

长链非编码RNA H19促进血管钙化:基于抑制Bax抑制因子1/视神经萎缩蛋白1通路

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摘要:目的 探讨长链非编码RNA H19(lncRNA H19)是否通过抑制Bax抑制因子1/视神经萎缩蛋白1(BI-1/OPA1)通路促进钙沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡,进而诱导血管钙化。方法 β 磷酸甘油和氯化钙药物诱导大鼠血管平滑肌细胞(VSMC)建立细胞钙化模型,将细胞分为5组:对照组(普通培养基培养14 d)、钙化组(钙化培养基培养14 d)、钙化+siH19组(敲低lncRNA H19表达后钙化培养基培养14 d)、钙化+siH19+BI-1⁻组(敲低lncRNA H19和BI-1表达后钙化培养基培养14 d)和钙化+siH19+OPA1⁻组(敲低lncRNA H19和OPA1表达后钙化培养基培养14 d)。另ApoE⁻糖尿病小鼠使用高脂饲料喂养32周建立动物钙化模型。通过茜素红S染色和von Kossa染色检测钙沉积,通过Western blotting测定Runx相关转录因子2(Runx-2)、骨形态发生蛋白2(BMP-2)观察细胞骨型分化,通过TUNEL染色和半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶3检测观察细胞凋亡情况。结果 血管钙化后,lncRNA H19表达明显上升,BI-1和OPA1表达明显下降,而siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后,BI-1和OPA1蛋白表达明显上升;抑制BI-1后,OPA1再次下降($P<0.001$)。siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后,钙化结节消失,钙含量、Runx-2、BMP-2、活化半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶3表达和细胞凋亡率均显著降低($P<0.001$)。siRNA敲低lncRNA H19基础上再抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白,钙化结节出现,钙含量、Runx-2、BMP-2、活化半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶3表达和细胞凋亡率均显著增加($P<0.001$)。结论 LncRNA H19通过抑制BI-1/OPA1蛋白通路诱导血管钙化,其可能机制和促进钙沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡有关。

关键词:长链非编码RNA H19;Bax抑制因子1;视神经萎缩蛋白1;血管钙化;细胞骨型分化

Long noncoding RNA H19 promotes vascular calcification by repressing the Bax inhibitor 1/optic atrophy 1 pathway

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Abstract: Objective To investigate whether long noncoding RNA H19 (lncRNA H19) induces vascular calcification by promoting calcium deposition, osteogenic differentiation and apoptosis via inhibiting the Bax inhibitor 1/optic atrophy 1 (BI-1/OPA1) pathway. **Methods** β -glycerophosphate and calcium chloride were used to induce calcification in rat vascular smooth muscle cells (VSMCs), and the effects of siH19, alone or in combination with BI-1 or OPA1 knockdown, on calcification of the cells were investigated. Osteogenic differentiation was assessed by measuring Runx-related transcription factor 2 (Runx-2) and bone morphogenetic protein 2 (BMP-2) expression with Western blotting, and cell apoptosis was evaluated by TUNEL staining and Western blotting. An ApoE⁻ diabetic mouse model with high-fat feeding for 32 weeks were given an intraperitoneal injection of siH19, and the changes in calcium deposition in the aortic arch were examined using Alizarin red S staining and von Kossa staining. **Results** In rat VSMCs with calcification, the expression of lncRNA H19 was significantly increased, and the expressions of BI-1 and OPA1 were significantly decreased. Downregulation of lncRNA H19 significantly increased the expressions of BI-1 and OPA1 proteins in the cells, and BI-1 knockdown further reduced OPA1 expression ($P<0.001$). The cells treated with siH19 showed total disappearance of the calcified nodules with significantly reduced expressions of Runx-2, BMP-2 and cleaved caspase-3 and a lowered cell apoptosis rate ($P<0.001$). Calcified nodules were again observed in the cells with lncRNA H19 knockdown combined with BI-1 or OPA1 knockdown, and the expressions of Runx-2, BMP-2, cleaved-caspase-3 and cell apoptosis rate all significantly increased ($P<0.001$). In the diabetic mouse model with high-fat feeding, siH19 treatment

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significantly reduced the calcification area and increased mRNA expressions of BI-1 and OPA1 in the aortic arch. **Conclusion** LncRNA H19 promotes vascular calcification possibly by promoting calcium deposition, osteogenic differentiation and cell apoptosis via inhibiting the BI-1/OPA1 pathway.

