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2	Selective eradication of cancer displaying hyperactive Akt by exploiting the
3 4	metabolic consequences of Akt activation
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#### 34 Abstract

35 Akt activation in human cancers exerts chemoresistance, but pan-Akt inhibition elicits adverse 36 consequences. We exploited the consequences of Akt-mediated mitochondrial and glucose 37 metabolism to selectively eradicate and evade chemoresistance of prostate cancer displaying 38 hyperactive Akt. PTEN-deficient prostate cancer cells that display hyperactivated Akt have high 39 intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) levels, which are due, in part, to Akt-dependent 40 increase of oxidative phosphorylation. High intracellular ROS levels selectively sensitize cells 41 displaying hyperactive Akt to ROS-induced cell death enabling a therapeutic strategy combining 42 a ROS inducer and rapamycin in PTEN-deficient prostate tumors in mouse models. This strategy 43 elicited tumor regression, and markedly increased survival even after the treatment was stopped. 44 By contrast, exposure to antioxidant increased prostate tumor progression. To increase glucose 45 metabolism Akt activation phosphorylates HK2 and induced its expression. Indeed, HK2 46 deficiency in mouse models of Pten-deficient prostate cancer elicited a marked inhibition of 47 tumor development and extended lifespan.

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#### 51 Introduction

52 One of the most frequent events in human cancer is hyperactivation of the serine/threonine 53 kinase Akt. Akt is hyperactivated in cancer by multiple mechanisms, largely through the 54 activation of its upstream regulator phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K), which generates the 55 phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-trisphophate (PIP<sub>3</sub>) required for Akt activation (Mayer & Arteaga, 2016). The activity of PI3K is negatively regulated by the tumor suppressor Phosphatase And 56 57 Tensin Homolog (PTEN), which is a PIP3 phosphatase, and therefore inhibits the PI3K/Akt 58 signaling pathway. PTEN expression is frequently lost in human cancers, specifically in 59 glioblastoma, melanoma, endometrial and prostate cancers (Hollander, Blumenthal et al., 2011). 60 The frequent activation of PI3K/Akt signaling in cancer and its ability to exert chemoresistance 61 led to the development of small molecule inhibitors of PI3K and Akt, which are currently being 62 tested in clinical trials (Kim, Dan et al., 2005, Zhang, Kwok-Shing Ng et al., 2017, Zheng, 2017). 63 There are three Akt genes in mammalian cells (Akt1-3), and their encoded proteins have a high 64 degree of identical amino acids. The expression pattern in mammalian tissues and organs is 65 different amongst the three isoforms. While Akt1 is ubiquitously expressed, Akt2 is expressed at 66 the highest level in insulin-responsive tissues, and Akt3 is expressed at the highest level in the 67 brain. The different mouse phenotypes with the individual Akt isoform germ line deletions can 68 be explained by their relative expression in the organs that determine the phenotype (Dummler & 69 Hemmings, 2007, Hay, 2011). The Akt inhibitors currently in clinical trials are pan-Akt 70 inhibitors that inhibit the different Akt isoforms to a similar extent. These pan-Akt inhibitors 71 exert undesired side effects, such as hyperglycemia, hyperinsulinemia, and diabetes (Wang, 72 Chen et al., 2017). Furthermore, genetic deletion of Akt1 and Akt2 in the mouse liver induces 73 liver damage, inflammation, and paradoxically hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) (Wang, Yu et 74 al., 2016). Therefore, developing isoform-specific inhibitors could reduce the undesired systemic 75 consequences of pan-Akt inhibition, although this is challenging. Alternatively, a therapeutic 76 approach that selectively targets cancer cells displaying hyperactive Akt should be developed.

Perhaps the most evolutionarily conserved function of Akt is mediating cellular and organismal metabolism. This conserved function of Akt is likely utilized by cancer cells to fulfill their anabolic demands. Since PTEN is lost in approximately 40% of prostate cancers

- 80 (Pourmand, Ziaee et al., 2007, Taylor, Schultz et al., 2010), we chose to work towards
- 81 developing a personalized therapeutic approach by using PTEN-deficient prostate cancer to e

111 hyperactivated Akt. As we previously found, Akt elevates oxygen consumption and intracellular 112 ROS levels (Nogueira et al., 2008). We therefore determined these two parameters in prostate 113 cancer (CaP) cells in which PTEN is frequently lost. Basal oxygen consumption was the lowest 114 in the PTEN-proficient DU145 cells, while it was gradually increased in the PTEN-deficient PC3 115 and LNCaP cells (Figure 1B), following the pattern of Akt activity in which higher oxygen 116 consumption was correlated with higher Akt activity. Silencing Akt1 and Akt2 in PC3 cells 117 markedly decreased oxygen consumption, indicating that the high oxygen consumption in these 118 cells is Akt-dependent (Figure 1C). Interestingly, basal oxygen consumption in DU145 cells 119 reached the maximum capacity of the respiratory chain, while PC3 and LNCaP cells have a 120 larger spare capacity. Fig. 1B also shows that the ATP production capacity is two-fold higher in 121 PC3 and LNCaP cells compared to DU145 cells, agreeing with our previous observations that 122 Akt activation increases ATP production by both glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation 123 (Gottlob et al., 2001). Since intracellular ROS are by-products of high OXPHO, we determined 124 intracellular ROS production at the cytosolic (Figure 1D) and mitochondrial (Figure 1E) levels, 125 and found that high Akt activity was correlated with high intracellular levels of ROS. Akt1 and 126 Akt2 knockdown in PC3 cells consistently decreased ROS levels, confirming that Akt regulates 127 intracellular ROS levels. (Figure 1F). Finally, we found that in PC3 and LNCaP cells 128 mitochondrial membrane potential is higher than in DU145 cells (Figure 1-figure supplement 1), 129 which is likely correlated with the higher respiratory chain activity in PC3 and LNCaP cells.

130 In our previous studies, we found that Akt activation increases ROS not only by increasing 131 oxygen consumption but also by inhibiting the expression of ROS scavengers downstream of 132 FOXO, such as MnSOD and catalase, and particularly sestrin3 (Sesn3) (Nogueira et al., 2008). 133 Sesn3 is a transcriptional target of FOXO (Chen, Jeon et al., 2010) and a member of a protein 134 family including Sesn1 and Sesn2, which reduce ROS by several mechanisms (Bae, Sung et al., 135 2013, Kopnin, Agapova et al., 2007). Interestingly, in contrast to our findings in MEFs (Nogueira et 136 al., 2008), changes in MnSOD and catalase expression in the CaP cells did not correlate with 137 changes in ROS levels (Figure 1-figure supplement 2), which is consistent with what was 138 previously observed (Chowdhury, Raha et al., 2007). However, the pattern of Sesn3 expression was 139 consistent with ROS levels, and while DU145 cells express high levels of Sesn3, PC3 and LNCaP 140 cells express relatively low levels of Sesn3 (Figure 1-figure supplement 3). Interestingly, 141 downregulation of Sesn3 in DU145 cells or up-regulation of Sesn3 in PC3 cells (Figure 1-figure 142 supplement 4) was sufficient to modulate cytosolic ROS production in these cells (Figure 1-figure

143 supplement 5Sesn3 knockdown in DU145 cells increased ROS production, while overexpression of

144 Sesn3 in PC3 cells decreased ROS production. These results suggest that Sesn3 contributes to the

- 145 regulation of intracellular ROS downstream of Akt and FoxOs in CaP cells.
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Taken together, these results show that PTEN-deficient prostate cancer cells display high 147 OXPHO and ROS levels in an Akt-dependent manner.

