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肿瘤干细胞在头颈鳞状细胞癌顺铂耐药中的研究进展^{*}

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摘要: 头颈鳞状细胞癌(HNSCC)主要由口腔、咽部和喉部的黏膜上皮发展而来,是头颈部最常见的恶性肿瘤。目前,HNSCC的治疗主要包括手术治疗、化学药物治疗和放射治疗三种方法。其中,化学药物治疗进展迅速,且组合多样化,多种细胞毒性化疗药物已被用于治疗HNSCC。顺铂是治疗HNSCC常用的化疗药物之一,许多患者在接受顺铂治疗的过程中会随着时间的推移发生耐药,使肿瘤细胞更具侵袭性、复发性和适应性,导致治疗效果下降。目前,HNSCC顺铂耐药机制依然不明,研究提示肿瘤干细胞与这一过程密切相关。因此,迫切需要更深入地了解HNSCC顺铂耐药的分子机制并开发新的治疗靶点,以提高治疗有效性。本文针对肿瘤干细胞在HNSCC顺铂耐药机制中的研究进展作一综述。

关键词: 头颈鳞状细胞癌; 顺铂; 肿瘤干细胞

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Advances in the cancer stem cell mechanisms of cisplatin resistance in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma^{*}

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Abstract: Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) originates primarily from the mucosal epithelium of the oral cavity, pharynx, and larynx, representing the most prevalent malignant tumor in the head and neck region. Current therapeutic approaches for HNSCC encompass surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Chemotherapeutic agents have seen significant advancements, leading to a diverse array of combination therapies utilizing various cytotoxic drugs for the treatment of HNSCC. Cisplatin stands out as a commonly employed chemotherapy agent in HNSCC treatment. However, the emergence of resistance to cisplatin, poses a significant challenge in the management of this disease. Patients with HNSCC often develop drug-resistant tumor cells following chemotherapy, which exhibit heightened aggressiveness, recurrence, adaptability, and resistance to treatment. The precise mechanisms underlying cisplatin resistance in HNSCC remain elusive, with ongoing research indicating potential involvement of cancer stem cells. Consequently, there is a pressing need for enhanced comprehension of the molecular pathways driving cisplatin resistance in HNSCC, as well as the identification of novel therapeutic targets to enhance treatment efficacy. In this paper, the research progress of cancer stem cell in HNSCC cisplatin resistance are reviewed.

Key words: Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; Cisplatin; Cancer stem cell

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前言

头颈鳞状细胞癌(head and neck squamous cells carcinoma, HNSCC)是全球第七大常见癌症^[1],具有治疗难度大、5年生存率低、预后较差等特点。HNSCC起源于多种因素的相互作用,例如吸烟、饮酒和病毒感染等。HNSCC常发病于口腔、咽、喉的黏膜上皮等部位^[2],病灶本身及治疗都会影响患者外貌和重要器官的生理功能。顺铂是HNSCC治疗最常用的化疗药物^[3],以铂类为基础的同步放疗是局部晚期HNSCC的一线治疗手段之一^[4]。然而,顺铂耐药会导致HNSCC患者预后不良^[5],严重限制了其临床应用^[6]。肿瘤细胞耐药是导致临床治疗困难甚至失败的重要原因,直接威胁患者的生命健康^[7],肿瘤干细胞(cancer stem cell, CSC)与HNSCC顺铂耐药的相关性是一个新兴研究领域,揭示其作用机制对临床治疗具有重要意义。

