

重症肺炎儿童血清IL-17B升高及其介导人支气管上皮细胞表达IL-6的免疫机制研究

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摘要 IL-17B是IL-17家族中的一员, 参与了多种炎症性疾病, 但其在肺部炎症疾病中的研究较少。该研究检测了重症肺炎儿童血清中IL-17B的浓度, 发现其较健康对照组显著升高。为进一步研究IL-17B与肺部炎症的关系, 将IL-17B作用于人支气管上皮细胞。结果发现, 经IL-17B刺激后, HBEC表达IL-6的水平明显升高, 且具有时间和剂量依赖性; 随后, 通过信号通路抑制剂筛选以及Western blot检测细胞内信号通路蛋白磷酸化水平进行验证, 发现IL-17B是通过活化P38 MAPK、ERK、JAK、NF- κ B信号通路, 进而上调人支气管上皮细胞表达IL-6。最后, 再次检测了重症肺炎儿童血清中IL-6的水平, 其浓度显著高于健康对照组; 此外, 还对其进行了相关性分析, 发现重症肺炎儿童的IL-17B和IL-6水平呈显著正相关。以上结果表明, 肺部炎症感染时, IL-17B能通过激活相关信号通路上调IL-6水平, 进而促进免疫应答。研究IL-17B在肺部炎症感染中发挥的免疫效应有助于了解肺部感染免疫的进程, 进而为临床提供有效的治疗策略。

关键词 儿童重症肺炎; IL-17B; IL-6; 人支气管上皮细胞HBEC

Elevated Serum IL-17B in Children with Severe Pneumonia and Mediates IL-6 Expression in Human Bronchial Epithelial Cells

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Abstract IL-17B belongs to IL-17 family and is involved in a variety of inflammatory diseases, but the role of IL-17B in regulating pulmonary inflammation in lung diseases is still unknown. Serum IL-17B concentration in children with severe pneumonia was significantly higher than healthy control group. To further investigate the relationship between IL-17B and pulmonary inflammation, IL-17B was applied to human bronchial epithelial cells. The results showed that remarkably elevated IL-6 was measured in the supernatant of bronchial epithelial cells stimulated with IL-17B in a time- and dose-dependent manner. Subsequently, inhibitors of signaling pathways were used for screening related pathways and these results were further validated by Western blot. Our results indicated that IL-17B could upregulate IL-6 production by activating p38 MAPK, ERK, JAK and NF- κ B pathways in human bronchial epi-

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thelial cells. Moreover, serum level of IL-6 was significantly higher in children with severe pneumonia than healthy control group. In addition, we found increased level of IL-17B positively correlated with IL-6 in children with severe pneumonia. In conclusion, IL-17B could upregulate of IL-6 thereby promoting immune responses in children pneumonia, which might shed light for the development of cytokine-based treatment of children pneumonia.

Keywords children pneumonia; IL-17B; IL-6; human bronchial epithelial cells

肺炎是儿童最为常见的呼吸道感染性疾病,也是全球儿童死亡的主要原因之一^[1-2]。世界卫生组织指出,2010年中低收入水平的国家社区获得性儿童肺炎的发病率约为22%(四分位数间距为11%~51%),其中11.5%的患儿发展为重症肺炎(四分位数间距为8.0%~33.0%)^[3],而重症肺炎由于起病急、变化快、并发症多,严重危及儿童生命。目前已有证据表明肺组织细胞在调控肺部感染方面发挥着重要作用,并决定着整个病程的结局^[4-5]。其中,支气管上皮细胞作为抵御外部病原体入侵的第一道防御屏障^[6-7],在调节肺部炎症性疾病中有着不可或缺的地位。肺部感染时,支气管上皮细胞通过分泌细胞因子、生长因子、趋化因子以及相应的抗菌物质积极参与固有性和获得性免疫应答^[8-9]。

