

siRNA 干扰 CTHRC1 可体外抑制甲状腺乳头状癌 TPC-1 细胞的增殖并诱导凋亡

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摘要:目的 探讨胶原三股螺旋重复蛋白1(CTHRC1)甲状腺乳头状癌TPC-1细胞增殖、凋亡的影响。方法 成功筛选干扰甲状腺乳头状癌TPC-1细胞CTHRC1表达的siRNA,以脂质体转染法将siRNA转染甲状腺乳头状癌TPC-1细胞,采用real-time PCR和Western blot检测转染后TCP-1细胞中CTHRC1mRNA和蛋白表达的变化。实验分组:将筛选的干扰序列转染TPC-1细胞作为干扰组(si-CTHRC1组),将随机阴性对照序列转染的TPC-1细胞作为阴性对照组(si-NC组),以不做任何处理TPC-1细胞为对照组(WT组)。采用CCK-8实验检测细胞增殖;流式细胞术AV/PI双染观察各组TCP-1细胞凋亡的变化;采用Western blot法检测各组TPC-1细胞中含剪切型半胱氨酸的天冬氨酸蛋白水解酶-3(c-Caspase-3)蛋白、剪切型多聚ADP核糖聚合酶1(c-PARP1)蛋白表达水平以及磷酸化细胞外信号调节激酶1/2(ERK1/2)表达水平。结果 将筛选出明显抑制TPC-1细胞CTHRC1表达的siRNA转染细胞后,TPC-1细胞中CTHRC1的mRNA和蛋白表达水平降低($P<0.05$)。与WT组和si-NC组相比,si-CTHRC1组的细胞活力降低($P<0.05$);与对照组相比,si-CTHRC1组的TPC-1细胞细胞凋亡率升高,Western blot实验发现:si-CTHRC1组的c-caspase-3、c-PARP1蛋白表达水平均升高($P<0.05$); si-CTHRC1组ERK1/2蛋白的磷酸化水平增加。结论 干扰CTHRC1能够抑制TPC-1细胞的增殖并诱导凋亡,此过程可能通过激活ERK1/2信号通路介导。

关键词:甲状腺癌; CTHRC1; 增殖; 凋亡; siRNA 干扰

Effects of RNA interference of CTHRC1 on proliferation and apoptosis of thyroid papillary cancer TPC-1 cells *in vitro*

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Abstract: Objective To explore the role of CTHRC1 in regulating the proliferation and apoptosis of papillary thyroid cancer cells. Methods Papillary thyroid cancer TPC-1 cells were transfected with a small interfering RNA (siRNA) targeting CTHRC1, with the cells transfected with a scrambled sequence as the negative control. The changes in cell proliferation and apoptosis were assessed using cell counting kit-8 (CCK-8) and flow cytometry with AV/PI double staining, respectively. The expression of c-caspase-3, c-PARP1 and phosphorylation of ERK1/2 in the cells were examined with Western blotting. Results Transfection with the siRNA sequence significantly decreased the mRNA and protein levels of CTHRC1 in TCP-1 cells ($P<0.05$). Compared with blank and negative control cells, TCP-1 cells with RNA interference of CTHRC1 showed significantly lowered proliferative activity and enhanced cell apoptosis ($P<0.05$) with significantly increased expressions of c-caspase-3 and c-PARP1 and phosphorylation of ERK1/2 ($P<0.05$). Conclusion RNA interference of CTHRC1 promotes the proliferation and inhibits apoptosis of papillary thyroid cancer cells possibly by activating the ERK1/2 pathway.

