

自噬现象在肾纤维化中的作用

解雅琪^{1*}, 左宏伟^{1*}, 王文亭², 林春华², 王科^{3#}

¹滨州医学院第二临床医学院, 山东 烟台

²青岛大学附属烟台毓璜顶医院, 山东 烟台

³青岛大学附属医院, 山东 青岛

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摘要

肾脏纤维化是所有慢性肾病发展为终末期肾病的最终共同途径。自噬是一种高度保守的溶酶体降解途径, 在维持所有主要类型的肾细胞, 包括肾小管细胞、足细胞、系膜细胞和肾小球内皮细胞的维持中发挥重要作用。自噬功能障碍与各种肾脏病理的发病机制密切相关。本文, 我们就自噬在肾脏固有细胞及其在相关肾脏疾病中的病理作用和调控进行综述。探讨针对自噬的途径和针对肾脏纤维化的特异治疗, 来预防和治疗肾纤维化和相关肾脏疾病。

关键词

自噬, 细胞凋亡, 肾纤维化, 糖尿病肾病, 综述

The Role of Autophagy in Renal Fibrosis

Yaqi Xie^{1*}, Hongwei Zuo^{1*}, Wenting Wang², Chunhua Lin², Ke Wang^{3#}

¹The Second Medical College of Binzhou Medical University, Yantai Shandong

²The Affiliated Yantai Yuhuangding Hospital of Qingdao University, Yantai Shandong

³The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao Shandong

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Abstract

This renal fibrosis is the final common pathway by which all chronic kidney diseases develop into end-stage renal disease. Autophagy is a highly conserved lysosomal degradation pathway that plays an important role in the maintenance of all major types of renal cells, including tubular cells, podocytes, mesangial cells and glomerular endothelial cells. Autophagic dysfunction is closely re-

*第一作者。

#通讯作者 Email: wangke6910@163.com

lated to the pathogenesis of various renal pathologies. In this article, we review the role and regulation of autophagy in intrinsic renal cells and related renal diseases. Objective: To explore the specific therapy for renal fibrosis and the approach to autophagy, in order to prevent and treat renal fibrosis and related renal diseases.

Keywords

Autophagy, Cell Apoptosis, Renal Fibrosis, Diabetic Nephropathy, Review

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1. 引言

肾脏纤维化是各种慢性肾脏病的最终常见途径，反映了肾脏修复和瘢痕形成之间的平衡，尽管有些患者通过透析或移植得以存活，但根本的问题仍未解决。由于对导致肾纤维化的细机制的不完全了解，找到有效调节其进展的方法是一个亟待解决的重要临床问题。“自噬”最初由克里斯蒂安·德·杜夫于1963年提出，源自希腊语，指“自食”[1]，这是一个从酵母到哺乳动物的进化上保守的分解代谢过程，通过部分胞质成分和细胞器被传递到溶酶体进行降解和循环回收[2][3]。自噬可以非选择性地分解整体细胞质，也可以选择性地识别和消化特定的细胞器，如线粒体(mitochondrion)、内质网(Endoplasmic reticulum, ER)和溶酶体(lysosome)、蛋白质聚集物、脂滴(lipid droplet)和细胞内病原体[2][3][4]。生理条件下，大多数细胞中的基础水平的自噬是清除潜在有害或者是不需要的细胞质材料的重要机制，这对维持细胞的平衡十分重要。在细胞“饥饿”或者“营养匮乏”期间，自噬机制被激活，以分解并回收细胞质，补充生物合成前体(氨基酸、脂质、核苷酸)和其他能量来源[5][6]。在其他更广泛的病理条件及细胞环境改变的情况下，自噬被诱导产生，更是作为一种适应性和防御性的策略，让细胞能从容应对生存压力；相反，细胞自噬调控也会有助于某些疾病的发生发展，如癌症和心血管疾病[5][6][7][8]。

