

miRNAs作为血管稳态重要调节因子参与动脉瘤发生

崔妍 孔鹏 韩梅*

(河北医科大学基础医学院, 生物化学与分子生物学教研室, 河北省医学生物技术重点实验室, 石家庄 050017)

摘要 动脉瘤是指直径达到正常毗邻动脉段1.5倍以上的不对称动脉扩张。目前临床处理仍以手术为主, 尚无其他有效的治疗方法。miRNAs是一类长度约为22个核苷酸的单链非编码RNA, 通常结合靶基因mRNA的3'非翻译区(UTR), 在转录后水平调控基因的表达。研究发现, miRNAs参与动脉瘤形成及发展过程。该文综述了miRNAs参与动脉瘤的研究进展。

关键词 miRNAs; 动脉瘤; 血管内皮细胞; 血管平滑肌细胞; 细胞外基质

MiRNAs Are Involved in the Occurrence of Aneurysm as an Important Regulator of Vascular Homeostasis

Cui Yan, Kong Peng, Han Mei*

(Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Basic Medicine, Hebei Medical University; Key Laboratory of Medical Biotechnology of Hebei Province, Shijiazhuang 050017, China)

Abstract Aneurysms are asymmetrical dilations of the aorta with diameters>1.5 of times the normal size. Currently, the only available treatment of aneurysms is surgical intervention. MiRNAs are a class of single-stranded, non-coding RNAs with a length of approximately 22 nucleotides that usually bind to the 3'untranslated region (UTR) of the target gene mRNA and regulate gene expression at the post-transcriptional level. Previous researches have shown that miRNAs are involved in the process of aneurysm formation and development. This review summarizes the currently available data regarding the involvement of miRNAs in aneurysms.

Keywords miRNAs; aneurysms; vascular endothelial cells; vascular smooth muscle cells; extracellular matrix

动脉瘤指动脉发生永久性局限性扩张, 并且直径达到正常毗邻动脉段1.5倍以上^[1]。从发病部位来看, 动脉瘤最常见于肾下腹主动脉, 也偶发于胸主动脉。动脉瘤的发生受吸烟、动脉粥样硬化、高血压、高血脂等多因素影响, 其病理特征主要包括: 主动脉中膜发生退行性病变、内皮细胞(endothelial cells, ECs)功能障碍、慢性炎症细胞浸润、平滑肌细胞表型改变(早期)和凋亡(晚期)、细胞外基质降解和弹力蛋白断裂^[2-3]。目前研究认为, 动脉瘤的发

生与血管平滑肌细胞(vascular smooth muscle cells, VSMCs)表型转化导致的收缩异常、细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)稳态破坏和转化生长因子-β(transforming growth factor-β, TGF-β)信号途径受损相关^[4-5]。

非编码RNA(non-coding RNAs)指一类不翻译形成蛋白质的功能性RNA, 根据其功能可分为三类: 基因表达调控(miRNAs、piRNAs、lncRNAs)、RNA成熟(snRNAs、snoRNAs)和蛋白质合成(rRNAs、

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*通讯作者。Tel: 0311-86265557, E-mail: hanmei@hebmu.edu.cn

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*Corresponding author. Tel: +86-311-86265557, E-mail: hanmei@hebmu.edu.cn

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tRNAs)^[6]。其中miRNAs是功能研究较为透彻的一类非编码RNA。成熟miRNAs是长度约为22个核苷酸的内源性单链小分子RNA,通常结合靶基因mRNA的3'非翻译区(UTR),在转录后水平调控基因的表达。研究表明,miRNAs参与动脉瘤的形成以及发展过程,且腹主动脉瘤(abdominal aortic aneurysms, AAAs)和胸主动脉瘤(thoracic aortic aneurysms, TAAs)组织中存在其独特的miRNAs分子标志物。本文主要综述了血管稳态重要调节因子miRNAs在动脉瘤发生过程中的调控作用。

1 动脉瘤发病机制及相关miRNAs的表达

研究显示,动脉瘤的患病率随年龄增加,男性发病率明显高于女性,而女性患者动脉瘤扩张破裂的几率高于男性。动脉瘤病理因素多样,据统计分析动脉瘤的发生与家族遗传史相关,且通常属于常染色体遗传性疾病^[7-8]。Fang等^[9]调查提出动脉瘤发病的危险相关因素包括动脉粥样硬化、高血压、糖尿病和血脂异常。Futchko等^[10]分析认为,吸烟导致动脉瘤发生及复发风险显著增加,而Kihara等^[11]调查发现被动吸烟与主动脉夹层或动脉瘤死亡率增加有关。动脉瘤发病机制复杂,其形成涉及细胞相关机制、炎症介质和细胞外基质降解等的复杂相互作用,主要包括以下几个方面:

