

综述

Ca²⁺结合蛋白Rcn2的生理学功能

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摘要 Rcn2(Reticulocalbin2)是一种普遍存在于哺乳动物细胞中的分泌蛋白, 它不仅是细胞维持正常生理功能所必需的, 更参与了肿瘤细胞的生长侵袭, 并且与动脉粥样硬化易感基因、乳头瘤病毒结合蛋白E6、丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶40、维生素D受体等生物分子相互作用, 在动脉粥样硬化、宫颈癌、维生素D吸收异常等疾病中发挥着重要的调控作用。该文就Rcn2对人乳头瘤病毒、Taipoxin蛇毒摄入突触机制、SOC钙离子通道、EGFR-ERK信号通路、ERK-MAPK信号通路的影响及分子作用机制等方面的最新研究进行概述, 总结了Rcn2及其相互作用分子的重要功能, 为结直肠癌、肝癌、动脉粥样硬化等疾病的诊断和治疗提供重要的科学依据。

关键词 Rcn2; 蛋白相互作用; 癌症; 调控

Physiological Function of Ca²⁺ Binding Protein Rcn2

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Abstract Rcn2 (Reticulocalbin2), a secreted protein ubiquitous in mammalian cells, is not only necessary for cells to maintain normal physiological functions, but also participates in tumor cell growth, invasion, and susceptibility genes to atherosclerosis, papillomavirus binding protein E6, serine/threonine kinase 40, vitamin D receptor and other biomolecules interact in atherosclerosis, cervical cancer, vitamin D absorption abnormalities, etc. It plays an important role in disease control. This article summarizes the latest research on the effects of Rcn2 on the human papilloma virus, Taipoxin snake venom intake synapse mechanism, SOC calcium channel, EGFR-ERK signaling pathway, ERK-MAPK signaling pathway, and molecular mechanism, etc. The important functions of Rcn2 and its interacting molecules were summarized, which provided important scientific basis for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases such as colorectal cancer, liver cancer and atherosclerosis.

Keywords Rcn2; protein interaction; cancer; regulation

Rcn2是CREC蛋白家族的一员^[1], 又名ERC-55 (ER Ca²⁺-binding protein of 55 kDa)^[2]或TCBP-49(tai-

taipoxin-associated Ca²⁺-binding protein 49)^[3]或E6BP(E6-binding protein)^[4-5], 是内质网Ca²⁺结合蛋白。Rcn2基因

收稿日期: 2019-03-17 接受日期: 2019-05-23

国家自然科学基金(批准号: 81560455、81960659、81760264)、昆明理工大学2016年度引进人才科研启动基金(批准号: KKS201626026)和云南省教育厅重点实验室项目(批准号: 1405188502)资助的课题

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Received: March 17, 2019 Accepted: May 23, 2019

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No.81560455, 81960659, 81760264), 2016 Kunming University of Science and Technology Provincial Talent Training Project (Grant No.KKS201626026) and the Key Laboratory Project of Yunnan Provincial Department of Education (Grant No.1405188502)

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网络出版时间: 2019-12-11 11:10:05 URL: <http://kns.cnki.net/kcms/detail/31.2035.Q.20191211.1110.020.html>

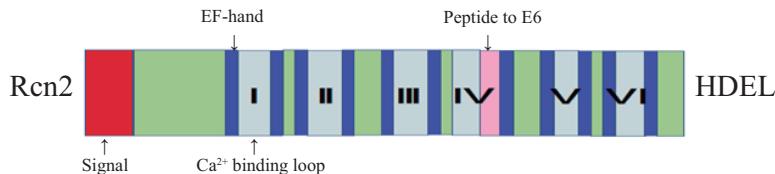


图1 Rcn2羧基末端序列图(根据参考文献[5]修改)

Fig.1 Rcn2 carboxy terminal sequence map (modified from reference [5])

为单拷贝,可转录为1 900碱基的mRNA。Rcn2蛋白严格定位于内质网^[6],主要参与哺乳动物的细胞分泌途径,并介导相关蛋白的合成^[7-8]。本文将介绍Rcn2及其相互作用分子的功能。

