

# Caspase-8/GSDME 通路调控巨噬细胞焦亡在心肌梗死大鼠模型中的机制研究

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**摘要:** **目的** 探究半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶8 (Caspase-8) / 消皮素E (GSDME) 通路调控巨噬细胞焦亡在心肌梗死 (MI) 大鼠模型中的作用及可能机制。**方法** 将30只大鼠随机分为假手术组、MI组及Caspase-8抑制 (Z-IETD-FMK) 组, 每组10只。培养大鼠巨噬细胞RMa-bm分为对照组、缺氧组及Z-IETD-FMK组。H&E染色检测心肌组织病理变化。马松 (Masson) 染色检测心肌组织纤维化水平。RT-qPCR及Western blotting检测心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME以及巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLR家族Pyrin域蛋白3 (NLRP3), 含有CARD的凋亡相关斑点样蛋白 (ASC), Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA水平。ELISA法检测巨噬细胞中IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-18含量。TUNEL染色检测心肌细胞及巨噬细胞凋亡水平。**结果** 与假手术组相比, MI组大鼠心肌组织断裂、紊乱, 炎性细胞浸润, 间隙大量胶原纤维沉积, 细胞凋亡增加, 心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME蛋白及mRNA表达增加, 差异具有统计学意义 ( $t=16.19, 27.60; 21.18, 23.73$ , 均  $P<0.05$ )。与MI组相比, Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠心肌结构损伤改善, 炎性细胞及胶原沉积减少, 细胞凋亡减少, 心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME蛋白及mRNA表达减少, 差异具有统计学意义 ( $t=20.34, 14.56; 11.97, 24.46$ , 均  $P<0.05$ )。与对照组相比, 缺氧组巨噬细胞凋亡增加, 巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA表达增加 ( $t_{蛋白}=17.53\sim 120.90, t_{mRNA}=18.42\sim 60.30$ ), 巨噬细胞中IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-18含量增加 ( $t=25.88, 45.74$ ), 差异具有统计学意义 (均  $P<0.05$ ); 与缺氧组相比, Z-IETD-FMK组巨噬细胞凋亡减少, 巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA表达减少 ( $t_{蛋白}=17.08\sim 35.08, t_{mRNA}=11.21\sim 47.96$ ), IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-18含量减少 ( $t=27.38, 25.82$ ), 差异具有统计学意义 (均  $P<0.05$ )。**结论** 下调Caspase-8/GSDME通路可改善MI大鼠心肌损伤及缺氧巨噬细胞焦亡水平。

**关键词:** 心肌梗死; 巨噬细胞; 半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶8/消皮素E通路; 细胞焦亡

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## Mechanism of Macrophage Pyroptosis Regulated by Caspase-8/GSDME Pathway in Rat Model of Myocardial Infarction

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**Abstract: Objective** To explore the role of cysteine aspartic protease-8 (Caspase-8)/gasdermin E (GSDME) pathway in the regulation of macrophage pyroptosis in myocardial infarction (MI) rat model and its possible mechanism. **Methods** Thirty rats were randomly divided into sham operation group, MI group and Caspase-8 inhibition (Z-IETD-FMK) group, with 10 rats in each group. The cultured rat macrophages RMa-bm were divided into control group, hypoxia group and Z-IETD-FMK group. The pathological changes of myocardial tissue were detected by H&E staining. Masson staining was used to detect myocardial fibrosis. The protein and mRNA levels of Caspase-8 and GSDME in myocardial tissue and Caspase-8, GSDME, NLR family Pyrin domain protein 3 (NLRP3), apoptosis-related speck-like protein (ASC) and Caspase-1 in macrophages were detected by RT-qPCR and Western blotting. The levels of IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18 in macrophages were detected by ELISA. TUNEL staining was used to detect apoptosis of cardiomyocytes and macrophages. **Results** Compared with the sham operation group, myocardial tissue of rats in MI group was broken and disturbed, inflammatory cell infiltration, a large amount of collagen fiber deposition in the gap, cell apoptosis increased and the expression of Caspase-8, GSDME protein and mRNA in myocardial tissue increased, the differences were

