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· 论 著 ·

利用生物信息学分析人 *ZUP1* 基因在乳腺癌中的表达及机制

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[摘要] **目的** 探讨泛素折叠修饰因子1特异性肽酶结构域蛋白(*ZUP1*)基因在乳腺癌中的表达情况及上下游机制。**方法** 使用基因表达汇编(GEO)、癌症基因组图谱(TCGA)和基因型-组织表达(GTEX)数据库,检索收集乳腺癌患者的基因信息和临床病理数据,通过 χ^2 检验分析乳腺癌组织中*ZUP1*基因表达与临床病理因素的关系,使用Kaplan-Meier生存分析探讨乳腺癌患者生存状况与*ZUP1*表达的关系。用生物信息学方法预测潜在调控*ZUP1*的miRNA和泛素连接酶,最后进行基因集富集分析。**结果** *ZUP1*基因在乳腺癌组织中的表达高于正常对照组织。*ZUP1*表达水平与乳腺癌T分期、PAM50分型、雌激素受体状态、孕激素受体状态、人表皮生长因子受体2状态和组织学类型有关(P 均 <0.01),*ZUP1*高表达组患者的总生存时间低于*ZUP1*低表达组($P=0.031$)。生物信息学预测结果显示,以*ZUP1*基因为靶点的差异表达最显著的10个miRNA为miRNA-10b-3p、miRNA-499a-5p、miRNA-181b-2-3p、miRNA-181b-3p、miRNA-4420、miRNA-548aw、miRNA-5680、miRNA-570-3p、miRNA-7156-5p和miRNA-8087,包括MARCH1、MARCH8、Mdm2、synoviolin和MIB1在内的E3泛素连接酶可能调节*ZUP1*蛋白表达。基因集富集分析结果表明*ZUP1*在乳腺癌中主要参与基础转录因子、泛素介导的蛋白质水解、卵母细胞减数分裂、RNA降解和极光激酶B等通路。**结论** *ZUP1*在乳腺癌中表达上调,与患者预后具有相关性。*ZUP1*在乳腺癌发生、发展中的上下游机制与多种miRNA和多条信号通路有关。

[关键词] 泛素折叠修饰因子1特异性肽酶结构域蛋白; 乳腺肿瘤; 存活率分析; 生物标志物; 生物信息学

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Expression and mechanisms of *ZUP1* in breast cancer: a bioinformatics analysis

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[Abstract] **Objective** To investigate the expression and upstream/downstream mechanisms of ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein (*ZUP1*) in breast cancer. **Methods** Gene information and clinicopathological data of breast cancer patients were retrieved using Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) and Genotype-Tissue Expression (GTEx) databases. The relationships between the expression of *ZUP1* and clinicopathological factors/survival status of breast cancer patients were analyzed by χ^2 test and Kaplan-Meier survival analysis, respectively. Bioinformatics methods were used for prediction of miRNAs and ubiquitin ligase that could potentially regulate *ZUP1*. Finally, the gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) was performed. **Results** The expression of *ZUP1* was higher in breast cancer tissues than in normal control tissues, and was related to T stage, PAM50 classification, statuses of estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, and histological type of breast cancer (all $P<0.01$). The overall survival time of patients with high expression of *ZUP1* was significantly lower than that of patients with low expression of *ZUP1* ($P=0.031$). Bioinformatics predicted that the top 10 miRNAs targeting *ZUP1* with the highest differential expression were miRNA-10b-3p, miRNA-499a-5p, miRNA-181b-2-3p, miRNA-181b-3p, miRNA-4420, miRNA-548aw, miRNA-5680, miRNA-570-3p, miRNA-7156-5p and miRNA-8087. E3 ubiquitin ligase including MARCH1, MARCH8, Mdm2, synoviolin and MIB1 may regulate the expression of *ZUP1*. The GSEA results indicated that *ZUP1* was mainly involved in basic transcription factor, ubiquitin mediated proteolysis, oocyte meiosis, RNA degradation and Aurora B pathway. **Conclusion** The expression of *ZUP1* is up-regulated in breast cancer, and is related to prognosis. The upstream and downstream mechanisms of *ZUP1* in the development and progression of breast cancer are related to a variety of miRNAs and multiple signaling pathways.

