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· 基础研究 ·

Snail 促进乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞移植瘤对多柔比星的耐药及其机制

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[摘要] 目的: 探讨 Snail 在乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞移植瘤对多柔比星耐药中的作用及其可能的机制。方法: 构建 Snail 基因真核表达载体 pcDNA3.1-Snail, 转染至 MCF-7 细胞, 筛选稳定表达 Snail 的 MCF-7/Snail 细胞, 以转染空质粒 pcDNA3.1 的 MCF-7 细胞 (MCF-7/pcDNA) 为对照。构建小鼠 MCF-7/Snail 及 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤模型, 注射多柔比星, 观测移植瘤生长, 计算抑瘤率。免疫组织化学方法检测移植瘤组织中 Snail、多药耐药基因-1 (multidrug resistance-1, MDR-1) 和基质金属蛋白酶-9 (matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9) 的表达。结果: 成功构建 pcDNA3.1-Snail 表达载体, 转染 MCF-7 细胞后获得 MCF-7/Snail 和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞, 并制备小鼠移植瘤。多柔比星治疗后, MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤的瘤重明显高于 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤 [(1.413 ± 0.674) g vs (1.257 ± 0.576) g, $P < 0.05$], 多柔比星对 MCF-7/Snail 移植瘤抑瘤率明显低于 MCF-7/pcDNA 移植瘤 (18.42% vs 30.18%, $P < 0.05$), MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤的组织中 Snail、MDR-1、MMP-9 的表达均显著高于 MCF-7/pcDNA 移植瘤 (408.08 ± 20.39 vs 67.67 ± 16.56, 363.50 ± 26.56 vs 55.08 ± 12.23, 396.25 ± 16.03 vs 56.92 ± 7.35; 均 $P < 0.01$), 且 Snail 与 MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的表达均呈正相关 ($r_1 = 0.89, P < 0.01$; $r_2 = 0.81, P < 0.01$)。结论: Snail 促进乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞移植瘤对多柔比星的耐药, 其机制与增强 MDR-1 和 MMP-9 表达有关。

[关键词] 乳腺肿瘤; 多柔比星; Snail; MDR-1; MMP-9

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Snail increases resistance of breast cancer MCF-7 cell transplanted tumors to doxorubicin and its mechanism

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[Abstract] **Objective:** To study the effect of Snail on resistance of breast cancer MCF-7 cell transplanted tumors to doxorubicin and its possible mechanism. **Methods:** Snail eukaryotic expression vector pcDNA3.1-Snail was constructed and transfected into MCF-7 cells, and MCF-7 cells with stable Snail expression (MCF-7/Snail cells) were screened. MCF-7 cells transfected with blank pcDNA3.1 (MCF-7/pcDNA cells) were used as control. MCF-7/Snail- and MCF-7/pcDNA-cell transplanted tumor models were established. After doxorubicin injection, the growth of transplanted tumors was observed, and the inhibitory rate of doxorubicin was calculated. The expressions of Snail, MDR-1 and MMP-9 in transplanted tumor tissues were examined by immunohistochemistry. **Results:** pcDNA3.1-Snail expression vector was successfully constructed, and MCF-7/Snail and MCF-7/pcDNA cells were obtained. After doxorubicin therapy, the transplanted tumor weight in MCF-7/Snail group was significantly higher than that in the MCF-7/pcDNA group [(1.413 ± 0.674) g vs (1.257 ± 0.576) g, $P < 0.05$], and the inhibitory rate of doxorubicin was significantly lower (18.42% vs 30.18%, $P < 0.05$). The expressions of Snail, MDR-1 and MMP-9 in transplanted tumor tissues were significantly higher than those in MCF-7/pcDNA group (408.08 ± 20.39 vs 67.67 ± 16.56, 363.50 ± 26.56 vs 55.08 ± 12.23, 396.25 ± 16.03 vs 56.92 ± 7.35, all $P < 0.05$), and the expression of Snail was positively correlated with that of MDR-1 and MMP-

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9 ($r_1 = 0.89, P < 0.01; r_2 = 0.81, P < 0.01$). **Conclusion:** Snail can increase resistance of breast cancer MCF-7 cell transplanted tumors to doxorubicin, which might be related with the increased expressions of MDR-1 and MMP-9 in breast cancer MCF-7 transplanted tumors.