Keywords: thyroid carcinoma; CTHRC1; proliferation; apoptosis; siRNA interference

近年来甲状腺癌的发病在世界范围内增加明显,甲状腺乳头状癌(PTC)发病率的增长最为明显^[1-2]。虽然PTC作为一种惰性肿瘤的预后通常较好,但颈部淋巴结转移及肺、骨远处器官转移仍然是PTC预后不佳的标志,约有15%的患者存在局部侵犯和治疗耐受^[3]。了解并探索PTC发展及转移机制,对PTC尤其是高危PTC

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患者实施更为精准的治疗是当前亟待解决的问题。胶原三股螺旋重复蛋白1(CTHRC1)最初主要表达于损伤血管的外膜成纤维细胞和平滑肌细胞,通过限制胶原基质沉积和促进细胞迁移来促进血管重构^[4-5]。近期研究发现CTHRC1在一些肿瘤的形成和发展过程中表达增加^[6]。研究发现CTHRC1参与到前列腺癌^[7]、乳腺癌^[8]、卵巢癌^[9]、胃癌^[10]以及肺癌^[11]等多种实体肿瘤的增殖、侵袭、转移以及血管生成等过程,是提示预后不良的重要因子。

有研究使用基因探针发现CTHRC1的互补DNA(cDNA)在甲状腺癌组织中表达高于对照正常癌组织^[12]。本课题组前期研究通过免疫组化技术,发现CTHRC1蛋白在甲状腺乳头状癌组织中的表达水平明

显高于瘤旁正常组织和良性病变组织,提示CTHRC1对甲状腺恶性转化过程中可能具有生物学效应。有研究发现CTHRC1的高表达和肿瘤的恶性程度相关^[13]。然而CTHRC1在甲状腺癌中具体的分子作用及机制仍未见报道。本研究通过干扰甲状腺乳头状癌细胞TPC-1中CTHRC1的表达,观察CTHRC1对甲状腺癌细胞中增殖及凋亡的作用,并对机制进行探讨。

1 材料和方法

1.1 主要试剂及仪器

DMEM培养基(Hyclone),FBS、胰蛋白酶(Gibco),Trizol(Invitrogen),Lipofectamine3000(Thermofisher);p-ERK1/2(8544s)抗体(Cell Signaling);CTHRC1抗体(ab85739)、c-Caspase-3抗体(ab2302)、c-PARP-1(ab32064)抗体(Abcam)。CCK-8试剂盒(Dojindo),Annexin V-FITC凋亡检测试剂盒(BD)。人甲状腺乳头状癌细胞TPC-1细胞株由南京采卓生物科技有限公司提供。根据CTHRC1mRNA设计4条小干扰RNA(siRNA)寡核苷酸,siRNA及阴性对照(si-NC),序列见表1。

表1 CTHRC1siRNA 干扰序列

Tab.1 Sequences of siRNA of CTHRC1 for cell transfection

siRNA	Sequence (5'→3')
siRAN1	AGGUUCGGGAUGGAAUUCAAATT
	UUUGAAUCCAUCCCCGACCUTT
siRAN2	GCGUUCAAAUAGUGUCUATT
	UAGAGCACAUUUGAACGCTT
siRAN3	GCGGAGUGUACAUUUACAATT
	UUGUAAAUGUACACUCCGCTT
siRAN4	GUCACAUUCUCUCAACCUATT
	UAGGUUGAGAGAAUGUGACTT
si-NC	UUCUCCGAACGUGUCACGUTT
	ACGUGACACGUUCGGAGAATT

1.2 细胞培养及转染

细胞用含10%胎牛血清(FBS)的DMEM培养基,在37℃、CO₂体积分数为5%的培养箱中常规培养。培养融合度到80%时,用0.25%的胰蛋白酶消化,采用完全培养基传代。转染前1 d 6孔培养板中接种细胞,使转染时细胞密度在70%~80%,培养基为DMEM+10%FBS,按照Lipofectamine3000转染试剂盒说明书进行转染。将筛选的CTHRC1干扰序列转染TPC-1细胞作为干扰组(si-CTHRC1组),随机阴性对照序列(si-NC)转染的TPC-1细胞作为阴性组(si-NC组),以不做任何处理TPC-1细胞为空白组(WT组)。

