

• 综述 •

巨噬细胞介导上皮间充质转分化在纤维化疾病中的作用

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【摘要】 纤维化与多器官病变的不良预后密切相关,至今仍缺乏有效治疗措施。近年来研究表明,巨噬细胞与上皮细胞相互作用,诱导上皮间充质转分化(EMT),在多种纤维化疾病发病过程中起关键作用。本文就巨噬细胞在EMT相关纤维化疾病中的致病机制进行综述,为明确其在纤维化疾病治疗中的潜在临床价值提供参考。

【关键词】 巨噬细胞; 上皮间充质转分化; 纤维化

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【Abstract】 It is reported that fibrotic changes seemed to be associated with poor prognosis in patients with organ dysfunction, unfortunately no effective treatment existed currently. Recent studies have demonstrated that macrophages can interact with epithelial cells to induce epithelial mesenchymal transdifferentiation (EMT) which is thought to play a key role in the pathogenesis of a variety of fibrotic diseases. Therefore, this review will summarize the potential role of macrophages in the molecular mechanisms of EMT-associated fibrosis. We aimed to provide a possible therapeutic approaches for the fibrotic diseases.

【Key words】 Macrophage; Epithelial mesenchymal transdifferentiation; Fibrosis

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纤维化也称瘢痕形成,指细胞外基质(ECM)过度沉积在炎症或损伤的组织或其周围,发生渐进性、病理性组织器官重塑,是一种失控的损伤修复应答。纤维化应答有助于损伤修复,但若长期存在,则导致实质瘢痕形成、细胞功能障碍、器官功能衰竭甚至死亡^[1]。研究表明,上皮间充质转分化(EMT)参与纤维化疾病的发生;慢性炎症反应是组织纤维化的始动因素之一,巨噬细胞是参与炎症反应的关键细胞,可调控EMT的过程。现对巨噬细胞在EMT相关纤维化疾病中作用的研究进展进行综述。

1 EMT在纤维化疾病中的作用

肌成纤维细胞(myofibroblast)是组织修复和纤维化的主要效应细胞。正常组织内缺乏活化的肌成纤维细胞^[2]。在生理性损伤修复和病理性纤维化过程中,肌成纤维细胞活化,其来源除纤维母细胞(fibroblast)、周膜细胞(pericytes)和骨髓外,局部上皮前体细胞也可通过EMT成为肌成纤维细胞^[3]。还有研究显示,肾小管上皮细胞(ECs)、肺泡上皮细胞(AEC)、胆管上皮细胞均可转分化为肌成纤维细胞^[4-6]。

局部微环境中的多种细胞因子、生长因子、ECM以及低氧等均可启动不同的信号转导通路[转化生长因子-β

(TGF-β)、Wnt蛋白、整合素、Notch等]级联放大反应,调节EMT相关基因的表达,使上皮细胞标志物表达下调,间质细胞标志物表达上调^[7],从而促进EMT的发生。根据生物学背景的不同,EMT分为3种不同的亚群,其中Ⅱ型EMT与损伤修复、组织再生以及器官的纤维化密切相关。越来越多的研究表明,EMT参与肾脏、肺脏、心脏等多种器官的纤维化病变^[8-10]。最近,对克罗恩病患者结肠组织标本的研究表明,在克罗恩病相关肠纤维化病变区也存在EMT^[11]。因此,EMT被认为是纤维化效应细胞的主要来源之一。

2 巨噬细胞的可塑性

巨噬细胞是参与机体炎症反应的主要细胞类型之一,具有高度的可塑性、异质性。依据功能表型的不同,巨噬细胞主要分为M1(经典活化的巨噬细胞)和M2(选择性活化的巨噬细胞)两型。值得注意的是,这种两分类并不是终端分化状态,巨噬细胞可根据局部微环境信号快速改变其功能表型。通常,M1由γ-干扰素(IFN-γ)和Toll样受体(TLR)的相关配体[如脂多糖(LPS)]活化,特征性表达CD80/CD86和诱导型一氧化氮合酶(iNOS)等,产生促炎细胞因子,介导宿主防御(细菌、原虫、病毒等)及肿瘤免疫应答。M2主要

