

系统性红斑狼疮患者外周血 CD4⁺T 细胞中 ALKBH3-AS1 表达及其与 Th17/Treg 和疾病活动度的相关性研究

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摘要: **目的** 研究分析系统性红斑狼疮 (SLE) 患者外周血 CD4⁺T 细胞中 ALKBH3-AS1 表达及其与辅助性 T 细胞 17/ 调节性 T 细胞 (Th17/Treg) 和疾病活动度的相关性。**方法** 回顾性收集乐山市中医医院 2020 年 7 月 ~ 2024 年 3 月确诊的系统性红斑狼疮患者 60 例 (SLE 组), 根据 SLE 疾病活动指数 (SLEDAI) 评分分为活动组 (SLEDAI ≥ 10 分, $n=33$) 和稳定组 (SLEDAI < 10 分, $n=27$); 同时选取同期健康体检者 52 例为对照组。收集三组一般资料, 采集纳入者外周血离心得外周血单个核细胞 (PBMC)。免疫磁珠法分离 CD4⁺T 细胞, 流式细胞仪检测 Th17/Treg 占比情况, 荧光定量 PCR 检测 CD4⁺T 细胞中 ALKBH3-AS1, 维甲酸相关孤儿受体 (retinoid-related orphan receptor γ t, ROR γ t) 相对表达量; 酶联免疫吸附法 (ELISA) 测定血清转化生长因子 (transforming growth factor, TGF)- β , 白细胞介素-17 (IL-17) 含量; 速率散射免疫比浊法测定补体 C3, C4 水平变化。Pearson 分析 ALKBH3-AS1, Th17 与 SLE 患者各临床指标的相关性; Logistic 回归分析影响 SLE 患者活动程度的因素。**结果** 对照组 Hb, ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T, 补体 C3, 补体 C4 显著高于 SLE 组 ($t/Z=3.245, -11.169, -12.675, -17.829, -15.240, -19.212$), RDW, TGF- β , ROR γ t, Th17/Treg, IL-17, CRP 显著低于 SLE 组 ($t/Z=4.206, 10.054, 19.869, 37.942, 50.463, 3.115$), 差异具有统计学意义 (均 $P<0.05$)。活动组 ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T 显著低于稳定组 ($t/Z=-8.918, -2.483, -11.694$), CRP, TGF- β , ROR γ t, Th17/Treg, IL-17 显著高于稳定组 ($t/Z=3.121, 5.671, 1.787, 14.720, 12.044$), 差异具有统计学意义 (均 $P<0.05$)。Pearson 分析结果显示, ALKBH3-AS1 与 CD4⁺T 呈正相关 ($r=0.663$), 与 Th17/Treg, IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t, SLEDAI 指数呈负相关 ($r=-0.687, -0.715, -0.705, -0.678, -0.671$); Th17/Treg 与 CD4⁺T 呈负相关 ($r=-0.817$), 与 IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t, SLEDAI 指数呈正相关 ($r=0.687, 0.767, 0.598, 0.704$)。Logistics 回归分析结果显示, CD4⁺T [OR (95%CI): 0.715 (0.304 ~ 0.904)] 占比增加、ALKBH3-AS1 [OR (95%CI): 0.654 (0.320 ~ 0.987)] 表达上调为影响 SLE 患者疾病活动度的保护因素, TGF- β [OR (95%CI): 1.487 (1.120 ~ 1.814)] 和 IL-17 [OR (95%CI): 1.294 (1.217 ~ 1.887)] 含量上调、Th17/Treg [OR (95%CI): 1.674 (1.361 ~ 1.679)] 占比上调、ROR γ t [OR (95%CI): 1.547 (1.252 ~ 1.941)] 相对表达量增加为影响 SLE 患者疾病活动度的危险因素。**结论** SLE 患者 CD4⁺T 细胞中 ALKBH3-AS1 表达下调, TGF- β , ROR γ t, IL-17 表达上调均与患者疾病活动度相关, 可作为 SLE 诊断及评估疾病活动及疗效的潜在生物标志物。

