

DOI:10.3724/SP.J.1008.2013.00557

c-Met 活化与肺癌的关系及其靶向药物的研究进展

曹旭¹, 杨洋², 孙也淇¹, 陈岗^{1*}

1. 同济大学医学院附属上海市肺科医院病理科, 上海 200433
2. 同济大学医学院附属上海市肺科医院胸外科, 上海 200433

[摘要] c-Met 为酪氨酸激酶受体的一种, 肝细胞生长因子(HGF)为其天然配体。c-Met 的激活主要有 HGF 配体依赖型和非 HGF 配体依赖型两种形式。许多恶性肿瘤包括肺癌中存在 c-Met 的多种活化机制, c-Met 的异常激活亦与肺癌的发生发展及恶性生物学行为关系密切。本文就 c-Met 的活化与非小细胞肺癌及小细胞肺癌的关系及其靶向药物在肺癌中的研究进展作一综述。

[关键词] 原癌基因蛋白质 c-Met; 肺肿瘤; 靶向治疗

[中图分类号] R 734.2 **[文献标志码]** A **[文章编号]** 0258-879X(2013)05-0557-04

Abnormal activation of c-Met in lung cancer and research progress of the targeted drugs: a review

CAO Xu¹, YANG Yang², SUN Ye-qi¹, CHEN Gang^{1*}

1. Department of Pathology, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Tongji University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200433, China
2. Department of Thoracic Surgery, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Tongji University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200433, China

[Abstract] c-Met is a receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) with hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) as its natural ligand. c-Met may be activated in a ligand-dependent manner by binding HGF or in a ligand-independent manner. Diverse activation mechanisms of c-Met exist in many malignant tumors, including lung cancer. Moreover, the abnormal activation of c-Met has a close relationship with the occurrence, development and malignant biological behavior of lung cancer. This paper focused on the different activation mechanisms of c-Met in non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer and also reviewed the research progress of c-Met targeted drugs in lung cancer.

[Key words] proto-oncogene proteins c-Met; lung neoplasms; targeted therapy

[Acad J Sec Mil Med Univ, 2013, 34(5):557-560]

肺癌是发病率和死亡率最高的恶性肿瘤之一, 在我国其发病率近年来呈现上升趋势^[1]。c-Met 为酪氨酸激酶受体(receptor tyrosine kinase)的一种, 其异常活化在多种恶性肿瘤包括肺癌的发生和发展中起着重要的作用^[2]。肝细胞生长因子(hepatocyte growth factor, HGF)为 c-Met 的特异性受体, c-Met 与 HGF 结合后通过 c-Met/HGF 信号通路发挥生物学作用, 也可通过不依赖 HGF 的途径异常活化后参与肿瘤的发生发展^[3]。目前, 以 c-Met 为靶点的靶向治疗已在肺癌尤其在非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC)的治疗中显现出其重要意义^[4]。本文重点探讨 c-Met 的活化与 NSCLC 及小细胞肺癌(small cell lung cancer, SCLC)的关系及其靶向药物在肺癌中的研究进展。

1 c-Met 的结构及天然配体

c-Met, 又称 Met、HGF 受体, 其基因坐落于 7 号染色体 7q21~q31, 编码跨膜蛋白, 包含 21 个外显子和 20 个内含子。成熟的 c-Met 蛋白是由相对分子质量为 50 000 的胞外 α 链和相对分子质量为 140 000 的跨膜 β 链组成的异二聚体, 两链通过二硫键相连。c-Met 基因包含以下结构区: sema 区(semaphorin domain), JM 区(juxtamembrane domain), TK 区(tyrosine kinase domain), PSI 区(in plexins, semaphorins, integrins), TM 区(transmembrane domain)和四个重复的 IPT 区(in immunoglobulins, plexins, transcription factors)。其中 sema 区为配体结合区, JM 区具有负调节激酶的活

[收稿日期] 2013-03-17 **[接受日期]** 2013-04-19

[作者简介] 曹旭, 博士生. E-mail: xucao2012@hotmail.com

* 通信作者(Corresponding author). Tel: 021-65115006, E-mail: chestpathology@hotmail.com

