

## 研究论文

# 慢病毒介导的低表达RNF20肝癌稳转细胞系的构建及其生物学功能分析

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**摘要** 该文探讨了环指蛋白(RNF20)缺陷对肝细胞肝癌的细胞增殖和迁移的影响, 及其可能的作用机制。针对RNF20基因设计3组短发夹RNA序列(RNF20-shRNA1、RNF20-shRNA2和RNF20-shRNA3), 通过构建pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20慢病毒载体, 包装慢病毒后感染人肝癌细胞SMMC-7721和Huh7, 经嘌呤霉素抗性筛选建立RNF20敲低的肝细胞肝癌稳转细胞系。同时, 设感染对照慢病毒pLV-shCtrl-EGFP的对照组(shCtrl-7721/shCtrl-Huh7)。实时荧光定量PCR检测RNF20 mRNA表达, 荧光显微镜观察其绿色荧光蛋白表达, 免疫荧光染色法和蛋白免疫印迹法检测RNF20、T-Akt及p-Akt蛋白的表达情况, BrdU掺入实验及CCK-8法检测各组细胞增殖能力, 划痕实验检测各组细胞迁移能力, 转录组测序分析基因转录水平。结果显示, RNF20-shRNA2对应肝癌细胞中的RNF20 mRNA表达最低, 稳转细胞感染效率均高于85%, RNF20缺陷的SMMC-7721和Huh7较对照组细胞内RNF20、Wee1、p27、p53基因转录水平及RNF20蛋白表达水平明显降低, 增殖与迁移能力明显增加, 且p-Akt蛋白表达上调。Akt抑制剂派立福新处理的RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞较未处理组增殖与迁移能力降低。实验结果提示, RNF20下调后促进肝癌细胞体外增殖与迁移, 且其可能通过Akt通路进行调节。

**关键词** RNF20; 肝细胞肝癌; 细胞增殖; 细胞迁移; Akt

## The Construction and Functional Analysis of the Lentivirus Mediated Low Expression RNF20 Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cell Lines

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**Abstract** The purpose of this research was to investigate the effects of RNF20 (ring finger protein 20) deficiency on both of proliferation and migration in hepatocellular carcinoma cells, and to explore its mechanism. Three sets of short hairpin RNA targeting RNF20 gene were designed which were RNF20-shRNA1, RNF20-shRNA2 and RNF20-shRNA3. Through constructing pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20 lentivirus vector, packaging lentivirus and infecting human hepatocellular carcinoma cells SMMC-7721 and Huh7, puromycin resistance selection was used to establish RNF20 knockdown hepatocellular carcinoma stable transfection cell lines. At the same time, a control group (shCtrl-7721/shCtrl-Huh7) infected with control lentivirus pLV-shCtrl-EGFP was set. Real-time quantitative PCR was used to detect RNF20 mRNA expression, fluorescence microscope was used to observe green fluorescent protein expression, immunofluorescence staining and Western blotting were used to detect RNF20, T-Akt and p-Akt protein expression. BrdU incorporation experiment and CCK-8 method were used to detect cell proliferation ability, scratch experiment was used to detect cell migration ability, transcriptome sequencing was used to analyze gene transcription level. The results showed that RNF20-shRNA2 had the lowest RNF20 mRNA expression in hepatocellular carcinoma cells, and the infection efficiency of stable transfection cells was all higher than 85%. RNF20-deficient SMMC-7721 and Huh7 cells compared with control cells had significantly lower RNF20, Wee1, p27, p53 gene transcription levels and RNF20 protein expression levels, and significantly increased proliferation and migration ability, and p-Akt protein expression was up-regulated. Akt inhibitor pifithrin-1 treated RNF20-deficient hepatocellular carcinoma cells compared with untreated cells had lower proliferation and migration ability. The experimental results suggest that RNF20 down-regulation promotes hepatocellular carcinoma cell proliferation and migration in vitro, and it may be regulated through the Akt pathway.

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RNF20-shRNA3. The lentiviral vector pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20 was constructed. The *RNF20* knockdown SMMC-7721 and Huh7 cell lines were established by packaging lentivirus and infecting hepatocellular carcinoma cells. The infected cells were divided into two groups. Group 1: the control group was infected with control lentivirus pLV-shCtrl-EGFP. Group 2: the defective group was infected with virus pLV-shRNF20-EGFP. The *RNF20* mRNA was detected by qPCR. The expression of GFP (green fluorescence protein) was observed under fluorescence microscope after the screen by puromycin. The level of RNF20, T-Akt and p-Akt protein was detected by immunofluorescent staining and Western blot. The proliferation of hepatocellular carcinoma cells was detected by BrdU incorporation assay and cell counting kit-8 assay. The migration of hepatocellular carcinoma cells was detected by scratch test. The gene transcription levels were detected by RNA-seq. The infecting efficiency of the two groups was more than 85%. The expressions of *RNF20*, *Wee1*, *p27*, *p53* gene and RNF20 protein of defective groups were significantly lower than that in the control groups. The expression of p-Akt protein and the ability of both proliferation and migration of the RNF20 defective group were higher than those in control group. The ability of both proliferation and migration of the RNF20 defective group which treated by Perifosine was higher than those in control group. The deficiency of *RNF20* may enhance the proliferation and migration of hepatocellular carcinoma cells by regulating Akt signaling pathways *in vitro*.

