

细胞凋亡抑制蛋白 cIAP 与卵巢癌耐药性的研究进展

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摘要 卵巢恶性肿瘤是女性生殖系统三大恶性肿瘤之一,其发病率在女性生殖系统肿瘤中占第三位,而死亡率却高居首位。目前对于晚期卵巢癌(或期)多倾向于用新辅助化疗+肿瘤细胞减灭术+术后周期性化疗的治疗方法。但是,尽管多数患者在最初对化疗药物较敏感,但仍有 60%~80% 最终死于卵巢癌,这些患者大部分都对化疗药物产生了耐药性,在更换新的化疗方案初期是有效的,但最终仍会耐药。近年来,有关细胞凋亡抑制蛋白(cIAP, cellular inhibitors of apoptosis proteins)在卵巢癌复发耐药中的作用机制的研究越来越受到重视。研究证实 cIAP 在耐药肿瘤细胞中呈高表达,并与多种因子共同参与形成了上皮性卵巢癌的耐药机制,抑制了化疗药物引起的肿瘤细胞的凋亡。这些发现为攻克卵巢癌的耐药机制提供了重要线索,也为卵巢癌化疗药物的应用指出了新的方向。

关键词 卵巢癌;化疗药耐药;cIAP;Smac 蛋白模拟物;NF- κ B;TRAIL

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Reserch of Inhibitor of Apoptosis Protein in Resistance of Ovarian Cancer

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ABSTRACT: Ovarian cancer is one of the three most malignant tumors in female reproductive system, the incidence of which is in the third place while the mortality rate is the highest. At present, advanced ovarian cancer (phase or) more inclines to use neoadjuvant chemotherapy and cytoreductive surgery followed with periodic chemotherapy treatment. However, although most patients initially are sensitive to chemotherapy, there are still 60% to 80% eventually die of ovarian cancer. Most of these patients have resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs. Even if changing into a new chemotherapy, they are still sensitive at the beginning and resistant at last. In recent years, the inhibitor of apoptosis protein (cIAP, cellular inhibitors of apoptosis proteins) has been paying more and more attention in research of mechanism of resistance in ovarian cancer. Studies have confirmed that, cIAP is highly expressed in tumor cells of resistance, and is involved in the formation of epithelial ovarian cancer resistance mechanisms together with a variety of other factors. cIAPs inhibit chemotherapy-induced apoptosis of tumor cells. These findings provide an important clue for overcoming the resistance mechanisms of ovarian cancer, and also show a new direction for application of chemotherapy drug in ovarian cancer.

Key words: Ovarian cancer; Resistance to chemotherapy drug; cIAP; Smac mimetics; NF- κ B; TRAIL

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1 概况

卵巢恶性肿瘤是女性生殖系统三大恶性肿瘤之一,其发病率在女性常见恶性肿瘤中所占的百分率为 2.4%~5.6%,在女性生殖系统肿瘤中占第三位,次于宫颈癌和宫体癌,死亡率却高居榜首^[1]。多年来经过国内外妇科肿瘤专家的不懈努力、改进了外科手术技术操作、进行肿瘤细胞减灭术(cytoreductive surgery)对肿瘤切除较为彻底,此外也增加了不少新的化疗方案。但长期以来,晚期卵巢癌的 5 年存活率始终徘徊在 20%左右,尽管多数患者在最初对化疗药物较敏感,但仍有 60%~80% 最终死于卵巢癌,这些患者大部分都对化疗药物产生了耐药性,在更换新的化疗方案初期是有效的,但最终仍会耐药^[1,2],约 50% 的晚期卵巢癌患者在接受完整的初始治疗后 18-24 个月内复发^[3,4]。

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Psyrrri 等^[5]选取了 150 例晚期卵巢癌患者,他们均接受了肿瘤细胞减灭术并在术后追加了铂类和紫杉醇为基础的化疗,将其标本制作成组织芯片(TMA),应用基于免疫荧光法的原位自动定量蛋白分析法,显示 cIAP 具有明显的膜表达特点,以 χ^2 检验的方法确定出 cIAP 膜表达量的最佳切割位点,借以评价 cIAP 的高表达和低表达,发现 cIAP 高表达的总生存率小于 3 年,两组的无病生存率无显著差别。这提示 cIAP 的表达具有重要的预后意义。

2 cIAP 相关的细胞信号转导通路

2.1 cIAP 与 caspase 介导的信号通路

研究证实,卵巢上皮肿瘤细胞在化疗过程中的凋亡是通过 caspase-3,6,7 介导的,而具有效应作用的 caspase-3,6,7 是由其无活性的前体形式通过蛋白水解作用分解而来的。这种蛋白水解过程受到 cIAP 的抑制,其中 XIAP 通过泛蛋白作用靶向作用于活化的 caspase-3^[6,7],而 cIAP 则与 Akt 细胞凋亡信号通路相关,Akt 的磷酸化可使 cIAP 稳定发挥作用,并提高 cIAP-1 的

