

• 专题研究:肾脏疾病 •

## 尿液细胞外囊泡中CKAP4与糖尿病肾病临床病理和预后的相关性

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**[摘要]** 目的: 探究尿液细胞外囊泡中关键蛋白细胞骨架相关蛋白4(cytoskeleton-associated protein 4, CKAP4)作为生物标志物预测糖尿病肾病(diabetic kidney disease, DKD)进展的能力。方法: 纳入南京医科大学第一附属医院143例肾活检证实DKD的2型糖尿病患者以及肾脏恶性肿瘤患者10例。免疫组化法检测肾组织中CKAP4的表达水平。采用Spearman相关分析CKAP4表达水平与临床指标的相关性。计算受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC), 以评估CKAP4表达是否能有效区分肾脏预后不良的患者。采用ROC曲线分析确定预测肾脏事件的CKAP4评分的最佳临界值(最高约登指数)。此外, 进行时间依赖性AUC分析, 以表征肾活检后6个月以上CKAP4的预测准确性。通过Cox比例风险模型随访CKAP4和DKD进展之间的风险比。将单变量分析中有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ )的临床病理因素作为协变量纳入多变量Cox比例风险模型分析。采用Kaplan-Meier分析评价CKAP4高表达组和CKAP4低表达组肾活检后6个月以上生存的差异。结果: 与肿瘤患者癌旁正常肾脏组织相比, CKAP4在DKD患者肾脏组织中表达增高, 差异有统计学意义( $P < 0.001$ )。CKAP4在不同分期的DKD患者肾组织中表达有差异, 其中Ⅱ期与Ⅲ期、Ⅱ期与Ⅳ期、Ⅲ期与Ⅳ期之间的差异均有统计学意义( $P$ 均 $< 0.05$ )。DKD患者CKAP4表达与血清肌酐、尿素氮、24 h尿蛋白呈正相关, 与肾小球滤过率估计值、血红蛋白呈负相关。DKD患者中位随访期为2.22年, 63例(44.06%)患者出现DKD进展。Pearson相关分析显示, CKAP4表达水平随DKD病理分级的升高而升高( $r=0.808, P < 0.001$ )。多因素Cox回归分析显示, CKAP4高表达与DKD进展的风险增加相关(HR=4.120, 95%CI: 1.730~9.811,  $P=0.001$ )。此外, 在Kaplan-Meier生存分析中, CKAP4高表达组患者的肾脏终点事件的发生率显著高于CKAP4低表达组( $P < 0.001$ )。绘制了包括CKAP4分类在内的列线图来预测DKD进展风险(C-index: 0.689)。结论: 来源于尿液细胞外囊泡的CKAP4是DKD患者肾活检后6个月以上疾病进展的独立危险因素。

**[关键词]** 糖尿病肾病; 尿液细胞外囊泡; CKAP4; 纤维化

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## Correlation between CKAP4 in urinary extracellular vesicles and clinicopathology and prognosis of diabetic nephropathy

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**[Abstract]** **Objective:** To investigate the ability of the histological expression of the key protein cytoskeleton-associated protein 4 (CKAP4) in urine extracellular vesicles as a biomarker for the progression of diabetic kidney disease (DKD). **Methods:** A total of 143 type 2 diabetic patients with biopsy-proven DKD and 10 patients with renal malignant tumors were enrolled from the First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University. The expression of CKAP4 in renal tissue was detected by immunohistochemistry. Spearman's correlation analysis was used to analyze the correlation between CKAP4 expression level and clinical indicators. The area under the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve (AUC) was calculated to assess whether CKAP4 expression could effectively distinguish

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patients with poor renal prognosis. ROC curve analysis was used to determine the best cut-off value of CKAP4 score for renal events (highest Youden's index). Time-dependent AUC analyses were also performed to characterize the predictive accuracy of CKAP4 beyond 6 months after renal biopsy. In addition, hazard ratios between CKAP4 and DKD progression were calculated using by Cox proportional hazards models. The clinicopathological factors with statistical significance ( $P < 0.05$ ) in univariate analysis were included as covariates in multivariate Cox proportional hazards model analysis. Kaplan-Meier analysis was used to evaluate the difference in survival beyond 6 months after renal biopsy between CKAP4 high-expression and CKAP4 low-expression groups. **Results:** Compared with the adjacent normal kidney tissues of tumor patients, the expression of CKAP4 in the kidneys of DKD patients was significantly increased ( $P < 0.05$ ). The expression of CKAP4 in renal tissues of DKD patients was different in different stages, and the differences between stage II and stage III, stage II and stage IV, and stage III and stage IV were statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). The expression level of CKAP4 in DKD patients was positively correlated with serum creatinine, urea nitrogen and 24 h urine protein, while negatively correlated with estimated glomerular filtration rate and hemoglobin. During a median follow-up period of 2.22 years, 63 patients (44.06%) had DKD progression. Pearson correlation analysis showed that CKAP4 increased with the increase of pathological grade of DKD ( $r=0.808$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). Of note, multivariate Cox regression analysis showed that elevated CKAP4 was associated with an increased risk of DKD progression (HR: 4.120, 95% CI: 1.730–9.811,  $P=0.001$ ). In addition, in Kaplan-Meier survival analysis, patients with high CKAP4 expression had a significantly higher incidence of renal endpoint events than those with low CKAP4 expression ( $P < 0.001$ ). At the same time, a nomogram was developed including CKAP4 classification to predict the risk of DKD progression (C-index: 0.689). **Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that expression of CKAP4, derived from urine extracellular vesicles, is an independent risk factor for disease progression over 6 months after renal biopsy in DKD patients.

