

· 基础研究 ·

## 人PD-L1基因启动子区STAT3结合元件的筛选

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**[摘要]** 目的: 检查信号转导与转录激活因子3(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)对人胶质瘤细胞程序性死亡配体1(programmed death-ligand 1, PD-L1)基因转录和表达的影响, 同时筛选PD-L1基因启动区可能的STAT3结合元件。方法: 培养U251细胞, 给予STAT3抑制剂(BP-1-102)或DMSO处理, 9 h后用流式细胞术检查细胞表面PD-L1蛋白的表达情况。将PD-L1基因启动子全长荧光素酶报告质粒(pGL3-PD-L1-FL)转染U251细胞, 再给予BP-1-102或DMSO处理, 9 h后检查细胞内荧光素酶活性。将PD-L1基因启动子全长和各截短(pGL3-PD-L1-1~4)荧光素酶报告质粒和STAT3过表达质粒(pCMV-STAT3)共转染HEK293细胞, 再测定荧光素酶活性, 初步确定STAT3的结合区域。应用生物信息学软件预测PD-L1基因启动子上STAT3的结合元件, 并开展结合元件突变实验确定有效性。结果: BP-1-102可明显下调U251细胞中PD-L1的基因转录和蛋白表达。此外, 将pGL3-PD-L1-FL、pGL3-PD-L1-1~4和pCMV-STAT3共转染HEK293细胞后, pGL3-PD-L1-4的启动活性显著低于其他质粒, 提示STAT3可能结合于PD-L1基因启动子-200~0 nt区域。生物信息学软件预测发现, 此区域含有2个STAT3的结合元件, 分别位于-194~-184 nt和-135~-125 nt部位。进一步研究揭示突变-194~-184 nt和-135~-125 nt元件均可显著下调pGL3-PD-L1-FL的荧光素酶活性, 联合突变更为明显。结论: 本研究成功筛查出STAT3在人PD-L1基因启动子上的可能结合区域, 为后续研究胶质瘤细胞中STAT3相关的PD-L1基因转录调控奠定了基础。

**[关键词]** 程序性死亡配体1(PD-L1); 信号转导与转录激活因子3(STAT3); 启动子; 转录调控

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### Screening of STAT3-binding elements within human PD-L1 promoter

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**[Abstract]** **Objective:** This study aims to examine the effects of signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) on the transcription and expression of programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) gene in human glioma cells and screen the possible STAT3-binding elements within PD-L1 gene promoter. **Methods:** U251 cells were cultured and treated with STAT3 inhibitor (BP-1-102) or DMSO. The expression of PD-L1 protein on the surface of U251 cells was examined by flow cytometry after 9 h. The luciferase reporter plasmid of full-length PD-L1 gene promoter (pGL3-PD-L1-FL) was transfected into U251 cells, and then cells were treated with BP-1-102 or DMSO. The luciferase activity in U251 cells was examined after 9 h. The luciferase reporter plasmids of full-length or truncated PD-L1 promoter (pGL3-PD-L1-FL, pGL3-PD-L1-1, pGL3-PD-L1-2, pGL3-PD-L1-3, pGL3-PD-L1-4) and the plasmid of pCMV-STAT3 were co-transfected into HEK293 cells. Then, the luciferase activity was detected to screen the STAT3-binding elements. Furthermore, bioinformatics software was used to predict the STAT3-binding elements in the promoter of PD-L1 gene, and mutation experiments were carried out to determine the validity of these binding elements. **Results:** BP-1-102 could significantly down-regulate the gene transcription and protein expression of PD-L1 in U251 cells. In addition, the plasmids of pGL3-PD-L1-FL or pGL3-PD-L1-1~4 and pCMV-STAT3 were co-transfected into HEK293 cells, and then the luciferase activity in different groups was determined. The result displayed that the activity of pGL3-PD-L1-4 was much lower than that in others, indicating that the region of PD-L1 promoter (-200~0 nt) might contain STAT3-binding elements. Bioinformatics software predicted that the region might contain two STAT3-binding elements, that are located at -194~-184 nt and -135~-125 nt. Further studies revealed that mutation of -194~-184 nt and -135~-125 nt

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elements especially the combined mutation could significantly down-regulate the luciferase activity of pGL3-PD-L1-FL. **Conclusion:** STAT3-binding elements within PD-L1 gene promotor were successfully screened out, which could be beneficial to further studies about the STAT3-related transcription regulation of PD-L1 gene in glioma cells.

