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小鼠胸主动脉血管管壁结构和平滑肌细胞表型的年龄变化*

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摘要 目的:通过研究小鼠胸主动脉血管直径和管壁厚度以及平滑肌细胞表型标志物波形蛋白(Vimentin)和平滑肌细胞肌动蛋白(α -SM-actin)的表达,探讨胸主动脉在发育、成熟和老化过程中血管管壁结构和平滑肌细胞表型的变化。**方法:**将 24 只昆明小鼠按年龄分成 4 组:3 天组、3 个月组、6 个月组和 16 个月组。采用 HE 染色和免疫荧光术分别观察胸主动脉血管管壁结构以及 Vimentin 和 α -SM-actin 的表达变化。**结果:**随着年龄的增长,胸主动脉血管直径和管壁厚度增加,以 16 个月小鼠胸主动脉的直径最大和管壁最厚,但细胞密度减少。3 天小鼠胸主动脉的 Vimentin 表达较高,6 个月表达下降,16 个月重新上调;而 α -SM-actin 在 3 天小鼠的胸主动脉表达较低,6 个月表达增加,16 个月表达出现下调,其差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。**结论:**小鼠胸主动脉的直径和管壁的厚度随年龄的增长而增加,而细胞的密度则随着年龄增加而减少;平滑肌细胞的表型从幼龄时的合成表型转变为收缩表型,老龄时又转变为合成表型。

关键词:胸主动脉;平滑肌细胞;老化

中图分类号:R-33;R331.36;R322.1 **文献标识码:**A **文章编号:**1673-6273(2019)17-3213-05

Changes of Vascular Wall Structure and Smooth Muscle Cell Phenotype in the Thoracic Aorta of Mice during Development, Maturation and Ageing*

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ABSTRACT Objective: To investigate the changes of vascular wall structure and smooth muscle cell phenotype during the development, maturation and aging of the thoracic aorta, by studying the diameter of the thoracic aorta and the wall thickness of mice and the smooth muscle cell phenotype markers of vimentin and α -SM-actin. **Methods:** Twenty-four Kun-Ming mice were divided 4 groups according to their ages: 3 d, 3 m, 6 m and 16 m. The following experiments were performed HE staining for measurements of the diameter and thickness of the thoracic aorta. The expression of Vimentin and α -SM-actin was detected by immunofluorescence with special antibodies against Vimentin and α -SM-actin. **Results:** Thoracic aortic diameter and wall thickness were higher in 16 m mice and the cellular density decreased. In 3 d mice, vimentin expression in the thoracic aorta was higher, and decreased in 6 m old mice, then up-regulated in 16 m mice. In 3 d mice, α -SM actin expression in the thoracic aorta was lower, and increased in 6 m mice, then down-regulated in 16 m mice ($P<0.05$). **Conclusion:** The diameter of the thoracic aorta and the wall thickness of the Kunming mice increase with age, and the cellular density was reduced in the medial layer of aortas from the old mice. The phenotype of smooth muscle cells changes from a synthetic phenotype in young to a contractile phenotype, which in turn changes to a synthetic phenotype in age.

Key words: Thoracic aorta; Smooth muscle cell; Aging

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前言

主动脉是机体重要的导血动脉,在导血的过程中,因接收心脏射出的血液,管壁扩张而调节收缩压,因管壁的弹性回缩和平滑肌的收缩维持舒张压^[1,2]。这些功能涉及主动脉的力学性

能,即收缩性^[3]。主动脉的收缩性主要是由血管平滑肌所产生,是主动脉产生主动张力的来源和调节主动脉功能的重要结构基础^[4,5]。

大量研究表明老化对血管的结构和功能具有重要的影响^[6,7]。老化可改变主动脉血管直径,管壁厚度和主动脉的生物力学特

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征,如减少血管的弹性,增加血管硬度,从而降低血管顺应性^[8,9]。因此,研究血管平滑肌细胞结构的改变对理解主动脉的正常生理功能和相关疾病有重要的意义。然而,到目前为止,有关主动脉在生长发育老化过程中平滑肌细胞表型的变化鲜有报道。

