

间充质干细胞成骨分化调控蛋白研究

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摘要 间充质干细胞具有分化成骨的潜能, 已逐渐成为骨损伤临床治疗的种子细胞。研究表明, 生物化学试剂和物理因素均可诱导间充质干细胞的成骨分化, 并且一些配体蛋白和转录因子参与了此过程。该文综述了近十年来关于间充质干细胞成骨分化调控蛋白的研究, 以期为间充质干细胞成骨分化的临床应用提供理论依据和科学指导。

关键词 间充质干细胞; 成骨细胞; 分化调控蛋白

Progress of Osteogenetic Differentiation-mediated Proteins of Mesenchymal Stem Cells

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Abstract Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) are becoming ideal seed cells for clinical treatment of bone injuries due to their potential of osteogenesis. Osteogenetic differentiation of mesenchymal stem cells could be induced by the biological and chemical reagents and physical factors. During the differentiation, some ligands and transcription factors were involved in this process. In this review, we summed up studies of osteogenetic differentiation-mediated proteins of MSCs based on the literatures reported in recent 10 years in order to provide a basis and scientific guidance for the clinical application of mesenchymal stem cells.

Keywords mesenchymal stem cells; osteoblast; differentiation-mediated proteins

间充质干细胞(mesenchymal stem cells, MSCs)作为一种种子细胞, 通过注射或骨组织工程学的方法在骨损伤治疗过程中具有良好的应用前景^[1]。但其临床应用的一个制约在于如何精确地调控MSCs定向分化为成骨细胞。近年来, 部分蛋白被证明参与了MSCs成骨分化的过程。本文对近十年来MSCs骨向分化调控蛋白的研究进展作一综述, 在深入理解MSCs成骨分化的机制的基础上, 为MSCs的临床

应用提供理论依据。

1 间充质干细胞的分化潜能

MSCs是由Friedenstein等^[2]在1976年首次从骨髓中发现的, 它是干细胞家族的重要成员, 来源于未分化的中胚层, 具有干细胞的共性, 即自我更新和多向分化, 存在于多种组织(如骨髓、脐带血和脐带组织、胎盘组织、脂肪组织等)中。在体内, MSCs的

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自我更新和分化潜能主要表现在: MSCs利用分裂增殖实现自我更新以维持细胞数量的相对稳定, 分化为成骨细胞、软骨细胞、肝细胞、肌细胞等以补充新的细胞完成相应系统或器官的损伤修复。同时, 骨髓中的MSCs定向分化产生的成骨细胞可以调节骨髓造血的微环境, 促进造血干细胞锚定在骨内膜的表面以及调节造血干细胞的数量和功能^[3]。此外, MSCs还通过细胞间的作用及其产生的细胞因子来抑制T细胞的增殖进而发挥免疫调节作用^[4]。

MSCs在体外进行培养时, 贴壁生长, 形态与成纤维细胞类似。在特定的体外条件下, 其也具有诱导分化成多种细胞的潜能。MSCs的骨向分化研究较为深入, 其作为种子细胞可以有效改善骨组织损伤的观点已得到证实^[5]。MSCs接种到生物材料中, 在适当的生物活性因子的刺激下, 向成骨细胞分化。生物材料的不同组分、不同构型和不同的加工方法使其具有良好的力学特性, 可使骨组织再生更接近在体情况, 可更好地应用到临床^[6]。在某种情况下, MSCs也可以向肌腱细胞分化。在组织工程学中, MSCs在特定构型的支架中更倾向于分化为肌腱细胞, 进而提高肌腱损伤修复的效率^[7]。此外, MSCs还可以向软骨和脂肪组织等分化。因此, 间充质干细胞是一种理想的种子细胞, 可用于衰老和病变引起的组织器官损伤修复。