1.1 内皮损伤

动脉瘤与血流动力学引起的血管壁重塑和血管壁炎症相关,不同类型的血流动力学引起不同的组织学改变,提示血流动力学可能通过多种机制参与动脉瘤的形成。高流量条件引起的内皮损伤是血流动力学导致动脉瘤血管壁炎症的机制之一,与内皮损伤相关的高流量条件包括较高的血管壁剪应力、湍度、黏滞耗散和剪切速率;低流量引起的血管壁重塑包括非炎症反应导致的VSMCs凋亡和血管壁退化。此外,机械应力的增加也可导致内皮损伤和VSMCs凋亡^[12]。Zheng等^[13]研究发现,多种病理刺激可上调VSMCs中的锌指转录因子Krüppel样因子5(krüppel-like factor 5, KLF5),KLF5的过表达导致人主动脉VSMCs中miR-155表达增加,miR-155通过外泌体的介导从VSMCs转移到ECs后,能够抑制细胞膜上紧密连接蛋白(tight junctions, TJs)的表达,从而抑制ECs的增殖和迁移,损伤内皮屏障功能。ECs表达的热休克蛋白家族A成员12B(heat shock protein

family A member 12B, HSPA12B)对内皮损伤具有保护作用,Zhang等^[14]研究表明,miR-4505靶向下调HSPA12B,过表达miR-4505后ECs渗透性增加、迁移能力降低,从而加重内皮损伤。

1.2 炎症

炎症是动脉瘤发病机制的关键因素,血管壁巨噬细胞的浸润和活化引起慢性炎症,继而产生促炎细胞因子和基质金属蛋白酶,导致动脉壁细胞成分降解,动脉壁弹性破坏并变薄,从而形成动脉瘤。Liu等^[15]研究发现,一个新的Rho GTP酶ARHGAP18蛋白与动脉瘤负相关,ARHGAP18敲除鼠基础状态下体内炎性因子表达增高,其在AngII诱导后胸主动脉瘤的发生率显著增高。另外,炎症信号通路相关因子IKKε的过度表达也与动脉瘤的发生发展相关^[16]。Nakao等^[17]证实,miR-33缺失可通过多种抗炎途径减轻炎症,从而抑制腹主动脉瘤的形成。miR-33缺失后其靶点ATP结合盒转运子A增加,导致巨噬细胞c-Jun N末端激酶失活和VSMCs中p38丝裂原活化蛋白激酶失活,进而分别导致基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9)和单核细胞趋化蛋白-1(monocyte chemoattractant protein 1, MCP-1)的表达水平降低,产生抗炎效应。此外,抑制miR-33后还能上调AMPKα1,从而抑制巨噬细胞的炎性表型。Zhang等^[18]研究发现,动脉瘤VSMCs中miR-448-3p表达下调,其直接靶点KLF5显著增加;过表达miR-448-3p能够抑制KLF5介导的巨噬细胞足突体形成,从而抑制巨噬细胞浸润介导的炎症反应,显著降低炎症因子MCP-1、肿瘤坏死因子-α(tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α)和白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6, IL-6)的表达水平,产生抗炎作用来抑制动脉瘤的发生。miR-448-3p还能通过直接靶向肌细胞增强因子2C(myocyte enhancer factor 2C, MEF2C)的mRNA来促进VSMCs的增殖和迁移,已知VSMCs表型调控是动脉瘤的发病机制之一。

1.3 氧化应激

活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)产生过多可引起血管ECs功能障碍、VSMCs凋亡、单核细胞黏附浸润形成巨噬细胞,进而介导炎症反应,导致疾病的发生^[19]。ROS参与上调miR-140-5p,过表达的miR-104-5p介导其下游靶点核因子E2相关因子2(nuclear factor erythroid-2-related factor 2, Nrf2)表达增加,靶向调节Nrf2/ARE[抗氧化反应元件(anti-

oxidant response element, ARE)]信号通路, 从而增加细胞在氧化应激中的抗氧化能力^[20]。

1.4 基质降解和基质金属蛋白酶的激活

Chan等^[21]发现, MMP-9的激活依赖于低密度脂蛋白受体相关蛋白1(low-density-lipoprotein receptor-related protein 1, LRP1), 而miR-205可以靶向降低LRP-1的表达从而抑制腹部动脉瘤的发生。Sachdeva等^[22]研究表明, 敲低Notch1蛋白可以下调结缔组织生长因子(connective tissue growth factor, CTGF)的表达, 从而维持血管平滑肌收缩表型和细胞外基质稳定, 抑制动脉瘤的发生。Zhang^[23]和Uhrin^[24]等实验证实, 细胞外基质蛋白CCN3缺失造成体内血管扩张、血管炎症、活性氧的过度生成, 从而促进AngII诱导的动脉瘤发生。

