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高绍荣, 中国科学院院士, 中国医学科学院学术咨询委员会学部委员, 现任同济大学医学与生命科学部主任, 同济大学生命科学与技术学院教授, 教育部“细胞干性与命运编辑”前沿科学中心主任, 曾任同济大学生命科学与技术学院院长。是国家杰出青年科学基金获得者、基金委卓越研究群体项目(原基础科学中心项目)负责人、基金委创新研究群体项目负责人。以第一完成人获国家自然科学奖二等奖、教育部自然科学奖一等奖和上海市自然科学奖一等奖, 并获全国创新争先奖、周光召基金会杰出青年基础科学奖、谈家桢生命科学创新奖和中国细胞生物学学会杰出成就奖等奖项。高绍荣长期从事胚胎发育与多能干细胞的基础与转化研究, 相关研究成果曾入选世界十大医学突破和“中国生命科学十大进展”。以通信作者身份在包括*Nature*、*Science*等在内的国际权威学术期刊发表论文150余篇, 他引一万余次, 多项成果被写入教科书。现任中国细胞生物学学会副理事长和中国动物学会副理事长以及*Cell Stem Cell*等多个国际学术期刊编委。



高亚威, 同济大学生命科学与技术学院教授, 中国动物学会生殖生物学分会常务委员。主要从事发育和重编程等过程的表观调控机制研究, 近年来聚焦探索了发育和干细胞中RNA表观修饰与核染色质的互作机制研究。以第一作者和通信作者身份在*Nature*、*Science*等期刊发表论文20余篇, 相关成果入选ESI数据库和“中国生命科学十大进展”, 获国家自然科学二等奖(2/5)等。主持U40、优青、国家科技部重点研发计划青年项目等, 获得国家与省部级人才项目。

L1PA上的m⁶A修饰对于多能性与全能性的调控机制

朱学昊^{1#} 常展赫^{1#} 高绍荣^{1,2*} 高亚威^{1,3,4*}

(¹同济大学生命科学与技术学院, 上海 200092; ²同济大学细胞干性与命运编辑前沿科学中心, 上海 200092;

³上海东方医院, 上海 200092; ⁴上海梧桐岛生命科学研究院, 上海 201203)

摘要 转座子元件占据近一半的哺乳动物基因组, 在不同物种之间具有高度的多样性, 并在调控进化及哺乳动物的生理与发育过程中产生新的遗传功能。在人类和小鼠发育过程中, 转座子, 尤其是LTR的广泛沉默对于正常发育至关重要, 但其背后的分子机制与调控通路仍未被完全阐明。

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[#]共同第一作者

*通信作者。Tel: 021-65985182, E-mail: gaoshaorong@tongji.edu.cn; Tel: 021-65987363, E-mail: gaoyawei@tongji.edu.cn

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[#]These authors contributed equally to this work

*Corresponding authors. Tel: +86-21-65985182, E-mail: gaoshaorong@tongji.edu.cn; Tel: +86-21-65987363, E-mail: gaoyawei@tongji.edu.cn

团队前期研究发现,在小鼠胚胎干细胞中,染色质相关RNA(caRNA)上富含由METTL3写入的m⁶A修饰;METTL3缺失会导致caRNA降解受阻、染色质开放增强,揭示m⁶A可通过RNA直接调控染色质状态。同时,团队也发现FTO是调控L1 RNA上m⁶A的重要去甲基化酶,FTO缺失导致L1 RNA上m⁶A积累及转录抑制,引发L1-contain基因下调和2C基因异常激活,进一步强调m⁶A-LINE1轴在染色质稳态中的核心作用。为探究在人类体系中m⁶A修饰是否存在与小鼠类似的作用,该研究在naïve态人胚胎干细胞中抑制METTL3,发现全能性相关转录本大量激活,包括ERV1与ERV1-MaLR等8C阶段特异LTR,并伴随染色质开放度显著提升,使细胞状态向8C-like全能阶段回溯。值得注意的是,靶向擦除灵长类特异的L1PA家族上的m⁶A修饰即可模拟METTL3抑制效应,表明L1PA是驱动人类8C程序重启的关键上游元件。机制上,L1PA RNA上的m⁶A决定其对染色质调控因子的选择性招募:m⁶A的存在抑制EP300在ERV1区域的结合,同时促进KAP1在ERV1-MaLR区域的富集,从而抑制两类LTR的异常激活,并维持分化所需的染色质压缩状态。当m⁶A减少时,这一平衡被打破,导致EP300介导的H3K27ac积累增强、KAP1-H3K9me3沉默通路受损,最终触发8C基因网络与LTR程序的重新激活。综上,该研究系统揭示了在naïve人胚胎干细胞中抑制LTR活性所依赖的、进化上保守但具有物种特异性的m⁶A-L1-LTR三者互作的跨通路调控轴,并强调了重复序列RNA上的m⁶A修饰在调节染色质状态、驱动细胞命运转换过程中所发挥的关键而保守的调控作用。

关键词 m⁶A修饰;多能性;全能性;L1PA;LTR

Unveiling the Role of N⁶-Methyladenosine on L1PA in Pluripotency and Totipotency

ZHU Xuehao^{1#}, CHANG Zhanhe^{1#}, GAO Shaorong^{1,2*}, GAO Yawei^{1,3,4*}

⁽¹*School of Life Sciences and Technology, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092, China;* ²*Frontier Science Center for Stem Cell Research, Tongji University, Shanghai 200092, China;* ³*Shanghai East Hospital, Shanghai 200092, China;*

