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## 人羊膜上皮细胞的干细胞特征和临床应用潜力

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**摘要** 人羊膜上皮细胞(human amniotic epithelial cells, hAECs)是由胚胎第8天上胚层(epiblast)发育而来, 先于胚胎三个胚层(外、中和内三个胚层)形成, 故而仍然保留胚胎干细胞主要特征的分子标志物。以下, 我们将回顾hAECs的胚胎干细胞样特征, 同时具有间充质干细胞主要分子标志物表型, 在分化潜能上介于胚胎干细胞和间充质干细胞之间。hAECs具有独特的免疫学特征和免疫调节特性, 与胎儿具有免疫耐受不受母体免疫系统排斥有关, 可以直接进行临床异体移植, 无需免疫配型; 同时具有治疗免疫性疾病的潜能。该文详细介绍了hAECs的各种临床前研究, 最后介绍hAECs在临床上应用的潜力和部分临床研究结果。

**关键词** 人羊膜上皮细胞; 干细胞; 多能性; 免疫调节; 临床前研究; 临床研究

## Stem Cell Characteristics and the Therapeutic Potential of Human Amniotic Epithelial Cells

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**Abstract** Human amniotic epithelial cells (hAECs) originally derived the epiblast occurring around day 8 of pregnancy, before gastrulation establishes the three germ layers: ectoderm, mesoderm and endoderm, retain a high level of pluripotency as evidenced by the expression of embryonic stem cell (ESC) markers. In this review, hAECs' embryonic stem cell-like and mesenchymal stem cell (MSC)-like properties and markers are summarized. hAECs have the differentiation potential between ESC and MSC. hAECs have unique immunological and immunomodulatory properties, which are associated with fetal privilege to maternal immune system. So, hAECs can be directly used for clinical allografts without immunological matching, as well as with great promise in immune diseases treatment. Pre-

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clinical studies that demonstrated the therapeutic potentials of hAECs are discussed. At last, some related clinical trials are introduced.

**Keywords** human amniotic epithelial cells; stem cell; pluripotency; immunomodulatory; preclinical research; clinical trial

## 1 人羊膜上皮细胞的来源及属性

国家卫生健康委员会办公厅和食品药品监督管理总局办公厅, 在2015年7月31日共同发布的《干细胞制剂质量控制及临床前研究指导原则(试行)》(国卫办科教发〔2015〕46号)的前言部分中提到, “干细胞是一类具有分化潜能, 并在非分化状态下自我更新的细胞。从来源上可分为胚胎干细胞、诱导多能干细胞、成体干细胞。成体干细胞是位于各种组织中未分化的干细胞, 这类干细胞具有有限的自我更新能力和分化潜能。成体干细胞包括自体或异体、胎儿或成人不同分化组织, 以及发育相伴随的组织(脐带、羊膜、胎盘等)来源的造血干细胞、间充质干细胞、各种类型的祖细胞或前体细胞等。”

上述《指导原则》中提到“羊膜”(amnion)组织应该含有干细胞。目前已知羊膜组织含有两种干细胞: 羊膜上皮细胞(amniotic epithelial cells, hAECs)和羊膜间充质细胞(amniotic mesenchymal cells, hAMSCs)。hAECs主要以单层敷着在羊膜表面上皮层, 面向羊水, 容易分离和培养; hAMSCs是埋在羊膜基质内固化, 故而分离较困难, 而且细胞数量只有hAECs的1/4~1/6。hAECs是由胚胎第8天上胚层(epiblast)发育而来, 先于胚胎三个胚层(外、中和内三个胚层)形成, 故而仍然保留胚胎干细胞主要特征的分子标志物(例如OCT-4、SOX-2、NANOG、SSEA-3、SSEA-4等)<sup>[1]</sup>(表1)。由于hAECs缺乏端粒酶, 在体内外都不会形成畸胎瘤, 所以在临床上移植是安全的; 若要将它用电穿孔技术转入一个SOX-2基因, 培养7天之后就会形成iPS克隆球, 转移培养就会形成畸胎瘤<sup>[2]</sup>。hAMSCs由胚外中胚层发育而来, 在发育上晚于hAECs, 故而在分化潜能方面相对较弱<sup>[3-4]</sup>。

国内外的很多科研团队对hAECs开展了基础研究以及针对多种适应症的临床前研究, 并有多项临床研究证明了hAECs的应用的安全性。从目前发表的SCI研究论文数量、研究深度和广度来看, hAECs占有巨大优势。

## 2 科学研究

### 2.1 hAECs的干细胞特征

人羊膜上皮来源于多能性上胚层细胞。在胚胎发育5~6天后, 处于囊胚期的胚胎开始着床(也称植入)于子宫, 完成于第11~12天。着床开始后, 胚泡的内细胞团分化成上胚层(epiblast)和下胚层(hypoblast)。胚胎发育到第8天, 上胚层内出现小腔(羊膜囊或称羊膜腔)。腔的背面称为羊膜上皮层, 由羊膜上皮细胞(hAECs)组成, 底部为上胚层。胚胎发育20天后, 羊膜上皮层与胚外中胚层部分融合形成胚带(脐带的雏形), 同时形成羊膜的基底层结缔组织(包含hAMSCs); 上胚层分化出原条, 由此引出胚胎三个胚层(外、中、内三个胚层)分化; 下胚层形成卵黄囊供应胚胎早期发育的营养。由于hAECs由上胚层发育而来(人的胚胎干细胞保持上皮层细胞特性), 故而保留了胚胎干细胞表面标记TRA1-60、TRA1-81、SSEA-3和SSEA-4, 以及转录因子OCT-4、SOX-2和NANOG, 这些干细胞标记物一直保留到足月分娩的羊膜上皮细胞中。

2005年, 美国匹兹堡大学的Miki等<sup>[1]</sup>发表论文, 描述hAECs的干细胞特性。从健康产妇剖腹产后废弃的胎盘羊膜分离培养出的hAECs, 在细胞膜上仍然保存胚胎干细胞样主要分子标志物。hAECs膜上表达SSEA-3、SSEA-4、TRA1-60和TRA1-81, 但不表达SSEA-1(图1A), 因为这个标志物是啮齿类胚胎干细胞表达特征。此外, hAECs也表达干细胞因子表面受体c-kit和Thy-1。除了端粒酶不表达之外, hAECs几乎表达所有胚胎干细胞的主要表面标志物。hAECs表达OCT-4、SOX-2和NANOG, 这三个基因表达是维持胚胎干细胞自我更新和多能性的必要条件。之后又有不同的研究团队证实了hAECs具有多能干细胞的特征<sup>[8]</sup>(表1)。在体外培养的诱导条件下, hAECs可以分化为内胚层(胰腺、肝)细胞、外胚层(神经)细胞和中胚层(心肌)细胞等<sup>[20]</sup>(表2)。

