

表皮生长因子受体与多形性胶质母细胞瘤放疗抵抗

宋海斌,褚倩

(华中科技大学同济医学院附属同济医院,湖北 武汉 430030)

摘要:多形性胶质母细胞瘤(glioblastoma multiforme,GBM)是一类在形态学上具有异质性的原发性脑肿瘤,恶性程度极高,其标准治疗方法是手术+术后放疗+以替莫唑胺(temozolomide,TMZ)为基础的化疗。但GBM患者易对放疗产生抵抗以及对化疗耐药,该治疗方案的有效率有限,患者中位生存期约15个月。40%~50%GBM患者体内存在表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor,EGFR)的扩增和过表达。全文对EGFR表达与GBM放疗抵抗的相关机制作一综述。

关键词:多形性胶质母细胞瘤;EGFR;放疗;抵抗

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Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor and Its Resistance to Radiotherapy in Glioblastoma Multiforme

SONG Hai-bin, CHU Qian

(Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430030, China)

Abstract: Glioblastoma multiforme(GBM) is an aggressive primary brain tumor with morphologically heterogeneous, characterized by resistance to standard treatment modalities including surgery, radiation therapy and temozolomide(TMZ)-based chemotherapy. Due to its occurrence of resistance to ionizing radiation(IR) and chemotherapy, response of this therapeutic modality is limited and the median survival is about 15 months. Approximately 40%~50% of patients with GBM are characterized by gene amplification and overexpression of the epidermal growth factor receptor(EGFR). In this article, we discuss the EGFR signaling and the mechanism of resistance to radiation in patients with GBM.

Key words: glioblastoma multiforme; EGFR; radiation therapy; resistance

多形性胶质母细胞瘤(GBM)的恶性程度极高,约占成年人原发性中枢神经系统肿瘤的25%。其标准治疗方法为手术+术后放疗+以替莫唑胺为基础的化疗,但部分患者对此治疗方案产生抵抗,预后较差^[1]。研究发现GBM与多种基因突变相关,如表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor,EGFR)突变、10q杂合性丢失、p53突变、p16ink4a缺失和PTEN突变等。约63%GBM患者存在EGFR信号通路的改变,表明EGFR基因突变与GBM放疗抵抗存在相关性^[2]。

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通讯作者:褚倩,E-mail: qianchu@tjh.tjmu.edu.cn

1 EGFR信号通路

EGFR家族由erbB1(HER1,EGFR)、erbB2(HER2)、erbB3(HER3)和erbB4(HER4)4个跨膜受体组成,是1条由1186个氨基酸组成的多肽,由胞外配体结合域、跨膜结构域和胞内酪氨酸激酶结构域组成。EGFR的配体包括表皮生长因子(epidermal growth factor,EGF)、转化生长因子-α(transforming growth factor alpha,TGF-α)、肝素结合EGF样生长因子、β-细胞素、上皮调节蛋白和牛痘病毒生长因子^[1]。EGFR与不同配体结合形成EGFR同源二聚体或异源二聚体,使胞内酪氨酸残基磷酸化,调控下游信号

通路,包括Ras/MAPK信号通路、PLC- γ 信号通路和PI3K信号通路等,从而发挥基因调节、靶蛋白磷酸化、促进DNA修复等功能^[3],参与癌细胞生长、分化、凋亡、黏附、侵袭和血管生成^[1]。

2 EGFR信号通路改变

GBM与EGFR信号通路异常有关,包括EGFR基因扩增、EGFR过表达、EGFR过度活化、EGFR受体活性突变^[1,4]。作为促存活信号通路,EGFR活化可提高肿瘤的内在放疗抵抗。

