

· 抑郁症专题 ·

SIRT1 调控 miR-124 抗抑郁的机制研究进展

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【摘要】 抑郁症是一类严重危害人类身心健康的重性精神疾病,其病理生理学机制极其复杂。沉默信息调节因子2相关酶 I (Sirtuin 1, SIRT1) 的抗抑郁作用被广泛论证,但其作用机制仍不明确。同时研究发现 miR-124 的调控作用在抑郁发病中也具有重要意义。现旨在介绍 SIRT1 如何调控 miR-124, 缓解下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴(HPA轴)功能亢进及神经营养因子缺乏的病理改变,发挥抗抑郁的功能,该机制的阐述可以给抑郁症发病机制研究和药物研发提供重要线索。

【关键词】 抑郁症; Sirtuin 1; miR-124; HPA轴; 综述

Research progress of the mechanism of miR-124 against depression regulated by SIRT1 Yun Qi, Cui Yue, Gu Meng

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【Abstract】 Depression is a kind of severe mental illness that seriously endangers human physical and mental health, and its pathophysiological mechanism is extremely complex. The antidepressant effect of SIRT1 (Sirtuin 1, Silent Information Regulator Factor 2-related enzyme I) has been widely demonstrated, but its mechanism is still unclear. The regulatory role of miR-124 has also been found to be important in the onset of depression. The purpose of this paper is to introduce how SIRT1 regulates miR-124, alleviates the pathological changes of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA axis) hyperfunction and neurotrophic factor deficiency, exerts antidepressant function. The elucidation of this mechanism could provide important clues for depression pathogenesis research and drug development.

【Key words】 Depressive disorder; Sirtuin 1; miR-124; HPA axis; Review

抑郁症是一类以持续的情绪低落和情感障碍为特征,可伴有认知功能损伤的重性精神疾病,发病人群和年龄不限,发病起初因症状不明显较易被忽视,而不及早干预将会严重危害患者的身心健康,甚至引发自残、自杀等恶性后果^[1]。近年来,随着社会生活方式的改变,人们面对的内外源性应激事件与日俱增,抑郁症的发病率也逐年升高,并呈现低龄化趋势。因此,深入探究抑郁症的病理生理学机制,寻求抑郁症潜在的调控靶点,进而研发新型安全、毒副作用小的抗抑郁药已是迫在眉睫。

抑郁症病因学大致可分为遗传因素、生物化学因素和社会心理因素^[2],而下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴(HPA轴)功能亢进和神经营养因子缺乏是较为显著的神经生物化学改变^[3-4]。近年来研究发现,微小RNA(microRNAs, miRNAs或miRs)广泛参与精神疾病的调控,其中miR-124在抑郁症的发病中扮演

着重要角色,它通过调控相关蛋白表达而改变神经生物化学稳态进而影响抑郁症的发病进程^[5-7]。遗传学研究资料表明,沉默信息调节因子2相关酶 I (Sirtuin 1, SIRT1) 基因与抑郁和焦虑存在密切联系^[8], SIRT1作为一种高度保守的组蛋白去乙酰化酶,其抗抑郁作用也被广泛论证,而具体作用机制仍不清楚^[9]。那么miR-124是否能够作为抑郁症的潜在调控靶点?而SIRT1与miR-124是否存在调控关系,进而发挥抗抑郁作用?现就此作一综述。

一、miR-124

miRNAs是一类小的非编码RNA,长约为22个核苷酸,可直接与目的基因的mRNAs 3'非翻译区(3' UTR)序列互补结合,调节其表达^[10]。研究资料表明,miRNAs广泛参与体内器官组织的发生发育以及各种系统调节,并可能在神经发生、神经元发育及可塑性和神经元凋亡等病理生理进程中发挥

关键作用^[11]。miR-124作为大脑中表达最丰富的miRNA之一,在抑郁症的发生和发展中起着重要作用^[12]。有研究表明,经过抗抑郁药物治疗后抑郁患者外周血中高水平的miR-124会发生显著下调^[13]。因此深入研究miR-124在抑郁症中的潜在作用,可以为其机制研究提供新方向。