Bryzek等<sup>[5]</sup>进一步研究了这些干细胞表面标记的共表达, 发现只有约4%的细胞共表达SSEA-4、TRA 1-60和TRA 1-81抗原。这些数据表明, 足月羊

表1 证明hAECs具有多能干细胞的特征及其体外分化谱系的研究(根据参考文献[8]修改)

Table 1 Studies that demonstrate pluripotent stem cell characteristics of hAECs (modified from reference [8])

| 第一作者<br>First author          | 期刊<br>Journal             | 年份<br>Year | Pluripotent stem cell markers<br>多能干细胞标记 |                                     | 谱系<br>Lineage       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                               |                           |            | Transcription factors<br>转录因子            | 细胞表面抗原<br>Cell surface antigens     |                     |
| Miki <sup>[1]</sup>           | <i>Stem Cells</i>         | 2005       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | SSEA3, SSEA4, TRA 1-60,<br>TRA 1-81 | Ect, Mes, End       |
| Ilancheran <sup>[9]</sup>     | <i>Biol Reprod</i>        | 2007       | OCT4, SOX2, NANOG                        | SSEA4, GCTM2                        | Ect, Mes, End       |
| Liu <sup>[10]</sup>           | <i>Shock</i>              | 2008       | OCT4                                     | n.d.                                | Ect                 |
| Evron <sup>[11]</sup>         | <i>Int J Stem Cells</i>   | 2011       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | SSEA3, SSEA4, TRA 1-60              | Mes (Myo)           |
| Zhou <sup>[12]</sup>          | <i>Cell Reprogram</i>     | 2013       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | n.d.                                | Mes (Adi, Ost), Ect |
| Bryzek <sup>[5]</sup>         | <i>Ginek Pol</i>          | 2013       | n.d.                                     | SSEA3, SSEA4, TRA 1-60,<br>TRA 1-81 | n.d.                |
| Resca <sup>[13]</sup>         | <i>Placenta</i>           | 2015       | OCT4                                     | SSEA4, TRA 1-81                     | Ect, Mes, End       |
| Garcia-Castro <sup>[14]</sup> | <i>PLoS One</i>           | 2015       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | SSEA3, SSEA4, TRA 1-60              | Ect                 |
| Jiang <sup>[15]</sup>         | <i>J Dermatol Sci</i>     | 2016       | OCT4                                     | SSEA4                               | n.d.                |
| Kim <sup>[16]</sup>           | <i>PLoS One</i>           | 2016       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | n.d.                                | n.d.                |
| Ding <sup>[17]</sup>          | <i>Stem Cell Res Ther</i> | 2017       | OCT4, NANOG                              | SSEA4, TRA 1-81                     | n.d.                |
| Maymo <sup>[18]</sup>         | <i>PLoS One</i>           | 2018       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX2                        | SSEA4                               | End (Hep)           |
| Zou <sup>[19]</sup>           | <i>Int J Mol Med</i>      | 2018       | OCT4, NANOG, SOX3                        | n.d.                                | End (Panc)          |

Adi: 脂肪形成细胞; Ect: 外胚层细胞; End: 内胚层细胞; Hep: 肝细胞; Mes: 中胚层细胞; Myo: 肌形成细胞; n.d.: 未检测; Ost: 骨细胞; Panc: 胰腺细胞。  
Adi: adipogenic; Ect: Ectoderm lineage; End: endoderm lineage; Hep: hepatic; Mes: mesoderm lineage; Myo: myogenic; n.d.: not determined; Ost: osteo- cytic; Panc: pancreatic.

表2 羊膜上皮细胞向不同胚层分化的细胞类型(根据参考文献[20]修改)

Table 2 Differentiation potential of AECs (modified from reference [20])

| 第一作者<br>First author         | 期刊<br>Journal                       | 年份<br>Year | 谱系<br>Lineage | 细胞类型<br>Cell type       | 属种<br>Species |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Sakuragawa <sup>[21]</sup>   | <i>Neurosci Lett</i>                | 1996       | Ectoderm      | Neural progenitor cell  | Human         |
| Kakishita <sup>[22-23]</sup> | <i>Exp Neurol, Brain Res</i>        | 2000, 2003 |               | Dopamine-producing cell | Human         |
| Miki <sup>[1]</sup>          | <i>Stem Cells</i>                   | 2005       |               | Neural cell             | Human         |
| Ishii <sup>[24]</sup>        | <i>Neurosci Lett</i>                | 1999       |               | Oligodendrocyte         | Human         |
| Niknejad <sup>[25]</sup>     | <i>Eur Cell Mater</i>               | 2010       |               | Neural cell             | Human         |
| Woodbury <sup>[26]</sup>     | <i>Mol Reprod Dev</i>               | 2006       |               | Neural cell             | Human         |
| Okawa <sup>[27]</sup>        | <i>Neuroreport</i>                  | 2001       |               | Neuronal                | Rat           |
| Marcus <sup>[28]</sup>       | <i>Differentiation</i>              | 2008       |               | Neural                  | Rat           |
| Ilancheran <sup>[9]</sup>    | <i>Biol Reprod</i>                  | 2007       | Mesoderm      | Adipogenic              | Human         |
| Ilancheran <sup>[9]</sup>    | <i>Biol Reprod</i>                  | 2007       |               | Chondrogenic            | Human         |
| Stadler <sup>[29]</sup>      | <i>Cytotherapy</i>                  | 2008       |               | Osteogenic              | Human         |
| Miki <sup>[1]</sup>          | <i>Stem Cells</i>                   | 2005       |               | Cardiomyogenic          | Human         |
| Miki <sup>[1,30]</sup>       | <i>Stem Cells, Methods Mol Biol</i> | 2005, 2009 | Endoderm      | Hepatic                 | Human         |
| Sakuragawa <sup>[31]</sup>   | <i>J Hum Genet</i>                  | 2000       |               | Hepatic                 | Human         |
| Takashima <sup>[32]</sup>    | <i>Cell Struct Funct</i>            | 2004       |               | Hepatic                 | Human         |
| Manuelpillai <sup>[33]</sup> | <i>Cell Transplant</i>              | 2010       |               | Hepatic                 | Human         |
| Nakajima <sup>[34]</sup>     | <i>Cell Transplant</i>              | 2001       |               | Hepatic                 | Rat           |
| Takahashi <sup>[35]</sup>    | <i>Cell Transplant</i>              | 2002       |               | Hepatic                 | Rat           |
| Marcus <sup>[28]</sup>       | <i>Differentiation</i>              | 2008       |               | Hepatic                 | Rat           |
| Miki <sup>[1]</sup>          | <i>Stem Cells</i>                   | 2005       |               | Insulin-producing cell  | Human         |
| Wei <sup>[36]</sup>          | <i>Cell Transplant</i>              | 2003       |               | Insulin-producing cell  | Human         |
| Hou <sup>[37]</sup>          | <i>Acta Biochim Biophys Sin</i>     | 2008       |               | Insulin-producing cell  | Human         |
| Szukiewicz <sup>[38]</sup>   | <i>Inflamm Res</i>                  | 2010       |               | Insulin-producing cell  | Human         |
| Moritoki <sup>[39]</sup>     | <i>Hepatol Res</i>                  | 2007       |               | Bile duct               | Mouse         |
| Moodley <sup>[40]</sup>      | <i>Am J Respir Crit Care Med</i>    | 2010       |               | Pneumocyte              | Human         |

