

论 著

· 基础研究 ·

过表达hnRNPA2B1基因对结直肠癌细胞上皮-间质转化的影响及其分子机制

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[摘要] **目的** 探讨过表达hnRNPA2B1基因对人结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞上皮-间质转化(EMT)的影响及其分子机制。**方法** 分别用过表达hnRNPA2B1的慢病毒和阴性对照病毒转染SW480、HT29细胞, 设置实验组(SW480-hnRNPA2B1、HT29-hnRNPA2B1)与对照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)。采用RT-qPCR和Western blotting检测hnRNPA2B1及EMT相关指标(E-cadherin、N-cadherin及波形蛋白)mRNA和蛋白的表达水平, 划痕实验检测细胞迁移能力, Transwell小室实验检测细胞侵袭能力, Western blotting检测Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路关键蛋白WNT3A、WNT5A及 β -catenin的表达水平。**结果** 与对照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)相比, 实验组(SW480-hnRNPA2B1、HT29-hnRNPA2B1)hnRNPA2B1 mRNA和蛋白表达水平明显增高, 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$)。实验组划痕愈合率明显高于对照组(SW480: $19.6\% \pm 0.90\%$ vs. $2.23\% \pm 0.80\%$, $P < 0.01$; HT29: $40.30\% \pm 0.70\%$ vs. $6.40\% \pm 0.06\%$, $P < 0.01$), 穿膜细胞数明显多于对照组[SW480: (315.0 ± 6.7)个 vs. (62.0 ± 4.3)个, $P < 0.01$; HT29: (289.0 ± 7.2)个 vs. (54.0 ± 5.2)个, $P < 0.01$]。与对照组相比, 实验组上皮细胞标志物E-cadherin mRNA和蛋白表达水平明显降低, 间质细胞标志物N-cadherin和波形蛋白mRNA和蛋白表达水平明显升高, 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$)。与对照组相比, 实验组WNT3A、WNT5A和 β -catenin蛋白表达水平明显增高, 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$)。**结论** 过表达hnRNPA2B1基因可诱导结直肠癌SW480和HT29细胞发生EMT, 增强其迁移和侵袭能力, 其机制可能与激活Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路有关。

[关键词] hnRNPA2B1; 结直肠癌; 上皮-间质转化; Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路

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Overexpression of hnRNPA2B1 promotes epithelial mesenchymal transformation in colorectal cancer cells and its mechanism

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[Abstract] **Objective** To investigate the effect of hnRNPA2B1 overexpression on epithelial-mesenchymal transformation (EMT) and its molecular mechanism using human colorectal cancer line SW480 and HT29. **Methods** SW480 and HT29 cells were infected with lentivirus overexpressing hnRNPA2B1 and negative control virus to generate the corresponding cell lines in experimental group (SW480-hnRNPA2B1, HT29-hnRNPA2B1) and control group (SW480-NC, HT29-NC). To quantify the levels of hnRNPA2B1 and EMT-related indicators (E-cadherin, N-cadherin and vimentin), RT-qPCR and Western blotting were used. Cell migration was measured using the scratch assay. Cell invasion was evaluated using the Transwell assay. Western blotting was used to detect the expression levels of Wnt/ β -catenin signaling key indicators WNT3A, WNT5A and β -catenin. **Results** Compared with control group, the expression levels of hnRNPA2B1 mRNA and protein in experimental group significantly increased, and the differences were statistically significant ($P < 0.01$). The scratch healing rates in experimental group were significantly higher than that in control

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group (SW480: $19.6\% \pm 0.90\%$ vs. $2.23\% \pm 0.80\%$, $P < 0.01$; HT29: $40.30\% \pm 0.70\%$ vs. $6.40\% \pm 0.06\%$, $P < 0.01$). The number of Transwell cells was significantly higher than that in control group [SW480: (315.0 ± 6.7) cells vs. (62.0 ± 4.3) cells, $P < 0.01$; HT29: (289.0 ± 7.2) cells vs. (54.0 ± 5.2) cells, $P < 0.01$]. Compared with control group, the epithelial cell marker E-cadherin mRNA and protein expression levels in experimental group significantly decreased. As expected, the mesenchymal cell markers N-cadherin and vimentin mRNA and protein levels significantly increased, and the differences were statistically significant ($P < 0.01$). Compared with control group, the expressions of WNT3A, WNT5A and β -catenin protein in experimental group significantly increased ($P < 0.01$).