性^[5],TK区包含多个酪氨酸磷酸化位点并有启动酪氨酸激酶活性的作用^[6]。HGF为c-Met的特异性配体,主要由平滑肌细胞和成纤维细胞分泌,与c-Met的sema区结合后介导c-Met的活化及下游信号通路的转导。

2 c-Met的活化与肺癌的关系

研究发现c-Met介导的活化通路在多种肿瘤包括肺癌中起着重要作用。c-Met通路在由长期吸烟暴露导致的肺损伤的修复中起着重要的作用^[7],有研究表明,c-Met持续活化的细胞如果长期处于吸烟环境下可能更易于发生恶性转化^[8]。

c-Met的活化可表现为受体过表达、基因突变、扩增、异位、重排等。这些变化可导致下游信号通路失调。c-Met下游信号通路可通过与配体HGF结合活化;与HGF结合后,c-Met活化为磷酸化的p-Met,能激活多种下游通路,如丝氨酸/苏氨酸蛋白激酶(AKT)、胞外信号激酶(ERK)、磷脂酰肌醇-3-羟基激酶(PI3K)、视网膜母细胞瘤抑制蛋白(Rb)通路等,介导肿瘤发生、侵袭和转移、血管新生、上皮-间质转化等过程^[9-11]。c-Met亦可通过不依赖HGF的途径活化,主要包括c-Met基因的突变、过表达、异位、重排、扩增及抑制调节因子的缺失等^[12-14]。目前在肺癌中,c-Met活化的机制研究较多的是c-Met的过表达、基因的扩增和突变,现加以阐述。

2.1 c-Met的过表达与肺癌

c-Met在多种实体肿瘤包括肺癌中存在普遍表达。研究表明,约72%的肺癌组织表达c-Met,其中有40%存在过表达,且其活化形式p-Met在肺癌中表达最高^[15]。Ichimura等^[16]发现c-Met表达于鳞癌、腺癌以及NSCLC细胞系中。Taso等^[17]观察到c-Met的mRNA及蛋白表达于35%的肺腺癌中,且其过表达与较差的肿瘤分化相关。Nakamura等^[18]报道高表达的c-Met与乳头状结构相关,与腺癌分化程度无明显相关性;而p-Met的活化与腺癌的分化程度和乳头状结构均有显著相关性。Rikova等^[19]指出在NSCLC中,c-Met为主要的致癌激酶。Ma等^[20]提出c-Met蛋白水平的表达在SCLC细胞系中存在异质性。Wang等^[21]指出c-Met的过表达可能在SCLC的转移中起作用。

关于c-Met对肿瘤预后的作用,是有争议的。在NSCLC中,有些研究结果支持其表达与预后呈负相关^[22-23],但也有结果不支持其可作为预后因

子^[18,24]。在SCLC中,Arriola等^[25]研究发现c-Met的表达与其预后无显著相关性,而其活化形式p-Met的过表达与临床预后相关。

2.2 c-Met基因扩增与肺癌

基因扩增也是导致c-Met激活的机制之一。在NSCLC中,c-Met扩增可能与表皮生长因子受体(EGFR)抑制剂耐药相关。在182名手术切除的NSCLC标本中(未接受表皮生长因子受体-酪氨酸抑制剂治疗),仅有12例病例的c-Met存在扩增^[26]。而另一项研究表明,在18例吉非替尼耐药的NSCLC患者中,有22%的病例发现了c-Met的扩增^[27]。Bean等^[28]的研究表明,在对吉非替尼或厄洛替尼耐药的肺腺癌患者中,有21%的病例存在c-Met基因扩增,而没有用吉非替尼和厄洛替尼的患者c-Met扩增率只有3%。这提示c-Met基因扩增是在应用EGFR-酪氨酸抑制剂获得性耐药之后才出现的基因改变。目前一些c-Met抑制剂已被证实可以增加EGFR-酪氨酸抑制剂的疗效,其联合治疗也取得了较好的效果^[29]。而在SCLC中,Arriola等^[25]检测10个SCLC细胞系中c-Met基因均无扩增。可见在SCLC中c-Met基因的扩增率很低。