2000年, Li团队^[10]通过同源性EST数据库搜索,从胎儿组织cDNA文库扩增,首次克隆了白介素-17B(interleukin-17B, IL-17B),并将其表达为非共价二聚体。IL-17B是白介素-17细胞因子家族成员之一,其分子量为41 kDa,含有180个氨基酸,位于染色体5q32-34,在人类胰腺、小肠、胃和睾丸中均有表达,且在软骨和神经元中高表达。IL-17细胞因子家族的其他五个成员为IL-17A、IL-17C、IL-17D、IL-17E和IL-17F^[11]。IL-17A与IL-17F具有最高的同源性,它们主要由活化的T细胞表达并通过结合IL-17RA/IL-17RC受体复合物调节肺部免疫和炎症^[12-13]。多种细胞可产生IL-17E(IL-25),在过敏性气道炎症和哮喘中,IL-17E通过结合异二聚体受体17RA/IL-17RB(其中IL-17RB是特异性受体亚基)发挥着重要作用^[14-16]。IL-17B也是IL-17RB的配体^[17-18],但是关于IL-17B在肺部炎症免疫中的研究尚少。目前,对于IL-17B能否直接作用于气道感染部位的组织细胞尚不清楚,我们旨在研究支气管上皮细胞对IL-17B产生应答的分子机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 材料

人支气管上皮细胞(human bronchia epithelial

cells, HBEC)购自美国ScienCell公司。肝癌细胞株(hepatocellular carcinoma cell line, HepG2)由重庆医科大学感染性疾病分子生物学教育部重点实验室赠送。

本实验中提及的重症肺炎患者以及健康志愿者的样本分别取自重庆医科大学附属儿童医院,操作经重庆医科大学附属儿童医院临床研究伦理委员会通过。诊断儿童重症肺炎的标准如下^[19]。(1)婴幼儿:腋温 ≥ 38.5 °C,呼吸 ≥ 70 次/min,胸壁吸气性凹陷,鼻扇,紫绀,间歇性呼吸暂停、呼吸呻吟,拒食;(2)年长儿:腋温 ≥ 38.5 °C,呼吸 ≥ 50 次/min,鼻扇,紫绀,呼吸呻吟,有脱水征。

1.2 试剂与仪器

0.25%胰酶含EDTA为美国Gibco公司产品;一次性细胞培养瓶、细胞培养板和细胞离心管均为美国Corning公司产品;重组人蛋白IL-17B为美国R&D公司产品;信号通路抑制剂AG490、BAY11-7082、LY294002、U0126、SB203580、SP600125为Calbiochem公司产品,除SB203580用水溶解外,其余5种均用二甲亚砜(DMSO)溶解;实验中所用引物由生工生物工程(上海)股份有限公司合成;mRNA提取试剂为TaKaRa RNA iso Plus;RT-PCR试剂为TaKaRa试剂盒;q-PCR试剂为TaKaRa试剂盒;Human IL-17B ELISA Kit为Abcam公司产品;Human IL-6 ELISA Kit为Millipore公司产品;JAK、NF- κ B、Akt、JNK、ERK、P38 MAPK总蛋白抗体和磷酸化蛋白抗体均为Cell Signaling Technology公司产品; β -actin抗体和IL-17RB抗体购自Santa Cruz Biotechnology公司;山羊抗兔二抗和山羊抗小鼠二抗均为北京中杉金桥生物技术有限公司产品;牛血清白蛋白(BSA)为Sigma公司产品;PVDF膜和显影液为Millipore公司产品;SDS solution 10%(w/v)为Bio-Rad产品。

实验仪器包括:美国Thermo CO₂细胞培养箱、37 °C水浴箱、-80 °C冰箱、Rotor-Gene Q荧光定量PCR仪、Millipore纯水仪、NanoDrop 1000核酸蛋白测定仪、BioTek酶标仪、Bio-Rad凝胶成像分析仪、

日本Nikon倒置显微镜。

1.3 细胞培养

人支气管上皮细胞HBEC接种于含10%胎牛血清的DMEM培养基(含100 U/mL青霉素、100 U/mL链霉素), 肝癌细胞株HepG2维持培养于含10%胎牛血清的RPMI 1640培养基。静置于37 °C、5% CO₂培养箱中培养, 将瓶盖悬半圈以保持通气, 相对湿度为95%。每2~3天传代1次, 每天观察细胞生长状态, 选对数生长期的细胞进行实验。

1.4 基因表达分析

将对数生长期的细胞以 5×10^5 个/mL的细胞悬液接种于6孔板中(1 mL/孔), 贴壁长满后, 换5% BSA的培养基饥饿培养细胞6 h; 换常规培养基, 加入不同浓度IL-17B处理相应时间, 弃上清, PBS洗2遍, 加入RNAiso Plus(1 mL/孔), 按试剂盒操作说明提取总RNA。整个过程应严格无酶操作, 以避免RNA降解, 并做好DEPC等有毒物质的防护工作。将提取的总RNA为模板, 逆转录为cDNA, 以逆转录的cDNA为模板, SYBR Premix Ex Taq II做荧光定量PCR, 本实验中应用的引物序列见表1。

