

· 综述 ·

非编码RNA与肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼敏感性关系的研究进展

王宇昊,王增军*

南京医科大学第一附属医院泌尿外科,江苏 南京 210029

[摘要] 肾细胞癌是肾脏最常见的恶性肿瘤,其早期症状不明显,有相当一部分患者在发现时已经有转移。肾癌对放化疗皆不敏感,以舒尼替尼为代表的受体酪氨酸激酶抑制剂类分子靶向药物,因具抗血管生成作用,是治疗转移性肾癌的一线方法。尽管舒尼替尼在治疗肾癌方面取得了巨大的成功,随着治疗的进行,耐药的出现几乎不可避免。在人类的基因组中,转录的序列绝大多数为非编码转录物,其中微小RNA、长链非编码RNA和环状RNA被认为在肿瘤的发生、进展过程中发挥着重要的调节作用,文章就针对非编码RNA与肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼敏感性关系的研究做一综述。

[关键词] 微小RNA;长链非编码RNA;肾细胞癌;舒尼替尼;耐药性

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Relationship between non-coding RNA and sensitivity of renal cell carcinoma to sunitinib

WANG Yuhao, WANG Zengjun*

Department of Urology, the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210029, China

[Abstract] Renal cell carcinoma is the most common malignancy in the kidney and its early symptoms are insignificant, with a significant proportion of patients already having metastases when they diagnosed. Renal cell carcinoma is not sensitive to radiotherapy and chemotherapy, which made sunitinib, a receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor, to be the first-line treatment of metastatic renal cell carcinoma because of its anti-angiogenic effect. Despite the huge success of sunitinib in the treatment of kidney cancer, the emergence of resistance is almost inevitable as treatment progresses. In the human genome, the vast majority of transcribed sequences are non-coding transcripts. Among them, microRNA, long-non-coding RNA (lncRNA), and circular RNA are considered to play an important role in tumorigenesis and progression. In this review, we summarize the microRNAs and lncRNAs that linked to the renal cell carcinoma's resistance to sunitinib.

[Key words] microRNA; lncRNA; renal cell carcinoma; sunitinib; resistance

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在全世界范围内,肾细胞癌占男性恶性肿瘤的5%和女性恶性肿瘤的3%,其中约70%为肾透明细胞癌^[1-2]。尽管大多数肾癌为局限性,但在治愈后,仍有25%~40%的患者会出现转移,在初次确诊时也会有20%~25%的患者已出现转移^[3]。肾细胞癌对放化疗皆不敏感,因而几种分子靶向药物被推荐用于转移性肾细胞癌的治疗^[2,4-5]。舒尼替尼是一种

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*通信作者(Corresponding author), E-mail: zengjunwang@njmu.edu.cn

小分子受体酪氨酸激酶抑制剂,因抗血管生成和抗肿瘤作用,成为转移性肾癌的一线标准治疗药物,在多项药物临床试验中被作为标准治疗对照,并被认为是可联合局部干预治疗转移性肾癌^[6-12]。其抗肿瘤血管生成作用主要通过阻断血管内皮生长因子受体(vascular endothelial growth factor receptors, VEGFR)和血小板衍生生长因子受体(platelet-derived growth factor receptors, PDGFR)实现^[13-14]。但治疗过程中,舒尼替尼耐药的发生几乎不可避免^[15]。转移性肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼耐药的机制仍不十分明确。

在人类基因组中,5%~10%的序列被稳定转录,

其中大多数为非编码转录产物^[16-18]。在非编码RNA中,微小RNA(microRNA, miRNA)、长链非编码RNA(long-non-coding RNA, lncRNA)和环状RNA(circular RNA, circRNA)被认为在肿瘤发生和进展中发挥重要调节作用^[19-24]。其中miRNA是一类小的,长约22个核苷酸的非编码RNA,可以通过与靶mRNA 3'UTR端相互作用抑制靶基因表达^[25]; lncRNA为长度大于200个核苷酸的非蛋白质编码RNA^[26]; circRNA则是通过真核生物基因外显子的前体mRNA反向剪接产生的共价封闭的环状RNA^[27]。近几年,多项研究关注非编码RNA(主要是miRNA及lncRNA)与肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼的敏感性之间的关系,并取得一定成果,发现多种非编码RNA参与调控肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼的反应。本文对这些研究做一综述。