Conclusions The overexpression of hnRNPAB could induce EMT of human colorectal cancer SW480 and HT29, demonstrated by enhanced cell migration and invasion ability. The mechanism may be related to the activation of the Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway.

[Key words] hnRNPAB; colorectal cancer; epithelial-mesenchymal transition; Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway

结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是常见的消化系统恶性肿瘤,其发病率在恶性肿瘤中居第3位,病死率居第2位^[1]。手术切除和放化疗是CRC的主要治疗方式^[2],然而,即使实施了标准的根治手术及放化疗,CRC患者的5年总生存率(约65%)仍未见明显改善,肿瘤复发和转移是其治疗失败的主要原因^[3]。研究发现,上皮-间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transitions, EMT)与多种恶性肿瘤(包括CRC)的复发、转移、耐药等恶性生物学行为密切相关,最终导致治疗失败^[4]。本课题组前期研究发现,hnRNPAB在CRC组织中的表达水平明显高于癌旁正常组织,且hnRNPAB高表达与CRC分期和患者预后不良密切相关^[5]。hnRNPAB对结直肠癌细胞EMT过程的调控作用研究较少。本研究旨在探讨过表达hnRNPAB基因对人结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞EMT的影响及其分子机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 主要试剂 胎牛血清(fetal bovine serum, FBS)、L-15培养基(培养SW480细胞)、5A培养基(培养HT29细胞)购自美国HyClone公司;2.5%胰酶购自北京索莱宝科技有限公司;RNA提取试剂盒、PrimeScript RT reagent Kit反转录试剂盒购自大连宝生物工程公司;Transwell小室购自美国Corning公司;细胞全蛋白提取试剂盒和BCA蛋白浓度测定试剂盒购自上海碧云天生物技术有限公司;鼠抗人E-cadherin、N-cadherin、波形蛋白、WNT3A、WNT5A、 β -catenin、GAPDH和 β -tubulin一抗以及辣根过氧化物酶(HRP)标记的羊抗鼠IgG二抗购自美国Proteintech公司。过表达hnRNPAB的慢病毒(hnRNPAB-GFP-PURO)及阴性对照病毒(NC-GFP-PURO)由上海汉恒生物科技有限公司构建。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 慢病毒转染实验 人结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞购自上海中科院细胞库。分别用hnRNPAB-GFP-PURO和NC-GFP-PURO转染SW480、HT29细胞,设置实验组(SW480-hnRNPAB、HT29-hnRNPAB)与对

照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)。转染步骤:将细胞于含10% FBS的培养基中培养,待细胞融合度达到80%以上时进行病毒转染;转染前1 d,用0.25%胰酶消化细胞并接种于24孔板中(1×10^5 个/孔);采用阴性对照病毒确定两种细胞的转染条件及感染复数(multiplicity of infection, MOI)值,根据MOI值计算每孔所需病毒量[病毒体积=(MOI \times 细胞数目)/病毒滴度,病毒滴度= 2×10^8 TU/ml],每孔加入2.5 μ l 聚凝胺(polybrene, 2 mg/ml),然后加入培养基补充体积至500 μ l/孔,48 h后更换新鲜培养基,72 h后倒置显微镜下观察荧光并拍照,收集细胞并采用RT-qPCR和Western blotting鉴定转染病毒后hnRNPAB过表达的效果。

1.2.2 RT-qPCR检测hnRNPAB mRNA的表达水平

收集细胞,使用Trizol试剂提取总RNA,并测定总RNA浓度。取0.8 μ g总RNA,反转录成cDNA,按照PrimeScript RT reagent Kit反转录试剂盒说明书步骤操作。采用SYBR Green染料法行实时PCR,总反应体积为20 μ l。反应条件:95 $^{\circ}$ C 30 s,95 $^{\circ}$ C 5 s,60 $^{\circ}$ C 34 s,40个循环;95 $^{\circ}$ C 15 s,60 $^{\circ}$ C 60 s,90 $^{\circ}$ C 15 s。设置3个复孔,实验重复3次。以GAPDH为内参,采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 法确定目的基因mRNA相对表达量。引物序列如表1所示。

