

Supplementary Materials

# Estrogen Modulates Epithelial Breast Cancer Cell Mechanics and Cell-to-Cell Contacts

Barbara Zbiral <sup>1,†</sup>, Andreas Weber <sup>1,\*,†</sup>, Jagoba Iturri <sup>1</sup>, Maria d. M. Vivanco <sup>2</sup> and José L. Toca-Herrera <sup>1,\*</sup>

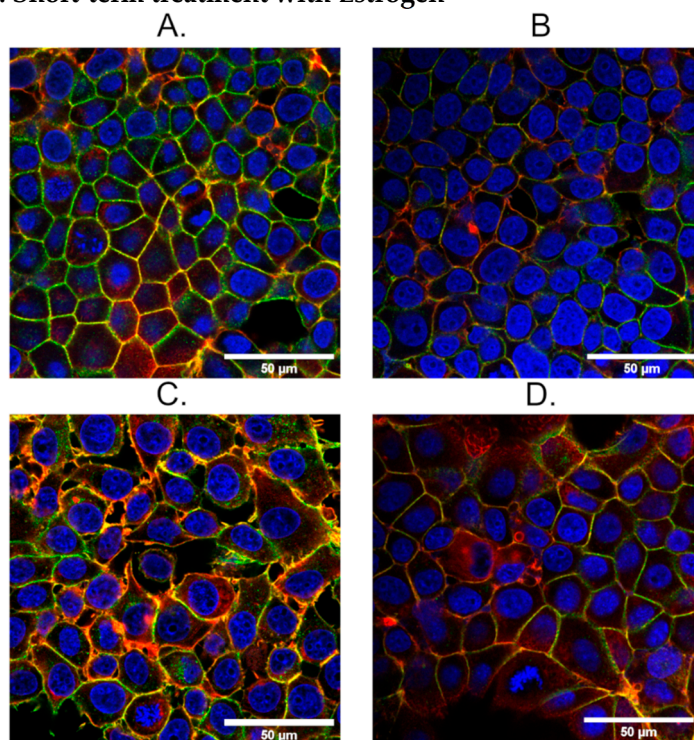
<sup>1</sup> Institute for Biophysics, Department of Nanobiotechnology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Muthgasse 11, 1190 Vienna, Austria; barbara.zbiral@boku.ac.at (B.Z.); Jagoba.iturri@boku.ac.at (J.I.)

<sup>2</sup> CIC bioGUNE, Basque Research and Technology Alliance, BRTA, Bizkaia Technology Park, 48160 Derio, Spain; mdmvivanco@cicbiogune.es

\* Correspondence: andreas.weber@boku.ac.at (A.W.); jose.toca-herrera@boku.ac.at (J.L.T.-H.)

† These authors have contributed equally.

## 1. Short-term treatment with Estrogen



**Figure S1.** Short term (6 hour) treatment of MCF-7 cells with Estrogen (A–CTL DMEM, B–DMEM E<sub>2</sub>, C–CTL HF, D–HF E<sub>2</sub>). No significant changes due to estrogen treatment can be seen.

## 2. Performance of fitting stress relaxation data

**Citation:** Zbiral, B.; Weber, A.; Iturri, J.; Vivanco, M.d.M.; Toca-Herrera, J.L. Estrogen Modulates Epithelial Breast Cancer Cell Mechanics and Cell-to-Cell Contacts. *Materials* **2021**, *14*, 2897. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14112897>

Academic Editor: Claudio Canale and Ornella Cavalleri

Received: 7 May 2021

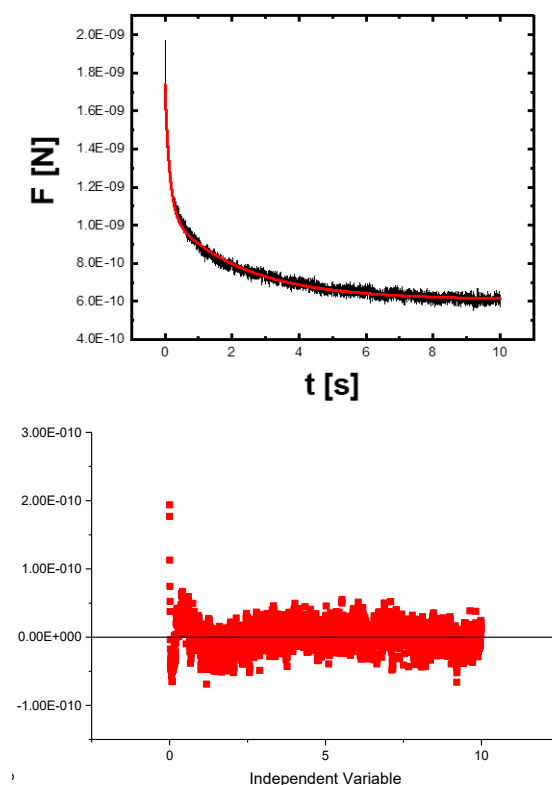
Accepted: 25 May 2021

Published: 28 May 2021

**Publisher's Note:** MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



**Copyright:** © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



**Figure S2.** Fitting of the used viscoelastic model. (Left) Fitting of the stress relaxation curve using the model as described in Materials and Methods section. (Right) Residuals showing the very good agreement of the fitting with the data.

