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间充质干细胞衰老基础的研究进展

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摘要: 间充质干细胞 (mesenchymal stem cells, MSCs) 是再生医学领域和组织工程领域研究应用最广泛的成体干细胞。MSCs 不仅随着机体的衰老而衰老, 而且 MSCs 的衰老也被认为是引起机体衰老的主要原因, 是许多衰老相关退行性疾病的重要诱因。干细胞治疗的发展为衰老相关疾病的治疗带来了新的方向, 然而体外扩增过程中供体细胞容易出现衰老, 影响治疗效果, 制约临床发展与应用。因此, 该文针对 MSCs 衰老基础研究进行综述, 为加快 MSCs 临床转化提供参考。

关键词: 间充质干细胞; 细胞衰老; 退行性疾病; 衰老检测

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Advances in basic research on senescence of mesenchymal stem cells

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Abstract: Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) are widely used in regenerative medicine and tissue engineering. Senescence of MSCs is closely related to the aging of the body and many aging-related degenerative diseases. The development of stem cell therapy has brought a new direction for the treatment of aging-related diseases. However, donor cells are prone to senescence after multiple passages *in vitro*, which affects the therapeutic effect and restricts clinical development and application. Therefore, the basic studies on senescence of MSCs are reviewed to provide reference for accelerating the clinical transformation of MSCs.

Key words: mesenchymal stem cells; cell senescence; degenerative diseases; senescence detection

间充质干细胞 (mesenchymal stem cells, MSCs) 是一类源于中胚层、具有自我更新和多向分化能力的成体干细胞。目前 MSCs 作为一种“药物”已广泛用于新冠肺炎^[1]、慢性阻塞性肺病^[2]、肺损伤修复^[3]及骨科疾病^[4]等多种疾病的治疗。细胞移植需要体外扩大培养 MSCs, 然而体外培养的 MSCs 也会出现衰老而导致治疗作用下降。例如在 MSCs 培养过程中, 经常可以观察到传代次数较多的 MSCs 增殖速率下降、细胞形态发生变化、细胞体积变大等现象^[5]。因此, 我们回顾了近年来 NCBI 收录的 MSCs 衰老相关文献, 并从干细胞衰老概念、干细胞衰老内在及外在因素、干细胞衰老相关疾病

及衰老干细胞检测等方面进行综述。

1 干细胞衰老

人口老龄化及衰老相关疾病的高发是全世界共同面临的大社会问题。2023 年, López-Otín 等^[6]完善了衰老的标志, 由十年前的 9 大标志新增至 12 个, 分别是:(1)营养感应失调;(2)蛋白质稳态失衡;(3)基因组不稳定;(4)线粒体功能障碍;

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(5) 端粒缩短; (6) 表观遗传学改变; (7) 细胞间通讯改变; (8) 细胞衰老; (9) 干细胞衰竭; (10) 慢性炎症; (11) 生态失调(菌群失调); (12) 巨自噬失活。人体内各种成体干细胞也存在衰老现象, 通常表现出衰老组织的稳定和再生能力逐渐下降, 也表现为机体衰老干细胞数量增加、微环境改变及功能性干细胞减少^[7-9]。因此, 避免组织器官中干细胞池耗竭、维持干细胞池中功能干细胞的数量对延缓机体衰老有重要意义。

1.1 干细胞衰老的内在影响因素

体内干细胞衰老可能由以下因素引起: (1) DNA损伤修复缺陷, 干细胞的长期生存容易受到积累的DNA损伤的影响, 最终导致细胞死亡、衰老或丧失再生功能^[10-12]。例如基因组DNA修复缺陷会导致早衰综合征^[13]; (2) 体内微环境的变化, 体内微环境的改变引起干细胞增殖活性及分化潜能发生变化^[14]; (3) IL-6、IL-8、TGF-β、VEGF和CCL2等炎症因子和趋化因子^[15]的影响; (4) 氧化应激的诱导^[16]; (5) 干细胞表观遗传学改变^[17-18]。

