DOI:10.16781/j.0258-879x.2021.11.1231

基于肿瘤干性相关基因的肾癌预后模型的构建

江爱民^{1△}, 王安邦^{2△}, 顾 迪¹, 董 凯¹, 富智斌¹, 吴震杰¹, 刘 冰³, 王林辉^{1*}
1.海军军医大学(第二军医大学)长海医院泌尿外科,上海 200433
2.海军军医大学(第二军医大学)长征医院泌尿外科,上海 200003
3.海军军医大学(第二军医大学)东方肝胆外科医院泌尿外科,上海 201805

[关键词] 肾肿瘤; 肿瘤干细胞; 数据库; 趋化因子 CX3CL1; 预后

[中图分类号] R 737.11 [文献标志码] A [文章编号] 0258-879X(2021)11-1231-07

Construction of a renal cancer prognostic model based on tumor stemness-related genes

JIANG Ai-min¹, WANG An-bang², GU Di¹, DONG Kai¹, FU Zhi-bin¹, WU Zhen-jie¹, LIU Bing³, WANG Lin-hui^{1*} 1. Department of Urology, Changhai Hospital, Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University), Shanghai 200433, China 2. Department of Urology, Changzheng Hospital, Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University), Shanghai 20003, China

3. Department of Urology, Eastern Hepatobiliary Surgery Hospital, Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University), Shanghai 201805, China

[Abstract] Objective To mine stemness-related biomarkers of renal cancer based on the renal cancer stem cell microarray data from Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database, and to construct a new model for the prognosis of renal cancer with the clinical and transcriptome data of renal cancer in the Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) database. Methods The microarray data were downloaded from the GSE48550 dataset of GEO database to screen the differentially expressed genes between renal cancer stem cells and normal renal tubular epithelium cells. Gene function and pathway were identified by Gene Ontology (GO) and Gene Set Enrichment Analysis (GSEA). The hub genes of renal cancer stem cells were identified by protein-protein interaction (PPI) network construction. Age, clinical stage, prognosis and expression levels of related genes of patients with renal cancer were downloaded from the TCGA database. The independent risk factors of prognosis of renal cancer were screened by univariate and multivariate Cox regression analyses, and a nomogram model for predicting the overall survival of patients with renal cancer was constructed. **Results** By analyzing the microarray data of renal cancer stem

著

・论

[[]收稿日期] 2020-12-21 [接受日期] 2021-04-13

[[]基金项目] 国家自然科学基金(8172074),上海市科技创新行动计划(11951500). Supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (8172074) and Science and Technology Innovation Action Plan of Shanghai (11951500).

[[]作者简介] 江爱民,硕士生. E-mail: czjiangaimin@smmu.edu.cn;王安邦,硕士,主治医师. E-mail: wanganbangcz@163.com

[△]共同第一作者(Co-first authors).

^{*}通信作者(Corresponding author). Tel: 021-81886813, E-mail: wanglinhui@smmu.edu.cn

cells and normal renal tubular epithelial cells, we found that the differentially expressed genes were enriched in the biological processes such as cell chemotaxis, extracellular matrix formation and receptor ligand activity; and inflammatory response, P53 and tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α)/nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) pathways were significantly activated in renal cancer stem cells. Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analyses showed that age and clinical stage were independent risk factors for the prognosis of renal cancer, and C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1 (CX3CL1) in chemokine family was an independent protective factor for the prognosis of renal cancer. The risk model based on age, clinical stage, and CX3CL1 expression level could accurately predict the overall survival rate of patients with renal cancer, with a C-index of 0.803. **Conclusion** Stemness-related genes of renal cancer is screened through the joint analysis of GEO and TCGA. A new model combining patient age, clinical stage and CX3CL1 expression level is constructed to evaluate the prognosis of renal cancer patients.