1 Rcn2蛋白的结构特征

Rcn2蛋白的结构包括N-端的导肽序列,然后是一段疏水氨基酸。Rcn2蛋白呈酸性,其pI值在4.1~4.7之间,由315~362个氨基酸组成,分子量为55 kDa。Rcn2的mRNA存在多个可变剪切体^[9]。结构中不含有疏水性跨膜区段,亲水性较强,并且是在合成完成后才转移到内质网中。Rcn2含有6个EF-hands结构和1个羧基末端序列HDEL(His-Asp-Glu-Leu)^[9-10](图1)。HDEL是Rcn2定位于内质网所必需的,在细胞培养中,HDEL的缺失会导致Rcn2缓慢地分泌至培养基中。通过脉冲追踪技术,可以检测到大约50% HDEL缺失突变体的分泌,而在野生型却未检测到。这也是第一个依赖HDEL存在于内质网中的内源性人源蛋白^[5]。在HDEL结构中,紫色为Ca²⁺结合环,能与细胞质中Ca²⁺螯合,维持Ca²⁺稳态,调控基因转录,细胞生长、分化、增殖、迁徙、凋亡等一系列行为。例如神经元细胞内Ca²⁺稳态的维持对于其健康至关重要,当细胞内Ca²⁺水平过度升高,会反向激活钙蛋白酶、半胱天冬酶等一系列蛋白水解酶,最终导致细胞凋亡发生^[11]。IV序列中的粉色代表黄色肽,其能介导与E6癌蛋白的结合,进而调控HPV的转化活性和介导宫颈癌细胞的增殖。

2 Rcn2与其结合分子的生物学功能

2.1 Rcn2与Ca²⁺在细胞分泌中的作用

Ca²⁺在细胞中作为第二信使,发挥着重要的作用,其参与调节了许多重要的生物学功能,包括基因表达和细胞的代谢、运动、分裂、胞吐作用、细胞信号转导。Ca²⁺主要储存于细胞的内质网,游离状态的Ca²⁺在细胞溶质中的浓度保持在毫摩尔每升水

平^[12],而内质网中游离Ca²⁺的浓度也可能维持在毫摩尔每升水平^[13]。这说明了Rcn2与Ca²⁺的亲和性不是很高,其主要功能是结合Ca²⁺,而非储存。细胞内的Ca²⁺浓度受到严格的控制,并且其作为第二信使是通过瞬时的浓度变化来调控细胞各项功能。Ca²⁺与细胞内Rcn2相结合,形成Ca²⁺/Rcn2复合物,其与不同活性位点的酶相结合,通过激活或是抑制来调节它们的活性^[14]。因此,细胞内Ca²⁺浓度的控制非常关键。Ca²⁺的调节功能参与了细胞生命的整个过程^[11]。而在过程中,Rcn2在细胞中被当作Ca²⁺的传感器,并且当内质网中未折叠的蛋白积累时,Rcn2的表达量会上调。这说明,Rcn2在蛋白折叠、合成的途径中起到了调节作用^[5]。一方面,在细胞分泌途径中,Ca²⁺对于哺乳动物的胞吐作用是不可或缺的^[15],囊泡的形成需要Ca²⁺的诱导,其中包括聚集和融合^[16]。例如神经元和神经内分泌细胞中的胞吐作用就需要Ca²⁺的参与^[17]。但是,当融合囊泡的直径超过0.1 μm后,融合便会停止。施加正向跨膜梯度后,融合过程重启。此过程需要细胞内有较高浓度的Ca²⁺维持,Rcn2识别钙信号,并且募集STIM1(stromal interaction molecule 1),使之与Orai1(calciun release-activated calcium modulator 1)形成复合物,调控SOC(store-operated channels)通道,增加细胞内Ca²⁺浓度,促进细胞分泌。反之,Rcn2在细胞分泌结束后介导关闭SOC通道,维持细胞内的钙稳态^[18]。另一方面,Ca²⁺在维持内质网的正常功能中起到了关键作用。当内质网中的Ca²⁺耗尽时,Ca²⁺-ATP酶活性收到抑制。从而导致蛋白质分选系统被破坏并且干扰分泌蛋白的折叠^[19-20],扰乱正常蛋白的分泌和表达^[21-22],进而通过SOC通道维持内质网中的Ca²⁺浓度,使之不会被耗尽,确保内质网能够正常折叠、加工分泌蛋白。