1.3 CCK-8实验

收集各组对数生长期细胞将细胞消化制成单细胞悬液,以2×10⁴/孔的密度接种于96孔板,100 μL/孔。分别于培养0、12、24、48 h时进行CCK-8实验,每孔加入10 μL CCK-8溶液,继续培养,测定450 nm处的吸光度 $A_{450\text{nm}}$ 值。实验重复3次。

1.4 Annexin V/PI双染

分别用胰酶消化各组细胞,制备成单细胞悬液,800 r/min离心5 min后弃去上清液,用PBS缓冲液冲洗2次,再以1000 r/min离心5 min,之后按照Annexin V-FITC/PI试剂盒说明书加入200 μL结合缓冲液,重悬细胞,加入10 μL PI溶液和5 μL Annexin V,混匀后冰浴避光下室温染色30 min,每管内补足结合缓冲液至500 μL后上流式细胞仪检测。

1.5 Real-time PCR检测

采用TRIzol试剂提取RNA,按照ReverTra Ace qPCR RT Kit反转录试剂盒进行反转录成cDNA,采用SYBR Premix Ex Taq说明书配置PCR反应体系,进行PCR扩增。CHTRC1上游引物5'-AGTGGCTCACTTCGGCTAAA-3',下游引物5'-CCACAGAAGAAGT GCGATGA-3'。内参上游引物5'-TGGACTTCGAGC AAGAGATG-3',下游引物5'-GAAGGAAGGCTGGAGAGTG-3'。最后结果用△△CT表示。每个样本独立重复实验3次。

1.6 Western blot检测

取转染48 h后的TPC-1细胞,加入RIPA裂解液,裂解30 min,12 000/min 4℃离心10 min后,收集上清,使用BCA蛋白质浓度测定试剂盒检测样品蛋白浓度,根据样品浓度确定上量,蛋白样品中加入蛋白上样缓冲液,95~100℃沸水浴变性5 min,加入至制备好的SDS-PAGE凝胶(5%浓缩胶,10%分离胶)上样孔中,25 μL/孔,按浓缩胶80 V、分离胶120 V进行恒压电泳,至溴酚蓝到达胶板下沿,结束后取出凝胶,4℃转膜,采用5%脱脂奶粉封闭PVDF膜1 h,加稀释好的一抗4℃过夜,TBST洗膜后加二抗稀释液,室温孵育30 min,用TBST在室温下摇床上洗4次,5 min/次。滴加新鲜配制的ECL显影,采用自动凝胶成像系统采集图像。

1.7 统计学处理

数据分析采用SPSS 22.0统计软件,计量资料以均数±标准差表示,两两比较采用独立样本t检验,多组间比较采用单因素方差分析,以P<0.05为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 筛选CTHRC1siRNA,干扰质粒转染TPC-1细胞后CHTRC1的mRNA和蛋白表达

设置4组针对CTHRC1基因的siRNA,干扰质粒转染TPC-1细胞48 h后,提取总RNA RT-qPCR检测,相比于WT组、si-NC组,siRNA2组的CTHRC1mRNA含量明显被抑制($P<0.01$,图1A)。使用siRNA转染TPC-1细胞48 h后,提取蛋白质进行Western blot的检测,结果

显示,siRNA2组的CTHRC1蛋白条带相对灰度值最低,CTHRC1蛋白表达水平被明显抑制($P<0.01$,图1B)。Western blot结果与RT-qPCR一致,因此后续以siRNA2进行检测实验。