⁴*Sycamore Research Institute of Life Sciences, Shanghai 201203, China)*

Abstract Transposable elements constitute nearly half of the mammalian genome, exhibit remarkable diversity across species, and have acquired new regulatory functions during evolution and development. In both human and mouse embryos, the robust silencing of transposons—particularly LTR elements—is essential for normal development, yet the underlying molecular mechanisms remain incompletely understood. Previous work in mouse embryonic stem cells revealed that caRNAs (chromatin-associated RNAs) are highly enriched for METTL3-installed m⁶A modifications. Loss of METTL3 impairs caRNA degradation and leads to enhanced chromatin accessibility, demonstrating that m⁶A can directly regulate chromatin states via RNA. Further investigations further identified FTO as a key demethylase controlling m⁶A on L1 RNA; FTO depletion results in m⁶A accumulation, reduced L1 RNA stability, repression of L1-containing genes, and aberrant activation of 2C-specific transcripts, underscoring the central role of the m⁶A-LINE1 axis in maintaining chromatin homeostasis. To investigate whether a similar mechanism operates in human cells, METTL3 was inhibited in naïve hESCs (human embryonic stem cells). METTL3 inhibition triggered widespread activation of totipotency-associated transcripts, including 8C-specific ERV1 and ERV1-MaLR LTR families, accompanied by markedly increased chromatin accessibility and a shift toward an 8C-like state. Strikingly, targeted reduction of m⁶A on the primate-specific L1PA family recapitulated the transcriptomic reprogramming induced by METTL3 inhibition, indicating that L1PA functions as a key upstream regulator of the human 8C program. Mechanistically, m⁶A on L1PA RNA dictates the selective recruitment of chromatin regulators: m⁶A restricts EP300 binding at ERV1 regions while promoting KAP1 enrichment at ERV1-MaLR

loci, thereby suppressing aberrant LTR activation and maintaining differentiation-associated chromatin compaction. Loss of m⁶A disrupts this balance, enhancing EP300-mediated H3K27ac deposition and weakening the KAP1-H3K9me3 silencing pathway, ultimately re-activating 8C gene networks and LTR elements. Together, this findings uncover an evolutionarily conserved yet species-adapted m⁶A-L1-LTR regulatory axis that governs LTR silencing in naïve hESCs. This work highlights the critical and conserved role of m⁶A modifications on repetitive RNA in shaping chromatin structure and directing cell-fate transitions.

Keywords m⁶A; pluripotency; totipotency; L1PA; LTR

1 表观遗传与转座元件的多层级调控

生命科学的经典中心法则指出,遗传信息由DNA储存,经转录形成RNA,再经翻译生成蛋白质。尽管在整个个体发育过程中基因组序列基本保持不变,但一个受精卵如何发育成由成百上千种细胞类型构成的复杂个体,取决于细胞内部高度精确的转录与翻译调控网络。这些调控过程并非由DNA序列本身单独完成,而是依赖DNA、RNA与蛋白质三类大分子上广泛存在的可逆化学修饰(如DNA甲基化、组蛋白翻译后修饰以及RNA上的多种化学修饰)共同协作,从而形成分层的表观遗传与转录后调控体系^[1-4]。近年来,以何川团队^[5-7]为代表的研究揭示mRNA与非编码RNA上广泛存在N⁶-甲基腺苷(m⁶A)等表观转录组修饰,这些修饰不仅调控RNA的稳定性、剪接、定位与翻译效率,还可能跨越层级影响染色质状态,构成DNA修饰、组蛋白修饰与RNA修饰之间的互作网络,引发了对RNA-染色质互作机制的深入探索。

与此同时,人们对重复序列与转座元件的认识也在不断刷新。转座元件作为基因组中可移动的重复单元,在哺乳动物基因组中占据约一半空间,而蛋白编码序列不足3%^[8]。早期研究常将其视为“垃圾DNA”或“自私DNA”,但随着研究深入,越来越多证据表明重复序列是基因组调控网络的重要组成部分,其整合、扩增与沉默均与生物进化、基因表达调控以及细胞命运变化密切相关^[9]。从进化角度看,特定LTR元件在胎盘哺乳动物起源与母胎互作系统形成中扮演关键角色^[10-12];从功能角度看,转座元件的作用可以分为DNA、RNA和蛋白三个层面:转座元件的DNA片段可作为增强子、启动子或绝缘子参与顺式调控^[13-14];转座元件转录形成的RNA既可产生小RNA(如piRNA)介导沉默^[15-17],也可作为“脚手架”结构与染色质调控复合物结合,实现反式调控^[18];部分转座元件还能翻译生成反转录酶或

转座酶,影响基因组稳定性,其活性异常与衰老和疾病相关^[19-21]。

2 RNA修饰驱动转座元件调控胚胎命运决定

早期胚胎发育过程是转座元件激活最显著的发育阶段。受精后胚胎经历剧烈的表观遗传重编程,包括全基因组DNA去甲基化、H3K9me3/H3K-27me3等异染色质修饰的大幅削减、染色质开放度的普遍升高,这些变化共同导致原本沉默的转座元件(尤其是LINE1与LTR)的短暂激活^[22-23]。在不同哺乳动物中,ZGA发生时间不同:小鼠在2-细胞期(2C stage)^[24],人类在8-细胞期(8C stage)^[25],但均伴随大规模LTR激活^[26-29]。与此同时,LINE1的适度表达同样对胚胎重编程、转录激活和发育进程必不可少。转座元件的激活必须被严格限制在精确的时序范围内,以防止基因组不稳定和异常转录的发生。小鼠在8-细胞期后快速建立H3K9me3/H3K27me3介导的沉默状态,而人类的LTR有两个沉默的阶段,一个发生于桑椹胚阶段,另一阶段始于囊胚并持续到分化期。