本文对自噬及细胞凋亡现象在肾纤维化中的最新研究作一综述。

2. 自噬概述

自噬的过程由一系列细胞事件组成。它是由在被隔离的目标细胞质周围形成一个被称为“双膜”的杯状结构的吞噬体启动的，然后吞噬体的扩张和关闭形成一个自噬小体。然后自噬小体与溶酶体对接并融合形成自噬溶酶体，其中自噬小体内膜和细胞质底物被酸性溶酶体水解酶降解。最终，所产生的降解产物被释放以供回收利用[2][3]。有三种类型的哺乳动物细胞的自噬：巨自噬、微自噬和伴侣自噬，需要降解的底物类型和运送到溶酶体的方式不同。巨自噬(在这里称为自噬)是最典型的形式和重点，始于被双膜自噬体包裹大的胞质结构，然后与溶酶体融合。微自噬涉及直接吞噬溶酶体膜内陷内的小细胞质物质。伴侣自噬是一种选择性未折叠蛋白通过伴侣蛋白通过溶酶体膜直接运输进行降解的过程[3][9][10]。自噬体膜的起源几十年来一直有争议，但现在人们普遍认为，自噬体的起始与磷脂酰肌醇3磷酸(PtdIns3P)富集的膜室有关，该膜室似乎与内质网(ER)有关。在吞噬体的起始部位，内质网上形成了一个“Ω”形状的突起(也称为巨噬体)并作为自噬体生物发生的支架[11][12]。此外，吞噬体通过囊泡运输进出吞噬器，或通过短暂的膜接触和蛋白质和脂质的交换来生长和扩张[11][12][13]。

在哺乳动物中，自噬小体的生物发生由不同步骤的核心机制协调调控。在核心机制的上游，自噬受

到一个复杂的信号网络的严格调控[14] [15] [16]。雷帕霉素(mTOR)通路的机制靶点, 特别是 mTOR 复合物 1 (mTORC1), 作为自噬的传感器和主负调控因子。受营养物质、生长因子和能量刺激的多种信号通路可能在 mTORC1 上整合和合并以调节自噬。mTOR 独立的机制也与自噬调控有关。多种细胞应激, 包括缺氧应激、氧化应激、内质网应激和 DNA 损伤, 也可能通过各种信号通路诱导自噬[15]。

3. 肾脏中细胞的自噬现象

自噬是维持肾脏主要类型的细胞稳态的重要机制, 包括足细胞、系膜细胞、肾小球内皮细胞和肾小管上皮细胞。

3.1. 足细胞中的自噬

足细胞, 又称肾小球内脏上皮细胞, 是一种高度特化的上皮细胞, 具有较大的细胞体和初级突, 进一步分支到细的次要足突。邻近足细胞的足突交错并包裹在包围肾小球毛细血管的肾小球基底膜(GBM)的外部。足细胞在维持肾小球滤过屏障的选择性通透性和结构完整性方面起着关键作用。终末分化的足细胞不能增殖, 足细胞替代的机制有限[17]。因此, 足细胞是肾小球中最脆弱的组成部分, 可能受到各种损伤, 导致蛋白尿和肾小球硬化, 导致许多肾小球疾病的发病机制。足细胞作为长寿细胞, 依赖细胞质量控制机制来维持其结构和功能稳态, 自噬在正常和疾病条件下都是这种机制之一[18]。

与肾脏中其他类型的细胞相比, 足细胞, 特别是分化成熟的足细胞, 表现出高水平的构成性自噬。在正常成年大鼠的肾小球中以及有条件固定化的小鼠足细胞中, 高水平的基础自噬主要出现在分化的足细胞中[19]。最近的研究进一步表明, 老年肾脏足细胞的自噬存在缺陷[20] [21]。值得注意的是, 与其他肾小球细胞相比, mTORC1 活性在足细胞中更高, 这似乎是出生后生长所必需的[22]。足细胞在毛细血管环阶段停止细胞分裂; 因此, 肾小球体积的增加必须伴随着每个足细胞的 mTORC1 依赖的生长来覆盖肾小球毛细血管[23] [24]。足细胞中基础自噬和 mTORC1 的高水平似乎与 mTORC1 负调控自噬的概念相矛盾; 然而, 这可能表明存在一种独特的机制, 涉及 mTORC1 和自噬的相互功能和协调。TOR-自噬空间耦合室(TASCC)是一种独特的细胞质室, 已在足细胞中被发现[22]。在功能上, 该系统在产生足够的分泌蛋白和恒定的能量和来源供应方面发挥着有益的作用。更重要的是, 它还创造了一种自我调节机制, 其中自噬溶酶体降解产物增强 mTOR 的富集和活性, 进而抑制自噬和循环溶酶体。这种反馈调节被称为自噬溶酶体重组(ALR), 对于 mTOR 通路和自噬 - 溶酶体通路之间的平衡和微调非常重要[13] [25]。