**Keywords** RNF20; hepatocellular carcinoma cells; proliferation; migration; Akt

原发性肝癌是全球癌症相关死亡的主要原因,其中75%~85%为肝细胞肝癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)<sup>[1]</sup>。尽管肝癌有许多治疗策略,但晚期肝癌患者的5年生存率仍<16%<sup>[2]</sup>。因此,寻找更有效的新型治疗靶点具有重要意义。研究表明,表观遗传的改变在癌症进展中扮演着重要角色,如与组蛋白修饰和DNA甲基化相关的染色质酶有关<sup>[3]</sup>。

环指蛋白RNF20/RNF40复合体是组蛋白H2B单泛素化(H2B monoubiquitination, H2Bub1)连接酶E3的主要结构,其负责哺乳动物中组蛋白H2B第120位赖氨酸的泛素化,参与DNA转录调控与DNA损伤修复,进而抑制肿瘤的发生与发展<sup>[4-9]</sup>。最近研究已证实,RNF20和H2Bub1与肿瘤恶性表型相关,如与转移性前列腺癌<sup>[10]</sup>、精原细胞癌<sup>[11]</sup>、肺癌<sup>[12]</sup>、结肠癌<sup>[12]</sup>和胃癌<sup>[13]</sup>的恶性程度与分化呈负相关。

以上研究均提示,RNF20/H2Bub1的降低是基因组不稳定性的关键,也是多数肿瘤形成的重要因素,但研究RNF20对肝癌细胞功能的影响极少报道。因此,本研究拟构建*RNF20*基因敲低的肝癌细胞系,探讨RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞增殖和迁移的影响及其可能的作用机制,这对早期肝癌确诊以及治疗有着积极意义。

## 1 材料与方 法

### 1.1 材料

人肝癌 SMMC-7721 细胞系购自武汉博士德生

物工程有限公司; 293T 细胞和人肝癌 Huh7 细胞系购自湖南丰晖生物科技有限公司。DMEM 高糖培养基、青-链霉素溶液及胰蛋白酶均购自武汉博士德生物工程有限公司; 胎牛血清(fetal bovine serum, FBS)购自浙江天杭生物科技股份有限公司; DH5 $\alpha$  感受态细胞购自 Solarbio 公司; *Bam*H I 和 *Mlu* I 酶购自 Fermentas 公司; Lipofectamine 2000 和 Trizol 试剂盒购自 Invitrogen 公司; 质粒 psPAX2、pMD2G 和 pLent-U6-GFP-Puro 购自 GeneCopoeia 公司; 抗 RNF20 抗体购自武汉三鹰生物技术有限公司; FITC 荧光标记抗鼠及 cy3 标记抗兔二抗均购自 Sigma 公司; DAPI 染料购自 Vector 公司; 抗  $\alpha$ -Tubulin 抗体、BrdU 抗体、T-Akt 抗体、p-Akt 抗体以及 HRP 标记的山羊抗鼠 IgG 二抗均购自 Cell Signaling Technology 公司; CCK-8 购自 Dojindo 公司; 派立福新(perifosine) 购自碧云天生物技术有限公司。

### 1.2 方法

1.2.1 细胞培养 将肝癌细胞系 SMMC-7721 细胞、Huh7 细胞以及 293T 细胞分别培养至含 10% FBS 以及 1% 青-链霉素的 DMEM 高糖培养基中,置于 37 °C、5% CO<sub>2</sub> 及饱和湿度培养箱培养,每 2 天更换 1 次培养液,取对数生长期细胞用于后续实验。

1.2.2 pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20 慢病毒载体的构建 从 GenBank 查找人 *RNF20* 基因的 cDNA 序列,设计特异性靶向人 *RNF20* 基因的 3 条 shRNF20 序列。shRNA1 为 5'-GCT AAA CAG TGG AGA TAA

TCT-3'; shRNA2为5'-GCG GCA CAA TCA CTA TCA ATG-3'; shRNA3为5'-GCA CCA GGT TGA GCT TAT TGA-3'; 同时设计一条与RNF20基因无关的序列作为阴性对照。以上序列均由武汉金开瑞生物工程公司完成。

将上述4对单链寡核苷酸片段退火形成双链DNA并与BamH I与Mlu I双酶切的pLent-U6-GFP-Puro线性质粒载体连接, 连接产物经大肠埃希菌感受态细胞DH5 $\alpha$ 转化提取质粒后, 以限制性核酸内切酶BamH I与Mlu I行双酶切, 产物经1%琼脂糖凝胶电泳鉴定后获得慢病毒载体pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shCtrl、pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20-1、pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20-2以及pLent-U6-GFP-Puro-shRNF20-3。

**1.2.3 包装慢病毒** 脂质体Lipofectamine 2000将包装质粒psPAX2、pMD2G和慢病毒表达质粒转染至无血清培养基培养且汇合度约80%的293T细胞, 8 h后更换为DMEM完全培养基, 48 h后于4 °C、4 000 r/min离心10 min收集上清液, 0.45  $\mu$ m滤器过滤后以孔稀释法测量病毒滴度, 于-80 °C保存。由此获得病毒pLV-shCtrl-EGFP、pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-1、pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-2以及pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-3。

**1.2.4 慢病毒感染细胞及筛选稳转细胞系** 取SMC-7721肝癌细胞和Huh7肝癌细胞悬液, 分别加入 $2 \times 10^4$ 个细胞接种于24孔板, 置于37 °C、5% CO<sub>2</sub>培养箱培养, 待其贴壁且汇合度约50%, 按照10 MOI分别加入病毒pLV-shCtrl-EGFP、pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-1、pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-2以及pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-3。以及终浓度为10  $\mu$ g/mL聚凝胺(polybrene), 20 h后更换为DMEM完全培养基, 72 h后用荧光显微镜观察绿色荧光(green fluorescent protein, GFP)表达情况。随后根据预实验结果选择2  $\mu$ g/mL嘌呤霉素进行稳转株的筛选。将经筛选得到的细胞系分别命名为: SMC-7721细胞系对照组shCtrl-7721及实验组shRNF20-7721, Huh7细胞系对照组shCtrl-Huh7及实验组shRNF20-Huh7。

**1.2.5 实时荧光定量PCR(Real quantitative PCR detecting system, qPCR)检测RNF20 mRNA表达** Trizol法提取各组细胞总RNA, 以GAPDH为内参, 定量PCR分析RNF20基因。反应参数: 95 °C预变性10 min; 95 °C 15 s, 60 °C 1 min, 40个循环。各组RNF20 mRNA相对含量用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 值表示。通过比较

