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· 文献综述 ·

胆管细胞癌的分子病理学研究进展

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摘要

胆管细胞癌(CCA)是一类高度异质性的恶性肿瘤,且早期诊断困难,治疗手段及效果有限。因此,更好地明确CCA的分子病理特点对于其诊断、治疗和预后的改善具有重要意义。随着分子生物学技术的发展,CCA分子病理学机制的研究将逐步深入,有望为临床早期诊断和特异性靶向治疗提供新的思路和途径。笔者对CCA分子病理学的最新研究进展进行综述。

关键词

胆管肿瘤 / 病因学; 病理学, 分子; 综述文献
中图分类号: R735.8

Progress in molecular pathological aspects of cholangiocarcinoma

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Abstract

Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) is a very heterogeneous group of neoplasms, for which the early diagnosis is difficult, present treatment methods are inadequate and the treatment effects are also limited. Thus, a detailed knowledge of the molecular pathological profiles of CCA is important for improving its diagnosis, treatment and outcomes. With the development of molecular biological technologies, the molecular pathological mechanisms of CCA will gradually be revealed and clarified, which may provide new ideas and approaches for early diagnosis and targeted therapy of CCA. Here, the authors present the current research progress in molecular pathology of CCA.

Key words

Bile Duct Neoplasms/Etiol; Pathology, Molecular; Review
CLC number: R735.8

胆管细胞癌(cholangiocarcinoma, CCA)是指起源于胆道系统的一类恶性肿瘤,可发生于从Hering管至胆总管之间的任何部位,根据解剖部位分为肝内(intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma, iCCA)、肝门(perihilar cholangiocarcinoma, pCCA)、肝外(distal cholangiocarcinoma, dCCA)3型。尽管三者有诸多相似之处,但在发

病机理及预后上仍有很大差异^[1]。iCCA是肝脏内第二常见的原发性恶性肿瘤,占有消化道肿瘤的3%,其流行病学具有地域性差异,世界范围内总体发病率较低(<6/10万),但在我国则普遍高于此水平,如上海为7.55/10万。近10年来,iCCA的发病率逐年递增,而pCCA和dCCA则有所下降^[2]。CCA发病隐匿,早期无任何症状,确诊时往往已属晚期,目前的诊断方法主要包括血清非特异性肿瘤标志物、组织活检以及影像学检查等。由于CCA确诊较晚,致使手术治疗效果不佳,其对传统化疗亦不敏感,复发率较高^[3]。若能更好地明确CCA的分子病理学机制,则对肿瘤的

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早期诊断、个体化治疗及改善预后都至关重要。故而本文从基因异质性、表观遗传学、内分泌因子、信号传导通路等以下几个方面对CCA的分子病理学研究进展进行简要综述。

1 基因异质性

CCA的异质性不仅与肿瘤的解剖部位相关,同时也取决于不同的危险因素及分子病理学上的差异。现已明确的对CCA发生起关键作用的基因突变有DNA修复,如tumor protein 53 (TP53)^[4]; Wnt信号通路^[5]; 络氨酸激酶信号通路,如 κ -ras、B-raf、Smad4、成纤维细胞生长因子受体2 (fibroblast growth factor receptor 2, FGFR2)^[6]、蛋白络氨酸磷酸激酶^[7]; 表观遗传学改变,如异柠檬酸脱氢酶1 (isocitrate dehydrogenase 1, IDH1)、IDH2^[8]; 染色质重塑,如mixed-lineage leukemia protein 3 (MLL3)^[9]; SWI/SNF复合体,如protein polybromo-1 (PBRM1); 以及Notch信号通路等^[10]。多因素分析表明,TP53和 κ -ras突变可作为影响CCA预后的独立危险因素^[11]; PBRM1突变则与dCCA骨转移及不良预后相关^[12]; 而MLL3基因可激活G蛋白相关信号通路,与血吸虫引起的CCA密切相关。最近研究^[13]显示CCA的端粒酶反转录酶基因发生改变,提示其与慢性肝炎相关。上述基因突变及信号通路为CCA的个体化治疗提供了潜在治疗靶点。

CCA的全基因组测序揭示了其更多的生物学特性。就iCCA而言,两类独特的基因类型已被阐明:一类为炎症型,如IL-3、4、6、10等,主要活化炎症通路;另一类为增殖型,如 κ -ras、表皮生长因子受体 (epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)等,主要活化原癌基因,与患者不良预后密切相关^[14]。目前,新一代测序技术对CCA内的56个肿瘤相关基因进行了检测,尽管CCA因解剖部位不同而基因各异,但普遍存在Ras等驱动基因的突变^[11]; 而Arai等^[15]亦通过对CCA外显子测序,发现了一个无Ras突变的独特亚型。CCA的上述众多亚型也许能够解释其生物学、危险因素及预后的多样性,但如何实现临床转化仍需更深入的研究。