1 lncRNA与肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼的反应

1.1 lncRNA-ARSR

Qu等^[28]发现,裸鼠体内诱导产生耐药性的子代786-O和ACHN细胞内,存在一种对肾癌细胞耐舒尼替尼重要的lncRNA——lncRNA P11-375018.2-001(Ensembl: ENST00000424980),该lncRNA位于人类9号染色体上,由4个外显子组成,全长591个核苷酸。Qu等^[28]将其命名为lncRNA-ARSR。在耐药细胞中,lncRNA-ARSR的表达受到AKT/FOXO轴的调节,活化的AKT可以通过抑制FOXO1和FOXO3a上调lncRNA-ARSR而使细胞耐药,敲低lncRNA-ARSR则可以逆转耐药。Qu等^[28]还发现,在舒尼替尼治疗前患者血浆和肿瘤组织中lncRNA-ARSR的含量与患者对舒尼替尼的敏感性及预后呈负相关。提示血浆lncRNA-ARSR可以作为患者预后的一个预测因子。机制研究发现,lncRNA-ARSR通过作为miR-34 and miR-449的内源性竞争RNA(competing endogenous RNA, ceRNA)来促进AXL、c-MET表达实现其促肾癌细胞对舒尼替尼耐药的功能。lncRNA-ARSR可以通过包装进入外泌体从所在耐药细胞释放并进入其他细胞,这一过程是由hnRNPA2B1(一种RNA结合蛋白)介导的,已有报道其通过结合特定的基序(GGAG/CCCU)来调节miRNA的运输^[29],而这一基序正存在于lncRNA-ARSR的5'末端。Qu等^[28]也证明,这种lncRNA-ARSR在细胞间的迁徙可以将耐药性传递给原本不耐药的细胞。

Qu等^[28]还发现,通过锁核酸靶向抑制lncRNA-ARSR可显著降低舒尼替尼耐药肿瘤细胞中的lnc-

RNA-ARSR、AXL、c-MET水平,并恢复细胞对舒尼替尼的敏感性,提示lncRNA-ARSR有望成为对舒尼替尼耐药的肾细胞癌患者的有效治疗靶点。

1.2 lncRNA-SARCC

已有研究表明,雄激素受体(androgen receptor, AR)在肾细胞癌中起着癌基因的作用^[30-31]。Zhai等^[32]发现一种可以与AR结合的lncRNA——ENST00000460407,并将其命名为lncRNA-SARCC(suppressing androgen receptor in renal cell carcinoma)。Zhai等^[32]发现,lncRNA-SARCC可以直接与AR结合,在敲低lncRNA-SARCC后,AR的蛋白水平提高,但mRNA水平并不提高,同时AR的两个关键靶基因FKBP5和TMPRSS2的mRNA表达也提高。过表达lncRNA-SARCC则相反。此外,过表达lncRNA-SARCC还可以减少AR从胞质至胞核的移动。

热休克蛋白90被认为在雄激素诱导的核定位和AR的激活中起关键作用^[33-34]。Zhai等^[32]发现lncRNA-SARCC可以降低AR的稳定性,并能够抑制AR与热休克蛋白90的结合。此外,AR可以直接与miR-143-3p启动子序列上的雄激素反应元件结合,降低miR-143-3p表达,而lncRNA-SARCC可以结合AR蛋白并破坏其稳定性,从而降低AR在转录水平对miR-143-3p表达的抑制作用,进而降低miR-143-3p下游信号AKT、MMP-13、K-RAS和p-ERK的表达来发挥抑癌作用。