1.1.1 ROS相关通路与干细胞衰老

ROS和随之而来的氧化应激是衰老的基础, 能够导致DNA损伤、蛋白质损伤和线粒体功能障碍, 从而引发衰老的内在过程, 包括组蛋白去乙酰化酶(HDAC)^[19]和DNA甲基化转移酶(DNMT)^[20]的变化、端粒和端粒酶的失衡^[21]、基因表达、分泌表型以及信号通路的改变。高水平的ROS可以通过激活MAPK/P38通路促进造血干细胞(hematopoietic stem cells, HSCs)衰老, 反之较低水平的胞内ROS则能通过抑制凋亡来促进HSCs生长^[22]。通常来讲, 细胞内ROS的异常升高与线粒体功能障碍有直接关系, 高水平的ROS对线粒体进一步产生损害, 形成恶性循环^[23], 打破了人HSCs需要依靠低水平ROS维持的静息状态, 使之提前损耗^[13]。当HSCs暴露于IL1-β^[24]、TNF-α^[25]、IL-6^[26]和TGF-β1^[27]等炎症因子中时, 可因微环境的改变进而影响其细胞内ROS的产生, 从而引起增殖能力降低和功能受损。ROS的另一主要来源是NADPH氧化酶NOX家族, 该家族是维持氧化还原状态的关键因素, NOX的激活可以促进ROS的升高从而促进大鼠MSCs向神经元样细胞分化^[28]。综上所述, ROS表达水平对干细胞的增殖、分化及凋亡起到关键的调节作用, ROS可以作为MSCs氧化还原及代谢稳态的效应器和调节剂, 因此在未来可以作为对抗衰老的一个研究方向。

1.1.2 lncRNA对干细胞衰老的影响

非编码RNA(non-coding RNA, ncRNA)尤其是长链非编码RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)在MSCs衰老中的作用是目前研究的一个热点, 能为MSCs衰老引发的疾病提供治疗思路。研究人员通过对小鼠及人类的年轻和老年群体基因微阵列比对发现, lncRNA BMNCR在骨髓间充质干细胞(bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs)衰老过程中表达显著降低; 并且发现小鼠和人衰老后表现出的lncRNA BMNCR下调主要由氧化应激引起, 同时lncRNA BMNCR基因敲除小鼠的BMSCs成骨相关基因下调, 成脂相关基因上调, 表现出骨质流失和脂肪堆积, 表明lncRNA BMNCR是BMSCs年龄相关成骨生态位改变的关键调节因子^[29]。另一研究显示, 在衰老的BMSCs中, lncRNA NEAT表达上调, 通过海绵化miR-27b-3p上调BNIP3L、BMP2K和PPARG蛋白的表达, 从而影响BMSCs的骨脂分化平衡^[30]。小鼠lncRNA NEAT1基因的敲除导致神经元中H3K9me2的下调, 从而导致神经元中海马依赖性记忆相关基因c-Fos表达增加, 因此老年小鼠神经元中lncRNA NEAT1表达明显上调制约了海马依赖性记忆的形成^[31]。综上所述, lncRNA与MSCs衰老密切相关, 并且随着近年来对lncRNA与干细胞衰老的深入研究, 陆续发现了与衰老相关的众多lncRNA, 并且涉及诸多信号通路与转录因子(表1)。

1.1.3 细胞内信号转导与衰老的调控

衰老状态主要特征是持久的细胞周期停滞, 细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶(CDK)抑制剂p21^{CIP1/WAF1}和p16^{INK4A}的激活对于衰老相关的细胞周期停滞至关重要^[37]。在系统性红斑狼疮(SLE)患者BMSCs衰老机制的两项研究中发现, SLE患者的BMSCs中p53、p21^{CIP1/WAF}和p16^{INK4A}的表达增加, 而CDK2、CDK4、CDK6和p-Rb的表达降低, 并且p21^{CIP1/WAF}与p16^{INK4A}的敲低均可逆转SLE患者的BMSCs的衰老, 说明p53/p21^{CIP1/WAF}和p16^{INK4A}/Rb通路在SLE患者BMSCs的衰老中起重要作用; 而ERK1/2的抑制逆转了p16^{INK4A}被敲低后所恢复的衰老状态, 表明ERK1/2通路参与了p16^{INK4A}介导的SLE患者BMSCs的衰老^[38-39]。另外, 多项研究表明NF-κB^[40]、Nrf2^[41]、Notch^[42]等相关分子均通过调节细胞周期参与MSCs的衰老过程。

