

DOI: 10.13376/j.cblls/2015123

文章编号: 1004-0374(2015)07-0898-05

ERAP1与强直性脊柱炎关系研究进展

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摘要: HLA-B27 作为强直性脊柱炎 (ankylosing spondylitis, AS) 的一个遗传学标志和致病因子为人们所熟知, 但随着基因检测技术的发展, 更多与 AS 相关的基因被发现, 包括 ERAP1。ERAP1 的主要功能是剪切合适长度的抗原肽, 以便 MHC-I 类分子提呈, 功能异常的 ERAP1 与 AS 发病相关。在此过程中, ERAP1 与 HLA-B27 密切配合。ERAP1 分子多态性产生异常抗原肽提呈谱和 HLA-B27 分子表达, 并通过固有免疫和适应性免疫机制介导 AS 发病。现围绕 ERAP1 基因与 AS 的关系、ERAP1 基因单核苷酸多态性与其功能改变以及 ERAP1 参与 AS 的免疫机制作一综述。

关键词: 强直性脊柱炎; ERAP1; 单核苷酸多态性; HLA-B27

中图分类号: Q75; R593.23 **文献标志码:** A

Research progress in the relation between ERAP1 and ankylosing spondylitis

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Abstract: It is well known that HLA-B27 is a hereditary marker and susceptibility factor in ankylosing spondylitis (AS). However, further AS-associated genes including ERAP1 were identified with the development of gene detection techniques. The main function of ERAP1 is trimming peptides to optimal length for MHC-I presentation and ERAP1 dysfunction is involved in the pathological mechanism of AS. ERAP1 functions in close concert with HLA-B27 molecules in AS pathogenesis. ERAP1 polymorphisms result in an abnormal peptide-presenting repertoire and HLA-B27 expression, which contribute to AS development by innate and adaptive immune responses. This review focuses on the association of ERAP1 with AS at the gene level, the SNP-dependent alteration in the function of ERAP1 as well as the immunologic mechanism for ERAP1 in AS susceptibility.

Key words: ankylosing spondylitis; ERAP1; SNP; HLA-B27

强直性脊柱炎 (ankylosing spondylitis, AS) 是一种慢性炎症性关节病, 以骶髂关节和脊柱附着点炎症为主要症状, 可伴有肠炎、眼部病变等关节外表现。AS 与遗传背景高度相关, 其中与人类白细胞抗原 (human leukocyte antigen, HLA) -B27 的关系最为密切。虽然高达 95% 的 AS 患者携带 HLA-B27 基因, 然而, 只有 1%~5% 的 HLA-B27 基因携带者发展为 AS 患者^[1-3]。这表明在 AS 的发展过程中 HLA-B27 并不是唯一因素, 也依赖其他基因共同参与。众多研究发现一些非主要组织相容性复合体 (non major histocompatibility complex, non-MHC) 基

因包括 RUNX3、IL-23R、ANTXR2、IL-1R2、ERAP1 等也与 AS 相关^[1,4-5]。值得注意的是, 在这些 AS 相关基因当中, 内质网氨基肽酶 1 (endoplasmic reticulum aminopeptidase 1, ERAP1) 是仅次于 HLA-B27 与 AS 关联度第二高的基因, 约占 AS 遗传总风险的 26%^[6-7]。ERAP1 基因的单核苷酸多态性 (single nucleotide polymorphism, SNP) 与 AS 风险的相关性

收稿日期: 2015-02-10; 修回日期: 2015-03-24

基金项目: 福建省教育厅 B 类项目 (JB14142)

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已在不同人种中得到证实^[1,6,8-11]。

1 ERAP1的功能

ERAP1属于锌金属肽酶(zinc-metallopeptidase) M1家族,也是内质网膜整合蛋白^[12]。ERAP1有两个主要功能,第一是修剪抗原肽,协助提呈内源性抗原。内源性抗原肽在细胞质内被蛋白酶复合体降解为较小的肽段,最多含有25个氨基酸。而后,这些肽段被抗原加工相关转运体(transporter associated with antigen processing, TAP)转运到内质网。内质网中的ERAP1从N端将这些肽段精确地修剪为含有8~9个氨基酸的小片段。这样长度的肽段最适合结合MHC-I类分子,包括HLA-B27^[12-13]。MHC-I类分子结合抗原肽后,通过高尔基体到达细胞膜,将抗原肽提呈给CD8⁺T细胞。此外,ERAP1还有清除细胞膜促炎细胞因子受体的作用。这些受体有IL-1R II、IL-6R α 、TNFR I^[13-14]。由于ERAP1与HLA-B27在内质网上共同参与了抗原提呈,有理由相信ERAP1也参与了AS的发病。ERAP1功能改变与AS之间的关系近年来得到了广泛关注和深入研究。

