

Caspase-3的研究进展

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摘要 细胞是一个复杂的有机整体, 能够完成一系列生命活动。调控细胞衰老和程序性死亡的细胞凋亡过程, 在其生命活动中占有重要地位。细胞凋亡主要由Caspase蛋白酶家族所调控, 其中Caspase-3起到关键作用。该文就Caspase家族的构成、功能以及Caspase-3的特性和作用机制进行综述。

关键词 凋亡; Caspase家族; Caspase-3

Research Progress of Caspase-3

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Abstract A cell is a whole complex organism. It is capable of carrying out a series of life activities. Apoptosis, which regulates cell senescence and programmed cell death, plays an important role in cell's life activities. Apoptosis is mainly regulated by the Caspase protease family, in which Caspase-3 plays a crucial role. In this review, the composition and function of the Caspase family, the characteristics and mechanism of Caspase-3 are reviewed.

Keywords apoptosis; Caspase family; Caspase-3

细胞凋亡(apoptosis)是细胞为维持内环境稳定, 更好地适应生存环境而采取的一种自我死亡过程, 涉及一系列基因的激活、表达及调控等^[1]。哺乳动物的细胞凋亡与胚胎发育的停滞相关, 在胚胎去除发育异常的细胞过程中, 对附植前的胚胎细胞凋亡起着重要作用, 但如果凋亡超过一定程度, 则不利于胚胎的发育^[2]。天冬氨酸特异性的半胱氨酸蛋白水解酶(cysteine-containing aspartate-specific protease, Caspase)能够启动和维持细胞凋亡, 而其家族成员

Caspase-3是最重要的凋亡蛋白酶之一, 通常位于哺乳动物细胞凋亡通路下游, 其表达量直接反映细胞凋亡程度^[3]。在正常情况下, 胞质中的Caspase-3以无活性的酶原形式存在, 细胞凋亡信号的出现可导致Caspase-3发生裂解并被激活, 活化后的Caspase-3又进一步放大蛋白酶级联切割效应, 最终使细胞走向死亡^[4]。鉴于此, 本文就Caspase家族的构成、功能以及Caspase-3的特性和作用机制进行综述, 以期探究Caspase-3的蛋白功能提供更多资料。

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表1 Caspase家族分类及作用

Table 1 Classification and function of Caspase family

| 分类 Category | Caspase成员 Caspase member | 作用 Effect |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Apoptotic initiator | Caspase-2, Caspase-8, Caspase-9, Caspase-10 | Located upstream of the cascade reaction, it can self-activate, initiate the cascade reaction and activate the downstream effect Caspase |
| Apoptotic effector | Caspase-3, Caspase-6, Caspase-7 | Located downstream of the cascade reaction, it can be activated by the upstream initiator and act on the specific substrate, causing morphological changes of cells, leading to apoptosis |
| Inflammatory mediators | Caspase-1, Caspase-4, Caspase-5, Caspase-11, Caspase-12 | It plays a role in cytokine mediated inflammatory response and death receptor mediated apoptosis |

1 Caspase家族及Caspase-3的基本特性

1.1 Caspase家族

Caspase为一类蛋白酶,有半胱氨酸残基包含于其活性位点中,对靶蛋白天冬氨酸残基的肽键进行特异切割,使靶蛋白被激活或失活,在细胞凋亡中起到重要作用。至今已发现此类蛋白酶有15种,根据功能可分为凋亡始动子、凋亡效应子和炎症介导因子(表1)。Caspase在未被激活时以酶原形式存在,凋亡信号的刺激使凋亡始动子被激活,引发系列级联反应。除了在程序性细胞死亡和炎症反应中扮演特定角色之外,Caspase还能通过微调抗病毒信号转导物和细胞因子(如I型干扰素,一种重要的抗病毒因子)的水平,成为抗病毒免疫的参与者^[5]。