表3 证明hAECs的间充质干细胞特征的研究(根据参考文献[8]修改)

Table 3 Studies that demonstrate mesenchymal stem cell characteristics of hAECs (modified from reference [8])

| 第一作者                          | 期刊                               | 年份   | 细胞表面抗原                | 谱系                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| First author                  | Journal                          | Year | Cell surface antigens | Lineage            |
| Portmann-Lanz <sup>[41]</sup> | <i>Am J Obstet Gynecol</i>       | 2006 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Ost, Cho, Adi, Myo |
| Wolbank <sup>[42]</sup>       | <i>Tissue Eng</i>                | 2007 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Ost, Adi           |
| Stadler <sup>[43]</sup>       | <i>Cytotherapy</i>               | 2008 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Ost, Adi           |
| Diaz-Prado <sup>[44]</sup>    | <i>J Cell Biochem</i>            | 2010 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Ost, Cho, Adi      |
| Pratama <sup>[45]</sup>       | <i>PLoS One</i>                  | 2011 | CD90, CD105           | Ost, Cho           |
| Koike <sup>[12]</sup>         | <i>Cell Reprogram</i>            | 2014 | CD73                  | n.d.               |
| Tabatabaei <sup>[46]</sup>    | <i>Avicenna J Med Biotechnol</i> | 2014 | CD73, CD105           | n.d.               |
| Yu <sup>[47]</sup>            | <i>Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci</i> | 2015 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Skin               |
| Roy <sup>[48]</sup>           | <i>Cell Transplant</i>           | 2015 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Myo                |
| Topoluk <sup>[49]</sup>       | <i>Am J Sports Med</i>           | 2017 | CD73, CD90, CD105     | Ost, Cho           |

Cho: 软骨形成; n.d.: 未检测。

Cho: chondrogenic; n.d.: not determined.

膜上皮含有具有不同程度干性的hAECs, 这并不奇怪, 因为多能上胚层在羊膜腔形成期间开始分化成羊膜细胞。随着hAECs扩增, 一些细胞会失去干性。然而, hAECs的干性表达与羊膜来源(顺产还是剖宫产以及胎儿周年)、处理方法(从胎盘上剥离的新鲜程度和纯度, 保存和运输的合适条件, 以及制备方法和培养技术的合理性等)密切相关。我们研究团队<sup>[6]</sup>使用无血清培养, SSEA-4表达平均水平达到79.6%; Miki实验室<sup>[7]</sup>使用单一密度分离技术SSEA-4表达水平为97%。

hAECs还表现出间充质干细胞(MSC)样表型(表3)。通常, 判定MSC的最低标准是: 三项中胚层谱系分化潜能(成骨、脂肪形成和软骨形成), CD90、CD105和CD73的细胞表面标记表达, 以及细胞表面标志缺乏CD45、CD34、CD14、CD79和HLA-DR。有趣的是, hAECs完全符合所有这些标准。因此, 可以预期, hAECs具有MSC的临床相似干细胞修复功效, 以及具有免疫豁免和免疫调节的相似能力。

2.2 hAECs的免疫学特征

胎盘的作用之一是在整个妊娠期间保护胎儿免受母体免疫识别和排斥, 包括hAECs在内的许多种胎盘细胞都表现出免疫豁免。Akle等<sup>[50]</sup>报道, 当移植到志愿者的皮肤下时, 免疫型不匹配的人羊膜不会引发宿主免疫反应。据推测, hAECs的低免疫原性是因为缺乏HLA-A、-B、-C和β2微球蛋白以及HLA-DR的细胞表面抗原表达<sup>[51]</sup>。尽管许多研究证明, hAECs的表面有HLA-A、-B和-C抗原的表达, 但水平显著低于其他胎盘细胞和体细胞<sup>[52]</sup>。

