

• 专题研究:肿瘤 •

CLEC5A在胃癌组织中表达的临床意义及与肿瘤浸润免疫细胞的相关性研究

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[摘要] 目的: 观察胃癌组织中C型凝集素5A(C-type lectin 5A, CLEC5A)的表达状况, 探究其与肿瘤浸润免疫细胞(tumor-infiltrating immune cell, TIL)的关系和对胃癌患者预后的影响。方法: 基于癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)数据库, 依据RNA序列数据中的CLEC5A表达水平, 将胃癌样本分为CLEC5A mRNA高表达组和低表达组, 分析CLEC5A mRNA在胃癌组织表达和预后的关系。收集南通大学附属医院生物样本库2004年3月—2009年12月接受手术的145例胃癌患者组织芯片样本, 其中男101例, 女44例, 年龄(60.6±11.2)岁, 36例无癌胃黏膜组织作为对照。经免疫组织化学(immunohistochemistry, IHC)染色方法分析CLEC5A蛋白表达与患者临床特征和预后的关系; 应用TIMER 2.0和CIBERSORT数据库对CLEC5A mRNA表达与TIL免疫浸润水平的相关性进行评估; 采用多重免疫组织化学(multiplex immunohistochemistry mIHC)方法检测免疫细胞在微环境中的分布, 对生物信息学分析得到的结果进行验证。结果: 胃癌组织中的CLEC5A mRNA表达水平显著高于正常胃黏膜组织。IHC结果显示, CLEC5A在肿瘤细胞和间质淋巴细胞中均有表达, 胃癌组织中CLEC5A的表达(27/36, 75.0%)显著高于正常胃黏膜组织(13/36, 36.1%, $P < 0.05$), 而且其高表达与患者预后较好相关。多因素分析结果表明, CLEC5A低表达和较高的TNM分期是胃癌患者预后的独立危险因素。生物信息学分析及mIHC验证均表明, CLEC5A表达水平与TIL的浸润程度呈正相关, 且CLEC5A高表达组中CD4⁺T、CD8⁺T、CD45RO⁺、FOXP3⁺T、PD1⁺和PDL1⁺细胞的浸润水平显著高于低表达组(P 均 < 0.05)。结论: CLEC5A可能通过调节TIL浸润参与胃癌进展, 其高表达提示更好的预后, 有望成为胃癌免疫治疗的新靶点。

[关键词] 胃癌; CLEC5A; 预后; 肿瘤浸润免疫细胞

[中图分类号] R735.2

[文献标志码] A

[文章编号] 1007-4368(2026)03-333-10

doi: 10.7655/NYDXBNSN250372

Clinical significance of CLEC5A expression in gastric cancer and its correlation with tumor infiltrating immune cells

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[Abstract] **Objective:** To investigate the expression of C-type lectin 5A (CLEC5A) in gastric cancer tissues and explore its relationship with tumor-infiltrating immune cells (TILs) as well as its prognostic impact on gastric cancer patients. **Methods:** Based on The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) database, gastric tumor samples were divided into CLEC5A mRNA high-expression and low-expression groups according to RNA sequencing data, and the association between CLEC5A mRNA expression and prognosis in gastric cancer was analyzed. Tissue microarrays from 145 gastric cancer patients (101 males and 44 females, mean age 60.6±11.2 years) who underwent surgery between March 2004 and December 2009 in the Affiliated Hospital of Nantong University Biobank were collected, with 36 non-cancerous gastric mucosal tissues as controls. Immunohistochemistry (IHC) was performed to evaluate CLEC5A protein expression and its association with clinical characteristics and prognosis. TIMER 2.0 and CIBERSORT databases were

[基金项目] 新疆维吾尔自治区自然科学基金(2021D01B12); 新疆维吾尔自治区天山创新团队计划项目(2024D14012)

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applied to evaluate the correlation between CLEC5A mRNA expression and immune infiltration levels of TILs. Multiplex immunohistochemistry (mIHC) was employed to detect immune cell distribution in the tumor microenvironment and validate the bioinformatics analysis results. **Results:** CLEC5A mRNA expression levels were significantly higher in gastric cancer tissues compared to normal gastric mucosa. IHC results showed that CLEC5A was expressed in both tumor cells and stromal lymphocytes, with significantly higher expression in gastric cancer tissues (27/36, 75%) than in normal gastric mucosa (13/36, 36.1%, $P < 0.05$). High CLEC5A expression was associated with better patient prognosis. Multivariate analysis indicated that low CLEC5A expression and advanced TNM stage were independent risk factors for poor prognosis in gastric cancer patients. Both bioinformatics analysis and mIHC validation demonstrated that CLEC5A expression levels were positively correlated with TIL infiltration, and the high CLEC5A expression group exhibited significantly increased infiltration of CD4⁺ T cells, CD8⁺ T cells, CD45RO⁺ cells, FOXP3⁺ T cells, PD1⁺ cells and PDL1⁺ cells compared to the low-expression group (all $P < 0.05$). **Conclusion:** CLEC5A may participate in gastric cancer progression by regulating TIL infiltration, and its high expression suggests better prognosis, potentially serving as a novel therapeutic target for gastric cancer immunotherapy.