1.5 蛋白质浓度分析

培养基中IL-6蛋白水平测定: 将对数生长期的细胞以 1×10^4 个/mL的细胞悬液接种于24孔板中, 贴壁长满后, 换5% BSA的培养基饥饿培养细胞6 h; 换

常规培养基, 经相应处理, 收集上清, 4 000 r/min离心5 min, 弃去沉淀, 上清用于ELISA检测。每组设置3个重复孔。将待测样本按照试剂盒操作说明书进行检测, 依次为加样室温孵育(待测样本/标准品)→洗涤→加入酶标抗体孵育→洗涤→加入底物液显色→终止反应→结果判读, 采用BioTek酶标仪在450 nm处读取D值, 绘制标准曲线, 计算待测样本蛋白浓度。

受试人群血清中IL-6和IL-17B蛋白水平测定: 采集受试儿童静脉血, 4 000 r/min离心8 min, 分离血清用于ELISA检测。检测方法同上。

1.6 Western blot分析

将对数生长期的细胞以 5×10^4 个/mL的细胞悬液接种于12孔板中, 贴壁长满后, 换5% BSA的培养基饥饿培养细胞6 h; 换常规培养基, 经相应处理, 加入蛋白酶抑制剂和磷酸化酶抑制剂的细胞裂解液(RIPA), 提取总蛋白, 进行SDS-PAGE电泳。电泳结束后, 将凝胶电转移到PVDF膜上。随后5% BSA、37 °C封闭2 h, 加入一抗, 4 °C孵育过夜。0.1% TBST洗膜液洗膜4次, 每次10 min。加入二抗, 37 °C孵育1 h, 0.1% TBST洗膜液洗膜4次, 每次10 min。最后进行凝胶成像分析。

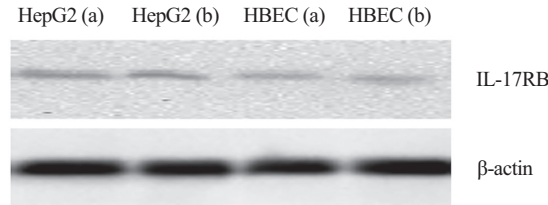
1.7 统计分析

采用Graphpade Prism 5进行统计学分析。定量

表1 文中涉及相关基因的引物序列

Table 1 Oligo nucleotides of primes

基因名称 Gene name	序列 Sequence
<i>IL-1β</i>	F: 5'-TTC TTC GAC ACA TTG GAT AAC G-3' R: 3'-TGG AGA ACA CCA CTT GTT GCT-5'
<i>IL-6</i>	F: 5'-TAA TGG GCA TTC CTT CTT CT-3' R: 3'-TGT CCT AAC GCT CAT ACT TTT-5'
<i>IFN-γ</i>	F: 5'-CCA ACG CAA AGC AAT AC-3' R: 3'-GCA GGC AGG ACA ACC AT-5'
<i>TNF-α</i>	F: 5'-AGG CCA AGC CCT GGT ATG AGC-3' R: 3'-CAC AGG GCA ATG ATC CCA AAG TAG-5'
<i>CXCL2</i>	F: 5'-ATC AAT GTG ACG GCA GGG AAA-3' R: 3'-TCG AAA CCT CTC TGC TCT AAC AC-5'
<i>CXCL6</i>	F: 5'-GTA GCC TCC CTG AAG AAC GG-3' R: 3'-TAG GCT TTC CCC CAC ACT CT-5'
<i>CXCL10</i>	F: 5'-TGA ATC AAA CTG CGA TTC TG-3' R: 3'-TTT CCT TGC TAA CTG CTT TCA G-5'
<i>CCL2</i>	F: 5'-GAT CTC AGT GCA GAG GCT CG-3' R: 3'-TTT GCT TGT CCA GGT GGT CC-5'
<i>GAPDH</i>	F: 5'-CAG CGA CAC CCA CTC CTC-3' R: 3'-TGA GGT CCA CCA CCC TGT-5'