在这个过程中:一个正在被积极转录的转座元件如何被识别并重新沉默?RNA本身是否参与了这一表观沉默过程?RNA与染色质之间的空间互作如何发挥调控功能?随着染色质相关RNA(caRNA)研究的深入,RNA修饰在染色质调控中的作用逐步显现。何川团队^[30]在2020年的研究首次发现caRNA富含m⁶A修饰,这些修饰由METTL3写入,缺失METTL3会导致caRNA上m⁶A丢失,使carRNA降解受阻,进而增强染色质开放与转录活性。这一工作首次证明m⁶A通过作用于染色质相关RNA直接调控染色质状态。

紧随其后,更多研究揭示m⁶A在胚胎发育中的重要作用。在小鼠体系中,METTL3敲除导致胚胎在植入后早期即出现谱系分化缺陷并发生早期胚胎

致死^[31], 而核内阅读蛋白(reader) YTHDC1敲除导致更早的致死效应, 囊胚无法维持, ESC系无法建立。YTHDC1的缺失会导致2C基因与转座元件的异常激活, 使细胞无法退出全能性状态。YTHDC1通过识别LINE1 RNA上的m⁶A修饰, 并与LINE1 scaffold复合体成员(如NCL、KAP1)协同, 使沉默复合物更准确地定位至2CLTR元件区域, 从而维持染色质沉默稳定性^[32-33]。

在进一步探索RNA修饰去甲基化机制时, 我们发现FTO是调控L1 RNA上m⁶A水平的重要去甲基化酶。FTO缺失导致L1 RNA上m⁶A大幅累积, 使L1 RNA稳定性下降和转录活性抑制, 进而引发L1-contain基因表达下调和2C基因异常激活。在生理层面, FTO敲除小鼠表现出严重生殖缺陷, 卵母细胞染色质与L1相关基因表达均显著紊乱, 胚胎无法着床。通过基于dCas13b的FTO重定位恢复L1上的去甲基化状态, 可完全恢复染色质和胚胎发育表型, 首次验证FTO-L1-染色质轴在早期胚胎发育中的关键功能^[34]。

综合来看, 近年来的研究逐渐清晰地描绘出一条重要的分子路径: RNA上的m⁶A修饰不仅决定RNA自身的命运, 还通过作用于LINE1与LTR等转座元件的RNA与DNA形式, 跨层影响转录程序、染色质结构与干细胞命运。这一RNA-转座元件-染色质调控闭环构成了连接早期胚胎发育、细胞命运转换与基因组稳定性的核心枢纽, 也是本文进一步研究的理论基础和科学问题来源。

3 METTL3调控人类胚胎干细胞多能性状态转换

前文阐述了RNA修饰参与调控小鼠早期胚胎发育与干细胞的多能性维持, 那么在人类胚胎干细胞中, m⁶A修饰是否存在与小鼠类似的作用? 我们将此问题作为本文研究的重点。为评估METTL3介导的m⁶A修饰在人类naïve hESCs中的功能, 我们在naïve细胞培养体系中加入METTL3抑制剂, 并系统分析细胞命运状态的变化。抑制METTL3后, 细胞内整体m⁶A水平显著下降(图1A), 伴随细胞增殖速率降低(图1B)。在进一步的状态转换实验中, 我们分别在naïve向primed态诱导以及naïve向8C-like状态诱导过程中引入METTL3抑制剂。结果显示, METTL3抑制会阻断naïve细胞向primed态的转化(图1C), 而