1.2.3 划痕实验检测细胞迁移能力 将细胞接种于24孔板中(3×10^5 个/孔),待细胞长满孔板后,用

表1 RT-qPCR引物序列

Tab.1 Primer sequences used for RT-qPCR

基因	引物序列
hnRNPAB	正义: 5'-AAGAAGTCTATCAGCAGCAGCAGTATG-3' 反义: 5'-CTCCACCTCCACCACCACCTC-3'
GAPDH	正义: 5'-ATGACATCAAGAAGGTGGTGAAGCAGG-3' 反义: 5'-GCGTCAAAGGTGGAGGAGTGGG-3'
E-cadherin	正义: 5'-CTGAGAACGAGGCTAACG-3' 反义: 5'-GTCCACCATCATCAATCAATAT-3'
N-cadherin	正义: 5'-TCCTGCTTATCCTTGTGC-3' 反义: 5'-GTCCTGGTCTTCTCTCCT-3'
波形蛋白	正义: 5'-AATGGCTCGTCACCTTCG-3' 反义: 5'-AGITTCGTTGATAACCTGTCC-3'

1 ml注射器针头沿孔板中轴垂直划线,用PBS清洗3次去除脱落细胞,加入培养基继续培养,显微镜下观察0 h、24 h后细胞迁移情况并拍照,用Image pro软件测量后计算划痕愈合率。划痕愈合率(%)=(0 h的划痕距离-24 h的划痕距离)/0 h的划痕距离×100%。

1.2.4 Transwell实验检测细胞侵袭能力 用无血清培养基培养细胞12 h使其处于饥饿状态,然后取 1×10^5 个细胞,离心去上清,用250 μ l无血清培养基重悬后接种于Transwell小室上室中,将Transwell小室放入24孔板(下室)中,下室中加入600 μ l含10% FBS的培养基,培养24 h后取出Transwell小室,用0.1%结晶紫染色,随机选取5个视野,显微镜下计数穿膜细胞数,取平均值。

1.2.5 Western blotting检测hnRNPA2B1、E-cadherin、N-cadherin、波形蛋白、WNT3A、WNT5A及 β -catenin蛋白的表达水平 收集细胞,按照全蛋白提取试剂盒说明书步骤提取总蛋白并测定浓度;取40 μ g总蛋白,根据目的蛋白分子量在相应浓度的凝胶上进行分离,然后转移至PVDF膜上;加入5%

脱脂奶粉,室温封闭1 h,加入鼠抗人E-cadherin、N-cadherin、波形蛋白、WNT3A、WNT5A、 β -catenin、GAPDH和 β -tubulin一抗(1:2000)4 $^{\circ}$ C孵育过夜;次日以TBST洗膜3次,加入HRP标记的羊抗鼠IgG二抗(1:10 000)室温孵育1 h;TBST洗膜3次,置于ECL发光液中2 min后,用X线胶片曝光显现蛋白质条带,扫描胶片后所得条带用Quantity-One软件进行分析。目的蛋白相对表达量=目的蛋白的灰度值/内参GAPDH蛋白条带的灰度值。

1.3 统计学处理 采用SPSS 17.0及GraphPad prism 5.0软件进行统计分析和制图。所有数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,两组间比较采用t检验。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 慢病毒转染结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞的效果 结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞分别转染hnRNPA2B1-GFP-PURO和NC-GFP-PURO,72 h后,荧光倒置相差显微镜下可见绿色荧光(图1),表明病毒转染成功。

