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· 论著 ·

基于生物信息学筛选与鉴定宫颈癌的生物标志物微小染色体维持蛋白2

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[摘要] 目的 应用生物信息学技术分析筛选影响宫颈癌预后的关键基因并深度挖掘基因功能。方法 从基因表达汇编(GEO)数据库下载宫颈癌微阵列数据集(GSE6791、GSE39001、GSE55940、GSE63678), 合并和批量标准化后筛选差异表达基因(DEG)。对DEG进行基因本体(GO)和京都基因和基因组百科全书(KEGG)通路富集分析及蛋白质-蛋白质相互作用(PPI)网络构建, 利用癌症基因组图谱(TCGA)数据库进行生存分析以确定关键基因。对关键基因进行基因功能集富集分析, 并且利用基于TCGA数据库的泛癌数据进行深度的功能挖掘, 包括基因相关性分析、单因素Cox回归、免疫亚型、肿瘤微环境和肿瘤干性分析。结果 共筛选出336个DEG, 其中153个下调、183个上调。PPI网络和生存分析结果显示微小染色体维持蛋白(MCM)2是宫颈癌的潜在生物标志物。基因功能集富集分析提示, MCM2与自噬和MAPK信号通路有关。在泛癌数据中的研究表明, MCM2的表达水平与4种恶性肿瘤(宫颈癌、弥漫大B细胞淋巴瘤、直肠腺癌、葡萄膜黑素瘤)的5年总生存率呈正相关, 与7种恶性肿瘤(肾上腺皮质癌、肾嫌色细胞癌、急性髓细胞白血病、脑低级别胶质瘤、肝细胞肝癌、间皮瘤、肉瘤)的5年总生存率呈负相关(P 均<0.05)。深度功能挖掘提示, MCM2~10参与肿瘤组织免疫亚型的改变, 高表达MCM2~10的肿瘤组织中可能存在较低比例的基质细胞和免疫细胞及较高比例的肿瘤细胞; 在多种肿瘤中, MCM2的表达水平与肿瘤细胞的干性特征呈正相关。结论 MCM2在宫颈癌中高表达且与患者预后相关, 是宫颈癌的潜在预后标志物。在多种恶性肿瘤中, MCM2参与多种生物过程, 可能成为恶性肿瘤治疗干预的新靶点。

[关键词] 宫颈肿瘤; MCM2; 生物信息学; 泛癌; 肿瘤微环境; 肿瘤干细胞

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Screening and verifying biomarker mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2 for cervical cancer based on bioinformatics

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[Abstract] Objective To analyze and screen key genes affecting the prognosis of cervical cancer based on bioinformatics, and to explore their functions. Methods The microarray datasets of cervical cancer (GSE6791, GSE39001, GSE55940 and GSE63678) were downloaded from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database, and the differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were screened after merging and batch normalization. The DEGs were analyzed by gene ontology (GO) and Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes (KEGG) pathway enrichment analyses and protein-protein interaction (PPI) network, and survival analysis was performed based on The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) database to identify key genes. The functions of key genes were analyzed by gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA), and the pan-cancer data based on TCGA database were used for in-depth research on functions, including gene correlation analysis, univariate Cox regression,

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immune subtype, tumor microenvironment and tumor stemness. **Results** A total of 336 DEGs were screened out, of which 153 were down-regulated and 183 were up-regulated. Mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2 (MCM2) was selected as a potential biomarker for cervical cancer by PPI network and survival analysis. The results of GSEA suggested that MCM2 was associated with autophagy and mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling pathway. The research in pan-cancer showed that the expression of MCM2 was positively correlated with the 5-year overall survival rates of 4 cancers (cervical cancer, lymphoid neoplasm diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, rectum adenocarcinoma, and uveal melanoma) and negatively correlated with 7 cancers (adrenocortical carcinoma, kidney chromophobe, acute myeloid carcinoma, brain lower grade glioma, liver hepatocellular carcinoma, mesothelioma and sarcoma). The research on functions in pan-cancer data suggested that MCM2-10 were involved in the immune subtypes of cancers; tumor tissues with high expression levels of MCM2-10 had low proportions of matrix cells and immune cells and a high proportion of cancer cells; and the expression level of MCM2 was positively correlated with the tumor stemness in many cancers. **Conclusion** MCM2 is highly expressed in cervical cancer and related to the prognosis of patients, making it a potential biomarker for prognosis of cervical cancer. Furthermore, MCM2 is involved in various biological processes of many cancers, and it serves as a new target for cancer therapeutic intervention.

[Key words] uterine cervical neoplasms; mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2; bioinformatics; pan-cancer; tumor microenvironment; neoplastic stem cells

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2018年全球数据显示,每年有近57万宫颈癌新发病例,约31.1万例宫颈癌患者死亡^[1]。尽管宫颈癌早期患者的治愈率不断提高,但转移或复发患者的预后仍然较差^[2]。国际妇产科联合会(International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics)分期I b~II a期宫颈癌患者的复发风险为10%~20%,局部晚期(II b~IV a期)宫颈癌患者的复发风险达30%~70%^[3-4],且晚期宫颈癌患者缺少有效的治疗选择。因此,深入研究宫颈癌进展的确切分子机制对于该病的诊断和治疗策略很重要。

随着高通量测序和微阵列技术的快速发展,生物信息学技术为研究疾病分子机制及寻找生物标志物提供了新的手段,并进一步促进了疾病分子诊断、靶向及个体化治疗、预后预测等的发展。宫颈癌是一种分子基础具有显著差异的异质性疾病。目前宫颈癌的诊断和预后指标(包括肿瘤大小、浸润深度、淋巴结转移和病理分型)已显示出局限性。传统的分类方式并不能准确地提示宫颈癌预后,甚至可能会延误患者治疗。寻找潜在分子生物标志物的预测模式有可能会改善这种情况。本研究通过基因表达汇编(Gene Expression Omnibus, GEO)数据库和癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)数据库筛选出与宫颈癌相关的关键基因微小染色体维持蛋白(mini-chromosome maintenance protein, MCM)2,并在多种肿瘤中对MCM家族基因进行深入分析,探讨其表达特征和

生物学功能。

1 材料和方法

1.1 数据获取与预处理 在GEO数据库搜索关键词“cervical cancer”,下载了4个基因芯片数据集(GSE6791、GSE39001、GSE55940、GSE63678)。GSE6791包含8个正常样本和20个宫颈癌样本,GSE39001包含17个正常样本和62个宫颈癌样本,GSE55940包含5个正常样本和5个宫颈癌样本,GSE63678包含5个正常样本和5个宫颈癌样本。为了增加样本量,本研究合并了4个微阵列芯片的数据。因为仪器型号、实验人员的技术水平及试剂等不同可能会导致实验结果的批次差异,使用R 4.0.3软件“SVA”工具包对芯片数据进行了批次校正。

1.2 表达差异分析 利用R 4.0.3软件“limma”工具包比较肿瘤组织和正常组织的RNA表达差异。以校正P值[错误发现率(false discovery rate, FDR)P] < 0.05且|log₂倍数差异(fold change, FC)| > 1为差异表达基因的筛选标准。

1.3 功能富集分析 利用R 4.0.3软件的“clusterProfiler”工具包进行基因本体(gene ontology, GO)、京都基因和基因组百科全书(Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes, KEGG)通路富集分析(以P<0.05且FDR P<0.05为条件)。以条形图和点图分别显示GO和KEGG分析的前10种途径。