Zhai等^[32]发现,肾癌细胞中lncRNA-SARCC的含量低于正常组织,原因在于lncRNA-SARCC启动子序列的高度甲基化。敲低lncRNA-SARCC可显著降低舒尼替尼对肾癌细胞的抑制作用,表现为细胞增殖、侵袭、迁移能力的提高以及裸鼠体内成瘤体积的增大。表明lncRNA-SARCC是舒尼替尼抗肿瘤作用的重要一环,可以通过增强lncRNA-SARCC表达来加强舒尼替尼对肾细胞癌的抑制作用。

2 miRNA与肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼的反应

2.1 miR-141

Berkers等^[35]发现,在接受舒尼替尼治疗的肾透明细胞癌(clear cell renal cell carcinoma, ccRCC)患者中,对药物敏感性较差者,其肿瘤标本中miR-141较舒尼替尼敏感患者显著下调。E盒结合锌指蛋白ZEB家族,包括ZEB1、ZEB2,是重要的细胞核内转录因子,其在上皮间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)过程中发挥着重要的调节作用^[36-37]。Berkers等^[35]发现,miR-141可抑制ZEB表达,尤其是

ZEB2亚型,从而逆转EMT——在过表达miR-141的UMRC2细胞内,间充质标志物FN1、ACTA1、VIM和CDH2显著下调,而上皮标志物KRT19、CDH1和KRT7则显著上调。

Berkers等^[35]还发现,在过表达miR-141的UMRC2和RCC4细胞系,正常含氧量下,细胞活性显著降低。同时,miR-141转导的细胞对缺氧的敏感性增加,且缺氧条件下miR-141转导细胞的活力下降主要来源于低氧引起的增殖能力下降。该研究说明,miR-141在ccRCC中下调驱动的EMT与肿瘤对舒尼替尼的低敏感性有关,miR-141也许是一个潜在的增强舒尼替尼抗肿瘤作用的靶点。

2.2 miR-942

Prior等^[38]发现,在诱导建立的耐舒尼替尼细胞系SRCaki-2(sunitinib-resistant Caki-2 cell line)中,miR-942表达较舒尼替尼敏感细胞系显著提高。机制研究发现,过表达miR-942可上调Caki-2细胞基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase 9, MMP-9)及其下游的VEGF。进一步的共培养实验发现,过表达miR-942的转移性肾癌细胞可以通过过表达MMP-9以及VEGF,促进上皮细胞发生迁移。miR-942也许是一个潜在的舒尼替尼治疗转移性肾癌疗效的预测因子。

2.3 miR-221/222

Khella等^[39]发现miR-221/222在对舒尼替尼敏感的肾细胞癌患者和耐药的肾细胞癌患者肿瘤标本中表达水平差异显著且与舒尼替尼治疗相关通路联系密切。miR-221/222可以抑制激酶插入结构域受体,即VEGFR2的编码基因,从而抑制VEGFR2的表达,而VEGFR是舒尼替尼作用的主要靶点,因而miR-221/222的高表达可以减弱舒尼替尼的抗血管生成作用。功能实验也证实,过表达miR-221/222可以显著抑制上皮细胞和肾癌细胞系的血管生成。

Khella等^[39]还发现,miR-221/222可以显著增强肾癌细胞系ACHN的增殖能力,且这一作用无法被治疗剂量的舒尼替尼逆转。

2.4 miR-101

Goto等^[40]发现,在接受舒尼替尼治疗的肾细胞癌患者的肿瘤标本中,miR-101的表达较未经治疗的肾细胞癌显著下调,且二者均显著低于正常肾组织。功能实验证明,miR-101转染肾癌细胞系786-O后,细胞的增殖活性、侵袭和迁移能力均显著下降。通过生物信息学软件预测以及后续的机制研究,Goto等^[40]发现miR-101可以直接抑制UHRF1在肾细胞癌

