

· 综述 ·

晚期糖基化终末产物及其受体与非酒精性脂肪性肝病的关系

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【摘要】 晚期糖基化终末产物(AGE)是高血糖的标志物,能通过 AGE 受体(RAGE)发挥致病作用。研究发现,AGE/RAGE 与非酒精性脂肪性肝病(NAFLD)的发展关系密切。AGE 能增加肝脏的甘油三酯水平,促进单纯性脂肪肝(SFL)的发生,AGE/RAGE 可诱导肝脏炎症反应,促进 SFL 向非酒精性脂肪性肝炎(NASH)发展,并能通过诱导活性氧簇的合成,活化肝脏星状细胞来引起肝纤维化。

【关键词】 晚期糖基化终末产物;晚期糖基化终末产物受体;非酒精性脂肪性肝病

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【Abstract】 Advanced glycation end-products (AGE) are biomarkers of hyperglycemia, the receptors for AGE (RAGE) are involved in AGE-induced pathogenesis. It has found that AGE/RAGE was closely associated with the development of nonalcoholic fatty liver diseases (NAFLD). AGE can increase the accumulation of hepatic triglycerides and promote the occurrence of simple fatty liver (SFL). AGE/RAGE induces hepatic inflammation and accelerates the development of SLF to nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), and induces hepatic cirrhosis by promoting the synthesis of reactive oxygen species, activating hepatic stellate cells.

【Key words】 Advanced glycation end-products; Receptor for advanced glycation end-products; Non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases

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晚期糖基化终末产物(AGE)是指在非酶促条件下,蛋白质、氨基酸、脂类或核酸等大分子物质的游离氨基与还原糖的醛基经过缩合、重排、裂解、氧化修饰后产生的一组稳定的终末产物。该反应早在 1912 年就被法国化学家 Maillard 发现,故又称 Maillard 反应^[1]。AGE 是高糖环境的标志物,能激活免疫反应、氧化应激,以及多种糖尿病并发症的新生血管反应^[2]。近年来,科学家发现了 AGE 受体(RAGE)在 AGE 致病过程中扮演了至关重要的角色。RAGE 是细胞表面分子免疫球蛋白超家族的成员,是一个具有多配体的跨膜信号转导受体,除了 AGE,它也结合高迁移率族蛋白 B1(HMGB1)、S100

钙结合蛋白及 β 淀粉样蛋白等^[3]。

AGE/RAGE 活化后,能在多种细胞中通过激活胞内信号通路如核因子- κ B、丝裂原活化蛋白激酶、Janus 激酶-信号转导与转录激活因子及磷脂酰肌醇 3 激酶等,增加氧化应激并引发一系列炎症反应、血管生成、纤维化、血栓生成及细胞增殖、凋亡^[4]。RAGE 在肝细胞、肝星状细胞及肝癌细胞中广泛表达。越来越多的证据显示,肝脏中 RAGE 信号通路的激活在非酒精性脂肪性肝病(NAFLD)及肝细胞癌的发生、发展中扮演重要角色,抑制 RAGE 下游通路可能成为本组疾病治疗的重要靶点^[5]。NAFLD 包括一组进展性肝脏疾病:单纯性脂肪肝(SFL)、非酒精性脂肪性肝炎(NASH)及肝硬化,最终不良结局为肝细胞癌。NASH 是疾病进展的关键期,与糖尿病、胰岛素抵抗密切相关,约 8%~26% 的 NASH 患者会进展至肝纤维化,前者是肝硬化发展的必经阶段,

约10%的肝硬化患者在5年内进展至肝细胞癌^[6]。本文就AGE/RAGE诱导SFL、NASH发生、发展,促进肝脏纤维化,诱导肝细胞癌侵袭和转移等方面的作用和机制作一综述。

1 AGE/RAGE 诱导 SFL、NASH 的炎症反应

日本研究人员报道了血清 AGE 水平在糖尿病发生的情况下与胰岛素抵抗水平呈正相关,与脂联素水平呈负相关,是区分NASH和SFL的重要生物标志物^[7]。果糖及葡萄糖皆为合成AGE的原料,Mastrocola等^[8]在野生型小鼠中予果糖及葡萄糖喂养30周后,发现果糖组肝脏甘油三酯含量显著升高,促进脂质原位合成的转录因子固醇调节元件结合蛋白1(SREBP1)表达升高,蛋白甾醇调节因子结合蛋白裂解激活蛋白(SCAP)的表达及活性增加;同时,果糖组的肝脏AGE中羧甲基亮氨酸(CML)成分较葡萄糖组显著增加,CML与SCAP相互作用后能增加SREBP1的活性,促进肝脏甘油三酯的沉积。Gaens等^[9]研究发现,肥胖患者肝脏CML含量与肝脏脂肪样变、炎症反应程度及炎症标志物纤溶酶原激活物抑制因子-1、白细胞介素-6及C反应蛋白表达水平相关,另外,脂肪酸能增加体外肝细胞中CML的含量及RAGE的表达,而拮抗RAGE能缓解CML引起的炎症反应并降低相关炎症基因的表达。这些研究提示,肝脏中AGE的积累会通过RAGE介导炎症反应,促进SFL向NASH进展。