1 顺铂的作用机制

顺铂是一种铂类抗肿瘤药物,广泛应用于治疗HNSCC和其他实体瘤,虽然疗效显著,但是也会引起恶心、脱发和肾毒性等症状,且肿瘤会产生耐药性,从而限制其治疗效果。顺铂进入细胞浆后,氯原子被水分子取代,产生活性^[8];这种水解产物具有亲电性,可与蛋白质中的巯基和核酸中的氮供体原子等亲核基团反应。顺铂倾向于与DNA分子中嘌呤氮碱基的N7反应中心建立共价键,生成DNA加合物。少量DNA损伤可通过细胞的DNA修复机制完全修复,但顺铂导致的DNA损伤往往超过细胞的修复能力,从而触发细胞凋亡。此外,顺铂可促进活性氧的产生,引起细胞应激,从而增强促凋亡蛋白介导的细胞凋亡途径。自1978年美国食品药品监督管理局批准顺铂用于治疗转移性睾丸癌、卵巢癌和膀胱癌以来,其一直是最有效的广谱化疗药物,但耐药性限制了其临床应用。

1.1 摄入与外排

摄取或滞留减少是肿瘤细胞将顺铂控制在致死浓度以下的主要方式。顺铂的吸收由铜转运蛋白1(copper transporter 1, CTR1)、CTR2介导。研究表明,CTR1的表达使细胞中的顺铂含量增加了2.2倍,而CTR2的缺失使顺铂含量增加了9.1倍^[9]。在一项HNSCC的TCGA队列研究中,未发现CTR1表达下调与一线化疗后残留肿瘤之间的相关性^[10]。

Kemp等^[11]研究表明,CTR1的表达与顺铂的IC₅₀值及DNA加合物无相关性。关于CTR2,目前尚无研究报道其在HNSCC中的功能。但一项TCGA分析表明,在HPV阴性HNSCC中,有4%~5%的患者存在CTR2基因缺失^[12]。

P糖蛋白(P-glycoprotein, P-gp)、多药耐药相关蛋白(multidrug resistance-associated protein, MRP)、谷胱甘肽(glutathione, GSH)和肺耐药相关蛋白[lung resistance-related protein, LRP;又称主要穹窿蛋白(major vault protein, MVP)]可将进入细胞的抗肿瘤药物排出细胞外,导致细胞耐药。李圆等^[13]研究发现,P-gp在喉鳞癌组织中高表达,推测其与喉鳞癌原发耐药性相关。Ma等^[14]研究表明,MG-132可通过激活JNK信号通路调节P-gp在HNSCC耐药细胞中的表达,进而增强HNSCC耐药细胞的药物敏感性。Rigalli等^[15]发现,HPV18E6/E7可上调口咽癌细胞中P-gp的表达,进而影响口咽癌耐药。MRP的表达可被HPV18E6/E7调控,在口咽癌耐药形成过程中发挥作用^[16]。Silva等^[17]报道,MVP基因表达与HNSCC耐药相关,并推测MVP介导HNSCC多药耐药的功能可能与细胞类型相关。Izquierdo等^[18]在人口咽癌临床样本中检测到LRP高表达,提示LRP可能作为口咽癌的预后标志物。陈建军等^[19]研究表明,LRP在顺铂耐药鼻咽癌细胞中的表达显著高于非耐药的亲本细胞。Meschini等^[20]证实,LRP在细胞质和核膜均呈高表达,提示LRP在胞浆内的药物隔离可能是肿瘤细胞对化疗药物敏感性较低的原因之一。目前研究发现,谷胱甘肽S-转移酶(glutathione S-transferase, GST)包括 α 、 μ 、 π 、 θ 四种同工酶。其中GST- π 是肿瘤细胞中最常见的同工酶,在MDR表型的细胞系中高表达,GST- π 表达上调与HNSCC患者顺铂耐药及不良预后密切相关^[21]。

1.2 DNA修复

顺铂一旦进入细胞,就会造成DNA损伤和氧化应激。为了保持遗传完整性,细胞需要激活DNA修复途径来移除顺铂-DNA加合物,这一过程涉及防止细胞死亡的互补DNA修复机制,而这些机制在肿瘤细胞中被高度激活。HNSCC通常携带至少一个DNA修复基因突变,DNA修复中的这些错误,如TP53突变、CDKN2A缺失或PIK3CA扩增,可促进肿瘤的发生。携带DNA修复基因突变的Fanconi贫血患者患HNSCC的风险增加500~700倍^[22]。另一方面,激活的DNA修复可能并不精确,可导致其他突

