Mechanism of exogenous nucleic acids and their precursors improving the repair of intestinal epithelium after γ -irradiation in mice

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Subject headings radiation, ionizing; intestine, small/ injuries; RNA; gene expression; nucleic acids/ therapeutic use; polymerase chain reaction; repair; intestinal epithelium; mice

Cui DX, Zeng GY, Wang F, Xu JR, Ren DQ, Guo YH, Tian FR, Yan XJ, Hou Y, Su CZ. Mechanism of exogenous nucleic acids and their precursors improving the repair of intestinal epithelium after γ irradiation in mice. *World J Gastroentero*, 2000;6(5):709-717

Abstract

AIM To clone expressed genes associated with repair of irradi ation-damaged mice intestinal gland cells treated by small intestinal RNA, and to explore the molecular mechanism of exogenous nucleic acids improving repair of intestinal crypt.

METHODS The animal mode of test group and control group was established, forty-five mice being irradiated by γ ray were treated with small intestinal RNA as test group, forty mice being irradiated by γ ray were treated with physiological saline as control group, five mice without irradiation were used as normal control, their jejunal specimens were collected respectively at 6h, 12h, 24h, 4d and 8d after irradiation. Then by using LD-PCR based on subtractive hybridization, these gene fragments differentially expressed between test group and control group were obtained, and then were cloned into T vectors as well as being sequenced. Obtained sequen ces were screened against. GeneBank, if being new sequences, they were submitted to GeneBank.

RESULTS Ninety clones were associated with repair of irradiation-damaged intestinal gland cells treated by intestinal RNA. These clones from test group of 6 h, 12 h, 24 h, 4 d and 8 d were respectively 18, 22, 25, 13, 12. By

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Received 2000-05-06 Accepted 2000-06-02

screening against GeneBank, 18 of which were new sequences, the others were dramatically similar to the known sequences, mainly similar to hsp, Nmi, Dutt1, alkaline phosphatase, homeobox, anti-CEA ScFv antibody, arginine/ serine kinase and BMP-4,repA. Eighteen gene fragments were new sequences, their accept numbers in GeneBank were respectively AF240164-AF240181.

CONCLUSION Ninety clones were obtained to be associated with repair of irradiation-damaged mice intestinal gland cells treated by small intestinal RNA, which may be related to abnormal expression of genes and matched proteins of hsp, Nmi, Dutt1, Na, K-ATPase, alkalineph- osphatase, glkA, single stranded replicative centromeric gene as well as 18 new sequences.

INTRODUCTION

After exposure to large dose ionizing radiations, the larger intestinal gland cell lesion is the main cause of death in humans and animals. How to enhance intestinal gland cell survival rates has become a problem to be solved. In order to increase the mouse crypt survival after irradiation, we have done a series of experiments, and finally confirmed that when a portion of the crypts was devast ated by irradiation, a compensatory recovery of the intestinal epithelium by remaining crypts occurred involving three consecutive periods such as the rapid cell proliferation of the viable crypts, the fission of the proliferative crypts and the increase of crypt numbers^[1]. The nucleic acid fragment contai ning several hundred base pairs (bp), or even any one of the nucleic acid precursors (mononucleotides, nucleosides, and bases) can enhance the crypt survival rate by 25% or so, further confirming that the effectiveness of exogenous nucleic acids depends not upon the action exerted by their highly polymerized state, but upon their various enzymatic degradation products^[2]. Our experimental results suggest that the nucleic acids (DNA, RNA) and their precursors may be used as one of the effective measures for the treatment of intestinal radiation

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The study was supported by "211" project fund (No.98X207) and National Natural Science Foundation of China, No.38970279 Correspondence to: Dr. Da Xiang Cui, Doctor, Chinese PLA Institute of Gene Diagnosis, 17 Changle Xilu, Xi'an 710033, Shaanxi Province, China

syndrome that may occur in the war time as well as in the peaceful use of atomic energy^[3-5]. However, the molecular mechanism how nuclear acids and precursors improve the repairing of irradiationdamaged intestinal gland cells is unclear. In order to clarify this molecular mechanism, we used long distance-PCR based on subtractive hybridization, isolated and cloned these genes associated with repairs of irradiation-damaged mice intestinal gland cells treated by intestinal RNA. Our studies lay foundation for further clarifying molecular mechanism of repair of radiation-damaged crypt.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Reagents

PolyATtract[®] system 1000 kit from Promega was used for extraction of mRNA, SMART PCR cDNA synthesis kit (Clontech) for transcription of mRNA, Wizard[®] plus Minipreps DNA purification for purification of PCR production, Advantage2PCR kit (Clontech) for LD-PCR, and PE-5700 quantiative PCR cycler used for thermal cycle. PGEM-T easy vector system was purchased from Promega, γ -³²-pdATP from Beijing Fu Rei Compancy, and the other reagents were from Beijing Yuan Ping compancy.