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statistically significant ( $t=16.19, 27.60; 21.18, 23.73$ , all  $P<0.05$ ). Compared with MI group, Z-IETD-FMK group improved myocardial structural damage, reduced inflammatory cells and collagen deposition, cell apoptosis decreased and decreased Caspase-8, GSDME protein and mRNA expressions in myocardial tissue, with statistical significance ( $t=20.34, 14.56; 11.97, 24.46$ , all  $P<0.05$ ). Compared with the control group, the apoptosis of macrophages in hypoxia group was increased, and the protein and mRNA expressions of Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1 in macrophages were increased ( $t_{\text{protein}}=17.53\sim 120.90, t_{\text{mRNA}}=18.42\sim 60.30$ ), the contents of IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18 in macrophages were increased ( $t=25.88, 45.74$ ), and the differences were statistically significant (all  $P<0.05$ ). Compared with the hypoxia group, the apoptosis of macrophages in Z-IETD-FMK group was decreased, and the protein and mRNA expressions of Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1 in macrophages were decreased ( $t_{\text{protein}}=17.08\sim 35.08, t_{\text{mRNA}}=11.21\sim 47.96$ ), IL-1 $\beta$  and IL-18 content decreased ( $t=27.38, 25.82$ ), and the differences were statistically significant (all  $P<0.05$ ), respectively. **Conclusion** Down-regulating Caspase-8/GSDME pathway can improve myocardial injury and hypoxic macrophage scorch death in MI rats.

**Keywords:** myocardial infarction; macrophage; Caspase-8/GSDME pathway; pyroptosis

心脏缺血缺氧导致的心肌损伤,称为心肌梗死(myocardial infarction, MI)<sup>[1]</sup>。在全球范围内,MI的发病率逐年增加。深入挖掘MI的损伤机制至关重要。细胞焦亡是一种炎性体介导的细胞死亡方式,兼具凋亡和坏死特征,可导致消皮素E(gasdermin E, GSDME)的分裂和IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-18等炎性因子的激活<sup>[2]</sup>。半胱氨酸天冬氨酸蛋白酶8(cysteine aspartic protease-8, Caspase-8)/GSDME通路介导细胞焦亡与动脉粥样硬化、MI,心力衰竭、冠状动脉钙化、心肌缺血再灌注损伤和主动脉瘤等心血管疾病密切相关<sup>[3-5]</sup>。巨噬细胞在维持正常心脏稳态和损伤后心肌组织修复中发挥着关键作用,并可降低炎症相关的伤害<sup>[6]</sup>。MI后被招募到梗死区域的巨噬细胞可产生促炎和抗炎介质(细胞因子、趋化因子、基质金属蛋白酶和生长因子),吞噬死细胞,并促进血管生成和疤痕形成<sup>[7]</sup>。此外,巨噬细胞焦亡参与动脉粥样硬化、肺纤维化、急性肝损伤等多种疾病<sup>[8-10]</sup>。然而, Caspase-8/GSDME通路是否参与调控巨噬细胞焦亡过程及其在MI中的作用,目前尚未阐明。本研究通过构建MI大鼠模型与巨噬细胞缺氧模型,探究Caspase-8/GSDME通路在巨噬细胞焦亡及MI大鼠模型中作用及可能机制,以期治疗MI提供新的理论依据。

## 1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象 选择30只180g SPF级SD雄性大鼠,由北京维通利华实验动物技术有限公司提供[合格证号: SCXK(京)-2018-0053]。本研究经定州市人民医院医学伦理委员会审批(批准文号20221433),实验过程符合国家和单位有关实验动物的管理和使用规定。大鼠巨噬细胞RMa-bm购自上海雅吉生物科技有限公司。

1.2 试剂与仪器 Caspase-8抗体、GSDME抗体、Caspase-1抗体(美国Affinity生物技术公司); NLRP3抗体、ASC抗体、GAPDH抗体(美国Santa Cruz Biotech公司); 逆转录试剂盒(北京宝日医生物技术有限公司); H&E染色试剂、Masson染色试剂盒、IL-18检测试剂盒、IL-1 $\beta$ 检测试剂盒(赛默飞世尔科技公司);