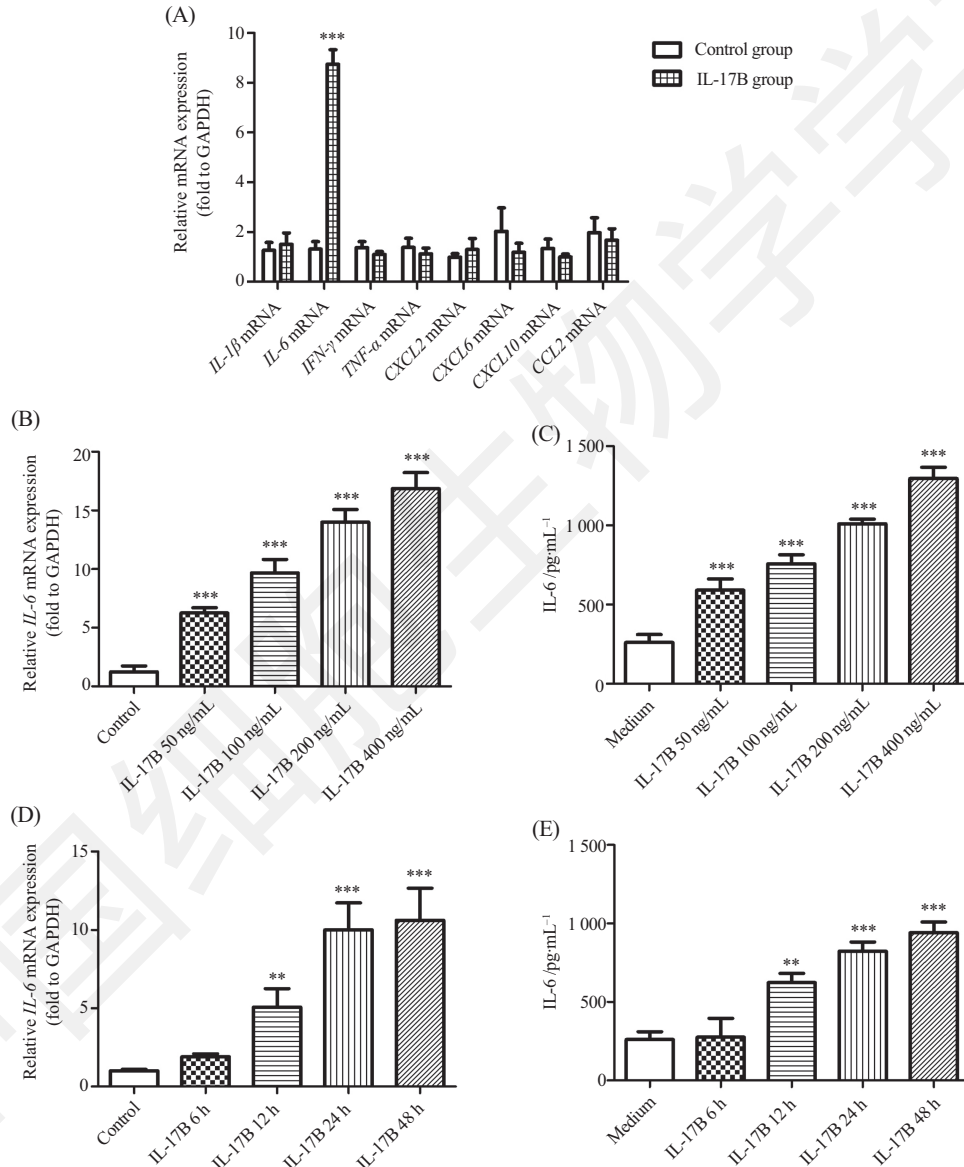


(a)、(b)分别表示第一次培养细胞和第二次培养细胞。

(a),(b) represent the first cell culture and the second cell culture.