关键词: 系统性红斑狼疮; 长链非编码 RNA; 辅助性 T 细胞 17/ 调节性 T 细胞; 疾病活动度

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ALKBH3-AS1 Expression in Peripheral Blood CD4⁺T Cells of Patients with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Its Correlation with Th17/Treg and Disease Activity

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Abstract: **Objective** To investigate the expression of ALKBH3-AS1 in peripheral blood CD4⁺T cells of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and its correlation with T helper cell 17/ regulatory T cells (Th17/Treg) and disease activity. **Methods** A total of 60 patients diagnosed with SLE in Leshan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine from July 2020 to March 2024 were retrospectively collected. According to SLEDAI score, they were divided into active group ($n=33$, SLEDAI ≥ 10 score) and stable group ($n=27$, SLEDAI < 10 score). At the same time, 52 healthy subjects were selected as control group. The general data of three groups were collected and peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) was obtained by centrifugation in peripheral blood. CD4⁺T cells were isolated by immunomagnetic beads, and Th17/Treg ratio was detected by flow

cytometry. The relative expression levels of ALKBH3-AS1 and retinoid-related orphan receptor γ t (ROR γ t) in CD4⁺T cells were detected by fluorescence quantitative PCR. The contents of transforming growth factor(TGF)- β and interleukin (IL)-17 in serum were determined by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay(ELISA).The levels of C3 and C4 were determined by rate scattering immunoturbidimetry. Pearson analyzed the correlation between ALKBH3-AS1, Th17 and various clinical indicators in SLE patients. Logistic regression analysis of the influencing factors in patients with severe SLE showed that the difference was statistically significant. **Results** Hb, ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T, complement C3 and C4 in the control group were significantly higher than those in SLE group ($t/Z = 3.245, -11.169, -12.675, -17.829, -15.240, -19.212$), RDW, TGF- β , ROR γ t, Th17/Treg, IL-17, and CRP in the control group were lower than that in SLE group ($t/Z = 4.206, 10.054, 19.869, 37.942, 50.463, 3.115$), and the differences were statistically significant (all $P < 0.05$). ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T in the active group were significantly lower than those in the stable group($t/Z = -8.918, -2.483, -11.694$), CRP, TGF- β , ROR γ t, Th17/Treg, and IL-17 were significantly higher than those in the stable group($t/Z = 3.121, 5.671, 1.787, 14.720, 12.044$), and the differences were statistically significant (all $P < 0.05$).Pearson analysis showed that ALKBH3-AS1 was positively correlated with CD4⁺T($r = 0.663$), and negatively correlated with Th17/Treg, IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t, SLEDAI index($r = -0.687, -0.715, -0.705, -0.678, -0.671$), Th17/Treg was negatively correlated with CD4⁺T($r = -0.817$), and positively correlated with IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t, SLEDAI index with statistical significance($r = 0.687, 0.767, 0.598, 0.704$).Logistics regression analysis, showed that increased CD4⁺T[OR(95%CI): 0.715(0.304 ~ 0.904)] proportion and up-regulated ALKBH3-AS1[OR(95%CI): 0.654(0.320 ~ 0.987)] expression were protective factors affecting disease activity in SLE patients. The contents of TGF- β [OR (95%CI): 1.487(1.120 ~ 1.814)] and IL-17[OR(95%CI): 1.294(1.217 ~ 1.887)] were up-regulated, the proportion of Th17/Treg[OR(95%CI): 1.674(1.361 ~ 1.679)] was up-regulated, and the relative expression of ROR γ t[OR(95%CI): 1.547(1.252 ~ 1.941)] was increased as risk factors affecting disease activity in SLE patients. **Conclusion** The down-regulated expression of ALKBH3-AS1 and up-regulated expression of TGF- β , ROR γ t and IL-17 in CD4⁺T cells of SLE patients are all correlated with disease activity, and can be potential biomarkers for diagnosis, disease activity and efficacy evaluation in SLE patients.