[Key words] gastric cancer; CLEC5A; prognosis; tumor-infiltrating immune cells

[J Nanjing Med Univ, 2026, 46(03): 333-342]

胃癌是全球常见的恶性肿瘤,每年约有100万新增病例,且具有较高的发病率和死亡率^[1]。中国是胃癌发生大国,其病例数约占东亚地区总数的一半^[2]。胃癌分子和表型的高度异质性,给诊断和治疗带来挑战^[3]。因此,分子靶向治疗和免疫疗法成为研究重点,更为胃癌晚期患者带来了生命的曙光^[4]。肿瘤免疫微环境中肿瘤浸润免疫细胞(tumor-infiltrating immune cell, TIL)的浸润与肿瘤增殖、转移及患者预后密切相关^[5-7]。TIL疗法作为免疫治疗领域的一颗新星,备受瞩目。TIL疗法是一种极具个性化的肿瘤免疫治疗方式,其核心在于调动患者自身免疫系统的强大力量,以此来对抗体内的癌细胞,如T细胞和NK细胞,是胃癌预后的关键因素^[8-9]。由于肿瘤微环境中存在多种复杂的抑制因素,TIL在胃癌中的潜在作用仍需深入研究。C型凝集素5A(C-type lectin 5A, CLEC5A)也称髓系 DAP12 相关凝集素(myeloid DAP12-related lectin, MDL-1),在炎症反应中起重要作用。机体在感染时可在髓系细胞如单核细胞、巨噬细胞和树突状细胞中诱导CLEC5A高表达^[10]。通过与DNAX激活蛋白(DNAX activating protein, DAP12)结合,激活CLEC5A下游激酶,使促炎因子分泌^[11-12]。已有研究表明,CLEC5A的表达与部分癌症的总生存期(overall survival, OS)相关^[13],但其在胃癌中的作用仍不明确。本研究使用生物信息学方法鉴定与GC发生和进展相关的差异表达基因,并筛选了CLEC5A。由于CLEC5A参与免疫反应,进一步研究了它在肿瘤细胞和间质淋巴细胞中的表达,并检测它与免疫细胞活性的相关性,这将有助于进一步了解CLEC5A在胃癌进展中的潜在分子生物学机制,为胃

癌的临床诊疗与预后判断提供了新的分子标志物。

1 材料和方法

1.1 材料

1.1.1 对象

调取南通大学附属医院生物样本库2004年3月—2009年12月接受手术胃癌患者的组织芯片(含临床资料和随访信息),共145例胃癌[男101例,女44例,年龄(60.6±11.2)岁]和36例对照无癌胃黏膜组织。所有患者在手术前均未接受放疗、化疗或免疫治疗。参与者在手术后通过电话随访5年。胃癌的病理分期参考美国癌症联合委员会第八版分期系统。本研究经南通大学附属医院人体研究委员会批准(编号:2018-K020),符合《赫尔辛基宣言》的伦理原则。

1.1.2 试剂

二甲苯(上海软拓生物科技有限公司);柠檬酸钠抗原修复液(北京兰杰柯科技有限公司);抗体稀释液(苏州新赛美生物科技有限公司);反应增强液、DAB染色液(福州迈新生物技术开发有限公司);苏木素染色液(盐城溢之源生物科技有限公司);中性树胶、甲醛固定液、TBST缓冲液(上海沪试化学试剂有限公司);细胞角蛋白(cytokeratin, CK, Biorbyt公司,英国);Opal多色标记试剂盒、Opal抗体稀释液/封闭液AR6缓冲液(Akoya Bioscience公司,美国);人CLEC5A、CD4、CD8、CD20、FOXP3、CD66b抗体(Abcam公司,美国);CD3、CD11b、CD45RO、CD68、PD-1、PD-L1抗体(Cell Signaling Technology公司,美国);CTLA4抗体(NOVUS公司,美国);CLEC5A抗体(Biorbyt公司,英国);Opal™

polymer HRP Ms+Rb (Perkin Elmer 公司, 美国); DAPI(Sigma-Aldrich 公司, 德国)。Opal 7-Colour 试剂盒(Perkin Elmer 公司, 美国)。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 生物信息学分析

从癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA, <https://cancergenome.nih.gov/>)下载胃癌患者 mRNA 表达阵列数据信息, 并使用“limma”包进行标准化处理。依据 RNA 序列数据中的 CLEC5A 表达水平, 将肿瘤样本分为 CLEC5A mRNA 高表达组和低表达组。使用 TIMER2.0 (<http://timer.comp-genomics.org/>)分析 CLEC5A mRNA 与免疫细胞浸润水平的相关性。为了评估 TIL 亚型的差异, 使用 CIBERSORT 通过“limma”包量化 22 种免疫细胞亚型的比重。

1.2.2 倾向匹配分析

为了减少数据偏差和混杂变量, 倾向性匹配性别、年龄, 筛选出胃癌组 36 例和非胃癌组 36 例, 对两组患者 CLEC5A 蛋白的表达率进行卡方检验。

1.2.3 免疫组织化学(immunohistochemistry, IHC)染色

将组织芯片置于 70 °C 烤片机中烤片 90 min, 再 60 °C 烘片 60 min, 二甲苯脱蜡, 梯度酒精中水化。将常规脱蜡后的组织芯片放入微波炉中, 变频微波 20%(2.5 min), 变频微波 100%(15 min)进行抗原修复。随后 30% 过氧化氢孵育 15 min, BAS 液封闭 20 min, 滴加 CLEC5A 抗体(1:500), 4 °C 孵育过夜。取出组织芯片复温 30 min 后磷酸盐缓冲液(phosphate buffered saline, PBS)漂洗 3 次, 滴加二抗增强, 室温孵育 30 min 后, 滴加二抗室温孵育 30 min 后, DAB 显色, 苏木精复染, 封片。