[Key words] kidney neoplasms; neoplastic stem cells; database; chemokine CX3CL1; prognosis

[Acad J Sec Mil Med Univ, 2021, 42(11): 1231-1237]

肾癌是泌尿系统常见的恶性肿瘤之一, 在成年 人中其发病率为2%~3%,近10年来肾癌发病率 和死亡率不断升高^[1]。大多数肾癌发病隐匿,常因 健康体检发现肾脏肿块经复查后确诊,约17%的肾 癌患者在确诊时即发生转移^[2]。肾癌对放射和化学 治疗不敏感,治疗手段主要为手术和药物治疗,患 者一旦出现肿瘤复发或耐药等情况,预后较差^[3]。 肿瘤干细胞指肿瘤团块中具有自我更新能力、可通 过不对称分裂产生异质性肿瘤细胞亚群的一类特殊 肿瘤细胞,多处于静息状态,参与肿瘤的发生、转 移及耐药^[4]。CD133、CD24、铜转运蛋白2(copper transport protein 2, CTR2)是肾癌干细胞的表面标 志物, CD133⁺/CD24⁺/CTR2⁺肾癌干细胞参与了肾 癌的多种生物学活动^[5]。随着测序技术的发展及单 细胞测序的兴起,肿瘤研究逐步从组织水平转向细 胞及分子水平,基于细胞水平的预后模型能更精准 地指导临床诊疗^[6]。本研究通过生物信息学方法 筛选肾癌干细胞相关基因,对干性基因进行功能注 释、通路分析及蛋白质-蛋白质相互作用 (proteinprotein interaction, PPI)网络构建,发现趋化因子 蛋白家族为蛋白网络的核心模块,同时进行单因素 及多因素分析,确定C-X3-C基序趋化因子配体1 (C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1, CX3CL1) 可 作为肾癌患者预后的独立保护因素,最后基于该分 子构建肾癌预后模型。

1 资料和方法

1.1 数据获取与预处理 芯片数据来源于美国 Illumina公司的HumanHT-12 V4.0 平台。肾透明细 胞癌患者的临床信息及转录组数据均从癌症基因 组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)数据 库下载,TCGA中肾癌转录组数据均为标准数值 矩阵,在排除预后信息缺失的患者后得到537例肾 癌患者的基因表达矩阵及临床信息^[7]。从基因表 达汇编(Gene Expression Omnibus,GEO)数据库 GSE48550数据集下载肾癌芯片数据(包含12个 正常肾小管上皮细胞样本和6个CD133⁺/CD24⁺/ CTR2⁺的肾癌干细胞样本,https://www.ncbi.nlm. nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE48550),使用 R 3.6.3软件 limma包对数据进行背景校正,数据经 过以2为底的对数转化后用于后续分析。

1.2 差异表达基因分析 使用 R 3.6.3 软件 limma 包分析肾癌干细胞和肾小管上皮细胞之间的差异表 达基因。以校正P < 0.05 [P值采用错误发现率(false discovery rate, FDR)进行校正]且 $|log_2FC| > 0.8 [FC 为差异倍数(fold change)]为差异表达基因的筛 选标准。$

 基因功能和通路富集分析 使用 R 3.6.3 软件 clusterProfiler 包对差异基因进行基因本体 (Gene Ontology, GO) 富集分析及基因集富集分析 (Gene Set Enrichment Analysis, GSEA)^[8]。

1.4 PPI网络构建 利用在线数据库STRING (*http://string-db.org/*)分析差异表达基因的PPI网络,设置最低关联度为0.8,获取关联度较高的差 异表达基因。将结果导入Cytoscape软件,利用其 中的cytoHubba插件确定核心蛋白网络^[9]。

1.5 预后模型构建 以TCGA数据库下载的肾癌 患者年龄、临床分期及相关基因的表达水平为自 变量,总生存情况为因变量,通过单因素及多因素 Cox回归分析筛选肾癌预后的独立危险因素,并使 用 R 3.6.3 软件 rms 包绘制列线图。使用 Bootstrap 法对列线图的预测效能进行检验。 1.6 基因差异表达验证及临床预后关联分析 利用 人类蛋白质图谱(Human Protein Atlas, HPA)数 据库验证 CX3CL1 在癌组织及癌旁组织中的表达 差异。使用 TCGA 数据库中的预后信息和基因表 达情况,利用 R 3.6.3 软件 survival 包和 survminer 包对 CX3CL1 高表达和低表达(以中位数为界) 的患者进行生存分析。