1.4 蛋白质-蛋白质相互作用 (protein-protein interaction, PPI) 网络建设 利用在线数据库 STRING (<https://string-db.org/>) 分析差异表达基因的 PPI 网络, 设置最低关联度为 0.700, 并隐藏网络中未连接的节点。将分析结果导入 Cytoscape 软件进行可视化, 并选择节点前 10 位的差异表达基因作为关键基因进行生存分析。

1.5 生存分析 通过 R 4.0.3 软件 “survival” 工具包对关键基因进行 Kaplan-Meier 生存分析和对 MCM 家族基因进行单因素 Cox 回归分析 (以 $P < 0.05$ 为条件)。所有泛癌数据均从 TCGA 数据库下载。

1.6 表达验证与功能分析 利用 GEPIA2 (<http://gepia2.cancer-pku.cn>) 对 MCM2 基因进行表达差异分析, 其数据基于 TCGA 和基因型-组织表达 (Genotype-Tissue Expression, GTEx) 数据库。利用人类蛋白质图谱 (the Human Protein Atlas, HPA) 网站 (<https://www.proteinatlas.org/>) 比较正常组织和宫颈癌组织的 MCM2 蛋白表达差异, 明确 MCM2 蛋白在细胞内的定位。利用 TCGA 数据对 MCM2 进行基因功能集富集分析, 以 $P < 0.05$ 且 FDR $P < 0.05$ 为条件筛选出显著富集的通路。利用 TCGA 数据库选取 140 条 MCM2 的 KEGG 富集的信号通路进行 MCM2 的基因功能集富集分析。

1.7 基因相关性分析与免疫亚型分析 利用 R 4.0.3 软件的 “corrplot” 工具包对 MCM 家族基因进行 Pearson 相关性分析。基于 TCGA 数据, 利用 “limma” 工具包比较不同免疫亚型肿瘤组织中 MCM 的表达差异。通过加利福尼亚大学圣克鲁兹分校 (University of California Santa Cruz, UCSC) Xena 平台从 TCGA 数据库下载免疫亚型分类数据, 共有 6 种泛癌免疫亚型。其中, 免疫亚型 C1 指伤口愈合, C2 指 γ 干扰素显著表达, C3 指炎症, C4 指淋巴细胞枯竭, C5 指免疫沉默, C6 指 TGF- β 显著表达。

1.8 肿瘤微环境与肿瘤干性分析 利用 UCSC Xena 平台从 TCGA 数据库下载泛癌的肿瘤微环境及肿瘤干细胞相关数据, 通过 R 4.0.3 软件 “estimate” 工具包评估每种肿瘤组织中基质细胞、

免疫细胞及肿瘤细胞的比例, 利用 R 4.0.3 软件的 “corrplot” 工具包分析 MCM 与肿瘤微环境成分比例的相关性。

干细胞评分是用于描述肿瘤细胞与干细胞相似性的指标, 干细胞评分越高说明细胞的分化程度越低、干细胞特征越强。利用 R 4.0.3 软件的 “corrplot” 工具包分析 MCM 与干细胞评分的相关性。

2 结 果

2.1 差异表达基因 对宫颈癌组织和正常宫颈组织的测序结果进行表达差异分析, 共筛选出 336 个差异表达基因, 包括 153 个下调基因和 183 个上调基因 (图 1)。

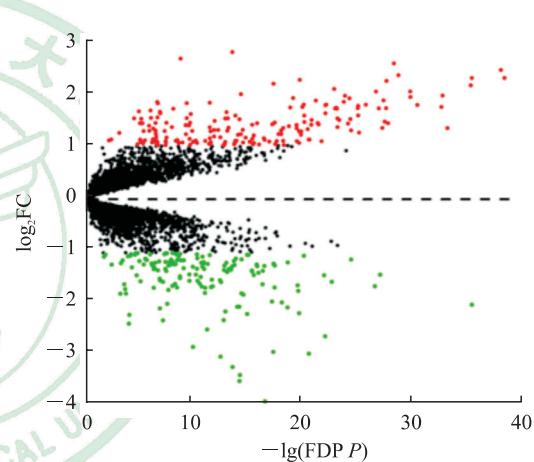


图 1 宫颈癌与正常宫颈组织基因测序整合数据的火山图

Fig 1 Volcano chart of integrated data of gene sequencing in cervical cancer and normal cervical tissues

Red dots: Up-regulated genes; Green dots: Down-regulated genes; Black dots: Genes without significant difference in expression level. FC: Fold change; FDP: False discovery rate.

2.2 GO 和 KEGG 富集分析 GO 富集分析结果 (图 2A) 显示, 差异表达基因主要参与胶原蛋白细胞外基质、蛋白酶体核心复合体、内肽酶复合物、染色体区域等细胞组成, 在细胞周期、DNA 复制、细胞周期过程的负调控、对缺氧的反应等生物学过程中富集, 同时可能涉及苏氨酸型内肽酶活性、硫化合物结合、肝素结合、胶原结合等分子功能。KEGG 富集分析结果 (图 2B) 显示, 差异表达基因主要富集于 DNA 复制、错配修复、前列腺癌、癌症转录失调、核苷酸切除修复等信号通路。