[Key words] diabetic nephropathy; urine extracellular vesicles; CKAP4; fibrosis

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糖尿病肾病(diabetic kidney disease, DKD)是指由糖尿病引起的慢性肾脏病(chronic kidney disease, CKD),是糖尿病最主要的微血管并发症之一<sup>[1]</sup>。糖尿病引起的肾小管损伤会导致慢性缺氧,发生肾小球硬化与肾间质纤维化并进展为CKD<sup>[2]</sup>,是导致终末期肾病(end-stage kidney disease, ESKD)的主要原因之一。在临床实践中,肾脏疾病诊断的金标准仍是肾组织活检,对评估肾脏病理、提供预后风险信息至关重要<sup>[3]</sup>。然而,活检本身是一种有创性检查,且受多种因素限制,肾组织活检不能在临床实践中被常规用于DKD的诊断或监测<sup>[4-5]</sup>。因此,探寻有效且无创的生物标志物以帮助DKD的早期诊断、长期监测和治疗,对延缓CKD进展、改善远期预后起着至关重要的作用。

越来越多的研究表明,细胞之间的信息交流对维持机体稳态至关重要,细胞间和器官间通信失调在糖尿病及其并发症进展中发挥了重要作用<sup>[6]</sup>。细胞外囊泡(extracellular vesicle, EV)是细胞释放的膜包裹结构,是一类介导细胞间和器官间通信的新型信号分子,携带着大量的细胞因子、趋化因子及参与信号转导的蛋白质、脂质等生物活性物质<sup>[7]</sup>,在生理和病理过程中参与细胞间物质代谢,具有信息传递,调节肾脏细胞代谢、炎症和免疫反应、血栓形成

以及修复等功能,参与DKD的病理生理过程<sup>[8-9]</sup>。EV广泛存在于人体各种体液中,包括血液、尿液、脑脊液、泪液、唾液等,其中尿液可以反复收集,而且对机体无创伤,近年来部分研究表明,源于尿液细胞外囊泡(urinary extracellular vesicle, uEV)的蛋白标志物比全尿液分析更能准确反映DKD患者肾脏潜在的病理变化,更适合作为DKD疾病发展的监测指标<sup>[10]</sup>。而且,由于EV是大分子物质,不能穿过肾小球滤过屏障,因此在肾损害早期,uEV不会受到体内血源性EV的污染<sup>[11]</sup>。同时uEV的内容物在其双层脂质膜结构的包裹下,能避免被细胞外蛋白酶降解,从而使uEV内的分子能稳定地表达<sup>[12]</sup>。因此,通过检测uEV内的一些生物分子来诊断和监测DKD也许将成为替代肾脏病理活检及蛋白尿检查的一种潜在且合乎逻辑的有效手段。

细胞骨架相关蛋白4(cytoskeleton-associated protein 4, CKAP4),又被称为p63,是一种由602个氨基酸构成的非糖基化II型跨膜蛋白,在癌症、细胞迁移和信号转导中发挥作用<sup>[13-14]</sup>。研究表明,CKAP4可能通过调控转化生长因子(transforming growth factor, TGF)- $\beta$ 通路促进纤维化<sup>[15]</sup>。有文献报道,CKAP4在特发性肺纤维化(idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, IPF)患者的肺组织中高表达<sup>[15-16]</sup>。这提示CKAP4与纤

维化疾病之间存在紧密联系。本课题组先前的研究通过连续离心法从各种肾脏病患者的尿液中分离 uEV, 同时创新性使用麦胚凝集素(wheat germ agglutinin, WGA)偶联磁珠结合流式细胞术捕获和分析获取的 uEV 中的蛋白质。全面且深入的蛋白质组学研究与分析发现, CKAP4 是 DKD 患者 uEV 中的一种特异性蛋白质。这一发现为探索 DKD 的发病机制提供了新方向。然而, 目前针对不同分期 DKD 患者 CKAP4 表达差异的研究较少。鉴于 CKAP4 在纤维化相关疾病以及 DKD 患者 uEV 中的特殊表现, 深入研究不同分期 DKD 患者体内 CKAP4 的表达差异, 对于进一步明晰 DKD 的发病机制、疾病进展过程以及探寻潜在的治疗靶点, 均具有重要意义。