1.7 统计学处理 采用 SPSS 22.0 软件进行统计学 分析。通过 R 3.6.3 软件 rms 包计算 C 指数, 评价 模型对肾癌患者总体生存率的区分度。生存分析采 用 Kaplan-Meier 法和 log-rank 检验。检验水准(α) 为 0.05。

2 结 果

2.1 肾癌千细胞差异表达基因分析结果 通过阈值(校正P<0.05 且 |log₂FC|>0.8)共筛选出 125 个差异表达基因,包括 102 个上调基因和 23 个下 调基因,绘制热图及火山图,并对差异最显著的前 6 个基因进行了标注(图 1)。



A: Heatmap of differentially expressed genes; B: Volcano map of differentially expressed genes (top 6 differentially expressed genes are marked). GEO: Gene Expression Omnibus; CSC: Cancer stem cell; FPKM: Reads per kilobase of exon model per million mapped reads; FC: Fold change; CDC25B: Cell division cycle 25B; ID2: Inhibitors of DNA binding/differentiation 2; TRMT5: Transfer RNA methyltransferase 5; SLC25A24: Solute carrier family 25 member 24; EDN1: Endothelin 1; CXCL8: C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 8.

2.2 肾癌干细胞差异表达基因功能富集分析 GO富 集分析结果(图 2A)显示,生物过程(biological process, BP)、细胞组分(cellular component, CC) 及分子功能(molecular function, MF)分别富集到 2 959、244 和 341 个条目,集中在细胞趋化、细胞 外基质形成及受体配体活性等模块。GSEA 分析结 果(图 2B)显示,炎症反应通路、肿瘤蛋白 P53 通 路及 TNF-α/NF-κB 通路在肾癌干细胞中显著激活。

2.3 PPI网络分析 将筛选后蛋白质导入 Cytoscape软件中进行重注释,得到的PPI网络图 如图 3A 所示。使用 cytoHubba 插件对 PPI 网络进 行子网络提取,得到的核心模型如图 3B 所示,可见趋化因子家族蛋白 C-X-C 基序趋化因子配体(C-X-C motif chemokine ligand, CXCL)2、CX3CL1、CXCL8、C-C 基序趋化因子配体(C-C motif chemokine ligand, CCL)20、CXCL6、CXCL1 在肾癌干细胞中富集。

2.4 肾癌预后的列线图模型 以肾癌患者年龄、临床分期及趋化因子家族蛋白为自变量,以患者生存情况为因变量进行单因素及多因素 Cox 回归分析,发现年龄及临床分期为肾癌预后的独立危险因素,趋化因子家族蛋白中的 CX3CL1 是肾癌预后

的独立保护因素(表1)。基于上述独立危险及保 护因素,通过R 3.6.3 软件rms包构建预测肾癌3、 5及10年总体生存率的列线图(图4),并使用 Bootstrap 法对列线图的预测效能进行检验,结果提示列线图对肾癌患者总体生存率的评估效能较好, C指数为 0.803。



图 2 肾癌干细胞差异表达基因的 GO 富集分析 (A) 及 GSEA (B) 结果

Fig 2 GO enrichment analysis (A) and GSEA (B) of differentially expressed genes of renal cancer stem cells GO: Gene Ontology; GSEA: Gene Set Enrichment Analysis; $TNF-\alpha$: Tumor necrosis factor α ; $NF-\kappa B$: Nuclear factor κB .



Fig 3 Protein-protein interaction network diagram (A) and hub protein module (B)

CXCL: C-X-C motif chemokine ligand; CX3CL1: C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1; CCL20: C-C motif chemokine ligand 20.