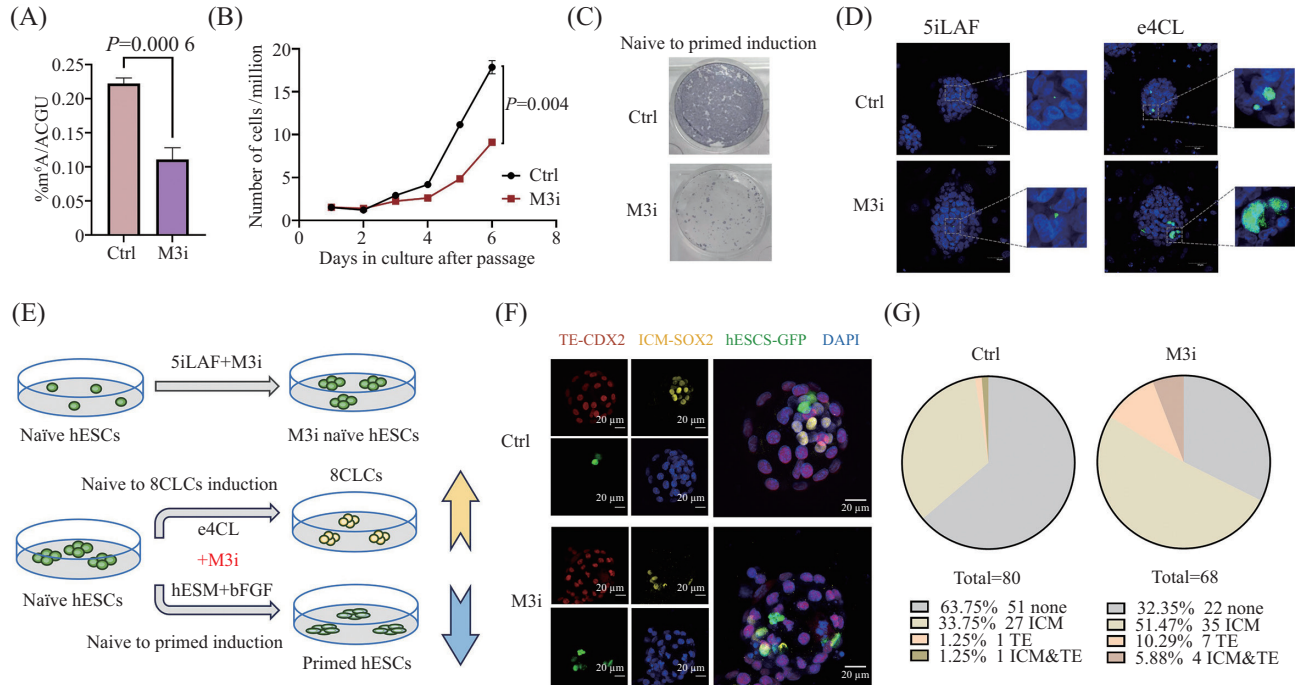
促进其向8C-like全能状态的转变(图1D)。这些结果表明, METTL3活性对于维持naïve多能性至关重要, 其抑制可促使细胞向早期全能状态发生偏移(图1E)。

为了评估METTL3抑制对细胞发育潜能的功能性影响, 我们开展了胚胎嵌合实验。结果显示, METTL3抑制显著增强naïve细胞在胚胎中的嵌合能力, 尤其是在滋养外胚层谱系的贡献显著增加, 嵌合比例由2.5%提升至16.7%(图1F~图1G)。这一结果从功能层面验证了METTL3抑制能够促进细胞发育潜力的提升。

4 METTL3抑制诱导8C LTR的转录激活与染色质开放

为了系统评估METTL3抑制对naïve人胚胎干细胞转录状态的影响, 我们首先对METTL3抑制与正常naïve细胞进行了bulk total RNA-seq分析。转录组变化呈现明确趋势: naïve多能性标志基因表达下调, 而8C阶段特征基因, eRNA和LTR元件的表达显著上调(图2A和图2B)。无论从转座元件的亚家族层面还是具体拷贝水平进行分析, 上调的8C LTR主要富集于ERV1与ERV1-MaLR两个亚家族(图2C和图2D)。

为了探究全能性相关转录本激活的机制, 我们进行了新生RNA-seq与ATAC-seq检测。结果显示, METTL3抑制显著增强8C基因、eRNA以及8C LTR的转录活性(图2E), 并伴随全局染色质开放度的提高(图2F)。为了进一步解析这一变化对应的表观遗传特征, 我们整合ATAC-seq与组蛋白修饰N-ChIP数据进行分析。ERV1与ERV1-MaLR亚家族在8C激活过程中受不同表观调控机制驱动: ERV1的激活更依赖H3K27ac的积累, 而ERV1-MaLR的激活则与H3K9me3的丢失密切相关(图2G和图2H)。这种差异化调控特征与人类早期胚胎发育中LTR沉默的动态规律高度一致。已有研究表明, 人类LTR在早期胚胎发育过程中呈现两个时序性沉默阶段^[36]: 其中ERV1亚家族属于较晚沉默类型, 在囊胚ICM阶段仍保留较强的H3K27ac信号, 尚未完全获得H3K9me3覆盖^[37-38]。相比之下, ERV1-MaLR在更早阶段即逐步获得H3K9me3标记。因此, 这一进化特异性的表观遗传背景可能解释了不同LTR亚类在METTL3抑制后表现出的差异化响应模式。



A: LC-MS/MS检测非核糖体RNA的m⁶A/ACGU结果显示M3i hESCs的m⁶A水平低于Ctrl组; B: 细胞生长曲线显示M3i hESCs的增殖速率低于Ctrl组, 最后一天的细胞数量用于P值统计分析; C: 碱性磷酸酶(AP)染色结果显示, METTL3抑制后naïve到primed转变能力受损; D: 免疫荧光染色显示, METTL3抑制导致naïve以及8C诱导过程中的8CLCs增加, 绿色荧光代表*LEUTX*基因表达; E: M3i抑制naïve向primed状态转化以及促进naïve向8CLCs诱导的示意图; F: 共聚焦显微镜图像显示, EGFP⁺ hESCs能够整合至小鼠囊胚的ICM与TE区域, DAPI(蓝色), SOX2(黄色), CDX2(红色), GFP(绿色); G: Ctrl和M3i naïve细胞分别嵌合到囊胚ICM和TE不同谱系的数量及比例统计。

A: LC-MS/MS quantification of the m⁶A/ACGU ratio in non-ribosomal RNAs showing reduced m⁶A levels in M3i hESCs compared with Ctrl; B: growth curves showing decreased proliferation rates of M3i hESCs relative to Ctrl. Cell numbers on the final day were used for statistical analysis; C: AP (alkaline phosphatase) staining showing impaired capacity of the naïve-to-primed transition upon METTL3 inhibition; D: immunofluorescence staining showing that METTL3 inhibition increases the proportion of 8CLCs during both naïve maintenance and 8C induction. Green fluorescence indicates *LEUTX* expression; E: schematic illustrating that M3i blocks the transition from naïve to primed state while promoting induction of naïve hESCs into 8CLCs; F: confocal images showing integration of EGFP⁺ hESCs into the ICM (inner cell mass) and TE (trophoblast) of mouse blastocysts. DAPI, blue; SOX2, yellow; CDX2, red; GFP, green; G: quantification of the number and proportion of Ctrl and M3i naïve hESCs contributing to distinct ICM and TE lineages in chimeric blastocysts.

