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· 基础研究 ·

Snail 在肝内胆管癌中的表达及其临床意义

康强, 邹浩, 刘立鑫, 王连敏, 石万红, 张小文

(昆明医科大学第二附属医院 肝胆外科, 云南 昆明 650106)

摘要

目的: 探讨 Snail 在肝内胆管癌组织中的表达及其与患者临床病理特征和生存预后的关系。

方法: 回顾性分析 1999 年 12 月—2010 年 1 月外科手术治疗的 55 例肝内胆管癌病例及随访资料, 免疫组织化学检测上述患者癌组织及癌旁组织标本中 Snail 的表达情况, 分析 Snail 表达与临床病例资料、病理特征及预后的关系。

结果: 肿瘤组织中 Snail 表达量 (2.764 vs. 0.914) 与高表达率 (48.6% vs. 18.0%) 均明显高于癌旁组织 (均 $P < 0.05$), 且 Snail 表达与肿瘤分化 ($\chi^2 = 4.231, P = 0.040$)、TNM 分期 ($\chi^2 = 6.631, P = 0.010$)、淋巴结转移 ($\chi^2 = 4.134, P = 0.042$)、微血管侵犯 ($\chi^2 = 10.197, P = 0.001$) 以及复发 ($\chi^2 = 4.610, P = 0.032$) 有关, 与 Snail 低表达患者比较, Snail 高表达患者总体生存率降低 ($P = 0.018$)、术后累计复发率升高 ($P = 0.032$)。单因素分析与多因素 Cox 回归模型分析结果显示, 微血管侵犯、淋巴结转移以及 Snail 表达是肝内胆管癌患者预后的独立影响因素 (均 $P < 0.05$)。

结论: Snail 在肝内胆管癌组织中表达增加, 且 Snail 过表达与肝内胆管癌患者恶性病理特征及不良预后密切相关。

关键词

胆管肿瘤; 胆管, 肝内; 上皮-间质转化; 预后
中图分类号: R735.8

Snail expression in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma and its clinical significance

KANG Qiang, ZOU Hao, LIU Lixin, WANG Lianmin, SHI Wanhong, ZHANG Xiaowen

(Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, the Second Affiliated Hospital, Kunming Medical University, Kunming 650106, China)

Abstract

Objective: To investigate the Snail expression in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (ICC) and its relations with clinicopathologic features and prognosis of the patients.

Methods: The clinical and follow-up data of 55 ICC patients undergoing surgical treatment between December 1999 and January 2010 were retrospectively analyzed. The Snail expressions in specimens of tumor and adjacent tissues from these patients were determined by immunohistochemical staining, and the relations of Snail expression with the clinicopathologic characteristics and prognosis of the patients were statistically analyzed.

Results: In tumor tissues compared with their adjacent tissues, both the expression level (2.764 vs. 0.914) and high expression rate of Snail (48.6% vs. 18.0%) were significantly increased (both $P < 0.05$), and Snail expression

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作者简介: 康强, 昆明医科大学第二附属医院博士研究生, 主要从事原发性肝癌侵袭转移方面的研究。

通信作者: 张小文, Email: zhangxiaowenlu@hotmail.com

was significantly associated with the tumor differentiation ($\chi^2=4.231, P=0.040$), TNM stage ($\chi^2=6.631, P=0.010$), lymphatic metastasis ($\chi^2=4.134, P=0.042$), microvascular invasion ($\chi^2=10.197, P=0.001$) and recurrence ($\chi^2=4.610, P=0.032$); the postoperative overall survival rate was decreased ($P=0.018$) and accumulative recurrence rate was increased ($P=0.032$) in patients with high Snail expression compared with those with low expression. Results of univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis revealed that microvascular invasion, lymphatic metastasis and Snail expression were independent influential factors for prognosis of the patients (all $P<0.05$).

