

m6A与LncRNA之间在胰腺癌中的应用及展望

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摘要

胰腺癌是消化道肿瘤中具有侵袭性和致命性的恶性肿瘤, 预后差。m6A是最常见转录后修饰, 在RNA的输出、翻译、稳定、成熟和衰变起着至关重要的作用。LncRNA是一类转录长度超过200nt的分子, 通常情况下不直接参与蛋白质编码过程, 而是以RNA的形式参与蛋白质编码基因的调控。对于m6A修饰与LncRNA之间的相关研究也正在进行中。本文围绕m6A与LncRNA在PAAD中的最新研究及进展作一综述。

关键词

m6-甲基腺苷(m6A), 长链非编码RNA, 胰腺癌

Application and Prospect between m6A and LncRNA in Pancreatic Cancer

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Abstract

Pancreatic cancer is an aggressive and lethal malignancy among GI tract tumors with poor prognosis. m6A is the most common post-transcriptional modification and plays a crucial role in RNA output, translation, stabilization, maturation and decay. LncRNA is a class of molecules with transcriptional length over 200 nt, which normally do not participate in protein coding process directly, but in the form of RNA in protein coding gene regulation. Studies on the correlation be-

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tween m6A modifications and lncRNAs are also underway. This paper presents a review of the latest research progress between m6A and lncRNA in PAAD, aiming to discuss the latest research and progress between m6A and lncRNA in pancreatic cancer.

Keywords

n6-Methyladenosine (m6A), Long-Stranded Non-Coding RNA, Pancreatic Cancer

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1. 引言

胰腺癌(Pancreatic Cancer, PC)是一种非常常见消化道肿瘤,也是最有侵袭性和致命性的恶性肿瘤之一。在所有的人类原发癌症中,预后差。根据美国癌症协会的数据,2019年约有5.6万例胰腺癌新发病例,死亡人数估计有4.5万人,是全球男性和女性癌症死亡的第七大原因[1]。目前,胰腺癌的具体发病原因仍未完全阐明,但有研究显示与遗传、生活和饮食习惯及慢性损伤等因素均有关[2],例如吸烟、喝酒、慢性胰腺炎及家族遗传史等。手术是目前唯一可能治愈手段并使5年生存率提高到20%~30%的方法。不幸的是,通常由于缺乏特异性的症状,发现时多已出现扩散及转移,使手术切除困难[3]。虽然目前有不同的治疗方法,如新辅助治疗、化疗、放疗、靶向治疗及免疫治疗,但其临床效果并不理想[3]。对于PC患者,如果能够早期诊断并接受治疗可大大提高患者生存率。大多数化疗患者已经有局部晚期或转移性病灶。因此,在胰腺癌的早期诊断、预后判断、治疗策略选择等方面,具有灵敏、准确的分子标志物是十分必要的。越来越多的证据表明, RNA 修饰途径在人类癌症中是存在错误调控,可能是癌症治疗的理想靶点[4]。目前已有超过100不同类型的合成后修饰被证明存在于RNA上,包括mRNA、microRNA和长链非编码RNA(lncRNA)[4],在这些修饰中,甲基化修饰最为丰富,包括n6-甲基腺苷(m6A)、5-甲基胞嘧啶(m5C)、n1-甲基腺苷(m1A)[5][6],其中,m6A是最常见转录后修饰,在RNA的输出、翻译、稳定、成熟和衰变起着至关重要的作用[7][8]。m6A的调节因子分为3种类型:甲基转移酶(Writer)、去甲基化酶(Erasers)和信号转导器(Reader)[9],可以潜在地诱导m6A积极参与膀胱癌[10]、胃癌[11]和胰腺癌[12]等多种肿瘤的发生和发展。m5C是人类另一种丰富的RNA修饰,首次在稳定且高度丰富的tRNAs和rRNAs中被发现[13]。m5C甲基化修饰是一个可逆的过程,包括甲基转移酶(Writer)、去甲基化酶(Erasers)和结合蛋白(Reader)等相关酶动态调节[14]。有研究表明在几种癌症中m5C异常表达在发挥致癌作用,包括胰腺癌[15]、胃癌[16]、膀胱癌[17]等。长链非编码RNA(Long non-coding, lncRNA)是一种核糖核苷酸链,长度为200个核苷酸[18]。lncRNA以前被认为缺乏任何生物学功能,因为它们不具有蛋白质编码能力。然而,研究发现lncRNA可以通过转录水平的表观遗传调控[19]、转录后水平的表观遗传调控[20]或组蛋白修饰[21]来发挥其生物学功能。有研究揭示了lncRNA参与了各种生物过程的调节,包括肿瘤发生和肿瘤免疫[22]。