由白细胞介素-4(IL-4)或IL-13活化,特异性表达甘露糖受体(CD206)、精氨酸酶-1(Arg-1)等,具有抗炎功能,参与调节损伤修复和纤维化病变。依据诱导刺激的不同,M2又进一步分为M2a(IL-4和IL-13诱导)、M2b(免疫复合物诱导)、M2c(IL-10和TGF-β诱导)等亚群,M2a、M2c在组织修复、纤维化疾病中发挥作用,M2b主要参与免疫调节^[12-16]。

3 巨噬细胞参与纤维化疾病的病理过程

3.1 巨噬细胞介导的炎症反应:炎症反应是纤维化形成和发展的一个必经过程,组织损伤后,巨噬细胞参与调节炎症应答。一方面,巨噬细胞可通过产生活性氧簇(ROS)或其他毒性介质阻断细胞代谢,诱导凋亡,加重组织损伤;另一方面,巨噬细胞可分泌各种生长因子,如TGF-β、血管内皮生长因子(VEGF)、Wnt蛋白等,调节上皮细胞、内皮细胞的增殖及肌成纤维细胞的活化,干细胞和组织前体细胞的分化及血管生成;分泌基质金属蛋白酶(MMP),调节纤维素和胶原的更替,促进组织恢复稳态^[2,17]。巨噬细胞功能失调则不利于损伤愈合,并可促进纤维化的进程。一方面,纤维化效应细胞可分泌趋化因子等,募集并活化巨噬细胞。另一方面,巨噬细胞可产生促纤维化介质,如TGF-β、血小板源生长因子(PDGF)、金属蛋白酶组织抑制因子(TIMP),直接活化纤维母细胞,调节ECM的平衡;也可产生趋化因子,调节、活化定居或募集的纤维母细胞及其他炎性细胞,促进EMT;在促纤维化微环境,直接分泌纤维素、胶原成分,或转分化为纤维细胞。此外,巨噬细胞的吞噬活性在纤维化的发生中也有重要作用^[18]。

3.2 巨噬细胞在纤维化不同阶段中的作用:由于巨噬细胞表型和功能的多样性,在纤维化疾病进展的不同阶段,巨噬细胞发挥着不同甚至相反的作用。Duffield等^[19]以CCl₄诱导肝纤维化小鼠模型,在炎症损伤阶段,缺失巨噬细胞有利于缓解纤维化,而在组织修复阶段缺失巨噬细胞,则进一步加重纤维化应答。早期研究显示,体外输注巨噬细胞有利于缓解肝纤维化的进展^[20];进一步研究表明,外源性的M1可调节免疫微环境,募集并活化内源性巨噬细胞和自然杀伤细胞(NK细胞),进而分别通过MMPs和肿瘤坏死因子相关凋亡诱导配体(TRAIL)诱导肝星状细胞凋亡,从而有效治疗肝纤维化^[21]。本课题组前期研究表明,选择性过继输入M2a和M2c细胞给LPS诱导的急性肺损伤(ALI)模型小鼠,均可明显减缓肺部损伤及纤维化病变,且M2c的作用优于M2a,阻断抗炎细胞因子IL-10,M2c的作用消失,提示M2c的保护作用与诱导受体内高水平IL-10有关^[22]。在肾脏纤维化小鼠模型中,过继输入M2a或M2c细胞同样有利于缓解肾脏损伤和纤维化病变^[23]。因此,巨噬细胞的亚群和功能与纤维化不同阶段,以及不同组织纤维化进程密切相关。

4 巨噬细胞调节EMT

研究表明,巨噬细胞可通过调节EMT介导纤维化疾病进展。上皮细胞损伤,分泌细胞因子,募集并活化巨噬细胞等炎性细胞;同时,损伤、病原微生物等也可直接作用于巨噬细胞,导致巨噬细胞活化并诱导极化,分泌各种细胞因子,