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乳腺癌是女性最常见的恶性肿瘤之一,全球肿瘤估计数据显示,2018年约有63万人死于乳腺癌^[1]。虽然近年来乳腺癌患者的生存率有所提高,但一旦出现复发或转移,生存时间将显著缩短^[2]。因此,寻找乳腺癌发展过程中的新型标志物对改善乳腺癌的预后至关重要。此外,乳腺癌可根据雌激素受体(estrogen receptor, ER)、孕激素受体(progestogen receptor, PR)和人表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER-2)的表达水平和扩增状态分为不同亚型,表达ER、PR和HER-2的患者预后好,治疗选择也更广泛,包括干预激素产生的内分泌治疗药物及抑制HER-2的靶向药物等^[3-5];而ER、PR和HER-2均为阴性的三阴性乳腺癌(triple negative breast cancer, TNBC)恶性程度高,常发生于年轻女性,并且缺乏有效的靶向治疗药物^[6-8]。TNBC对一些最有效的乳腺癌疗法不敏感,迫切需要寻找新的治疗靶点。

泛素化修饰属于蛋白质的翻译后修饰,在真核细胞的生物学过程中广泛存在。泛素系统已成为抗肿瘤药物研发的重要靶点,去泛素化酶抑制剂目前已进入临床试验阶段^[9-10]。然而,去泛素化酶在肿瘤发生、发展过程中的信号调节过程仍不十分明确。泛素折叠修饰因子1特异性肽酶结构域蛋白(ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein, ZUP1)是新近鉴定出来的第7种去泛素化酶,在复制叉停滞时期发挥重要作用。ZUP1不但能与复制体的重要组成部分相互识别,还可与复制叉上的DNA修复因子相互作用^[11]。已有研究表明,人类肿瘤细胞中ZUP1的缺失将导致细胞内源性DNA损伤增加,这种内源性DNA损伤起源于细胞的S期^[12]。总的来说,ZUP1在细胞应激反应相关的DNA复制过程中发挥着不可或缺的作用。然而,由于ZUP1是一种新型泛素化相关蛋白,其在肿瘤中的表达水平以及发挥的具体机制亟待探索。

本研究通过癌症基因组图谱(Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)等数据库分析ZUP1在乳腺癌中的表达水平及其与乳腺癌的临床病理参数及预后的关系,应用miRNA和泛素酶靶基因预测工具对潜在的ZUP1相关上游miRNA和泛素酶进行预测,通过基因集富集分析(gene set enrichment analysis,

GSEA)研究ZUP1参与的下游信号通路,探讨ZUP1在乳腺癌发生、发展中的潜在分子机制。

1 资料和方法

1.1 微阵列数据集 从基因表达汇编(Gene Expression Omnibus, GEO; <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>)数据库下载乳腺癌相关阵列数据(GSE33692_GPL5175, GSE70947_GPL13607)。通过TCGA(<https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/>)和基因型-组织表达(Genotype-Tissue Expression, GTEx; <https://gtexportal.org/>)数据库收集乳腺癌患者和正常对照组的临床资料和基因表达谱,检索并下载了1104例乳腺癌患者和403例非癌症患者的数据集,以及TCGA中乳腺癌患者的临床病理数据(包括性别、年龄、种族、PAM50分型、病理分期、TNM分期、总生存期等)。

1.2 调控ZUP1的miRNA和泛素连接酶预测及下游基因富集分析 采用在线工具TargetScan(http://www.targetscan.org/vert_72/)^[13]、miRDB(<http://www.mirdb.org/>)^[14]、miRTarBase(<http://mirtarbase.mbc.nctu.edu.tw/php/index.php>)^[15]筛选以ZUP1为靶点的差异表达最大的前10个miRNA。使用UbiProber数据库(<http://bioinfo.ncu.edu.cn/UbiProber.aspx>)进行蛋白质泛素化预测^[16]。采用GSEA程序(<http://www.broadinstitute.org/gsea/index.jsp>)分析TCGA乳腺癌队列的RNA序列数据^[17],将标准化富集评分(normalized enrichment score, NES)绝对值>1且标称 $P<0.05$ 作为筛选阈值。

1.3 统计学处理 使用R语言edgeR包分析ZUP1基因在乳腺癌患者和正常对照组的表达差异。根据ZUP1基因表达水平中位数将样本分为高表达组和低表达组,采用 χ^2 检验分析ZUP1基因表达水平与临床病理参数的关系。采用Kaplan-Meier法计算生存率,用log-rank检验比较ZUP1高表达组和低表达组生存率的差异^[18]。