1.5 自噬

自噬是一种自降解溶酶体介导的过程, 在维持细胞体内平衡中起着重要作用, 研究表明, 自噬在VSMCs表型和生存能力的调控中起着关键作用。Sun等^[25]研究发现, 动脉瘤尤其是破裂患者的自噬水平明显增强, 自噬标志物自噬微管相关蛋白1轻链3(microtubule-associated protein 1 light chain 3, LC3)、酵母ATG6同源物(Beclin-1)、自噬相关蛋白ATG5和ATG14的水平显著升高, 其机制是下调的miR-29b增强了其功能靶基因ATG14介导的自噬作用, 诱导VSMCs表型调控, 导致VSMCs从收缩型向合成型转变, 其特征是ECM和促炎细胞因子的增殖、迁移、合成和分泌增强, 导致细胞壁不断变性, 抗拉强度增加。

2 miRNAs参与血管细胞稳态及功能的调节

从现有研究来看, 虽然动脉瘤发病机制众多, 病理因素复杂, 且不同病理因素之间常常交互影响, 但血管稳态的改变往往是动脉瘤发生的早期事件。位于血管内膜的血管内皮细胞和中膜的血管平滑肌细胞是血管的重要组成部分。VSMCs对维持主动脉的结构和功能具有重要作用。当环境条件变化时, VSMCs可以发生表型转化, 由收缩型VSMCs转变为合成型。

VSMCs表现出显著的增殖和迁移活性, 合成大量细胞外基质。血管ECs是维持血管生理功能平衡的关键。ECs能最先感知血液中的刺激, 如血流剪切力等, 影响VSMCs进而影响血管的生理状态。在病理条件下, ECs发生损伤和功能失调, 导致VSMCs

表型转化、增殖及凋亡, 进而引发多种心血管疾病。因此, 血管细胞稳态对于正常血管功能的维持至关重要。

2.1 miRNAs参与内皮功能紊乱

为探究腹主动脉瘤形成过程中miRNAs对内皮细胞的作用, Kim等^[26]利用AngII构建小鼠腹主动脉瘤模型, 通过miRNAs基因芯片技术证实, miR-712/205在主动脉内膜的ECs中增加, 增加的miR-712靶向下调MMPs的关键抑制分子基质金属蛋白酶组织抑制因子-3(tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases-3, TIMP-3)和基序逆向诱导半胱氨酸丰富蛋白(reversion inducing cysteine rich protein with kazal motifs, RECK), 从而激活主动脉壁中的MMPs, 促进腹主动脉瘤的发展。此外, miR-712/205还影响循环中单核细胞的黏附性, 提示miRNAs对动脉瘤的调控可能涉及多种发生机制。在腹主动脉瘤患者的血清中miR-29c显著增加, 其靶标是参与细胞外基质合成并维持其完整性的相关基因, 包括弹性蛋白(elastin, ELN)、4型胶原蛋白α1(collagen type 4 alpha 1, COL4α1)、磷酸酶及张力蛋白同源基因(phosphatase and tensin homolog, PTEN)、血管内皮生长因子A(vascular endothelial growth factor A, VEGFA)等^[27]。

Biros等^[28]发现, miR-155在腹主动脉瘤患者的血清和活检组织中明显增加, miR-155通过下调细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关蛋白4(cytotoxic T lymphocyte associated protein 4, CTLA4), 从而增强T细胞发育, 促进慢性炎症。miR-155还可以调节TGF-β信号通路, 抑制SMAD2(mothers against decapentaplegic homolog 2)介导的信号转导, 进而阻止蛋白质合成, 促进腹主动脉瘤发生。Di等^[29-30]证实miR-181b靶向下调TIMP-3的表达, 从而增强巨噬细胞的浸润和增殖能力, 促进动脉瘤的进展。与上述miRNAs相反, miR-223被证实是抑制炎症信号通路、增强抗炎反应的新型因子, 在腹主动脉瘤病变组织中负向调节炎症因子MCP-1和TNF-α的表达^[31-33]。此外, miR-103a通过下调人解整合素样金属蛋白酶(disintegrin-like and metalloproteinase 10, ADAM10), 抑制主动脉壁内的炎症, 从而阻止腹主动脉瘤的形成和发展, 被认为是“抗动脉瘤”的miRNAs^[34]。miR-23b-24-27b家族在腹主动脉瘤中表达减少, 其通过调节巨噬细胞中的核因子-κB(nuclear factor-kappa B, NF-κB)通路参与

