

综述

高内涵筛选在药物肝毒性预测中的应用进展

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摘要 很多上市新药因肝毒性问题被警告、撤市或限用。因此,对药物肝毒性进行评估,确保药物在临床中的使用安全成为新药研发过程中的重要方面。高内涵细胞成像分析技术(high content screening, HCS)是近年来发展起来的一项新技术,利用该技术可在体外对药物毒性进行多参数、多靶点、高通量的检测和分析,也被称为高内涵筛选。基于毒性通路的HCS是目前药物肝毒性预测的重要思路,该文主要介绍基于毒性通路的HCS在药物引起的本质性肝损伤和特异性肝损伤(包括脂肪变性、磷脂质病、胆汁淤积和遗传物质损伤等)这两大类药物肝毒性评估中的应用进展。

关键词 高内涵筛选; 毒性通路; 药物肝毒性; 细胞毒性

Application Progress of High Content Screening in Prediction of Drug-Induced Hepatotoxicity

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Abstract Many listed new drugs was warned, withdrawn or restricted due to liver toxicity problems. Therefore, to evaluate the hepatotoxicity and ensure the safety of drugs in clinical use has become an important aspect in the process of new drug research and development. High content screening technology is a relatively new technology developed in recent years, which can be used for multi-parameter, multi-target and high throughput detection and analysis of drug hepatotoxicity *in vitro*. Based on toxicity pathways of high content screening is the important idea of liver toxicity prediction. This article mainly introduces the application progress of drug-induced essential liver injury and specific liver injury, which based on toxicity pathways of HCS (including steatosis, phospholipids, cholestasis, genetic material damage, etc).

Keywords high content screening; toxicity pathways; drug-induced hepatotoxicity; cytotoxicity

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药物性肝损伤(drug-induced liver injury, DILI)是一种常见的药物不良反应,是导致药物研发失败和从市场撤回的主要原因^[1-2]。药物性肝损伤又分为本质性肝损伤和特异性肝损伤。本质性肝损伤是药物直接作用于肝细胞,引起肝细胞生化功能紊乱、抑制细胞增殖从而引起细胞自噬或凋亡并体现出剂量-毒性依赖性;特异性肝损伤则是药物引起的肝脏脂肪变性、胆汁淤积、遗传毒性等^[3]。传统的药物肝毒性评价主要通过动物实验实现的,但由于大量使用动物、耗时长、费用高、灵敏度低及物种差异性等因素,导致现有的动物模型并不能很好地评价人体的肝损伤^[4]。随着人们对药物肝毒性作用机制的深入了解,基于“毒性通路”与“毒性作用机制”的毒理学替代法应运而生,用体外细胞实验代替动物实验已成为药物肝毒性预测的重要方向。基于“毒性通路”的药物毒性预测是在2007年美国国家研究理事会(The US National Research Council, NRC)上正式发布的“21世纪的毒性试验: 远景与策略”报告中提出的^[5],该报告中提到: 外源化学物质进入体内将引发分子起始事件(molecular initiate event, MIE),扰动毒性通路,导致一系列生物组织(包括细胞、亚细胞、组织器官等)产生不良反应结果。通过体外细胞水平实验结合相关生物学信息和计算模型,我们可以将药物扰动毒性通路的剂量和毒性效应关联起来,实现对药物安全性较为全面的评估^[6-7]。高内涵细胞成像分析技术在替代毒理学中的应用正好为这一思路提供了极大的辅助作用。高内涵细胞成像分析技术是利用荧光显微镜成像自动化,对细胞形态及其中荧光靶点的荧光强度与分布进行自动化的定量和定位分析。利用高内涵筛选中获得的药物毒性检测数据,可做出药物毒性的剂量-效应曲线,同时还可分析出药物作用下细胞形态和功能发生改变的拐点,即药物引起的早期细胞毒性的剂量,从而实现对药物毒性更为精确的预测。本文主要介绍基于毒性通路的HCS在药物引起的本质性肝损伤和特异性肝损伤(包括脂肪变性、磷脂质病、胆汁淤积和遗传物质损伤等)这两大类药物肝毒性评估中的应用进展。