RNF20 mRNA的表达选择敲低效率最高的RNF20-shRNA与相应的稳转细胞用于后续实验。

**1.2.6 免疫荧光染色检测RNF20蛋白表达** 将4种稳转细胞shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721及shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7分别接种至细胞爬片上, 待细胞汇合度为70%~80%时, 经4%多聚甲醛室温固定10 min, 用0.3% Triton X-100(PBS配制)室温通透10 min, 含0.3% Triton X-100(PBS配置)及2% BSA的封闭液室温封闭30 min, RNF20一抗(1:50)以及FITC荧光标记抗鼠二抗(1:200)分别于湿盒内37 °C孵育30 min, DAPI染色后封片并观察。

**1.2.7 免疫印迹法检测RNF20及p-Akt和T-Akt蛋白表达** 24孔培养板中分别加入 $1 \times 10^5$ 个稳转细胞shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721及shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7细胞悬液, 待贴壁生长后, 置于37 °C、5% CO<sub>2</sub>培养箱培养24 h后, 丢弃上清加入50  $\mu$ L十二烷基磺酸钠(sodium dodecyl sulfonate, SDS)获取细胞总蛋白, 酶标仪定量。配置12% SDS-PAGE胶, 凝胶每孔30  $\mu$ g蛋白, 80 V恒定电压电泳15 min, 随后120 V恒压电泳1 h, 恒流400 mA电泳90 min湿转至聚偏二氟乙烯(polyvinylidene fluoride, PVDF)膜, 5%牛血清白蛋白(bovine serum albumin, BSA)室温封闭1 h, 分别用RNF20抗体(1:500)、Akt抗体(1:1 000)、p-Akt抗体(1:1 000)以及 $\alpha$ -tubulin内参抗体(1:10 000) 4 °C孵育过夜, TBST缓冲液洗涤3次, 每次7 min, 加入HRP标记的山羊抗鼠IgG(1:2 000), 室温孵育1.5 h, TBST洗涤3次, 每次7 min, 化学发光成像系统检测。

**1.2.8 BrdU掺入实验** 将4种稳转细胞shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721及shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7分别接种至细胞爬片上, 待细胞汇合度为70%~80%时, 加入终浓度为8  $\mu$ g/mL的BrdU继续培养4 h。弃去细胞培养液, PBS冲洗3次。加4%多聚甲醛, 室温固定10 min。弃去多聚甲醛, PBS冲洗3次。加2 mol/L HCl, 室温放置15 min。弃HCl, PBS冲洗3次。2% BSA的封闭液室温封闭30 min, BrdU一抗(1:200)以及cy3荧光标记抗兔二抗(1:200)分别于湿盒内37 °C孵育30 min, DAPI染色后封片, 于荧光显微镜下观察。随机选择10个非重叠视野, 计算BrdU阳性细胞数, 计算平均值。

将稳转细胞shRNF20-7721和shRNF20-Huh7分别接种至细胞爬片, 待细胞汇合度为70%~80%时, 加入10  $\mu$ mol/mL派立福新处理, 设未处理组为对照

组, 同时进行上述BrdU掺入实验, 比较对照组和处理组的BrdU阳性细胞数。

**1.2.9 CCK-8法检测细胞增殖** 在96孔培养板中分别加入 $1 \times 10^4$ 个稳转细胞shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721及shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7的细胞悬液100  $\mu$ L, 每组3个复孔, 取同体积相同培养基作为空白对照, 置于37  $^{\circ}$ C、5% CO<sub>2</sub>培养箱培养。在第24、48和72 h的前4 h分别将培养基更换为90  $\mu$ L DMEM完全培养基和10  $\mu$ L CCK-8混合液, 继续孵育4 h后用酶标仪分别检测450 nm处的D值, 实验重复3次。

96孔板中分别加入 $1 \times 10^4$ 个稳转细胞shRNF20-7721和shRNF20-Huh7的细胞悬液100  $\mu$ L, 培养基中加10  $\mu$ mol/mL派立福新者为实验组未加派立福新为对照组, 用上述CCK-8法检测实验组和对照组细胞的增殖情况。

**1.2.10 划痕实验检测细胞迁移能力** 将24孔培养板中分别加入 $5 \times 10^4$ 个稳转细胞shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721及shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7的悬液500  $\mu$ L, 每组3个复孔, 置于37  $^{\circ}$ C、5%CO<sub>2</sub>培养箱培养。待其汇合度约60%, 用200  $\mu$ L灭菌枪头在每孔中间划出一道划痕, PBS冲洗被划下细胞2至3次, 加入无血

清培养基, 拍照。继续放置培养箱培养, 每24 h拍照。ImageJ软件计算细胞迁移距离。

24孔培养板中分别加入 $5 \times 10^4$ 个稳转细胞shRNF20-7721和shRNF20-Huh7含10  $\mu$ mol/mL派立福新的细胞悬液500  $\mu$ L, 未加派立福新未相应对照组, 上述划痕实验检测对照组和处理组细胞的迁移水平。

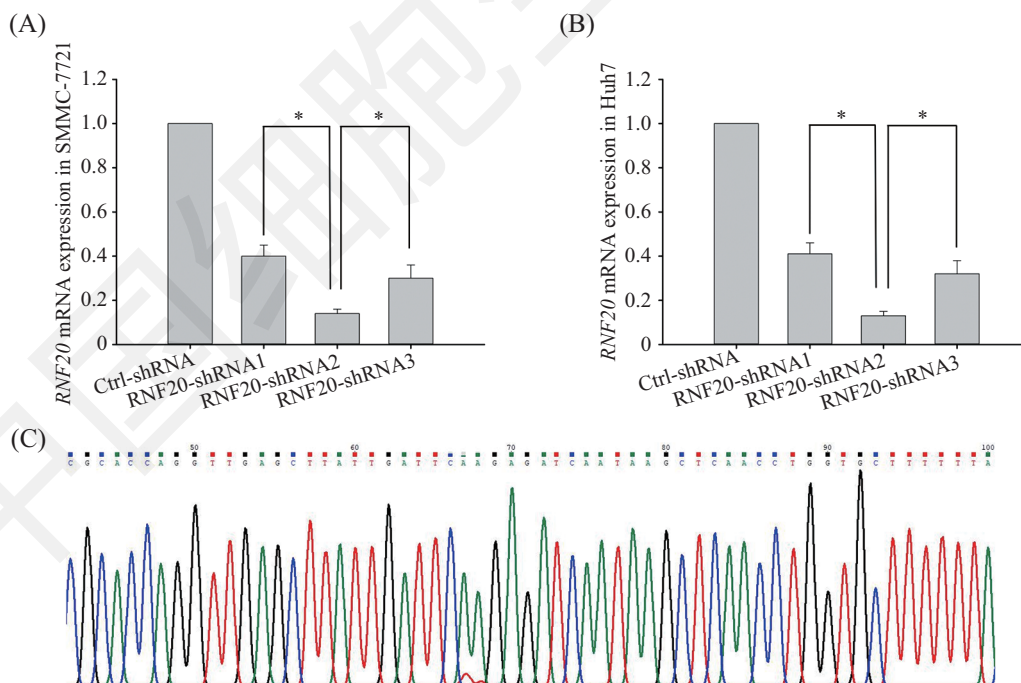
**1.2.11 转录组测序(Transcriptome Sequencing, RNA-seq)** 用Trizol法提取各对照组及RNF20缺陷组细胞的总RNA, 由北京安诺优达基因科技有限公司进行转录组测序。