1.2 Caspase-3

Caspase-3又被称为半胱氨酸蛋白32(cysteine protease 32, CPP32),是Caspase家族中的重要成员之一。FERNANDE等^[6]于1994年利用反转录PCR(reverse transcription PCR, RT-PCR)技术,从Jurkat T细胞中克隆得到一种新凋亡基因,该基因由831个核苷酸构成,可编码含有277个氨基酸的32 kDa CPP32。CPP32分子包括端结构域、1个大亚基和1个小亚基,分为CPP32 α 和CPP32 β 两种类型。Caspase-3在人体各组织如淋巴、骨髓等处广泛表达,在正常状态下以非活化的酶原形式存在,经活化后产生有活性的执行者,可切割细胞核内、细胞质中的结构蛋白和调节蛋白,从而调节细胞凋亡。

1.3 Caspase-3的底物

Caspase-3有多种作用底物。较早发现的Caspase-3底物为DNA断裂因子(DNA fragmentation factor, DFF),是个由2个分子量分别为40 kDa和45 kDa的亚单位组成的异源二聚体^[7-8]。在细胞凋亡过程中,Caspase发生级联活化时,DFF可作为下游Caspase-3的

底物而被激活,形成核酸酶(DNase),介导并调节DNA断裂和染色质凝聚。研究发现,Caspase-3有多种底物,如:血影蛋白家族中的 α -血影蛋白,可被Caspase-3降解为120 kDa的降解产物(spectrin breakdown product 120, SBDP120);凋亡神经元中的 α 2-血影蛋白、b-血影蛋白,可被降解形成110 kDa和85 kDa的降解产物^[9];又如:在二磷酸腺苷核酸转移酶家族中,多二磷酸腺苷核糖多聚酶(poly adeno-sine diphosphate ribose polymerase, PARP)、腺苷二磷酸核糖转移酶(adenosine diphosphate ribose transferase, ADPRT)等,均可被Caspase-3作用,参与DNA损伤修复,将113 kDa的ADPRT降解为89 kDa和24 kDa的片段^[10-11]。此外,在乳腺上皮基底细胞凋亡的过程中,激活信号转导蛋白抑制剂、转录激活因子PIAS1(protein inhibitor of activated signal transducer and activators of transcription 1)以及能够与myc基因相互作用的锌指蛋白MIZ1(mizu-kussey 1),皆与Caspase-3的作用相关;MIZ1参与调节细胞转录^[12],PIAS1可与p53基因发生作用^[13],共同诱导凋亡。轴突膜蛋白Gap43(growth associated protein 43)在长时程抑制(long-term depression, LTD)和 α -氨基羟甲基恶唑丙酸(α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazolepropionic, AMPA)受体介导作用中,也可作为Caspase-3的关键底物,且组织内Gap43含量能够影响Caspase-3的表达^[14]。当然,Caspase-3的底物远不止上述物质,现已发现的底物有70多种,除上述列举的物质以外,还有波形蛋白、肌动蛋白、Tau蛋白、角蛋白、钙调蛋白、蛋白激酶等。Caspase家族通常能够识别底物酶切位点N-端至少4个氨基酸残基序列(P4-P3-P2-D),这是其底物特异性的主要表现;其中P1位必须为天冬氨酸残基(D),P4位序列决定家族成员间的特异性。Caspase-3的P4序列为天冬氨酸残基^[15]。

1.4 Caspase-3的激活

Caspase家族在通常状态下以无活性的酶原形式存在, 只有经过激活才可以发挥作用。酶原激活主要有转活化、自活化和非蛋白酶活化三种方式。Caspase-3酶原活化以转活化和非蛋白酶活化两种方式为主。

转活化是指已经被激活的Caspase可激活其他Caspase酶原, 引发级联反应, 如: 凋亡信号与细胞表面受体结合, 激活Caspase-8, 活化的Caspase-8继而招募并激活Caspase-3^[16]。非蛋白酶活化是指Caspase酶原并非由自身或其他种类的Caspase激活, 而是被一些非蛋白酶物质激活, 常见的激活物质如阿特拉津(atrazine, ATZ)可降低Bcl-2/Bax(B-cell lymphoma-2/Bcl-2 associated X)的比值, 通过转活化激活Caspase-3^[17]; 急性早幼粒细胞白血病(acute promyelocytic leukemia, APL)中, 细胞色素-c(cytochrome-c, cyt-c)释放的盐霉素(salinomycin, SAL)亦可促进Caspase-3酶原活化, 开启凋亡^[18]。