1.2.4 多重免疫荧光染色(multiplex immunohistochemistry, mIHC)分析

使用 Opal 7-Colour 试剂盒按照使用说明书进行染色。首先, 将组织芯片置于 70 °C 烤片机中烤片 90 min, 再 60 °C 烘片 60 min, 二甲苯脱蜡, 梯度酒精中水化。接着, 切片用 10% 甲醛固定 10 min, 并使用 AR6 缓冲液(AR600; AKOYA 公司, 美国)进行抗原修复, 待切片冷却至室温后, 使用封闭液封闭切片 10 min, 阻断非特异性结合。切片在室温下与一抗孵育 1 h, 或者在 4 °C 下过夜孵育后, 用 TBST 溶液洗涤 3 次以去除未结合的抗体。随后, 按照相同的程序重复抗原修复并进行下一标记的染色, 以标记不同的生物标志物。最后, 滴加 DAPI 进行细胞核染色以及封片, 为后续分析提供核定位信息。使用 Vectra 3.0 自动定量病理成像系统扫描切片, 对切片

中的生物标志物阳性细胞进行定量分析。该系统能够通过机器学习算法将扫描图像分割为组织部分和空隙部分, 并准确识别和量化这些细胞的表型, 涵盖整个组织切片的所有高倍视野。

1.2.5 免疫组织化学染色评分

首先由定量软件(Vectra3.0)进行染色的定量, 然后由病理学家验证和校正所有评分数据和图谱。将染色强度划分为 0(-, 蓝色)、1(+, 浅黄色)、2(++ , 棕黄色)和 3(+++ , 棕褐色), 染色强度和该强度的细胞所占百分比(0~100%)的乘积为最终得分(0~300分)。评分标准包括染色的深浅和阳性区域的面积, 确保对不同表达水平的精确区分和定量评估。此方法的高效性和自动化使得对组织芯片上 CLEC5A 表达的评估更加精准, 为后续的统计分析和临床数据的结合提供了可靠的基础。

1.3 统计学方法

用 SPSS 22.0 软件进行统计分析。用 X-tile 软件根据患者生存状态及生存时间, 选取检验结果最小 *P* 值处 CLEC5A 蛋白表达值作为高/低表达的截断值分组进行统计。本研究中以 0~111 分为低或无表达, 112~300 分为高表达。采用 χ^2 检验对 CLEC5A 蛋白表达高低与临床特征之间的关系进行分析; 用 Cox 回归模型的单因素和多因素分析 CLEC5A 蛋白表达是否为胃癌患者预后的独立风险因素, 用 Kaplan-Meier 法和 log-rank 检验绘制生存曲线并分析预后因素。以 $\alpha=0.05$ 作为组间比较的检验水准。计量资料用 Shapiro-Wilk 行正态性检验, 符合正态分布计量资料用均数 \pm 标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)描述, 不符合正态分布计量资料用中位数(四分位数)[$M(P_{25}, P_{75})$]表示。计量资料组间比较, 采用两独立样本 *t* 检验分析, 不符合条件用 Mann-Whitney *U* 非参数秩和检验, $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 CLEC5A 在胃癌和良性胃黏膜组织中的表达差异与胃癌患者临床特征的相关性

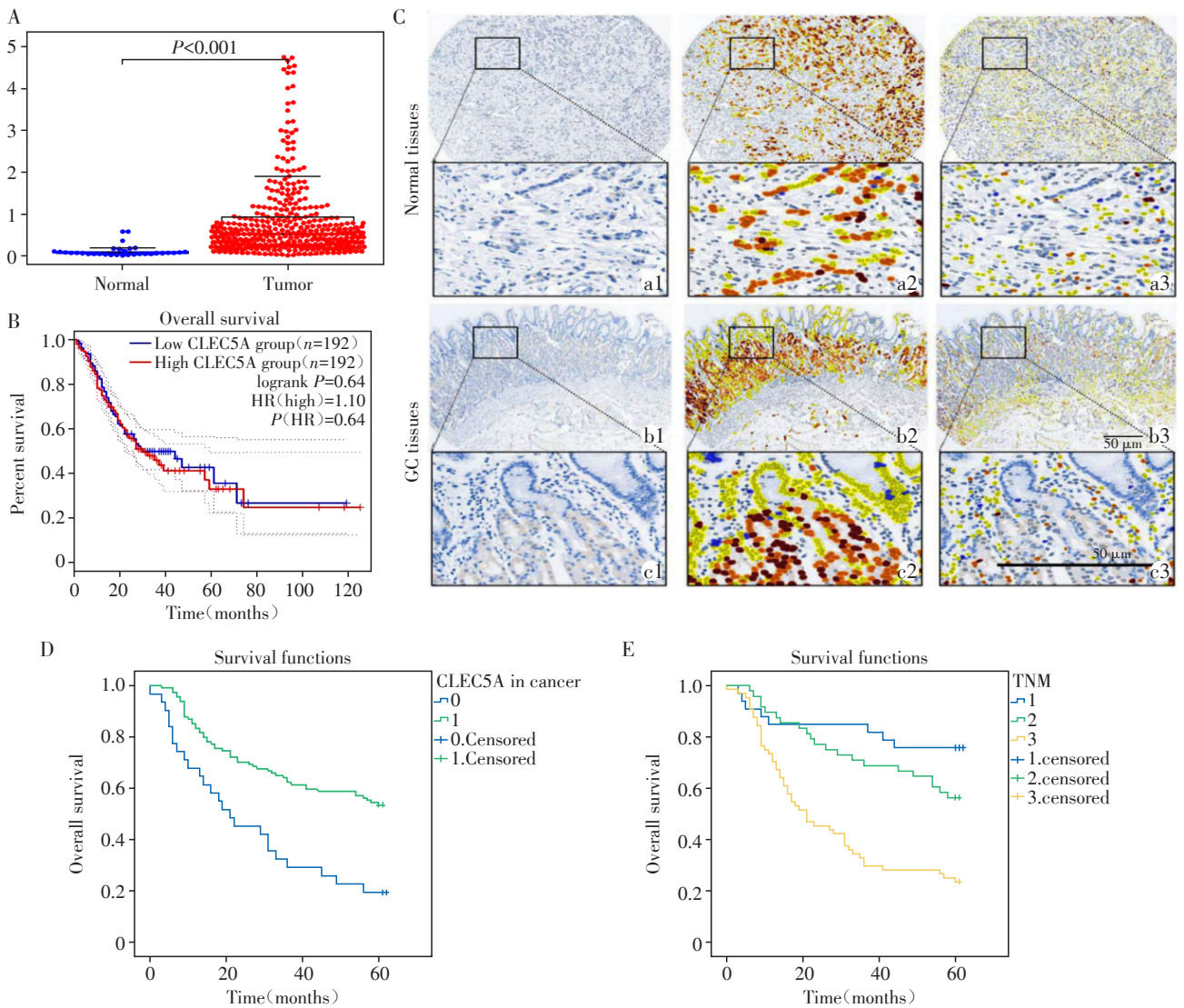
为评估胃癌中 CLEC5A mRNA 的表达, 使用 TCGA RNA 测序数据进行初步分析。结果显示, CLEC5A mRNA 在胃癌组织中(375 例)表达量显著高于良性胃组织(32 例)(图 1A); 而 Kaplan-Meier 生存曲线分析结果显示, 在高与低 CLEC5A 表达组之间 OS 差异无统计学意义(HR=1.1, $P=0.64$, 图 1B)。CLEC5A 的 mRNA 表达可能与胃癌的发生相关, 与患者的生存预后没有直接的显著关系。