Keywords: systemic lupus erythematosus; long non-coding RNA; Th17/Treg; disease activity

系统性红斑狼疮 (systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE) 是系统性的慢性自身免疫性疾病, 因血液中沉积多种抗体、补体等免疫复合物, 破坏免疫耐受致使机体器官不同程度受损^[1], 以皮疹、关节疼痛、发热为常见症状。据流行病学显示, 我国居民 SLE 患病率较高, 约为 70/10 万人, 患病男女比例为 1 : 9, 发病人群主要集中于青年^[2]。目前, SLE 的致病机理尚未阐明, 其中涉及体液免疫与辅助性 T 细胞 17 (T helper cell 17, Th17) / 调节性 T 细胞 (regulatory T cells, Treg) 失衡, Th17 与白细胞介素 (interleukin, IL) -17 轴过度激活, 促使浆细胞产生双链 DNA 抗体和肾脏免疫球蛋白 G 抗体, 促进 SLE 发生及器官损伤^[3]。另一方面, 研究发现在 SLE 患者免疫细胞、血浆及肾脏组织中存在大量异常表达的长链非编码 RNA (long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)。lncRNA 在保护染色体完整性、转录、翻译和表观遗传调控等方面具有多种作用^[4]。如 lncRNA-p21 在狼疮肾炎患者外周血单个核细胞 (peripheral blood mononuclear cell, PBMC) 和尿路上皮细胞中高表达, 且和 SLE 疾病活动指数 (systemic lupus erythematosus disease activity index, SLEDAI) 呈正相关, 位于内含子中 ALKBH3-AS1 突变会导致 SLE 患者 PBMC 中 ALKBH3-AS 表达下调, 引发 SLE 患者 CD3 细胞凋亡^[5]。提示 ALKBH3-AS1 可能作为诊断疾病的指

标以及病程发展精确的标志物。故本研究通过探讨 SLE 患者 ALKBH3-AS1, Th17 等应答因子的表达情况, 揭示其可能存在的调节机制, 旨在从更深层次对 SLE 发病机制的理解, 以期为临床治疗提供依据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象 回顾性收集乐山市中医医院 2020 年 7 月 ~ 2024 年 3 月确诊为系统性红斑狼疮的患者 60 例为 SLE 组, 男性 8 例, 女性 52 例, 年龄 26.11 ± 10.35 岁, 身体质量指数 (BMI) 19.35 ± 2.59 kg/m²; 同时选取同期健康体检者 52 例为对照组, 男性 8 例, 女性 44 例, 年龄 26.59 ± 11.17 岁, 身体质量指数 19.54 ± 2.57 kg/m²。纳入标准: ①符合《2020 中国系统性红斑狼疮诊疗指南》^[6] 中关于 SLE 相关诊断标准; ②近期无静脉注射或口服激素及免疫抑制剂药物治疗史。排除标准: ①严重心肺功能不全或生命体征不平稳; ②近一月内有手术史; ③并发感染及恶性肿瘤患者。二组基线比较差异无统计学意义 ($t/\chi^2 = 0.011, -0.236, -0.386$, 均 $P > 0.05$), 本研究通过医院医学伦理委员会批准 (审批文号: 2020071)。

1.2 仪器与试剂 血细胞分析仪 (型号: DH-800CS, 帝迈生物科技有限公司); 流式细胞仪 (型号: CytoFlex X, Beckman Coulter); PCR 仪 (型号: ProFlex, Applied Biosystems); 人 C3, C4 ELISA 试剂盒、

转化生长因子 (transforming growth factor- β , TGF- β)、白细胞介素 17 (IL-17) ELISA 试剂盒 [型号: D730541, D711219, C630014, 生工生物工程 (上海) 股份有限公司]; human CD4 FITC, human CD25 APC, human FOXP3 (型号: 11048-41, 11045-10, 11065-14, eBioscience); human IL-17APC (型号: 563295, Biolegend)。

1.3 方法

1.3.1 标本采集及处理: 采集所有纳入者外周血 4ml, EDTA 抗凝。血标本与磷酸盐缓冲液 (PBS) 混匀离心后, 荧光激活细胞分选术 (fluorescence-activated cell sorting, FACS) 重悬, 离心后 1ml 完全培养液重悬, 离心去上清, 得 PBMC 待用。