2.2 Rcn2与维生素受体D

维生素D的作用在于矿物质代谢以及维持骨骼健康,其能促进肠道对磷酸盐和钙的吸收,加速祖细胞向破骨细胞的分化,并从骨骼中回收钙并促进骨

基质矿化^[23]。维生素D缺乏症不仅限于骨相关疾病,还涉及心血管疾病、I型糖尿病、多种癌症、炎症性肠病和多发性硬化症^[24]。

维生素D受体(vitamin D receptor, VDR)是核受体超家族的成员。VDR通过1,25D的结合而激活,VDR的结构包含 α -螺旋配体结合结构域和高度保守的DNA结合结构域^[25]。VAF1是大小为37 kDa的蛋白质,cDNA显示其为139-核苷酸5'UTR、634-核苷酸3'UTR和960-核苷酸ORF。数据库检索显示,VAF1是人Rcn2的小鼠同源物^[26],具有91.8%的氨基酸同源性,与大鼠TCBP-49具有96.9%的氨基酸同源性^[9]。在使用酵母双杂交系统以及GST-VAF1和35S标记的VDR探针(GST-PD)测试后发现,Rcn2与VDR发生相互作用,并在进一步体外的相互作用实验中证实了VDR与Rcn2的特异性相互作用,不仅如此,Rcn2还在动物的钙稳态中起到维持高血钙的作用。因为Rcn2可以通过STIM1-Orai1复合物调控SOC通道,使细胞外 Ca^{2+} 内流,细胞内 Ca^{2+} 浓度增加,维持VDR的生物活性。

2.3 Rcn2与STIM1-Orai1

真核细胞中的细胞质 Ca^{2+} 浓度可以通过两种方式调节: Ca^{2+} 从细胞内钙储存中释放,或者通过各种 Ca^{2+} 通道流入细胞质。而SOC通道在维持 Ca^{2+} 浓度以及维持细胞中ER的功能完整性是至关重要的,例如蛋白质折叠,囊泡运输和细胞凋亡^[11]。STIM1被认为是钙释放活化通道的内质网 Ca^{2+} 传感器,其由膜蛋白Orai1构建。

研究表明,STIM1和Orai1对SOC通道的活性功能发挥具有至关重要的作用,且被确定为SOC通道的传感器^[27-29]。STIM1-Orai1复合物经哺乳动物细胞串联亲和纯化(tandem affinity purification, TAP)系统纯化,然后通过LC-MS/MS被鉴定为具有6个EF-hand基序结构的内质网腔蛋白。共聚焦显微镜显示,细胞内 Ca^{2+} 耗尽前后,Rcn2与STIM1均共定位于ER中。围绕STIM1簇的Rcn2的“新型衣领”形式聚集,表明Rcn2可能在STIM1聚类中起到结构维持的作用。Rcn2募集STIM1以聚集,并维持STIM1簇的结构以使STIM1能够与Orai1相互作用并调控SOC通道^[30](图2)。哺乳动物可以通过Rcn2调控SOC通道,维持细胞内的钙稳态。当细胞内 Ca^{2+} 浓度耗尽时,钙内流作用增强,这不仅可以促进人体吸收维生素D,促进人体骨骼健康,还可以促使Rcn2自身表达量维持在

激活ERK/MAPK信号通路的水平^[31]。

2.4 Rcn2与Stk40

胚胎干细胞(embryonic stem cell, ESC)的自我更新和分化是由细胞内转录因子和细胞外因子激活的信号传导途径控制。而ERK/MAPK途径对于ESC分化十分重要。丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶40(Stk40)能够激活ERK/MAPK途径并诱导小鼠ESC中的胚外内胚层(ExEn)分化。其能够激活ERK/MAPK途径并诱导小鼠ESC中的胚外内胚层分化。在胚泡中,过表达Stk40的细胞对嵌合胚胎的ExEn有促进作用,相反,ESC中缺失Stk40则显著降低了体外ExEn分化^[32]。

在作用机制上,Rcn2蛋白特异地存在于早期小鼠胚胎ExEn中的细胞质中,与此同时,在体外使用细菌表达的GST-Rcn2、His-Stk40的GST pull-down测定和免疫共沉淀技术共同验证Stk40与Rcn2直接相互作用,并且Rcn2也能激活ERK1/2以诱导小鼠中的ESC分化为ExEn。更重要的是,敲低Rcn2会阻断Stk40激活的ERK1/2通路和ESC分化^[32]。