PSM分析结果显示胃癌组织中CLEC5A蛋白表达(27/36, 75.0%)显著高于正常胃黏膜组织(13/36, 36.1%), 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$), 且胃癌组的高表达率较高(图1C)。CLEC5A蛋白表达高低与胃癌患者的临床特征的关系如表1所示。统计结果表明, CLEC5A的表达与T分期、N分期和术前外周血癌胚抗原(carcinoembryonic antigen, CEA)水平显著相关(P 均 < 0.05)。间质淋巴细胞中CLEC5A蛋白

的表达与N分期、TNM期($P < 0.05$)和CEA水平($P < 0.01$)显著相关(表1)。

2.2 CLEC5A蛋白表达量与胃癌患者预后和总体生存的相关性

Cox回归模型单因素分析显示, 肿瘤组织中CLEC5A蛋白的表达($P < 0.001$)、间质淋巴细胞中CLEC5A蛋白的表达($P < 0.001$)、TNM分期($P < 0.001$)、T分期($P < 0.001$)、N分期($P < 0.001$)、M分期



A: Gastric cancer (GC) patient datasets were downloaded from TCGA included 375 tumor tissues, and the mRNA expression of CLEC5A in GC tissues was significantly higher than that paracancerous normal samples ($n=407$). B: Kaplan-Meier analysis showed CLEC5A expression was not correlated with prognosis ($n=407$). C: Representative IHC results of CLEC5A expression in normal gastric mucosal tissues and GC tissues. a1: Normal gastric mucosal tissues showed different degrees of CLEC5A staining. a2, a3: The staining scores of normal gastric mucosal tissues and lymphocytes were determined by the automatic reading system. b1: GC tissues showed different degrees of CLEC5A staining. b2, b3: The staining scores of GC tissues and TILs were determined by the automatic reading system. a1, b1: Original image for scanning recognition (scale bar=50 μ m). D: Survival analysis of GC patients according to CLEC5A expression by Kaplan-Meier analysis. GC patients with higher CLEC5A expression in tumor cells (green line, 1) have a better OS, compared with those with low or no CLEC5A expression in tumor cells (blue line, 0) ($n=145$). E: The OS was significantly better in patients with early TNM stage compared with patients with advanced TNM stage ($n=145$).

图1 CLEC5A在胃癌中的表达及其生存曲线评估预后价值

Figure 1 Expression of CLEC5A in GC and its prognostic value evaluated by survival curve

表1 胃癌中CLEC5A表达水平与患者临床病理特征的相关性分析

Table 1 Relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and clinicopathological parameters of GC patients [n(%)]