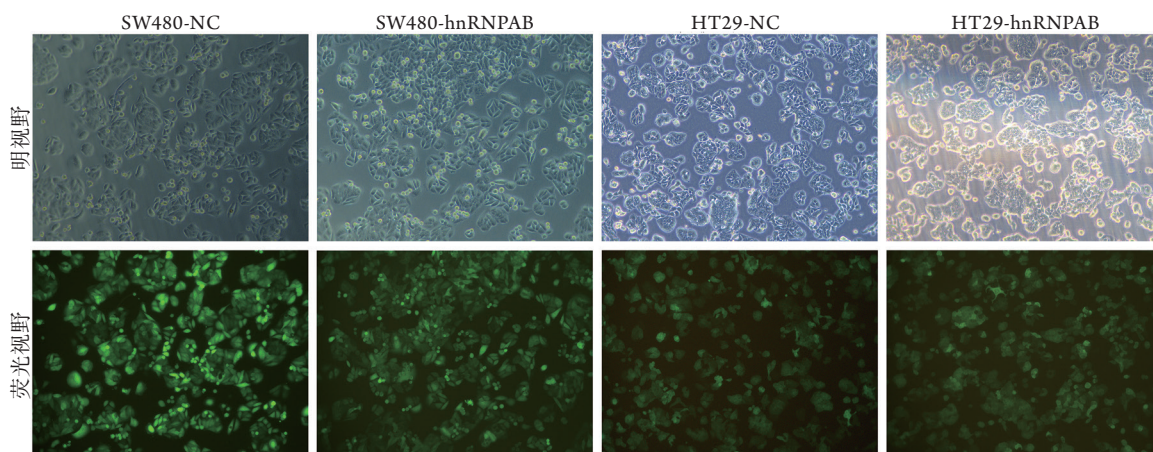


图1 结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞转染病毒72 h后的效果($\times 100$)

Fig.1 Effects of colorectal cancer SW480 and HT29 cells transfected with virus for 72 hours ($\times 100$)

2.2 结直肠癌SW480、HT29细胞转染病毒后hnRNPA2B1过表达效果鉴定 RT-qPCR检测结果显示,与对照组比较,实验组hnRNPA2B1 mRNA表达水平分别提高了2.1倍(SW480: 3.10 ± 0.26 vs. 1.00 ± 0.18 , $P < 0.01$)和1.7倍(HT29: 2.70 ± 0.21 vs. 1.00 ± 0.12 , $P < 0.01$)。

Western blotting检测结果显示,与对照组相比,实验组结直肠癌细胞中hnRNPA2B1蛋白表达水平明显升高(SW480: 1.02 ± 0.06 vs. 0.67 ± 0.05 , $P < 0.01$; HT29: 1.07 ± 0.04 vs. 0.58 ± 0.03 , $P < 0.01$, 图2),表明hnRNPA2B1在SW480和HT29细胞中被成功过表达。

2.3 hnRNPA2B1过表达对结直肠癌细胞迁移能力的影响 划痕实验结果显示,与对照组相比,实验

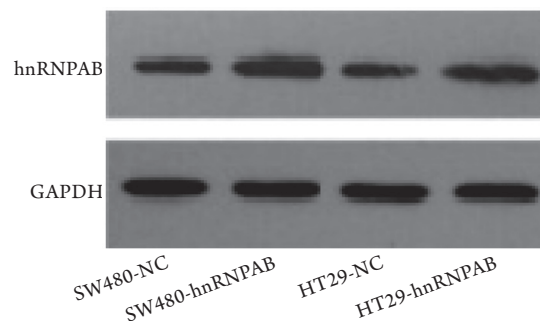


图2 Western blotting检测结直肠癌细胞中hnRNPA2B1蛋白表达水平

Fig.2 hnRNPA2B1 protein levels in colorectal cancer cells detected by Western blotting

组划痕愈合率明显增高(SW480: $19.6\% \pm 0.90\%$ vs. $2.23\% \pm 0.80\%$, $P < 0.01$; HT29: $40.30\% \pm 0.70\%$ vs. $6.40\% \pm 0.06\%$, $P < 0.01$, 图3)。

2.4 hnRNPAB过表达对结直肠癌细胞侵袭能力的

影响 Transwell实验结果显示, 与对照组相比, 实验组穿膜细胞数明显增多[SW480: (315.0 ± 6.7)个 vs. (62.0 ± 4.3)个, $P < 0.01$; HT29: (289.0 ± 7.2)个 vs. (54.0 ± 5.2)个, $P < 0.01$, 图4]。

