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· 基础研究 ·

miR-133 通过 Notch1 信号通路调控 *BCAR4* 对乳腺癌迁移和侵袭的影响

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[摘要] **目的:** 探讨微小核糖核酸-133(miR-133)调控乳腺癌雌激素耐受基因4(breast cancer anti-estrogen resistance 4, *BCAR4*)对乳腺癌细胞迁移和侵袭的影响及其机制。**方法:** 采集2006年1至12月在郑州大学附属肿瘤医院接受手术切除治疗的80例乳腺癌患者的乳腺癌和相应癌旁组织。RT-PCR检测乳腺癌和癌旁组织*BCAR4*和miR-133的表达;双荧光素酶检测*BCAR4*和miR-133之间的关联;划痕实验和Transwell实验分别检测沉默*BCAR4*或沉默*BCAR4*和miR-133后乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移和侵袭能力;Western blotting检测Notch1信号通路相关蛋白的表达;裸鼠皮下成瘤实验检测沉默*BCAR4*对MCF-7细胞成瘤能力的影响;生物统计学分析*BCAR4*表达和乳腺癌患者临床病理参数及生存率的关系。**结果:** 乳腺癌组织中*BCAR4*表达显著高于癌旁组织($P<0.05$);双荧光素酶实验显示*BCAR4*可以调控miR-133的表达;沉默*BCAR4*表达可以抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移和侵袭;沉默miR-133和*BCAR4*表达的MCF-7细胞的迁移率和穿膜细胞数显著高于仅沉默*BCAR4*表达的MCF-7细胞[迁移率(92.31 ± 8.64)% vs (52.61 ± 5.12)%, $P<0.05$;穿膜细胞数:(171.38 ± 12.61) vs (28.54 ± 3.29), $P<0.01$],抑制miR-133可以逆转*BCAR4*抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞迁移、侵袭能力;沉默*BCAR4*组裸鼠成瘤的体积和质量都显著减小;沉默*BCAR4*的MCF-7细胞的Notch1通路相关蛋白表达水平明显下调;*BCAR4*表达与乳腺癌的病理分期及淋巴结转移显著相关,*BCAR4*高表达患者生存率较*BCAR4*低表达患者低。**结论:** 乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的侵袭和迁移受到*BCAR4*和miR-133的双重调控,miR-133可能通过Notch1信号通路调节*BCAR4*对乳腺癌细胞迁移和侵袭的影响,可为乳腺癌分子靶向治疗及乳腺癌耐药机制的研究提供思路。

[关键词] 乳腺癌抗雌激素耐药基因4;乳腺癌;微小核糖核酸-133;迁移;侵袭

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miR-133 manages effect of *BCAR4* on migration and invasion of the breast cancer cells through Notch1 signaling pathway

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[Abstract] Objective: To explore microRNA-133 (miR-133) controlling effect of breast cancer anti-estrogen resistance 4 (*BCAR4*) gene on migration and invasion of the breast cancer cells as well as its mechanism. **Methods:** Breast cancer and corresponding paracancerous tissues from the 80 patients with breast cancer who were hospitalized in Tumor Hospital affiliated to Zhengzhou University for surgical resection treatment during January to December 2016 were collected. Expressions of *BCAR4* and miR-133 in the breast cancer and paracancerous tissues were detected by RT-PCR. A association between *BCAR4* and miR-133 was tested by a dual-luciferase assay. Scratch and Transwell assays were respectively used to examine migration and invasion of the breast cancer MCF-7 cell after silencing *BCAR4* or silencing *BCAR4* and miR-133. Expressions of the Notch1 signaling pathway-related proteins were detected by Western blotting assay. A subcutaneous xenograft tumor experiment in nude mice was used to examine effect of silencing *BCAR4* on ability of forming tumor of the MCF-7 cell *in vivo*. Relationships between expression of *BCAR4* and clinicopathological parameters as well as survival rate of the patients with breast cancer

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were analyzed by biostatistics. **Results:** Expression of BCAR4 in the breast cancer tissue was significantly higher than that in the para-cancer tissue ($P < 0.05$). Result of dual-luciferase assay shown that BCAR4 could manage expression of miR-133. Silencing expression of BCAR4 could inhibit migration and invasion of the MCF-7 cell. Migration rate and transmembrane cell number of the MCF-7 cell in which expressions of miR-133 and BCAR4 were silenced were obviously higher than those of the MCF-7 cell in which only expression of BCAR4 was silenced [migration rate: $(92.31 \pm 8.64)\%$ vs $(52.61 \pm 5.12)\%$, $P < 0.05$; transmembrane cell number: (171.38 ± 12.61) vs (28.54 ± 3.29) , $P < 0.01$]. Restrain of miR-133 could reverse inhibition of BCAR4 to migration and invasion of the MCF-7 cell. Volumes and weights of the xenograft tumors of the nude mice in which BCAR4 was silenced were significantly decreased. Expressions of Notch1 signaling pathway-related proteins of the MCF-7 cell in which BCAR4 was silenced were remarkably down-regulated. Expression of BCAR4 was significantly related to pathological staging and lymph node metastasis of the patients with breast cancer. Survival rate of the patients with high expression of BCAR4 were lower than that of the patients with low expression of BCAR4. **Conclusion:** Migration and invasion of the breast cancer MCF-7 cell might be doubly managed by BCAR4 and miR-133. miR-133 could targetly regulate effect of BCAR4 on migration and invasion of the breast cancer cell through the Notch1 signaling pathway, which might give some clues for the molecular targeting therapy of breast cancer and the research on drug resistance mechanism of breast cancer.

[Key words] breast cancer anti-estrogen resistance 4 (*BCAR4*) gene; breast cancer; micro ribonucleic acid-133 (miR-133); migration; invasion

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雌激素受体 (estrogen receptor, ER) 在很多乳腺癌患者中表达阳性。肿瘤细胞依赖于雌激素的刺激而表现出恶性倾向^[1]。抗雌激素药物, 如他莫昔芬等, 可以抑制肿瘤细胞增殖, 延长患者生存期及降低死亡率^[2]。激素治疗和内分泌治疗患者的肿瘤进展或复发率都有一定程度的降低^[3]。乳腺癌相关 lncRNA 及其治疗靶点是目前研究的热门领域。已发现乳腺癌雌激素耐受基因 4 (breast-cancer anti-estrogen resistance 4, *BCAR4*) 在多种哺乳动物中广泛存在^[4]。文献^[5]报道发现, 人类胎盘和卵母细胞中 *BCAR4* 呈高表达, 推测 *BCAR4* 在胎盘和胎儿早期发育中具有一定功能, 但是在肿瘤中的作用是否与胎盘中一致尚不清楚。有研究^[6]报道, 22%~29% 原发性乳腺癌可以检测到 *BCAR4* 表达异常, 且和乳腺癌患者的生存期相关。微小 RNA (micro ribonucleic acid, miRNA) 对多种类型肿瘤的调节目前研究很多。miRNA 作为一类非编码单链 RNA 分子在参与调控靶基因转录功能中发挥相应的作用, 越来越多的证据表明 miRNA 在肿瘤的生长、发育和应激反应中发挥关键作用^[7]。miRNA 可以通过抑制肿瘤基因翻译, 影响肿瘤细胞的结构及运动能力, miR-1、miR-133 和 miR-208 等是其中的代表^[8]。但是, miR-133 在乳腺癌中可能发挥的调控作用方式尚未清楚^[9]。

首先在人类成 T 淋巴细胞白血病中鉴定出

Notch1 信号蛋白^[10]。随后发现, Notch 家族成员的蛋白结构一致性较高, 且呈保守状态, 可以影响多种细胞的增殖、分化行为, 影响肿瘤细胞的发生发展过程。在宫颈癌、内膜癌、卵巢癌、黑色素瘤等恶性肿瘤组织中都出现 Notch1 信号通路蛋白表达异常^[11]。其在不同类型肿瘤中发挥的作用不尽相同, 可能表现为促癌和抑癌双相作用^[12]。

本实验假设 miR-133 可以调控乳腺癌相关致癌基因 *BCAR4*, 采用生物信息学方法鉴定 *BCAR4* 和 miR-133 之间的关系, 观察沉默 *BCAR4* 和 miR-133 对乳腺癌细胞生物学行为和 Notch1 信号通路的影响, 并通过裸鼠体内成瘤实验验证上述三者的关系, 探讨 *BCAR4* 对乳腺癌细胞迁移和侵袭的影响。

1 材料和方法

1.1 乳腺癌组织、细胞株与主要试剂

乳腺癌和相应癌旁组织取自 2006 年 1 月至 12 月在郑州大学附属肿瘤医院接受乳腺癌切除术的 80 例患者, 手术切除后立即将组织放置液氮 (-80°C) 冷冻备用。所有患者均签署知情同意书, 并获得医院伦理委员会批准。

人乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞株 (*BCAR4* 高表达) 购自上海细胞库 (细胞在含 10% 胎牛血清的 RPMI 1640 培养基中, 置于 37°C 、5% CO_2 孵箱培养)。胎牛血清,

RPMI 1640培养基均购自Gibco公司。NICD,hes1和hes5抗体均购自英国Abcam公司。Transwell小室购自美国Millipore公司,Matrigel胶购自美国BD公司。BCAR4-siRNA、miR-133-inhibitor及对照慢病毒购自上海吉凯制药技术有限公司。RT-PCR引物以及RNA提取试剂盒、逆转录试剂盒、PCR试剂盒均购自广州复能基因有限公司。

1.2 RT-PCR实验分析肿瘤组织和正常组织中BCAR4 mRNA和miR-133的表达

按照miRvana miRNA分离试剂盒(Ambion)说明书操作,提取乳腺癌、癌旁组织和乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的总RNA,检测组织和细胞中BCAR4的表达,结果以同一条件下荧光信号检测样品占U6内参的百分率表示。反应条件:预变性95℃ 10 min,95℃ 10 s,60℃ 20 s 72℃ 10 s,共40个循环。每个样品设3个平行管,取平均值。对于mRNA表达的定量分析,使用Primescript RT试剂盒(TaKaRa)检测,BCAR4和miR-133都是用U6作为内参。实验重复3次。BCAR4引物序列:F 3'-CTGGTGTCGTGGAGTCGGCAATTCAGTTGA-5',R 5'-GACCCAATACGAGTCGGCAATTCCTCAACT-3'。miR-133引物序列:F 3'-CAAGGTTTCATGACAACCTTGC-5',R 5'-GTCAATCCTATCGCTGTAGCA-3'。U6内参引物序列:F 3'-ACTTCTGAATGAGTGCTTCAG-5',R 5'-UGAAGCGCCTGGTGTTTAAACG-3'。

1.3 实验分组及细胞株处理

实验分为BCAR4-siRNA组、NC组和BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组。BCAR4-siRNA组将BCAR4-siRNA转染BCAR4高表达的MCF-7细胞;NC组作为阴性对照,将对照NC mimic转染BCAR4高表达的MCF-7细胞;BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组将miR-133-inhibitor转染BCAR4-siRNA组MCF-7细胞(已转染BCAR4-siRNA mimic)。后续实验采用BCAR4-siRNA组和NC组及BCAR4-siRNA组和BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组的分组,比较两组间检测数据的差异。

1.4 双荧光素酶检测BCAR4对miR-133表达的影响

从人类基因组DNA产生全长BCAR4-3'UTR,并通过退火合成的信号寡核苷酸产生突变体BCAR4-3'UTR。将这些DNA片段克隆到ph-TK载体(肾脏荧光素酶)中,用野生型BCAR4-3'UTR片段和miR-133质粒结合共转染MCF-7细胞为preporter-miR-133-3'UTR组,用突变型BCAR4-3'UTR片段和miR-133质粒结合共转染MCF-7细胞为preporter-

miR-133-3'UTRm组,按照双荧光素酶报告系统试剂盒(Promega)说明书操作,测量双荧光素酶活性,检测BCAR4对miR-133荧光活性的调控。同时使用pGL-3.0(荧光素酶)作为内参照,检测NC组和BCAR4-siRNA组MCF-7细胞miR-133荧光活性相对值。

1.5 划痕实验检测乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移能力

用胰蛋白酶分别消化NC组和BCAR4-siRNA组以及BCAR4-siRNA组和BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组的MCF-7细胞,将细胞平铺在6孔板上(2×10^5 个/孔)。使用200 μ l无菌枪头轻划孔板,每个孔划4-5次,尽量保证所划线处于平行状态,放置37℃恒温细胞培育箱,分别在24,48,72 h后,用适量PBS冲洗孔板,显微镜下观察MCF-7细胞迁移的距离。细胞迁移率(%)=[迁移前距离D(0 h)-迁移后距离D(24,48,72h)]/迁移前距离D(0 h)。然后比较两组间不同时间点的迁移率。实验重复3次。

1.6 Transwell实验检测乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的侵袭能力

将NC组和BCAR4-siRNA组的MCF-7细胞接种在Transwells小室的无血清培养基上室中(5×10^4 个/室),下室含10% FBS的培养基。培养48 h后,棉球擦拭上室细胞,使用结晶紫染色下室细胞。观察并计数穿过Transwell膜的细胞数。比较两组细胞在不同时间点穿膜细胞数,检测BCAR4和miR-133对MCF7细胞侵袭能力的影响,实验重复3次。后续使用相同试验方法检测BCAR4-siRNA和BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组之间MCF-7细胞侵袭能力的变化。

1.7 Western blotting检测Notch1信号通路蛋白的表达水平

将NC组和BCAR4-siRNA组的MCF-7细胞接种在Transwells小室的无血清培养基上室中(5×10^4 个/室),下室含10% FBS的培养基。培养48 h后,棉球擦拭上室细胞,使用结晶紫染色下室细胞,观察并计数穿过Transwell膜的细胞数。比较两组细胞在不同时间点穿膜细胞数,检测BCAR4和miR-133对MCF7细胞侵袭能力的影响。实验重复3次。后续使用相同试验方法检测BCAR4-siRNA和BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组之间MCF-7细胞侵袭能力的变化。

1.8 构建裸鼠体内移植瘤模型

取对数期生长的乳腺癌MCF-7细胞(BCAR4高表达),消化后重悬待用,调整细胞密度为 2×10^7 个/ml。取细胞悬液注射于裸鼠皮下(0.1 ml/只),每组5只。之后每日观察裸鼠皮下肿瘤生长情况。接种2周后,肉眼可见肿瘤生长。隔天测量各组荷瘤小鼠

肿瘤直径(a)和垂直正交径(b)。肿瘤体积(V)= $1/2 ab^2$ 。6周后处死裸鼠,剥除瘤体称重并测量肿瘤的质量和体积。

1.9 统计学处理

采用SPSS20.0软件,计量数据以($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,两组间均数比较采用t检验,采用Kaplan-Meier分析BCAR4高表达和低表达患者的预期生存率,以 $P < 0.05$ 或 $P < 0.01$ 表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 BCAR4在乳腺癌组织中高表达

RT-PCR检测结果(图1A)表明,乳腺癌组织中BCAR4表达水平显著高于癌旁组织[(83.25±5.34)%

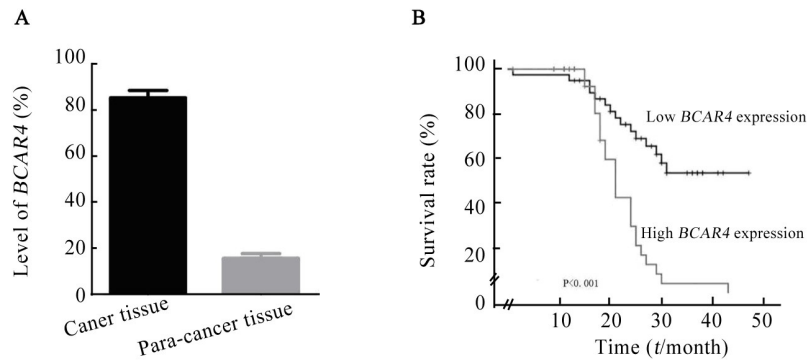
vs (18.29±2.34)%, $P < 0.05$]。表明BCAR4可能在乳腺细胞中扮演促癌因子的作用。

2.2 BCAR4高表达患者预期生存率低

Kaplan-Meier分析结果(图1B)显示,BCAR4高表达患者的预期生存率明显低于BCAR4低表达的患者($P < 0.01$)。

2.3 BCAR4表达与乳腺癌病理分期及淋巴结转移有关

参考其他学者的研究^[3],将BCAR4在肿瘤组织中表达超过70%定义为高表达,低于70%为低表达。分析结果(表1)表明,BCAR4的表达在不同年龄组无统计学差异($P > 0.05$)。BCAR4的表达与乳腺癌的病理分期及淋巴结转移显著有关(均 $P < 0.01$),病理分期越高,BCAR4在乳腺癌组织中表达越高。



A: Expression of BCAR4 in breast cancer and para-cancer tissues;
 B: Effect of BCAR4 expression on survival rates of the patients with breast cancer
 ** $P < 0.01$ vs para-cancer tissue

图1 BCAR4在乳腺癌和癌旁组织中的表达及其对乳腺癌患者生存率的影响
 Fig. 1 Expressions of BCAR4 in breast cancer, para-cancer tissues and effect of its expression on survival rate of the patients with breast cancer

表1 BCAR4表达水平与乳腺癌患者临床病理特征的关系[n (%)]
 Tab. 1 The relationship between expression levels of BCAR4 and clinical pathologic features of the patients with mammary cancer[n (%)]

Clinicopathological data	N	High expression of BCAR4	Low expression of BCAR4	P
Age (t/a)				0.865
≤ 60	29	16 (55.17)	13 (44.83)	
60	51	31 (60.78)	20 (39.22)	
Pathological stage				0.006
I	15	7 (46.67)	8 (53.33)	
II	16	8 (50.00)	8 (50.00)	
III	41	34 (82.93)	7 (17.07)	
IV	8	7 (87.50)	1 (12.50)	
Lymph node metastasis				0.005
No	49	12 (24.49)	37 (75.51)	
Yes	31	9 (29.03)	22 (70.97)	

2.4 miR-133是BCAR4的下游调控靶点

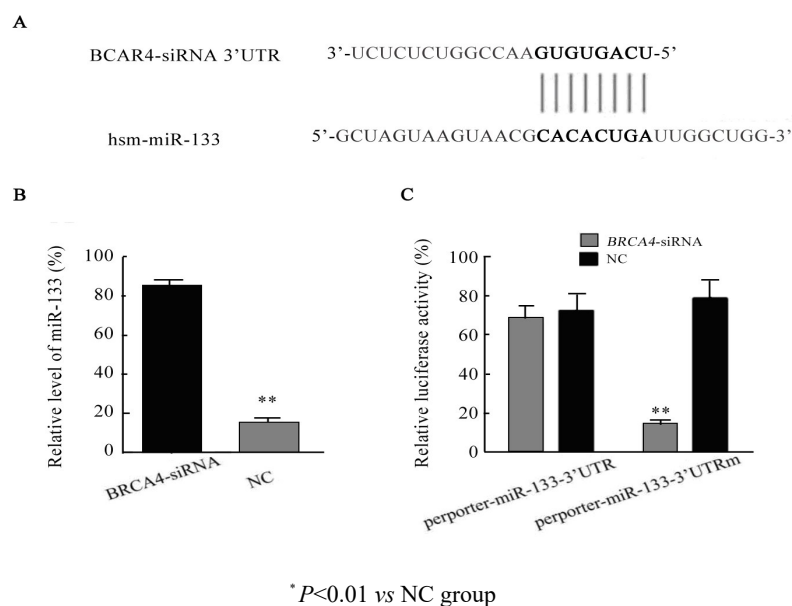
RT-PCR测量BCAR4高表达的MCF7细胞株抑制BCAR4后的miR-133表达水平,结果显示,抑制BCAR4表达后miR-133的表达水平明显降低[(16.92±1.93)% vs (84.11±6.98)%, $P<0.05$].

生物信息学检测(图2A)显示,miR-133的3'-UTR与BCAR4的结合位点相似。双荧光素酶测定显示,抑制BCAR4后共转染突变型BCAR4-3'UTR片段和miR-133质粒的MCF-7细胞的miR-133荧光素酶活性比共转染野生型BCAR4-3'UTR片段和miR-133质粒的MCF-7细胞显著降低[(17.62±3.64)% vs (79.21±8.61)%, $P<0.05$] (图2C),沉默BCAR4后MCF-7细胞miR-133的表达水平较对照组显著升高[(84.10±6.02)% vs (19.92±3.09)%, $P<0.01$] (图2B)。结果表明,BCAR4 3'-UTR和miR-133结

合位点相符合,BCAR4可以调控miR-133的表达水平,进而推测可能是通过miR-133的表达影响乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的生物学行为。

2.5 沉默BCAR4表达抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移和侵袭能力

划痕实验结果(图3A)显示,培养24、48和72 h后BCAR4-siRNA组MCF-7细胞的迁移率显著低于对照NC组[24 h: (18.54±6.35)% vs (39.75±4.92)%, $P<0.01$; 48 h: (28.34±5.95)% vs (59.62±6.75)%, $P<0.05$; 72 h: (49.85±5.15)% vs (89.62±8.62)%, $P<0.05$]。Transwell侵袭实验结果(图3B)显示,BCAR4-siRNA组穿膜细胞数比对照组显著减少[(196.25±15.01)个 vs (32.14±4.26)个, $P<0.01$]。结果表明,抑制BCAR4的表达可明显抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移和侵袭能力。



A: The similar binding sites of BCAR4 and miR-133 detected by bioinformatics; B: Effect of BCAR4 on expression of miR-133;

C: Double luciferase to verify the relationship between BCAR4 and miR-133

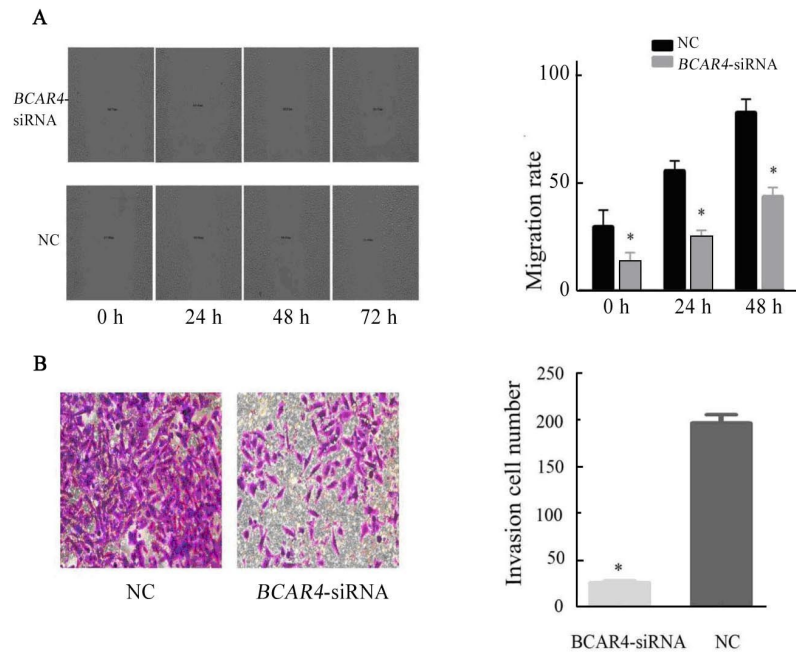
图2 检测miR-133结合位点及BCAR4对miR-133表达的影响

Fig. 2 Detecting binding site of miR33 and effect of BCAR4 on expression of miR-133

2.6 沉默miR-133表达可以逆转BCAR4抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞迁移、侵袭能力

划痕实验和Transwell实验结果(图4)显示,沉默miR-133和BCAR4表达的MCF-7面化细胞(BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组)的迁移率高于仅沉默BCAR4表达的MCF-7细胞(BCAR4-siRNA组),在24、48及72 h差异均具有统计学意义[24 h: (39.61±5.02)% vs (22.15±3.82)%; 48 h: (64.62±8.15)% vs

(32.62±5.25)%; 72 h: (92.31±8.64)% vs (52.61±5.12)%, 均 $P<0.05$]. BCAR4-siRNA+miR-133-inhibitor组MCF-7细胞的穿膜细胞数也显著高于BCAR4-siRNA组[(171.38±12.61)个 vs (28.54±3.29)个, $P<0.01$]. 提示沉默miR-133表达可以逆转BCAR4抑制乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的迁移、侵袭能力,也间接反映BCAR4和miR-133之间的调控关系。



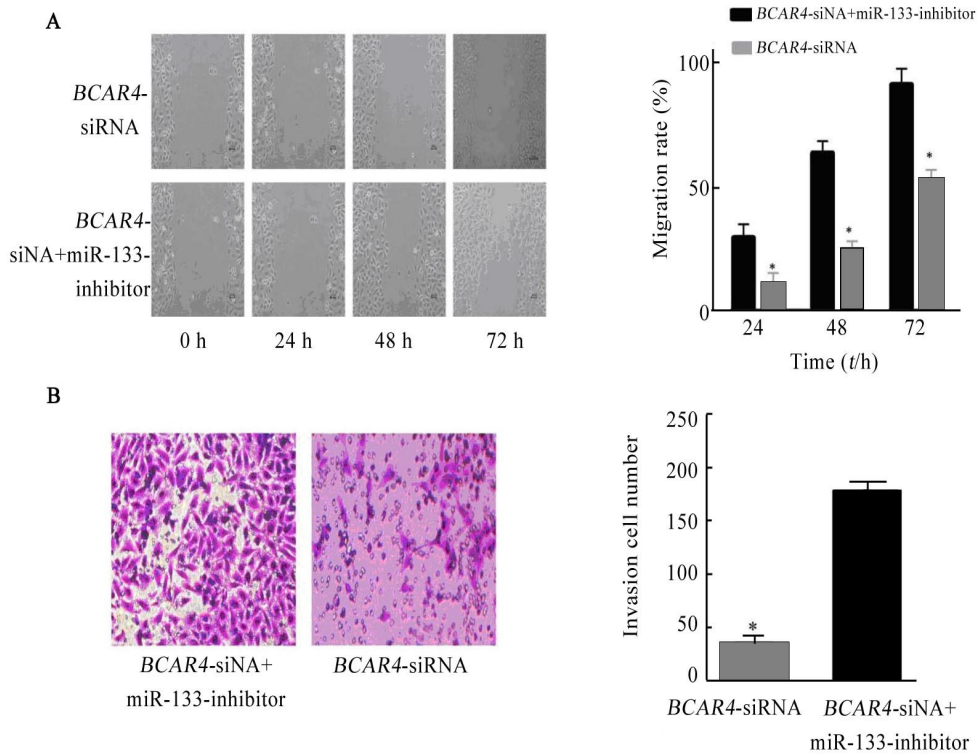
** $P < 0.01$ vs NC group

A: Migration of the MCF-7 cells before and after silent of *BCAR4* expression detected by a scratch assay;

B: Invasion of the MCF-7 cells before and after silent of *BCAR4* expression detected by Transwell assay

图3 沉默 *BCAR4* 表达对乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞迁移、侵袭能力的影响($\times 100$)

Fig. 3 Effect of silencing expression of the *BCAR4* on abilities of migration and invasion of the breast cancer MCF-7 cell($\times 100$)



A: Migration of the MCF-7 cell before and after inhibition of miR-133 detected by a scratch test; $(\times 100)$

B: Invasion of the MCF-7 cell before and after inhibition of miR-133 detected by Transwell assay($\times 100$)

* $P < 0.05$ vs *BCAR4*-siRNA group

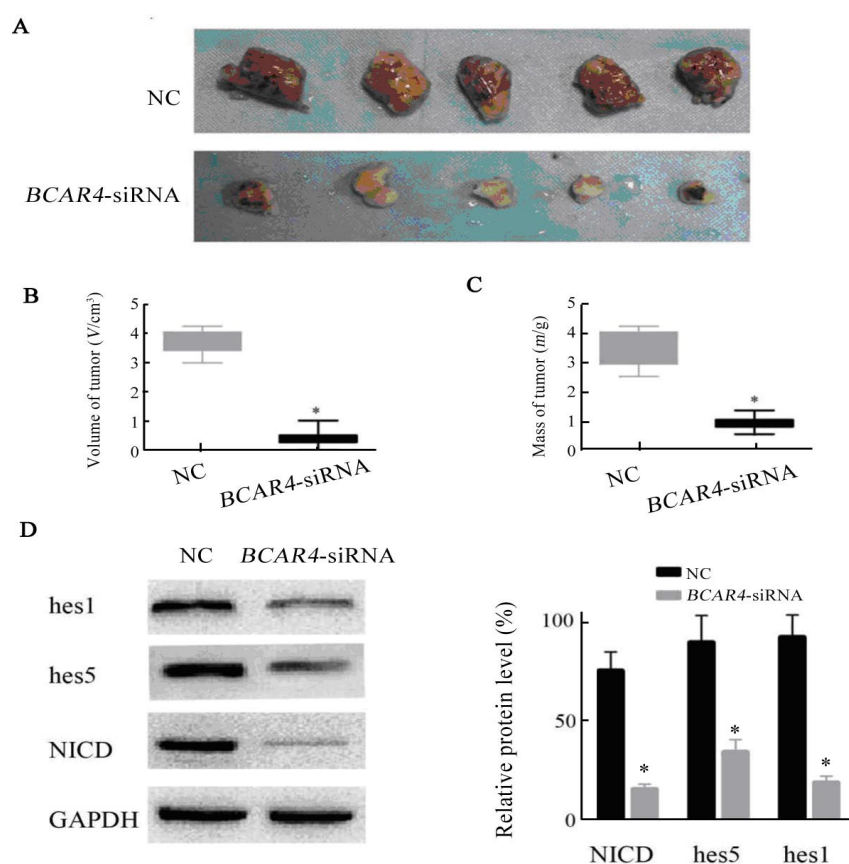
图4 抑制 miR-133 对乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞迁移、侵袭的影响

Fig. 4 Effect of inhibitin miR-133 on migration and invasion of the breast cancer MCF-7 cell

2.7 干扰 *BCAR4* 表达可抑制乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞裸鼠体内成瘤能力

裸鼠体内成瘤实验结果(图 5A、5B)显示, *BCAR4*-siRNA 组裸鼠成瘤的体积和质量都较对照 NC 组裸鼠的瘤体小[体积:(0.48 ± 0.09) vs (4.25 ± 0.62) cm^3 ; 质量:(0.85 ± 0.08) vs (4.02 ± 1.01) g, 均 $P < 0.05$]. 结果表明干扰 *BCAR4* 表达可抑制乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞在裸鼠体内的成瘤能力。Western blotting 实验结果

(图 5C)显示, 干扰 *BCAR4* 的 MCF-7 细胞(*BCAR4*-siRNA 组)Notch1 信号通路相关 NICD、hes1 及 hes5 蛋白相对表达水平比对照 NC 组 MCF-7 细胞显著下调[NICD:(15.92 ± 3.11)% vs (72.64 ± 4.00)%; hes1:(18.48 ± 4.25)% vs (85.25 ± 5.62)%; hes5:(42.36 ± 4.61)% vs (82.62 ± 5.07)%, 均 $P < 0.05$]. 结果表明 *BCAR4* 可能是通过 Notch1 信号通路影响乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞迁移、侵袭能力和裸鼠体内成瘤能力。



A: Images of transplanted tumor bodies from the nude mice in various groups; B: Volume of the transplanted tumor from the nude mice in various groups; C: Mass of the transplanted tumor from the nude mice in various groups; D: Expressions of Notch1 signaling pathway-related proteins in various groups.

* $P < 0.05$ vs NC group

图5 干扰 *BCAR4* 对乳腺癌 MCF-7 细胞裸鼠体内成瘤能力的影响

Fig. 5 Effect of silencing *BCAR4* on ability of forming tumor of the MCF-7 cell in nude mice

3 讨论

大多数乳腺癌患者分为雌激素依赖性和非雌激素依赖性。对于非雌激素依赖性乳腺癌患者寻找新的有效治疗方案十分重要^[14]。由于目前乳腺癌放化疗后出现肿瘤复发的可能性非常大,而且对内分泌治疗耐药性也呈无解状态。所以寻找新的生物靶向

治疗分子及探讨其机制可能是目前迫切需要解决的问题, 以为乳腺癌临床治疗提供新的分子标志物^[15]。

最近, 把 *BCAR4* 的功能定位为 lncRNA, 像其他 lncRNA 一样对下游 miRNA 起调控作用^[16]。有研究^[17-18]表明, *BCAR4* 可以结合下游转录因子 SNIP1 和 PNUTS 位点, 激活 Hedgehog/ GLI2 转录程序, 诱导产

生他莫昔芬耐药性,表明BCAR4可以干扰乳腺癌药物的疗效及耐药性。然而,分析BCAR4高表达的卵母细胞和胎盘细胞发现,其下游SNIP1,PNUTS和GLI等结合位点的缺失可以在一定程度上减弱BCAR4的表达和功能,表明BCAR4可能也受下游miRNA的反馈性调节^[19]。基于这些研究,本实验提出BCAR4激活下游靶向因子途径和相关蛋白信号通路作用机制的假设。

本课题组^[20]先前报道肿瘤细胞中lncRNA BCAR4高表达可以对抗他莫昔芬对乳腺癌细胞的生长抑制作用。有关研究^[21-22]揭示BCAR4水平与肿瘤细胞的侵袭性相关,并且BCAR4可以促进MCF7乳腺癌细胞的增殖速率和侵袭强度。本研究证实乳腺癌中BCAR4表达水平升高。BCAR4氨基酸序列包含两个主要定位在细胞膜的跨膜结构域^[23]。因此,它可能是重组人酪氨酸激酶(recombinant human tyrosine kinase)的配体,通过刺激重组人酪氨酸激酶2和重组人酪氨酸激酶3的活性,激活细胞膜上穿膜结构域活性,影响细胞的迁移和侵袭能力。其在包括乳腺癌的几种癌中高表达,它可以释放重组人酪氨酸激酶配体并且促进肿瘤细胞的迁移及侵袭。另一种可能的机制是与诱导其磷酸化的不同ERBB受体相互作用,如所报道的核仁蛋白刺激核孔蛋白的激活,调控跨膜物质转运^[24]。

miR-133是一种包含22个内源性核苷酸的非编码RNA,可以调控下游蛋白质的编码顺序,与mRNA互补相关的3'非编码区域结合,精确地调节基因表达^[25]。在目前已经报道的300余种miRNA中,已知miR-1和miR-133在人类正常组织和肿瘤组织中都有表达,可能扮演抑癌和促癌的双重作用^[26]。最近有研究^[27]表明,miR-133在乳腺癌淋巴结转移中起关键作用。然而,目前对miR-133功能的具体机制及其上下游的互相调控关系仍然不甚清楚,并且尚未探索它们在其他肿瘤细胞恶性侵袭过程中的可能作用。

恶性肿瘤的发病机理是一个十分复杂的多因素、多步骤病理生理改变,在肿瘤的发展中,肿瘤细胞的运动和侵袭是必不可少的步骤。许多基因和miRNA都参与肿瘤的增殖分化,新生血管的形成和侵袭转移。Notch1信号转导通路是和多种肿瘤细胞迁移侵袭相关的信号途径,它平衡细胞内、外信号转导行为,一些趋化因子、刺激因子的产生都与Notch1通路相关^[28]。有研究^[29]报道Notch1还可以调控部分肿瘤细胞的增殖、分化甚至凋亡,在多种实体肿瘤中

扮演重要角色,包括乳腺癌,前列腺癌及卵巢癌。研究^[30]表明,miR-133的表达与Notch1信号通路成双向反馈关系,且影响部分肿瘤的生物行为。本实验通过沉默miR-133上游的lncBCAR4后检测Notch1通路关键蛋白的水平变化,发现在乳腺癌中,BCAR4和肿瘤的临床分期相关,随着肿瘤临床分期升高,BCAR4的表达水平增加,表明BCAR4可能参与肿瘤的进展过程;并发现BCAR4可以在一定程度抑制乳腺癌肿瘤细胞的迁移和侵袭能力,而抑制miR-133的表达后可以逆转BCAR4对乳腺癌肿瘤细胞迁移和侵袭能力的抑制,所以推测BCAR4和miR-133通过相互调控干扰乳腺癌细胞的生物学行为。另外通过裸鼠体内成瘤实验和对Notch1信号通路蛋白的验证,完善了BCAR4在乳腺癌中作用的研究。

总之,本文初步探索了BCAR4在乳腺癌中的作用及其机制,联系BCAR4下游miR-133作用靶点,验证了乳腺癌MCF-7细胞的侵袭和迁移能力受BCAR4和miR-133的双重调控,并和Notch1信号通路有关。本实验不但丰富了BCAR4在乳腺癌中作用机制的研究,而且还可能为乳腺癌分子靶向治疗和乳腺癌耐药机制研究提供线索。

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