Variable	Staining of CLEC5A in tumor cells				Staining of CLEC5A in TIL			
	Low or no CLEC5A score group (n=31)	High CLEC5A score group (n=114)	χ^2	P	Low or no CLEC5A score group (n=34)	High CLEC5A score group (n=111)	χ^2	P
Sex			0.032	1.000			0.085	0.832
Female	9(29.03)	35(30.70)			11(32.35)	33(29.73)		
Male	22(70.97)	79(69.30)			23(67.65)	78(70.27)		
Age			2.731	0.145			0.736	0.427
≤60 years	8(25.80)	48(42.10)			11(32.35)	45(40.54)		
> 60 years	23(74.20)	66(57.90)			23(67.65)	66(59.46)		
Laurén classification			0.476	0.541			0.198	0.767
Intestinal type(including mixed type)	26(83.87)	100(88.50)			29(85.29)	97(81.18)		
Diffuse type	5(16.13)	13(11.50)			5(14.71)	13(18.82)		
Differentiation			1.560	0.254			0.167	0.821
Well differentiated and moderately differentiated	7(23.33)	40(34.78)			11(32.35)	36(32.43)		
Poorly differentiated	18(60.00)	56(48.70)			15(44.12)	59(53.15)		
Unknown	5(16.67)	19(16.52)			8(23.53)	16(14.41)		
T stage			7.104	0.008			3.274	0.147
Tis and T1	0(0)	14(12.28)			1(2.94)	13(11.71)		
T2	11(35.49)	21(18.42)			6(17.65)	26(23.42)		
T3 and T4	20(64.52)	79(69.30)			27(79.41)	72(64.86)		
N stage			7.566	0.020			7.201	0.027
0	7(22.58)	56(49.12)			8(23.53)	55(49.55)		
1	8(25.81)	15(13.16)			7(20.59)	16(14.41)		
2	16(51.61)	43(37.72)			19(55.88)	40(36.04)		
3								
M stage			1.408	0.585			1.586	0.470
M0	31(100.00)	109(98.61)			34(100.00)	106(95.50)		
M1	0(0)	5(4.39)			0(0)	5(4.50)		
TNM stage			2.249	0.325			5.967	0.041
0-I	4(12.90)	29(25.44)			3(8.82)	30(27.03)		
II	11(35.48)	37(32.46)			11(32.35)	37(33.33)		
III-IV	16(51.61)	48(42.00)			20(58.82)	44(39.64)		
Her2			3.669	0.122			2.549	0.468
0	28(90.32)	88(77.19)			30(88.24)	86(77.48)		
1	3(9.68)	16(14.04)			2(5.88)	17(15.32)		
2	0(0)	10(8.77)			2(5.88)	8(7.20)		
CEA			6.017	0.035			8.893	0.008
0	9(56.25)	58(84.06)			11(55.00)	56(86.15)		
1	7(43.75)	11(15.94)			9(45.00)	9(13.85)		

T: tumor size; N: lymph node metastasis; M: distant metastasis; TNM: tumor-node-metastasis; Her2: human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; CEA: carcinoembryonic antigen; HR: hazard ratio.

($P=0.002$)、CEA水平($P < 0.05$)均与胃癌患者预后相关。将上述单因素引入多因素分析结果显示, CLEC5A蛋白的低表达($P=0.007$)、较高的TNM分期

($P < 0.001$)是胃癌患者预后的独立危险因素(表2)。

2.3 CLEC5A mRNA表达与胃癌中TILs相关性

TIMER2.0结果显示, CLEC5A mRNA的高表达

与 CD8⁺ T 细胞、巨噬细胞、中性粒细胞和髓系树突状细胞的浸润水平显著正相关 ($P < 0.001$, 图 2A)。CIBERSORT 算法评估显示, 与低表达组相比, 高 CLEC5A mRNA 表达组中记忆激活型 CD4⁺ T 细胞、

表2 胃癌患者术后5年生存的单因素和多因素分析

Table 2 Univariate and multivariate analysis of prognostic factors for the 5-year OS of GC

Variable	Univariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
	HR	95%CI	P	HR	95%CI	P
Expression level of CLEC5A in cancer						
High (n=114)	1.000					
Low or no (n=31)	0.392	0.243-0.632	< 0.001	0.439	0.242-0.797	0.007
Expression level of CLEC5A in TIL						
High (n=111)	1.000					
Low or no (n=34)	0.556	0.344-0.900	0.017	1.143	0.626-2.053	0.658
Age						
≤ 60 years (n=56)	1.000					
> 60 years (n=89)	1.239	0.780-1.969	0.363			
Sex						
Male (n=101)	1.000					
Female (n=44)	1.565	0.933-2.626	0.090			
Laurén classification						
Intestinal type (n=127)	1.000					
Diffuse type (n=18)	1.328	0.701-2.515	0.385	1.143	0.605-2.198	0.666
TNM stage						
0-II (n=81)	1.000					
III-IV (n=64)	2.362	1.678-3.325	< 0.001	2.245	1.570-3.222	< 0.001
T stage						
Tis-T2 (n=46)	1.000					
T3-T4 (n=99)	2.238	1.413-3.545	< 0.001			
N stage						
0 (n=63)	1.000					
1-3 (n=82)	1.785	1.380-2.308	< 0.001			
M stage						
M0 (n=140)	1.000					
M1 (n=5)	5.155	2.046-12.986	< 0.001			
CEA level						
1 (n=18)	1.000					
0 or unknown (n=127)	2.392	1.202-4.758	0.011			
Her2						
0 (n=116)	1.000					
1-3 (n=29)	1.066	0.840-1.354	0.599	1.086	0.846-1.393	0.519