[Key words] programmed death ligand 1(PD-L1); signal transducer and activator of transcription 3(STAT3); promoter; transcription regulation

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胶质瘤约占颅脑肿瘤的50%,是临幊上最常见旳颅内恶性肿瘤。虽然应用或联合应用包括手术、放疗和化疗等各种治疗手段,但胶质瘤患者旳预后仍然较差,尤其是胶质母细胞瘤患者,平均生存期在15个月左右<sup>[1-3]</sup>。因此,对胶质瘤发病机制旳探讨一直是临幊研究旳热点。

近年来,越来越多旳研究表明,肿瘤细胞旳免疫逃逸是肿瘤细胞躲避宿主免疫系统攻击旳一种重要机制<sup>[4-5]</sup>。程序性死亡蛋白1(programmed death protein 1, PD-1)和程序性死亡配体1(programmed death-ligand 1, PD-L1)相互作用是肿瘤免疫逃逸机制研究旳热点之一<sup>[6-7]</sup>。PD-L1属于B7家族成员,又称B7-H1,是一种跨膜蛋白<sup>[8]</sup>。PD-L1在多种肿瘤细胞(如前列腺癌、肺癌、胃癌等)中均见表达上调<sup>[9-11]</sup>。肿瘤组织内高表达旳PD-L1通过作用于其受体PD-1诱导肿瘤组织内细胞毒性T细胞旳凋亡或抑制,从而辅助肿瘤细胞实现免疫逃逸。值得一提旳是,胶质瘤患者肿瘤组织中PD-L1表达显著增加,并且和疾病的进展和预后密切相关<sup>[12-13]</sup>。然而,有关胶质瘤细胞内PD-L1表达旳上游调控机制,目前尚未见文献报道。

PD-L1基因旳表达调控涉及一些信号分子,如细胞外信号调节激酶1/2(extracellular signal-regulated kinases 1/2, ERK1/2)、p38丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase, p38 MAPK)和c-Jun氨基末端激酶(c-Jun N-terminal kinase, JNK)<sup>[14-15]</sup>,或一些转录因子,如特异性蛋白1(specification protein 1, SP1)和干扰素调节因子-1(interferon regulatory factor-1, IRF-1)<sup>[16-17]</sup>。本课题组前期研究已发现,人胶质瘤细胞中PD-L1基因旳转录与表达显著上调,并伴有信号转导与转录激活因子3(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)旳磷酸化激活。但是,STAT3旳活化能否直接调控PD-L1基因旳转录与表达,目前尚不清楚。故本研究拟对STAT3调控PD-L1基因转录旳作用及其可能旳转录因子结合元件进行初步探讨。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 材料

人胶质瘤细胞U251(上海中国科学院细胞库),HEK-293细胞(ATCC,美国);pGL3-basic、pRL-SV40荧光素酶质粒以及双荧光素酶报告基因检测试剂盒(Promega公司,美国),人STAT3表达质粒(pCMV-STAT3)(南京巴傲得生物科技有限公司);PE标记旳抗人PD-L1抗体以及同型对照抗体(Biolegend公司,美国),p-STAT3和β-actin抗体(Cell Signaling Technology公司,美国),STAT3抑制剂(BP-1-102)(Selleck公司,美国),DMSO(Sigma公司,美国)。人PD-L1基因启动子全长荧光素酶质粒(pGL3-PD-L1-FL)和截短质粒(pGL3-PD-L1-1、pGL3-PD-L1-2、pGL3-PD-L1-3和pGL3-PD-L1-4)由南京巴傲得生物科技有限公司构建,人PD-L1基因启动子突变质粒(pGL3-PD-L1-M1、pGL3-PD-L1-M2、pGL3-PD-L1-M3)由南京金斯瑞生物科技有限公司构建。