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#### 149 PTEN-deficient prostate cancer cells are selectively sensitized to killing by a ROS inducer

150 We previously reported that cells that display high Akt activity could be selectivity killed by 151 increasing the intracellular level of ROS (Nogueira et al., 2008). This selectivity is due to the 152 high intracellular ROS levels exerted by Akt activation in combination with the inability of Akt 153 to protect against ROS-induced cell death. We therefore treated the prostate cancer cells with 2-154 methoxyestradiol (2-ME), an endogenous metabolite of estradiol-17beta that increases ROS, or 155 with  $\beta$ -phenylethyl isothiocyanate (PEITC), a natural compound found in consumable 156 cruciferous vegetables that is known to increase intracellular ROS levels by depleting 157 intracellular glutathione (Ting, Lee et al., 2010) (Yu, Mandlekar et al., 1998) (See also Figure 2-158 figure supplement 1 We found that CaP cells with high Akt activity due to the loss of PTEN 159 (LNCaP, PC3 cells) were more vulnerable to 2-ME- and PEITC-induced cell death than the 160 PTEN-proficient CaP cells (DU145 cells) (Figure 2 A, B, and Figure 2-figure supplement 2). 161 Consistently LNCaP and PC3 cells are more vulnerable to the glutathione reducing agent BSO 162 (Figure 2-figure supplement 3). Interestingly, NADP+/NADPH ratio is elevated in the PTEN-163 deficient cells (Figure 2-figure supplement 4). The elevated NADP+/NADPH could be either 164 contributing to the high level of ROS or it is a result of increased NADPH consumption to 165 combat the high ROS level. Alternatively or additionally, higher NADPH is consumed for fatty 166 acid synthesis in the PTEN-deficient cells can contribute to the higher NADP+/NADPH ratio.

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168 Silencing Sesn3 increased PEITC-induced cell death in DU145 cells, and overexpression of 169 Sesn3 in PC3 cells decreased their sensitivity to PEITC (Figure 2-figure supplement 5). The cell 170 death induced by PEITC is ROS-dependent since it is inhibited by the ROS scavenger N-acetyl 171 cysteine (NAC) (Figure 2-figure supplement 6). To determine if the hypersensitivity of PTEN-172 deficient prostate cancer cells to ROS-induced cell death is PI3K/Akt dependent, we first restored

173 PTEN expression in the Pten-deficient cells and silenced Pten in the Pten-proficient cells. (Figure 2-174 figure supplement 7). Oxygen consumption and ROS production were increased by silencing PTEN 175 in DU145 cells and decreased in PC3 and LNCaP cells expressing PTEN (Figure 2-figure 176 supplement 8). The silencing of PTEN in DU145 cells increased sensitivity to PEITC, whereas the 177 expression of PTEN in PC3 and LNCaP cells decreased their sensitivity to PEITC (Figure 2-figure 178 supplement 9). Like the silencing of PTEN in DU145 cells expression of activated myristoylated 179 Akt (mAkt) in DU145 cells increased ROS levels and renders the cells more sensitive to ROS-180 induced cell death (Figure 2-figure supplement 10). Finally, the knockdown of Akt1 and Akt2 in 181 PC3 and LNCaP cells that reduced ROS levels also rendered them resistant to PEITC-induced cell death (Figure 1F, Figure 2C, and Figure 2-figure supplement 11). We concluded that Akt activation 182 183 in Pten-deficient prostate cancer cells could not protect against oxidative stress-induced cell death 184 but rather sensitized the cells to ROS-induced cell death by increasing their intracellular ROS 185 levels.

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# 187 Treatment with PEITC and rapamycin inhibits and regresses tumor development in a 188 xenograft model and in a mouse model of prostate cancer

We previously showed that rapamycin treatment could further sensitize cells displaying 189 190 hyperactive Akt to oxidative stress-induced cell death, which could be due, in part, to the further 191 activation of Akt by the inhibition of mTORC1 inhibitory activity on the PI3K/Akt signaling 192 (Nogueira et al., 2008). This was also observed in prostate cancer cells (Figure 2-figure 193 supplement 12). Thus, the combination of rapamycin and oxidative stress could not only 194 circumvent resistance to cell death but also selectively kill cells treated with rapamycin. Before 195 applying this strategy to animal models of prostate cancer, we first established our proof-of-196 concept with prostate cancer cells in vitro. As shown in Figure 2D, rapamycin alone did not 197 induce cell death, but pretreatment with rapamycin augmented the ability of PEITC to induce 198 cell death in all 3 CaP cell lines. Although rapamycin treatment increased PEITC-induced cell 199 death in all cell lines, the LNCaP and PC3 cells with hyperactivated Akt were markedly more 200 sensitive to cell death induced by the combination of rapamycin and PEITC than DU145 cells 201 (Figure 2D). The synergistic effect of rapamycin and PEITC on cell death could be explained by 202 the induction of ROS exceeding the scavenging capacity (Figure 2-figure supplement 13). We 203 found that rapamycin, by itself, does not substantially affect oxygen consumption or intracellular

ROS induced by Akt (Figure 2-figure supplement 14). This contrasts with the catalytic inhibitor of mTOR, torin1, which decreased oxygen consumption and ROS levels (Figure 2-figure supplement 14). These results are consistent with previously published results showing that while the mTOR kinase inhibitor inhibits OXPHO in an eIF4E-dependent manner, rapamycin does not (Morita, Gravel et al., 2013). We concluded that combining rapamycin and PEITC could be used to selectively kill prostate cancer cells expressing hyperactive Akt.

210 To examine the efficacy of the strategy to selectively eradicate prostate cancer cells 211 carrying activated Akt in vivo, we first employed xenografts of PC3 cells in athymic nude mice 212 and studied the effect of PEITC and rapamycin on the growth of tumors induced by PC3 cells 213 (Figure 2E). After tumor onset, the mice were either not treated or treated with either rapamycin 214 alone, PEITC alone or the combination of both rapamycin and PEITC. Rapamycin alone or 215 PEITC alone significantly attenuated the growth of the tumors, but the tumors remained 216 palpable. However, the combination of PEITC and rapamycin regressed tumor growth and 217 eradicated the tumors. Analyses of tumor sections near the endpoint of the experiment showed 218 that PEITC alone induced both a profound inhibition of BrdU incorporation and cell death, as 219 assessed by cleaved caspase 3, whereas rapamycin alone did not induce cell death but did inhibit 220 BrdU incorporation (Figure 2F-H). Cell death after treatment with both PEITC and rapamycin, 221 as measured by cleaved caspase 3, was profoundly higher than that induced by PEITC alone 222 (Figure 2F-H). When the PTEN-proficient DU145 xenografts were similarly treated, the effect of 223 rapamycin alone or PEITC alone on tumor growth was not as profound (Figure 2-figure 224 supplement 15). Importantly, the combination of rapamycin and PEITC did not decrease tumor 225 growth as it did for the PTEN-deficient PC3 xenografts. Thus, these results indicate that the 226 combination of rapamycin and PEITC could be an effective therapeutic strategy for PTEN-227 deficient prostate cancer or prostate cancer in which Akt is hyperactivated.

