

AP-1的研究进展

韩畅畅 万福生*

(南昌大学基础医学院, 生物化学与分子生物学教研室, 南昌 330006)

摘要 激活蛋白-1(activator protein-1, AP-1)是细胞内一类转录激活因子, 主要由原癌基因编码的蛋白质Jun和Fos组成, 以同源或异源二聚体复合物形式结合DNA靶序列, 调控靶基因表达。AP-1通过调节靶基因表达来应对多种刺激(包括细胞因子、生长因子、压力及细菌和病毒感染等)对细胞的影响, 参与调节细胞增殖、分化、凋亡以及炎症等多种细胞过程。该文就AP-1的结构特点、生物学功能、活性调控及其在医学研究中的应用作一综述。

关键词 激活蛋白-1; 转录因子; 转录调控

Research Progress on AP-1

Han Changchang, Wan Fusheng*

(Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medical College of Nanchang University, Nanchang 330006, China)

Abstract Activator protein-1 (AP-1) is considered as a kind of intracellular transcriptional activator, mainly composed of proto-oncogene encoding protein Jun and Fos, which binds DNA target sequence in the form of homodimer or heterodimer complex, regulating the expression of target genes. AP-1 regulates the expression of target genes in response to the effect of various stimuli on cells, such as cytokines, growth factors, pressure, bacteria and viral infections, and it is also implicated in the regulation of variety of cellular processes, including cell proliferation, differentiation, apoptosis, inflammation and other cellular functions. This review aims to elucidate the structural characteristics, biological function, activity regulation and its application in medical study of AP-1.

Keywords activator protein-1; transcription factor; transcriptional regulation

激活蛋白-1(activator protein-1, AP-1)是二十多年前由美国科学家Lee等^[1]首次发现, 并被鉴定为转录因子。许多生理和病理因素可以刺激、诱导和激活一组由DNA结合蛋白形成的AP-1同源或异源二聚体。AP-1是调节细胞生存和死亡途径关键的转录因子^[2], 作为启动基因转录的分子开关, 通过细胞应激刺激等各种条件调节基因的表达, 参与增殖、分化、凋亡、转化、细胞迁移、炎症和伤口愈合等多种细胞过程。近十年来, 有关AP-1的研究取得了较

大的进展, 本文就AP-1的基本组成与结构、生物学功能、转录活性调控及其在医学研究中的应用作一综述。

1 AP-1的基本组成与结构

早期, Angel等^[3]通过DNA亲和层析法首次鉴定了转录因子AP-1是一种二聚体复合物, 由原癌基因编码的Jun家族和Fos家族蛋白质组成。随后, 研究发现, AP-1是由碱性亮氨酸拉链(basic leucine-

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*通讯作者。Tel: 0791-86360228, E-mail: wanfs01@163.com

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*Corresponding author. Tel: +86-791-86360228, E-mail: wanfs01@163.com

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zipper, bZIP)结构的Jun蛋白质(c-Jun、v-Jun、JunB和JunD)、Fos蛋白质(c-Fos、v-Fos、FosB、Fra1和Fra2)、激活转录因子(activating transcription factor, ATF, 包括ATF2、ATF3/LRF1、B-ATF、JDP1和JDP2)和肌肉腱膜纤维肉瘤(musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma, MAF, 包括C-Maf、MafB、MafA、MafG/F/K和Nrl)家族形成高度保守的同源或异源二聚体,可激活下游靶基因的转录^[4-5]。Jun可以和Fos、ATF家族形成同源或异源二聚体,但Fos只能与Jun形成异源二聚体^[6],在众多的AP-1二聚体中,Fos与Jun形成的AP-1异源二聚体最稳定^[1,7]。虽然,Jun和Fos亚基共有高度同源结构,但AP-1的二聚体在发挥DNA结合亲和力和激活或抑制基因的表达有显著差异,提示AP-1的二聚体基因调控具有特异性^[2]。

除此之外,AP-1还可以与其他非碱性亮氨酸拉链结构的蛋白质相互作用。例如,转录因子NF- κ B(nuclear factor-kappaB)的p65亚基、CBP(CREB binding protein)/p300及Rb等,进一步扩大AP-1家族蛋白质的组合多样性和调节基因谱^[8]。亚基的差异表达,使复杂的AP-1二聚体在不同种类细胞不同阶段都有一种微妙的功能^[3]。例如,c-Jun在胚胎发育和器官发生的整个过程中均有表达,而JunB在胚胎后期才有表达^[9]。不仅如此,AP-1的功能与其二聚体中的成分以及细胞所处的环境刺激也有密切有关^[10]。Fra1在胎盘的正常血管形成中起关键作用,若缺失Fra1会导致胚胎死亡^[11]。在成骨细胞发育过程中,c-Fos和Fra1也发挥重要作用^[12]。

