

• 综述 •

KMT2A重排急性髓系白血病的研究进展

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[摘要] 赖氨酸甲基转移酶2A(lysine methyltransferase 2A, *KMT2A*)基因,也称为混合谱系白血病(mixed lineage leukemia, *MLL*)基因,参与人体正常造血与代谢。*KMT2A*重排急性髓系白血病(*KMT2A*-rearranged acute myeloid leukemia, *KMT2A*-r AML)是AML中的一种特殊类型,其恶性程度高,对传统AML化疗方案蒽环类化疗药柔红霉素联合阿糖胞苷“3+7”不敏感,缓解率低,复发率高。近年来,有关*KMT2A*-r AML的临床前研究与临床试验陆续开展。目前,首个治疗复发或难治性*KMT2A*易位急性白血病的靶向药物Menin抑制剂revumenib已获得美国食品药品监督管理局(Food and Drug Administration, FDA)批准上市,DOT1L抑制剂pinometostat与多种药物联合治疗的研究正在进行,造血干细胞移植(hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, HSCT)和嵌合抗原受体T细胞(chimeric antigen receptor T-cell, CAR-T)疗法也进行了相关临床应用研究。文章将对*KMT2A*-r AML发病机制、新开发靶向药物、已开展临床试验、潜在治疗靶点、HSCT和CAR-T疗法应用等方面进行综述,以期为该病的研究和治疗提供新思路。

[关键词] 急性髓系白血病; *KMT2A*重排; *MLL*; Menin; 治疗靶点; 研究进展

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The research progress on *KMT2A*-rearranged acute myeloid leukemia

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[Abstract] The lysine methyltransferase 2A (*KMT2A*) gene, also known as the mixed lineage leukemia (*MLL*) gene, is involved in normal hematopoiesis and metabolism in humans. *KMT2A*-rearranged acute myeloid leukemia (*KMT2A*-r AML) is a specific type of AML characterized by high malignancy. It is resistant to the conventional AML chemotherapy “3+7” regimen of anthracycline daunorubicin (DNR) combined with cytarabine (Ara-C), resulting in low remission rates and high relapse rates. In recent years, preclinical and clinical studies on *KMT2A*-r AML have been progressively undertaken. At present, the Menin inhibitor revumenib is the first targeted drug approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of relapsed or refractory *KMT2A*-translocated acute leukemia, and research on the DOT1L inhibitor pinometostat in combination with various other drugs is ongoing. Additionally, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (HSCT) and chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapies have been studied in clinical application. This article reviews the pathogenesis of *KMT2A*-r AML, targeted drugs, ongoing clinical trials, potential therapeutic targets, and the application of HSCT and CAR-T therapies, aiming to provide new perspectives for the research and treatment of this condition.

[Key words] acute myeloid leukemia; *KMT2A*-rearranged; *MLL*; Menin; therapeutic target; research progress

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急性髓系白血病(acute myeloid leukemia, AML)是一组造血干细胞克隆性增殖失调的血液系统恶性疾病,具有高度异质性,其特征为骨髓和外周血中未成熟髓系前体细胞的累积和扩增^[1]。AML是成人急性白血病中最常见的类型之一,约占每年新发白血病的35%,占成人急性白血病的80%。赖氨酸甲基转移酶2A(lysine methyltransferase 2A, *KMT2A*)基因,也称为混合谱系白血病(mixed lineage leukemia, *MLL*)基因,最早在1991年被发现和命名^[2],5%~11%成人AML患者伴随*KMT2A*重排,其通过基因的断裂和重组形成新的融合基因,所编码的融合蛋白具有转录激活功能,能够招募其他共激活因子,促进下游靶基因的表达,进而导致细胞异常增殖和存活^[3]。伴有*KMT2A*重排的AML具有独特的生物学特性和临床特征,根据2024年NCCN指南,其预后中等或不良,常规的柔红霉素(daunorubicin, DNR)联合阿糖胞苷(cytarabine, Ara-C)“3+7”方案化疗缓解率低,复发率高,仍需探索更精准有效的治疗方法。