自噬被认为是MSCs抵抗应激的一种细胞保护机制, 自噬功能障碍会损害MSCs的功能^[43]。自噬受许多信号通路调节, 例如单磷酸腺苷活化蛋白

表1 衰老相关lncRNA及其调节机制

lncRNA	干细胞类型	衰老调节机制	参考文献
BMNCR	骨髓间充质干细胞	下调, 促进脂肪生成, 抑制成骨分化	[29]
NEAT1	骨髓间充质干细胞	上调, 促进BNIP3L、BMP2K 和 PPARG 的表达, 影响骨脂分化平衡	[30]
LYPLAL1-AS1	脂肪间充质干细胞	下调, 负调控miR-let-7b 的表达, 促进细胞衰老	[32]
Xist	骨髓间充质干细胞	下调, 作为 miR-19a-3p 的功能海绵来调节 BMSCs 中 Hoxa5 的表达, 抑制成骨分化	[33]
LINC01255	人脐带间充质干细胞	上调, 联合BMI1通过抑制MCP-1转录调控细胞衰老	[34]
p21	骨髓间充质干细胞	上调, 调控Wnt/β-catenin信号通路引起细胞衰老	[35]
CYP7A1-1	骨髓间充质干细胞	上调, 抑制细胞骨架相关基因SYNE1的表达, 促进细胞衰老	[36]

激酶(AMPK)和磷酸肌醇3激酶(PI3K)/AKT通路,这两条信号通路交汇于自噬负调节剂哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白(mTOR)上^[44]。缺氧预处理的MSCs表现出AMPK/mTOR信号激活、自噬增强及促血管生成效果改善^[45];另外,抑制mTOR的激活可以通过调节ROS-p53通路促进BMSCs的成骨分化,在骨骼重塑中起关键作用^[46]。

研究发现内源性Rho是维持干细胞间接触所必需的,起到调控干细胞分化和维持多潜能性的作用^[47]。目前大多数研究集中于哺乳动物的22种Rho蛋白,包括RHO、RAC、CDC42、RND等家族蛋白,其功能涉及细胞-细胞黏附、微管动力学、囊泡运动、细胞周期进程^[48]。RhoA已被证明通过控制Th2或Th17细胞分化来调节过敏性气道炎症,RhoA/Rho激酶信号的激活诱导MSCs分化为成纤维细胞或肌成纤维细胞促进气道重塑,为哮喘的治疗提供了新的靶点^[49]。在老年雄性大鼠脂肪间充质干细胞(adipose-derived mesenchymal stem cells, ADMSCs)中,Cdc42水平明显升高,CASIN(一个选择性的GTPase Cdc42的抑制剂)对Cdc42的抑制显著改善了老年雄性大鼠ADMSCs的成脂分化能力,有效降低了ROS产生,在一定程度上提高了细胞增殖能力,表明Cdc42参与了雄性大鼠ADMSCs的衰老过程^[50]。

1.2 影响干细胞衰老的外在因素

体内MSCs处于半静止状态,因此复制衰老不太可能是体内MSCs衰老的主要原因,更重要的影响因素是微环境和激素条件^[51]。每个组织的MSCs生态位由一组独特的细胞外基质(ECM)蛋白组成,用以调节MSCs自我更新,指导组织修复和分化,防止细胞库衰竭或肿瘤形成。研究表明,年轻小鼠骨髓细胞产生的ECM能够有效恢复老年MSCs的增殖能力,表现出高水平的端粒酶活性和ATP活性,

且促进了MSCs的骨形成能力,一定程度上逆转了MSCs的衰老^[52]。MSCs的功能与一些年龄相关的激素有关,雌激素和睾酮可以促进MSCs的增殖和迁移并保持其多潜能性^[53-54]。

