIMAT0003275 | GUUCAAAUCCAGAUUAUAC | |
| hsa-miR-624-3p | MIMAT0004807 | CACAAGGUUUUGUAUUUACCU | |
| hsa-miR-631 | MIMAT0003300 | AGACCUGGCCAGACCUCAGC | |
| hsa-miR-633 | MIMAT0003303 | CUAAUAGUAUCUACCACAAUAAA | |
| hsa-miR-637 | MIMAT0003307 | ACUGGGGCUUCGCGCUCUGCGU | |
| hsa-miR-653 | MIMAT0003328 | GUGUUGAAACAUCUCUACUG | |
| hsa-miR-658 | MIMAT0003336 | GGCGGAGGGAAGUAGGUCCGUUGU | |
| hsa-miR-876-5p | MIMAT0004924 | UGGAUUUCUUUGUGAAUACCA | |
| hsa-miR-920 | MIMAT0004970 | GGGGAGCUGUGGAAGCAGUA | |
| hsa-miR-936 | MIMAT0004979 | ACAGUAGAGGGAGAAUCGCGAG | |
| hsa-miR-938 | MIMAT0004981 | UGCCCUUAAAGGUGAACCCAGU | |
| hsa-miR-1179 | MIMAT0005824 | AAGCAUUCUUUCAUUGGUUGG | |
| hsa-miR-1200 | MIMAT0005863 | CUCCUGAGCCAUUCUGAGCCUC | |
| hsa-miR-1206 | MIMAT0005870 | UGUUAUGUAGAUUUUAAGC | |
| hsa-miR-1245a | MIMAT0005897 | AAGUGAUCUAAAGCCUACAU | |
| hsa-miR-1251 | MIMAT0005903 | ACUCUAGCUGCCAAGGGCGCU | |
| hsa-miR-1272 | MIMAT0005925 | GAUGAUGAUGGCGAGCAAUUCGAAA | |
| hsa-miR-1284 | MIMAT0005941 | UCUAUACAGACCCUGGCUUUUC | |
| hsa-miR-1286 | MIMAT0005877 | UGCAGGACCAAGAUAGGCCUC | |
| hsa-miR-1288 | MIMAT0005942 | UGGACUGCCUCUGAUCUGGAGA | |
| hsa-miR-1301 | MIMAT0005797 | UUGCAGCUGCCUGGGAGUGACUUC | |
| hsa-miR-1302 | MIMAT0005890 | UUGGGACAUACUUUAGGUAAA | |
| hsa-miR-1304-5p | MIMAT0005892 | UUUGAGGCUACAGUGAGUAGUG | |

a. Information obtained from miRBase data base (<http://www.mirbase.org/>).

b. miRNA previously detected in human spermatozoa (24, 29, 44).

Publicació



Títol: Spermatozoa from patients with seminal alterations exhibit a differential micro-ribonucleic acid profile

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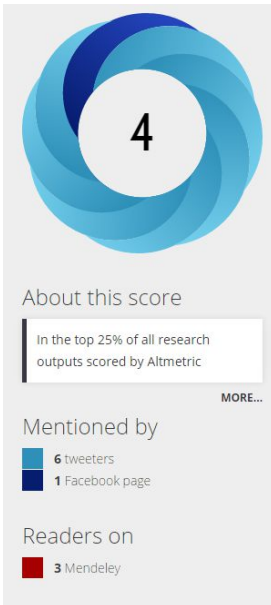
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Spermatozoa from patients with seminal alterations exhibit a differential micro-ribonucleic acid profile

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Objective: To compare the microRNA (miRNA) expression profile in spermatozoa from three infertile populations vs. a group of fertile men. **Design:** Evaluation of the expression level of 736 miRNAs in human spermatozoa using TaqMan quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction.

Setting: University research facility.

Patient(s): Semen samples with a single seminal alteration were collected from infertile individuals: asthenozoospermic (n = 10), teratozoospermic (n = 10), and oligozoospermic (n = 10).

Intervention(s): None.

Main Outcome Measure(s): Correlation of the expression level of each miRNA with seminal parameters, age, and chromosome instability; clustering of the individuals according to their miRNA expression profiles and influence of the seminogram, age, chromosome instability, and assisted reproductive technology outcome in the clustering; analysis of the differentially expressed miRNAs (DE-miRNAs) in each infertile population; genome annotation of these DE-miRNAs; and ontological analysis of their predicted targets.

Result(s): The hsa-miR-34b-3p correlated with age, the hsa-miR-629-3p with sperm motility, and the hsa-miR-335-5p, hsa-miR-885-5p, and hsa-miR-152-3p with sperm concentration. The individuals clustered into two groups, and only the seminogram was differentially distributed. We identified 32 DE-miRNAs in the asthenozoospermic group, 19 in the teratozoospermic group, and 18 in the oligozoospermic group. The up-regulated miRNAs presented an enriched localization in introns, affecting relevant genes for spermatogenesis. The predicted targets of the DE-miRNAs contained critical genes associated to infertility, and their ontological analysis revealed significantly associated functions related to the seminal alterations of each group.

Conclusion(s): Spermatozoa from patients with seminal alterations exhibit a differential miRNA profile. This provides new evidence that miRNAs have an essential role in spermatogenesis, contributing to the mechanisms involved in human fertility. (*Fertil Steril*® 2015;104:591-601. ©2015 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

Key Words: Infertility, microRNA, spermatozoa, seminal alterations, sperm biomarkers

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Infertility is a disease defined by the failure to achieve a successful pregnancy after 12 months or more of regular unprotected intercourse (1). Fertility problems are estimated to affect 15% of couples worldwide, and a male factor contributes in approximately 50% of cases (2). Reduced male fertility can result from several reasons (e.g., urogenital abnormalities, infections of male accessory glands,

varicocele, endocrine disturbances, or immunologic factors), but the only abnormality detected in 40%–60% of patients is the presence of abnormal seminal parameters (3). Although in some cases the origin of these abnormalities has been associated with specific gene alterations (4), most of the time the cause remains idiopathic. In fact, the classification of infertile individuals mostly relies on the raw results derived from this conventional seminal analysis. The seminogram categorizes a semen sample only according to the sperm physical status in relation to predefined universal thresholds, which in addition have been subjected to changes over time (1, 5). Nevertheless, this classification does not always match with the fertile potential of the individual, and several authors have claimed the need for new, additional male fertility indicators (6, 7). Because the ultimate factors that would determine the fertility potential of spermatozoa would depend on their genetic and epigenetic load, studies focused on defining and understanding infertility at a molecular level would be of great interest.

Spermatogenesis is a complex differentiation process commonly divided into three main phases: self-renewal and proliferation of spermatogonia, meiotic division of spermatocytes, and postmeiotic differentiation of spermatids into spermatozoa. These events are controlled by well-coordinated transcriptional and posttranscriptional regulators. Several studies have analyzed the role of noncoding RNAs as posttranscriptional regulators of spermatogenesis (8–10), including [1] long noncoding RNAs, which mainly participate as transcription repressors and chromatin modification factors, [2] piwi-interacting RNAs, which are known to be responsible for transposon silencing, and [3] microRNAs (miRNAs), which regulate the expression of specific target messenger RNAs (mRNAs) (11).

Focusing on this last group of regulators, miRNAs are small molecules of 22–24 nucleotides that form partially complementary structures to their mRNA targets. MicroRNAs are transcribed into primary miRNA transcripts that are further processed in the nucleus to form the hairpin-shaped miRNA precursor (pre-miRNA). These pre-miRNAs can be exported to the cytoplasm, where they will be processed again, leading to the formation of the mature miRNAs. Their assembly with Argonaute proteins will form the ribonucleoprotein miRNA-induced silencing complex that will be responsible for executing the functional translational repression associated with these molecules (12).

It has been estimated that miRNAs can regulate up to 60% of protein-coding genes (13), and some studies have described their implication in the gene expression regulation of many biological processes, including spermatogenesis (14, 15). Recently some authors have observed a dysregulated expression of several miRNAs related to the particular fertility conditions of the individuals analyzed (16–20). Although all of these articles suggest a relationship between miRNA sperm cargo and male fertility, there is great variability among studies, either due to the types of biological material analyzed (spermatozoa, testicular cells, and seminal plasma) or regarding the origin of the reference values used to identify the differentially expressed miRNA, and also due to the way of interpreting the biological

consequences of the results (from simple revision of previous published data to ontological analysis).

Additionally, the sperm miRNA profile has also been described to affect both early embryo development and assisted reproductive technology (ART) outcome (15). McCallie et al. (21) detected differential miRNA profiles in embryos from fertile and infertile individuals. In this study a significant decrease in the expression of six miRNAs in transferable-quality blastocysts was described in couples with male factor infertility. Besides the association between altered miRNA profiles and fertility, other authors have described a differential miRNA profile in young and old individuals, pointing to a potential regulatory role of miRNAs in the aging process (22). Furthermore, a differential expression of specific miRNAs has been associated with chromosome instability in tumoral processes (23–26). Because age (27) and sperm chromosome instability (28) are two of the factors related to male fertility, it would be interesting to consider the influence of these parameters over the sperm miRNA cargo in infertile patients.

In a recent study, we performed a comprehensive characterization of the miRNA expression profile in spermatozoa from 10 fertile individuals (29). Our results provided control reference values for 736 miRNAs that can be useful for determining the contribution of miRNAs as a possible underlying cause of idiopathic male infertility. We demonstrated that human sperm contain a stable population of miRNAs potentially related to embryogenesis and spermatogenesis.

The present study aimed to characterize the miRNA expression profile in spermatozoa from three different human infertile populations with a sole seminal parameter altered: a group of individuals with reduced sperm motility (asthenozoospermia), another group with abnormal sperm morphology (teratozoospermia), and a third group with low sperm count (oligozoospermia). The analysis has been addressed to [1] evaluate a possible correlation between the expression level of every evaluated miRNA and the seminal parameters, age, and chromosome instability of the individuals analyzed; [2] cluster the individuals according to their miRNA expression profiles and determine the influence of the seminogram, age, chromosome instability, and ART outcome in the classification obtained; [3] identify differentially expressed miRNAs (DE-miRNAs) in each infertile population when compared with a previously described fertile control population (29); [4] evaluate the characteristics of the hosting regions encoding the DE-miRNAs; and [5] define the biological functions significantly associated with the predicted targets of these DE-miRNAs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Population and Sample Collection

Inclusion criteria for patient recruitment were directed toward the selection of semen samples from infertile individuals of unknown etiology showing the alteration of a single seminal parameter (i.e., reduced sperm motility, or abnormal sperm morphology, or lower sperm count) (World Health Organization 2010) (1, 30). Individuals presenting more than one alteration were discarded. According to

these criteria, 30 semen samples were collected by masturbation after 3 days of sexual abstinence and were classified into 3 groups (Supplemental Table 1, available online): pure asthenozoospermic (A) (n = 10; S11–S20), pure teratozoospermic (T) (n = 10; S21–S30), and pure oligozoospermic (O) (n = 10; S31–S40).

Additional information was compiled, including [1] age of the individuals; [2] results from chromosome instability inferred from the aneuploidy/diploidy sperm screening through fluorescence in situ hybridization for chromosomes X, Y, 13, 18, and 21; and [3] ART outcome from IVF/intracytoplasmic sperm injection cycles of these couples (Supplemental Table 1), which comprised the following data: fertilization rate (zygotes/mature oocytes), rate of discarded embryos, pregnancy rate per transfer, and miscarriage rate per clinical pregnancy (Supplemental Table 1).

Written, informed consent was obtained from all patients. The study was approved by the ethics committees of the collaborative ART centers and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

Sperm RNA Isolation, Quantification, and Quality Controls

To eliminate any possible somatic cells present in the ejaculate, semen samples were processed according to the somatic cell lysis method (31). Total sperm RNA was isolated using Trizol (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA) according to the protocol recommended by the manufacturer, with minor modifications (29). Once isolated, RNA was treated with 1 μ L (2 U/ μ L) per 10 μ g RNA of rDNaseI (Life Technologies, Chesire, United Kingdom). Samples were stored at -80°C until further analysis.

Ribonucleic acid concentration was determined using the Nanodrop-2000 (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Wilmington, DE). To check the presence of small RNAs as well as confirming the lack of ribosomal RNA (spermatozoa are translationally inert), we ran the nanoelectrophoretic chips Small-RNA and Nano-RNA, respectively (Agilent Technologies, Wilmington, DE), in the Agilent-2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). The absence of any potential contaminating trace of DNA was verified by performing a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) using the High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Life Technologies) followed by a conventional polymerase chain reaction (PCR) with exon-exon primers for the Protamine 1 gene (*PRM1*) and for the Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase gene (*GAPDH*) (Supplemental Table 2). An RT-PCR followed by a PCR with exon-exon primers for the surface receptor *CD45* gene (absent in spermatozoa) was also performed to verify the absence of leukocyte RNA (Supplemental Table 2).

Evaluation of the Sperm miRNA Profiles

Ribonucleic acid samples were processed for miRNA analysis, as described by Salas-Huetos et al. (29). Briefly, a total of 50 ng of RNA were reverse-transcribed using the TaqMan MicroRNA Reverse Transcription kit (Life Technologies, Foster City, CA) supplemented with RNase inhibitor and the

Megaplex RT Primers, Human Pools A v.2.1 and B v.3.0 (Life Technologies). Subsequently, complementary DNA was preamplified using TaqMan PreAmp Master Mix (Life Technologies) and Megaplex PreAmp Primers, Human Pools A v.2.1 and B v.3.0 (Life Technologies), diluted with 0.1 \times TE (Life Technologies) and stored at -20°C until further analysis. A quantitative PCR (qPCR) was performed by mixing PreAmp product, TaqMan Universal PCR Master Mix, no AmpErase UNG (2 \times) (Life Technologies), and nuclease-free water. The mix was used to perform qPCR assays through the TaqMan Array Human MicroRNA A and B Cards Set v.3.0 (Life Technologies). Overall, this protocol enabled the accurate quantification of a total of 736 human miRNAs.

Data Analysis

Data from qPCR were processed by SDS v.2.3 and RQ Manager v.1.2 software (Life Technologies). Results were expressed as threshold cycle (Ct) values and classified as Determined ($15 \geq \text{Ct} < 35$), Undetermined ($\text{Ct} \geq 35$), and Unreliable. The miRNAs expressed in all of the samples studied were called ubiquitous miRNAs. The Ct values were transformed to the normalized threshold cycle (normCt) values according to the mean-centering restricted normalizing method (32).

Control population. Data obtained were compared with a control population composed of 10 normozoospermic (N) (S01–S10) men described in detail by Salas-Huetos et al. (29). This group of individuals was characterized by presenting a normal karyotype, proven fertility, normal sperm concentration, normal sperm motility, and normal sperm morphology.

Statistical analyses. Statistical analyses were performed using the freely available R statistical computing environment v.2.14.2 (www.r-project.org) (33) and the additional package for high-throughput analysis of qPCR data v.1.13.1 (HTqPCR package at www.biocductor.org) (34). A *P* value of $< .05$ after post hoc Bonferroni correction was considered statistically significant in all tests except for the Wilcoxon analyses. In this particular case, *P* values of $< .01$ were considered significant after Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate correction.

To evaluate the possible correlation between the normCt value of each particular miRNA analyzed of all individuals assessed (including the control population) and the physiologic factors [1] seminal parameters (i.e., sperm concentration, sperm motility, and sperm morphology), [2] age, and [3] chromosome instability, we used the nonparametric Spearman test. Outliers were identified using Cook's distance method.

MicroRNA expression profiles from all individuals were subjected to an unsupervised hierarchical cluster analysis using Euclidean distance and Ward's method. To discard any influence of the $\text{Ct} \geq 35$ values (despite being different, $\text{Ct} \geq 35$ values do not represent any biological variation but just reflect lack of expression), we adjusted these values to [maximum normCt detected in all individuals] + 1. The optimal number of clusters that would define the dendrogram was calculated through the cubic clustering criterion method with SAS v.9.0 statistics (SAS Institute, Cary, NC). To identify

the factors that would influence the clustering, a bivariate analysis using the χ^2 test was applied for seminogram (four categories: N, A, T, and O), age (three categories: R1, range 19–29 years old; R2, range 30–39 years old; R3, range 40–50 years old), and chromosomal instability results (two categories: normal or altered), whereas the influence of ART outcome date (including fertilization rate, percentage of discarded embryos, pregnancy rate, and miscarriage rate) was evaluated using the Mann-Whitney test.

To identify the DE-miRNAs in each of the three infertile populations analyzed, the mean normCt value of every single miRNA observed in each group of infertile individuals was compared with the mean normCt value of the control population (29) using the nonparametric paired Wilcoxon rank sum test. Of each DE-miRNA, several characteristics were considered, including their localization in the 3' untranslated region (UTR), or in intronic, exonic, or intergenic regions (miRNA-Map 2.0 database at <http://mirnamap.mbc.nctu.edu.tw/index.php> [35]), their sense/antisense transcription (Genome Browser database at <http://genome.ucsc.edu/>; and miRcode microRNA sites external track at www.mircode.org/ [36]), and their localization in a methylated region that has been preferentially related to protamine embedded chromatin, or in a nonmethylated region that is mostly associated to histone embedded chromatin (37) (Genome Browser database at <http://genome.ucsc.edu/>; and DNA Methylation external track from Smith Lab at <http://smithlabresearch.org/software/methbase/> [38]). To determine a possible enrichment of some of these parameters among the DE-miRNA, this information was contrasted with data from the background of 736 miRNAs analyzed using the χ^2 test.

Target prediction and functional annotation. DIANA-microT CDS v.5.0 software (<http://diana.imis.athena-innovation.gr>) (39, 40) was used to identify the predicted target genes for the miRNAs that were differentially expressed in each group of infertile individuals. For the inclusion of the potential target genes obtained in further analysis, we used an miRNA target gene score (miTG) ≥ 0.8 . This miTG provides a sensitivity of >20% and a precision of >57% (information provided by the DIANA administration team), thus maximizing the reliability of the target genes identified. The enrichment of biological processes among these genes was evaluated by DAVID Bioinformatics Resources v.6.7 (Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery at <http://david.abcc.ncifcrf.gov/>) (41, 42) considering the total human genome as a background and *P* values < .05 after Bonferroni correction.

RESULTS

The RNA isolation data from each individual are compiled in Supplemental Table 3. As an average \pm SD, the RNA purity and the amount of RNA/sperm obtained were 1.70 ± 0.120 and 101 ± 35 fg, respectively.

PCR quality controls confirmed the absence of DNA contamination by detecting only complementary DNA transcripts of *PRM1* and *GAPDH*. The PCR for *CD45* discarded the presence of leukocytes in all samples. The Small-RNA chips and Nano-RNA chips confirmed the presence of

transcripts comprising 4–150 nucleotides and the absence of ribosomal RNA, respectively.

From the 736 miRNAs screened, 210 were ubiquitous in all A individuals, 179 in T, and 131 in O individuals. Most of these miRNAs were constantly present in the control population (71%, 65%, and 54%, respectively). Overall, a total set of 98 miRNAs were detected in all samples (including the 30 infertile individuals and the 10 control cases). In contrast, 69 miRNAs were absent in A, 70 in T, and 81 in O individuals. Of these miRNAs, 51%, 30%, and 46% coincided with the miRNAs constantly absent in the control population.

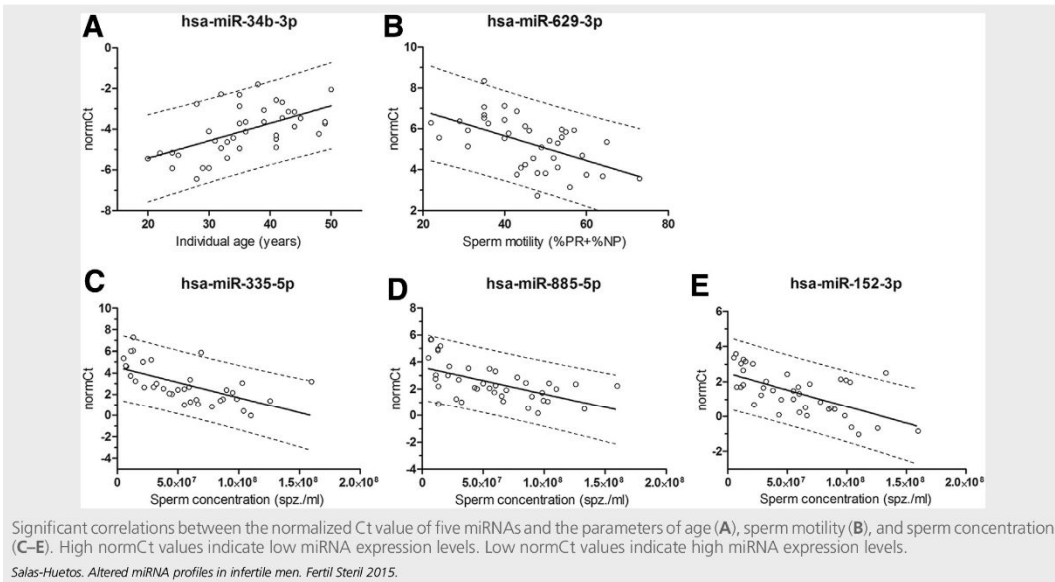
Concerning the relationship of the patient's characteristics with the normCt expression values of every specific miRNA, hsa-miR-34b-3p seemed to be positively correlated with age ($P=9.74 \times 10^{-5}$, $\rho=0.58$), and hsa-miR-629-3p negatively correlated with sperm motility ($P=8.59 \times 10^{-5}$, $\rho=-0.59$). Moreover, three other miRNAs were negatively correlated with sperm concentration values: hsa-miR-335-5p ($P=6.81 \times 10^{-6}$, $\rho=-0.67$); hsa-miR-885-5p ($P=7.07 \times 10^{-5}$, $\rho=-0.59$); and hsa-miR-152-3p ($P=7.65 \times 10^{-5}$, $\rho=-0.59$) (Fig. 1). All individuals were included in the analysis because no outliers were found (Cook's $D_i < 1$).

Unsupervised clustering allowed the classification of the individuals in a dendrogram that, according to the cubic clustering criterion method, presented two clearly differentiated groups (Fig. 2). Cluster 1 included all ten N individuals, eight A, and 5 O, whereas cluster 2 included all ten T individuals, two A, and five O. The bivariate analysis indicated a significant association between this classification and the characteristics of the seminogram ($P < .001$), whereas the other parameters analyzed (age, chromosome instability, fertilization rate, percentage of discarded embryos, pregnancy rate, and miscarriage rate) did not present a differential distribution between the two clusters.

We identified a total of 32 DE-miRNAs in the A group (26 up- and 6 down-regulated), 19 DE-miRNAs in the T group (11 up- and 8 down-regulated), and 18 DE-miRNAs in the O group (3 up-regulated and 15 down-regulated) (Table 1). Of these DE-miRNAs, 4.84% were positioned in 3' UTR, 59.68% had an intronic localization, 1.61% had an exonic localization, and 35.48% were localized in intergenic regions (Table 1). We detected a significant enrichment of up-regulated miRNAs located in intronic regions ($P=.0121$), together with a significant reduction of intergenic locations ($P=.0179$) (Table 1). Among the DE-miRNAs, neither the frequencies of sense (51.35%) and antisense (48.65%) transcription nor their localization in histone-related (29.73%) and protamine-related regions (70.27%) showed significant differences when compared with the background (Table 1).

The DIANA-microT CDS analysis allowed the identification of 5,822 target genes for the 32 DE-miRNAs observed in A individuals, 5,511 genes for the 19 DE-miRNAs detected in the T group, and 3,155 genes for the 18 DE-miRNAs found in the O group. The analysis of these three sets of genes using DAVID allowed determining the presence of significantly enriched biological processes related to male fertility (Supplemental Table 4). The A population included chromatin modification, chordate embryonic development, embryonic development ending in birth or egg hatching, and cell motion

FIGURE 1



(Fig. 3A). In the T individuals, the targets for the DE-miRNAs were significantly associated with cell cycle, negative regulation of cell differentiation, cell morphogenesis, cell projection morphogenesis, cellular component morphogenesis, cell morphogenesis involved in differentiation, cell part morpho-

genesis, and embryonic morphogenesis (Fig. 3B). Finally, in the O patients, the significantly enriched biological functions for the DE-miRNAs comprised chromatin modification, cell projection morphogenesis, cell part morphogenesis, and cell morphogenesis (Fig. 3C).