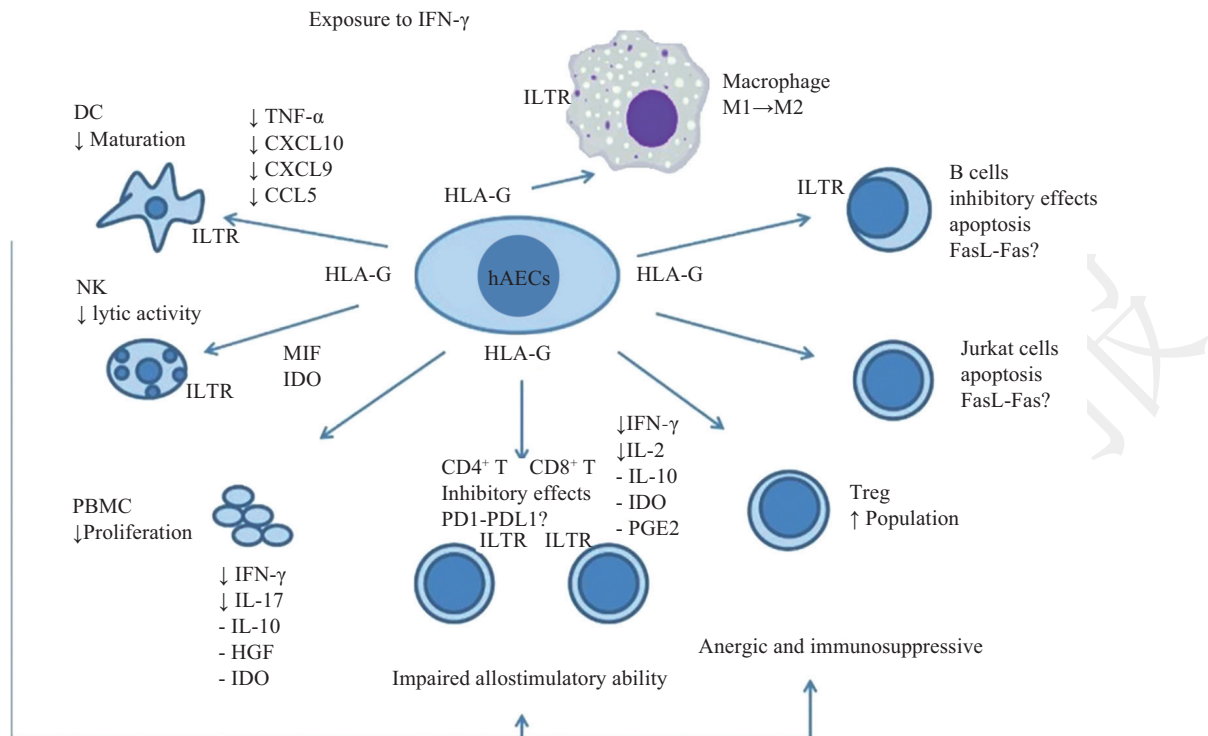
新的研究发现, hAECs不表达胸腺依赖性淋巴细胞(T淋巴细胞)共刺激分子B7-1、B7-2以及D40、CD40L, 同时细胞表面表达引发免疫细胞耐受的配体FAS-L、PD-L1和PD-L2, 以及特异性表达HLA-G、HLA-E两种非经典HLA抗原, 从而可以阻遏母体T、B淋巴细胞和自然杀伤细胞的识别和激活<sup>[53]</sup>。尤其在γ-干扰素(interferon-γ, IFN-γ)刺激下, hAECs表达PD-L1、PD-L2和HLA-G明显上升<sup>[54]</sup>。

研究证明, hAECs分泌多种可溶性免疫调节因子, 如巨噬细胞迁移抑制因子(migration inhibitory factor, MIF)、TGF-β、IL-10、前列腺素E2、肝细胞生长因子等, 从而抑制中性粒细胞、DC细胞、NK细胞和巨噬细胞的活性并阻止它们的趋化迁移, 促进巨噬细胞从M1表型转变为M2型, 调节固有免疫抑制和耐受; 抑制T和B淋巴细胞的增殖活化, 对已经活化的T、B淋巴细胞引发凋亡, 同时能上调T调节细胞(regulatory T cells, Treg)水平, 加强适应性免疫的调节和耐受作用<sup>[55-57]</sup>。图1归纳了hAECs暴露于IFN-γ, 促进HLA-G表达所引发的免疫应答反应<sup>[53]</sup>。

3 hAECs的临床前研究

hAECs的分化潜能使其可作为细胞替代疗法的种子细胞。在临床前已开展了多方面的研究, 主要包括以下几个领域: 溶酶体贮积症、神经损伤及退行性疾病、自体免疫性疾病、肺和肝的纤维化疾病、提高造血干细胞移植存活以及在组织工程方面的应用等。眼科、皮肤重建等已经进入临床研究阶段。





DC: 树突状细胞; FasL: Fas配体; HGF: 肝生长因子; HLA-G: 人白细胞抗原G; IDO: 吲哚胺-2,3-双加氧酶; Jurkat cells: 人急性T细胞白血病细胞系e6.1; MIF: 迁移抑制因子; NK: 天然杀伤细胞; PD1: 程序性细胞死亡受体1; PDL1: 程序性细胞死亡受体配体1; PGE2: 前列腺素e-2; PBMC: 外周血单核细胞; TGF-β: 转化生长因子-β; TNF-α: 肿瘤坏死因子-α; Treg: T调节细胞; ILTR: Ig样受体。

DC: dendritic cell; FasL: Fas ligand; HGF: hepatic growth factor; HLA-G: human leukocyte antigen G; IDO: indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase; Jurkat cells: human acute lymphoblastic T cell leukemia, clone e6.1; MIF: migration inhibitory factor; NK: natural killer; PD1: programmed cell death receptor 1; PDL1: programmed cell death receptor ligand 1; PGE2: prostaglandin e-2; PBMC: peripheral blood mononucleated cell; TGF-β: transforming growth factor-beta; TNF-α: tumor necrosis factor-α; Treg: regulatory T cells; ILTR: immunoglobulin-like transcript receptor.

图1 hAECs与免疫系统内各种细胞的免疫应答示意图(根据参考文献[53]修改)

Fig.1 Proposed mechanisms of the *in vitro* interaction of hAECs with different cells of the immune system (modified from reference [53])

### 3.1 溶酶体贮积症

因为羊膜组织无免疫原性,且能够产生溶酶体水解酶(lysosomal hydrolases)<sup>[51]</sup>,科研人员曾经尝试移植羊膜上皮(amniotic epithelium)治疗溶酶体贮积症(lysosomal storage diseases, LSD)。LSD是一组遗传性代谢疾病。由于基因突变致溶酶体水解酶缺陷,生物大分子不能正常降解而在溶酶体中贮积,引起细胞组织器官功能的障碍。Tylki-Szymanska等<sup>[58]</sup>报告,6名患者接受手术腹腔植入羊膜上皮后,3例角膜混浊消失,1例血清β-半乳糖激酶活性上升。之后,研究人员对羊膜植入方法进行了改进。

尼曼-匹克氏病(Niemann-Pick disease, NPD),又称鞘磷脂沉积病(sphingomyelin lipidosis),属先天性糖脂代谢性疾病。Scaggiante等<sup>[59-60]</sup>和Bembi等<sup>[61]</sup>从羊膜酶消化获得hAECs,在患者的胸部双侧皮下注射。随访观察到患者的鞘磷脂酶活性显著上升,肝脾肿大症

