

· 基础研究 ·

双调蛋白通过上调 LPA-LPAR3 调控肠成纤维细胞活化促进克罗恩病肠纤维化

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[摘要] 目的: 探讨双调蛋白(amphiregulin, AREG)在克罗恩病(Crohn's disease, CD)相关肠道纤维化发生和发展中的潜在作用机制。方法: 以100 ng/mL浓度的AREG处理人肠成纤维细胞48 h后, 利用转录组学测序筛选差异表达基因, 探究AREG参与肠纤维化形成的可能机制; 收集因肠纤维化并发肠梗阻行手术治疗的CD患者的狭窄部位及非狭窄部位的肠道标本以及血浆进行临床验证; 通过Ki67免疫荧光和划痕实验评估人肠成纤维细胞的增殖和迁移能力, 并通过qRT-PCR及Western blot检测Col1a1、Col6a1、Col6a3等基因表达和 α -平滑肌肌动蛋白(α -smooth muscle actin, α -SMA)等蛋白表达水平的变化。结果: RNA-seq数据分析显示AREG促进人肠成纤维细胞表达溶血磷脂酸受体3(lysophosphatidic acid receptor 3, LPAR3), 临床样本验证发现, LPAR3在纤维化部位组织中表达增加, 且与未合并肠道纤维化的CD患者相比, 合并肠道纤维化的CD患者的血浆溶血磷脂酸(lysophosphatidic acid, LPA)水平升高; 体外细胞实验发现, AREG促进人肠成纤维细胞分泌LPA, LPA在蛋白水平上调人肠成纤维细胞LPAR3的表达; 此外, LPA促进肠成纤维细胞的迁移、增殖、活化及胶原蛋白的产生, LPAR3抑制剂可减轻LPA对细胞的上述影响。结论: AREG可能通过LPA-LPAR3途径促进CD相关肠道纤维化的发生, AREG-LPA-LPAR3可能是治疗肠道纤维化的潜在靶点。

[关键词] 双调蛋白; 克罗恩病; 肠道纤维化; 溶血磷脂酸**[中图分类号]** R574**[文献标志码]** A**[文章编号]** 1007-4368(2025)04-498-11**doi:** 10.7655/NYDXBNSN241030

Amphiregulin facilitates intestinal fibrosis in Crohn's disease by upregulating the LPA-LPAR3 expression thus regulating activation of intestinal fibroblasts

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[Abstract] **Objective:** To elucidate the potential involvement of amphiregulin (AREG) in the pathogenesis of intestinal fibrosis in Crohn's disease (CD). **Methods:** Differentially expressed genes were identified through transcriptome sequencing following AREG (100 ng/mL) treatment of human intestinal fibroblasts for 48 h, aiming to uncover the underlying mechanisms by which AREG contributes to intestinal fibrosis; fibrotic and non-fibrotic tissues were obtained from CD patients undergoing surgical resection for clinical validation; cell proliferation and migratory capacity were assessed *via* Ki67 immunofluorescence and scratch assays, while expression levels of Col1a1, Col6a1, and Col6a3 were quantified using qRT-PCR and α -smooth muscle actin (α -SMA) was quantified by Western blot. **Results:** RNA-seq analysis revealed that AREG enhanced the expression of lysophosphatidic acid receptor 3 (LPAR3) in human intestinal fibroblasts. Clinical sample validation showed an increased LPAR3 expression at the fibrotic site, and plasma lysophosphatidic acid (LPA) levels were elevated in CD patients with intestinal fibrosis compared with those without. *In vitro* experiments demonstrated that AREG promoted the secretion of LPA by human intestinal fibroblasts, which subsequently increased the protein expression of LPAR3 and stimulated cell migration, proliferation, activation, and collagen production. The effects on cells were attenuated by LPAR3 inhibitors. **Conclusion:** AREG may play a significant role in the pathogenesis of CD-related intestinal fibrosis through the LPA-LPAR3 signaling pathway; thus, targeting the AREG-LPA-LPAR3 axis may represent a promising therapeutic

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strategy for managing intestinal fibrosis.

[Key words] amphiregulin; Crohn's disease; intestinal fibrosis; lysophosphatidic acid

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克罗恩病(Crohn's disease, CD)是一种病因不明的慢性非特异性、胃肠道肉芽肿性炎症疾病,可发生在胃肠道任何部位,以透壁性炎症为特征,具有复发性、进展性和致残性^[1],持续存在或反复发生的慢性炎症可引起肠纤维化。肠纤维化是CD最常见的并发症之一,超过50%的CD患者由于肠纤维化导致肠腔狭窄,甚至梗阻,需要手术治疗^[2]。尽管目前生物制剂已广泛应用于临床,但有效防止和逆转肠道纤维化的治疗手段仍十分匮乏,探究肠纤维化的发病机制将为寻求新的治疗靶点提供思路^[3]。

研究表明,包括间质细胞、细胞因子、微生物产物和肠系膜脂肪细胞在内的许多因素共同参与了肠道纤维化的发生和发展^[4]。其中,成纤维细胞和肌成纤维细胞等间质细胞数量增加以及细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)过度沉积是肠道纤维化的典型特征,成纤维细胞和肌成纤维细胞在多种细胞因子作用下分泌大量的ECM^[5]。

双调蛋白(amphiregulin, AREG)是表皮生长因子家族的主要配体之一^[6],可由成纤维细胞、T细胞、内皮细胞和巨噬细胞等多种细胞分泌^[7-8]。AREG参与细胞增殖、凋亡、分化等多种病理生理过程,促进特发性肺纤维化^[9]、肾纤维化^[10]和肝纤维化^[7]等慢性纤维化疾病的发生发展。笔者课题组的前期研究表明,AREG在CD合并肠纤维化患者的肠组织中表达水平增高,并且促进人肠道成纤维细胞增殖、活化、迁移和ECM的产生^[11],AREG在CD相关的肠纤维化的发生和发展中起着一定作用,但具体机制有待进一步探究。

本研究利用AREG处理人结肠成纤维细胞后,通过RNA-seq进行转录组学测序,发现包括溶血磷脂酸受体3(lysophosphatidic acid receptor 3, LPAR3)在内的基因存在差异表达。LPAR3是溶血磷脂酸(lysophosphatidic acid, LPA)的特异性受体之一,而LPA在多种慢性纤维化疾病,如肺纤维化^[12]、肾纤维化^[13]和硬皮病中的皮肤纤维化^[14]的发病机制中起着关键作用。CD患者体内存在脂代谢紊乱,包括LPA在内的多种脂类物质水平较正常人群升高^[15],既往研究发现棕榈酸酯等长链脂肪酸可促进人结肠成纤