Conclusion: Snail expression is increased in ICC tissue, and its overexpression is closely related to malignant pathological profiles and dismal prognosis of the ICC patients.

Key words

Bile Duct Neoplasms; Bile Ducts, Intrahepatic; Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition; Prognosis

CLC number: R735.8

肝内胆管癌是肝脏常见的恶性肿瘤之一，起源于肝内细小胆管至肝管汇合处的胆管上皮细胞^[1-2]，约占原发性肝癌的10%^[3]，在过去20年间该病发病率和病死率在全球范围均呈现上升趋势，其病死率在美国印第安和阿拉斯加（0.13%）和亚洲泰国人群（0.14%）中最高，在欧洲人群（0.08%）和非洲人群（0.07%）最低^[4-5]。Snail作为上皮间质转化（epithelial mesenchymal transition, EMT）过程中重要转录因子，可抑制上皮细胞E-钙黏蛋白（E-cadherin）表达，诱导细胞发生EMT。EMT是指上皮细胞转化为间质表型细胞，细胞失去上皮细胞表型和极性，细胞之间的粘连逐渐疏松，转化为具有高侵袭和运动能力的间质表型细胞^[6-7]，EMT被认为是导致肿瘤局部浸润和远处转移较为常见和重要的原因^[8-9]。

本实验研究旨在探讨Snail在肝内胆管癌的表达和临床意义，了解Snail与肝内胆管癌侵袭转移临床病理特征的关系，初步探讨Snail在肝内胆管癌的研究意义，为进一步在体外研究和动物实验研究提供临床数据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 临床资料

临床患者资料来自于昆明医科大学第二附属医院肝胆外科二病区1999年12月—2010年1月期间55例肝内胆管癌患者，均接受根治性手术切除术，取肝内胆管癌肿瘤组织以及邻近的癌旁正常胆管组织，全部患者签署知情同意书，并获昆明医科大学第二附属医院伦理委员会批准；55例患者均无全身远处转移，男28例，女27例；

年龄 ≥ 70 岁者15例，年龄 < 70 岁者40例；血清CA19-9 ≥ 37 ng/mL者30例，CA19-9 < 37 ng/mL者25例；血清CEA ≥ 5 ng/mL者40例，CEA < 5 ng/mL者15例；肿瘤单发者42例，多发者13例。TNM分期标准采用国际抗癌联盟（UICC）与美国癌症联合委员会（AJCC）条例。病理组织评分标准采用国际卫生组织条例：肿瘤中低分化者31例，高分化者24例。根据术中所见及术后淋巴结病理检查，有淋巴结转移者29例，无淋巴结转移者26例。术后病检结果均为肝内胆管癌，全部患者术前未接受化疗和放疗。随访日期到2015年1月1日结束，失访6例，平均随访期为（22.6 \pm 17.3）（3~60）个月

1.2 免疫组化

临床病理组织采用4%多聚甲醛（上海翊圣生物科技有限公司）固定、石蜡包埋、制做组织切片，90℃烤片2h，二甲苯溶液（上海翊圣生物）浸泡2次各15min，依次不同浓度乙醇（100%、95%、90%、75%、70%）各5min，抗原修复采用柠檬酸钠（上海翊圣生物，10mmol/L，pH 6.0）100℃维持10min，后室温冷却30min，3%过氧化氢（南京凯基生物）作用20min阻断内源性过氧化物酶，5%牛血清蛋白（上海翊圣生物）封闭2h，孵育一抗兔抗Snail单克隆抗体（1:500，英国Abcam公司，货号ab180714），4℃过夜，孵育二抗（山羊抗兔二抗，上海翊圣生物科技有限公司）20min，DAB显色（南京凯基生物），显微镜下控制，苏木素（南京凯基生物）细胞核复染，酒精水化及二甲苯透明，中性树脂胶（上海翊圣生物）封片，奥林巴斯光学（日本，DP71）显微镜下镜检采集数据。

