

• 国家基金研究进展综述 •

STAT3表达与肿瘤血管生成及放疗敏感性关系的研究进展*

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摘要 信号转导和转录活化因子3(STAT3)属于STATs家族中重要一员,广泛表达于不同类型的细胞和组织中,并参与细胞生长、增殖、凋亡、恶性转化等生理和病理过程的调控。近年来,STAT3在肿瘤血管生成及放疗敏感性方面的研究日益增多。研究表明STAT3活化后,一方面通过直接调控血管内皮生长因子(VEGF)表达促进血管生成进而产生放疗抗拒;另一方面STAT3通过活化缺氧诱导因子-1α(HIF-1α)间接促进血管生成产生放疗耐受。此外,STAT3还可以直接或通过HIF-1α间接调控细胞周期蛋白D1(CyclinD1)表达,使细胞周期由G₁期快速进入S期,促进细胞增殖,且CyclinD1与放疗敏感性相关。由此发现,STAT3通过直接和间接两种途径在肿瘤血管生成及放疗抗拒方面发挥作用。本文拟对此方面的相关研究新进展作一综述。

关键词 信号转导和转录活化因子3 血管内皮生长因子受体2 细胞周期素D1 缺氧诱导因子-1α 抗血管生成

doi:10.3969/j.issn.1000-8179.20150256

Role of STAT3 in tumor angiogenesis and radiation sensitivity

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This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 81472792)

Abstract Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) is an important member of the STAT family of signaling proteins. STAT3 is widely expressed in different types of cells and tissues and is involved in many physiological and pathological processes, including cell growth, proliferation, apoptosis, and malignant transformation. Over recent years, increased attention has been given on the role of STAT3 in tumor angiogenesis and radiation sensitivity. Studies show that on the one hand, following activation, STAT3 promotes angiogenesis by directly regulating the expression of vascular endothelial growth factor and then causes radiation resistance. On the other hand, STAT3 indirectly promotes angiogenesis by activating hypoxia-inducible factor-1α (HIF-1α), thus producing radiotherapy tolerance. Moreover, STAT3 can directly or by HIF-1α indirectly regulate CyclinD1 expression, thus rapidly promoting cell progression through G₁ into the S phase of the cell cycle and enhancing cell proliferation. In addition to regulating the cell cycle, CyclinD1 plays a key role in radiation sensitivity. Results suggest that STAT3 plays a role in tumor angiogenesis and radiation resistance via direct and indirect mechanisms. In this review, we summarize recent research advances on the role of STAT3 in regulating tumor angiogenesis and radiation sensitivity.

Keywords: STAT3, VEGFR2, CyclinD1, HIF-1α, anti-angiogenesis

肿瘤血管生成在肿瘤的发生、发展、侵袭、转移中起至关重要的作用。尽管其机制比较复杂,但血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)作用于血管内皮生长因子受体2(vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2, VEGFR2)促进细胞增殖,是血管生成的主要通路。那么抑制VEGFR2表达应该可以提高疗效,然而体内外及临床研究^[1-6]发现,VEGFR2抑制后短期可以改善肿瘤指标,但远期疗效不佳。究其原因,可能与肿瘤微环境中多种分

子调控VEGFR2表达及细胞核内放疗敏感性基因表达有关,其中信号转导和转录活化因子3(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)起关键作用。

1 STAT3的结构和功能

STAT3是一种DNA结合蛋白,作为JAK-STATs途径中重要的JAK激酶的底物,具有信号转导和转录活化功能。其相对分子质量约为89~92 kD,由STAT3基因编码。其基因位于17q21.1,被认为是一种原癌基因。STAT3蛋白包含有6个功能域:N端氨

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*本文课题受国家自然科学基金项目(编号:81472792)资助

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基酸保守序列、DNA结合域、螺旋区、连接区、SH2结构域和C端转录活化区。在这些功能域中,DNA结合域和SH2结构域作用最重要。STAT3主要的活化位点有:酪氨酸磷酸化位点(Y705)和丝氨酸磷酸化位点(S727)^[7]。