**1.2.12 统计学分析** 数据采用均数 $\pm$ 标准差( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )表示, 使用SPSS 22.0软件进行数据分析, 两组数据的比较使用独立样本的t检验;  $P < 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 稳定感染肝癌细胞系的建立与鉴定

**2.1.1 SMMC-7721和Huh7细胞中RNF20 mRNA表达情况** SMMC-7721和Huh7细胞中RNF20 mRNA含量见图1A和图1B。结果显示, 两种肝癌细胞中RNF20-shRNA2对应的mRNA含量最低, 即RNF20-shRNA2对应肝癌细胞敲低RNF20效率最高。后



A: qPCR检测基因RNF20在SMMC-7721细胞中的mRNA表达情况; B: qPCR检测基因RNF20在Huh7细胞中的mRNA表达情况; C: RNF20-shRNA2基因测序图谱。\* $P < 0.05$ 。

A: the expression of RNF20 mRNA in SMMC-7721 cells; B: the expression of RNF20 mRNA in Huh7 cells; C: the gene sequencing map of RNF20-shRNA2. \* $P < 0.05$ .

图1 肝癌细胞中RNF20 mRNA表达情况

Fig.1 Expression of RNF20 mRNA in hepatocellular carcinoma cells

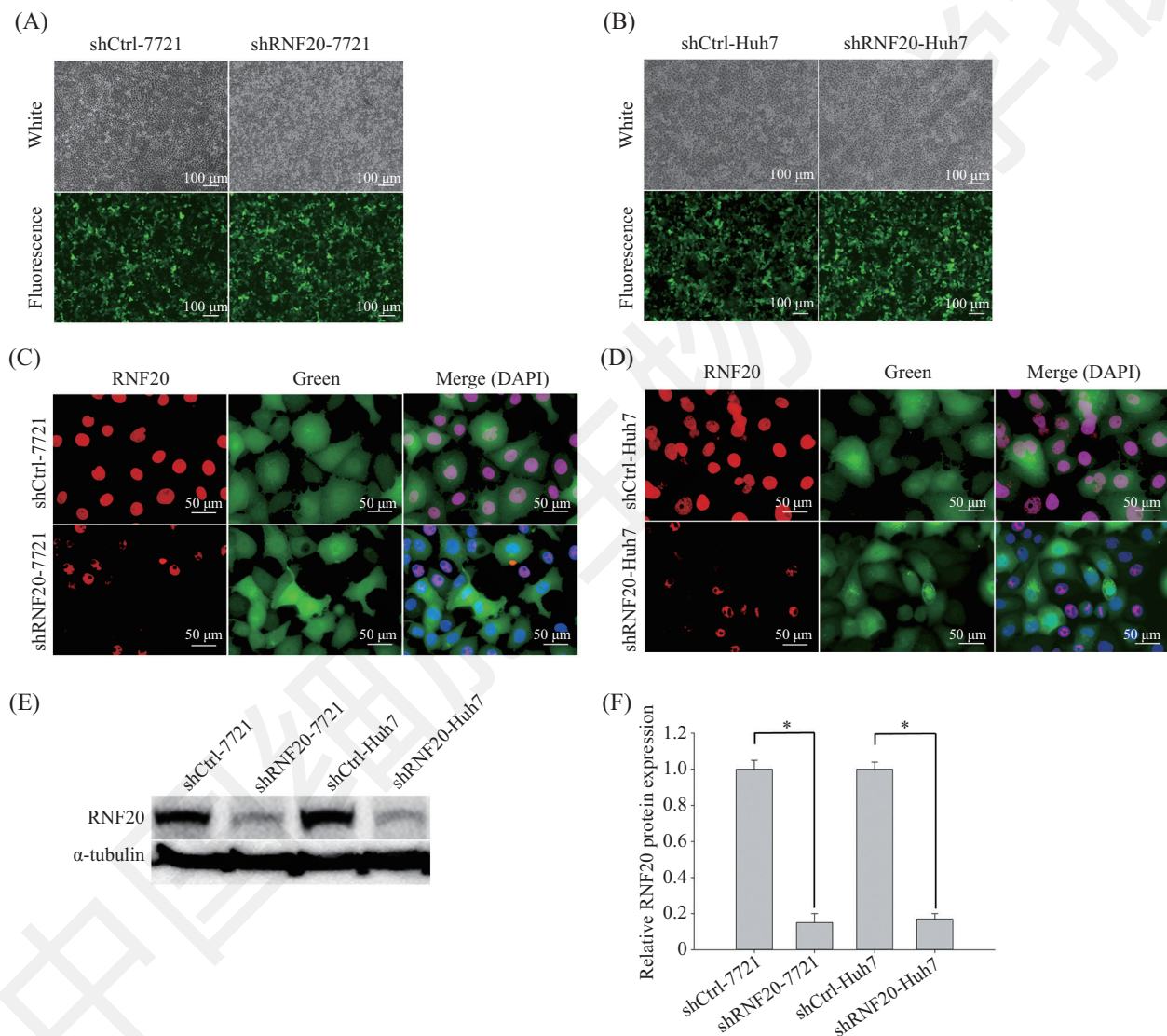
续实验选择 pLV-shCtrl-EGFP 感染的肝癌细胞为对照组 (shCtrl-7721 和 shCtrl-Huh7), pLV-shRNF20-EGFP-2 感染的肝癌细胞为实验组 (shRNF20-7721/shRNF20-Huh7)。