有趣的是,虽然Stk40和Rcn2在ESC中过表达时都能激活ERK1/2并诱导ESC分化,但是只有Stk40能够激活Ras(图2)。这表明,Stk40能比Rcn2更有效地诱导ESC分化。敲低Rcn2足以阻断Stk40诱导的ERK1/2活化和ESC分化,表明Rcn2在Stk40下游通路中起作用。尽管Stk40和Rcn2刺激ERK1/2的确切机制仍然未知,但是进一步的研究将极大地促进我们在分子水平上对早期胚胎发生理解。

2.5 Rcn2与Taipoxin

Taipoxin是已知的最致命的蛇毒毒素之一,Taipoxin与蛇毒脂素AZ物种具有序列同源性和活性相关性^[33-34],是一种阻断突触小泡再循环的突触前作用神经毒素,能引起弛缓性麻痹,而且通过阻断神经肌肉传递而不影响肌肉对乙酰胆碱的敏感性^[35-36]。Taipoxin经色谱分离得到了大量的蛋白质,经纯化并鉴定,证实该蛋白质的结构与Rcn2具有同源性,将其命名为TCBP-49。Rcn2能与Taipoxin发生特异性结合,其相互作用介导了毒性的发挥,具体方式是将Taipoxin吸收到含有Rcn2的内腔区后激活,从而改变寡聚糖结构的完整性、磷脂酶活性以及Taipoxin活性^[9]。

2.6 Rcn2与神经元五聚蛋白家族

神经元五聚蛋白1(neuropentin 1, NP1)、神经元五聚蛋白酶2(neuropentin 2, NP2)和神经元五聚蛋白

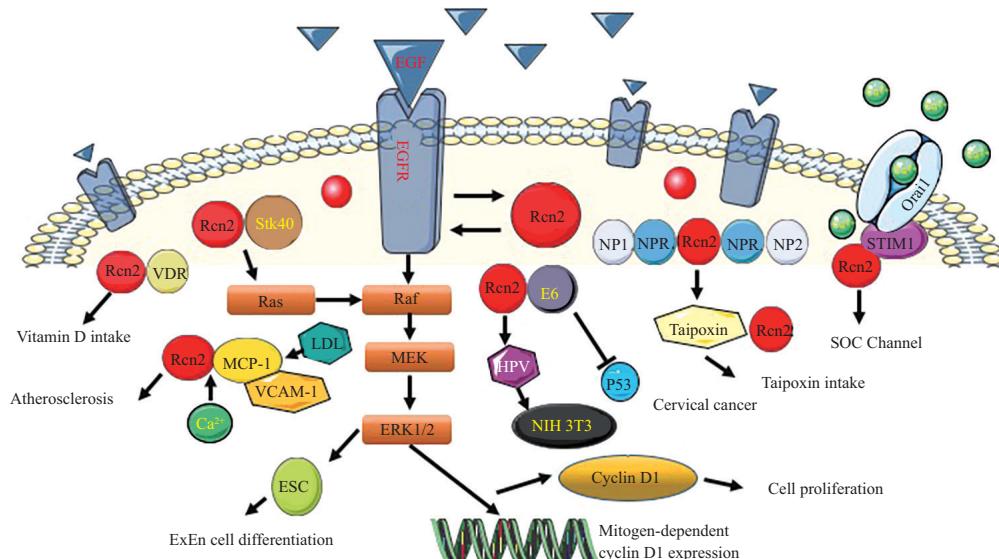


图2 Rcn2参与信号通路
Fig.2 Rcn2 participates in the signal pathway

受体(neuropentin receptor, NPR)是通过与Taipoxin相互作用而鉴定的新蛋白家族的成员^[37]。研究人员通过Taipoxin亲和柱的富集证明,这些蛋白质能与Rcn2同源的TCBP-49相互作用^[38]。NPR在细胞膜上表达并且本身不结合Rcn2,但它可以与NP1和NP2形成异戊二烯,并从细胞膜释放。NP1-NPR和NP2-NPR异多聚体通过它们的NP1或NP2亚基结合TCBP49。NPR、NP1、NP2和TCBP49参与负责将Taipoxin转运到突触中,并且同时表明了突触碎片清除的一种新型神经元摄取途径(图2),在Taipoxin的毒性机制中起作用。就算在没有Taipoxin的情况下,Rcn2与这些神经元五聚蛋白的相互作用表明,Rcn2、NP1、NP2和NPR是共同参与途径的组分。它们对Taipoxin柱的共富集表明,该途径是造成Taipoxin毒性的原因,同时也提供了Taipoxin介入突触的机制。

