

· 论 著 ·

骨髓间充质干细胞诱导肝纤维化大鼠肝星状细胞凋亡和 Caspase-3 表达*

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摘要:目的 研究大鼠骨髓间充质干细胞(MSCs)诱导肝纤维化大鼠肝星状细胞(HSCs)凋亡及 Caspase-3 表达。方法 分离培养大鼠 MSCs。将肝纤维化模型 SD 大鼠 60 只平均分为 A(鼠尾静脉注射等量的生理盐水)、B(鼠尾静脉注射含 MSCs 细胞悬液)、C(鼠尾静脉注射经肝细胞生长因子诱导 14 d 后的 MSCs 细胞悬液)组。鼠尾静脉输注 2×10^5 MSCs 细胞悬液, 于第 1、2、3、4 周末取肝组织, 经 HE、Masson 染色观察肝纤维化程度, 用 TUNEL 法检测各组 HSCs 凋亡, 免疫组化检测 Desmin, RT-PCR 和 Western Blot 检测凋亡因子 Caspase-3。**结果** B、C 两组肝组织学改善明显, 肝纤维化程度减轻, HSCs 数量明显减少, Desmin、TUNEL 染色阳性的细胞均增多, Caspase-3 基因 mRNA 和蛋白表达增强, 且呈时间依赖性, 与 A 组比较差异有统计学意义, 且 C 组较 B 组明显 ($P < 0.01$, $P < 0.05$)。**结论** MSCs 可在体内诱导 HSCs 凋亡并上调 Caspase-3 表达, 肝细胞生长因子诱导 MSCs 抗肝纤维化较单纯 MSCs 作用更强。

关键词:骨髓间充质干细胞; 肝纤维化大鼠; 肝星状细胞; 凋亡; Caspase-3

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Investigation of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells on apoptosis of hepatic fibrosis rats of hepatic stellate cells and the expression of Caspase-3*

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Abstract: **Objective** To investigate the effect of rat bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) on apoptosis of hepatic fibrosis rats of hepatic stellate cells (HSCs) and the expression of Caspase-3. **Methods** MSCs were isolated and cultured from bone marrow in rats. Sixty SD hepatic fibrosis rats were divided into 3 groups randomly: A, B and C group. fibrosis model rats were treated with infusion of MSCs suspension or normal saline via tail vein at the beginning of 7th week, after treatment (on weeks of 1, 2, 3 and 4), hepatic tissues were taken. The degree of fibrosis was observed under light microscope by hematoxylin and eosin (HE) and Masson staining. The apoptosis of HSCs was detected by terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated dUTP nick end labeling (TUNEL). Desmin was detected by immuno-histochemically. The mRNA and protein expressions of Caspase-3 were detected by RT-PCR and Western Blot. **Results** The hepatic tissue histology of B and C groups obviously improved than A group, the degree of hepatic fibrosis was alleviated, the quantity of HSCs were decreased obviously, the quantity of positive HSCs were increased by Desmin and TUNEL, the mRNA and protein expressions of Caspase-3 were significantly increased at time 1w ($P < 0.01$, $P < 0.05$), and show time dependent. Moreover, we observed that the antifibrosis effect of C group was superior to B group. **Conclusion** MSCs could induce HSCs apoptosis in vivo by up-regulating the expression levels of Caspase-3, HGF-induced MSCs was superior to MSCs in the antifibrosis.

Key words: bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells; hepatic fibrosis rats; hepatic stellate cells; apoptosis; Caspase-3

肝星状细胞 (hepatic stellate cells, HSCs) 的增生和激活是肝纤维化的中心环节。近年来, 针对 HSCs 研究成为抗肝纤维化的重要途径^[1]。体内外实验研究发现间充质干细胞 (mesenchymal stem cells, MSCs) 具有保护肝细胞和抵抗肝纤维化的作用, 且可以诱导 HSCs 凋亡。但对 MSCs 诱导 HSCs 凋亡机制研究的报道不多, 本研究观察了 MSCs 和肝细胞生长因子 (HGF) 诱导 MSCs 对大鼠肝纤维化模型中肝纤维化程度及 HSCs 凋亡的影响, 检测肝脏 HSCs Caspase-3 mRNA 和蛋白表达, 初步探讨 MSCs 通过上调 Caspase-3 诱导 HSCs 的凋亡机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 材料 SPF 级雄性 SD 大鼠, 3 月龄, 体质量 180~200 g,