随着年龄的增长,衰老细胞在组织中逐渐积累,显示衰老相关的分泌表型(senescence associated secretory phenotype, SASP),通过非细胞自主机制促进衰老和组织稳态的丧失^[55]。已知SASP是衰老细胞实现细胞间信息传递的手段,目前SASP可分为经典胞间通讯和非经典胞间通讯两种类型^[20]。经典衰老细胞间通讯主要通过衰老细胞释放的可溶性因子(sSASP)介导,包括IL-1α、IL-6、IL-8、TGF-β等。sSASP可通过诱导DNA持续损伤或者诱导发生DNA损伤的细胞中通过染色质片段(CCFs)激活STING通路和抗病毒环状GMP-AMP合酶(cGAS),进一步诱导sSASP的产生。除此之外,NF-κB、C/EBPβ及p38/MAPK等细胞信号通路也被发现可以调控sSAPS的产生^[56-57]。近年来通过对细胞外囊泡(EVs)的研究新发现了一种引发衰老的经典胞间通讯方式,即通过衰老细胞释放的EVs中所携带的DNA、RNA、蛋白质等物质诱发正常细胞衰老。例如通过衰老和年轻MSCs分泌的EVs对急性肺损伤的治疗效果评估发现,衰老组的抗炎效果差,这很可能与EVs中几种存在表达水平差异的miRNA有关^[58]。非经典衰老细胞间通讯是一种依赖受体与配体结合的邻近细胞间的通讯方式,在这个过程中,IL-1α是主要调控因子。也有研究发现衰老细胞通过胞质联通交换物质,这一方式也称为细胞桥, RNA、蛋白质、细胞器等都可以通过细胞桥在细胞之间交换,实现信号转导^[57]。

2 干细胞衰老与疾病发生

干细胞的衰老是机体衰老和功能障碍的重要驱

动因素, 与多种疾病的发生密切相关。

2.1 干细胞衰老与慢性阻塞性肺病

肺泡上皮细胞的修复及稳态细胞的更新都取决于肺泡上皮干细胞, 而肺泡上皮细胞是一个连续的细胞片, 从鼻腔通过气道延伸至肺泡, 根据部位的不同, 常驻的干细胞也不同, 因此肺部拥有一个完备的肺泡上皮干细胞群^[59-62]。当人体暴露在如吸烟、粉尘或者有害化学物质中时, 通常会引起慢性阻塞性肺病。研究发现吸烟能够引起肺泡上皮的复发性损伤, 这主要是由于烟雾中的有害物质破坏了细胞间接触, 引起了DNA损伤, 诱发了慢性炎症和免疫细胞浸润, 最终导致肺泡干细胞衰竭和分化缺陷^[63-64], 说明干细胞衰老很可能在慢性阻塞性肺病的发病中起至关重要的作用。

2.2 干细胞衰老与神经受损

在包括人类在内的脊柱动物的大脑中, 神经干细胞(neural stem cell, NSC)在整个生命过程中都会产生神经元和神经胶质细胞, 随着年龄的增加或者外部因素(如辐射)的影响引起的NSC衰老或早衰就会导致神经退行性疾病或记忆和认知障碍。脑肿瘤患者在接受放疗过程中其NSC不可避免会受到伽马射线的辐射, 为了评估射线在短期和长期对神经干细胞的影响, 通过对射线辐射处理小鼠的多能神经干细胞(RGL)和扩增神经祖细胞(ANP)标记后检测发现, 处于分裂期中的RGL和ANP暴露于伽马射线24 h后大部分都发生了细胞周期停滞, 存活的细胞分裂能力也大幅下降, 尽管2个月后干细胞池中RGL和ANP总数均与对照小鼠无显著差异, 干细胞生态位也达到正常水平, 但是新生的神经元数量并没有增加, 这种缺陷导致6个月后神经元损失显著, 表明辐射后NSC受损发生早衰, 其增殖能力和分化能力大幅下降^[65]。