维细胞的增殖^[16],基于此,本研究探讨了AREG-LPA-LPAR3在CD肠纤维化发生和发展中的作用及潜在机制,为肠纤维化的治疗提供新思路。

1 材料和方法

1.1 材料

1.1.1 临床标本

本研究使用的狭窄部位及其配对的非狭窄部位的肠道全层组织样本来自2022年12月—2023年12月在南京医科大学第一附属医院因CD肠纤维化并发肠梗阻行手术治疗的10例CD患者,本研究经医院伦理委员会批准(伦理号:2023-SR-852)。样本保存于-80℃冰箱或固定于4%多聚甲醛溶液中以备后续实验使用。

1.1.2 实验试剂

胎牛血清(浙江美森公司);DMEM高糖培养基、0.25%胰蛋白酶、链霉素、青霉素、ECL显影液(北京Biosharp公司);TRIzol(Invitrogen公司,美国);RT-qPCR试剂(南京诺唯赞公司);GAPDH、LPAR3、Anti-Mouse IgG-HRP、Anti-Rabbit IgG-HRP抗体(Proteintech公司,美国); α -SMA(Santa公司,美国);autotaxin(苏州Immunoway公司);Ki67(Abcam公司,美国);AREG、LPA、Ki16425(MCE公司,美国);人溶血磷脂酸ELISA试剂盒(上海恒远公司);TSA多重免疫荧光试剂盒(北京多玛克公司);山羊血清(北京Biosharp公司)。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 结肠组织马松染色纤维化指数评分

具体评分标准为:0分,纤维化局限于黏膜下层;1分,保留各层组织结构的大量黏膜下纤维化;2分,大量跨壁纤维化伴正常组织结构消失^[17]。

1.2.2 人结肠成纤维细胞(human intestinal fibroblast, HIF)提取及培养

参考文献[18],收集肠道标本后用PBS冲洗肠道标本数次,以去除肠道内容物及血渍,然后切成面积约1mm²的碎片。随后,将组织碎片培养在含有10%胎牛血清、1%青霉素、1%链霉素的DMEM培养基中,37℃含5%CO₂条件下培养,4~7d可见有细

胞从组织块周围爬出,并逐渐伸展变成长梭形。待细胞密度长至80%左右,进行传代纯化,将第3~8代的细胞用于实验。

1.2.3 蛋白质免疫印记实验

根据目的蛋白分子量配制适宜浓度的SDS-PAGE凝胶,上样后浓缩胶80 V,分离胶120 V恒压电泳。将PVDF膜在无水乙醇中浸泡激活,冰浴状态下250 mA恒流转膜(根据分子量大小确定转膜时间),5%脱脂牛奶封闭过夜,根据说明书配制相应的一抗溶液,4℃孵育过夜。第2天于TBST中漂洗10 min,重复3次;室温下孵育二抗(浓度1:10 000)2 h;TBST中漂洗10 min,重复3次;使用天能凝胶成像系统进行曝光显影。

1.2.4 实时荧光定量PCR(qRT-PCR)

利用TRIzol将结肠组织或细胞裂解,利用氯仿、异丙醇等溶剂提取RNA并检测浓度,根据qRT-PCR试剂盒操作说明逆转录合成cDNA。引物由擎科生物科技有限公司进行合成,相关引物序列如下: GAPDH(human)上游引物:5'-CACCATCTCCAGGAGCGAG-3'下游引物:5'-GATGGCATGGACTGTG-GTCA-3'; Col1a1(human)上游引物:5'-GAGGGC-CAAGACGAAGACATC-3',下游引物:5'-CAGAT-CACGTCATCGACAAC-3'; Col6a1(human)上游引物:5'-ACAGTGACGAGGTGGAGATCA-3',下游引物:5'-GATAGCGCAGTCGGTGTAGG-3'; Col6a3(human)上游引物:5'-ATGAGGAAACATCGGCACTTG-3',下游引物:5'-GGGCATGAGTTGTAGGAAAGC-3'; LPAR1(human)上游引物:5'-GCTGCCATCTCTACTTC-CATC-3',下游引物:5'-AAGCGGCGTTGACATAG-ATT-3'; LPAR2(human)上游引物:5'-ACAGCCC-GACTTTCACCTTGAG-3',下游引物:5'-GCCCACAAT-GAGCATGACCA; LPAR3(human)上游引物:5'-GCT-GCCGATTTCTTCGCTG-3',下游引物:5'-AGCAGT-CAAGCTACTGTCCAG-3'; LPAR4(human)上游引物:5'-TCCTTACCAACATCTATGGGAGC-3',下游引物:5'-ACGTTTGGAGAAGCCTTCAAAG-3'; LPAR5(human)上游引物:5'-CAGAGGGCAAATGGGACA-GA-3',下游引物:5'-TGGGTAGGTCGGTAGTCAGG; LPAR6(human)上游引物:5'-TTGTATGGGTGCAT-GTTCAGC-3',下游引物:5'-GCCAATTCGGTGTGTG-GAAGT-3'。

1.2.5 ELISA

收集细胞上清或采用EDTA作为抗凝剂采集血样。4℃、1 000 r/min离心15 min。收集上清并将其

储存在-80℃备用,根据说明书使用人溶血磷脂酸ELISA试剂盒测定血浆及细胞上清中LPA的含量。

1.2.6 免疫荧光

4%多聚甲醛固定细胞,随后利用0.1% Triton-X孵育20 min通透细胞。接着,用10%山羊血清封闭1 h后,将细胞置于一抗溶液中4℃孵育过夜,第2天避光条件下使用标记有Alexa Fluor 488的二抗室温孵育1 h,或根据说明使用TSA多重免疫荧光试剂盒进行多重免疫荧光染色,随后,DAPI溶液孵育10 min进行细胞核染色。最后,使用荧光显微镜拍摄图像。

1.2.7 划痕实验

采用伤口愈合实验检测细胞迁移能力,将HIF以 1×10^6 个/孔的密度接种在6孔板中,培养至80%~90%融合后用200 μ L枪头在6孔板中划3条竖线。用PBS洗去漂浮细胞,观察12~48 h,记录划痕愈合情况。

1.2.8 RNA-seq

用100 ng/mL的AREG刺激人肠成纤维细胞48 h(每组3个重复样本)。然后,TRIzol分别分离和裂解AREG处理组及对照组细胞,收集后送样。由华大基因测序公司进行RNA-seq及进行数据分析。