2 结果

2.1 ZUP1在乳腺癌组织中表达上调 由图1A可见,在GSE33692_GPL5175数据集中,乳腺癌患者的ZUP1基因表达高于正常对照组[log₂FC=1.412, $P<0.01$; 其中FC为差异表达倍数(fold

change)]]; 同样, 在 GSE70947_GPL13607 数据集中, 乳腺癌患者的 *ZUP1* 基因表达水平也高于正常对照组 ($\log_2FC=0.168$, $P<0.01$)。由图 1B 可见, 对 TCGA 数据库及 GTEx 数据库中的 1 104 例

乳腺癌组织和 403 例正常组织进行比较, *ZUP1* 基因在乳腺癌患者癌组织中的表达也高于正常组织 ($\log_2FC=2.228$, $P<0.01$)。

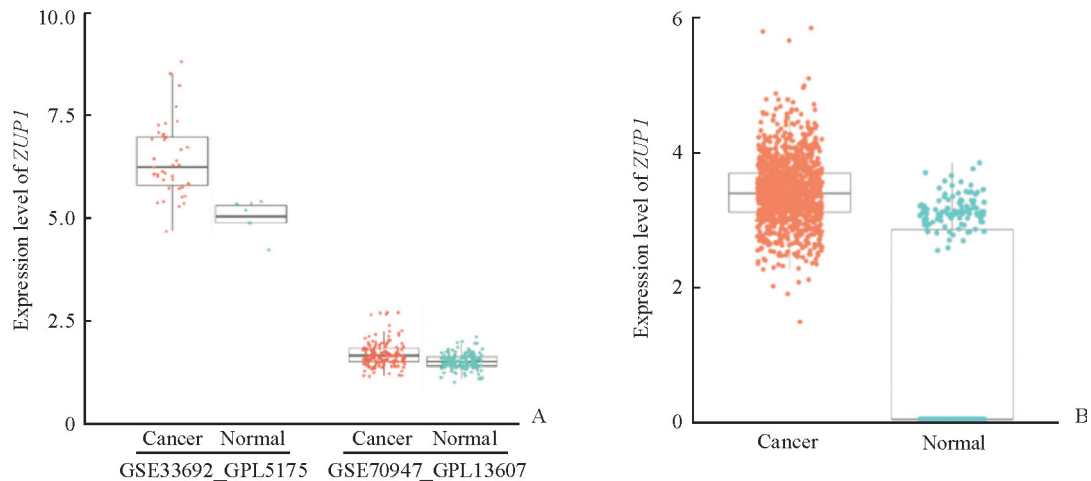


图 1 乳腺癌数据集中 *ZUP1* 基因的表达水平

Fig 1 Expression level of *ZUP1* in breast cancer dataset

A: The expression level of *ZUP1* in breast cancer patients in the GSE33692_GPL5175 (48 tumor tissues and 8 normal tissues; $\log_2FC=1.412$, $P<0.01$) and GSE70947_GPL13607 (148 pairs of tumor tissues and normal tissues; $\log_2FC=0.168$, $P<0.01$) dataset; B: Expression level of *ZUP1* in breast cancer and normal tissues in TCGA and GTEx databases (1 104 tumor tissues and 403 normal tissues; $\log_2FC=2.228$, $P<0.01$). *ZUP1*: Ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein; TCGA: Cancer Genome Atlas; GTEx: Genotype-Tissue Expression; FC: Fold change

2.2 *ZUP1* 基因表达水平与乳腺癌临床病理因素和预后的关系 收集了 1 090 例乳腺癌患者 *ZUP1* 的临床病理资料, 根据 *ZUP1* 表达水平中位值分为高表达组和低表达组各 545 例。Kaplan-Meier 生存分析结果 (图 2) 显示, *ZUP1* 高表达患者比 *ZUP1* 低表达患者预后更差 ($HR=1.4$, $P=0.031$)。由表 1 可见, *ZUP1* 基因的表达水平与乳腺癌病理 T 分期、PAM50 分型、ER 状态、PR 状态、HER-2 状态和组织学类型有关 (P 均 <0.01)。