重组载体质粒 RNF20-shRNA2 基因测序图谱如图 1C 所示, 重组载体质粒与目的基因干扰靶序列相符, 均为单峰, 重组载体序列无误, 慢病毒载体构建成功。

### 2.1.2 鉴定 RNF20 敲低效率 Polybrene 介导的

pLV-shCtrl-EGFP 和 pLV-shRNF20-EGFP 病毒感染 SMMC-7721 和 Huh7 细胞 72 h, 经嘌呤霉素筛选 4 天后经荧光显微镜观察。结果显示 (图 2A 和图 2B), 4 组细胞 shRNF20-7721/shCtrl-7721 及 shRNF20-Huh7/shCtrl-Huh7 均有绿色荧光蛋白表达, 且感染效率均在 85% 以上。

免疫荧光染色法分析 4 组细胞 RNF20 的表达情况。结果如图 2C 和图 2D 所示, shRNF20-7721 及



A: shCtrl-7721 和 shRNF20-7721 细胞的绿色荧光蛋白表达情况; B: shCtrl-Huh7 和 shRNF20-Huh7 细胞的绿色荧光蛋白表达情况; C: shCtrl-7721 和 shRNF20-7721 细胞中 RNF20 蛋白表达; D: shCtrl-Huh7 和 shRNF20-Huh7 细胞中 RNF20 蛋白表达; E: Western blot 检测各细胞系中 RNF20 蛋白的表达; F: 各细胞系中 RNF20 蛋白表达分析。\* $P < 0.05$ 。Green: 绿色荧光蛋白; Merge(DAPI): RNF20、Green 与核染色 DAPI 三者合并。

A: the expression of GFP was observed under fluorescence microscope in shCtrl-7721 and shRNF20-7721; B: the expression of GFP was observed under fluorescence microscope in shCtrl-Huh7 and shRNF20-Huh7; C: the expression of RNF20 was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shCtrl-7721 and shRNF20-7721; D: the expression of RNF20 was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shCtrl-Huh7 and shRNF20-Huh7; E: the expression of RNF20 in each cell lines was detected by western blot; F: relative RNF20 protein expression was expressed by densitometric analysis. \* $P < 0.05$ . Green: green fluorescent protein; Merge(DAPI): merged with RNF20, Green and DAPI staining.

图2 鉴定 RNF20 敲低效率

Fig.2 Identification of RNF20 knockdown efficiency

shRNF20-Huh7的RNF20表达较其相应对照组 shCtrl-7721及shCtrl-Huh7细胞明显降低,且绿色荧光蛋白表达强度与RNF20的表达呈反比现象,即shRNA-RNF20绿色荧光表达越强则RNF20表达越弱。

免疫印迹法检测4组细胞中RNF20蛋白含量。结果如图2E和图2F所示,实验组shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7细胞中RNF20的蛋白表达量均低于其相应对照组,组间差异均具有统计学意义( $P<0.05$ )。以上结果表明,RNF20缺陷的稳定肝癌细胞系构建成功。

## 2.2 RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞增殖的影响

BrdU掺入实验检测4组稳转细胞增殖能力。结果如图3A、图3B和图3E所示,shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7稳转细胞BrdU掺入较其相应对照组shCtrl-7721及shCtrl-Huh7明显增加( $P<0.05$ )。

采用CCK-8法检测450 nm处的 $D$ 值分析4组稳转细胞增殖活性。结果如图3C和图3D所示,shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7稳转细胞在第

24、48及72 h的 $D$ 值均高于其相应对照组 shCtrl-7721( $P<0.05$ )及shCtrl-Huh7( $P<0.01$ )。以上结果表明,RNF20表达降低会促进肝癌细胞增殖。

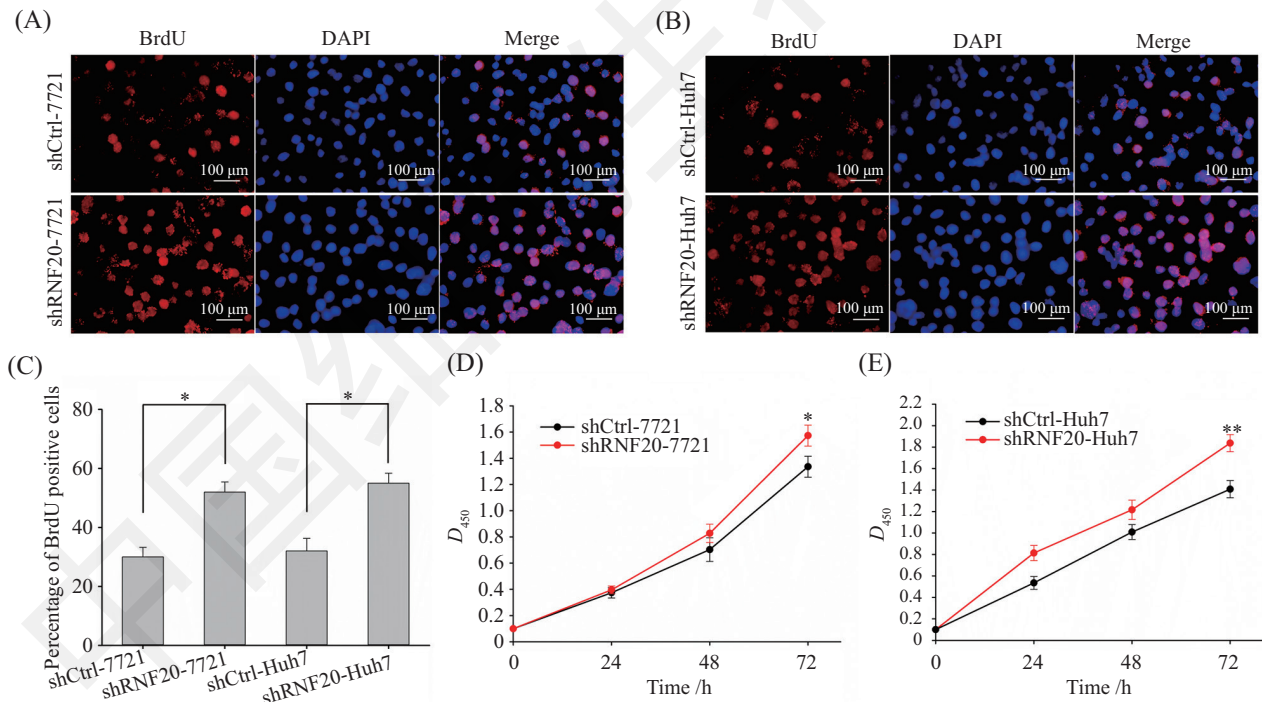
## 2.3 RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞迁移能力的影响