2.3 干细胞衰老与其他疾病

在特发性肺纤维化患者中可观察到MSCs的衰老、线粒体功能下降及DNA损伤等^[66]; 此外, MSCs的衰老还可能是导致骨髓增生异常综合征转化为白血病的重要原因^[67]。系统性红斑狼疮患者体内的BMSCs表现出形态肥大和β-半乳糖苷酶活性增强的典型衰老症状^[68], 并且通过同种异体BMSCs移植能够有效缓解症状^[69], 提示BMSCs的衰老参与了系统性红斑狼疮的产生。

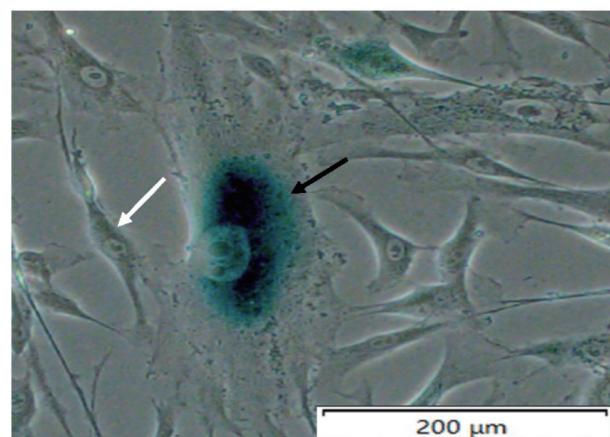
3 目前体外培养MSCs常用的衰老相关检测指标

正常培养MSCs形态均一, 属于成纤维细胞型

贴壁细胞, 呈平行或涡旋状均匀贴于皿底, 有明显的较大的细胞核, 也可见到多角形细胞^[70-71]。在分子水平上, MSCs高水平表达CD73、CD90、CD105、CD54、CD13、CD29, 不表达CD34、CD45、CD14、CD33等表面标志物^[72], 因此CD105、CD90、CD73通常作为检测MSCs质量的标志物用于质控。一些研究表明, 多能性相关因子Nanog、Oct4、Sox2的表达随着培养时间的增长而降低, MSCs多潜能性降低影响了细胞增殖与分化, 对MSCs衰老检测也有指导性意义^[73-74]。在形态学上, 衰老MSCs胞体增大, 形态不规则, 并表达一种衰老相关的β-半乳糖苷酶, 因此β-半乳糖苷酶活性检测成为了一种MSCs衰老检测的手段, 可通过染色结果判断细胞的衰老情况(图1)。

4 展望

自21世纪以来, 干细胞技术在再生医学领域大放异彩。根据国家卫生健康委员会发布的答复, 截至2021年12月, 按照干细胞临床研究机制和项目双备案管理机制, 全国已备案机构111家, 已备案项目共计99个, 并有研究项目陆续结束。所备案项目涉及多种疾病, 包括心脑血管疾病、骨科疾病、神经系统疾病、妇产科疾病、呼吸系统疾病、肝病、皮肤病、风湿免疫病、糖尿病、眼科疾病、口腔、炎症性疾病、烧伤和血液疾病。干细胞研究和转化问题多次在国民经济和社会发展五年计划建议中被提出, 国家加大了对干细胞及转化研究的支持力度, 各部门也在逐步建立、健全干细胞领域立



注:黑色箭头所指为被染成蓝色的衰老人脐带间充质干细胞, 显示β-半乳糖苷酶阳性; 白色箭头所指为正常人脐带间充质干细胞。

图1 β-半乳糖苷酶染色检测人脐带间充质干细胞衰老

法和完善监管体系。MSCs 作为干细胞治疗的领头羊，探究 MSCs 衰老对衰老相关疾病的预防和治疗以及干细胞技术的发展和临床转化至关重要。现阶段细胞衰老检测手段单一且没有形成完备的检测体系，不利于临床应用的安全性和有效性监管。笔者相信，随着国家的大力支持和科研工作者的努力，干细胞临床转化的法律法规颁布和完善的治疗体系正渐行渐近。

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