3 Rcn2在人类疾病中的作用

3.1 Rcn2与肝细胞癌

肝细胞癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)是世界上发病率最高的癌症之一^[39]。由于缺乏有效的治疗方法和疾病进展的快速,HCC患者的治愈率低、死亡率高^[40]。研究证实,Rcn2参与调节ERK通路的激活和小鼠胚胎干细胞的胚外内胚层分化^[32]。Rcn2在动脉粥样硬化小鼠模型中被鉴定为细胞因子表达的新型调节因子^[41]。数据分析表明,Rcn2在肿瘤组织中的表达量显著高于邻近的非肿瘤组织,并且在

临幊上,Rcn2的表达与肿瘤大小、复发和存活率具有一定的相关性。在细胞中敲降或敲除Rcn2,能阻滞细胞周期G₁/S转换和下调细胞周期蛋白D1的表达(图2),从而实现抑制HCC细胞增殖的作用,而在Rcn2敲除细胞系中外源表达Rcn2能恢复细胞的增殖能力。EGFR经常在各种癌症种类中过度表达,促进癌症的发生和发展^[42],而Rcn2与EGFR又被证明相互作用。在HCC细胞中敲除Rcn2不仅能阻断EGF介导的EGFR二聚化和内化从而抑制EGFR-ERK通路的激活,还能在长时间EGF刺激下抑制细胞增殖和EGFR磷酸化。此外,敲除Rcn2能抑制裸鼠中EGFR磷酸化,Ki-67表达及肿瘤生长,表明Rcn2可能通过调节EGFR-ERK途径的激活在HCC细胞增殖和肿瘤生长中发挥关键作用^[43]。

3.2 Rcn2与宫颈癌

人乳头瘤病毒(human papilloma virus, HPV)是感染各种上皮组织的小DNA病毒,包括表皮和肛门生殖通道的内层上皮细胞^[44]。感染肛门生殖通道的HPV可分为高风险和低风险两种类型。在所有高风险HPV类型中,HPV 16型(HPV-16)是原型,与宫颈癌的生长密切相关^[45]。HPV的转化特性存在于E6基因中,E6基因在HPV阳性宫颈癌细胞和衍生细胞中表达^[46-47]。E6和E7基因共同发挥作用时,会使原代人角质细胞发生细胞永生化现象^[49-52]。

研究人员构建了一系列关于Rcn2结合HPV-16 E6蛋白的相关缺失突变体,并且将HPV-16 E6复合物

形成所必需的E6BP区域定位到了25个氨基酸的结构域^[45]。通过核磁共振光谱法技术,研究者发现,其合成相应的肽结合钙离子并折叠为EF-hand构象。额外的缺失突变表明,形成第二个 α 螺旋的13个氨基酸介导E6结合,而丙氨酸置换诱变表明,该 α 螺旋的氨基酸对于E6结合最重要。HPV-16 E6还与活化的Ras合作(图2),在小鼠肾细胞和幼鼠肾细胞的转化和永生化中发挥重要作用^[53-54]。相较于E7或Ras, HPV-16 E6可以转化NIH 3T3细胞^[55],使其永生化^[56],并诱导角质细胞形成对钙和血清诱导的抗性^[57]。HPV和E6蛋白的转化活性与其和Rcn2结合能力相关^[44]。

HPV促进细胞生长和增殖的机制被认为是E6与p53相结合后使p53失活(图2),最终导致宫颈癌细胞的发生^[58]。在细胞转化中,E6具有使p53失活的功能。更重要的是E6突变体的转化活性与它们与Rcn2结合的能力相关。这也表明了Rcn2在E6诱导的细胞转化中具有重要作用。

3.3 Rcn2与结直肠癌

结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是世界上最常见的恶性肿瘤之一,在全球致死率最高的十大癌症中排名第4^[59]。每年有超过120万患者被诊断患有结直肠癌,超过60万患者死于该疾病^[60]。西方的饮食习惯、家族性腺瘤息肉^[61]、溃疡性结肠炎^[62]、结直肠腺瘤^[60]都成为了导致结直肠癌的因素。

