

miR-146 在湿性 ARMD 中抑制 IL-6 表达的研究

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Expression of IL-6 inhibited by miR-146 in the wet age-related macular degeneration

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Abstract

• AIM: To discuss the correlation between the expression of miR-146 and aging retinal pigment epithelium (RPE), and to study the relationship between miR-146 and expression of IL-6 in RPE, especially in age-related macular degeneration (ARMD).

• METHODS: The expressions of miR-146 and IL-6 were examined in RPE in mice aged from 2mo to 24mo by qRT-PCR. Then, the expressions of miR-146 and IL-6 in RPE of wet ARMD patient were examined also. Finally, the effect of overexpression of miR-146a in APRE-19 cell line on expression of IL-6 was checked.

• RESULTS: MiR-146 was positive correlated with age, and the expression of IL-6 had no change in aging RPE. However, the expression of miR-146 decreased and IL-6 increased in RPE of ARMD. In cultured APRE-19 cells, overexpression of miR-146 inhibited the expression of IL-6 induced by TNF- α .

• CONCLUSION: Our results suggest that there is a biological correlation among the development of ARMD, expression of IL-6 and miR-146 in aging RPE. It also suggests that, on the one hand, regulation between IL-6 and miR-146 may be important for the clinical treatment, on the other hand, both IL-6 and miR-146 can be potential molecular markers for diagnosing ARMD.

• KEYWORDS: miR-146; IL-6; aging; wet age-related macular degeneration

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摘要

目的:探讨 miR-146 表达与眼球衰老的相关性,以及年龄相关性黄斑变性(age-related macular degeneration, ARMD)发生过程中 miR-146 与炎症因子表达的相关性及其可能的机制。

方法:分离鼠龄为 2~24mo 的小鼠 RPE,采用 qRT-PCR 的方法检测 RPE 中 miR-146a/b 和 IL-6 mRNA 的表达水平。检测来自于 ARMD 患者眼球中 miR-146a 及 IL-6 mRNA 的表达水平。在 ARPE-19 细胞系中检测 miR-146a 过表达对 IL-6 基因表达水平的影响。

结果:miR-146 的表达在自然衰老的小鼠 RPE 中与年龄呈现正相关,而 IL-6 无变化。在 ARMD 患者中,miR-146a mRNA 表达水平下降,IL-6 mRNA 表达水平上升。在人 ARPE-19 细胞中的实验表明,miR-146a 过表达抑制了由 TNF- α 所诱导的 IL-6 的表达。

结论:在湿性 ARMD 中,miR-146a 与 IL-6 mRNA 表达水平有可能与 ARMD 的发生呈相关性,暗示 IL-6 和 miR-146a 有可能作为生物分子标志物在未来的 ARMD 诊断中发挥作用。

关键词:miR-146; IL-6; 衰老; 湿性老年性黄斑变性

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0 引言

人体组织、器官内细胞的老化会造成包括年龄相关性黄斑变性(age-related macular degeneration, ARMD)在内的多种老年性疾病的发生^[1-2]。研究表明,ARMD 可能是由局部组织损伤导致血-视网膜屏障破坏以及循环系统中炎症因子的释放所导致的一种持续性的慢性炎症疾病^[3-4]。研究同时表明,MicroRNA(miRNA 或 miRs,微小 RNA)可以通过调控多种基因的 mRNA 水平在机体的衰老过程中发挥作用^[5-7]。miRNA 表达在机体中存在组织特异性^[8],其中的 miR-146 家族的 miR-146a 是与年龄相关的、涉及血管重塑的生物标志物^[9-17],可受到白细胞介素-1 β (Interleukin-1 β , IL-1 β)和肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF- α)诱导,并负调控 IL-6 和 IL-8 的表达。但是,miR-146a 在眼球衰老,特别是视网膜色素上皮细胞(retinal pigment epithelium, RPE)衰老过程中的角色以及其与 ARMD 的生物学相关性仍然未知。本研究检测了 miR-146a/b 在小鼠 RPE 中表达水平与年龄的相关性,以及在湿性 ARMD 患者中 miR-146a 与 IL-6