STAT3最初是在炎症反应IL-6的释放反应中发挥作用诱导靶基因转录^[8],其可以被许多细胞因子、生长因子及其他因子激活,诱导基因的转录调控^[9]。目前,STAT3的靶基因包括:编码抗凋亡蛋白的Bcl-2、Bcl-xL和Mcl-1,增殖相关蛋白CyclinD1和Myc,还有促血管生成因子VEGF等。其中编码CyclinD1蛋白的CCND1基因与肿瘤放疗敏感性相关^[10]。此外,STAT3还可以调控缺氧诱导因子1α(hypoxia inducible factor-1 alpha, HIF-1α)的表达。Zhao等^[11]通过免疫共沉淀发现,在乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞中,VEGF通过VEGFR2募集Jak2、STAT3使STAT3活化;Park等^[12]在乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞中证实IL-32β诱导VEGF刺激STAT3活化,进而增加其转移和侵袭;Wang等^[13]发现IL-17活化STAT3可促进上皮细胞癌变;Huang等^[14]发现,IL-6活化STAT3可以促进胰腺癌细胞的侵袭转移;Wang等^[15]研究玻璃体血管形成中,NADPH氧化酶(NOX4)通过活化STAT3调控VEGFR2介导的血管生成;Yan等^[16]在粒细胞生成信号中,G-CSF受体传递的信号导致STAT3活性显著升高,引起增殖反应;Matsumura等^[17]在研究未分化结肠腺癌细胞株CT26时发现,HGF通过活化STAT3进而调控VEGF表达影响血管生成;在巨噬细胞内,IL-10需要借助活化STAT3发挥其抗炎特性。

STAT3在不同类型的细胞和组织中均有表达,可参与脑、心、肝、胸腺、睾丸等组织中细胞生长、恶性转变、凋亡等功能的调节。STAT3在细胞内起重要的信号传递作用,其主要存在于细胞质中,负责将细胞信号传递到细胞核,诱导靶基因转录,发挥生物学效应。

2 STAT3与肿瘤血管生成

VEGF广泛分布于人和哺乳动物中,在血管生成和促血管内皮细胞分裂、增殖、迁移等方面起着不可替代的作用。Su等^[18]体外研究鸡胚绒毛膜尿囊(chick embryo chorioallantoic membrane, CAM)实验时发现,瘦素能够抑制CAM的血管生成,并且STAT3可以直接结合到VEGF启动子上发挥作用。Cheong等^[19]证实,在胃癌MKN45细胞中通过免疫共沉淀证实STAT3和VEGF与HIF-1α在常氧或低氧条件下的存在相互联系;染色质免疫共沉淀表明HIF-1α与VEGF启动子之间在低氧条件下有相关性。在乏氧诱导的癌细胞中,异泽兰黄素(eupatilin)抑制STAT3活化,而VEGF启动子的转录活性是由激活的STAT3

介导的,表明STAT3和VEGF在胃癌血管生成中起重要作用。在放射线对肺腺癌细胞系A549侵袭影响的研究中发现,放射线可以激活STAT3的磷酸化作用,促使STAT3的核内定位,引起VEGF和基质金属蛋白酶的表达,从而导致A549细胞的侵袭转移^[20]。反之VEGF又可以促使STAT3活化,进而调控下游基因的表达。Zhao等^[11]通过免疫共沉淀发现,在乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞中,VEGF通过VEGFR2募集Jak2、STAT3使STAT3活化,进而上调Myc和Sox2,促进肿瘤起始干细胞自我更新。

肿瘤血管生成受多种因子调控,其中VEGFR2起重要作用。VEGFR2与VEGF结合后发生二聚化,形成同源二聚体,启动受体酪氨酸激酶激活并导致其自身磷酸化,进而激活其他蛋白,启动下游信号通路的活化^[21]。目前研究发现,VEGFR2活化的下游通路主要包括Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK通路、PI3K-AKT通路、p38MAPK通路,通过调控下游信号分子的表达调控细胞的增殖、分化、侵袭、转移^[22-23]。而目前研究表明,VEGFR2活化后还可以募集STAT3在其结合位点上磷酸化,活化的STAT3携带信号由胞浆进入细胞核内调控下游基因表达,影响生物学效应。Pan等^[24]研究芦荟素对结直肠癌发现,芦荟素通过抑制VEGFR2介导的JAK及c-Src活化进而干扰STAT3活化,可以阻断结直肠癌肿瘤血管生成,提高患者预后。Kamran等^[25]研究发现,己酮可可碱(pentoxifylline, PTX)可作用于STAT3信号通路,通过抑制肿瘤微环境中IL-6的分泌及阻断VEGF-VEGFR2的自分泌或旁分泌途径,进而抑制小鼠黑色素瘤模型的肿瘤生长及血管生成。另有其他方面的研究,如在前列腺癌、脑胶质瘤、乳腺癌等^[26-28]恶性肿瘤以及缺血性心脏病心肌血管再生中,VEGFR2信号被STAT3转导进入细胞核内,调控下游基因的表达,进而发挥生物学效应^[29]。

