

**Table S1.** Clinical characteristics of ESCC patients.

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Training cohort, n (%)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Validation cohort, n (%)<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>P-value</b>
Number	95	58	NA
Age, mean $\pm$ SD, years	58 $\pm$ 10	62 $\pm$ 9	0.012
Gender, n (%)			0.593
Male	81 (85.3)	52 (89.7)	
Female	14 (14.7)	6 (10.3)	
TNM stage			< 0.001
I/II	62 (65.3)	16 (27.6)	
III/IV	31 (32.6)	36 (62.1)	
Unknown	2 (2.1)	6 (10.3)	
Detection method	NGS	IHC	NA
Event			< 0.001
Alive	63 (66.3)	18 (31.0)	
Death	32 (33.7)	40 (69.0)	
Survival time, median (range), days	385 (4, 2069)	397 (18, 1517)	0.920

<sup>a</sup> Unless specifically mentioned; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NA, not available; NGS, second-generation sequencing; SD, standard deviation; TNM: primary tumor, regional lymph node, distant metastasis.