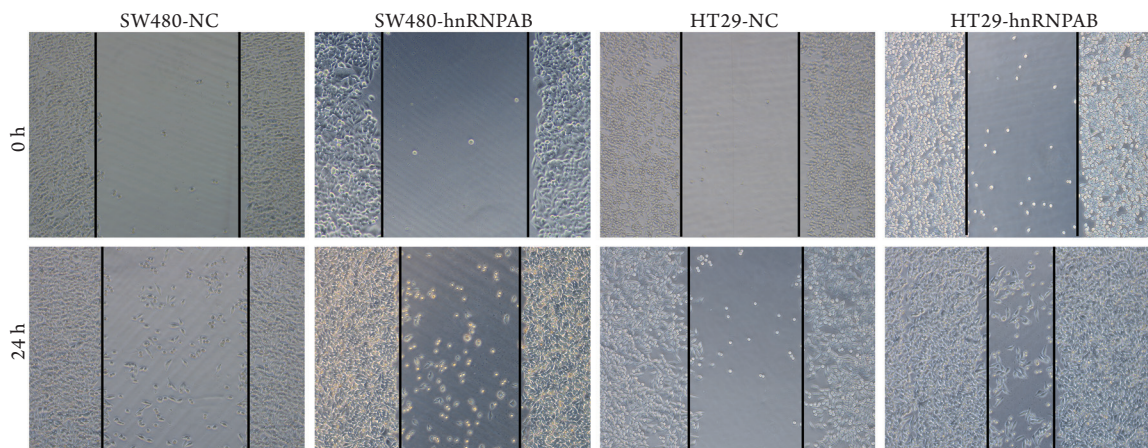


图3 划痕实验检测结直肠癌细胞的迁移能力

Fig.3 The ability of migration of colorectal cancer cells detected by scratch test

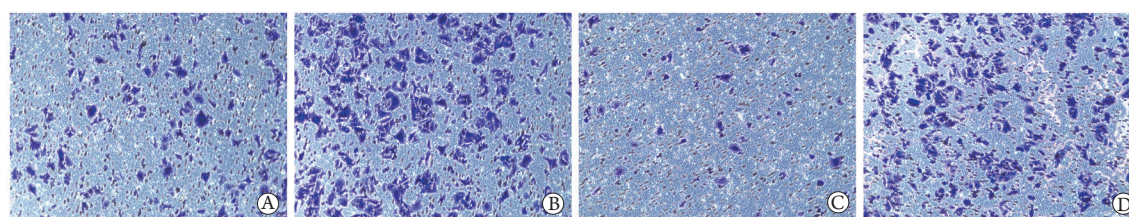


图4 Transwell实验检测结直肠癌细胞的侵袭能力($\times 100$)

Fig.4 The ability of invasion of colorectal cancer cells detected by Transwell assay ($\times 100$)

A. SW480-NC; B. SW480-hnRNPAB; C. HT29-NC; D. HT29-hnRNPAB

2.5 hnRNPAB过表达对结直肠癌细胞中E-cadherin、N-cadherin及波形蛋白mRNA和蛋白表达的影响 RT-qPCR检测结果显示, 与对照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)相比, 实验组(SW480-hnRNPAB、HT29-hnRNPAB)结直肠癌细胞中上皮细胞标志物

E-cadherin mRNA表达水平明显降低($P < 0.01$), 间质细胞标志物N-cadherin和波形蛋白mRNA表达水平在SW480细胞中分别提高了1.1倍和1.5倍, 在HT29细胞中则分别提高了0.9倍和1.7倍, 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$, 表2)。

表2 结直肠癌细胞中E-cadherin、N-cadherin和波形蛋白mRNA和蛋白表达情况($\bar{x} \pm s$)

Tab.2 The mRNA and protein levels of E-cadherin, N-cadherin and vimentin in colorectal cancer cells ($\bar{x} \pm s$)