状明显消退,患者营养吸收障碍改善,体重明显增加等积极的现象,没有发生移植物抗宿主疾病。

### 3.2 神经修复

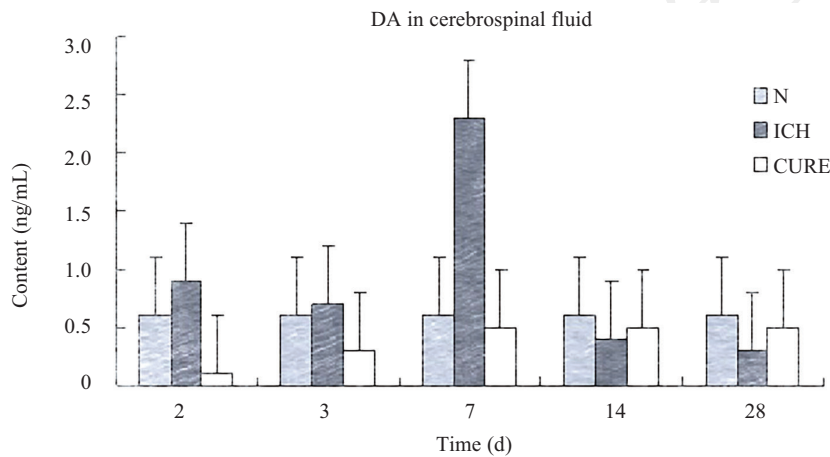
hAECs来源于上胚层,具有向各个胚层衍生而来的各种组织多种细胞定向分化的潜能,尤其是神经组织的各种细胞,因为新鲜分离的hAECs就表达神经干细胞的主要标志及沿着神经纤维迁移的功能<sup>[62]</sup>。hAECs还可以合成和释放Ach、DA、CA、NE等神经递质,表达D1、D2、DAT等神经受体和转运体,合成、释放NGF、BDNF、NT3等神经因子,以及EGF、KGF、HGF、bFGF、TGF、IGF等多种生长因子。诸多研究团队近10余年来对hAECs治疗中枢神经系统损伤和神经退行性疾病进行全方位的研究。与其他干细胞(包括胚胎干细胞等)相比,hAECs治疗中枢神经损伤有着明显的优势,具体见文献[63]和表4。

表4 hAECs在中枢神经损伤治疗中与其他干细胞相比的优点(根据参考文献[63]修改)

Table 4 Benefits of hAECs and other stem cells in treatment of CNS injury (modified from reference [63])

| 优点<br>Benefits                              | 胚胎干细胞<br>ESCs | 骨髓干细胞<br>BMSCs | iPS细胞<br>iPSCs | 神经干细胞<br>NSCs | 人羊膜上皮细胞<br>hAECs |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Readily available                           | ×             | √              | √              | √             | √                |
| Do not require invasive extraction          | √             | ×              | √              | ×             | √                |
| Pluripotent properties                      | √             | ×              | √              | ×             | √                |
| Differentiate into functional neural tissue | √             | ×              | √              | √             | √                |
| Non-immunogenic                             | ×             | √ <sup>a</sup> | ×              | ×             | √                |
| Immunomodulatory properties                 | √             | √              | √              | √             | √                |
| Non-tumorigenic                             | ×             | √              | ×              | ×             | √                |

a: 仅自体移植。  
a: autologous transplantation only.



N: 正常对照组(无脑出血); ICH: 出血实验组(无细胞治疗); CURE: hAECs治疗ICH组。  
N: normal (no ICH); ICH: ICH without treatment; CURE: ICH treatment with hAECs.

图2 hAECs对大鼠脑出血引发多巴胺释放的抑制作用

Fig.2 hAECs inhibit ICH induced DA release in rats

在中枢神经损伤疾病治疗的临床前研究, 我们已作过文献综述<sup>[64]</sup>。在此论文中提到: 通过给脑出血(intracerebral hemorrhage, ICH)大鼠的侧脑室注射人羊膜细胞, 对脑出血后脑脊液内多巴胺浓度升高具有强烈抑制作用, 表明这种治疗很有临床价值。在脑损伤的急性初期, 脑内会分泌大量多巴胺, 从而引起兴奋性神经递质谷氨酸大量释放, 与N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体结合, 激发大量钙流入, 促进自由基生成, 引发神经兴奋毒, 造成神经细胞伤害和调亡, 进一步扩大损伤区域。这种现象不仅为脑出血所特有, 脑缺血、脑缺氧、创伤性脑损伤、低血糖等都会引发神经兴奋毒, 尽管脑损伤诱因不同, 但它们都存在同样的损伤机制。及早控制多巴胺水平升高, 应是治疗脑损伤早期共同采取的手段。

出血后期会造成多巴胺能神经元的严重损伤和精神忧郁, 故而脑损伤早期采取措施抑制中枢神经大量分泌多巴胺(DA)显得很有必要。从图2中可以看出, 大鼠脑出血初期用hAECs侧脑室注射, 可以明显抑制脑脊液多巴胺水平的升高。出血28天后, 非细胞治疗组(ICH)的多巴胺分泌远低于无脑出血的正常对照组(N), 而治疗组(CURE)接近正常对照组(N), 高于出血的非治疗组(ICH)<sup>[64]</sup>。

中风是世界上缺血性心脏病之后的第二大死因。脑中风也称脑卒中或脑血管意外, 是一种脑血管突发性的血流循环障碍性疾病。可分成缺血性、出血性和混合性(同时存在缺血和出血)。病因很多, 例如高血压、血栓、血管瘤、血管梗塞、心脏病等。不管何种病因引起, 都会造成短期急性神经元死亡

和长期神经元调亡,从而引起脑功能障碍和肢体瘫痪,而这些疾病目前还没有有效的药物治疗。人们正在期待干细胞的治疗。

我们实验室用hAECs移植到脑缺血大鼠脑内,能够明显改善大鼠行为和运动,而且也能缩小脑梗死面积。若羊膜细胞再转入GDNF,治疗效果更为稳定和明显<sup>[65]</sup>。后来,我们用人羊膜上皮细胞直接注射到侧脑室,避开对脑实质的二次损伤,治疗能够也能够达到同样效果。Okawa及其同事<sup>[27]</sup>最早用人羊膜上皮细胞治疗成年沙鼠脑缺血,观测到羊膜上皮细胞迁移到海马CA1锥体层,存活下来,并转化成神经元样细胞和神经干细胞。当中风发生后急性施用时,hAECs治疗可控制脑部免疫细胞(嗜中性粒细胞、单核细胞/巨噬细胞、B细胞和T细胞)和M1极化巨噬细胞的数量。而在永久性脑缺血发生后,hAECs的施用可减少脑浸润性T细胞的数量。早期施用hAECs可隔离炎症,避免中风后的继发性脑损伤;后期施用hAECs调节免疫应答仍将有利于整体恢复。验证性研究中,hAECs可有效控制非人类灵长类动物的中风后梗塞发展<sup>[66]</sup>。此外,hAECs静脉给药,不仅证明有效,同时也能避免脑部给药的技术限制和可能造成的二次损伤。