3.2. 系膜细胞的自噬

肾小球系膜细胞是位于系膜内的特殊的收缩细胞。它们为肾小球簇提供结构支持, 并与邻近的足细胞和肾小球内皮细胞一起形成一个功能单元, 以调节肾小球滤过。系膜细胞在系膜中产生 ECM 成分, 并在维持系膜基质稳态中发挥重要作用。自噬在系膜细胞中的作用尚不清楚。转化生长因子(TGF)- β 1 诱导小鼠系膜细胞自噬, 并防止血清剥夺诱导的细胞凋亡。TGF- β 1 在系膜细胞中对自噬的诱导是由 TGF- β 活化激酶 1 (TAK1)和三碘化磷 k 蛋白激酶 B (PKB)/Akt 通路介导的。TGF- β 1 未能挽救自噬缺陷的系膜细胞免于血清剥夺诱导的细胞凋亡, 进一步支持了自噬在系膜细胞中的促生存作用[26]。系膜自噬的保护作用也与其维持基质蛋白稳态的作用有关。从自噬缺陷小鼠中分离的原代小鼠系膜细胞表达较高的 I 型胶原蛋白。在对 TGF- β 1 的反应中, I 型胶原蛋白和 mRNA 水平均被诱导升高, 值得注意的是, 增加的 I 型胶原蛋白与 LC3 和溶酶体标记物溶酶体相关膜蛋白 1 (LAMP1)定位在同一处。通过 BECN1 敲低或溶酶体抑制剂抑制自噬, 进一步增加了 I 型胶原蛋白的积累, 而不影响 mRNA 的表达。自噬的上调降低了野生型的 I 型胶原蛋白, 但在自噬缺陷的系膜细胞中没有。这些结果表明, 自噬通过促进胶原蛋白过度沉积中

发挥着重要的作用[26]。

3.3. 肾小球内皮细胞的自噬

肾小球内皮细胞定位于 GBM 的内侧, 是肾小球滤过屏障的重要组成部分。肾微血管系统也通过调节血管舒张力、血管通透性、白细胞募集作用和抗血栓形成反应, 在肾脏生理学中发挥关键作用。肾小球内皮功能障碍与 CKD 和肾纤维化的进展有关; 然而, 其潜在的机制在很大程度上仍不明确。到目前为止, 很少有学者研究自噬在肾小球内皮细胞中的作用。Xavier [27]等人表明, TGF- β 受体家族的竞争性受体拮抗剂, 被称为骨形态发生蛋白和激活素膜结合抑制剂(BAMBI)在经 TGF β 处理的培养的小鼠肾小球内皮细胞中增加。相比之下, 经“血清饥饿法”或使用雷帕霉素导致 BAMBI 下降, 能够部分被溶酶体抑制剂巴非霉素 A1, 部分被 3-甲基腺嘌呤抑制, 但这并不是通过蛋白酶体抑制剂。这些结果表明, 自噬在调节内皮细胞的 BAMBI 周转中发挥作用, 这可能通过 BAMBI 介导的 TGF- β 途径调节来影响肾小球内皮细胞功能[27]。

3.4. 近端肾小管上皮细胞(PTECs)的自噬

PTECs 是急性肾损伤(AKI)和慢性肾病(CKDs)的关键靶点。在生理条件下, PTECs 表现出相对较低水平的自噬。近端小管特异性敲除 Atg5 或 Atg7 的小鼠显示进行性肾损伤, 并出现肾过早老化, 这表明变形线粒体、p62/SQSTM1 和多泛素阳性包涵体的积累, 以及小管细胞凋亡和肾间质纤维化的增加。这些结果表明, 在正常条件下, PTECs 需要低但足够水平的基础自噬来维持细胞稳态, 而细胞需要更高水平的自噬来应对与年龄相关的应激[28] [29]。在各种应激条件下, 自噬在 PTECs 中被显著激活, 并对肾小管损伤和细胞死亡发挥肾保护作用[7] [30] [31] [32] [33]。

4. 肾脏纤维化及相关肾脏疾病中的自噬作用

肾纤维化以细胞外基质(ECM)在肾小球和小管间质中过度沉积为特征, 是慢性肾脏病(CKD)的共同病理特征, 无论最初的病因如何, 肾纤维化的发病机制都涉及多种细胞事件的极其复杂的相互作用, 包括成纤维细胞的过度增殖和活化、ECM 沉积增加、炎症细胞浸润、肾小管萎缩、肾小球硬化和微血管稀少[34] [35] [36]。近年来, 越来越多的证据表明, 自噬失调也可能参与了肾纤维化及相关肾脏疾病的发病机制。