包括IL-6、IL-1β、TGF-β1等促纤维化介质,反作用于上皮细胞,诱导EMT,促进纤维化病变。研究表明,不同亚群巨噬细胞在EMT中的作用不同。在顺铂诱导的ECs不完全EMT基础上,给予M2条件性培养基可进一步促进EMT的发生,促进纤维化病变;将顺铂处理后的ECs与巨噬细胞共培养,可诱导巨噬细胞向M2极化^[24]。而在腹膜纤维化疾病中,M1为促进人腹膜间皮细胞EMT的主要亚群^[25]。

在分子水平,巨噬细胞主要通过分泌各种促纤维化介质,如TGF-β1、IL-6、IL-1β、MMPs等,或活化细胞表面受体TLR4诱导EMT,介导纤维化病变。

4.1 促纤维化介质:已有研究表明,TGF-β1可诱导EMT,促进纤维化病变^[1,26]。在低氧环境下,THP-1巨噬细胞与肺上皮细胞共培养后,IL-1β分泌明显增加,IL-1β又通过自分泌和旁分泌途径作用于巨噬细胞本身及A549人肺上皮细胞,促进二者TGF-β的分泌,进而促进EMT和肺纤维化。给予IL-1β中和抗体,可阻断TGF-β1信号通路,抑制TGF-β1可阻断低氧诱导的EMT过程^[27]。另外,研究表明,M2可通过活化上皮细胞内TGF-β/Smad2信号通路诱导EMT,促进肺、肾纤维化的进展^[5,28]。骨形态蛋白7(BMP7)可对抗TGF-β/Smad信号通路介导的纤维化^[5]。在大鼠肾结石相关纤维化模型,结石诱导巨噬细胞分泌促纤维化细胞因子TGF-β1,进而诱导ECs发生EMT,促进纤维化进展。有研究表明,ECs及巨噬细胞来源的MMP-9通过骨桥蛋白(一种巨噬细胞趋化因子)剪切募集巨噬细胞,同时促进ECs的EMT,诱导病理性的单侧输尿管梗阻后肾纤维化;抑制MMP-9,剪切的骨桥蛋白和巨噬细胞浸润均减少,进而明显抑制ECs的EMT和肾纤维化^[29]。抑制MMP-2同样可以延缓慢性肾脏病相关的纤维化进展^[30]。

高水平的IL-6可促进肺纤维化及其他纤维化疾病的进展,其主要由单核/巨噬细胞分泌^[31-32]。在百草枯诱导的肺纤维化模型中,巨噬细胞来源的IL-6在肺纤维化病变中发挥重要作用,组蛋白去乙酰化酶抑制剂(HDAC)或组蛋白乙酰化酶抑制剂(HAT)可分别促进或抑制巨噬细胞IL-6的表达,促进或者改善纤维化的病理学改变;IL-6主要通过促使EMT进而促进纤维化病变;阻断IL-6信号转导通路,EMT相关基因表达下调,肺纤维化得以缓解^[33]。

4.2 TLR4:TLR4主要表达于巨噬细胞表面,可促进肝纤维化的发生^[34]。在腹膜纤维化疾病,腹膜间皮细胞为主要的纤维化效应细胞。将M1与腹膜间皮细胞(PMCs)共培养,M1表面TLR4活化,β-干扰素TIR结构域衔接蛋白(TRIF)依赖的TLR4信号通路表达上调;同时,PMCs上皮细胞形态丢失,发生EMT,间质细胞标志物表达上调;而与M2共培养则无上述现象^[27]。提示TLR4活化在EMT和纤维化过程中发挥重要作用。

5 结语

综上所述,巨噬细胞不同亚群的表型和功能与EMT及纤维化过程密切相关,其可能通过直接调节纤维化的过程,或者与EMT的来源细胞相互作用形成反馈效应,促进或者

抑制EMT和纤维化。然而,巨噬细胞具有明显的可塑性,进一步探索不同亚群巨噬细胞在EMT和纤维化不同阶段中的作用及其机制,可能为后续有效调控巨噬细胞功能用于临床纤维化疾病治疗的靶点提供重要的参考。

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