2 Caspase-3与细胞凋亡

Caspase-3作为一种效应蛋白, 在凋亡过程中发挥着重要作用, 其参与细胞凋亡的途径主要有三种: 线粒体途径、死亡受体途径和细胞毒性T淋巴细胞

(cytotoxic T lymphocyte, CTL)介导的颗粒酶B途径^[19](图1)。

2.1 线粒体途径

促凋亡信号的刺激使线粒体跨膜电位消失, 线粒体膜通透性改变, 渗透转运膜开放, cyt-c被释放到细胞质基质中, 与凋亡酶激活因子-1(apoptosis protease activating factor-1, Apaf-1)的WD-40区域结合形成多聚复合体(凋亡体)。凋亡体氨基端具有CARD序列, 可与Caspase-9的CARD序列特异性结合, 活化Caspase-9, 再激活下游的Caspase-3^[20]。在此过程中, 两种调控因子凋亡抑制剂Bcl-2和凋亡启动子Bax发挥着重要作用。Bcl-2和其亚家族Bax可作为Caspase-3的上游调控因子, 当凋亡信号刺激时, Bax转移至线粒体膜上形成PT孔道, 促进cyt-c的释放。Bcl-2如过量则会与Bax结合, 抑制凋亡的发生, 还会与Apaf-1结合, 抑制Caspase酶原活化。另外, Caspase-9亦可作为Bcl-2的上游因子, 直接切割Caspase-3, 使Caspase-3活化^[21]。

2.2 死亡受体途径

死亡受体指肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF)的跨膜受体蛋白, 其上含有的死亡结构域可相互聚集, 与死亡结构域蛋白(Fas-associated death domain, FADD)结合形成死亡复合物, 激活上游Caspase-2、

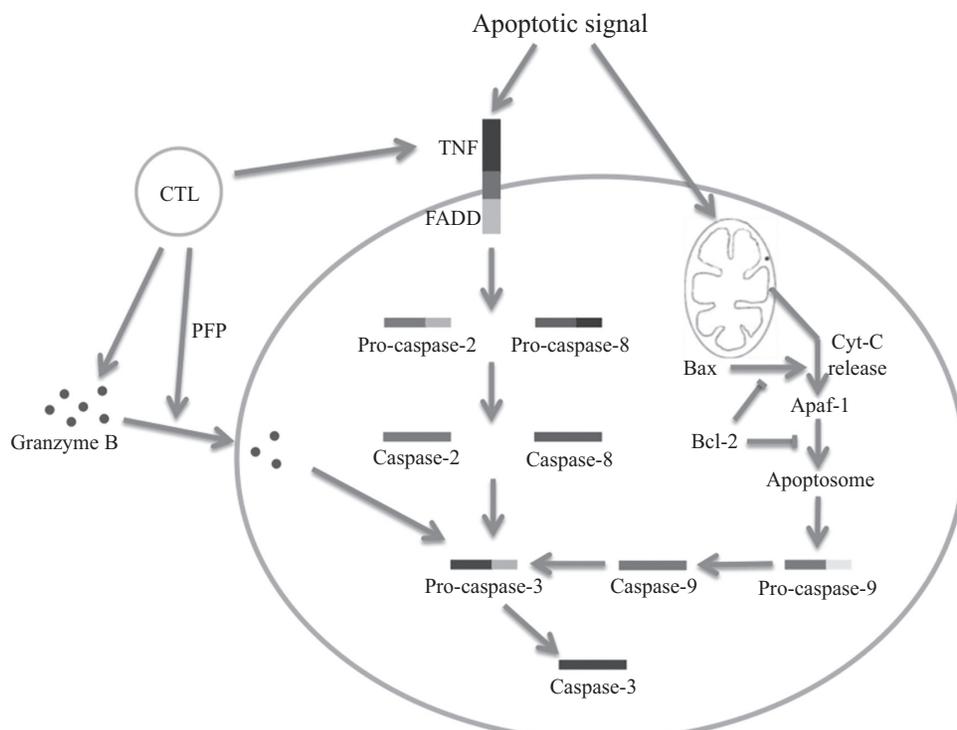


图1 Caspase-3参与细胞凋亡的主要途径示意图

Fig.1 Schematic diagram of Caspase-3 involved in apoptosis

表2 常见死亡受体及其特异性配体

| 死亡受体 Death receptor | 配体 Ligand |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Fas | FasL |
| TNF-R1 | TNF- α |
| DR-3 | APO-3 |
| DR-4 | TRAL |
| DR-5 | APO-2 |