2.3 c-Met基因突变与肺癌

肺癌中c-Met基因的突变状况尚存争议。在肺癌中,目前报道的非同义突变大多存在于配体结合的sema区和具有负调节活性的JM区。有报道称,sema区发生的N375S的突变易发生于鳞癌和男性吸烟患者^[30]。NSCLC中的JM区的突变(R988C, T1010I及选择性JM区缺失)可能为致瘤的体细胞突变^[26,31]。由于对SCLC的研究鲜有比较大的样本,关于SCLC中c-Met的基因突变状况的报道较少。Ma等^[20]报道过SCLC细胞系中的JM区的R988C突变及32例SCLC患者中的1例JM区的T1010I和1例sema区的E168D突变,并证明JM区的突变为功能性的体细胞突变。同样,Arriola等^[25]也在2个SCLC细胞系中检测出了JM区的R988C突变,并认为其是体细胞突变。但Krishnaswamy等^[30]指出在肺癌中的c-Met突变均为种系突变且存在种族差异性。另有报道指出c-Met突变率在SCLC细胞系中为25%,而在SCLC临床标本中仅为6.5%^[32]。这提示肺癌细胞系中的c-Met基因的突变率可能与人肺癌组织中的突变率有所差异。综上所述,c-Met在肺癌中的突变情况及其突变性质,还需要进一步深入研究。

3 c-Met 靶向药物在肺癌中的研究进展

目前,在临床进行评估的 c-Met 靶向治疗药物主要有:(1) Tivantinib (ARQ197):属 Met 激酶抑制剂,是此类中唯一进入 3 期临床试验的药物,并已在结肠癌、胃癌和乳腺癌中显示了其抗肿瘤活性^[33];目前在 NSCLC 的治疗中处于 II ~ III 期临床试验阶段。(2) MetMab (Genentech):已在 II 期临床试验中显示出其在 NSCLC 的个体化治疗中的潜力^[34],即将进入 III 期临床试验阶段。(3) Crizotinib (PF-02341066):为 c-Met 和间变淋巴瘤激酶 (ALK) 抑制剂,目前在美国已被批准应用于存在棘管动物微管相关蛋白样 4 (EML4)-ALK 融合基因的 NSCLC 患者的治疗中。(4) Cabozantinib (XL184/BMS 907351):为多靶点抑制剂,对 c-Met/血管内皮生长因子受体 2 (VEGFR2)/酪氨酸蛋白激酶受体 (RET) 均有抑制活性,处于 I b/II 期临床试验阶段,目前主要在对厄洛替尼产生获得性耐药的 NSCLC 患者中进行研究^[35]。(5) Foretinib (XL880, GSK1363089):为多靶点小分子激酶抑制剂,对 c-Met 及 VEGFR2、血小板衍生生长因子受体 β (PDGFR β)、干细胞生长因子受体 c-Kit、FMS 样酪氨酸激酶 (FLT3)、血管内皮受体 TIE2 等均有靶向抑制作用,在 NSCLC 的治疗中处于 I ~ II 期临床试验阶段。

4 小结

综上所述,c-Met 的活化在肺癌的发生发展中起着重要的作用。各类 c-Met 靶向治疗药物的出现显示出其在肺癌特别在 NSCLC 治疗中的光明前景。然而,关于 c-Met 在 SCLC 中的活化机制以及其靶向药物在 SCLC 治疗中的作用,目前的研究相对较少且尚处于临床前试验阶段,还需进一步研究和探讨。

5 利益冲突

所有作者声明本文不涉及任何利益冲突。

[参考文献]

[1] Jemal A, Bray F, Center M M, Ferlay J, Ward E, Forman D. Global cancer statistics[J]. CA Cancer J Clin, 2011, 61: 69-90.

[2] Gumustekin M, Kargi A, Bulut G, Gozukizil A, Ulukus C, Oztop I, et al. HGF/c-Met overexpressions, but not met

mutation, correlates with progression of non-small cell lung cancer[J]. Pathol Oncol Res, 2012, 18: 209-218.