Keywords: long noncoding RNA H19; Bax inhibitor 1; optic atrophy 1; vascular calcification; osteogenic differentiation

血管钙化很常见,根据病变位置分为中膜钙化和内膜钙化^[1-3]。血管内膜的钙化是影响动脉粥样硬化、冠心病、糖尿病血管病变和慢性肾脏疾病预后的主要危险因素之一^[4-6]。血管钙化的机制目前不是很清楚,可能和血管平滑肌细胞(VSMC)骨型分化、细胞凋亡、钙磷沉积、氧化应激、炎症、线粒体功能和结构的破坏等等有关^[7-9]。

长链非编码RNA(lncRNA)是一种长度超过200个核苷酸的功能性RNA分子,它没有编码蛋白质的能力,但它参与各种生物过程,比如染色质修饰、mRNA转录和转录后调控^[10-12]。研究表明,lncRNA不仅在正常发育中发挥关键作用,而且还参与血管的病理生理调节^[13-15]。LncRNA H19最早被发现参与急性心肌梗死的病理生理过程,过表达lncRNA H19能增加心肌细胞保护作用,进而起到减轻急性心肌梗死的作用^[16]。本团队之前的研究发现血管钙化后,lncRNA H19表达明显增高;敲低lncRNA H19后血管钙化减轻,lncRNA H19通过增加VSMC骨型分化促进血管钙化^[17],但是lncRNA H19下游的调节通路并不是很清楚。

Bax抑制因子1(BI-1)是一种能抑制Bax凋亡因子的调节蛋白,最近研究发现它和血管钙化密切相关^[18]。视神经萎缩蛋白1(OPA1)是介导线粒体融合的重要蛋白,主要位于线粒体内膜,对线粒体的形态和功能的稳定起到非常重要作用^[19,20]。本团队前期研究发现血管钙化抑制BI-1和OPA1蛋白,增加钙磷沉积、细胞骨型分化蛋白Runx-2、骨形态发生蛋白2(BMP-2)表达和细胞凋亡;而激活BI-1/OPA1蛋白通路能抑制钙磷沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡,进而减轻血管钙化;基因敲低OPA1蛋白后血管钙化加重^[21,22],而lncRNA H19是否通过BI-1/OPA1通路作用于血管钙化并不清楚。因此我们通过该研究明确lncRNA H19是否通过抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进钙磷沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡,进而诱导钙化。

1 材料和方法

1.1 材料

1.1.1 主要试剂 β磷酸甘油、氯化钙(Sigma);胎牛血清(Hyclone);DMEM(Gibco);茜素红S染色试剂盒(上海歌凡生物公司);von Kossa染色试剂盒(北京索莱宝公司);钙测定试剂盒(北京中生北控生物公司);凋亡试剂盒(Roche);RNA提取试剂盒(北京索莱宝公司);BI-1、OPA1、Runx-2、BMP-2、半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶3(caspase-3)和β-肌动蛋白(β-actin)(Abcam);靶向小鼠

慢病毒载体H19(si-H19)(北京赛业生物公司)。

1.1.2 实验动物 SD雄性大鼠(4周龄,体质量80~100g)、ApoE^{-/-}小鼠(8周龄,体质量20~30g)、C57BL/6J小鼠(8周龄,体质量20~30g)购自北京斯贝福生物技术有限公司。本研究通过中国人民解放军总医院实验伦理委员会批准(伦理审查编号:S2021-099-01)。

1.2 动物模型建立及分组

ApoE^{-/-}小鼠空腹后连续5d腹腔内注射链脲佐菌素(剂量50mg/kg,频次1次/d),建立糖尿病模型,糖尿病诊断标准为小鼠连续2d血糖≥250mg/dL。ApoE^{-/-}糖尿病小鼠进行高脂饲料喂养32周后,取主动脉弓进行试验^[23]。实验分成3组(n=6):①对照组:C57BL/6J小鼠普通饲料喂养32周;②钙化组:ApoE^{-/-}糖尿病小鼠进行高脂饲料喂养32周;③钙化+siH19组:ApoE^{-/-}糖尿病小鼠在高脂喂养第20周,连续12周腹腔注射100μL si-H19^[24]。