2 FGFR2 基因融合

CCA细胞内已发现许多激酶受体FGFR2与

其他基因的融合产物,而在肝癌中则无表达,可作为潜在的特异性诊断标志物。FGFR2融合基因产物包括FGFR2-BICC1、FGFR2-KIAA1598、FGFR2-TACC3、FGFR2-AHCYL1、FGFR2-MGEA5、FGFR2-KCTD1和FGFR2-TXLNA^[16]。FGFR2-BICC1等选择性融合基因能够活化FGFR激酶,进而改变肿瘤细胞形态,促进其增殖。PD173074与BGJ398或帕唑帕尼等FGFR激酶抑制剂能够有效抑制FGFR2融合蛋白的致癌能力,表明FGFR激酶可作为CCA的潜在治疗靶点。有研究^[6]证实,FGFR2-MGEA5与FGFR2-TACC3阳性的CCA患者使用普纳替尼或帕唑帕尼可显著获益。最近,Sia等^[17]使用RNA与外显子联合测序发现了一个崭新的融合基因产物FGFR2-PPHLN1,同时证明该融合产物有可能成为CCA最有效的治疗靶点。

3 表观遗传学

表观遗传学的调控方式主要包括组蛋白修饰、DNA甲基化以及非编码RNA,以表观遗传学为基础的抗CCA研究仍十分有限^[18-20]。在CCA的表观遗传学图谱中,IDH1与IDH2基因频繁发生突变^[21]。研究^[22-23]表明,IDH突变与CpG的高甲基化相关,提示转录过程存在异常,进而影响细胞分化过程。并且IDH突变能够引起肝细胞核因子4 α 失调,从而抑制肝细胞分化,促进胆管癌的形成。

与正常组织相比,CCA组织内DNA羟甲基化显著减少,而Wnt通路的基因启动子则高甲基化^[24]。大量研究已经证实,表观遗传学的改变发生于肿瘤生成早期,且与肿瘤进展及微环境密切相关,这为CCA的早期诊断提供了新的思路。Gradilone等^[25]发现CCA中组蛋白去乙酰化酶6 (histone deacetylase, HDAC6)过表达,使细胞初生纤毛减少,促使其过度增殖;而HDAC6靶向抑制剂能够修复初生纤毛,进而抑制CCA细胞的生长,提示HDAC6靶向抑制剂可作为CCA的潜在治疗手段之一。

4 内分泌因子

研究^[26]表明,CCA为雌激素敏感型肿瘤,雌激素受体 (estrogen receptors, ER) α 、 β 均阳性表达。ER- α 活化能够刺激CCA细胞增殖,但选择性活化ER- β 却可以通过诱导凋亡达到抗肿瘤的效果。通常雌激素敏感型肿瘤在发展过程中ER- β

逐渐丢失,但CCA在进展期ER- β 仍持续表达,提示其可作为潜在的临床治疗靶点。研究证实应用ER拮抗剂他莫西芬或ER- β 选择性激动剂KB9520能够抑制CCA增殖;并且雌激素亦能够刺激IL-6和血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)的表达,两者对CCA的生物学功能均起到至关重要的调控作用^[27]。

除雌激素外,某些内分泌因子也能够调节CCA细胞的生物学功能。如血管收缩素、多巴胺、瘦素、阿片肽等能够促进CCA细胞增殖。血管收缩素或内源性内啡肽能够抑制胆管上皮细胞损伤后的过度增殖,但在CCA发展过程中这一功能逐渐丧失,转而刺激肿瘤细胞的生长和存活^[28]。

神经内分泌因子如促胰液素、胃泌素、 γ -氨基丁酸、内皮素-1等能够通过抑制CCA细胞增殖或促使其凋亡达到抗肿瘤的效果。虽然激活组胺H₃、H₄受体能够抑制CCA细胞增殖,但组胺本身被认为可通过自分泌促进肿瘤细胞的增殖和存活,而组胺的这一作用是通过组胺H₁介导的^[29]。

5 生长因子

免疫组化结果显示EGFR在CCA标本中过表达。EGFR通过激活胆管细胞内MAPK-ERK信号通路诱导肿瘤的发生,使得该受体成为CCA的潜在治疗靶点。进一步研究发现,CCA中EGFR基因的突变和扩增率分别达到15%和5%^[30]。