图1 METTL3抑制对naïve hESCs多能性动态的影响(根据参考文献[35]改编)

Fig.1 METTL3 inhibition alters pluripotency dynamics in naïve hESCs (modified from reference [35])

5 L1PA上的位点特异性m⁶A擦除驱动8C转录激活

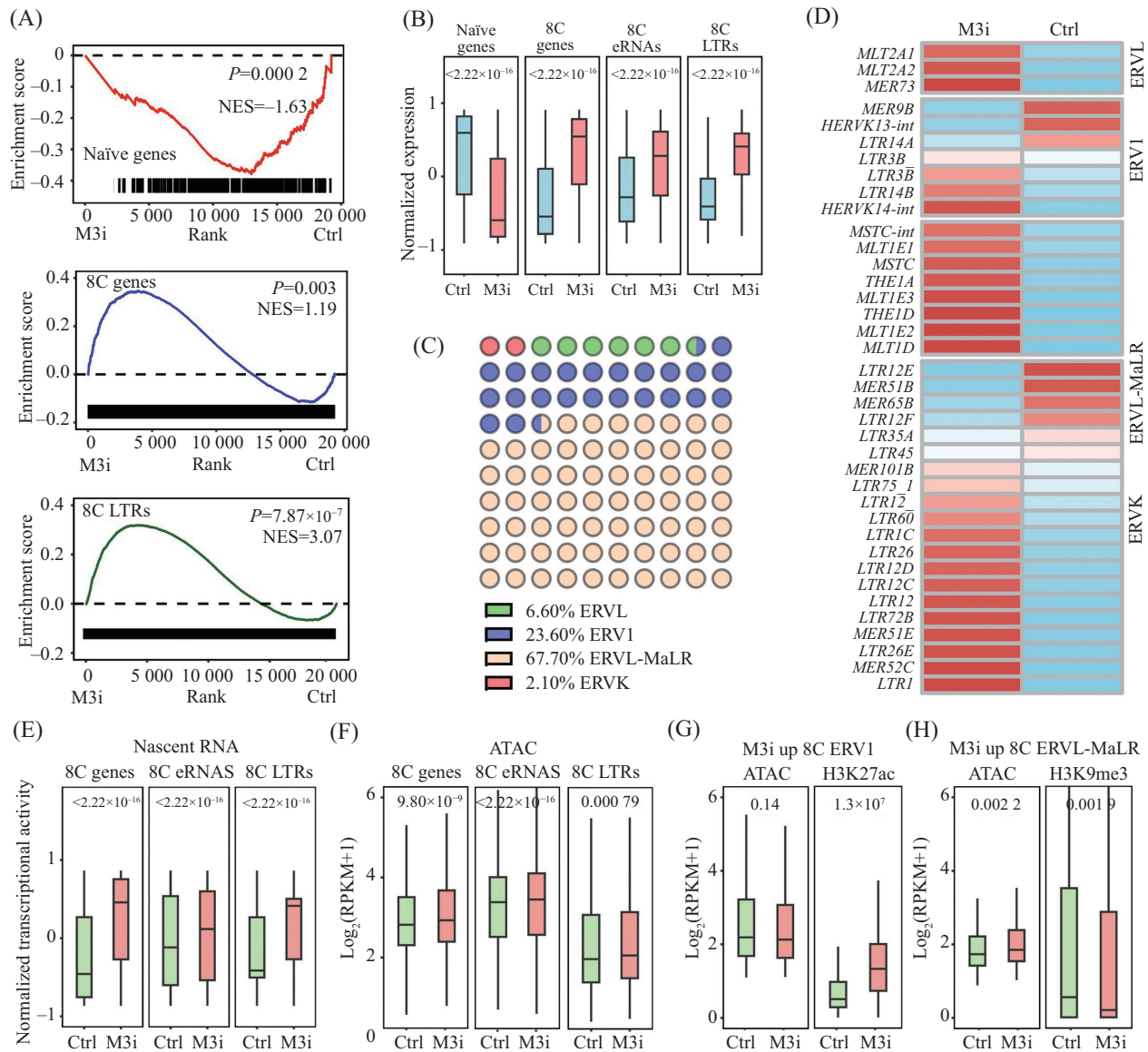
为系统解析METTL3通过m⁶A修饰调控人类胚胎干细胞多能性转换的机制, 我们首先开展m⁶A-seq, 分析结果提示8C阶段特异基因的上调并非由其自身RNA上m⁶A的直接调控所驱动, 而更可能来源于其上游调控元件的变化。对于表达激活的8C LTR来说, 其自身不富集m⁶A, 转录上调也并非由LTR RNA的m⁶A修饰直接介导。相反, m⁶A修饰下降主要集中在核线特异性的LINE1家族成员, 尤其是灵长类特异的L1PA亚家族(图3A和图3B)。我们鉴定到L1PA上存在三个主要的m⁶A修饰峰, 并据此构建了基于FTO-dCas13b的RNA定点去甲基化系统, 以特异性擦除这些m⁶A峰(图3C)。m⁶A-seq结果验证