FIGURE 2

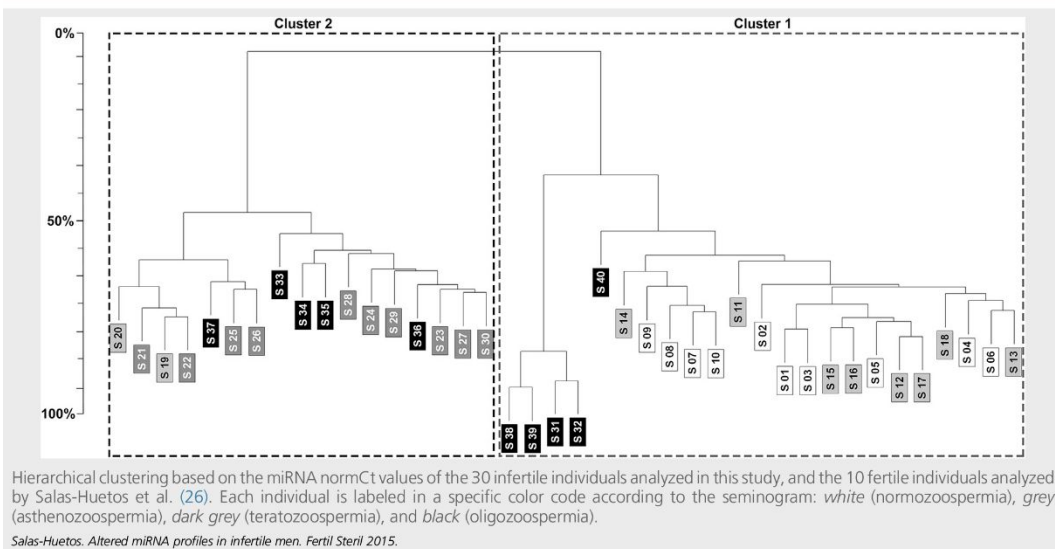


TABLE 1

DE-miRNAs in asthenozoospermic, teratozoospermic, and oligozoospermic populations.

| DE-miRNAs | Mean normCt in N | Mean normCt in infertile | Δ value ^a | P value, FDR adjusted | Pre-miRNA gene location ^b | Sense/antisense transcription ^c | Methylation (protamine/histone-related region) ^d |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Asthenozoospermic | | | | | | | |
| hsa-miR-342-3p | -2.50 | 0.66 | -3.16 | .0068 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-520h | 2.61 | 5.46 | -2.84 | .0065 | Intergenic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-629-3p | 4.61 | 6.56 | -1.94 | .0070 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-942 | 2.30 | 4.05 | -1.76 | .0083 | ND | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-184 | 2.87 | 4.62 | -1.74 | .0069 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | -5.40 | -3.95 | -1.45 | .0086 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-615-5p | 9.99 | 4.14 | 5.85 | .0076 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-548c-5p | 10.18 | 4.46 | 5.73 | .0089 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-143-3p | 10.24 | 5.06 | 5.18 | .0091 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-548d-5p | 8.18 | 3.01 | 5.17 | .0081 | Intronic | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-616-3p | 8.37 | 4.06 | 4.31 | .0084 | Intronic | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-548b-5p | 7.03 | 2.77 | 4.26 | .0088 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-520d-3p | 9.39 | 5.32 | 4.07 | .0078 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-591 | 7.54 | 3.83 | 3.71 | .0074 | Intronic | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-605 | 6.35 | 2.73 | 3.61 | .0074 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-27a-5p | 9.04 | 5.58 | 3.47 | .0070 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-1303 | 3.49 | 0.15 | 3.34 | .0064 | ND | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-770-5p | 7.16 | 3.90 | 3.26 | .0078 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-370 | 3.36 | 0.23 | 3.13 | .0088 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-604 | 8.75 | 5.65 | 3.10 | .0078 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | -0.23 | -3.30 | 3.07 | .0078 | ND | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-432-3p | 4.90 | 2.17 | 2.73 | .0077 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-1275 | -1.93 | -4.56 | 2.63 | .0058 | ND | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-19b-1-5p | 9.14 | 6.57 | 2.57 | .0076 | Intronic/UTR | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-1254 | 4.11 | 1.87 | 2.24 | .0072 | ND | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | 3.91 | 1.69 | 2.22 | .0081 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-636 | 4.50 | 2.37 | 2.13 | .0080 | 3' UTR/intronic/exonic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-572 | 6.20 | 4.24 | 1.96 | .0071 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | 3.31 | 1.47 | 1.84 | .0071 | ND | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | 3.60 | 2.10 | 1.50 | .0087 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-638 | 3.81 | 2.45 | 1.36 | .0064 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | 3.38 | 2.11 | 1.27 | .0093 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| Teratozoospermic | | | | | | | |
| hsa-miR-151-5p | 1.40 | 8.90 | -7.50 | .0078 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-935 | 1.63 | 7.26 | -5.63 | .0046 | ND | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | 5.40 | 10.96 | -5.56 | .0078 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-130b-5p | 3.31 | 7.52 | -4.21 | .0087 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-191-3p | 5.59 | 9.78 | -4.19 | .0078 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-132-5p | 6.48 | 10.63 | -4.14 | .0050 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-320b | 2.99 | 6.32 | -3.33 | .0045 | ND | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-195-5p | 1.39 | 4.18 | -2.79 | .0049 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-101-5p | 10.52 | -16.08 | 26.60 | .0045 | Intergenic | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-1305 | 8.98 | -15.65 | 24.62 | .0039 | ND | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-32-3p | 10.96 | -8.93 | 19.89 | .0052 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-16-1-3p | 10.42 | 4.18 | 6.25 | .0098 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-198 | 7.57 | 1.63 | 5.95 | .0041 | 3' UTR | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-509-5p | 6.66 | 1.44 | 5.22 | .0078 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-616-3p | 8.37 | 3.28 | 5.09 | .0037 | Intronic | Antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-34a-5p | 5.90 | 1.20 | 4.70 | .0097 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-770-5p | 7.16 | 3.40 | 3.76 | .0062 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-605 | 6.34 | 2.78 | 3.57 | .0097 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-380-5p | 8.91 | 5.46 | 3.44 | .0081 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| Oligozoospermic | | | | | | | |
| hsa-miR-935 | 1.63 | 9.65 | -8.02 | .0078 | ND | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-30d-3p | 1.00 | 7.91 | -6.91 | .0049 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | 5.40 | 10.58 | -5.19 | .0053 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-9-3p | 5.80 | 10.86 | -5.06 | .0062 | Intronic/intergenic | Sense/antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-151-5p | 1.40 | 6.06 | -4.66 | .0052 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-195-5p | 1.39 | 5.99 | -4.60 | .0064 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-132-5p | 6.48 | 10.66 | -4.17 | .0045 | Intergenic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-335-5p | 2.29 | 6.28 | -3.99 | .0056 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | -5.40 | -1.74 | -3.66 | .0050 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | -0.59 | 2.76 | -3.35 | .0078 | Intronic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-320b | 2.99 | 5.90 | -2.91 | .0065 | ND | Sense/antisense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-139-5p | 1.69 | 4.54 | -2.85 | .0078 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |

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TABLE 1

Continued.

| DE-miRNAs | Mean normCt in N | Mean normCt in infertile | Δ value ^a | P value, FDR adjusted | Pre-miRNA gene location ^b | Sense/antisense transcription ^c | Methylation (protamine/histone-related region) ^d |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | 2.31 | 4.85 | -2.54 | .0076 | Intergenic | Sense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | 0.98 | 3.06 | -2.08 | .0078 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-1180 | 3.70 | 5.41 | -1.71 | .0061 | ND | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | 3.58 | 0.91 | 2.68 | .0098 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | 3.38 | 1.45 | 1.93 | .0041 | Intronic | Sense | No (histone) |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | 3.60 | 2.20 | 1.40 | .0057 | Intronic | Antisense | Yes (protamine) |

Note: The information includes their genetic location as well as their sense/antisense transcription and their localization in a methylated region (protamine-related) or nonmethylated region (histone-related). FDR = false discovery rate; N = normozoospermic; ND = no data.

^a Δ value = difference between control and infertile expression values (positive values indicate up-regulation in the corresponding infertile group, whereas negative values indicate down-regulation).

^b Information obtained from the miRMAP 2.0 database.

^c Information obtained from the Genome Browser database and miRcode microRNA sites external track.

^d Information obtained from the Genome Browser database and DNA Methylation external track from Smith Lab.

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DISCUSSION

In this work, the expression profile of 736 miRNAs was evaluated in three infertile populations with seminal alterations and compared with control donors (29). Regarding the resemblance of the miRNA expression profiles, two main clusters were formed (Fig. 2). In this binary classification, a significant influence of the parameters of age, chromosome instability, and ART outcome (including fertilization rate, percentage of discarded embryos, pregnancy rate, and miscarriage rate) was subsequently discarded.

Starting with age, other authors have described an altered expression of circulating miRNAs associated with age-related diseases including cancer and cardiovascular alterations (43). Additionally, some specific circulating miRNAs have been proposed as biological markers of aging (i.e., hsa-mi151a-5p, hsa-miR-181a-5p, and hsa-miR-1248 [22]). In this context, although we failed to ascertain a general age effect on the clustering obtained, thus discarding an influence of aging on the sperm miRNA profile, the hsa-miR-34b-3p was significantly correlated with the age of the individuals. This is the first time that the expression level of a specific miRNA in sperm has been found to be directly related to aging and, according to this correlation, the older the individuals analyzed are, the lower the expression of this miRNA in their sperm is. Although no previous studies have related the involvement of this miRNA in age-related processes, the validated targets of this miRNA through strong evidence methods (miRTarBase: <http://mirtarbase.mbc.nctu.edu.tw/index.php> [44]) include *CCND1*, *CDK4*, *CDK6*, *MYC*, and *NOTCH1*. Interestingly, the functions associated with these genes include cell cycle progression and apoptosis (www.genecards.org/), processes that are commonly known to be related to aging (45).

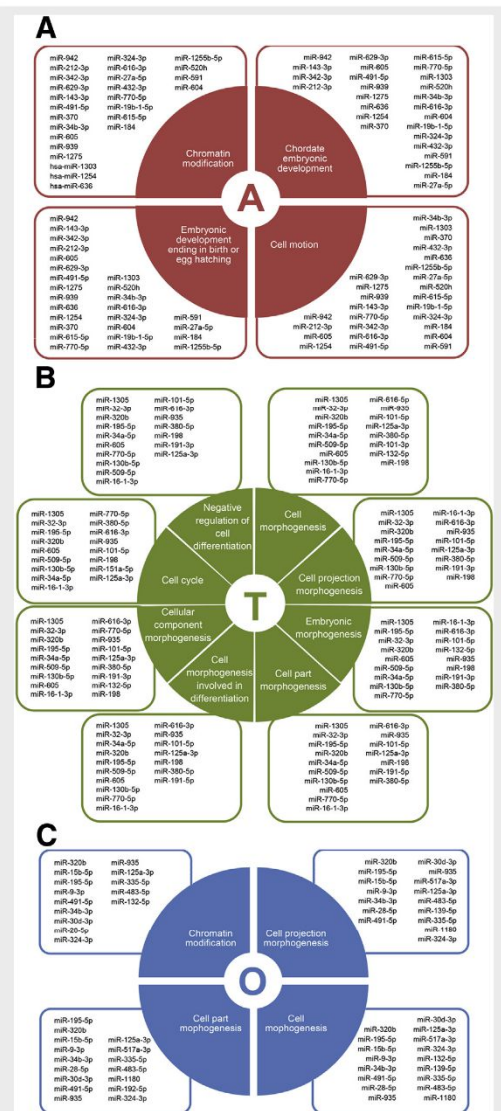
Concerning the influence of sperm chromosome instability, recent studies have detected a differential expression of specific miRNAs associated with chromosome instability in different types of cancer, including the gain/loss of chromosome fractions, the formation of structural rearrangements, and the occurrence of aneuploidies (23–25). Such phenomena can occur through different mechanisms,

including an induction of sister chromatid fusions (23), a low DNA damage response (24), or a promotion of mitotic checkpoint weakness (25). Our results did not show any association between an increase of numerical abnormalities in sperm for chromosomes 13, 18, 21, X and Y, and the global miRNA profile. Additionally, we did not find any relationship between the normCt value of each particular miRNAs and the rate of numerical chromosome anomalies for this five chromosome panel. In this sense, it must be considered that, although the five chromosomes included in the study are the most commonly analyzed in clinical settings and are considered the best indicators to evaluate sperm numerical chromosome abnormalities (28), we cannot discard a possible relationship between the sperm miRNA profile and the occurrence of chromosome anomalies other than numerical.

With respect to the ART outcome, some evidence demonstrates a relevant contribution of the sperm miRNA cargo to events beyond fertilization. Among them is the fact that the sperm miRNAs from fertile individuals enrich biological processes related to cell differentiation, development, morphogenesis, and embryogenesis (29). Other evidence includes the exclusive paternal origin of some embryonic miRNAs in mouse (i.e., mmu-miR-34b-5p, mmu-miR-34c, mmu-miR-99a-5p, mmu-miR-214-5p, mmu-miR-449a/b/c) (46), as well as the essential role of mmu-miR-34c during first embryo cleavage (46), although this result is controversial (47). Considering these facts, it would make sense to contemplate the possibility that alterations in the sperm miRNA cargo could have a negative impact on embryo development or pregnancy achievement. Nevertheless, no evidence of a relationship between the ART outcome and the clustering of individuals was observed, indicating a lack of correspondence between the miRNA expression profile and such postfertilization aspects. In any case, we have to keep in mind that the size of the number of data is still limited to extract definite conclusive results.

The only parameter that seemed to be unevenly distributed in the two clusters obtained, and which would consequently explain the differential distribution obtained, was

FIGURE 3



Differentially expressed miRNAs that target genes involved in the significantly enriched biological processes related to male fertility in (A) the asthenozoospermic individuals; (B) teratozoospermic individuals; and (C) oligozoospermic individuals.

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individuals, which are all grouped into the opposite cluster, also indicating a very homogenous profile. This great homogeneity of N individuals agrees with the high correlation between samples detected in our previously published study based on this fertile population (29). On the other hand, most A individuals also display a homogenous profile, which mostly resembles the profile described by the N population (80% of A individuals are classified together with N). Finally, the O group seems to display the most heterogeneous miRNA expression profile because they are split between both clusters (50% are classified in one cluster and 50% in the other).

In the context of identifying particular miRNAs associated with specific seminal features, the expression levels of the hsa-miR-629-3p seemed to be highly correlated with sperm motility. The presence of hsa-miR-629-3p in human spermatozoa had been previously described by Abu-Halima et al. (18), but this is the first time that a higher expression of this miRNA (lower normCT values; Fig. 1) has been related to a higher motility of spermatozoa. Although no functions or strongly validated targets of this miRNA have been described so far, our results suggest that the expression level of this miRNA could be considered a biomarker of the asthenozoospermic condition.

Moreover, three other miRNAs (i.e., hsa-miR-335-5p, hsa-miR-885-5p, and hsa-miR-152-3p) showed normCt values negatively correlated with sperm concentration, indicating an association between a lower expression level of these miRNAs and a lower production of spermatozoa in the ejaculate (Fig. 1). Regarding hsa-miR-335-5p, several authors have already detected it in sperm from fertile individuals (18, 29, 48). Furthermore, this miRNA has been observed to be down-regulated in oligoasthenozoospermic men (18), which agrees with the correlation observed in the present study. Additionally, strongly validated targets of this miRNA (including *BCL2L2*, *BIRC5*, *MAPK1*, *MERTK*, *PIPRN2*, *RASA1*, and *SOX4*) have been found to be directly related to the processes of *Cell death*, *Cell survival*, and *Cell proliferation*. Therefore, their differential transcriptional regulation could alter these processes and explain the relationship between this miRNA and the number of sperm produced (49). On the other hand, hsa-miR-885-5p and hsa-miR-152-3p have also been previously detected in sperm from fertile individuals (29), although no evidence supporting their implication in sperm production has been published to date.

From the statistical comparison of the expression profiles obtained, 57 miRNAs were found to be differentially expressed in the three infertile populations: 32 DE-miRNAs in the A group, 19 DE-miRNAs in the T group, and 18 DE-miRNAs in the O group (Table 1). Two of the up-expressed miRNAs detected in the A population (hsa-miR-27a-5p and hsa-miR-34b-3p) were coincident with the results found by the only previous similar study published by Abu-Halima et al. (18) in asthenozoospermic individuals. These authors also detected six down-regulated miRNAs (hsa-miR-132-5p, hsa-miR-15b-5p, hsa-miR-335-5p, hsa-miR-34b-3p, hsa-miR-520h, and hsa-miR-9-3p) that are down-regulated in our O or A populations. However, other DE-miRNAs were not coincident between both studies, indicating either the existence of interindividual differences within populations or

the seminogram (Fig. 2). Several facts can be highlighted from the clustering obtained: T individuals have a homogeneous miRNA profile because they are all grouped in the same cluster. This profile is clearly different from the one displayed by N

the different sensibility and specificity of the techniques used (arrays vs. quantitative RT-PCR) (50, 51).

When we assessed the characteristics of hosting regions encoding the DE-miRNAs, we only detected a significant enrichment of intronic regions in the up-regulated miRNAs. Recent studies of miRNA gene locations showed that most mammalian miRNA (approximately 70%) are located in defined transcription units, and of these, 75% correspond to intronic regions (52). These miRNAs are not transcribed from their own promoters but are instead transcribed from the promoters of genes in which they are included (53, 54). Bearing in mind these considerations, it would be plausible that the dysregulated expression of intronic miRNAs could be driven by a deregulation of the hosting gene. The analysis of the transcription units for the DE-miRNAs located in intronic regions was shown to affect 29 genes, 9 of which (i.e., *DALRD3*, *HOXC4*, *HOXC5*, *IFT80*, *IGF2*, *LPP*, *MEST*, *PTK2*, and *SMC4*) have been observed to have a direct relationship with spermatogenesis (Supplemental Table 5) (55–62), thus supporting a link between the differential miRNA expression levels detected and the fertility alterations present in these individuals. Analysis of the expression level of these mRNAs in germ cells would help to elucidate the role of these products in human fertility, although the difficulty in obtaining human testis tissue limits this kind of analysis.

Another alternative way to find a link between the DE-miRNAs and the characteristics of A, T, and O individuals comes from the ontological analyses of the potential target genes. The particular DE-miRNAs in each infertile group have shown a significant association with biological functions related to their specific seminal characteristics. These associations were especially relevant in the A group, in which the process *Cell motion* seemed to be significantly enriched, and in the T group, in which *cell morphogenesis*, *cell projection morphogenesis*, and *cellular component morphogenesis* were among the significantly enriched biological processes. In the O group, the results of the ontological analysis did not show an enrichment of processes directly linked to oligozoospermia. Nevertheless, the processes that were significantly enriched in this group included chromatin modification, cell projection morphogenesis, cell part morphogenesis, and cell morphogenesis, which can also ultimately be associated to a low sperm production.

To further identify genes specifically associated to the infertility present in these individuals, we applied a filtering strategy in the list of potential targets of the DE-miRNAs to select those with an annotated function associated to spermatogenesis or meiosis. This allowed us to define a set of 74 genes in the A group, 75 genes in the T group, and 26 genes in the O group. Among them, 11 genes (i.e., *BCL2L2*, *CCND2*, *CHEK1*, *DAZ1*, *DMWD*, *ESPL1*, *FNDC3A*, *SPAG16*, *PSME4*, *RAD51C*, and *STAG2*) can be associated with the occurrence of seminal alterations (Supplemental Table 6) (63–73). Therefore it is very plausible that the dysregulation of these genes caused by the DE-miRNAs could be, at least in part, responsible for the altered fertility conditions present in these individuals. According to these premises, this set of genes could enlarge the list of candidates

for consideration as potential biomarkers of human male infertility.

Further studies in similar populations of infertile individuals are needed to confirm some of the scenarios presented in this article. In this context, it would also be of great interest to screen the genetic expression in germ cells of the same individuals (spermatogonia, spermatocytes) because it would contribute to the elucidation of which kind of gene expression regulation is exerted by these miRNAs and at what level. On the other hand, the analysis in oocytes and early embryonic stages would also contribute to clarification of their possible role during further embryo development. In fact, among the biological functions that are significantly associated to the potential target genes of the DE-miRNAs in the A and T populations, we found an enrichment of processes related to embryogenesis (Supplemental Table 4), which would indicate a possible participation of these miRNAs in this process upon their transmission to the zygote.

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Supplementary data related to this article can be found online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2015.06.015>.

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Supplemental Table 1. Age, seminal parameters, FISH result, ART procedure and outcome of the individuals included in the study.

| Samples | Age (years) ^a | Seminal parameters | | | | FISH result ^d | ART procedure & outcome | | | | |
|------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | | Seminogram | Concentration (spz./ml) | Motility (%PR+ %NP) | Morphology (%NF) | | Technique | Fertilization rate (%) | Discarded embryos (%) | Pregnancy rate (%) | Miscarriage rate (%) |
| S11 | 32 (R2) | A | 1.26x10 ⁸ | 35 | 12 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 62.5 | 40 | 100 | 0 |
| S12 | 36 (R2) | A | 9.80x10 ⁷ | 35 | 10 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 0 | - | - | - |
| S13 | 31 (R2) | A | 6.53x10 ⁷ | 40 | 16 ^c | Normal | ICSI | 80 | 75 | 0 | - |
| S14 | 41 (R3) | A | 9.94x10 ⁷ | 35 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 0 | - | - | - |
| S15 | 35 (R2) | A | 6.03x10 ⁷ | 35 | 13 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 60 | 50 | 0 | - |
| S16 | 41 (R3) | A | 1.04x10 ⁸ | 40 | 14 ^c | Altered | ICSI | 0 | - | - | - |
| S17 | 42 (R3) | A | 2.23x10 ⁷ | 24 | 7 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 87.5 | 57.1 | 100 | 0 |
| S18 | 49 (R3) | A | 4.30x10 ⁷ | 22 | 7 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 83.3 | 60 | 50 | 0 |
| S19 | 44 (R3) | A | 6.90x10 ⁷ | 31 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 73.7 | 50 | 50 | 100 |
| S20 | 39 (R2) | A | 7.80x10 ⁷ | 29 | 7 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 66.7 | 12.5 | 100 | 0 |
| Mean (±SD) | 39 (±5.6) | - | 7.65x10 ⁷ (±3.11x10 ⁷) | 32.6 (±6.1) | 9.6 (±3.9) | - | - | 51.27 (±36.44) | 49.23 (±19.49) | 57.14 (±44.99) | 20.00 (±44.72) |
| S21 | 33 (R2) | T | 1.33x10 ⁸ | 73 | 1 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 70.6 | 33.3 | 100 | 33.3 |
| S22 | 35 (R2) | T | 3.80x10 ⁷ | 49 | 3 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 58.3 | 71.4 | 100 | 0 |
| S23 | 48 (R3) | T | 8.50x10 ⁷ | 41 | 3 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 50 | 0 | 0 | - |
| S24 | 34 (R2) | T | 6.66x10 ⁷ | 54 | 3 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 58.3 | 52.4 | 33.3 | 0 |
| S25 | 36 (R2) | T | 1.60x10 ⁸ | 46 | 3 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 52.4 | 54.6 | 50 | 0 |
| S26 | 42 (R3) | T | 9.00x10 ⁷ | 56 | 3 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 75 | 66.7 | 100 | 0 |
| S27 | 41 (R3) | T | 2.80x10 ⁷ | 51 | 2 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 50 | 71.4 | 0 | - |
| S28 | 35 (R2) | T | 5.52x10 ⁷ | 45 | 10 ^c | Altered | ICSI | 66.7 | 50 | 0 | - |
| S29 | 28 (R1) | T | 2.12x10 ⁷ | 45 | 6 ^c | Normal | No ART | - | - | - | - |
| S30 | 32 (R2) | T | 4.72x10 ⁷ | 60 | 10 ^c | Normal | ICSI | 50 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Mean (±SD) | 36.4 (±5.8) | - | 7.24x10 ⁷ (±4.54x10 ⁷) | 52.0 (±9.4) | 4.4 (±3.2) | - | - | 59.03 (±9.60) | 44.42 (±27.88) | 42.59 (±46.48) | 6.67 (±14.91) |
| S31 | 37 (R2) | O | 1.30x10 ⁷ | 43 | 4 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 46.7 | 28.6 | 100 | 0 |
| S32 | 35 (R2) | O | 1.30x10 ⁷ | 64 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 50 | 0 | 100 | 50 |
| S33 | 38 (R2) | O | 1.33x10 ⁷ | 36 | 4 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 46.3 | 4 | 100 | 50 |
| S34 | 50 (R3) | O | 1.13x10 ⁷ | 54 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 0 | - | - | - |
| S35 | 43 (R3) | O | 1.33x10 ⁷ | 43 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 90 | 33.3 | 50 | 0 |
| S36 | 39 (R2) | O | 1.10x10 ⁷ | 57 | 4 ^b | Altered | No ART | - | - | - | - |
| S37 | 45 (R3) | O | 5.30x10 ⁶ | 40 | 4 ^b | Normal | No ART | - | - | - | - |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---|--|----------------|----------------|---------|------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| S38 | 44 (R3) | O | 7.60x10 ⁶ | 48 | 5 ^b | Altered | ICSI | 90.5 | 73.7 | 66.7 | 50 |
| S39 | 49 (R3) | O | 7.00x10 ⁶ | 53 | 4 ^b | Normal | ICSI | 85.7 | 75 | 100 | 0 |
| S40 | 41 (R3) | O | 15.00x10 ⁶ | 48 | 7 ^b | ND | ICSI | 100 | 28.6 | 100 | 0 |
| Mean (±SD) | 42.1 (±5.0) | - | 1.10x10 ⁷ (±3.24x10 ⁶) | 48.6 (±8.5) | 4.7 (±0.9) | - | - | 63.64 (±33.91) | 34.74 (±29.91) | 91.6 (±20.41) | 21.43 (±26.73) |

FISH: Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization, ART: Assisted Reproductive Technology, ICSI: Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection, SD: Standard deviation, A: Asthenozoospermia, T: Teratozoospermia, O: Oligozoospermia, Spz.: Spermatozoa, PR: Progressive, NP: Non-progressive, NF: Normal forms, ND: No Data.

a. R1=range 19-29 years old; R2=range 30-39 years old; R3=range 40-50 years old.

b. WHO morphology criteria (WHO 2010) (1); lower limit <4% normal forms.

c. Strict Kruger morphology criteria (Kruger *et al.*, 1988) (27); lower limit <14% normal forms.

d. Altered FISH result: Patients with an increase incidence of numerical chromosome anomalies for chromosomes 13, 18, 21, X and Y in spermatozoa.