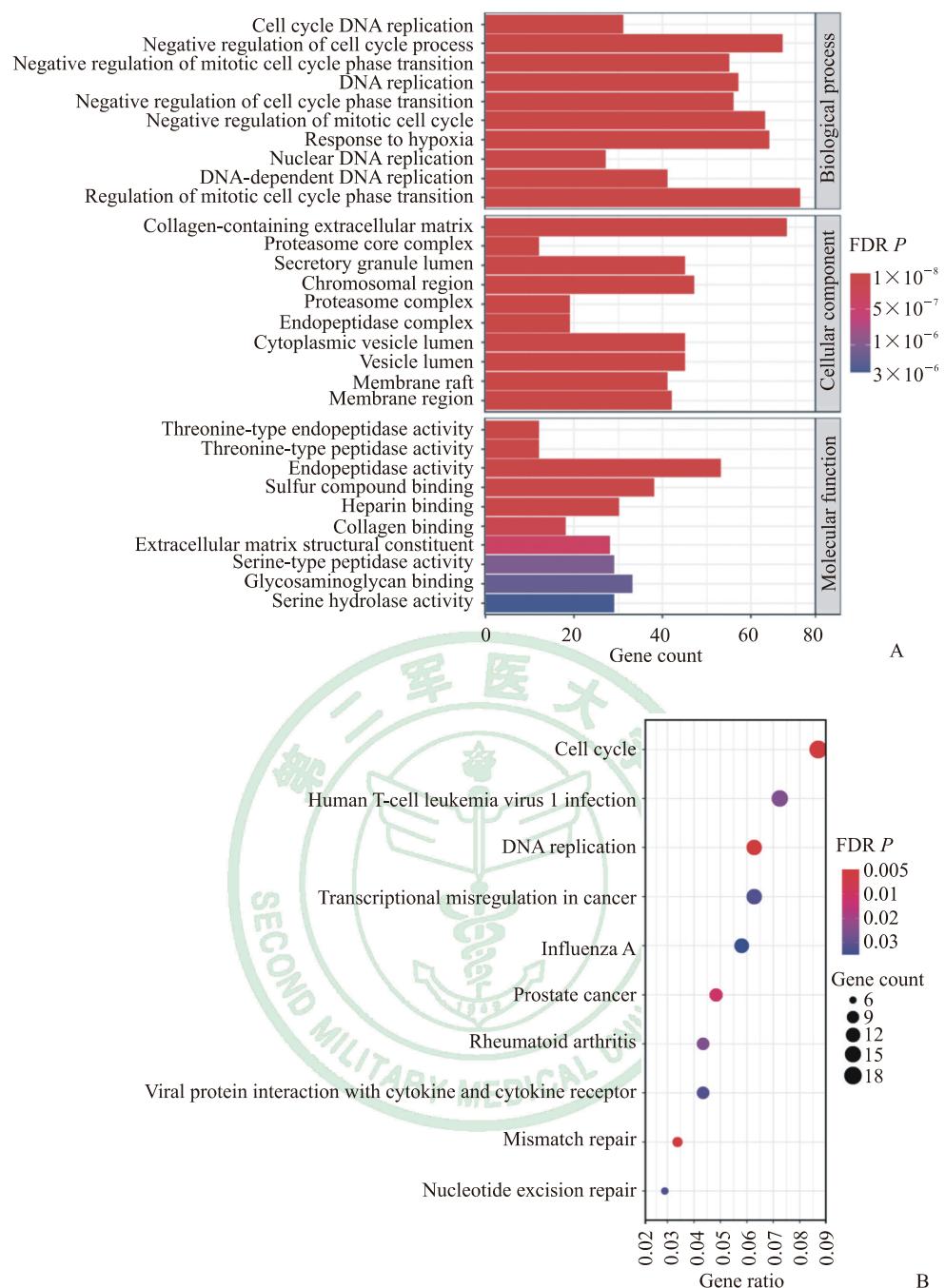


图 2 差异表达基因的 GO 和 KEGG 富集分析结果

Fig 2 Enrichment analyses of differentially expressed genes by GO and KEGG

A: Top 10 GO terms of differentially expressed genes; B: KEGG pathways of differentially expressed genes. GO: Gene ontology; KEGG: Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes; FDR: False discovery rate.

2.3 PPI 网络分析和生存分析筛选 通过 STRING 在线分析获得了包括 336 个节点和 1 809 个边的差异表达基因 PPI 网络(图 3)。核心交互网络用 Cytoscape 平台进行分子复合物检测(molecular complex detection, MCODE)分析,发现 3 个交互作用较强的模块,提示这 3 个基因群可能存在相关性(图 4)。

取关联度排名前 10 的 10 个差异表达基因作为宫颈癌的重要基因,利用 TCGA 数据库对其进行 Kaplan-Meier 生存分析,以 $P < 0.05$ 为条件筛选出 MCM2 作为关键基因。结果(图 5)表明,MCM2 表达与宫颈癌 5 年总生存率呈正相关($P = 0.017$),即 MCM2 高表达的宫颈癌患者生存时间更长。

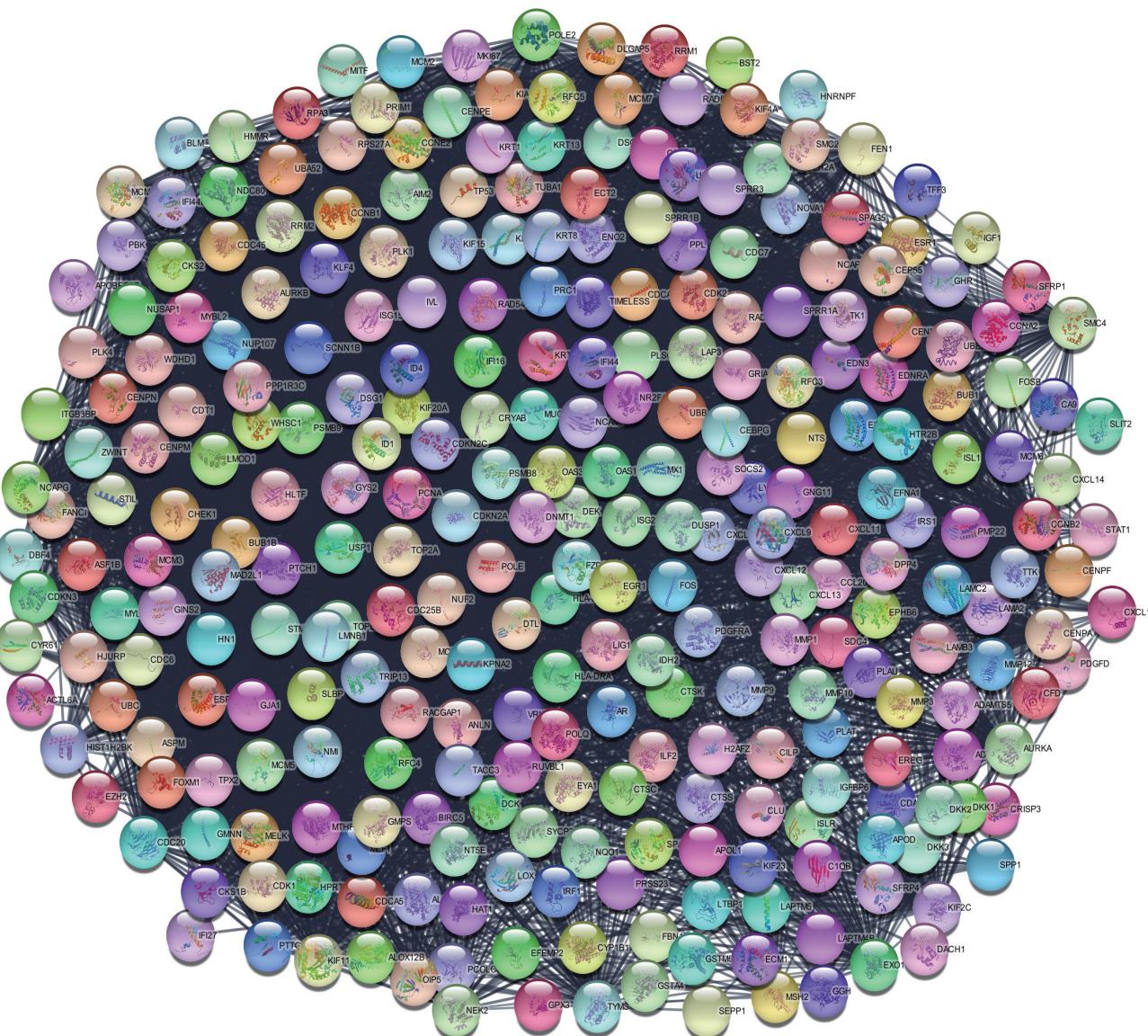


图3 差异表达基因 PPI 网络分析图

Fig 3 PPI analysis of differentially expressed genes

PPI network of differentially expressed genes by STRING. Circles: Genes; Lines: Protein interaction between genes; Results within the circle: Structure of proteins; Line color: Evidence of the interaction between the proteins. PPI: Protein-protein interaction.