1.3 VSMC培养和实验分组

1.3.1 VSMC培养 使用SD大鼠提取原代VSMC,简要步骤如下:大鼠经异氟醚麻醉后迅速取胸主动脉,去除外膜后,将血管剪成1~2mm²小碎块,然后将小碎块放入装有10%FBS和DMEM液体的培养瓶中培养,等细胞长满培养瓶后,去掉小碎块,在孵箱中继续培养。经传3~5代后,将细胞用于试验^[25]。免疫组织化学法检测结果提示VSMC纯度>98%。

1.3.2 VSMC钙化模型建立和实验分组 VSMC钙化模型建立:VSMC使用钙化培养基(含有10%FBS的DMEM中加入10mmol/Lβ磷酸甘油和7.2mmol/L氯化钙)培养14d^[26]。实验分为5组:①对照组:含有10%FBS的DMEM培养14d;②钙化组:钙化培养基培养14d;③钙化+siH19组:siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后,钙化培养基培养14d;④钙化+siH19+BI-1^{-/-}组:siRNA敲低lncRNA H19和BI-1表达后,钙化培养基培养14d;⑤钙化+siH19+OPA1^{-/-}组:siRNA敲低lncRNA H19和OPA1表达后,钙化培养基培养14d。每2d更换1次培养基。

1.4 细胞转染

按照说明书配制转染液体:将125pmol siRNA加入到150μL OPTI-MEM(Gibco)液体中混匀,另将6.25μL Lipofectamine 2000(Thermo Fisher公司,美国)加入到150μL OPTI-MEM中混匀,然后合并混匀上述两种液体,加入到VSMC中,在培养箱中孵育6~8h,然后将液体更换为培养基继续培养。转染效果使用qRT-PCR进行验证。

1.5 qRT-PCR 实验

收集组织或细胞提取总 RNA, 分离纯化后使用逆转录试剂盒合成 cDNA, 然后使用特异性引物进行扩增, 在 95 °C 下初始变性 5 min, 然后进行 95 °C 30 s、60 °C 30 s 和 72 °C 30 s, 40 个循环。使用 2^{-ΔΔCt} 记录 RNA 的表达量, 每组实验重复 3 次, 以 GAPDH 来标准化结果。引物序列如下: ① lncRNA H19 正向: 5'-TACAAC CACTGCACTACCTG-3', 逆向: 5'-TGACTCCTGTGT TCCTGTTA-3'; ② BI-1 正向: 5'-CCGGGCACCTAAA GAAGGTCTATGCCTCGAGGCATAGACCTTCTTT AGGTGCTTTTTG-3', 逆向: 5'-AATTCAAAAAGCA CCTAAAGAAGGTCTATGCCTCGAGGCATAGACC TTCTTTAGGTGC-3'; ③ OPA1 正向: 5'-ACAGCAAA TTCAAGAGCACGA-3', 逆向: 5'-TTGCGCTTCTGT TGGGCAT-3'; ④ GAPDH 正向: 5'-ACCACAGTCCAT GCCATCAC-3', 逆向: 5'-TCCACCACCCTGTTGCT GTA-3'。

1.6 Western blotting 实验

使用细胞裂解液裂解 VSMC, 然后提取细胞总蛋白, 取 30 μg 加入 10% SDS-PAGE 凝胶中进行蛋白电泳, 然后将蛋白电转移至 PVDF 膜。5% BSA 液体 37 °C 封闭 1 h, 然后使用一抗 4 °C 孵育过夜, 1% 洗膜缓冲液冲洗后, 辣根过氧化物酶标记的二抗室温下反应 2 h。应用化学发光试剂与膜反应后, 使用软件对蛋白质的表达进行量化分析。

1.7 茜素红 S 染色

按照试剂说明书, VSMC 使用 70% 酒精固定 1 h, PBS 浸洗细胞 3 次, 然后使用 1 mg/mL 茜素红 S 溶液 37 °C 染色 30 min, PBS 浸洗细胞 3 次, 等样品干燥后使用相机拍照。

1.8 钙含量实验

按照钙含量测定试剂盒说明书, 去除培养液, 使用 PBS 浸洗细胞, 先加入样品裂解液, 然后加入检测工作

液, 室温避光孵育 10 min, 使用酶标仪测定吸光度, 计算钙浓度。另取上清液测定总蛋白含量, 以钙浓度除以总蛋白含量得出最后数值。

1.9 TUNEL 实验

细胞涂片自然晾干, 加入 4% 多聚甲醛 (pH=7.4) 室温下固定 15 min, 滴加 100 μL 的 TdT 酶反应液于 37 °C 湿温盒中孵育 60 min, 加入终止液室温孵育 15 min, PBS 浸洗细胞 3 次, 0.3% H₂O₂ 浸洗 5 min, 滴加 100 μL 辣根过氧化物酶室温反应 30 min, PBS 浸洗细胞 3 次, 滴加 50 μL DAB 底物缓冲液, 封片剂封片, 显微镜下观察染色情况, 凋亡细胞细胞核呈棕色。