1 *KMT2A* 结构与功能

*KMT2A*基因位于人类11号染色体长臂23区(11q23),由90343个碱基和37个外显子组成,编码的蛋白质属于KMT家族^[4]。KMT催化甲基从S-腺苷蛋氨酸转移到组蛋白尾部的赖氨酸残基上,KMT通常修饰单个组蛋白上的1个或2个赖氨酸^[5]。*KMT2A*编码的蛋白质产物在翻译后被苏氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶1(taspase1)切割成2个不同的多肽(*KMT2A-N*和*KMT2A-C*),这2个多肽分别通过FY富集N端结构域(FY-rich N-terminal domain, FYRN)和FY富集C端结构域(FY-rich C-terminal domain, FYRC)连接组装在一起,成为完整的活性蛋白^[6]。蛋白的C端含有TAD、WID和SET结构域等,SET结构域靶向组蛋白H3第4位赖氨酸(H3K4)残基,参与H3K4单、双、三甲基化,基于甲基化状态和位置的不同,赖氨酸可激活或抑制染色质转录。蛋白的N端含有AT-钩(AT-hook)结构域、CXXC域、MBD和SNL等,具有识别和结合相关组蛋白甲基化标记的能力。*KMT2A*单独作为甲基转移酶时活性较低,通过与WDR5、RBBP5、ASH2L、DPY30、Menin和HCF1组成*KMT2A*蛋白复合物可发挥最佳H3K4甲基转移酶活性,维持下游*HOX*基因的表达^[7]。在婴儿期,*KMT2A*促进造血干细胞的分化,在成人体内,*KMT2A*参与维持血细胞更新^[8]。

2 *KMT2A* 重排(*KMT2A*-rearranged, *KMT2A-r*)

*KMT2A-r*主要发生在1岁以下急性淋巴细胞白血病(acute lymphoblastic leukemia, ALL)患儿和中青年AML患者中,主要包括两种类型,第1种是染色体内部结构异常,包括基因内部缺失、基因部分串联重复(partial tandem duplication, PTD)或全基因重复;第2种是染色体易位导致位于染色体11q23的*KMT2A*基因和其他染色体上的基因重组,产生*KMT2A*融合基因,从而生成融合蛋白与DNA或染色体结合,诱导造血干细胞和祖细胞转化进而导致白血病。*KMT2A-r*的致癌性被归因于*KMT2A*的N端与易位伙伴基因(translocation partner gene, TPG)的C端融合,这些融合损害了*KMT2A*的正常功能,并通过募集表观遗传多蛋白复合物(包括组蛋白H3赖氨酸79(H3K79)甲基转移酶DOT1L、溴结构域蛋白、乙酰转移酶HBO1和其他几种获得机会性致癌功能的蛋白)导致异常转录激活^[9-11]。Meyer等^[12]开展的一项全球多中心涉及3401例*KMT2A-r*急性白血病患者的研究显示,在目前发现的TPG中,有6种在*KMT2A-r* AML中最常见,包括*MLLT3*、*MLLT10*、*ELL*、*AFDN*、*MLLT1*和*MLLT11*,6种TPG与*KMT2A*-PTD共占有所有病例80%以上。*HOX*基因,特别是*HOXA9*和*HOXA10*,是*KMT2A*融合蛋白的主要靶点。被上调表达的*HOX*基因与辅助因子基因*MEIS1*及*PBX3*一起,在造血干细胞和携带*KMT2A*易位祖细胞的转录重编程中发挥重要作用,导致细胞分化受损^[13]和对DNA损伤抑制剂的抗性^[14]。此外,易位导致的*MYC*基因的表达也通过驱动细胞增殖和存活来促进*KMT2A-r*介导的白血病发生^[15]。