2 间充质干细胞分化为成骨细胞的诱导因素

诱导MSCs成骨分化的方法多种多样。国内外学者首先采用生物化学试剂诱导MSCs的成骨分化。氯化孕酮可以通过细胞外调节蛋白激酶(extracellular regulated protein kinases, ERK)信号通路促进MSCs的骨向分化, 增加矿化结节数^[8]。细胞外基质蛋白质(如I型胶原蛋白、纤连蛋白、玻连蛋白、骨膜蛋白)对人骨髓MSCs的成骨分化起到促进作用^[9]。进一步的研究表明, 在细胞外基质蛋白诱导的过程中, 碱性磷酸酶(alkaline phosphatase, ALP)基因表达和矿化作用均明显增强^[10]。生物化学试剂的诱导作用强、效率高, 但是生物化学分子进入体内由于弥散、失效、降解等原因不能维持其有效浓度; 若为了维持足够的浓度而加大生物化学分子剂量, 则可能产生细胞毒性作用。

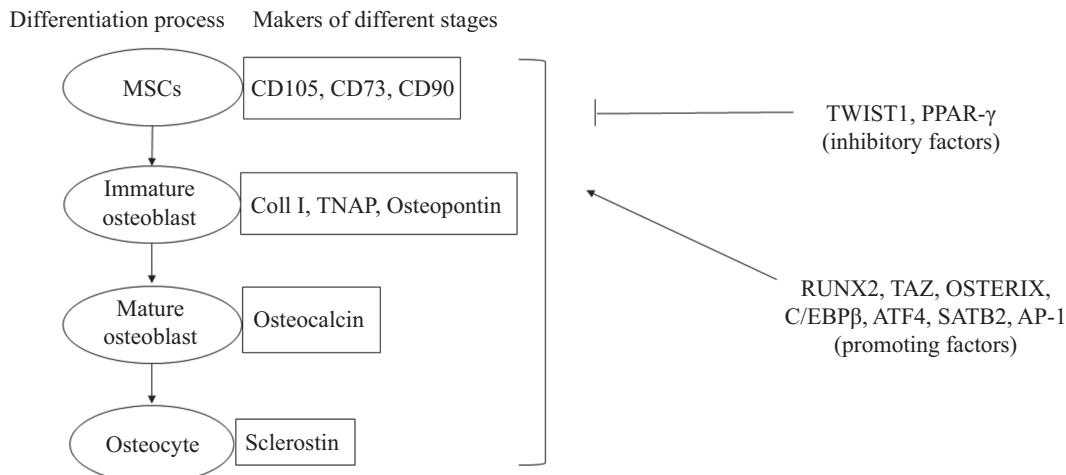
随着生物物理学等交叉学科的普及和重视, 一些物理方法(如电磁场、电场和力学刺激

等)也应用到了诱导MSCs成骨分化的过程。非脉冲正弦电磁场可以提高人MSCs的RUNX2(runt-related transcription factor 2)蛋白、ALP和骨钙蛋白(osteocalcin, OC)的表达, 进而促进其骨向分化^[11]。20 mV/cm、60 kHz的交变电场通过热休克蛋白的调控促进MSCs的骨向分化^[12]。尽管物理因素诱导过程中产生的副作用小, 但其诱导效率偏低。因此, 科学家们利用生物化学试剂和物理因素联合作用, 发现人工细胞外基质和脉冲电场(7 ms、3.6 mV/mm、10 Hz)联合作用可以促进人MSCs的骨向分化^[13]。两种诱导方式的联合应用, 在降低生物化学试剂浓度减少副作用的同时, 还能解决物理因素诱导效率差的弊端。