4.1. 糖尿病肾病(DKD)自噬的研究

DKD 是糖尿病的严重并发症, 也是世界范围内导致 CKD 和终末期肾病(ESRD)的主要原因[37]。DKD 的发病机制极其复杂, 涉及高血糖介导的代谢改变、血流动力学异常和细胞内应激之间的多因素相互作用[38] [39]。DKD 的临床表现是持续白蛋白尿或蛋白尿, 随后肾小球滤过率(GFR)降低、肾小管细胞损伤和肾小管间质病变, 最终导致肾功能衰竭。DKD 的其他病理特征包括 ECM 成分的积累、GBM 和肾小管基底膜的增厚、系膜扩张、肾小球硬化、足细胞消退、肾小管萎缩、传入和传出小动脉透明化[40]。

最新证据表明, 糖尿病肾脏的自噬功能受损。DKD 中有缺陷的自噬与多种营养感知通路的异常有关, 包括 mTOR、AMP 激活的蛋白激酶(AMPK)和 sirtuins (SIRTs)。mTOR, 特别是 mTORC1, 在过度的营养条件下被葡萄糖、氨基酸和生长因子水平的增加所激活[41] [42]。mTORC1 通过磷酸化 ULK1 (一种酵母自噬启动 ATG1 激酶同源蛋白)来抑制其活性来负调控自噬。在营养/能量消耗时, AMPK 和 SIRTs 分别被激活, 以应对细胞内 AMP 和烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸(NAD $^+$)水平的增加[43]。与 mTORC1 相比, AMPK 和 SIRTs 都是自噬的正调控因子。AMPK 要么直接磷酸化 ULK1 以促进自噬, 要么抑制 mTORC1 以诱导自噬[44] [45] [46]。SIRT1 是 SIRTs 家族中研究最多的成员, 它通过去乙酰化 ATG5、ATG7 和 LC3 来

促进自噬。SIRT1 还能去乙酰化转录因子 ForkheadO3a (FoxO3a), 导致 BNIP3 (BCL2/腺病毒 E1B19-kDa 相互作用蛋白 3)的激活[47]。此外, SIRT1 与 AMPK 和 mTOR 交叉作用以调节自噬[48] [49]。在糖尿病条件下, 这些营养感知通路的失调导致了自噬缺陷和 DKD 发病[37] [50] [51]。mTORC1 的过度激活经常出现在 1 型和 2 型 DKDs 患者和动物模型中都很常见[52] [53] [54]。在非糖尿病小鼠中, mTORC1 特异性激活诱导肾损伤, 重现了 DKD 的特征, 包括 GBM 增厚、ECM 扩张、足细胞丢失和蛋白尿[55]。mTORC1 的过度激活与 DKD 的发展之间的因果关系进一步在小鼠模型和人类 DKD 样本中得到证实[56]。在糖尿病 PTECs 中, mTORC1 的过度活化也能诱导细胞凋亡和小管肥大[57] [58]。相反, 抑制 mTORC1 对 DKD 具有肾保护作用。通过雷帕霉素药理抑制 mTORC1 可减轻 STZ (链脲佐菌素)诱导的糖尿病大鼠的肾损伤, 并减轻促炎和促纤维化细胞因子的表达[59] [60]。雷帕霉素还减少了 STZ 诱导的糖尿病大鼠和 db/db 小鼠的蛋白尿、肾小球硬化、系膜扩张和肾肥大[52] [57] [61] [62] [63]。在长时间高糖处理后, 雷帕霉素挽救了足细胞的自噬抑制[64]。雷帕霉素通过抑制 mTORC1 对自噬激活的保护作用也在 STZ 诱导的糖尿病小鼠中得到了证实[65]。Torin1(mTOR 抑制剂)对 mTORC1 的药理抑制也挽救了具有高水平晚期糖基化终末产物(AGEs)的 db/db 小鼠和 AGEs 刺激的足细胞中的自噬[66]。在糖尿病 Wistar 脂肪大鼠中, 通过极低蛋白饮食抑制 mTORC1 可恢复 PTECs 的自噬, 并防止小管细胞损伤、炎症和间质纤维化[67]。这些发现表明, mTOR 信号通路的过度激活, 通过负调控自噬, 在 DKD 的发病机制中起着关键作用。