Supplemental Table 2. Primers and amplification conditions used in the PCR assays for the quality controls of the sperm RNA isolation.

| Gene (GenBank Accession number) | Primer Sequence (5'-3') | Annealing temperature (°C) | cDNA size (bp) | DNA size (bp) | Chromosome location |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| PRM1 (NM_002761.2) | For.CAGAGTTCCACCTGCTCACA Rev.GGATGGTGGCATTTC AAGA | 62 | 331 | 422 | Chr16:11,374,707-11,375,129 |
| GAPDH (NM_002046.5) | For.CGACCACTTTGTCAAGCTCA Rev.AGGGGTCTACATGGCAACTG | 64 | 228 | 332 | Chr12:6,643,571-6,647,541 |
| CD45 or PTPRC (NM_002838.4) | For.CCTTGAACCCGAACATGAGT Rev.ATCTTTGAGGGGGATTCCAG | 60 | - | - | Chr1:198,608,098-198,726,605 |

Supplemental Table 3. RNA isolation data.

| Samples | Total number spz. | Total RNA (ng) | RNA(fg)/spz | Purity (260/280 nm) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Asthenozoospermic | | | | |
| S11 | 2.58x10 ⁷ | 1,225 | 47 | 1.83 |
| S12 | 4.36x10 ⁷ | 477 | 11 | 1.79 |
| S13 | 7.78x10 ⁷ | 895 | 11 | 1.77 |
| S14 | 2.00x10 ⁷ | 207 | 10 | 1.62 |
| S15 | 2.62x10 ⁷ | 1,103 | 42 | 1.77 |
| S16 | 7.58x10 ⁷ | 2,066 | 27 | 1.78 |
| S17 | 6.65x10 ⁶ | 2,152 | 324 | 1.80 |
| S18 | 1.75x10 ⁷ | 5,313 | 304 | 1.83 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----|------|
| S19 | 2.95x10 ⁶ | 392 | 133 | 1.72 |
| S20 | 2.67x10 ⁷ | 9,532 | 357 | 1.80 |
| Teratozoospermic | | | | |
| S21 | 5.39x10 ⁷ | 497 | 9 | 1.74 |
| S22 | 1.13x10 ⁷ | 765 | 68 | 1.75 |
| S23 | 6.29x10 ⁷ | 3,256 | 52 | 1.84 |
| S24 | 3.79x10 ⁷ | 3,085 | 81 | 1.80 |
| S25 | 8.89x10 ⁷ | 1,924 | 22 | 1.81 |
| S26 | 5.51x10 ⁷ | 1,923 | 35 | 1.75 |
| S27 | 1.29x10 ⁷ | 944 | 73 | 1.75 |
| S28 | 1.42x10 ⁷ | 3,165 | 223 | 1.77 |
| S29 | 2.06x10 ⁷ | 414 | 20 | 1.60 |
| S30 | 3.28x10 ⁷ | 769 | 23 | 1.80 |
| Oligozoospermic | | | | |
| S31 | 7.00x10 ⁶ | 352 | 50 | 1.67 |
| S32 | 2.80x10 ⁶ | 463 | 165 | 1.61 |
| S33 | 8.00x10 ⁶ | 811 | 101 | 1.74 |
| S34 | 3.60x10 ⁶ | 698 | 194 | 1.64 |
| S35 | 1.05x10 ⁷ | 382 | 36 | 1.77 |
| S36 | 7.80x10 ⁶ | 446 | 57 | 1.70 |
| S37 | 8.60x10 ⁶ | 482 | 56 | 1.75 |
| S38 | 4.40x10 ⁶ | 493 | 112 | 1.36 |
| S39 | 4.60x10 ⁶ | 586 | 127 | 0.93 |
| S40 | 5.40x10 ⁶ | 1260 | 350 | 1.43 |

Spz.: Spermatozoa, ng: nanograms, fg: femtograms

Supplemental Table 4. Enriched biological functions associated with the predicted target genes of the differentially expressed miRNAs in the three populations analyzed. Note: Significantly enriched biological processes directly related to seminal alterations are indicated in bold.

| Significantly enriched biological functions (GO term) | Fisher Exact P-Value | Bonferroni correction |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Asthenozoospermic (32 DE-miRNAs; 5,822 Targets) | | |
| Regulation of transcription (GO:0006355) | 4.40x10 ⁻²⁴ | 2.30x10 ⁻²⁰ |
| Transcription (GO:0006351) | 5.70x10 ⁻²³ | 3.00x10 ⁻¹⁹ |
| Regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051252) | 4.90x10 ⁻¹⁵ | 2.60x10 ⁻¹¹ |
| Regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0006355) | 3.90x10 ⁻¹⁴ | 2.10x10 ⁻¹⁰ |
| Negative regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010605) | 4.10x10 ⁻¹³ | 2.20x10 ⁻⁹ |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Negative regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process (GO:0010558) | 8.00x10 ⁻¹³ | 4.20x10 ⁻⁹ |
| Negative regulation of gene expression (GO:0010629) | 1.20x10 ⁻¹² | 6.20x10 ⁻⁹ |
| Negative regulation of transcription (GO:0045892) | 3.80x10 ⁻¹² | 2.00x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Negative regulation of biosynthetic process (GO:0009890) | 6.20x10 ⁻¹² | 3.30x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Negative regulation of cellular biosynthetic process (GO:0031327) | 9.80x10 ⁻¹² | 5.20x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006357) | 1.60x10 ⁻¹¹ | 8.60x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Negative regulation of nucleobase, nucleoside, nucleotide and nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0045934) | 9.30x10 ⁻¹¹ | 4.90x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Negative regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process (GO:0051172) | 2.20x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.20x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Negative regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051253) | 8.00x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 4.20x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0045893) | 1.50x10 ⁻⁹ | 8.10x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051254) | 1.90x10 ⁻⁹ | 1.00x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Negative regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0045892) | 2.70x10 ⁻⁹ | 1.40x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of gene expression (GO:0010628) | 8.30x10 ⁻⁹ | 4.40x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of transcription (GO:0045893) | 9.00x10 ⁻⁹ | 4.80x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process (GO:0051173) | 1.70x10 ⁻⁸ | 9.10x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of nucleobase, nucleoside, nucleotide and nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0045935) | 1.90x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.00x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010604) | 3.00x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.60x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0045944) | 1.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 7.50x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Chromatin modification (GO:0016568) | 1.90x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process (GO:0010557) | 2.00x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.10x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of cellular biosynthetic process (GO:0031328) | 2.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Chordate embryonic development (GO:0043009) | 2.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of biosynthetic process (GO:0009891) | 2.80x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.50x10 ⁻³ |
| Embryonic development ending in birth or egg hatching (GO:0009792) | 4.50x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.40x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0000122) | 7.60x10 ⁻⁷ | 4.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Intracellular transport (GO:0046907) | 1.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 9.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Cell motion (GO:0006928) | 2.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 1.50x10 ⁻² |
| Enzyme linked receptor protein signaling pathway (GO:0007167) | 6.40x10 ⁻⁶ | 3.30x10 ⁻² |
| Teratozoospermic (19 DE-miRNAs; 5,511 Targets) | | |
| Regulation of transcription (GO:0006355) | 6.10x10 ⁻¹⁵ | 3.20x10 ⁻¹¹ |
| Transcription (GO:0006351) | 8.00x10 ⁻¹⁴ | 4.10x10 ⁻¹⁰ |
| Proteolysis involved in cellular protein catabolic process (GO:0051603) | 6.90x10 ⁻¹¹ | 3.60x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Cellular protein catabolic process (GO:0044257) | 1.20x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 6.40x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Modification-dependent macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0043632) | 2.50x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.30x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Modification-dependent protein catabolic process (GO:0019941) | 2.50x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.30x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Protein catabolic process (GO:0030163) | 4.60x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 2.40x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051252) | 5.40x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 2.80x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0006355) | 2.60x10 ⁻⁹ | 1.40x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Negative regulation of gene expression (GO:0010629) | 3.10x10 ⁻⁹ | 1.60x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Phosphate metabolic process (GO:0006796) | 2.50x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.30x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Phosphorus metabolic process (GO:0006793) | 2.50x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.30x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Negative regulation of transcription (GO:0045892) | 2.80x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.40x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process (GO:0051173) | 3.00x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.60x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Cellular macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0044265) | 3.50x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.80x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of gene expression (GO:0010628) | 3.60x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.90x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of nucleobase, nucleoside, nucleotide and nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0045935) | 3.80x10 ⁻⁸ | 2.00x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Enzyme linked receptor protein signaling pathway (GO:0007167) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁸ | 3.00x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of transcription (GO:0045893) | 7.20x10 ⁻⁸ | 3.70x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of biosynthetic process (GO:0009891) | 9.50x10 ⁻⁸ | 4.90x10 ⁻⁴ |

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Positive regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process (GO:0010557) | 1.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 7.00x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of cellular biosynthetic process (GO:0031328) | 1.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 7.00x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Protein amino acid phosphorylation (GO:0006468) | 1.50x10 ⁻⁷ | 7.70x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Negative regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process (GO:0010558) | 3.80x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0009057) | 4.30x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.20x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010604) | 4.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of nucleobase, nucleoside, nucleotide and nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0045934) | 5.00x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.60x10 ⁻³ |
| Cell cycle (GO:0007049) | 5.10x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.60x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process (GO:0051172) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁷ | 3.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Neuron projection morphogenesis (GO:0048812) | 8.30x10 ⁻⁷ | 4.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of cell differentiation (GO:0045596) | 8.70x10 ⁻⁷ | 4.50x10 ⁻³ |
| Cell morphogenesis (GO:0000902) | 9.60x10 ⁻⁷ | 5.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051254) | 1.20x10 ⁻⁶ | 6.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of cellular biosynthetic process (GO:0031327) | 1.20x10 ⁻⁶ | 6.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Positive regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0045893) | 1.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 8.70x10 ⁻³ |
| Protein modification by small protein conjugation or removal (GO:0070647) | 1.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 9.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Negative regulation of biosynthetic process (GO:0009890) | 1.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 9.30x10 ⁻³ |
| Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006357) | 2.00x10 ⁻⁶ | 1.00x10 ⁻² |
| Heart development (GO:0007507) | 2.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 1.40x10 ⁻² |
| Axonogenesis (GO:0007409) | 3.20x10 ⁻⁶ | 1.70x10 ⁻² |
| Cell projection morphogenesis (GO:0048858) | 3.60x10 ⁻⁶ | 1.80x10 ⁻² |
| Cellular component morphogenesis (GO:0032989) | 3.90x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.00x10 ⁻² |
| Intracellular transport (GO:0046907) | 4.00x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.00x10 ⁻² |
| Tube development (GO:0035295) | 4.50x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.30x10 ⁻² |
| Negative regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010605) | 4.60x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.40x10 ⁻² |
| Cell morphogenesis involved in differentiation (GO:0000904) | 5.40x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.80x10 ⁻² |
| Transmembrane receptor protein tyrosine kinase signaling pathway (GO:0007169) | 5.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.90x10 ⁻² |
| Cell part morphogenesis (GO:0032990) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.90x10 ⁻² |
| Embryonic morphogenesis (GO:0048598) | 6.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 3.50x10 ⁻² |
| Phosphorylation (GO:0016310) | 8.70x10 ⁻⁶ | 4.40x10 ⁻² |
| Appendage development (GO:0048736) | 8.90x10 ⁻⁶ | 4.50x10 ⁻² |
| Limb development (GO:0060173) | 8.90x10 ⁻⁶ | 4.50x10 ⁻² |
| Pattern specification process (GO:0007389) | 9.00x10 ⁻⁶ | 4.60x10 ⁻² |
| Oligozoospermic (18 DE-miRNAs; 3,155 Targets) | | |
| Regulation of transcription (GO:0006355) | 2.10x10 ⁻¹¹ | 9.30x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Modification-dependent protein catabolic process (GO:0019941) | 2.20x10 ⁻¹¹ | 9.70x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Modification-dependent macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0043632) | 2.20x10 ⁻¹¹ | 9.70x10 ⁻⁸ |
| Proteolysis involved in cellular protein catabolic process (GO:0051603) | 3.10x10 ⁻¹¹ | 1.40x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Cellular protein catabolic process (GO:0044257) | 4.70x10 ⁻¹¹ | 2.00x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Positive regulation of nucleobase, nucleoside, nucleotide and nucleic acid metabolic process (GO:0045935) | 1.20x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 5.10x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Protein catabolic process (GO:0030163) | 1.70x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 7.20x10 ⁻⁷ |
| Positive regulation of nitrogen compound metabolic process (GO:0051173) | 2.40x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.00x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of transcription (GO:0045893) | 3.00x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.30x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of gene expression (GO:0010628) | 4.30x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 1.90x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010604) | 4.70x10 ⁻¹⁰ | 2.00x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Positive regulation of macromolecule biosynthetic process (GO:0010557) | 1.50x10 ⁻⁹ | 6.60x10 ⁻⁶ |
| Cellular macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0044265) | 1.00x10 ⁻⁸ | 4.30x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of biosynthetic process (GO:0009891) | 1.00x10 ⁻⁸ | 4.30x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Transcription (GO:0006351) | 1.40x10 ⁻⁸ | 5.90x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of cellular biosynthetic process (GO:0031328) | 1.70x10 ⁻⁸ | 7.40x10 ⁻⁵ |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Protein amino acid phosphorylation (GO:0006468) | 2.20x10 ⁻⁸ | 9.40x10 ⁻⁵ |
| Positive regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051254) | 4.10x10 ⁻⁸ | 1.80x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Regulation of RNA metabolic process (GO:0051252) | 5.10x10 ⁻⁸ | 2.20x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Protein modification by small protein conjugation or removal (GO:0070647) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁸ | 2.50x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Positive regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0045893) | 8.50x10 ⁻⁸ | 3.70x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Protein ubiquitination (GO:0016567) | 1.50x10 ⁻⁷ | 6.30x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Macromolecule catabolic process (GO:0009057) | 2.10x10 ⁻⁷ | 9.30x10 ⁻⁴ |
| Regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0006357) | 2.70x10 ⁻⁷ | 1.20x10 ⁻³ |
| Protein modification by small protein conjugation (GO:0032446) | 5.20x10 ⁻⁷ | 2.20x10 ⁻³ |
| Chromatin modification (GO:0016568) | 6.90x10 ⁻⁷ | 3.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Posttranscriptional regulation of gene expression (GO:0010608) | 7.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 3.20x10 ⁻³ |
| Regulation of transcription, DNA-dependent (GO:0006355) | 9.40x10 ⁻⁷ | 4.00x10 ⁻³ |
| Cell projection morphogenesis (GO:0048858) | 4.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.10x10 ⁻² |
| Intracellular transport (GO:0046907) | 5.60x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.40x10 ⁻² |
| Phosphate metabolic process (GO:0006796) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.50x10 ⁻² |
| Phosphorus metabolic process (GO:0006793) | 5.80x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.50x10 ⁻² |
| Cell part morphogenesis (GO:0032990) | 6.20x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.70x10 ⁻² |
| Forebrain development (GO:0030900) | 6.50x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.80x10 ⁻² |
| Regulation of small GTPase mediated signal transduction (GO:0051056) | 6.90x10 ⁻⁶ | 2.90x10 ⁻² |
| Negative regulation of macromolecule metabolic process (GO:0010605) | 8.00x10 ⁻⁶ | 3.40x10 ⁻² |
| Negative regulation of gene expression (GO:0010629) | 9.20x10 ⁻⁶ | 3.90x10 ⁻² |
| Cell morphogenesis (GO:0000902) | 1.10x10 ⁻⁵ | 4.60x10 ⁻² |
| Positive regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter (GO:0045944) | 1.10x10 ⁻⁵ | 4.70x10 ⁻² |
| Enzyme linked receptor protein signaling pathway (GO:0007167) | 1.20x10 ⁻⁵ | 4.90x10 ⁻² |

Supplemental Table 5. Host genes of the differentially expressed miRNAs located in intronic regions and related to spermatogenesis or embryogenesis processes.

| Gene (OMIM nomenclature) | Chromosome location | Function | Reference |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|
| DALR Anticodon binding domain containing 3 (<i>DALRD3</i>) | Chr3:49,052,921-49,056,041 | Testis expression suggesting a role in spermatogenesis | Grinchuk <i>et al.</i> 2010 (55) |
| Homeobox C4 (<i>HOXC4</i>) | Chr12:54,388,715-54,449,813 | Morphogenesis in multicellular organisms | Min <i>et al.</i> 2013 (56) |
| Homeobox C5 (<i>HOXC5</i>) | Chr12:54,410,641-54,429,144 | Morphogenesis in multicellular organisms | Min <i>et al.</i> 2013 (56) |
| Intraflagellar transport 80 (<i>IFT80</i>) | Chr3:159,974,773-160,118,027 | Maintenance of motility | Huang <i>et al.</i> 2008 (57) |
| Insulin-like growth factor II (<i>IGF2</i>) | Chr11:2,150,345-2,179,610 | Regulation of cell proliferation, growth, migration, differentiation, and survival | Constância <i>et al.</i> 2002 (58) |
| LIM Domain containing preferred translocation partner in lipoma (<i>LPP</i>) | Chr3:187,871,096-188,608,459 | Cell adhesion in maintaining cell shape and motility | Majesky <i>et al.</i> 2006 (59) |
| Mesoderm-specific transcript, mouse homolog (<i>MEST</i>) | Chr7:130,126,015-130,146,137 | Development of fetal tissues | Ferguson-Smith <i>et al.</i> 1991 (60) |
| Protein-tyrosine kinase 2 (<i>PTK2</i>) | Chr8:141,668,480-142,011,411 | Early embryonic development and angiogenesis | Shen <i>et al.</i> 2005 (61) |
| Structural maintenance of chromosomes 4 (<i>SMC4</i>) | Chr3:160,117,077-160,152,754 | Maintenance of chromosomes, mitotic chromosome condensation and DNA repair | Ball <i>et al.</i> 2001 (62) |

Supplemental Table 6. Potential target genes of the DE-miRNAs in the three populations of infertile individuals analyzed which have been previously described to be associated with seminal alterations.

| Gene (OMIM nomenclature) | Chromosome location | Function | Reference |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| BCL2-like2 (BCL2L2) | Chr14:23,775,970-23,790,240 | Murine adult spermatogenesis | Ross <i>et al.</i> 1998 (63) |
| Cyclin D2 (CCND2) | Chr12:4,382,900-4,414,521 | Murine germ cell proliferation | Kozar <i>et al.</i> 2004 (64) |
| Checkpoint kinase 1 (CHEK1) | Chr11:125,495,030-125,546,149 | Checkpoint mediated cell cycle arrest in response to DNA damage in meiotic prophase I | Takai <i>et al.</i> 2000 (65) |
| Deleted in azoospermia (DAZ1) | ChrY:25,275,501-25,345,238 | Critical role during spermatogenesis. Deletions of this gene have been associated to azoospermia | Tsui <i>et al.</i> 2000 (66) |
| Dystrophia myotonica, WD repeat containing (DMWD) | Chr19:46,286,204-46,296,059 | Regulatory function in meiosis | Jansen <i>et al.</i> 1992 (67) |
| Extra spindle poles-like 1 (ESPL1) | Chr12:53,662,082-53,687,426 | Central role in chromosome segregation | Sun <i>et al.</i> 2009 (68) |
| Fibronectin type III domain-containing 3A (FNDC3A) | Chr13:49,550,047-49,783,914 | Spermatid-Sertoli adhesion during spermatogenesis | Obholz <i>et al.</i> 2006 (69) |
| Sperm-associated antigen 16 (SPAG16 or PF20) | Chr2:214,149,102-215,275,224 | Sperm flagellar function and motile ciliogenesis | Zhang <i>et al.</i> 2002 (70) |
| Proteasome activator subunit 4 (PSME4) | Chr2:54,091,203-54,197,976 | Promotes ATP- and ubiquitin-independent degradation on acetylated histones during spermatogenesis or DNA damage response | Khor <i>et al.</i> 2006 (71) |
| RAD51 <i>S. cerevisiae</i> homolog C (RAD51C) | Chr17:56,769,933-56,811,702 | Homologous DNA recombination and repair | Liu <i>et al.</i> 2004 (72) |
| Stromal antigen 2 (STAG2) | ChrX:123,094,474-123,236,505 | Separation of sister chromatids during cell division | Renault <i>et al.</i> 2011 (73) |

Capítol 6. Discussió general

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6.1. Extracció del transcriptoma espermàtic

6.1.1. Purificació de la fracció espermàtica

El punt de partida del desenvolupament experimental va requerir l'optimització d'un protocol de selecció de la fracció espermàtica de l'ejaculat, amb la finalitat d'assegurar que els resultats obtinguts reflecteixen específicament el contingut de miRNAs dels espermatozoides. S'han descrit una gran varietat de mètodes de purificació espermàtica (revisat per Henkel i Schill, 2003). La majoria es basen en la selecció dels espermatozoides mòbils, i tots ells tenen la finalitat de seleccionar els espermatozoides amb més capacitat fecundant com a pas previ a cicles de TRA.

No obstant, la major part d'aquests mètodes presenten limitacions per executar el disseny experimental plantejat en el nostre estudi. En primer lloc, hem de destacar que la recuperació cel·lular de la majoria d'ells és molt reduïda. A mode d'exemple, tant els mètodes basats en la centrifugació de la mostra mitjançant gradients de densitat (e.g. PureSperm®) com els mètodes de migració i sedimentació (e.g. *swim-up*), presenten pèrdues d'espermatozoides d'entre el 80- 90% (Rabe *et al.*, 2000). Aquest fet és altament condicionant per poder quantificar els 736 miRNAs mitjançant plaques preconfigurades TaqMan®, ja que la quantitat mínima d'RNA necessària per aquest tipus d'anàlisi és de 150ng (corresponent aproximadament a 1×10^7 espermatozoides). En segon lloc, aquests mètodes de selecció no permeten l'anàlisi del transcriptoma de tots els espermatozoides de l'ejaculat, ja que els espermatozoides amb alteracions de motilitat i morfologia són descartats.