(合格证号: SCXK 桂 2009-0002); 小鼠重组肝细胞生长因子 (HGF, Peprotech 公司); TUNEL 细胞凋亡检测试剂盒 (Roche); 兔抗鼠 Desmin 单克隆抗体 HRP、小鼠抗 Caspase-3 多克隆抗体、HRP 标记的山羊抗小鼠 IgG 和 HRP 标记的山羊抗兔 IgG (Santa Cruz 公司) 等。

1.2 实验方法

1.2.1 MSCs 的分离与培养 分离培养 MSCs^[2], 取第 4 代细胞 (P4)。用 20 ng/mL (终浓度) HGF 诱导 MSCs, 连续培养 14 d。

1.2.2 动物分组及处理 SD 雄性大鼠 70 只, 用 40% CCL4 花生油溶液每周 1 和周 4 腹部注射法制造慢性肝损伤模型, 剂量为 0.2 mL/100 g, 共注射 6 周, 造模过程死亡 5 只, 移植过程

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死亡 5 只,余存活。将上述经 CCL4 处理后的大鼠随机均分为 A 组($n=20$):鼠尾静脉注射等量的生理盐水;B 组($n=20$):鼠尾静脉注射含 MSCs 细胞悬液;C 组($n=20$):鼠尾静脉注射经 HGF 诱导 14 d 后的 MSCs 细胞悬液。肝纤维化模型鼠 6 周后进行鼠尾静脉移植 MSCs 细胞 2×10^5 个。于移植后第 1、2、3 和 4 周末,将 3 组大鼠处死,取新鲜肝组织速冻保存。肝脏病理学检查:HE 和 Masson 染色,观察肝组织纤维化程度。免疫组化检测 Desmin,按试剂盒说明操作。

1.2.3 TUNEL 法检测肝脏 HSCs 凋亡 按 TUNEL 细胞凋亡检测试剂盒说明书操作,Desmin 染色同上,镜下观察,胞质棕黄色的细胞为 HSCs,细胞核中有棕黄色颗粒者为凋亡细胞,胞质、胞核均呈棕黄色的梭形细胞为凋亡的 HSCs。凋亡指数=凋亡细胞数/HSCs。

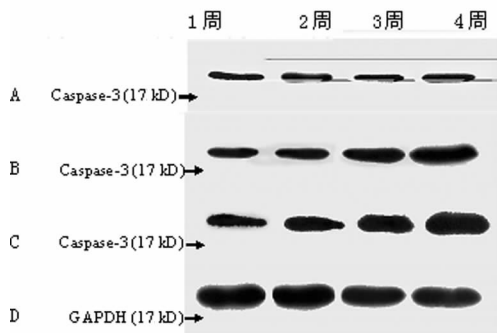
1.2.4 大鼠肝组织总 RNA 提取和 RT-PCR 检测 用 Trizol 一步抽提法提取总 RNA,按逆转录试剂盒说明书进行逆转录和目的基因的扩增。大鼠 Caspase-3 基因(342 bp),上游:5' AGT CTG ACT GGA AAG CCG AA3',下游:5' CGG GAT CTG TTT CTT TGC AT3';GAPDH 扩增片段(140 bp),上游:GCC AGT AGA CTC CAC GAC AT,下游:GCA AGT TCA ACG GCA CAG。以目的基因/GAPDH 的吸光度比值表示相对目的基因 mRNA 水平。

1.2.5 肝组织总蛋白提取和 Western Blot 检测 用细胞裂解液提取各时段 HSCs 总蛋白,上样量为 80 μ g,蛋白进行 15% SDS-PAGE 凝胶电泳,PVDF 转膜,非特异性封闭;小鼠抗 Caspase-3 多克隆抗体(1:250 稀释),4 $^{\circ}$ C 过夜,加入辣根过氧化物酶标记的二抗进行杂交。以目的蛋白/GAPDH 的吸光度比值表示相对目的蛋白水平。