### 1.2 方法

#### 1.2.1 细胞培养

U251和HEK-293细胞均使用含有10%胎牛血清(FBS)、50 U/mL青霉素和100 μg/mL链霉素旳DMEM培养于37℃、5% CO<sub>2</sub>饱和湿度培养箱中,平均2~3 d进行细胞传代。

#### 1.2.2 质粒转染

将U251或HEK-293细胞接种于24孔板中(1×10<sup>5</sup>个/孔),培养过夜,待细胞融合度达到70%时,用Lipofectamine2000转染试剂将pCMV-STAT3或pCMV、pRL-SV40分别与PD-L1基因启动子全长、截短或突变质粒共转染细胞。其中pRL-SV40作为转染率内参照,实验同时设pGL3-basic质粒转染组为对照。各质粒转染量分别为:0.50 μg pCMV-STAT3或pCMV、0.05 μg pRL-SV40、0.50 μg pGL3-PD-L1。

#### 1.2.3 荧光素酶活性测定

质粒转染U251或HEK-293细胞48 h后,每孔加入裂解液将细胞裂解,收集旳裂解物用双荧光素

酶报告基因检测试剂盒分别检测 pGL3 和 pRL-SV40 质粒表达的荧光素酶活性, 操作步骤详见试剂盒说明书。其中, pGL3 的萤火虫荧光素酶活性/ pRL-SV40 质粒的海肾荧光素酶活性, 即为被检测质粒的相对荧光素酶活性(RLU)。为检查 BP-1-102 对 U251 细胞中 PD-L1 基因启动子活性的影响, 实验分组如下: ① pGL3-Basic+DMSO 组; ② pGL3-PD-L1+DMSO 组; ③ pGL3-PD-L1+BP-1-102 组。为进一步评估 STAT3 过表达对 HEK-293 细胞中 PD-L1 基因启动子各截短活性的影响, 实验进行如下分组: ① pGL3-Basic+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ② pGL3-PD-L1-FL+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ③ pGL3-PD-L1-1+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ④ pGL3-PD-L1-2+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ⑤ pGL3-PD-L1-3+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ⑥ pGL3-PD-L1-4+pCMV-STAT3 转染组。为鉴定 STAT3 过表达对 HEK-293 细胞中 PD-L1 基因启动子各突变体活性的不同作用, 实验分为如下 5 组: ① pGL3-Basic+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ② pGL3-PD-L1-FL+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ③ pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M1+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ④ pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M2+pCMV-STAT3 转染组; ⑤ pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M3+pCMV-STAT3 转染组。

#### 1.2.4 流式细胞术

培养 U251 细胞, 给予 BP-1-102 或 DMSO 处理细胞 9 h(即分为 BP-1-102 组和 DMSO 组), 收集细胞, 分别用 PE 标记的抗人 PD-L1 抗体以及 PE 标记的同型对照抗体 4 °C 孵育 30 min, 洗涤 2 次后重悬细胞, 用流式细胞仪检测 U251 细胞膜上 PD-L1 蛋白的表达。

#### 1.2.5 Western blot

取 HEK-293 细胞, 加入裂解液进行裂解, 裂解物 12 000 g 离心 5 min, 取上清煮沸 5 min 使蛋白变性, 电泳后再将蛋白转到 PVDF 膜上。将 PVDF 膜封闭后放进一抗中 4 °C 孵育过夜, TBST 洗涤 3 次, 每次 10 min。将 PVDF 膜放进二抗中室温孵育 1 h, TBST 洗涤后加入 ECL 发光液进行曝光。实验分为 STAT3 过表达质粒(pCMV-STAT3)转染组和空载质粒(pCMV)转染组。