本实验采用昆明小鼠胸主动脉,通过 HE 染色和免疫细胞化学染色观察小鼠胸主动脉在发育、成熟和老化过程中管腔直径和管壁厚度的变化以及胸主动脉平滑肌细胞表型标志物波形蛋白(Vimentin)和平滑肌细胞肌动蛋白(α -SM-actin)的表达变化,探讨小鼠胸主动脉血管管壁结构和平滑肌细胞表型的变化。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物及分组

将健康昆明小鼠 24 只(中南大学湘雅医学院实验动物学部提供)按年龄分成 4 组:3 天,3 个月,6 个月和 16 个月组。经乙醚麻醉处死,备皮后充分暴露皮肤,常规络合碘消毒,在无菌条件下打开胸腔,在手术显微镜下通过使用消毒过的显微手术器械分离出胸主动脉,将其完整移出,放入 4%多聚甲醛固定。

1.2 HE 染色、Vimentin 和 α -SM-actin 的免疫荧光染色

连续冰冻切片,片厚 10 μ m,分 2 组。第 1 组按常规步骤行 HE 染色;第 2 组行 Vimentin 和 α -SM-actin 的免疫荧光染色。4%多聚甲醛固定 15min,组织切片用 5% BSA 封闭,封闭后加入 Vimentin(mouse, 1:600)的一抗,湿盒中 4℃冰箱过夜,然后加入生物素化的抗鼠的二抗(1:200),室温孵育 2 h,最后加入偶联 Rodamin 的 α -SM actin (1:500),室温孵育 50 分钟,其中除 5% BSA 孵育 30 min 之外,其余各步均需用 0.01 mol/L PBS 洗 3 次,每次 10 min。防荧光淬灭剂封片,Leica 荧光显微镜下拍

片。用 5%BSA 代替一抗作为阴性对照,排除二抗的非特异性染色。

1.3 定量分析

Leica 荧光显微镜下摄片后,用 Image-Pro Plus 图像分析软件分别测量血管管腔的直径、管壁厚度。同时对 Vimentin 和 α -SM-actin 的免疫荧光强度进行测量,单位以每平方微米 Arbitrary Units(AU/ μ m²)表示。

1.4 统计学处理

统计学分析均采用 SPSS17.0 统计软件进行,实验数据用均数 $\pm$ 标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,做组间比较采用单因素方差(one way ANOVA)分析,两组间均数采用 SNK-q 检验进行比较,以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 HE 染色

HE 的结果显示:3 d 小鼠胸主动脉的直径小,管壁薄,中膜细胞较多;3 m 时,血管管径增加,管壁增厚,细胞密度多;到 6 m 可见血管直径进一步增大,管壁变厚,但中膜的细胞密度减少;16 m 时胸主动脉的直径最大,管壁最厚,细胞密度进一步减少。以上结果表明随着年龄的增长,小鼠胸主动脉的直径和管壁的厚度增大和增厚,但中膜细胞的密度则随着年龄增加而减少。3 d、3 m、6 m 和 16 m 管腔的直径和厚度分别 217.2 ± 22.1 和 $27.6 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{m}^2$ 、 595 ± 43.7 和 $33.7 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}^2$ 、 678.2 ± 6.1 和 $35.7 \pm 0.6 \mu\text{m}^2$ 以及 754.5 ± 6.3 和 $44.2 \pm 2.6 \mu\text{m}^2$ (图 1)。16 m 组直径和管壁厚度较 6 m 组分别增加了 11.2 %和 23.8 %,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)(图 2)。