2 ERAP1基因与AS关联

2007年,一项大规模病例对照研究(case-control study)利用全基因组关联扫描(genome-wide association scan, GWAS)技术,通过对1.45万个非同义SNP(non-synonymous SNP, nsSNP)位点进行扫描分析,确认5个位于ERAP1基因上的nsSNP与AS相关^[6]。早前的研究计算出每个SNP的优势比(odds ratio, OR),并区分出各个SNP的高风险等位基因(high risk allele)^[2,6]。与高风险等位基因相对的等位基因被认为是保护性等位基因,如研究较多的rs30187的等位基因C被认为起保护性作用,其在健康对照人群中存在的比例高于AS患者^[2,9]。然而,由于各SNP间存在连锁不平衡(linkage disequilibrium, LD)^[14],并且各SNP间还有相互作用,似乎较难对某个SNP独立分析,如纯合的rs30187和rs10050860同时存在可以显著提高保护效应,使得AS的风险下降了2/3~3/4^[2]。因此,不同SNP组合构成的单体型(haplotype)成为研究的重点。rs27044/10050860/30187-CCT单体型提高AS的风险^[15],由于rs20744与rs17482078存在完全连锁,也有报道rs17482078/10050860/30187-CCT单体型是AS易感型,而与之相对应的TTC单体型则为AS保护型^[14]。对俄罗

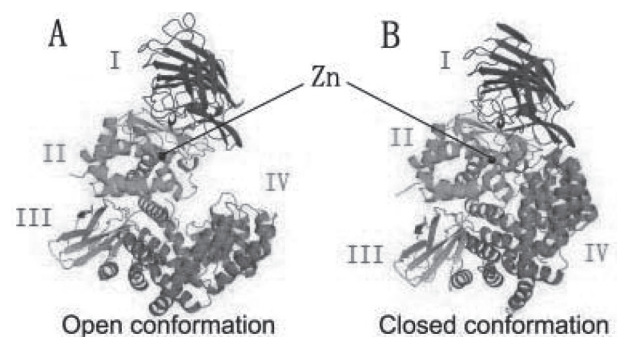
斯人群的研究发现,rs17482078/10050860/2287987-CCT单体型为AS易感型,并认为rs30187和rs27044多态性与AS不相关^[16]。在台湾人群则发现rs27037/27980/27044-TCG单体型是AS的主要风险因子^[10]。Reeves等^[17]的研究则更为深入,不仅罗列出13种不同的单体型,还研究了15种不同的单体型组合在疾病和对照组中的分布。他们认为ERAP1的高度多态性通过影响抗原提呈参与AS发病。

虽然ERAP1基因影响AS,但其对AS的影响有赖于HLA-B27基因。ERAP1多态性在HLA-B27基因缺失的情况下与AS没有关联^[2]。体外实验也证明了ERAP1功能改变只在AS相关HLA-B27亚型存在下改变细胞蛋白质表达^[18]。这说明ERAP1与HLA-B27密切配合,共同参与AS发病机制。

3 ERAP1多态性与激酶功能改变

3.1 ERAP1正常作用机制

晶体结构解析可以帮助我们很好地认识ERAP1结构与功能的关系^[19-20]。ERAP1从N端开始分为4个区,分别跨越的氨基酸序列为1~254、255~527/529、528/530~613/614、614/615~941(图1)。其中II区为活性区,IV为调节区,II区和IV区之间形成间隙(cavity),可以容纳不同长度的抗原肽^[21]。抗原肽的C端结合调节区,N端与活性区接触,两者之间距离约29Å。这种结构使得ERAP1像“分子尺子”只切割合适长度的抗原肽(9~16个氨基酸为合适长度,短于8个氨基酸将难于处理)。当抗原肽长度不足导致N端与活性区没有接触时,酶的效率将显著下降,直至反应停止。ERAP1有开放(open)和闭合(closed)两种构象,开放时,抗原



A为ERAP1开放构象,B为ERAP1闭合构象。ERAP1分区用不同颜色表示(I区蓝色、II区绿色、III区黄色、IV区紫红色)。

图1 ERAP1开放和闭合构象模式图^[19]

肽被 ERAP1 接纳,而后转变为闭合态,此时 ERAP1 为活性状态,可以将氨基酸从抗原肽的 N 端切割。此过程可以重复,直到抗原肽被切割到合适的长度为止^[20-22]。合适长度的抗原肽将与 MHC-I 类分子结合,被提呈到细胞膜表面。

3.2 ERAP1 变异体(variants)与功能变化

ERAP1 非同义单核苷酸突变导致相应位置的氨基酸变换,形成变异体,如 rs30187 SNP 导致第 528 位氨基酸由 Lys (K) 变为 Arg (R),表示为 K528R。一些氨基酸的改变会影响酶功能,rs30187、rs17482078、rs27044 分别对应的氨基酸改变 K528R、R725Q、Q730E 降低了酶活性^[2,23]。ERAP1 切割抗原肽会产生两个效应,一方面,产生供 MHC-I 类分子提呈的抗原肽;另一方面,活性强的 ERAP1 过度切割,产生的抗原肽过短则不能被 MHC-I 分子提呈,造成破坏作用^[24-25]。由 M349/K528/D575/R725/Q730 组成 AS 高风险型 ERAP1 与其对应的 AS 低风险型比较,前者降解 HLA-B27 特异性抗原肽的能力更强^[26]。在胞内条件下,根据功能强弱,可以将 ERAP1 变异体分为正常功能、过强功能和过低功能等 3 种类型^[27]。需要指出的是,ERAP1 活性的高低还有赖于底物的特异性及其浓度^[23]。ERAP1 变异体的功能变化可以从结构上分析:M349V 在酶活性区,可直接影响酶活性;R725Q、Q730E 位于调节区,可以与抗原肽 C 端结合,影响抗原肽序列和长度的特异性;在接合区的 K528R、D575N 影响酶的构象转变,而构象转变对酶的活性非常重要^[23,27-28]。