表 1	肾癌患者预后影响因素	的单因素和	多因素 Cox	x 回归分析
	the first in the second	da l		

Tab 1	Univariate and multivariate	Cox regression	n analyses of i	nfluencing factors	of prognosis of	patients with renal cancer
-------	-----------------------------	----------------	-----------------	--------------------	-----------------	----------------------------

Variable	Univariate a	analysis	Multivariate analysis				
variable	HR (95% CI)	<i>P</i> value	HR (95% CI)	P value			
Age	1.02 (1.01, 1.03)	< 0.01	1.04 (1.02, 1.05)	< 0.01			
Clinical stage	1.91 (1.74, 2.21)	< 0.01	1.82 (1.58, 2.10)	< 0.01			
CXCL2	1.24 (1.13, 1.32)	< 0.01	1.12 (0.98, 1.27)	0.09			
CX3CL1	0.72 (0.64, 0.81)	< 0.01	0.75 (0.65, 0.86)	< 0.01			
CXCL8	1.26 (1.16, 1.35)	< 0.01	1.01 (0.90, 1.13)	0.85			
CCL20	1.04 (0.96, 1.15)	0.54	S.				
CXCL6	1.11 (1.02, 1.15)	< 0.01	1.02 (0.96, 1.10)	0.39			
CXCL1	1.22 (1.15, 1.31)	< 0.01	1.02 (0.90, 1.14)	0.81			

CXCL: C-X-C motif chemokine ligand; CX3CL1: C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1; CCL20: C-C motif chemokine ligand 20; *HR*: Hazard ratio; *CI*: Confidence interval.

Point	0	10	20	30		40	50	60	7	70	80	90	100
Age/year	25	30	35 40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80 8	5 90	95
Clinical stage	Ī				Í					IV			
CX3CL1/FPKM	16	15		14	13		12	11		10	()	8
Total point	0	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240
Linear predictor		-2.0	-1.5	-1.0	-0.5	0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5
3-year survival rate								0.95		0.90	0.85 0.8	0 0.75 0.70	0.65 0.60
5-year survival rate							0.95	0.9	0 0.8	85 0.80	0.75 0.70 0.6	5 0.60 0.55 0.50	0.450.40
10-year survival rate						0.95	0.90	0.85	0.80	0.75 0.70 0.	65 0.60 0.55 0.50	0.45 0.40 0.35 0.30	0.25 0.20

图 4 预测肾癌患者 3、5、10 年总体生存率的列线图模型

Fig 4 Nomogram model for predicting 3-, 5- and 10-year overall survival rates of renal cancer patients CX3CL1: C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1; FPKM: Reads per kilobase of exon model per million mapped reads.

2.5 肾癌患者 CX3CL1 蛋白表达水平验证及其与 预后的关系 通过 HPA 数据库发现 CX3CL1 在肾 癌中的表达量低于正常肾脏组织(图 5A)。根据

CX3CL1的表达水平将患者分为低表达组和高表达 组,生存分析结果显示,CX3CL1高表达组患者总 生存期长于低表达组(P<0.0001,图5B)。





Fig 5 Expression of CX3CL1 in renal cancer tissues and its relationship with patient survival

A: CX3CL1 expression in renal cancer and normal renal tissues. T1-T3 represent renal cancer tissues, and N1-N3 represent normal renal tissues. B: Overall survival analysis of renal cancer patients with high or low expression of CX3CL1. CX3CL1: C-X3-C motif chemokine ligand 1.

3 讨 论

肾癌是一种异质性显著、发病机制复杂的恶性肿瘤,多种基因参与了肾癌的发病,生物信息学的发展及大型测序队列数据的公布为肾癌发病机制研究及模型构建提供了基础。肿瘤干细胞具有器官特异性,通过损伤修复、代谢调整、突变累积等机制在肿瘤进程中发挥作用。采用单细胞测序技术结合时序分析鉴定出了大量的肿瘤起始细胞,后者是肿瘤诊疗的新靶标。本研究通过GEO及TCGA两大数据库筛选肾癌干细胞相关基因,发现CX3CL1表达是肾癌预后的独立保护因素,并将该蛋白与其他临床指标结合构建了一种新的肾癌预后模型。

