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• 综述 •

脂质代谢和肝纤维化关系的研究进展

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[摘要] 肝纤维化是多种慢性肝病进程中的关键病理过程, 若未得到抑制或逆转可进展为肝硬化甚至肝癌。肝星状细胞活化是肝纤维化过程中的关键环节, 而脂质代谢与其密切相关。肝脏内多种脂质代谢的变化可通过影响细胞能量代谢、细胞外基质合成等途径改变代谢微环境, 从而促进肝星状细胞活化、导致肝纤维化。本文综述肝脏内脂质代谢变化激活肝星状细胞的途径(脂质代谢、固醇代谢和磷脂代谢)及其与肝纤维化形成的关系, 以期从肝脏脂质代谢通路的角度为预防和逆转肝纤维化提供新的参考。

[关键词] 肝纤维化; 脂代谢; 肝星状细胞; 脂肪酸类; 细胞外基质

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Relationship between lipid metabolism and liver fibrosis: an update

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[Abstract] Liver fibrosis is a key pathological process in a variety of chronic liver diseases, and it may progress to liver cirrhosis, even liver cancer if not inhibited or reversed. The activation of hepatic stellate cell (HSC) is a key in the process of hepatic fibrosis, and it is related to lipid metabolism. Metabolism change of many kinds of lipids in liver regulates the metabolic microenvironment by affecting cellular energy metabolism, and extracellular matrix synthesis, etc., thereby promoting the activation of HSC and liver fibrosis. This article reviewed the pathways (lipid metabolism, sterol metabolism and phospholipid metabolism), by which metabolism change of lipids in liver activates HSC, and the relationship between lipid metabolism change and liver fibrosis, providing a new perspective for preventing and reversing liver fibrosis through the signal pathway of lipid metabolism.

[Key words] liver fibrosis; lipid metabolism; hepatic stellate cell; fatty acids; extracellular matrix

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肝纤维化是多种慢性肝病的关键病理过程, 肝星状细胞(hepatic stellate cell, HSC)是肝纤维化发生、发展过程中产生细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)的主要细胞^[1]。HSC位于窦周间隙内, 在健康肝脏处于静止状态, 细胞内含有储存视黄醇(维生素A)的脂滴^[2]。当肝脏受到病毒感染、酒精中毒、药物毒性等损伤时, HSC表型和功能发生变化, 可分泌多种细胞因子促进自身活化^[3], 且含有的视黄醇脂滴逐渐丢失^[2]。发生急性或慢性肝损伤时, 肝巨噬细胞(Kupffer细胞)、窦状内皮细胞、HSC等产生

活性氧, 并促进炎性细胞释放多种介质, 进一步激活HSC而增加ECM沉积^[4]。活化的HSC不仅可以通过旁分泌和自分泌途径分泌多种ECM, 而且可以通过合成、释放大量组织金属蛋白酶抑制剂减少ECM降解, 影响ECM的主要成分如胶原蛋白、层粘连蛋白的表达, 最终使ECM在肝内过量积聚而导致肝纤维化^[5]。

肝与脂质代谢密切相关, 脂质代谢的变化可对肝脏的生理功能产生影响, 甚至导致某些肝脏疾病的发生和发展。多种信号通路可参与调控HSC活化增殖, 其中脂质代谢通路是重要参与机

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制,脂质代谢紊乱与HSC活化相关。肝组织内异常增加的脂质,特别是过氧化脂质、游离脂肪酸(free fatty acid, FFA)等可通过影响脂质代谢平衡和增强脂质过氧化反应,从而促进肝纤维化^[2,6]。虽然近年来相关研究较多,但脂质代谢和肝纤维化的具体关系尚不十分明确。本文将对脂质代谢与肝纤维化关系的研究进行综述,以期从肝脏脂质代谢通路的角度为预防和逆转肝纤维化提供新的参考。