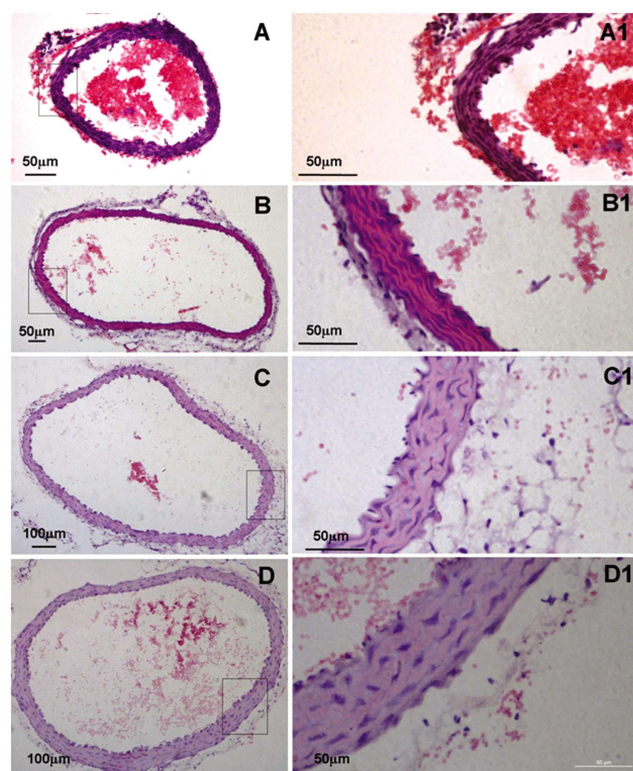


图 1 小鼠胸主动脉不同时间点的 H.E 染色

Fig.1 H.E staining of mice thoracic aorta at different time points

A indicated group 3 d; B indicated group 3 m; C indicated group 6 m; D indicated group 16 m. A1, B1, C1, and D1 are high-power images of A, B, C, and D, respectively.

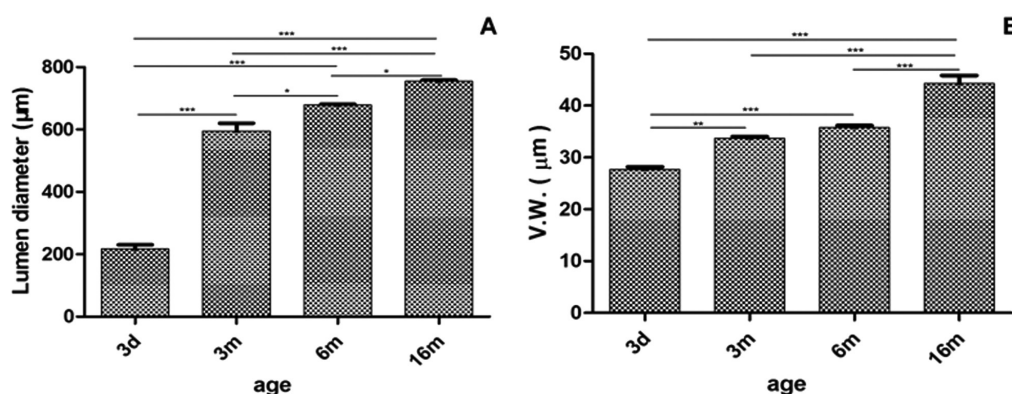


图2 小鼠不同时间点胸主动脉的血管直径与管壁厚度

Fig. 2 Vascular diameter and wall thickness of mouse thoracic aorta at different time points

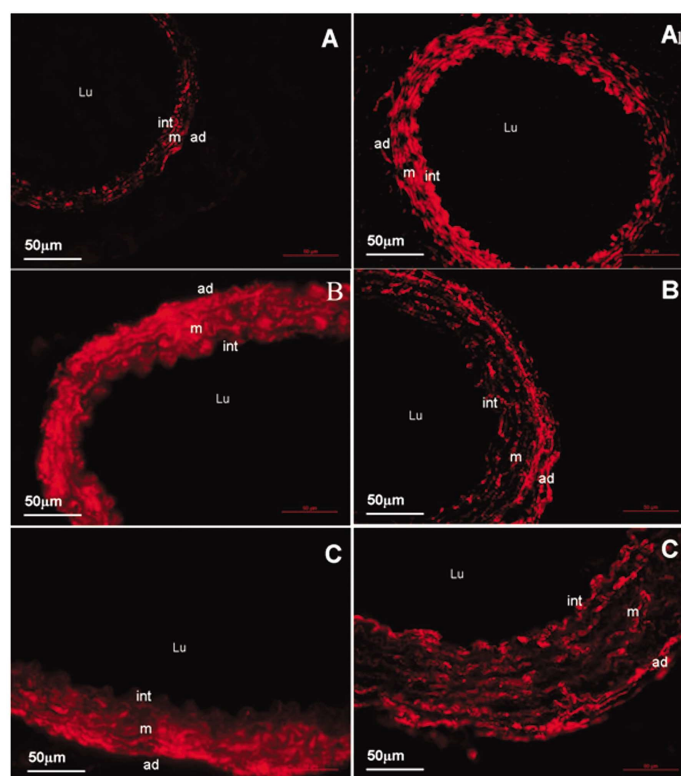
A Lumen diameter, note the diameter of the 16 m group is increased by 11.2% compared with the 6 m group, * $P < 0.05$;