Z-IETD-FMK(美国MedChemexpress生物科技公司); 全自动酶标仪(赛默飞世尔科技公司)。

### 1.3 实验方法

1.3.1 实验分组及模型的建立: ①取30只180~250g SPF级SD雄性大鼠随机分为3组: 假手术组、MI组及抑制Caspase-8(Z-IETD-FMK)组,每组10只。MI组及Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠放入专用吸入麻醉机4~5min,将大鼠置于操作台,使用人工呼吸机正压通气,沿左胸骨2mm处剪开皮肤约2.5cm,在第三、四肋骨间隙钝性分离肋间肌,开胸器撑开肋间隙扩大手术视野。从心尖处用镊子小心撕开心包膜暴露心脏,在左心耳下缘2~3mm处使用动脉夹夹闭冠状动脉左前降支45min,待左心室前壁变白,去除动脉夹使血液灌注,左心室前壁逐渐变红,即模型成功建立。缝合后注射抗生素预防感染。Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠术后Z-IETD-FMK输液泵给药(10mg/kg),假手术组仅打开胸廓并缝合。②培养大鼠巨噬细胞RMa-bm分为: 对照组、缺氧组及Z-IETD-FMK组。对照组在37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,含5%(v/v)CO<sub>2</sub>+95%(v/v)O<sub>2</sub>培养箱中培养,缺氧组及Z-IETD-FMK组细胞置于含有5%(v/v)CO<sub>2</sub>+95%(v/v)N<sub>2</sub>培养箱中缺氧培养2h, Z-IETD-FMK组细胞在缺氧培养后继续加入3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$  Z-IETD-FMK。

1.3.2 苏木素-伊红(H&E)染色检测大鼠心肌组织病理形态: 将各组大鼠心肌组织切片置于65 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 烤箱中烘烤20min,浸入二甲苯溶液中20min,依次浸入下行梯度酒精溶液(100%, 95%, 90%, 85%, 80%, 75%)中脱水各5min,置于自来水中进行水化15min,滴加200 $\mu\text{l}$ 苏木素染液浸染心肌组织中的细胞核1min,将组织切片置于缓慢的流水中进行反蓝,滴加200 $\mu\text{l}$ 伊红染液浸染细胞质,依次浸入不同浓度的上行梯度酒精溶液(75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, 100%)与二甲苯溶液中各3s,最后滴加中性树脂封片,在光镜下观察并拍照。

1.3.3 Masson染色检测大鼠心肌组织中胶原沉积情况: 将各组大鼠心肌组织切片脱蜡,浸入重铬酸钾

溶液12h,使用自来水洗涤,滴加200 μl预先配置的Weigert铁苏木素染色液染色5min,蒸馏水洗涤,浸入Masson丽春红酸性复红液中5min,浸入2g/dl冰醋酸溶液中3min,1g/dl磷钼酸3min,滴加200 μl 2g/dl苯胺蓝液染色5min,浸入0.2g/dl冰醋酸溶液中3min,再依次浸入不同浓度下行梯度酒精与二甲苯溶液中,最后封片并在镜下观察拍照。

1.3.4 Western blotting 检测 Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1 蛋白水平: 收集各组大鼠心肌组织及巨噬细胞,提取其中总蛋白,将各组蛋白浓度使用Pierce™ 二喹啉甲酸(BCA)试剂盒进行定量,将样本配置合适的体系后,置于100℃的金属浴中蛋白变性处理5min。提前配置合适浓度的凝胶块,向凝胶孔道中加入30 μg的样品进行十二烷基硫酸钠聚丙烯酰胺凝胶(SDS-PAGE)电泳,电泳条件为:120V 30min, 80V 1h。预先配置转膜液并预冷,将电泳结束的凝胶与聚偏二氟乙烯膜(PVDF)按照一定顺序置于转膜夹中进行转膜,转膜条件为80V 1h,使用5g/

dl脱脂牛奶封闭2h,,磷酸盐吐温缓冲液(PBST)清洗10min/3次,分别加入Caspase-8(1:1 000),GSDME(1:1 000),NLR家族pyrin域蛋白3(NLRP3)(1:1 000),含有CARD凋亡相关颗粒样蛋白ASC(1:1 000),Caspase-1(1:1 000),GAPDH(1:5 000)一抗,4℃孵育过夜,次日PBST清洗10min/3次,室温孵育HRP偶联二抗(1:1 000),PBST清洗10min/3次,使用ECL发光液进行曝光,最后使用ImageJ软件分析。