Per superar aquestes limitacions es va seleccionar el mètode SCL (Goodrich *et al.*, 2007), el qual es basa en la utilització d'una barreja de detergents que lisa les cèl·lules somàtiques però no els espermatozoides. Aquesta lisi selectiva es fonamenta en el fet que els espermatozoides presenten una membrana amb una càrrega proteica molt elevada en comparació a les cèl·lules somàtiques de l'ejaculat. Aquestes proteïnes són imprescindibles per la funció de l'espermatozoide -e.g. reacció acrosòmica, localització i fusió amb les membranes oocitàries, i penetració de la zona pel·lúcida-, i

s'acumulen en determinades regions que esdevenen especialment resistents a detergents (*detergent resistant membranes*; DRM) (Nixon *et al.*, 2009, 2011). Com a conseqüència, els espermatozoides tenen una major resistència al tractament amb detergents que qualsevol cèl·lula somàtica. El resultat final de l'aplicació d'aquest tractament és una purificació de la fracció espermàtica de l'ejaculat que permet recuperar fins i tot els espermatozoides amb alteracions de motilitat o morfologia. A més, comparat amb altres procediments de purificació, aquest redueix considerablement les pèrdues d'espermatozoides. Tot i això, el rang de pèrdua és força ampli (rang=2.22-53.56%), fet que podria indicar una diferent susceptibilitat dels espermatozoides procedents de diferents individus als detergents utilitzats (Nixon *et al.*, 2009, 2011). És important remarcar que altres autors han demostrat prèviament l'adequació de la metodologia escollida als estudis del transcriptoma espermàtic (Goodrich *et al.*, 2007; Jodar *et al.*, 2012; Pacheco *et al.*, 2012; Mao *et al.*, 2013; Bansal *et al.*, 2015).

Una modificació addicional introduïda en aquesta part del protocol va ser la confirmació visual de l'efectivitat del tractament de SCL mitjançant microscòpia òptica, així com l'establiment del criteri de proporció màxima acceptable de cèl·lules somàtiques respecte al total d'espermatozoides. Concretament es va establir una ràtio d'una cèl·lula somàtica per cada 10,000 espermatozoides com a valor màxim acceptable abans de prosseguir amb l'extracció d'RNA. Aquest criteri implica acceptar la presència de, com a molt, un 0.01% de l'RNA d'origen somàtic, i per tant permet assegurar que els resultats obtinguts de l'anàlisi d'expressió de miRNAs reflecteixen el contingut de miRNAs espermàtics.

6.1.2. Extracció d'RNA

La quantitat mitjana d'RNA obtinguda per espermatozoide s'ajusta a les dades publicades per altres autors, la qual s'ha establert entre 10 i 400fg (Pessot *et al.*, 1989; Krawetz, 2005; Goodrich *et al.*, 2007; Dadoune, 2009; Lalancette *et al.*, 2009; Hamatani, 2012). Per altra banda, l'existència d'una correlació positiva entre el nombre d'espermatozoides utilitzats en l'extracció i la quantitat d'RNA obtingut, indica que la recuperació d'RNA està en consonància amb el nombre d'espermatozoides utilitzats.

Pel que fa a la puresa de l'RNA, el valor de la ràtio 260/280nm descrit com a òptim en estudis realitzats en mostres d'origen somàtic, es situa entre 1.8 i 2 (Chomczynski,

1987; Chomczynski i Sacchi, 2006; Fleige i Pfaffl, 2006). En canvi, els nostres resultats mostren una disminució d'aquest valor, amb un rang de 0.93-1.97. Aquest fet el podem associar a dos factors relacionats amb el tipus de mostra utilitzada. En primer lloc, s'ha descrit que l'escassa presència d'RNA en espermatozoides provoca que la proporció RNA/TRIzol[®] en la solució recuperada estigui descompensada (Krebs *et al.*, 2009). Aquest fet dóna lloc a un desplaçament del valor d'absorbància de la mostra cap a 270nm, i conseqüentment a una disminució de la ràtio 260/280nm que es tradueix en una baixada de la puresa de la mostra. En segon lloc, l'elevat grau d'empaquetament de la cromatina espermàtica degut a la presència de protamines dificulta la dissociació dels complexos nucleoproteics per part del reactiu TRIzol[®]. Això implica una menor recuperació d'RNA, i per tant, influeix negativament en les pureses obtingudes. En qualsevol cas, els valors de puresa obtinguts en els nostres experiments són similars als publicats per altres investigadors que també utilitzen el mètode TRIzol[®] per realitzar extraccions d'RNA espermàtic (rang=1.70-1.98) (Das *et al.*, 2010; Li *et al.*, 2012).

6.1.3. Controls de qualitat

Per tal de confirmar l'absència de contaminacions de DNA i assegurar la integritat dels transcrits obtinguts, es van realitzar PCRs amb encebadors exó-exó per diversos gens. L'aplicabilitat de les estratègies d'amplificació mitjançant un disseny d'encebadors situats en regions exòniques està extensament acceptada, i ha estat utilitzada prèviament per diversos autors (Ostermeier *et al.*, 2004; Goodrich *et al.*, 2007; Kempisty *et al.*, 2007).

Entre els transcrits analitzats es va incloure *PRM1*, seleccionat per presentar una expressió abastament descrita en espermatozoides humans (Steger *et al.*, 2000, 2008; Kempisty *et al.*, 2007). Tanmateix, degut a que *PRM1* és un dels transcrits més abundants en espermatozoides, i amb la finalitat de descartar emmascaraments per part del cDNA sobre amplificacions residuals de DNA, es va incorporar l'estudi del gen *GAPDH*. Aquest gen és d'expressió constitutiva però els seus nivells d'expressió en espermatozoides són significativament inferiors als de *PRM1*. Aquesta metodologia va permetre confirmar l'amplificació de productes de cDNA pels dos transcrits analitzats i constatar l'absència de contaminacions de DNA. A més, donat que les

amplificacions d'aquests fragments es va produir correctament, es va assumir una preservació òptima de la integritat dels transcrits purificats.

Per tal de confirmar l'efectivitat del mètode SCL en l'eliminació de leucòcits, els quals són un dels tipus de cèl·lules somàtiques més abundants de l'ejaculat (Kießling *et al.*, 1995; Lambard *et al.*, 2004), es van realitzar PCRs pel transcrit *CD45*. Aquest gen és un receptor de superfície leucocitari present únicament en les cèl·lules hematopoètiques diferenciades (revisat per Donovan i Koretzky, 1993). L'absència d'amplificacions d'aquest transcrit va confirmar l'efectivitat del tractament en l'eliminació d'aquestes cèl·lules.

Els xips nanoelectroforètics *Agilent Small RNA* van permetre confirmar la presència d'RNAs amb mides corresponents a miRNAs en totes les mostres espermàtiques analitzades. El perfil de transcrits derivat d'aquestes mostres va ser clarament diferent de l'observat en les cèl·lules Jurkat, on apareixen pics corresponents a tRNAs, pre-miRNAs i rRNAs 5S o 5.8S. En espermatozoides, aquests pics es veuen emmascarats per una elevada presència de fragments amb mides similars a les d'aquestes molècules, els quals podrien haver-se originat a partir de la degradació de l'rRNA (Ostermeier *et al.*, 2002).

Finalment, els resultats de l'anàlisi de les mostres mitjançant els xips nanoelectroforètics d'*Agilent Nano 6000 RNA* van descartar la presència de les molècules d'rRNA 18S i 28S en espermatozoides (les quals sí que apareixen de forma íntegra en les mostres d'RNA obtingudes a partir de cèl·lules Jurkat) (Hamatani, 2012). Aquests resultats coincideixen amb la condició de silenciament transcripcional i traduccional existent en els espermatozoides tal i com ha estat descrit per altres autors (Ostermeier *et al.*, 2002). L'absència de pics electroforètics corresponents als rRNAs 18S i 28S en espermatozoides comporta la impossibilitat d'establir l'índex RIN en aquestes mostres. No obstant, els resultats RIN obtinguts en les extraccions d'RNA a partir de les cèl·lules Jurkat van mostrar valors òptims (propers a 10). Aquesta dada, juntament amb el fet que els processos d'extracció d'RNA en espermatozoides i cèl·lules Jurkat es van realitzar de forma paral·lela, va permetre estimar de forma indirecta una qualitat òptima de totes les extraccions realitzades.

6.1.4. Validació de la presència de miRNAs en espermatozoides

Tot i que els xips nanoelectroforètics *Agilent Small RNA* van permetre identificar transcrits amb mides corresponents als miRNAs madurs, no es va poder confirmar la presència de miRNAs fins a la realització de les qRT-PCR amb assajos individuals específics.

Els resultats van permetre confirmar la presència del hsa-miR-23a en espermatozoides humans, coincidint amb el que havien descrit altres autors (Krawetz *et al.*, 2011), i descriure per primera vegada la presència de hsa-miR-744 i hsa-let-7f. Per contra, en cap mostra es va detectar el hsa-miR-1.

A més, també es va valorar l'existència de diferències significatives en l'expressió d'aquests miRNAs entre les poblacions d'individus estudiats. En el cas del hsa-let-7f, es va observar una reducció significativa de la seva expressió en tres dels quatre individus infèrtils. Aquest miRNA no té una funció coneguda en humans tot i que, en diverses espècies animals s'ha descrit que la seva família (let-7) està estretament relacionada amb el desenvolupament embrionari (Pasquinelli *et al.*, 2000; Tennessen i Thummel, 2008) i la diferenciació dels gàmetes (McIver *et al.*, 2012). Dos dels tres individus en els quals es va detectar una sub-expressió de hsa-let-7f presentaven un seminograma alterat (astenoteratozoospermia i teratozoospermia) i en canvi, l'individu restant, no presentava cap anomalia del seminograma (normozoospermia).

Aquestes dades van suggerir que els espermatozoides humans presenten un perfil de miRNAs diferenciat que podria estar relacionat amb la fertilitat dels individus i van representar el punt de partida pel desenvolupament experimental de la resta dels objectius plantejats en aquesta Tesi.

6.2. Normalització de les dades

Les directrius pels controls de qualitat i l'estandardització dels experiments de qRT-PCR establerts per les MIQE (*Minimum Information for Publication of Quantitative Real-time PCR Experiments*) han resolt que la utilització d'una metodologia de normalització adequada és essencial per obtenir uns resultats d'expressió fiables (Bustin *et al.*, 2009).

Quan es fan anàlisis de perfils de miRNAs a gran escala (>100), existeix una estratègia de normalització àmpliament acceptada consistent en la utilització del valor mitjà

d'expressió de tots els miRNAs analitzats (MCR) (Wylie *et al.*, 2011). Com a conseqüència aquest va ser el mètode triat per a la normalització de les dades procedents de l'anàlisi mitjançant plaques preconfigurades.

En canvi, en l'anàlisi d'un nombre baix de miRNAs (<100), aquest mètode no ofereix un valor prou robust per realitzar una normalització fiable. En aquesta situació, alguns autors utilitzen com a normalitzadors els valors d'expressió de determinats snRNAs (e.g. RNU6B, també conegut com MammU6) (Chen *et al.*, 2009; Fukushima *et al.*, 2011; Wotschofsky *et al.*, 2011; Li *et al.*, 2012; Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013, 2014a, 2014b) o snoRNAs (e.g. RNU44 o RNU48) (Wotschofsky *et al.*, 2011). Fins i tot en alguns casos s'opta per utilitzar la mitjana d'expressió de diversos snRNAs i snoRNAs utilitzats conjuntament (Mestdagh *et al.*, 2009). De fet, la utilització d'un snRNA com a normalitzador va ser l'estratègia utilitzada per validar la presència de quatre miRNAs durant la optimització del protocol d'extracció d'RNA total espermàtic (concretament Mamm-U6; veure apartat 3.2.4.3). En qualsevol cas, l'ús de snRNA de naturalesa diferent a la dels miRNAs és desaconsellable, ja que no presenten les mateixes propietats fisicoquímiques. De fet, la utilització de normalitzadors pertanyents a la mateixa classe de molècules que es volen analitzar és el més indicat (Vandesompele *et al.*, 2002). A més, tampoc està demostrat que les molècules RNU6B, RNU44 i RNU48 presentin una expressió constitutiva en espermatozoides, característica essencial que hauria de presentar qualsevol normalitzador.

Davant d'aquesta situació i d'acord amb el que alguns autors han suggerit (Mestdagh *et al.*, 2009; Chang *et al.*, 2010), ens vam plantejar l'objectiu de seleccionar un conjunt reduït de miRNAs per tal de presentar-los com a candidats a normalitzadors en anàlisi d'expressió de pocs miRNAs (<100). En aquest sentit, el mètode CCR (Wylie *et al.*, 2011) ens va permetre realitzar la selecció dels millors candidats a partir dels valors d'expressió de tots miRNAs inclosos en les plaques preconfigurades procedents de l'anàlisi dels 10 individus fèrtils. Els miRNAs que van mostrar valors d'expressió més similars a la mitjana d'expressió de tots els miRNAs presents en aquests individus van ser els hsa-miR-532-5p i hsa-miR-374b-5p per la placa A, i el hsa-miR-564 per la placa B. L'alt valor de correlació obtingut entre els valors normalitzats a partir del mètode MCR versus la normalització realitzada amb aquests tres miRNAs va confirmar la validesa de la selecció d'aquests tres transcrits com a normalitzadors per anàlisi d'expressió d'un nombre reduït de miRNAs (<100).

6.3. Expressió de miRNAs en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils

6.3.1. Homogeneïtat de la població fèrtil

Per tal d'utilitzar els perfils d'expressió de la població fèrtil com a valors control de referència, va caldre primerament determinar-ne la seva homogeneïtat. Per abordar aquesta anàlisi es van realitzar dos tipus d'estudis. En un d'ells es va valorar l'agrupació de les mostres en base a la presència/absència de miRNAs. Les diferències observades entre els dos grups resultants va ser inferior al 10%, resultat que va permetre confirmar una elevada homogeneïtat entre les mostres. Per altra banda, els coeficients de correlació altament significatius obtinguts entre totes les mostres d'aquesta població van corroborar aquest resultat. Aquestes dades reafirmen l'adequació dels criteris d'inclusió utilitzats en la selecció dels individus d'aquesta població. A més a més, també indiquen que els protocols aplicats en el processament de les mostres i posterior anàlisi de miRNAs són eficaços i no provoquen distorsions metodològiques significatives.

La uniformitat dels resultats obtinguts està en consonància amb la falta de correlació detectada entre els valors d'expressió de miRNAs i les característiques d'edat i seminograma dels individus d'aquesta població. No obstant, no podem descartar que la manca de significança no estigui influenciada per la baixa potència estadística de l'anàlisi que no permeti detectar associacions moderades, atès que la mida mostral és reduïda.

L'elevat grau d'homogeneïtat observat en la població fèrtil indica l'existència de perfils de miRNAs estables en espermatozoides humans, i està en acord amb l'existència d'una retenció selectiva d'aquestes molècules durant l'espermatogènesi tal i com han suggerit anteriorment altres autors (*revisat per Krawetz, 2005*).

6.3.2. Característiques generals dels miRNAs espermàtics

Els perfils d'expressió observats en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils va permetre identificar 221 miRNAs de forma ubiqua. D'aquest conjunt de molècules, 15 miRNAs (hsa-miR-15b-5p, -16-5p, -26a-5p, -30a-5p, -34b-5p, -34b-3p, -99a-5p, -100-5p, -122-5p, -146b-5p, -193b-5p, -374b-5p, -429, -512-3p, i -1275) havien estat descrits prèvi-

ament en espermatozoides i s'havien associat a processos relacionats amb l'espermatogènesi o embriogènesi (Wang *et al.*, 2011; Liu *et al.*, 2012a; Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013, 2014b; Wu *et al.*, 2013). Per contra, 122 miRNAs no havien estat detectat en cap dels estudis publicats. Dels 63 miRNAs absents en totes les mostres analitzades, només dos d'ells (hsa-miR-19a-5p i hsa-miR-221-5p) havien estat descrits prèviament en espermatozoides humans per altres autors (Krawetz *et al.*, 2011; Liu *et al.*, 2012a; Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013, 2014b).

De forma general podem observar que els perfils obtinguts en la població fèrtil van mostrar variacions substancials respecte els altres estudis publicats (Krawetz *et al.*, 2011; Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013), sobretot en relació al nombre de miRNAs identificats. Considerem que la majoria de divergències detectades es podrien explicar per les diferències tècniques entre les metodologies d'anàlisi utilitzades (qRT-PCR, RNAseq i microarrays).

La tècnica d'RNAseq no es basa en l'avaluació d'assajos predefinits com el cas de la qRT-PCR o els microarrays, sinó que permet quantificar el conjunt total de transcrits presents en una mostra, fins i tot aquells que no han estat descrits prèviament (Pritchard *et al.*, 2012). Tanmateix, alguns autors han descrit que la precisió i sensibilitat de la tècnica d'RNAseq és més baixa que la obtinguda mitjançant qRT-PCR, tant pel que fa a l'anàlisi dels transcrits petits (inclosos els miRNAs) com per a la capacitat d'identificar canvis d'una sola base (*single nucleotide polymorphism*; SNP) (Git *et al.*, 2010; Kogenaru *et al.*, 2012). El principal inconvenient d'utilitzar aquesta metodologia en l'anàlisi d'RNA espermàtic és que requereix una elevada quantitat d'RNA de partida (>250ng), la qual és molt difícil d'aconseguir en mostres d'espermatozoides purificats a partir d'un sol ejaculat (Meyer *et al.*, 2010). Aquesta limitació és especialment rellevant en el cas de realitzar estudis en pacients amb recomptes espermàtics baixos.

En relació a la tècnica de microarrays, aquesta metodologia permet quantificar centenars de miRNAs a través de la utilització de sondes amb seqüències complementàries a les molècules d'interès (Pritchard *et al.*, 2012). Tot i que permet analitzar un nombre més elevat de miRNAs que mitjançant qRT-PCR per TaqMan® arrays (1,349 vs. 736 respectivament), la seva especificitat i sensibilitat és menor (Chen *et al.*, 2009; Koshiol *et al.*, 2010).

Així doncs, tot i les limitacions inherents a la tècnica de qRT-PCR escollida per dur a terme els nostres estudis, considerem que els valors d'expressió que proporciona són precisos i fiables, dos aspectes bàsics que ens han permès realitzar una caracterització òptima del perfil dels miRNAs espermàtics.

MiRNAs més abundants

El llistat dels 10 miRNAs més abundants en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils es descriu a la **Taula 6.1**. La revisió bibliogràfica de les funcions associades a aquest miRNAs va mostrar que quatre molècules presentaven una funció relacionada, directa o indirectament, amb la fertilitat masculina: El hsa-miR-34b-3p pertany a la família miR-34 i s'ha associat amb la regulació de la via de E2F-pRb (*Transcription Factor 1-Retinoblastoma protein*), necessària per entrar a la fase S del cicle cel·lular (Bao *et al.*, 2012). El hsa-miR-132-3p s'ha associat amb la progressió del cicle cel·lular mitjançant l'activació de MYC (*v-myc myelocytomatosis viral oncogene homolog*) (Pede *et al.*, 2013). Els hsa-miR-191-5p i hsa-miR-891a presenten un rol destacat en la fertilitat, el primer relacionat amb la diferenciació de la morfologia espermàtica i la progressió del cicle cel·lular (revisat per Mclver *et al.*, 2012), i el segon amb la maduració dels espermatozoides durant el trànsit epididimal (Belleannée *et al.*, 2012).

Per altra banda, els miRNAs hsa-miR-19b-3p, -30b-5p, -30c-5p, -200c-3p, i -375 no se'ls ha atribuït una relació directa amb la fertilitat i s'han relacionat amb processos com d'envelliment i càncer (Xi *et al.*, 2006; Grillari *et al.*, 2010; Hackl *et al.*, 2010; Gao *et al.*, 2011; Radisky, 2011; Kong *et al.*, 2012). Finalment, encara no s'ha vinculat amb cap funció biològica coneguda al hsa-miR-1233-3p.

Taula 6.1. Funcions dels deu miRNAs més abundants en espermatozoides procedents d'individus fèrtils.

| miRNA | Funcions | Referències |
|-----------------|---|--|
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | Control del cicle cel·lular | (Bao <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-375 | Supressor tumoral | (Kong <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | Progressió del cicle cel·lular i diferenciació de la morfologia espermàtica | (Mclver <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | Progressió del càncer i control de l'envelliment | (Grillari <i>et al.</i> , 2010; Hackl <i>et al.</i> , 2010) |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | Supressor tumoral | (Radisky, 2011) |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | Progressió del cicle cel·lular | (Pede <i>et al.</i> , 2013) |
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | Progressió del càncer, diferenciació d'osteoblasts i cèl·lules epitelials | (Xi <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Gao <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-891a | Maduració epididimal dels espermatozoides | (Belleannée <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | Progressió del càncer i diferenciació d'osteoblast i cèl·lules epitelials | (Xi <i>et al.</i> , 2006; Gao <i>et al.</i> , 2011; Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | SD | SD |

SD: Sense dades publicades

MiRNAs més estables

Entre els 10 miRNAs amb nivells d'expressió més estables (**Taula 6.2**), el hsa-miR-744 està implicat en funcions relacionades amb la fertilitat masculina, ja que participa en processos de proliferació cel·lular, diferenciació i apoptosi (revisat per Massague, 1998) a través de la regulació del factor de creixement *TGFB1* (Martin *et al.*, 2011). Per altra banda, el hsa-miR-638 s'ha relacionat amb el desenvolupament embrionari i també amb la progressió de diferents tipus de càncers (carcinoma hepatocel·lular, carcinoma del cervix uterí i adenocarcinoma d'estómac) (Lin *et al.*, 2013).

Altres miRNAs d'aquesta llista s'han relacionat amb el creixement i progressió de processos tumorals: hsa-miR-663b (leucèmia i càncer de bufeta) (Takada *et al.*, 2008; Du *et al.*, 2015), hsa-miR-564 (leucèmia i càncer gàstric) (Rokah *et al.*, 2012; Chang *et al.*, 2015), hsa-miR-935 (càncer de cervix uterí) (Lui *et al.*, 2007), hsa-let-7d (càncer de cap i coll) (Childs *et al.*, 2009), hsa-miR-543 (càncer de mama, carcinoma hepàtic i càncer gàstric) (Feifei *et al.*, 2012; Yu *et al.*, 2014; Li *et al.*, 2015a), i hsa-miR-572 (carcinoma de cèl·lules basals i càncer d'ovaris) (Sand *et al.*, 2012; Zhang *et al.*, 2015). Pel que fa als dos miRNAs restants (hsa-miR-1180 i hsa-miR-1282), encara no s'han relacionat directament amb cap procés biològic conegut.

Taula 6.2. Funcions dels deu miRNAs més estables en espermatozoides humans procedents d'individus fèrtils.

| miRNA | Funcions | Referències |
|----------------|---|--|
| hsa-miR-663b | Progressió de la leucèmia i del càncer de bufeta | (Takada <i>et al.</i> , 2008; Du <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| hsa-miR-564 | Progressió de la leucèmia i del càncer gàstric | (Rokah <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Chang <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| hsa-miR-744-5p | Proliferació cel·lular, diferenciació i apoptosi | (Massague, 1998) |
| hsa-miR-1282 | SD | SD |
| hsa-miR-935 | Progressió del càncer cervical | (Lui <i>et al.</i> , 2007) |
| hsa-let-7d-5p | Progressió del càncer coll | (Childs <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| hsa-miR-543 | Progressió del càncer de mama, del carcinoma hepàtic i del càncer gàstric | (Feifei <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Yu <i>et al.</i> , 2014; Li <i>et al.</i> , 2015b) |
| hsa-miR-572 | Progressió del carcinoma de les cèl·lules basals i del càncer d'ovaris | (Sand <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Zhang <i>et al.</i> , 2015) |
| hsa-miR-1180 | SD | SD |
| hsa-miR-638 | Embriogènesi i progressió del càncer | (Lin <i>et al.</i> , 2013) |

SD: Sense dades publicades

Famílies de miRNAs

En relació a les famílies de miRNA més representades entre els miRNAs presents en tots els individus de la població fèrtil, destaca la presència de la totalitat de membres de les famílies miR-30 i miR-10 (**Taula 6.3**), ambdues associades amb la fertilitat masculina.