B Vessel wall thickness, note the wall thickness increased by 23 % in 16 m group compared with the 6 m group, *** $P < 0.0001$

2.2 平滑肌细胞肌动蛋白(α -SM-actin)和波形蛋白(Vimentin)的免疫荧光染色结果

用 α -SM-actin 和 Vimentin 分别作为中膜平滑肌细胞收缩表型和合成表型的标志物,进行小鼠胸主动脉的荧光染色。结果显示 α -SM-actin 在血管中膜的表达在 3 d 时较低,6 m 时明显增强,在 16 m 时表达又减少;Vimentin 在 3 d 的小鼠胸主动

脉血管中膜表达明显,6 m 时表达明显减弱,而 16 m 时表达重新上调,其免疫荧光强度最高(图 3)。以上结果表明小鼠胸主动脉的平滑肌细胞从幼龄时的合成表型,变为成年的收缩表型,而到了老年又转变为合成表型。荧光强度分析显示 Vimentin 和 α -SM-actin 表达的在 16 m 龄小鼠胸主动脉较 6 m 龄小鼠分别增加了 34.2 %和减少了 37.1 % (图 4)。

图3 小鼠胸主动脉不同时间点 α -SM-actin (A-C)和 Vimentin (A1-C1)的免疫荧光染色Fig.3 Immunofluorescence staining of α -SM-actin (A-C) and Vimentin (A1-C1) in mice thoracic aorta at various time points

3 讨论

主动脉是体循环动脉的主干,是机体重要的导血动脉,其出生后的生长发育与心血管的功能密切相关,血流和血压调节血管的生长发育^[10-12]。有研究报道,SD 大鼠的血压在出生后 2 个月左右逐步达到成熟水平,Wistar Kyoto 大鼠则在 1 个月左

右^[13-15]。本实验结果显示 3 天小鼠胸主动脉的直径小,管壁薄,这可能是由于该时期小鼠的血流和血压都很小。老化可改变主动脉壁的结构,其结构和功能的变化会进一步改变大动脉血管壁的力学特征,降低血管顺应性,从而与许多血管疾病,如动脉瘤、动脉粥样硬化等密切相关^[16-18]。已有大量文献报道主动脉血管直径和管壁厚度的年龄变化^[19-21],但这些研究主要来自人和

灵长类的个体,结果表明老年个体主动脉血管壁的直径扩张和血管管壁厚度增加。近来,Wheeler 等^[22]报道老年小鼠的胸主动脉的直径和厚度均较年轻小鼠的大。本实验的结果和这些研究一致,也观察到小鼠胸主动脉的直径和中膜的厚度随年龄的增长而增加,老年小鼠胸主动脉的直径和厚度较成年小鼠增加。

Bonert 等^[23]报道内膜的厚度在人类青年期后会随年龄而增加,但在我们的实验中并没有观察到 16 月龄老年小鼠胸主动脉有内膜的增厚,我们推测这种表达的差异性可能是由于种系差异所致,也有可能是小鼠需在更老的年龄才会出现内膜增厚。

