

PI3K/AKT/mTOR通路在卵巢癌中的作用

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摘要

卵巢癌是所有妇科恶性肿瘤的主要死亡原因。在卵巢癌的发生过程中, 异常信号通路的激活必不可少。PI3K/AKT/mTOR通路的激活存在于多种恶性肿瘤的演变过程中, 控制细胞周期、代谢、粘附。近年来, 通过研究PI3K/AKT/mTOR通路的机制及靶向抑制剂, 从而为恶性肿瘤的靶向治疗奠定基础已成为学术界的热点。本文就该信号通路在卵巢癌中可能发挥的作用做一综述。

关键词

卵巢癌, PI3K/AKT/mTOR信号通路, 靶向治疗

The Role of PI3K/Akt/mTOR Pathway in Ovarian Cancer

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Abstract

Ovarian cancer is the main cause of death of all gynecological malignancies. In the process of ovarian cancer, the activation of abnormal signal pathway is essential. The activation of PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway exists in the evolution of a variety of malignant tumors and controls cell cycle, metabolism and adhesion. In recent years, it has become a hot spot in academic circles to study the mechanism of PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway and targeted inhibitors, so as to lay the foundation for targeted therapy of malignant tumors. This paper reviews the possible role of signaling pathway in ovarian cancer.

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Keywords

Ovarian Cancer, PI3K/Akt/mTOR Signal Pathway, Targeted Therapy

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1. 引言

卵巢癌(Ovarian Cancer)是所有妇科恶性肿瘤的主要死亡原因[1], 三分之二的患者在诊断时处于晚期, 估计的5年生存率为20%~40% [2], 尽管进行了积极的减瘤手术和辅助或新辅助化疗, 但70%~80%的预后不良和高死亡率患者仍会出现复发。此外, 耐药或复发性疾病的二线治疗选择有限[3] [4]。因此, 了解促进疾病进展、复发和化学耐药性的最常改变的途径, 寻找潜在的候选药物(作为单药或联合疗法)或提高目前可用的针对卵巢癌的化疗方案的治疗效果尤为重要。有研究表明, PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路的激活是导致卵巢癌细胞具有更高侵袭性和迁移能力的关键机制[5]。本文就该信号通路在卵巢癌中可能发挥的作用做一综述。

2. PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路概述

PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路主要由 PI3K、AKT、mTOR 组成。PI3K 蛋白是由催化 p110 亚基(PIK3CA)和调节性 p85 亚基(PIK3R)组成的异源二聚体, 介导酶的受体结合, 激活和定位。该通路还集成了许多上游输入, 包括生长因子(表皮生长因子, 肿瘤生长因子等), 酪氨酸激酶受体(胰岛素生长因子 1 受体, 表皮生长因子受体, HER2)和其他膜受体, 如 Met, 或 RAS 介导的与 Ras-Raf-Mek-Erk 途径 31 的串扰。上述化合物与 PI3K 的相互作用激活下游效应子, 如 AKT 和 mTORC1 复合物[6] [7]。Akt 是一种丝氨酸苏氨酸激酶, 可调节大量下游靶标(如 Bcl-2 相关死亡启动子、GSK-3 β 、3-catenin、p21、p27、MDM2 或叉头框转录蛋白等), 通过促进肿瘤细胞增殖、抑制肿瘤细胞凋亡、调节肿瘤细胞自噬、调节炎症及肿瘤微环境等机制, 最终控制关键的细胞存活和代谢过程[8]。AKT 有三种亚型: AKT1、AKT2 和 AKT3, 其中 AKT3 可以调节卵巢癌细胞中的血管内皮生长因子和血管生成[9] [10]。雷帕霉素的哺乳动物靶标 mTOR 是磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶(PI3K)-AKT 轴下游的丝氨酸 - 苏氨酸蛋白激酶。mTOR 允许癌细胞逃离正常的生化系统, 并调节细胞凋亡和存活之间的平衡[11]。mTOR 复合物由两个组分组成: mTORC1-Raptor 复合物和 mTORC2-Rictor 复合物, 其中, mTORC1 对雷帕霉素的抑制敏感, 而 mTORC2 则不敏感。此外, mTORC2 对 Akt 施加正反馈激活[6]。此外, 对 TCGA 数据的分析表明, mTOR 的高表达与晚期卵巢癌患者的生存率低有关[12]。

3. PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路对卵巢癌肿瘤发生、增殖和粘附的影响

PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路是正常和癌细胞生理学的中枢调节因子, 在许多人类癌症中都会改变[13] [14]。它控制细胞周期、代谢、粘附、细胞存活、运动性、化学耐受性、血管生成和基因组不稳定性[15]。据估计, 这种信号通路在 70%的卵巢癌中被激活, 以多种方式包括 PIK3R1/2 突变, PIK3CA 的功能获得突变扩增, AKT1/2/3 的突变或扩增, 肿瘤抑制因子(TSC 或 LKB1)的丢失或失活突变以及 PTEN 在癌症发病机制中的丢失或突变、多功能细胞因子 TGF- β 参与细胞增殖, 分化, 凋亡和致癌作用[16]。此外, 恶性肿瘤细胞的一个基本生物学特征就是具有改变其黏附于其它细胞和细胞外基质的能力[17]。这个特性