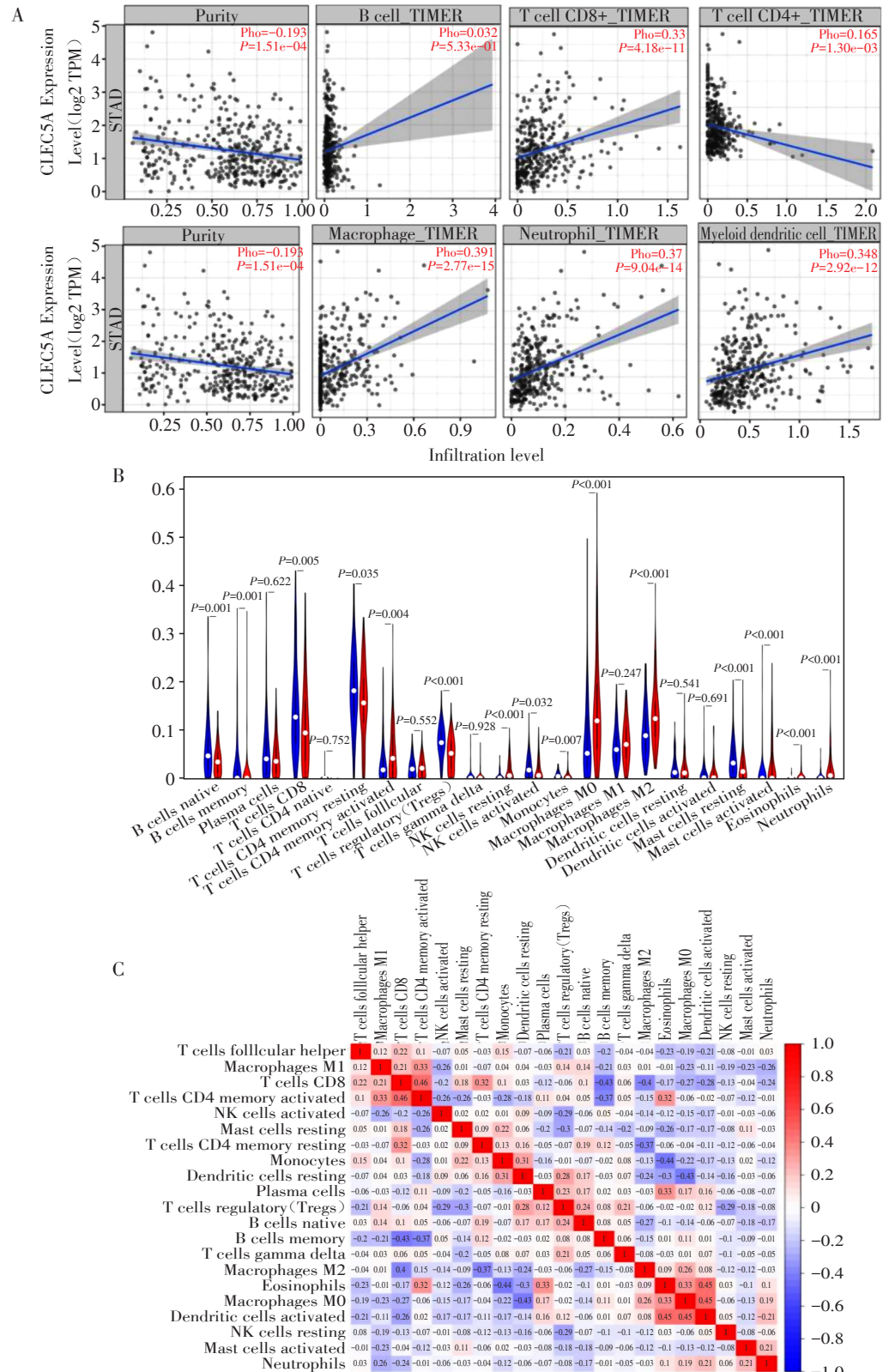
静止 NK 细胞、M0 型巨噬细胞、M1 型巨噬细胞、M2 型巨噬细胞、嗜酸性粒细胞和中性粒细胞的比例明显较高 ($P < 0.001$, 图 2B)。此外, 相关性热图提示了多种免疫细胞之间的相互关系 (图 2C)。如记忆激活型 CD4⁺ T 细胞与 CD8⁺ T 细胞呈正相关 ($r=0.46$), 激活型 NK 细胞与静止型肥大细胞也呈正相关 ($r=0.31$)。

2.4 CLEC5A 蛋白表达与胃癌中 TIL 的相关性

经 mIHC 染色对 CLEC5A 蛋白表达量进行检测, 验证免疫细胞浸润水平在 CLEC5A 高低表达组之间是否存在差异。在肿瘤组织和间质淋巴细胞中, CLEC5A 高表达组 CD4⁺ T、CD45RO⁺、FOXP3⁺ T、PD1⁺ 和 PDL1⁺ 细胞的浸润水平显著提高 ($P < 0.05$, 图 3、4)。