To further address the feasibility of PEITC and rapamycin treatment for PTENdeficient prostate cancer, we employed a mouse model for prostate cancer in which prostate Pten is specifically deleted by Cre recombinase driven by the probasin promoter (*Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>fff</sup>* mice). Mice that are deficient for PTEN in the prostate display progressive forms of prostatic cancer that histologically resemble human prostate cancer, ranging from mild prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN) at 10 weeks of age to large multinodular malignant adenocarcinoma with metastasis within 8 months (Trotman, Niki et al., 2003). Pten deletion

235 leads to Akt activation in the prostate and, similar to what we observed in vitro, an increase in 236 oxidative stress, as measured by the increased level of 4-hydroxynonenal (4HNE) protein 237 adducts (Figure 3A). Since the onset of PIN occurs within 2 months and invasive CaP occurs 238 within 8 months, we could test the efficacy of our therapeutic approach at two different stages of 239 prostate cancer, low-grade PINs and, later, high-grade PINs and CaP stages. The first strategy is 240 depicted in Figure 3B. The treatment did not significantly affect the mice body weights (Figure 241 3-figure supplement 1), and the prostate weights did not significantly change in the control mice 242 after treatment with rapamycin alone, PEITC alone or rapamycin and PEITC in combination 243 (Figure 3-figure supplement 2). However, these treatments significantly decreased the prostate weights in the Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>ff</sup> mice, which was most profound when both rapamycin and 244 245 PEITC were combined (Figure 3C). When tumor sections were analyzed after 8 months, we 246 found that all treatments markedly inhibited proliferation, as measured by BrdU incorporation 247 (Figures 3D and 3E), but PEITC also induced cell death, which was further exacerbated when 248 PEITC was combined with rapamycin (Figures. 3D and 3F). Finally, the combination of 249 rapamycin and PEITC treatment markedly increased survival (Figure 3G). Histopathological 250 analysis showed that while two third and one third of untreated mice had high grade PIN and 251 microinvasive carcinoma respectively, one third of mice treated with rapamycin and PEITC did 252 not have any detectable PIN, 16% had low grade PIN and only one third had high grade PIN and 253 16% microinvasive carcinoma (Table 1, and Figure 3-figure supplement 3). By contrast, treating 254 the mice with NAC to decrease the ROS levels markedly increased the prostate weights and 255 tumor growth (Figure 3H). All NAC treated mice had carcinoma with the majority of mice 256 (75%) displaying invasive carcinoma and 25% microinvasive carcinoma (Table 1 and Figure 3-257 figure supplement 3). The results indicate that high ROS levels are an impediment to tumor 258 progression. Next, we wanted to know whether the efficacy of such a treatment was greater if the 259 mice were treated at a younger age. Therefore the mice were treated at 2 months according to the 260 protocol depicted in Figure 4A. One cohort of mice was sacrificed at 6 months, and another 261 cohort of mice was left untreated for another 6 months and sacrificed at 12 months. A third 262 cohort of mice was used to determine survival. As shown in Figures 4B and Figure 4-figure 263 supplement 1, the treatments did not affect the body weights but significantly reduced the prostate weights of the Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>f/f</sup> mice at the 6-month time point. Analysis of tumor 264 265 sections at 6 months again showed a marked decrease in cell proliferation and a marked increase

266 in cell death with the combination of PEITC and rapamycin treatment (Figures 4C-E). Strikingly, 267 the effect of PEITC and rapamycin was sustained even in the cohort of mice that were left 268 untreated for another six months (Figures 4F-I). Interestingly, we found that BrdU incorporation 269 was still decreased (Figure 4H), and cell death was increased (Figure 4H). Finally, treatment 270 with PEITC and rapamycin profoundly increased survival, even though the treatment was 271 stopped at 6 months of age (Figure 4J). Taken together the results suggest that treatment with 272 rapamycin and PEITC not only attenuate prostate tumor growth but also regresses tumor 273 progression.

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#### 275 HK2 expression is induced in Pten-deficient prostate cancer in an Akt-dependent manner

276 Hexokinases catalyze the first committed step of glucose metabolism by phosphorylating 277 glucose. Hexokinase 2 (HK2), which is not expressed in most mammalian tissues, is markedly 278 induced in cancer cells by different mechanisms (Patra & Hay, 2013, Patra, Wang et al., 2013). 279 Previously, we showed that systemic deletion of HK2 in mice is well tolerated and a therapeutic 280 for lung cancer (Patra et al., 2013). HK2 is also directly phosphorylated by Akt which increased 281 its binding to mitochondria (Miyamoto et al., 2008), and therefore its activity (DeWaal et al., 282 2018). We therefore examined the human prostate cancer cell lines DU145, PC3 and LNCaP for 283 the expression of HK2 and found that the PTEN-deficient PC3 and LNCaP cells expressed 284 higher levels of HK2 compared with the PTEN-proficient DU145 cells (Figure 5A and Figure 5-285 figure supplement 1). The high level of HK2 in the PC3 and LNCaP cells was dependent on Akt 286 because treatment with the pan-Akt inhibitor MK2206 diminished HK2 expression (Figure 5A) 287 and because the knockdown of Akt1 and Akt2 in PC3 cells decreased HK2 expression (Figure 5-288 figure supplement 2). In addition the knockdown of PTEN in DU145 cells increased HK2 289 expression whereas the expression of PTEN in PC3 and LNCaP cells decreased HK2 expression 290 (Figure 5-figure supplement 3). The knockdown of HK2 only modestly decreased the total 291 hexokinase activity in DU145 cells, while in PC3 and LNCaP cells, HK2 knockdown decreased 292 most of the total hexokinase activity (Figures 5B and 5C). The results suggest that in the PTEN-293 deficient PC3 and LNCaP cells, HK2 is the major contributor of hexokinase activity. Indeed the 294 knockdown of hexokinase 1 (HK1) in PC3 cells had only a modest effect on the total hexokinase 295 activity (Figure 5-figure supplement 4) and no effect on cell proliferation in comparison with 296 HK2 knockdown (Figure 5-figure supplement 5).

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#### 298 HK2 deficiency in Pten-deficient prostate cancer cells impairs proliferation and 299 tumorigenesis and overrides chemoresistance

300 HK2 knockdown in PC3 and LNCaP cells markedly affected the proliferation of the cells, as 301 measured by the cell numbers and BrdU incorporation, whereas the proliferation of the DU145 302 cells was not significantly affected (Figures 5D-E). The knockdown of HK1, however, did not 303 affect the proliferation of PC3 cells and did not further decrease the attenuated proliferation 304 induced by HK2 knockdown (Figure 5-figure supplement 5). Furthermore, the knockdown of 305 HK2 impaired the anchorage-independent growth of PC3 cells (Figure 5F). PTEN-deficient 306 prostate cancer cells are relatively resistant to etoposide because of Akt activation (Figure 5-307 figure supplement 6). However, HK2 knockdown re-sensitizes these cells to death induced by 308 etoposide (Figure 5G). The inducible knockdown of HK2 in PC3 cells in nude mice after tumor 309 onset substantially decreased tumor growth. Etoposide alone also inhibited tumor growth, 310 although to a lesser extent. However, the combination of HK2 knockdown and etoposide 311 prohibited tumor growth by both decreased proliferation and increased cell death (Figure 5H and 312 Figure 5-figure supplement 7). Finally, we observed that glycolysis, as measured by ECAR, was 313 significantly reduced in PC3 cells after HK2 knockdown as expected (Figure 5-figure 314 supplement 8), but this was associated with a compensatory increase in oxygen consumption 315 (OCR) (Figure 5-figure supplement 9). Consequently, the ROS levels were further increased in 316 PC3 cells (Figure 5-figure supplement 10), and therefore, the cells became more sensitive to 317 PEITC-induced cell death (Figure 5-figure supplement 11These results suggest that HK2 318 depletion together with PEITC could be an additional therapeutic strategy for PTEN-deficient 319 prostate cancer cells.

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#### Hk2 deletion in *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice inhibits prostate tumor development by decreasing 321 322 proliferation and increasing cell death

To further address the role of HK2 in prostate neoplasia in vivo, we crossed Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>f/f</sup> 323 mice with Hk2<sup>f/f</sup> mice to generate Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>;Hk2<sup>f/f</sup> mice. As shown in Figure 6A, HK2 324 expression was induced in the prostates of *Pbsn-Cre4*;*Pten*<sup>f/f</sup> mice compared with that of the

- 325
- control mice. The deletion of HK2 in the Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>ff</sup>; Hk2<sup>ff</sup> mice markedly decreased the 326
- 327 prostate weights (Figure 6B) and substantially increased the survival compared with those of the

*Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice (Figure 6C). Analysis of the prostate tumor sections showed that HK2 deletion not only inhibited tumor proliferation, as measured by BrdU incorporation, but also significantly increased apoptosis, as measured by caspase-3 cleavage Figures 6D and E). We concluded that HK2 is required for prostate cancer development and that its deletion induces both cytostatic and cytotoxic effects.