## 1 对象和方法

### 1.1 对象

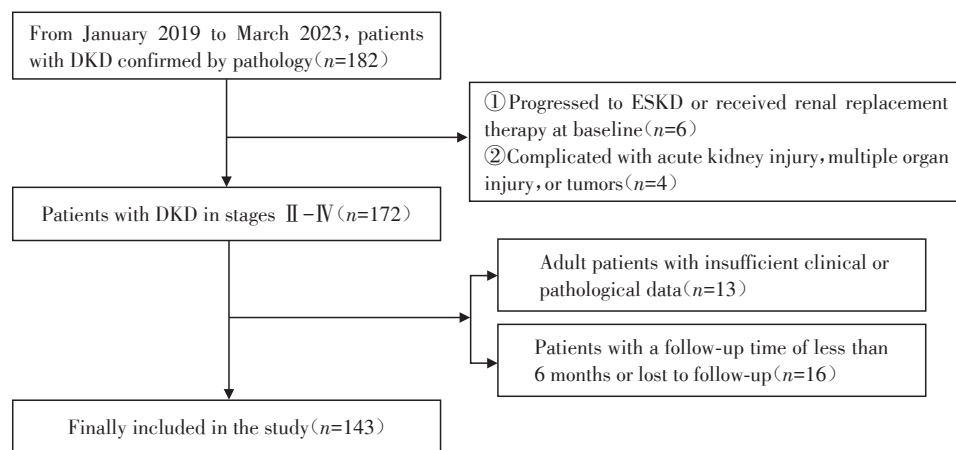
本研究对象来自 2019 年 1 月—2023 年 3 月在南

京医科大学第一附属医院肾内科住院并经肾活检确诊的 DKD 患者(图 1)。纳入标准: 年龄 $\geq 18$  周岁; 肾活检诊断为 DKD; 肾小球滤过率估计值(estimated glomerular filtration rate, eGFR) $> 15$  mL/(min $\cdot 1.73$  m $^2$ )。排除标准: 年龄 $< 18$  岁; 急性肾损伤; 活检证实非 DKD; 临床资料不足(无 24 h 尿蛋白等)或病理资料不足(肾活检 $< 5$  个肾小球); 合并全身性疾病, 如肝硬化、心力衰竭、呼吸衰竭; 随访时间不足或失访。本研究将肾细胞癌患者的癌旁非癌肾组织作为阴性对照( $n=10$ ), 所有对照标本病理检查证实为正常组织。本研究经南京医科大学第一附属医院伦理委员会批准(2018-SR-250), 所有研究对象均知情同意, 遵循《赫尔辛基宣言》的指导原则进行。

### 1.2 方法

#### 1.2.1 临床及实验室参数

从医疗记录中收集 143 例入组患者住院期间的完整临床和实验室数据, 包括年龄、性别、体重指数(body mass index, BMI)、24 h 尿蛋白、eGFR、尿素氮



DKD: diabetic kidney disease; ESKD: end-stage kidney disease.

图 1 DKD 患者招募流程图

Figure 1 Flow chart of DKD patient recruitment

(blood urea nitrogen, BUN)、血清肌酐(serum creatinine, Scr)、尿酸、血清白蛋白、血红蛋白、空腹血糖(fasting blood glucose, FBG)、糖化血红蛋白(glycosylated hemoglobin, HbA1c)、甘油三酯(triglyceride, TG)、总胆固醇(total cholesterol, TC)、低密度脂蛋白胆固醇(low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, LDL-C)、高密度脂蛋白胆固醇(high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C)。eGFR 根据慢性肾脏疾病流行病学协作组(Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Col-

laboration, CKD-EPI)公式计算<sup>[17]</sup>。

使用光镜、电子显微镜和免疫荧光检查肾活检组织病理特征。所有肾活检病理阅片均由两名经验丰富的肾脏病理学医师独立完成, 阅片过程不参考患者临床资料, 依据 HE 染色、过碘酸雪夫染色、银染以及 Masson 法等, 再结合电镜结果进行 DKD 病理分期诊断。DKD 的病理诊断特点包括: 肾小球基底膜增厚、系膜外基质沉积增多、结节性肾小球硬化和球性肾小球硬化; 不同程度的肾小管萎缩、肾

间质炎症细胞浸润和肾纤维化;微血管病变,包括小动脉内膜玻璃样变性和肾小球纤维蛋白帽等。DKD的病理分型如下:I型,肾小球基底膜增厚;II型,超过20%的肾小球发生系膜增生(其中IIa型为轻度系膜增生,IIb型为重度系膜增生);III型,结节性硬化(至少见1个K-W结节);IV型,超过50%肾小球发生球性肾小球硬化。病理分级参考2010年肾脏病理学会肾间质小管及血管病变的病理分级标准,进行DKD肾间质小管及血管病变评分<sup>[18]</sup>。肾小管间质病变(interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy, IFTA)评分:无(0分),无肾小管萎缩或间质纤维化;轻度(1分),<25% IFTA;中度(2分),25%~50% IFTA;重度(3分),>50% IFTA。间质炎症评分:0分,无间质炎症;1分,与IFTA相关的炎性浸润;2分,无IFTA区域也有炎性浸润。血管玻璃样变评分:0分,无;1分,有1个小动脉伴玻璃样变性;2分,有2个以上小动脉伴玻璃样变性。血管硬化评分:0分,无内膜增厚;1分,内膜增厚未超过中膜厚度;2分,内膜厚度超过中膜厚度。两名病理学医师之间的任何评分差异都被反复审查,直到获得共识。

### 1.2.2 随访

将复合肾脏终点定义为Scr比基线值加倍升高或发生ESKD,作为主要结局。ESKD的定义为发生eGFR<15 mL/(min·1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)或肾移植或维持透析。当患者未达到终点时,记录其最后1次随访数据。生存时间是从入组到事件发生或最后1次随访的时间。

### 1.2.3 免疫组织化学

石蜡包埋组织切片2 μm,脱蜡后切片置于柠檬酸盐缓冲液(pH 6.0)中20 min,并用PBS洗涤。在室温下用5%牛血清白蛋白封闭1 h,切片与CKAP4抗体(货号:16686-1-AP,1:200,Proteintech公司,美国)4℃孵育过夜。切片用PBS洗涤,然后与二抗在37℃孵育1 h。切片用DAB染色2 min,再用苏木精复染细胞核,最后脱水并固定。每张切片由显微镜随机拍摄8~10张照片,并用Image-ProPlus计算阳性表达量。