3 讨论

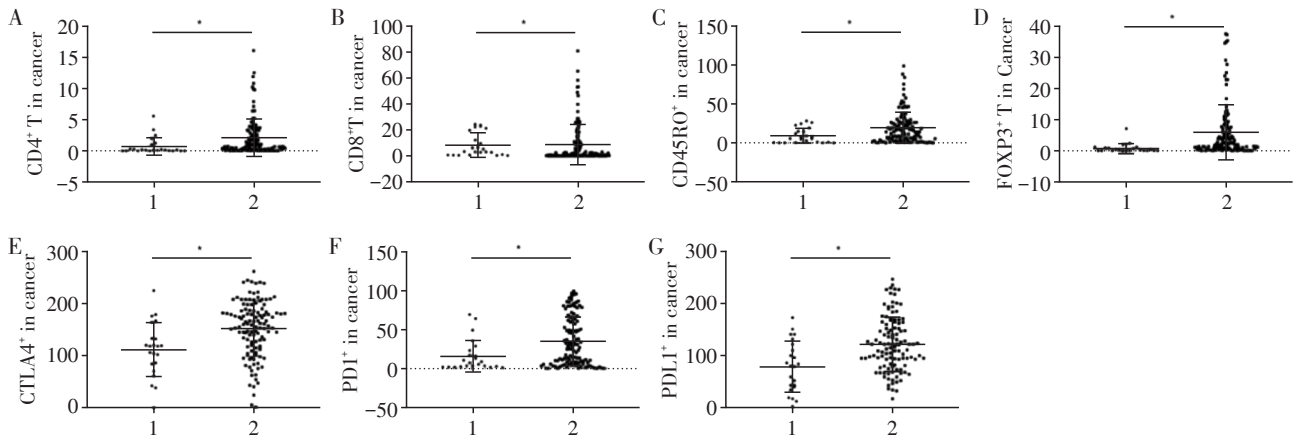
CLEC5A 在炎症反应中起着重要作用, 已有多



A: CLEC5A expression level was significantly and positively correlated with the levels of infiltrating CD8⁺ T cells ($r=0.33$, $P < 0.001$), macrophages ($r=0.391$, $P < 0.001$), neutrophils ($r=0.370$, $P < 0.001$) and myeloid dendritic cells ($r=0.348$, $P < 0.001$) ($n=415$). B: Increased proportions of memory-activated CD4⁺ T cells ($P=0.016$), resting NK cells ($P < 0.001$), M0 macrophages ($P < 0.001$), M2 macrophages ($P < 0.001$), eosinophils ($P < 0.001$), and neutrophils ($P < 0.001$) were observed in the CLEC5A high expression group compared with the low expression group ($n=375$). C: The proportions of different TILs subpopulations were moderately correlated ($n=375$).

图2 CLEC5A mRNA表达与TIL的相关性分析

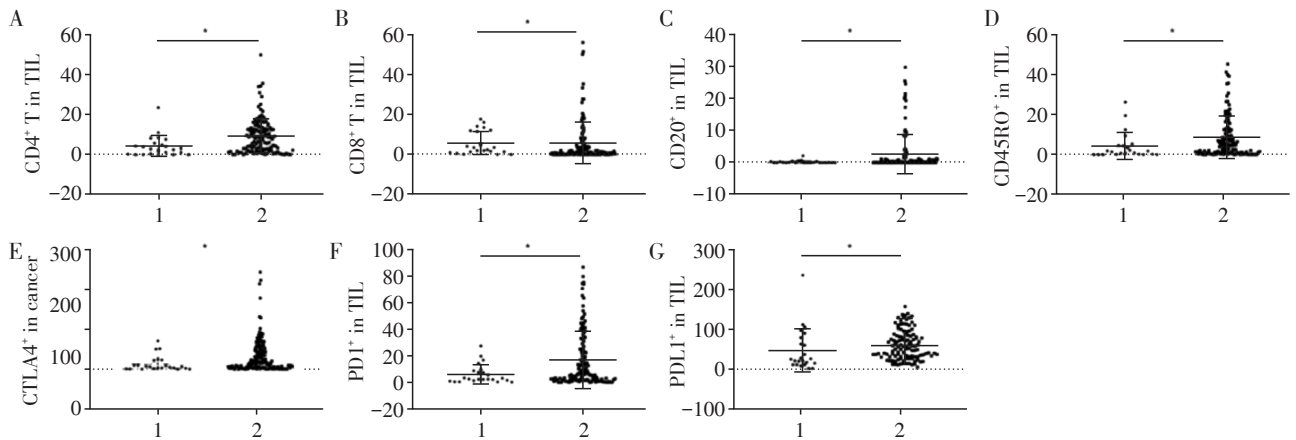
Figure 2 Correlation between CLEC5A mRNA expression and TIL



A: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD4⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. B: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD8⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. C: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD45RO⁺ cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. D: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and FOXP3⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. E: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CTLA4⁺ cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. F: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and PD1⁺ cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. G: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and PDL1⁺ cells infiltration alteration in GC tissues. 1: Low or no CLEC5A score group; 2: High CLEC5A score group.

图3 胃癌组织中 CLEC5A 蛋白表达与 TIL 浸润的关系

Figure 3 The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and TIL infiltration alteration in GC tissues



A: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD4⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. B: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD8⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. C: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CD45RO⁺ cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. D: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and FOXP3⁺ T cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. E: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and CTLA4⁺ cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. F: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and PD1⁺ cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. G: The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and PDL1⁺ cells infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes. 1: Low or no CLEC5A score group; 2: High CLEC5A score group.

图4 间质淋巴细胞中 CLEC5A 蛋白表达与 TIL 浸润的关系

Figure 4 The relationship between CLEC5A protein expression and TILs infiltration alteration in interstitial lymphocytes

项研究表明它与肿瘤的预后相关^[14-15]。而 CLEC5A 在 TME 中与一些免疫细胞浸润的相关性从未被报道。本研究探讨了 CLEC5A 表达与 GC 患者预后及 TIL 的相关性。首先用生物信息学方法挖掘了与 GC 发生和发展相关的差异表达基因,选取 CLEC5A 作为一个显著差异表达基因,并发现其与 TIL 的关联尚未报道。TCGA 分析结果显示,胃癌组织中

CLEC5A mRNA 表达量显著高于癌旁组织。GEPIA 数据库分析则显示 CLEC5A mRNA 表达量与 OS 无相关性。随后对临床样本进行了 IHC 分析,发现胃癌组织中 CLEC5A 蛋白的表达高于正常胃黏膜组织。CLEC5A 的表达与胃癌临床病理特征的关系表明, CLEC5A 在肿瘤组织中上调与较低的 N 分期和较低的 CEA 水平显著相关。而 CLEC5A 在间质淋巴