1 肝内脂质代谢

肝脏在调节脂肪生成、脂肪酸氧化和脂蛋白摄取及分泌等脂质代谢过程中发挥重要作用^[7]。代谢综合征和全身能量代谢障碍时会导致肝脏内脂质储积并发生肝脂肪变性,例如非酒精性脂肪性肝病时可由于体内脂质平衡失调导致三酰甘油在肝细胞内严重储积,并可进展为非酒精性脂肪性肝炎(nonalcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH)、肝纤维化甚至肝硬化^[8]。炎症和脂质代谢异常密切相关,炎性介质从脂质合成、分泌和氧化等方面影响着脂质功能的稳态^[9]。已证明炎症趋化因子和细胞因子如单核细胞趋化蛋白1、肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF)- α 、白细胞介素(interleukin, IL)-6和IL-8的表达增加,均可引起胰岛素抵抗,并最终促成NASH^[10-11]。此外,IL-6、IL-10及TNF等可能通过影响3-羟甲基-3-甲基戊二酰辅酶A还原酶基因的表达,调节肝细胞载脂蛋白的表达和分泌^[9]。肝脏炎症是由脂肪细胞、肝巨噬细胞和促炎性细胞因子和趋化因子共同作用引起的,并且这些细胞可以与肝巨噬细胞、内皮细胞和免疫细胞共同作用促进HSC活化,从而调节ECM的含量,进而促进肝纤维化形成^[10,12]。

肝内脂质代谢过程在不同核受体、转录因子的共同作用下维持着肝细胞内脂质动态平衡,主要包括过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, PPAR)、固醇调节元件结合蛋白(sterol regulatory element binding protein, SREBP)、肝X受体(liver X receptor, LXR)等^[13]。表1列出了与脂质代谢相关的促进或抑制HSC活化或纤维化的指标。

表1 与脂质代谢相关的促进或抑制HSC活化或纤维化的指标

Tab 1 Indexes promoting or inhibiting HSC activation/fibrosis associated with lipid metabolism

Function	Index
Promoting	Transcription factor: LXR ^[6,14-15] Enzyme: ATX ^[16] Lipid: FC ^[17-18] , S1P ^[19]
Inhibiting	Transcription factor: PPAR γ ^[14,20] , PPAR ligand ^[21] , SREBP-1C ^[11,22] , KLF2 ^[23] Drug: statins ^[23-24] , silybin ^[25] Lipid: 1,25(OH) ₂ D ₃ ^[26]
Related ^a	Enzyme: FASN, SCD1, ACC1 ^[11] , ACSL1 ^[27-28] Receptor: SCARB1 ^[29]

^a: Related to HSC activation/fibrosis but the specific effect was not clear. LXR: Liver X receptor; ATX: Autotaxin; FC: Free cholesterol; S1P: Sphingosine-1-phosphate; PPAR: Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor; SREBP-1C: Sterol regulatory element binding protein 1C; KLF2: Krueppel-like factor 2; 1,25(OH)₂D₃: 1,25-Dihydroxy vitamin D₃; FASN: Fatty acid synthase; SCD1: Stearoyl-coenzyme A desaturase 1; ACC1: Acetyl-coenzyme A carboxylase 1; ACSL1: Acyl-coenzyme A synthetase long-chain 1; SCARB1: Scavenger receptor class B member 1

2 肝内脂质代谢与肝纤维化

脂肪酸代谢失调可导致肝脂肪变性、脂肪性肝炎和肝硬化^[30]。PPAR被称作脂肪酸感受器,主要参与脂肪酸的代谢。PPAR包括3种亚型:PPAR α 、PPAR β 和PPAR γ 。3种PPAR亚型均在T淋巴细胞中表达并参与代谢调节和炎症,且PPAR可能通过调节脂质代谢调节T淋巴细胞分化^[14]。研究表明,PPAR γ 在抑制肝HSC活化中发挥关键作用,脂肪细胞衍生的激素瘦素通过 δ 样同系物1途径减少PPAR γ 2表达^[20]。此外,用合成的PPAR配体不仅在体外或体内处理活化的HSC可抑制HSC活性,而且用于试治疗肝纤维化动物模型时可以减缓纤维化的进展甚至逆转已经形成的纤维化^[21]。

SREBP-1C是控制肝脏脂质代谢的另一主要转录因子,并在肝脂肪变性中发挥重要作用。其通过促进下游靶基因,包括脂肪酸合成酶、硬脂酰辅酶A去饱和酶1和乙酰辅酶A羧化酶1参与三酰甘油合成。抑制SREBP-1C介导的脂肪合成与由PPAR α 介导FFA β -氧化的激活同样是NASH治