脊髓损伤产生神经细胞进程性死亡,轴突退化和多种运动、感觉和自主神经功能丧失。印度科学家Sankar等<sup>[67]</sup>的实验室将戴帽猴脊髓切断后移植了hAECs,可以看到移植的细胞整合到脊髓,能够长期生存,并能阻止疤痕形成。我们的研究团队和苏州大学第一附属医院合作用恒河猴作了上述同样实验,不仅能证实上述现象,而且恒河猴的后肢运动能力完全能够恢复<sup>[68]</sup>。我们与无锡第三人民医院合作,在苏州大学第一附属医院神经外科专家惠国桢教授的指导下,于2007年3月16日用hAECs对一位C5-C7高位截瘫100天后的65岁老人进行治疗,一个月后他能够自主控制大小便,四肢感觉及运动功能已有恢复,能独立翻身、坐立,在搀扶帮助下可站立,治疗40天后就出院了。从这一病例可以看出:人羊膜上皮细胞对单纯性的脊髓损伤治疗有明显的效果<sup>[64]</sup>。

hAECs在中枢神经退行性疾病临床前的研究方面我们在以前已做过文献综述评论<sup>[69]</sup>。下面仅就帕金森病(Parkinson's disease, PD)作部分阐述。PD又名震颤麻痹,是一种常见的中老年人神经系统退行性变病,主要病变区域发生在大脑黑质和纹状体,

造成大量多巴胺能神经元调亡。Niknejad等<sup>[70]</sup>研究证明,新鲜分离的hAECs不仅表达中脑神经元的标志物,而且很容易在体外分化成多巴胺能神经元。Kakishita等<sup>[22]</sup>研究证明,hAECs能够表达酪氨酸羟化酶,并分化成多巴胺能神经元。将LacZ标记的hAECs移植到多巴胺耗尽的PD模型大鼠的纹状体中,并植入至少10个月。阿扑吗啡诱导的旋转行为测试表明,hAECs移植改善了PD动物的行为。我们研究团队<sup>[71-72]</sup>直接将未分化的hAECs注射到大鼠侧脑室在对帕金森疾病的病理组织和行为改善上也有明显的作用。

### 3.3 自体免疫性疾病

自体免疫性疾病是一类人体自身免疫系统攻击自体正常细胞的疾病。患者的免疫系统可能会产生对自身正常细胞及组织的异常过度反应或组织伤害,进而造成疾病。目前缺少有效的治疗方法,hAECs具有免疫调节特性,能为自体免疫性疾病的治疗提供解决方法。

**3.3.1 糖尿病** 1型糖尿病是一种自体免疫性疾病,因免疫系统攻击胰岛细胞、损伤其产生胰岛素功能所致,而胰岛素主要是下调血糖及维持血糖在正常水平的激素。Wei等<sup>[36]</sup>在体外研究中,用烟酰胺处理诱导hAECs成为分泌胰岛素的细胞。体内研究中,脾脏植入hAECs可以使链脲佐菌素(STZ)诱导的糖尿病小鼠的血糖恢复正常。我们实验室Hou等<sup>[37]</sup>将hAECs逐步诱导分化为胰岛素生成细胞( $\beta$ 细胞),分化后的细胞表达多种胰腺 $\beta$ 细胞基因,包括胰岛素(*insulin*)、*GCK*(glucokinase)、*Glut-2*(glucose transporter-2)、*Isl-1*(Islet 1)、*Nkx-2.2*(NK2 transcription factor-related locus 2)和*Pax-6*(paired box gene 6)。分化的细胞能在体外响应其他细胞外因子和药物的刺激,以量效关系释放胰岛素和C-肽。将这些细胞( $2 \times 10^6 \sim 3 \times 10^6$ )植入STZ诱发的糖尿病小鼠左侧肾包膜内,高血糖症状明显获得改善,实验观测30天临床治疗效果维持不变,小鼠体重持续增加。

Qureshi等<sup>[73]</sup>研究发现,hAECs能够调节胰岛细胞移植过程中T细胞的免疫耐受,防止移植物受到免疫攻击。许多1型糖尿病疗法希望通过抑制人体的免疫反应达到治疗目的,但这类疗法通常会导致严重副作用的产生,增加患者感染或患癌的风险。hAECs辅助胰岛细胞移植的方法利用患者自身的调



节性T细胞水平上升,减轻宿主免疫系统对移植的胰岛细胞排斥,同时不损害宿主免疫系统的抗病能力。

研究人员在糖尿病小鼠的全层切除皮肤溃疡伤口内注射hAECs,发现hAECs通过旁分泌作用来调节炎症和促进新血管形成,促进糖尿病伤口愈合和肉芽组织形成<sup>[74]</sup>。

**3.3.2 多发性硬化** 多发性硬化(multiple sclerosis, MS)是以中枢神经系统白质炎性脱髓鞘病变为主要特点的自身免疫病。为了探索hAECs治疗MS,我们制作了实验性变应性脑脊髓炎(experimental allergic encephalomyelitis, EAE)动物模型,这是国际上通用的动物MS病理模型。它是用疫苗(MOG)免疫小鼠,造成中枢神经脱髓鞘。一般在免疫20天后,动物已经表现出明显的MS病理症状。此时,对病理模型动物进行hAECs侧脑室和尾静脉注射,观察两种不同给药方式对动物的行为和组织学变化的影响。两种给药途径治疗效果基本相同,说明hAECs移植对MS动物行为学和异常病理组织学形态都有明显的缓解和改善<sup>[69]</sup>。Liu等<sup>[75]</sup>对MS病变小鼠给予hAECs尾静脉注射治疗,发现治疗组小鼠中枢神经内的T淋巴细胞和巨噬细胞浸润程度较对照组明显减轻,hAECs释放TGF- $\beta$ 和PGE-2抑制免疫细胞的侵入。hAECs不仅可以缓解MS的病程进展,对激素治疗后复发也有治疗效果<sup>[76]</sup>。McDonald的研究团队<sup>[77-78]</sup>也获得了类似的研究结果,在hAECs处理的小鼠中,T细胞应答和促炎细胞因子IL-17的产生减少,并且这与外周T调节细胞和幼稚CD4<sup>+</sup> T细胞的数量显著增加相结合。此外,观察到外周淋巴器官和CNS内Th2细胞比例增加。