1.3 免疫组化结果评分

评分方法参考复旦大学中山医院肝癌研究所出版文献标准^[10-11],采用Image pro plus软件分析,综合染色面积和强度评分。染色面积标准:棕色面积>50%为1分,棕色<50%为0分。染色强度标准:棕黑色染色为2分,较浅棕色为1分,无染色为0分。结果分别给2名病理科医师观察,染色面积和强度评分相加,总分≥2分认为是高表达,低于2分认为是低表达。

1.4 统计学处理

数据处理采用SPSS 21.0软件,计数资料采用 χ^2 检验,癌和癌旁Snail表达比较采用配对t检验。绘制Kaplan-Meier总体生存曲线和累计复发曲线,Log-rank检验分析总体生存率和累计复发率差异,采用Cox回归模型进行多因素生存分析。检验结果取双侧,检验水准 $\alpha=0.05$, $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 Snail 在肝内胆管癌的表达及其与临床病理特征的关系

免疫组化法检测55例肝内胆管癌病理组织,结果表明在肿瘤组织中(图1A-B)表达明显高

于癌旁组织(图1C-D);Snail染色主要位于细胞核,在细胞质和细胞膜中未见表达,经免疫组化评分分析肿瘤组织与癌旁组织结果分别为 2.764 ± 0.844 、 0.914 ± 0.765 ,差异有统计学意义($t=12.575$, $P<0.001$)(图1E);其中肿瘤组织高表达率为48.6%(27/55),癌旁组织高表达率为18.0%(10/55),两者间差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=11.770$, $P=0.001$)(图1F)。

将Snail定量表达与肝内胆管癌病例病理特征相结合分析,结果表明过表达的Snail患者与低表达的Snail患者在淋巴结转移、TNM分期、肿瘤分化、微血管侵犯以及复发之间存在差异(表1)。

2.2 Snail 与 55 例肝内胆管癌病例生存分析

Snail免疫组化染色结果与生存分析结果表明,过表达Snail的病例术后总体生存率较低($P=0.018$)(图2A),术后累计复发率较高($P=0.032$)(图2B)。单因素总体生存率和累计复发率分析结果表明TNM分期、微血管侵犯淋巴结转移、以及Snail染色可预测肝内胆管癌患者预后(均 $P<0.05$)(表2);多因素Cox回归模型分析结果表明微血管侵犯、淋巴结转移以及Snail表达可是肝内胆管癌患者预后的独立影响因素(均 $P<0.05$)(表3)。

