

Table of contents.....	III
List of abbreviations	V
1. Introduction	1
1.1 Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	1
1.2 Genetic and genomic study of B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia	1
1.3 MicroRNAs	4
1.4 MicroRNAs in B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukemia	7
1.5 MicroRNA cluster miR-497~195	8
1.6 The NOD/SCID mouse model in the study of ALL	9
1.7 Aim	11
2. Materials and Methods	12
2.1 Materials.....	12
2.1.1 Standard laboratory equipment.....	12
2.1.2 Cell culture	12
2.1.3 Cloning and lentiviral transduction	13
2.1.4 Flow cytometry and mouse model	13
2.1.5 Analyses of DNA and RNA	14
2.1.6 Chemicals	14
2.1.7 Instruments	15
2.1.8 Softwares	15
2.2 Methods	16
2.2.1 Cell culture	16
2.2.2 MiRNA overexpression	16
2.2.3 Flow cytometry-based assessment of cell growth and viability.....	18
2.2.4 Xenograft model.....	18
2.2.5 Analysis of the transcriptome.....	20

2.2.6 Statistical methods	22
3. Results	25
3.1 Small RNA expression profiling of BCP-ALL xenograft samples	25
3.2 Expression of miR-497~195 in BCP-ALL	28
3.3 Expression of miR-497~195 is associated with promoter methylation.....	33
3.4 The miR-497~195 cluster regulates genes involved in cell proliferation....	35
3.5 MiR-497~195 effects on BCP-ALL cell lines <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i>	37
3.6 Transduction of BCP-ALL xenograft samples	39
3.7 Overexpression of miR-497~195 impairs engraftment of BCP-ALL xenograft cells	41
3.8 Impact of miR-497~195 overexpression on BCP-ALL transcriptome	45
4. Discussion	47
5. Summary	54
5.1 Summary.....	54
5.2 Riassunto (Abstract in Italian)	56
References	58
Acknowledgements	78
Statutory declaration	79