3 *KMT2A-r* AML 的治疗

3.1 传统化疗

多项国内外研究显示*KMT2A-r* AML恶性程度高,对传统AML化疗方案DNR联合Ara-C“3+7”方案不敏感,缓解率低,复发率高^[16-20]。一项回顾性研究分析184例*KMT2A-r* AML结果显示,经传统化疗治疗后患者的中位总生存时间(overall survival, OS)和中位无复发生存时间(relapse-free survival, RFS)分别为15.7和13.3个月,随访2年OS率和RFS率分别为36.72%和29.33%,142例达到完全缓解(complete remission, CR)的患者中,88例复发(61.97%)^[18]。结果显示传统化疗方案无法取得较好的疗效,急需寻求更好的治疗方法与治疗靶点。

3.2 靶向治疗

3.2.1 已开发药物

Lopes 等^[21]使用癌症药物敏感性基因组学数据库(Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer, GDSC)中345种药物的IC₅₀数据进行药物敏感性分析,观察到 *KMT2A*-r 细胞系对5-氟尿嘧啶(抗代谢化疗药物)、吉西他滨(抗代谢化疗药物)、WHI-P97(JAK-3抑制剂)、foretinib(MET/VEGFR抑制剂)、SNX-2112(Hsp90抑制剂)、AZD6482(PI3K β 抑制剂)、KU-60019(ATM激酶抑制剂)和pevonedistat(NEDD8活化酶抑制剂)更敏感,此项研究也为临床药物选择提供了新思路。

3.2.2 靶向药物及临床试验数据

Menin抑制剂: Menin蛋白是 *KMT2A*-r 驱动白血病发生的必要致癌辅助因子,缺少 Menin 与 *KMT2A* 相互作用则可中断白血病基因表达模式。临床前研究表明, Menin 抑制剂可逆转由 *HOX* 基因及其辅助因子基因 *MEIS1* 介导的异常基因表达,从而治疗 *KMT2A*-r 或核磷蛋白1突变(nucleophosmin 1-mutated, 以下称 *NPM1*-m)白血病^[22-23]。因此 Menin 上的 *KMT2A* 结合位点成为小分子抑制剂的作用靶点。从2012年开始,第一批以羟甲基和氨基甲基哌啶化合物为代表的小分子 Menin 抑制剂被开发出来。虽然这些化合物表现出较强的体外抑制活性,但其较差的代谢稳定性限制了体内药效学研究^[24-25]。后来研究发现了一种新型的噻吩并嘧啶类小分子抑制剂,其具有良好的口服生物利用度和较强的靶标结合活性^[26],被称为第2代 Menin 抑制剂。2024年11月15日,美国食品药品监督管理局(Food and Drug Administration, FDA)批准了 revumenib(商品名: Revuforj)用于治疗伴有 *KMT2A* 易位的复发或难治性(relapsed or refractory, r/r)急性白血病成人患者和1岁及以上的儿童患者,此项批准主要基于 AUGMENT-101(NCT04065399)临床试验的积极结果。AUGMENT-101 临床试验是一项多中心、单组、开放标签的 I/II 期研究,旨在研究 revumenib 对 r/r *KMT2A*-r 和 *NPM1*-m 急性白血病患者的安全性和有效性。2021年10月1日—2023年7月24日,94例 *KMT2A*-r 急性白血病患者被纳入 AUGMENT-101 的 II 期研究,其中包括78例(83.0%)AML患者、14例(14.9%)ALL患者和2例(2.1%)谱系不明的急性白血病患者,在可评估疗效的57例患者中,CR+完全缓解伴部分血液学恢复(complete remission with partial hematologic recovery, CRh)率为22.8%,客观