1.3 统计学方法 采用 SPSS13.0 统计软件分析,数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,多组间比较采用单因素方差分析及 q 检验,两组的比较采用两样本 t 检验。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 肝脏病理学变化和免疫组化检测 Desmin、HE、Masson 染色显示 B、C 组肝脏炎症活动度及肝纤维化程度较 A 组轻,C 组第 4 周与第 3 周比较差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)。纤维化程度分级定量采用纤维化程度评分方法^[3-4]。Desmin 染色阳性细胞位于炎症坏死区、纤维间隔及肝窦周围,B、C 两组第 3、4 周较前明显减少,与 A 组比较,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)。



A: A 组; B: B 组; C: C 组; D: D 组。

图 1 Caspase-3 蛋白/GAPDH 吸光度比值

2.2 凋亡结果的检测 TUNEL 及 Desmin 染色后,B、C 两组 HSCs 细胞凋亡指数(5.59 ± 0.50 、 9.50 ± 0.35 、 15.61 ± 0.35 、 20.55 ± 0.30 、 6.52 ± 0.40 、 10.49 ± 0.41 、 16.46 ± 0.32 、 25.41

± 0.50)与 A 组(1.40 ± 0.35 、 1.52 ± 0.37 、 1.50 ± 0.31 、 1.45 ± 0.39)比较明显增加($P < 0.01$),且呈时间依赖性。C 组第 4 周与 B 组第 4 周比较,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)。

2.3 RT-PCR 和 Western Blot 检测 MSCs 移植后 HSCs Caspase-3 基因 mRNA 和蛋白表达 移植后 B、C 两组 Caspase-3 基因 mRNA 和蛋白表达呈时间依赖性,显著高于 A 组($P < 0.01$)。C 组第 4 周与 B 组第 4 周比较,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$),见图 1。

3 讨论

肝脏疾病是常见病,而肝纤维化是肝硬化的必经途径。有研究证实,MSCs 可有效逆转肝纤维化^[5-6]。Sakaida 等^[7]发现,CCL4 诱发肝纤维化的大鼠用骨髓治疗 4 周后,肝纤维化明显减轻。Abdel 等^[8]发现,MSCs 移植后明显降低肝小叶中的纤维化水平。本研究结果也显示,B、C 两组大鼠的肝脏损伤程度明显减轻,肝纤维化程度改善明显,与以往报道一致。C 组较 B 组改善明显,说明 HGF 也发挥了作用。Oe 等^[9]发现,HGF 在体外可诱导骨髓细胞向肝系细胞的转化,其他学者也观察到 HGF 可诱导骨髓干细胞分化为肝样细胞。

近年来研究显示 MSCs 可以诱导 HSCs 凋亡^[9-13]。本研究通过 TUNEL 法发现,B、C 两组的凋亡呈时间依赖性,显著高于 A 组。C 组第 4 周与 B 组第 4 周比较差异有统计学意义,可能是 HGF 诱导 MSCs 使其形态和功能发生改变,对肝纤维化有更强的修复作用,对抗肝纤维化和诱导 HSCs 凋亡较单纯 MSCs 作用强。本研究采用 1、2、3、4 周动态观察 HSCs 凋亡的变化趋势,与以往研究采用的单个时间段相比,可更好反映凋亡呈时间增长的动态变化趋势。

Caspase-3 是 Caspase 家族中最重要的凋亡执行者之一,在细胞凋亡发生过程中扮演了关键角色。Kim 等^[14]研究发现,T-HSC/Cl-6 细胞凋亡是通过细胞色素 C 的释放以及 Caspase-3 的活化而实现的。Jameel 等^[15]报道,Caspase-3 是 HSCs 的凋亡的途径之一。本研究发现 B、C 两组 Caspase-3 基因 mRNA 和蛋白表达呈时间依赖性,显著高于 A 组,可见 Caspase-3 是 MSCs 诱导 HSCs 凋亡的重要途径之一,同样 C 组第 4 周 Caspase-3 的表达更强。与以上报道不同,本研究采用动态观察的过程从基因和蛋白水平研究了 Caspase-3。

综上所述,经鼠尾静脉输注 MSCs 的肝纤维化大鼠,肝组织学明显改善,MSCs 可在体内诱导 HSCs 凋亡并上调 Caspase-3 表达。HGF 诱导 MSCs 用于移植抗肝纤维化较单纯 MSCs 作用更强。

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