1.10 Von Kossa 染色

小鼠主动脉弓病理切片经过脱水、脱蜡处理后, 使用硝酸盐溶液在光的作用下进行照射染色 30 min, 蒸馏水清洗干净后, 置于硫代硫酸钠溶液进行定影, 然后使用中性品红进行复染, 蒸馏水清洗干净晾干后, 使用显微镜观察钙化情况, 采用 Image-Pro Plus 进行分析, 测定结果为钙化面积/斑块面积 × 100%。

1.11 统计学分析

所有试验结果均重复 3 次, 使用 SPSS19.0 软件进行数据分析。试验结果以均数 ± 标准差表示, 两组间比较采用 *t* 检验, 多组间比较采用单因素方差分析 (ANOVA)。*P* < 0.05 时认为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 LncRNA H19 抑制 BI-1/OPA1 蛋白通路

β 磷酸甘油和氯化钙诱导 VSMC 钙化后, qRT-PCR 结果提示 lncRNA H19 表达明显上升, 而 siRNA 能明显减少 lncRNA H19 表达 (*P* < 0.001)。Western blotting 结果提示 VSMC 钙化后 BI-1 和 OPA1 表达明显下降, 而 siRNA 敲低 lncRNA H19 表达后, BI-1 和 OPA1 蛋白表达明显上升; 另 siRNA 敲低 BI-1 后, OPA1 蛋白表达再次下降 (*P* < 0.001, 图 1)。

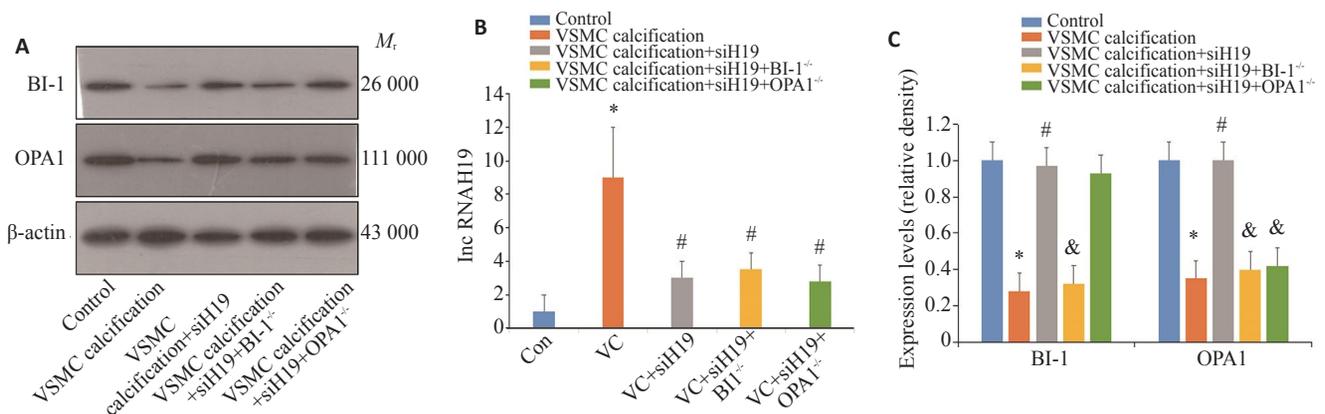


图 1 LncRNA H19 抑制 BI-1/OPA1 蛋白通路

Fig.1 LncRNA H19 inhibits BI-1 and OPA1 protein expressions in VSMC calcification. A: Western blotting of BI-1 and OPA1. B: Expression level of lncRNA H19. C: Expression levels of BI-1 and OPA1. **P* < 0.05 vs Control, #*P* < 0.05 vs VSMC calcification, &*P* < 0.05 vs VSMC calcification+siH19.