图2 人支气管上皮细胞(HepG2和HBEC细胞)可表达IL-17RB

Fig.2 IL-17RB protein expression in HepG2 cells (positive control) and HBEC

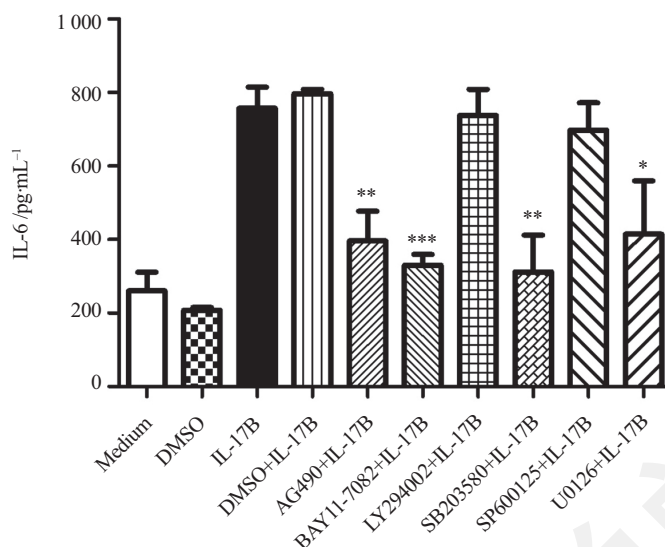


A: 100 ng/mL IL-17B刺激HBEC 24 h, q-PCR检测相关细胞因子和趋化因子mRNA水平; B、C: 不同浓度IL-17B(0、50、100、200和400 ng/mL)刺激HBEC 24 h, IL-6 mRNA和蛋白质水平变化; D、E: 100 ng/mL IL-17B刺激HBEC 不同时间(0、6、12、24和48 h), IL-6 mRNA和蛋白质水平变化。实验独立重复3次, 数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 形式表示。** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, 与对照组相比。

A: HBECs were induced by with IL-17B (100 ng/mL) for 24 h, cytokines and chemokines mRNA levels were detected by q-PCR; B,C: protein and mRNA levels of IL-6 in culture supernatants determined after stimulation with IL-17B at 0, 50, 100, 200 and 400 ng/mL for 24 h; D,E: protein and mRNA levels of IL-6 in culture supernatants determined after stimulation with IL-17B at 100 ng/mL for 0, 6, 12, 24 and 48 h. Each point represents the $\bar{x} \pm s$ of three experiments independent. ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ vs control group.

图3 IL-17B刺激HBEC产生IL-6

Fig.3 IL-6 expression in HBEC induced by IL-17B



信号通路抑制剂处理HBEC 1 h后,用IL-17B(100 ng/mL)作用HBEC 24 h,ELISA检测上清IL-6的蛋白水平。实验独立重复3次,数据以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 形式表示。 $*P<0.05$, $**P<0.01$, $***P<0.001$,与对照组相比。

HBECs were pre-treated with signaling pathway inhibitors as indicated for 1 h, followed by incubation in the presence and absence of IL-17B (100 ng/mL) for a further 24 h. IL-6 in tissue culture supernatants as determined by ELISA. Each point represents the $\bar{x}\pm s$ of three experiments independent. $*P<0.05$, $**P<0.01$, $***P<0.001$ vs control group.

图4 IL-17B诱导人支气管上皮细胞产生IL-6信号通路的筛选

Fig.4 Effects of different signaling molecule inhibitors on IL-17B-induced IL-6 production in HBEC

我们以梯度浓度(50~400 ng/mL)的IL-17B作用HBEC 24 h,发现50 ng/mL的IL-17B即可引起IL-6表达量增加,并且在400 ng/mL时刺激作用最强;此外,又将IL-17B以100 ng/mL的浓度分别刺激HBEC不同时间,IL-6水平在12 h开始上升,并随时间延长而升高,表明IL-17B诱导HBEC表达IL-6具有剂量和时间依赖性(图3B~图3E)。

2.4 IL-17B诱导HBEC产生IL-6信号通路的筛选

按照前期研究中HBEC最适信号分子抑制剂浓度,用抑制剂与IL-17B联合处理HBEC,发现抑制剂AG490、BAY11-7082、SB203580、U0126处理组IL-6水平较IL-17B单独处理组显著降低,提示IL-17B可能通过p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK、NF- κ B通路诱导IL-6产生(图4)。

2.5 IL-17B激活人支气管上皮细胞的p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK、NF- κ B信号通路

采用Western blot从蛋白磷酸化水平上进一步验证,IL-17B通过p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK、NF- κ B途径活化HBEC通路(图5)。