1.3.2 免疫磁珠法分离 CD4⁺T 细胞: 以 $10^7/80\mu\text{l}$ 磁性激活细胞分选法 (magnetic-activated cell separation, MACS) 重悬细胞, 加入 CD4 Microbeads, 混匀后孵育。加入 MACS 离心去上清后, 再次重悬细胞。MACS 润洗 LS 柱, 细胞贴壁加入, 冲洗后收集细胞于管中加入 MACS 冲洗出细胞并计数。

1.3.3 荧光定量 PCR 检测 CD4⁺T 细胞中 ALKBH3-AS1, 维甲酸相关孤儿核受体 (retinoid-related orphan nuclear receptor γt , ROR γt) 相对表达量: 将磁珠分离 CD4⁺T 细胞离心弃上清, 加入 CRL2 混匀转移至 RNAColumn 柱, 离心。分别加入 RW1, RW2 后分别离心。将 RNAColumn 转至干净无菌 EP 管, 65℃ 超纯水加入, 离心洗脱 RNA。混匀 RNA, gDNAremover, DNA digester Buffer, 超纯水后置于 PCR 去除 DNA 后, 行 PCR 扩增, cDNA 于 -20℃ 备用。首先行预变性, 95℃ 5min; 95℃ 11s 变性; 退火延伸 65℃ 22s, 延伸 72℃ 30s, 40 个循环, 以 GAPDH 为内参按 $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_T}$ 计算 ALKBH3-AS1 相对表达量。ALKBH3-AS1 正向引物: 5'-AAGAAGTTGGAGAGCAAGCCTC-3', 反向引物: 5'-ACTCTCACTGTTCCCGTATGGTTG-3'; ROR γt 正向引物: 5'-GTGGGGACAAGTCGTCTGG-3', 反向引物: 5'-AGTGCTGGCATCGGTTTCG-3'。

1.3.4 流式细胞仪检测淋巴细胞亚群: 将 PBMC 与完全培养液置于流式管, 10 倍稀释后, 置于 CO₂ 培养箱培养 6h, 加入 FITC 标记的 CD4⁺ 表面抗原、IL-17 抗体混匀后避光孵育, 流式管上机分析。加入抗人 CD4-FITC, 抗人 CD25-APC, 抗人 CD4⁺IL-17⁺-FITC, 抗人叉头框蛋白 3 (forkhead box protein 3, FOXP3), 4℃ 避光孵育 30min, PBS 重悬细胞。流式细胞仪检测淋巴细胞亚群 Th17, Treg。记录结果为阳性细胞所占比例。

1.3.5 酶联免疫吸附法 (ELISA) 测定血清转化生长因子- β (transforming growth factor- β , TGF- β), IL-17, 补体 C3, C4 水平: 采集三组纳入者外周

血 3ml, 肝素抗凝, 4℃ 静置后离心 15min, 3 000r/min, 取上清于 -80℃ 保存待测, 两组纳入研究者取其中 1ml 血清样本酸化后用于检测 TGF- β , 采用 ELISA 法检测 TGF- β , IL-10 和 IL-17, 速率散射免疫比浊法测定补体 C3, C4 水平, 具体操作严格按照试剂说明进行。

1.3.6 临床资料收集及分组: 收集患者白细胞计数 (white blood cell, WBC)、血红蛋白 (hemoglobin, Hb)、血小板计数 (blood platelet count, PLT)、清蛋白 (albumin, ALB)、红细胞分布宽度 (red blood cell distribution width, RDW) 和 C 反应蛋白 (C reactive protein, CRP) 数据。根据 SLE 疾病活动指数 (SLEDAI) 评分分为活动组 ($n=33$, SLEDAI ≥ 10 分) 和稳定组 ($n=27$, SLEDAI < 10 分)。