Establishment of the model and sample collection

Ninety BALB/c male mice with body weight of 18g-22g and 10-12 weeks old were randomly assigned into two groups, *i.e*, test group and control group. They were injected with $5g \cdot L^{-1}$ barbiturate sodium 40 mg·kg⁻¹, put in organism radiation box, and then were irradiated on mice abdominal region by using 60 Co γ ray at the reagent rate of 149.47-151.13cGy·min⁻¹, and finally reached total reagent of 1150cGy. Small intestinal RNA was diluted into 100mg·mL⁻¹. Two hours after mice being irradiated, each mouse in test group was injected 0.4mL RNA liquid, and each mouse in control group was injected 0.4mL physiological saline by using local intestinal cavity expanding injection method^[6]. After that, the mice were raised according to conventional method. These mice were killed respectively at 6 h, 12 h, 24 h, 4 d and 8 d after irradiation, and jejunal tissues were quickly taken out, washed by physiological saline, and then were kept in liquid nitrogen. In order to avoid single difference, these samples were mixed together under identical condition.

Sample processing and LD-PCR based on subtractive hybridization

Extraction of mRNA was done according to manual of PolyATtract system 1000, and quantificated. mRNA transcription was done according to manual from SMART PCR cDNA synthesis kit. Subtractive hybridization between test group and control group was done as follows: take out 0.1µg mRNA from the control group, add Biotinylated oligo(dT) probe $(50\mu \text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1})$, 70 °C 5min, then add into the first strand cDNA, and hybridize for 24 h at 42°C, finally add Streptavidin magnesphere particles and mixed, magnetic steel was used to attract production of two stranded hybrids and get rid of them, and then repeat the processing twice. Take out the upper liquid, and add double volume absolute alcohol to the upper liquid to precipitate cDNAs, finally dissolve them in 10µL Nuclease-free water. Take 10µL of the first strand cDNA as template, sequentially add PCR-grade water 74 μ L, 10× advantage 2 PCR buffer 10µL, 50×dNTP mix- 10μ L, $50\times$ advantage 2 polymerase mix 1μ L, PCRprimer Mix 2µL, 50mmol·L⁻¹ MgCl₂ 3µL, mixed well, centrifuged for several seconds, using two steps such as 95 °C 1min, 95 °C 15s, 68 °C 6min, 30 cycles, in the end elongated at 68° C for 6 min, take out 10 μ L production to run 12 g·L⁻¹ agarose gel electrophoresis.

Cloning and identification of PCR products

PCR products were purified using Wizard plus Minipreps DNA purification system, and dissolved in 10µL water. According to the manual, PCR products were cloned into PGEM-T easy vector, transferred into JM109, positive clone picked up, cultured overnight, plasmid extracted out, and identified by cutting with BstZ1. Products cut by BstZ1 were labelled γ -³²pdATP at terminal, and used as probe, and hybridized with mRNA of test group and control group^[7].

Sequencing and screening against GeneBank

These obtained clones were positively sequenced by using Model 377 sequencing instrument. Obtained sequences were screened against GeneBank, if being new sequences, these sequences were submitted to GeneBank^[8].

RESULTS

LD-PCR based on subtractive hybridization

In test group of 6 h, 12 h, 24 h, 4 d and 8 d, products after subtractive hybridization were successfully amplified by LD-PCR, obtained bands centered on 1-1.5kb or so (Figure 1).



Figure 1 Electrophoresis result of production of LD-PCR. 1: Marker; 2, 6: Positive control; 3, 4, 5, 7, 8: Results of 6h,

12h, 24h, 4d and 8d; 9: Negative control

Cloning and identification of PCR products (Figure 2)



Figure 2 Results of cloning and identification of production of PCR. 1-4, 6-9: Results of part products cut by Bstz1; 5: Marker Ninety of positive clones were obtained from test group, positive clones of 6 h, 12 h, 24 h, 4 d and 8 d in test group were respectively eighteen, twenty-two, twenty-five, thirteen, twelve.