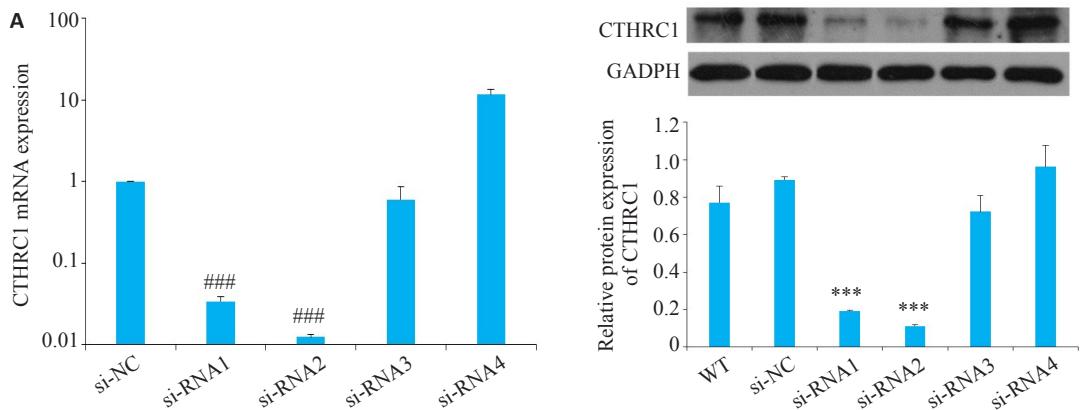


图1 Real-time PCR和Western blot检测不同siRNA转染后细胞中CTHRC1的mRNA和蛋白表达变化
Fig.1 Expression of CTHRC1 at mRNA (A) and protein (B) levels in TPC-1 cells determined by real-time PCR and Western blotting after transfection with different CTHRC1 siRNA. *** $P<0.01$ vs WT, ** $P<0.01$ vs si-NC.

2.2 CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞增殖影响

干扰质粒转染TPC-1细胞后,分别在0、1、2、3、4 d时检测si-CTHRC1组、si-NC组和WT组在450 nm时的光密度值 $A_{450\text{nm}}$,绘制细胞增殖曲线。CCK8检测实验结果显示,与WT组和si-NC组相比,si-CTHRC1组 $A_{450\text{nm}}$ 值降低,差异具有统计学意义($P<0.05$,图2)。

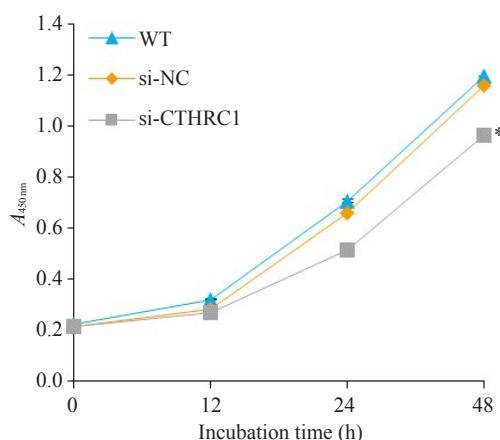


图2 下调CTHRC1表达对TPC-1细胞增殖的抑制作用
Fig.2 Down-regulation of CTHRC1 suppresses the proliferation of TPC-1 cells. * $P<0.05$ vs si-NC.

2.3 CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞凋亡的影响

流式细胞仪分别检测si-CTHRC1组、WT组和si-NC组的细胞凋亡情况。结果显示,与WT组和si-NC

组比较,si-CTHRC1组的细胞凋亡率明显增高,差异具有统计学意义($P<0.01$,图3)。

2.4 CTHRC1对TCP-1细胞中上调相关蛋白表达的影响

Western blot表明,si-CTHRC1组与WT组和si-NC组相比,凋亡相关蛋白c-caspase-3和c-PARP-1相对表达水平增高,差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$,图4)。

2.5 CTHRC1对TCP-1细胞中ERK通路的影响

Western blot实验表明,与WT组和si-NC组相比,si-CTHRC1组p-ERK1/2表达水平增加,差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。

3 讨论

研究显示CTHRC1在实体肿瘤的演进中作用重要作用,在宫颈癌组织中,CTHRC1过表达与肿瘤的分期、组织学分级、淋巴结转移以及复发呈正相关^[14-15]。也有研究发现CTHRC1的高表达与结肠癌^[16]、骨肉瘤^[17]、乳腺癌^[18]、食管癌^[19]、胰腺癌^[20]、卵巢癌^[21]的预后不良相关。本研究团队前期的研究显示PTC细胞组织较正常组织高表达,且甲状腺癌组织中CTHRC1的高表达与淋巴结转移正相关^[13]。但对与CTHRC1在PTC发生发展过程中的具体分子生物学作用尚未见相关报道。本研究首次通过siRNA干扰TPC-1细胞CTHRC1的表达,通过干扰CTHRC1观察TPC-1细胞增殖及凋亡情