2.3 *ZUP1* 上游 miRNA 和泛素连接酶预测结果 生物信息学预测结果显示, 以 *ZUP1* 基因为靶点的差异表达最大的前 10 个 miRNA 为 miRNA-10b-3p、miRNA-499a-5p、miRNA-181b-2-3p、miRNA-181b-3p、miRNA-4420、miRNA-548aw、miRNA-5680、miRNA-570-3p、miRNA-7156-5p 和 miRNA-8087; 可能调节 *ZUP1* 蛋白表达的泛素连接酶如表 2 所示, 其中评分居前 5 位的 E3 泛素连接酶包括膜相关 RING-CH 型蛋白 (membrane-associated RING-CH, MARCH1)、MARCH8、鼠双微染色体 2 (mouse double minute 2, Mdm2)、滑膜蛋白 (synoviolin)

和 E3 泛素蛋白连接酶 MIB1 (mindbomb E3 ubiquitin protein ligase 1, MIB1)。

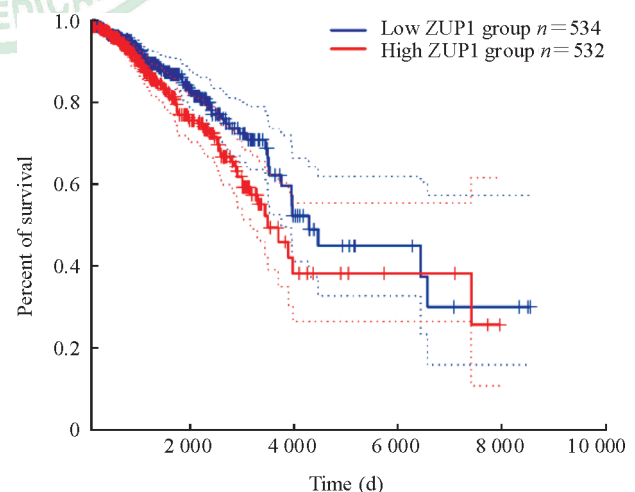


图 2 *ZUP1* 高表达组与低表达组乳腺癌患者的 Kaplan-Meier 生存分析

Fig 2 Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of breast cancer patients with high and low expression of *ZUP1*

The dotted line represents the 95% confidence interval. *ZUP1*: Ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein

表 1 ZUP1 的表达水平与乳腺癌患者临床病理因素的关系

Tab 1 Relationship between the expression of ZUP1 and clinicopathological factors of breast cancer patients									
N=545, n									
Characteristic	High expression	Low expression	χ^2 value	P value	Characteristic	High expression	Low expression	χ^2 value	P value
Age (year)			1.907	0.385	Pathology N stage			3.837	0.429
<60	285	280			N0	253	261		
≥60	250	260			N1	189	171		
Unknown	10	5			N2	61	59		
Gender			0.084	0.772	N3	31	45		
Female	538	540			Unknown	11	9		
Male	7	5			Pathology T stage			23.491	<0.001
Race			4.031	0.258	T1	129	150		
Asian	35	26			T2	348	283		
African American	85	97			T3	46	91		
Unknown	54	41			T4	21	19		
Caucasian	371	381			Unknown	1	2		
ER status			19.108	<0.001	Pathology M stage			4.868	0.088
Negative	90	45			M0	467	440		
Positive	38	30			M1	10	12		
Unknown	417	470			Unknown	68	93		
PR status			20.254	<0.001	Pathologic stage			7.694	0.103
Negative	100	50			I	84	97		
Positive	29	25			II	323	297		
Unknown	416	470			III	114	134		
HER-2 status			18.433	<0.001	IV	9	11		
Negative	111	65			Unknown	15	6		
Positive	18	9			PAM50 classification			60.918	<0.001
Unknown	416	471			Basal	100	47		
Histological type			43.353	<0.001	HER-2	47	20		
Infiltrating ductal carcinoma	432	347			LumA	193	232		
Infiltrating lobular carcinoma	64	139			LumB	109	75		
Medullary carcinoma	5	1			Unknown	96	171		
Metaplastic carcinoma	2	7							
Mixed histology	13	16							
Mucinous carcinoma	8	9							
Others	20	25							
Unknown	1	1							

ZUP1: Ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein; ER: Estrogen receptor; PR: Progesterone receptor; HER-2: Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; PAM50: Prediction analysis of microarray 50