3 间充质干细胞成骨分化的标志物

MSCs成骨分化的标志物主要有四种: 碱性磷酸酶(ALP)、I型胶原蛋白、OC和矿化结节^[14-16]。ALP是由*phoA*基因编码生成的一种非特异性磷酸单酯酶, 呈典型的α典型拓扑结构, 与催化活性相关的部位高度保守, 它通过磷脂酰肌醇葡聚糖锚定在细胞膜外侧进而发挥作用, 主要功能是催化磷酸单酯的水解反应和磷酸基团的转移反应^[17]。OC亦称γ-羧基谷氨酸蛋白和骨依赖维生素K蛋白, 是由成骨细胞中OC转录和表达的一种非胶原蛋白, 约含有2 100个核苷酸, 分子中含有依赖维生素K的γ-羧基谷氨酸残基, 在维生素K存在的条件下才能发挥生物学效应, 其主要功能是维持骨的正常矿化速率以及抑制异常的羟磷灰石结晶的形成。骨更新率越快, OC值越高, 反之降低^[18]。I型胶原蛋白是细胞外基质的主要成分, 具有很强的伸张能力, 在成骨细胞成熟的早期可分泌和合成I型胶原, 这对维持骨结构的完整及骨生物力学特性非常重要^[19]。矿化结节是生物矿化作用的结果之一。在矿化期, 与细胞外基质中羟磷灰石沉积相关的基因表达量上升, 促进羟磷灰石的沉积, 形成矿化结节。成骨细胞的生物矿化作用在骨骼的形成、损伤后再生起到了决定性作用^[20]。

间充质干细胞成骨分化需经历非成熟的成骨细胞和成熟的成骨细胞, 最终形成骨细胞(图1)。MSCs表达CD105、CD73和CD90表面抗原。非成熟成骨细胞的细胞外基质中富含I型胶原, 非特异性的ALP的活性和骨桥蛋白含量均增加, 促进羟磷灰石



MSCs: 间充质干细胞; Coll I: I型胶原酶; TNAP: 组织非特异性碱性磷酸酶。

MSCs: mesenchymal stem cell; Coll I: collagenase I; TNAP: tissue nonspecific alkaline phosphatase.

图1 间充质干细胞成骨分化过程(根据参考文献[24]修改)

Fig.1 The process of mesenchymal stem cell osteogenesis (modified from reference [24])

的沉积^[21]。成熟的成骨细胞则会分泌OC^[22]。富含矿化结节的成骨细胞则会进一步分化成骨细胞，进而分泌硬骨素和牙本质基质蛋白-1^[23]。

4 间充质干细胞成骨分化调控蛋白

两个生长因子家族[WNT家族和骨形发生蛋白(bone morphogenic proteins, BMPs)家族]可以促进间充质干细胞的成骨分化,作为配体蛋白分别主要通过Wnt/ β -catenin通过质干细胞和BMP-SMAD(bone morphogenic protein-drosophila mothers against decapentaplegic protein)信号通路将信号从细胞膜转导进入细胞核,进而激活转录因子。目前,公认的与间充质干细胞成骨分化的转录因子有9个,其中,7个是促进因子,2个为抑制因子。

4.1 激活间充质干细胞成骨分化的配体蛋白

4.1.1 WNT家族 WNT是一类高度保守的分泌蛋白，其家族包括19种蛋白。在动物的生长发育过程中，对细胞的增殖、分化和迁移起到了巨大的调节作用，决定细胞的极性、命运等，而在人体中，WNT则主要参与机体内平衡稳定。WNT信号通路主要包括WNT/ β -catenin信号通路、平面极细胞通路、Wnt/Ca²⁺通路以及调节纺锤体的方向和非对称细胞分裂的胞内通路，研究最多的是经典通路——WNT/ β -catenin信号通路^[25]，可以激活此经典通路的WNT有WNT1、WNT3a、WNT8和WNT10b等^[26]。当WNT存在且与细胞表面FRIZZLED、低密度脂蛋白受体相关蛋白5/6(low-density lipoprotein-related

protein5/6, LRP5/6)受体家族结合后, 形成LRP5/6-AXIN(axis inhibition)-FRAT(frequently rearranged in activated T-cell)复合物, 抑制下游APC(adenomatous polyposis coli)-AXIN-GSK-3 β (glycogen synthase kinase-3 β)蛋白质复合物的形成和 β -catenin的降解, 胞质内的 β -catenin得以稳定存在, 部分 β -catenin进入细胞核与T细胞因子/淋巴增强因子(T-cell factor/lymphoid enhancing factor, TCF/LEF)转录因子家族作用并促进特定基因的表达^[27]。WNT/ β -catenin的调控机制见图2。