细胞中的高表达与较低的N分期、较低的TNM分期和较低的CEA水平显著相关。这表明,CLEC5A可能在胃癌的免疫环境中发挥调节作用,并与胃癌的较早期阶段相关联。多变量分析显示肿瘤细胞中CLEC5A的上调表达和早期TNM分期是胃癌患者较好预后的因素。然而这与GEPIA数据库结果不一致,这一现象可能是由于多层次调控(如转录后修饰、翻译效率、蛋白质降解)的存在,mRNA丰度与蛋白质功能活性并非线性相关^[16-17]。此外,可能在中国人群与数据库中其他人群之间存在基因扩增和突变差异^[18]。

免疫细胞浸润肿瘤组织并构成肿瘤微环境,CD4⁺T细胞、树突状细胞、CD8⁺T细胞、NK细胞、M1型巨噬细胞和树突状细胞在抗肿瘤免疫中发挥重要作用^[19-22]。CD8⁺T细胞通过分泌肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α),改变靶细胞溶酶体的稳定性,从而抑制代谢并激活内切核酸酶引起靶细胞死亡^[23]。有研究表明,胰腺癌中人内源性逆转录病毒H长末端重复相关蛋白2抗体(human endogenous retrovirus-H long terminal repeat-associating protein 2, HHLA2)的高表达通过激活CD8⁺T细胞改善患者的预后^[24]。本研究中TIMER 2.0和CIBERSORT分析表明较高的CLEC5A mRNA表达与胃癌中高免疫细胞浸润水平相关。为了进一步验证,采用多重免疫荧光技术结合计算机成像技术同时评估多种免疫细胞标志物的阳性率,可以在同一组织芯片中对不同TIL和CK进行染色。CD3阳性用来标记T细胞亚群,CD3和CD4阳性用来标记CD4⁺T细胞,CD3和CD8阳性用来标记CD8⁺T细胞,其中CD3和FOXP3阳性用来标记Treg细胞。此外,本研究也检测了其他免疫细胞表面标志物,CD68阳性用来标记巨噬细胞亚群,CD66B阳性用来标记中性粒细胞,CD20阳性用来标记B细胞。CK用于区分样本中的肿瘤区域和间质区域。mIHC分析验证了胃癌微环境中CLEC5A的表达与CD3⁺、CD4⁺T细胞、CD8⁺T细胞和CD11b⁺细胞的表达密切相关。并且CLEC5A高表达组中CD4⁺T、CD8⁺T、CD45RO⁺、FOXP3⁺T、PD1⁺和PDL1⁺细胞的浸润水平高于低表达组。该结果与生物信息学分析结果一致,进一步表明CLEC5A能够增加胃癌微环境中肿瘤浸润免疫细胞的比例。

有研究表明,CLEC5A水平的增加通过调节核因子红系2相关因子2(nuclear factor erythroid 2 related factor 2, Nrf2)促进TNF- α 的产生^[25]。TNF- α 通过抑制肿瘤血管内皮细胞的增殖并促进其凋亡,阻断肿

瘤组织的血液供应,导致肿瘤缺血性坏死^[26]。TNF- α 通过激活血管内皮细胞,上调细胞间黏附分子[如细胞间黏附分子-1(intercellular adhesion molecule-1, ICAM-1)]的表达,促进淋巴细胞与血管壁的黏附,从而增强其向肿瘤组织的迁移能力。TNF- α 通过激活NF- κ B信号通路,刺激内皮细胞释放趋化因子(如CXCL9/CXCL10),进一步招募T细胞至肿瘤微环境。TNF- α 通过激活T细胞受体(T cell receptor, TCR)下游信号,促进CD8⁺T细胞分泌细胞毒性效应分子(如Granzyme-B、穿孔素),直接杀伤胃癌细胞。TNF- α 还被报道增加黏附分子的表达,使淋巴细胞更容易通过血管壁进入结缔组织^[27]。这有助于上调TNF- α 、Granzyme-B和穿孔素的表达,增强CD8⁺T细胞的增殖和细胞毒性,从而抵抗胃癌^[28]。因此,推测CLEC5A的过表达可能通过激活炎症反应促进TNF- α 的分泌,并最终促进肿瘤微环境中TIL的浸润,增强CD4⁺T、CD8⁺T等免疫细胞毒性发挥抑癌作用,推测CLEC5A过表达延长了胃癌患者的OS,并在抵抗胃癌过程中发挥作用。本研究首次报道了CLEC5A在胃癌间质淋巴细胞中的表达,以及CLEC5A与肿瘤微环境免疫浸润之间的正相关性。这项研究有助于阐明CLEC5A在肿瘤调节和免疫细胞进展中的作用,并为开发新的肿瘤免疫治疗方法提供了指导。

利益冲突声明:

所有作者声明无利益冲突。

Conflict of Interests:

All authors declare no conflict of interests.

作者贡献声明:

古丽努尔·阿不力米提负责数据收集、文献查阅、论文初稿撰写;凯迪尔耶·阿卜杜萨拉木负责数据收集、统计分析、文献查阅;陆冰负责数据收集、分子病理实验;杨惟明和张明磊负责研究设计、数据解读、论文撰写,提供基金项目支持。

Author's Contributions:

GULINUER Abulimiti was responsible for data collection, literaturereview, and writing the draft of the manuscripts; KAIDIERYE Abudushalamui was responsible for data collection, statistical analysis, and literature review; LU Bing was responsible for data collection and molecular pathology experiments; ZHANG Minglei and YANG Weiming were responsible for research design, data interpretation, manuscripts revision, and fund support.

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(收稿:2025-03-27;修回:2025-06-19;录用:2025-07-28)

(本文编辑:戴玉娟)