- [3] Goetsch L, Caussanel V, Corvaia N. Biological significance and targeting of c-Met tyrosine kinase receptor in cancer[J]. Front Biosci, 2013, 18: 454-473.
- [4] Landi L, Minuti G, D'Incecco A, Cappuzzo F. Targeting c-MET in the battle against advanced nonsmall-cell lung cancer[J]. Curr Opin Oncol, 2013, 25: 130-136.
- [5] Gandino L, Longati P, Medico E, Prat M, Comoglio P M. Phosphorylation of serine 985 negatively regulates the hepatocyte growth factor receptor kinase[J]. J Biol Chem, 1994, 269: 1815-1820.
- [6] Rodrigues G A, Park M. Autophosphorylation modulates the kinase activity and oncogenic potential of the Met receptor tyrosine kinase[J]. Oncogene, 1994, 9: 2019-2027.
- [7] Chen J T, Lin T S, Chow K C, Huang H H, Chiou S H, Chiang S F, et al. Cigarette smoking induces overexpression of hepatocyte growth factor in type II pneumocytes and lung cancer cells[J]. Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol, 2006, 34: 264-273.
- [8] Pleasance E D, Stephens P J, O'Meara S, McBride D J, Meynert A, Jones D, et al. A small-cell lung cancer genome with complex signatures of tobacco exposure[J]. Nature, 2009, 463: 184-190.
- [9] Weidner K M, Di Cesare S, Sachs M, Brinkmann V, Behrens J, Birchmeier W. Interaction between Gab1 and the c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase is responsible for epithelial morphogenesis[J]. Nature, 1996, 384: 173-176.
- [10] Jeffers M, Rao M S, Rulong S, Reddy J K, Subbarao V, Hudson E, et al. Hepatocyte growth factor/scatter factor-Met signaling induces proliferation, migration, and morphogenesis of pancreatic oval cells[J]. Cell Growth Differ, 1996, 7: 1805-1813.
- [11] Grant D S, Kleinman H K, Goldberg I D, Bhargava M M, Nickoloff B J, Kinsella J L, et al. Scatter factor induces blood vessel formation *in vivo* [J]. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA, 1993, 90: 1937-1941.
- [12] Follenzi A, Bakovic S, Gual P, Stella M C, Longati P, Comoglio P M. Cross-talk between the proto-oncogenes Met and Ron[J]. Oncogene, 2000, 19: 3041-3049.
- [13] Jo M, Stolz D B, Esplen J E, Dorko K, Michalopoulos G K, Strom S C. Cross-talk between epidermal growth factor receptor and c-Met signal pathways in transformed cells[J]. J Biol Chem, 2000, 275: 8806-8811.
- [14] Kuniyasu H, Yasui W, Kitadai Y, Yokozaki H, Ito H, Tahara E. Frequent amplification of the c-Met gene in scirrhous type stomach cancer [J]. Biochem Biophys Res Commun, 1992, 189: 227-232.