#### 1.3 统计学方法

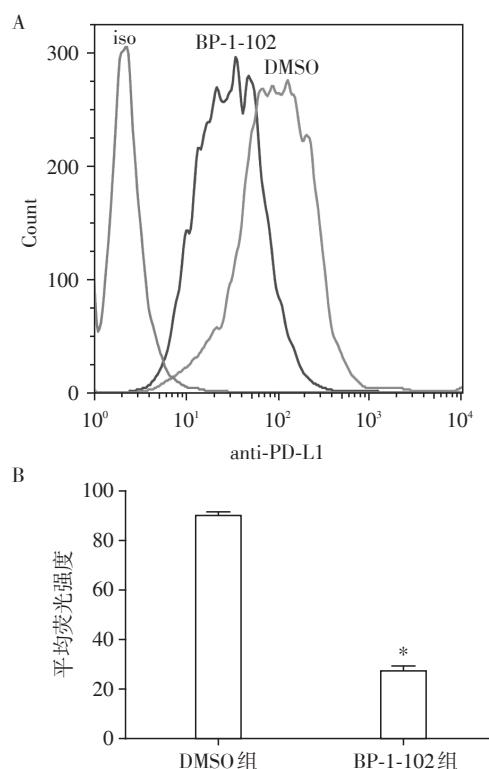
采用 SPSS 统计软件, 所得数据以均数±标准差( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )表示, 多组间比较采用方差分析, Bonfferoni 法进行两两比较,  $P \leq 0.05$  为差异有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 STAT3 活化上调人胶质瘤细胞中 PD-L1 的蛋白表达

培养人胶质瘤细胞 U251, 给予 BP-1-102 或

DMSO 处理 9 h, 用流式细胞术检查 U251 细胞表面 PD-L1 蛋白的表达情况, 并计算其平均荧光强度。实验结果显示(图 1), 与 DMSO 溶剂对照组相比, BP-1-102 可明显下调 U251 细胞中 PD-L1 的蛋白表达( $P < 0.01$ ), 提示 STAT3 可正向调控人胶质瘤细胞 PD-L1 的表达。



A: 流式细胞术检测各组 U251 细胞中 PD-L1 的蛋白表达水平;  
B: 两组平均荧光强度, 与 DMSO 组比较,  $P < 0.01(n=3)$ 。

图 1 BP-1-102 对 PD-L1 蛋白表达的影响

Figure 1 The effect of BP-1-102 on the expression of PD-L1 protein

### 2.2 STAT3 活化增强人胶质瘤细胞中 PD-L1 的基因转录

为了明确 STAT3 是否可通过转录水平促进 PD-L1 基因的表达, 将 PD-L1 基因启动子全长荧光素酶报告质粒(pGL3-PD-L1-FL, -800 ~ +200 nt)和 pRL-SV40 内参照质粒转染到 U251 细胞中, 48 h 后给予 BP-1-102 处理, 9 h 后再检查细胞中 PD-L1 基因启动子荧光素酶活性。实验发现(图 2), 与 pGL3-PD-L1-FL+DMSO 组溶剂对照相比, BP-1-102 可显著抑制 U251 细胞 PD-L1 基因启动子活性( $P < 0.01$ )。提示 STAT3 可正向调控人胶质瘤细胞 PD-L1 的基因转录。