Identification of hybridization (Figure 3)



Figure 3 Part results of hybridization with RNA. A: Test group; B: Control group Dot blots confirmed that these genes were overexpressed in test group,

and lower expressed in control group, that is, these genes were associated with repair of intestinal gland cells treated by RNA.

Sequencing and searching for GeneBank

These clones were sequenced according to the results of sequencing and searching against GeneBank, eighteen were new sequences, eighty-two were dramatically similar to the known sequences.

In test group of 6h, similar sequences mainly were as follows: mRNA for heat shock protein,

Eighteen new sequences

Nmi mRNA, Dutt1 protein, mRNA for Na, K-ATPase gamma subunit, mRNA for surface glycoprotein, Zinc finger type transcript factor, porcine growth hormone-releasing hormone gene, monocyte/macrophage Igrelated gene, telomeraseassociated protein, HOX1b protein, arginine/ serine kinase.

In test group of 12h, similar sequences were: Alkaline phosphatase mRNA, alkaline phosphatase glkA gene, single stranded replicative 2. centromeric gene, DMBT1, tRNA-Met gene, homeobox protein, thyroxine-binding globulin gene, alpha-a-plasmin inhibitor gene.

In test group of 24h, similar sequences were: anti-CEA ScFv antibody, anti-DNA heavy chain, mRNA for Ig kappa chain, anti BONT/A Hc ScFv antibody, mRNA for collagenase, AE0199 immunoglobulin heavy chain, Mouse Ig gammachain, Ig rearranged gamma-chain mRNA, anti -cmyc antibody, anti-CD30 moab ki₄ ScFv,anti-BSA antibody, D1 heavy chain, epidermal growth factor, anti-NP antibody IgH, mRNA for arginine/ serine kinase.

In test group of 4d, simliar sequences were: Dual specificity phosphatase, family mRNA telomerase-associated protein, anti-human erbB-2, tazarotene-induced gene2, betaine-GABA transporter gene, copy complex subunit 7a, mRNA for stress-activated protein, FK506 binding protein, calium/ calmodulin dependent gene, PEST phosphatase interactin gene, haptoglobin mRNA, acyl-ACP desaturase, mRNA for sodium channel, peroxidase, BMP-4 gene, bone morphogenetic protein.

In test group of 8d, similar sequences were: Ig variable region, DNA for mouse Ig, DNA for flexible peptide, tsr glkA, proteinase-3 neutroactin, EWS gene, repA protein.

No.1 sequence (AF240104)							
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120	tttttgcttc	gctaattcac	agttetttta	atacgctaat	tctaaatcac	ctgttctgac	
180	tttgacaggc	tacagacacc	tgtttggggt	aatattccac	agctaattat	tacatgagaa	
240	attcagtttc	caacaaaaga	gtttctgtgt	gaaattgcca	ttgtagttaa	caaattaata	
300	tcaactatat	acaaatacat	ttctgatgtc	ttaatttaaa	tacagctaat	atactactca	
360	tctataacta	aagaatggta	tataaaaact	aagactgccc	tcttagtgtt	tgaattctgt	
420	ctgtcacact	ttacaccatg	gttgcactga	tcaagtcaga	atgttcttcc	cagtagcagt	
480	aatttactgt	aatactgtat	tttaaatggc	aggaaaagag	tatagaattt	tcaagtggct	
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660	cgtgcatgcc	gacgt					
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120	gagageteee	aacgcgttgg	atgcatagct	tgagtattct	atagtgtcac	ctaaatagct	