1.2.9 细胞转染

将人肠成纤维细胞接种6孔板中,待细胞生长至70%~80%密度时根据说明书使用Lipo-3000试剂盒进行转染,在培养箱中培养48 h后进行下一步实验。

1.3 统计学方法

实验数据使用GraphPad Prism 9软件进行统计学分析及作图,计量数据用均数 \pm 标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,两样本均数比较采用独立样本 t 检验,多组样本均数比较采用单因素方差分析。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

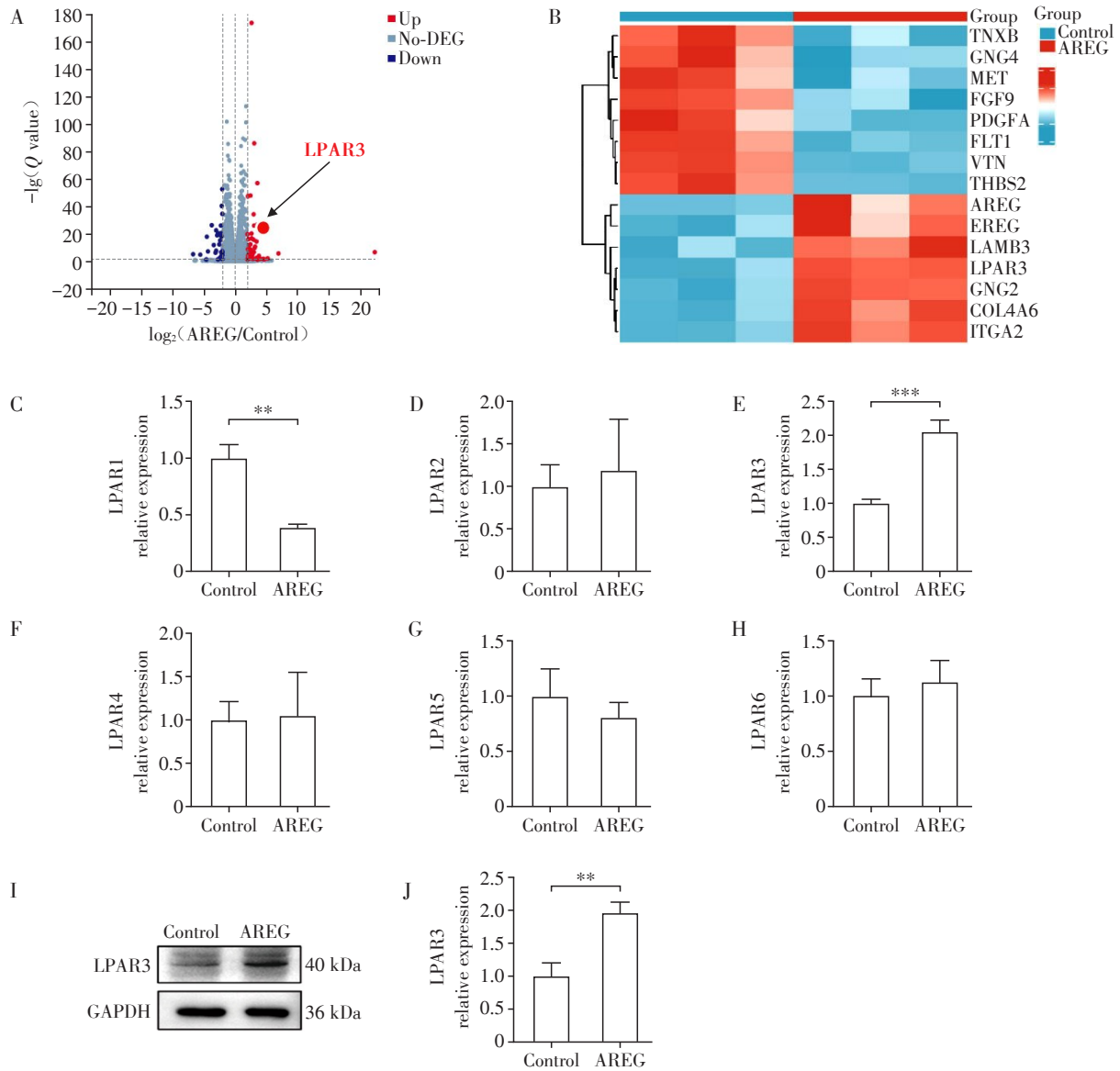
2 结果

2.1 AREG上调人肠成纤维细胞LPAR3的表达

为探究AREG在CD相关肠纤维化发生及发展中作用及潜在机制,将人肠成纤维细胞分为对照组及AREG处理组,通过RNA-seq进行转录组学测序,根据差异倍数绝对值 $|\log_2(\text{Control}/\text{AREG})| > 2$, Q 值 < 0.01 作为筛选标准,共发现差异表达基因74个。利用火山图及热图分析了两组间的差异表达基因(图1A、B),在上调的基因中LPAR3上调倍数显著。LPAR3是LPA的特异性受体之一,既往研究提示LPAR3与肺纤维化^[19]、肾纤维化^[20]等纤维化疾病的发病相关,随后通过qRT-PCR比较了其他亚型

的LPA特异性受体在AREG处理组及对照组之间的差异,发现与对照组相比,AREG处理后增加LPAR3

表达,而降低LPAR1表达,未观察到LPAR2、LPAR4、LPAR5和LPAR6的转录差异(图1C~H)。



Fibroblasts were treated with or without AREG (100 ng/mL) for 48 h. A: Volcano plots of differential gene expression in two groups. B: Heatmaps of differentially expressed genes in two groups. C-H: Expression levels of LPAR1 (C), LPAR2 (D), LPAR3 (E), LPAR4 (F), LPAR5 (G), and LPAR6 (H) were measured by qRT-PCR. I, J: Expression levels of LPAR3 were detected by Western blot. ** $P < 0.01$ and *** $P < 0.001$ ($n=3$).