AMPK 的活性在 1 型和 2 型糖尿病肾脏中都受到抑制, 重要的是, 这可以被几种 AMPK 激活剂逆转, 导致自噬的恢复和糖尿病肾脏损伤的减弱。与 AMPK 类似, 在人和动物的 DKD 模型中, SIRT1 在肾细胞中表达下调, 而 SIRT1 的激活可以保护肾脏免受糖尿病损伤。在近端小管中特异性过表达 SIRT1 的小鼠可以抵抗糖尿病相关的足细胞损伤进展和随后的蛋白尿[68]。白藜芦醇通过恢复 SIRT1 活性, 对足细胞和系膜细胞均有益处。在 2 型糖尿病大鼠和缺氧处理的 PTECs 中, 白藜芦醇具有 SIRT1 的肾保护作用和自噬的作用[69]。

4.2. 肾间质纤维化诱导中的自噬(单侧输尿管梗阻 UUO 或 TGF- β 1 过表达的影响)

到目前为止, 大多数关于自噬在肾间质纤维化中的作用的研究都是在 UUO (单侧输尿管梗阻)或 TGF- β 1 诱导肾间质纤维化的模型中进行的, 其研究结果存在争议。在 UUO 处理后的小鼠中, 肾小管自噬被激活, 肾小管细胞凋亡[70] [71] [72]。在这种情况下, 自噬和细胞凋亡共同作用来诱导肾小管萎缩和肾单位丢失[71]。氧化应激介导的线粒体损伤可能促进肾小管的自噬和凋亡, 这可能在促进 UUO 的肾小管分解中发挥作用[72]。Koesters [73]等人使用四环素处理的小鼠模型, 特异性地在肾小管中过量表达 TGF- β 1, 显示了 TGF- β 1 的持续表达促进了肾小管重自噬现象的发生, 导致肾小管去分化并伴有广泛的肾小球周围纤维化。值得注意的是, 这种退化细胞凋亡 TUNEL 染色不阳性, 这表明自噬可能是 TGF- β 1 诱导的肾纤维化肾小管萎缩的关键驱动因素[73]。通过药理和遗传抑制方法, 进一步证明了自噬在 UUO 小鼠模型和 TGF- β 1 处理的 PTECs 中的促纤维化作用[74]。在 UUO 后, 近端小管的自噬被持续激活。自噬的药理和遗传阻断可减轻间质纤维化, 同时减轻小管细胞凋亡、间质巨噬细胞浸润和成纤维细胞生长因子 2 (FGF2)的产生。在 PTECs 的原代培养中, TGF- β 1 以自噬依赖的方法诱导纤维连接蛋白积累和细胞死亡[74]。

4.3. 急性肾损伤(AKI)中的自噬

AKI 是主要由肾毒性药物、肾缺血再灌注和脓毒症引起的肾脏疾病, 与短期疾病(高发病率和死亡率)和长期疾病(CKD 和 ESRD)相关[75] [76]。AKI 的发病机制是多因素的, 涉及微血管、肾脏和炎症因子之间复杂的相互作用。肾小管细胞损伤和死亡是其主要病理特征[75] [76] [77]。在顺铂的诱导下, 培养的肾

小管细胞和小鼠模型中细胞自噬被激活, 证实了肾小管细胞损伤和死亡是急性肾损伤的关键性病理特征 [78]。两项研究[78] [79]都表明自噬对肾小管细胞有保护作用。后续研究进一步证实了自噬激活及其在肾缺血/缺氧性 AKI 中的保护作用[80]。有进一步研究表明, 使用肾小管特异性自噬基因敲除的小鼠模型, 证明了肾小管细胞自噬在 AKI 中的保护作用[29] [81] [82]。

5. 结语

肾脏纤维化发病率的逐年上升和逐渐年轻化趋势意味着对肾脏纤维化发生发展和治疗的深入研究具有重大的临床价值, 细胞凋亡及自噬现象作为肾脏纤维化发生发展的重要致病机制, 应开展更加广泛深入的研究, 自噬对于维持包括足细胞、系膜细胞、肾小球内皮细胞和肾小管上皮细胞在内的肾常驻细胞的细胞稳态至关重要。这些细胞的自噬缺陷与 CKD 如 DKD 的发展有关。自噬是被某些机制诱导产生来应对 AKI, 对肾脏产生保护作用。肾损伤后, 受严格调控的自噬可能参与适应性肾脏修复, 而自噬失调可能导致适应修复不良, 导致 AKI 向 CKD 过渡。自噬在肾间质纤维化中的作用是多方面的和复杂的。自噬在肾纤维化及相关肾脏疾病发病机制中的作用以及自噬的调控机制有待进一步研究。全面了解自噬在肾纤维化中的调控和病理作用, 将有助于发现新的治疗策略, 可以靶向自噬来预防和治疗纤维化相关的 CKD。

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