缓解率(objective response rate, ORR)为63.2%^[27]。此外,现有7种口服 Menin 抑制剂处于 AML 治疗的临床试验阶段: HMPL-506^[28]、KO-539(ziftomenib)^[29]、DSP-5336(enzomenib)^[30]、DS-1594^[31]、BN104^[31]、BMF-219^[32]和 JNJ-75276617^[33]。Zeidner 等^[34]报道了 enzomenib 最新临床试验结果,截至2024年6月24日,共有35例伴有 *KMT2A*-r 或 *NPM1*-m 的 r/r 急性白血病患者之前未接受过 Menin 抑制剂治疗,并接受了有效剂量的 enzomenib 治疗,在22例 *KMT2A*-r 急性白血病受试者(20例 AML, 2例 ALL)中,ORR 为59.1%,CR+CRh 率为22.7%。Wang 等^[35]报道了 ziftomenib 最新临床试验结果,自2019年9月12日—2022年8月19日,共83例伴有 *KMT2A*-r 或 *NPM1*-m 的 r/r AML 患者接受50~1 000 mg ziftomenib 治疗,在这项 Ib 期试验中,使用200 mg 剂量水平治疗的 *KMT2A*-r AML 患者无应答报告,在剂量提高至600 mg 时,18例成人 *KMT2A*-r AML 患者 CR+CRh 率为11%。Menin 抑制剂与其他药物联用的研究也正在逐步开展,临床前研究表明, ziftomenib 联合 venetoclax/azacitidine 治疗 *KMT2A*-r AML 异种移植小鼠可诱导持久缓解^[36], ziftomenib 与 selinexor 联合可协同抑制 *KMT2A*-r AML 细胞系的生长^[37]。鉴于目前研究所示的单药治疗活性, ziftomenib 与化疗药物或 FLT3 抑制剂联合开发可能为 *KMT2A*-r AML 患者提供更多的临床益处,有待进一步探究。此外,有研究发现免疫调节酰亚胺类药物(immunomodulatory imide drug, IMiD)间接靶向的转录因子 Ikaros 与 *KMT2A*/Menin、MEIS1 以及1个涉及 HOXA10、MEIS1 和 Ikaros 的广泛造血转录复合体表现出显著的功能协同性和广泛的染色质共占用。在 *KMT2A*-r AML 细胞系 MOLM13 和 MV411 中, Menin 结合的转录起始位点与 Ikaros 共占率分别为62.0%和85.2%, Ikaros 结合的增强子与 MEIS1 共占率分别为81.4%和62.8%。通过评价 Menin 抑制剂 VTP-50469 和 IMiD 在 *KMT2A*-r AML 细胞系以及小鼠模型中联合治疗的疗效,研究者证明了 Ikaros 降解和 Menin 抑制的结合有效地破坏了促进白血病发生的转录网络,协同杀伤白血病细胞,为快速临床转化提供了机会^[38]。

DOT1L抑制剂: DOT1L 是唯一特异性靶向核小体 H3K79 进行单、二或三甲基化的组蛋白甲基转移酶,参与多种生物过程,包括基因转录、异染色质形成和 DNA 损伤反应^[39]。 *KMT2A* 融合蛋白和 DOT1L 之间的相互作用已被证明可以促进转录延伸和异常

募集 DOT1L 至 *KMT2A* 融合蛋白靶基因(如 *HOXA9* 和 *MEIS1*),促进 *KMT2A-r* AML 发生发展^[9,40]。目前研究者们已合成了多种 DOT1L 酶抑制剂,其中只有 pinometostat (EPZ-5676) 进入临床试验阶段,但临床效果不佳^[41]。2012年9月—2015年10月,共有 51 例 *r/r* 急性白血病成年患者入组,包括 42 例 *KMT2A-r* 患者,最后仅有 2 例达到 CR,其中 1 例为 *KMT2A-r* 患者。数据表明,对于大多数 *r/r* *KMT2A-r* 白血病的成年患者, pinometostat 单药治疗获得的 DOT1L 抑制水平不足以实现临床获益^[42]。随着组合干预的靶向治疗方法在白血病治疗中引起了越来越多的关注,药物联合应用的研究正逐步开展。研究表明 pinometostat 与 Menin 抑制剂、LSD1 抑制剂、传统化疗药物、Bcl-2 抑制剂等联合治疗效果优于单药治疗^[43-46], pinometostat 联合传统化疗药物治疗 *KMT2A-r* AML 临床试验(NCT03724084、NCT03701295)正在进行中。未来 DOT1L 抑制剂需要进一步优化,同时 DOT1L 降解剂作为新兴的治疗策略也值得进一步探索。