划痕实验检测4组稳转细胞迁移能力。结果如图4所示,缺陷组shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7细胞迁移能力较其相应对照组 shCtrl-7721及shCtrl-Huh7细胞明显增强( $P<0.05$ )。结果表明,RNF20缺陷增强肝癌细胞迁移能力。

## 2.4 RNF20缺陷对Akt通路的影响

免疫印迹法检测4组细胞中T-Akt和p-Akt蛋白含量。结果如图5A和图5B所示,4组细胞种T-Akt蛋白无明显差异,缺陷组shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7细胞中p-Akt蛋白表达量均高于其相应对照组( $P<0.05$ )。结果表明,RNF20缺陷导致p-Akt蛋白上调。

RNA-seq分析Akt通路相关基因的表达如图5C所示,RNF20缺陷的实验组较对照组细胞的RNF20、Weel、p27和p53基因的mRNA表达均降低( $P<0.05$ )。



A: BrdU法检测shCtrl-7721和shRNF20-7721细胞增殖能力; B: BrdU法检测shCtrl-Huh7和shRNF20-Huh7细胞增殖能力; C: 各组细胞BrdU表达分析; D: CCK-8法检测shCtrl-7721和shRNF20-7721细胞增殖能力; E: CCK-8法检测shCtrl-Huh7和shRNF20-Huh7细胞增殖能力; \* $P<0.05$ , \*\* $P<0.01$ 。

A: the expression of BrdU was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shCtrl-7721 and shRNF20-7721 cells; B: the expression of BrdU was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shCtrl-Huh7 and shRNF20-Huh7 cells; C: the percentage of BrdU positive cells; D: the  $D$  value of shCtrl-7721 and shRNF20-7721 was evaluated every 24 h by Cell Counting Kit-8 assay; E: the  $D$  value of shCtrl-Huh7 and shRNF20-Huh7 was evaluated every 24 h by Cell Counting Kit-8 assay; \* $P<0.05$ , \*\* $P<0.01$ 。

图3 RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞增殖的影响

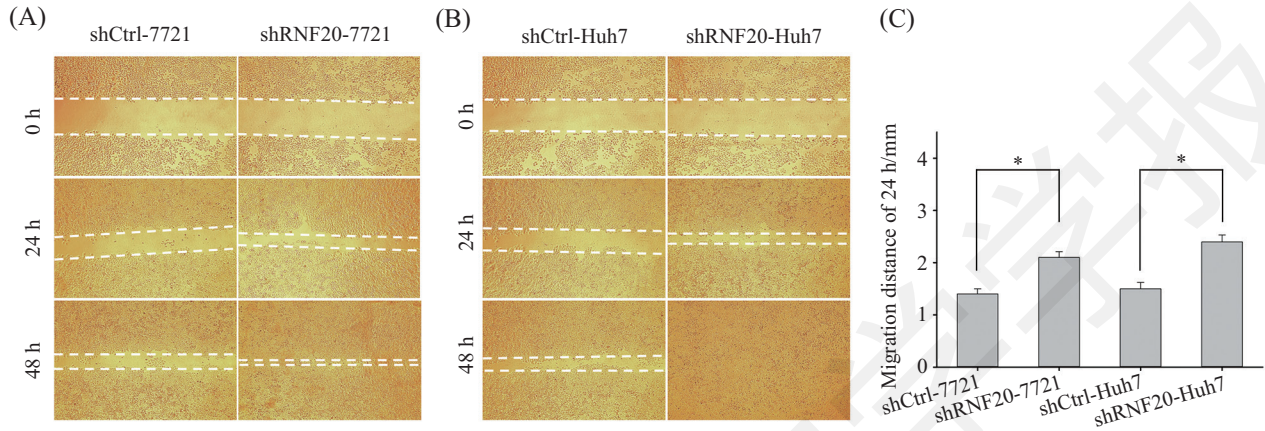
Fig.3 Effect of RNF20 deficiency on the proliferation of hepatocellular carcinoma cells