180 240 300 360 420 480 540 600 660 720	tggcgtaatc acaacatacg tcacattaat tgcattaatg cttcctcgct actcaaaggc gagcaaaagg ataggctccg acccgacagg cctgttccga	atggtcatag agccggaagc tgcgttgcgc aatcggccaa cactgactcg ggtaatacgg ccagcaaaag cccccctgac actataaaga ccctgccgct	ctgtttcctg ataaagtgta tcactgcccg cgcgcgggga ctgcgctcgg ttatccacag gccaggaacc gagcatcaca tacccaggcg ttaccggata	tgtgaaattg aagcctgggg ctttccagtc gaggcggttt tcgttcggct aatcagggga gtaaaaaggc aaaatcgacg tttcccctg cctgtccgcc	ttatccgctc tgcctaatga gggaaacctg gcgtattggg gcggcgagcg taacgcagga cgcgttgctg ctcaagtcag gaagctccct tttctcct	acaattccac gtgagctaac tcgtgccagc cgctcttccg gtatcagctc aagaacatgt gcgtttttcc aggtggcgaa cgtgcgctct		
No.3	sequence (AF2401	66)						
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240 300	gacttacaga tcaaaaaaaa	aaagaactat aaaaaaaggg	tteetaccea	aaaagctgta	tgtttatatg	cagcatgttt		
No 4	sequence (AF2401	67)						
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360 420	accacggtca	ccgtctcctc	aggtaccaag	ctggagetga	aacgggcggc	cgcaggtgcg		
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No.10 1 60 120 180 240 300 360 420 480 540 600 660	0 sequence(AF2401 tctatgcggc gtttcagctc agaaatacac cagacccact tgaggagttt tattatcaac ccaaagaagc cgcctgaacc ccccgtcgt gcttatctgt ctttgaactc cactcaaaa	73) acgcggttcc cagcttggtc tgcaggatca gccagtaaac gggtggctgt actttcgctg tggagactgg gctccacctg aatcccatct aaatatgcaa ttctggcata ccettttcct	agcggatccg ccccctccga tcctcctcca ctggcaggga cctggtttct gctctgcagg gtgagcacga aggagacggt catacagaaa gtgcctggca cttttggcac tgg	gatacggcac acgtgtaagg taggatatat ccccggatcc gctggaacca agatggtggc tgtccgatcc gaccgtggtc tacgtagccg gaggtttcca ttcagagtgg	cggcgcacct aacctcctta gttgaggctg ttgcttggat gttcataaaa cctctgccct gccactgcca ccttggccca tgtcctcatt aagagaaggc gtngtttatt	gcggccgccc ctttggtgac aaatctgtcc gcagcataga ctaatgccaa agagacacag gagccacctc gtaagcaaac ttttgaggtt aaagccgtcc ccagccaatc
No 11	1 soquence (AE240)	174)				
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No.12 1 60 120 180 240 300 360 420	2 sequence (AF240 cacagtaata tggaggattt taccatcgta gccagtgcat agaccccagg gctgggccgc aaatctccaa tgaaattgtt	175) gatggcagaa gtcaacagtc agtactaata agaataatca cctcaccacc atagaaagga aaaaaaggct atccgctcac	tcatcagatg atagtggcct attccaatcc gtgaatgtgt tcaggtcctg acaactaaag ccaaagcttg aattccacac	tcaatctggc tgcccttaaa actctagact agccggaacc actgctgcag gaattgcgaa gcgtaatcat aacatacgag	aagttccata cttctggttg ctgtgcatga cttgcaggaa tttcacctgg taataatttt ggtcatagct ccggaagcat	taggctgtaa tagtttgtat ttcatcttca atcttcactg gccatggccg ttcacgttga gtttcctgtg aaagtgtaaa