Khan等<sup>[79]</sup>采集羊膜细胞的外泌体ST266,内含多种抗炎细胞因子和生长因子。给MS模型小鼠鼻内施用ST266,发现其积聚在眼睛和视神经中,减轻视觉功能障碍,并防止实验性视神经炎中的视网膜神经节细胞损失,减少炎症和脱髓鞘。

**3.3.3 其他** 风湿性关节炎(rheumatoid arthritis, RA)是一种常见的自身免疫病,特征是慢性关节炎症。早在1990年,Sackier等提交了羊膜细胞特别是上皮细胞用于治疗包括RA在内的关节疾病的专利申请并授权(US 5612028 A)。Parolini等<sup>[80]</sup>用胶原诱导方法建立的小鼠RA模型,分别用酶消化分离hAECs和hAMSCs,混合培养扩增,研究发现羊膜细胞减弱RA患者外周血中胶原酶引起的外周血单核

细胞的增殖反应,降低患者造成软骨损伤的滑膜细胞的炎症应答。RA小鼠模型研究发现,羊膜细胞通过Th1/Th17介导的自体免疫和炎症应答两条路径,降低RA发病率,减轻症状,防止关节损伤。有报告显示,单独用hAMCs显著改善了RA大鼠关节炎的严重程度,降低组织病理学变化<sup>[81]</sup>。

葡萄膜炎(experimental autoimmune uveitis, EAU)是临床上常见的一种免疫相关性炎性疾病,可引起严重的并发症和后遗症,是主要的致盲原因之一。余路阳研究团队<sup>[82]</sup>对此疾病开展了hAECs临床前的研究。首先,用感光细胞视磷酸结合蛋白皮下注射大鼠,构建实验动物EAU病理模型。在建模后第0天和第6天通过视网膜下腔注射hAECs,两种给药方法都可以改善EAU的病理进程,并保留视网膜正常的组织结构和厚度,特别是在第0天接受视网膜下腔注射的预防组。此外,hAECs能抑制巨噬细胞和T细胞的视网膜浸润。在机理方面,hAECs通过下调T辅助17细胞(T helper cells 17, Th17)和上调Treg来调节T细胞亚群的平衡,这一点也被EAU大鼠脾脏和淋巴结中降低白细胞介素-17(interleukin-17, IL-17)和升高IL-10的水平所证实。此外,hAECs通过抑制单核细胞趋化蛋白-1、IL-17和IFN- $\gamma$ 水平,提高房水(aqueous humor)中IL-10水平,改善EAU大鼠的局部细胞因子环境。

余路阳研究团队<sup>[83]</sup>也开展hAECs治疗桥本甲状腺炎(Hashimoto's thyroiditis, HT)和系统性红斑狼疮(systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE)的临床前研究。HT是一种自身免疫攻击导致甲状腺功能低下的免疫性疾病。SLE是临床上常见的一种累及多系统、多器官的自身免疫性疾病,对皮肤、关节、肾脏、心血管、消化系统等系统都有影响。将hAECs通过静脉注射到实验性HT和SLE小鼠模型中,证明了在HT和SLE小鼠中静脉注射hAECs可防止甲状腺淋巴细胞浸润,改善甲状腺滤泡损伤,改善小鼠的细胞因子环境,同时也可抑制小鼠SLE的发展。

### 3.4 组织纤维化

纤维化是指由于炎症导致器官实质细胞发生坏死,组织内成纤维细胞异常活跃,细胞外基质增多和过度沉积的病理过程,可发生于多种器官,主要病理改变为器官组织内纤维结缔组织增多,实质细胞减少,持续进展可致器官结构破坏和功能减退,乃至衰竭。



hAECs或其培养上清液及外泌体处理的肝、肺纤维化动物模型,能够明显减轻纤维化的严重程度,减少嗜中性粒细胞浸润,抑制病灶区域炎症反应,减少干细胞的调亡<sup>[84-85]</sup>。研究人员将hAECs或其条件培养基移植到治疗化疗诱导的卵巢损伤小鼠,发现治疗后的卵巢中有健康和成熟的卵泡,而未治疗的卵巢中发现了严重的纤维化和许多闭锁卵泡。人细胞因子阵列分析显示, hAECs条件培养基中有109种细胞因子,参与多种生物过程,包括细胞调亡、血管生成、细胞周期和免疫应答<sup>[86]</sup>。

### 3.5 肿瘤

肿瘤的发生、发展,与免疫监视及清除功能密切相关,免疫失调导致癌症的发生及其发展。肿瘤细胞的特点是:与细胞增殖有关的基因被开启或激活,而与细胞分化有关的基因被关闭或抑制,从而使肿瘤细胞表现为不受机体控制的无限增殖状态。因此, hAECs对患有肿瘤的患者进行移植是否安全就会显得尤为重要。

研究发现, hAECs或其培养上清液能抑制肿瘤细胞增殖,诱导肿瘤细胞调亡,包括宫颈癌HeLa细胞、乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞、人肝癌HepG2细胞、小鼠黑色素瘤B16F10细胞、人胰腺癌PANC-1细胞和大鼠胶质瘤C6细胞等<sup>[87-89]</sup>。

将hAECs移植到患有MDA-MB-231乳腺癌的动物体内,能显著缩小肿瘤体积,与对照组使用的5-fluorouracil(5-FU)效果相当,且hAECs的抗肿瘤效果没有任何副作用<sup>[90]</sup>。将hAECs移植到患有CT26细胞结肠癌的小鼠体内,发现hAECs能导致全身和脾脏细胞毒性T细胞的扩增,并诱导针对肿瘤细胞的交叉保护细胞毒性反应。移植hAECs后的大鼠能产生对肿瘤特异性的Th1应答,并且会产生抗肿瘤细胞表面标志物的交叉反应抗体,肿瘤负荷也会显著降低。进一步研究发现, hAECs无法抑制4T1乳腺癌细胞的生长,但抑制了黑色素瘤细胞生长,显著提高小鼠的存活率<sup>[91]</sup>。将hAECs移植到卵巢癌SK-OV-3动物模型后,研究结果表明, hAEC分泌因子和rhTGF- $\beta$ 1可降低肿瘤细胞的增殖,诱导癌细胞G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub>期细胞周期停滞,可部分逆转过量TGF- $\beta$ 1抗体<sup>[92]</sup>。