研究表明,肝细胞生长因子受体(hepatic growth factor receptor, HGFR/c-Met)在CCA中过表达,且与iCCA的不良预后相关。而HGF和EGF信号通路的活化与CCA的转移潜能亦密切相关。同时EGFR活化会促进CCA上皮细胞间充质的转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT),导致肿瘤侵袭和低分化^[31],HGF能够通过激活AKT和ERK信号通路增强肿瘤细胞的侵袭能力。

6 胆汁酸

众所周知,胆汁淤积是CCA的危险因素之一,胆汁酸能够通过转录生长因子 α 依赖的途径激活EGFR,进而刺激胆管细胞增殖。体内实验发现结合胆汁酸通过下调胆汁酸受体以及活化鞘氨醇-1磷酸受体2促进CCA的生长^[32-33]。Lozano等^[34]研究发现淤积的胆汁酸通过诱导胆管细胞的增殖和炎症反应致癌,而非直接诱导基因突变。

7 肿瘤相关成纤维细胞(cancer-associated fibroblasts, CAFs)

CAFs可能起源于肝脏内活化的星形细胞或导管周围的纤维母细胞。CAFs内 α -平滑肌肌动蛋白表达阳性,能够促使CCA细胞增殖、迁移、侵袭及EMT,因此CCA组织中 α -平滑肌肌动蛋白高表达的患者预后不良^[35]。目前已证实与CAFs相关的主要信号轴包括PDGF/PDGFR、SDF-1/CXCR4、HB/EGF/EGFR、CXCL5/CXCR2/IL-1 β ^[36]。研究^[37]表明,将肝脏星形细胞转化为肌成纤维细胞能够增强其凋亡易感性,削弱其与肿瘤细胞的相互作用。应用navitoclax(Bcl-2, Bcl-XL, Bcl-w抑制剂)能够促进CCA荷瘤小鼠体内CAFs的凋亡,并使细胞外间质蛋白减少,进而抑制肿瘤生长,延长宿主生存期。上述结果证明了以肿瘤间质中CAFs为靶点治疗CCA的可行性。

8 信号传导通路

8.1 Notch 通路

Notch信号传导通路在胚胎发育过程中发挥重要作用。近期研究发现,炎症反应能够通过诱导Notch通路失调导致iCCA的发生^[10]。据报道^[38],CCA内Notch1以及Notch4通路可分别上调82.9%和56.1%。一项临床前研究^[39]显示,诱导大鼠肝细胞内Notch1过表达能够导致iCCA的形成。基于上述研究结果,Notch通路可作为一个新的CCA治疗靶点。

8.2 Wnt 通路

Wnt信号传导通路是真核生物中普遍存在的高度保守的信号通路,在CCA细胞中高度活化,其下游靶基因Wnt7B和Wnt10A过度表达。研究^[24]发现肿瘤周围间质中的炎性巨噬细胞对Wnt通路持续活化不可或缺。动物实验证实随着CCA的不断进展,Wnt通路亦不断强化,应用Wnt抑制剂(ICG001、C59)能够有效抑制肿瘤生长^[5],因此Wnt信号通路可能成为比较重要的临床治疗手段之一。

9 分子靶向治疗

目前临床试验正在评估针对CCA不同信号通路的分子靶向药物的疗效,如络氨酸激酶抑制剂艾洛替尼、贝伐单抗、西妥昔单抗等,但并无数据表明CCA患者的生存率能从中显著获益,

故仍需大量的相关研究。最近一项研究^[3]发现约 40% 的 CCA 患者存在可作为潜在治疗靶点的基因改变。多项临床前及 I 期临床实验正在评估包括 IDH、microRNA 以及融合基因在内的新靶点的治疗效果^[40-41]。总之, CCA 的个体化靶向治疗仍需多学科联合进行深入研究。

10 小结与展望

CCA 是一类高度异质性的恶性肿瘤, 受解剖部位、肿瘤微环境、干细胞、细胞间相互作用、基因及表观遗传学改变等多种因素的影响。近年来已将 CCA 按解剖位置、基因背景、病理学、危险因素和遗传信息的不同进行详细分类。但未来仍需大量研究工作对已知内容加以更新, 并找寻 CCA 各亚型的特异性分子标记物, 并以此为基础研究针对不同亚型的特异性靶向治疗。总之, 个体化靶向治疗的基础研究及临床转化是 CCA 未来研究的重点。随着分子生物学技术的发展, CCA 分子病理学的研究必将逐步深入, 有望为临床治疗带来关键性的突破。

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