2.2 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1 蛋白通路促进VSMC 钙沉积

茜素红S染色结果提示VSMC钙化后形成弥漫性红色钙化结节,siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后红色钙化结节消失,抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白均能诱导红色钙化

结节再次生成。ELISA结果提示VSMC钙化后细胞钙浓度显著增多,siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后细胞钙浓度显著降低,抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白后钙浓度再次增多($P<0.001$,图2)。

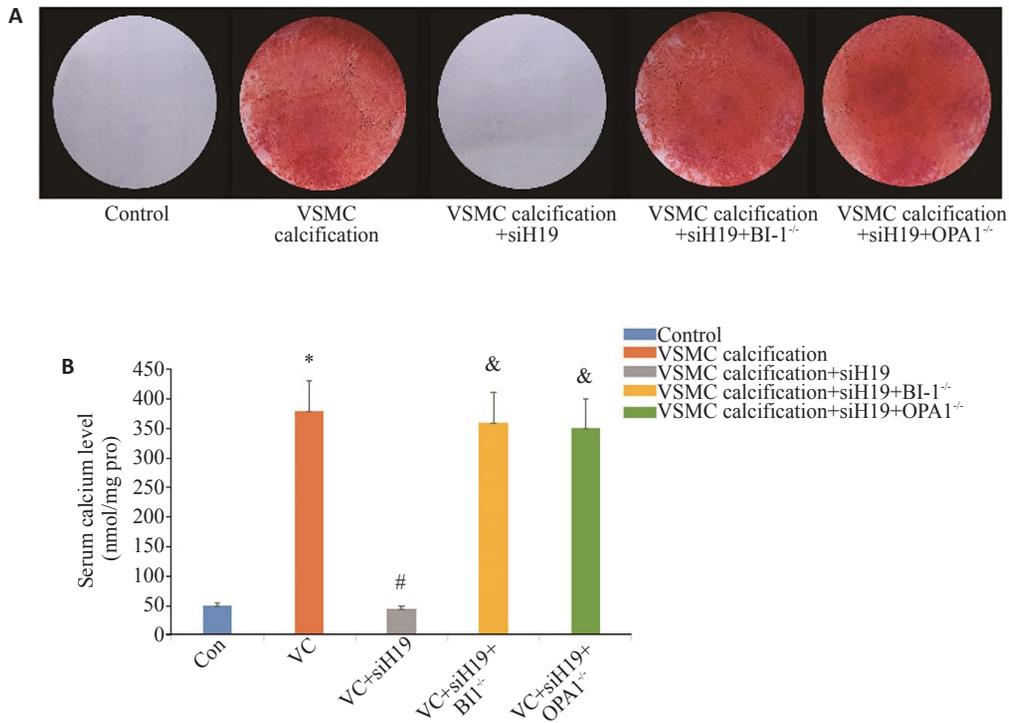


图2 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进VSMC钙沉积
Fig.2 LncRNA H19 promotes calcium deposition by inhibiting the BI-1/OPA1 pathway.
A: Changes in Alizarin red S staining. B: Serum calcium level. * $P<0.05$ vs Control, # $P<0.05$ vs VSMC calcification, & $P<0.05$ vs VSMC calcification+siH19.

2.3 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1蛋白通路促进Runx-2和BMP-2表达

Western blotting结果提示VSMC钙化后Runx-2和BMP-2表达显著上升,siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后Runx-2和BMP-2表达显著下降,抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白后Runx-2和BMP-2表达再次上升($P<0.001$,图3)。

2.4 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1蛋白通路促进活化caspase-3表达和细胞凋亡

Western blotting结果提示VSMC钙化后活化caspase-3表达显著增多,siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后活化caspase-3表达显著降低,抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白后活化caspase-3表达再次增多($P<0.001$,图4)。

TUNEL染色结果提示VSMC钙化后细胞凋亡率显著上升,siRNA敲低lncRNA H19表达后细胞凋亡率显著下降,抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白后细胞凋亡率再次上升($P<0.001$,图5)。

2.5 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1蛋白通路诱导小鼠血管钙化

动物实验研究标明血管钙化后,lncRNA H19表达增加,BI-1和OPA1 mRNA表达明显减少,钙化面积呈现黑色(von Kossa染色);而敲低lncRNA H19表达后,BI-1和OPA1 mRNA表达明显增加,钙化面积减少($P<0.001$,图6)。

3 讨论

最近研究表明,lncRNA H19和血管钙化密切相关^[27-30]。研究提示lncRNA H19通过调节丝裂原活化蛋白激酶和细胞外信号调节激酶转导通路增加Runx-2蛋白和抑制平滑肌22 α 和 α 平滑肌肌动蛋白表达,进而促进血管钙化^[31]。有学者同样发现血管钙化诱导lncRNA H19表达增加,而敲低lncRNA H19后,Runx-2蛋白表达下降,VSMC骨型分化减少,血管钙化减轻^[32]。本研