免疫组化研究发现,在人类结肠直肠癌中Rcn2的表达量明显高于相邻的肺肿瘤组织样本,并且其表达量和肿瘤大小和侵袭深度密切相关。当组织中Rcn2表达量上调时,肿瘤大小与浸润深度与之成正比^[63]。Kaplan-Meier分析表明,与Rcn2低表达肿瘤的患者相比,Rcn2高表达肿瘤患者的无病存活率较低,并且Rcn2高表达的结直肠癌患者的肿瘤复发风险明显高于Rcn2低表达的患者^[63]。与此同时,集落形成测定和增殖细胞IHC染色结果表明,高表达的Rcn2在体外和体内均能促进CRC细胞增殖,而敲除Rcn2则能显著降低体外和体内CRC细胞增殖速率^[63]。综上所述,在人类结直肠癌中,Rcn2表达水平的上调与肿瘤细胞的生长和增殖呈正相关,并且Rcn2在体外和体内均具有促进CRC细胞增殖的作用,这使得Rcn2成为CRC患者肿瘤复发的预测指标。

3.4 Rcn2在动脉粥样硬化中的作用

动脉粥样硬化是冠心病,缺血性中风和外周动脉疾病的主要原因,是全世界最重要的公共卫生问

题之一。尽管环境因素,如高脂肪饮食,缺乏运动和吸烟,在动脉粥样硬化中发挥作用,但是遗传因素是该疾病发展的主要决定因素^[64-65],其中动脉粥样硬化易感基因(*Ath29*)是影响动脉粥样硬化最为显著的易感基因位点。小鼠主动脉中基因的微阵列分析表明,位于*Ath29*基因连锁区域内的Rcn2是重要的调节基因之一。免疫组织化学分析证明,Rcn2蛋白在动脉粥样硬化病变中表达,并且在内皮层和邻近的动脉粥样硬化病变中表达更丰富。用小干扰RNA敲低Rcn2后,内皮细胞氧化磷脂诱导表达的VCAM-1(Vascular cell adhesion molecule 1)和MCP-1(monocyte chemoattractant protein 1)显著降低。MCP-1和VCAM-1主要与单核细胞向动脉壁的募集相关,这是动脉粥样硬化发病机制中的关键过程。通常伴随着VCAM-1和MCP-1表达量的升高,动脉粥样硬化的病变程度随之升高^[65]。

Rcn2对于MCP-1和VCAM-1的影响是通过调节细胞内 Ca^{2+} 浓度来传递,而血管内皮细胞MCP-1的产生是由氧化LDL诱导的(图2),此过程是由 Ca^{2+} 介导的^[66]。在 Ca^{2+} 螯合剂或者BAPTA(Ca^{2+} 特异性结合化合物)处理后,几乎完全消除了氧化LDL诱导产生的MCP-1。与此同时,从动脉粥样硬化易感小鼠中分离的内皮细胞和血管平滑肌细胞再用氧化LDL处理后表现出对VCAM-1的显著诱导^[67-68]。至此可见,Rcn2在调节细胞因子产生中起到关键作用。

4 总结与展望

Rcn2在细胞的分泌途径中起着非常重要的作用,是细胞维持正常生理功能必不可少的蛋白,并且具有参与肿瘤细胞异常生长、侵袭以及介导细胞信号通路的生理学功能。Rcn2不仅仅自身参与信号通路的介导和功能调控,并且还结合其他相关蛋白或者复合物从而发挥其功能。Rcn2在肿瘤细胞中的高表达,通常伴随着肿瘤细胞的异常增殖和肿瘤组织体积增大。目前已有研究表明,Rcn2甚至在乳腺癌组织中显著上调,并且参与乳腺癌细胞增殖。我们预测,Rcn2可以作为治疗乳腺癌的新靶点,并且在其他研究中,我们发现,与Rcn2同家族的Rcn1的表达水平在多种实体瘤中显著增加。包括肾细胞癌、乳癌、肺癌等恶性肿瘤。综上所述,Rcn2可以作为一种新的潜在肿瘤标志物,为未来的肿瘤疾病诊断和治疗提供重要的科学依据和新靶点。

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