1.3.5 RT-qPCR 检测 Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC 和 Caspase-1 mRNA 水平: 使用Trizol试剂盒提取各组大鼠心肌组织及巨噬细胞中总RNA,测定RNA浓度及纯度。使用PrimeScript RT Master Mix试剂盒将RNA逆转录为cDNA,以cDNA为模板进行PCR扩增,参照试剂盒说明书设置程序为95℃变性10 min,然后95℃变性15s,60℃退火20s,72℃延伸40s,共28个循环,以GAPDH为内参,以 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 法分析Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC 和 Caspase-1 mRNA 表达。引物序列见表1。

表1 Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1 引物序列

基因	上游引物	下游引物
Caspase-8	5'-GCCACTCTAGCAGTGACATGC-3'	5'-GACCTAGAAATGCGGCTCTGCAA-3'
GSDME	5'-GCAAACGCCGTTAAAGCAATG-3'	5'-AACTGCCAATGCAATGCAATGCG-3'
NLRP3	5'-ACCTCCGCTGCCTGCTGAATTG-3'	5'-CCGAAGTCTAATCGTACCTAAC-3'
ASC	5'-CTAGCGATGCGATACCAATGC-3'	5'-CCCATCTACCTACGCTACGCGTG-3'
Caspase-1	5'-ACCTGCCTGCATTAACGTGACC-3'	5'-ACCTCTGCGATGACGATGCTAGC-3'
GAPDH	5'-TGCACCTAGCCTACGTCCCTAA-3'	5'-GCTGGATGCAAGGCTGCACGTGA-3'

1.3.6 TUNEL 染色检测细胞凋亡: 将心肌组织石蜡切片脱水透明, PBS清洗5min/2次,加入200 μg/ml蛋白酶K溶液水解。将巨噬细胞固定10min, PBS清洗5min/2次。将组织切片与细胞均置于含2ml/dl H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>的磷酸盐缓冲液(PBS)溶液中室温反应5min,依次滴加200 μl TdT酶缓冲液,二甲砷酸3min,200 μl TdT酶反应液1h,200 μl终止反应缓冲液30min, PBS清洗5min/2次,滴加过氧化物酶标记的抗地高辛抗体30min, PBS清洗5min/3次,滴加200 μl 0.05ml/dl DAB溶液,室温显色5min,滴加200 μl 0.5g/dl 甲基绿(甲基绿0.5g, 0.1mol/L 乙酸钠100ml混匀)复染10min,蒸馏水清洗3次,脱水透明后封片,最后在光学显微镜下观察并拍照记录。

1.3.7 试剂盒检测巨噬细胞中IL-1 β, IL-18 水平: 将IL-1 β, IL-18 试剂盒置于室温平衡30min,按照说明书上的实验步骤进行逐步操作,将所得的数据参考说明书进行统计分析。

1.4 统计学分析 采用SPSS 23.0软件进行统计分析, GraphPad 9.0软件进行绘图。计量数据以均值±标准差( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )表示,多组间比较采用One-way

ANOVA 检验。P<0.05为差异具有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

2.1 抑制 Caspase-8 对 MI 大鼠心肌组织病理结构的影响 见图1。与假手术组相比, MI组大鼠心肌组织断裂、紊乱,炎性细胞浸润,间隙大量胶原纤维沉积;与MI组相比, Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠心肌结构损伤改善,炎性细胞及胶原沉积减少。