图1 AREG上调人肠成纤维细胞LPAR3的表达

Figure 1 AREG enhanced the expression of LPAR3 in human intestinal fibroblasts

Western blot 进一步发现AREG促进了人肠成纤维细胞中LPAR3的表达。因此,LPAR3在肠纤维化发生和发展中可能发挥着一定作用。

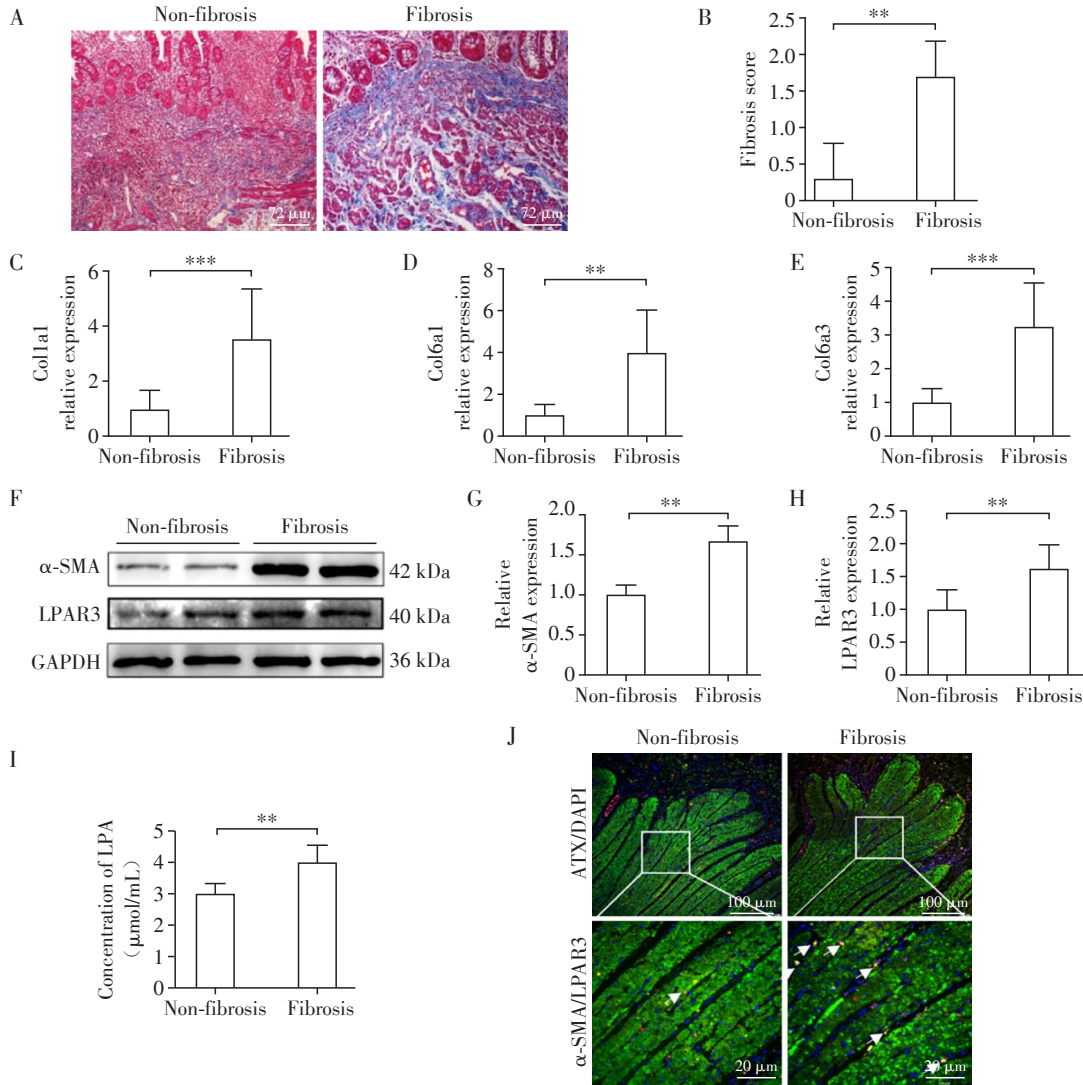
2.2 LPA及其受体LPAR3在CD合并肠纤维化患者体内高表达

为评估肠道纤维化程度,首先对CD患者因纤维性狭窄行手术切除的狭窄部位及非狭窄部位肠道组织样本进行Masson染色并评估纤维化指数,

结果显示来自CD患者狭窄部位的样本具有更高的纤维化指数评分,肠组织正常结构破坏,黏膜及黏膜下层存在大量胶原纤维沉积(图2A、B),同时,狭窄部位的肠组织中检测到更多胶原蛋白表达,包括Col1a1、Col6a1和Col6a3(图2C~E),且 α -SMA蛋白表达水平增加(图2F~H)。进一步检测LPAR3在CD患者狭窄部位、非狭窄部位的蛋白表达水平,发现与非狭窄部位相比,纤维狭窄部位的LPAR3蛋白

表达水平更高(图2H)。随后通过ELISA法测定了合并或不合并肠狭窄的CD患者血浆中LPA水平, LPA是一种由血小板、脂肪细胞和成纤维细胞分泌的生物活性甘油磷脂, 它能与细胞膜上的LPAR3等特异性受体结合, 以调节细胞功能, 在许多器官纤维化疾病中起到重要作用, 发现合并肠狭窄的CD患者其血浆中LPA水平显著升高(图2I)。最

后, 通过多重免疫荧光评估了LPAR3以及介导LPA生成的关键酶自分泌运动因子(autotaxin, ATX)在CD患者狭窄部位、非狭窄部位的分布情况, 发现在狭窄部位中, 与 α -SMA相邻的LPAR3及ATX增加(图2J)。在这些结果表明, LPA及其特异性受体LPAR3可能参与了CD相关肠纤维化的发生和发展。



A, B: Masson staining was performed on the colon tissues and the score of fibrosis index were evaluated ($n=10$, scale bar= 20μ m). C-E: Levels of Col1a1 (C), Col6a1 (D), and Col6a3 (E) in colonic tissues were measured by qRT-PCR ($n=10$). F-H: Expression levels of α -SMA and LPAR3 were detected by Western blot ($n=3$). I: LPA levels in the plasma were detected by ELISA ($n=10$). J: Expression levels of α -SMA, LPAR3, and ATX in tissues were stained with immunofluorescence (α -SMA: green; LPAR3: red; ATX: yellow; DAPI: blue; scale bar= 100μ m, 20μ m, $n=3$). The arrow indicated that simultaneous expression of LPAR3 and ATX in fibroblasts. $**P < 0.01$ and $***P < 0.001$.