STAT3作为一种核转录因子,参与多种细胞行为,如细胞存活、细胞增殖、抗凋亡及血管生成等。磷酸化的STAT3(p-STAT3)进入细胞核内,直接与DNA结合,诱导下游基因表达。HIF-1α同样作为一种核转录因子,在肿瘤血管生成过程中起着非常重要的作用,其能够被STAT3直接活化,促进VEGF基因转录、翻译,介导肿瘤血管生成,产生放疗抗拒。Reddy等^[30]研究前列腺癌裸鼠模型时发现,将STAT3和HIF-1α同时抑制相对于单独抑制STAT3或是HIF-1α有更好的抑瘤效果,为前列腺癌的治疗提供了更有效的方案;Nechemla-Arbely等^[31]在体外研究小鼠肾细胞时发现,STAT3活化后可以导致HIF-1α的上调;Shin等^[32]研究白桦脂酸对前列腺癌PC-3细胞株的影响时发现,白桦脂酸可通过抑制HIF-1α和

STAT3结合到VEGF启动子上阻断VEGF表达进而抑制血管生成。由此可以得出,STAT3可以通过调控HIF-1 α 的表达间接影响VEGF的水平,进而调节肿瘤血管生成。

3 STAT3与肿瘤放射敏感性关系

肿瘤细胞对放射线的敏感程度直接影响患者的疗效,提高肿瘤细胞的放射敏感性对提高预后具有重要意义。STAT3调控下游基因如CyclinD1、HIF-1 α 等的表达,进而在放射敏感性方面发挥作用。

STAT3能够调控下游基因表达进而促进细胞增殖,而CyclinD1作为STAT3的下游靶基因,在细胞增殖过程中起重要作用。CyclinD1属于细胞周期素家族,由CCND1基因编码,是一种极为重要的细胞周期蛋白。目前有研究发现,STAT3可以通过介导CyclinD1的表达来调控细胞增殖,进而影响放化疗疗效。Zhang等^[33]研究表明,在胃癌中CyclinD1蛋白水平与STAT3蛋白水平呈正相关,STAT3活化后上调靶基因CyclinD1的表达,Raf激酶抑制蛋白(Raf kinase inhibitor protein, RKIP)通过下调STAT3和CyclinD1的表达抑制胃癌的转移。Won等^[34]研究发现,在肝细胞癌Huh7细胞中,3-[3,4-二羟苯基]-丙烯酸2-[3,4-二羟基-苯基]-乙基酯(3-[3,4-dihydroxy-phenyl]-acrylic acid 2-[3,4-dihydroxy-phenyl]-ethyl ester, CADPE)通过阻断IL-6诱导的STAT3的活化,抑制肝细胞癌中CyclinD1的表达发挥其生物学效应。Lu等^[35]在研究GYY4137(一种H2S供体)抗肝细胞癌活性中发现GYY4137可抑制IL-6诱导的STAT3的磷酸化,Western blot分析STAT3下游蛋白CyclinD1、Bcl-2、Mcl-1和Survivn表达均被下调,动物实验表明GYY4137通过阻断STAT3信号发挥抗肿瘤效应。Yang等^[36]研究miR-26a在肝细胞癌的生长和转移中的角色,IL-6被认为是主要的作用靶点,而IL-6的表达减少能显著抑制STAT3的表达,从而诱导CyclinD1、Bcl-2、Mcl-1和MMP2的凋亡,证实抑制STAT3信号途径可作为治疗肝癌的一种手段。

CyclinD1作为细胞周期蛋白家族中重要一员,主要在细胞周期G₁期早期产生,在细胞周期由G₁期进入S期过程中发挥作用。CyclinD1与细胞周期依赖激酶4(cyclin-dependent kinase 4, CDK4)或是细胞周期依赖激酶6(cyclin-dependent kinase 6, CDK6)结合成复合物并活化,可使抑癌基因视网膜母细胞瘤(retinoblastoma, Rb)表达产物的残基磷酸化,释放出转录因子(如E2F等),促使细胞周期由G₁期进入S期,促进细胞增殖^[37]。当CyclinD1表达失调时,易导致肿瘤发生。Lo等^[38]研究头颈部鳞状细胞癌时发现,CyclinD1可能与ALDH1⁺/CD44⁺CSC样细胞的放疗抗拒有关。