2 AP-1的生物学功能

研究表明,AP-1是细胞生长和分化最为关键的转录因子之一^[13]。作为细胞内信号通路的交会点,AP-1的功能通过细胞因子、生长因子、细胞外信号调节激酶(extracellular signal-regulated kinase, ERK)和激素等各种刺激调节,参与细胞的增殖、炎症、分化、凋亡、转化和迁移等过程。

2.1 AP-1与细胞增殖和分化

研究表明,c-Jun、JunB、JunD和Fra1对胚胎发育以及细胞增殖是至关重要的^[13]。在表皮细胞和内胚层上皮中,JunB在发育的14.5~7.5 d开始表达^[14]。在成纤维细胞中,c-Jun的转录在G₀到G₁转变期间被快速诱导^[15]。Wang等^[16]研究发现,哺乳类动物雷帕

霉素靶蛋白(mammalian target of rapamycin, mTOR)的过表达通过诱导AP-1进而使血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)增加,促进内皮细胞的增殖,影响血管的生成。这表明,mTOR/AP-1/VEGF通路在血管内皮细胞的生长调控中发挥至关重要的作用。同样,在人脐静脉内皮细胞中,调节AP-1家族mRNA,主要发生在转录水平JunB的表达增加,介导VEGF表达增加,进而诱导人脐静脉内皮细胞增殖^[7]。研究表明,在对数生长期或生长因子等刺激时的细胞,c-Fos、c-Jun基因表达明显升高^[5]。不仅如此,AP-1还可以通过细胞周期蛋白D1(cyclin D1)来调节细胞的迁移和增殖^[17]。

在一定条件下,AP-1还与细胞分化有一定关系。目前研究结果表明,AP-1对细胞分化的影响既有抑制作用,也有促进作用。Bettina等^[10]研究证明,Fra1干扰c-Fos结合在转录因子B淋巴细胞诱导成熟蛋白1(B lymphocyte-induced maturation protein 1, *Blimp1*)的启动子区,进而抑制Blimp1的表达,抑制B细胞分化成浆细胞。最近,Toshihiro等^[18]研究证实,低浓度的激光治疗使细胞内的活性氧类(reactive oxygen species, ROS)增强,造成c-Fos和c-Jun稳定翻译或翻译后修饰,从而促进AP-1的活性增强,有助于成骨细胞分化。此外,运动神经元中c-Jun的表达促进细胞分化^[14],Carcamo-Orive等^[19]和Palcy等^[20]的研究同样表明,AP-1可以促进细胞分化。

2.2 AP-1与细胞凋亡

细胞凋亡是维持细胞内环境稳定、由基因调控的细胞主动死亡方式。AP-1在调节细胞凋亡过程中具有双重作用,在不同的细胞中AP-1可促进或抑制细胞凋亡。Rebollo等^[21]证明,c-Jun通过上调抗凋亡蛋白B细胞淋巴瘤/白血病-3(B-cell lymphocytic leukemias-3, Bcl-3),进而阻止白细胞介素-4(interleukin-4, IL-4)丢失的T细胞凋亡。同样,Santos等^[22]证明,在肠道缺氧复氧损伤后,c-Fos和c-Jun发生变化,从而刺激细胞的增殖和凋亡。然而,Wang等^[23]研究发现,当细胞接受刺激诱导凋亡时,纤连蛋白类型III(fibronectin type III)和锚蛋白重复域1(fibronectin type III and ankyrin repeat domains 1, Fank1)具有抗凋亡的效应。Fank1和c-Jun激活区结合蛋白1(c-Jun activation domain binding protein 1, Jab1)在细胞质和细胞核内均可发生特异性结合,Jab1可以和AP-1的成员c-Jun激活区域结合并相互

作用,这是Fank1激活AP-1所依赖的^[24]。Fank1/Jab1/c-Jun三者结合而上调抗凋亡基因B细胞淋巴瘤/白血病-2(B-cell lymphocytic leukemias, Bcl-2)的水平,从而抑制细胞的凋亡。此外,c-Fos不仅在发育过程中介导促凋亡信号,而且在组织重塑和应激反应期间介导促凋亡信号^[13]。

