

• 综述 •

卵泡液外泌体在卵泡细胞功能调节中的机制研究进展

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[摘要] 卵泡液是卵泡细胞生长发育的内环境,其成分的变化与卵泡细胞的功能状态息息相关。近年来,人们发现在许多生物体液中都存在一种直径为30~150 nm的双层膜囊泡结构——外泌体(exosome),并揭示了它在众多生理病理过程中的媒介作用。研究者也在卵泡液中鉴定出了外泌体成分,并发现它与卵泡细胞的生长发育有着密切的联系,并间接影响了卵母细胞状态,这对评估卵母细胞质量有着重要意义。

[关键词] 卵泡液;外泌体;胞外囊泡;miRNA;circRNA;卵母细胞

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Research advances in follicular fluid exosomes as the regulator of follicular cell function

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[Abstract] Follicular fluid is the internal environment where follicular cells grow and proliferate, and the changes of its components are closely related to the functional status of follicular cells. In recent years, it has been found that exosome, a double-layer membrane vesicle with a diameter of about 30–150 nm, exists in many biological fluids, and its mediating role in many physiological and pathological processes has been revealed. The researchers also identified exosomes in follicular fluid and found that they are closely related to the growth and proliferation of follicular cells, indirectly influencing oocyte status, which is important for assessing oocyte quality.

[Key words] follicular fluid; exosome; extracellular vesicles; miRNA; circRNA; oocyte

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在自然环境和社会环境的双重影响下,现今人类的生殖能力受到了严峻的考验,不孕症发病率逐年攀升,女性生殖健康问题也逐渐被重视。近40年来,科学技术和社会需求不断推动辅助生殖技术的发展,体外受精(in vitro fertilization, IVF)操作也逐渐被大众所接受。卵泡液(follicular fluid, FF)作为卵母细胞生长的微环境并以其为体外受精操作中的副产物逐渐受到关注,相关研究不断涌现。卵泡生长发育至窦卵泡阶段时,血浆渗出物和卵泡细胞分泌物构成了卵泡液的主要来源。由于卵母细胞缺乏直接的血液供应,卵泡液作为其生长发育的微环

境,承担着能量供应、新陈代谢、信息沟通、抵御应激等众多职责^[1]。故而,研究者们希望能从相对易于获取的卵泡液中找到蛛丝马迹,间接评估卵母细胞的生长状态。

1 卵泡液外泌体概述

卵泡液中包含蛋白质、多糖、甾体激素、代谢产物等多种物质^[1],针对卵泡液的研究也主要集中在这些角度。1987年,Johnstone等^[2]首次在绵羊网织红细胞培养上清中分离出直径50 nm、具有双层膜结构的微小囊泡并将其命名为外泌体(exosome),此后,人们在血液^[3]、乳汁^[4]、尿液^[5]、唾液^[6]等各种生物体液和细胞培养上清^[7]中也发现了与之类似的结构。随着研究的深入,人们对于外泌体的了解也逐

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渐加深。细胞通过胞吞作用形成早期内吞体(early endosome, EE), EE经历了物质装载和受体分选转变为晚期内吞体(late endosome, LE), 而后LE膜突入、内陷, 形成多泡体(multivesicular body, MVB)。MVB与细胞膜融合后释放到胞外的直径为30~150 nm的小囊泡即为外泌体^[8]。受体细胞通过胞吞作用摄取外泌体, 其中的脂质、蛋白质、信使RNA(messenger RNA, mRNA)、非编码RNA(non-coding RNA, ncRNA)等^[9]释放到受体细胞中, 参与受体细胞的生物学过程^[10]。作为胞间通讯的重要元素, 外泌体参与机体肿瘤进展和转移^[11]、抗原提呈和免疫耐受^[12]、炎症反应和损伤修复^[13]等多种功能。近年来外泌体还被用于靶向输送功能性遗传物质和特殊小分子药物^[14], 并以此用于疾病的治疗^[15]。由于粒径分布的交叉和分离方法的限制, 外泌体中一般会混入少量由胞膜直接出芽形成的胞外囊泡(extracellular vesicle, EV)。在有些文献的报道中将分离得到的囊泡笼统地称为EV, 本综述在引用时亦保留了原文献中的说法。