由此可见,STAT3可以通过直接调控CyclinD1的表达,进而影响细胞周期转化和放射敏感性。

此外,研究表明HIF-1 α 可以直接调控CyclinD1的表达。在正常肺上皮细胞和肿瘤细胞中,常氧和低氧条件下HIF-1 α 均能负调控CyclinD1,并且HIF-1 α 可以直接与CyclinD1启动子区中的HRE相互作用,引起肺癌细胞A549周期阻滞,抑制细胞增殖,导致肿瘤化疗抗拒,A549细胞外源表达HIF-1 α 的显性负性突变体(dominant negative mutant of HIF-1 α , DN-HIF)能够明显增加细胞周期特异性化疗药物5-氟尿嘧啶(5-fluorouracil, 5-FU)引起的细胞凋亡,而干扰CyclinD1之后5-FU引起的细胞凋亡被明显抑制^[39-40]。

4 STAT3在临床中的应用

STAT3通过直接和间接两种途径在肿瘤血管生成及放射敏感性方面发挥作用。Lin等^[41]研究发现,在胶质瘤患者中瘤细胞pTyr705-STAT3和pSer727-STAT3高表达者放化疗预后差,且为预后差的独立因素,抑制STAT3活化或许对这部分患者有效。Bu等^[42]发现,干扰素/维甲酸诱导凋亡相关基因19(genes associated retinoid-IFN induced mortality-19, GRIM-19)在胃癌组织及细胞中可抑制STAT3表达,且GRIM-19表达量减少继而STAT3表达量增加时,在胃癌放疗抗拒方面具有重要作用,抑制STAT3表达或许能够提高胃癌的放射敏感性。

5 结语

以上分析提示,VEGF结合其受体VEGFR2活化下游信号的同时,IL-6活化STAT3。而STAT3可直接作用于VEGF基因启动子上,促进VEGF表达,增加血管生成,同时通过上调HIF-1 α 的表达,间接促进VEGF上调,促进血管新生,从而产生放疗耐受,影响临床疗效;另外,STAT3在直接作用于放疗敏感性基因CCND1的同时,通过HIF-1 α 再调控CyclinD1表达,促进细胞增殖,产生放疗抗拒,影响治疗效果(图1)。

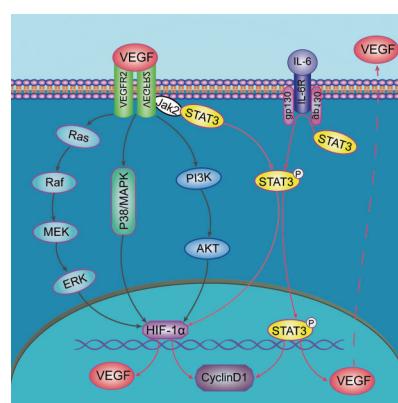


图1 STAT3参与血管生成及放疗敏感性信号通路模式图

Figure 1 Schematic of the STAT3 signaling pathway in regulating tumor angiogenesis and radiation sensitivity

STAT3在很多恶性肿瘤中发挥了关键性作用,故STAT3可以作为多个恶性肿瘤的治疗靶点。抑制STAT3的蛋白活性可诱导与STAT3相关的肿瘤细胞凋亡、抑制细胞增殖及阻断肿瘤血管生成。总之,阻断STAT3信号通路活化,可能会在抗血管生成及增加放疗敏感性方面获益,提高患者治疗疗效,或许会成为临床相关肿瘤治疗的新途径。

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(2015-03-23 收稿)

(2015-05-12 修回)

(编辑:邢颖)

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• 读者 • 作者 • 编者 •**第十四届海峡两岸肿瘤学术会议在台北成功召开**

由台湾临床肿瘤医学会与中国抗癌协会共同举办的第十四届海峡两岸肿瘤学术会议于5月2日—3日在台北荣总医院成功召开。本届会议以“迈向癌症全人医疗新纪元——创造医病双赢”为主题，吸引了海峡两岸的百余名肿瘤专家和学者参加。中国抗癌协会肺癌专业委员会、大肠癌专业委员会、肿瘤微创治疗专业委员会的专家们参加了会议，并作了精彩的学术报告。

会议期间，中国抗癌协会肺癌专业委员会常委、浙江省肿瘤医院院长毛伟敏教授做了题为食道鳞状细胞癌术后辅助治疗研究进展的报告；大肠癌专业委员会常委、湖北省肿瘤医院院长魏少忠教授作了关于结直肠癌 multidisciplinary team (MDT) 的临床实践的报告；肿瘤微创治疗专业委员会委员、中山大学附属肿瘤医院医学影像与微创介入中心主任吴沛宏教授作了题为肿瘤微创治疗与多学科综合治疗的报告，与会专家的精彩报告受到了台湾肿瘤专家及医生的高度认可。此外，两岸专家还就肿瘤防治研究的最新进展及癌症发病趋势进行了深入的讨论，会场学术气氛浓厚，取得了很好的交流效果。本次会议的成功举办，为今后进一步加强学术交流与合作奠定了良好的基础。