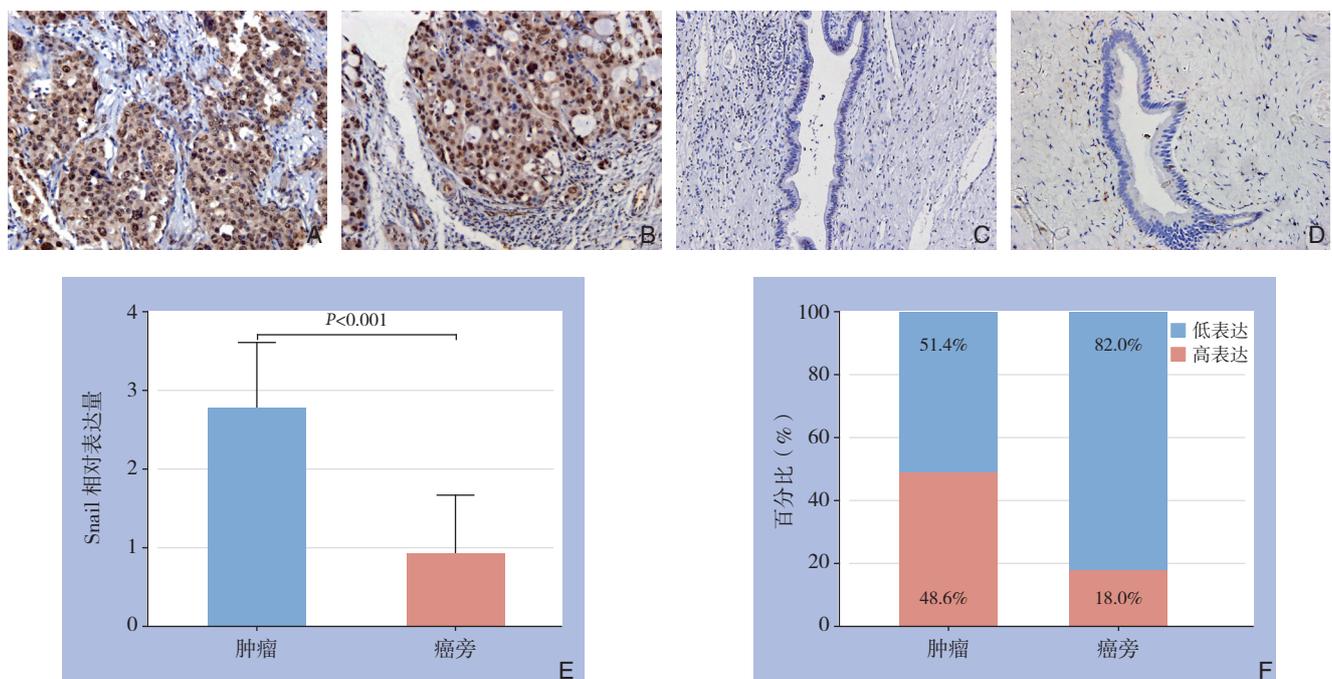


图1 Snail 表达免疫组化检测结果 A-B: 肿瘤组织(×200); C-D: 癌旁组织(×200); E: Snail 相对表达量比较; F: Snail 高表达百分比比较

Figure 1 Results of immunohistochemical staining for Snail expressions A-B: Tumor tissue (×200); C-D: Peritumoral tissue (×200); E: Comparison of relative Snail expression levels; F: Comparison of percentages of high Snail expression

表 1 Snail 表达与肝胆管癌患者临床病理特征的关系分析 [n (%)]

Table 1 Analysis results of relations of snail expression with cliopathologic features ICC patients [n(%)]

参数	n	高表达	低表达	χ^2	P	参数	n	高表达	低表达	χ^2	P
性别						淋巴结转移					
男	28	15 (53.6)	13 (46.4)	0.458	0.498	有	29	18 (66.7)	11 (39.3)	4.134	0.042
女	27	12 (44.4)	15 (55.6)			无	26	9 (33.3)	17 (60.7)		
年龄 (岁)						TNM 分期					
≥ 70	15	8 (29.6)	7 (25.0)	0.149	0.700	III/IV	23	16 (59.3)	7 (25.0)	6.631	0.010
< 70	40	19 (70.4)	21 (75.0)			I/II	32	11 (40.7)	21 (75.0)		
血清 CA19-9 (ng/mL)						肿瘤分化					
≥ 37	30	13 (48.1)	17 (60.7)	0.875	0.349	III/IV	31	19 (70.4)	12 (42.9)	4.231	0.040
< 37	25	14 (51.9)	11 (39.3)			I/II	24	8 (29.6)	16 (57.1)		
血清 CEA (ng/mL)						微血管侵犯					
≥ 3.4	40	21 (77.8)	19 (67.9)	0.682	0.409	有	33	22 (81.5)	11 (39.3)	10.197	0.001
< 3.4	15	6 (22.2)	9 (32.1)			无	22	5 (18.5)	17 (60.7)		
最大肿瘤直径 (cm)						复发					
≥ 5	41	21 (77.8)	20 (71.4)	0.292	0.589	有	32	24 (88.9)	18 (64.3)	4.610	0.032
< 5	14	6 (22.2)	8 (28.6)			无	13	3 (11.1)	10 (35.7)		
肿瘤数目											
多发	13	6 (22.2)	7 (25.0)	0.059	0.808						
单发	42	21 (77.8)	21 (75.0)								