图2 CD合并肠纤维化患者体内LPA及LPAR3表达增加

Figure 2 An elevated levels of LPA and LPAR3 in CD patients with intestinal fibrosis

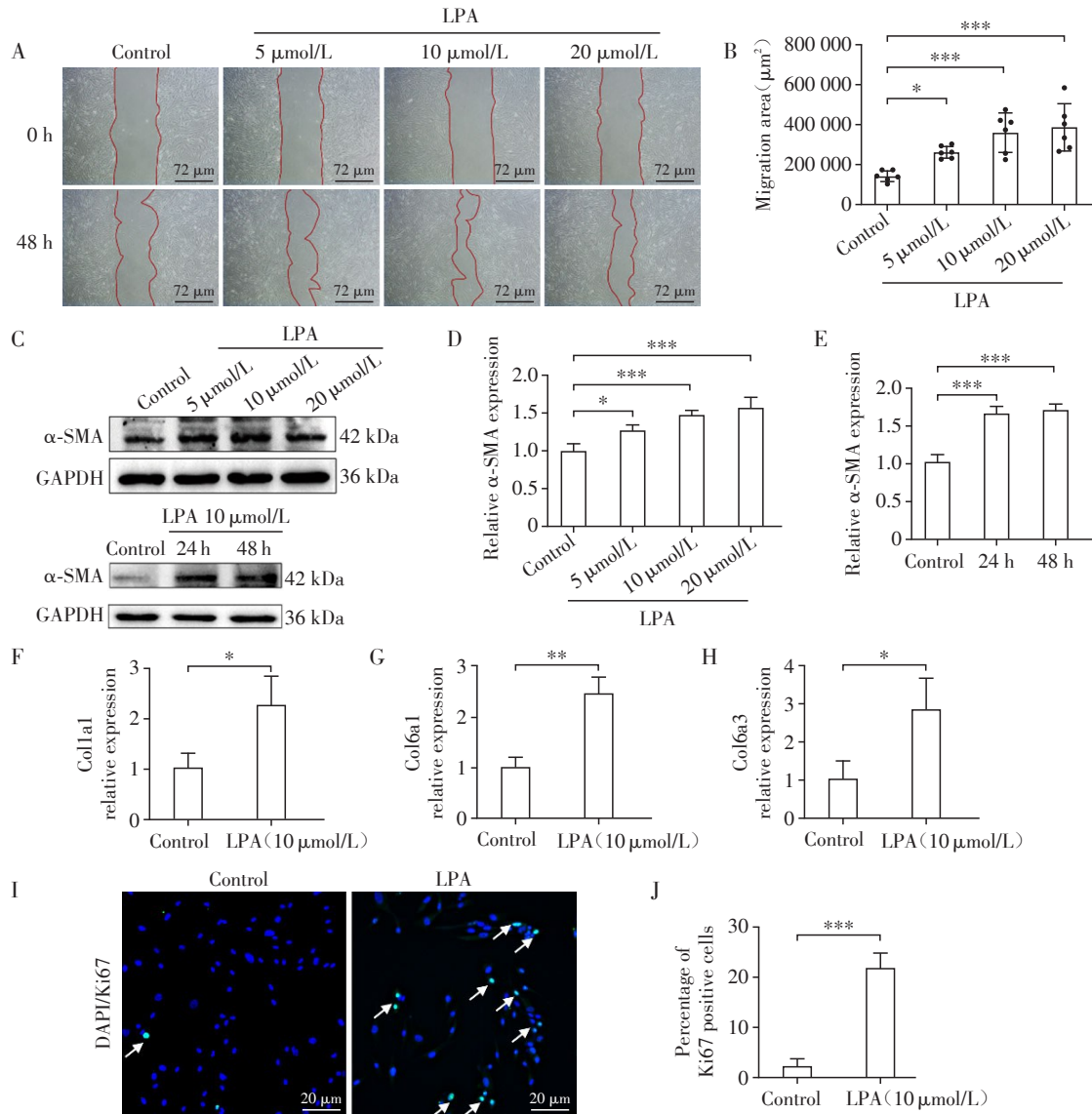
2.3 LPA通过LPAR3促进肠成纤维细胞迁移、增殖及活化

人肠成纤维细胞的增殖和活化及细胞外基质

中胶原蛋白等物质的过度沉积是肠道纤维化发生发展的关键因素, 因此, 在体外细胞实验中进一步探究了LPA及LPAR3对人肠成纤维细胞的直接作

用。首先,使用划痕实验来评估LPA对人肠成纤维细胞迁移能力的影响,分别以不同浓度的LPA(0、5、10、20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)处理人肠成纤维细胞,LPA显著提高了划痕愈合的速度(图3A、B)。同时,通过Western blot评估了肠成纤维细胞活化标志物 $\alpha\text{-SMA}$ 蛋白的表达水平,发现LPA显著促进肠成纤维细胞中 $\alpha\text{-SMA}$ 表达,在10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 48 h条件下作用较为显著

(图3C~E)。此外,LPA促进人肠成纤维细胞产生更多的胶原蛋白Col1a1、Col6a1和Col6a3(图3F~H)。随后,通过Ki67免疫荧光染色来特异性检测增殖期细胞,评估LPA对人肠成纤维细胞增殖能力的影响。LPA处理组中Ki67阳性细胞占比明显高于对照组(图3I、J),以上结果提示LPA促进人肠成纤维细胞的迁移、增殖、活化以及胶原蛋白产生。



A, B: The migration ability of fibroblasts after treating with LPA was assessed by the wound healing assay (scale bar=72 μm , $n=6$). C-E: The expression of $\alpha\text{-SMA}$ in fibroblasts after treating with LPA was detected by Western blot ($n=3$). F-H: The expression of Col1a1 (F), Col6a1 (G), and Col6a3 (H) of fibroblasts after treating with 10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ LPA was measured by qRT-PCR ($n=3$). I, J: Fibroblasts were stained with Ki67 immunofluorescence and the percentage of Ki67 positive cells was calculated (ki67: green; DAPI: blue; scale bar=20 μm , $n=3$). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$.