2.3 AP-1与肿瘤的转移

肿瘤细胞的侵袭、转移直接影响到肿瘤的复发及预后判断,AP-1可通过调节基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinases, MMP)家族进而降解细胞外基质,影响肿瘤的侵袭、转移。AP-1中主要是c-Fos和Fra1调节MMP的表达^[25]。研究表明,抗肿瘤药物的活性大多数是通过AP-1实现的。例如,白杨素(chrysin)在胃癌细胞AGS中通过阻断c-Jun氨基末端激酶1/2(c-Jun N-terminal protein kinase 1/2, JNK1/2)和ERK1/2(extracellular regulated kinase 1/2)信号通路,抑制c-Jun和c-Fos磷酸化,进而降低AP-1的活性,降低MMP-9的表达,起到抗肿瘤的作用^[26]。脱水穿心莲内酯(dehydroandrographolide, DA)通过下调AP-1的活性降低MMP-2的表达,抑制人类口腔癌的侵袭^[27]。甘草黄酮(glabridin)通过抑制NF- κ B和AP-1的活性,进而抑制MMP-9的分泌,阻止肝癌细胞的侵袭迁移^[28]。

3 AP-1的转录活性调控

AP-1的转录活性在细胞增殖、凋亡、炎症及迁移等过程中发挥复杂而又重要的作用^[6],其活性高低受各种生理刺激和环境刺激的影响,其主要影响因素为:c-Jun和c-Fos的基因转录涉及丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinases, MAPK)通路和蛋白质翻译后修饰^[29]。目前认为,MAPK家族成员ERKs、JNK、Fos调控激酶和p38 MAPK成员通过使不同底物磷酸化,在基因水平和蛋白质水平对AP-1活性进行调控^[30]。

3.1 JNK对AP-1的调控作用

JNK调节AP-1的活性,介导细胞凋亡、神经退行性变化、细胞增殖和分化、炎症病症以及细胞因子产生。在Jurkat T细胞中,半乳糖素-1(galactin-1, gal-1)作为上游JNK的激活剂导致JNK、MKK-4(mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase-4)和MKK-7活化,在JNK的下游观察到gal-1刺激能使c-Jun的磷酸化,诱导AP-1荧光素酶报告基因表达增

强以及AP-1/DNA的结合活性增强。用SP600125抑制JNK活化或用姜黄素抑制AP-1活化,结果DNA裂解减少,表明JNK/c-Jun/AP-1途径在gal-1刺激的T细胞死亡调控中发挥关键作用^[31]。Bao等^[32]研究发现,调节性T细胞(regulatory T cells, Treg)处于脓毒症时,腺苷可以促进Foxp3(forkhead box p3)的表达。Foxp3被认为是Treg的标志性分子,Foxp3基因突变能引起严重的自身免疫性疾病,因此Foxp3在调节机体免疫自稳中起关键作用。用腺苷或腺苷的激动剂(CGS21680)可以使JNK的磷酸化增强,在JNK的下游c-Fos和c-Jun的蛋白质水平升高,c-Fos或c-Jun结合在Foxp3的启动子区,诱导Foxp3基因转录,促进Treg细胞中Foxp3的表达。

3.2 ERK对AP-1的调控作用

ERK是细胞信号转导的关键分子之一,磷酸化的ERK可介导AP-1、c-Fos、c-Jun的转录活化,进而参与多种生物学反应。Chen等^[33]研究发现,双调蛋白(amphiregulin, AR)可以刺激人软骨肉瘤细胞JJ012,使Ras的活性增强,诱导Ras的下游因子Raf磷酸化。MEK/ERK、c-Jun作为Raf的下游因子,随即也发生磷酸化,且磷酸化水平显著升高,进而导致AP-1的活性增强。c-Jun结合在 $\alpha 6$ - $\beta 1$ 整联蛋白(integrin)的启动子区域,使 $\alpha 6$ - $\beta 1$ 整联蛋白的表达升高来调节细胞的迁移能力,为治疗软骨肉瘤提供新的策略。同样,LU8C-FP(luteolin 8-C-b-fucopyranoside,黄酮苷的一种)通过抑制ERK/AP-1和ERK/NF- κ B信号途径,降低MMP-9和IL-8的mRNA和蛋白质的水平,进而抑制乳腺癌细胞的迁移^[34]。

3.3 p38 MAPK对AP-1的调控作用

p38 MAPK对AP-1的活性调节与JNK相似。Park等^[35]证明,在血管平滑肌细胞(vascular smooth muscle cells, VSMCs)中,促红细胞生成素(erythropoietin, EPO)的刺激可使促红细胞生成素受体磷酸化,两者结合后促进了VSMCs的DNA合成以及p38 MAPK磷酸化,使AP-1结合活性和MMP-9表达增加。用SB203580(p38 MAPK抑制剂)可使DNA合成降低,AP-1的结合活性受抑制,进而阻断MMP-9的表达,抑制细胞增殖、迁移。此外,阿米替林(amitriptyline)在大鼠星形胶质细胞中是通过p38/c-Fos/AP-1信号通路上调连接蛋白43(connexin 43, Cx43)的mRNA和蛋白质水平以及间隙连接细胞间通讯(gap junction intercellular communication, GJIC)的水平,从而达到