Caspase-8等酶原, 再通过转活化过程激活下游Caspase-3^[22]。WU等^[23]近期研究发现, 泛素连接酶RNF183能够诱导死亡受体5(recombinant death receptor 5, DR5)转运至溶酶体, 与Caspase-8结合并使之活化, 激活Caspase-3; RNF183的表达本身对Caspase-3的激活也有直接作用, 促进凋亡诱导配体TRAL(TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand)介导的凋亡途径。常见死亡受体及其特异性配体见表2^[24-27]。

2.3 CTL介导的颗粒酶B途径

CTL及淋巴细胞因子激活杀伤细胞(lymphokine-activated killer, LAK)、自然杀伤细胞(natural killer, NK)等亦可介导细胞凋亡, 它们能够与细胞表面受体结合, 通过Fas/FasL途径激活Caspase-3。此外, CTL可释放颗粒酶B、TNF、穿孔蛋白(perforin, PFP)等因子, TNF介导死亡受体途径; PFP穿越细胞膜形成跨膜通道, 使颗粒酶B进入膜内, 二者最终都诱导Caspase-3发生活化^[28]。颗粒酶B还可裂解BH3-only蛋白, 通过线粒体途径间接激活Caspase-3, 导致细胞凋亡^[29]。

3 Caspase-3与细胞增殖分化

除诱导凋亡外, Caspase-3还能在细胞增殖分化过程中起作用。ROTSCHAFER等^[30]利用抑制剂Z-DEVD-FMK阻断了胚胎发育过程中Caspase-3的合成和表达, 观察到胚胎神经系统层状核发育紊乱, 且前庭神经外侧核轴突投射异常, 他们得出结论, Caspase-3的表达与神经系统发育成协同作用。无独有偶, LOSSI等^[31]也在其研究中证明了Caspase-3能够干预发生在小脑中的自然发生神经元死亡(naturally occurring neuronal death, NOND), 这是由于小脑神经元与靶细胞间未能建立突触所致。LIU等^[32]则利用敲除Caspase-3基因的小鼠进行探究, 证明了Caspase-3缺陷导致小鼠体内凋亡体数量减少, 严重

影响骨髓干细胞的增殖分化, 造成骨质疏松等疾病。YOSEFZON等^[33]发现, Caspase-3能够激活转录共激活因子相关蛋白(yes-associated protein, YAP), YAP蛋白是器官大小的重要调节因子, 通过控制细胞分裂来调节器官大小。Caspase-3的含量还影响着细胞活力, TIAN等^[34]根据前人的研究进展进一步探究发现, 在营养缺乏和供氧不足的情况下, Caspase-3活性显著增强, 细胞活力受到抑制。

4 Caspase-3与疾病

4.1 Caspase-3与癌症

凋亡途径受损是细胞癌变的重要特征之一, 利用Caspase-3的凋亡活性诱导癌变细胞凋亡是治疗癌症的重要方法。有研究表明, Caspase-3高表达与乳腺癌的特异性生存率之间存在着明显的相关性^[35]。事实上, 这种情况不是只发生在乳腺癌中。LIU等^[36]研究发现, 在口腔舌鳞状细胞癌组织中的Caspase-3蛋白的水平要普遍高于癌旁正常组织, 因此, Caspase-3局部高表达通常可被作为肿瘤发生的生物标志物。在癌症治疗方面, 当前研究表明, 许多新型药物可以增强癌细胞内Caspase-3的活性, 使癌细胞凋亡, 达到抗癌效果, 如缺氧诱导因子-1 α (hypoxia inducible factor-1 α , HIF-1 α)在肿瘤组织中可与Caspase-3协同表达^[37]; 花青素malvidin-3-半乳糖苷能够调节Caspase-3表达水平, 诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡^[38]。一些局部麻醉剂也能抑制癌细胞增殖, 如WANG等^[39]研究发现, 罗哌卡因(ropivacaine)能够损伤癌细胞线粒体, 促进胞浆中的Caspase-3向核内迁移, 抑制肝癌细胞迁移。