2.4 表达验证和细胞定位 再次利用GEPIA2网站验证MCM2在宫颈癌中的表达水平,该结果与基于GEO数据集的分析结果一致。与正常组织($n=13$)相比,MCM2在宫颈癌组织($n=306$)中高表达($P<0.05$,图6A)。HPA数据库的免疫组织化学(immunohistochemistry,IHC)分析结果显示,MCM2在宫颈癌组织中表达较高,在正常组织中表达较低(图6B)。细胞中MCM2主要定位于细胞核(图6C)。

KEGG基因功能集富集分析结果表明,显著富集的信号通路涵盖了多方面生物学研究领域。

(1) 在肿瘤与免疫方面,包括Fc段 γ 受体(Fc γ

receptor,Fc γ R)介导的吞噬作用、MAPK信号通路、Notch信号通路、自噬调控、T细胞受体信号通路和WNT信号通路等(图7A)。(2)在细胞增殖、死亡与运动方面,包括黏附连接、细胞凋亡、细胞周期、DNA复制、肌动蛋白细胞骨架调节和RNA聚合酶等(图7B)。(3)在清除和降解方面,包括胞吞作用、溶酶体、RNA降解、泛素介导的蛋白水解等(图7C)。(4)在合成和代谢方面,包括胰岛素信号转导途径、过氧化物酶、嘌呤代谢、嘧啶代谢,以及缬氨酸、亮氨酸和异亮氨酸降解等(图7D)。

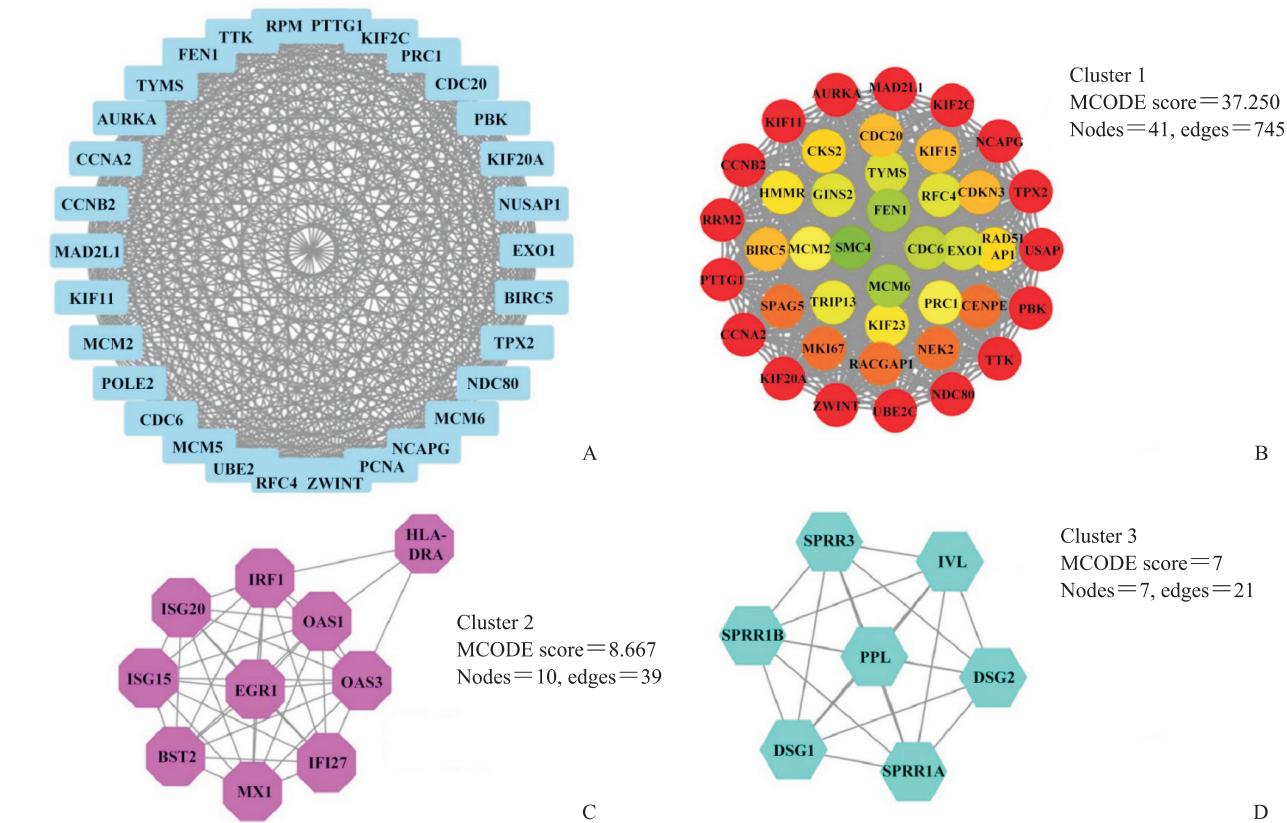


图4 利用Cytoscape插件对PPI核心交互网络进行MCODE分析

Fig 4 MCODE analysis of PPI core integration network using Cytoscape plug-in

A: PPI network of top 30 genes with the highest degree; B: MCODE result of cluster 1 network (green to red: MCODE score increased from low to high); C: MCODE result of cluster 2 network; D: MCODE result of cluster 3 network. PPI: Protein-protein interaction; MCODE: Molecular complex detection.

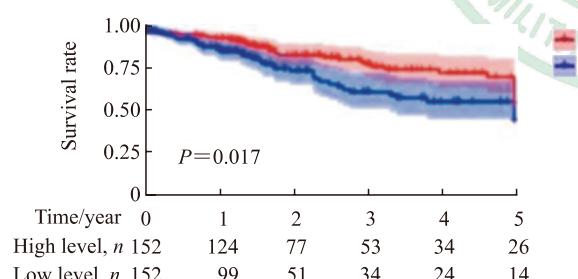


图5 不同MCM2表达水平宫颈癌患者的Kaplan-Meier生存分析结果

Fig 5 Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of cervical cancer patients with different MCM2 expression levels

The median expression level was set as the cutoff value for the Kaplan-Meier curves. MCM2: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2.

2.5 MCM2在泛癌中的生存分析 Kaplan-Meier生存分析结果(图5、图8)显示,MCM2的表达水平与包括宫颈癌在内的11种癌症患者的生存率相关(P 均 <0.05),其中与宫颈癌(图5)、弥漫大B细胞淋巴瘤(图8B)、直肠腺癌(图8H)

和葡萄膜黑素瘤(图8J)5年总生存率呈正相关;与肾上腺皮质癌(图8A)、肾嫌色细胞癌(图8C)、急性髓细胞样白血病(图8D)、脑低级别胶质瘤(图8E)、肝细胞肝癌(图8F)、间皮瘤(图8G)、肉瘤(图8I)5年总生存率呈负相关。

2.6 MCM家族基因共表达分析 除了少于3个正常组织的队列外,基于TCGA数据库的21种癌症的热图(图9A)显示,在大多数类型的癌症中MCM家族基因的表达上调,且宫颈癌组织中MCM的表达均增加。

利用TCGA数据库对泛癌中MCM进行了Pearson相关性分析,结果(图9B)表明大多数MCM成员之间存在正相关性,如MCM4和MCM6($r=0.85$)、MCM2和MCM6($r=0.84$)、MCM4和MCM10($r=0.84$)、MCM2和MCM4($r=0.83$)、MCM6和MCM10($r=0.83$)、MCM3和MCM6($r=0.81$)、MCM2和MCM5($r=0.81$)、MCM2和MCM7($r=0.80$)。