使得肿瘤细胞可以脱离原发生长部位侵袭到周围组织进而形成转移。卵巢癌中恶性腹水在卵巢癌早期阶段可能通过调节正常细胞和癌细胞之间的前粘附相互作用,为卵巢癌的转移做出贡献[18]。CD44 是一类体内分布极为广泛的细胞表面跨膜糖蛋白,可与多种配体结合介导细胞与细胞、细胞与细胞外基质的相互黏附。CD44 标准体(standard isoform of CD44 CD44s)及其剪接变体(variant isoform of CD44 CD44v)在肿瘤的发生、发展中起重要作用。尤其是 CD44v6 在肿瘤浸润、转移和预后判定中的作用越来越引起人们的重视[19]。黄丽珊等研究表明 CD44v6 表达上调促进肿瘤细胞的迁移从而参与卵巢上皮性肿瘤的恶性演进[20]。Xiaoqiang Si 等研究表明,细胞粘附分子 1 (CADM1)的过表达通过调节上游调节剂(LXR/RXR, IGF1, IFI44L 和 C4BPA)和下游效应子(APP, EDN1, TGFBI 和 Rap1A)抑制 PI3K/Akt/mTOR 信号通路,可能抑制卵巢癌细胞的迁移和侵袭[21]。

4. 卵巢癌靶向治疗中的 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路

PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路因其频繁激活及其在包括卵巢癌在内的许多人类恶性肿瘤中的关键作用而成为一个有吸引力的靶标[22] [23]。PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路抑制剂可分为 4 大类:纯 PI3K 抑制剂、AKT 抑制剂、mTOR 抑制剂和双 mTOR/PI3K 抑制剂[24] [25]。

其中 PI3K 抑制剂包括 BKM120、XL147、GDC0941 和 PX866。靶向 AKT 的药物包括 AZD5363 和 GSK2141795,两者都是有效的泛 AKT 抑制剂[26]。在 PI3K/Akt/mTOR 抑制剂中,mTOR 抑制剂研究最为广泛。依维莫司在复发性 EC 中作为单一药物或与来曲唑联合使用在复发性 EC 中显示出疗效和可接受的耐受性,经 FDA 批准用于晚期卵巢癌[27]。双 PI3K/mTOR 抑制剂 PKI-402 激活自噬,并通过 SKOV3 卵巢癌细胞中的自噬和蛋白酶体途径诱导 Mcl-1 降解,破坏了 Bcl-2 家族蛋白的平衡,从而抑制细胞增殖并诱导癌症细胞凋亡[28]。PI3K/AKT/mTORC1 途径抑制剂作为治疗卵巢癌的新靶向疗法,I 期和 II 期试验的初步结果令人鼓舞,鼓励进一步研究。然而,目前还没有关于卵巢癌患者的 III 期试验的报道[29]。

近年来,针对该通路其他药物的研究比比皆是。Liu 等研究表明,葫芦素-A 在卵巢癌细胞系 SKOV3 中诱导细胞周期停滞,凋亡和抑制 mTOR/PI3K/Akt 信号通路,从而发挥抗癌作用[30]。张素贤等研究表明,血根碱通过调节 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 途径,可能在上皮性卵巢癌细胞中表现出抗肿瘤作用,可作为上皮性卵巢癌的潜在治疗试剂[31]。Zhang 等研究提示,马氏体提取物(MTE)抑制 SKOV3 细胞增殖并诱导其凋亡。PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路的抑制可能会增强 MTE 的保护作用。因此,MTE 可能有望成为治愈卵巢癌的新药[32]。此外,联合方法现在是一种既定的抗癌策略,Yalikun 等研究表明,姜黄素和白藜芦醇联合顺铂治疗对 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号蛋白表达和上皮-间充质转化/肿瘤干细胞表型的影响与对照组相比,单独顺铂治疗后,EOC 顺式细胞系中 p-AKT、p-mTOR 和 p-4EBP1 的表达水平显著升高。然而,顺铂与姜黄素和白藜芦醇的联合治疗消除了这种变化。姜黄素和白藜芦醇的联合治疗(姜黄素和白藜芦醇分别使用 30 μ M 和 70 μ M 的剂量率)不仅逆转了 EOC-cis 细胞的 EMT 表型,而且消除了顺铂诱导的干细胞增强,这些结果表明,姜黄素和白藜芦醇通过逆转 EMT 和 CSC 表型,使 EOC 顺式细胞对顺铂敏感,从而通过显著抑制 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 途径来抑制卵巢癌细胞中的化学耐药性[5]。

综上所述,大量研究证明了 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路对卵巢癌增殖、侵袭、转移、进展和化学抗性的重大贡献,尽管目前关于 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路抑制剂在卵巢癌治疗方面仍有较多问题需要解决。随着对治疗的不断研究与探索,针对 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路抑制剂的治疗将取得更大突破。

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