图3 LPA促进人肠成纤维细胞的迁移、活化和增殖

Figure 3 LPA promoted HIF migration, activation, and proliferation

为进一步验证LPA是否通过LPAR3发挥作用,在以LPA刺激人肠成纤维细胞的同时加入LPAR3抑制剂Ki16425。Ki16425显著抑制了LPA对人肠

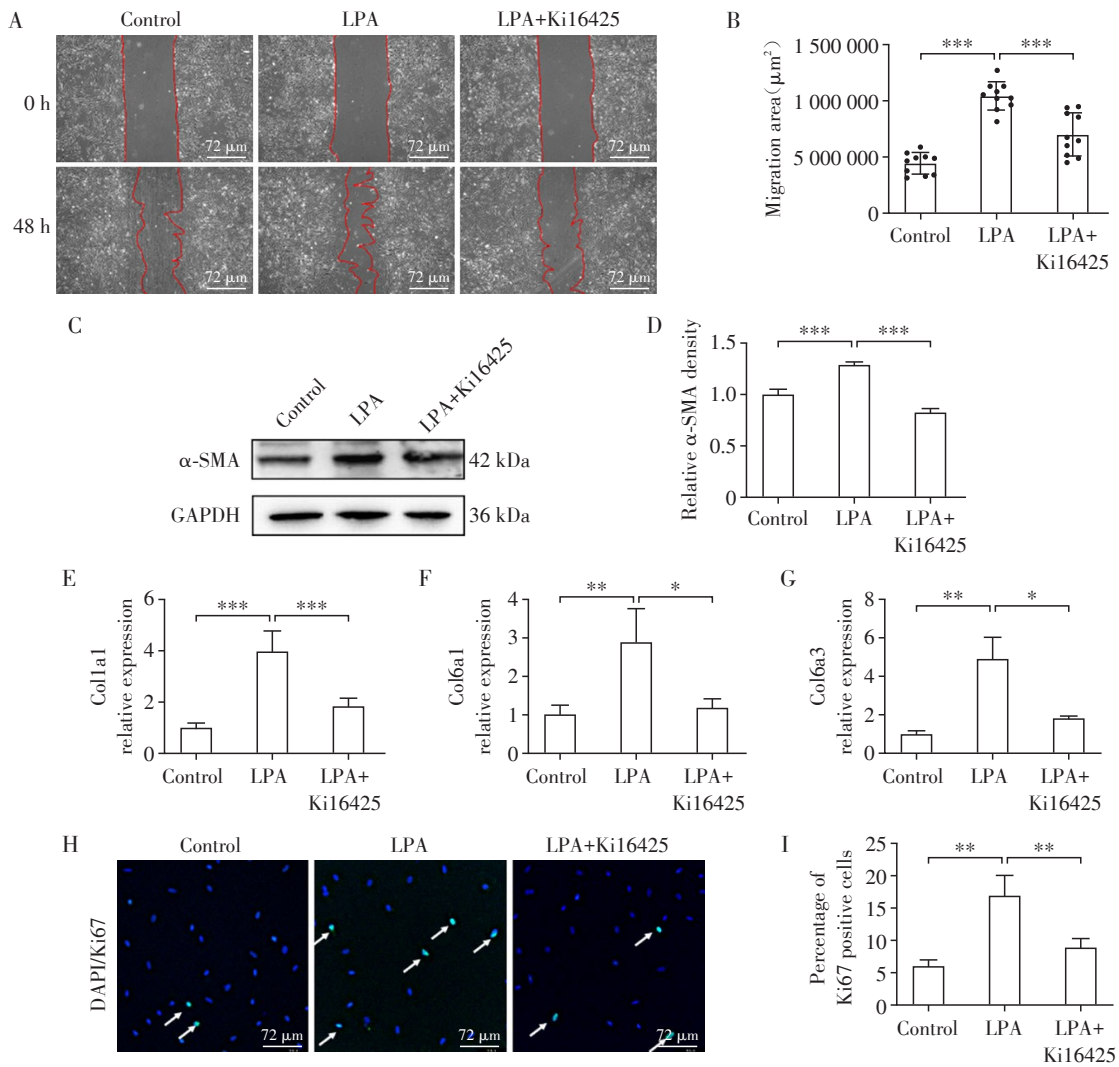
成纤维细胞迁移(图4A、B)、活化(图4C、D)、胶原蛋白产生(图4E~G)以及增殖(图4H、I)的促进作用。同时,通过转染siRNA敲减了肠成纤维细胞中的

LPAR3表达(图5A), LPAR3的敲减显著减弱了LPA介导的对人肠成纤维细胞迁移(图5B、C)、活化(图5D、E)、胶原蛋白产生(图5F~H)以及增殖(图5I、J)的促进作用, 这些结果表明LPA及其受体LPAR3在CD相关肠纤维发生和发展中起着重要作用。

2.4 AREG通过LPA上调人肠成纤维细胞LPAR3的表达

ATX是产生LPA的关键酶, 具有溶血磷脂酶D的活性, 介导溶血磷脂胆碱(lysophosphatidylcholine, LPC)水解产生LPA。以AREG刺激人肠成纤维细胞后, 通过Western blot检测细胞内ATX的表