了该系统在L1PA上的高度特异性, 能够实现对目标修饰峰的精准去除(图3D)。

值得强调的是, L1PA m⁶A的定点擦除导致的转录组改变与METTL3全局抑制高度一致(图3E), 包括8C基因、8C eRNA与8C LTR的显著激活(图3F)。在拷贝水平层面上, 三者均能较好地复现METTL3抑制时的表达上调变化, 且在8C LTR中复现比例最高(图3G)。这些结果表明, L1PA是m⁶A介导调控naïve人胚胎干细胞向8C-like全能状态转变的关键转座元件, 亦是该调控轴上的核心功能性修饰靶点。

6 L1PA靶向8C LTR区域并招募EP300与KAP1

为进一步阐明L1PA在调控8C LTR激活过程中



A: GSEA展示M3i hESCs中naïve特异基因呈现下调趋势, 8C基因和LTR呈现上升趋势; B: 箱线图显示M3i hESCs中naïve基因表达水平降低, 而8C基因、8C增强子及8C LTR拷贝表达水平显著升高; C: 比例图展示METTL3抑制后上调的LTR拷贝在各亚家族中的分布比例; D: 热图展示了M3i与Ctrl hESCs中8C特异性LTR亚家族($n=38$)的标准化RNA表达水平; E: 箱线图显示M3i hESCs中8C基因、8C eRNA及8C LTR拷贝的新生转录水平显著升高; F: 箱线图显示M3i hESCs中8C基因、8C eRNA及8C LTR拷贝的ATAC信号均显著增强; G、H: 箱线图显示上调ERV1区域中ATAC与H3K27ac信号的 $\log_2(\text{RPKM}+1)$ 变化(G), 以及上调ERV1-MaLR区域中ATAC与H3K9me3信号的RPKM变化(H)。

A: GSEA showing downregulation of naïve-specific genes and upregulation of 8C genes and LTRs in M3i hESCs; B: boxplots showing reduced expression of naïve genes and significantly increased expression of 8C genes, 8C enhancers, and 8C LTR copies in M3i hESCs; C: proportion plot showing the distribution of upregulated LTR copies among different subfamilies upon METTL3 inhibition; D: heatmap showing normalized RNA expression levels of 8C-specific LTR subfamilies ($n=38$) in M3i and Ctrl hESCs; E: boxplots showing significantly increased nascent transcription of 8C genes, 8C eRNAs, and 8C LTR copies in M3i hESCs; F: boxplots showing significantly elevated ATAC-seq signals at 8C genes, 8C eRNAs, and 8C LTR copies in M3i hESCs; G,H: boxplots showing $\log_2(\text{RPKM}+1)$ changes of ATAC and H3K27ac signals at upregulated ERV1 loci (G), and ATAC and H3K9me3 signals at upregulated ERV1-MaLR loci (H).

图2 METTL3抑制诱导8C LTR的转录激活与染色质开放(根据参考文献[35]改编)

Fig.2 METTL3 inhibition induces transcriptional activation and chromatin opening of 8C LTRs (modified from reference [35])

的机制, 我们利用L1PA特异性探针开展ChIRP实验(图4A)。ChIRP-seq分析显示, 与L1PA直接结合的LTR在METTL3抑制或L1PA定点去甲基化(sgL1PA)