### 1.3 统计学方法

所有数据统计均在SPSS26.0和Rv4.0.2中完成。符合正态分布的计量资料以均数±标准差( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )表示,不符合正态分布的用中位数(四分位数)[ $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ],计数资料用例(百分比)[ $n(\%)$ ]表示。采用单因素方差分析(ANOVA)、Kruskal-Wallis检验或卡方检验进行组间比较。采用Spearman相关分析CKAP4表达水平与临床指标的相关性。计

算受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线的曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC),以评估CKAP4表达是否能有效区分肾脏预后不良的患者。同时,采用ROC曲线分析确定CKAP4评分预测肾脏事件的最佳临界值(最高约登指数)。此外,Cox比例风险回归模型对肾活检后存活超过6个月患者( $n=143$ )的CKAP4与DKD进展的风险比进行随访。将单变量分析中有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ )的临床病理因素作为协变量纳入多变量Cox比例风险模型分析。采用Kaplan-Meier分析评价CKAP4高表达组和CKAP4低表达组肾活检后6个月以上生存的差异。采用“rms”软件包(R Foundation for Statistical Computing)建立列线图(nomogram),基于Cox比例风险回归模型预测1年和3年无事件生存的概率。此外,还进行时间依赖性AUC分析,以表征肾活检后6个月以上CKAP4的预测准确性。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 基线资料

本研究共纳入143例经肾穿刺活检证实的DKD患者,其中男104例(72.72%),女39例(27.28%),中位年龄54岁,BMI为(25.01±3.75)kg/m<sup>2</sup>。基线时,24 h尿蛋白为2 512(645.50, 5 923.50)mg/d,eGFR为66.00(38.50, 106.00)mL/(min·1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)。中位随访期为2.22年,随访期间,63例(44.06%)患者达复合肾脏终点。患者Scr、尿酸、HbA1c、白蛋白等基线水平见表1。

### 2.2 不同病理分期DKD患者的临床及实验室参数比较

将143例患者依据病理诊断结果分为II期、III期、IV期。其中II期53例,III期52例,IV期38例(表2)。3组间Scr、BUN、eGFR、血红蛋白、24 h尿蛋白、白蛋白、TC、LDL-C、HDL-C、CKAP4表达水平差异均有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ )。病理分型越严重的患者Scr、BUN、TG、24 h尿蛋白越高,eGFR越低( $P < 0.05$ )。病理特征(IFTA、间质炎症、血管玻璃样变和血管硬化)在3组间差异也有统计学意义(表2)。

### 2.3 DKD患者CKAP4表达水平与临床病理特征的相关性

如表3所示,CKAP4的组织学表达与Scr( $r=0.235, P=0.005$ )、BUN( $r=0.274, P=0.001$ )、24 h尿蛋白( $r=0.259, P=0.002$ )呈正相关,与血红蛋白( $r=-0.269, P=0.001$ )、eGFR( $r=-0.442, P < 0.001$ )呈负相关。值

表1 143例DKD患者基线临床资料  
Table 1 Baseline clinical data of 143 patients with DKD

Clinical parameter	Value
Age[years, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	54(47, 60)
BMI(kg/m <sup>2</sup> , $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	25.01 $\pm$ 3.75
Scr[ $\mu$ mol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	124.30(89.30, 206.65)
BUN[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	9.53(6.92, 13.14)
eGFR[mL/(min $\cdot$ 1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ )]	66.00(38.50, 106.00)
Hemoglobin[g/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	110.00(96.00, 128.00)
24 h urine protein[mg/24 h, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	2 512.00(645.50, 5 923.50)
HbA1c[% , $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	7.10(6.30, 8.25)
Albumin(g/L, $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	32.19 $\pm$ 6.70
Serum uric acid[ $\mu$ mol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	384.00(338.00, 441.50)
FBG[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	5.52(4.30, 7.83)
TG[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	1.64(1.15, 2.34)
TC[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	5.21(4.16, 6.33)
HDL-C[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	1.14(0.89, 1.42)
LDL-C[mmol/L, $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	3.14(2.51, 4.05)
CKAP4 expression level <sup>*</sup> [ $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ ]	93.21(80.31, 104.57)

\*The mean integrated optical density of CKAP4 staining was quantified by Image-Pro Plus.

得注意的是,CKAP4与病理表现(包括病理分级、IFTA、间质炎症、血管玻璃样变和血管硬化)呈正相关( $P$ 均 $< 0.001$ )。

#### 2.4 CKAP4在不同病理分期DKD患者肾组织中的表达差异性

免疫组化染色显示,与对照组相比,CKAP4在DKD患者肾脏组织内表达增高,主要表达在肾小管部位(图2)。半定量分析结果显示,高病理分级患者的CKAP4表达高于低病理分级患者。II类与III类之间、II类与IV类之间、III类与IV类之间差异均有统计学意义( $P < 0.001$ ,图3)。