炎症反应^[35]。其中miR-24在腹主动脉瘤中的下调促进动脉瘤的生长^[36], 体外实验证实miR-24能够显著下调其靶标炎症介质壳多糖酶3样蛋白1(chitinase-3-like protein 1, CHI3L1), 进而调节平滑肌细胞的增殖和迁移^[37]。越来越多的证据表明, miR-24-CHI3L1的相互作用对主动脉壁细胞有广泛影响, 包括调节巨噬细胞的存活、促进细胞因子的合成、促进平滑肌细胞迁移、刺激血管内皮细胞中黏附分子的表达等。过表达miR-24可显著下调CHI3L1, 降低免疫应答和细胞因子活性, 抑制腹主动脉瘤的发展。相反, 抑制miR-24的表达可加重炎症程度、促进凋亡相关反应, 加速腹主动脉瘤的发展。此外, 在巨噬细胞中的研究还发现, miR-24可诱导M2巨噬细胞分化和抗炎因子分泌、抑制M1巨噬细胞分化和炎症因子产生, 但这些作用可以被CHI3L1蛋白和MAPK通路激活所逆转^[38]。

Pua等^[39]证实, miR-24和miR-27可作为Th2细胞因子产物的调控因子, 抑制细胞炎性反应。miR-24可能参与了动脉瘤发展过程中的巨噬细胞浸润过程, 其靶向作用于SMAD4, 后者是白细胞介素1受体相关激酶-M(interleukin-1 receptor-associated kinase-M, IRAK-M)和脂加工分子B类1型清道夫受体(scavenger receptor class B member 1, SR-B1)的表达所必需的。miR-24增加和IRAK-M减少可使淋巴细胞抗原6复合体C(lymphocyte antigen 6 complex locus C, Ly6C)、趋化因子受体5(chemokine receptor 5, CCR5)和MCP-1增加, 同时使SR-B1降低, 其结果是单核细胞转变为非可控性炎症状态, 单核细胞内稳态被破坏, 从而促进动脉粥样硬化的恶化^[40]。

2.2 miRNAs参与血管平滑肌细胞稳态调节

Leeper等^[41]证实, miR-26可调节VSMCs表型转化, 其靶向作用于TGF-β信号通路的成员SMAD1和SMAD4。在腹主动脉瘤中miR-26a的表达下调, 其下调使VSMCs的增殖和迁移减少, 而H₂O₂诱导的细胞凋亡显著增加。Liu等^[42]发现, miR-221/222在VSMCs和ECs中高表达, 其靶分子为参与细胞分化、增殖、迁移和凋亡的p27Kip1、p57Kip2和干细胞受体(c-Kit)。由于p27、p57和c-Kit在VSMCs和ECs中的表达存在差异, 其结果是miR-221/222促进VSMCs的增殖和迁移、抑制其凋亡, 但对ECs的作用恰好相反。此外, Davis等^[43]发现, miR-221通过

下调p27和c-Kit的表达, 抑制了血小板源生长因子(platelet-derived growth factor, PDGF)诱导的细胞增殖。miR-21在腹主动脉瘤平滑肌细胞(smooth muscle cells, SMCs)中的表达显著增加, 其靶向作用于PTEN基因、B细胞淋巴瘤2基因(B-cell lymphoma 2, BCL2)和程序性细胞死亡因子4(programmed cell death 4, PDCD4)等, 进而参与VSMCs的生物学调控, 维持VSMCs的动态平衡^[44]。Ji等^[45]证实, miR-21在球囊损伤后的血管壁中显著增加, 而敲低miR-21显著抑制了新生内膜形成, 提示miR-21可促进新生内膜增生。进一步研究证实, miR-21的靶标是参与VSMCs生长和凋亡的重要信号分子PTEN和BCL2。Davis等^[46]还证实了miR-21靶向作用于TGF-β和骨形态生成蛋白(bone morphogenetic protein, BMP), 进而引起VSMCs表型转化。miR-21还能下调PDCD4, 从而抑制平滑肌细胞收缩相关基因表达。这些发现一致表明, miR-21能够调控VSMCs的收缩、增殖和凋亡等生物学行为。此外, 在腹主动脉瘤的发展过程中miR-21显著下调了磷酸肌肽3激酶途径的关键负调节物PTEN, 过表达miR-21使PTEN表达减少、主动脉壁SMCs增殖增加和凋亡减少, 进而限制了腹主动脉瘤的发生。而抑制miR-21后, 下调的PTEN的促增殖作用被减弱, 导致腹主动脉瘤显著增大。Wang等^[47]使用anti-miR-21洗脱支架抑制miR-21后, VSMCs增殖能力降低, 但血管再内皮化并未受到影响, 支架内再狭窄得到明显改善。因此, 球囊或支架传递miRNAs有望成为治疗动脉瘤的一个选择。