2.6 儿童重症肺炎患者血清IL-6与IL-17B水平相关

我们已证实,IL-17B可诱导人支气管上皮细胞表达IL-6,为进一步探究重症肺炎患儿的IL-17B与IL-6的关系。我们检测了重症肺炎患儿血清中IL-6

的浓度,结果发现,肺炎患者血清IL-6水平较其健康对照组显著升高;并且与IL-17B显著正相关(图6A和图6B)。

3 讨论

已有研究表明,IL-17B在类风湿性关节炎、系统性红斑狼疮、系统性硬化症以及一些肿瘤性疾病中有着重要作用^[20-25],但目前对于IL-17B在肺部炎症免疫中的研究尚少。有研究发现,社区获得性肺炎患者的IL-17A和IL-17F水平显著升高,可刺激人支气管上皮细胞表达相应的细胞因子和趋化因子,进而调控炎症免疫进程^[26-28]。我们的研究证明,IL-17B在重症肺炎儿童血清中的浓度显著升高,且与患儿血清中IL-6的水平正相关,这对研究IL-17B在儿童重症肺炎中的免疫学作用有着重要意义。

此外,为进一步研究IL-17B在肺部炎症免疫中的分子机制,我们选用了人支气管上皮细胞HBEC进行了相关实验。研究发现,HBEC可表达IL-17RB,而IL-17RB作为IL-17B的特异性受体亚基,为HBEC对IL-17B能够产生免疫应答提供了生物学依据。随后的实验发现,IL-17B可诱导人支气管上皮细胞产生细胞因子IL-6,且这种刺激作用具有时间和剂量依赖性。IL-6作为典型的促炎因子,能够趋化中性

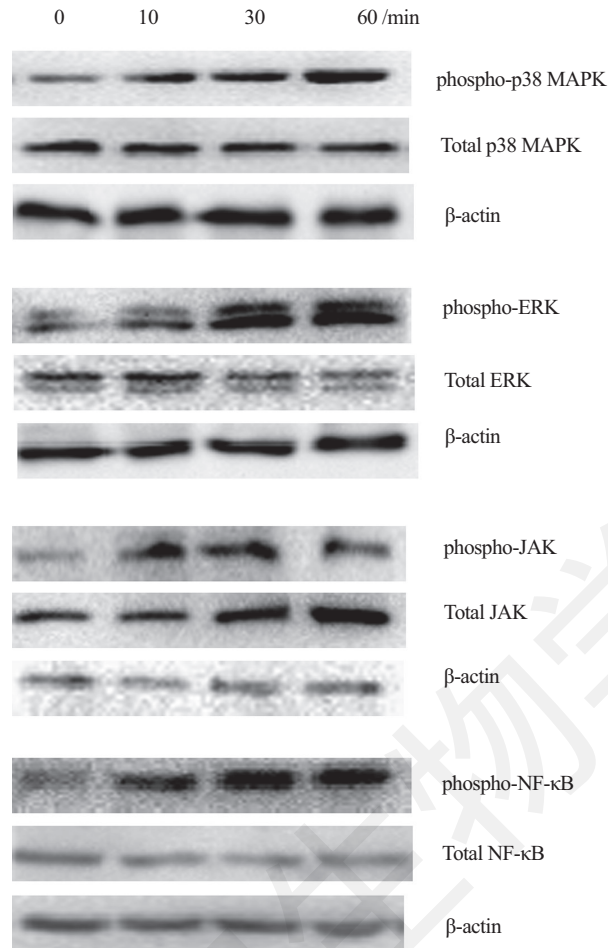
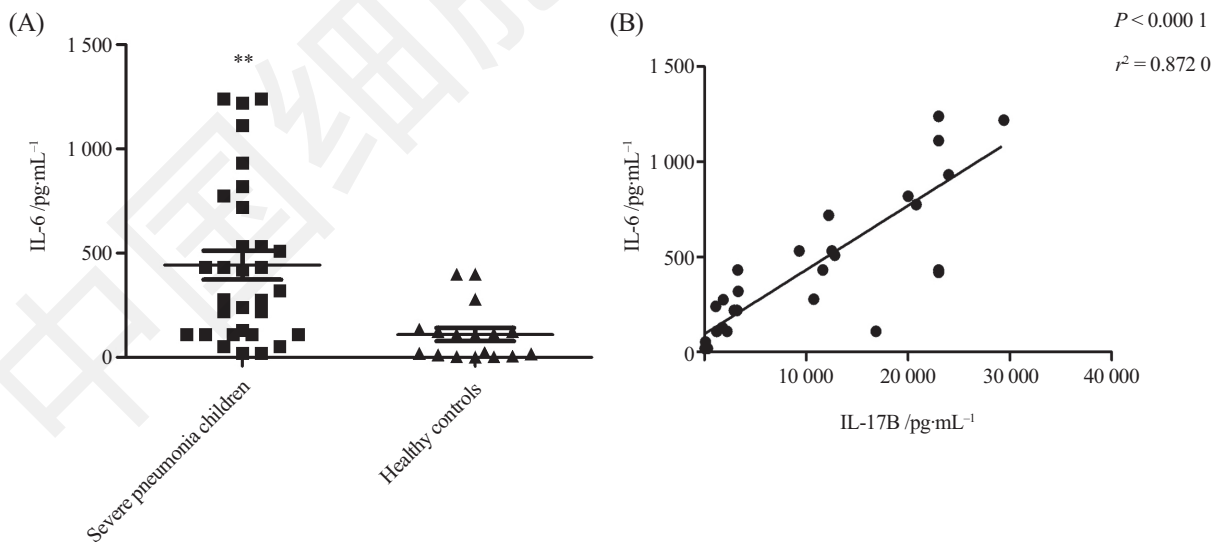