La família miR-30 s'ha relacionat amb la via Hedgehog en *Danio rerio* (peix zebra) (Ketley *et al.*, 2013), una ruta de senyalització extensament estudiada que participa en el desenvolupament embrionari des de *Drosophila sp.* a humans (Chang *et al.*, 1994; Marigo *et al.*, 1995). Aquesta família també s'ha relacionat amb el factor de transcripció *Xlim1*, localitzat dins de la caixa LIM homeobox 1 (*Lhx1*), que està involucrada amb l'organització dels teixits, el control de la morfogènesi neuronal i la diferenciació dels embrions de *Xenopus sp.* (Taira *et al.*, 1992; Hobert i Westphal, 2000). De manera addicional, també s'ha suggerit que aquesta família participa en el desenvolupament endometrial en humans (Ye *et al.*, 2012). Tal com s'ha comentat anteriorment, dos dels membres d'aquesta família (hsa-miR-30b-5p i hsa-miR-30c-5p) s'han trobat entre els 10 miRNAs més abundants.

Pel que fa a la família miR-10, aquesta es distribueix dins de l'anomenat clúster de gens de desenvolupament *HOX*, altament conservat al llarg de l'evolució en mamífers (Tanzer *et al.*, 2005; Quinonez i Innis, 2014). La família miR-10 conté cinc miRNAs (miR-10a, miR-10b, miR-196a-1, miR-196a-2, i miR-196b) (Lemons i McGinnis, 2006) que s'han identificat en tots els individus fèrtils. Existeixen evidències de que molts gens diana de la família miR-10 són gens *HOX*. Per exemple, en l'espècie *Danio rerio* s'ha descrit que el miRNA miR-10 regula els gens *hoxb1a*, i *hoxb3a* (Woltering i Durston, 2008).

En els espermatozoides de tots els individus fèrtils també s'han identificat més del 50% dels miRNAs de les famílies let-7 (diferenciació de gàmetes) (Pasquinelli *et al.*, 2000; Tennessen i Thummel, 2008; McIver *et al.*, 2012), miR-8 (promoció del creixement cel·lular) (Hyun *et al.*, 2009), miR-15 (control del cicle cel·lular) (Klein *et al.*, 2010), miR-17 (control cicle cel·lular, desenvolupament en mamífers i diferenciació) (Foshay i Gallicano, 2009; Trompeter *et al.*, 2011), miR-28 (regulació del càncer) (Almeida *et al.*, 2012), miR-99 (regulació del càncer) (Sun *et al.*, 2011), miR-188 (control del sistema nerviós) (Lee *et al.*, 2012), i miR-743 (funció desconeguda).

Taula 6.3. Famílies de miRNAs més representades en espermatozoides humans procedents d'individus fèrtils.

| Família miRNA | % membres detectats | Funcions | Referències |
|---------------|---------------------|--|---|
| miR-30 | 100% | Embriogènesi, desenvolupament de l'endometri i diferenciació cel·lular | (Taira <i>et al.</i> , 1992; Hobert i Westphal, 2000; Ye <i>et al.</i> , 2012; Ketley <i>et al.</i> , 2013) |
| miR-10 | 100% | Diferenciació cel·lular i desenvolupament | (Tanzer <i>et al.</i> , 2005; Woltering i Durston, 2008; Foley <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| miR-17 | 87.5% | Control del cicle cel·lular, desenvolupament cel·lular i diferenciació | (Foshay and Gallicano, 2009; Trompeter <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| miR-743 | 87.5% | SD | SD |
| miR-28 | 66.6% | Progressió del càncer | (Almeida <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| miR-188 | 66.6% | Control de la sinapsi i plasticitat dendrítica | (Lee <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| miR-99 | 66.6% | Progressió del càncer | (Sun <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| miR-8 | 60% | Promoció del creixement cel·lular | (Hyun <i>et al.</i> , 2009) |
| miR-15 | 60% | Control del cicle cel·lular | (Klein <i>et al.</i> , 2010) |
| let-7 | 50% | Diferenciació dels gàmetes | (Pasquinelli <i>et al.</i> , 2000; Tennessen i Thummel, 2008; McIver <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |

SD: Sense dades publicades

En definitiva, l'anàlisi dels miRNAs més abundants, més estables i les famílies més representades en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils reforcen la hipòtesi de que aquestes molècules no són simples romanents del procés de l'espermatogènesi sinó que constitueixen una càrrega precisa que mostra una clara relació amb processos implicats en la fertilitat.

Predicció gens diana i ontologia gènica dels miRNAs amb expressió ubíqua

Entre els 2,356 gens diana predits pels 221 miRNAs presents de manera constant en els 10 individus fèrtils analitzats, els gens *PTPRD*, *FIGN*, *MLL*, *CPEB2*, *KLF12*, i *TNRC6B* van aparèixer com les dianes compartides per més miRNAs (>15 miRNAs diferents). Aquests transcrits es van considerar essencials en la regulació de processos biològics relacionats amb la fertilitat. De fet, les funcions descrites a la bibliografia per aquests gens van revelar una forta vinculació amb processos d'espermatogènesi o embriogènesi, així com amb les rutes de síntesi de miRNAs (Taula 6.4).

Concretament el gen *protein tyrosine phosphatase receptor type delta (PTPRD)* (diana predita per 27 miRNAs diferents presents en tots els individus fèrtils) és un membre de la família de les proteïnes tirosina fosfatases, les quals estan relacionades amb una gran varietat de processos cel·lulars que inclouen la diferenciació i creixement cel·lular, i la regulació de la mitosi (Denu i Dixon, 1998; Paul i Lombroso, 2003;

Clark *et al.*, 2012). El gen *figetin* belongs to the superfamily of ATPases associated with diverse cellular activities (AAA-ATPases) o *FIGN*, (predit per 20 miRNAs diferents) duu a terme un rol important pel desenvolupament embrionari en mamífers (Cox *et al.*, 2000; Bar-Nun i Glickman, 2012). La seva activitat principal s'ha associat amb la despolimerització dels microtúbuls, procés relacionat amb el manteniment de l'arquitectura del fus mitòtic i la dinàmica de l'anafase A (Mukherjee *et al.*, 2012). El gen *mixed-lineage leukemia (MLL)* (predit per 20 miRNAs) és un regulador positiu de la transcripció que s'ha relacionat amb la preservació de la memòria epigenètica transcripcional, el desenvolupament embrionari primerenc i hematopoesi (Rizzo *et al.*, 2011). La proteïna codificada per el transcrit *CPEB2* (predit per 17 miRNAs) és molt similar a la proteïna *cytoplasmic polyadenylation element binding (CPEB)*, responsable de la traducció de les proteïnes *synaptonemal complex proteins (SCPs)* durant la meiosi. L'expressió de *CPEB2* però, té lloc a un estadi posterior (espermatides rodones) que alguns autors han associat a un rol regulador de la traducció d'mRNAs durant l'espermioïgenesis (Kurihara *et al.*, 2003). El gen *kruppel-like factor 12 (KLF12)* o també anomenat *activator protein-2 (AP-2)* (predit per 17 miRNAs), és un factor de transcripció relacionat amb el desenvolupament de vertebrats i la carcinogènesi (Zhu *et al.*, 2001). Finalment el gen *trinucleotide repeat-containing 6B (TNRC6B)* (predit per 27 miRNAs), codifica per una proteïna que interacciona amb les proteïnes AGO i per tant s'ha relacionat amb el mecanisme de regulació de l'expressió gènica mediada per miRNAs (Meister *et al.*, 2005).

Taula 6.4. Dianes predites per més de 15 miRNAs d'entre tots els que presenten una expressió ubiqua en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils.

| Gen | Nombre de miRNAs que el regulen | Funcions | Referències |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>PTPRD</i> | 27 | Diferenciació i creixement cel·lular, i regulació de la mitosi | (Denu i Dixon, 1998; Paul i Lombroso, 2003; Clark <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| <i>TNRC6B</i> | 27 | Biosíntesi i funció dels miRNAs | (Meister <i>et al.</i> , 2005) |
| <i>FIGN</i> | 20 | Desenvolupament embrionari i manteniment de l'arquitectura del fus mitòtic | (Bar-Nun i Glickman, 2012; Mukherjee <i>et al.</i> , 2012) |
| <i>MLL</i> | 20 | Modificació de la cromatina, desenvolupament embrionari primerenc i hematopoesi | (Rizzo <i>et al.</i> , 2011) |
| <i>CPEB2</i> | 17 | Traducció d'mRNAs en l'espermioïgenesis | (Kurihara <i>et al.</i> , 2003) |
| <i>KLF12</i> o <i>AP-2</i> | 17 | Desenvolupament embrionari | (Zhu <i>et al.</i> , 2001) |

L'anàlisi de GO de les 2,356 dianes predites pels miRNAs d'expressió ubiqua en individus fèrtils va permetre identificar processos biològics enriquits relacionats amb la diferenciació i desenvolupament cel·lular, la morfogènesi i l'embriogènesi. Aquests resultats indiquen que el conjunt de miRNAs amb una presència constant en espermatozoides són rellevants per la fertilitat masculina.

Entre els processos més significatius regulats per aquests miRNAs destaquen¹⁰: i) *Regulation of cell development* (GO:0045595), que es defineix com el procés que modula la formació de tots els tipus cel·lulars; ii) *Cell fate commitment* (GO:0045165), procés pel qual les cèl·lules es diferencien i donen lloc als diferents tipus cel·lulars, tant somàtics com germinals; iii) *Embryonic morphogenesis* (GO:0048598), procés implicat en la generació i organització de les estructures anatòmiques durant la fase embrionària.

D'altra banda, l'anàlisi mitjançant GO dels 597 gens diana predits pels miRNAs absents en espermatozoides de tots els individus fèrtils, no va mostrar cap enriquiment de processos relacionats amb espermatogènesi o embriogènesi. Els únics processos que van mostrar un enriquiment significatiu estaven relacionats amb aspectes generals com la regulació de la transcripció (GO:0006351, GO:0006357, GO:0006355, GO:0045893, GO:0045944, GO:0045893) o la síntesi de molècules (GO:0010557, GO:0009891, GO:0031328). El fet de no detectar cap relació amb la fertilitat per part dels processos vinculats al conjunt de miRNAs constantment absents en espermatozoides recolza la hipòtesi de que el perfil de miRNAs espermàtics no és resultat d'un procés aleatori.

6.3.3. Parelles de miRNA estables com a candidats a biomarcadors

En reproducció humana existeix un debat creixent sobre la fiabilitat de l'anàlisi dels paràmetres estàndards del semen com a valors indicadors de fertilitat (Lewis, 2007). Per aquesta raó, estudis recents s'han centrat en la identificació de nous biomarcadors de fertilitat, entre els que destaquen les investigacions dirigides a l'anàlisi del transcriptoma. Fins ara s'han descrit un centenar de molècules d'mRNAs com a biomarcadors de fertilitat (revisat per Garrido *et al.*, 2013). Recentment, s'ha proposat la

¹⁰ La descripció dels processos biològics s'ha obtingut de Gene Ontology Consortium (Novembre 2015) (<http://geneontology.org/>).

utilització de parelles de transcrits amb nivells d'expressió relativa estable com a eina biomarcadora (Lalancette *et al.*, 2009; Lima-Souza *et al.*, 2012).

Amb la finalitat d'utilitzar una estratègia similar però basada en els nostres estudis, vam valorar la presència de parelles de miRNAs amb una expressió correlacionada i estable en espermatozoides procedents d'individus fèrtils. Es van identificar 48 parelles amb nivells de correlació molt elevats. La parella amb major índex d'estabilitat va ser la formada per hsa-miR-20a-5p/hsa-miR-106a-5p. Aquests dos miRNAs són membres de la mateixa família (miR-17), la qual ha estat relacionada per alguns autors amb el desenvolupament de mamífers i la diferenciació de cèl·lules mare (Foshay i Gallicano, 2009). Curiosament, dues de les altres parelles identificades també estan formades per miRNAs de la mateixa família: miR-30 (hsa-miR-30a-3p/hsa-miR-30e-3p, i hsa-miR-30a-5p/hsa-miR-30d-5p). Les funcions d'aquesta família han estat relacionades amb el desenvolupament embrionari, la morfogènesi, i la diferenciació cel·lular en diferents espècies (Taira *et al.*, 1992; Chang *et al.*, 1994; Marigo *et al.*, 1995; Hobert i Westphal, 2000; Ketley *et al.*, 2013).

Aquests resultats són un punt de partida per estudis futurs en els que caldrà avaluar el comportament d'aquestes parelles de miRNAs en poblacions d'individus infèrtils per tal d'establir el seu valor diagnòstic i confirmar la seva validesa com a biomarcadors de fertilitat.

6.4. Perfils d'expressió de miRNAs en individus infèrtils

6.4.1. Homogeneïtat de les poblacions infèrtils

L'anàlisi d'homogeneïtat dins de cadascuna de les poblacions d'individus infèrtils es va realitzar tenint en compte l'agrupació de les mostres en base a la presència/absència de miRNAs i els valors de rho de les correlacions mostra-mostra. En el primer cas, les diferències observades van ser inferiors al 25% en tots els grups d'individus analitzats, un resultat que va indicar una elevada homogeneïtat dels perfils d'expressió de miRNAs dins de cada grup. Per altra banda, els coeficients de correlació altament significatius obtinguts entre mostres amb la mateixa alteració seminal van corroborar aquest resultat.

6.4.2. Variables explicatives dels perfils d'expressió

Els resultats de l'anàlisi conglomerats jeràrquics on es reflexa el grau de semblança dels perfils d'expressió de miRNAs de la totalitat de les mostres analitzades (població fèrtil i poblacions d'individus infèrtils), van evidenciar la presència de dos grups principals d'individus diferenciats en un 40%. Tal i com es descriu a continuació, aquesta distribució va mostrar una associació significativa amb la variable seminograma. La resta de variables analitzades (edat, la incidència d'anomalies cromosòmiques, resultats de TRA) no van presentar relacions significatives amb la distribució dels individus.

6.4.2.1. Relació amb seminograma

El seminograma va ser la única variable que va mostrar una distribució diferencial en els dos grups d'individus que constituïen el dendrograma. Tots els individus amb teratozoospermia van quedar agrupats al mateix grup, mentre que de tots els individus fèrtils van quedar agrupats a l'altre conjunt. Aquest resultat va confirmar l'elevada homogeneïtat dels perfils de miRNAs dins d'aquests dos grups d'individus, a la vegada que va indicar la poca similitud existent entre les dues poblacions. Per altra banda, els individus amb astenozoospermia van mostrar una agrupació preferencial amb la població fèrtil, resultat que indica l'elevada semblança d'ambdues poblacions. Per últim, els individus amb oligozoospermia van quedar distribuïts equitativament entre els dos grups, fet que assenyala aquesta població com la més heterogènia. Aquesta dada coincideix amb els resultats obtinguts en l'anàlisi d'homogeneïtat de les poblacions, els quals van mostrar una major variabilitat (rang de rho més ampli) entre els individus de la població amb oligozoospermia.

Amb la finalitat de determinar l'existència d'un conjunt de miRNAs que puguin explicar de forma específica la relació entre el seminograma i els perfils d'expressió obtinguts es van realitzar correlacions entre els valors d'expressió de cada miRNA respecte les variables recompte, motilitat, i morfologia espermàtiques. Els nivells d'expressió del miRNA hsa-miR-629-3p van mostrar una correlació negativa amb la motilitat espermàtica: a menor presència d'aquest miRNA (valors normCt més elevats), menor motilitat dels espermatozoides. No obstant això, la revisió bibliogràfica de les funcions de les dianes validades per aquest miRNA no va mostrar cap relació amb la fertilitat ni amb processos vinculats amb el moviment cel·lular.

Tres miRNAs (i.e., hsa-miR-335-5p, hsa-miR-885-5p, i hsa-miR-152-3p) van mostrar correlacions negatives amb la concentració espermàtica: a menor presència d'aquests miRNAs (valors normCt més elevats), menor producció d'espermatozoides. Pel que fa al miRNA hsa-miR-335-5p, alguns autors han descrit prèviament la seva presència en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils (Krawetz *et al.*, 2011; Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013) i la seva expressió diferencial en individus infèrtils amb oligoastenozoospermia (Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013). Els gens diana validats per aquest miRNA, entre els que s'inclouen *BCL2L2*, *BIRC5*, *MAPK1*, *MERTK*, *PTPRN2*, *RASA1*, i *SOX4*, s'han relacionat amb processos de mort cel·lular, supervivència i proliferació cel·lular. Per tant, la regulació diferencial d'aquests gens, a partir de la desregulació de hsa-miR-335-5p, podria provocar alteracions en aquests processos i explicar, en certa mesura, la relació obtinguda entre l'expressió d'aquest miRNA i la baixa producció d'espermatozoides (Print i Loveland, 2000). Pel que fa als altres dos miRNAs, tant hsa-miR-885-5p com hsa-miR-152-3p, havien estat detectats prèviament en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils (Taula suplementària 1), tot i que no hi ha dades publicades que sostinguin la seva implicació amb la producció espermàtica.

Finalment, cap miRNA va mostrar una correlació significativa amb el paràmetre de morfologia espermàtica, malgrat que la població amb teratozoospermia estava distribuïda en un grup totalment diferenciat a la població fèrtil.

En conjunt, podem afirmar que la relació obtinguda entre els miRNAs i seminograma està més relacionada amb la presència d'un perfil miRNAs espermàtics diferencial, que no pas per valors d'expressió incrementats/disminuïts de determinats miRNAs particulars.

6.4.2.2. Relació amb edat

Alguns autors han descrit una expressió diferencial de miRNAs circulants en sang entre individus joves i individus d'edat avançada, i ho han relacionat amb malalties associades amb l'edat com el càncer i les alteracions cardiovasculars (Esteller, 2011; Hatse *et al.*, 2014; Li *et al.*, 2015b; Wang *et al.*, 2015). També s'ha demostrat que alteracions en l'expressió de miRNAs, -així com d'altres ncRNAs com els lncRNAs-, estan associades a l'envelliment cardiovascular i a un major risc de patir cardiomi-

paties (revisat per Greco *et al.*, 2015). D'altra banda, s'ha proposat que alguns miRNAs circulants (i.e., hsa-miR-151a-5p, -181a-5p, i -1248) podrien actuar com a marcadors de l'edat biològica de l'individu (Noren Hooten *et al.*, 2013).

Tot i això, en el nostre estudi de miRNAs espermàtics no es va observar una associació entre el perfil global d'expressió de miRNAs i l'edat dels individus. Aquest fet indicaria una manca d'influència de l'edat de l'individu sobre el perfil de miRNAs en espermatozoides, almenys pel que fa al rang d'edat dels individus avaluats (entre 20-50 anys) i en base a la mida mostral analitzada.

De totes maneres, un miRNA específic, el hsa-miR-34b-3p, va mostrar una correlació positiva amb l'edat: a major edat de l'individu, menor expressió d'hsa-miR-34b-3p (valors normCt més elevats). Entre les dianes validades per aquest miRNA s'hi inclouen els gens *CCND1*, *CDK4*, *CDK6*, *MYC*, i *NOTCH1*. Aquests gens estan implicats en funcions relacionades amb la progressió del cicle cel·lular i l'apoptosi, processos que normalment es relacionen amb l'envelliment, i per tant amb l'edat, dels individus (Masoro i Austad, 2011).

6.4.2.3. Relació amb anomalies cromosòmiques numèriques

Hi ha estudis que relacionen una expressió diferencial de miRNAs amb inestabilitat cromosòmica (e.g. delecions i duplicacions, reorganitzacions estructurals, i aneuploidies) i càncer (Dinami *et al.*, 2014; Hell *et al.*, 2014; Wang *et al.*, 2014). En aquest sentit, l'expressió diferencial de determinats miRNAs s'ha relacionat amb fenòmens inductors d'anomalies cromosòmiques, com la fragilitat telomèrica (miR-155; Dinami *et al.*, 2014), disfuncions del mecanisme de resposta als trencaments de doble cadena del DNA (miR-214; Wang *et al.*, 2014), o una disminució de la eficiència dels punts de control mitòtics (mir-28-5p; Hell *et al.*, 2014).

Malgrat això, els nostres resultats no van mostrar cap associació entre la incidència d'anomalies numèriques en espermatozoides pels cromosomes 13, 18, 21, X i Y i el perfil global de miRNAs analitzats. A més, no vam observar cap miRNA amb valors d'expressió correlacionats amb el percentatge d'anomalies detectades per aquests cromosomes. Cal tenir en compte que els cinc cromosomes seleccionats per a dur a terme aquest estudi es consideren els millors indicadors per identificar increments

significatius d'anomalies numèriques en espermatozoides (Sarrate *et al.*, 2010). Tanmateix, no podem descartar una possible relació entre els perfils de miRNAs obtinguts i la presència d'altres tipus d'anomalies, com per exemple les estructurals.

6.4.2.4. Relació amb resultats de TRA

No vam observar cap relació entre els paràmetres de TRA analitzats (taxa de fecundació, taxa d'embrions descartats, taxa d'embaràs i taxa d'avortament) i l'agrupació dels perfils d'expressió de miRNAs. De totes maneres cal tenir en compte que la mida mostral analitzada és limitada per descartar categòricament una influència d'aquests perfils en esdeveniments post-fecundació.

De fet, existeixen diverses evidències que apunten a una afectació dels processos de fecundació i desenvolupament embrionari primerenc a partir de la càrrega de miRNAs transmesos per l'espermatozoide. En primer lloc, els nostres resultats en població fèrtil han mostrat que els perfils de miRNAs espermàtics presenten una relació -a través dels seus gens diana-, amb processos com la diferenciació i desenvolupament cel·lular, la morfogènesi i l'embriogènesi (veure apartat 6.3). Per altra banda, estudis en models murins han atribuït un origen exclusivament patern a determinats miRNAs identificats en zigots i embrions a l'estadi de dues cèl·lules (mmu-miR-34b-5p, mmu-miR-34c, mmu-miR-99a-5p, mmu-miR-214-5p, mmu-miR-449a/b/c; Liu *et al.*, 2012). Alguns autors han determinat que el mmu-miR-34c és essencial per a l'assoliment de la primera divisió embrionària (Liu *et al.*, 2012b), tot i que un estudi recent qüestiona aquest resultat (Yuan *et al.*, 2015). A més, aquest miRNA ha estat relacionat amb un augment d'embrions de bona qualitat a dia 3, un augment de les taxes d'implantació i embaràs, i un increment de nens nascuts (Cui *et al.*, 2015).

Tenint en compte aquestes evidències, existeix la possibilitat que alteracions en la càrrega de miRNAs en espermatozoides tinguin un impacte negatiu en el desenvolupament de l'embrió i per tant en la fertilitat de l'individu.

6.4.3. Caracterització dels DE-miRNAs

La comparació dels perfils d'expressió entre la població fèrtil i les tres poblacions infèrtils va permetre identificar 57 DE-miRNAs: 32 DE-miRNAs (26 sobre-expressats i 6 sub-expressats) en la població d'individus amb astenozoospermia, 19 DE-miRNAs

(11 sobre-expressats i 8 sub-expressats) en la d'individus amb teratozoospèrmia i 18 (3 sobre-expressats i 15 sub-expressats) en la d'individus amb oligozoospèrmia.

Només dos dels miRNAs sobre-expressats detectats en la població d'individus amb astenozoospèrmia (hsa-miR-27a-5p i hsa-miR-34b-3p) coincidien amb els resultats descrits prèviament per altres autors (Abu-Halima *et al.*, 2013). Aquests mateixos investigadors van identificar sis miRNAs sub-expressats (hsa-miR-9-3p, -15b-5p, -34b-3p, -132-5p, -335-5p, i -520h), que també ho estaven en les nostres poblacions d'individus amb astenozoospèrmia i oligozoospèrmia.

Així doncs, els nostres resultats i els publicats per Abu-Halima i col·laboradors (2013) són força discordants pel que fa a la identificació de DE-miRNAs. Aquestes variacions es podrien explicar per l'existència de diferències interindividuais dins de les poblacions analitzades, tot i que com ja hem comentat anteriorment (veure apartat 6.3.2), les tècniques utilitzades (microarrays versus qRT-PCR) presenten sensibilitats i especificitats molt diferents que també poden condicionar els resultats obtinguts.