二、miR-124与下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(HPA)轴功能亢进的关系

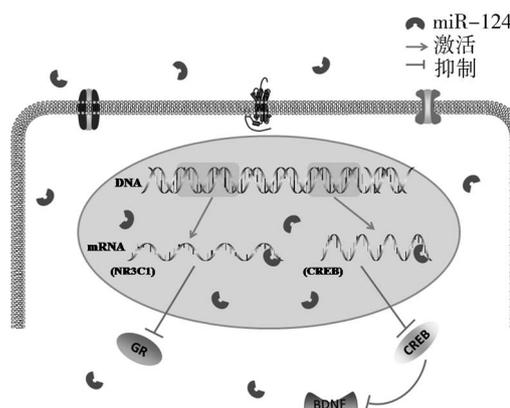
在抑郁症中,HPA轴功能亢进是重要的病理改变之一,这可能与机体长期处于内外源性应激状态有关^[14]。而HPA轴功能调控的高级中枢海马,在抑郁症患者或动物模型中都存在显著的病理改变^[15],海马区域表达的糖皮质激素受体(glucocorticoid receptor, GR)水平降低,HPA轴负反馈信号无法传递,出现HPA轴功能亢进,导致体内糖皮质激素始终处于较高水平,加重了对机体的内源性应激损伤^[16]。在利用不同方法诱导的抑郁动物模型中,血清皮质酮水平也会出现不同程度的升高,机体表现出HPA轴功能亢进的内分泌改变^[17],同时伴随海马组织GR表达量的下降。在GR敲除的转基因小鼠上也同样出现了抑郁样的行为学和HPA轴亢进的神经内分泌学改变^[18]。与此同时,miR-124作为GR的上游调控因子,可以直接与GR(Nr3c1)mRNA的3' UTR区域结合而负调控GR的表达^[7]。有研究表明,通过皮质酮注射诱导的大鼠抑郁模型中,其脑内miR-124显著上调,海马区域GR表达量降低,而给予miR-124拮抗剂后,可以显著提高海马GR表达水平,改善其抑郁样的表现^[19]。由此可以推断抑郁症患者表现出的HPA轴功能亢进的病理改变可能是由于海马区域miR-124上调,通过负向调控GR,导致其表达量降低而引起(图1)。

三、miR-124与神经营养因子缺乏的关系

海马不仅是HPA轴调控的高级中枢,还是机体情感控制中心。它通过整合外界信号和机体内在变化来调节日常情绪^[20]。研究者通过影像学扫描发现抑郁症患者海马体积明显缩小,这一病理改变会直接影响患者的情感控制能力,进而发生抑郁样情绪改变^[21]。近年来,神经营养因子缺乏假说也被认为是抑郁症发病的重要学说之一,神经营养因子的缺乏会直接导致神经营养缺失、新生神经元减少、神经元损伤增加等系列反应,进而引起情感或认知障碍相关的精神疾病^[22]。而环磷腺苷效应元件结合蛋白(CREB)/脑源性神经营养因子(BDNF)作为神经营养因子缺乏假说中的重要分子,它们在抑郁

症中的作用也被广泛报道^[23]。研究表明,通过慢性应激诱导的抑郁动物模型,其海马CREB的激活明显减少,BDNF的表达也显著下降,而经过抗抑郁治疗后可以逆转这种情况^[24]。Rajasethupathy等^[25]发现miR-124可以通过直接结合CREB的mRNA 3' UTR区域负调控CREB1的翻译过程,CREB的表达受抑制后也将直接引发其调控的下游分子BDNF表达下调,进而出现与神经营养因子缺乏相关的病理改变^[26]。Dwivedi等^[27]研究结果表明在皮质酮注射21 d后大鼠前额皮层CREB1、BDNF和Nr3c1等表达都明显降低,而这些基因都是miR-124的预测结合位点,同时利用miRNA芯片筛查抑郁大鼠前额皮层的miRNA表达,发现miR-124、miR-218等显著上调。故推测抑郁症患者体内表达上调的miR-124,可能通过抑制转录调控因子CREB的活性,间接影响BDNF的表达,继而导致脑内神经元营养因子缺乏,出现神经元损伤加重、新生神经元减少等病理改变和情感障碍、认知缺陷等行为学表现(图1)。

机体在应激状态下,脑内miR-124表达增高,miR-124通过结合到NR3C1和CREB基因mRNA的3' UTR区域,抑制相关基因的翻译过程,导致GR和CREB蛋白表达量降低,进而使得机体神经内分泌功能紊乱。