表达水平,从而抑制细胞凋亡。另有研究表明,XIAP含有3个BIR区域,其中BIR1和BIR2均可以抑制caspase-3和caspase-7的活性,而BIR3只选择性的抑制caspase-9的活性,这些caspase蛋白的效应形式是引发下游细胞凋亡的重要因子,一旦活性被抑制,其所介导的细胞凋亡亦会被抑制。尽管XIAP可同时抑制caspase-3,7,9的活性,但与caspase-9的相互作用是其抑制凋亡的关键^[8]。一项针对78名术前未进行任何治疗的肿瘤患者离体标本的研究发现,XIAP普遍表达,而表达呈低水平的患者,其生存期显著高于表达呈高水平者^[9]。

相对于cIAP-1和XIAP来说,cIAP-2与caspase的相互作用就要弱一些^[10]。

2.2 cIAP与Smac蛋白介导的信号通路

第二个线粒体衍生的caspase激活物(Smac, second mitochondria-derived activator of caspase)是已知的凋亡前因子,在多种凋亡信号刺激下,由线粒体释放入胞浆^[11]。合成的小分子Smac蛋白模拟物则被用来研究致敏那些已对凋亡产生耐受的肿瘤细胞^[6,12]。

Petersen等^[11]通过对大细胞型肺癌、肝细胞癌等细胞株的研究发现Smac蛋白模拟物靶向作用肿瘤细胞的过程是依赖TNF- α 的cIAPs的降解可以引发受体相互作用蛋白激酶(RIPK1)从TNF受体1(TNFR1)上释放出来,进而形成caspase-8活化复合体,与适配蛋白一起构成Fas相关死亡结构域(FADD)。人的肿瘤细胞系通过上调cIAP-2的表达水平来避免由Smac蛋白模拟物引起的凋亡,这些细胞在接触Smac蛋白模拟物初始时会降解,然后降解作用逐渐减弱,最后变得对降解耐受。Smac蛋白模拟物通过调节cIAP-2的表达来诱导细胞凋亡,与肿瘤细胞的耐药性有密切关系。耐药细胞株的cIAP水平高于敏感细胞株,而在癌细胞对化疗药物由敏感变为耐药的过程中,cIAP的表达水平也呈逐渐上升的趋势。耐药细胞系在接受Smac蛋白模拟物或TNF- α 处理后表现出cIAP-2水平的升高。基因敲除了cIAP-2的耐药细胞则恢复了对低浓度Smac蛋白模拟物的敏感性。在卵巢癌细胞中,同样观察到Smac蛋白模拟物通过抑制IAPs的功能使细胞恢复对TNF相关凋亡诱导配体(TRAIL, TNF-related apoptosis inducing ligand)诱导凋亡的敏感性^[11]。

2.3 cIAP与NF- κ B介导的信号通路

NF- κ B被证实是参与细胞生存机制的重要因子,抑制其活性可使肿瘤细胞趋向凋亡,从而提高放化疗等通过诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡而发挥作用的治疗手段的效果^[14,15],在Sarkar FH^[15]等人的研究中,更是将NF- κ B描述成肿瘤的罪魁祸首。他们发现下调NF- κ B可使肿瘤细胞对于放化疗等经典抗肿瘤治疗的敏感性增加^[15,16]。在细胞信号转导通路中,NF- κ B的激活是由IKK信号分子介导的,而IKK的上游则是由TNF α 通过TRAF2(TNF receptor-associated factor 2)和RIP1(receptor interacting protein 1)级联引发的^[17,18]。cIAP-1可以与TRAF2的BIR1区域结合,通过泛素化作用使其被激活,从而发挥抑制细胞凋亡的生物作用^[19,21]。在高表达cIAP的化疗耐药细胞中,上述机制同样发挥了不可忽视的作用。

2.4 cIAP与TRAIL诱导的细胞凋亡

另有基于前列腺癌细胞的研究^[22]发现,前列腺癌PC-3细胞株对TRAIL诱导的细胞凋亡产生耐受的同时,出现cIAP-1、cIAP-2及XIAP表达水平的升高,三者联合敲除后不引起显著的细胞凋亡,但加用TRAIL后,可检测到死亡细胞数量明显增多,这说明联合敲除可使细胞恢复对TRAIL的敏感性,并可以观察到caspase蛋白活性增强,细胞的繁殖力降低。在这个由TRAIL诱导的细胞凋亡信号通路中,本质上仍是cIAP与caspase蛋白的互相作用,敲除cIAP后,解除了其对caspase蛋白的抑制,从而引发下游凋亡信号的传导。这与cIAP在卵巢癌细胞耐药机制中的作用相类似。

综上,cIAP与caspase、Smac蛋白模拟物、NF- κ B等凋亡信号传导通路存在广泛的交互作用,在卵巢肿瘤细胞的耐药机制中具有关键地位,对于解决卵巢癌耐药复发等问题具有重要意义。研发适用于人体的cIAP抑制剂,将成为卵巢癌化疗联合用药的新方向。

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(上接第 3585 页)

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