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#### 334 Discussion

335 Akt is frequently hyperactivated in human cancers. However, systemic pan-Akt inhibition could 336 also exert toxicity and undesired effects, such as hyperinsulinemia, hyperglycemia, liver injury, 337 and inflammation (Wang et al., 2017). Therefore, alternative therapeutic approaches that can 338 selectively target cancer cells with hyperactive Akt are highly desired. Akt activation induces 339 metabolic changes that can be exploited to selectively target cancer cells displaying hyperactive 340 Akt. Akt is frequently hyperactivated in prostate cancer due to loss of the tumor suppressor 341 PTEN. We therefore exploited the metabolic consequences of Akt activation in PTEN-deficient 342 prostate cancer. Akt activation in PTEN-deficient prostate cancer elevates oxygen consumption 343 and intracellular ROS levels. Since Akt activation cannot protect cells against ROS-induced cell 344 death, the high level of ROS mediated by Akt activation renders cells with hyperactive Akt more 345 vulnerable to ROS-induced cell death. Rapamycin further induced Akt activity by inhibiting the 346 feedback inhibition of Akt by mTORC1(Nogueira et al., 2008). Since treatment with rapamycin 347 further increased ROS-induced cell death, we combined a ROS inducer with rapamycin as a 348 therapeutic approach to eradicating the PTEN-deficient prostate tumors of human xenografts in 349 mice and in a mouse model of prostate neoplasia. This therapeutic approach also converts the 350 cytostatic effect of rapamycin to a cytotoxic effect. This strategy was successful in eradicating 351 prostate tumors in vivo. In the mouse model of Pten-deficient prostate cancer, we found that this 352 strategy inhibited prostate tumor growth, which was sustained even six months after the 353 treatment was stopped. Interestingly six months after the treatment was stopped not only we 354 observed inhibition of proliferation but continuous increase in cell.

High ROS levels in cancer cells can contribute to tumorigenesis and promote prooncogenic signaling. However, high ROS levels could also be impediment to tumor progression and metastasis (Le Gal, Ibrahim et al., 2015, Piskounova, Agathocleous et al., 2015, Sayin, Ibrahim et al., 2014). Indeed, we found that in contrast to treatment with a ROS inducer, treatment with a ROS scavenger increased tumor development and invasiveness in *Pbsn-Cre*; *Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice.

361 We found that high level of glycolysis in PTEN-deficient prostate cancer cells is 362 partially dependent on the ability of Akt to elevate HK2 expression. HK2 expression was not 363 detected in the prostates of normal mice but was markedly induced after the deletion of PTEN in 364 the prostates. In addition, HK2 is phosphorylated by Akt and increases the binding of HK2 to 365 mitochondria (Miyamoto et al., 2008, Roberts, Tan-Sah et al., 2014). Because the binding of 366 HK2 to mitochondria increases glycolysis (DeWaal et al., 2018), Akt likely not only increases 367 HK2 expression but also increases its activity in PTEN-deficient prostate cancer. HK2 368 knockdown in Pten-deficient prostate cancer cells in mice markedly inhibited their tumor growth 369 and overcame their resistance to etoposide. The deletion of HK2 in the prostates of Pbsn-Cre4:Pten<sup>ff</sup> mice inhibited tumor growth and markedly extended their survival. Interestingly, 370 371 unlike in other mouse models of cancer (Patra et al., 2013), HK2 deletion in the prostate of Pbsn-*Cre*; *Pten<sup>f/f</sup>* mice is not only cytostatic but also cytotoxic. 372

373 In adult mice, HK2 is not expressed in most tissues, and high expression of HK2 is 374 limited to a small number of normal tissues (Patra & Hay, 2013, Patra et al., 2013). However, 375 HK2 expression is markedly elevated in cancer cells. Since systemic HK2 deletion is tolerated in 376 mice, HK2 inhibition is a viable approach to circumvent chemoresistance induced by Akt 377 activation in prostate cancer. Furthermore, it was recently demonstrated that it is feasible to 378 develop inhibitors that preferentially inhibit HK2 and not HK1 (Lin, Zeng et al., 2016). In 379 summary, we provided two therapeutic approaches exploiting the increased OXPHO and 380 glycolysis levels by Akt to selectively eradicate PTEN-deficient prostate cancer.

381

#### 382 Materials and Methods

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#### 384 Cell lines

The DU145, PC3, LNCaP, 293FT and phoenix cells were purchased from ATCC. The DU145, PC3, and LNCaP cells were maintained in RPMI-1640/10% FBS/1% pen-strep media. The 293FT and phoenix-amphotropic cells were maintained in DMEM/10% FBS/1% pen-strep media. All cells were maintained in the exponential phase of growth at  $37^{\circ}$ C in a humidified 5% CO<sub>2</sub> atmosphere. Tet-free FBS was used to maintain the Tet-ON HK2sh and Tet-ON control

- 390 (shScr) cells in the absence of doxycycline, and doxycycline induction was at 900ng/mL for the
- 391 inducible DU145, PC3 and LNCaP HK2 knockdown cell lines.
- 392 All cells were confirmed to be mycoplasma negative, using the Sigma LookOut Mycoplasma
- 393 PCR Detection Kit.
- 394
- **395** Retrovirus and lentivirus production and infection
- 396 pBabe-Puro-PTEN-HA was previously described by Furnari et al. (Furnari, Lin et al., 1997).
- 397 pBabe-Puro-mAkt was previously described in (Kennedy, Kandel et al., 1999). Human PTEN

420 assessment of cell death 72 h after transfection. The knockdown efficiency was analyzed by421 either immunoblotting or real-time PCR.

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#### 423 Immunoblot analysis

For western blot analysis,  $2x10^6$  cells were plated on 10-cm plates and allowed to grow for 24 h. 424 425 The cells were then treated as described in the figure legends or harvested in PBS, and cell 426 pellets were washed and frozen at -80°C. Cell extracts were then made using ice-cold lysis buffer 427 [20 mM Hepes, 1% Triton X-100, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 10 mM sodium pyrophosphate, 428 100 mM NaF, 5 mM iodo-acetic acid, 20 nM okadaic acid, 0.2 mM phenylmethylsulfonyl 429 fluoride and a complete protease inhibitor cocktail tablet (Thermo Fisher)]. For the tissue 430 extracts, frozen tissues collected by liquid nitrogen snap freezing were thawed and homogenized 431 in the same buffer. The extracts were run on 6 to 12% SDS-PAGE gels, transferred to PVDF 432 membranes, and probed with the following antibodies: anti-phospho-Akt Ser473, anti-panAkt, 433 anti-cleaved caspase-3, anti-HK1, anti-HK2 anti-PTEN (Cell Signaling Technology), anti-HA 434 (Covance), anti-4HNE (JaICA), anti-catalase, anti-CuZnSOD and anti-MnSOD (StressGen), 435 anti-SESN3 (ProteinTech) and anti-ß-actin (Sigma). Immunoblots were quantified using the NIH 436 ImageJ software program by densitometric signal and normalized as described in figure legends. 437

#### 438 Cell death assays

Cells were treated as described in the figure legends, and apoptosis and cell death was quantified
by DAPI staining as previously described (Kennedy et al., 1999) or by PI staining as previously
described (Nogueira et al., 2008). For DAPI staining, 13% formaldehyde was added directly to
medium. After 17h, media was removed and DAPI solution (1mM in PBS) added to plates. Cells
were then rinsed with PBS and visualized with immunofluorescence microscope. At least 5 fields
per plates were scored for percentage of apoptotic cells. For quantification of apoptosis by
cleaved caspase3/7 assay, cells (15×10<sup>3</sup>/well) were plated in a 48 - well plates. Upon treatment
to induce cell death, NucView-conjugated Caspase -

eac

control;