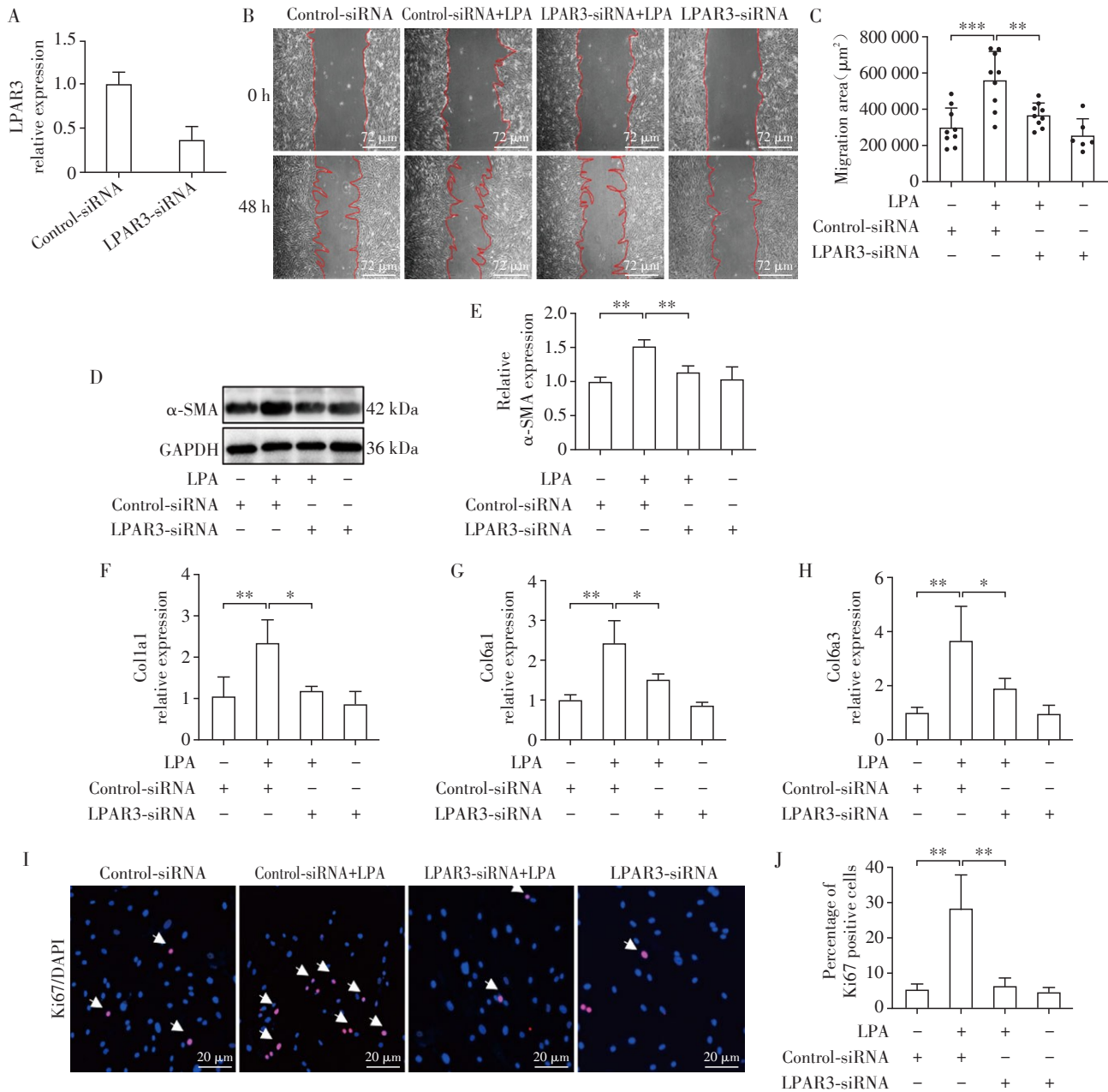
达水平, 以及ELISA评估细胞上清中的LPA含量, 结果显示AREG促进人肠纤维细胞中的ATX的表达(图6A、B), 细胞上清中LPA水平增高(图6C)。进一步应用LPA刺激人肠成纤维细胞后, 通过Western blot检测细胞的LPAR3蛋白水平, 发现LPAR3的表达明显增加(图6D、E)。随后加入ATX抑制剂, 发现AREG对肠成纤维细胞中LPA的分泌作用明显减弱(图6F)。同时也降低了人肠成纤维细胞中LPAR3的表达(图6G~I)。综上所述, AREG可能通过促进人肠成纤维细胞LPA及其特异性受体LPAR3的表达, 从而参与肠纤维化的发生和发展,



A, B: The migration ability of fibroblasts after treating with LPA with or without Ki16425 was assessed by the wound healing assay (scale bar=72 µm, n=10). C, D: The expression of α-SMA in fibroblasts after treating with LPA with or without Ki16425 was detected by Western blot (n=3). E-G: The expression of Col1a1 (E), Col6a1 (F), and Col6a3 (G) of fibroblasts after treating with LPA with or without Ki16425 was measured by qRT-PCR (n=3). H, I: Fibroblasts were stained with Ki67 immunofluorescence (H) and the percentage of Ki67 positive cells (I) was calculated (scale bar=72 µm, n=3). *P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, and ***P < 0.001.

图4 Ki16425减轻LPA对人肠成纤维细胞的运动、活化和增殖的促进作用

Figure 4 Ki16425 alleviated the promoting effects of LPA on the motility, activation, and proliferation of human intestinal fibroblasts



A: The expression of LPAR3 of fibroblasts after treating with LPAR3-siRNA or control-siRNA was measured by qRT-PCR ($n=3$). B, C: The migration ability of fibroblasts after treating with LPA while with LPAR3-siRNA or control-siRNA was assessed by the wound healing assay ($n=9$). D, E: The expression of α -SMA in fibroblasts after treating with LPA while with LPAR3-siRNA or control-siRNA was detected by Western blot ($n=3$). F-H: The expression of Col1a1 (F), Col6a1 (G), and Col6a3 (H) of fibroblasts after treating with LPA while with LPAR3-siRNA or control-siRNA was measured by qRT-PCR ($n=3$). I, J: Fibroblasts were stained with Ki67 immunofluorescence and percentage of Ki67 positive cells were calculated (scale bar=100 μ m, $n=3$). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$.

图5 LPA通过LPAR3促进人肠成纤维细胞的运动、活化和增殖

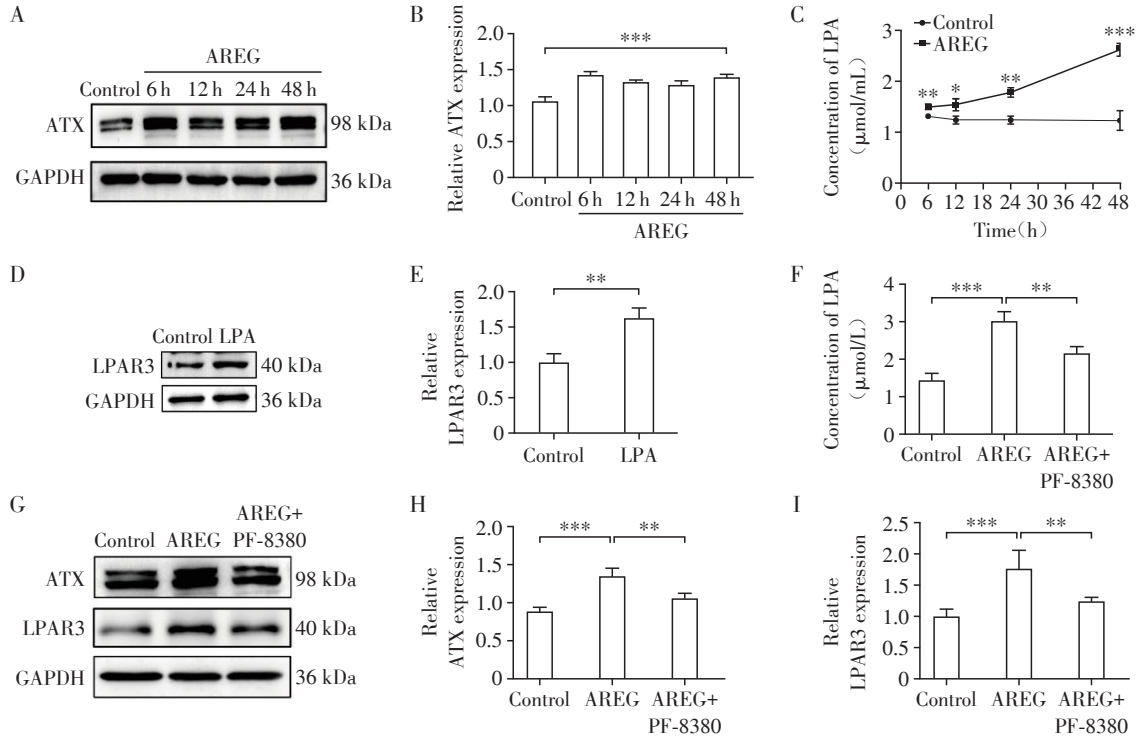
Figure 5 LPA promoted the motility, activation, and proliferation of human intestinal fibroblasts via LPAR3