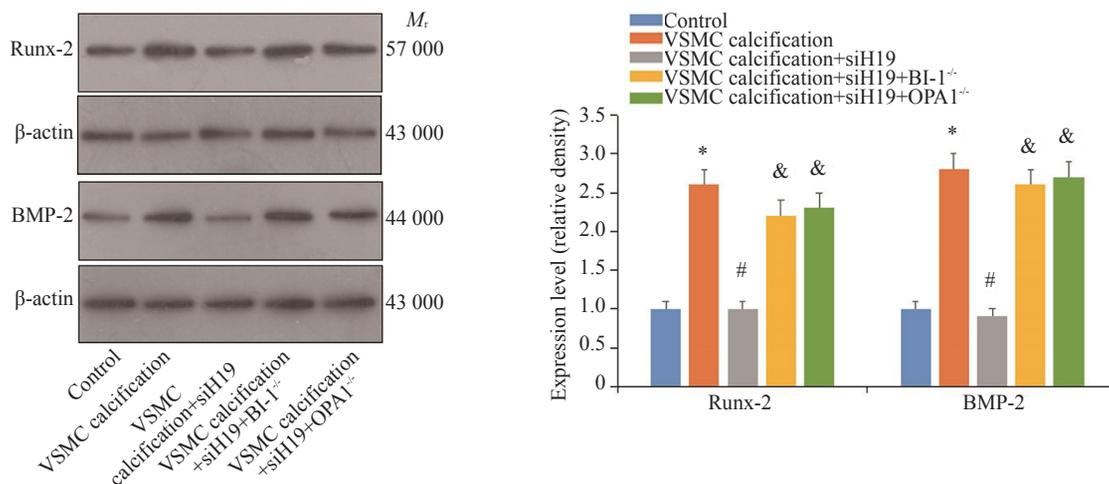


图3 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进Runx-2和BMP-2表达

Fig.3 LncRNA H19 increases Runx-2 and BMP-2 protein expression by inhibiting the BI-1/OPA1 pathway. **P*<0.05 vs Control, #*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification, &*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification+siH19.

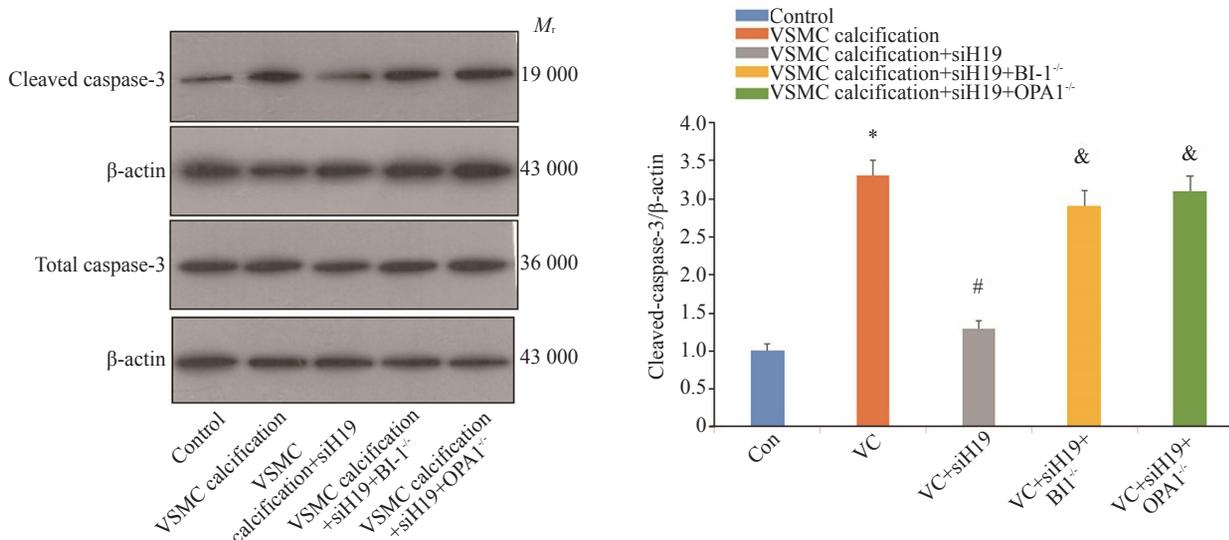


图4 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进活化caspase-3表达

Fig.4 LncRNA H19 promotes cleaved caspase-3 protein expression by inhibiting the BI-1/OPA1 pathway. **P*<0.05 vs Control, #*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification, &*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification+siH19.