#### 2.5 DKD患者CKAP4与肾脏预后的关系

在中位随访2.22年期间,63例进展为Scr水平翻倍或ESKD。CKAP4表达预测肾脏综合预后的AUC为0.667。采用ROC分析确定CKAP4表达的最佳临界值。根据截断值(CKAP4相对表达量=81.6)将患者分为CKAP4高表达组和CKAP4低表达组。Cox回归之前进行假设检验,CKAP4对肾脏预后的影响满足比例风险假设。单因素Cox回归分析发现,血红蛋白(HR=0.981,95%CI:0.970~0.993, $P=0.002$ )、FBG(HR=0.902,95%CI:0.816~0.996, $P=0.042$ )、尿酸(HR=1.003,95%CI:1.000~1.005, $P=0.026$ )、BUN(HR=1.078,95%CI:1.043~1.114, $P < 0.001$ )、eGFR(HR=0.984,95%CI:0.977~0.991, $P < 0.001$ )、24 h尿蛋白(HR=1.086,95%CI:1.032~

1.142, $P < 0.001$ )、病理分期(HR=1.932,95%CI:1.506~2.479, $P < 0.001$ )、血管玻璃样变评分(HR=1.369,95%CI:1.011~1.853, $P=0.042$ )、血管硬化评分(HR=1.523,95%CI:1.138~2.039, $P=0.005$ )、CKAP4表达(HR=1.036,95%CI:1.017~1.055, $P < 0.001$ )与DKD进展显著相关。在多变量Cox回归分析中,CKAP4表达仍然是DKD进展的独立危险因素(HR=4.120,95%CI:1.730~9.811, $P=0.001$ ,表4)。

Kaplan-Meier生存分析显示,在随访时间里,与CKAP4高表达组(CKAP4相对表达量 $\geq 81.6$ )相比,CKAP4低表达组(CKAP4相对表达量 $< 81.6$ )的患者生存率更高( $P < 0.001$ ,图4)。

随访1、2、3年纳入的研究对象人数分别为129、81、39例。结果显示,各个随访时间点,CKAP4在预测DKD进展方面表现稳定。CKAP4具有良好的鉴别能力,1年、2年和3年复合肾脏终点的时间依赖性AUC值分别为0.562(95%CI:0.368~0.756)、0.691(95%CI:0.554~0.780)和0.633(95%CI:0.499~0.768)(图5A)。此外根据多变量分析中确定的3个预后因素(FBG、24 h尿蛋白、CKAP4表达水平)建立了列线图,预测3年无事件生存率(图5B)。

ROC曲线分析显示,CKAP4鉴别肾脏终点结局的AUC为0.693(灵敏度84.1%,特异度53.7%)。预测DKD进展列线图的C-index为0.689(95%CI:0.553~0.708)。而CKAP4、eGFR及24 h尿蛋白的

表2 不同病理分期DKD患者的临床病理资料

Table 2 Clinical and pathological data of DKD patients at different pathological stages

Parameter	Stage II (n=53)	Stage III (n=52)	Stage IV (n=38)	
Sex (male/female, n/n)	43/10	36/16	25/13	
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> , $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	25.57 ± 2.97	24.59 ± 4.08	24.81 ± 4.21	
Scr [μmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	96.20(76.10, 140.10)	122.55(89.92, 162.42)	206.65(158.05, 299.25)	
BUN [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	7.78(6.02, 11.12)	9.21(7.19, 10.89)	13.44(9.70, 17.00)	
eGFR [mL/(min·1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	101.00(60.00, 126.00)	69.50(43.00, 94.00)	36.00(22.00, 52.75)	
Hemoglobin [g/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	125.00(108.00, 140.00)	102.50(93.75, 114.75)	105.50(95.25, 113.75)	
24 h urine protein [mg/24 h, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	1.75(0.66, 3.55)	4.87(2.46, 9.78)	4.88(2.29, 7.31)	
HbA1c [% , M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	7.20(6.50, 8.30)	7.09(6.27, 8.25)	7.20(5.99, 8.05)	
Albumin (g/L, $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	34.62 ± 6.95	29.92 ± 5.98	31.91 ± 6.28	
Serum uric acid [μmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	413.00(353.00, 464.00)	371.00(323.25, 413.75)	395.00(334.50, 444.25)	
FBG [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	5.17(4.09, 7.23)	5.71(4.70, 7.22)	5.78(3.87, 9.46)	
TG [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	1.77(1.18, 2.75)	1.52(1.11, 1.83)	1.85(1.14, 2.57)	
TC [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	4.45(3.89, 5.77)	5.44(4.68, 6.86)	5.17(4.12, 6.51)	
HDL-C [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.95(0.85, 1.24)	1.33(1.04, 1.64)	1.06(0.84, 1.30)	
LDL-C [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	2.87(2.28, 3.72)	3.49(2.75, 4.28)	3.08(2.51, 4.00)	
CKAP4 expression level <sup>*</sup> [M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	79.52(77.18, 81.42)	94.23(92.54, 96.07)	111.09(107.96, 112.27)	
Pathology				
IFTA score (0/1/2/3, n/n/n/n)	2/24/22/5	0/21/23/8	0/2/19/17	
Interstitial inflammation score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	4/36/13	4/25/23	0/14/24	
Arteriolar hyalinosis score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	16/36/1	2/36/14	2/15/21	
Arteriosclerosis score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	53/0/0	38/13/1	18/12/8	
Parameter	P(overall)	P(II vs. III)	P(II vs. IV)	P(III vs. IV)
Sex (male/female, n/n)	0.209	0.158	0.097	0.209
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> , $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	0.380	0.277	0.253	0.380
Scr [μmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	0.037	<0.001	<0.001
BUN [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	0.107	<0.001	<0.001
eGFR [mL/(min·1.73 m <sup>2</sup> , M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	0.004	<0.001	<0.001
Hemoglobin [g/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
24 h urine protein [mg/24 h, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
HbA1c [% , M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.604	0.465	0.344	0.665
Albumin (g/L, $\bar{x} \pm s$ )	0.001	<0.001	0.018	0.001
Serum uric acid [μmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.118	0.040	0.509	0.121
FBG [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.618	0.330	0.530	0.818
TG [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.113	0.062	0.888	0.039
TC [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.015	0.004	0.198	0.019
HDL-C [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	<0.001	0.732	0.208
LDL-C [mmol/L, M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	0.042	0.013	0.214	0.045
CKAP4 expression level <sup>*</sup> [M(P <sub>25</sub> , P <sub>75</sub> )]	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Pathology				
IFTA score (0/1/2/3, n/n/n/n)	<0.001	0.494	<0.001	<0.001
Interstitial inflammation score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	0.002	0.106	<0.001	0.002
Arteriolar hyalinosis score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
Arteriosclerosis score (0/1/2, n/n/n)	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