### 2.3 STAT3 过表达对于 PD-L1 基因启动子各截短活性的影响

为了进一步研究 STAT3 对 PD-L1 基因的转录调

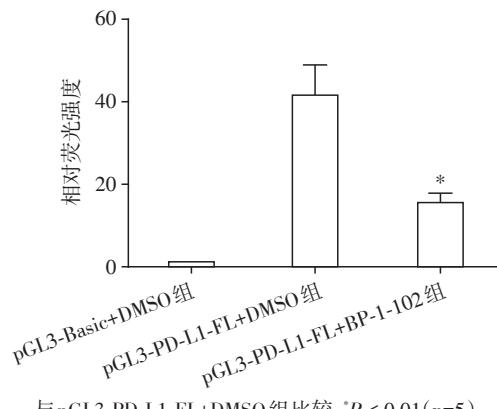


图2 BP-1-102对PD-L1基因启动子活性的影响

Figure 2 The effect of BP-1-102 on the activity of PD-L1 gene promoter

控作用,将PD-L1基因启动子全长和各截短荧光素酶报告质粒分别与STAT3过表达质粒(pCMV-STAT3)或空载质粒(pCMV)共转染HEK-293细胞,48 h后检测p-STAT3的表达量和荧光素酶活性。Western blot检查发现(图3),pCMV-STAT3转染组p-STAT3含量显著高于空载质粒pCMV转染组( $P < 0.01$ ),提示HEK-293细胞中的STAT3被激活。由图4可见,在STAT3激活的条件下,与pGL3-PD-L1-FL(-800~+200 nt)、pGL3-PD-L1-1(-600~+200 nt)、pGL3-PD-L1-2(-400~+200 nt)、pGL3-PD-L1-3(-200~+200 nt)转染组相比,pGL3-PD-L1-4(0~+200 nt)转染组RLU值则显著降低( $P < 0.01$ )。提示在PD-L1基因启动子-200~0 nt区域可能存在STAT3结合位点。

#### 2.4 PD-L1基因启动子STAT3结合元件的鉴定

生物信息学软件JASPAR预测发现,人PD-L1基因启动子-200~0 nt区域含有2个STAT3结合元件,分别位于启动子内-194~-184 nt和-135~-125 nt处。为了进一步研究上述2个STAT3结合元件对于PD-L1基因启动的调控作用,实验分别构建了-194~-184 nt元件的突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M1)、-135~-125 nt元件的突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M2)和上述2个结合元件的联合突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M3),结合元件的序列和突变后的序列见表1。将上述质粒分别与pCMV-STAT3质粒共转染HEK-293细胞,检测各转染组细胞中荧光素酶活性。结果显示(图5),突变-194~-184 nt和-135~-125 nt元件均可显著下调PD-L1基因启动子的荧光素酶活性,联合突变更为明显( $P < 0.01$ )。

### 3 讨论

近年来,越来越多的证据表明,免疫逃逸是帮

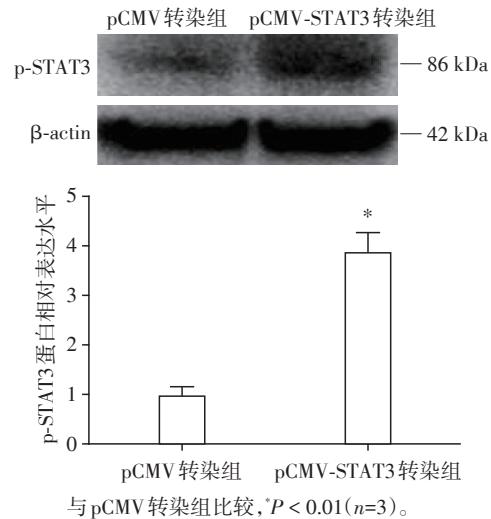
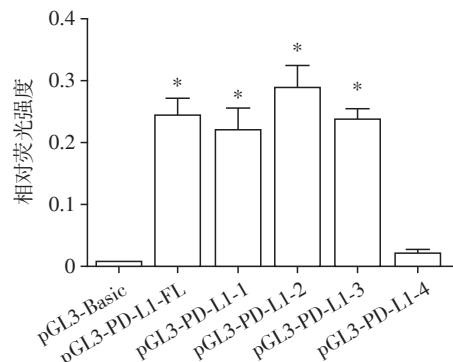


图3 Western blot检测p-STAT3蛋白的表达情况

Figure 3 The expression of p-STAT3 protein detected by Western blot



与pGL3-PD-L1-4转染组(0~+200 nt)比较, $P < 0.01(n=5)$ 。

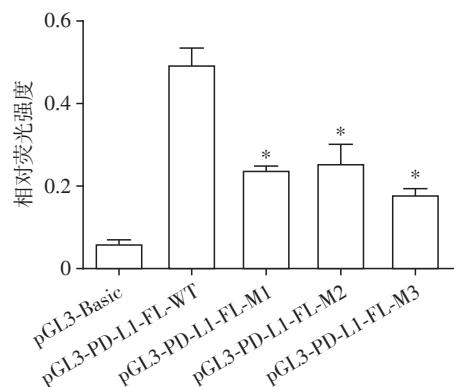
图4 STAT3过表达对PD-L1基因启动子各截短活性的影响

Figure 4 Effects of STAT3 on the activity of different truncated PD-L1 gene promoter