2012年Da Silveira等^[16]首次在牛卵泡液中分离鉴定了外泌体。随后, 研究者亦在牛、猪等动物及人卵泡液中证明了外泌体的存在, 并对其丰度进行了研究^[17-19]。Navakanitworakul等^[17]通过纳米粒子示踪分析(nanoparticle tracking analysis, NTA)发现牛卵泡液中EV浓度随卵泡生长逐渐减少, 而粒径分布没有明显差异。通过蛋白免疫印迹实验检测外泌体表面标志蛋白CD81表达量下降亦印证了EV浓度减少的趋势。但究竟EV浓度的减少是源于卵泡增大、液体增加的稀释作用, 还是源于卵泡细胞分泌EV的能力下降, 该研究并没有进一步地探讨。Grzesiak等^[18]发现猪中等大小卵泡(6~9 mm)中所含外泌体浓度较小卵泡(3~5 mm)和大卵泡(> 9 mm)都更为丰富。这一发现似乎与Navakanitworakul等^[17-18, 20]在牛卵泡中的发现相矛盾, 但值得注意的是, 在这两项研究中卵泡液外泌体浓度的变化趋势均与该生物群体卵泡发育过程中的雌激素浓度变化趋势一致。这提示卵泡细胞功能状态与其外泌体释放能力可能相关。

2 卵泡液外泌体的来源和成分

卵泡液中的外泌体主要来源包括经卵泡膜毛细血管穿过血液-卵泡屏障的循环血浆成分, 以及卵泡细胞的代谢产物包括激素、蛋白质、氨基酸和抗凋亡因子等^[21-22], 还有部分可能来源于卵巢其他细

胞(间质细胞、卵母细胞)和卵巢外组织。Santonocito等^[19]采用Taqman低密度芯片技术对15例健康女性卵泡液外泌体和血浆中的384个小非编码RNA(microRNA, miRNA)含量进行比较, 鉴定出32个表达上调的miRNA, 提示部分血浆成分参与卵泡液外泌体的组成。Matsuno等^[23]通过Illumina HiSeq平台对牛卵泡液外泌体囊泡mRNA与单纯来自壁层颗粒细胞的外泌体囊泡成分进行比较, 发现两者图谱极为相似, 但前者存在一些颗粒细胞中无法检测到的转录产物, 包括胆固醇7 α -羟化酶(cholesterol 7 α -hydroxylase, CYP71A)、透明带糖蛋白(zona pellucida, ZP)2、ZP3等, 这些mRNA是在卵母细胞和一些非卵巢组织中已知的高表达成分。以上研究结果均证实卵泡液外泌体可能不仅源于血浆的渗出, 还来源于卵泡细胞以及卵巢其他细胞的分泌。更直接的证据是, Saeed-Zidane等^[24]从牛卵巢直径3~8 mm的小卵泡中分离出颗粒细胞, 在无外泌体培养基中进行体外培养, 培养上清中仍获得了外泌体, 证明了颗粒细胞在体外具有分泌外泌体的能力。Uzbekova等^[25]对牛卵泡液外泌体的蛋白质成分进行分析, 发现其中约有83%的编码蛋白质与不同卵泡细胞(壁层颗粒细胞、卵丘细胞、卵母细胞)高表达的蛋白质, 有趣的是, 约67.4%的蛋白质在卵母细胞中表达更高, 这表明卵母细胞释放EV不应被排除在外。此外, 有研究获取了卵母细胞分泌外泌体的直接证据。Benammar等^[26]在透射电镜下观察到了小鼠减数第一次分裂(meiosis-I, M I)期、减数第二次分裂(meiosis-II, M II)期。卵母细胞胞浆中的MVB和卵周间隙中的外泌体, 并发现了M II期卵母细胞的外泌体分泌量是M I期的近3倍。Simon等^[27]甚至还观察到了小鼠卵母细胞释放的正在穿入透明带的外泌体, 为卵母细胞的分泌外泌体提供了更有力的佐证。