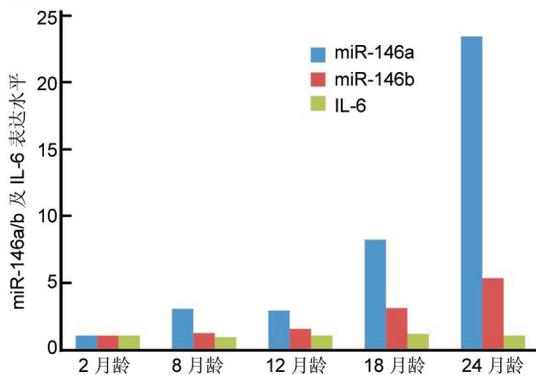


图1 miR-146在RPE中的表达与年龄呈正相关,而未见IL-6与年龄的相关性。

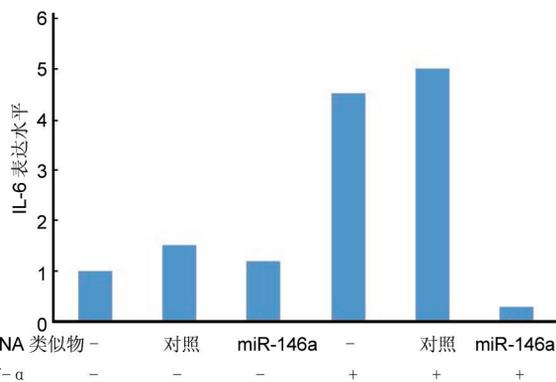


图3 在ARPE-19细胞系中miR-146抑制了TNF-α诱导的IL-6基因表达。

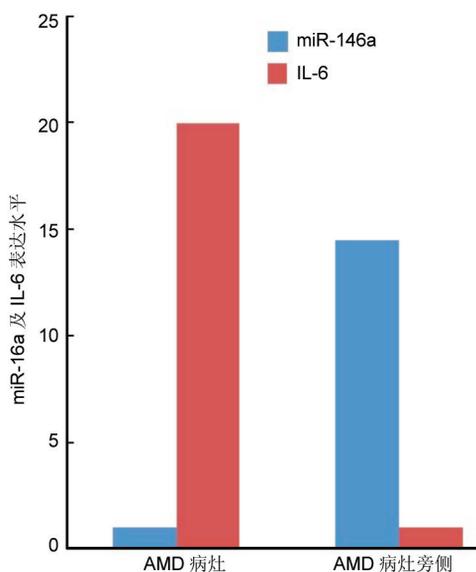


图2 湿性ARMD中miR-146及IL-6基因表达水平的测定。

过程密切相关,在机体衰老过程中呈现显著的上调或下调的变化。因此,其中的很多种miRNA已经被确定为细胞、组织或机体衰老的调节因子或标志物^[7-8]。已有研究表明,在眼的衰老过程中,miR-34a的表达在视网膜上皮细胞中随着年龄的增加在初期存在显著上升,但后期有逐渐稳定并略有下降^[9]。但直至目前为止,miRNA与眼睛衰老之间的关系,特别是在ARMD中扮演的角色还不是很清楚。miR-146作为miRNA的一种,已经被发现在多个组织器官中与衰老有关。特别是其中的miR-146a在衰老的人成纤维细胞、人脐静脉内皮细胞(human umbilical vein endothelial cells, HUVEC)和人小梁网细胞(human trabecular meshwork cell, HTM Cell)中最显著地上调miRNA^[10,16-17]。但是,它是否同样在眼衰老过程中起作用,目前还未知。

白细胞介素是机体炎症反应中的重要因子。研究发现,在湿性ARMD患者中脉络膜新生血管中存在巨噬细胞、淋巴细胞及中性粒细胞,而IL-6和IL-12等因子在房水中的水平与湿性ARMD密切相关^[21-22]。miR-146可以由细菌脂多糖(LPS)和炎症细胞因子IL-1β和TNF-α诱导表达,同时miR-146可以在上皮细胞中负调控IL-6和IL-8的表达^[23-24]。

虽然炎症在ARMD发生发展过程中起到重要作用,而且miR-146表达与年龄相关并调控炎症因子的表达,

但是miR-146是否与眼衰老过程有关以及其在ARMD过程中是否调控炎症因子(如IL-6)的表达在国内外的研究中还未见报道。为此,本研究检测miR-146在眼球衰老,特别是视网膜色素上皮细胞(RPE)衰老过程中的角色,其与ARMD的生物学相关性以及在RPE细胞中miR-146对IL-6表达的调控作用。我们的结果显示,与在其他组织中的结果相类似^[7],在RPE中miR-146的表达同样与年龄呈现相关性。随着年龄的逐步增加,miR-146a/b,特别是其中miR-146a在衰老的RPE中的表达逐渐增加,与年龄呈现正相关,显示了miR-146a在RPE中的重要性。因此,我们也在后续的实验中将研究重点集中在miR-146a。同时,来自小鼠的实验结果也表明,炎症因子IL-6的表达在小鼠正常衰老的眼球中无变化(图1)。但是,临床的样本显示,在湿性ARMD区域,IL-6的表达远高于非V区域,而同时在湿性ARMD区域中,miR-146a的表达远低于非ARMD区域(图2),显示miR-146a在ARMD中的表达与IL-6呈现负相关。考虑到在小鼠RPE正常衰老过程中IL-6不表达,而miR-146a的表达与年龄呈正相关,暗示在衰老过程及慢性炎症引起的ARMD中,miR-146a的表达受到了抑制,从而不能有效抑制炎症因子的产生,进而造成了ARMD的发生发展。在人APRE-19细胞系中的实验结果验证了在RPE中miR-146a与IL-6表达的相关性,即miR-146a可以特异性抑制由TNF-α所诱导的IL-6的表达(图3)。在生理条件下及ARMD病变中,何种因子对miR-146的表达起到决定作用仍然是未知的,需要在未来的实验中进行深入研究。

总之,我们的研究发现在小鼠模型中miR-146a在RPE中显示与年龄相关的表达上调。而在湿性ARMD中miR-146a的表达较低,同时IL-6的表达呈现高表达。在人APRE-19细胞系中,炎症因子TNF-α诱导的IL-6的表达可以被miR-146a所抑制。我们的实验数据提示miR-146a与IL-6和湿性ARMD的发生呈现负相关。这些结果暗示IL-6及miR146a有可能作为生物分子标志物在未来的ARMD诊断中发挥作用。

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