

间变性淋巴瘤激酶与神经母细胞瘤关系的研究进展*

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摘要 神经母细胞瘤(neuroblastoma, NB)是小儿最常见的实体肿瘤之一,临床表现变异较大,高危NB进展迅速,即使行高强度清髓化疗,肿瘤复发仍然常见,死亡率较高。为发现有效NB治疗药物和靶点,必须充分研究认识NB发病机制中的关键分子。间变性淋巴瘤激酶(ALK)是一种受体型酪氨酸激酶,其异常存在于多种肿瘤中,与肿瘤发生发展密切相关,如间变性大细胞淋巴瘤、横纹肌肉瘤、炎症性肌纤维母细胞瘤、NB。ALK的异常形式主要包括基因融合、基因突变、基因扩增及蛋白表达增加。随着酪氨酸激酶抑制剂在临床抗肿瘤治疗中的应用以及新的特异性小分子ALK抑制剂的研发,ALK异常与NB发生发展关系及针对ALK异常的NB靶向治疗获得了较多关注和研究。本文主要针对ALK异常与NB发生发展关系的研究进行综述。

关键词 神经母细胞瘤 间变性淋巴瘤激酶 基因异常 靶向治疗

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Correlation between Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase and Neuroblastoma

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Abstract Neuroblastoma (NB), one of the most common solid tumors in children, has widely varied clinical manifestations. High-risk NB progresses rapidly; even with intensive myeloablative chemotherapy, relapse is still common and almost all are fatal. To discover effective drugs and improve the prognosis of NB, the critical molecules in the pathogenesis of NB need to be examined. Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) is a member of the insulin receptor superfamily of receptor tyrosine kinases. ALK abnormalities exist in a variety of tumors, such as anaplastic large cell lymphoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor, and NB. The abnormal forms of ALK include gene fusion, gene amplification, protein overexpression, and gene mutation. These abnormalities play important roles in the development of these tumors. Tyrosine kinase inhibitors as anti-cancer therapy for clinical applications and new specific small-molecule inhibitors of ALK have been developed. Consequently, the relationships of ALK aberrations with NB development and targeted ALK treatments for NB have received increased attention. This article mainly reviews the studies on the relationship between ALK abnormalities and NB development.

Keywords Neuroblastoma; Anaplastic lymphoma kinase; Genetic abnormality; Targeted therapy

神经母细胞瘤(neuroblastoma, NB)是小儿最常见的实体肿瘤之一,起源于神经脊,可发生于交感神经系统的各部位,多见于胸部或腹部,约占小儿恶性实体瘤的10%,儿童癌症死亡率的15%^[1]。NB临床表现差异大,诊断时多已为晚期,预后差。高危NB进展迅速,即使行高强度清髓化疗,肿瘤复发仍然常见,几乎均为致死性^[2]。间变性淋巴瘤激酶(anaplastic lymphoma kinase, ALK)是一种受体型酪氨酸激酶,随着酪氨酸激酶抑制剂在临床抗肿瘤治疗中的良好效果以及特异性小分子ALK抑制剂的研发,NB中ALK改变及其在NB发生发展中的作用成为近年研究热点。本文主要对ALK在NB中的异常、与NB发生发展关系的研究进展进行综述。

1 ALK基因及其异常

1.1 ALK基因及其产物

ALK位于人类染色体2p23,全长约728kb(NCBI Reference Sequence: NC_000002.11),含有29个外显子。正常情况下6 226 bp长的ALK cDNA编码177 kDa的蛋白,经翻译后修饰,如N-糖基化,产物约为200 kDa的成熟ALK^[3]。人类正常的ALK具有典型的RTK三部分结构即胞外区、跨膜区、胞浆内激酶催化区,是1条含1 620个氨基酸的单链跨膜蛋白,胞外区含1 030个氨基酸残基(aa 1~1 030),跨膜区为28个氨基酸(aa 1 030~1 058),胞浆内结构为氨基酸1 058~1 620个包括酪氨酸激酶催化结构域(aa 1 122~1 376)^[3]。

1.2 ALK异常

ALK异常改变存在于多种肿瘤中,如间变性大

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细胞淋巴瘤(ALCL)、横纹肌肉瘤、炎症性肌纤维母细胞瘤、NB等。ALK异常在肿瘤的发生发展中起着非常重要的作用,其异常形式主要包括基因融合、基因突变、基因扩增及蛋白表达增加,以基因融合最为常见。

1.2.1 ALK基因融合 1994年Morris等^[4]首次在ALCL中发现NPM-ALK融合蛋白。后来在炎症性肌纤维母细胞瘤、食管鳞状细胞癌及非小细胞肺癌(NSCLC)中发现了ALK其他形式的融合基因及相应的蛋白产物,如TPM4-ALK、EML4-ALK、TPM3-ALK、CLTC-ALK等^[5-6]。