胆碱蛋氨酸缺乏(MCD)饮食喂养的啮齿类动物是经典的NASH模型,澳大利亚学者Leung等^[10]给予Sprague-Dawley大鼠MCD饮食6周后,再予以富含AGE成分的MCD饮食6周,与单用MCD饮食组相比,补充富含AGE成分的MCD饮食组肝脏中AGE、甘油三酯、脂质过氧化产物、羟基壬烯醛及NADPH依赖的超氧化物水平升高,同时脂肪肝、脂肪性肝炎及肝纤维化的严重程度增加。另外,研究者分离了大鼠的原代肝脏星状细胞(HSCs),发现AGE能显著增加其活性氧簇产量,增加单核细胞趋化因子-1(MCP-1)、白细胞介素-6、平滑肌细胞骨架- α (α -SMA)及RAGE的表达水平。在饮食诱导的NASH动物模型中,AGE能通过NADPH氧化酶2(NOX2)来增强肿瘤坏死因子 α 转换酶活性,下调沉默信息调节因子1/组织金属蛋白酶抑制因子3(Sirt1/Timp3)的表达,继而介导肝纤维化反应;同样予以AGE饮食诱导,NOX2基因敲除小鼠则未见Sirt1/Timp3表达水平的变化^[11]。Patel等^[12]在小鼠中分别予以常规含量及高含量AGE饲料喂养,发现在肝脏出现脂肪样变之前,高含量AGE饲料即可促进中性粒细胞浸润及炎症反应发生,同时,该研究提示AGE诱导的肝脏炎症反应可加速NASH的进展。

2 AGE/RAGE 促进肝脏纤维化

HSCs是肝脏中主要的细胞外基质生成细胞,在肝纤维化中发挥重要作用。Fehrenbach等^[13]观察到在HSCs向成纤维细胞分化的过程中,RAGE的表达水平升高,转化生长因子- β_1 (TGF- β_1)可增加成纤维细胞的RAGE和 α -SMA的表达水平,提示TGF- β_1 -RAGE轴在HSCs中可能有促进传播和迁徙作用;另外,AGE/RAGE的激活能增加活性氧簇的合成,激活HSCs中的丝裂原活化蛋白激酶和核因子- κ B通路,使其向成纤维细胞分化。Iwamoto等^[14]在对HSCs的研究中发现,AGE与RAGE相互作用后,能通过刺激NADPH氧化酶诱导活性氧簇的产生,刺激TGF- β_1 、MCP-1、I型胶原 α_2 和 α -SMA的表达来诱导HSCs增殖、炎症反应及纤维化反应。Rac-1和NADPH氧化酶能分别通过阻断AGE和RAGE来抑制HSCs中活性氧簇的产生^[15]。这些发现共同提示了RAGE能通过刺激NADPH氧化酶诱导活性氧簇的合成,继而活化HSCs,引起肝纤维化。

在正常大鼠中,长期给予AGE喂养能引起 α -SMA水平升高,但是不能引起肝纤维化或产生有肝酶升高的肝损伤;然而,给大鼠结扎胆管及注射AGE后,可明显加速其肝纤维化,并与肝脏的氧化应激及RAGE过表达水平密切相关^[16]。另有研究发现,沉默RAGE基因能减少大鼠血清炎症细胞因子水平,降低肝脏 α -SMA和I型胶原表达水平,改善四氯化碳诱导的肝脏炎症反应水平和纤维化等级^[17]。在同样的动物模型中,Kao等^[18]报道了HMGB1从损伤的肝细胞中释放,与RAGE相互作用后,在HSCs活化及肝纤维化病理生理过程中发挥作用。

姜黄素是从姜科、天南星科等植物的根茎中提取的一种化学成分,它能通过提升HSCs中过氧化物酶体增殖物活化受体 γ 活性,增加谷胱甘肽合成,降低AGE诱导的RAGE表达,继而抑制氧化应激、炎症反应及HSCs活化^[19]。姜黄素亦能调控RAGE与另一种能对AGE进行解毒与清除的受体——AGE受体1,通过瘦素信号通路及NF-E2相关因子2来缓解HSCs中AGE的作用,从而抑制HSCs的增殖^[20]。从桃子中提取的类胡萝卜素及多酚类化合物,能在大鼠中通过抑制RAGE来改善四氯化碳诱导的氧化应激和肝脏损伤^[21]。以上研究提示,天然化合物有望成为阻抑HSCs活化的有效靶点。

研究发现,AGE/RAGE还与NAFLD发展为肝细胞癌有关。AGE能增加肝细胞癌细胞系中血管内皮生长因子的表达,并增加内皮细胞的增殖、迁徙及成管^[22]。高AGE饮料灌胃能引起大鼠肝脏血管内皮生长因子表达及AGE的堆积,提示饮食中的AGE在肝细胞癌进展过程中具有一定作用^[23]。RAGE

与其配体 HMGB1 结合后,亦能诱导产生多种炎性介质,促进肝细胞癌的侵袭和转移^[25-28]。Yamagishi 等^[25]发现,肝细胞癌患者肝癌组织中 RAGE 表达水平较正常肝组织高。Ito 等^[26]发现,细胞质内 RAGE 表达与低分化的肝细胞癌相关,RAGE 是肝癌切除术后预测总体生存期与无病生存期的独立指标。

综上所述,AGE/RAGE 通过氧化应激和炎症反应在 NAFLD 中发挥着广泛的作用,其下游通路的阻断、基因敲除或饮食 AGE 含量限制可能成为治疗这类肝脏疾病的有效手段。

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