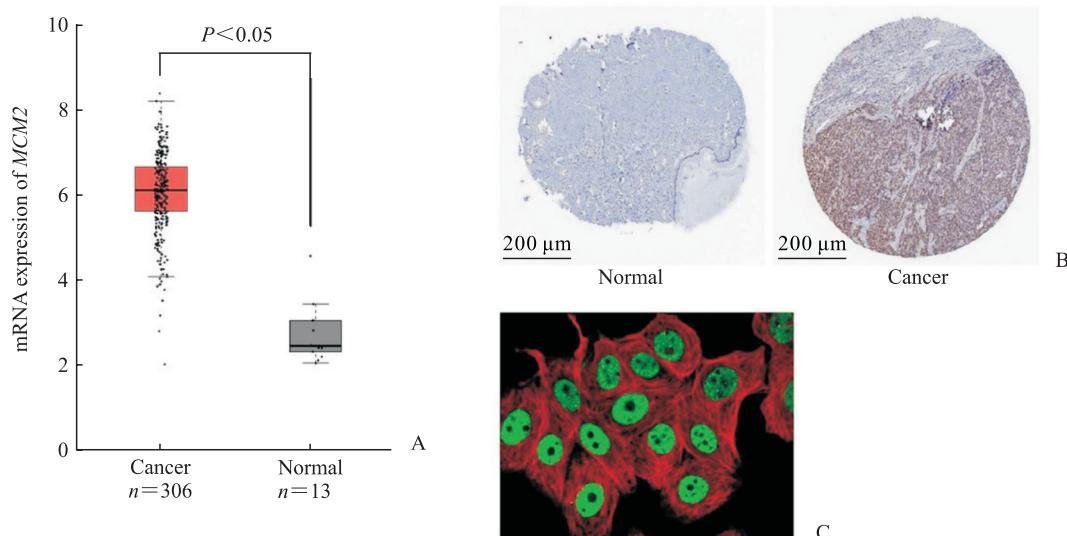


图 6 MCM2 在宫颈癌中的表达验证和细胞定位结果

Fig 6 Expression and location of MCM2 in cervical cancer cells

A: RNA expression of MCM2 analyzed by GEPIA2 based on the databases of TCGA and GTEx; B: Protein expression analysis of MCM2 in normal tissue and cervical cancer tissue by HPA-based immunohistochemistry database; C: Localization of MCM2 in cells (400×). Green: MCM2 antibody; Red: Microtubules. MCM2: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2; GEPIA2: Gene Expression Profiling Interactive Analysis; TCGA: The Cancer Genome Atlas; GTEx: Genotype-Tissue Expression.

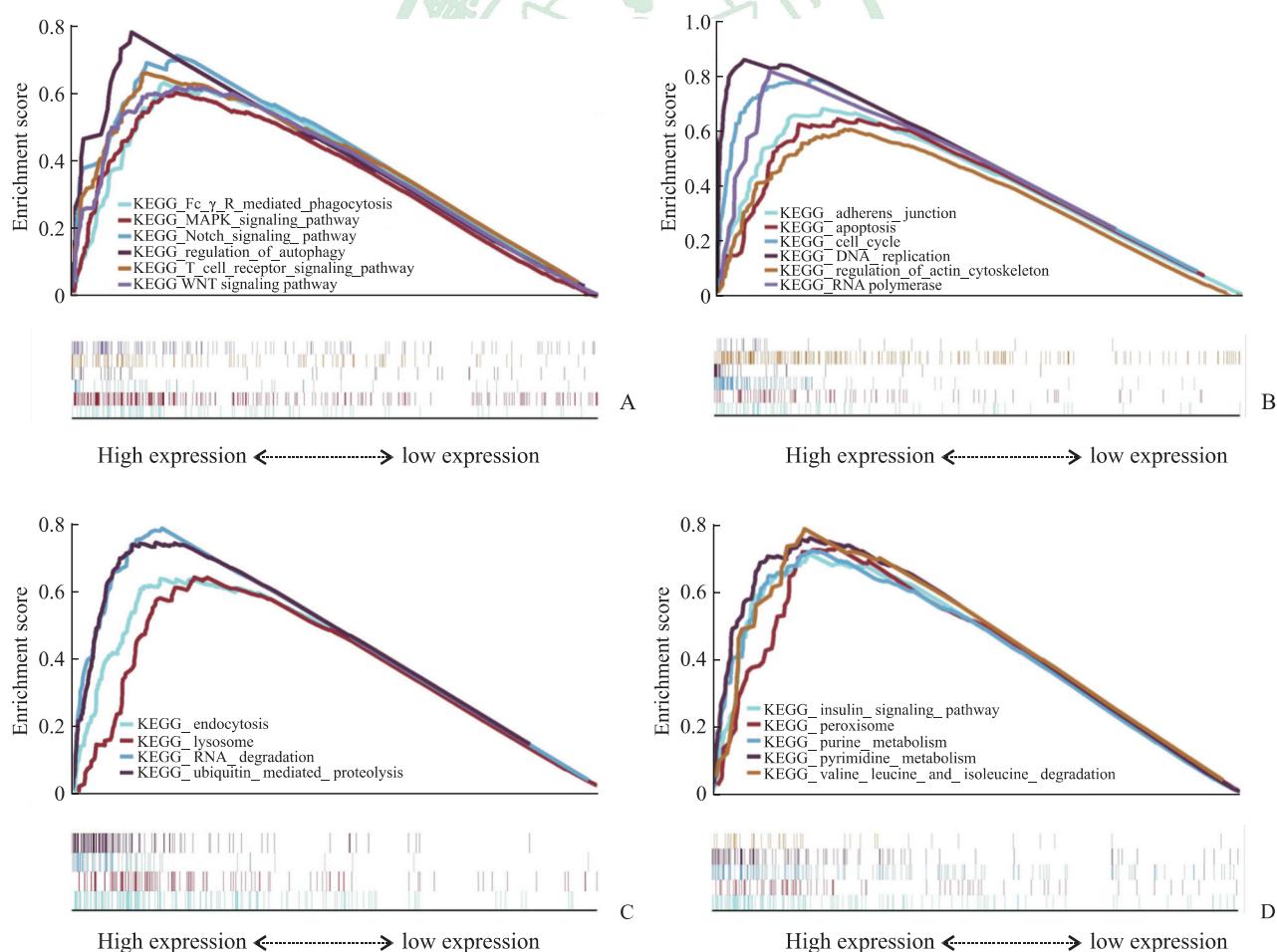


图 7 MCM2 在宫颈癌中的 KEGG 基因功能集富集分析结果

Fig 7 KEGG gene set enrichment analysis results of MCM2 in cervical cancer

A: Tumor and immunity; B: Cell proliferation, death, and motility; C: Scavenging and degradation; D: Synthesis and metabolism. MCM2: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2; KEGG: Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes.