AREG-LPA-LPAR3可能是治疗CD相关肠纤维化的潜在靶点。

3 讨论

肠纤维化是CD常见的并发症之一,可导致肠

道狭窄和梗阻,是患者手术的主要原因,目前尚缺乏有效的抗肠道纤维化的治疗手段^[5],深入探究肠纤维化的发病机制将为寻求新的治疗靶点提供思路。纤维化是损伤后组织修复和再生过程中的一部分。过度沉积的ECM是纤维化的典型特征,成纤维细胞



A, B: Fibroblasts were treated with or without AREG (100 ng/mL) for 6, 12, 24, and 48 h, protein levels of ATX at different time points were detected by Western blot. C: LPA levels in the supernatant of fibroblasts were detected by ELISA. D, E: The expression of LPAR3 in fibroblasts after treating with LPA was detected by Western blot. F: Expression levels of LPA of fibroblasts were quantified by ELISA. G–I: AREG in the presence or absence of PF-8380 (ATX inhibitor, 1 μmol/L) for 48 h (G), protein levels of ATX (H), and LPAR3 (I) in fibroblasts were measured by Western blot. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, and *** $P < 0.001$ ($n=3$).

图6 AREG促进人肠成纤维细胞分泌LPA

Figure 6 AREG promoted the secretion of LPA by human intestinal fibroblasts

活化生成的肌成纤维细胞是ECM的主要来源^[21]。在CD中,持续存在或反复发生的慢性炎症导致各类调节介质的产生增加,使肠道内的上皮细胞、成纤维细胞或内皮细胞转化为肠肌成纤维细胞^[22]。本课题组先前研究发现Th17细胞来源的AREG促进人肠道成纤维细胞增殖、活化、迁移和ECM的产生^[11],但具体机制尚未明确。

AREG是表皮生长因子家族的主要配体之一^[6],成纤维细胞、T细胞、内皮细胞和巨噬细胞等多种细胞均可分泌AREG^[7-8]。AREG参与细胞增殖、凋亡、分化等多种病理生理过程,组织修复、炎症和免疫中起着重要作用^[23]。为探究其调节CD相关肠纤维化的潜在机制,本研究以AREG刺激人肠成纤维细胞后收集处理组及对照组细胞进行了转录组测序,分析相关数据后在两组的差异表达基因中发现LPAR3在AREG处理组中表达增高。此后通过qRT-PCR进一步检测了LPAR3及其余纤维化中研究较为广泛的LPA受体在AREG处理组及对照组中的表达水平,发现AREG上调了人肠成纤维细胞中LPAR3的表

达,但LPAR1、LPAR2和LPAR3的表达未见明显差异。此外,利用CD患者肠道手术标本再次证实了LPAR3在合并肠纤维化的CD患者的狭窄部位高表达。同时与未合并肠狭窄的CD患者相比,合并肠狭窄的CD患者血浆中LPA水平显著升高。

LPAR3是LPA的特异性受体之一,LPA是一种由血小板、脂肪细胞和成纤维细胞分泌的生物活性甘油磷脂,它能与细胞膜上的LPAR3等特异性受体结合,以调节细胞功能^[24],包括促进细胞增殖、抑制细胞凋亡和增强细胞迁移等^[25]。既往研究发现在炎症性肠病中,LPA调节肠道炎症及免疫反应,LPA通过诱导单核细胞转化为巨噬细胞并促进M1表型来调节固有免疫^[26]。此外LPA具有趋化效应,诱导淋巴细胞迁移^[27]。LPA参与了多种器官纤维化疾病的发生及发展。例如,LPA促进特发性肺纤维化的纤维化形成,并且LPAR1/3的阻断可以改善特发性纤维化,是其潜在的治疗靶点^[18]。此外,LPA还调节肝脏脂肪细胞功能和肝脏纤维化的发生及发展^[28],以及肾小管间质纤维化^[20]。但关于其在肠道纤维

化中的作用研究较少,本研究提取人原代肠道成纤维细胞后,在体外细胞实验中进一步探究了LPA及LPAR3对人肠成纤维细胞的直接作用。结果显示LPA促进肠成纤维细胞的运动、增殖,且其可促进肠成纤维细胞活化及胶原蛋白产生。此后,在以LPA刺激人肠成纤维细胞的同时加入了LPAR3的抑制剂Ki16425,发现Ki16425的加入显著抑制了LPA对人肠成纤维细胞迁移、活化、胶原蛋白产生以及增殖的促进作用。这些结果表明LPA及其受体LPAR3参与了CD相关肠纤维化的发生与发展,AREG对肠纤维化的调节可能通过LPA-LPAR3途径。

既往研究发现在乳腺癌等肿瘤疾病中,AREG通过促进肿瘤细胞分泌LPA进而促进肿瘤细胞的侵袭和迁移^[25],基于此,本研究进一步探究了AREG与LPA-LPAR3的相互关系,结果显示AREG促进人肠成纤维细胞分泌LPA,同时LPA刺激人肠成纤维细胞后,细胞中LPAR3的表达增加。ATX是产生LPA的关键酶^[29],ATX抑制剂减弱AREG促进LPA分泌作用的同时,也减低了人肠成纤维细胞中LPAR3的表达。

综上所述,AREG可能通过LPA-LPAR3途径促进CD相关肠纤维化的发生与发展。AREG-LPA-LPAR3可能是CD相关肠道纤维化潜在的治疗靶点。但本研究尚存在一定局限性,未在动物体内验证LPA对结肠炎相关肠道纤维化的作用,同时LPA及其受体LPAR3促进人肠成纤维细胞运动、增殖、活化以及胶原蛋白产生的具体机制有待进一步研究。

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Author's Contributions:

ZHAO Xiaojing conceived and designed the experiments; LIN Junjie and WANG Shu performed the experiments; LIN Junjie and WANG Shu analyzed the data; LIN Junjie wrote the manuscript. ZHANG Hongjie and ZHAO Xiaojing revised and fi-

nalized the paper.

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