1 HCS在检测药物引起的本质性肝损伤中的应用

1.1 HCS检测药物本质性肝损伤的优势

药物引起的本质性肝损伤主要体现为药物的

肝细胞毒性,即当药物直接作用于肝细胞后导致细胞的生化功能紊乱、抑制细胞增殖、引起细胞自噬或凋亡。传统药物细胞毒性检测方法比如(MTT法、XTT法和CCK-8法等)只能单独评估一个终点,这些方法可以初步评价化合物的毒性但是不能准确反映其毒性机制。HCS则可以同时检测多个指标,从而对药物的细胞毒性进行多方面的分析,而基于毒性通路的HCS更能对药物毒性机制进行初步的分析。HCS是检测药物性肝损伤常用方法之一,其灵敏度和特异性都很高。O'Brien等^[8]利用HCS筛选611种有毒性的化合物,在96孔板上用4种染料标记HepG2细胞,与传统的细胞毒性实验相比,证明了HCS检测方法的敏感性为97%。Taylor等^[9]还用同样的方法筛选了250种化合物的毒性,也证明了HCS检测方法灵敏性为90%,特异性达到95%,可以看出HCS检测能够准确反映药物肝细胞毒性特征。

1.2 HCS检测药物本质性肝损伤中细胞模型的选择

基于HCS的药物本质性肝损伤检测是通过以原代肝细胞及其他肝细胞系(如HepG2细胞^[1,10-14]、人肝细胞^[15-16]、啮齿类动物肝细胞^[17-18]、三明治培养的肝细胞^[19-21]、转染腺病毒的HepG2细胞^[22-23]等)为体外研究模型,对药物扰动毒性通路发生的级联反应中多个指标的变化进行检测,然后对检测结果进行综合分析,所得结果可为更深入分析药物引起肝细胞毒性的相关机制提供一定的依据。

1.3 HCS检测药物本质性肝损伤中各类毒性指标的选择

基于毒性通路的HCS检测是药物本质性肝损伤常用的思路。目前已知的药物肝细胞毒性作用中所扰动的细胞毒性通路有: (1)药物经过肝脏代谢产生的亲电子基和氧化自由基(reactive oxygen species, ROS)等过度积累导致细胞膜中脂质过氧化,使细胞膜的完整性和通透性发生改变,进而使细胞中蛋白质多肽链断裂,诱发基因突变导致细胞凋亡^[24-25]; (2)药物引起的氧化应激等任何影响膜通透性或离子泵功能的因素都可能导致细胞膜内外离子梯度的破坏,使胞外钙离子内流,导致钙离子浓度升高,启动钙离子介导的细胞凋亡通路,最终导致细胞死亡^[26]; (3)钙离子和ROS可促进线粒体膜通透性转移孔(mitochondrial membrane permeability transfer pore, MPT)开放,一方面导致线粒体内钙离

子浓度升高,打破钙离子稳态,阻断呼吸链传递电子,使ATP生成终止,能量代谢等发生改变导致线粒体功能紊乱,继而引发细胞凋亡;另一方面,线粒体膜间隙的细胞色素C释放激活相关caspase蛋白,从而激活下游凋亡途径,导致细胞凋亡^[27]。因此,细胞膜完整性和通透性、线粒体膜电位(mitochondrial membrane potential, MMP)、钙稳态和氧化应激损伤等都可以作为HCS检测药物肝毒性的指标。

在药物扰动的毒性通路中,线粒体是一个较为关注的节点。线粒体是细胞能量代谢的主要场所,同时,在细胞内信号传导和细胞死亡等生命活动中也发挥重要作用^[28]。一方面,线粒体损伤与药物引起细胞氧自由基的产生、细胞膜通透性改变、钙稳态失衡有关;另一方面,药物直接通过脂质过氧化作用对线粒体膜、膜蛋白及线粒体DNA造成损伤,并导致细胞自噬或凋亡^[28]。因此,检测药物对线粒体的损伤是药物毒性预测的一个重要方面。多参数HCS检测药物线粒体毒性,是一个领先其他方法的药物毒性检测和安全性评估的方法,所选检测指标包括线粒体质量、线粒体膜电位(MMP)、线粒体超氧化物生产和细胞膜通透性转变孔的开放(MPT)等,并通过与其他荧光探针相互组合,促使更多HCS检测线粒体功能障碍的方法的产生^[1]。Tolosa等^[10]应用HCS检测了21种可引起线粒体损伤而引发肝毒性的药物,对该药物HCS检测的方法为:同时检测线粒体膜通透性转变、线粒体氧化应激产生、线粒体膜电位、质量或形态等5个指标,结果发现,存在肝细胞毒性的药物会引起细胞中线粒体膜通透性转变孔开放、线粒体氧化应激产生增加、线粒体膜电位降低、线粒体质量和形态发生改变^[10]。此外,根据HCS检测结果还分析出药物引起早期肝毒性的最低有效剂量(MEC)^[10]。因此,该研究所建立的这种HCS方法可用于药物早期肝毒性的预测。