480 540 600	gcctggggtg ttccagtcgg aggcggtttg	cctaatgagt gaaacctgtc cgtatt	gagetaacte gtgecagetg	acattaattg cattaatgaa	cgttgcgctc tcggncaacg	actgcccgct cgccggggag	
No 12	$3 \text{ secuence} (\Lambda F2/10)$	176)					
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000	Suigosui	1555656161	te				
No.1.	5 sequence (AF240	178)					
1	aatctgaacg	attgggcccg	acgtcgcatg	ctcccggccg	ccatggcccg	cgggatttac	
60	ggctgcgaga	agacgacaga	atttttttt	ttttttttt	ttttttttt	ggagaggggg	
120	gtttctctat	agccccggct	gtcctggaac	tcactatgta	gaccaggetg	gettecaget	
240	cacagaaalg	cliligecte	igceleelga	gigciggggi	alagggacic	retección	
300	cattagatac	attactagig	tattetatag	tatcacctaa	atangggaga	generation	
360	teatagetgt	tteetototo	aaattottat	contracaa	ttccacacaa	catacoaocc	
420	ggaagcataa	agtgtaaagc	ctggggtgcc	taatgagtga	gctaactcac	attaattgcg	
480	ttgcgctcac	tgcccgcttt	ccagtcggga	aacctgtcgt	gccagctgca	ttaatgaatc	
540	ggccaacgcg	cggggagagg	cggtttgcgt	attgggcgct	cttccgcttc	g	
NT 1.		170)			-	-	
No.16 sequence (AF240179)							
60	atatatatat	atatatataa	atcactagtg	caaccaccta	cagotegace	atatogogaga	
120	geteceaacg	cottogatoc	ataocttoao	tattetatag	totcacctaa	atagettoge	
180	gtaatcatgg	tcatagetgt	tteetototo	aaattottat	ccgctcacaa	ttccacacaa	
240	catacgagcc	ggaagcataa	agtgtaaagc	ctggggtgcc	taatgagtga	gctaactcac	
300	attaattgcg	ttgcgctcac	tgcccgcttt	ccagtcggga	aacctgtcgt	gccagctgca	
360	ttaatgaatc	ggccaacgcg	cggggagagg	cggtttgcgt	attgggcgct	cttccgcttc	
420	ctcgctcact	gactcgctgc	gctcggtcgt	tcggctgcgg	cgagcggtat	cagetcacte	
480	aaaggcggta	atacggttat	ccacagaatc	aggggataac	cgcaggaaag	aacatgtgag	
540	caaaaggcca	gcaaaaggcc	aggaaccgta	aaaaggccgc	gttgctggcg	tttttccata	
600	gctccgcccc	cctgacgagc	atcacaaaaa	tccgacgctc	aagtcagagg	tggcgaaacc	
660	cgacaggact	ataaagatac	caagcgtttc	cccctggaag	ctccctcgtg	cgctctcctg	
720	ttccgaccct	gccgcttacc	ggatacctgg	nccgcttttc	tc		
No 1'	7 sequence (AF240	180)					
1	ctggttcgcc	tgcaggtacc	ggtccggaat	tcccgggtcg	acccacgcgt	ccgcggacgc	
60	gtgggcggac	gcgtgggaaa	agattgtgaa	gcctgtgaaa	gtttcagete	cccgagttgg	
120	tggaaaacgc	taaactggca	gattagattt	ttaaataaag	attggattat	aactctaaaa	

180 240 300 360 420 480 540 600 660 720	aaaaaaaaaa tcatagctct tgactgggaa cagctggcgt gaatggcgaa gcgcagcgtg tcctttctcg tagggtccga ggttcacgta agtccccgtt	aagggcggcc tctatagtgt aaccctggcg aatagcgaag tgggacgcgc accgctacac ccacgttcgc tttagtgctt attgggccat tcttaataag	gctctagagg cacctaaatt ttacccaact aggcccgcac cctgtagcgg ttgcagcgcc cggctttccc tacggcacct cgcccttgat nggactnctt	atccaagctt caattcactg taatcgcctt cgatcgccct cgcattaagc ctagcgcccg cgtcaagctc cgaccccaaa agacggtttt gttccaaacn	acgtacgcgt gccgtcgttt gcagcacatc tcccaacagt gcggcgggtg ctcctttcgc taaatcgggg aaaacttgat ttcgcccttt tggaacaaca	gcatgcgacg tacaacgtcg cccctttcgc tgcgcagcct tggtggttac tttcttccct ggctcccttt tagggntgat gacggttgga cgtt
No.18	sequence (AF240)	181)				
1 60 120 180 240 300 360 420 480 540 600	gacgtcgcat gtcgaccata cacctaaata ctcacaattc tgagtgagct ctgtcgtgcc gggcgctctt gcggtatcag ggaaagaaca ctggcgtttt ttccataggc	gctcccggcc tgggagagct gcttggcgta cacacaacat aactcacatt agctgcatta ccgcttcctc ctcactcaaa tgtgagcaaa tccataggct tccgcccccc	gccatggccc cccaacgcgt atcatggtca acgagccgga aattgcgttg atgaatcggc gctcactgac ggcggtaata aggccagcaa ccgccccct tgacgagcat	gcgggatatc tggatgcata tagctgtttc agcataaagt cgctcactgc caacgcgcgg tcgctgcgct cggttatcca aggccagga gacgagcatc cat	actagtgcgg gcttgagtat ctgtgtgaaa gtaaagcctg ccgctttcca ggagaggcgg cggtcgttcg cagaatcagg accgtaaaaa acaaaaattt	ccgcctgcag tctatagtgt ttgttatccg gggtgcctaa gtcgggaaac tttgcgtatt gctgcggcga ggataacgca ggccgcgttg gctggcgttt

DISCUSSION

After exposing to large dose ionizing radiation, intestinal crypt radiation death occurs, and no effective therapeutic measures are available to combat it. Data showed that the devastation or death of the crypt after irradiation is the crucial factor responsible for the pathogenesis. We have performed a series of experiments intending to increase the crypt survival after-irradiation in mice and confirmed that the nucleic acids (DNA, RNA) and their precursors may be used as one of the measures for the treatment of intestinal radiation syndrome that may occur in the war as well as in the peaceful uses of atomic energy^[1-5]. However, the concrete molecular and cellular mechanisms are unknown.