2. m6A 概述

m6A修饰是一个动态和可逆的过程,在调节RNA稳定性、剪接和翻译方面具有关键作用。这种修饰由被称为m6A甲基转移酶复合物(写入器)、m6A去甲基酶(擦除器)和m6A结合蛋白(读取器)[9]。

2.1. m6A 甲基转移酶

m6A 甲基转移酶被称为“写入器”,包括甲基转移酶样 3/14/16 (METTL3/14/16)、wt1 相关蛋白(WTAP)、RNA 结合图案蛋白 15/15B (RBM15/15B)和病毒样 m6A 甲基转移酶相关蛋白(VIRMA,也称为 KIAA1429) [23]。METTL3/14 可以形成复合物,使 m6A 甲基化写入 mRNA,18 而 WTAP 帮助 METTL3/14 定位核点,并在体内维持 m6A 甲基转移酶的催化活性。同时, METTL3 的表达对 WTAP 蛋白的稳态至关重要 [24]。

2.2. m6A 去甲基酶

m6A 甲基化是动态的,可以被 m6A 去甲基化酶(也被称为 m6A “擦除器”)逆转,包括 FTO 和 AlkB 同源物 5 (ALKBH5) [25] [26]。它们都属于 AlkB 亚家族。FTO 和 AlkBH5 使用铁亚铁作为辅因子, α -酮戊二酸作为辅底物催化底物的氧化[26]。这些蛋白可以通过一系列复杂的中间反应选择性地去除针对 mRNA 的 m6A 标记,从而影响肿瘤特定的生物过程。

2.3. m6A 结合蛋白

m6A 结合蛋白子被称为“读取器”,最常见的包括 m6A RNA 结合蛋白 1/2/3 (YTHDF1/2/3),含 YTH 结构域的 1/2 (YTHDC1/2),胰岛素样生长因子 2 mRNA 结合蛋白 1/2/3 (IGF2BP1/2/3),异质核糖核蛋白(HNRNPs)和含锌指 CCCH 结构域的蛋白 13 (ZC3H13) [27]。

经典 m6A 调控因子中, METTL3、METTL14、WTAP、FTO、YTHDF2、IGF2BP1-3、hnRNPC、NKAP 在胰腺癌中表达上调, METTL16、ALKBH5 在胰腺癌中表达下调[28]。m6A 修饰已被研究用于胰腺癌治疗。m6A 及其相关因子在胰腺癌细胞和患者中表达异常,在胰腺癌诊断和靶向治疗中具有潜在的新型生物标志物价值。研究表明, m6A 修饰可调节胰腺癌的肿瘤发生和进展。例如, m6A 甲基转移酶 METTL3 促进胰腺癌细胞增殖、侵袭、化疗耐药和放射耐药[29] [30]。m6A 去甲基酶 HNRNPC 的上调与 rs7495G 有关,它通过 miRNA 介导的方式赋予胰腺癌较高的风险[31]。m6A 结合蛋白 ALKBH5 通过 m6A 的取消,通过 PER1 的转录后激活,降低 wwi-1 RNA 甲基化和介导 Wnt 信号,防止胰腺癌进展[32] [33]。

3. 胰腺癌中 lncRNAs 的 m6A 修饰

lncRNA 是长度超过 200 个核苷酸的非编码 RNA 亚群,在癌症中可以被 m6A 甲基化修饰。根据 lncRNA 的功能,可将其分为信号 lncRNA、诱饵 lncRNA、引导 lncRNA 和支架 lncRNA。lncRNA 的异常表达会破坏生物体内的稳态,并可能驱动或抑制各种癌症[34],同时与肿瘤恶性程度密切相关。m6A 甲基化促进了 lncRNA X-非活性特定转录物(X-Inactive Specific Transcripts, XIST)介导的转录抑制[35] [36] [37]。YTHDC1 优先识别 XIST 和 RBM15/15B 的 m6A 残基,参与 XIST 介导的[37]基因沉默。然而,据报道, RBM15/m6A-MTase 复合物在 XIST 介导的[38]基因沉默中起次要作用。YTHDF2 识别 lnc-Dpf3 的 m6A 甲基化位点,促进其降解,并增强 lnc-Dpf3 与缺氧诱导因子 1- α (HIF-1 α)的结合,从而抑制树突状细胞的糖酵解和迁移[39]。研究表明, m6A 修饰通过 m6A 去甲基化酶依赖的方式调控癌细胞增殖,特异的 m6A 读取器 YTHDF1 和 YTHDF2 能够读取 m6A 基序,调控 lncRNA THOR 的稳定性(稳定和衰退) [40]。He Y 等人还发现 m6A 擦除 ALKBH5 在肿瘤组织中表达下调,可以使 KCN15-AS1 脱甲基,并调节 KCN15-AS1 的表达。ALKBH5 还参与 KCN15-AS1 介导的细胞迁移和侵袭[12]。在未来, ALKBH5-KCN15-AS1 有可能作为胰腺癌患者的治疗靶点。在细胞核中, lncRNA 可能会招募调节蛋白并与 mRNA 相互作用,或作为竞争性的内源性 RNA (ceRNA),调节 mRNA 的翻译和稳定性[41]。因此,我们推断 m6A 修饰可能会影响细胞质 lncRNA 的类似调节功能。然而,我们对 lncRNA 的 m6A 修饰的理解仍然是