### 3. Statistical Properties and Analysis of Viscoelastic Properties

#### 3.1. Measurements performed with *tips*

##### 3.1.1. Elastic properties

**Table S1.** Apparent Young's Modulus values (in kPa) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	371	3.11	1.41	0.07	3.06
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	387	2.59	1.13	0.06	2.41
CTL HF	343	3.10	1.27	0.07	2.93
HF E <sub>2</sub>	345	2.18	0.92	0.05	2.05

**Table S2.** Statistical analysis of apparent Young's Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>1.47E-8</b>	0.99	<b>1E-20</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1.47E-8</b>		<b>5.92E-8</b>	<b>3.01E-5</b>
CTL HF	0.99	<b>5.92E-8</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>	<b>3.01E-5</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

**Table S3.** Indentation values (in  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
--	---	------	----	----	--------

CTL DMEM	371	2.06	0.50	0.01	2.05
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	387	2.38	0.64	0.01	2.35
CTL HF	343	2.04	0.49	0.01	2.02
HF E <sub>2</sub>	345	2.62	0.61	0.01	2.53

**Table S4.** Statistical analysis of apparent Young's Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>1E-20</b>	0.95	<b>1E-20</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>		<b>1E-20</b>	<b>1.22E-7</b>
CTL HF	0.95	<b>1E-20</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>	<b>1.22E-7</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

### 3.1.2. Viscoelastic properties

**Table S5.** Equilibrium Modulus values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	323	572	296	16	508
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	352	392	200	11	348
CTL HF	339	562	298	16	509
HF E <sub>2</sub>	335	332	161	8.8	313

**Table S6.** Statistical analysis of equilibrium Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>1E-20</b>	0.95	<b>1E-20</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>		<b>1E-20</b>	<b>0.0076</b>
CTL HF	0.95	<b>1E-20</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>	<b>0.0076</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

**Table S7.**  $E_1$  values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	319	445	187	10	416
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	356	427	213	11	364
CTL HF	334	598	305	17	501
HF E <sub>2</sub>	333	371	162	9	348

**Table S8.** Statistical analysis of  $E_1$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>0.0256</b>	<b>1E-11</b>	<b>2E-7</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>0.0256</b>		<b>1.3E-17</b>	<b>0.004</b>
CTL HF	<b>1E-11</b>	<b>1.3E-17</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>2E-7</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

**Table S9.**  $E_2$  values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	316	399	175	10	375
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	371	380	224	12	322
CTL HF	339	510	258	14	449
HF E <sub>2</sub>	333	304	138	8	88

**Table S10.** Statistical analysis of E<sub>2</sub> values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>0.0014</b>	8E-8	<b>3E-13</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>0.0014</b>		<b>6E-16</b>	<b>1E-4</b>
CTL HF	8E-8	<b>6E-16</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>3E-13</b>	<b>1E-4</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

**Table S11.** E<sub>inst</sub> values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	317	1403	571	32	1299
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	364	1236	664	35	1085
CTL HF	333	1644	764	42	1492
HF E <sub>2</sub>	334	996	424	23	952

**Table S12.** Statistical analysis of E<sub>inst</sub> values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>3E-7</b>	1.5E-4	<b>1E-20</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>3E-7</b>		<b>1E-16</b>	<b>3.6E-5</b>
CTL HF	1.5E-4	<b>1E-16</b>		<b>1E-20</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1E-20</b>	<b>3.6E-5</b>	<b>1E-20</b>	

**Table S13.** Viscosity  $\eta_1$  values (in Pa s) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	319	81	42	2	71
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	373	82	51	3	69
CTL HF	340	97	56	3	81
HF E <sub>2</sub>	335	71	36	1	65

**Table S14.** Statistical analysis of Viscosity  $\eta_1$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		0.40	<b>6.4E-4</b>	<b>0.004</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	0.40		<b>3E-5</b>	0.06
CTL HF	<b>6.4E-4</b>	<b>3E-5</b>		3E-10
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.004	0.06	<b>3E-10</b>	

**Table S15.** Viscosity  $\eta_2$  values (in Pa s) for MCF-7 cells measured with tips, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	321	1270	822	46	1068
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	373	1206	904	47	912
CTL HF	337	1394	834	45	1206
HF E <sub>2</sub>	334	928	522	29	791

**Table S16.** Statistical analysis of Viscosity  $\eta_2$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		0.048	<b>0.02</b>	<b>2E-7</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	0.048		<b>10E-6</b>	<b>0.002</b>
CTL HF	<b>0.02</b>	<b>10E-6</b>		<b>1E-15</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	<b>2E-7</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>1E-15</b>	

### 3.2. Measurements performed with particles

#### 3.2.1. Elastic properties

**Table S17.** Apparent Young's Modulus values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	212	309	131	9	292
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	385	276	145	7	240
CTL HF	260	437	206	13	407
HF E <sub>2</sub>	345	317	137	7	296