### 514 Cell proliferation and BrdU incorporation

- 515 Cells  $(4x \ 10^4)$  were plated on 6-cm dishes in triplicate and counted every day for 6 days. Media
- 516 was changed on the third day to ensure continuous natural growth. For BrdU incorporation, on

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#### 546 Xenograft studies

547 Male athymic mice (6 to 8 weeks old) were purchased from Charles River Laboratories and 548 maintained in accordance with the NIH Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Cells 549 (PC3 or DU145, 2 x 10<sup>6</sup>/0.1 ml PBS) were injected subcutaneously into both the left and right 550 flanks of each mouse. The mice were equally randomized into different treatment groups (see the 551 figure legend). When the tumors reached a size of 10 to 15 mm<sup>3</sup>, the animals were treated with 552 the indicated drugs (35 mg/kg PEITC, 2 mg/kg rapamycin, and a combination of 553 rapamycin/PEITC (1:1)) from Monday through Friday by intraperitoneal injection. All the drugs 554 were dissolved in solvent containing ethanol, cremophor-EL (Sigma), and PBS (1:1:8 volume 555 ratio). Control mice were injected with an equal volume of solvent as a control. The body 556 weights and tumor sizes of the mice were measured and recorded twice per week for the duration 557 of the experiment. When the tumor sizes reached the end-point criterion (e.g., a diameter greater 558 than 2 cm), the mice were euthanized, and xenograft tumors were collected. Tumor tissues from 559 representative mice from each group were sectioned, embedded in paraffin, and stained.

For the doxycycline inducible experiments, PC3 Tet-ON HK2sh cells  $(2 \times 10^6 \text{ in } 0.1 \text{ ml of PBS})$ expressing doxycycline-inducible shRNA constructs were subcutaneously injected into male nude mice. Once tumors were palpable, the mice were randomly assigned into different groups and fed regular chow (control) or doxycycline chow (200 mg/kg of diet (Bio\_Serv)), and they received an IP injection of the vehicle solvent etoposide (10 mg/kg) as described above.

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#### 566 **Prostate tumor development and survival curves**

567 Control and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice were treated with vehicle, rapamycin, PEITC or a 568 combination of rapamycin/PEITC at the same doses described above at 2 different ages, 2 and 4 569 months. A schematic and the frequency of treatment are described in the figure legends. At the 570 end of the study, prostate tissues will be collected for immunoblot analysis (snap-freezing in 571 liquid nitrogen) or histopathology (formalin fixation).

572 For the NAC study, a subset of four-month-old control and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>* mice received a 573 daily (5 days a week) intraperitoneal injection of N-acetyl-cysteine (200mg/kg, pH 7.4 in PBS) 574 or PBS for 12 consecutive weeks. At the end of the study, tissues will be collected for 575 immunoblot analysis (snap-freezing in liquid nitrogen) or histopathology (formalin fixation).For

- 576 the survival curve experiments, the mice were monitored until their death or until humane end-
- 577 point criteria was attained (e.g., distended abdomens).
- 578

### 579 Histopathology and immunohistochemistry.

- 580 Xenograft tumors (nude mice) and prostate tissues were collected at the indicated time points,
- 581 rinsed in PBS, and quickly fixed in 10% formalin overnight before being subsequently preserved
- 582 with 70% ethanol. The fixed tissues were then processed and embedded in paraffin. The paraffin em

## **Competing financial interests**

608 There are no competing financial interests.

**Table 1** 

	Grade				
	No PIN	Low Grade PIN	High Grade PIN	Microinvasive Carcinoma	Invasive Carcinoma
Pbsn-Cre4;Pten <sup>f/f</sup> *			66%	33%	
<i>Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup></i> R+P **	33%	16%	33%	16%	
Pbsn-Cre4;Pten <sup>f/f</sup> +NAC ***				25%	75%

616 \* The anterior lobes of prostates from untreated mice were analyzed by histopathology at 8617 months (Percentage of mice with highest grade is indicated).

619 \*\* The anterior lobes of prostates from mice treated at 4 months with rapamycin and PEITC
620 (R+P) were analyzed by histopathology at 8 months (Percentage of mice with highest grade is
621 indicated).

\*\*\* The anterior lobes of prostates from mice treated at 4 months with NAC were analyzed by
histopathology at 8 months (Percentage of mice with highest grade is indicated).

641

#### 642 Figure legends

643 Figure 1: Akt activation in PTEN-deficient prostate cancer cells elevates oxygen 644 consumption and intracellular ROS levels. The human CaP cells DU145, PC3 and LNCaP 645 were seeded in 10% FBS and harvested after two days to measure various parameters. 646 (A)Immunoblot showing the expression levels of PTEN, P-Akt (ser 473), pan-Akt and B-actin as 647 a loading control. (B) Oxygen consumption: OCR was measured using the Seahorse XF96<sup>e</sup> 648 analyzer for all three CaP cell lines. After the OCR was established, oligomycin (1), FCCP (2) 649 and rotenone/antimycin A (3) were added sequentially. The traces shown are representative of 650 three independent experiments in which each data point represents technical replicates of four 651 wells each ± SEM. (D, E) Relative ROS levels: CaP cells were incubated with H2DCFDA (D) or 652 DHE (E), and the levels of fluorescence were analyzed by flow cytometry as an indicator of ROS 653 levels. Data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. 654 \*p < 0.01, \*\*\*p < 0.005 versus DU145. No significant differences between PC3 and LNCaP 655 were observed. (C, F) Akt1 and Akt2 were knocked down in PC3 cells, and the OCR (C) and 656 cytosolic ROS levels (F) were measured. The results are presented as the average of at least three 657 independent experiment performed in triplicate  $\pm$  SEM. ###p < 0.0001 versus PC3 LacZsh. 658 Insert in (C) shows the expression levels of Akt1, Akt2 and  $\beta$  actin as a loading control in PC3 659 cells in which Akt1 and Akt2 were knocked down.

660

## Figure 2: ROS inducers and the combination of a ROS inducer and rapamycin induce CaP PTEN-deficient cell death in vitro and eradicate their tumors in vivo.

663 (A) CaP cell lines were incubated with 2-ME for 24 h, the cells were fixed and apoptosis was 664 quantified by DAPI staining. The data represent the mean ± SEM of three independent 665 experiments performed in triplicate. \*p < 0.005, \*\*p < 0.002 versus DMSO (0  $\mu$ M) for each cell 666 line. #p < 0.02, #p < 0.01 versus DU145. (B) CaP cell lines were incubated with PEITC, 667 collected and fixed for estimation of cell death by PI staining or lysed to extract total protein. 668 They were then subjected to immunoblotting with cleaved caspase-3 and B-actin as a loading 669 control (insert). The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed 670 in triplicate. \*p < 0.005, \*\*\*p < 0.001 versus DMSO for each cell line. ###p < 0.0005 versus 671 DU145. (C) PC3 Akt1/2 knockdown cells were incubated with PEITC for 17 h, and then cell

672 death was estimated by PI staining as the percentage of apoptotic cells among total cells. The 673 data represent the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*\*p < 674 0.001, \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus DMSO for each cell line. ##p < 0.005, ###p < 0.0001 versus PC3 675 LacZsh. (D) CaP cells were incubated for 8 h with 20 nM rapamycin (RAPA) prior to the 676 addition of PEITC (3 µM). After 17 h of incubation with PEITC, the cells were fixed, and 677 apoptosis was quantified by DAPI staining. The data represent the mean ± SEM of three 678 independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus PEITC for each cell line. 679 ##p < 0.0005 versus DU145. (E- H) In vivo therapeutic effect of rapamycin + PEITC in mice 680 inoculated with PC3 prostate cancer cells. Thirty-two nude mice were subcutaneously injected 681 with PC3 cells in both flanks and randomly divided into four groups (8 mice per group, 16 682 tumors per group) for treatment with PEITC, rapamycin (RAPA), a combination of RAPA + 683 PEITC, or a solvent control (Vehicle). (E) Graph presenting the tumor growth rates in each 684 group. Treatment began on day 13 (~15 mm<sup>3</sup>, red arrow) and stopped on day 43 after tumor cell 685 inoculation. The data represent the average size  $\pm$  SEM of 16 tumors up to day 43. The data 686 collection from day 57 average the size of the 8 remaining xenograft tumors only. \*p < 0.003, 687 \*\*p < 0.002 versus vehicle. #p < 0.03, ##p < 0.01 versus PEITC or RAPA. (F) Cross-sections of 688 tumors collected from the experiment described in (E). At day 50 after tumor cell inoculation, 689 the tumor cross-sections were subjected to hematoxylin and eosin (H & E, top) staining, BrdU 690 staining (middle), and anti-cleaved caspase-3 staining (bottom). Scale bars: 100 µm. (G, H) 691 Histograms showing quantification of the positively stained cells in (F). The results are presented 692 as the mean  $\pm$  SEM of the positively stained cells of four sections from four treated mice. The stained cells were counted in four random fields of each section. \*\*\*p < 0.0002 versus vehicle. 693 694 ##p < 0.001 versus PEITC.