究进一步证实 lncRNA H19 促进细胞骨型分化蛋白 Runx-2 和 BMP-2 表达进而诱导血管钙化。另外我们发现 lncRNA H19 增加钙沉积和细胞凋亡, 促进血管钙化; 敲低 lncRNA H19 表达后钙沉积和细胞凋亡减少, 钙化减轻。该研究结果进一步丰富了 lncRNA H19 调节血管钙化的可能机制。

研究发现 lncRNA H19 能加快巨噬细胞脂质沉积, 进而促进动脉粥样硬化斑块进展, 基因敲除 lncRNA H19 能延缓斑块进展^[33]。下调 lncRNA H19 能通过调节血管平滑肌细胞凋亡减轻动脉粥样硬化斑块损害^[34]。研究证实 BI-1 和冠状动脉粥样硬化密切相关, 过表达 BI-1 能维持线粒体内环境, 减轻心肌缺血再灌注损伤, 起到保护心脏作用^[35]。另外 BI-1 还能抑制线粒体分裂,

保护微循环, 减轻再灌注损伤^[36]。Yang 等^[37]提出 lncRNA Punisher 能作用于 OPA1 蛋白调节线粒体内环境, 进而影响动脉粥样硬化斑块 VSMC 凋亡; 糖尿病小鼠肾组织 lncRNA H19 表达增加、线粒体融合蛋白 2 表达下降, 提示 lncRNA H19 可能通过调节线粒体融合蛋白 2 影响糖尿病小鼠心肾功能的改变^[38]。

而 lncRNA H19 和 BI-1、OPA1 的研究目前尚没有。本研究发现 lncRNA H19 能调节 BI-1/OPA1 蛋白通路: 血管钙化后 lncRNA H19 表达增加, BI-1 和 OPA1 表达明显下降, 而 siRNA 敲低 lncRNA H19 表达后, BI-1 和 OPA1 蛋白表达明显上升; lncRNA H19 抑制 BI-1/OPA1 蛋白通路加重钙沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡促进血管钙化; siRNA 敲低 lncRNA H19 表达后钙沉