将羊膜或hAECs条件培养基与肿瘤细胞共同培养,两者都会明显促进肿瘤细胞表达caspase-3和caspase-8,引发肿瘤细胞调亡。使用主动脉环测试,两者都能抗血管生长,但在羊膜去掉hAECs之后,就

会失去这一功能。这项研究证明, hAECs具有促进肿瘤细胞调亡和抗血管生成功能<sup>[88]</sup>。

## 4 hAECs的临床研究

在20世纪80年代,人羊膜和分离的hAECs被移植到志愿者和溶酶体贮积症患者中,求证这些组织或细胞移植的临床安全性。这些临床研究报告都表明临床移植是安全的,没有任何不利影响,包括不会形成肿瘤<sup>[50,93]</sup>。hAECs移植到免疫能力正常或免疫缺陷小鼠,在2年的观察期内,未见动物体内形成任何类型肿瘤,证实hAECs移植不会致癌<sup>[1]</sup>。这些研究结果后来也被其他独立研究团队证实<sup>[9]</sup>。hAECs的总体DNA甲基化状态介于人胚胎干细胞和人成纤维细胞之间,比起成纤维细胞更容易转化为iPS细胞<sup>[94]</sup>。这些数据表明, hAECs具有很强干性,但与人胚胎干细胞相比,它们又具有遗传稳定性,这表明, hAECs是应用于临床细胞疗法的最安全的干细胞来源之一。近年来, hAECs无血清培养体系纷纷建立完善,进一步为临床研究和应用提供了安全保障<sup>[6-7,95]</sup>(表5)。

2006年,有报告(NCT00344708)描述了hAECs移植治疗3例持续性角膜上皮缺损(persistent corneal epithelial defect, PED)患者的预后。所有患者均观察到PED完全消退,所有病例均保持临床改善,平均随访6.3个月<sup>[96]</sup>。2017年的一份报告(NCT02649621)描述了羊膜提取物滴眼液(amniotic membrane extract eye drop, AMEED)辅助自体角膜缘干细胞移植的治疗效果。AMEED的使用促进了角膜上皮愈合,术后2~3月患者的结膜组织和血管迅速修复,而常规治疗组一直维持上皮缺损状态<sup>[97]</sup>。

2017年的一项临床研究报告(NCT02389777)证明,羊膜细胞外泌体ST266可减少紫外线照射引起的皮肤损伤的急性效应。此外, ST266可减少红斑,增加XPA(complementation group A)DNA修复蛋白,减少受损的DNA<sup>[98]</sup>。

澳大利亚莫纳什大学的研究团队<sup>[99]</sup>在多项hAECs治疗肺发育不良的临床前研究的基础上,进行首次人体I期临床试验(ACTRN12614000174684),并于2018年报告了初步结果。6名患有严重肺发育不良的早产儿从静脉给予hAECs,除了在第1个婴儿的细胞给药期间发生短暂的心肺不稳定情况,2年的随访确认他经历这次急性事件后再也没有发生任何

表5 hAECs的临床试验\*  
Table 5 Clinicaltrials of hAECs\*

| 登记号<br>Identifier   | 标题<br>Title                                                                                                                        | 适应症<br>Indication            | 招募人数<br>Enrolment | 地点<br>Location |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| NCT00344708         | Transplantation of tissue cultured human amniotic epithelial cells onto damaged ocular surfaces                                    | Corneal epithelial dystrophy | 20                | USA            |
| NCT02649621         | The improvement of limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD) in unilateral stem cell damage by amniotic membrane extract eye drop (AMEED) | LSCD                         | 10                | Iran           |
| NCT02389777         | Amnion-derived cellular cytokine solution in UV-induced inflammation (ACCS)                                                        | Skin burns                   | 15                | USA            |
| ACTRN12614000174684 | Amnion cells for the treatment of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in premature babies                                                   | Bronchopulmonary dysplasia   | 6                 | Australia      |
| ACTRN12618000920291 | Human amnion epithelial cells for prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in Preterm Infants: A safety study                      | Bronchopulmonary dysplasia   | 24                | Australia      |

\*数据来自美国NIH ClinicalTrial和澳大利亚新西兰临床研究注册(ACTRN)网站。

\*Data from NIH clinicaltrial and Australian New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry websites.

其他不良后果。同种异体hAECs给药非常安全, 耐受良好, 并且受试者的呼吸功能有不同程度的改善。该团队近期又开展了新的多中心剂量递增试验(ACTRN12618000920291), 招募24例受试者评估静脉注射hAECs治疗早产儿肺发育不良的安全性和有效性<sup>[100]</sup>。

不久的将来, 评估hAECs安全性和有效性的临床试验应获得各国药监机构批准, 并且必须以最高的科学和伦理标准进行。

## 5 总结

胎盘是生命体第一个器官, 在整个妊娠期间通过从母体血液中提供氧气和营养, 消除胎儿废物, 保持稳定的发育环境。重要的是, 胎膜在母亲和发育中的胎儿之间起免疫屏障的作用, 同时保护胎儿免受宫内的致病病原体的感染和侵害。hAECs具有干细胞样可塑性和促进这些功能的双免疫调节特性。

hAECs用于细胞治疗具有许多额外的优点。首先, 胎盘包括羊膜通常在分娩后作为医疗废物丢弃, 在没有任何额外侵入性程序的情况下很容易获得, 成本低, 并且没有其他干细胞来源的伦理问题。其次, 可从一个人胎盘中获得约2亿个人羊膜上皮细胞。因此, 可以制备足够数量的细胞用于临床应用而无需扩增。第三, 具有免疫抑制和调节作用, 遏制免疫排斥和炎症反应, 故而异体移植无需免疫配型, 在炎症条件下也可进行移植。第四, 具有分化的多能性(由移植微环境决定分化方向和细胞类型), 无需体外分化, 可以直接进行体内移植。第五, 能分泌

多种细胞因子和生长营养因子, 通过旁分泌诱发宿主自身干细胞的修复。第六, hAECs是新生儿细胞, 没有与年龄或环境相关的DNA损伤。第七, 也是最重要的, hAECs是一种安全的干细胞(缺乏端粒酶), 具有遗传稳定性, 在长期移植到免疫缺陷小鼠后也不会形成肿瘤。以上这些优点, 突出hAECs在临床上的应用价值。

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