\*The mean integrated optical density of CKAP4 staining was quantified by Image-Pro Plus.

表3 DKD患者CKAP4与临床病理指标的相关性  
Table 3 Correlation between CKAP4 and clinical pathological indicators in patients with DKD

Parameter	r	P
Sex	0.122	0.075
Age	-0.031	0.713
BMI	-0.049	0.561
Hemoglobin	-0.269	0.001
HbA1c	-0.070	0.407
FBG	0.049	0.563
Albumin	-0.142	0.092
HDL-C	0.010	0.906
TC	0.101	0.228
LDL-C	0.102	0.227
TG	-0.013	0.874
Serum uric acid	-0.103	0.223
BUN	0.274	0.001
Scr	0.235	0.005
24 h urine protein	0.259	0.002
eGFR	-0.442	<0.001
Pathology		
DKD class( II/III/IV)	0.808	<0.001
IFTA score	0.287	<0.001
Interstitial inflammation score	0.244	<0.001
Arteriolar hyalinosis score	0.385	<0.001
Arteriosclerosis score	0.359	<0.001

AUC值相差不大(CKAP4 vs. eGFR: 0.693 vs. 0.777; CKAP4 vs. 24 h尿蛋白: 0.693 vs. 0.733, 图6)。这提示CKAP4具有与现行临床金标准相当的疾病风险预测能力。

### 3 讨论

肾间质纤维化是DKD的重要病理特征之一,其不仅显著增加晚期糖尿病患者的死亡率,更是导致ESKD的重要因素<sup>[19]</sup>。在DKD发展过程中,肾脏的慢性损伤会引发一系列复杂的病理变化,涵盖上皮-间充质转化(epithelial - mesenchymal transition, EMT)<sup>[20-22]</sup>、内皮-间充质转化(endothelial- mesenchymal transition, EndoMT)<sup>[23-24]</sup>以及成纤维细胞和周细胞的激活。其中,EMT过程具有明显的特征,具体为细胞内黏附分子(如E-钙黏蛋白)减少,以及间充质标志物,如 $\alpha$ -平滑肌肌动蛋白、成纤维细胞特异性蛋白1、纤连蛋白、胶原蛋白和波形蛋白增多<sup>[25-26]</sup>。既往研究发现,CKAP4的表达与波形蛋白表达呈正相关,而与E-钙黏蛋白表达呈显著负相关<sup>[27]</sup>。在肾

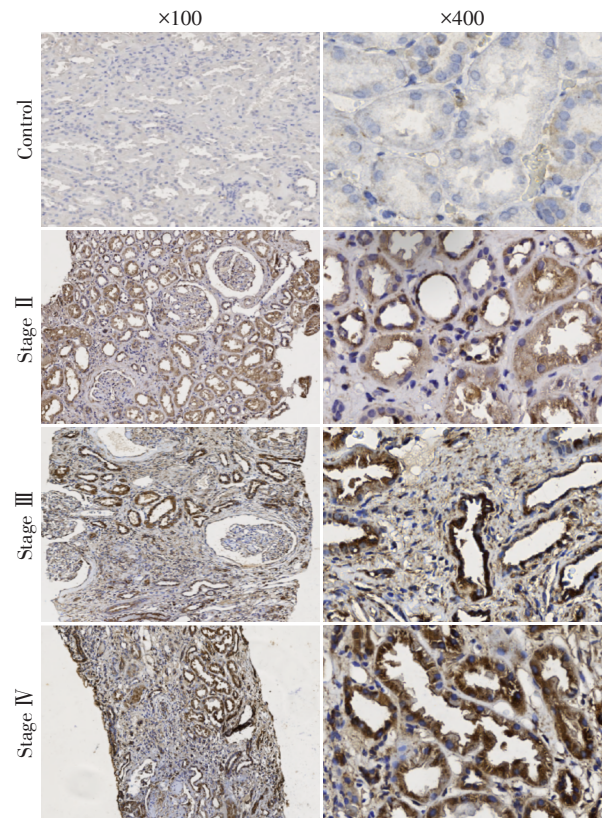


图2 不同病理分期DKD患者CKAP4表达的代表性免疫组织化学图像

Figure 2 Representative immunohistochemical images of CKAP4 expression in DKD patients with different pathological stages