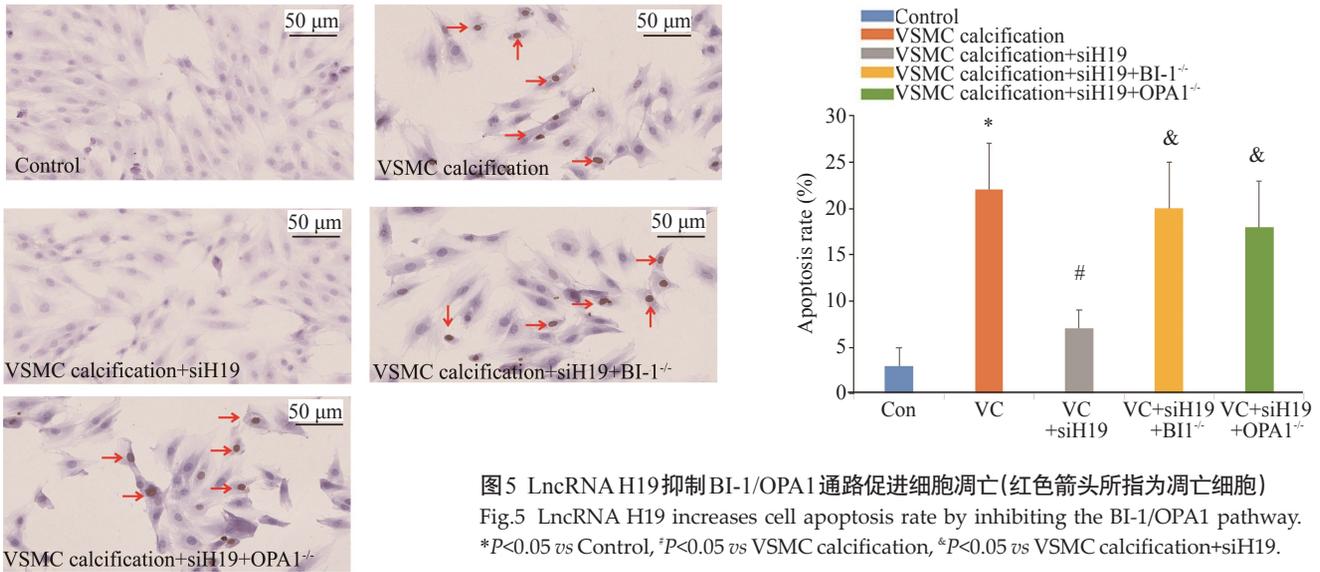


图5 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进细胞凋亡(红色箭头所指为凋亡细胞)
Fig.5 LncRNA H19 increases cell apoptosis rate by inhibiting the BI-1/OPA1 pathway.
**P*<0.05 vs Control, #*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification, &*P*<0.05 vs VSMC calcification+siH19.

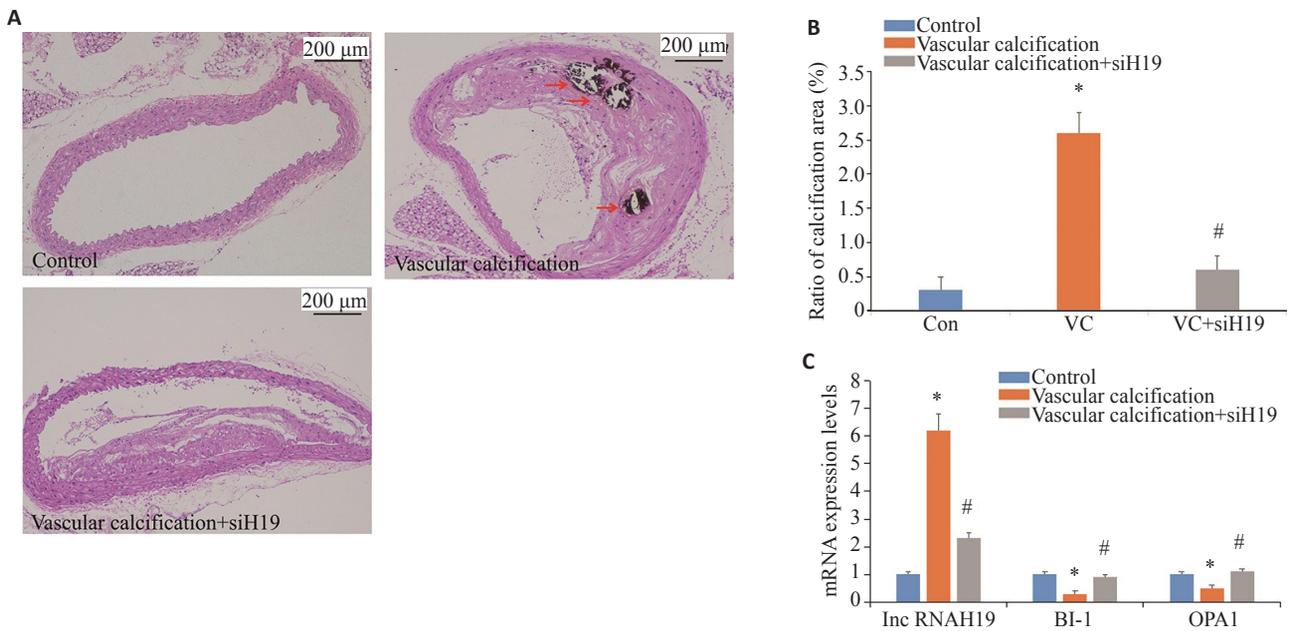


图6 LncRNA H19抑制BI-1/OPA1通路诱导小鼠血管钙化(红色箭头所指为钙化结节)
Fig.6 LncRNA H19 promotes vascular calcification by inhibiting BI-1 and OPA1 protein in mice. A: Von Kossa staining. B: Ratio of calcification area. C: mRNA expression levels of lncRNA H19, BI-1 and OPA1. **P*<0.05 vs Control, #*P*<0.05 vs vascular calcification.

积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡减少,血管钙化减轻;而抑制BI-1或OPA1蛋白后钙沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡增加,血管钙化加重。

综上所述,本研究证实lncRNA H19通过抑制BI-1/OPA1通路促进血管钙化,其机制可能和促进钙沉积、细胞骨型分化和细胞凋亡增加有关,该研究结果将为血管钙化的诊断和治疗提供新的观点和理论依据。本研究局限性在于缺乏深入生物信息学方面的研究,有待于进一步研究。

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