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基于表达谱分析筛选肾母细胞瘤关键基因

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摘要: 为探究肾母细胞瘤(Nephroblastoma)发生的关键基因,并筛选出潜在的治疗靶点及生物标志,采用由GEO数据库获取的基因芯片GSE11151和GSE53224,经归一化处理后,通过GO和KEGG分析筛选出差异数基因,并通过构建蛋白互作网络获得其中的关键基因。总计获得差异数基因404个,其中上调基因385个,下调基因19个。PMCH、CCR5、CCR7、RGS1和KNG1作为关键基因,涉及趋化因子信号通路、G蛋白偶联信号通路,参与肿瘤微环境的形成。这5个关键基因在肾母细胞瘤的发生中有着重要作用,并可能作为潜在治疗靶点及生物标志。

关键词: 肾母细胞瘤; 差异数基因; 芯片分析; 肿瘤微环境

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Identification of key genes and potential targets in nephroblastoma based on RNA expression microarray

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Abstract: This study was aim to identify gene signatures and potential therapeutic target in nephroblastoma. Microarrays GSE11151 and GSE53224 were downloaded from GEO database. 57 Wilms tumor and 5 normal tissues profiles were screened by GO and KEGG enrichment analysis, and protein-protein interaction (PPI) network of the differentially expressed genes (DEGs) was constructed. In total, 404 DEGs were identified, including 385 up-regulated genes and 19 down-regulated genes. The biological processes of GO functional enrichment showed that up-regulated DEGs significantly involved in immune response, immune system process, and leukocyte cell-cell adhesion; while the down-regulated DEGs were related to excretion, metanephros development, and nephron development. In KEGG analysis, the DEGs were enriched in neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction, T cell receptor signaling pathway, and Chemokine signaling pathway. Five genes were identified as hub nodes from the PPI network, including PMCH, CCR5, CCR7, RGS1 and KNG1, which were mostly associated with Chemokine signaling pathway, G-protein coupled signaling pathway, and involved in shaping tumor microenvironment. In conclusion, the DEGs, particular hub genes, play significant roles in the development of nephroblastoma and might be the underlying target and diagnostic biomarkers for the treatment of nephroblastoma.

Keywords: Nephroblastoma; Differentially expressed genes; Microarray analysis; Tumor microenvironment

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1 引言

肾母细胞瘤(Nephroblastoma),又称 Wilms 瘤,是一种罕见原发性恶性肿瘤,常发生于 15 周岁以下的儿童及青少年,但在其它年龄群也有发现^[1]. 经过多年临床探索,预后较好的儿童病例中五年存活率已经达到 80%,然其治疗手段依旧以手术切除为主,并辅以化疗、放疗. 化疗-放疗联合疗法通常会引发恶心呕吐、食欲不振、贫血、脱发、嗜中性白血球减少,继而影响患者心理健康^[2]. 手术切除病变肾脏则也具有其自身局限性. 因此,对于部分人群,尤其是婴幼儿及双边瘤患者,当前的治疗手段并不完全合适. 伴随着 CRISPR/Cas9 基因编辑技术、人工修饰的嵌合抗原受体 T 细胞免疫疗法以及适配体技术的发展,精准的基因和生物学疗法可以成为治疗肾母细胞瘤的新选择^[3-4].

随着二代测序发展,发现新的肿瘤标志物和潜在治疗靶点变得更加便捷. Wegert^[5] 和 Yusenko^[6] 收集并检测了多种肾脏肿瘤中基因的差异性表达,但并没有阐述肾母细胞瘤与正常组织间的表达差异和差异基因间的联系. 本研究通过比对肾母细胞瘤与正常肾脏样本间基因表达文件,分析了差异基因和差异基因所处的关键通路,并通过蛋白互作分析筛选出关键基因. 研究结果将有助于解释尚不清楚的肾母细胞瘤发生机制,并对于以后的生物学治疗及临床诊断提供研究基础.

2 材料和方法

2.1 材料

肾母细胞瘤 RNA 表达芯片 GSE11151 和 GSE53224 都由 GEO 数据库(GEO, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>)获得. 其中 GSE53224 包含 53 例肾母细胞瘤样本, GSE11151 包含 2 例正常的胚胎肾脏样本、3 例正常的成人肾脏样本、4 例肾母细胞瘤样本及多种其它肾脏肿瘤样本. 这些表达芯片皆基于 GPL570 芯片平台及 U133 Plus 2.0 Array 完成.