1.4 统计学分析 采用统计学软件 SPSS 22.0 统计分析数据。所有数据均进行正态性检验。PLT, ALB 等符合正态分布的计量资料用均数 \pm 标准差 ($\bar{x} \pm s$) 表示, 比较行 t 检验; WBC, Hb 等不符合正态分布的计量资料用中位数 (四分位间距) [M (IQR)] 表示, 行非参数秩和检验; 性别计数资料用 n (%) 表示, 比较采用 χ^2 检验或 Fisher 精确概率法。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 SLE 组患者与对照组各因子水平含量结果比较 见表 1。对照组 Hb, ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T, 补体 C3, 补体 C4 显著高于 SLE 组; RDW, TGF- β , ROR γt , Th17/Treg, IL-17, CRP 显著低于 SLE 组, 差异具有统计学意义 (均 $P < 0.05$)。

2.2 活动组与稳定组患者临床指标及各因子水平比较 见表 2。活动组 ALB, ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA, CD4⁺T 显著低于稳定组; CRP, TGF- β , ROR γt , Th17/Treg, IL-17 显著高于稳定组, 差异具有统计学意义 (均 $P < 0.05$)。

2.3 ALKBH3-AS1, Th17/Treg 与 SLE 患者各临床指标的相关性 Pearson 分析显示, ALKBH3-AS1 与 CD4⁺T 呈正相关 ($r=0.663$, $P=0.050$), 与 Th17/Treg, IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γt , SLEDAI 指数呈负相关 ($r=-0.687$, -0.715 , -0.705 , -0.678 , -0.671 , $P=0.032$, 0.044 , 0.041 , 0.038 , 0.037); Th17/Treg 与 CD4⁺T 呈负相关 ($r=-0.817$, $P=0.035$), 与 IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γt , SLEDAI 指数呈正相关 ($r=0.687$, 0.767 , 0.598 , 0.704 , $P=0.039$, 0.037 , 0.048 , 0.026), 差异具有统计学意义。

2.4 影响 SLE 患者活动程度的多因素 Logistic 回归分析见 表 3。将经单因素回归分析差异具有统计学意义的 ALKBH3-AS1, Th17/Treg, IL-17, CD4⁺T, TGF- β , ROR γt 等代入进行多因素二

元分类 Logistics 回归分析, 结果显示: ALKBH3-AS1, CD4⁺T 为重度 SLE 患者的保护因素 (均 $P<0.05$), Th17/Treg, IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t 含量为重度 SLE 患者的危险因素 (均 $P<0.05$)。

表 1 SLE 组与对照组临床指标及免疫因子水平比较 [($\bar{x}\pm s$), M (IQR)]

项 目	SLE 组 ($n=60$)	对照组 ($n=52$)	t/Z	P
WBC ($\times 10^9/L$)	6.68(6.51, 8.90)	6.70 (5.62, 7.74)	1.357	0.079
Hb ($\times 10^9/L$)	110.11(105.87, 115.62)	133.55 (127.64, 145.81)	3.245	<0.001
PLT ($\times 10^9/L$)	225.89 \pm 91.01	250.35 \pm 37.91	-1.806	0.074
ALB (g/L)	33.62 \pm 3.85	42.70 \pm 4.75	-11.169	<0.001
RDW (%)	13.13(12.81, 13.38)	12.24 (11.87, 12.69)	4.206	<0.001
CRP (mg/L)	2.11(1.08, 2.49)	0.72 (0.54, 0.97)	3.115	<0.001
ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA	1.73 \pm 0.41	2.87 \pm 0.54	-12.675	<0.001
TGF- β (pg/ml)	307.25 \pm 30.44	252.64 \pm 26.47	10.054	<0.001
ROR γ t	1.58 \pm 0.31	0.68 \pm 0.11	19.869	<0.001
CD4 ⁺ T (%)	5.10 \pm 0.41	6.85 \pm 0.62	-17.829	<0.001
Th17/Treg	1.04 \pm 0.13	0.34 \pm 0.03	37.942	<0.001
IL-17 (ng/L)	4.45 \pm 0.44	1.13 \pm 0.19	50.463	<0.001
补体 C3 (g/L)	0.68 \pm 0.08	1.02 \pm 0.15	-15.240	<0.001
补体 C4 (g/L)	0.15 \pm 0.04	0.28 \pm 0.03	-19.212	<0.001