6.4.3.1. Localització genòmica dels DE-miRNAs

S'ha descrit que un 70% dels gens que codifiquen per miRNAs es localitzen en regions intròniques de gens hoste (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2004). És important tenir en compte que els miRNAs intragènics són transcrits pels promotors d'aquests gens hoste mentre que el control de la transcripció dels miRNAs intergènics es realitza mitjançant un promotor propi (Lagos-quintana *et al.*, 2003; Lim *et al.*, 2003; Bartel *et al.*, 2004). Els nostres resultats van mostrar un increment significatiu de DE-miRNAs localitzats en introns. Per tant, seria esperable que l'expressió alterada d'aquests miRNAs anés acompanyada d'una desregulació de l'expressió dels gens inclosos en aquestes unitats de transcripció. L'anàlisi d'aquestes regions va permetre la identificació de 29 gens, 9 dels quals (i.e., *DALRD3*, *HOXC4*, *HOXC5*, *IFT80*, *IGF2*, *LPP*, *MEST*, *PTK2*, i *SMC4*) es van poder relacionar directament amb l'espermatogènesi i embriogènesi (Taula 4.15). L'anàlisi dels nivells d'expressió d'aquests gens en cèl·lules germinals en diferents estadis de diferenciació, podria ajudar a elucidar el seu rol en la fertilitat humana. No obstant, som conscients que la dificultat en l'obtenció de teixit testicular humà limita la realització d'aquests tipus d'anàlisis.

6.4.3.2. Predicció de gens diana dels DE-miRNAs i ontologia gènica

L'anàlisi d'ontologia gènica dels gens diana predits pels DE-miRNAs detectats en cada població d'individus infèrtils va demostrar un increment significatiu de processos biològics relacionats amb l'espermatogènesi i l'embriogènesi¹¹. Tot i que la relació entre aquests processos i l'embriogènesi es basa en aspectes de caràcter general, en el cas de la relació amb seminograma es fa palès l'existència d'un vincle molt més específic. Per exemple, entre els processos enriquits en els individus amb astenozoospermia destaca *Cell motion* (GO:0006928), el qual es defineix com el procés de moviment autopropulsat d'una cèl·lula o component subcel·lular sense la participació d'un agent extern. L'enriquiment d'aquest procés en individus que precisament mostren una reducció de la motilitat dels espermatozoides posa en evidència aquesta relació.

En la població d'individus amb teratozoospermia els gens diana es van relacionar amb processos com *Cell morphogenesis* (GO:0000902), *Cell projection morphogenesis* (GO:0048858), *Cellular component morphogenesis* (GO:0032989) i *Cell part morphogenesis* (GO:0032990). Aquests processos estan implicats en la generació de cèl·lules i estructures cel·lulars, la seva morfologia, i organització. Per tant, el seu enriquiment en individus que presenten alteracions en la morfologia dels espermatozoides també permet vincular els resultats observats i les característiques seminals d'aquesta població.

En el cas dels individus amb oligozoospermia, la relació que s'estableix entre els processos biològics enriquits i el seminograma no és tan obvia. Entre ells hi trobem *Cell projection morphogenesis* (GO:0048858), *Cell part morphogenesis* (GO:0032990), i *Cell morphogenesis* (GO:0000902), els quals estan implicats en la generació de cèl·lules i estructures cel·lulars, en la seva organització i morfologia. Aquests processos podrien estar relacionats amb una reducció de la producció espermàtica i per tant, en última instància també es podrien relacionar amb l'alteració seminal d'aquests individus.

Per tal d'aprofundir en la identificació de gens associats a la infertilitat present en les tres poblacions d'individus infèrtils analitzades, d'entre totes les dianes potencials dels DE-miRNAs, es van seleccionar aquelles relacionades amb l'espermatogènesi

¹¹ La descripció dels processos biològics s'ha obtingut de Gene Ontology Consortium (Novembre 2015 (<http://geneontology.org/>)).

o meiosis. Aquest filtratge va permetre identificar un conjunt de 74 gens en la població d'individus amb astenozoospermia, 75 amb teratozoospermia, i 26 en la d'oligozoospermia. D'aquests, se'n van trobar 11 que coincidien en les 3 poblacions (i.e., *BCL2L2*, *CCND2*, *CHEK1*, *DAZ1*, *DMWD*, *ESPL1*, *FNDC3A*, *SPAG16*, *PSME4*, *RAD51C*, i *STAG2*) els quals ja havien estat vinculats a alteracions de l'espermato-gènesi i meiosi per altres autors (**Taula 4.18**). Per tant és probable que desregulacions d'aquests gens, causades per una expressió diferencial dels miRNAs que els regulen, puguin estar implicades en l'alteració de la fertilitat present en aquests individus.

Capítol 7. Conclusions

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Primera. La metodologia desenvolupada permet l'obtenció del transcriptoma complet de l'espermatozoide humà, inclosos els miRNAs, amb una elevada qualitat i puresa.

Segona. Els hsa-miR-532-5p, hsa-miR-374b-5p i hsa-miR-564 es poden utilitzar com a normalitzadors en estudis d'expressió de miRNAs en espermatozoides on s'avaluïn menys de 100 assajos.

Tercera. Els espermatozoides humans procedents d'individus fèrtils presenten una càrrega homogènia de miRNAs que indica una retenció no aleatòria d'aquestes molècules durant l'espermatogènesi.

Quarta. La revisió bibliogràfica de les funcions associades als miRNAs més abundants i més estables en espermatozoides d'individus fèrtils, així com de les famílies de miRNAs més representades en el transcriptoma espermàtic, reforça la hipòtesi de que aquestes molècules constitueixen una càrrega precisa que mostra una clara relació amb processos implicats en la fertilitat.

Cinquena. L'anàlisi d'ontologia gènica dels processos biològics associats a les dianes predites del miRNAs presents de forma ubíqua en els espermatozoides dels individus fèrtils, mostra un enriquiment selectiu de funcions rellevants per la fertilitat, com són la diferenciació i desenvolupament cel·lular, la morfogènesi, i l'embriogènesi.

Sisena. Existeix una clara relació entre els perfils d'expressió de miRNAs espermàtics i les condicions seminals que permet agrupar els individus en funció d'aquests paràmetres: els individus fèrtils i astenozoospermics mostren perfils d'expressió més similars els quals són els que més divergeixen dels individus amb teratozoospermia. Els individus oligozoospermics són els que mostren perfils d'expressió més heterogenis.

Setena. S'han descrit miRNAs correlacionats amb motilitat, concentració espermàtica i l'edat dels individus, mentre que no s'ha detectat cap relació amb morfologia espermàtica, anomalies cromosòmiques numèriques en espermatozoides i paràmetres de TRA.

Vuitena. S'han identificat un conjunt de 57 DE-miRNAs en espermatozoides d'individus infèrtils: 32 DE-miRNAs en la població d'individus amb astenozoospermia, 19 DE-

miRNAs en la d'individus amb teratozoospèrmia i 18 en la d'individus amb oligozoos-
pèrmia.

Novena. L'anàlisi de les dianes predites pels DE-miRNAs mitjançant ontologia gènica va mostrar un enriquiment de processos biològics relacionats amb l'embriogènesi i amb les alteracions seminals específiques presents en els individus analitzats.

Desena. L'anàlisi de la càrrega de miRNAs espermàtics ha permès elaborar un llistat de 26 gens que poden estar relacionats amb la infertilitat dels individus analitzats: 7 dianes de miRNAs correlacionats amb els paràmetres seminals, 9 gens localitzats en les mateixes unitats de transcripció que els DE-miRNAs i 11 dianes predites pels DE-miRNAs en individus infèrtils.

IV. Annex

IV.1. Material suplementari

Taula suplementària 1. Descripció dels miRNAs detectats en els espermatozoides de tots els individus fèrtils (S01-S10) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNAs ^b | Clúster de miRNAs ^b |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| hsa-let-7a-5p | MIMAT0000062 | let-7 | let-7a |
| hsa-let-7b-5p | MIMAT0000063 | let-7 | let-7a |
| hsa-let-7c | MIMAT0000064 | let-7 | let-7c |
| hsa-let-7d-5p | MIMAT0000065 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-let-7g-5p | MIMAT0000414 | let-7 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-7-1-3p | MIMAT0004553 | - | miR-1179 |
| hsa-miR-9-5p | MIMAT0000441 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-9-3p | MIMAT0000442 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-10a-5p | MIMAT0000253 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-5p | MIMAT0000254 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-3p | MIMAT0004556 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | MIMAT0000417 | miR-15 | - |
| hsa-miR-16-5p | MIMAT0000069 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-17-5p | MIMAT0000070 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-19a-3p | MIMAT0000073 | miR-19 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | MIMAT0000074 | miR-19 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-20a-5p | MIMAT0000075 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-20b-5p | MIMAT0001413 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-21-5p | MIMAT0000076 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-22-5p | MIMAT0004495 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-24-3p | MIMAT0000080 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-25-3p | MIMAT0000081 | miR-25 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-26a-5p | MIMAT0000082 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-26b-5p | MIMAT0000083 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-26b-3p | MIMAT0004500 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-27a-3p | MIMAT0000084 | miR-27 | miR-181c |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | MIMAT0000085 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-28-3p | MIMAT0004502 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-29a-3p | MIMAT0000086 | miR-29 | miR-29a |
| hsa-miR-29c-5p | MIMAT0004673 | miR-29 | miR-29b |
| hsa-miR-30a-5p | MIMAT0000087 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30a-3p | MIMAT0000088 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | MIMAT0000420 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | MIMAT0000244 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-30d-5p | MIMAT0000245 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30d-3p | MIMAT0004551 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30e-3p | MIMAT0000693 | miR-30 | miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-31-5p | MIMAT0000089 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-31-3p | MIMAT0004504 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-34b-5p | MIMAT0000685 | miR-34 | miR-34b |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | MIMAT0004676 | miR-34 | miR-34b |
| hsa-miR-92a-3p | MIMAT0000092 | miR-25 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-93-5p | MIMAT0000093 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-93-3p | MIMAT0004509 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-95 | MIMAT0000094 | miR-95 | - |
| hsa-miR-99a-5p | MIMAT0000097 | miR-99 | let-7c |
| hsa-miR-99b-5p | MIMAT0000689 | miR-99 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-99b-3p | MIMAT0004678 | miR-99 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-100-5p | MIMAT0000098 | miR-99 | - |
| hsa-miR-103a-3p | MIMAT0000101 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-106a-5p | MIMAT0000103 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-106b-5p | MIMAT0000680 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-106b-3p | MIMAT0004672 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-122-5p | MIMAT0000421 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-125a-5p | MIMAT0000443 | miR-125 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | MIMAT0004602 | miR-125 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-125b-5p | MIMAT0000423 | miR-125 | - |
| hsa-miR-126-5p | MIMAT0000444 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-126-3p | MIMAT0000445 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-130a-3p | MIMAT0000425 | miR-130 | - |
| hsa-miR-130b-5p | MIMAT0004680 | miR-130 | miR-130b |
| hsa-miR-130b-3p | MIMAT0000691 | miR-130 | miR-130b |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | MIMAT0000426 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-132-5p | MIMAT0004594 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-133a-3p | MIMAT0000427 | miR-133 | miR-1 |
| hsa-miR-135a-5p | MIMAT0000428 | miR-135 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-135b-5p | MIMAT0000758 | miR-135 | - |
| hsa-miR-139-5p | MIMAT0000250 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-140-5p | MIMAT0000431 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-146a-5p | MIMAT0000449 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-5p | MIMAT0002809 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-3p | MIMAT0004766 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-148a-3p | MIMAT0000243 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-149-5p | MIMAT0000450 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-149-3p | MIMAT0004609 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-150-5p | MIMAT0000451 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-151a-5p | MIMAT0004697 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-152 | MIMAT0000438 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-155-5p | MIMAT0000646 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-181a-2-3p | MIMAT0004558 | miR-181 | miR-181a |
| hsa-miR-183-5p | MIMAT0000261 | - | miR-182 |
| hsa-miR-183-3p | MIMAT0004560 | - | miR-182 |
| hsa-miR-184 | MIMAT0000454 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-186-5p | MIMAT0000456 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-190b | MIMAT0004929 | miR-190 | - |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | MIMAT0000440 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-191-3p | MIMAT0001618 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-192-5p | MIMAT0000222 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-193a-5p | MIMAT0004614 | miR-193 | miR-193a |
| hsa-miR-193b-3p | MIMAT0002819 | miR-193 | miR-193b |
| hsa-miR-193b-5p | MIMAT0004767 | miR-193 | miR-193b |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-194-5p | MIMAT0000460 | - | miR-192/miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-195-5p | MIMAT0000461 | miR-15 | miR-195 |
| hsa-miR-197-3p | MIMAT0000227 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-199a-3p | MIMAT0000232 | miR-199 | miR-199a |
| hsa-miR-200a-3p | MIMAT0000682 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200b-3p | MIMAT0000318 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | MIMAT0000617 | miR-8 | miR-141 |
| hsa-miR-202-3p | MIMAT0002811 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-203a | MIMAT0000264 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-204-5p | MIMAT0000265 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-205-5p | MIMAT0000266 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-210 | MIMAT0000267 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-211-5p | MIMAT0000268 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | MIMAT0000269 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-214-3p | MIMAT0000271 | - | miR-199a |
| hsa-miR-215 | MIMAT0000272 | miR-192 | miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-218-5p | MIMAT0000275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-221-3p | MIMAT0000278 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-222-3p | MIMAT0000279 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-223-3p | MIMAT0000280 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-224-5p | MIMAT0000281 | - | miR-224 |
| hsa-miR-296-5p | MIMAT0000690 | - | miR-296 |
| hsa-miR-320a | MIMAT0000510 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-320b | MIMAT0005792 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-323a-3p | MIMAT0000755 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | MIMAT0000762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-328 | MIMAT0000752 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-331-3p | MIMAT0000760 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-335-5p | MIMAT0000765 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-335-3p | MIMAT0004703 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-339-3p | MIMAT0004702 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-342-3p | MIMAT0000753 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-345-5p | MIMAT0000772 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-346 | MIMAT0000773 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-361-5p | MIMAT0000703 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-363-3p | MIMAT0000707 | - | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-365a-3p | MIMAT0000710 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-370 | MIMAT0000722 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-371a-3p | MIMAT0000723 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-372 | MIMAT0000724 | miR-290 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-374a-5p | MIMAT0000727 | miR-374 | miR-374a |
| hsa-miR-374b-5p | MIMAT0004955 | miR-374 | miR-374b |
| hsa-miR-375 | MIMAT0000728 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-376a-3p | MIMAT0000729 | miR-368 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-378a-3p | MIMAT0000732 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-382-5p | MIMAT0000737 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-409-3p | MIMAT0001639 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-423-5p | MIMAT0004748 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-425-5p | MIMAT0003393 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-425-3p | MIMAT0001343 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-429 | MIMAT0001536 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | MIMAT0004761 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-484 | MIMAT0002174 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-3p | MIMAT0004762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-5p | MIMAT0002177 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | MIMAT0002807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-495-3p | MIMAT0002817 | miR-329 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-505-5p | MIMAT0004776 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-508-3p | MIMAT0002880 | miR-506 | miR-506 |
| hsa-miR-512-3p | MIMAT0002823 | miR-506 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-516a-3p | MIMAT0002860 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517-5p | MIMAT0002851 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | MIMAT0002852 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517c-3p | MIMAT0002866 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518b | MIMAT0002844 | miR-515 | - |
| hsa-miR-518e-3p | MIMAT0002861 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-519a-3p | MIMAT0002869 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-519d | MIMAT0002853 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520c-3p | MIMAT0002846 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520g | MIMAT0002858 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520h | MIMAT0002867 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-522-3p | MIMAT0002868 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-523-3p | MIMAT0002840 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-526b-5p | MIMAT0002835 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-532-5p | MIMAT0002888 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-532-3p | MIMAT0004780 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-539-5p | MIMAT0003163 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-543 | MIMAT0004954 | miR-329 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-564 | MIMAT0003228 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-572 | MIMAT0003237 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-574-3p | MIMAT0003239 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-592 | MIMAT0003260 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-598 | MIMAT0003266 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-601 | MIMAT0003269 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-616-5p | MIMAT0003284 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-622 | MIMAT0003291 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-625-5p | MIMAT0003294 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-625-3p | MIMAT0004808 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-628-3p | MIMAT0003297 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-629-3p | MIMAT0003298 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-636 | MIMAT0003306 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-638 | MIMAT0003308 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-650 | MIMAT0003320 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-659-3p | MIMAT0003337 | - | miR-658 |
| hsa-miR-660-5p | MIMAT0003338 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-661 | MIMAT0003324 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-663b | MIMAT0005867 | miR-663 | - |
| hsa-miR-664a-3p | MIMAT0005949 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-671-3p | MIMAT0004819 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-744-5p | MIMAT0004945 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-744-3p | MIMAT0004946 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-766-3p | MIMAT0003888 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-769-5p | MIMAT0003886 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-885-5p | MIMAT0004947 | - | - |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| hsa-miR-888-5p | MIMAT0004916 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-890 | MIMAT0004912 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-891a | MIMAT0004902 | miR-891 | - |
| hsa-miR-892a | MIMAT0004907 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-892b | MIMAT0004918 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-935 | MIMAT0004978 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | MIMAT0004982 | - | miR-1234 |
| hsa-miR-942 | MIMAT0004985 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1180 | MIMAT0005825 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1183 | MIMAT0005828 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1208 | MIMAT0005873 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | MIMAT0005588 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1247-5p | MIMAT0005899 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1254 | MIMAT0005905 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | MIMAT0005945 | miR-1255 | - |
| hsa-miR-1260a | MIMAT0005911 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1275 | MIMAT0005929 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1282 | MIMAT0005940 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1285-3p | MIMAT0005876 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1290 | MIMAT0005880 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1291 | MIMAT0005881 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1296 | MIMAT0005794 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1298 | MIMAT0005800 | - | miR-1298 |
| hsa-miR-1825 | MIMAT0006765 | - | - |

^a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

^b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 2. Descripció dels miRNAs absents en els espermatozoides de tots els individus fèrtils (S01-S10) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase accession number ^a | Família de miRNAs ^b | Clúster de miRNAs ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| hsa-let-7d-3p | MIMAT0004484 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-let-7i-3p | MIMAT0004585 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-miR-18b-3p | MIMAT0004751 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-19a-5p | MIMAT0004490 | miR-19 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-30b-3p | MIMAT0004589 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-32-3p | MIMAT0004505 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-105-3p | MIMAT0004516 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-106a-3p | MIMAT0004517 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-137 | MIMAT0000429 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-185-3p | MIMAT0004611 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-196a-3p | MIMAT0004562 | miR-196 | miR-196a |
| hsa-miR-218-1-3p | MIMAT0004565 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-218-2-3p | MIMAT0004566 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-221-5p | MIMAT0004568 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-302b-5p | MIMAT0000714 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-325 | MIMAT0000771 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-337-3p | MIMAT0000754 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-367-5p | MIMAT0004686 | - | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-367-3p | MIMAT0000719 | - | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-369-5p | MIMAT0001621 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-374a-3p | MIMAT0004688 | miR-374 | miR-374a |
| hsa-miR-376b-3p | MIMAT0002172 | miR-368 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-448 | MIMAT0001532 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-450a-5p | MIMAT0001545 | miR-450 | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-500a-3p | MIMAT0002871 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-503-5p | MIMAT0002874 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-524-5p | MIMAT0002849 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-542-5p | MIMAT0003340 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-548d-3p | MIMAT0003323 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548e | MIMAT0005874 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548h-5p | MIMAT0005928 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548m | MIMAT0005917 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548n | MIMAT0005916 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-555 | MIMAT0003219 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-556-5p | MIMAT0003220 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-561-3p | MIMAT0003225 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-569 | MIMAT0003234 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-570-3p | MIMAT0003235 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-599 | MIMAT0003267 | - | miR-599 |
| hsa-miR-603 | MIMAT0003271 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-607 | MIMAT0003275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-624-3p | MIMAT0004807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-631 | MIMAT0003300 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-633 | MIMAT0003303 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-637 | MIMAT0003307 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-653 | MIMAT0003328 | - | miR-489 |
| hsa-miR-658 | MIMAT0003336 | - | miR-658 |
| hsa-miR-876-5p | MIMAT0004924 | - | miR-873 |
| hsa-miR-920 | MIMAT0004970 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-936 | MIMAT0004979 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-938 | MIMAT0004981 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1179 | MIMAT0005824 | - | miR-1179 |
| hsa-miR-1200 | MIMAT0005863 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1206 | MIMAT0005870 | - | miR-1205 |
| hsa-miR-1245a | MIMAT0005897 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1251 | MIMAT0005903 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1272 | MIMAT0005925 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1284 | MIMAT0005941 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1286 | MIMAT0005877 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1288 | MIMAT0005942 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1301 | MIMAT0005797 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1302 | MIMAT0005890 | - | miR-1302 |
| hsa-miR-1304-5p | MIMAT0005892 | - | - |