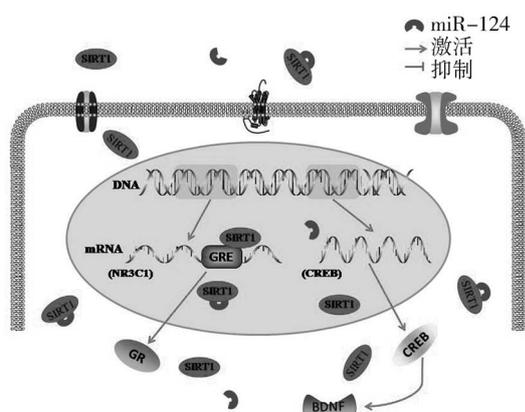
注: miR-124 微小核糖核酸-124; DNA 脱氧核糖核酸; mRNA 信使核糖核酸; NR3C1 NR3C1 基因; GR 糖皮质激素受体; CREB 环磷腺苷效应元件结合蛋白; BDNF 脑源性神经营养因子

图1 miR-124对NR3C1和CREB基因调控示意图

四、SIRT1抗抑郁作用机制

SIRT1是一类组蛋白去乙酰化酶,依赖其去乙酰化作用或非去乙酰化作用对体内各类生命活动发挥调节作用,在抗击炎症、肿瘤、衰老和精神疾病等方面均有较好疗效^[28]。Brennan等^[29]研究发现

SIRT1可以直接与miR-124基因结合,通过去乙酰化组蛋白赖氨酸残基,促进异染色质的形成和基因沉默,抑制miR-124的表达,进而解除miR-124对相关蛋白的抑制性作用。近年来,SIRT1及其激动剂在抗抑郁方面的作用被广泛关注。通过向慢性温和应激诱导的抑郁动物模型脑区微注射SIRT1激动剂SRT2104后,其抑郁样行为得到明显改善^[30]。白藜芦醇作为SIRT1的激动剂之一,体外培养的海马脑片经白藜芦醇处理后,miR-124和miR-134的表达水平都显著降低,而CREB及其下游分子BDNF的表达水平都显著升高^[31]。故推测给予抑郁患者SIRT1或相应激动剂的治疗后,可以解除抑郁状态下体内表达上调的miR-124抑制GR和CREB翻译的状态^[25-26],促进GR和CREB的正常表达。GR的正常表达可以促进HPA轴负反馈信号正常传递,体内糖皮质激素分泌维持动态平衡,改善机体的内源性应激损伤;CREB的正常表达可以促进下游分子BDNF的表达,丰富了神经系统的营养,从而修复神经元的病理改变,促进神经元再生及分化等生理过程,进而缓解患者抑郁状态。同时,SIRT1可以直接与GR结合,在不依赖于SIRT1的去乙酰化活性下,增强GR的转录水平^[32],促进海马区域GR蛋白表达增高,使得HPA轴负反馈调节恢复动态平衡。综上,推测SIRT1的抗抑郁作用可能通过降低抑郁患者体内miR-124的水平,进而改善患者神经内分泌和营养水平,缓解患者的病理改变而发挥抗抑郁效果(图2)。



注: miR-124 微小核糖核酸-124; DNA 脱氧核糖核酸; mRNA 信使核糖核酸; NR3C1 NR3C1 基因; SIRT1 沉默信息调节因子 2 相关酶 I; GRE 糖皮质激素应答元件; GR 糖皮质激素受体; CREB 环磷酸腺苷效应元件结合蛋白; BDNF 脑源性神经营养因子

图2 SIRT1 调控 miR-124 发挥抗抑郁作用示意图

给予抑郁个体SIRT1或SIRT1激动剂治疗,促使体内SIRT1表达增高,SIRT1可以直接与miR-124

基因结合,使其沉默,降低miR-124的水平,进而解除其对NR3C1和CREB基因的抑制作用,改善患者的神经内分泌水平。

综上所述,miR-124与抑郁症之间存在密切的联系,可能机制与其调控的HPA轴功能亢进和神经营养因子缺乏有关,因此miR-124可以作为抑郁症发病的潜在调控靶点。同时SIRT1可以通过调控miR-124,缓解miR-124对其下游分子的抑制状态以逆转抑郁症病理状态,进一步阐明了SIRT1抗抑郁潜在的机制。本综述旨在探索SIRT1通过调控miR-124发挥抗抑郁可能的机制,进而为抑郁症发病机制的深入研究提供新思路,为开发新型的抗抑郁药物提供新依据。

利益冲突 文章所有作者共同认可文章无相关利益冲突

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