miR-143/145在VSMCs中高度表达, 是VSMCs表型转化和血管疾病发病机制中研究最多的miRNAs之一。miR-145能促进VSMCs分化并抑制其增殖。Elia等^[48]发现, 人类动脉瘤中miR-143/145减少, 使VSMCs不完全分化, 从而导致主动脉内结构改变。最新研究表明, miR-143/145在TAAs中下调, 使TAAs患者血清中的AngII升高, 进而影响了p38/MAPK信号通路激活所介导的VSMCs聚集过程^[49]。另一项研究发现, 过表达miR-145能够减少弹性蛋白的降解、下调MMP2的表达和其在体内的激活, 抑制腹主动脉瘤的发生^[50]。

2.3 内皮细胞与血管平滑肌细胞相互作用

血管内皮细胞和平滑肌细胞的交流不仅对血管的发育至关重要, 而且对成熟血管的稳态也至关

重要, 密切的ECs-VSMCs相互作用可能决定病变条件下血管内稳态的结果。ECs和VSMCs存在多种相互作用的模式来调节血管功能和维持体内平衡, 大多数研究认为, 内皮功能障碍对VSMCs的作用是降低NO生物利用度或增加内皮释放的血管活性收缩因子。ECs-VSMCs直接接触的相互作用包括两种方式: 一种是ECs表达Jagged-1可与邻近VSMCs上的NOTCH-3相互作用, 激活NOTCH信号通路, 促进VSMCs中更多的NOTCH-3表达; 另一种依赖接触的相互作用涉及到肝配蛋白受体酪氨酸激酶(ephrin receptor tyrosinekinases, Eph), 肝配蛋白配体通过糖基磷脂酰异醇锚肝配蛋白A(ephrin A)或一个跨膜结构域肝配蛋白B(ephrin B)连接到细胞膜上, 从而激活Eph。来自ECs和VSMCs的Eph-B4和ephrin-B2相互作用是血管生长所必需的。此外, ECs介导的VSMCs超极化也是ECs-VSMCs对话的一种模式, 如内皮型一氧化氮合酶(endothelial nitric oxide synthase, eNOS)来源的NO能够诱导VSMCs超极化, 其电流传播迅速, 导致血管扩张。

细胞外囊泡(extracellular vesicles, EVs)是磷脂双层封闭的膜囊, 能够调节细胞间通讯。EVs包括外泌体、微粒和凋亡体, 它们携带生物分子, 如蛋白质、DNA、mRNA和miRNA。在涉及内皮损伤或功能障碍的各种疾病中ECs的EVs水平都会升高。miRNA作为EVs重要组成物之一, 是血管细胞间通讯的主要调节因子。ECs可以直接分泌miR-126进入VSMCs进而促使VSMCs增殖, 从而增加VSMCs的转化率。此外, ECs来源的miR-143/145也可通过EVs转移到VSMCs。依赖于Wnt信号的ECs-VSMCs相互作用还不太为人所知, 研究发现, 典型Wnt/ β -catenin通路通过泛素连接酶E3即 β -Trcp1介导Wnt通路和NF- κ B信号通路之间的联系, 从而调节VSMCs的增殖和生存^[51]。

ECs和VSMCs是血管中主要的细胞类型, 二者及其相互作用在血管功能和稳态的维持中不可或缺, ECs-VSMCs之间的通讯主要包括Jagged-NOTCH、Eph/ephrin、NO、EVs、Wnt和ECM等, 异常调节的ECs-VSMCs相互作用会导致血管疾病。

2.4 miRNAs调控细胞外基质降解

除了VSMCs和ECs, 细胞外基质失调也与动脉瘤的发生发展有较为密切的关系。miR-15家族成员中, miR-195在AngII灌注的ApoE缺失小鼠主动脉和人类主动脉中明显增加, 其可以和一些细胞外基