^a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

^b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 3. Descripció dels miRNAs detectats en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb astenozoospermia (S11-S20) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-let-7b-5p | MIMAT0000063 | let-7 | let-7a |
| hsa-let-7c | MIMAT0000064 | let-7 | let-7c |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|----------|------------------|
| hsa-let-7d-5p | MIMAT0000065 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-miR-100-5p | MIMAT0000098 | miR-99 | - |
| hsa-miR-106a-5p | MIMAT0000103 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-106b-5p | MIMAT0000680 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-10a-5p | MIMAT0000253 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-3p | MIMAT0004556 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-1180 | MIMAT0005825 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1183 | MIMAT0005828 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1208 | MIMAT0005873 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1225-3p | MIMAT0005573 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-122-5p | MIMAT0000421 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1226-5p | MIMAT0005576 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1227-3p | MIMAT0005580 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | MIMAT0005588 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1244 | MIMAT0005896 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1247-5p | MIMAT0005899 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1249 | MIMAT0005901 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1254 | MIMAT0005905 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | MIMAT0005945 | miR-1255 | - |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | MIMAT0004602 | miR-125 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-125a-5p | MIMAT0000443 | miR-125 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-125b-5p | MIMAT0000423 | miR-125 | - |
| hsa-miR-1260a | MIMAT0005911 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1267 | MIMAT0005921 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-127-3p | MIMAT0000446 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-1275 | MIMAT0005929 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1276 | MIMAT0005930 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1283 | MIMAT0005799 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-1285-3p | MIMAT0005876 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1290 | MIMAT0005880 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1291 | MIMAT0005881 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1298 | MIMAT0005800 | - | miR-1298 |
| hsa-miR-1303 | MIMAT0005891 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | MIMAT0000426 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-133a | MIMAT0000427 | miR-133 | miR-1 |
| hsa-miR-134 | MIMAT0000447 | - | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-135a-5p | MIMAT0000428 | miR-135 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-138-5p | MIMAT0000430 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-139-5p | MIMAT0000250 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-140-5p | MIMAT0000431 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-146a-5p | MIMAT0000449 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-3p | MIMAT0004766 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-5p | MIMAT0002809 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-148a-3p | MIMAT0000243 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-149-5p | MIMAT0000450 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-150-5p | MIMAT0000451 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-151a-5p | MIMAT0004697 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-152 | MIMAT0000438 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-155-5p | MIMAT0000646 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | MIMAT0000417 | miR-15 | - |
| hsa-miR-16-5p | MIMAT0000069 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-17-5p | MIMAT0000070 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-1825 | MIMAT0006765 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-184 | MIMAT0000454 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-186-5p | MIMAT0000456 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-187-3p | MIMAT0000262 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-190b | MIMAT0004929 | miR-190 | - |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | MIMAT0000440 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-192-5p | MIMAT0000222 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-193a-5p | MIMAT0004614 | miR-193 | miR-193a |
| hsa-miR-193b-3p | MIMAT0002819 | miR-193 | miR-193 |
| hsa-miR-194-5p | MIMAT0000460 | - | miR-192/miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-195-5p | MIMAT0000461 | miR-15 | miR-195 |
| hsa-miR-19b-1-5p | MIMAT0004491 | miR-19 | miR-106a/ miR-17 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------------|
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | MIMAT0000074 | miR-19 | miR-106a/ miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-200a-3p | MIMAT0000682 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200b-3p | MIMAT0000318 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | MIMAT0000617 | miR-8 | miR-141 |
| hsa-miR-202-3p | MIMAT0002811 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-203a | MIMAT0000264 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-204-5p | MIMAT0000265 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-205-5p | MIMAT0000266 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-20a-5p | MIMAT0000075 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-20b-5p | MIMAT0001413 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | MIMAT0000269 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-215 | MIMAT0000272 | miR-192 | miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-21-5p | MIMAT0000076 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-218-5p | MIMAT0000275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-222-3p | MIMAT0000279 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-223-3p | MIMAT0000280 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-24-3p | MIMAT0000080 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-25-3p | MIMAT0000081 | miR-25 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-26a-5p | MIMAT0000082 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-26b-3p | MIMAT0004500 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-26b-5p | MIMAT0000083 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-27a-5p | MIMAT0004501 | miR-27 | miR-181c |
| hsa-miR-27b-3p | MIMAT0000419 | miR-27 | miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-28-3p | MIMAT0004502 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | MIMAT0000085 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-29a-3p | MIMAT0000086 | miR-29 | miR-29a |
| hsa-miR-29c-5p | MIMAT0004673 | miR-29 | miR-29b |
| hsa-miR-30a-3p | MIMAT0000088 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30a-5p | MIMAT0000087 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | MIMAT0000420 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | MIMAT0000244 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-30d-5p | MIMAT0000245 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30e-3p | MIMAT0000693 | miR-30 | miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-31-5p | MIMAT0000089 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-320a | MIMAT0000510 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-320b | MIMAT0005792 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-323a-3p | MIMAT0000755 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | MIMAT0000762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-328 | MIMAT0000752 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-331-3p | MIMAT0000760 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-335-3p | MIMAT0004703 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-33a-3p | MIMAT0004506 | miR-33 | - |
| hsa-miR-342 | MIMAT0000753 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-345-5p | MIMAT0000772 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-34a-3p | MIMAT0004557 | miR-34 | - |
| hsa-miR-34a-5p | MIMAT0000255 | miR-34 | - |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | MIMAT0004676 | miR-34 | miR-34b |
| hsa-miR-34b-5p | MIMAT0000685 | miR-34 | miR-34b |
| hsa-miR-365a-3p | MIMAT0000710 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-370 | MIMAT0000722 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-371a-3p | MIMAT0000723 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-373-3p | MIMAT0000726 | - | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-374b-5p | MIMAT0004955 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-375 | MIMAT0000728 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-378a-3p | MIMAT0000732 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-380-5p | MIMAT0000734 | miR-379 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-382-5p | MIMAT0000737 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-409-3p | MIMAT0001639 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-425-5p | MIMAT0003393 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-425-3p | MIMAT0001343 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-429 | MIMAT0001536 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-432-3p | MIMAT0002815 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-433 | MIMAT0001627 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | MIMAT0004761 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-484 | MIMAT0002174 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-3p | MIMAT0004762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-5p | MIMAT0002177 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-487 | MIMAT0002178 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-489 | MIMAT0002805 | - | miR-489 |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | MIMAT0002807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-495-3p | MIMAT0002817 | miR-329 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-509-5p | MIMAT0004779 | miR-506 | miR-506 |
| hsa-miR-512-3p | MIMAT0002823 | miR-506 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-516a-3p | MIMAT0002860 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | MIMAT0002852 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517c-3p | MIMAT0002866 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518b | MIMAT0002844 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518d-3p | MIMAT0002864 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518e-3p | MIMAT0002861 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-519e-3p | MIMAT0002829 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520d-3p | MIMAT0002856 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520h | MIMAT0002867 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-522-3p | MIMAT0002868 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-523-3p | MIMAT0002840 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-524-3p | MIMAT0002850 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-525-3p | MIMAT0002839 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-532-3p | MIMAT0004780 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-539-5p | MIMAT0003163 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-543 | MIMAT0004954 | miR-329 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-548b-5p | MIMAT0004798 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548c-5p | MIMAT0004806 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548d-5p | MIMAT0004812 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-550a-5p | MIMAT0004800 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-564 | MIMAT0003228 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-566 | MIMAT0003230 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-571 | MIMAT0003236 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-572 | MIMAT0003237 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-574 | MIMAT0003239 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-584-5p | MIMAT0003249 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-591 | MIMAT0003259 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-595 | MIMAT0003263 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-601 | MIMAT0003269 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-604 | MIMAT0003272 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-605 | MIMAT0003273 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-615-3p | MIMAT0003283 | - | miR-196a |
| hsa-miR-615-5p | MIMAT0004804 | - | miR-196a |
| hsa-miR-616-3p | MIMAT0004805 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-618 | MIMAT0003287 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-622 | MIMAT0003291 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-625-3p | MIMAT0004808 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-628 | MIMAT0003297 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-629-3p | MIMAT0003298 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-636 | MIMAT0003306 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-638 | MIMAT0003308 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-639 | MIMAT0003309 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-642a-5p | MIMAT0003312 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-650 | MIMAT0003320 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-652-3p | MIMAT0003322 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-657 | MIMAT0003335 | - | miR-1250 |
| hsa-miR-659-3p | MIMAT0003337 | - | miR-658 |
| hsa-miR-661 | MIMAT0003324 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-664-3p | MIMAT0005949 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-671-3p | MIMAT0004819 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-7-1-3p | MIMAT0004553 | - | miR-1179 |
| hsa-miR-744-3p | MIMAT0004946 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-766-3p | MIMAT0003888 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-769-5p | MIMAT0003886 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-770-5p | MIMAT0003948 | - | miR-127 |

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------|------------------|
| hsa-miR-885-5p | MIMAT0004947 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-890 | MIMAT0004912 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-891a | MIMAT0004902 | miR-891 | - |
| hsa-miR-892a | MIMAT0004907 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-892b | MIMAT0004918 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-92a-3p | MIMAT0000092 | miR-25 | miR-106a/ miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-93-3p | MIMAT0004509 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-93-5p | MIMAT0000093 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | MIMAT0004982 | - | miR-1234 |
| hsa-miR-942 | MIMAT0004985 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-943 | MIMAT0004986 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-9-5p | MIMAT0000441 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-99a-3p | MIMAT0004511 | miR-99 | hsa-let-7c |
| hsa-miR-99a-5p | MIMAT0000097 | miR-99 | hsa-let-7c |
| hsa-miR-99b-3p | MIMAT0004678 | miR-99 | hsa-let-7e |
| hsa-miR-99b-5p | MIMAT0000689 | miR-99 | hsa-let-7e |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 4. Descripció dels miRNAs absents en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb asterozoospermia (S11-S20) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-miR-1204 | MIMAT0005868 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1206 | MIMAT0005870 | - | miR-1205 |
| hsa-miR-1236-3p | MIMAT0005591 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1245a | MIMAT0005897 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1252 | MIMAT0005944 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1272 | MIMAT0005925 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-127-5p | MIMAT0004604 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-1278 | MIMAT0005936 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1284 | MIMAT0005941 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1288 | MIMAT0005942 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1292-5p | MIMAT0005943 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1301 | MIMAT0005797 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1302 | MIMAT0005890 | - | miR-1302 |
| hsa-miR-1304-5p | MIMAT0005892 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-137 | MIMAT0000429 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-141-5p | MIMAT0004598 | miR-8 | miR-141 |
| hsa-miR-142-5p | MIMAT0000433 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-143-5p | MIMAT0004599 | - | miR-143 |
| hsa-miR-146a-3p | MIMAT0004608 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-154-5p | MIMAT0000452 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-155-3p | MIMAT0004658 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-16-2-3p | MIMAT0004518 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-185-3p | MIMAT0004611 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-18b-3p | MIMAT0004751 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-192-3p | MIMAT0004543 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-195-3p | MIMAT0004615 | miR-15 | miR-195 |
| hsa-miR-196a-3p | MIMAT0004562 | miR-196 | miR-196a |
| hsa-miR-199b-5p | MIMAT0000263 | miR-199 | - |
| hsa-miR-217 | MIMAT0000274 | - | miR-216a |
| hsa-miR-24-1-5p | MIMAT0000079 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-24-2-5p | MIMAT0004497 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-29b-1-5p | MIMAT0004514 | miR-29 | miR-29a/miR-29b |
| hsa-miR-302b-5p | MIMAT0000714 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-30b-3p | MIMAT0004589 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30c-1-3p | MIMAT0004674 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-325 | MIMAT0000771 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-329 | MIMAT0001629 | miR-329 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-367-5p | MIMAT0004686 | - | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-374a-3p | MIMAT0004688 | miR-374 | miR-374a |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-424-5p | MIMAT0001341 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-448 | MIMAT0001532 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-454-5p | MIMAT0003884 | - | miR-301a |
| hsa-miR-485-5p | MIMAT0002175 | - | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-500a-3p | MIMAT0002871 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-520d-5p | MIMAT0002855 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-542-5p | MIMAT0003340 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-545-5p | MIMAT0004785 | miR-95 | miR-374a |
| hsa-miR-548a-5p | MIMAT0004803 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548e | MIMAT0005874 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548n | MIMAT0005916 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-553 | MIMAT0003216 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-556-5p | MIMAT0003220 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-569 | MIMAT0003234 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-570-3p | MIMAT0003235 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-588 | MIMAT0003255 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-599 | MIMAT0003267 | - | miR-599 |
| hsa-miR-603 | MIMAT0003271 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-624-3p | MIMAT0004807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-631 | MIMAT0003300 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-633 | MIMAT0003303 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-647 | MIMAT0003317 | - | miR-1914 |
| hsa-miR-654-5p | MIMAT0003330 | - | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-767-3p | MIMAT0003883 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-767-5p | MIMAT0003882 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-876-3p | MIMAT0004925 | - | miR-873 |
| hsa-miR-920 | MIMAT0004970 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-934 | MIMAT0004977 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-936 | MIMAT0004979 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-944 | MIMAT0004987 | - | - |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 5. Descripció dels miRNAs detectats en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb teratozoospermia (S21-S30) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-let-7b-5p | MIMAT0000063 | let-7 | let-7a |
| hsa-let-7c | MIMAT0000064 | let-7 | let-7c |
| hsa-let-7d-5p | MIMAT0000065 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-let-7e-5p | MIMAT0000066 | let-7 | let-7e |
| hsa-let-7g-5p | MIMAT0000414 | let-7 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-100-5p | MIMAT0000098 | miR-99 | - |
| hsa-miR-101-5p | MIMAT0004513 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-106a-5p | MIMAT0000103 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-10a-5p | MIMAT0000253 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-3p | MIMAT0004556 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-5p | MIMAT0000254 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-1180 | MIMAT0005825 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1183 | MIMAT0005828 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1208 | MIMAT0005873 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-122-5p | MIMAT0000421 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1226-5p | MIMAT0005576 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1227-3p | MIMAT0005580 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | MIMAT0005588 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1247-5p | MIMAT0005899 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1253 | MIMAT0005904 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1254 | MIMAT0005905 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | MIMAT0005945 | miR-1255 | - |
| hsa-miR-125b-5p | MIMAT0000423 | miR-125 | - |
| hsa-miR-1260a | MIMAT0005911 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1267 | MIMAT0005921 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------------|
| hsa-miR-1275 | MIMAT0005929 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1285-3p | MIMAT0005876 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-128a | MIMAT0000424 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1290 | MIMAT0005880 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1291 | MIMAT0005881 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1305 | MIMAT0005893 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-130a-3p | MIMAT0000425 | miR-130 | - |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | MIMAT0000426 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-133a | MIMAT0000427 | miR-133 | miR-1 |
| hsa-miR-135a-5p | MIMAT0000428 | miR-135 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-135b-5p | MIMAT0000758 | miR-135 | - |
| hsa-miR-140-3p | MIMAT0004597 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-146a-5p | MIMAT0000449 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-5p | MIMAT0002809 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-148a-3p | MIMAT0000243 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-149-5p | MIMAT0000450 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-150-5p | MIMAT0000451 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-152 | MIMAT0000438 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | MIMAT0000417 | miR-15 | - |
| hsa-miR-16-5p | MIMAT0000069 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-17-5p | MIMAT0000070 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-1825 | MIMAT0006765 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-183-3p | MIMAT0004560 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-184 | MIMAT0000454 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-186-5p | MIMAT0000456 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-190b | MIMAT0004929 | miR-190 | - |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | MIMAT0000440 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-192-5p | MIMAT0000222 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-193a-5p | MIMAT0004614 | miR-193 | miR-193a |
| hsa-miR-193b-3p | MIMAT0002819 | miR-193 | miR-193b |
| hsa-miR-194-5p | MIMAT0000460 | - | miR-192/miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-197-3p | MIMAT0000227 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-198 | MIMAT0000228 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-19a-3p | MIMAT0000073 | miR-19 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | MIMAT0000074 | miR-19 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-200a-3p | MIMAT0000682 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200b-3p | MIMAT0000318 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | MIMAT0000617 | miR-8 | miR-141 |
| hsa-miR-202-3p | MIMAT0002811 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-203a | MIMAT0000264 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-204-5p | MIMAT0000265 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-20a-5p | MIMAT0000075 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-20b-5p | MIMAT0001413 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-210 | MIMAT0000267 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-211-5p | MIMAT0000268 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | MIMAT0000269 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-215 | MIMAT0000272 | miR-192 | miR-194 |
| hsa-miR-21-5p | MIMAT0000076 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-218-5p | MIMAT0000275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-221-3p | MIMAT0000278 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-222-3p | MIMAT0000279 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-223-3p | MIMAT0000280 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-24-3p | MIMAT0000080 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-25-3p | MIMAT0000081 | miR-25 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-25-5p | MIMAT0004498 | miR-25 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-26a-5p | MIMAT0000082 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-26b-5p | MIMAT0000083 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-28-3p | MIMAT0004502 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | MIMAT0000085 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-296-5p | MIMAT0000690 | - | miR-296 |
| hsa-miR-302c-3p | MIMAT0000717 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-30a-3p | MIMAT0000088 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30a-5p | MIMAT0000087 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | MIMAT0000420 | miR-30 | miR-30b |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | MIMAT0000244 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-30d-3p | MIMAT0004551 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30d-5p | MIMAT0000245 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30e-3p | MIMAT0000693 | miR-30 | miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-31-5p | MIMAT0000089 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-320a | MIMAT0000510 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-323a-3p | MIMAT0000755 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-32-3p | MIMAT0004505 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | MIMAT0000762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-328 | MIMAT0000752 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-331-3p | MIMAT0000760 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-339-3p | MIMAT0004702 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-342-3p | MIMAT0000753 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-345-5p | MIMAT0000772 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-346 | MIMAT0000773 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-34a-3p | MIMAT0004557 | miR-34 | - |
| hsa-miR-34a-5p | MIMAT0000255 | miR-34 | - |
| hsa-miR-34b-3p | MIMAT0004676 | miR-34 | miR-34b |
| hsa-miR-370 | MIMAT0000722 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-372 | MIMAT0000724 | miR-290 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-374b-5p | MIMAT0004955 | miR-374 | miR-374b |
| hsa-miR-375 | MIMAT0000728 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-378a-3p | MIMAT0000732 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-380-5p | MIMAT0000734 | miR-379 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-382-5p | MIMAT0000737 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-409-3p | MIMAT0001639 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-425-3p | MIMAT0001343 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-425-5p | MIMAT0003393 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-432-3p | MIMAT0002815 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-433 | MIMAT0001627 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-449a | MIMAT0001541 | miR-449 | miR-449a |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | MIMAT0004761 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-484 | MIMAT0002174 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-3p | MIMAT0004762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-486-5p | MIMAT0002177 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-487a | MIMAT0002178 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | MIMAT0002807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-509-5p | MIMAT0004779 | miR-506 | miR-506 |
| hsa-miR-516a-3p | MIMAT0002860 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | MIMAT0002852 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517b-3p | MIMAT0002857 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517c-3p | MIMAT0002866 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518d-3p | MIMAT0002864 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518e-3p | MIMAT0002861 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520c-3p | MIMAT0002846 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520g | MIMAT0002858 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-532-3p | MIMAT0004780 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-532-5p | MIMAT0002888 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-548b-5p | MIMAT0004798 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-564 | MIMAT0003228 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-566 | MIMAT0003230 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-571 | MIMAT0003236 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-572 | MIMAT0003237 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-574-3p | MIMAT0003239 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-575 | MIMAT0003240 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-584-5p | MIMAT0003249 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-596 | MIMAT0003264 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-604 | MIMAT0003272 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-605 | MIMAT0003273 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-616-3p | MIMAT0004805 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-618 | MIMAT0003287 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-625-3p | MIMAT0004808 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-636 | MIMAT0003306 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-638 | MIMAT0003308 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-639 | MIMAT0003309 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-650 | MIMAT0003320 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-659-3p | MIMAT0003337 | - | miR-658 |
| hsa-miR-660-5p | MIMAT0003338 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-663b | MIMAT0005867 | miR-663 | - |
| hsa-miR-664a-3p | MIMAT0005949 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-7-1-3p | MIMAT0004553 | - | miR-1179 |
| hsa-miR-744-3p | MIMAT0004946 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-766-3p | MIMAT0003888 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-769-5p | MIMAT0003886 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-770-5p | MIMAT0003948 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-885-5p | MIMAT0004947 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-888-5p | MIMAT0004916 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-890 | MIMAT0004912 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-891a | MIMAT0004902 | miR-891 | - |
| hsa-miR-892a | MIMAT0004907 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-892b | MIMAT0004918 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-92a-3p | MIMAT0000092 | miR-25 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-93-3p | MIMAT0004509 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-93-5p | MIMAT0000093 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | MIMAT0004982 | - | miR-1234 |
| hsa-miR-942 | MIMAT0004985 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-943 | MIMAT0004986 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-9-5p | MIMAT0000441 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-99a-5p | MIMAT0000097 | miR-99 | let-7c |
| hsa-miR-99b-5p | MIMAT0000689 | miR-99 | let-7e |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 6. Descripció dels miRNAs absents en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb teratozoospermia (S21-S30) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-miR-106a-3p | MIMAT0004517 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-10a-3p | MIMAT0004555 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-1200 | MIMAT0005863 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1205 | MIMAT0005869 | - | miR-1205 |
| hsa-miR-1236-3p | MIMAT0005591 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1245a | MIMAT0005897 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1248 | MIMAT0005900 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-125a-3p | MIMAT0004602 | miR-125 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-1263 | MIMAT0005915 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1271-5p | MIMAT0005796 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-127-5p | MIMAT0004604 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-129-5p | MIMAT0000242 | - | miR-129 |
| hsa-miR-1302 | MIMAT0005890 | - | miR-1302 |
| hsa-miR-146a-3p | MIMAT0004608 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-153 | MIMAT0000439 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-154-5p | MIMAT0000452 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-192-3p | MIMAT0004543 | miR-192 | - |
| hsa-miR-19a-5p | MIMAT0004490 | miR-19 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-218-1-3p | MIMAT0004565 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-221-5p | MIMAT0004568 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-23b-5p | MIMAT0004587 | miR-23 | miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-29b-1-5p | MIMAT0004514 | miR-29 | miR-29a/miR-29b |
| hsa-miR-302b-5p | MIMAT0000714 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-30b-3p | MIMAT0004589 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30c-1-3p | MIMAT0004674 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-337-3p | MIMAT0000754 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-362-3p | MIMAT0004683 | - | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-369-5p | MIMAT0001621 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-377-5p | MIMAT0004689 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-384 | MIMAT0001075 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-409-5p | MIMAT0001638 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-454-5p | MIMAT0003884 | - | miR-301a |
| hsa-miR-485-5p | MIMAT0002175 | - | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-497-3p | MIMAT0004768 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-501-3p | MIMAT0004774 | miR-500 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-503-5p | MIMAT0002874 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-512-5p | MIMAT0002822 | miR-506 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518c-3p | MIMAT0002848 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518e-5p | MIMAT0005450 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520e | MIMAT0002825 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-548c-3p | MIMAT0003285 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548e | MIMAT0005874 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548l | MIMAT0005889 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-550a-3p | MIMAT0003257 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-555 | MIMAT0003219 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-562 | MIMAT0003226 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-578 | MIMAT0003243 | - | miR-1979 |
| hsa-miR-582-5p | MIMAT0003247 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-588 | MIMAT0003255 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-590-3p | MIMAT0004801 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-603 | MIMAT0003271 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-606 | MIMAT0003274 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-607 | MIMAT0003275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-630 | MIMAT0003299 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-631 | MIMAT0003300 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-641 | MIMAT0003311 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-645 | MIMAT0003315 | - | miR-1302 |
| hsa-miR-647 | MIMAT0003317 | - | miR-195 |
| hsa-miR-656 | MIMAT0003332 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-658 | MIMAT0003336 | - | miR-658 |
| hsa-miR-665 | MIMAT0004952 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-708-3p | MIMAT0004927 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-767-5p | MIMAT0003882 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-875-3p | MIMAT0004923 | - | miR-599 |
| hsa-miR-876-3p | MIMAT0004925 | - | miR-873 |
| hsa-miR-876-5p | MIMAT0004924 | - | miR-873 |
| hsa-miR-922 | MIMAT0004972 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-933 | MIMAT0004976 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-937 | MIMAT0004979 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-944 | MIMAT0004987 | - | - |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 7. Descripció dels miRNAs detectats en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb oligozoospermia (S31-S40) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-let-7b-5p | MIMAT0000063 | let-7 | let-7a |
| hsa-let-7c | MIMAT0000064 | let-7 | let-7c |
| hsa-let-7d-5p | MIMAT0000065 | let-7 | - |
| hsa-let-7e-5p | MIMAT0000066 | let-7 | let-7e |
| hsa-miR-100-5p | MIMAT0000098 | miR-99 | - |
| hsa-miR-106a-5p | MIMAT0000103 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-10a-5p | MIMAT0000253 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-10b-3p | MIMAT0004556 | miR-10 | - |
| hsa-miR-1180 | MIMAT0005825 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-122-5p | MIMAT0000421 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1233-3p | MIMAT0005588 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1254 | MIMAT0005905 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1255b-5p | MIMAT0005945 | miR-1255 | - |
| hsa-miR-125a-5p | MIMAT0000443 | miR-125 | let-7e |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|------------------|
| hsa-miR-125b-5p | MIMAT0000423 | miR-125 | - |
| hsa-miR-1260a | MIMAT0005911 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-127-3p | MIMAT0000446 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-1290 | MIMAT0005880 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1291 | MIMAT0005881 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1303 | MIMAT0005891 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-132-3p | MIMAT0000426 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-133a | MIMAT0000427 | miR-133 | miR-1 |
| hsa-miR-135a-5p | MIMAT0000428 | miR-135 | let-7g |
| hsa-miR-139-5p | MIMAT0000250 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-140-3p | MIMAT0004597 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-146a-5p | MIMAT0000449 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-146b-5p | MIMAT0002809 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-148a-3p | MIMAT0000243 | miR-148 | - |
| hsa-miR-149-5p | MIMAT0000450 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-150-5p | MIMAT0000451 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-151a-3p | MIMAT0000757 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-155-5p | MIMAT0000646 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-15b-5p | MIMAT0000417 | miR-15 | - |
| hsa-miR-16-5p | MIMAT0000069 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-17-5p | MIMAT0000070 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-184 | MIMAT0000454 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-186-5p | MIMAT0000456 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-190b | MIMAT0004929 | miR-190 | - |
| hsa-miR-191-5p | MIMAT0000440 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-192-5p | MIMAT0000222 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-193a-5p | MIMAT0004614 | miR-193 | miR-193a |
| hsa-miR-193b-3p | MIMAT0002819 | miR-193 | miR-193b |
| hsa-miR-19b-3p | MIMAT0000074 | miR-19 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-200b-3p | MIMAT0000318 | miR-8 | miR-200a |
| hsa-miR-200c-3p | MIMAT0000617 | miR-8 | miR-141 |
| hsa-miR-202-3p | MIMAT0002811 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-203a | MIMAT0000264 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-204-5p | MIMAT0000265 | miR-204 | - |
| hsa-miR-205-5p | MIMAT0000266 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-20a-5p | MIMAT0000075 | miR-17 | miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-20b-5p | MIMAT0001413 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-212-3p | MIMAT0000269 | miR-132 | miR-132 |
| hsa-miR-218-5p | MIMAT0000275 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-221-3p | MIMAT0000278 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-222-3p | MIMAT0000279 | miR-221 | miR-221 |
| hsa-miR-223-3p | MIMAT0000280 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-24-3p | MIMAT0000080 | - | miR-181c/miR-23b |
| hsa-miR-25-3p | MIMAT0000081 | miR-25 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-26a-5p | MIMAT0000082 | miR-26 | - |
| hsa-miR-27a-3p | MIMAT0000084 | miR-27 | miR-181c |
| hsa-miR-28-3p | MIMAT0004502 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-28-5p | MIMAT0000085 | miR-28 | - |
| hsa-miR-302a-3p | MIMAT0000684 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-302c-3p | MIMAT0000717 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-30a-5p | MIMAT0000087 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30a-3p | MIMAT0000088 | miR-30 | miR-30a |
| hsa-miR-30b-5p | MIMAT0000420 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30c-5p | MIMAT0000244 | miR-30 | miR-30a/miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-30d-5p | MIMAT0000245 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-30e-3p | MIMAT0000693 | miR-30 | miR-30c |
| hsa-miR-31-5p | MIMAT0000089 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-320a | MIMAT0000510 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-320b | MIMAT0005792 | miR-320 | - |
| hsa-miR-323a-3p | MIMAT0000755 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-324-3p | MIMAT0000762 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-328 | MIMAT0000752 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-331-3p | MIMAT0000760 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-342-3p | MIMAT0000753 | - | - |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-345-5p | MIMAT0000772 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-365a-3p | MIMAT0000710 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-370 | MIMAT0000722 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-374a-5p | MIMAT0000727 | miR-374 | miR-374a |
| hsa-miR-375 | MIMAT0000728 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-376a-3p | MIMAT0000729 | miR-368 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-378a-3p | MIMAT0000732 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-382-5p | MIMAT0000737 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-409-3p | MIMAT0001639 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-425-3p | MIMAT0001343 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-425-5p | MIMAT0003393 | - | miR-191 |
| hsa-miR-432-5p | MIMAT0002814 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-454-3p | MIMAT0003885 | - | miR-301a |
| hsa-miR-483-5p | MIMAT0004761 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-484 | MIMAT0002174 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-489 | MIMAT0002805 | - | miR-489 |
| hsa-miR-491-5p | MIMAT0002807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-501-5p | MIMAT0002872 | miR-500 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-517a-3p | MIMAT0002852 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-517c-3p | MIMAT0002866 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518e-3p | MIMAT0002861 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-519d | MIMAT0002853 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-520c-3p | MIMAT0002846 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-522-3p | MIMAT0002868 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-523-3p | MIMAT0002840 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-532-3p | MIMAT0004780 | - | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-532-5p | MIMAT0002888 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-539-5p | MIMAT0003163 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-564 | MIMAT0003228 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-574-3p | MIMAT0003239 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-601 | MIMAT0003269 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-616-3p | MIMAT0004805 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-625-3p | MIMAT0004808 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-629-3p | MIMAT0003298 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-636 | MIMAT0003306 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-638 | MIMAT0003308 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-650 | MIMAT0003320 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-660-5p | MIMAT0003338 | miR-188 | miR-188 |
| hsa-miR-664a-3p | MIMAT0005949 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-671-3p | MIMAT0004819 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-885-5p | MIMAT0004947 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-888-5p | MIMAT0004916 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-890 | MIMAT0004912 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-891a | MIMAT0004902 | miR-891 | - |
| hsa-miR-892a | MIMAT0004907 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-892b | MIMAT0004918 | miR-743 | - |
| hsa-miR-92a-3p | MIMAT0000092 | miR-25 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-93-3p | MIMAT0004509 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-93-5p | MIMAT0000093 | miR-17 | miR-106b |
| hsa-miR-939-5p | MIMAT0004982 | - | miR-1234 |
| hsa-miR-942 | MIMAT0004985 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-99a-5p | MIMAT0000097 | miR-99 | let-7c |
| hsa-miR-99b-5p | MIMAT0000689 | miR-99 | let-7e |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