2.4 ZUP1 下游基因集富集分析 共富集了 50 个功能基因集, 明显富集上调前 20 个通路下调的前 14 个通路分别见表 3、表 4, 其中 5 条具有代表性的途径是基础转录因子、泛素介导的蛋白质水解、卵母细胞减数分裂、RNA 降解和极光激酶 B 等通路。

表 2 ZUP1 蛋白相关泛素连接酶

Tab 2 ZUP1 protein-related ubiquitin ligase

E3_gene	UniProt	Score	E3_type	Description
1-Mar	Q96AP4	0.719	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MARCH1
8-Mar	Q96AP4	0.719	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MARCH8
MDM2	Q96AP4	0.716	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase Mdm2
SYVN1	Q96AP4	0.705	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase synoviolin
MIB1	Q96AP4	0.633	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MIB1
MIB2	Q96AP4	0.623	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MIB2
MYLIP	Q96AP4	0.623	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MYLIP
SMURF1	Q96AP4	0.619	HECT	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase SMURF1
STUB1	Q96AP4	0.613	UBOX	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase CHIP
9-Mar	Q96AP4	0.610	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase MARCH9
TRIM11	Q96AP4	0.610	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TRIM11
TTC3	Q96AP4	0.610	RING	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase TTC3
FZR1	Q96AP4	0.604	CDC20	Fizzy-related protein homolog
TRAF2	Q96AP4	0.604	RING	TNF receptor-associated factor 2
UBE3C	Q96AP4	0.604	SINGLE_OTHER	Ubiquitin-protein ligase E3C
VHL	Q96AP4	0.604	SOCS_VHL_BC-box	Von Hippel-Lindau disease tumor suppressor
FBXO3	Q96AP4	0.594	F-box	F-box only protein 3
ITCH	Q96AP4	0.594	HECT	E3 ubiquitin-protein ligase Itchy homolog
TRIM25	Q96AP4	0.594	RING	E3 ubiquitin/ISG15 ligase TRIM25

ZUP1: Ubiquitin fold modifier 1-specific peptidase domain protein

表 3 GSEA 分析结果中明显富集上调的前 20 个通路

Tab 3 The first 20 pathways significantly enriched and up-regulated in GSEA analysis

Name	Enrichment score	Normalized enrichment score	Nominal <i>P</i> value	FDR <i>q</i> value
Reactome_cell_cycle_checkpoints	0.658 684	2.329 580	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_HIV_life_cycle	0.607 108	2.300 676	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_M_phase	0.593 909	2.285 840	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_mitotic_metaphase_and_anaphase	0.656 994	2.278 642	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_HIV_infection	0.594 386	2.265 422	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_resolution_of_sister_chromatid_cohesion	0.699 265	2.258 036	<0.001	<0.001
Reactome_mitotic_spindle_checkpoint	0.701 178	2.233 685	<0.001	<0.001
KEGG_basal_transcription_factors	0.653 991	2.220 404	<0.001	0.001
Reactome_rho_GTPases_activate_formins	0.633 109	2.207 096	<0.001	0.001
KEGG_ubiquitin_mediated_proteolysis	0.547 020	2.206 225	<0.001	0.001
Reactome_mitotic_prometaphase	0.631 664	2.202 967	<0.001	0.001
Reactome_transcription_of_the_HIV_genome	0.599 185	2.199 146	<0.001	0.001
KEGG_oocyte_meiosis	0.536 245	2.181 713	<0.001	0.003
Reactome_S_phase	0.643 495	2.181 549	<0.001	0.002
Reactome_transcriptional_regulation_by_TP53	0.491 623	2.181 517	<0.001	0.002
Reactome_cellular_response_to_heat_stress	0.588 985	2.176 212	<0.001	0.002
Reactome_sumoylation	0.531 401	2.163 099	<0.001	0.003
Reactome_host_interactions_with_influenza_factors	0.703 718	2.162 889	<0.001	0.003
Reactome_DNA_damage_bypass	0.650 425	2.157 849	<0.001	0.003
Reactome_Golgi_to_ER_retrograde_transport	0.556 759	2.152 229	<0.001	0.003