4.2 Caspase-3与神经系统疾病

Caspase-3的表达影响神经系统调节血压的过程。MARCIANTE等^[40]发现, 在慢性间歇性缺氧诱导的高血压疾病中, Caspase-3通过影响视前中核投射视旁核机制来调控血压。受损神经元的及时清

除同样依赖于Caspase-3的高表达,此过程有助于缩短癫痫疾病的潜伏期和发作时间^[41]。在帕金森病治疗过程中,蝉蜕被证明能够激活神经炎症细胞因子、氧化氮合酶、环氧合酶等物质,并切割Caspase-3,诱导病变多巴胺凋亡;同时,蝉蜕又抑制多巴胺的过度消耗,对帕金森病和帕金森病患者的心理治疗起着显著作用^[42]。显然,体内Caspase-3表达异常会引起严重的神经系统疾病,如脑膜炎、阿尔茨海默病等;CHRISTOPHER等^[43]发现,骨形态发生蛋白-4(bone morphogenetic protein-4, BMP-4)能够在体外直接诱导Caspase-3的活化,促使异常的神经元和少突胶质细胞凋亡,是一种有效的疾病治疗手段。

4.3 Caspase-3与其他疾病

Caspase-3与许多疾病都有着一定的联系。在肝炎疾病中,TIAN等^[44]建立的肝炎体内模型表明,当病毒侵染细胞后,细胞核增殖抗原(proliferating cell nuclear antigen, PCNA)过表达,病变的细胞因Caspase-3被激活而凋亡。LIU等^[45]研究发现,在胰腺炎疾病治疗中,三七皂苷能够减弱胰腺细胞的自噬作用,并激活Caspase-3,促使病变细胞凋亡;然而,这种致使Caspase-3大量表达的治疗方法极易导致肺损伤,可辅以Z-VAD-FMK等Caspase-3抑制剂来有效缓解副作用^[46]。在紫外线等外界刺激下,皮肤细胞大量凋亡导致皮肤损伤,ZHENG等^[47]探究了异荛草素对Caspase-3的抑制作用,通过延缓凋亡来缓解皮肤损伤。

5 Caspase-3的抑制剂

为了防止正常细胞因酶原偶然激活而受损,已发现很多Caspase的抑制剂。Caspase抑制剂的分类有多种依据:根据其来源可分为天然Caspase酶抑制剂、人工合成Caspase酶抑制剂;根据其组成成分可分为肽类抑制剂、非肽类抑制剂;根据其作用又可分为内源抑制剂和外源抑制剂等。

早年发现的一些Caspase-3抑制剂如Ac-DEVD-FMK^[48]、Ac-DNLD-CHO^[49]、Ac-DEVD-CHO^[50]等,其作用依据是Caspase-3酶切位点的特异性,但后续实验证明,其在细胞水平上效果并不理想。研究表明,拉莫三嗪^[51]、部分水杨酸片段化合物、M867、诺环素^[52]等非肽类抑制剂,金属离子如Zn、Fe等,小分子化合物及天然产物的提取物如硝普钠、四氟硼酸酯等NO供体^[53],均对Caspase-3酶原有抑制作用。

JIANG等^[54]研究发现,有丝分裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)家族成员JNK(c-Jun N-terminal kinase)和p38,二者的抑制剂SP600125和SB202190能够显著抑制Caspase-3活化和表达。RIVERA-DEL等^[55]研究肺癌发现,抗氧化剂N-乙酰半胱氨酸(N-acetyl-L-cysteine, NAC)对Caspase-3酶原激活具有重要的抑制作用。靛红磺酰胺也被证明是一种有效的抑制剂,其在抑制Caspase-3的同时,还能够激活其他硫胺类抑制剂,形成一个结构团,增强抑制作用^[56]。

6 总结与展望

Caspase-3在细胞凋亡过程中起着至关重要的作用,对于Caspase-3的研究有助于构建癌症治疗新的靶向位点,获得癌症治疗的新方法^[57]。但就现阶段的研究进展来看,Caspase基因的转录调控、转录后修饰等功能研究结果仍未得到明确的答案,随着进一步的研究,Caspase家族的具体作用机制会越来越明晰,相信在不久的将来,这些研究成果将会成为新的关注点。

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