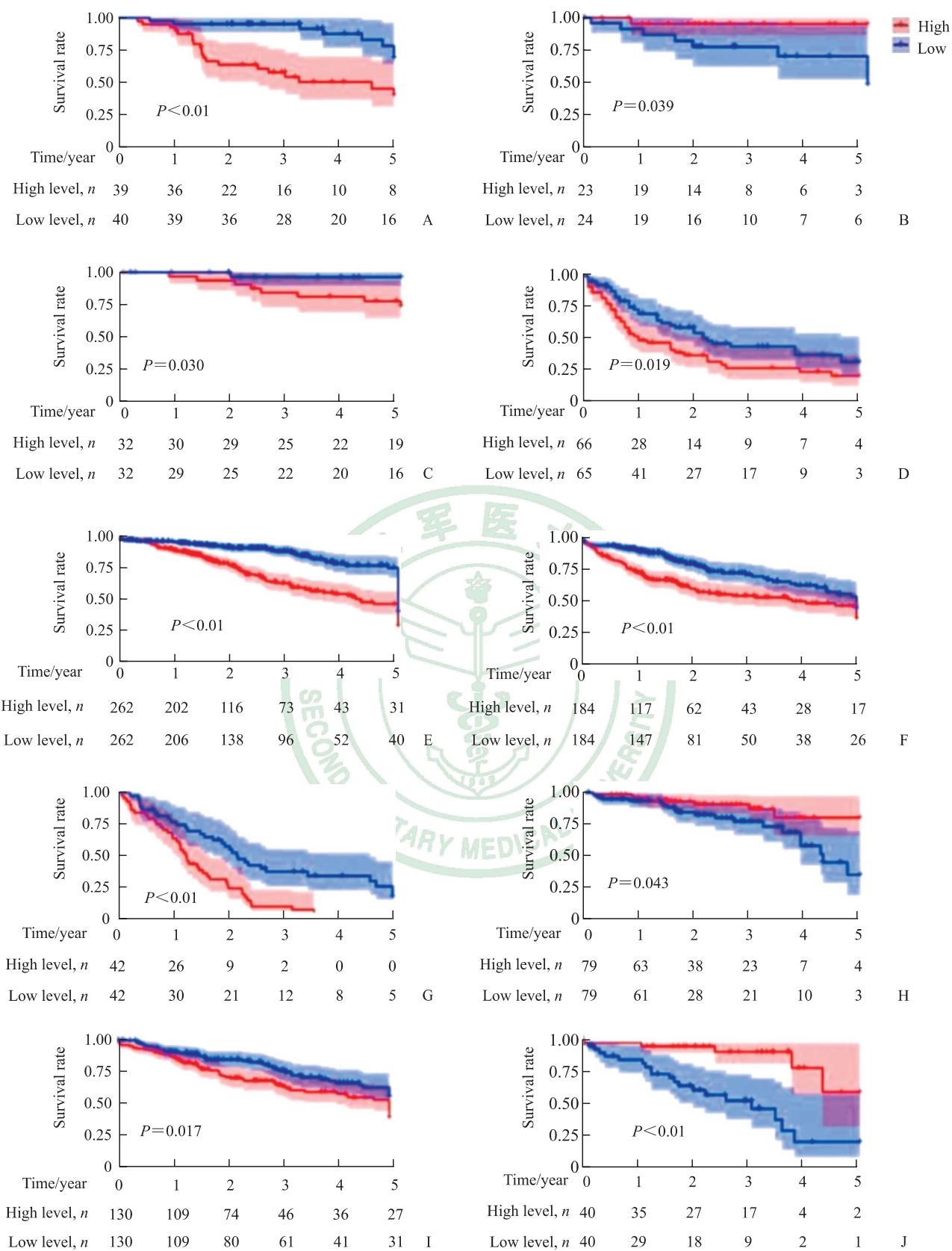


图8 不同MCM2表达水平泛癌的Kaplan-Meier生存分析

Fig 8 Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of pan-cancer patients with different MCM2 expression levels

A: Adrenocortical carcinoma; B: Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; C: Kidney chromophobe; D: Acute myeloid leukemia; E: Brain lower grade glioma; F: Liver hepatocellular carcinoma; G: Mesothelioma; H: Rectum adenocarcinoma; I: Sarcoma; J: Uveal melanoma. The median expression level was set as the cutoff value for the Kaplan-Meier curves. MCM2: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein 2.

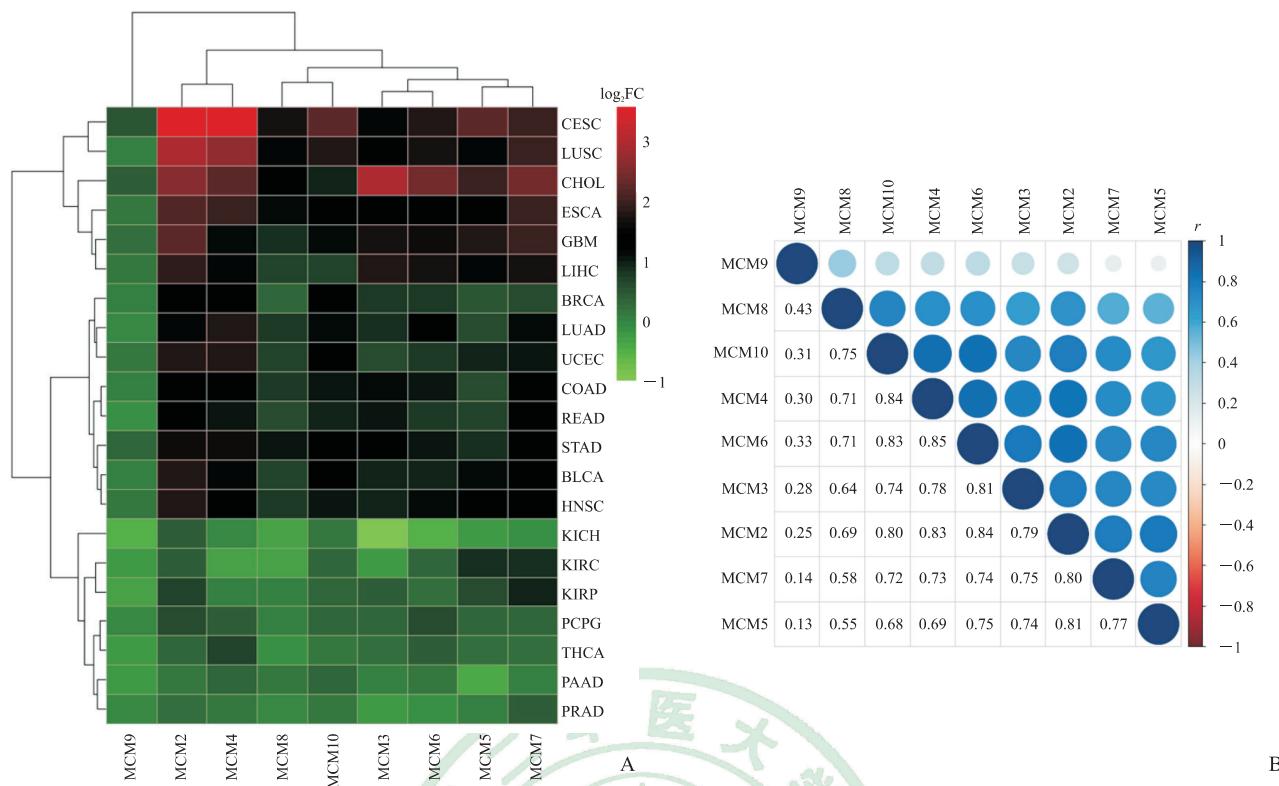


图 9 MCM 家族基因在泛癌中的表达差异分析及基因共表达分析结果

Fig 9 Differential expression and co-expression of MCMs in pan-cancer

A: Heatmap of MCMs in pan-cancer; B: Correlation analysis of MCMs transcript in pan-cancer. MCM: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein; CESC: Cervical squamous cell carcinoma and endocervical adenocarcinoma; LUSC: Lung squamous cell carcinoma; CHOL: Cholangiocarcinoma; ESCA: Esophageal carcinoma; GBM: Glioblastoma multiforme; LIHC: Liver hepatocellular carcinoma; BRCA: Breast invasive carcinoma; LUAD: Lung adenocarcinoma; UCEC: Uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma; COAD: Colon adenocarcinoma; READ: Rectum adenocarcinoma; STAD: Stomach adenocarcinoma; BLCA: Bladder urothelial carcinoma; HNSC: Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; KICH: Kidney chromophobe; KIRC: Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma; KIRP: Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma; PCPG: Pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma; THCA: Thyroid carcinoma; PAAD: Pancreatic adenocarcinoma; PRAD: Prostate adenocarcinoma.