2.1 EGFR扩增与过表达

Gerlach等^[5]对6株原代培养的人脑胶质瘤细胞及D384与Gli6细胞系进行2~10Gy照射,提示EGFR基因扩增的细胞系放射敏感性相对较低。研究表明GBM中存在EGFR过表达,过表达的EGFR在人类上皮性肿瘤的发病机制中具有重要作用^[6]。对GBM患者的一项临床研究提示EGFR过表达与放疗抵抗存在相关性^[7]。韩国一项研究对30例行手术和辅助放疗的GBM患者进行EGFR免疫组化状态评估,其中23例存在EGFR表达(76.7%),7例无EGFR表达(23.3%),EGFR表达患者的中位生存期(12.5个月)与EGFR不表达患者(17.5个月)存在统计学差异($P=0.013$)^[8]。

2.2 EGFR过度活化

2.2.1 配体过表达

异常配体分泌通过自分泌或旁分泌的形式使EGFR过度激活^[9]。在鳞癌A431和乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞系中,放射线照射120~180min可促进转化生长因子(TGF)前体水解。放射线照射120min后,在培养基中加入未行放疗的细胞,可活化EGFR通路。Dent等^[10]实验发现应用抗TGF单克隆抗体可以抑制EGFR活化。说明低剂量放射线可以促进TGF分泌,TGF与EGFR结合可诱导增殖和放疗后的细胞存活。

2.2.2 放射线暴露

放射线能诱导EGFR磷酸化,产生的放疗抵抗与EGFR表达水平相关^[11,12]。有学者在实验中发现过表达(DN)Ad-EGFR-CD533基因的人胶质瘤细胞系放射敏感性增强。其机制为转染(DN)Ad-EGFR-CD533基因可抑制EGFR表达^[13,14]。

2.3 EGFR活化突变

GBM中EGFR存在多种类型的活性突变,包括vIII突变、JM突变和IC突变:vIII突变为外显子2~7缺失突变,导致配体结合域丧失,胞内酪氨酸残基自体磷酸化;IC突变导致负性调节结构域缺失,内化减少;JM突变机制尚不明确^[1]。EGFR vIII是结构性活化受体,在不同类型肿瘤细胞中均有较高表达,约20%~30%GBM患者存在EGFR vIII表达^[14,15]。将西妥昔单抗与表达EGFR vIII的细胞共孵化,至少使50%西妥昔单抗EGFR vIII复合物内化,降低EGFR vIII磷酸化,40%~50%细胞增殖受到抑制^[16]。

3 EGFR通路改变参与放疗抵抗的机制

有研究表明EGFR信号通路异常与GBM患者预后差相关,但也有研究表明EGFR不是GBM预后因子,甚至有相反的结果^[17~19]。Brown等^[7]对170例GBM患者进行研究,发现EGFR免疫反应阳性提示患者对放疗反应差($P=0.046$),EGFR阴性的GBM患者(33%)与中等强度阳性(18%)患者以及强阳性(9%)GBM患者相比,放疗反应较好。CT或MR成像显示放疗后病灶缩小50%以上。有学者对接受放、化疗的43例幕上GBM患者和7例小脑GBM患者进行回顾性分析,发现EGFR阳性的幕上GBM患者生存期比EGFR阴性患者短($P=0.0248$),表明不同EGFR免疫反应状态GBM患者具有不同的放射敏感性^[20]。

高活性Ras导致癌细胞产生放疗抵抗,一方面通过反义干扰Raf,另一方面应用靶向Ras小分子抑制剂阻断Ras通路,使放疗敏感性增加^[1,21]。由此可见,放疗可导致EGFR自体磷酸化,继而活化Raf-1和MAPK通路导致细胞增殖。

PI3K-Akt信号通路作为EGFR下游通路参与多种细胞功能,如细胞凋亡、增殖、分化和转移等。同时,PI3k参与生长因子受体酪氨酸激酶通路,上游受体活化激活PI3K产生PIP3;而PTEN将PIP3转变为失活的PIP2。GBM通过EGFR过度活化直接活化PI3K或通过Ras间接活化PI3K导致放疗抵抗^[22]。EGFR活性改变也可导致PI3K通路的激活^[23]。PTEN作为PI3K/Akt通路的负性调节因子,在GBM患者体内常常缺失或突变^[24]。有研究者应用强力霉