细胞的表达,而在肾癌细胞系中敲低UHRF1后,细胞的增殖活性和侵袭、迁移能力均显著降低。

通过检索TCGA-KIRC数据库发现,高UHRF1的肾透明细胞癌患者,总生存时间显著降低,且UHRF1表达水平是肾细胞癌患者总生存期的预测因子^[40]。因此miR-101也许会成为接受舒尼替尼治疗的肾细胞癌患者的新治疗靶点及预后生物标志。

2.5 miR-144-3p

Xiao等^[41]发现,相对于正常肾组织以及肾透明细胞癌术后患者,肾透明细胞癌患者的血浆均明显高表达的miRNA只有一个,即miR-144-3p。进一步的功能实验发现,在过表达miR-144-3p的肾癌细胞系786-O和SN12-PM6中,细胞增殖活性显著增强,同时,G0~G1期的细胞显著减少,而G2~GM期的细胞则明显增多。过表达miR-144-3p还显著增强了786-O和SN12-PM6的迁移、侵袭能力,并使得细胞对舒尼替尼的耐药性提高。

Xiao等^[41]发现,miR-144-3p可以通过结合ARID1A基因的3'端直接下调其表达。而抑制ARID1A可以显著增强细胞的增殖活性和侵袭、迁移能力。在肾透明细胞癌患者的肿瘤标本中,ARID1A的表达较正常肾组织显著降低(与miR-144-3p相反)。这都提示ARID1A可能是miR-144-3p的直接作用靶点。体内实验证实,过表达miR-144-3p可以显著增强裸鼠体内异种移植肿瘤的增长速度,并下调肿瘤细胞ARID1A的表达。可见,miR-144-3p/ARID1A通路也许是促进肾透明细胞癌进展和对舒尼替尼耐药的机制,并有望成为其新的治疗靶点。

2.6 其他

除上述miRNA之外,Merhautova等^[42]发现,低表达miR-155和miR-484的转移性肾细胞癌患者,其接受舒尼替尼治疗时的肿瘤进展较高表达者更快。Yamaguchi等^[43]则构建了对舒尼替尼耐药的肾癌细胞系SRACHN和SR-RCC23,并通过miRNA芯片和定量PCR技术发现有3种miRNA在两种耐药细胞系均较其原始细胞系(ACHN、RCC23)显著高表达,即miR-575、miR-642b-3p和miR-4430。有4种miRNA则显著低表达,即miR-18a-5p、miR-29b-1-5p、miR-431-3p和miR-4521。

3 circRNA与肾细胞癌

已有多项研究发现circRNA参与了肾细胞癌的发生发展。Li等^[47]和Liu等^[48]分别发现circTLK1和circPTCH1可以通过内源竞争RNA(competing en-

ogenous RNA, ceRNA) 机制促进肾细胞癌的增殖、侵袭和转移。但是关于 circRNA 在肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼耐药机制中的作用目前几无文献报道。这也许是一个有价值的研究方向。

4 总结与展望

上述 lncRNA 及 miRNA 功能的研究显示, 作为舒尼替尼作用主要靶点的 VEGFR 和 PDGFR 被抑制后, 其他促进肿瘤进展的通路和功能被激活, 从而引发肿瘤耐药, 这可以看作是舒尼替尼对肾细胞癌的一种选择作用。而在这一过程中, 非编码 RNA 受到其他通路调节, lncRNA 自身启动子序列甲基化也可以影响其表达。这似乎说明非编码 RNA 自身并不是整个耐药过程的始动环节。circRNA 在肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼耐药机制中的作用目前研究较少, 值得挖掘。

尽管非编码 RNA 的表达水平有望成为肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼敏感性的预测指标和耐药产生后的新治疗靶点, 我们仍然需要更多研究进一步发现非编码 RNA 在肾细胞癌对舒尼替尼反应性中发挥的作用, 以及在非编码 RNA 上游是否存在更初始的调控机制; 并且确定切实可行的利用非编码 RNA 对患者预后进行预测和对耐药患者进行治疗的方法。

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