3 卵泡液外泌体参与卵泡细胞功能调节

卵泡发育受一系列事件的调控, 在胚胎期, 卵原细胞通过有丝分裂扩大其数量, 作为初级卵母细胞进入减数分裂, 并在M I前期停止。卵母细胞被体细胞(颗粒前细胞)包围, 形成原始卵泡。出生时, 原始卵泡池代表了女性的卵巢储备。在青春期后, 原始卵泡经过周期性的不同阶段发育, 卵泡持续生长, 卵母细胞恢复减数分裂, 经过特异性选择, 形成优势卵泡准备受精或直接闭锁。而卵泡液中携带miRNA、mRNA和蛋白质等物质的外泌体被证

实可以参与颗粒细胞和卵母细胞双向交流,调控颗粒细胞功能、类固醇激素产生,参与卵母细胞成熟和排卵过程等^[28-30]。

3.1 卵泡液外泌体非编码RNA

3.1.1 卵泡液外泌体miRNA

miRNA是一类长度约为18~24 nt的单链非编码小RNA,可以通过与mRNA上的RNA诱导沉默复合体(RNA-induced silencing complex, RISC)互补配对从而抑制mRNA的翻译。miRNA成分约占外泌体总小RNA中的75.8%^[31],且生物学功能相对稳定,故而miRNA组学在外泌体相关研究领域受到广泛关注。

研究发现,与牛成熟卵泡相比,牛生长卵泡外泌体中有16个miRNA表达上调,9个miRNA表达下调。这些差异miRNA靶点主要涉及泛素介导的信号通路、神经营养因子信号通路、丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen activated protein kinase, MAPK)信号通路以及胰岛素信号通路,进而参与卵泡形成、卵母细胞减数分裂恢复、黄体生成素(luteinizing hormone, LH)介导的卵母细胞成熟等过程的调控^[32]。因此,研究者希望能从卵泡液外泌体中发现预测IVF结局的线索。Martinez等^[33]收集了126例患者的卵泡液,根据是否正常受精分组,分析卵泡液外泌体中miRNA的差异表达。研究发现,未受精组与受精组相比,有11个miRNA表达上调,其中miR-92a、miR-130b分别上调了1.52倍和1.65倍,前者可通过PTEN-PI3K-Akt信号通路调控卵母细胞和卵泡的发育,后者则靶向SMAD5和MSK1影响卵母细胞受精能力。此外,有研究发现miRNA-21参与调控小鼠颗粒细胞凋亡和黄体形成;转化生长因子 β (transforming growth factor β , TGF β)诱导miR-224和miR-383表达从而调节雌二醇的产生促进对促性腺激素刺激^[34];而在排卵过程中,外泌体通过miR-10b-5p/脑源性神经营养因子(brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)轴促进颗粒细胞分泌趋化因子CCL2和CXCL8,以促进排卵^[35]。

3.1.2 卵泡液外泌体其他非编码RNA

长链非编码RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)是一类长度超过200 nt的非编码RNA分子,其缺乏开放阅读框(open reading frame, ORF),无编码蛋白质功能。在一项对多囊卵巢综合征(polycystic ovary syndrome, PCOS)不孕患者和非PCOS不孕患者的卵泡液外泌体进行了高通量lncRNA测序的研究中,鉴定出1253个上调和613个下调的差异lncRNA^[36],提示lncRNA可以作为PCOS患者的治疗靶点和标志

物。另一项研究发现卵泡液外泌体递送的linc00092通过与KDM5A结合来增强H3K4me3的去甲基化,抑制PTEN的转录活性,从而减少卵巢细胞的凋亡并减轻PCOS症状^[37]。

环状非编码RNA(circular RNA, circRNA)是一类特殊的小RNA,可以通过“海绵效应”解除miRNA对靶基因的抑制。一项研究通过二代测序的手段筛选出了PCOS患者卵泡液外泌体中上调的167个circRNA和下调的245个circRNA,并对其进行了通路分析和circRNA-miRNA相互作用网络构建^[38]。在对接受辅助生殖的人群进行的一项队列研究中,Yu等^[39]通过RNA测序比较PCOS组($n=31$)和对照组($n=36$)卵泡液外泌体的circRNA表达谱,共发现4个显著差异表达的circRNA。在后续的功能试验中发现circ0008285可与miR-4644结合,促进低密度脂蛋白受体(low density lipoprotein receptor, LDLR)的表达,并影响PCOS中卵巢颗粒细胞的胆固醇代谢。卵泡液外泌体中的circRNA对卵泡发育的干预能力也有了比较充分的证据。