GSEA: Gene set enrichment analysis; FDR: False discovery rate

表 4 GSEA 分析结果中明显富集下调的前 14 个通路

Tab 4 The first 14 pathways significantly enriched and down-regulated in GSEA analysis

Name	Enrichment score	Normalized enrichment score	Nominal <i>P</i> value	FDR <i>q</i> value
KEGG_arachidonic_acid_metabolism	−0.568 518	−2.042 789	<0.001	0.147 648
Reactome_biosynthesis_of_specialized_proresolving_mediators_SPMs	−0.622 474	−1.839 720	0.010	0.877 243
Reactome_eicosanoid_ligand_binding_receptors	−0.663 944	−1.775 236	<0.001	1.000 000
Reactome_O_glycosylation_of_TSR_domain_containing_proteins	−0.565 654	−1.763 165	0.010	0.908 052
Reactome_a_tetrasaccharide_linker_sequence_is_required_for_GAG_synthesis	−0.568 807	−1.728 346	0.012	0.975 835
Reactome_aflatoxin_activation_and_detoxification	−0.603 455	−1.725 119	0.012	0.834 047
Reactome_synthesis_of_leukotrienes_LT_and_eoxins_EX	−0.576 275	−1.656 746	0.015	1.000 000
Reactome_arachidonic_acid_metabolism	−0.452 038	−1.648 919	0.008	1.000 000
Reactome_molecules_associated_with_elastic_fibres	−0.545 769	−1.639 564	0.039	1.000 000
Biocarta_eicosanoid_pathway	−0.542 954	−1.628 334	0.019	1.000 000
Reactome_FGFR2_ligand_binding_and_activation	−0.558 260	−1.624 650	0.016	0.967 272
KEGG_linoleic_acid_metabolism	−0.509 819	−1.567 453	0.042	1.000 000
Reactome_HS_GAG_Degradation	−0.488 540	−1.505 407	0.048	1.000 000
KEGG_ribosome	−0.320 688	−1.365 906	0.035	1.000 000

GSEA: Gene set enrichment analysis; FDR: False discovery rate

3 讨 论

泛素-蛋白酶体系统 (ubiquitin-proteasome system, UPS) 和溶酶体途径是真核细胞中蛋白降解的 2 条主要途径, 分别负责降解短寿命蛋白和长寿命蛋白^[19]。越来越多的证据表明, 这 2 种降解途径之间并不完全独立, 当 USP 活性受损时, 溶酶体途径弥补了短寿命泛素化蛋白的降解^[20]。既往研究表明, 癌细胞会上调蛋白降解途径的相关蛋白, 包括去泛素化酶等^[21]。去泛素化酶是 UPS 降解的关键成分, 负责在蛋白酶体降解之前去除泛素单体和泛素链。去泛素化酶家族成员已被证明在肿瘤微环境中存在差异表达和异常激活, 且与肿瘤患者预后和治疗效果相关^[22-23]。泛素连接酶和去泛素化酶也参与调控乳腺癌肿瘤细胞对化疗药物的敏感性, 如 E3 连接酶 F 框唯一蛋白 15 (F-box only protein 15, FBXO15) 和 Casitas B 谱系淋巴瘤原癌基因 -b (Casitas B lymphoma-b, CBL-B) 通过介导 P-糖蛋白 (P-glycoprotein, P-GP) 的泛素化降解促进乳腺癌肿瘤细胞对药物的敏感性^[24-25], 去泛素化酶含卵巢肿瘤蛋白结构域的泛素乙酰结合蛋白 1 (ovarian tumor domain-containing ubiquitin aldehyde-binding protein 1, OTUB1) 通过维持转录因子叉头框蛋白 M1 (forkhead box M1, FOXM1) 的稳定促进乳腺癌化疗耐药^[26]。为了发掘具有潜

在作用的新型去泛素化酶, 2018 年 2 项研究同期报道了一类与其他已知的去泛素化酶家族没有同源性的新型半胱氨酸蛋白酶去泛素化酶, 即 ZUP1^[27-28]。最初, ZUP1 被认为是泛素折叠修饰因子 1 (ubiquitin fold modifier 1, UFM1) 潜在的非活性蛋白酶^[27]。尽管它的肽酶结构域与已知的 UFM1 蛋白酶有同源性, 但是 ZUP1 缺乏切割 UFM1 所需的关键催化氨基酸残基。在结构上, ZUP1 包含 1 个泛素结合域, 在泛素介导的信号转导中具有重要作用^[28]。为了证明 ZUP1 具有固有的去泛素化酶活性, Hewings 等^[27]发现 ZUP1 容易被泛素特异性活性探针所修饰, 该探针能与去泛素化酶中的活性位点半胱氨酸残基发生不可逆反应; 此外, 他们还发现 ZUP1 对 K63 连接的多泛素链具有高度选择性。这一发现十分新颖, 因为绝大多数去泛素化酶对于泛素链都是非选择性的, 会切断大多数类型的多泛素连接结构。