[**Key words**] breast neoplasms; doxorubicin; Snail; MDR-1; MMP-9

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上皮-间质转化(epithelial mesenchymal transition, EMT)是指细胞由上皮表型向间质表型的转变,这种转变存在于多种上皮来源的恶性肿瘤中,与肿瘤细胞的浸润和远处转移密切相关^[1]。Snail 蛋白是一种锌指 DNA 结合蛋白^[2],通过结合钙黏蛋白 E 启动子的 E-box,下调 E-cadherin 的表达,诱导 EMT 的发生^[3]。EMT 的发生也与肿瘤细胞多药耐药密切相关,癌细胞突变过程中或经药物诱导后,多药耐药基因(multidrug resistance, MDR)被激活,癌细胞获得或增强抵抗化疗药物(如多柔比星)的能力^[4]。MDR 基因表达不仅是药物耐受的信号,而且是癌细胞生物学行为恶化标志^[5]。基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9)是细胞外基质降解过程中最重要的蛋白水解酶,参与机体许多生理和病理过程,特别是与肿瘤的浸润及转移密切相关^[6]。本研究观察荷乳腺癌小鼠癌组织中 Snail、MDR-1、MMP-9 的表达及其相关性,以期探讨乳腺癌组织中 Snail 表达与多柔比星耐药的的关系及其可能的机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 主要实验材料

收集潍坊医学院附属医院病理科 2009 年 6 月至 2009 年 10 月间乳腺癌切除标本 10 例,所有患者均未接受化疗及放疗。患者均女性,年龄 35~54 岁,中位年龄 45 岁。BALB/c 裸鼠 24 只[实验动物合格证号为 SCXK(沪)2007-0005],雌性,4 周龄,重量 15~19 g。乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞由潍坊医学院基础医学实验中心提供。抗 Snail、MDR-1 和 MMP-9 一抗及 SABC 通用试剂盒购自北京中杉生物技术公司。RNA 提取试剂 TRIzol 购自北京索莱宝科技有限公司,pcDNA3.1(-)质粒和 Lipofectamine™ 2000 脂质体购自美国 Invitrogen 公司,限制性内切酶、DNA 聚合酶购自宝生物工程(大连)有限公司;cDNA 第一链合成试剂盒、PCR 扩增试剂盒购自宝生物工程(大连)有限公司,T/A 克隆试剂盒和 PCR 引物购自上海生工生物工程公司。

1.2 构建 pcDNA3.1-Snail 真核表达载体

TRIzol 法提取乳腺癌组织总 RNA,逆转录合成 cDNA,PCR 扩增获得 Snail 基因片段。将获得的

Snail 基因片段末端加 A 后连接 pUCm-T 载体,构建载体 pUCm-T-Snail。克隆产物 pUCm-T-Snail 质粒均用 Not I 和 Bam H I 进行双酶切,将酶切产物连接到 pcDNA3.1(-)质粒,构建成 Snail 真核表达载体 pcDNA3.1-Snail,并酶切和测序鉴定。

1.3 pcDNA3.1-Snail 质粒转染 MCF-7 细胞

通过脂质体法将 pcDNA3.1-Snail 和 pcDNA3.1(-)质粒(对照)导入 MCF-7 细胞,并用 G418 筛选稳定株,分别命名为 MCF-7/Snail 和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞。

1.4 乳腺癌荷瘤鼠的制备及多柔比星的治疗

取 BALB/c 裸鼠 40 只,随机分为 4 组,其中 2 组每组 12 只,为实验组;另 2 组每组 8 只,为对照组。分别将 MCF-7/Snail 和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞以 1×10^6 /只的数量接种于实验组和对照组裸鼠胸壁的乳腺脂肪垫内。接种后 7 d 在接种部位出现肿瘤结节,质地较硬。接种 MCF-7/Snail 和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞后 15 d 开始给药,两组小鼠均经尾静脉注射多柔比星 1 mg/kg(按照成人每天 40 mg/m² 换算),每 5 d 注射 1 次,共注射 3 次。

用游标卡尺测量肿瘤大小,分别记录肿瘤长径(a)和短径(b),计算肿瘤体积, $V(\text{mm}^3) = 1/2ab^2$ 。根据两组小鼠移植瘤的体积,制作移植瘤生长曲线。多柔比星注射 15 d 后,脱颈处死全部荷瘤鼠,取出瘤体并称量,计算抑瘤率。抑瘤率(%) = (对照组肿瘤质量 - 实验组肿瘤质量)/对照组质量 × 100%。

1.5 免疫组织化学法检测 Snail、MDR-1 和 MMP-9 在乳腺癌移植瘤组织中的表达

免疫组织化学采用 SABC 法,分别滴加一抗(兔抗 Snail,1:80 稀释;兔抗 MMP-9 工作液;鼠抗 MDR-1 工作液)和生物素化二抗,在显色之前滴加试剂 SABC;DAB 室温显色,镜下控制反应 1~15 min;苏木精轻度复染,显微镜下观察结果。

棕黄色颗粒为阳性表达信号。Snail 阳性信号主要定位于细胞核,MDR-1 阳性信号主要定位于细胞膜,MMP-9 阳性信号主要定位于细胞质。分别以 16D 目镜测微网在 400 倍下计数网格中的阳性细胞数,每例计数 5 个网格。

1.7 统计学处理

实验数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,采用 SPSS10.0 软件分析,采用 *t* 检验和 Pearson 相关分析,以 $P < 0.01$ 或 $P < 0.05$ 表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 pcDNA3.1-Snail 真核表达载体的构建及其稳定转染细胞的获得

RT-PCR 获得特异性 *Snail* 基因片段,长约 799 bp(图 1)。胶回收纯化后,将该片段与 T 载体连接,转化后进行酶切鉴定,在 800 bp 附近见到特异性片段。测序后将所得序列在 Blast 上进行比对,其与原序列相一致。将该序列连接到酶切好的 pcDNA3.1(-)质粒,构建 pcDNA3.1-Snail 真核表达载体(图 2)。

以脂质体法将 pcDNA3.1-Snail 和 pcDNA3.1(-)转染 MCF-7 细胞,获得 MCF-7/Snail 细胞和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞。

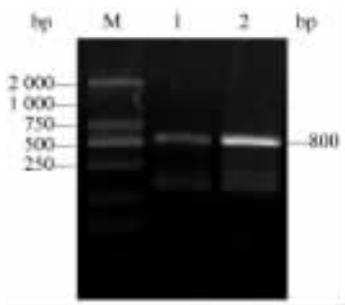


图 1 PCR 扩增 *Snail* 基因
Fig. 1 *Snail* gene amplified by PCR
M: Marker; 1, 2: *Snail* gene

2.2 Snail 促进乳腺癌细胞移植瘤对多柔比星的耐药性

以多柔比星分别治疗 MCF-7/Snail 和 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤,治疗结束后,MCF-7/Snail 细胞

移植瘤的瘤重[(1.413 ± 0.674)g]明显高于 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤[(1.257 ± 0.576)g, $P < 0.05$];多柔比星对 MCF-7/Snail 组的抑瘤率(18.42%)明显低于 MCF-7/pcDNA 组(30.18% , $P < 0.05$)。结果表明,*Snail* 的表达能够明显促进乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞对多柔比星的耐药性。

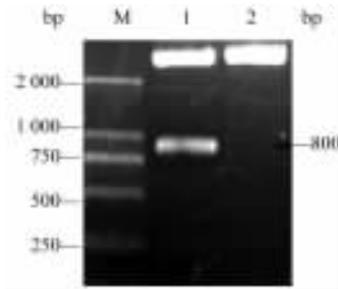


图 2 pcDNA3.1-Snail 真核表达载体的酶切鉴定
Fig. 2 Identification of eukaryotic pcDNA3.1-Snail expression vector by endonuclease digestion
M: Marker; 1: pcDNA3.1-Snail; 2: pcDNA3.1

2.3 Snail 和 MDR-1、MMP-9 在乳腺癌移植瘤组织中的表达及其相关性

Snail 阳性信号主要定位于细胞核,对照组 MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤组织阳性细胞数明显高于对照组 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤组织[(408.08 ± 20.39) vs (67.67 ± 16.56), $P < 0.05$;图 3A、D];MDR-1 阳性信号主要定位于细胞膜,实验组 MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤组织阳性细胞数明显高于对照 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤组织[(363.50 ± 26.56) vs (55.08 ± 12.23), $P < 0.01$;图 3B、E]。MMP-9 阳性信号主要定位于细胞质,实验组 MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤组织阳性细胞数明显高于对照组 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤组织[(396.25 ± 16.03) vs (56.92 ± 7.35), $P < 0.01$;图 3C、F]。

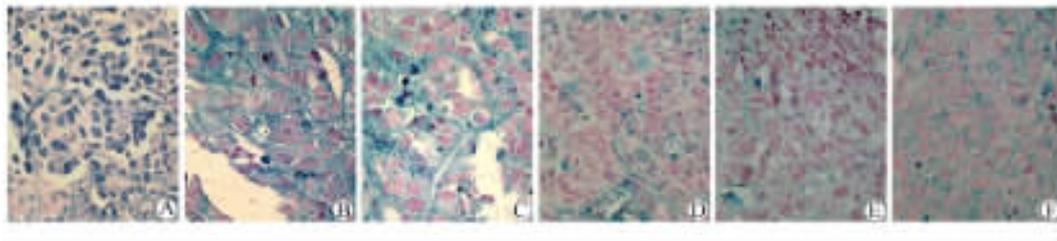


图 4 *Snail*、MDR-1 和 MMP-9 在 MCF-7 移植瘤组织中的表达(S-P, ×400)
Fig. 4 *Snail*, MDR-1 and MMP-9 expressions in tumor tissues of MCF-7-bearing mice(S-P, ×400)

A: *Snail* is strongly expressed in MCF-7/Snail tumor tissues; B: MDR-1 is strongly expressed in MCF-7/Snail tumor tissues; C: MMP-9 is strongly expressed in MCF-7/Snail tumor tissues; D: *Snail* is weakly expressed in MCF-7/pcDNA tumor tissues; E: MDR-1 is weakly expressed in MCF-7/pcDNA tumor tissues; F: MMP-9 is weakly expressed in MCF-7/pcDNA tumor tissues

与 MCF-7/pcDNA 移植瘤相比,实验组 MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤组织中 Snail 的阳性细胞数增加时,MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的阳性细胞数也增加;Pearson 相关分析发现,两组乳腺癌组织 Snail 与 MDR-1、MMP-1 的表达均呈正相关($r_1 = 0.89, P < 0.01$; $r_2 = 0.81, P < 0.01$)。结果显示,Snail 的表达增加,可使 MCF-7 乳腺癌移植瘤组织中 MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的表达相应增加。

3 讨论

大量研究^[7-8]表明,转录因子 Snail 可以诱导 EMT 的发生,肿瘤的侵袭浸润和转移增强是 EMT 的特征之一^[9],发生 EMT 的上皮细胞丧失了上皮细胞原有的细胞极性和细胞间连接,细胞的迁移和运动能力增强^[1]。多药耐药(MDR)是导致恶性肿瘤患者化疗失败的重要原因之一。Li 等^[10]的研究表明,多柔比星可以通过细胞周期依赖的方式诱导乳腺癌细胞发生凋亡和 EMT,发生 EMT 的乳腺癌细胞侵袭、转移能力和 MDR 均增强。金属基质蛋白酶(MMP)是一组锌肽酶超家族,能够降解细胞外基质成分,在肿瘤的浸润和转移过程中起着关键性的作用。目前已发现 MMP-2 和 MMP-9 是 MMPs 中与肿瘤浸润和转移关系最密切的两个因子。Davies 等^[11]通过定量酶谱分析发现,MMP-2 和 MMP-9 的表达与乳腺癌的组织学分级及侵袭能力呈正相关。Savagner 等^[12]研究发现,体外乳腺上皮细胞中的溶基质素(stromelysin)能够诱导 EMT 的发生。

以往的研究^[13]发现,高表达 Snail 后可导致人乳腺癌细胞 P-gp 介导的多药耐药。为证明体内 Snail 高表达导致乳腺癌组织耐药性和侵袭力增强,本实验将构建的 Snail 真核表达载体 pcDNA3.1-Snail 转染至乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞,并将稳定转染 MCF-7/Snail 细胞种植于 BALB/c 小鼠胸壁的乳腺脂肪垫内,构建小鼠乳腺癌移植瘤模型,观察 MCF-7/Snail 细胞对化疗药多柔比星的敏感性,并采用免疫组织化学方法检测移植瘤组织中 Snail、MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的表达。结果显示,MCF-7/Snail 移植瘤重显著高于 MCF-7/pcDNA 组,其对多柔比星的敏感性显著低于 MCF-7/pcDNA 组;MCF-7/Snail 细胞移植瘤组织中 Snail、MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的阳性表达均显著高于 MCF-7/pcDNA 细胞移植瘤(均 $P < 0.05$)。相关性分析表明,在乳腺癌组织中 Snail 与 MDR-1 和 MMP-9 的表达成正相关($P < 0.01$)。EMT 与多药耐药的发生及侵袭浸润之间存在相互

作用机制,因此,Snail 与乳腺癌的耐药、发生、演进关系密切,Snail 过表达可导致乳腺癌的预后变差。当然,EMT 与多药耐药的发生和侵袭浸润三者之间的关系机制复杂,尚需进一步的研究。

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