表 2 SLE 活动组与稳定组临床资料及免疫因子水平比较 [$\bar{x}\pm s$, M (IQR) , n (%)]

项 目	活动组 ($n=33$)	稳定组 ($n=27$)	$t/\chi^2/Z$	P
性别 (女)	30 (90.90)	22 (81.48)	0.037	0.848
年龄 (岁)	25.78 \pm 9.86	26.34 \pm 10.89	-0.209	0.835
BMI (kg/m ²)	19.31 \pm 2.54	19.37 \pm 2.61	-0.090	0.929
WBC ($\times 10^9/L$)	6.71 (5.05, 9.41)	6.58 (5.54, 8.96)	1.104	0.084
Hb ($\times 10^9/L$)	114.02 (103.27, 120.19)	115.17 (105.54, 121.67)	-1.112	0.075
PLT ($\times 10^9/L$)	225.02 \pm 90.87	227.04 \pm 89.61	-0.086	0.932
ALB (g/L)	29.33 \pm 3.45	38.77 \pm 4.74	-8.918	<0.001
RDW (%)	13.48 (12.81, 16.19)	13.25 (12.41,15.95)	1.157	0.059
CRP (mg/L)	2.41 (0.94, 5.92)	2.05 (1.08, 5.41)	3.121	0.002
ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA	1.50 \pm 0.36	1.75 \pm 0.42	-2.483	0.016
TGF- β (pg/ml)	330.75 \pm 33.54	283.65 \pm 30.01	5.671	<0.001
ROR γ t	1.60 \pm 0.21	1.22 \pm 0.11	8.489	<0.001
CD4 ⁺ T (%)	4.28 \pm 0.48	5.91 \pm 0.60	-11.694	<0.001
Th17/Treg	1.28 \pm 0.13	0.87 \pm 0.07	14.720	<0.001
IL-17 (ng/L)	5.05 \pm 0.48	3.81 \pm 0.26	12.044	<0.001
补体 C3 (g/L)	0.65 \pm 0.24	0.66 \pm 0.23	-0.164	0.817
补体 C4 (g/L)	0.13 \pm 0.06	0.15 \pm 0.09	-1.028	0.308

表 3 影响 SLE 患者活动程度多因素 Logistic 回归分析

因 素	β	SE	Wald χ^2	P	OR (95%CI)
ALB	0.675	0.416	2.874	0.061	0.887 (0.718 ~ 1.347)
CRP	0.589	0.544	1.204	0.075	0.917 (0.517 ~ 1.574)
Th17/Treg	0.754	0.658	1.312	0.049	1.674 (1.361 ~ 1.679)
ALKBH3-AS1	-0.625	0.548	1.300	0.046	0.654 (0.320 ~ 0.987)
IL-17	0.564	0.434	1.688	0.032	1.294 (1.217 ~ 1.887)
CD4 ⁺ T	-0.334	0.226	2.183	0.028	0.715 (0.304 ~ 0.904)
TGF- β	0.645	0.551	1.370	0.015	1.487 (1.120 ~ 1.814)
ROR γ t	0.754	0.634	1.415	0.049	1.547 (1.252 ~ 1.941)