695

Figure 3: The effect of rapamycin, PEITC and the combination of rapamycin and PEITC on cell proliferation, cell death, survival and the tumors of *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>flf</sup>* mice. (A) Tissue lysates were prepared from prostates isolated from 4 control mice (*Pten<sup>flf</sup>* or *Pbsn-Cre4*) and 4 *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>flf</sup>* mice. Immunoblot analysis shows the expression levels of PTEN, Akt-P (ser 473), total-Akt, p21, 4HNE and β-actin as a loading control. (B) Schematic of mouse treatment: control (*Pten<sup>flf</sup>* or *Pbsn-Cre4*) and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>flf</sup>* mice were randomly divided into four groups of 9 to 16 mice at 4 months of age, and they received a daily (5 days a week)

703 intraperitoneal injection of drugs, PEITC (35 mg/kg BW), rapamycin (2 mg/kg BW), rapamycin 704 in combination with PEITC (1:1) or solvent control, for 6 consecutive weeks. Treatment was 705 then interrupted for 3 weeks and resumed at 6 months of age for another 6 weeks. The mice were 706 sacrificed at 8 months of age and examined for the presence of prostate hyperplasia. (C) Graphs 707 showing the relative prostate weight to total body weight (% body weight) of Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>ff</sup> 708 mice treated with vehicle (n=15 mice), rapamycin (RAPA, n=11), PEITC (n=9) or RAPA+PEITC (n=16). The box plots represent the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (boxes) with the 709 710 median, and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum values. \*p=0.05, \*\*p=002, \*\*\*p 711 < 0.0001 versus vehicle. ###p < 0.0005 versus PEITC. (D) The cross-sections of prostate tissues collected at 8 months from *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>flf</sup>* mice treated with different drugs were subjected to 712 H & E staining (top), BrdU staining (middle), and anti-cleaved caspase-3 staining (bottom). 713 714 Scale bars: 100µm (E-F) Histograms showing quantification of the positively stained cell cross-715 sections shown in Figure 3D for BrdU (E) and cleaved caspase-3 (F). The results are presented 716 as the mean ± SEM of positively stained cells of four sections from four treated mice. The 717 stained cells were counted in four random fields of each section. \*p<0.002, \*\*p < 0.005, \*\*\*p < 0.0002 versus vehicle. #p=0.04, ##p=0.01 versus PEITC. (G) A cohort of 20 Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>ff</sup> 718 719 mice treated with vehicle (n=10) or rapamycin in combination with PEITC (R+P; n=10) were 720 kept alive, and Kaplan-Meier curves of the percentage of mice survival is shown. The vehicle-

Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup> mice sacrificed at 6 months and treated with vehicle (n=9), RAPA (n=4), 734 PEITC (n=4) or RAPA+PEITC (n=8). The box plots represent the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (boxes) 735 736 with the median, and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum values. \*p=0.03, 737 \*\*p=0.05, \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus vehicle. #p= 0.05 versus PEITC. (C) Representative cross-738 sections of prostate tissues were treated as described in Figure 4A and collected from Pbsn-739 *Cre4:Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice treated with different drugs at 6 months. The sections were subjected to H & E 740 staining (top), BrdU staining (middle), and anti-cleaved caspase-3 staining (bottom). Scale bars: 741 100µm. (D, E) Histograms showing quantification of the positively stained cell cross-sections for 742 BrdU (D) and cleaved caspase-3 (E). The results are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM of the 743 positively stained cells of four sections from four treated mice. The stained cells were counted in 744 four random fields of each section. \*p=0.03, \*\*p<0.001, \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus vehicle. #p < 745 0.05, ###p<0.0001 versus PEITC. (F) Graphs representing the relative prostate weights of Pbsn-746 *Cre4;Pten<sup>ff</sup>* mice sacrificed at 12 months and treated with vehicle (n=5), RAPA (n=7), PEITC (n=6) or RAPA+PEITC (n=10). The box plots represent the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (boxes) with 747 748 the median, and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum values. \*p=0.03, \*\*p=0.05, 749 \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus vehicle. #p < 0.05 versus PEITC. (G) Representative cross-sections of 750 prostate tissues were treated with vehicle or RAPA+PEITC and collected at 12 months from Pbsn-Cre4:Pten<sup>f/f</sup> mice left untreated for 6 months after the initial treatment. The sections were 751 752 subjected to H & E staining (top), BrdU staining (middle), and anti-cleaved caspase-3 staining 753 (bottom). Scale bars: 50µm for 5X objective (H&E), 100µm for 10X objective. (H, I) 754 Histograms showing quantification of the positively stained cell cross-sections for BrdU (H) and 755 cleaved caspase-3 (I). The results are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM of the positively stained cells 756 of four sections from four treated mice. The stained cells were counted in four random fields from each section. \*\*p=0.003, \*\*\*p<0.0001 versus vehicle. (H) A cohort of 30 Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>f/f</sup> 757 758 mice treated with vehicle (n=15) or rapamycin in combination with PEITC (R+P; n=15) were 759 kept alive, and Kaplan-Meier curves of the percentage of survival of these mice is shown. The vehicle-treate

## 764 Figure 5: Depletion of HK2 in PTEN-deficient CaP cells inhibits proliferation, oncogenesis,

### 765 and tumorigenesis while overcoming chemoresistance.

(A) DU145, PC3 and LNCaP cells were treated with MK-

2 other groups remained on the control diet. Etoposide (or vehicle) treatment was started 3 days after the diet was changed (day 13), and treatment was stopped on day 48 after tumor cell inoculation. The data represent the average size  $\pm$  SEM of 12 xenograft tumors per group. Statistical analysis from day 52 (end-point): \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus the control diet vehicle. ##p < 0.005 versus the doxycycline diet vehicle.

800

## Figure 6: Deletion of HK2 in the prostates of *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>* mice extends survival and inhibits tumor growth by inhibiting proliferation and increasing cell death.