变的积累,这些新的突变也参与了顺铂耐药^[23-24]。DNA 切除修复蛋白 ERCC-1 和 ERCC-4 负责修复链内铂-DNA 加合物,在诱导顺铂耐药中发挥关键作用^[25]。高表达的 ERCC-1 和 ERCC-4 可预测顺铂对 HNSCC 的临床疗效。在 57 例患者中,有 26 例检测到 ERCC1 高表达,ERCC1 高表达患者无进展生存率更低^[26]。在口咽或喉部,ERCC-4 高表达与较低的无进展生存率显著相关^[27]。当互补 DNA 修复途径不能修复加合物时,可能会产生致命的双链断裂,此时同源重组途径为 DNA 损伤修复的主要系统^[28]。此外, O⁶-甲基鸟嘌呤 DNA 甲基转移酶 (O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase, MGMT) 可修复鸟嘌呤 O⁶ 位的烷基加合物,进而调节细胞对 O⁶-烷基鸟嘌呤烷基化试剂的抗性^[29]。富含 MGMT 的鼻咽癌细胞对顺铂的耐药性更强,因为 MGMT 还可与铂-DNA 加合物结合,促进顺铂治疗后的 DNA 修复。高水平的 MGMT 也可预测患者存活率的下降^[30]。

2 CSCs 与顺铂耐药

近年来的研究表明,表型不同的肿瘤细胞亚群导致了耐药的产生。CSCs 起源于组织特异性干细胞中突变的积累,具有更强的自我更新能力。在药物的刺激下,遗传和表观遗传的变化在 CSCs 中积累,导致异质性和侵袭性表型细胞增殖,从而推动 CSCs 顺铂耐药的发展。HNSCC 中的多能转录因子 CD44、SOX2、ALDH、Nanog 和 Bim-1 可调节 CSCs 的生物活性,参与 HNSCC 顺铂耐药,而这些多能转录因子可被 Wnt、Notch、JAK-STAT、PI3K/AKT/mTOR 等信号通路所调控(图 1)。目前已发表的研究主要

集中于通过调控蛋白质和 RNA 的表达改变 CSCs 表型,减少顺铂耐药。

2.1 SOX2

SOX2 是高迁移转录因子家族成员之一,在肿瘤细胞增殖、耐药和转移中发挥作用,并且在胚胎干细胞的早期发育和维持中起主导作用^[31]。研究表明,携带 SOX2 基因的患者肿瘤细胞染色体 3q26.33 位置上具有基因组扩增高峰^[32]。SOX2 在 T258 位置上的糖基化对胚胎干细胞的自我更新具有重要作用^[33]。SOX2/SOX9 在肿瘤中的独特表达可影响肿瘤微环境和放疗反应,沉默 SOX2 可增强肿瘤细胞对放疗的抗性,而沉默 SOX9 可增强肿瘤细胞的放疗敏感性^[34]。组蛋白脱乙酰酶 1 和 mTORC1/C2 的抑制剂 4SC-202 和 INK128 可通过阻断帽依赖性 mRNA 翻译来抑制 SOX2 表达,并且均能影响 HNSCC 复发及顺铂耐药^[35]。此外,HNSCC 中蛋白酶体成分 PSMD14 可通过阻止 E2F1 泛素化降解来促进 SOX2 转录,增强细胞干性,导致顺铂耐药。另外,PSMD14 还与 HNSCC 恶性进展和预后不良有关^[36]。靶向成纤维细胞生长因子受体 (fibroblast growth factor receptor, FGFR)/AKT/SOX2 轴的 AZD4547 可以克服 HNSCC 的化疗耐药^[37]。Yuan 等^[38] 研究表明,IL-1RA 通过介导 EGFR/JNK/SOX2 表达促进 HNSCC 的恶性进展。在 HNSCC 中,CSCs 通过上调干性相关标志物 SOX2 的表达介导顺铂耐药。