2.7 单因素 Cox 回归分析 单因素 Cox 回归结果(图 10)显示, MCM2 和 MCM5 是宫颈癌的保护因素, 高表达 MCM2、MCM5 的宫颈癌患者可能预后更好。同时, 大部分 MCM 家族成员是肾上腺皮质癌、肾嫌色细胞癌和间皮瘤的危险因素, 表明 MCM 可能在这些癌症的进展中起重要作用。

2.8 免疫亚型分析 见图 11, MCM 家族成员在 C1 亚型和 C2 亚型中表达均相对较高; MCM 家族成员在不同免疫亚型泛癌组织中的表达水平有所不
同差异有统计学意义 ($P < 0.01$), 可能参与肿瘤免疫的生物学过程。

2.9 肿瘤微环境相关性及干细胞分析 MCM 家族成员的肿瘤相关性分析结果显示, 大多数肿瘤中 MCM 家族成员的表达与基质评分(图 12A)和免疫评分(图 12B)呈负相关, 而与肿瘤纯度(图 12C)

呈正相关, 表明 MCM 家族基因高表达的肿瘤组织可能具有较低比例的基质细胞、免疫细胞及较高比例的肿瘤细胞。尤其在多形性胶质母细胞瘤中, 大多数 MCM 家族成员均与肿瘤微环境的组成比例呈高度相关, 表明 MCM 家族成员高表达的多形性胶质母细胞瘤组织中可能含有高比例的肿瘤细胞和较低比例的基质细胞及免疫细胞, 该结果提示 MCM 家族成员可能是影响多形性胶质母细胞瘤微环境的重要因素。

MCM 家族成员与肿瘤干细胞评分的相关性分析结果(图 12D)显示, 大多数 MCM 家族成员(尤其 MCM2)的表达与肿瘤干性评分呈正相关, 这意味着 MCM 家族成员的表达可能会促进癌细胞干性特征的表达。

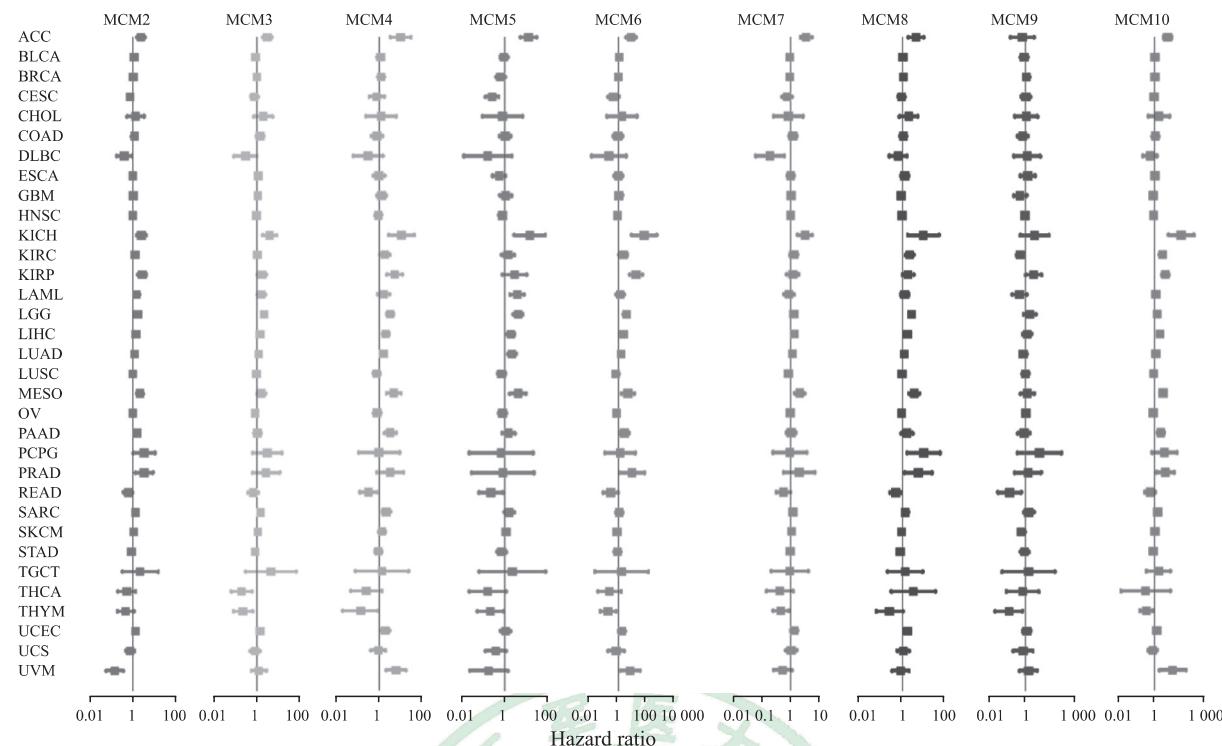


图 10 MCM 家族基因影响泛癌预后的单因素 Cox 回归分析

Fig 10 Univariate Cox regression analysis of MCMs influencing prognosis of pan-cancer patients

MCM: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein; ACC: Adrenocortical carcinoma; BLCA: Bladder urothelial carcinoma; BRCA: Breast invasive carcinoma; CESC: Cervical squamous cell carcinoma and endocervical adenocarcinoma; CHOL: Cholangiocarcinoma; COAD: Colon adenocarcinoma; DLBC: Lymphoid neoplasm diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; ESCA: Esophageal carcinoma; GBM: Glioblastoma multiforme; HNSC: Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; KICH: Kidney chromophobe; KIRC: Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma; KIRP: Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma; LAML: Acute myeloid leukemia; LGG: Brain lower grade glioma; LIHC: Liver hepatocellular carcinoma; LUAD: Lung adenocarcinoma; LUSC: Lung squamous cell carcinoma; MESO: Mesothelioma; OV: Ovarian serous cystadenocarcinoma; PAAD: Pancreatic adenocarcinoma; PCPG: Pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma; PRAD: Prostate adenocarcinoma; READ: Rectum adenocarcinoma; SARC: Sarcoma; SKCM: Skin cutaneous melanoma; STAD: Stomach adenocarcinoma; TGCT: Testicular germ cell tumor; THCA: Thyroid carcinoma; THYM: Thymoma; UCEC: Uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma; UCS: Uterine carcinosarcoma; UVM: Uveal melanoma.

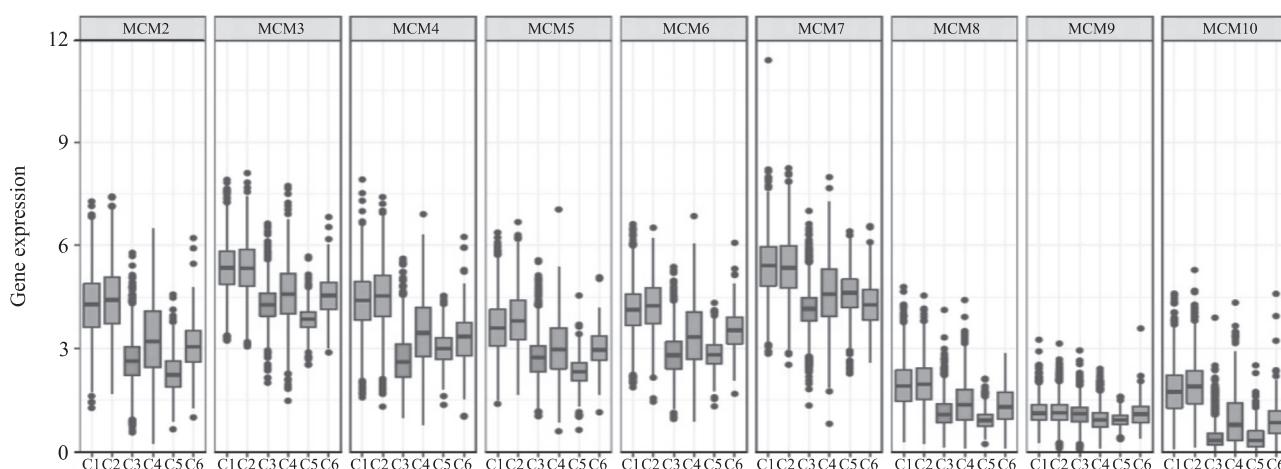


图 11 MCM 家族基因在不同免疫亚型泛癌组织中的表达

Fig 11 Expression of MCMs in pan-cancer tissues with different immune types

C1: Wound healing; C2: Interferon- γ dominant; C3: Inflammatory; C4: Lymphocyte depleted; C5: Immunologically quiet; C6: Transforming growth factor- β dominant. There were significant differences in the expression levels of MCMs among different immune subtypes ($P < 0.01$). MCM: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein.