CX3CL1 属于趋化因子蛋白家族成员,该蛋白 家族参与了肿瘤细胞增殖、迁移和侵袭。Conley-Lacomb 等^[10-11] 发现 CXCL12/C-X-C 基序趋化因子 受体(C-X-C motif chemokine receptor, CXCR)4 轴促进前列腺癌转移;CCL2 作用于血管内皮细胞, 通过 Janus 激酶 2 (Janus kinase 2, JAK2)-信号转 导与转录激活因子 5 (signal transducer and activator of transcription 5, STAT5)和 MAPK 通路促进肿 瘤的血管生成和转移。Zhu 等^[12]和 Biswas 等^[13] 发现 CXCL13/CXCR5 轴参与乳腺癌、结肠癌和 淋巴瘤的进展。趋化因子蛋白可作用于免疫系 统,影响肿瘤进程。Qian等^[14]发现CCL2通过招 募炎性单核细胞促进乳腺癌转移。研究发现肿瘤 相关巨噬细胞通过分泌 CCL18 促进卵巢癌、乳 腺癌和胰腺导管腺癌转移^[15-16]。Gao等^[17]发现 CXCL5 作用于 CXCR5 促进膀胱癌细胞分泌基质 金属蛋白酶 (matrix metalloproteinase, MMP) 2 和MMP9,后者促进肿瘤转移和侵袭。Maxwell 等^[18]发现CXCL8可促进前列腺癌细胞在缺氧环 境中存活。CX3CL1蛋白通过转录后修饰形成多 种变体,均通过结合C-X3-C基序趋化因子受体1 (C-X3-C motif chemokine receptor 1, CX3CR1) 发挥生物学功能^[19]。CX3CL1是一种跨膜糖蛋白, 在人体中以膜结合型和可溶型2种方式存在,其 中膜结合型CX3CL1可发挥黏附功能,促进内皮 细胞与CX3CR1⁺细胞黏附;可溶型CX3CL1是膜 结合型被去整合素和金属蛋白酶(a disintegrin and metalloproteinase, ADAM) 10 和 ADAM17 酶切而 成,介导白细胞趋化等^[20]。目前对CX3CL1在肿 瘤中的具体机制观点不一,有研究发现 CX3CL1 发 挥抗肿瘤作用,也有研究证实CX3CL1促进肿瘤进 展^[21]。本研究发现该分子是肾癌患者预后的保护 因素。

本研究也存在一些局限性:首先,缺乏 CX3CL1 在肾癌中的机制研究;其次,没有考虑 CX3CL1 在 其他组学,如体细胞突变、结构变异及甲基化修饰 方面的变异;最后,本研究没有在中国肾癌队列中 验证 CX3CL1 是否为肾癌患者的预后保护因素。上 述分析将在后续研究中完成。总而言之,本研究通 过数据挖掘发现 CX3CL 是肾癌患者预后的独立保 护因素,为肾癌干细胞研究提供了新的方向。

[参考文献]

- [1] SIEGEL R L, MILLER K D, JEMAL A. Cancer statistics, 2019[J]. CA Cancer J Clin, 2019, 69: 7-34.
- [2] MASON R J, WOOD L, KAPOOR A, BASAPPA N, BJARNASON G, BOORJIAN S A, et al. Kidney Cancer Research Network of Canada (KCRNC) consensus statement on the role of cytoreductive nephrectomy for patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma [J]. Can Urol Assoc J, 2019, 13: 166-174.
- [3] BALDEWIJNS M M, VAN VLODROP I J, SCHOUTEN L J, SOETEKOUW P M, DE BRUĨNE A P, VAN ENGELAND M. Genetics and epigenetics of renal cell cancer[J]. Biochim Biophys Acta, 2008, 1785: 133-155.
- [4] VLASHI E, PAJONK F. Cancer stem cells, cancer cell plasticity and radiation therapy[J]. Semin Cancer Biol, 2015, 31: 28-35.
- [5] 岳中瑾. 肿瘤干细胞及肾癌相关研究进展[J]. 中华泌 尿外科杂志,2005,26:573-575.
- [6] XIAO W, GAO Z Y, DUAN Y X, YUAN W X, KE Y. Notch signaling plays a crucial role in cancer stem-like EDW cells maintaining stemness and mediating chemotaxis in renal cell carcinoma[J/OL]. J Exp Clin Cancer Res, 2017, 36: 41. DOI: 10.1186/s13046-017-0507-3.
- [7] RITCHIE M E, PHIPSON B, WU D, HU Y, LAW C W, SHI W, et al. *limma* powers differential expression analyses for RNA-sequencing and microarray studies[J/OL]. Nucleic Acids Res, 2015, 43: e47. DOI: 10.1093/nar/gkv007.
- [8] YU G, WANG L G, HAN Y, HE Q Y. clusterProfiler: an R package for comparing biological themes among gene clusters[J]. OMICS, 2012, 16: 284-287.
- [9] SHANNON P, MARKIEL A, OZIER O, BALIGA N S, WANG J T, RAMAGE D, et al. Cytoscape: a software environment for integrated models of biomolecular interaction networks[J]. Genome Res, 2003, 13: 2498-2504.
- [10] CONLEY-LACOMB M K, SEMAAN L, SINGAREDDY R, LI Y F, HEATH E I, KIM S, et al. Pharmacological targeting of CXCL12/CXCR4 signaling in prostate cancer bone metastasis[J/OL]. Mol Cancer, 2016, 15: 68. DOI: 10.1186/s12943-016-0552-0.
- [11] CONLEY-LACOMB M K, SALIGANAN A,