质转录因子直接结合。Zampetaki等^[52]证实, miR-195异常调节细胞外基质从而导致腹主动脉瘤形成。miR-195靶向作用于细胞外基质蛋白, 包括胶原蛋白、蛋白聚糖、弹性蛋白和弹性微纤维相关蛋白。抑制miR-195后MMP-2和MMP-9增加, 主动脉壁弹性蛋白的表达水平升高。

研究已证明, 抑制miR-29可以减少不同小鼠模型中动脉瘤的形成。miR-29调控细胞外基质中多个靶蛋白的表达水平, 明显下调众多细胞外基质成分, 抑制miR-29能够改善血管壁结构和完整性。miR-29家族(miR-29a、miR-29b和miR-29c)靶向作用于编码纤维化反应的细胞外基质蛋白, 包括胶原蛋白(I、III型胶原)、纤维蛋白-1和弹性蛋白^[53-54]。用锁核酸(locked nucleic acid, LNA)修饰的反义寡核苷酸使miR-29沉默, 可诱导胶原蛋白基因亚型的表达上调, 进而抑制了主动脉的扩张^[55]。Jones等^[56]在临床胸主动脉瘤标本中发现, miR-29a和MMP-2呈显著负相关, miR-29a可能靶向下调MMP-2以调节细胞外基质的产生, 从而影响胸主动脉瘤发展。miR-29b在细胞外基质平衡和主动脉瘤发展中起关键作用, 人类胸主动脉瘤中miR-29b显示高表达, 抗miR-29b的治疗增加了胶原蛋白基因(COL1 α 1、COL2 α 1、COL3 α 1、COL5 α 1)的表达, 从而限制动脉瘤扩大。相反, 过表达miR-29b使腹主动脉瘤快速扩张, 主动脉瘤破裂率增加。研究证实, miR-29b参与了Fbn1C1039G/+ Marfan小鼠模型早期动脉瘤的发展, TGF- β 作为组织纤维化调节分子可以抑制miR-29b的表达, 进而阻止细胞凋亡和主动脉细胞外基质的缺失, 限制早期动脉瘤的发展。主动脉瘤的一个重要特征是血管壁弹力层破坏, 抑制miR-181b后这一特征消失, 其机制是抑制miR-181b后其靶标TIMP-3上调, 从而使MMPs活性降低, 促进胶原蛋白积累^[57]。研究还发现, miR-181b不仅参与胸主动脉瘤发展过程中的细胞外基质异常调节, 还能够激活巨噬细胞炎症反应。此外, miR-17被证实促进了动脉瘤发生中主动脉的扩张^[58]。miR-17在扩张的主动脉段中显著增加, 其靶向下调TIMP-1和TIMP-2, 从而使VSMCs中的MMPs活性增加, 导致细胞外基质破坏, 主动脉扩张。这些研究表明, miR-181和miR-17均通过调节TIMP-MMPs通路介导了动脉瘤形成过程中的细胞外基

质降解。

3 miRNAs在主动脉瘤检测和治疗中的应用

动脉瘤的无症状和高死亡率使其被认为是一颗定时炸弹。目前动脉瘤的临床治疗并不令人满意, 手术治疗存在着创伤大、并发症多、死亡率高的缺点。因此, 探究病变主动脉的病理生理特征和分子调节机制对预防动脉瘤的发生、延缓主动脉瘤的进展以及药物治疗等显得尤为重要。随着miRNAs领域研究逐渐完善成熟, 一些有前景的候选分子, 如miR-122、miR-21、miR-15和miR-34将在临床前期和临床实验相关研究中得到进一步深入, 从而开辟预防和治疗主动脉瘤的新途径^[59]。动脉瘤组织样品中miR-362、miR-19b-1、miR-194、miR-769、miR-21和miR-550随着炎症程度增加而显著下调, miR-33、miR-181b、miR-205、miR-712、miR-516a-5p在动脉瘤组织中表达水平升高^[60], miR-15a-3p和miR-30a-5p在动脉瘤患者血浆中的浓度升高^[61], 这些miRNAs均可能成为潜在的药物抑制或治疗动脉瘤的有效靶点。