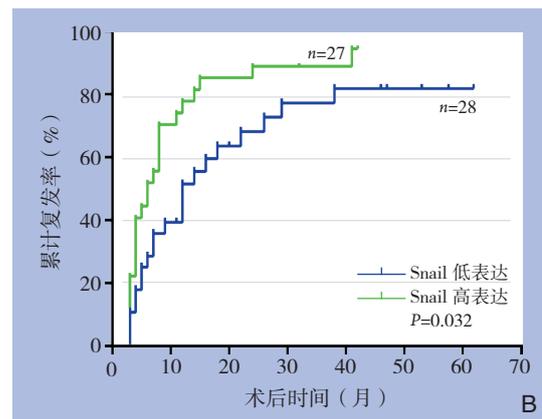
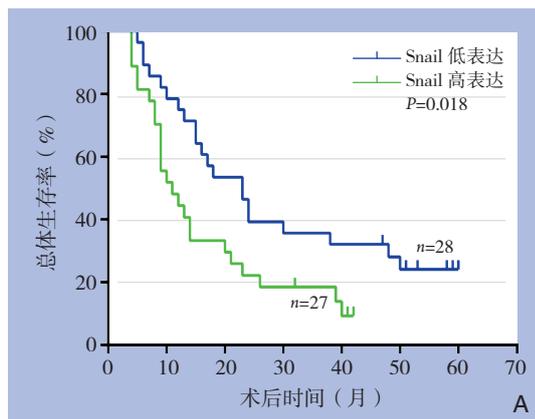


图 2 Snail 表达与患者生存的关系 A: 总体生存率; B: 累计复发率

Figure 2 Relation of Snail expression and survival of the patients A: Overall survival rate; B: Cumulative recurrence rate

表 2 单因素总体生存率和累计复发率分析结果

Table 2 Univariate analysis of factors for overall survival and cumulative recurrence rates

因素	总体生存率		累计复发率	
	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P
性别 (男 vs. 女)	1.189 (0.661~2.139)	0.564	1.378 (0.770~2.467)	0.280
年龄 (<53 岁 vs. ≥ 53 岁)	1.192 (0.663~2.141)	0.557	1.246 (0.698~2.224)	0.457
血清 CA19-9 (<37 ng/mL vs. ≥ 37 ng/mL)	0.829 (0.458~1.502)	0.537	0.809 (0.451~1.452)	0.477
血清 CEA (<5 ng/mL vs. ≥ 5 ng/mL)	1.173 (0.644~2.137)	0.602	1.397 (0.771~2.531)	0.271
TNM 分期 (I/II vs. III/IV)	0.415 (0.224~0.769)	0.005	0.411 (0.221~0.764)	0.005
肿瘤分化 (I/II vs. III/IV)	0.796 (0.443~1.430)	0.445	0.946 (0.529~1.689)	0.851
微血管侵犯 (是 vs. 否)	0.396 (0.206~0.761)	0.005	0.430 (0.224~0.852)	0.011
最大肿瘤直径 (≤ 5 cm vs. >5 cm)	0.803 (0.397~1.625)	0.542	0.655 (0.330~1.300)	0.226
肿瘤数目 (单发 vs. 多发)	0.570 (0.238~1.365)	0.207	0.441 (0.182~1.068)	0.070
淋巴结转移 (是 vs. 否)	0.412 (0.220~0.773)	0.006	0.490 (0.263~0.913)	0.025
Snail 表达 (高 vs. 低)	0.451 (0.265~1.349)	0.008	0.272 (0.204~0.989)	0.003