4 ERAP1 参与 AS 的机制

ERAP1 具有清除膜细胞因子受体和修剪抗原肽的功能。膜受体清除减少会导致游离受体与膜受体的比例失调,从而导致炎症^[13],但现有研究并未在 AS 患者中发现 ERAP1 SNP 与细胞因子水平存在关系^[29]。因此,本文着重从 ERAP1 修剪抗原肽这一功能来探讨。

4.1 影响抗原肽提呈

ERAP1 对抗原肽的剪切功能决定了它对 MHC 分子提呈的抗原肽谱(peptide repertoire)有影响,这在被敲除 ERAP1 基因的小鼠中得到证实^[30-31]。ERAP1 功能的缺失,使得原本与 MHC 分子较好结合的抗原肽表达减少,同时与 MHC 分子结合欠合适的异常肽段表达增加,并最终导致免疫应答产生^[18,32]。ERAP1 的基因多态性使 HLA-B27 提呈

的抗原肽谱呈现多样性,并通过抗原肽谱的改变来增强或减弱免疫反应^[28,31,33]。ERAP1 通过影响抗原肽提呈介导 AS 可能存在如下机制:(1)异常提呈的抗原肽改变 T 细胞受体谱并被特异性的 CD8⁺T 细胞识别,引起炎症反应;(2)异常提呈的抗原肽可通过分子模拟导致交叉反应;(3)降解、破坏病原体来源的抗原,削弱机体对病原体的清除^[7,13,26,34-35]。目前关于 ERAP1 与抗原肽谱的研究都集中于表达 AS 相关 HLA-B27 分子的细胞,这说明 ERAP1 多态性改变抗原肽谱有赖于 HLA-B27 分子,也提示了两者在抗原提呈上的密切关系。

4.2 改变 HLA-B27 分子表达

完整的 HLA-B27 分子由一条重链(heavy chain)和一条轻链(β 微球蛋白)构成,具备提呈抗原的能力。当 B27 分子解聚时,重链与轻链分离,形成自由重链(free heavy chain, FHC),不能提呈抗原。HLA-B27 来源的 FHC 较容易发生错误折叠和形成同源二聚体(homodimers)^[36]。

ERAP1 影响抗原肽提呈的同时也改变了 HLA-B27 分子的表达。ERAP1 缺失的小鼠细胞膜表面 MHC 分子表达下降^[30],这种情况同样存在携带 AS 易感型 ERAP1 基因的细胞上^[26]。ERAP1 SNP rs27044 的 AS 易感型等位基因是 C,携带该等位基因的 AS 患者与无该基因的患者比较,前者的外周血单个核细胞表面表达较高的 FHC^[18]。这些现象潜在的机制是 ERAP1 功能失当产生与 HLA-B27 分子低亲和力的抗原肽,而该分子结合低亲和力抗原肽后容易发生解聚,发生未折叠蛋白反应(unfolded protein response, UPR),或是形成膜 FHC^[13]。蛋白质错误折叠增加内质网压力,引起细胞因子失调,导致炎症反应,这是 AS 的一个病理机制^[36]。

FHC 在 AS 患者炎性滑膜液中的单个核细胞膜表面高表达^[37],提示其也与 AS 相关。FHC 分子在膜表面可形成同源二聚体,该二聚体可被 NK 细胞以及 Th17 细胞表面的杀伤细胞免疫球蛋白样受体(killer immunoglobulin-like receptor, KIR)家族成员 KIR3DL2 结合^[38-39]。NK 细胞和 Th17 细胞的 KIR 受体结合 FHC 后可延长存活时间。AS 患者表达 KIR3DL2 受体的 Th17 和 NK 细胞的比例增加^[38-39]。Th17 细胞通过分泌 IL-17 细胞因子参与了 AS 的病理过程^[40]。

5 小结

ERAP1 在抗原提呈中与 HLA-B27 密切配合,

在 AS 发病过程中扮演了角色。功能失当的 ERAP1 导致了异常的抗原肽谱和 HLA-B27 分子表达, 并最终通过适应性免疫和固有免疫机制参与了 AS 发病。认识 ERAP1 与 AS 的联系加深了我们对该疾病的理解, 但也存在很多疑问有待于进一步阐明。如何调控 ERAP1 的功能也许可以成为治疗 AS 的一个研究方向。

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