3 讨论 SLE 作为一种致病机制复杂的慢性自身免疫性

疾病,目前研究得知与多种免疫细胞和免疫因子相互作用相关,包括T淋巴细胞特异性的免疫失调、自身抗体复合物的大量沉积、部分免疫细胞分泌促炎因子浸润都维持SLE的进展^[8]。在外部环境如紫外线照射、病毒感染、吸烟史等环境因素影响下也会引发SLE产生氧化应激。由于SLE的易感性,外部环境的长期刺激会导致免疫系统失调,细胞凋亡通路异常激活^[9]。Th17细胞其分泌IL-17是激活炎症联级效应的核心分子,募集巨噬细胞等中性粒细胞到感染部位使脊椎动物免受外源致病微生物侵袭^[10]。Treg细胞可主动调控T细胞对自身抗原或异体抗原的过度反应,维持自身耐受性。Th17/Treg保持动态平衡,在机体免疫防御、炎症反应和免疫耐受等方面发挥效应。lncRNA是长度大于200个核苷酸的非编码转录本,参与调控表观遗传中染色质的修饰和DNA甲基化,其广泛存在并表达于免疫细胞,并密切联系免疫细胞的分化与激活^[11]。考虑lncRNA参与了SLE的发病,但具体机制尚不完全明晰。ALKBH3-AS1通过不同模式参与染色质重塑、基因表达、Th17细胞分化。基于此,本研究探讨SLE患者ALKBH3-AS1表达水平与疾病活动指数及淋巴细胞等细胞因子水平变化之间的关系,为临床诊治和改善预后措施优化提供更多可能。

本研究中选择ALKBH3-AS1来探究lncRNA与T淋巴细胞在SLE中的致病机理及与疾病活动度的关系。SLE患者ALKBH3-AS1 mRNA显著低表达,TGF- β , ROR γ t显著高表达。提示定位于CD4⁺T细胞中的ALKBH3-AS1低表达促进SLE发生,且疾病活动指数越高,患者外周血ALKBH3-AS1越低。TGF- β 与激活的Smad可通过与转录因子结合,调节不同的生物学效应,导致细胞状态特异性的转录调节^[12]。ROR γ t属于核受体家族,表达于淋巴细胞中,可调控Th17的合成分化过程。进一步研究发现,随着疾病活动度增加,CD4⁺T,补体C3, C4含量降低,Th17/Treg, IL-17显著增加。提示SLEDAI与Th17, IL-17呈正相关,尤其在SLE活动组患者中更明显。SLE患者补体C3, C4水平明显低于健康者,提示患者体内存在补体成分消耗现象,且下降程度与疾病活动程度相关。考虑是通过激活补体介导的经典和旁途径清除免疫复合物^[13],致使大量补体的消耗。

lncRNA可以通过不同的信号通路调节Th17细胞谱系分化。ALKBH3-AS1表达量与IL-17, TGF- β , ROR γ t呈负相关。随SLE疾病活动程度增加,ALKBH3-AS1水平降低易造成免疫应答调节紊乱,导致免疫复合物的大量存在,增加自身免疫异常激活风险^[14]。Th17分泌产生的IL-17,进一

步促进IL-6表达,而IL-6为Th17诱导的细胞因子,IL-17/IL-6轴的正反馈极大促进了SLE的进展^[15]。TGF- β 信号通路中,Smad2和Smad3表达增加,ROR γ t表达上调,终促进Th17分化。ALKBH3-AS1作为影响SLE患者疾病活动度的保护因素,在SLE患者中ALKBH3-AS1低表达促进初始CD4⁺T向Th17分化,进一步分泌IL-17等炎症因子引发病理作用。SLE的发生破坏了Th17/Treg平衡,Treg占比减少,IL-17, TGF- β 表达量,ROR γ t含量均增加,过度免疫的抑制作用减弱,从而引发SLE的发生。糖酵解增强、脂质合成、谷氨酰胺分解和高度激活的mTOR等过程均可诱导Th17分化,因此考虑靶向代谢途径逆转Th17/Treg失衡作为治疗SLE的切入点^[16]。

综上所述,CD4⁺T中ALKBH3-AS1表达降低,TGF- β , ROR γ t, IL-17在SLE患者中随疾病活动指数的增加而上升,TGF- β 通过信号通路促进ROR γ t,协同促进Th17的合成分化并分泌大量IL-17,促进炎症发生。ALKBH3-AS1可作为SLE诊断及评估疾病活动、器官受累及疗效的潜在生物标志物。但是本研究纳入病例数较少,结果存在选择偏倚,后续需开展大样本多中心研究,进一步对本研究结果进行佐证。

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