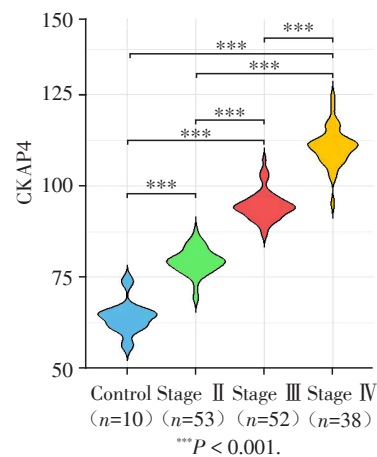


图3 不同病理分期患者的CKAP4表达水平

Figure 3 Expression of CKAP4 in patients with different pathological stages

纤维化过程中,肾小管细胞可通过EMT转化为肌成纤维细胞,激活的肌成纤维细胞会促使细胞外基质蛋白过度沉积,这是维持肾纤维化持续发展的关键环节<sup>[28]</sup>。由此可见,CKAP4可能通过诱导EMT进而推动肾纤维化进程。值得关注的是,肾小管细胞中呈现

表4 单因素和多因素Cox回归分析CKAP4水平与肾脏预后之间的关系

Table 4 Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis of the relationship between CKAP4 level and renal prognosis

Parameter	Univariate		Multivariate	
	HR(95%CI)	P	HR(95%CI)	P
Sex	1.251(0.713–2.194)	0.435		
Age	0.997(0.973–1.022)	0.820		
BMI	1.005(0.934–1.081)	0.900		
Comorbidities				
Hypertension	1.691(0.738–3.871)	0.214		
Cardiovascular events	0.841(0.332–2.131)	0.715		
Laboratory parameters				
Hemoglobin	0.981(0.970–0.993)	0.002		
HbA1c	0.921(0.785–1.081)	0.315		
FBG	0.902(0.816–0.996)	0.042	0.891(0.806–0.984)	0.023
Albumin	0.972(0.939–1.006)	0.108		
HDL-C	0.807(0.420–1.551)	0.520		
TC	1.030(0.896–1.184)	0.679		
LDL-C	1.044(0.847–1.286)	0.687		
TG	1.064(0.892–1.268)	0.493		
Serum uric acid	1.003(1.000–1.005)	0.026		
BUN	1.078(1.043–1.114)	<0.001		
Scr	1.003(1.001–1.004)	<0.001		
24 h urine protein	1.086(1.032–1.142)	0.001	1.080(1.000–1.140)	0.005
eGFR	0.984(0.977–0.991)	<0.001		
Medications				
RAASi	0.380(0.203–0.714)	0.003		
SGLT2i	1.171(0.606–2.263)	0.639		
$\beta$ -locker	1.199(0.672–2.141)	0.540		
CCB	1.229(0.642–2.355)	0.533		
Statins	0.623(0.346–1.121)	0.114		
Pathological features				
CKAP4 expression(high vs. low)	1.036(1.017–1.055)	<0.001	4.120(1.730–9.811)	0.001
DKD class( II/III/IV)	1.932(1.506–2.479)	<0.001		
IFTA score(0/1/2/3)	1.159(0.907–1.480)	0.237		
Interstitial inflammation score(0/1/2)	0.998(0.721–1.380)	0.989		
Arteriolar hyalinosis score(0/1/2)	1.369(1.011–1.853)	0.042		
Arteriosclerosis score(0/1/2)	1.523(1.138–2.039)	0.005		

RAASi: renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system inhibitor; SGLT2i: sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor; CCB: calcium channel blocker.

EMT特征的细胞数量与Scr水平以及肾间质损伤程度密切相关<sup>[29]</sup>。同时,由于EMT是一个动态且可逆的病理生理过程,这为肾脏疾病的治疗提供了新靶点。相关研究表明,阻断EMT进程的治疗策略能够有效减轻肾脏纤维化程度,为改善患者的肾功能和预后带来希望<sup>[30–31]</sup>。

本研究探讨了组织学CKAP4水平与DKD患者肾脏进展的关系。结果表明,与正常对照组相比,DKD患者肾组织中CKAP4上调,且CKAP4的表达

随着病理严重程度的增加而增加。本研究同时发现,CKAP4与Scr、BUN、24 h尿蛋白、病理结果等呈正相关,并与血红蛋白、eGFR呈负相关。此外,根据K-M生存分析,本研究证明,CKAP4高表达患者的肾脏结局更差。更重要的是,在调整多个重要变量后,组织学CKAP4水平被证实为DKD进展的独立风险因素,并且具有良好的预测肾活检6个月后DKD进展的能力。

CKD是糖尿病患者生活质量下降和病死率升

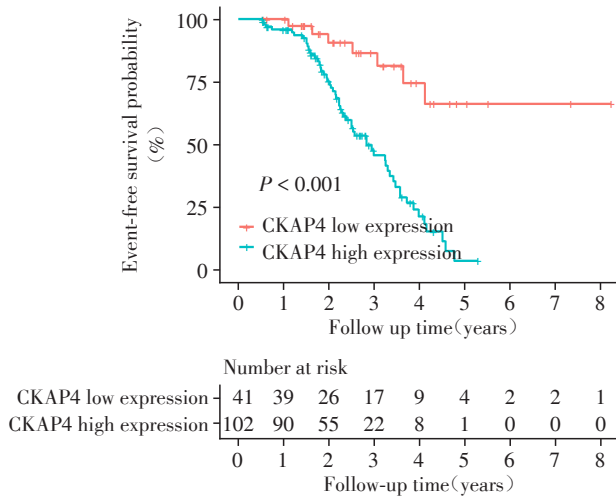


图4 高表达组与低表达组患者生存情况的比较  
Figure 4 Comparison of the survival between patients with high and low CKAP4 expression