表3 多因素Cox回归模型分析结果
Table 3 Analysis results of multivariate Cox regression model

因素	总体生存率		累计复发率	
	HR (95% CI)	P	HR (95% CI)	P
微血管侵犯 (是 vs. 否)	0.520 (0.311~0.869)	0.023	0.562 (0.338~0.934)	0.026
TNM分期 (I/II vs. III/IV)	0.649 (0.374~1.126)	0.124	0.551 (0.314~0.968)	0.038
淋巴结转移 (是 vs. 否)	0.713 (0.443~1.148)	0.003	0.670 (0.430~1.070)	0.024
Snail表达 (高 vs. 低)	0.860 (0.464~1.310)	0.012	0.818 (0.453~1.608)	0.011

3 讨论

肝内胆管癌作为一种侵袭性较强的恶性肿瘤,预后较差、有效治疗措施有限^[12-13],高侵袭和转移是其导致死亡的最主要原因之一^[12],选取合理有效的分子标记物评估肝内胆管癌患者预后与早期复发,对肝内胆管癌患者具有重要的临床治疗指导意义,大量研究^[14-16]证实EMT可促进肿瘤细胞的侵袭和转移能力,而在EMT过程中Snail作为关键的转录因子^[17],其可促进肿瘤EMT致使肿瘤细胞侵袭和转移能力大大提高,诱发肿瘤细胞远处转移^[18-19]。

核转录调节因子Snail,能够结合到E-cadherin基因DNA中启动子区域^[20]以及通过表观遗传学修饰^[21]抑制E-cadherin的表达,诱导细胞EMT,在众多促进肿瘤侵袭的研究中表明,不同的分子通过不同的信号通路导致Snail因子异常增加,可加速肿瘤细胞EMT的发生,Ke等^[22]在CD151分子对肝细胞肝癌的肿瘤侵袭转移研究中,发现CD151可通过PI3K/Akt/Snail信号通路促进肿瘤细胞EMT;此外在体外肝内胆管癌细胞研究中,采用RNA干扰技术沉默Snail蛋白表达后细胞侵袭转移能力减低^[11];吴天山等^[23]对胰腺癌患者行病理标本免疫组化染色,结合随访资料分析Snail与EMT指标密切相关,是胰腺癌转移相关的重要指标。本研究结果表明,Snail在肝内胆管癌病理组织中呈现过表达,临床病理特征分析结果表明过表达的Snail与侵袭转移病理特征相关,结合既往研究,笔者推测Snail在肝内胆管癌中过表达可能会诱导肿瘤细胞EMT改变,致使肿瘤细胞侵袭和转移能力增加,这为目前肿瘤的分子靶向提供了部分临床数据,当靶向沉默Snail后可能会降低细胞侵袭转移能力,缓解患者的远处转移和肿瘤复发,为患者带来新的治疗机会。

在Snail临床随访研究中,Kong等^[24]对44例肝门部胆管癌进行了临床随访研究,结果表明Snail

可预测较差的预后,作为预后指标;在103例胃癌病例的临床随访研究中,结果表明Snail能够作为一种合理的预后因子预测胃癌的进展,并可作为胃癌的干预靶点之一^[25]。在此,我们的随访生存分析结果表明,过表达的Snail肝内胆管癌患者中,其术后总体生存率较低,且过表达Snail患者的术后累计复发率较高,在单因素分析和多因素Cox回归模型分析结果表明Snail染色可作为预测肝内胆管癌患者预后的指标,这与Snail在其他肿瘤中的研究结果类似,这对指导患者术后常规进行Snail免疫组化染色评估肝内胆管癌患者的预后具有重要的意义,为早期进行生物治疗提供有力的数据,同样为降低患者术后复发率和病死率都提供有力的支持。

综上所述,本研究实验结论为Snail在肝内胆管癌中表现为过表达,过表达的Snail与肝内胆管癌侵袭转移临床病理特征相关,虽Snail的具体作用机制需要我们更深层次的探索,但根据本研究结果推断,Snail有可能做为预测肝内胆管癌患者预后因子,并可望作为生物治疗的作用靶点。

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