(A) Tissue lysates were prepared from prostates isolated from 3 control mice (Pten<sup>f/f</sup>;HK2<sup>f/f</sup>), 3 803 Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup> mice and 3 Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>;HK2<sup>f/f/</sup> mice. The immunoblot shows the 804 805 expression levels of PTEN, Akt-P (ser 473), total-Akt, HK2 and ß-actin as a loading control. (B) Graphs showing the relative prostate weights of control (n=23), Pbsn-Cre4; Pten<sup>flf</sup> (PTEN KO, 806 n=21) and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>fff</sup>;HK2<sup>fff</sup>* (PTEN-HK2 DKO, n=29) mice. The box plots represent the 807 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (boxes) with the median, and the whiskers represent the maximum and 808 809 minimum values. \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus control. ### p < 0.0001 versus PTEN KO. The pictures 810 are representative of macroscopic views of the prostates (delineated by a white dash line) of 811 control (left panel), PTEN KO (middle panel) and (PTEN-HK2 DKO) (right panel) mice. (C) A 812 cohort of 43 PTEN KO and 40 PTEN-HK2 DKO mice were kept alive, and Kaplan-Meier curves 813 of the percentage of survival of these mice is shown. The PTEN KO mice have a media survival 814 age of 305 days versus 453 days for the PTEN HK2 DKO mice. The p-values and median 815 survival for the indicated treatments were calculated by log-rank tests. (D) The cross-sections of 816 prostate tissues collected at 8 months from control, PTEN KO and PTEN-HK2 DKO mice were 817 subjected to hematoxylin and eosin (H & E) staining (top), BrdU staining (middle), and anti-818 cleaved caspase-3 staining (bottom). (E) Histograms showing quantification of the positively 819 stained cells in (D). The results are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM of the positively stained cells 820 of four sections from four treated mice. The stained cells were counted in four random fields of 821 each section. \*\*p<0.0005, \*\*\*p<0.0001 versus control. #p<0.0005, ##p<0.0001 versus 822 PTEN KO.

823

#### 824 **Figure 1-Figure supplement 1:**

- 825 Mitochondrial membrane potential measured as JC-1 aggregate to monomer ratio. The data 826 represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent quantification experiments performed in
- triplicate. \*p < 0.05 versus DU145.

#### 828 Figure 1-Figure supplement 2:

- 829 Immunoblot showing the expression levels of the detoxifying enzymes catalase, MnSOD and
- 830 Cu/ZnSOD (β actin as a loading control) in all three CaP cell lines
- 831 **Figure 1-Figure supplement 3:**
- 832 Level of SESN3 mRNA relative to that of actin in CaP cells, as assessed by quantitative RT-
- 833 PCR. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent quantification experiments
- performed in triplicate. \*\*\*p < 0.0001 versus DU145. (1s4-5) DU145 cells were transiently
- 835 transfected with hSESN3 or control RNAi (Dharmacon), and PC3 cells were transiently
- transfected with lentivirus expressing hSESN3 or TOPO control 72 h prior to the experiments.
- 837 Figure 1-Figure supplement 4:
- 838 Immunoblot showing the expression levels of sestrin 3 (SESN3) and ß actin as a loading control.
- 839 Figure 1-Figure supplement 5:
- 840 Level of ROS, as assessed by flow cytometry, after incubation with H2DCFDA. The data
- represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*p=0.02,
- 842 \*\*p=0.01 versus the control for each cell line.
- 843

#### 844 **Figure 2-Figure supplement 1:**

845 Glutathion levels (Left) and GSH/GSSG ratio (Right) in CaP cells after 8h incubation with

- 856 CaP cell lines were incubated with BSO (2mM) for 36 and 42 h, the cells were fixed and cell
- death was quantified by PI staining. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent
- 858 experiments performed in triplicate.

#### 859 **Figure 2-Figure supplement 4:**

- 860 NADP<sup>+</sup>/NADPH ratio in CaP cells. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three measurements
- 861 performed in duplicate.

#### 862 **Figure 2-Figure supplement 5:**

- After modulation of SESN3 expression, PC3 and DU145 cells where treated with PEITC (0, 3
- and  $6 \mu$ M) for 17 h, the cells were fixed and cell death was assessed by DAPI staining. The data
- represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*p < 0.05,
- \*\*p < 0.01 versus the control for each cell line.

#### 867 Figure 2-Figure supplement 6:

- 868 DU145, PC3 AND LNCaP cells were incubated with N-acetylcysteine (100  $\mu$ M NAC) for 2 h
- 869 prior to 17 h of incubation with PEITC (6  $\mu$ M) in the presence of NAC or not. The graphs
- 870 represent the cell death measured by PI staining (Left) or ROS levels after incubation with
- 871 H2DCFDA (Right). The data represent the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments
- 872 performed in triplicate.

#### 873 Figure 2-Figure supplement 7:

- 874 Immunoblot showing the expression of PTEN (and HA-Tag), and β actin as a loading control
- 875 after PTEN was downregulated in DU145 cells (1: control shLacZ, 2: shPTEN) or overexpressed
- 876 in PC3 and LNCaP cells (3: control pBP, 4: pBP-PTEN).

# Figure 2-Figure supplement 8: PTEN expression determines the levels of ROS and oxygen consumption

- 879 PTEN was downregulated in DU145 cells (1: control shLacZ, 2: shPTEN) or overexpressed in
- 880 PC3 and LNCaP cells (3: control pBP, 4: pBP-PTEN). (A, B) Relative ROS levels: cells were
- 881 incubated with H2DCFDA (A) or DHE (B), and the levels of fluorescence were analyzed by
- 882 flow cytometry as an indicator of ROS levels. (C) Basal oxygen consumption

#### 883 Figure 2-Figure supplement 9:

- 884 Cells were incubated with PEITC or Rapamycin/PEITC for 17h and scored for apoptosis 17 h
- later by DAPI staining. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments

performed in triplicate. \*p< 0.05, \*\*p< 0.001 versus the control for each cell line. ##p<0.05

887 versus PEITC

#### 888 Figure 2-Figure supplement 10:

mAkt was stably overexpressed in DU145. Cells were then incubated for 17h with PEITC or
Rapamycin/PEITC before measurement of relative cytosolic ROS level (Left) or cell death
(Right).

- Figure 2-Figure supplement 11: ROS levels, and ROS-induced cell death are Aktdependent.
- Akt1 and Akt2 were knocked down in PC3 and LNCaP cells. Once cell lines were established, mAkt was re-expressed in these cells. Cells were incubated with PEITC for 17 h, and then cytosolic ROS levels (A) and cell death estimated by PI staining were measured (B). Another set of cells was incubated with PEITC for 12h to estimate apoptosis by caspase 3/7 activity assay (C) as the percentage of positive cells over total cells. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate.

#### 900 Figure 2-Figure supplement 12: Rapamycin Elevates Akt Activity

901 (A-C) DU145 (A), PC3 (B) and LNCaP cells (C) were treated with rapamycin (100nM). Total 902 cell extracts were prepared at different time points as indicated and subjected to immunoblotting 903 with antibodies specific for Akt and p-Akt. (D) quantification of immunoblots showing relative 904 Akt phosphorylation, quantified using the NIH ImageJ software program, and normalized to the 905 densitometric signal for total Akt as a control for protein expression. Values are expressed 906 relative to time 0 and data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments.

#### 907 Figure 2-Figure supplement 13: Rapamycin increases the ROS levels induced by PEITC.

908 When required, CaP cells were incubated with 20 nM rapamycin (RAPA) for 8 h before the

addition of PEITC (3  $\mu$ M). After 17 h of incubation with PEITC (± RAPA), the ROS levels in

- 910 live cells after incubation with H2DCFDA were measured by flow cytometry. The data represent
- 911 the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*p<0.05,
- 912 \*\*\*p<0.0001 versus DMSO for each cell line. ###p< 0.0005 versus PEITC for each cell line.

# Figure 2-Figure supplement 14: Torin, not rapamycin, decreases the OCR and ROS levels in PTEN-deficient CaP cells

PC3 and LNCaP cells were incubated for 8 h with rapamycin (RAPA, 20 nM) or torin (250 nM)
before measurement of the OCR (Left) or cytoplasmic ROS levels (Right). The data represent

917 the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*p<0.05,</li>
918 \*\*\*p<0.0001 versus DMSO for each cell line.</li>

# Figure 2-Figure supplement 15: In vivo therapeutic effects of rapamycin + PEITC in mice inoculated with DU145 prostate cancer cells.

Twenty-four nude mice were injected subcutaneously with DU145 cells in both flanks and randomly divided into four groups (4 mice per group, 8 tumors per group) for treatment with PEITC, rapamycin (RAPA), a combination of RAPA + PEITC, or a solvent control (Vehicle). The graph represents the tumor growth rate in each group. Treatment began on day 18 (~15 mm3) and stopped on day 55 after tumor cell inoculation. The data represent the average size ± SEM of 8 tumors up to day 57. Data collection on day 64 shows only the average sizes of the 4 remaining xenograft tumors. \*\*p < 0.02 versus vehicle, #p= 0.02 versus RAPA.