疗的重要分子靶点^[11]。研究表明, miR-185 模拟物可抑制 HSC 中 SREBP-1C 的表达和增加 I 型胶原 (type I collagen, COL1A1)、 α 平滑肌肌动蛋白水平, 促进肝纤维化的发生、发展^[22]。

此外, 在肝脏中高表达的长链脂酰辅酶 A 合成酶 1 (acyl-coenzyme A synthetase long-chain 1, ACSL1) 为脂类合成代谢和脂肪酸分解代谢所必需。ACSL1 活性下降可减少肝细胞或肝脏内三酰甘油的合成和脂肪酸的 β -氧化^[27]。另外, miR-34a 通过靶向 ACSL1 和影响脂肪酸代谢、 β -氧化参与肝纤维化过程^[28], 这可能有望成为治疗肝纤维化新的分子靶点。

3 肝内固醇代谢与肝纤维化

近年研究表明, 肝脏内的游离胆固醇是一种脂质毒性分子, 可能直接毒性损伤细胞或者以促炎或促纤维化的方式发挥作用, 对人类 NASH 的发展至关重要^[17]。在动物实验中也观察到, 饲喂高胆固醇饮食 12 周后, 仓鼠肝组织可发生脂肪变性和纤维化^[18]。LXR 是一类配体依赖序列特异的核转录因子, 包括 LXR α 和 LXR β 2 个亚型, 是连接脂质代谢、炎症和细胞免疫功能的关键信号转导分子。LXR 不仅可以调节胆固醇代谢, 也可调节广谱免疫应答、炎症和纤维化^[15]。LXR α 表达增高可增加肝脂质积聚、脂肪变性以及肝脏中的炎症和纤维变性程度^[6]。LXR β 可通过调节细胞内胆固醇的含量影响抗原特异性免疫反应, 从而抑制 T 淋巴细胞增殖^[14]。清道夫受体 B 类 I 型 (scavenger receptor class B type I, SR-BI) 是一种由清道夫受体 B 类成员 1 基因编码的蛋白质, 其可减少肝内胆固醇和胆固醇酯的含量。SR-BI 受 PPAR、LXR 和 SREBP 等多种核受体和转录因子调控, 而这些核因子及相关分子可通过影响炎症及脂质代谢等参与肝纤维化过程^[29]。在治疗方面, 他汀类药物是已知的胆固醇代谢的阻断剂。辛伐他汀通过增加内皮一氧化氮合酶表达抑制 HSC 活化和肝纤维化^[24]。此外, 他汀类药物也可以通过激活转录因子 Kruppel 样因子 2 增强抗纤维化作用^[23]。另外, 固醇类衍生物维生素 D 的活性形式, 即 1,25(OH)₂D₃ 在肝脏中也具有抗纤维化作用, 其可能通过抑制 HSC 活化而发挥作用^[26]。

4 肝内磷脂代谢与肝纤维化

鞘氨醇-1-磷酸 (sphingosine-1-phosphate, S1P) 是一个生物活性信号分子, 参与肝细胞中棕榈酸合成, 其释放到细胞外环境中可与 S1P3 受体结合导致 HSC 活化^[19]。此外, 卵磷脂复合物水飞蓟宾能明显减轻大鼠肝组织的纤维化程度, 并抑制胶原表达^[25]。溶血磷脂酸 (lysobisphosphatidic acid, LPA) 是迄今发现的一个相对分子量最小、结构最简单的磷脂。研究表明, LPA 及其受体可通过调节细胞收缩张力而导致 ECM 产生增加^[31]。自体毒素 (autotaxin, ATX) 是产生循环 LPA 的一个关键酶, 抑制 ATX 可以抗纤维化, 有望成为多种慢性肝脏疾病包括 NASH 新的治疗途径^[16]。

5 小结

脂质代谢紊乱是许多慢性肝脏疾病的病理基础之一, 且肝脂肪变性可进展为肝纤维化、对患者健康造成威胁。随着研究者对脂质代谢的深入研究, 近年有报道证实其在肝纤维化过程中发挥重要作用。目前脂质代谢与肝纤维化关系中相关信号通路及其作用的详细方式还尚未完全了解, 仍需进一步研究和探索。通过干预某些脂质代谢途径可影响肝纤维化进程, 为探寻防治肝纤维化新途径提供了新的视角。

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