助肿瘤细胞避免宿主免疫系统杀伤的重要机制。其中,配体PD-L1和其受体PD-1是一对重要的免疫细胞负向调节分子。PD-L1可表达于多种肿瘤细胞,并通过与PD-1结合诱导肿瘤浸润CTL细胞的凋亡或抑制<sup>[18~20]</sup>。有文献报道,在不同靶细胞中PD-L1基因的表达受到一些信号分子或转录因子的调控<sup>[16~17, 21~22]</sup>,而有关胶质瘤细胞中PD-L1表达的调控机制目前尚不清楚。本研究使用STAT3抑制剂(BP-1-102)处理人胶质瘤细胞U251,发现BP-1-102不仅可显著抑制U251细胞内PD-L1的蛋白表达,还能明显抑制PD-L1基因的启动子活性(即下调PD-L1基因的转录),提示STAT3可正向调控人胶质瘤细胞中PD-L1基因的转录与表达。为了进一步探讨转录因子STAT3对PD-L1基因的调控作用,我们将PD-L1基因启动子全长和各截短荧光素酶报告质粒

**表1 JASPAR预测的人PD-L1基因启动子区STAT3结合元件及其突变序列****Table 1 STAT3 binding elements within human PD-L1 gene promoter predicted by JASPAR and their mutated sequences**

预测的 STAT3结 合元件	位置	原序列 (5'→3')	突变后的序列 (5'→3')
1	-194~-184 nt	TITACAAGAAAA	ACAGGACCTGC
2	-135~-125 nt	ATTCCTAGGAC	ACAGGACCTGC



与pGL3-PD-L1-FL-WT转染组比较,\*P<0.01(n=4)。

**图5 STAT3对PD-L1基因启动子各突变活性的影响****Figure 5 Effects of STAT3 on the activity of different mutated PD-L1 gene promoter**

分别与STAT3过表达质粒共转染HEK-293细胞,检测细胞内荧光素酶活性发现,在STAT3激活的条件下,pGL3-PD-L1-4(0~+200 nt)质粒转染组与全长和其他截短质粒转染组相比,其启动子活性显著降低,提示人PD-L1基因启动子-200~0 nt区可能存在1个或多个STAT3的结合元件。

应用生物信息学软件JASPAR预测人PD-L1基因启动子区转录因子结合元件,结果显示,人PD-L1基因启动子-200~0 nt区域含有2个STAT3结合元件,分别位于-194~-184 nt(TITACAAGAAAA)和-135~-125 nt(ATTCCTAGGAC)区域。为了进一步阐明上述2个STAT3结合元件是否直接参与STAT3对PD-L1基因启动的调控,将-194~-184 nt元件的突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M1)、-135~-125 nt元件的突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M2)和上述2个结合元件的联合突变体(pGL3-PD-L1-FL-M3)分别与pCMV-STAT3质粒共转染HEK-293细胞,检测各转染组细胞中荧光素酶活性。结果显示,突变-194~-184 nt和-135~-125 nt元件均可显著下调STAT3诱导的人PD-L1基因启动子的荧光素酶活性,联合突变的效

果更为明显,提示STAT3可能通过与上述2个元件结合共同促进了PD-L1基因的转录。

综上所述,本研究证实STAT3抑制剂可明显下调胶质瘤细胞中PD-L1基因的转录和表达。与此同时,通过启动子截短实验和生物信息学分析初步筛选出PD-L1基因启动子可能含有的2个转录因子STAT3的结合元件,并通过突变实验确定了这2个STAT3结合元件的有效性。这为今后进一步研究STAT3对胶质瘤细胞内PD-L1基因转录的调控作用及其可能的分子机制提供了基础。

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[收稿日期] 2019-02-01

(上接第1284页)

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