经典的WNT信号通路在MSCs成骨分化中起到了重要作用。有研究表明, WNT3a和WNT10b可以上调WNT/ β -catenin信号通路的直接靶标富半胱氨酸蛋白61(cysteinerich 61, CYR61)来促进MSCs的成骨分化^[29-30]。有趣的是, 当MSCs培养在成骨诱导培养液中, WNT3a却会抑制WNT5a介导的骨向分化^[31]。此外, 非经典的WNT信号通路也会参与MSCs的骨向分化, 如WNT5a和WNT4。WNT5a通过自分泌的方式来促进人MSCs成骨分化^[32]。WNT4可以通过激活p38丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase, p38MAPK)信号通路促进人MSCs的成骨分化, 提高颅骨损伤的修复效率^[33]。

4.1.2 BMPs蛋白家族 BMPs是一种同二聚体的生长因子,存在于骨基质中的一种酸性糖蛋白,属于转化生长因子- β (transforming growth factor- β , TGF- β)超家族。BMPs调控细胞内多种功能,例如骨形成、形态发生、趋化性、有丝分裂、造血和

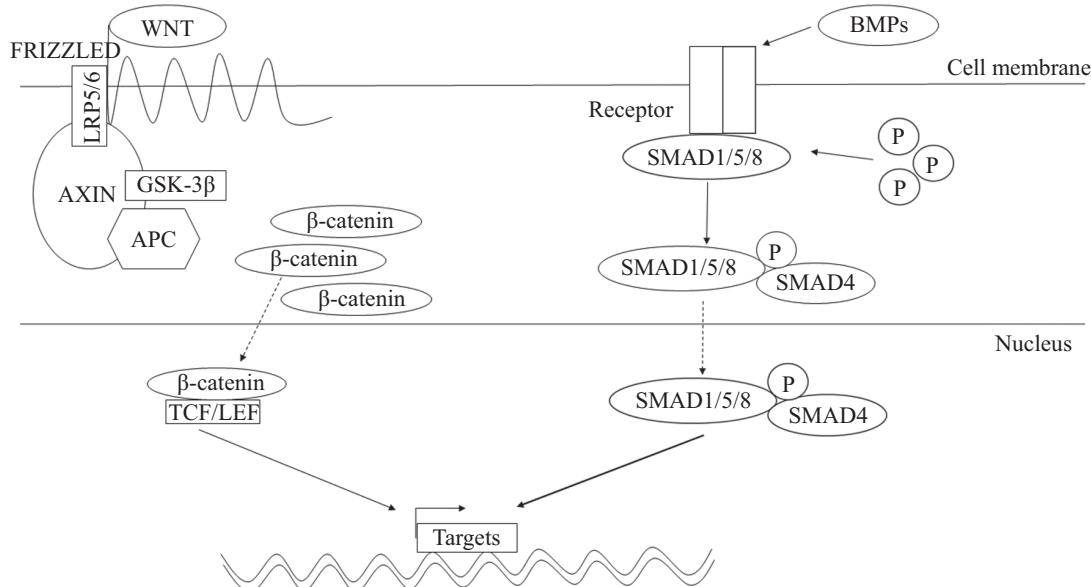


图2 Wnt/β-catenin和BMPs在成骨分化过程中的作用(根据参考文献[28]修改)

Fig.2 The role of Wnt/β-catenin and BMPs in the process of osteogenetic differentiation (modified from reference [28])

细胞凋亡等。BMPs有20多种成员,其中,BMP-2、BMP-4、BMP-6和BMP-7是BMPs家族中诱导成骨活性最强的成员。BMPs通过BMP-SMAD信号通路和促细胞分裂蛋白激酶通路实现细胞功能,其中前者发挥更主要的作用^[34-35]。在BMP-SMAD信号通路中,细胞外BMPs与细胞膜上的具有丝/苏氨酸激酶活性的受体BMPRI、BMPRII结合,BMPs首先磷酸化BMPRII并进一步激活BMPRI,激活的BMPRI能够磷酸化SMAD1/5/8(SMAD1、SMAD5和SMAD8)C-端的位点,SMAD1/5/8的磷酸化产物与SMAD4形成复合物后进入到细胞核内并积累,而后与SMAD结合序列或富含GC的序列结合,进而调节靶基因的转录,这一过程将信号从细胞表面传至细胞核以完成相应功能^[36](图2)。