为治疗抑郁症提供新靶点的目的^[36]。Li等^[37]研究发现, IL-17A在髓核细胞中通过p38/c-Fos和JNK/c-Jun途径增强环氧酶2(cyclo-oxygenase 2, COX2)和前列腺素E2(prostaglandin E2, PEG2)炎症因子的表达, 调节炎症反应。

3.4 PI3K/AKT对AP-1的调控作用

PI3K(phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase)/AKT(protein kinase B, PKB)作为细胞内重要的信号转导途径, 活化并调控下游靶基因。肿瘤坏死因子受体1(tumor necrosis factor receptor 1, TNFR1)含有死亡结构域蛋白质, 促进蛋白质与蛋白质之间的相互作用, 特别是与其他死亡结构域蛋白的相互作用。Yang等^[38]在H9C2细胞中发现, 肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)可以活化TNFR1, 刺激c-Src磷酸化, 并观察到c-Src下游的表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)和血小板衍生生长因子受体(platelet derived growth factor receptor, PDGFR)磷酸化水平升高, 激活PI3K/AKT的活性, 引起AP-1启动子活性增强, c-Jun mRNA以及磷酸化水平随着时间的延长而升高, 最终导致MMP-9基因表达增加。Xu等^[39]研究表明, DIXDC1(DIX domain containing 1)可通过PI3K/AKT/AP-1途径调节肺癌细胞的迁移, 有望为肺癌治疗提供新思路。

4 AP-1在医学上的应用

研究发现, AP-1的组成及其活性变化与缺血再灌注(ischemia/reperfusion, I/R)损伤^[22]、肿瘤^[33]、炎症反应^[40]、脑损伤^[41]等多种疾病的发生、发展有密切关系, 因此, 近年来, AP-1已经成为研究的热点。AP-1被认为是一种促炎因子, 直接调控细胞因子白介素和MMP^[42]。高致病性猪蓝耳病(porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus, PRRSV)就是通过JNK/c-Jun途径诱导IL-8表达, 造成肺部炎症性细胞因子释放, 引起肺损伤^[43]。LL202是一种人工合成的类黄酮衍生物, 它通过抑制MAPK/AP-1途径, 降低AP-1的表达, 从而减少IL-1 β 、IL-6和TNF- α 的分泌, 进而达到抗炎的效果^[40]。Lu等^[44]证实, AP-1通过在皮肤成纤维细胞MMP-1/MMP-3启动子区域中的结合位点的突变, 使钛铁试剂抑制MMP-1/MMP-3的表达, 防止和治疗紫外线引起的皮肤光老化。

最近的研究发现, AP-1在各种癌细胞中存在较高水平, 它有可能成为疾病早期诊断和预测疾病严

重程度的标记物^[43]。许多药物的抗肿瘤活性也是通过AP-1实现的。Fu等^[45]发现, 剪接形式的RNA-结合蛋白1(RNA-binding protein with multiple splicing 1, RBPMS1)可以抑制c-Fos或转录因子Smad与c-Jun结合, 是降低AP-1的转录活性以及肿瘤发生、发展的关键调节分子, 包括VEGF、周期蛋白D1在内, 都会使细胞增殖和迁移能力降低。这一发现表明, 激活RBPMS1、降低AP-1的转录活性可能是治疗癌症的一个有效途径。同样, 在乳腺癌细胞中阻断AP-1可以抑制G₁期细胞周期蛋白的表达, 导致细胞周期阻滞^[46]。

5 小结与展望

近年来, 对AP-1的研究不断深入, 特别是AP-1的生物学作用、与不同转录因子的交叉作用以及在不同病理生理过程中的作用等。AP-1处于细胞内信号转导的中心位置, 维持细胞内环境的稳定, 其家族的不同成员在细胞凋亡、增殖、炎症、迁移等过程中存在交叉或者拮抗作用, 引起了人们的关注。由于AP-1在生理病理过程中的重要作用, 它将有可能作为疾病治疗的新靶点。但AP-1具有细胞特异性, 且在某些细胞中的影响以及作用机制尚不明确, 因此, 仍需要研究AP-1在不同组织器官内作用的精确机制, 并深入研究AP-1与疾病之间的关系, 最终使其应用于疾病防治。

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