除miRNA、lncRNA和circRNA以外,关于Piwi蛋白互作RNA(Piwi-interacting RNA, piRNA)、转运RNA(transfer RNA, tRNA)在卵泡液外泌体中的表达已有研究证实,然而其功能及意义仍有待更深入的探讨^[40]。

3.2 卵泡液外泌体mRNA

mRNA是以DNA的一条链作为模板转录而来的,携带遗传信息,能指导蛋白质合成的一类单链核糖核酸。Matsuno等^[23]发现猪卵泡液外泌体富含mRNA,这些mRNA会装载进入受体细胞,并影响受体细胞的代谢、PI3K-AKT和MAPK等信号通路的运行;Yuan等^[41]通过卵泡液外泌体体外刺激猪卵丘细胞后对其进行转录组测序,发现如GPX1、CCND1、PCNA、CYP11A1和HSD3B1的mRNA表达增加,TNFR1和BAX的mRNA表达降低,这些差异RNA与卵丘细胞氧化应激、增殖和类固醇激素合成密切相关,证明外泌体mRNA是调节卵泡细胞生理功能的重要成分。

3.3 卵泡液外泌体蛋白质

在蛋白质组学方面,卵泡液外泌体中既含有保守蛋白也含有特异性蛋白,保守蛋白即在所有类型细胞来源的外泌体中都含有的蛋白(如CD9、CD63、CD81等),特异性蛋白即是不同细胞来源的外泌体所特有的蛋白^[42],Li等^[43]评估了卵泡液外泌体中的蛋白质谱,对662个蛋白质组进行分析表明,PCOS

患者与健康女性之间有86个蛋白质存在差异表达,蛋白质组谱的变化与炎症、活性氧、细胞迁移和增殖等多个过程相关。此外,有研究者利用过氧化氢诱导牛颗粒细胞活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)积累,而后发现暴露于氧化应激的颗粒细胞释放富含氧化应激反应分子核因子NF-E2相关因子(nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2, Nrf2)及其下游抗氧化剂过氧化氢酶(catalase, CAT),硫氧还蛋白1(thioredoxin-1, TXN1)mRNA的外泌体。将这些外泌体与颗粒细胞共孵育可改变受体细胞内Nrf2、CAT、过氧化物还原酶1(peroxiredoxin 1, PRDX1)和TXN1 mRNA和蛋白表达量^[24]。这种细胞间相互作用的模式是直接而迅速的。当一部分细胞受到外界刺激发生应激反应时,外泌体可装载着这些反应分子运送到其他相邻的细胞中去,实现局部区域的信息共享、资源整合。类似地,姜黄素诱导牛颗粒细胞产生的外泌体可以缓解受体细胞脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)诱导下的高炎症因子状态,部分恢复颗粒细胞的激素合成能力^[44]。

3.4 卵泡液外泌体中其他成分

卵泡液外泌体中还包含脂质、酶和一些其他的代谢产物等,其也可能发挥重大的生理功能作用。在一项队列研究中,Yu等^[45]通过qPCR检测138例接受IVF/卵胞浆内单精子注射(intracytoplasmic sperm injection, ICSI)治疗患者的卵泡液外泌体中线粒体电子传输链(electron transfer chain, ETC)基因的mRNA表达水平,发现高质量胚胎中卵泡液外泌体ETC复合物I和ETC复合物III水平明显增加,这表明损伤外泌体线粒体功能可能影响卵泡的发育;在对不同阶段的牛卵泡液外泌体脂质成分进行质谱分析时,Maugrion等^[46]发现甘油磷脂和鞘磷脂在次级卵泡中更丰富,而磷脂酰肌醇在优势卵泡中更丰富。通过功能分析确定,卵泡液外泌体的特定脂质组成表明囊泡脂质参与了细胞信号通路,并在很大程度上促进了优势卵泡和次级卵泡的分化。此外,外泌体还可能包含RNA酶、脂肪酶、蛋白酶、糖基转移酶、糖苷酶和代谢酶,它们具有修饰及编辑外泌体内容物的潜力^[47]。