BMPs能诱导大鼠和小鼠的MSCs表达ALP,促进成骨细胞分化^[37]。进一步的机制研究表明,在鼠MSCs中,RanBP3L(ran-binding protein 3 like)的高表达可以阻断BMPs介导的骨向分化,敲除RanBP3L则加强BMPs介导的骨向分化,这是由于RanBP3L可以直接识别SMAD1/5/8并介导其转出细胞核,阻断了BMP-SMAD信号通路,抑制成骨分化^[38]。另一调控BMPs并影响MSCs成骨分化的因子是血小板衍生生长因子(platelet-derived growth factor, PDGF)。血小板衍生生长因子-AA(PDGF-AA)通过下调血小板衍生生长因子受体α(PDGF receptor α, PDGFRα)来激活

BMP-SMAD1/5/8通路,进而促进MSCs的骨向分化过程^[39]。

4.2 间充质干细胞成骨分化的转录因子

4.2.1 成骨分化正调控蛋白 目前研究发现,有七种蛋白参与了MSCs成骨分化的正调控,分别为RUNX2、OSTERIX、TAZ(transcriptional co-activator with PDZ-binding motif)、SATB2(special AT-rich sequence binding protein 2)、C/EBPβ(CCAAT/enhancer-binding proteins β)、AP-1(activator protein-1)和转录活性因子4(activating transcriptional factor 4, ATF4)。其中,RUNX2、OSTERIX和TAZ尤为重要^[40-41]。

*Runx2*在成骨细胞的分化和骨骼形态的发生中起到了至关重要的作用。由其编码的RUNX2属于转录因子RUNX家族,调节成骨基因及其调控因子的表达。RUNX2通过绑定oc的基因启动子区域,启动成骨细胞的分化^[42]。利用RNA干扰技术下调*Runx2* mRNA的表达,阻断了连续机械应力所诱导的大鼠骨髓MSCs的骨向分化,并伴随了ALP和OC合成的减少^[43]。将过表达*Runx2*的鼠MSCs移植到鼠的皮下组织或损伤的颅骨盖中,可以生成更多的骨量^[44]。这一现象在人源MSCs中也有发现,如人脂肪组织中提取的MSCs利用电穿孔转染技术过表达*Runx2*,可以促进人MSCs的骨向分化,同时检测到ALP和OC的表达量增加^[45]。

*Osterix*是继*Runx2*之后,新近发现的第二个成骨

细胞分化所必需的基因, 其编码的OSTERIX具有锌指结构。胚胎期敲除*Osterix*导致小鼠完全没有骨性成分形成, 出生后敲除*Osterix*的小鼠成骨细胞成熟和向骨细胞分化的过程严重受阻^[46-47], 提示*Osterix*无论在胚胎期还是出生后的骨发育和骨成熟中都起重要作用。有研究表明, 起源于脐带的MSCs中过表达*Osterix*可以增加ALP的活性和OC的表达^[48]。

*Taz*是一种具有PDZ结构域的结合区域和WW结构域并通过上述结构域调控细胞分化的基因, 其编码的TAZ是一类转录共激活因子, 可以调控大量的转录因子进而影响骨的生成, 如TAZ可以与RUNX2和SMAD的家族成员结合诱导成骨细胞的分化^[49]。此外, 人脂肪组织中提取的MSCs在肿瘤坏死因子 α 的刺激下可以通过NF- κ B的激活和*Taz*的表达来诱导成骨分化^[50]。

SATB2(special AT-rich sequence binding protein 2)是一种特异AT序列结合蛋白, 可以与MARs(matrix attachment regions)结合, 进而以MARs依赖的方式激活转录过程。SATB2被认为是成骨细胞分化的关键调节分子。有研究表明, 成骨细胞敲除*Satb2*后, 可以阻止成骨细胞的分化, 并且减少OC的表达^[51]。在骨髓MSCs中过表达SATB2, 可以激活RUNX2进而促进MSCs的骨向分化^[52]。