结果表明, RNF20的降低导致细胞周期抑制基因 *Weel* 和 *p27* 以及抑癌基因 *p53* 的转录水平降低。

### 2.5 Perifosine对RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞增殖和迁移的影响

BrdU掺入实验检测4组细胞增殖能力。结果如

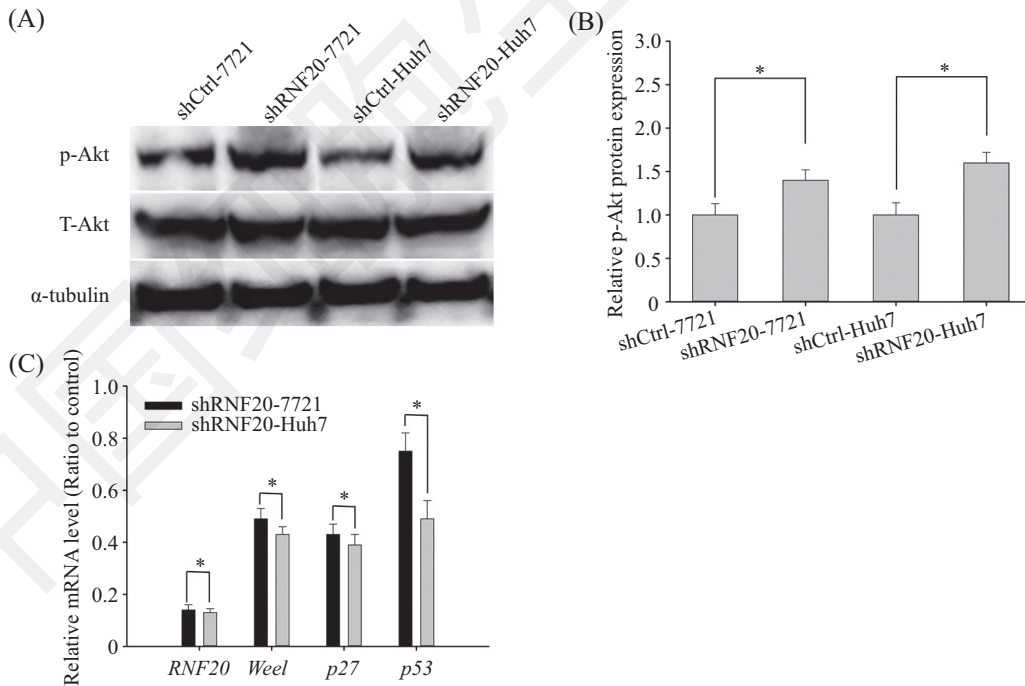
图6A、图6B和图6C所示, 处理组BrdU掺入较其相应对照组 shRNF20-7721 及 shRNF20-Huh7 明显增加 ( $P < 0.05$ )。采用CCK-8法检测450 nm处的 *D* 值分析4组细胞增殖活性。结果如图6D和图6E所示, 处理组在第24 h、48 h及72 h的 *D* 值均低于其相应对照组



A: RNF20缺陷对SMMC-7721细胞系迁移的影响; B: RNF20缺陷对Huh7细胞系迁移能力的影响; C: 第24 h各细胞系迁移水平分析。\* $P < 0.05$ 。  
A: the effect of RNF20 deficiency on the migration of SMMC-7721 cells; B: the effect of RNF20 deficiency on the migration of Huh7 cells; C: the migration distance of 24h. \* $P < 0.05$ .

图4 RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞迁移的影响

Fig.4 Effect of RNF20 deficiency on the migration of hepatocellular carcinoma cells

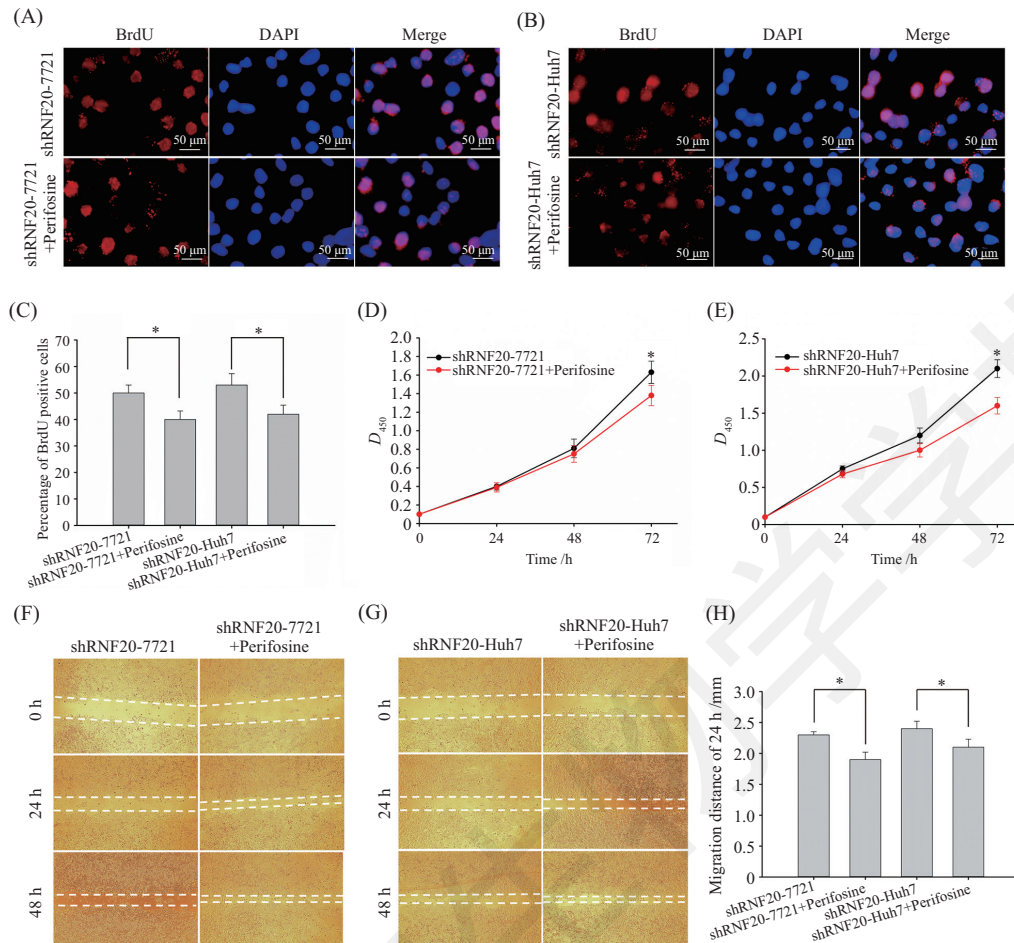


A: Western blot检测shCtrl-7721/shRNF20-7721和shCtrl-Huh7/shRNF20-Huh7细胞中p-Akt蛋白的表达; B: 各细胞系中p-Akt蛋白表达的分析; C: 转录组测序分析Akt通路相关基因的表达。\* $P < 0.05$ 。

A: the expression of p-Akt protein was detected by Western blot in shCtrl-7721/shRNF20-7721 and shCtrl-Huh7/shRNF20-Huh7; B: relative p-Akt protein expression was expressed as fold change relative to control (equal to 1) by densitometric analysis; C: the expression of Akt signaling pathway-related genes by RNA-seq. \* $P < 0.05$ .