**Table S18.** Statistical analysis of apparent Young's Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>4.1E-4</b>	<b>1E-11</b>	0.62
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>4.1E-4</b>		<b>1E-20</b>	<b>8E-6</b>
CTL HF	<b>1E-11</b>	<b>1E-20</b>		<b>1E-12</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.62	<b>8E-6</b>	<b>1E-12</b>	

**Table S19.** Indentation values (in  $\mu\text{m}$ ) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	222	1.20	0.32	0.02	1.19
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	359	1.21	0.42	0.02	1.20
CTL HF	266	1.11	0.39	0.02	1.06
HF E <sub>2</sub>	289	1.12	0.44	0.03	1.11

**Table S20.** Statistical analysis of apparent Young's Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		0.99	0.09	0.061
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	0.99		<b>0.018</b>	<b>0.0096</b>
CTL HF	0.09	<b>0.018</b>		0.99
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.061	<b>0.0096</b>	0.99	

## 3.2.2. Viscoelastic properties

**Table S21.** Equilibrium Modulus values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	215	99	44	3	95
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	396	83	51	3	68
CTL HF	252	122	73	5	108
HF E <sub>2</sub>	360	108	58	3	89

**Table S22.** Statistical analysis of equilibrium Modulus values for MCF-7 cells (one-way ANOVA with post-hoc Tukey test). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>3E-9</b>	<b>0.007</b>	0.60
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>3E-9</b>		<b>5E-13</b>	<b>1E-11</b>
CTL HF	0.007	<b>5E-13</b>		<b>0.047</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.60	<b>1E-11</b>	<b>0.047</b>	

**Table S23.** E<sub>1</sub> values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	215	86	51	3	68
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	396	74	45	2	57
CTL HF	252	87	44	3	76
HF E <sub>2</sub>	360	80	38	2	70

**Table S24.** Statistical analysis of E<sub>1</sub> values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>2E-5</b>	0.29	0.68
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>2E-5</b>		<b>1E-6</b>	<b>2E-5</b>
CTL HF	0.29	<b>1E-6</b>		0.10
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.68	<b>2E-5</b>	0.10	

**Table S25.** E<sub>2</sub> values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	215	64	34	2	54
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	396	58	37	2	45
CTL HF	252	73	42	3	60
HF E <sub>2</sub>	360	62	29	2	55

**Table S26.** Statistical analysis of E<sub>2</sub> values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>9E-5</b>	<b>0.036</b>	0.79
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>9E-5</b>		<b>2E-8</b>	<b>4E-5</b>
CTL HF	<b>0.036</b>	<b>2E-8</b>		<b>0.008</b>

HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.79	<b>4E-5</b>	<b>0.008</b>
-------------------	------	-------------	--------------

**Table S27.**  $E_{inst}$  values (in Pa) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	215	251	117	8	214
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	396	216	132	7	170
CTL HF	252	284	151	10	248
HF E <sub>2</sub>	360	250	125	7	214

**Table S28.** Statistical analysis of  $E_{inst}$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>2E-7</b>	<b>0.036</b>	0.56
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>2E-7</b>		<b>5E-11</b>	<b>4E-7</b>
CTL HF	<b>0.036</b>	<b>5E-11</b>		<b>0.007</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.56	<b>4E-7</b>	<b>0.007</b>	

**Table S29.** Viscosity  $\eta_1$  values (in Pa s) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	213	13.7	6.7	0.5	12.0
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	394	11.9	6.5	0.3	10.2
CTL HF	253	16.2	9.6	0.6	14.1
HF E <sub>2</sub>	359	13.4	7.3	0.4	11.8

**Table S30.** Statistical analysis of Viscosity  $\eta_1$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>1.4E-4</b>	<b>0.02</b>	0.32
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>1.4E-4</b>		<b>3E-9</b>	<b>0.002</b>
CTL HF	<b>0.02</b>	<b>3E-9</b>		<b>4.1E-4</b>
HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.32	<b>0.002</b>	<b>4.1E-4</b>	

**Table S31.** Viscosity  $\eta_2$  values (in Pa s) for MCF-7 cells measured with particles, shown are the number of measurements, the mean value, the standard deviation, the standard error of the mean value and the median.

	N	Mean	SD	SE	Median
CTL DMEM	217	230.6	162.7	11.0	180.7
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	393	183.9	133.2	6.7	141.2
CTL HF	252	238.6	166.3	10.5	191.6
HF E <sub>2</sub>	359	189.4	119.1	6.3	159.9

**Table S32.** Statistical analysis of Viscosity  $\eta_2$  values for MCF-7 cells (Kruskal-Wallis-ANOVA). Differences with statistical significance are shown as bold.

	CTL DMEM	DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	CTL HF	HF E <sub>2</sub>
CTL DMEM		<b>2E-5</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.0049</b>
DMEM E <sub>2</sub>	<b>2E-5</b>		<b>1E-6</b>	<b>0.076</b>
CTL HF	<b>0.52</b>	<b>1E-6</b>		<b>4.1E-4</b>

HF E <sub>2</sub>	0.0049	0.076	4.1E-4	
-------------------	--------	-------	--------	--