组别	E-cadherin		N-cadherin		波形蛋白	
	mRNA	蛋白	mRNA	蛋白	mRNA	蛋白
SW480-NC	1.02 ± 0.07	0.67 ± 0.04	1.00 ± 0.06	0.61 ± 0.02	1.03 ± 0.05	0.59 ± 0.02
SW480-hnRNPAB	$0.65 \pm 0.04^{(1)}$	$0.50 \pm 0.02^{(1)}$	$2.13 \pm 0.08^{(1)}$	$0.91 \pm 0.03^{(1)}$	$2.45 \pm 0.04^{(1)}$	$0.88 \pm 0.02^{(1)}$
HT29-NC	1.01 ± 0.05	0.61 ± 0.03	1.07 ± 0.07	0.59 ± 0.04	1.03 ± 0.04	0.62 ± 0.03
HT29-hnRNPAB	$0.58 \pm 0.07^{(2)}$	$0.47 \pm 0.05^{(2)}$	$1.92 \pm 0.09^{(2)}$	$0.95 \pm 0.04^{(2)}$	$2.69 \pm 0.11^{(2)}$	$0.92 \pm 0.05^{(2)}$

与SW480-NC比较, (1) $P < 0.01$; 与HT29-NC比较, (2) $P < 0.01$ 。

Western blotting检测结果显示, 与对照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)相比, 实验组(SW480-hnRNPAB、HT29-hnRNPAB)结直肠癌细胞中上皮细胞标志物E-cadherin蛋白表达水平明显降低, 间质细胞标志物N-cadherin蛋白和波形蛋白表达水平明显升高, 差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$, 表2、图5)。

2.6 hnRNPAB过表达对结直肠癌细胞中WNT3A、WNT5A和 β -catenin蛋白表达的影响 Western blotting检测结果显示, 与对照组比较, 实验组结直肠癌细胞中WNT3A(SW480: 0.87 ± 0.04 vs. 0.47 ± 0.03 , $P < 0.01$; HT29: 0.91 ± 0.03 vs. 0.52 ± 0.04 , $P < 0.01$)、WNT5A(SW480: 0.92 ± 0.05

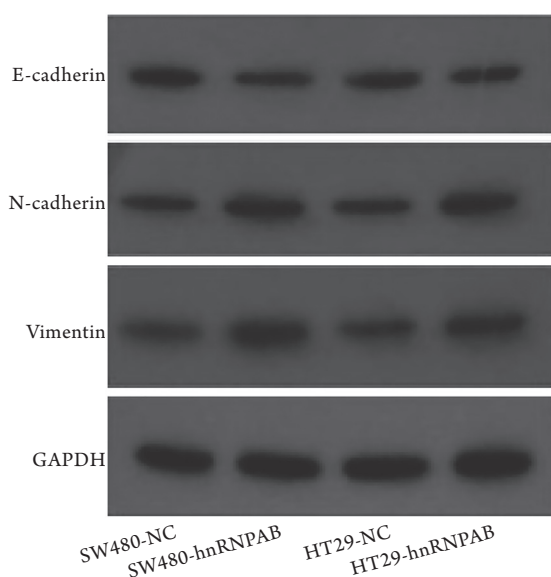


图5 Western blotting检测结直肠癌细胞中E-cadherin、N-cadherin和波形蛋白表达水平

Fig.5 The expression levels of E-cadherin, N-cadherin and vimentin in colorectal cancer cells detected by Western blotting

vs. 0.53 ± 0.04 , $P < 0.01$; HT29: 0.96 ± 0.06 vs. 0.62 ± 0.05 , $P < 0.01$)及 β -catenin(SW480: 1.02 ± 0.03 vs. 0.58 ± 0.02 , $P < 0.01$; HT29: 1.08 ± 0.04 vs. 0.59 ± 0.03 , $P < 0.01$)蛋白表达水平均明显升高, 差异有统计学意义(图6)。

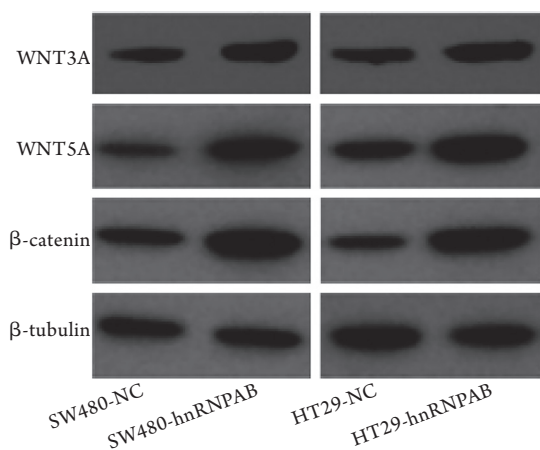


图6 Western blotting检测结直肠癌细胞中WNT3A、WNT5A和 β -catenin蛋白表达水平

Fig.6 The protein levels of WNT3A, WNT5A and β -catenin in colorectal cancer cells detected by Western blotting