C/EBP β 属于C/EBP家族, 也是调节成骨细胞分化的转录因子之一。C/EBP β 可与其家族成员形成同二聚体或异二聚体。C/EBP按照二聚体的长短可分为长型或短型两种, 其中短型二聚体可以诱导成骨细胞的分化。C/EBP β 可以直接绑定到*Runx2*的P1启动子, 上调*Runx2*的表达和激活OC的合成^[53-54]。

AP-1是由Jun家族和Fos家族组成的异质二聚体。有研究表明, FosB的过表达可以增强骨的形成。FosB过表达的小鼠会阻止MSCs的成脂分化, 促进MSCs的成骨分化。条件性敲除*JunB*会减少成骨细胞的增殖和OC的表达量^[55-56]。

此外, 活性转录因子4也是调节成骨分化过程的关键分子。ATF4直接绑定到*oc*基因的启动子区域从而激活转录过程, 若敲除*Atf4*也会抑制骨的生成^[57]。

4.2.2 成骨分化负调控蛋白

目前, MSCs成骨分化负调控基因已得到验证的有*Ppary*(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ)和*Twist1*(the basic

helix loop helix transcription factor 1)。PPAR γ 是由*Ppary*基因编码的, 有两种亚型, PPAR γ 1和PPAR γ 2。PPAR γ 2可以与*Runx2*结合, 抑制其转录能力, 进而抑制成骨细胞的分化^[58]。有研究表明, GW9662(PPAR抑制剂, 分子式C₁₃H₉CN₂O₃)抑制PPAR γ 后, 促使 β -catenin在核内的积聚, 进而增强MSCs的矿化作用和骨的生成^[59-60]。也有文献报道, 在鼠MSCs中, 敲除*Ppary*2会使成脂分化和骨向分化均减弱, 而在人MSCs中, 敲除*Ppary*2只会减弱成脂分化, 对成骨分化无明显影响^[61]。

TWIST1是新近发现的一种高度保守的碱性螺旋-环-螺旋转录因子, 可以结合到RUNX2部分区域上进而抑制RUNX2的活性。*Twist1*单倍剂量不足(等位基因中的一个发生突变)会引起颅骨骨量增加, 颅缝早闭进而出现尖头并指畸形综合征^[62]。TWIST1可以和ATF4相互影响, 抑制ATF4与*oc*启动子的结合, 进而抑制MSCs的成骨分化^[63]。在人MSCs中, *Twist1*和*Twist2*的过表达可以使BMP-2、骨桥蛋白、OC和ALP的表达量降低^[62]。

4.3 其他分化调控蛋白

除了上述蛋白质之外, 一些其他的蛋白质也参与了调控MSCs的成骨分化过程。成纤维细胞生长因子(fibroblast growth factors, FGFs)是骨骼形成、胚胎发育、血管新生、伤口愈合、纤维化及肿瘤形成的重要参与者之一。在骨髓MSCs诱导过程中, FGF1、FGF2和FGF18都可以通过其受体FGFR1(fibroblast growth factor receptor 1)与FGFR2激活*Runx2*, 从而调控成骨分化^[64-65]。此外, 贯穿细胞的整个发育过程, 调节细胞的分裂增殖和起始分化的ERK(extracellular regulated protein kinases)信号通路也参与了MSCs的成骨分化过程, 连续机械应力诱导MSCs成骨分化便是通过ERK信号通路, 若是将ERK阻断, 就会抑制RUNX2的表达, 终止后续的骨向分化事件^[43]。

5 结语与展望

在过去的十年, MSCs成骨分化调控蛋白的研究已经取得了一定成果。大量的研究表明, 诱导MSCs定向分化的方法不同, 其参与的蛋白质也各不相同。自从1997年, MSCs成骨分化的关键分子RUNX2被发现以来, 其他蛋白质也相继被证明参与了MSCs成骨分化过程。但是, 目前调控MSCs成骨

分化调控蛋白的研究还比较零散,需要加强进一步的研究,更加充分地认识MSCs成骨分化的调控蛋白,将有助于开发新的方法,提高骨损伤的诊断和治疗。

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