- [15] Ma P C, Tretiakova M S, MacKinnon A C, Ramnath N, Johnson C, Dietrich S, et al. Expression and mutational analysis of MET in human solid cancers [J]. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*, 2008, 47:1025-1037.
- [16] Ichimura E, Maeshima A, Nakajima T, Nakamura T. Expression of c-Met/HGF receptor in human non-small cell lung carcinomas *in vitro* and *in vivo* and its prognostic significance [J]. *Jpn J Cancer Res*, 1996, 87:1063-1069.
- [17] Tsao M S, Liu N, Chen J R, Pappas J, Ho J, To C, et al. Differential expression of Met/hepatocyte growth factor receptor in subtypes of non-small cell lung cancers [J]. *Lung Cancer*, 1998, 20:1-16.
- [18] Nakamura Y, Niki T, Goto A, Morikawa T, Miyazawa K, Nakajima J, et al. c-Met activation in lung adenocarcinoma tissues: an immunohistochemical analysis [J]. *Cancer Sci*, 2007, 98:1006-1013.
- [19] Rikova K, Guo A, Zeng Q, Possemato A, Yu J, Haack H, et al. Global survey of phosphotyrosine signaling identifies oncogenic kinases in lung cancer [J]. *Cell*, 2007, 131:1190-1203.
- [20] Ma P C, Kijima T, Maulik G, Fox E A, Sattler M, Griffin J D, et al. c-MET mutational analysis in small cell lung cancer: novel juxtamembrane domain mutations regulating cytoskeletal functions [J]. *Cancer Res*, 2003, 63:6272-6281.
- [21] Wang Z X, Lu B B, Yang J S, Wang K M, De W. Adenovirus-mediated siRNA targeting c-Met inhibits proliferation and invasion of small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) cells [J]. *J Surg Res*, 2011, 171:127-135.
- [22] Go H, Jeon Y K, Park H J, Sung S W, Seo J W, Chung D H. High MET gene copy number leads to shorter survival in patients with non-small cell lung cancer [J]. *J Thorac Oncol*, 2010, 5:305-313.
- [23] Rossi G, Cavazza A, Marchioni A, Longo L, Migaldi M, Sartori G, et al. Role of chemotherapy and the receptor tyrosine kinases KIT, PDGFRalpha, PDGFRbeta, and Met in large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the lung [J]. *J Clin Oncol*, 2005, 23:8774-8785.
- [24] Cappuzzo F, Jänne P A, Skokan M, Finocchiaro G, Rossi E, Ligorio C, et al. MET increased gene copy number and primary resistance to gefitinib therapy in non-small-cell lung cancer patients [J]. *Ann Oncol*, 2009, 20:298-304.
- [25] Arriola E, Cañadas I, Arumí-Uría M, Dómine M, Lopez-Vilarino J A, Arpí O, et al. MET phosphorylation predicts poor outcome in small cell lung carcinoma and its inhibition blocks HGF-induced effects in MET mutant cell lines [J]. *Br J Cancer*, 2011, 105:814-823.
- [26] Sattler M, Reddy M M, Hasina R, Gangadhar T, Salgia R. The role of the c-met pathway in lung cancer and the potential for targeted therapy [J]. *Ther Adv Med Oncol*, 2011, 3:171-184.
- [27] Engelman J A, Zejnullahu K, Mitsudomi T, Song Y, Hyland C, Park J O, et al. MET amplification leads to gefitinib resistance in lung cancer by activating ERBB3 signaling [J]. *Science*, 2007, 316:1039-1043.
- [28] Bean J, Brennan C, Shih J Y, Riely G, Viale A, Wang L, et al. MET amplification occurs with or without T790M mutations in EGFR mutant lung tumors with acquired resistance to gefitinib or erlotinib [J]. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA*, 2007, 104:20932-20937.
- [29] Rosen P J, Sweeney C J, Park D J, Beaupre D M, Deng H, Leitch I M, et al. A phase I b study of AMG 102 in combination with bevacizumab or motesanib in patients with advanced solid tumors [J]. *Clin Cancer Res*, 2010, 16:2677-2687.
- [30] Krishnaswamy S, Kanteti R, Duke-Cohan J S, Loganathan S, Liu W, Ma P C, et al. Ethnic differences and functional analysis of MET mutations in lung cancer [J]. *Clin Cancer Res*, 2009, 15:5714-5723.
- [31] Kong-Beltran M, Seshagiri S, Zha J, Zhu W, Bhawe K, Mendoza N, et al. Somatic mutations lead to an oncogenic deletion of met in lung cancer [J]. *Cancer Res*, 2006, 66:283-289.
- [32] Voortman J, Harada T, Chang R P, Killian J K, Surinemi M, Smith W I, et al. Detection and therapeutic implications of c-Met mutations in small cell lung cancer and neuroendocrine tumors [J]. *Curr Pharm Des*, 2013, 19:833-840.
- [33] Munshi N, Jeay S, Li Y, Chen C R, France D S, Ashwell M A, et al. ARQ 197, a novel and selective inhibitor of the human c-Met receptor tyrosine kinase with antitumor activity [J]. *Mol Cancer Ther*, 2010, 9:1544-1553.
- [34] Spigel D R, Ervin T J, Ramlau R, Daniel D B, Goldschmidt J H, Blumenschein G R, et al. Final efficacy results from OAM4558g, a randomized phase II study evaluating MetMab or placebo in combination with erlotinib in advanced NSCLC [J]. *J Clin Oncol*, 2011, 29 (Suppl): abstr 7505.
- [35] Wakelee H A, Gettinger S N, Engelman J A, Janne P A, West H J, Subramaniam D S, et al. A phase I b/II study of XL184 (BMS 907351) with and without erlotinib (E) in patients (pts) with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) [J]. *J Clin Oncol*, 2010, 28(15S): abstr 3017.