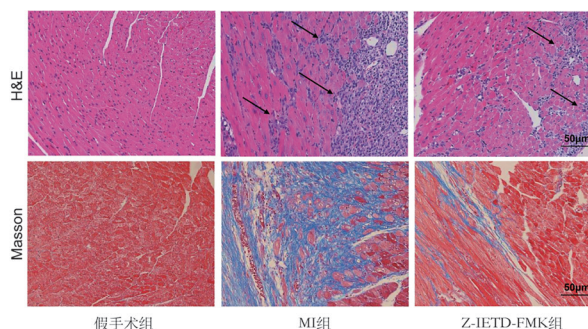


图1 各组大鼠心肌组织病理损伤及胶原沉积水平

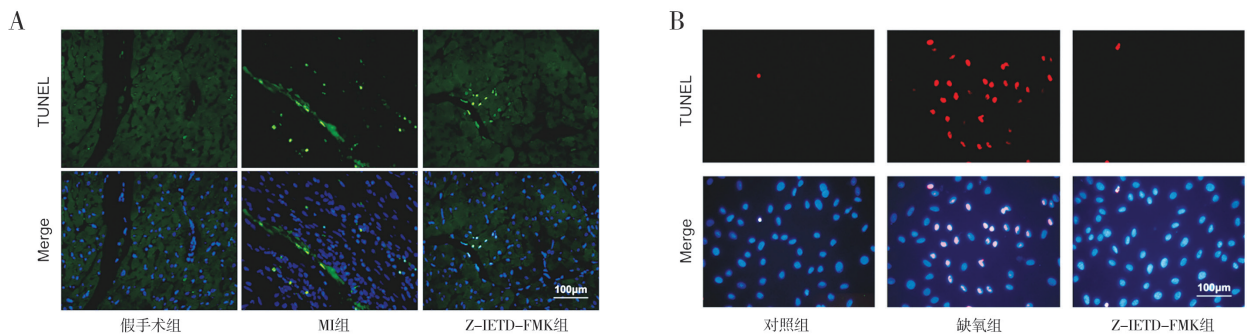
2.2 Caspase-8 对 MI 大鼠心肌组织 Caspase-8, GSDME 表达水平的影响 见表2。与假手术组相比, MI组大鼠心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME蛋白

及mRNA表达增加,差异具有统计学意义( $t=16.19, 27.60; 21.18, 23.73$ , 均 $P<0.05$ );与MI组相比,Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME蛋白及mRNA表达减少,差异具有统计学意义( $t=20.34, 14.56; 11.97, 24.46$ , 均 $P<0.05$ )。

### 2.3 Caspase-8对MI大鼠心肌组织及缺氧巨噬细胞

表2 各组大鼠心肌组织中Caspase-8, GSDME蛋白及mRNA表达水平( $\bar{x}\pm s$ )

项目	假手术组	MI组	Z-IETD-FMK组	F	P
Caspase-8蛋白	1.00±0.00	3.65±0.39	1.58±0.13	102.4	<0.001
GSDME蛋白	1.00±0.00	4.94±0.31	2.61±0.31	183.9	<0.001
Caspase-8mRNA	1.00±0.00	3.86±0.32	2.01±0.29	102.8	<0.001
GSDME mRNA	1.00±0.00	4.59±0.34	2.28±0.16	215.4	<0.001



A: TUNEL染色检测心肌组织中细胞凋亡水平; B: TUNEL染色检测巨噬细胞凋亡水平。

图2 各组心肌组织及巨噬细胞凋亡水平

2.4 Caspase-8对缺氧巨噬细胞焦亡水平的影响 见表3。与对照组相比,缺氧组巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA表达增加,差异具有统计学意义( $t_{\text{蛋白}}=19.65, 46.52, 41.97, 17.53, 120.90, t_{\text{mRNA}}=60.30, 40.12, 41.60, 18.42, 25.94$ , 均 $P<0.05$ );与缺氧组相比,Z-IETD-FMK组大鼠巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA表达减少,差异具有统计学意义( $t_{\text{蛋白}}=30.03, 34.14, 19.89,$

$35.08, 17.08, t_{\text{mRNA}}=15.23, 47.96, 21.89, 34.07, 11.21$ , 均 $P<0.05$ )。

2.5 Caspase-8对缺氧巨噬细胞IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-18水平的影响 与对照组( $1.00\pm 0.00, 1.00\pm 0.00$ )相比,缺氧组巨噬细胞中IL-1 $\beta$  ( $3.94\pm 0.29$ ), IL-18( $5.34\pm 0.20$ )含量增加,差异具有统计学意义( $t=25.88, 45.74$ , 均 $P<0.05$ );与缺氧组相比,Z-IETD-FMK组巨噬细胞中IL-1 $\beta$  ( $2.30\pm 0.15$ ), IL-18( $1.89\pm 0.15$ )含量减少,差异具有统计学意义( $t=27.38, 25.82$ , 均 $P<0.05$ )。

表3 各组巨噬细胞中Caspase-8, GSDME, NLRP3, ASC, Caspase-1蛋白及mRNA表达水平( $\bar{x}\pm s$ )