3.2.3 其他靶点的临床前研究

目前,潜在治疗靶点的临床前研究正在广泛开展中,研究主要集中在 *KMT2A* 活性蛋白结构、*KMT2A-r* AML 上下游调控模块和转录调节因子,包括 WDR5^[47]、CK2、Taspase 1^[48]、SET-PP2A^[49]、IRF8/MEF2D^[50]、LSC 增强子^[51]、FBXO22^[52]、LIN28B^[53]、IL3RA/CD123^[54]、ZNF521^[55]、MBNL1^[56]、HDAC^[57]等,为深入理解 *KMT2A-r* AML 发病机制和开发治疗策略提供了重要线索。

3.3 造血干细胞移植(hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, HSCT)

HSCT 是目前血液系统疾病治疗的重要手段,是诱导缓解后巩固治疗中的重要组成部分。然而,HSCT 在 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者治疗中的作用仍然存在争议。有一些研究报道了 HSCT 对 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者的益处,一项招募了 184 例成年 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者的研究发现,未接受移植患者随访 2 年 OS 率和 RFS 率分别为 21.83% 和 15.07%,而接受移植的患者 2 年 OS 率和 RFS 率分别为 58.12% 和 52.97%^[18]。在另一项异基因造血干细胞移植(allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, allo-HSCT)治疗 *KMT2A-r* AML 疗效及预后价值的队列研究中,也观察到类似的结果,接受移植的患者 2 年 OS 率和 RFS 率分别为 59.1% 和 49.6%^[58]。然而也有两项回顾性研究表明 HSCT 并没有显著改善患者生存情况^[59-60],值得一提

的是,这两项都是针对儿童 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者的研究。因此,HSCT 在 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者中的疗效与患者年龄的相关性有待进一步探索。不同 *KMT2A-r* 亚型 AML 的预后也存在着差异,欧洲血液和骨髓移植组的急性白血病工作组对 2000—2010 年接受 allo-HSCT 的 159 例成年 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者进行了回顾性分析,发现对于 t(9; 11) 或 t(11; 19) 患者,行 allo-HSCT 后预后良好,2 年 OS 率分别为 64% 和 73%,而 t(6; 11) 和 t(10; 11) 患者则预后较差,2 年 OS 率仅为 40% 和 39%^[61],且 t(6; 11) 和 t(10; 11) 患者的复发风险明显高于 t(9; 11) 和 t(11; 19) 患者。同时,多项研究表明在第一次完全缓解期(first complete remission, CR1)行 HSCT 和在 HSCT 前达到微小残留病变(minimal residual disease, MRD)阴性对 *KMT2A-r* AML 患者 OS、RFS 和累计复发率(cumulative incidence of relapse, CIR)具有显著保护作用^[18,58-62]。