图5 RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞中p-Akt蛋白的影响

Fig.5 Effect of RNF20 deficiency on the p-Akt protein of hepatocellular carcinoma cells



A: BrdU法检测shRNF20-7721细胞增殖能力; B: BrdU法检测shRNF20-Huh7细胞增殖能力; C: 各组细胞BrdU表达分析; D: CCK-8法检测shRNF20-7721细胞增殖能力; E: CCK-8法检测shRNF20-Huh7细胞增殖能力; F: 划痕实验检测shRNF20-7721细胞迁移能力; G: 划痕实验检测shRNF20-Huh7细胞迁移能力; H: 第24 h各细胞系迁移水平分析。\* $P < 0.05$ 。

A: the expression of BrdU was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shRNF20-7721 cells; B: the expression of BrdU was observed by immunofluorescence staining in shRNF20-Huh7 cells; C: the percentage of BrdU positive cells; D: the  $D$  value of shRNF20-7721 was evaluated every 24 h by CCK-8 assay; E: the  $D$  value of shRNF20-Huh7 was evaluated every 24 h by CCK-8 assay; F: detect of the migration of shRNF20-7721 cells by scratch test; E: detect of the migration of shRNF20-Huh7 cells by scratch test; F: the migration distance of 24 h. \* $P < 0.05$ .

图6 Perifosine对RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞增殖和迁移的影响

Fig.6 Effect of Perifosine on the RNF20-depleted hepatocellular carcinoma cells proliferation and migration

shRNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7( $P < 0.05$ )。以上结果表明,抑制AKT通路,RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞增殖水平降低。

划痕实验检测4组细胞迁移能力。结果如图6F、图6G和图6H所示,处理组细胞迁移能力较其相应对照组RNF20-7721及shRNF20-Huh7细胞减弱( $P < 0.05$ )。结果表明,抑制AKT通路,RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞迁移能力减弱。

### 3 讨论

表观遗传调控异常与癌症的发生发展密切相关<sup>[4]</sup>。E3泛素化连接酶RNF20通过调控H2Bub1导

致该基因位点染色体处于“开放”状态而促进靶基因转录延长<sup>[4]</sup>。RNF20降低导致基因转录失控以及基因组不稳定,进而促进肿瘤发生<sup>[15]</sup>。

研究证明,RNF20与H2Bub1缺陷在大量癌症中发挥着作用。乳腺癌中发现肿瘤的发生与高频的RNF20启动子超甲基化有关。在转移性前列腺癌<sup>[10]</sup>、精原细胞癌<sup>[11]</sup>、肺癌<sup>[12]</sup>、结肠癌<sup>[12]</sup>和胃癌<sup>[13]</sup>组织中均发现RNF20降低且促进癌细胞的增殖、侵袭与肿瘤的生长。与上述研究一致,我们发现,RNF20的下调导致肝癌细胞的增殖和迁移水平增加。但值得注意的是,在近期的两项研究中,RNF20缺陷会通过转录调控负性调节细胞增殖以及抑制恶性淋巴瘤<sup>[16]</sup>和乳腺癌<sup>[17]</sup>的发生发展。我



们推测,这可能是癌症的类型或分期的特异性所导致的,需要进一步的研究来证实这些相互矛盾的结果。

丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶Akt通过抑制细胞周期抑制蛋白Wee1、p27 Kip1和p21Cip1等促进细胞增殖,并通过抑制促凋亡因子防止细胞凋亡,以及激活凋亡抑制蛋白阻碍p53介导细胞凋亡<sup>[18-19]</sup>。近期研究发现,肺癌中RNF20与H2Bub1下调并通过Akt通路促进肺癌细胞增殖、迁移与侵袭<sup>[20]</sup>。我们通过Western blot和转录组测序分析了肝癌中RNF20下调对Akt通路及其相关基因mRNA表达水平的影响。结果显示,当RNF20在肝癌细胞中下调时磷酸化Akt显著增加且Wee1、p27以及p53的转录水平降低,这表明RNF20降低可能会激活Akt信号通路且影响该通路相关基因的转录。而我们进一步通过Akt抑制剂派立福新处理肝癌细胞后发现,抑制Akt通路导致RNF20缺陷的肝癌细胞增殖和迁移能力减弱。由此推论,RNF20的缺失可能通过调节包括Akt在内的多种信号通路促进SMMC-7721和Huh7肝癌细胞的增殖和迁移。此外,有研究证实,RNF20的降低通过抑制p53表达以及促进*c-Myc*和*c-Fos*等促癌基因的表达来促进细胞增殖、迁移和肿瘤发生<sup>[4-6]</sup>。因此,RNF20靶基因及其上下游通路的研究应继续进行。

综上所述,E3泛素连接酶RNF20可能是肝癌的抑癌因子。我们通过慢病毒感染肝癌细胞构建RNF20基因缺陷的稳定细胞系,建立了RNF20影响肝癌细胞增殖和迁移的模型,分析RNF20缺陷对肝癌细胞的影响及其机制。这些影响可能是由于RNF20基因下调引起的信号通路如Akt等转录调控紊乱所致,基因组的不稳定性加速了肝癌细胞的增殖与迁移。早期检出率低是HCC高死亡率的重要原因之一<sup>[21]</sup>,而表观遗传学的改变发生在肝癌早期<sup>[22]</sup>,这为肝癌的早期诊断、治疗和预后提供了新的方向。通过对机制的研究为药物提供新靶点将异常调控基因恢复正常,从而使从表观遗传分子水平治疗肝癌成为可能。本研究为探索RNF20基因缺陷促进肝癌生长的机制以及RNF20作为肝癌治疗潜在靶点的识别提供了基础,值得进一步研究。

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