1.4 HCS检测药物本质性肝损伤中各类荧光染料的选择

基于HCS的药物肝细胞毒性检测实验中,HCS检测过程为:首先选择合适的细胞模型进行细胞培养,铺96孔板,用药物处理细胞(处理时间随实验要求而定),然后将药物处理的细胞与荧光染料共同孵育(选择合适孵育时间),最后清洗后上机检测,用高内涵系统观察结果并进行定量分析。其中,针对不

同的检测指标选用不同的荧光染料,并可以同时检测多个指标,多种染料混染要求每种荧光染料的激发波长和发射波长不重叠及选择每种染料合适的染色浓度。目前,在药物肝细胞毒性的HCS检测实验中,针对不同的检测指标可选用的荧光染料及其相关信息见表1。

不同荧光探针能组合成不同的HCS检测方法,例如,Dykens等^[6]开发了一种HepG2细胞为模型,用荧光探针CM-H₂DCFDA标记ROS, mBCI标记谷胱甘肽,检测结果分析发现,去除剂GSH消耗增加,导致ROS升高,打破氧自由基的产生与内源性氧自由基清除剂维持平衡,表明产生氧化应激损伤。Tolosa等^[22]还采用HCS多参数检测细胞毒性的方法,以转染腺病毒HepG2细胞为模型,用5种荧光染料分别标记需要检测的物质(Hoechst 33342标记细胞数量、PI标记细胞增殖、TMRM标记线粒体膜电位、Fluo-4标记细胞内钙浓度和CellROX Deep Red标记ROS),数据统计结果显示,细胞数量减少、细胞膜电位降低,而细胞内钙浓度和ROS产生增加。通过综合分析各参数指标的变化,可以正确对化合物引起的肝毒性程度进行分类。多个参数的联合评估,一个参数一个拐点(如细胞凋亡、氧化应激、钙稳态和线粒体功能等)可以预测药物肝毒性。由此可见,HCS检测目的不同,其荧光探针组合不同(表1)。

因此,HCS已是检测药物性肝损伤的常规高效方法,并且根据目的不同,可以更换使用不同的荧光探针检测肝毒性(表1)。

2 HCS在检测药物特异性肝损伤中的应用

2.1 HCS检测方法在脂肪变性中的应用

脂肪变性是药物引起肝毒性类型之一,其原因是药物引起脂质在肝脏的积累,当脂质含量超过总重量5%时变成脂肪肝或脂肪变性。导致脂肪变性有很多因素,最主要是由甘油三酯引起的。在已有的检测药物诱导的脂肪变性方法中,经常通过标记甘油三酯进行分析,其常用的荧光染料有:尼罗红^[47]、BODIPY558/568或493/503^[11,49]和Oil red O^[49]等。目前,一些基于HCS的检测方法可以通过检测细胞内中性脂质的积累分析药物是否诱导脂肪变性。Donato等^[11]利用多参数HCS方法检测96孔培养的HepG2细胞,通过检测细胞内脂质中性脂质的荧光

表1 在肝毒性实验中, 不同的HCS实验不同荧光探针选择

Table 1 Summary of fluorescent probes used in the different HCS assays for the detection of hepatotoxicity