在循环血液中, miRNAs通常被包裹在外泌体中, 并/或与保护蛋白[如AGO2(Argonaute 2)和核光敏蛋白]结合, 因此循环miRNAs非常稳定, 其检测作为心血管疾病治疗的诊断或预后工具, 或作为监测治疗效果的一组生物标志物, 尤其具有吸引力。此外, miRNAs非常敏感, 其检测需要极少的外周血, 血清中的miRNAs在室温下稳定, 并且对冻融循环具有耐受性。miRNAs表达水平的组织特异性标记已经被证明在临床预测应用的巨大潜力上与蛋白质生物标志物相当。miRNA-15a亚群-21、-29a、-124a、-143、-145、-155、-223在主动脉瘤血清中表达改变, 其中miR-21和miR-145在AAAs和TAAs中的表达较低, miR-29a、-124a、-155和-223在细胞水平也受到抑制, 而miR-21的表达较非动脉瘤对照组有所增强。此外, miR-29在AAAs发生中发挥了独特的作用。未来的生物标志物应该关注动脉瘤的大小和破裂率之间的相关性, 并将其作为动脉瘤扩张和死亡结局的可能预测因素, 同时也要表明患者在主动脉之外的部位有动脉瘤发展的倾向。这是特别有趣的, 因为目前还没有生物标志物可用于这一临床目的^[62-63]。

miRNAs独特的特性使其在药物开发方面非常

具有吸引力: miRNAs很小、有已知的序列、在物种间通常是保守的。靶向人类疾病通路的miRNAs为各种病理条件下的治疗干预提供了一种新颖的、强有力候选药物靶点。在不同疾病中许多miRNAs的表达都发生改变, 包括过表达或表达不足, 从而出现了标志性的miRNAs模式。因此操纵miRNAs的主要策略有两种, 一种是下调靶向miRNAs的表达, 另一种是重新引入miRNAs的功能来恢复功能缺失。随着技术的进步, 局部或肠外注射途径给药逐渐易行, 以及不需开发配方即可在组织中充分摄取miRNAs, 为miRNAs疗法提供了额外的优势。

现有研究数据确认了miRNAs作为一种新型药物的候选能力, 即miRNA疗法。基于反义技术, 包含内源性miRNAs互补序列的寡核苷酸即miRNAs拮抗剂正在被开发, 抗miR-21洗脱支架就证明了基于miRNAs的治疗药物局部递送应用于血管疾病的可行性。反义寡核苷酸(antisense oligonucleotide, ASO)是最常用的抗miRNAs反义寡聚物; LNA具有对靶向miRNAs较强的亲和力, 耐核酸酶, 并有较低的毒性; 肽核酸(peptide nucleic acid, PNA)是一种人工合成的肽结构聚合物, 与靶向核苷酸结合比核苷酸-核苷酸结合更紧密, 相对稳定、毒性低、可系统给药。最新可用的新策略是miRNAs海绵和miRNAs面具。miRNAs海绵下调靶miRNAs, 并拥有靶miRNAs的多个互补位点, 而miRNAs面具在靶mRNA的3'UTR有miRNAs结合位点以抑制竞争性, 减少内源性miRNAs活性^[47,64]。文中所涉及参与主动脉瘤的miRNAs的相关信息详见表1。

4 结语

尽管miRNAs在诊断和体内治疗动脉瘤方面还不十分明了, 但众多报道证实了通过药物洗脱支架或球囊局部递送miRNAs到病变主动脉部位的可行性, 这使基于miRNAs的治疗成为可能, 并且能一定程度上避免脱靶效应。从目前研究来看, miR-21、miR-24、miR-29、miR-133、miR-146、miR-205、miR-222和miR-712等均已被证实在动脉瘤发生中的调控效应, 因此miRNAs可能是今后药物开发的最佳选择。LNA技术的成熟也使基于miRNAs的治疗成为可能, 体内实验已证实LNA修饰的寡核苷酸半衰期最长可达100天。相信随着miRNAs研究和开发的不断增加, miRNAs疗法的不断探索, miRNAs将有一