目前仍鲜有研究提及 ZUP1 在肿瘤中的表达水平以及参与的相关分子机制。本研究通过 TCGA、GEO 和 GTEx 数据库检索收集乳腺癌患者的基因信息和临床病理数据, 证明 ZUP1 在乳腺癌组织中表达上调, 其表达水平与乳腺癌 T 分期、PAM50 分型、ER 状态、PR 状态、HER-2 状态和组织学类型有关, 且高 ZUP1 水平的患者比低 ZUP1 水平的患者预后更差。生物信息学分析进一步表明,

ZUP1 与泛素介导的蛋白质水解、卵母细胞减数分裂、RNA 降解和极光激酶 B 等通路有关。本研究预测了与 ZUP1 相关的多种 E3 泛素化蛋白连接酶,如 MARCH1、MARCH8、Mdm2、synoviolin 和 MIB1;还预测了潜在调控 ZUP1 表达的 miRNA,如 miRNA-10b-3p、miRNA-499a-5p、miRNA-181b-2-3p、miRNA-181b-3p、miRNA-4420、miRNA-548aw、miRNA-5680、miRNA-570-3p、miRNA-7156-5p 和 miRNA-8087。研究发现,用姜黄素处理乳腺癌细胞后,miRNA-181b-2-3p 水平变化最为显著;miRNA-181b-2-3p 还可增强 TNBC 细胞 MDA-MB-231 细胞对多柔比星的敏感性,这是由于姜黄素通过激活活化 T 细胞核因子 1 (nuclear factor of activated T cells 1, NFAT1) 的转录活性促进 miRNA-181b-2-3p 的表达^[29]。因此,miRNA-181b-2-3p 可能预测化疗反应,并可能成为肿瘤细胞对化疗药物致敏的治疗靶点。但是 miRNA-181b-2-3p 是否通过 ZUP1 发挥作用有待进一步探索。另有研究发现 miRNA-570-3p 在 TNBC 组织中的表达水平显著低于癌旁的正常组织,miRNA-570-3p 能够靶向 CD274 抑制 TNBC 细胞的增殖、侵袭、迁移,诱导细胞凋亡,可能与抑制 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路有关^[30]。尽管本研究预测了 miRNA-181b-2-3p 和 miRNA-570-3p 与 ZUP1 的表达有关,但其是否通过 ZUP1 发挥作用仍有待进一步探索。

ZUP1 通过限制 DNA 损伤部位 K63 连接的多聚体链的形成,在调节基因组稳定通路中起着重要作用。在 ZUP1 的研究中仍然存在几个悬而未决的问题,例如 ZUP1 的底物是什么?为什么 ZUP1 更倾向于催化 K63 连接的泛素链?ZUP1 缺失与特定 DNA 损伤反应途径有协同作用吗?ZUP1 对 K63 连接的多聚体具有很高的选择性,因此它可能在复制应激后调节 K63 泛素化;或者,ZUP1 可通过泛素结合锌指 (ubiquitin-binding zinc finger, UBZ) 结构域招募到在损伤部位形成的 K6、K48 或 K63 链,随后将 K63 链从基底上剥离。作为 ZUP1 活性的关键部位,UBZ 结构域可能通过与多聚泛素结合介导底物募集,并作为 S10 位点使 K63 连锁链断裂。这些推测仍需进一步研究证实。

本研究发现 ZUP1 在乳腺癌中表达上调,并且与患者预后具有相关性,可能成为乳腺癌患者的一种新的预后生物标志物。ZUP1 在乳腺癌发生、发展中的上下游机制可能与多种 miRNA 和多条信号

通路有关,今后需要对大样本进行更详细的研究,以充分阐明 ZUP1 在乳腺癌中的作用。

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