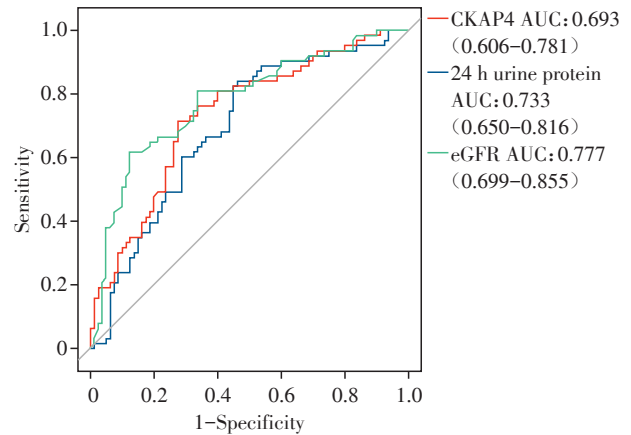


图6 不同指标(CKAP4、eGFR 和 24 h尿蛋白)对肾脏终点事件的预测性能  
Figure 6 Prediction performance of different indicators (CKAP4, eGFR, and 24-hour urine protein) for renal endpoint events

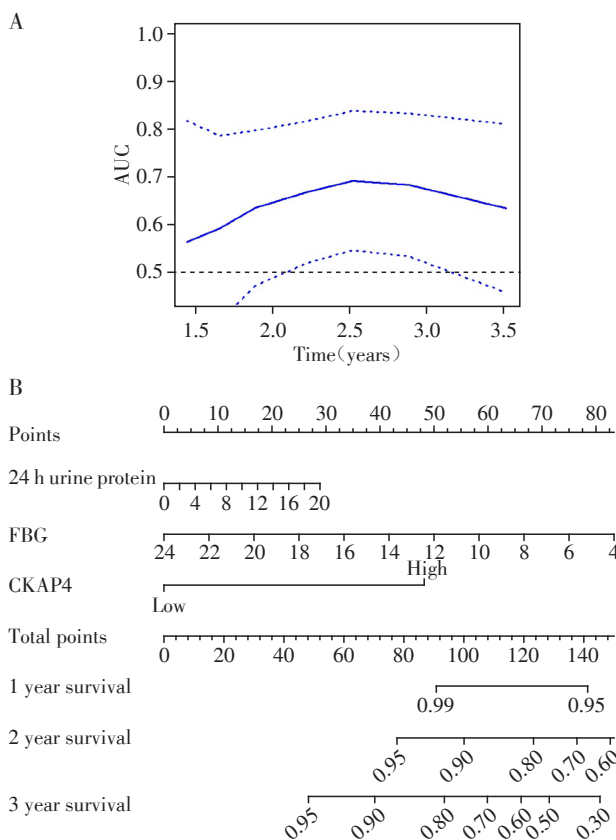


图5 时间依赖性ROC曲线分析与列线图分析  
Figure 5 Time-dependent ROC curve analysis and nomogram analysis

高公认的危险因素<sup>[32-33]</sup>。大量研究数据证实,2型糖尿病人群中CKD的早期诊断可将患者进展为ESKD的风险降低80%,早期治疗可延缓或预防DKD进展<sup>[3,32]</sup>。因此推进DKD的早期诊断、随访和评估对提高CKD患者生存率及生活质量至关重要。近年来, EV在肾脏疾病领域受到广泛关注。EV因其独特的膜结构,在体液中展现出良好的稳定性,且便于分离和检测<sup>[34]</sup>,使其作为生物标志物有良好的应用前景。相比其他含EV的体液, uEV具有明显优势,它直接由肾脏产生,且能以无创方式大量收集,能够准确反映肾脏的病理状态<sup>[35]</sup>。本研究发现, CKAP4在DKD患者肾组织中主要表达于肾小管上皮细胞核,并随着病理程度加重表达增加,且其表达与Scr、BUN以及eGFR等反映肾脏功能的指标显著相关。因此本研究表明, uEV内关键蛋白CKAP4可用于监测患者肾功能进展及预测DKD进展。

综上所述, CKAP4是反映DKD患者肾功能严重程度的潜在生物标志物。它是DKD患者肾活检6个月以上肾脏进展的独立风险因素。但本研究仍存在局限性,不同类别的样本量不够大,可能会导致一定程度的偏倚。本研究仅纳入接受肾脏活检的受试者,缺乏活检禁忌证患者的信息(如有无法纠正的严重高血压或明显出血倾向、活动性肾脏感染、孤立肾脏等)及拒绝接受肾活检的患者信息。此外,本研究中没有I级DKD患者。这可能会导致选择性偏倚。因此,未来需要进行更大样本量的研究来证实本研究的结论。

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All authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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刘畅、钱力、陆放、王子韬、李青负责实验实施、收集数据、统计分析、论文撰写与修改。段俗言、吴琳、张波、毛慧娟、梁宏伟、袁杨刚、邢昌赢负责课题设计、数据审核、论文修改与审阅。

**Author's Contributions:**

LIU Chang, QIAN Li, LU Fang, WANG Zitao, and LI Qing were responsible for experimental implementation, data collection, statistical analysis, paper writing and revision. DUAN Suyan, WU Lin, ZHANG Bo, MAO Huijuan, LIANG Hongwei, YUAN Yanggang, and XING Changying were responsible for the subject design, data review, manuscript revision and review.

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