表1 参与主动脉瘤的miRNAs
Table 1 MiRNAs involved in aortic aneurysms

miRNAs	类型	研究样本	细胞来源	调控	目的基因	相关功能
miRNAs	Types	Sample studied	Cellular origin	Regulation	Target genes	Related functions
miR-15a	AAAs	Human whole aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↑	CDKN2B	Promotes proliferation and decreases apoptosis of VSMCs
miR-21	AAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↑	PTEN	Promotes proliferation and decreases apoptosis of VSMCs
miR-24	AAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta and plasma, HAoSMCs, macrophage	VSMCs, macrophage	↓	CHI3L1	Inhibits vascular inflammation
miR-26a	AAAs	Mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↓	SMAD1, SMAD4	Promotes proliferation and inhibits differentiation, apoptosis of VSMCs, alters TGF-β signaling
miR-29	AAAs, TAAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	Fibroblast, VSMCs	↓	COL1a1, COL3a1, COL5a1, ELN, MMP2, MMP9	Downregulates ECM and regulates fibrosis
miR-29a	TAD	Human aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↓	MMP2, MMP9	Downregulates ECM
miR-29b	TAAAs	Fbn1(C1039G+) aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↑	ELN, MMP2	Upregulates ECM and promotes apoptosis of VSMCs
miR-29c	AAAs	Human serum, HUVEs	ECs	↑	ELN, COL4a1, PTEN, VEGFA	Regulates ECM
miR-143/ 145	TAD	Human TAD aorta, mouse aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↓	KLF4, myocardin, ELK-1, SRF	Promotes differentiation and represses proliferation of VSMCs
miR-155	AAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta, human plasma, HAoSMCs	TCs	↑ in tissue ↓ in plasma	CTLA4, SMAD2	Promotes vascular inflammation
miR-181b	AAAs, TAAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	Macrophage, VSMCs	↑	TIMP3, ELN	Downregulates ECM
miR-195	AAAs	Human and mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↑	COL1a1, COL2a1, COL3a1, FBN1, ELN, MMP2, MMP9	Regulates ECM
miR-221/ 222	AAAs	Human whole aorta, rat SMCs and ECs	VSMCs, ECs	↑	kip1, kip2, c-Kit	Pro-proliferative, pro-migration, and anti-apoptotic effects, Promote a synthetic phenotype in VSMCs
miR-223	AAAs	Human aorta and plasma, rat cerebral aneurysms	Macrophage	↑ in tissue ↓ in plasma	MMP12	Inhibits vascular inflammation
miR-516a	AAAs	HAoSMCs	VSMCs	↑	MTHFR, MMP2, TIMP1	Regulates ECM
miR-712/ 205	AAAs	Mouse whole aorta, HAoSMCs	ECs, leukocytes	↑	TIMP3, RECK	Induces inflammation, regulate ECM

AAAs: 腹主动脉瘤; TAAAs: 胸主动脉瘤; TAD: 胸主动脉夹层; HAoSMCs: 人主动脉平滑肌细胞; HUVEs: 人脐静脉内皮细胞; VSMCs: 血管平滑肌细胞; ECs: 内皮细胞; TCs: T淋巴细胞; CDKN2B: 细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶抑制剂2B; PTEN: 同源性磷酸酶-张力蛋白; CHI3L1: 壳多糖酶3样蛋白1; SMAD: SMAD家族; COL1a1: I型胶原基因; COL3a1: III型胶原基因; COL5a1: V型胶原基因; ELN: 弹力蛋白; MMPs: 基质金属蛋白酶; COL4a1: IV型胶原基因; VEGFA: 血管内皮生长因子A; KLF4: Krüppel样因子4; ELK1: ETS结构域蛋白; CTLA4: 细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关蛋白4; TIMP3: 基质金属蛋白酶组织抑制因子3; COL2a1: II型胶原基因; FBN1: 微纤维蛋白1; kip1/CDKN1B: 细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶抑制剂1B; kip2/CDKN1C: 细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶抑制剂1C; c-Kit/SCFR: 肥大/干细胞生长因子受体; MTHFR: 亚甲基四氢叶酸还原酶; RECK: 基序逆向诱导半胱氨酸丰富蛋白; TGF-β: 转化生长因子-β; ECM: 细胞外基质。

AAAs: abdominal aortic aneurysms; TAAAs: thoracic aortic aneurysms; TAD: thoracic aortic dissection; HAoSMCs: human aortic smooth muscle cells; HUVEs: human umbilical vein endothelial cells; VSMCs: vascular smooth muscle cells; ECs: endothelial cell; TCs: T lymphocytes; CDKN2B: cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 2B; PTEN: phosphatase and tensin homolog; CHI3L1: chitinase 3 like 1; SMAD: mothers against decapentaplegic homolog; COL1a1: collagen type 1 alpha 1; COL3a1: collagen type 3 alpha 1; COL5a1: collagen type 5 alpha 1; ELN: elastin; MMP: matrix metalloproteinase; COL4a1: collagen type 4 alpha 1; VEGFA: vascular endothelial growth factor A; KLF4: krüppel-like factor 4; ELK1: ETS domain-containing protein; CTLA4: cytotoxic T-lymphocyte associated protein 4; TIMP3: metalloproteinase inhibitor 3; COL2a1: collagen type 2 alpha 1; FBN1: fibrillin 1; kip1/CDKN1B: cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1B; kip2/CDKN1C: cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor 1C; c-Kit/SCFR: mast/stem cell growth factor receptor; MTHFR: methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase; RECK: reversion-inducing-cysteine-rich protein with kazal motifs; TGF-β: transforming growth factor-β; ECM: extracellular matrix.

个光明的未来，成为一种新的治疗工具。

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