1.2.2 ALK基因突变 Chen等^[7]对215例原发性NB研究发现:6.1%的NB肿瘤标本和33.3%的NB细胞株中存在ALK错义突变。甲状腺未分化癌中也被发现存在ALK点突变(L1198F和G1201E),含有这2个ALK点突变的NIH3T3细胞株同部分NB中的ALK突变一样表现出较强的集落形成能力和细胞转化侵袭能力^[8]。然而有EML4-ALK融合基因的NSCLC在同时获得ALK点突变的情况下对ALK抑制剂Crizotinib反而有抵抗表现^[6]。

1.2.3 ALK基因扩增及蛋白表达水平增加 研究发现1.2%(1/85)原发性NB和10.3%(11/107)NSCLC有明显的ALK扩增,9.4%(8/85)原发性NB和63.6%(68/107)NSCLC有ALK拷贝数增加^[9-10]。77.8%(7/9)原发性NB表达ALK,阳性信号位于神经母细胞的胞质和神经纤维网^[9]。腺泡状横纹肌肉瘤及乳腺癌组织中也存在全长ALK的过表达^[11-12]。

2 ALK异常与NB

2000年Lamant等^[13]发现在正常的小鼠组织中,仅神经细胞存在mRNA编码的ALK表达,研究中首次发现了NB中存在ALK转录物和蛋白的表达。自此,国外关于ALK异常与NB的研究逐渐增多,发现NB中存在多种ALK异常,包括ALK扩增、蛋白表达增加和ALK突变,其中尤以ALK突变的研究较多。

2.1 NB中的ALK扩增和蛋白表达增加

很多研究证实NB中存在ALK扩增^[7,9,14-21]。2002年由Miyake等^[15]首次报道ALK扩增、非融合型ALK蛋白激活的研究,发现23.1%(3/13)的NB细胞株存在ALK显著扩增和ALK蛋白过表达、酪氨酸磷酸化。NB肿瘤组织中ALK扩增发生率明显比NB细胞株中低,多在0.8%~3.7%^[16-17],且多同时存在MYCN扩增^[7,14,16,18],存在ALK扩增的NB患者多年龄较大、临床分期晚^[9]。ShcC是连接蛋白家族Shc中的一员,Shc的酪氨酸被磷酸化后能够同GRB2结合,然后激活Ras,触发细胞的增殖。Miyake等^[15]发现在研究的NB细胞株中9个可检测到ShcC表达并存在ShcC的

酪氨酸磷酸化,其中3个有ALK扩增的细胞株比其他细胞株具有更显著的ALK活性。小干扰RNA介导的ALK基因敲除(ALK-siRNA)使存在ALK扩增的NB细胞株ShcC、Akt、有丝分裂原活化蛋白激酶(MAPK)磷酸化明显减少,且这些细胞出现迅速凋亡;而用ALK抑制剂TAE684亦可使有ALK扩增的NB细胞株中Akt、Erk1/2的磷酸化减少而促凋亡^[9,19-20]。因此,NB患者肿瘤组织中存在ALK扩增是确定的,但其发生率较低,与NB患者预后关系尚不能确定。ALK扩增在NB细胞株的研究相对较多,多倾向于认为ALK扩增通过高表达ALK蛋白及促其磷酸化,增加下游信号分子ShcC、Akt、MAPK和(或)Erk1/2的磷酸化来调节NB细胞株的凋亡、迁移、转化等功能,增加NB细胞的恶性表现。

2.2 NB中的ALK突变

因癌基因可被基因扩增和(或)基因突变激活^[7],研究者们进而开始关注NB中ALK是否也存在基因突变,其研究结果发表集中始于2008年,5个研究组分别报道了散发性和家族性NB患者中存在的ALK突变,其在散发病例中的突变率为6.1%~11.1%^[7,14,17-18,21]。ALK突变患者也多为高分期NB且多同时有MYCN扩增^[7,16],其在高危NB病例中发生率稍高(12.4%)^[18],使研究者考虑到ALK突变与疾病预后差相关,但ALK突变在不同临床分期NB患者中均有存在^[16,21]。在NB细胞株中ALK突变频率可达20.0%~33.3%^[7,14]。目前为止,报道的有15个ALK错义突变,包括K1062M、T1087I、D1091N、G1128A、T1151M、M1166R、I1171N、F1174L/I/V/C/S、R1192P、R1231Q、A1234T、F1245V/C、I1250T、R1275Q/L、Y1278S,这些点突变位于ALK外显子20~25号。大多数ALK突变位于激酶高度保守的结构域,其中最常见突变氨基酸位点是F1174和R1275,其对于调节激酶活性有重要作用^[14,21]。

NB中ALK突变的功能研究目前主要为体外细胞实验和动物实验。报道的15个ALK错义突变中,有研究表明K1062M、G1128A、I1171N、F1174L/S、R1192P、F1245C、R1275Q为活性突变^[7,14,16,18,22-23],而T1151M、A1234T、I1250T为非活性突变^[14,22],其他突变尚无研究表明是否为活性ALK突变。