2.2 方法

2.2.1 数据预处理及差异基因筛选 本研究选取芯片中正常肾脏样本和肾母细胞瘤样本,利用 R/Bioconductor 软件(<https://www.bioconductor.org/>)对数据进行 RAM 归一化处理. 将数据分为三组:正常的成人肾脏样本、正常的胚胎肾脏样本和肿瘤样本,并通过 GENE-E 插件的 t 检验分析

对样本进行筛选差异基因,其中 $P < 0.01$ 和 $|Fold Change| \geq 1.5$ 作为筛选标准.

2.2.2 差异基因的 GO 分析和 KEGG 分析 利用 DAVID 在线数据库(<https://david.ncifcrf.gov/>)进行差异基因 GO 分析和 KEGG 通路分析.

2.2.3 蛋白互作网络的构建及亚网络分析 将差异性表达基因上传至 STRING (<http://string-db.org/>) 在线数据库,获得可信度大于 0.4 的蛋白互作数据,通过 Cytoscape 软件绘制蛋白互作网络并计算出关键基因,运用 Cytoscape 中 MCODE 插件生成蛋白互作亚网络并分析其所涉及的生物学通路.

3 结果与分析

3.1 差异基因筛选

为鉴别肿瘤与正常组织间基因的差异性表达,本文将肿瘤样本的基因表达结果分别与胚胎正常组织和成人正常组织的芯片数据相比,进而筛选出于两组对比中表达趋势类似的基因. 与成人正常组织相比,肾母细胞瘤中有 1084 个上调基因和 177 个下调基因. 而与胚胎正常组织相比,肾母细胞瘤则有 723 个上调基因和 34 个下调基因. 通过分析两组数据,我们发现有 404 个基因在两组对比中有着相同的趋势,其中上调基因 385 个,下调基因 19 个(图 1).

3.2 GO 分析和 KEGG 分析

利用 DAVID 在线工具对两组对比中有着相同趋势的 404 个差异性表达基因进行 GO 分析及 KEGG 分析. 结果发现上调基因主要富集于与免疫反应相关的生物学进程,下调基因则主要富集于分泌和肾脏发育相关的生物学进程(表 1). 而 KEGG 分析揭示差异性表达基因涉及神经信号传递通路、T 细胞受体信号通路、趋化因子信号通路等多个信号通路(表 2).

3.3 蛋白互作网络及亚网络分析

基于 STRING 获得的蛋白互作数据,利用 Cytoscape 分析蛋白互作网络中节点关联程度,得到关联 10 个基因以上的节点 16 个,其中关联程度最高的 5 个节点作为关键基因,即 pro-melanin concentrating hormone (PMCH), C-C motif chemokine receptor 5 (CCR5), C-C motif chemokine receptor 7 (CCR7), regulator of G-protein signaling 1 (RGS1), kininogen 1 (KNG1). 此外,本研究还构建并分析了 MCODE 评分大于 3 且节点数大于 4 的两个蛋白互作亚网络(图 2,表 3).

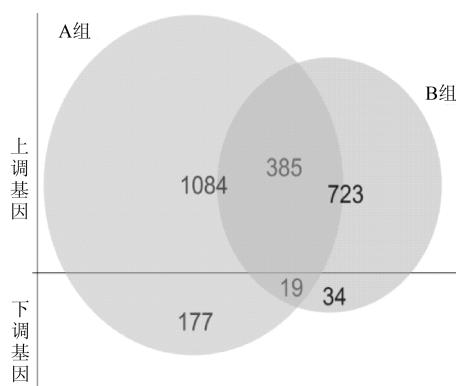


图 1 共趋势差异基因分析

A 组: 肿瘤 Vs 成人正常组织 B 组: 肿瘤 Vs 胚胎正常组织
 Fig. 1 The statistic analysis of DEGs with similar trend
 Group A: Tumor Vs Adult normal kidney, Group B:
 Tumor Vs Fetal normal kidney