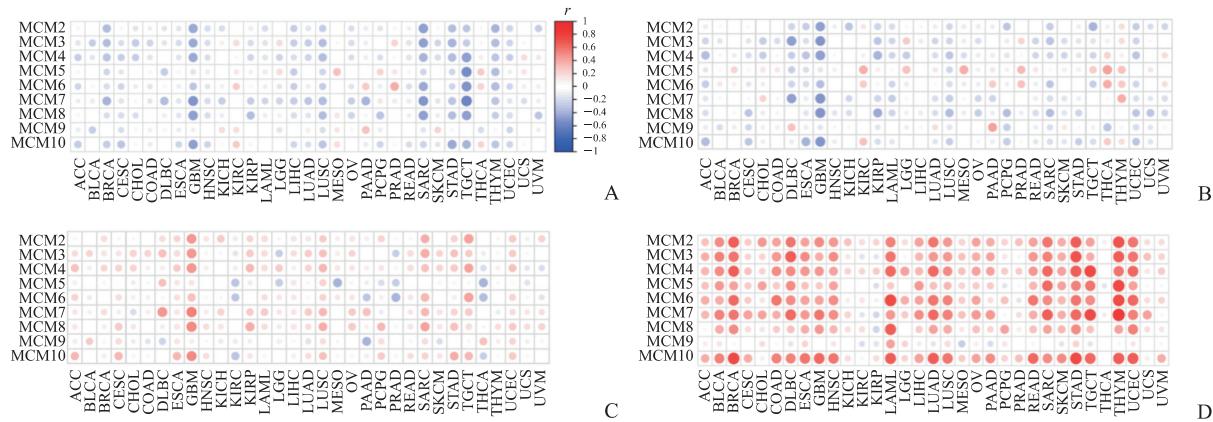


图 12 MCM 家族基因与肿瘤免疫微环境和肿瘤干性的相关性

Fig 12 Correlation analysis between MCMs and tumor immune microenvironment and tumor stemness

A: Stromal score; B: Immune score; C: Tumor purity; D: Stemness score. MCM: Mini-chromosome maintenance protein; ACC: Adrenocortical carcinoma; BLCA: Bladder urothelial carcinoma; BRCA: Breast invasive carcinoma; CESC: Cervical squamous cell carcinoma and endocervical adenocarcinoma; CHOL: Cholangiocarcinoma; COAD: Colon adenocarcinoma; DLBC: Lymphoid neoplasm diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; ESCA: Esophageal carcinoma; GBM: Glioblastoma multiforme; HNSC: Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; KICH: Kidney chromophobe; KIRC: Kidney renal clear cell carcinoma; KIRP: Kidney renal papillary cell carcinoma; LAML: Acute myeloid leukemia; LGG: Brain lower grade glioma; LIHC: Liver hepatocellular carcinoma; LUAD: Lung adenocarcinoma; LUSC: Lung squamous cell carcinoma; MESO: Mesothelioma; OV: Ovarian serous cystadenocarcinoma; PAAD: Pancreatic adenocarcinoma; PCPG: Pheochromocytoma and paraganglioma; PRAD: Prostate adenocarcinoma; READ: Rectum adenocarcinoma; SARC: Sarcoma; SKCM: Skin cutaneous melanoma; STAD: Stomach adenocarcinoma; TGCT: Testicular germ cell tumors; THCA: Thyroid carcinoma; THYM: Thymoma; UCEC: Uterine corpus endometrial carcinoma; UCS: Uterine carcinosarcoma; UVM: Uveal melanoma.

3 讨 论

近年来,由于人乳头瘤病毒疫苗的普及和手术方式的不断革新,宫颈癌的发病率和死亡率一直在稳步下降,但宫颈癌晚期患者仍然有较高的复发风险,对于远处转移或复发的患者始终缺少有效的治疗方式。新兴的生物信息学是一个高效且便捷的工具,可用来探索宫颈癌进展的分子机制,从而寻找宫颈癌的治疗新策略和预后标志物。

MCM2 是一种基因编码蛋白,属于高度保守的 MCM 家族,后者含有 MCM1~10^[5]。MCM1 是 MADS-box 转录因子家族的成员^[6],因超出了 TCGA 转录谱的范围而未包含在本研究中。MCM2~7 复合物(双环异六聚体)是真核复制解旋酶的核心成分,在 DNA 复制起始和延伸中起关键作用。静止期细胞中 MCM2~7 复合物的含量非常低,在增殖和转化的细胞中,MCM2~7 复合物在 G1 期开始增多,在 G1 末期和 S 期早期达到顶峰,并最终与染色质结合。由于 MCM2~7 复合物与细胞增殖过程周期性变化一致,已被认为

是 S 期细胞的标志物和特定的增殖相关因子^[7-8]。

MCM8、9 复合物在 DNA 复制中的功能仍不清楚,MCM10 蛋白可能参与 DNA 损伤反应^[9]。越来越多的证据表明, MCM 家族成员在肿瘤进展中具有重要作用,可能是恶性肿瘤的潜在干预靶标^[10-11]。在乳腺癌^[12]、卵巢癌^[13]、宫颈癌^[14]、肾细胞癌^[15]中, MCM2 蛋白的表达与肿瘤增殖呈正相关。MCM4 的表达水平可能与食管癌的病理分期有关^[16]。MCM7 基因多态性可能与急性髓细胞白血病的复发和总生存期密切相关^[17]。以上这些证据提示, MCM 家族成员对肿瘤的增殖能力和恶性程度至关重要,且在不同的恶性肿瘤中的表达及作用可能不同。

本研究结果表明, MCM2 的 mRNA 和蛋白均在人类宫颈癌组织中高表达,且与宫颈癌的预后相关。本研究还探讨了宫颈癌中 MCM2 的相关途径,结果显示恶性肿瘤中的 MAPK 和自噬信号通路及 T 细胞受体信号通路均显著富集。利用泛癌数据进行分析显示, MCM2 与 11 种类型的肿瘤(包括宫颈癌)预后相关。本研究还探讨了 MCM2~10 在

泛癌中的表达和功能,大多数MCM家族成员在肿瘤组织中上调,并且基因共表达分析显示多数MCM家族基因之间存在正相关关系,MCM家族成员可能与肿瘤微环境和肿瘤免疫亚型相关。

本研究发现,在泛癌中MCM家族成员与肿瘤干性呈正相关。研究显示MCM2表达下调可能会导致严重的干细胞缺乏^[18]。在结肠癌中,NF-κB通过上调MCM2的表达维持肿瘤干性^[19]。这些结果进一步证实MCM家族成员对肿瘤干性可能存在普遍的调控作用。

综上所述,MCM2可能成为宫颈癌诊疗和预后评估的一个潜在分子标志物;在泛癌中MCM家族成员的研究有广阔前景,特别是在免疫亚型、肿瘤微环境和干性特征方面。本研究基于生物信息学分析的研究结果,应通过动物实验和临床试验进行验证。

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