4 卵泡液外泌体与生殖疾病的关系

4.1 卵泡液外泌体与PCOS

PCOS是一种常见的女性内分泌疾病,其临床症状具有高度异质性,以月经不调、高雄激素血症、代谢异常、生殖障碍为主要临床表现。卵泡液外泌

体可以调控卵巢颗粒细胞及卵丘细胞进而影响卵泡发育。在一项PCOS患者卵泡液外泌体蛋白质组学的研究中,研究人员鉴定出86种不同表达的蛋白质组分,并发现其蛋白质组学特征的改变与炎症过程、活性氧代谢过程、细胞迁移和增殖有关。其中S100钙结合蛋白A9(S100-A9)蛋白被证实通过激活核因子 κ B(nuclear factor κ B, NF- κ B)信号通路显著增强炎症并破坏类固醇生成^[43]。PCOS相关外泌体miRNA差异图谱被多项研究提及^[40,48],而后miR-449被证明可以调节颗粒细胞氧化应激和细胞增殖^[49],miR-379-5p受雄激素诱导特异性增加,影响颗粒细胞的增殖功能^[50],miR-143-3p/miR-155-5p可以通过调节颗粒细胞的糖酵解影响卵泡发育^[51]。以上研究结果均表明卵泡液外泌体可以通过损害卵泡细胞的功能导致PCOS的发生发展。

4.2 卵泡液外泌体与生殖衰老

女性的生育潜力随着年龄的增长而逐渐降低,其流产、卵巢过度刺激和卵母细胞异常(如染色体非整倍体)的风险都与卵巢衰老有关^[52]。Zhang等^[53]收集了68例患者卵泡液,根据其卵母细胞质量进行分组,发现47组差异表达的miRNA,其中4种参与了细胞信号转导、生长、分泌和生物合成等途径,提示其可能作为卵母细胞质量预测的生物标志物。此外,沈开元等^[54]发现与正常卵巢功能人群相比,卵巢储备功能减退(diminished ovarian reserve, DOR)患者卵泡液外泌体中差异表达miRNA的靶基因参与了Notch、cAMP和MAPK等通路,加速了卵母细胞的老化。

4.3 卵泡液外泌体与其他相关疾病

Martinez等^[55]对体重指数(body mass index, BMI)与卵泡液外泌体差异miRNA进行多元回归分析,发现了18个与BMI增加相关的外泌体miRNA,通过富集分析发现其与PI3K-Akt信号转导、ECM受体相互作用以及卵母细胞减数分裂途径相关,提示卵泡液外泌体可能参与BMI相关的生育率下降。此外,其他影响生育功能的疾病如子宫内膜异位症,其卵泡液外泌体成分也会发生改变,进而影响卵泡细胞功能和卵母细胞质量^[56]。

5 总结与展望

外泌体作为胞间信息传递、物质运输的纳米级微囊泡,可以调节不同的生理事件,如卵泡发育、卵母细胞成熟、颗粒细胞功能和胚胎植入。此外,外泌体信息分子还参与调节女性生殖相关疾病的发

展,可作为诊断生殖相关疾病新的生物学靶点。近年来,外泌体更是被视为一种装载货车,让其进入特定细胞并改变它们,例如靶向摧毁癌细胞、输送药物或基因疗法,受到了科学界的广泛关注。在生殖领域,递送特定靶向药物的外泌体已在治疗妊娠相关疾病方面显示出潜在的临床应用价值。然而,需要指出的是外泌体研究现在存在普遍的瓶颈,如什么信号通路使小分子被包裹在外泌体囊泡内,细胞通过哪种途径将外泌体分泌到溶酶体或胞膜上,我们仍不了解不同分子在不同微囊泡中表达改变的生物学意义等。在生殖生物学中也是如此,我们需要更深入的基础研究,了解外泌体在细胞间作用的复杂机制,为临床诊疗提供新的思路。

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