表 1 肾母细胞瘤差异基因 GO 分析

Tab. 1 GO analysis of DEGs in Wilms tumor

类别	基因数	P 值
GO:0006955~immune response	55	1.60E-11
GO:0050776~regulation of immune response	36	8.19E-09
GO:0002682~regulation of immune system process	44	5.25E-07
GO:0007159~leukocyte cell-cell adhesion	23	7.57E-07
GO:0045321~leukocyte activation	29	7.76E-07
GO:0007588~excretion	5	1.38E-07
GO:0001656~metanephros development	4	3.14E-05
GO:0072009~nephron epithelium development	4	5.91E-05
GO:0072243~metanephric nephron epithelium development	3	8.09E-05
GO:0072006~nephron development	4	1.16E-04

表 2 肾母细胞瘤差异基因 KEGG 分析

Tab. 2 KEGG pathway enrichment of DEGs in Wilms tumor

类别	P 值	基因名
Neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction	5.29E-03	GRIK1, P2RX7, HTR1F, FPR3, CHRNA1, GRM6, HTR5A, NTSR1, PRLHR, GRIN3B
T cell receptor signaling pathway	7.35E-03	CD247, CD28, MAP3K8, ITK, PTPRC, PPP3R1
Chemokine signaling pathway	2.27E-02	CCL18, CXCL13, CCR5, CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL3, ITK
Viral myocarditis	2.98E-02	MYH6, CD86, CD28, ITGAL
Toll-like receptor signaling pathway	3.68E-02	Ifna10, CD86, CXCL11, MAP3K8, TLR8

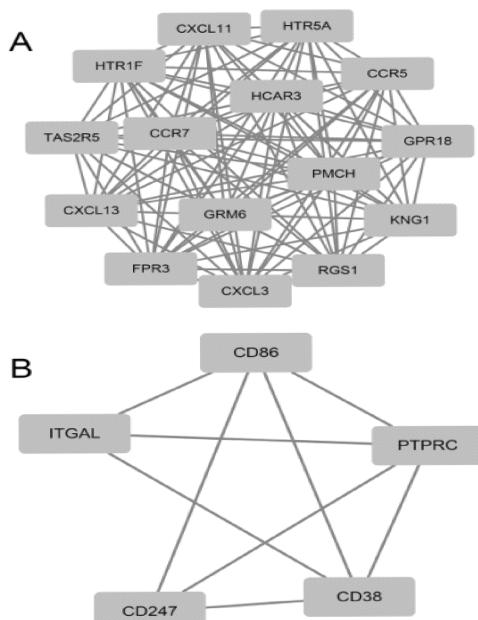


图 2 蛋白互作亚网络

A 和 B 为蛋白互作亚网络

Fig. 2 Sub-network from the protein-protein interaction network
 Based on STRING database and Cytoscape Network Analyzer tool, the sub-networks, A and B, were obtained.

4 讨 论

本文将肿瘤样本的芯片结果分别与胚胎正常组织、成人正常组织的芯片数据相比,筛选出差异性表达基因 404 个,其中包括 385 个上调基因和 19 个下调基因。GO 分析显示,上调基因多富集于免疫相关进程,下调基因富集于分泌以及肾脏发育相关进程。KEGG 分析揭示差异性表达基因参与神经信号传递通路、T 细胞受体信号通路、趋化因子信号通路。这些结果与肿瘤发生的生物学进程和肾母细胞瘤的临床症状相一致。

通过蛋白互作分析,筛选出 5 个关键基因,包括 PMCH, CCR5, CCR7, KNG1 以及 RGS。PMCH 作为前原蛋白,能通过组织特异性转化酶生成黑色素聚集素(melanin-concentrating hormone, MCH)、神经肽-谷氨酸-异亮氨酸(neuropeptide-glutamic acid-isoleucine, NEI)和神经肽-甘氨酸-谷氨酸(neuropeptide-glycine-glutamic acid, NGE)。在滤泡型淋巴癌中,肿瘤浸润性淋巴细胞的 PMCH 表达通常与患者的存活密切相关^[7]。Kiaii 和其团队认为滤泡型淋巴癌中 MCH

上调的 T 细胞靶向结合表达 MCHR2 的巨噬细胞促进其形成免疫耐受^[15]. 在结直肠癌中, MCH 被

发现通过抑制上皮细胞凋亡来促进肿瘤发生^[8].