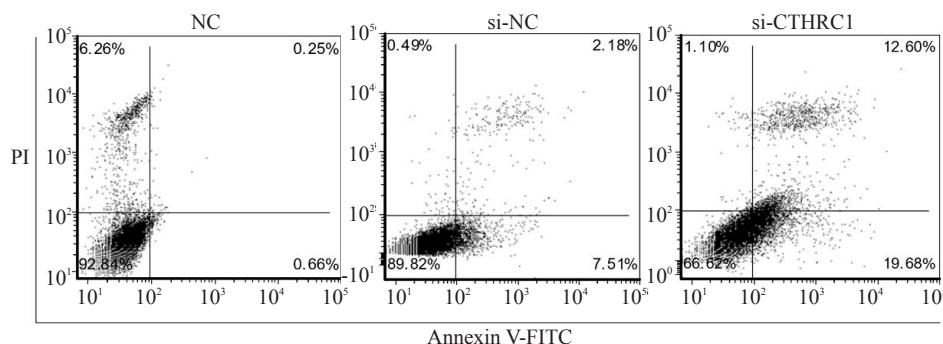


图3 下调CTHRC1表达后对TPC-1细胞凋亡促进作用
Fig.3 Down-regulation of CTHRC1 promotes apoptosis of TPC-1 cells.

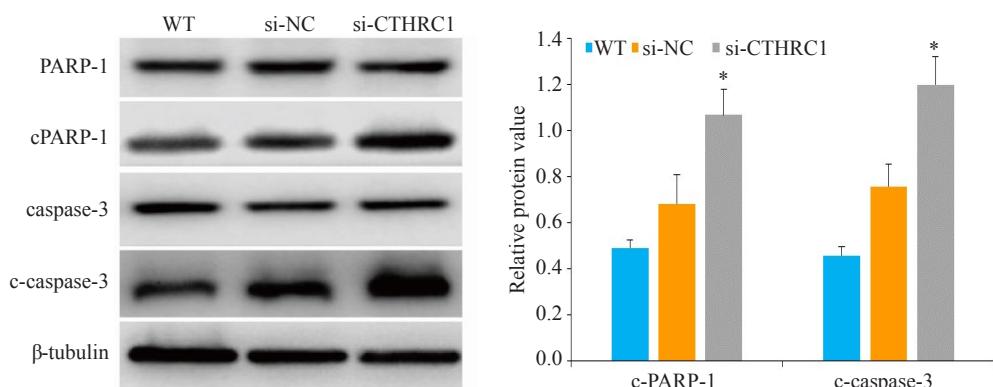


图4 抑制CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞c-Caspase-3、c-PARP-1蛋白表达的影响
Fig.4 Effect of down-regulation of CTHRC1 expression on the expression of c-caspase-3 and c-PARP-1 in TPC-1 cells. *P<0.05 vs si-NC.

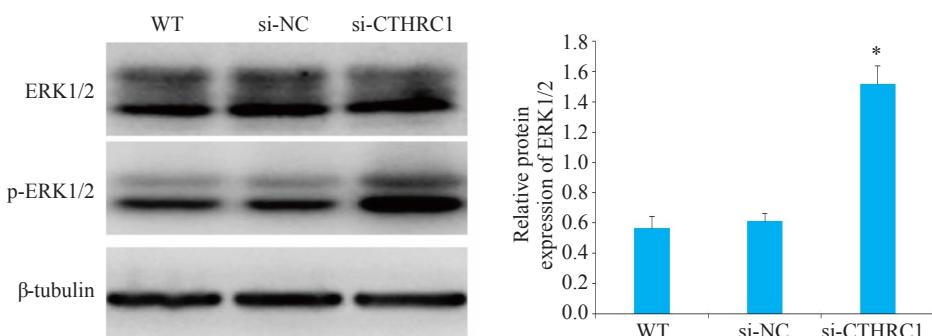


图5 抑制CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞p-ERK1/2蛋白表达的影响
Fig.5 Effect of down-regulation of CTHRC1 on expression of p-ERK1/2 in TPC-1 cells.
*P<0.05 vs si-NC.