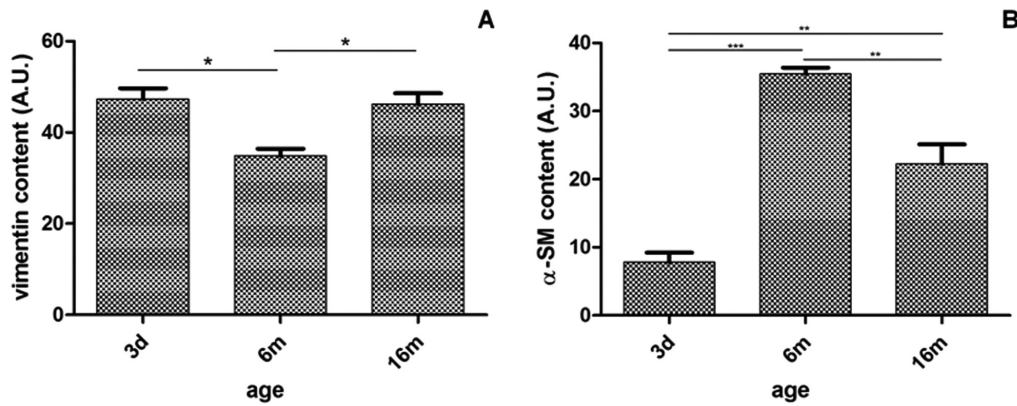


图 4 小鼠胸主动脉不同时间点 Vimentin 和 α-SM-actin 的免疫荧光染色强度比较

Fig.4 Comparison of the immunofluorescence intensity of Vimentin and α-SM-actin in mouse thoracic aorta at different time points

A indicate the immunofluorescence intensity of Vimentin increased by 34.2% in 16m compared to 6m group. $P < 0.05$. B indicate the immunofluorescence intensity of α-SM-actin decreased by 37.1% in 16m compared to 6m group. $P < 0.01$.

血管平滑肌细胞(vascular Smooth Muscle Cell, VSMC)是构成血管壁中膜维持正常血管壁结构并执行相应生理功能的物质基础,是形成血管中膜细胞外基质的主要细胞成分,与血管的正常生长发育及血管疾病如动脉粥样硬化等的形成有着密切联系^[24,25]。文献报道血管平滑肌细胞有两种表型,即收缩表型和合成表型^[26,27]。收缩表型的平滑肌细胞主要通过表达一系列的收缩蛋白和骨架蛋白来维持血管收缩和调节血管壁的张力。其中,α-SM-actin 常被用作收缩表型的标志物,主要通过收缩以改变血管的直径,是主动脉主动机械性能-收缩性的来源。而合成表型的平滑肌细胞则具有活跃的合成和分泌功能,在血管的生长、发育和重塑中起着重要作用。当血管平滑肌细胞的表型由收缩型向合成型发生转变时,会伴随着平滑肌细胞其收缩成分的表达减少,以及大量的粗面内质网、高尔基复合体等细胞器增多,中间丝蛋白增多,如 Vimentin 可作为合成表型平滑肌细胞的标志物,导致细胞收缩功能消失并由中膜向内膜迁移、增殖,同时分泌大量的细胞外基质^[28,29]。在本实验中,我们观察到 3 天小鼠胸主动脉 Vimentin 表达高,而 α-SM-actin 表达低,提示幼龄时期的平滑肌为合成表型。有研究报道成年血管以“收缩性”的主动性能为主,平滑肌细胞表现为收缩表型^[30]。本实验结果显示 6 个月小鼠胸主动脉 α-SM-actin 呈高表达,印证了这一观点。且老龄小鼠的胸主动脉 α-SM-actin 的表达又呈现下降,而 Vimentin 的表达上调,提示老龄小鼠胸主动脉平滑肌细胞的合成功能活跃,这与老龄小鼠胸主动脉的直径和中膜的厚度增加一致。

总之,本研究分析了小鼠胸主动脉的直径和管壁的厚度以及平滑肌细胞的表型在发育、成熟和老化过程中的变化,结果表明小鼠胸主动脉的直径和管壁的厚度随年龄的增长而增加,而细胞的密度则随着年龄增加而减少;平滑肌细胞的表型从幼龄时的合成表型转变为收缩表型,老龄时又转变为合成表型,

这对理解主动脉的正常生理功能和相关疾病有重要的意义。

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