Human genome group comprised 100 thousand of genes, which are selectively expressed, and determined the whole life course of organism, alteration of gene expressed levels is positioned at centrel of controlling biological adjust the mechanism^[8]. Therefore, we think, after irradiation, between test group treated by RNA and the control group treated by physiological saline must exist differently expressed genes, which indicate that those genes were closely associated with intestinal crypt damage and repair. To isolate and clone these genes may not only be helpful to clarify the molecular mechanism of nuclear acids treatment, but also provide important basic theory for gene therapy of irradiation damage.

In the study, using BALB/c mice as studying target, we obtained 90 of genes a ssociated with repair of irradiation damaged intestinal gland cells. Data confirmed that hsp was increased at mRNA level after chronic radiation, PARP, serine protease-like gene, *p*53, *bcl*-2, bax, argainase I, ihsr PB7, Cdx1, NPT, PCNA, D1b-1, c-Ha-ras, c-

myc, c-fos and so on were also increased at mRNA levels, which were correlated closely with drug treatment of irradiation damaged intestinal cells^[9-25]. In our experiment, such as Nmi mRNA, Dutt1 protein, mRNA for Na, K-ATPase gamma subunit, mRNA for surface glycoprotein, Zinc finger type transcript factor, porcine growth hormone-releasing hormone gene, monocyte/ macrophage Ig-related gene, telomerase-associated protein, HOX1b protein, arginine/serine kinase, alkaline phosphatase mRNA, alkaline phosphatase 2, glkA gene et al were also closely correlated with repair of irradiation damaged intestinal crypt, what especially interesting was that RSG5 and ODC were identical to obtained sequences, data showed that RSG5, and ODC were overexpressed in irradiationdamaged intestinal crypt, and played an essential and positive role during DNA damage recovery and survival^[26,27], our results also fully supported the conclusion. Although their concrete mechanism is not clarified, they may increase protein products by means of increased transcript levels to improve repair of irradiation-damaged intestinal crypt, and to suppress apoptosis of crypt cells^[32].

Langberg et al^[28] confirmed that immunological factors participated in the course of repair of irradiation damaged intestinal crypt such as IL-1, TGF-beta1, PDGF-AA, c-EGFR, EGF, TGF-beta-3. In our experiment, anti-CEA ScFv antibody gene, anti-DNA heavy chain, mRNA for Ig kappa chain, anti-BONT/A Hc ScFv antibody gene, mRNA for ScFv collagenase, AE0199 immunoglobulin heavy chain, mouse Ig gammachain, Ig rearranged gamma-chain mRNA, anti-cmyc antibody gene, anti-CD30 mAb ki-4 ScFv, anti-BSA antibody gene, D1 heavy chain, epidermal growth factor, anti-NP antibody IgH, mouse Ig gammachain and haptoglobin were likely to be correlated closely with repair of irradiation damaged intestinal crypt. What is especially interesting is several gene fragments were partly identical to sequences of ScFv genes, this point was not able to be expressed clearly. Our results support that immunological factors exert effect on the course of repair of irradiation damaged intestinal crypt^[29-45].

In our experiment, eighteen novel sequences were obtained, their concrete fun ctions are still unclear. But we believe that these genes are closely associated with irradiation treatment, only if we clarify the function of these genes, and according to the changes of these genes, to design a controlling measure, we are likely to decrease irradiation damage, and also provide new thoughts for tumor radiation treatment^[46-64].

In summary, our results primarily demonstrate that nuclear acids are capable of improving repair of irradiation damaged inte stinal crypt, its action may be closely correlated with increased mRNA levels of some genes, also with immun ological factors, but the concrete molecular mechanism such as signal transduc tion and suppression of apoptosis still needs further studies^[65-89].

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Edited by You DY and Ma JY