况的改变,结果显示:通过siRNA干扰TPC-1细胞CTHRC1,TPC-1细胞增殖能力较对照组明显减低。相同的结果在其他实体肿瘤中也有同样发现^[22]。有文献报道干扰前列腺癌CTHRC1表达能够抑制前列腺癌细胞的增殖和克隆形成^[7]。同样在乳腺癌^[8]、肝癌^[23-24]、食管癌^[19]、骨肉瘤^[25]、结肠癌^[26]及肾癌^[27]的研究中也证实了CTHRC1参与到肿瘤细胞的增殖过程中,CTHRC1能

够促进肿瘤细胞增殖。但在关于卵巢癌和宫颈癌的研究中,并没有发现CTHRC1对肿瘤的增殖起作用^[21,28]。因此包括本研究在内多数研究表明CTHRC1能够促进肿瘤细胞的增殖,但仍和肿瘤的具体类型相关。

CTHRC1对肿瘤细胞凋亡作用的研究相对较少,有研究发现过表达CTHRC1能够抑制乳腺癌的凋亡,CTHRC1能够通过Bax/caspase-9/caspase-3调控乳腺

瘤细胞的凋亡过程^[18]。也有研究发现在肝癌中,干扰CTHRC1后细胞凋亡比率增加,且c-caspase3和c-PRAP的表达增高^[23]。而本研究干扰甲状腺癌TPC-1细胞中CTHRC1的表达,采用流式细胞术AV/PI双染检测发现抑制CTHRC1表达后PTC-1细胞凋亡比率增加。Western bolt显示c-caspase-3和c-PARP-1蛋白的表达增加。这一现象提示在甲状腺乳头状癌TCP-1细胞中CTHRC1能够抑制甲状腺乳头状癌细胞的凋亡。

CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞增殖与凋亡影响的信号通路尚未见相关报道。前期研究报道CTHRC1能够通过Wnt/beta-catenin介导了子宫内膜间质细胞的增殖^[29]。同样在结肠癌中,CTHRC1能够激活Wnt/PCP通路,促进增殖。作为丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(MAPKs)通路的主要类型,ERK是调节细胞增殖和凋亡的重要通路^[30]。ERK通过一系列信号转导作用磷酸化活化,磷酸化的ERK1/2则会进入细胞核,作用于相应的转录因子发挥调节细胞增殖、凋亡、分化等生物学行为的作用^[31]。研究报道在关节软骨细胞中CTHRC1通过JNK1/2通路介到了IL-1β诱导的凋亡过程^[32],通过表达CTHRC1,能够通过MAPK/MEK/ERK通路促进食管鳞癌细胞增殖^[19]。有研究也发现在结肠癌中,CTHRC1能够活化ERK1/2介导肿瘤细胞侵袭^[33]。目前多数研究认为ERK通路在甲状腺癌尤其是PTC分子生物学过程中作用非常重要,是未来治疗的重要靶点之一^[34]。本研究显示抑制CTHRC1能够抑制ERK1/2通路的活化,提示了ERK通路可能参与了CTHRC1对TPC-1细胞增殖和凋亡过程。

综上所述,本结果显示CTHRC1能够促进TPC-1的细胞的增殖、通过caspase-3、PARP-1抑制凋亡,这一机制可能通过ERK通路介导。我们将在今后通过体内实验研究进一步揭示CTHRC1对PTC的生长和转移的影响及机制。

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