黄聿与朱毅团队合作揭示动脉粥样硬化形成机制

Yi Zhu and Yu Huang Revealed the Mechanism of atherosclerosis

【Nature 系列】香港中文大学深圳研究院黄聿教授与天津医科大学朱毅教授的研究团队合作, 在动脉粥样硬化形成机制方面的研究取得了突破性进展。相关研究成果于 2016 年 12 月 22 日在 Nature 发表,并配有评论文章。

血流动力学在动脉粥样硬化的发生发展有一个核心作用,关键驱动是剪切应力。不同的剪切应力会引发不同的细胞应答,如果出现异常就会引发血管炎症,动脉粥样硬化等疾病。血液在血管内的流动方式分为层流和湍流。由于发生在直血管区域的剪切应力均匀,不被认为是形成斑块的危险因素。在弯曲的血管区域,包括分支点,湍流模式更易发生斑块。

该研究发现 YAP 和 TAZ 蛋白(YAP/TAZ 是 Hippo 信号通路下游的重要转录调控因子,控制器官大小,有抑癌功能)作为细胞机械压力的传感器或检查点,在内皮细胞管壁感受和区分层流和湍流的不同血流量模式,然后导致内皮细胞的信号传导通路改变,最终确定斑块的形成或促进。在小鼠模型实验和人体组织中,黄聿和朱毅教授的研究团队都发现层流带来的剪切应力能够抑制YAP/TAZ 的活性,减弱 JNK 信号传导和相关炎症基因的表达,可减少单核细胞对内皮细胞的粘附,从而延缓动脉粥样硬化的形成。反之,湍流则会增加 YAP/TAZ 的活性,从而造成炎症的发生。

此项研究还发现几种现有的降血脂或抗动脉粥样硬化药物有助抑制 YAP/TAZ 的转录活性。在多种临床常用药物当中,以他汀类(statins)效果最为显著。YAP/TAZ 促使血管内皮细胞有炎症反应,而降血脂的他汀类药物可抑制 YAP/TAZ 的活性。这些研究结果对重新审视现有药物的功效及开发新的抗心血管病药物有着重要提示作用。换言之,心血管治疗药物可能也可用于治疗肿瘤。反过来,抗癌药物也有可能用于治疗心血管疾病。拓展了心血管药物在癌症治疗中的运用。

网站报道 Nature: 中国科学家揭示动脉粥样硬化形成机制 http://www.biodiscover.com/index.php?r=news/view&id=651800



Integrin-YAP/TAZ-JNK cascade mediates atheroprotective effect of unidirectional shear flow

整合素-YAP/TAZ-JNK 级联反应介导单向剪切流的抗动脉粥样硬化作用

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2016年12月22日 doi:10.1038/nature20602

Abstract

The Yorkie homologues YAP (Yes-associated protein) and TAZ (transcriptional coactivator with PDZ-binding motif, also known as WWTR1), effectors of the Hippo pathway, have been identified as mediators for mechanical stimuli. However, the role of YAP/TAZ in haemodynamics-induced mechanotransduction and pathogenesis of atherosclerosis remains unclear. Here we show that endothelial YAP/TAZ activity is regulated by different patterns of blood flow, and YAP/TAZ inhibition suppresses inflammation and retards atherogenesis. Atheroprone-disturbed flow increases whereas atheroprotective unidirectional shear stress inhibits YAP/TAZ activity. Unidirectional shear stress activates integrin and promotes integrin- $G\alpha_{13}$ interaction, leading to RhoA inhibition and YAP phosphorylation and suppression. YAP/TAZ inhibition suppresses JNK signalling and downregulates pro-inflammatory genes expression, thereby reducing monocyte attachment and infiltration. In vivo endothelial-specific YAP overexpression exacerbates, while CRISPR/Cas9-mediated Yap knockdown in endothelium retards, plaque formation in ApoE^{-/-} mice. We also show several existing anti-atherosclerotic agents such as statins inhibit YAP/TAZ transactivation. On the other hand, simvastatin fails to suppress constitutively active YAP/TAZ-induced pro-inflammatory gene expression in endothelial cells, indicating that YAP/TAZ inhibition could contribute to the anti-inflammatory effect of simvastatin. Furthermore, activation of integrin by oral administration of MnCl₂ reduces plaque formation. Taken together, our results indicate that integrin-Ga₁₃-RhoA-YAP pathway holds promise as a novel drug target against atherosclerosis.