素诱导 PTEN 缺失的 U251 细胞系,导致 Akt 磷酸化增加,表明诱导 PTEN 表达可以降低 Akt 磷酸化并且使放疗敏感性增加,PTEN 参与放疗后 DNA 的损伤修复^[25]。应用 PI3K 小分子抑制剂可以提高放射敏感性^[1]。Li 等^[24]对 U87MG 细胞系通过克隆生存分析发现抑制 EGFR、PI3K 和 Akt,或诱导产生野生型 PTEN,均可提高放疗敏感性。

DNA 修复过程需要酶的参与,应用 EGFR 单克隆抗体西妥昔单抗可使 DNA 依赖蛋白激酶(DNA-dependent protein kinase,DNA-PK)由细胞核转运至细胞质,从而使放疗诱导的潜在致死 DNA 双链断裂修复减少^[1]。此外,有研究发现放疗诱导 EGFR 磷酸化,通过下游 PI3K 和 MAPK 通路激活 Y 盒结合蛋白(Y-box binding protein-1,YB-1)磷酸化,增强放疗后 DNA 双链断裂的修复和细胞存活^[26]。

EGFR 通过 PI3K-Akt 信号通路活化 mTOR,活性 mTOR 促进低氧诱导因子 1-α(hypoxia-inducible factor-1 alpha,HIF1-α)生成,与 HIF1-β 形成二聚体驱动血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor receptor,VEGF)等多种低氧诱导基因转录。VEGF 与肿瘤细胞间隙水肿有关。水肿使肿瘤细胞内压力增加,减少微血管灌注,最终产生肿瘤内低氧状态,对放疗导致的致死效应产生抵抗。EGFR 抑制剂可以下调 VEGF 表达,提高肿瘤细胞的氧合状态,提高放疗敏感性^[1]。实验证明 EGF 可激活 GBM 的 EGFR 通路,促进 VEGF 分泌。酪氨酸激酶抑制剂(tyrosine kinase inhibitors,TKI)、抗血管内皮生长因子受体(antivascular endothelial growth factor receptor,anti-VEGFR)与放疗联用可以降低放疗诱导的 VEGF 分泌^[27]。

4 EGFR 抑制剂对 GBM 放疗敏感性的影响

EGFR 特异性抑制剂可以提高放射敏感性^[6]。临幊上常用的 EGFR 抑制剂包括针对 EGFR 的特异性单克隆抗体(monoclonal antibodies,mAbs)和小分子酪氨酸激酶抑制剂(tyrosine kinase inhibitors,TKI)两大类,均可提高放疗敏感性。

在鼠移植瘤模型中,EGFR 单克隆抗体尼妥珠单抗、西妥昔单抗与放疗联用延缓了 U87MG 细胞

皮下移植瘤的生长,缩小了 U87MG 细胞颅内移植瘤的体积,抑制肿瘤的侵袭能力,减少放疗抵抗的 CD133+ 的肿瘤干细胞^[28]。

有实验证明 TKI 吉非替尼(ZD1839,Iressa)与放疗联用于 EGFR 高表达的 U251GBM 细胞系,与单独放疗相比,细胞死亡率提高^[29]。

另有实验表明,wtEGFR 过表达的 U87MG 细胞倍增时间短于 EGFR 无表达的 U87MG 细胞系(2.7d vs 4.41d)。TKI 联合放疗用于 wtEGFR U87MG 细胞系,细胞倍增时间较单纯放疗组延长(10.4d vs 4.8d, P<0.001)^[30]。

5 展望

EGFR 信号通路与肿瘤细胞生长、转移、耐药和预后均相关。GBM 中 EGFR 改变为特异性抗肿瘤治疗提供了靶点。合理利用 EGFR 与放疗抵抗的内在机制,针对 EGFR 本身或其下游通路应用各种抑制剂,可增强 GBM 的放疗敏感性,改善疗效及预后。

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