检测指标 Detection indicator	荧光探针 Fluorescent probe	发射波长/激发波长 Emission wavelength /excitation wavelength	荧光颜色 Fluorescent color	参考文献 References
Nucleus	Hoechst33342	361/486	Blue	[10,11,29-33]
	Hoechst33258	356/465	Blue	[12,34,35]
	DRAQ5	655/730	Red	[15,16,36]
	DAPI	350/470	Green	[37]
Cell viability	Propidium iodide	535/620	Red	[11,31]
	Calcein AM	495/520	Green	[34]
Cell apoptosis	Anti-caspase-3 antibody	*	*	[38,39]
	Anti-cytochrome antibody	*	*	[39]
	YO-PRO-1	490/510	Green	[10,40]
Membrane permeability	YOYO-1	491/509	Green	[41]
	TO-PRO-3	642/660	Red	[13,42]
	TOTO-3	642/660	Red	[8]
	BOBO-1	462/481	Green	[38]
Mitochondrial damage	TMRM	549/576	Red	[11,14,15,29,30]
	Rhodamine 123	511/534	Yellow green	[43]
	Mitotracker Orange	551/576	Orange	[19,34]
	Mitotracker Green	490/516	Green	[22]
Calcium homeostasis	Fluo-4 AM	494/516	Green	[14,29,30]
	Fluo-4 AM	494/516	Green	[14,29,30]
ROS	CellROX	644/665	Red	[22]
	CM-H2DCFDA	495/527	Green	[15,16]
GSH	MCB	380/460	Blue	[15,31]
	mBCl	390/478	Green	[15,16]
Lysosome	Lysotracker Blue	373/422	Blue	[12]
	Lysotracker Green	504/511	Green	[19]
Lipid accumulation	BODIPY 493/503	493/503	Green	[11]
	BODIPY 558/568	558/568	Orange	[18]
Cholestasis	CLF	494/521	Green	[44]
	CDF	494/521	Green	[44]
Phospholipidosis	LipidTOX™	494/516	Green	[45]
	NBD-PE	465/535	Green	[12]
Cell cycle	Anti-phospho histone H3 antibody	*	*	[37,46]
	EdU	495/519	Green	[39,46]

*表示颜色和激发波长/发射波长随一抗共轭的二抗改变而改变。

* showed that color and excitation/emission wavelengths are changed depending on secondary antibodies conjugated with primary antibodies.

强度发现, 细胞内中性脂质荧光强度增加, 表明脂质在细胞内过度积累。Tolosa等^[50]通过HCS检测评估28种化合物在HepaRG细胞中引起相关细胞参数的变化(如ROS产生、线粒体膜电位的变化、脂质积累等), 结果表明, 相较于HepG2, HepRG细胞更有利于对药物诱导的脂肪变性的评估。此外, Anguissola

等^[14]利用HCS检测分析药物引起的HepG2细胞的脂质变性, 用Lysotracker Green荧光染料标记溶酶体, 结果发现, 溶酶体损伤导致其内中性脂质积累诱导产生了脂肪变性和磷脂质病, 因此, 溶酶体酸化也可作为预测药物引起肝细胞脂肪变性的一个检测指标。这些实验结果表明, HCS是检测脂肪变性的快

速、准确和敏感的方法之一。

2.2 HCS检测方法在磷脂质病中的应用

磷脂质病是脂肪变性的特殊形式,它是由磷脂在细胞内积聚而成的,可由一些药物引起,也可由磷脂代谢先天错误所致。Gomez-Lechon等^[51]的研究表明,已有50多种上市药物引起不同组织(包括肝脏)的磷脂质病。为提高药物研发的成功率,在药物研发早期,需要对药物是否引起磷脂在细胞中的过度积累进行评估,最近几年,HCS系统已经应用到药物是否引发磷脂质病的高通量筛选中。

利用HCS检测平台,以多孔板(96孔板,384孔板或1536孔板)培养的肝细胞或其他肝细胞系为模型,以细胞核周围区域磷脂液泡的数量为检测指标检测磷脂质病。Van de water等^[12]在以NBD-磷脂酰乙醇胺基标记磷脂的HCS实验中发现,该方法可以准确区分药物引起的在HepG2细胞中诱导的磷脂质病的阳性或阴性药物,并且预测体内磷脂质病的灵敏度为88%和特异性为81%。Tilmant等^[52]用LipidTox Red荧光探针标记HepG2细胞中磷脂的HCS检测,也显示很好的灵敏度和特异性(100%和86%)。Nioi等^[53]以HepG2细胞为模型采用两种方法检测阴性和阳性药物诱导的磷脂质病,结果发现,相较于用实时聚合酶链反应检测药物诱导磷脂质病的基因表达分析,LipidTox标记磷脂的HCS实验具有更高的灵敏度和特异性。Lecureux等^[45]运用HCS方法,研究了66种药物是否引起HepG2和Huh7肝癌细胞中磷脂的积累,染磷脂的染料为LipidTox。因此,以HepG2细胞为模型的HCS实验是检测磷脂质病的常用细胞模型,标记磷脂常用荧光探针为LipidTox和NBD-PE。