图5 IL-17B激活人支气管上皮细胞的p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK、NF-κB信号通路

Fig.5 Effects of IL-17B on activation of p38 MAPK, ERK, JAK and NF-κB signaling pathways in HBEC



A: ELISA检测重症肺炎患儿血清中IL-6的水平; B: 重症肺炎儿童IL-17B与IL-6水平的相关性。** $P < 0.01$, 重症肺炎组与健康对照组比较。

A: IL-6 concentration was measured by ELISA in serum samples collected from children with severe pneumonia; B: correlations between IL-17B and IL-6 concentrations in sera from children with severe pneumonia. ** $P < 0.01$ severe pneumonia children vs healthy controls.

图6 重症肺炎儿童血清中IL-17B与IL-6水平的相关性

Fig.6 IL-17B correlated with IL-6 in children with severe pneumonia

粒细胞和单核细胞至相应炎症部位并使其活化,还可促进内皮细胞表达黏附分子和其他炎症递质,增强局部炎症反应。这与我们之前发现的重症肺炎患儿血清IL-17B、IL-6浓度升高的结果相符。此外,有报道称,IL-17B可刺激THP-1细胞中TNF- α 和IL-1 β 的释放^[10],但我们用IL-17B刺激HBEC后,没有观察到这些炎症介质的显著差异。还有研究发现,类风湿性关节炎患者的组织、滑膜液中的中性粒细胞以及循环的中性粒细胞都可以分泌IL-17B^[29];并且滑膜成纤维细胞受TNF- α 刺激后,IL-17RB的表达显著上调,IL-17B进而又显著增强TNF- α 诱导滑膜成纤维细胞分泌G-CSF和IL-6。总之,我们提供了IL-17B是IL-6的新型诱导剂的证据。

据报道IL-17B可激活ERK1/2途径,促进胰腺癌转移和恶性肿瘤^[22]。在胃癌中,IL-17B可激活AKT/ β -连环蛋白通路,促进肿瘤细胞生长和迁移^[30]。本研究表明,IL-17B可激活HBEC的p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK和NF- κ B信号通路,进而调控IL-6的产生,但细胞信号转导网络非常复杂,个别途径可能通过串联和/或交通引起下游效应^[31]。因此,我们需要进一步研究p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK和NF- κ B信号通路之间是如何关联的。

本实验中我们发现了IL-17B在重症肺炎患儿中显著升高,它可以通过激活p38 MAPK、ERK、JAK和NF- κ B信号通路诱导人支气管上皮细胞产生IL-6,因此我们认为,IL-17B-IL-6轴的活化可能在调节肺部免疫和炎症方面发挥着重要作用,对研究肺炎或其他气道炎症性疾病的发病机制有着重要意义。然而,我们现阶段的结果仅局限于体外细胞实验,缺乏体内动物模型的验证,且临床标本量也较少,我们将进一步收集临床病例,并按照疾病严重程度分级,同时构建动物重症肺炎模型,使用IL-17B敲除小鼠、CRISPR-CAS系统以及基因沉默HBEC,以便更好地研究IL-17B在肺部炎症中的发病机制。

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