KANDAGATLA P, CHEN Y Q, CHER M L, CHINNI S R. PTEN loss mediated Akt activation promotes prostate tumor growth and metastasis via CXCL12/CXCR4 signaling[J/OL]. Mol Cancer, 2013, 12: 85. DOI: 10.1186/1476-4598-12-85.

- [12] ZHU Z Y, ZHANG X K, GUO H L, FU L, PAN G L, SUN Y G. CXCL13-CXCR5 axis promotes the growth and invasion of colon cancer cells via PI3K/AKT pathway[J]. Mol Cell Biochem, 2015, 400: 287-295.
- [13] BISWAS S, SENGUPTA S, ROY CHOWDHURY S, JANA S, MANDAL G, MANDAL P K, et al. CXCL13-CXCR5 co-expression regulates epithelial to mesenchymal transition of breast cancer cells during lymph node metastasis[J]. Breast Cancer Res Treat, 2014, 143: 265-276.
- [14] QIAN B Z, LI J F, ZHANG H, KITAMURA T, ZHANG J H, CAMPION L R, et al. CCL2 recruits inflammatory monocytes to facilitate breast-tumour metastasis[J]. Nature, 2011, 475: 222-225.
- [15] CHEN J, YAO Y, GONG C, YU F, SU S, CHEN J, et al. CCL18 from tumor-associated macrophages promotes breast cancer metastasis via PITPNM3[J]. Cancer Cell, 2011, 19: 541-555.
- [16] XIAO Y C, YANG Z B, CHENG X S, FANG X B, SHEN T, XIA C F, et al. CXCL8, overexpressed in colorectal cancer, enhances the resistance of colorectal cancer cells to anoikis[J]. Cancer Lett, 2015, 361: 22-32.
- GAO Y, GUAN Z F, CHEN J Q, XIE H J, YANG Z, FAN J H, et al. CXCL5/CXCR2 axis promotes bladder cancer cell migration and invasion by activating PI3K/ AKT-induced upregulation of MMP2/MMP9[J]. Int J Oncol, 2015, 47: 690-700.
- [18] MAXWELL P J, COULTER J, WALKER S M, MCKECHNIE M, NEISEN J, MCCABE N, et al. Potentiation of inflammatory CXCL8 signalling sustains cell survival in PTEN-deficient prostate carcinoma[J]. Eur Urol, 2013, 64: 177-188.
- [19] SCHMALL A, AL-TAMARI H M, HEROLD S, KAMPSCHULTE M, WEIGERT A, WIETELMANN A, et al. Macrophage and cancer cell cross-talk via CCR2 and CX3CR1 is a fundamental mechanism driving lung cancer[J]. Am J Respir Crit Care Med, 2015, 191: 437-447.
- [20] GUNNER G, CHEADLE L, JOHNSON K M, AYATA P, BADIMON A, MONDO E, et al. Sensory lesioning induces microglial synapse elimination via ADAM10 and fractalkine signaling[J]. Nat Neurosci, 2019, 22: 1075-1088.
- [21] CONROY M J, LYSAGHT J. CX3CL1 signaling in the tumor microenvironment[J]. Adv Exp Med Biol, 2020, 1231: 1-12.