表 3 亚网络差异基因通路分析

Tab. 3 Pathway analysis of DEGs in sub-network

亚网络	类别	FDR	基因
A	G-protein coupled receptor signaling pathway	1.42E-11	CCR5, CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL3, FPR3, GPR18, GRM6, HCAR3, HTR1F, PMCH, RGS1, TAS2R5
	chemokine-mediated signaling pathway	5.12E-07	CCR5, CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL3
	leukocyte chemotaxis	2.72E-05	CCR5, CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL3
	positive regulation of leukocyte chemotaxis	0.000464	CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL3
B	inflammatory response	0.000464	CCR5, CCR7, CXCL11, CXCL13, CXCL3, KNG1
	positive regulation of lymphocyte proliferation	1.75E-05	CD38, CD86, ITGAL, PTPRC
	positive regulation of lymphocyte activation	0.000107	CD247, CD38, ITGAL, PTPRC
	immune response-activating signal transduction	0.000493	CD247, CD38, CD86, PTPRC
	immune response-regulating cell surface receptor signaling pathway	0.000493	CD247, CD38, CD86, PTPRC
	positive regulation of T cell proliferation	0.000493	CD86, ITGAL, PTPRC

另一个基因 CCR5 因其 HIV 感染抗性为大家所知, 而近期研究表明 CCR5 抑制剂能阻碍肿瘤生长和侵袭^[9]. CCL5/CCR5 经由趋化因子介导的信号通路参与形成结直肠癌肝转移微环境^[10]. 抑制 CCR5 能消除 SOCS3 和 PIAS3 的上调, 增强 STAT3 水平, 并促进干扰素产生, 进而诱导肿瘤细胞死亡^[11]. 下调 CCR5 则能抑制内皮细胞迁移和血管生成^[12]. 相应地, 在胶质母细胞瘤中 CCR5 上调将促进 AKT 激活诱导细胞增殖和侵袭^[13]. 另一方面, CCL3-CCR5 能调节 MMP-9 和 HGF 表达, 协助白细胞和成纤维细胞在肿瘤内运输, 并最终诱导肿瘤的转移^[14]. 在肾细胞癌中, CCR5 高表达, 意味着更多调节性 T 细胞浸润肿瘤^[15]. 因此, CCR5 有可能成为免疫治疗的又一靶点.

类似于 CCR5, CCR7 也参与肿瘤转移微环境的形成^[16]. 在头颈肿瘤中, CCR7 促进 PI3K 通路激活, 并诱导 ERK1/2 和 JNK 磷酸化来增强肿瘤侵袭^[17-18]. CCL21/CCR7 通过强化 MMPs 及 VEGF-D 表达和调节 Bax、Bcl2 的水平来促进肿瘤发生^[19-20]. KNG1 同样参与细胞侵袭进程. Hatoh 团队发现 KNG1 变体——HMWK 的 5 号功能域能够抑制胶原/玻连蛋白介导的细胞粘连和侵袭^[21]. 但是, 从 HMWK 剪接出的缓激肽能增强胶质瘤细胞的侵袭, 并促使胶质瘤与血管相连^[22]. 此外, 本文研究结果显示 KNG1 表达下调超过两倍, 而这与肾透明细胞癌中 KNG1 的变化相近^[23].

RGS1 则与肿瘤免疫逃逸有关^[24]. 通过抑制 CXCL12 介导的 AKT 活化和激活 CCR7 与 CX-CR4^[25], RGS1 抑制肿瘤浸润性调节 T 细胞的迁移.

而 RGS1 的各种变体则对淋巴细胞迁移有着不同的影响^[26]. 此外, 近来研究表明 RGS1 可作为结直肠癌的潜在标志物^[27] 并且在多种肿瘤中高表达^[28].

因此, 上述五个关键基因可能通过肿瘤微环境影响肾母细胞的发生与发展. 蛋白互作亚网络分析也恰恰表明, 这些基因主要涉及离子稳态调控, G 蛋白偶联受体信号通路, 趋化因子介导的信号通路, 免疫应答等有助于肿瘤免疫微环境形成的关键生物学途径.

综上所述, 本文通过分析 57 例 Wilms 肿瘤和 5 例正常肾组织样本, 筛选出差异基因 404 个, 并从中获得 PMCH, CCR5, CCR7, KNG1 和 RGS1 五个关键基因. 这 5 个关键基因可能在肾母细胞瘤的发生发展过程中有着重要作用, 并可能成为临床治疗和诊断的潜在靶点. 但这些基因在肾母细胞瘤中的功能仍需进一步的研究加以证实.

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