Taula suplementària 8. Descripció dels miRNAs absents en els espermatozoides de tots els individus amb oligozoospermia (S31-S40) i informació de la família i clúster al qual pertanyen.

| miRBase ID | miRBase Accession number ^a | Família de miRNA ^b | Clúster de miRNA ^b |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| hsa-miR-105-3p | MIMAT0004516 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-10a-3p | MIMAT0004555 | miR-10 | - |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------|----------|
| hsa-miR-1179 | MIMAT0005824 | - | miR-1179 |
| hsa-miR-1203 | MIMAT0005866 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1205 | MIMAT0005869 | - | miR-1205 |
| hsa-miR-1236-3p | MIMAT0005591 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1238-3p | MIMAT0005593 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-124-5p | MIMAT0004591 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1248 | MIMAT0005900 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1263 | MIMAT0005915 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1272 | MIMAT0005925 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-127-5p | MIMAT0004604 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-1284 | MIMAT0005941 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1286 | MIMAT0005877 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-1288 | MIMAT0005942 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-129-1-3p | MIMAT0004548 | - | miR-129 |
| hsa-miR-1304-5p | MIMAT0005892 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-139-3p | MIMAT0004552 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-142-5p | MIMAT0000433 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-143-5p | MIMAT0004599 | - | miR-143 |
| hsa-miR-146a-3p | MIMAT0004608 | miR-146 | - |
| hsa-miR-153 | MIMAT0000439 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-154-5p | MIMAT0000452 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-155-3p | MIMAT0004658 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-15a-5p | MIMAT0000068 | miR-15 | miR-15a |
| hsa-miR-185-3p | MIMAT0004611 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-18b-3p | MIMAT0004751 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-192-3p | MIMAT0004543 | miR-192 | miR-192 |
| hsa-miR-196a-3p | MIMAT0004562 | miR-196 | miR-196a |
| hsa-miR-199b-5p | MIMAT0000263 | miR-199 | - |
| hsa-miR-20b-3p | MIMAT0004752 | miR-17 | miR-106a |
| hsa-miR-299-5p | MIMAT0002890 | - | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-302b-5p | MIMAT0000714 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-302d-5p | MIMAT0004685 | miR-302 | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-30b-3p | MIMAT0004589 | miR-30 | miR-30b |
| hsa-miR-337-3p | MIMAT0000754 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-367-5p | MIMAT0004686 | - | miR-302a |
| hsa-miR-369-5p | MIMAT0001621 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-376b-3p | MIMAT0002172 | miR-368 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-384 | MIMAT0001075 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-409-5p | MIMAT0001638 | miR-154 | miR-1185 |
| hsa-miR-424-5p | MIMAT0001341 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-431-5p | MIMAT0001625 | - | miR-127 |
| hsa-miR-455-3p | MIMAT0004784 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-499a-5p | MIMAT0002870 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-503-5p | MIMAT0002874 | - | miR-424 |
| hsa-miR-513b | MIMAT0005788 | miR-506 | miR-506 |
| hsa-miR-518c-3p | MIMAT0002848 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-518e-5p | MIMAT0005450 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-519e-5p | MIMAT0002828 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-524-5p | MIMAT0002849 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-525-5p | MIMAT0002838 | miR-515 | miR-1283 |
| hsa-miR-544a | MIMAT0003164 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-548c-3p | MIMAT0003285 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548d-3p | MIMAT0003323 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548e | MIMAT0005874 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-548n | MIMAT0005916 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-551b-3p | MIMAT0003233 | miR-551 | - |
| hsa-miR-555 | MIMAT0003219 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-558 | MIMAT0003222 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-563 | MIMAT0003227 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-569 | MIMAT0003234 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-585 | MIMAT0003250 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-599 | MIMAT0003267 | - | miR-599 |
| hsa-miR-603 | MIMAT0003271 | miR-548 | - |
| hsa-miR-607 | MIMAT0003275 | - | - |

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------|
| hsa-miR-608 | MIMAT0003276 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-613 | MIMAT0003281 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-624-3p | MIMAT0004807 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-624-5p | MIMAT0003293 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-631 | MIMAT0003300 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-633 | MIMAT0003303 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-634 | MIMAT0003304 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-647 | MIMAT0003317 | - | miR-1914 |
| hsa-miR-651 | MIMAT0003321 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-767-3p | MIMAT0003883 | - | miR-105 |
| hsa-miR-874 | MIMAT0004911 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-920 | MIMAT0004970 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-924 | MIMAT0004974 | - | - |
| hsa-miR-92a-2-5p | MIMAT0004508 | miR-25 | miR-106a/miR-17 |
| hsa-miR-944 | MIMAT0004987 | - | - |

a. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades miRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>).

b. Informació obtinguda de la base de dades TAM (<http://cmbi.bjmu.edu.cn/tam>).

IV.2. Scripts

#Obrir directori de treball

```
setwd("C:/Users/Albert Salas/Desktop/Directori treball R/Epi-
cromStudy")
```

#Carregar paquet estadístic HTqPCR

```
library(HTqPCR)
```

#Carregar les dades provinents d'assajos múltiples en plaques precon- figurades

```
files<-dir("plateA")
raw<-readCtData(files, path="plateA",header = TRUE, SDS = TRUE, fea-
ture = 4, type = 5, position = 1, Ct = 6)
files<-dir("plateB")
raw2<-readCtData(files, path="plateB",header = TRUE, SDS = TRUE, fe-
ature = 4, type = 5, position = 1, Ct = 6)
q.comb2<-rbind(raw,raw2)
DATA<-data.frame(t(exprs(q.comb2)))
raw.cat.new<-setCategory(q.comb2,Ct.min=15,quantile = NULL)
```

#Anàlisi descriptiva

```
pdf("Cluster_analysis_accordingtoquality2.pdf")
par(mfrow=c(2,2))
PLOT<-plotCtCategory(raw.cat.new, by.feature = TRUE)
dev.off()
pdf("plot_by_categories.pdf")
plotCtCategory(raw.cat.new)
dev.off()
```

#Normalització de les dades (mètode MCR)

```

DATA_RAW<-t(DATA)
for (i in 1:ncol(DATA_RAW)) {
  DATA_RAW[,i][DATA_RAW[,i] > 35] <- NA
}
DATA_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED<-DATA_RAW
write.table(DATA_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED,"RAW_DATA_ready_FOR_MEAN_CENTRE-
RED.txt",sep="\t")
meanCenter = function(rawData, restricted=TRUE, ...) {
  if (restricted) {
    means = apply(X=na.omit(rawData), MARGIN=2, FUN=mean)
  } else {
    means = apply(X=rawData, MARGIN=2, FUN=mean,
na.rm=TRUE)
  }
  return(meanCenteredData)
}
MEAN.Centered.norm1 <-meanCenter(DATA_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED[1:384,],
restricted=TRUE)
MEAN.Centered.norm2<-meanCenter(DATA_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED[385:768,],
restricted=TRUE)
MEAN_all_restricted<-rbind(MEAN.Centered.norm1,MEAN.Centered.norm2)
rownames(MEAN_all_restricted)<-rownames(DATA_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED)
DATA_MEAN<-data.frame(MEAN_all_restricted)
DATA_MEAN<-data.frame(t(DATA_MEAN))
DATA_MEAN$subjects<-rownames(DATA_MEAN)
write.table(DATA_MEAN,"DATA_quantileNorm.txt",sep="\t",row.names=F)

```

#Carregar les dades de edat, seminograma, i incidència d'anomalies cromosòmiques numèriques

```

pheno<-read.delim("../Dades seminograma et al. de mostres_recod_com-
plete.txt")
miRNapheno<-merge(pheno,DATA_MEAN,by.x="UABcode",by.y="subjects")
write.table(miRNapheno,"Normalized_data_meanRestricted_with_phe-
notypes_complete.txt",sep="\t",row.names=F)

```

#Anàlisi de l'efecte de les variables edat i seminograma sobre l'expressió de miRNAs

```

for (z in 3:7) {
print(names(miRNapheno)[z])
spearman<-rep(NA,length(9:ncol(miRNapheno)))
nsamplesControls<-rep(NA,length(9:ncol(miRNapheno)))
meanControls<-rep(NA,length(9:ncol(miRNapheno)))
spearman_rho<-rep(NA,length(9:ncol(miRNapheno)))
for (i in 9:ncol(miRNapheno)){
  Controls<-miRNapheno[,i]
  nControls<-length(Controls[!is.na(Controls)])
  nsamplesControls[i-8]<-nControls
  meanControls[i-8]<-mean(Controls,na.rm=T)
  if (nControls>4){

```

```

        spearman[i-8]<-cor.test(miRNapheno[,i],miR-
NApheno[,z],method="spearman")$p.value
        spearman_rho[i-8]<-cor.test(miRNapheno[,i],miR-
NApheno[,z],method="spearman")$estimate
    }
}
sign<-which(spearman<(0.1/(768-summary(spearman)[7])))
print(names(miRNapheno)[sign+8])
spearman<-data.frame(spearman)
spearman$miRNA_assay<-names(miRNapheno)[9:ncol(miRNapheno)]
spearman$nControls<-nsamplesControls
spearman$meanControls<-meanControls
spearman$spearman_rho<-spearman_rho
spearman<-spearman[order(spearman$spearman),]
print(head(spearman))
write.table(spearman,paste("spearman_correlation_",names(miR-
NApheno)[z],".txt",sep=""),sep="\t",row.names=F)
pdf(paste("hist_of_",names(miRNapheno)[z],"pvalues.pdf",sep=""))
plot(hist(spearman$spearman),main=paste("hist_of_",names(miR-
NApheno)[z],"pvalues.pdf",sep=""),xlab="p values distribution")
dev.off()
pdf(paste("hist_of_",names(miRNapheno)[z],"rho_values.pdf",sep=""))
plot(hist(spearman$spearman_rho),main=paste("hist_of_",names(miR-
NApheno)[z],"pvalues.pdf",sep=""),xlab="rho values distribution")
dev.off()
}

```

#Variacions interindividuals (amb paquet estadístic Deducer)

```

corr.mat<-cor.matrix(variables=d(Sample11,Sample12,Sample13,Sam-
ple14,Sample15,Sample16,Sample17,Sample18,Sample19,
Sample20),,
    data=samplevssample_asteno,
    test=cor.test,
    method='spearman',
    alternative="two.sided",
    exact=FALSE)
print(corr.mat)
ggcorplot(corr.mat=corr.mat,data=samplevssample_asteno,
    cor_text_limits=c(5,20),
    line.method="lm")
rm('corr.mat')

```

#Carregar paquet estadístic lattice

```
library(lattice)
```

#Anàlisi de l'agrupació dels individus segons els perfils d'expressió de miRNAs (amb paquet estadístic Deducer)

```

Dist<-dist(miRNapheno_noNas[,8:ncol(miRNapheno_noNas)])
DIST<-as.matrix(Dist)
rownames(DIST)<-substr(miRNapheno_noNas$UABcode,7,9)

```

```

colnames(DIST)<-substr(miRNapheno_noNas$UABcode,7,9)
pdf("resultsMeanRestrictcdNormalization/DistancesBetweenSam-
ples.pdf")
levelplot(DIST,xlab = "id",ylab="id")
dev.off()
method<-c("ward","mcquitty", "complete","average")
for (i in method){
pdf(paste("resultsMeanRestrictcdNormalization/",i,"_clustering_sam-
ples.pdf",sep=""))
plot(hclust(Dist,method=i),labels=substr(miRNapheno_noNas$UAB-
code,7,9),ylab="Distance",xlab=paste(i,"method"))
dev.off()
}
test<-miRNapheno_noNas[,8:ncol(miRNapheno_noNas)]
test<-rbind(test,data.frame(test[1,]*5))
Dist<-dist(test)
DIST<-as.matrix(Dist)
library(lattice)
levelplot(DIST,xlab = "id",ylab="id")
method<-c("ward","mcquitty", "complete","average")
for (i in method){
pdf(paste("resultsMeanRestrictcdNormalization/testraro",i,"_cluste-
ring_samples.pdf",sep=""))
plot(hclust(Dist,method=i),ylab="Distance",xlab=paste(i,"method"))
dev.off()
}

```

#Identificació de DE-miRNAs (amb paquet estadístic Deducer)

```

descriptive.ta-
ble(d(hsa.let.7a.000377,hsa.let.7c.000379,hsa.let.7d.002283,...,hsa.
miR.1296.002908),Category,wilcoxon_controlvsasteno,func.names
=c("Mean","St. Deviation","Valid N"))
print(two.sample.test(for-
mula=d(hsa.let.7a.000377,hsa.let.7c.000379,hsa.let.7d.002283,...,hsa
.miR.1296.002908) ~ Category,
      data=wilcoxon_controlvsasteno,
      test=wilcox.test,
      alternative="two.sided",
      correct=FALSE)
)

```

#Identificació de parelles de miRNAs estables com a candidats a bio- marcadors

```

COR<-cor(miRNapheno[,9:(ncol(miRNapheno)-1)],method="spearman")
write.table(COR,"COR_spearman.txt",sep="\t")
NetworkSIF<-data.frame(cbind(NA,NA,NA))
names(NetworkSIF)<-c("miRNA_1", "rho_value","miRNA_2")
NetSIF<-NetworkSIF
NetworkSIF<-NetworkSIF[-1,]
for (i in 1:nrow(COR)){

```



```

print(row.names(COR)[i])
print(i)
for (z in 1:ncol(COR)){
  if (z>i){
    if (!is.na(COR[i,z])){
      NetSIF[1,1]<-row.names(COR)[i]
      NetSIF[1,3]<-colnames(COR)[z]
      NetSIF[1,2]<-COR[i,z]
      NetworkSIF<-rbind(NetworkSIF,NetSIF)
    }
  }
}
}
NetworkSIF$abs_rho_value<-abs(NetworkSIF$rho_value)
NetworkSIF<-NetworkSIF[order(NetworkSIF$abs_rho_value,decreasing=T),]
NetworkSIF<-NetworkSIF[order(NetworkSIF$rho_value),]
write.table(NetworkSIF,"NetworkSIF.txt",sep="\t")

```

#Selecció de miRNAs com a candidats a normalitzadors i validació

```

fastCCC = function(x, y) {
  pearson = cor(x, y)
  m1 = mean(x)
  m2 = mean(y)
  s1 = sqrt(mean(x*x) - m1*m1)
  s2 = sqrt(mean(y*y) - m2*m2)
  correction = (2 * s1 * s2) / (s1^2 + s2^2 + (m1-m2)^2)
  ccc = pearson * correction
  return(ccc)
}

selectCCRNORMALIZERS = function(data, ctThreshold=35, ccRankCutoff=10, normCount=NA) {
  require(epiR)
  data[data>ctThreshold] = NA
  data = na.omit(data)
  if (nrow(data) < ccRankCutoff) {
    stop(paste("Need at least ccRankCutoff =", ccRankCutoff, "fully observed rows."))
  }
  geneSymbol = rownames(data)
  sampleMeans = apply(X=data, MARGIN=2, FUN=mean)
  allCCCVals = apply(X=data, MARGIN=1, FUN=fastCCC, y=sampleMeans)
  cccOrder = order(allCCCVals, decreasing=TRUE)[1:ccRankCutoff]
  data = data[cccOrder,]
  geneSymbol = geneSymbol[cccOrder]
  excludedData = data[-1,]
  excludedGeneSymbol = geneSymbol[-1]
  data = as.data.frame(data[1,])
  normalizerSymbol = geneSymbol[1]

```

```

converged = FALSE
groupMeanCCC = list(eps.ccc(unlist(data), sampleMeans))
while (!converged) {
  bestCCC = list(rho.c = list(est = -Inf))
  bestCCCIndex = -Inf
  for (addedIndex in 1:nrow(excludedData)) {
    potentialData = rbind(data, as.data.frame(exclu-
dedData[addedIndex,]))
    potentialMean = apply(X=potentialData, MARGIN=2,
FUN=mean)
    cccVal = fastCCC(potentialMean, sampleMeans)
    if (cccVal > bestCCC$rho.c$est) {
      bestCCC = eps.ccc(potentialMean, sampleMe-
ans)
      bestCCCIndex = addedIndex
    }
  }
  converged = (bestCCC$rho.c$est <= groupMe-
anCCC[[nrow(data)]]$rho.c$upper)
  if (!converged || !is.na(normCount)) {
    groupMeanCCC[[length(groupMeanCCC)+1]] = bestCCC
    data = rbind(data, as.data.frame(exclu-
dedData[bestCCCIndex,]))
    normalizerSymbol = c(normalizerSymbol, exclu-
dedGeneSymbol[bestCCCIndex])
    excludedData = excludedData[-bestCCCIndex,]
    excludedGeneSymbol = excludedGeneSymbol[-
bestCCCIndex]
  }
  if (!is.na(normCount)) {
    converged = (nrow(data) >= normCount)
  }
}
return(list(normalizers=normalizerSymbol, cccTrace=groupMe-
anCCC))
}
applyNormalizers = function(rawData, normalizers, ...) {
  if (missing(normalizers) || length(normalizers)==0) {
    stop("No normalizers supplied.")
  }
  normalizerData = rawData[normalizers,]
  if (nrow(na.omit(normalizerData)) < nrow(normalizerData)) {
    stop("Normalizer(s) not fully observed.")
  }
  normValues = apply(X=normalizerData, MARGIN=2, FUN=mean)
  normalizedData = rawData - data.frame(lapply(X=normValues,
FUN=rep, times=nrow(rawData)))
  if (is.numeric(normalizers)) {
    normalizedData = normalizedData[-normalizers,]
  } else if (is.character(normalizers)) {

```

```

        normalizedData = normalizedData[!(rownames(normalized-
Data) %in% normalizers),]
    }
    return(normalizedData)
}
TLDA_RAW<-read.delim("RAW_DATA_ready_FOR_MEAN_CENTERED.txt")
head(TLDA_RAW)
ccrNormalizerSelection.A = selectCCRNORMALIZERS(TLDA_RAW[1:384,])
ccrNormalizers.A = ccrNormalizerSelection.A$normalizers
ccrData.A = applyNormalizers(TLDA_RAW[1:384,], normalizers=ccrNormalizers.A)
ccrNormalizerSelection.B = selectCCRNORMALIZERS(TLDA_RAW[385:768,])
ccrNormalizers.B = ccrNormalizerSelection.B$normalizers
ccrData.B = applyNormalizers(TLDA_RAW[385:768,], normalizers=ccrNormalizers.B)
Data<-TLDA_RAW[1:384,]
ctThreshold<-35
Data[Data>ctThreshold] = NA
    Data = na.omit(Data)
sampleMeans.A = apply(X=Data, MARGIN=2, FUN=mean)
for (i in ccrNormalizers.A){
    print(cor(sampleMeans.A,t(TLDA_RAW[grep(i,rownames(TLDA_RAW)),])))
}
Data<-TLDA_RAW[385:768,]
ctThreshold<-35
Data[Data>ctThreshold] = NA
    Data = na.omit(Data)
sampleMeans.B = apply(X=Data, MARGIN=2, FUN=mean)
for (i in ccrNormalizers.B){
    print(cor(sampleMeans.B,t(TLDA_RAW[grep(i,rownames(TLDA_RAW)),])))
}
rawRowSds = apply(X=TLDA_RAW[1:384,], MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)
ccrRowSds = apply(X=ccrData.A, MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)
cat("Raw row standard deviations:\n")
print(summary(rawRowSds))
cat("\nCCR normalized row standard deviations:\n")
print(summary(ccrRowSds))
rawRowSds = apply(X=TLDA_RAW[385:768,], MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)
ccrRowSds = apply(X=ccrData.B, MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)
cat("Raw row standard deviations:\n")
print(summary(rawRowSds))
cat("\nCCR normalized row standard deviations:\n")
print(summary(ccrRowSds))
ccrNormalizers.all<-c(ccrNormalizers.A,ccrNormalizers.B)
ccrData.ALL = applyNormalizers(TLDA_RAW, normalizers=ccrNormalizers.all)
rawRowSds = apply(X=TLDA_RAW, MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)

```

```

ccrallRowSds = apply(X=ccrData.ALL, MARGIN=1, FUN=sd, na.rm=TRUE)
cat("Raw row standard deviations:\n")
print(summary(rawRowSds))
cat("\nCCR using all genes from both plates normalized row standard
deviations:\n")
print(summary(ccrallRowSds))
DATA_MEAN2<-data.frame(t(ccrData.ALL))
DATA_MEAN2$subjects<-rownames(DATA_MEAN2)
pheno<-read.delim("../Dades seminograma et al. de mostres IVI con-
trols_recod_complete.txt")
miRNapheno<-merge(pheno,DATA_MEAN2,by.x="UABcode",by.y="subjects")
number_controls_expressed<-rep(NA,(length(9:ncol(miRNapheno))))
for (i in 9:ncol(miRNapheno)){
    number_controls_expressed[i-8]<-length(miR-
NApheno[!is.na(miRNapheno[,i]),i])
}
NumExpressed<-data.frame(number_controls_expressed)
NumExpressed$miRNA<-names(miRNapheno)[-1:-8]
write.table(NumExpressed,"test_normalizedDatathreemiRNAs/Num-
miRNA_Expressed_cases_controls.txt",sep="\t",row.names=F)
setwd("test_normalizedDatathreemiRNAs")

```

V. Bibliografia

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