后均更富集(图4B), 进一步支持L1PA是这些LTR的直接反式调控因子。为了探究L1PA RNA是否通过招募特定染色质调控因子来调节靶区域的表现状

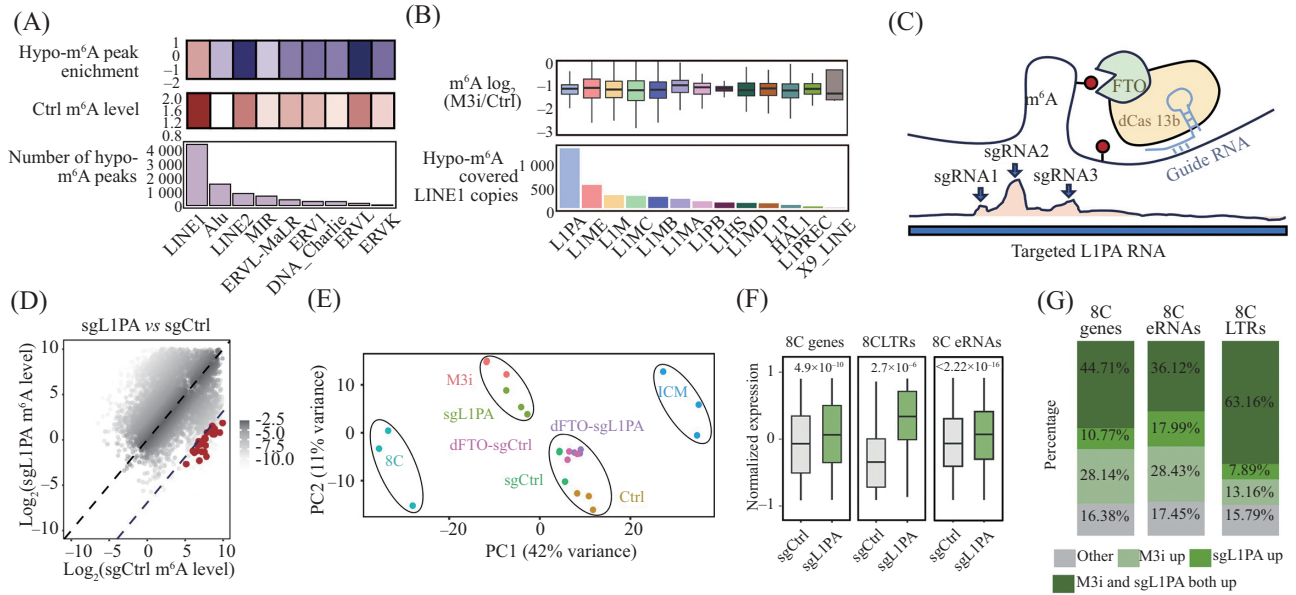


图3 定点擦除L1PA上的m⁶A可以复现METTL3抑制激活8C转录组的特征(根据参考文献[35]改编)

Fig.3 Site-specific erasure of m⁶A on L1PA recapitulates METTL3 inhibition-induced activation of the 8C transcriptome (modified from reference [35])

A: summary of global changes in repeat RNAs upon METTL3 inhibition. Top, m⁶A levels of repeat RNAs in Ctrl samples; middle, log₂ enrichment scores of hypomethylated (hypo-m⁶A) peaks; bottom, repeat subfamilies ranked by the number of copies covered by hypo-m⁶A peaks; B: summary of LINE1 subfamilies upon METTL3 inhibition. Top, log₂(fold change) of m⁶A levels; bottom, number of LINE1 copies covered by hypo-m⁶A peaks; C: schematic illustrating the principle of the dCas13b-FTO site-specific demethylation system. sgRNAs were designed to target the three major conserved m⁶A peak regions on L1PA; D: scatter plot showing log₂m⁶A levels of all repeat copies covered by m⁶A peaks in sgL1PA versus sgCtrl conditions. Red dots indicate L1PA copies with the most pronounced m⁶A reduction after dCas13b-FTO-mediated demethylation; E: PCA of differentially expressed genes showing global transcriptional differences among M3i, Ctrl, sgL1PA, sgCtrl, dFTO-sgL1PA, dFTO-sgCtrl, and human 8C and ICM embryo samples; F: boxplots showing normalized expression levels of 8C genes, 8C LTRs, and 8C eRNAs in dCas13b-FTO sgL1PA versus sgCtrl hESCs; G: stacked bar plot showing the proportions of 8C genes, 8C LTR subfamilies, and 8C eRNAs upregulated under M3i, sgL1PA, or both conditions.

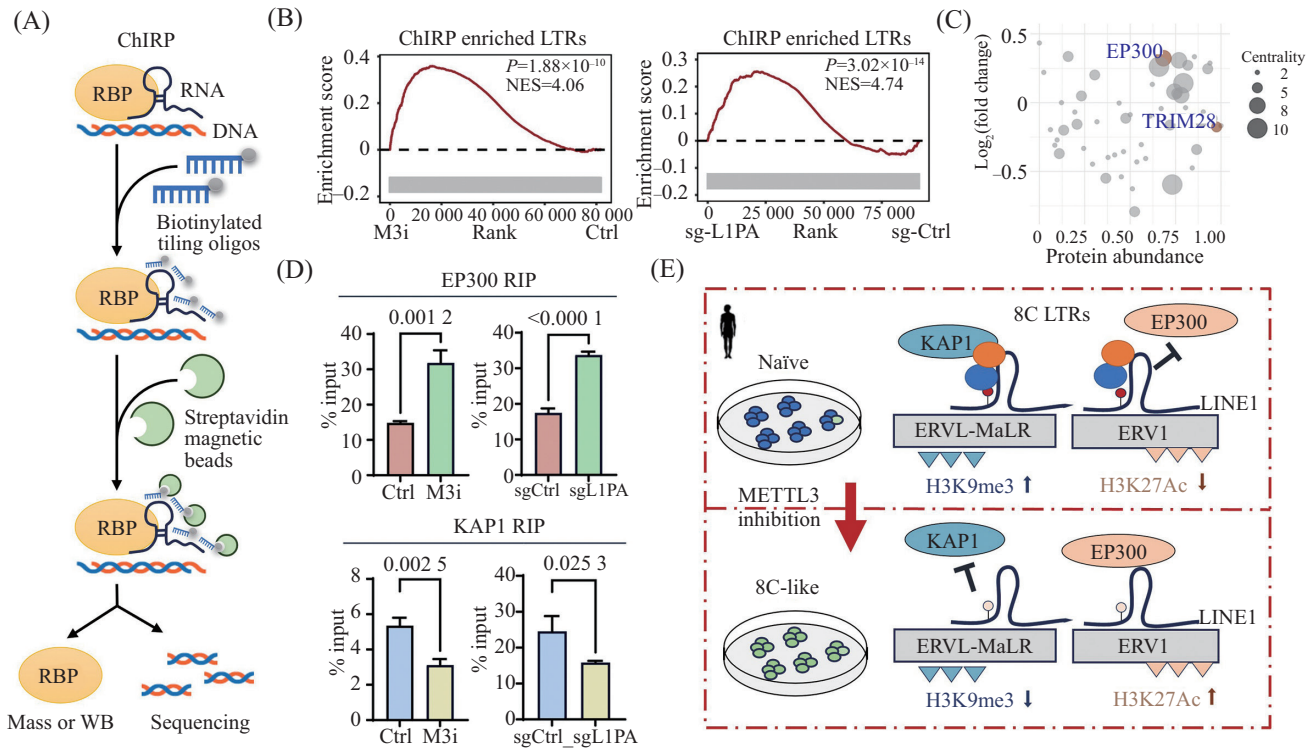
态, 我们开展了ChIRP质谱分析。结果表明, L1PA RNA可与多类表观调控蛋白互作, 尤以H3K9me3写入复合物关键因子KAP1及促进H3K27ac沉积的增强子激活酶EP300最为重要(图4C)。进一步的RIP-qPCR分析显示, m⁶A丢失显著促进了L1PA与EP300之间的结合, 同时削弱了其KAP1的互作(图4D)。这种差异性偏好表明, EP300更倾向结合缺乏m⁶A修饰的L1PA, 而KAP1的结合依赖其reader蛋白YTHDC1对m⁶A的识别, 从而使m⁶A成为调控不同组蛋白修饰因子选择性招募的关键分子标记。