3 讨论

结直肠癌是发病率和病死率均较高的恶性肿瘤, 肿瘤复发和转移是其治疗失败的主要原因^[6]。研究发现, EMT可增强肿瘤细胞的迁移、侵袭能力, 最终导致肿瘤复发和转移^[7]。目前EMT的启动机制仍不清楚, 亟需进一步深入研究,

以为结直肠癌的治疗提供新的靶点及切入点。hnRNPAB属于hnRNPs家族, 是一类与mRNA生物学功能密切相关的RNA结合蛋白, 参与核酸代谢的多个方面, 包括RNA剪接、维持端粒酶活性、细胞信号传导以及转录和翻译调控等^[8-10]。hnRNPAB包括4种亚型: hnRNPA1、hnRNPA2/B1(又称hnRNPA2或hnRNPA1)、hnRNPA3和hnRNPA0^[8]。目前研究发现, hnRNPAB及其亚型与多种恶性肿瘤的恶性生物学行为, 如增殖、抗细胞凋亡和预后不良密切相关^[11-13], 且能够调控肿瘤细胞的EMT过程^[14-16]。但hnRNPAB是否参与结直肠癌细胞EMT过程的调控, 目前尚未见文献报道。

EMT是一种复杂的分子及细胞程序, 在胚胎形态发生、组织纤维化、伤口愈合和癌细胞转移中起着重要作用^[17]。当EMT被激活时, 上皮标志物E-cadherin的表达受到抑制, 细胞因此失去极性和细胞间的黏附能力, 并表达与间质细胞状态相关的标志物, 如N-cadherin、波形蛋白等, 从而导致上皮特征的逐渐丧失并伴随着间质特征的获得^[18], 使细胞获得了运动和侵袭能力, 从其原发部位扩散并在远处形成继发性肿瘤^[19]。为了明确hnRNPAB是否能够诱导结直肠癌细胞发生EMT, 本研究采用过表达hnRNPAB的慢病毒和阴性对照病毒转染SW480、HT29细胞, 转染72 h后通过RT-qPCR和Western blotting检测hnRNPAB mRNA及蛋白的表达以验证hnRNPAB过表达的效果, 结果显示, 实验组(SW480-hnRNPAB、HT29-hnRNPAB)hnRNPAB mRNA及蛋白的表达水平均较对照组(SW480-NC、HT29-NC)明显升高, 表明hnRNPAB在SW480和HT29细胞中被成功过表达。本研究结果还显示, 实验组划痕愈合率明显高于对照组, 穿膜细胞数明显多于对照组, 表明过表达hnRNPAB基因增强了SW480和HT29细胞的迁移和侵袭能力。进一步通过RT-qPCR和Western blotting检测EMT标志物mRNA和蛋白的表达, 结果显示, 与对照组相比, 实验组上皮细胞标志物E-cadherin mRNA和蛋白表达明显降低, 而间质细胞标志物N-cadherin和波形蛋白mRNA和蛋白表达明显增高, 表明过表达hnRNPAB基因诱导SW480和HT29细胞发生了EMT, 从而增强了细胞的迁移和侵袭能力。

目前研究发现, hnRNPAB及其亚型可调节Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路蛋白的表达: Stockley等^[20]采用RNA干扰敲减前列腺癌细胞hnRNPAB亚型hnRNPA2(hnRNPA2/B1)的表达后, 细胞的增殖及克隆形成能力明显减弱, 而过表达hnRNPA2则促进了前列腺癌细胞的增殖, 其机制与hnRNPA2促进CTNNB1(编码 β -catenin蛋白)mRNA及蛋白的表达

有关; