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· 综述 ·

PD-1/PD-L1在肿瘤免疫逃逸中的作用机制及其临床应用

Action mechanism of PD-1/PD-L1 in immune escape of tumor and its clinical application

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[摘要] 程序性死亡受体-1(programmed death receptor-1, PD-1)是T细胞上主要存在的一种抑制性受体,与程序性死亡受体配体-1(programmed death receptor ligand-1, PD-L1)相互作用,可抑制T细胞增殖、活化。在正常机体中,PD-1/PD-L1信号通路对维持机体的免疫耐受具有重要作用;而在肿瘤发生时,PD-1/PD-L1信号通路能抑制T细胞的免疫反应而促进肿瘤免疫逃逸的发生。本文从PD-1/PD-L1的发现及其结构、信号通路的作用机制、PD-1/PD-L1抗体在肿瘤免疫治疗中的应用等方面进行综述。

[关键词] 程序性死亡受体-1;程序性死亡受体配体-1;单克隆抗体;免疫逃逸

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近年来,随着肿瘤学、免疫学以及分子生物学等相关学科的快速发展和相互渗透,肿瘤免疫治疗的研究和发展突飞猛进^[1]。肿瘤免疫治疗成为一种新的重要抗肿瘤治疗手段^[2],与以往的手术、化学和放射治疗以及靶向治疗不同,肿瘤免疫治疗是一种通过激活人体自身免疫系统对抗肿瘤的治疗手段,成为攻克恶性肿瘤的新希望。肿瘤免疫治疗的核心是激活肿瘤患者T淋巴细胞的抗肿瘤反应,以提高其对肿瘤细胞的杀伤功能^[3]。T细胞对肿瘤细胞有明确的靶向性和特异性,通过识别并聚集到肿瘤抗原表达部位,产生长程免疫应答反应,直接抑制和杀伤肿瘤细胞^[4-5]。DC在T细胞识别过程中发挥至关重要的作用^[6],可作为肿瘤治疗工具,这使通过免疫干预治疗肿瘤成为可能。目前,随着对肿瘤免疫逃逸机制研究的不断深入,针对免疫检查点的抑制剂在多种实体瘤的治疗中表现出了较好的临床效果,成为癌症治疗史上里程碑式的事件,程序性死亡受体-1(programmed death receptor-1, PD-1)和程序性死亡受体配体-1(programmed death receptor ligand-1, PD-L1)是免疫检查点的重要信号通路,PD-1/PD-L1在肿瘤免疫逃逸中的作用机制及其肿瘤免疫治疗中应用是当前肿瘤研究的热点。肿瘤免疫治疗有多种治疗策略,包括非特异性免疫刺激剂、肿瘤疫苗、过继性免疫细胞疗法,以及单抗治疗^[7-8]。由于肿瘤具有极大的异质性和遗传不稳定性,其发病机制复杂,单独依靠某一种治疗手段难以达到理想的抗肿瘤效果,因此在深入研究不同治疗手段之间相互作用机制的基础上,联合肿瘤靶向治疗和不同类型免疫治疗的

抗肿瘤策略可能是未来肿瘤免疫治疗的发展方向^[9]。本文对PD-1/PD-L1的研究进程、结构和信号通路作用机制及临床应用等方面进行综述。

1 PD-1/PD-L1的发现及其结构

PD-1(又称CD279)是一种免疫共抑制分子,属于CD28家族成员^[17],由268个氨基酸组成的I型穿膜糖蛋白,相对分子质量为55 000-60 000,主要表达在T细胞上的一种穿膜受体。PD-1因缺乏胞外半胱氨酸残基不能形成共价二聚体而以单体形式存在,同时缺乏富含脯氨酸的配体结合序列,却有着不同的配体识别方法和信号转导机制^[18]。PD-1的结构主要包括胞外免疫球蛋白可变区(IgV)结构域、疏水的穿膜区以及胞内区^[19]。PD-1在活化的CD4⁺T细胞、CD8⁺T细胞、B细胞、单核细胞和DC表面广泛表达,PD-1结构上与CTLA-4有30%的同源性^[20]。在正常机体中,PD-1作为一种T细胞增殖的负调节分子,对维持机体的免疫耐受有重要作用。

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PD-L1(又名CD274)也是I型穿膜蛋白,属于B7家族穿膜分子^[24]。PD-L1是由290个氨基酸亚基组成的穿膜蛋白,胞外段为两个免疫球蛋白恒定区Ig C和Ig V样结构域^[25]。主要表达于抗原提呈细胞、B细胞、T细胞、上皮细胞、肌细胞、内皮细胞及各种肿瘤细胞,并参与肿瘤相关的免疫反应。有研究^[26-27]发现,多种肿瘤细胞高表达PD-L1,如黑色素瘤、非小细胞肺癌、卵巢癌、肾细胞癌等。而在肿瘤发生和病毒感染时,细胞PD-L1表达上调,与T细胞表面的PD-1作用,抑制T细胞的活化、增殖及对肿瘤的杀伤,使其功能发生紊乱^[21-23]。

PD-1分子主要存在于活化的T淋巴细胞表面,而PD-L1在肿瘤中高度选择性表达,因此PD-1/PD-L1抗体不仅可解除肿瘤细胞对免疫细胞的抑制,还可在肿瘤局部活化淋巴细胞并进而促进抗肿瘤记忆T淋巴细胞的产生,使得抗肿瘤效果长期持久,抗体的毒副作用也非常小。

在20世纪90年代早期,我国旅美学者陈列平提出了肿瘤微环境中存在免疫逃逸关键分子的假设,并集中力量鉴定这类关键分子^[10];1992年,陈列平第一次将B7共刺激分子引入肿瘤免疫领域,验证了共刺激分子在肿瘤免疫领域的巨大潜力,也更加坚定了肿瘤相关免疫逃逸分子存在的信念。1999年至2002年,陈列平团队率先发现肿瘤微环境在肿瘤生长过程中抑制免疫反应,多种免疫细胞和肿瘤细胞过度表达一个免疫球蛋白样分子,将其命名为B7-H1(现在又称PD-L1),并证明该分子在肿瘤微环境中大量表达并可抑制淋巴细胞对肿瘤的杀伤^[11]。2002年,陈列平首次证明了PD-L1途径作为肿瘤免疫逃逸的可能机制^[12]。他还提出了用抗体封闭PD-1/PD-L1的结合来增强免疫反应,并在动物模型中成功治疗肿瘤,这些发现为目前抗免疫逃逸的肿瘤治疗方法奠定了理论和实践基础。2005年,陈列平发现抗体阻断PD-L1或者PD-1途径均可以提高抗肿瘤免疫反应^[13-15]。2006年,他在美国约翰霍普金斯医院组织了首个抗体治疗临床实验,掀开了肿瘤免疫治疗跨时代的新篇章。2012年首次发表PD-L1肿瘤阳性率可以反映anti-PD-1/PD-L1抗体的临床效果,同时也完善了PD-L1/PD-1途径的肿瘤免疫调节机制^[16]。从2014年开始,PD-1抗体和PD-L1抗体得到FDA批准用于肿瘤临床治疗。

2 PD-1/PD-L1信号通路的作用机制与肿瘤免疫逃逸

正常情况下,机体能够通过多种免疫细胞(T淋

巴细胞、自然杀伤细胞、巨噬细胞和DC等)对正常细胞和肿瘤细胞进行识别并及时清除。然而,在多种恶性肿瘤发生发展过程中,肿瘤细胞能够通过多种免疫逃逸机制躲避机体免疫系统的杀伤,其中PD-1/PD-L1介导的免疫逃逸发挥至关重要的作用^[28-30]。目前,研究人员所认同的肿瘤免疫逃避机制主要包括:(1)肿瘤细胞的漏逸;(2)抗原缺失;(3)肿瘤细胞表面MHC I类分子表达低下;(4)肿瘤细胞导致的免疫抑制;(5)肿瘤细胞表面缺乏共刺激信号;(6)肿瘤细胞具有抗凋亡作用等^[31]。

PD-1及PD-L1作为一对共刺激信号,共同组成PD-1/PD-L1信号通路,抑制细胞增殖,对T细胞的活化及调控免疫应答起重要作用^[32]。在正常机体中,细胞表面的PD-L1与淋巴细胞表面的PD-1结合后,可抑制淋巴细胞功能,诱导活化的淋巴细胞凋亡,PD-1/PD-L1信号通路的激活可减少免疫反应对周围组织的损伤,避免发生自身免疫疾病^[33-35]。另一方面,该通路的激活使肿瘤细胞表达的PD-L1与肿瘤浸润淋巴细胞表面的PD-1结合,降低肿瘤局部微环境T细胞的免疫效应,从而介导肿瘤免疫逃逸的发生,促进癌症的进展^[36]。有研究表明^[37-39],PD-L1可选择性地在癌细胞表面进行高表达,通过与激活的T细胞表面PD-1特异性结合,活化PD-1/PD-L1下游通路,传递负性调节信号,进而导致激活T细胞的凋亡和免疫活性丧失。因此,PD-1/PD-L1通路是存在于肿瘤微环境中介导免疫逃逸的关键分子^[40-42]。有针对性地阻断PD-1/PD-L1信号通路,可以解除肿瘤细胞对T淋巴细胞的抑制,加强免疫系统对外来肿瘤细胞的识别杀伤作用。以PD-1/PD-L1信号通路为靶点,研究针对PD-1或PD-L1的抑制剂,能够增强T细胞对肿瘤细胞的杀伤^[43];近年来,PD-1和PD-L1抑制剂由于其良好的临床应用疗效,已经成为肿瘤免疫治疗领域的一大热点^[44]。

3 PD-1作为靶分子的应用前景

PD-1/PD-L1作为负性协同刺激信号,在机体免疫应答中扮演重要角色,在免疫耐受和免疫损伤方面发挥无可替代的作用^[45-47]。PD-1/PD-L1的相互作用,有效降低了IFN-γ和TNF-α的表达,在临床器官移植排斥、自身免疫病和过敏症等方面提供了一些新的思路^[48]。

有证据表明,首先,可以通过增强PD-1抑制信号以降低机体免疫细胞的过度活化和增殖,减少淋巴细胞对自身组织的损伤和自身抗原的持续应



答^[49-51];其次,通过特异性阻断PD-1/PD-L1抑制信号,使机体中的效应细胞恢复其原来的生物学功能,促进肿瘤特异性CD8⁺T细胞的活化、增殖与细胞因子的分泌,增强淋巴细胞对肿瘤抗原的杀伤力,提高机体免疫力及时清除肿瘤细胞^[52-54]。

目前,有研究发现^[55],成功的癌症免疫疗法不仅取决于肿瘤局部的响应,还与免疫治疗能否触发系统响应有关,包括淋巴结、骨髓和血液。研究人员发现^[56],在患者体内,成功的免疫疗法能够激活CD4⁺T细胞,这类细胞可以长期识别肿瘤并协调全身免疫系统。同时,在长期接受抗PD-1药物治疗的黑色素瘤患者血液中,发现能够“记住”肿瘤的CD4⁺T细胞激活的特征^[57]。因此,临幊上将抗PD-L1药物与系统性免疫疗法结合,能够更好地测量机体整体的免疫响应并成功消灭肿瘤。

因此,PD-1有望成为肿瘤免疫治疗的有效靶分子,也为实体肿瘤的临床治疗提供一个新的策略。相信随着研究的不断深入,科学家们将彻底阐明PD-1在机体免疫调节和肿瘤免疫治疗的作用与机制。

4 PD-1/PD-L1 抗体在肿瘤免疫治疗中的应用

近年来,大量的证据表明,PD-1/PD-L1信号通路在肿瘤免疫中起关键性作用,也为肿瘤免疫治疗提供了新的分子靶标^[58]。那么,如果能够从根源上阻断PD-1/PD-L1信号通路的激活,就有可能增强抗肿瘤免疫治疗效应。所以,PD-1/PD-L1抗体已经成为肿瘤免疫治疗研究中的热点研究方向^[59]。

免疫检查点抑制剂治疗通过抑制免疫检查点活性,释放肿瘤微环境中的“免疫刹车”,重新激活T细胞对肿瘤的免疫应答效应,从而达到抗肿瘤的作用。目前,阻断PD-1/PD-L1通路的免疫检查点抑制剂主要分为两大类:一类是针对PD-1的单克隆抗体,包括nivolumab(纳武单抗)和pembrolizumab(派姆单抗);另一类是针对PD-L1的单克隆抗体,包括atezolizumab(阿替利珠单抗)、avelumab(阿维鲁单抗)和durvalumab(度伐鲁单抗)^[60]。目前临床试验^[61]结果表明,抗PD-1/PD-L1治疗具有显著的临床效果,能够阻止晚期转移性肿瘤的进程,一定程度提高患者的生存率。与其他治疗方法相比,抗PD-1/PD-L1治疗效果持久、毒性耐受,并对多种类型的肿瘤有显著治疗效果^[62-65]。目前,PD-1或PD-L1单克隆抗体已经在多种实体瘤中显示出卓越的抗肿瘤疗效,在细胞黑色素瘤、非小细胞肺癌、肾细胞癌、胰腺癌、胃癌、肠癌、食管癌、卵巢癌、子宫颈癌、膀胱癌、神经胶

质瘤等肿瘤组织中检测到PD-L1蛋白的表达,并且PD-L1的表达水平和患者的临床表现与预后密切相关^[66-69]。截止2016年12月底,FDA批准的肿瘤免疫治疗药物有pembrolizumab、nivolumab和avelumab。Pembrolizumab,是一种选择性高亲和力PD-1抑制剂,设计用于结合PD-1并阻断PD-1与其配体之间的相互作用^[70]。据研究^[71-73]表明,pembrolizumab有可控的安全性,在多种类型晚期实体瘤和血液系统恶性肿瘤中显示出很有前景的抗肿瘤活性。有多项研究^[74-76]表明,在超过40%的胃癌患者中已经检测到PD-L1的表达。有关pembrolizumab治疗PD-L1阳性晚期胃癌患者疗效的研究结果^[77]显示,53%患者肿瘤退缩,22%患者影像学部分缓解,缓解中位持续时间为40周。同时,pembrolizumab毒性也优于标准二线化疗。目前看来,这项研究给晚期胃癌患者的治疗带来了新的希望,尤其是对那些客观上已经没有治愈希望的患者。

nivolumab是一种PD-1抑制剂,作用靶点为PD-1。nivolumab与PD-1受体结合之后,可以阻断其与配体的结合,延长T细胞的存活时间,从而更好地抑制肿瘤生长^[78]。有研究表明,nivolumab在治疗转移性头颈部鳞状细胞癌(head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, HNSCC)方面取得突破性进展,患者使用nivolumab治疗后存活率和生存期有明显提高^[79]。有研究数据^[80]显示,与对照组相比,nivolumab治疗组死亡风险显著降低30%,中位总生存期显著延长;nivolumab治疗组存活率为36%,对照组为16.6%。目前,美国头颈肿瘤临床实践指南推荐作为含铂化疗期间或化疗后疾病进展的头颈鳞癌唯一单药疗法^[81]。免疫治疗不仅能够延长患者的生存期,在改善患者生活质量和症状方面等也有着卓越的表现,PD-1抑制剂免疫治疗还有多少潜力能够挖掘,期待未来更多的临床研究。

免疫检查点抑制剂除了PD-1抑制剂外,PD-L1抑制剂是另一个研发的重点,临床治疗策略也从三线、二线逐渐进入一线治疗。avelumab是一种研究型的人体抗PD-L1 IgG1单克隆抗体,通过抑制PD-L1的作用,激活T细胞和适应性免疫系统,诱导抗体依赖性细胞介导的细胞毒作用^[82-85]。近期有关评估avelumab一线治疗肿瘤安全性和临床活性的JAVELIN研究^[86-88],正在进行多中心I期临床试验,在多种不同实体瘤中评估avelumab,该药选择性阻断PD-1和PD-L1的结合,但不涉及PD-L2信号通路。在PD-1抑制剂的基础上,PD-L1抑制剂能否进一步扩展肿



瘤免疫治疗,能否为患者带来新的治疗希望,令人期待。

PD-1/PD-L1免疫疗法是当前备受瞩目的新一类抗癌免疫疗法,旨在利用人体自身免疫系统抵御癌症,通过阻断PD-1/PD-L1信号通路使癌细胞死亡,具有治疗多种类型肿瘤的潜力,有望在临幊上实质性地改善患者总生存期。国内外很多公司包括默沙东、百时美施贵宝、阿斯利康、罗氏等都在迅速进行各自相关PD-1/PD-L1的临幊项目,开展单药疗法和组合疗法用于多种癌症的治疗,发掘该类药物的最大临幊潜力。

5 结语

PD-1/PD-L1信号通路在肿瘤免疫治疗的研究中得到了广泛认可和重视,它们在肿瘤微环境中发挥重要的负性调控作用,其抗体也给肿瘤免疫治疗带来了新的方向。随着越来越多基础研究和临幊试验的展开和深入,与PD-1/PD-L1信号通路相关的免疫治疗将会成为肿瘤治疗的重要组成部分。PD-L1/PD-1通路的研究和发现表明,人体的免疫系统比以前想象的还要强大。在探究这些免疫逃逸机制中,可能还会有更多意想不到的发现。如果人们能正确地解读和研究,有可能更好地达到彻底治愈肿瘤的目标。但目前由于各种方案尚不成熟,为了进一步改善临幊治疗效果,免疫治疗需要结合其他疗法,以减少由肿瘤形成的免疫抑制。

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化学元素和核素符号规范书写的要求

化学符号虽然是化学专业的学术交流语言,但在生物医学领域也有很广泛的使用。化学符号的书写有其特殊的规律和要求,生物医学论文中必须重视化学符号书写的规范化。根据GB3102.8-93《物理化学和分子物理学的量和单位》的规定,把化学元素和核素符号书写的规范要求介绍如下:

- (1) 元素或核素的单字母符号均用正体大写,双字母符号首字母正体大写,第二个字母用正体小写。
- (2) 核素的核子数(质子数)应标注在元素符号的左上角,例如:⁶⁰Co,³²P,^{99m}Tc,¹²⁵I等;过去习惯把核子数标注在元素符号右上角的写法是错误的,例如:N¹⁴,Co⁶⁰等。
- (3) 离子价态的字符应标注在元素符号的右上角,例如:H⁺,Cl⁻,O²⁻,Mg²⁺,Al³⁺,P O₄³⁻等,不应写成O²⁻,O⁻,Mg⁺⁺,Mg⁺⁺,Al⁺⁺⁺,P O₄⁻³等。
- (4) 激发态的字符(电子激发态用*,核子激发态用正体m,也可用*)标注在元素或核素符号的右上角,例如:¹¹⁰Ag^m,¹¹⁰Ag*,He*,NO*等。
- (5) 分子中核素的原子数标注在核素符号右下角,例如:H₂,FeSO₄等。
- (6) 质子数(原子序数)标注在元素符号左下角,例如:₈₂Pb,₂₆Fe等。
- (7) 对于形状相似的元素符号、化合物的化学式符号,书写时应注意区分,如:Co(钴)—CO(一氧化碳),No(锘)—NO(一氧化氮),Ba(钡)—Ra(镭),Nb(铌)—Nd(钕)—Np(镎),HF(氟化氢)—Hf(铪)等。

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