结合ChIP-seq证据, 我们进一步确认, 在naïve人胚胎干细胞状态中, L1PA上的m⁶A修饰维系ERVL-

MaLR区域对KAP1的稳定招募, 保障其H3K9me3介导的沉默状态; 而在ERV1区域, m⁶A则限制EP300的结合与H3K27ac的沉积, 防止ERV1被过早激活。当m⁶A修饰缺失后, 这种平衡被打破, 使L1PA更倾向招募EP300并减少KAP1结合, 导致ERV1区域H3K27ac增加, 同时ERVL-MaLR区域H3K9me3显著下降。

7 总结与展望

全能性相关转录本的沉默与协调的染色质状态转换, 是早期发育与谱系命运决定的基础过程。本研究系统解析了METTL3在naïve态人胚胎干细胞中如何通过多种m⁶A介导的顺式与反式调控模式,



A: ChIRP实验流程示意图; B: GSEA分析显示, ChIRP富集的LTR在M3i与sgL1PA条件下整体上调; C: 气泡图展示ChIRP-Mass鉴定到的染色质调控相关蛋白的丰度与变化差异, 点大小表示网络中心性; D: RIP-qPCR结果显示, 在Ctrl vs M3i细胞和sgCtrl vs sgL1PA细胞中, EP300、KAP1与LINE1 RNA的结合差异, 相对富集度以input百分比相对于阴性对照抗体IgG计算; E: 分子机制示意图。

A: schematic illustrating the experimental workflow of the ChIRP assay; B: GSEA showing global upregulation of ChIRP-enriched LTRs under M3i and sgL1PA conditions; C: bubble plot showing the abundance and differential changes of chromatin regulatory proteins identified by ChIRP-Mass spectrometry. Dot size represents network centrality; D: RIP-qPCR showing differential association of EP300 and KAP1 with LINE1 RNAs in Ctrl versus M3i cells and in sgCtrl versus sgL1PA cells. Relative enrichment was calculated as the percentage of input relative to the negative control antibody IgG; E: schematic model illustrating the molecular mechanism.

图4 L1PA靶向8C LTR区域并以m⁶A修饰调控的方式招募EP300与KAP1(根据参考文献[35]改编)

Fig.4 L1PA targets 8C LTR regions and recruits EP300 and KAP1 in an m⁶A-dependent manner (modified from reference [35])

共同维持8C特异性转录本及染色质状态的沉默。我们特别发现, 灵长类特异性L1PA RNA能够与8C阶段的LTR(尤其是ERV1和ERVL-MaLR)发生互作, 作为“RNA脚手架”招募染色质调控因子, 从而精细调节局部的表观遗传状态。在此框架中, m⁶A修饰充当组蛋白调控因子的“选择器”: 限制EP300在L1PA靶向的8C ERV1元件上的结合以防止异常激活, 同时促进KAP1在ERVL-MaLR区的占据以维持H3K9me3介导的沉默。因此, 无论是METTL3抑制还是L1PA上m⁶A的定点擦除, 都将破坏这套调控平衡, 导致染色质状态重塑与8C程序的重新激活(图4E)。

从更宏观的角度来看, 我们的研究结果与先前的小鼠研究相呼应, 支持一种在人和小鼠中均保守存在的、依赖m⁶A的LINE1介导LTR沉默的机制模型。在染色质中富含m⁶A的L1亚家族具有物种特异性——在人hESCs中为灵长类特异的L1PA, 而在小

鼠mESCs中为鼠类特异的L1Md。这一现象提示, 在哺乳动物演化过程中, 不同谱系的LINE1元件可能独立获得了承载m⁶A修饰并参与染色质调控的能力, 使其成为连接RNA修饰、转座元件活性与发育命运决定的关键枢纽。

总而言之, 本研究不仅揭示了naïve人胚胎干细胞中m⁶A-L1PA-LTR轴的调控逻辑, 也加深了我们对RNA修饰在染色质调控和细胞命运转换中作用模式的理解。未来深入探索m⁶A在不同转座元件谱系中的功能演化, 以及其在跨物种调控网络中的保守性与多样性, 将为构建完整的RNA-染色质互作理论框架提供重要基础, 并可能为调控细胞状态与发育命运提供新的表观遗传干预策略。

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