转染ALK F1174L或R1275Q突变基因与转染NPM-ALK融合基因一样,可以使依赖IL-3生长繁殖的鼠淋巴细胞株Ba/F3在缺乏IL-3的情况下也能生长繁殖^[14,16,23],这些细胞中可以检测到ALK蛋白及其下游信号分子STAT3、Akt、Erk1/2的磷酸化^[7,14]。表达ALK F1174L或K1062M突变的NIH3T3细胞株在软琼脂培养基上形成集落的能力增强^[7,24],将其接种到裸鼠皮下可形成皮下肿瘤^[7]。这些表明F1174L、

R1275Q和K1062M为活性ALK突变^[7,14,16]。研究证实F1174S亦为活性ALK突变,可使体内和体外ALK激酶活性增强,与肿瘤迅速生长和耐药生长有关^[23]。G1128A、I1171N、R1192P、F1245C同样是功能获得性的ALK突变,具有这些突变的细胞转化能力不同^[24]。

研究表明T1151M和A1234T为非活性ALK突变^[14]。I1250T被证实为独自存在时无论体内或体外均不能使ALK获得RTK酶活性,令人注目的是,将I1250T同野生型ALK或其他ALK突变(如F1174L、F1174V)共转染NB细胞株,细胞内Erk蛋白磷酸化减少,提示I1250T与其他ALK突变共存时是一种灭活ALK酶活性的突变^[22]。其他位点ALK突变尚有待进一步研究是否为活性突变。

ALK抑制剂TAE684和ALK-siRNA对有F1174LALK突变的NB细胞株具有抑制作用,其ALK表达水平降低,ALK、STAT3、Akt及Erk1/2的磷酸化均减少,细胞增殖减少、凋亡增加^[7,14,18,20]。ALK抑制剂NVP-TAE684和Crizotinib对分别有G1128A、I1171N、R1192P、F1245C的各PC12细胞株均有抑制作用,但是敏感性不同^[24]。

2.3 NB中ALK异常改变对其发生发展的影响

Carén等^[17]认为ALK异常与不利临床特征如原发肿瘤扩散、转移和不良预后相关。还有其他研究支持ALK突变与NB肿瘤侵袭性相关^[7,14],认为功能获得性ALK突变在NB发生进展中起重要作用^[24]。体外实验亦证实ALK突变对NB细胞株的细胞增殖和细胞凋亡有明显影响。然而一些研究发现ALK异常的发生率在不同临床分期的NB肿瘤之间并无明显不同,有无ALK突变对NB患者生存的影响并无显著差异^[16,18,21]。含有ALK F1174L突变的NB患者生存率与含R1275Q或野生型ALK的患者相比却有统计学意义,含F1174L突变的患者生存率相对较低,或许是因为F1174L突变NB患者同时存在MYCN扩增的频率高^[16]。由于ALK扩增在NB中的发生率较低,其作为一个独立的因素与NB患者生存率的相关性无统计学意义^[16]。

综上所述,ALK异常作用机制为ALK扩增或突变使ALK磷酸化增加而致激酶活性增高,这些改变以F1174L突变的NB细胞株较明显。活化的ALK作用于下游信号分子STAT3、Akt或Erk1/2等之一或其中几个,发挥抑制细胞凋亡、增加细胞增殖,形成NB细胞的恶性转化。然而亦有研究认为无论突变型还是野生型ALK引起ALK过表达则预示NB不良预后^[25-26]。到底是ALK突变还是ALK表达水平对NB患者预后和治疗更有意义仍然存在争议^[26],其之间

的关系仍需进一步确定。

3 针对ALK的NB靶向治疗

由前文所述可知,ALK抑制剂及ALK-siRNA对有ALK扩增或部分ALK突变的NB细胞株有明显作用,表现出抑制NB细胞株增殖和促进NB细胞凋亡的作用。尽管NB患者中ALK异常发生率不高,针对ALK的靶向治疗仍有望成为新的NB治疗手段,至少为有效辅助治疗手段之一。由ALK不同位点突变对细胞功能及对ALK抑制剂反应不同可以看出,基因改变作为治疗靶点应在基因和功能2个方面分别研究以验证^[14]。

NB中ALK异常的发现使得人们认识到应用小分子受体酪氨酸激酶抑制剂和ALK-siRNA基因敲除治疗NB的潜能。随着NB患者肿瘤组织中ALK异常的研究尤其是ALK突变的研究,ALK异常对NB发生发展的作用越来越明确,然而NB中ALK异常与NB患者预后之间的关系,各种ALK异常在NB的发生发展中作用孰轻孰重等问题目前仍存在争议。因此关于ALK异常与NB之间的关系需进一步和更广泛的研究,为NB的分子靶向治疗奠定基础 and 指明方向。

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