2.2 Bmi-1

Bmi-1 属于多梳家族成员,可与 RING2/RING1b 亚基结合形成功能性 E3 泛素连接酶,在胃癌、子宫内膜癌、喉癌等肿瘤中高表达^[39-41],参与肿瘤的恶性进展。研究表明,甲基转移酶 3 可通过细胞分裂途径调控 Bmi-1,影响 HNSCC 干细胞表型,进而调控 HNSCC 的恶性进展^[42]。顺铂可增加 HNSCC 中 CSCs 的数量,并诱导 Bmi-1 表达,而 Bmi-1 是 CSCs 自我更新的主要调节因子^[43]。临床观察发现,肿瘤耐药细胞具有引发新肿瘤的能力,从而导致局部复发或转移^[44]。研究表明,CSCs 通过 Bmi-1 介导 HNSCC 化疗耐药和转移^[45]。小鼠 PDX 模型实验表明,白细胞介素-6 (interleukin-6, IL-6)/STAT3 信号通路可激活上皮-间充质转化 (epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT) 调节的 Bmi-1,介导 HNSCC 中 CSCs 自我更新和化疗耐药^[46]。同样,Bmi-1 表达上调与顺铂耐药细胞 EMT 和 CSCs 积累增加有关^[47]。Bmi-1

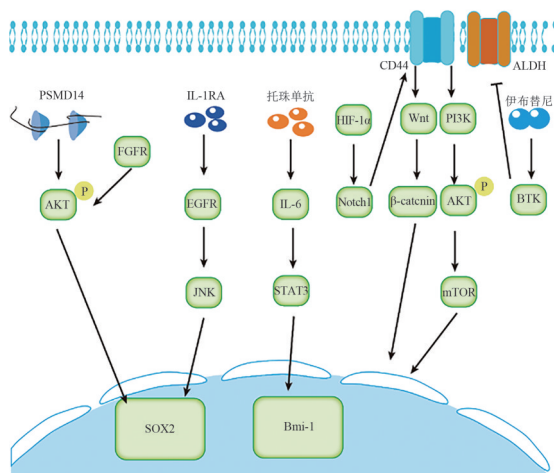


图 1 HNSCC 顺铂耐药的干细胞机制

Fig. 1 Mechanisms of HNSCC stem cell in cisplatin resistance

在恶性肿瘤的发生、侵袭、转移、治疗和预后等方面具有重要作用,深入研究 Bmi-1 的作用机制对攻克 HNSCC 顺铂耐药具有深远意义。

2.3 CD44

CD44 是 CSCs 的标志物之一,在大多数脊椎动物细胞表面表达,可作为透明质酸、胶原蛋白、层粘连蛋白、纤连蛋白和骨桥蛋白等细胞外基质成分的受体。研究表明,CD44 在头颈肿瘤中高表达,且与不良预后相关^[48]。CD44 主要通过调控细胞与细胞间黏附、细胞与基质间黏附,以及信号转导等过程发挥作用^[49]。CD44 可作为预测 HNSCC 患者预后的独立标志物,其高表达与淋巴结转移和远处转移、生存率、肿瘤复发及肿瘤分期和分级较高有关^[50]。糖蛋白非转移性黑色素蛋白 B 可与 CD44 受体相互作用,通过激活 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号级联反应促进 HNSCC 进展^[51]。胡琛等^[52]研究表明,CD44 的表达与鼻咽癌细胞的转移能力呈正相关,推测 CD44 通过促进 EMT 进程增强肿瘤的转移能力。抑制 CD44 表达可影响 Wnt/ β -catenin 信号通路,增强 HNSCC 细胞的 CSCs 表型和顺铂耐药性。CD44+ HNSCC 细胞中的缺氧诱导因子 1 α (hypoxia-inducible factor 1 α , HIF-1 α) 可促进细胞干性、耐药性和 EMT^[53]。

2.4 ALDH

ALDH 超家族有 19 种同工酶,在组织中分布广泛。ALDH1 具有致癌作用,可促进细胞增殖、抗细胞凋亡和减少 CSCs 中的氧化应激^[54]。临床研究表明,ALDH1B1 高表达与 HNSCC 患者生存率呈负相关,与免疫浸润呈正相关,可作为 HNSCC 的预后生物标志物^[55]。Chen 等^[42]研究表明,CSCs 中 ALDH1A3 和 ALDH7A1 的 mRNA 修饰改变可调控 HNSCC 的恶性进展。ALDH 介导的干性表型与顺铂耐药有关,可能通过代谢途径来调控肿瘤细胞耐药^[56]。ALDH 依赖的耐药性最初在造血祖细胞中被发现,其中 ALDH1A1/3A1 过表达增加了对环磷酰胺活性代谢物的耐药性^[57]。此外,ALDH 高表达有助于肿瘤对顺铂、达卡巴嗪^[58]和阿糖胞苷^[59]等细胞毒性药物产生耐药性。与单药治疗相比,伊布替尼联合顺铂可能通过调节 BTK/CD133 信号通路来抑制 CSCs 表型,进而减少 ALDH 阳性肿瘤球的形成,并促进细胞凋亡^[60]。

2.5 治疗策略

耐药性及对正常组织的毒性限制了顺铂的应用,因此需要开发新的策略来提高疗效并降低药物

毒性,改善 HNSCC 患者的生活质量和生存率。在纳米技术领域,针对 CSCs 特定表型设计的纳米粒子已成为克服肿瘤化疗耐药的可能策略之一。Su 等^[61]制备了一种抗 CD44 的超顺磁性氧化铁纳米颗粒,可在磁场作用下诱导 HNSCC 中的 CSCs 发生程序性死亡,治疗组肿瘤抑制率为 33.43%,且肿瘤组织坏死区域主要分布在磁流体周围。Kaur 等^[62]发现,银纳米颗粒可介导口腔鳞癌中的 CSCs 凋亡。Elsaady 等^[63]发现,在小鼠原位舌癌模型中,局部注射以聚乙二醇-聚乳酸-聚乙二醇纳米颗粒为载体的药物比全身给药更具优势。长循环聚合物胶束 NC-6004^[64],聚合物缀合物 AP5280 和长循环脂质体 L-NDDP、SPI-077、Lipoplatin 已进入临床试验^[65]。PRV111 纳米工程顺铂贴剂的应用显著降低了与顺铂静脉注射相关的全身毒性,并在动物模型和 I/II 期临床试验中得到验证^[66]。虽然一些基于纳米载体的顺铂输送系统在体内表现出更好的耐受性和治疗效果^[64],但只有少数进入临床试验^[66]。近年来,异种移植肿瘤模型因可保留和复制原始组织的遗传特征,广泛应用于纳米递送系统的功效验证^[67]。虽然纳米递送系统的发展有望解决 HNSCC 顺铂耐药的难题,但巨噬细胞相互作用、肿瘤穿透力和细胞内化都是需要克服的困难。

3 总结与展望

基于铂类的同步放疗是治疗局部晚期 HNSCC 的有效手段,但频繁出现的顺铂耐药是复发、疾病进展和总生存期缩短的常见原因。揭示 HNSCC 顺铂耐药的分子机制,阐明关键靶点,对于开发治疗策略具有重要意义。HNSCC 顺铂耐药是由多种因素、过程和信号通路之间相互作用引起的,除本文所述 HNSCC 相关耐药机制外,表观遗传调控、细胞自噬、代谢重编程、肿瘤相关成纤维细胞及相关信号通路等都是耐药发生发展的重要影响因素。顺铂耐药可导致 HNSCC 患者预后不良,因此,深入阐明顺铂耐药的潜在机制至关重要。另外,随着纳米药物递送系统的进展,结合现有的小分子抑制剂和创新的基因技术,可能为解决 HNSCC 顺铂耐药开辟新的途径。

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