2.3 HCS检测方法在胆汁淤积中的应用

胆汁淤积是一种以胆汁分泌改变为特征的多因素肝病,尽管其机制尚不清楚,但它与运输系统的改变、肝细胞的细胞骨架或极性有关,而一些药物会引起胆汁转运功能受损,从而导致胆汁淤积。Marion等^[54]的研究发现,药物引起的胆汁淤积主要是由于负责胆汁酸运输的胆盐排出泵(BSEP)或多药耐药蛋白2(MRP2)被抑制引起的。Persson等^[44]的研究发现,HCS方法能够检测药物引起的胆道运输被抑制的问题,HCS中常用荧光染料为胆汁盐荧光类似物CLF或CDF,以三明治培养的肝细胞为模型,对

胆汁盐转运到的胆管过程量化分析。Xu等^[20]在利用HCS检测胆汁流量的研究中发,首先将药物作用的三明治培养的肝细胞、荧光染料CLF和台盼蓝共同孵育,台盼蓝能够猝灭CLF对死细胞染色后发出的荧光,然后用高内涵系统进行图像采集后,可观察到细胞中染色的胆管结构,并对胆汁流量进行量化分析。这些研究表明,HCS系统是筛选诱导胆汁淤积药物的常用工具之一。

2.4 HCS检测方法在肝细胞中遗传物质损伤中的应用

药物引起遗传物质损伤是肝毒性作用机制之一,因此,识别和选择诱导遗传物质损伤的化合物在药物研发的早期阶段是必不可少的。HCS用于遗传物质损伤的分析主要包括染色体异常、DNA损伤和细胞周期抑制等方面^[7]。

体外微核试验已成为一种被广泛接受的检测染色体异常工具之一。Westerink等^[56]用欧洲替代法验证中心推出检测化合物遗传物质损伤HCS检测分析方法,以中国仓鼠卵巢细胞(CHO-K1)和HepG2为细胞模型,检测化合物遗传物质的损伤。结果显示,CHO-K1细胞对遗传毒性药物表现出高敏感性(80%)和高特异性(88%),而HepG2细胞表现出低敏感性(60%)和高特异性(88%),说明HCS检测微核的形成常用是CHO-K1细胞。Persson等^[44]采用HCS检测技术,以HepG2为细胞模型,用CENP-B(着丝粒蛋白)对着丝粒染色,根据微核是否包含着丝粒来判断染色体异常是由非整倍体染色剂或断裂剂导致的,以此来检测遗传物质是否发生损伤。

DNA损伤可以预测化合物存在的潜在遗传毒性和生殖毒性。药物引起的DNA损伤常表现为对细胞周期的抑制效应。HCS技术是以DNA损伤的标志性荧光探针磷酸化组蛋白H3(pH3)^[37]或EdU^[56]染料对细胞核进行染色,然后通过细胞周期进行动态和定量检测分析,筛选出抑制细胞周期的药物,以此来预测药物潜在的遗传毒性。

因此,相对于传统遗传物质损伤的检测方法,HCS为药物引起的遗传物质损伤的检测提供更有效、灵敏的方法,具有更好的发展前景。

3 展望

HCS作为药物开发的优化工具之一,在肝毒性预测方面细胞实验比常规动物毒性实验有更好的预

测能力, 显示出更高的敏感性和特异性。尽管HCS尚未成为工业或学术界的主要检测方法, 但在早期筛选化合物毒性方面显示出良好的应用前景。目前, 由于HCS检测早期肝毒性的方法与模型数量仍然有限, 其肝毒性结果与体内毒性结果相关联的综合性分析尚且不足, 因此, 还需要对HCS检测所需要的试剂、染料、多参数筛选的方法及与之匹配的软件功能及数据统计功能进行优化。相信随着检测技术的发展与完善, HCS势必为体外预测人类潜在肝毒性并从机制上了解候选药物的安全性提供高效的手段。

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