928

#### 929 Figure 3-Figure supplement 1

- 930 Graphs showing the body weights of control (left) and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>ff</sup>* (right) mice at the end-
- point (8 months). The number of treated mice in the control group were vehicle (n=6), rapamycin
- 932 (RAPA, n=12), PEITC (n=8) and RAPA+PEITC (n=8), and the number of treated mice in the
- 933 *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>* group were vehicle (n=15), RAPA (n=11), PEITC (n=9) and RAPA+PEITC
- 934 (n=16). No significant differences were detected.

### 935 Figure 3-Figure supplement 2

Graphs showing the relative prostate weights of the control mice sacrificed at 8 months. The box
plots represent the 25th to 75th percentiles (boxes) with the median, and the whiskers represent
the maximum and minimum values. No significant differences were detected.

#### 939 Figure 3-Figure supplement 3: Representative histopathological images.

- Representative images of different prostate tumor grades in the anterior lobe of the prostate of
  untreated mice (-), rapamycin + PEITC, and NAC treated mice. Each individual image was
  derived from different individual mice. Scale bars = 200µm for 20X magnification, 500µm for
  10X magnification.
- 944

#### 945 **Figure 4-Figure supplement 1**

946 (A) Graphs showing the body weights of control (left) and *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten*<sup>f/f</sup> (right) mice at 6 947 months. The number of treated mice in the control group were vehicle (n=5), RAPA (n=5), 948 PEITC (n=5) and RAPA+PEITC (n=7), and the number of treated mice in the *Pbsn-Cre4;Pten<sup>f/f</sup>* 949 group were vehicle (n=9), RAPA (n=4), PEITC (n=4) and RAPA+PEITC (n=8). No significant 950 differences were detected. (B) Graphs showing the relative prostate weights of control mice 951 sacrificed at 6 months (left) and 12 months (right). The box plots represent the 25th to 75th 952 percentiles (boxes) with the median, and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum 953 values. The number of control-treated mice at 12 months were vehicle (n=4), RAPA (n=4), 954 PEITC (n=4) and RAPA+PEITC (n=8). \*\*p=0.005 versus vehicle.

955

### 956 Figure 5-Figure supplement 1

- 957 Total protein was extracted from CaP cells and subjected to immunoblotting with HK1, HK2 and
- 958 β actin as a loading control
- 959 Figure 5-Figure supplement 2
- 960 Expression levels of HK2 and β actin as a loading control in PC3 cells in which Akt1 and Akt2
- 961 were stably knocked down.

#### 962 Figure 5-Figure supplement 3

963 Immunoblot showing the expression of HK2 (and ß actin as loading control) in CaP cells where

964 PTEN is either downregulated (DU145) or overexpressed (PC3 and LNCaP)

#### 965 Figure 5-Figure supplement 4

966 HK1 was stably knocked down in PC3 cells after HK2 knockdown. The immunoblot shows the 967 expression levels of HK1, HK2 and actin as a loading control in PC3 control, HK1 knockdown, 968 HK2 knockdown, and double HK1 and HK2 knockdown cells. The graph shows the total HK 969 activity in the same cells. The data represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM of three independent experiments 970 performed in duplicate. \*p=0.005, \*\*\*p<0.0001 versus PC3 LacZsh ntsh. ###p< 0.0001 versus 979 were knocked down in PC3 and LNCaP cells. Cells were then incubated for 24h with Etoposide 980 before measurement of cell death by PI staining on live cells with Celigo Image cytometer. Data 981 are expressed as the percentage of dead cells among total cells and represent the mean ± SEM of 982 two independent experiments performed in triplicate.

# Figure 5-Figure supplement 7: Data analysis for in vivo therapeutic study described in Figure 5H.

985 (A) Graphs showing the relative xenografts tumor weights of mice treated with Control 986 diet/Vehicle, Control diet/Etoposide, DOX diet/Vehicle and Dox diet/Etoposide. The data 987 represent the average size  $\pm$  SEM of 12 xenograft tumors per group. \*p < 0.05, \*\*p < 0.001 988 versus control diet vehicle. #p < 0.05 versus DOX diet vehicle. (B) The cross-sections of 989 xenograft tumors collected at end-point (day 52) were subjected to H & E staining, BrdU 990 staining, anti-cleaved caspase-3 staining and HK2 staining (from top to bottom). Scale bars: 991 100µm. (C, D) Histograms showing quantification of the positively stained cells in (B). The 992 results are presented as the mean  $\pm$  SEM of the positively stained cells of two sections from six 993 xenograft tumors. The stained cells were counted in three random fields of each section. 994 \*p<0.05, \*\*\*p < 0.0005 versus the control diet vehicle. ###p < 0.0005 versus DOX diet vehicle.

#### 995 Figure 5-Figure supplement 8: The effect of HK2 knockdown on ECAR.

- 996 PC3 cells expressing an inducible control (Scr) or HK2 shRNA were exposed to 900 ng/ml DOX
- 997 for 5 days for HK2 deletion before analysis. ECAR was measured after HK2 deletion using the
- 998 Seahorse XF96e analyzer.

#### 999 Figure 5-Figure supplement 9 The effect of HK2 knockdown on oxygen consumption.

- 1000 PC3 cells expressing an inducible control (Scr) or HK2 shRNA were exposed to 900 ng/ml DOX
- 1001 for 5 days for HK2 deletion before analysis. OCR was measured after HK2 deletion using the
- 1002 Seahorse XF96e analyzer.

#### 1003 Figure 5-Figure supplement 10: The effect of HK2 knockdown on ROS levels.

- 1004 PC3 cells expressing an inducible control (Scr) or HK2 shRNA were exposed to 900 ng/ml DOX
- 1005 for 5 days for HK2 deletion before analysis. Cells were incubated with H2DCFDA, and the level 1006 of fluorescence was analyzed by flow cytometry as an indicator of ROS levels after HK2
- 1007 deletion. The data represent the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments performed in
- 1008 triplicate. \*\*\*p<0.005 versus PC3 shScr.

### 1009 Figure 5-Figure supplement 11: The effect of HK2 knockdown on PEITC-induced cell 1010 death.

- 1011 PC3 cells expressing an inducible control (Scr) or HK2 shRNA were exposed to 900 ng/ml DOX
- 1012 for 5 days for HK2 deletion before analysis. After HK2 knockdown with DOX, cells were
- 1013 treated with PEITC (0, 3 and 6 µM) for 17 h before apoptosis was assessed by DAPI staining,
- 1014 which is presented as the percentage of apoptotic among total cells. The data represent the mean
- 1015 ± SEM of three independent experiments performed in triplicate. \*p < 0.02, \*\*\*p < 0.0001
- 1016 versus PC3 shScr.
- 1017
- 1018
- 1019
- 1020
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	<b>DU145</b>		PC3		LN	LNCaP	
	1	2	3	4	3	4	
PTEN	-		15	—			
HA-Tag							
ß-actin	-		-				
		1: shLacZ 2: shPTEN	3	8: pBP l: pBP-F	PTEN-H	A	



## Figure 2s8



1: shLacZ	3: pBP
2: shPTEN	4: pBP-PTEN-HA



















R-	⊦P
1/	

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NAC

No PIN			
Low Grade	PIN	200µm	
High Grade	PIN 200mm	200m	
Microinvasi Carcinoma	ve 200µm	2 <u>00µm</u>	200µm
Invasive Carcinoma			200µm







	DU145		PC3		LNCaP	
	shLacZ	shPTEN	pBP	pBP-PTEN	pBP	pBP-PTEN
HK2				•		
ß-actin	-		-		-	
