有限的。有研究利用生物信息学筛选 m6a 相关 lncRNA 构建预后相关模型, MEG9、AC092171.5 和 AC002091.1 在低危患者中高表达, 这三种 lncRNA 可能抑制胰腺腺癌的发生[42], 为进一步探索基于 m6a 相关 lncRNAs 诊断和治疗胰腺癌的生物标志物和免疫机制提供了基础。到目前为止, 只有少数研究提出 m6A 调控因子可以通过修饰特定的 lncRNA 来维持胰腺癌的恶性。例如, Hu 等人证明 lncRNA DANCR 通过 m6A 修饰靶向 IGF2BP2, IGF2BP2 和 DANCR 共同促进癌干样特性和胰腺癌发病机制[43]。孟等人发现 m6A 在 LINC00857 中高度富集, 并增强了其 RNA 稳定性。同时, LINC00857 通过与 miR-150-5p 结合来调节 E2F3 的表达, 最终促进胰腺癌的肿瘤发生[12]。基于以上研究, 我们认为 lncRNA 参与了 m6A 修饰, 应该更加关注 lncRNA 与 m6A 修饰的相互作用和功能, 以确定胰腺癌的预后标志物和治疗靶点。

4. 小结及展望

PC 是一种异质性、高度恶性的肿瘤, 其发病率和死亡率高[44]。对于胰腺癌患者所面临的问题是早期诊断、准确预测肿瘤进展和有效干预。目前建立 PC 治疗反应和预后的临床标志物大多基于临床特征, 其准确性和特异性有限。越来越多的研究证实了 lncRNA 中几种常见修饰(m6A、m5C 及 m1A)参与肿瘤的进展[7], 包括促进癌细胞增殖或调节侵袭性和转移潜能[4]。m6A 可以参与肿瘤增殖、迁移、耐药或作为肿瘤预后标志物[45]。例如, m6A 去甲基酶 YTHDF2 介导 lncRNA FENDRR 降解子宫内膜样癌(EEC)中促进细胞增殖[46]。相反, m6A 介导 LNCAROD 过表达通过促进 YBX1 HSPA1A 相互作用促进 HNSCC 恶性发展[47]。以上表明, RNA 甲基化修饰语 lncRNAs 在多种肿瘤发生过程中存在相关作用。目前, RNA 甲基化和翻译组学是表观遗传学研究的新方向, 将为研究正常生理和异常细胞过程的新机制提供重要的见解。非编码 RNA 与 m6A 修饰的功能相互作用研究尤其值得关注。研究非编码 RNA 与 m6A 修饰的交叉调控, 将有助于发现胰腺癌患者诊断和治疗的关键靶点, 这是个性化医疗的最终目标。以往的研究已经证实了 m6A 修饰与 lncRNAs 在各种生理病理过程中的重要作用, 因此 m6A 修饰与 lncRNAs 越来越受到重视。更多的研究集中在 m6A 修饰与 lncRNAs 的机制上, 并确定了越来越多的相关因子。因此, 我们需要更多的研究来阐明 m6A 修饰如何选择性地识别和结合特定的 RNA, 以及 m6A 修饰是发挥竞争作用还是协同作用。此外, 特定的 m6A 相关因子在各种癌症中的作用也各不相同。虽然许多研究证实了 m6A 与 PC 的发展密切相关, 但我们对 m6A 在 PC 中的作用的认知还远远不够。进一步的研究需要集中于通过 m6A 修饰和 m6A 相关因子抑制剂的临床应用来确定早期诊断 PC 的策略。

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