3.4 细胞免疫治疗

近年来,肿瘤免疫治疗作为一种新兴的肿瘤治疗方式,正在飞速发展。肿瘤免疫治疗主要包括治疗性肿瘤疫苗、溶瘤病毒、细胞因子免疫疗法、免疫检查点抑制剂、细胞免疫疗法等^[63-65],近期新报道的细菌介导免疫疗法也受到广泛关注^[66-67]。嵌合抗原受体 T 细胞(chimeric antigen receptor T-cell, CAR-T)疗法是细胞免疫疗法中发展最快的分支之一,在治疗血液肿瘤方面获得巨大成功。CAR-T 疗法是指通过基因修饰技术,将带有特异性抗原识别结构域及 T 细胞激活信号的遗传物质转入 T 细胞,使 T 细胞直接与肿瘤表面的特异性抗原结合从而实现精准靶向治疗。目前,CAR-T 治疗在 *r/r* B 细胞肿瘤^[68-69]和 *r/r* 多发性骨髓瘤^[70-72]病例中疗效显著,但在 AML 中尚未得到广泛应用。CAR-T 细胞治疗 *r/r* AML 的难点包括①由于 AML 细胞和患者抗原表达的特异性,难以确定最佳靶抗原;②*r/r* AML 患者通常有多种并发症,加大治疗难度;③*r/r* AML 患者血液样本质量不佳,造成 CAR-T 细胞生产失败的风险高^[73]。利用大型 AML 和正常造血转录组数据库,研究者寻求发现“AML 限制性靶点”,即这些基因在正常造血过程中沉默,但在 AML 中表达。基于这项工作研究者构建了一个 AML 限制性靶点文库,其中包括 PRAME(黑色素瘤中优先表达抗原),这是一种通过细胞表面 MHC 表达的细胞内蛋白,在 AML(包括 *KMT2A-r* AML)中高度表达。在一项用 PRAME 导向 TCR 模拟 CAR-T 细胞治疗的临床前研

究中,研究者证明了PRAME^{mTCR}CAR-T细胞能够以靶向特异性的方式根除KMT2A-r AML,且未发现明显造血毒性^[74]。目前,多个AML靶点包括CD33、NKG2D、CD123、CLL-1和CD7正在广泛研究中。一些临床试验已经显示出有希望的结果,特别是靶向CLL-1^[75-78]或CD123^[79-80]的CAR-T细胞。同时,CAR-T细胞免疫疗法的毒性和显著的局限性促使人们研究其他免疫细胞作为CAR工程的潜在候选者。嵌合抗原受体自然杀伤细胞(chimeric antigen receptor natural killer cell, CAR-NK)和CAR-T细胞一样,也能够识别并靶向肿瘤细胞。CAR-NK细胞的自然特性使它们与CAR-T细胞相比具有更多优势,包括即时可用性、可诱导增殖、更高的安全性以及产生细胞因子和趋化因子的能力^[81]。目前CAR-NK在AML的研究主要聚焦在靶向CD33阳性白血病及联合化疗的疗效,暂无CAR-NK治疗AML或KMT2A-r AML的研究报道,但鉴于CAR-NK的优点,相信CAR-NK在改变AML治疗前景方面将具有巨大潜力。

4 总结

KMT2A-r AML作为AML的一种特殊亚型,使用传统DNR联合Ara-C“3+7”方案化疗缓解率低,且复发率高。目前,首个r/r KMT2A易位急性白血病靶向药Menin抑制剂revumenib已获得FDA批准上市,为治疗伴有KMT2A易位的r/r急性白血病成人患者和1岁及以上的儿童患者提供新的选择。此外,还有7种Menin抑制剂正处在临床试验阶段,部分已取得初步结果。研究者通过药物敏感性分析观察到KMT2A-r细胞系对部分已开发药物具有敏感性,为临床药物选择提供新思路。随着研究的不断进展,许多潜在治疗靶点被提出,在未来有待进一步探索。HSCT作为AML的根治治疗,在KMT2A-r AML患者中的作用仍然存在争议,多项研究表明在CR1期行HSCT和在HSCT前达到MRD阴性对KMT2A-r AML患者OS、RFS和CIR具有实质性的保护作用。CAR-T/CAR-NK作为一种新兴的肿瘤治疗方式,正在飞速发展,但在AML中尚未得到广泛应用。目前,多个AML靶点包括CD33、NKG2D、CD123、CLL-1和CD7,正在广泛研究。虽然暂无细胞产品接近实际应用,但可预见的是肿瘤免疫治疗在改变AML治疗前景方面具有巨大潜力。

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LI Jiaxin was responsible for literature search, reading and draft writing. TAO Shandong was responsible for topic selection and framework design. YU Liang was responsible for academic guidance, manuscript review and revision.

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