项目	对照组	缺氧组	Z-IETD-FMK组	F	P
Caspase-8蛋白	1.00±0.00	4.10±0.36	2.52±0.15	142.6	<0.001
GSDME蛋白	1.00±0.00	5.55±0.21	2.86±0.14	750.0	<0.001
NLRP3蛋白	1.00±0.00	6.08±0.25	2.87±0.25	473.3	<0.001
ASC蛋白	1.00±0.00	4.33±0.43	1.55±0.08	151.9	<0.001
Caspase-1蛋白	1.00±0.00	4.26±0.06	2.26±0.23	433.5	<0.001
Caspase-8 mRNA	1.00±0.00	4.20±0.12	2.02±0.23	355.5	<0.001
GSDME mRNA	1.00±0.00	5.50±0.24	2.10±0.08	797.1	<0.001
NLRP3 mRNA	1.00±0.00	5.96±0.25	2.50±0.16	681.0	<0.001
ASC mRNA	1.00±0.00	3.64±0.34	1.29±0.07	155.4	<0.001
Caspase-1 mRNA	1.00±0.00	3.37±0.22	1.43±0.22	144.4	<0.001

### 3 讨论

MI是全球死亡的主要原因,多种分子机制参与该疾病发展过程<sup>[11-12]</sup>。细胞焦亡又称细胞炎性坏死,是一种新型的细胞程序性死亡方式,依赖于Gasdermin家族蛋白形成,表现为细胞不断胀大直至细胞膜破裂,细胞内内容的释放而引发炎症反应<sup>[13]</sup>。细胞焦亡参与动脉粥样硬化、心肌梗死等多种心血管疾病,NLRP3炎症体及其下游效应炎症因子IL-1 $\beta$ 和IL-18在其中发挥重要作用<sup>[14]</sup>。此外,多种分子机制调控的细胞焦亡参与MI的发生发展过程<sup>[15-16]</sup>。LI等<sup>[17]</sup>研究显示,抑制GSDME介导的心肌细胞焦亡可改善MI引起的心脏功能结构损伤。Caspase-8/GSDME介导细胞焦亡通路参与MI的发生发展过程<sup>[18]</sup>。此外,细胞焦亡兼具凋亡特征。我们研究显示,Caspase-8/GSDME通路在MI组织中被激活,且抑制该通路可改善梗死心肌组织的病理损伤及心肌纤维化水平,同时减少心肌细胞凋亡,这与既往研究保持一致。

巨噬细胞是先天免疫系统的细胞,具有维持组织稳态及修复的作用<sup>[19]</sup>。既往研究显示,巨噬细胞在MI后的炎症和纤维化过程中发挥重要作用,可有效清除和降解凋亡心肌细胞、抑制炎症反应,并促进心肌损伤修复<sup>[20-21]</sup>。然而,巨噬细胞在MI中的调控机制复杂,目前尚未完全阐明。既往研究显示,巨噬细胞焦亡可促进多种疾病进程。因此有效的抑制其焦亡对相关疾病的控制至关重要<sup>[7-9]</sup>。JIAO等<sup>[22]</sup>研究显示,抑制巨噬细胞焦亡改善败血症引起的急性肺损伤。XU等<sup>[23]</sup>研究表明,抑制NLRP3信号通路介导的巨噬细胞焦亡可改善动脉粥样硬化。然而,巨噬细胞焦亡在MI中的作用机制,尚未阐明。本研究通过构建巨噬细胞缺氧模型模拟MI中巨噬细胞状态,结果显示,缺氧可促进巨噬细胞凋亡增加,并激活Caspase-8/GSDME通路介导的细胞焦亡,而抑制Caspase-8/GSDME通路可减少缺氧巨噬细胞的凋亡及焦亡水平。

综上所述,Caspase-8/GSDME通路介导的细胞焦亡在MI导致的心肌损伤与缺氧巨噬细胞凋亡中发挥重要作用。这提示我们,Caspase-8/GSDME通路可能通过调控巨噬细胞焦亡参与MI过程。然而,本研究只是初步阐明巨噬细胞焦亡可能参与MI过程,二者之间可能存在的机制仍有待进一步挖掘。

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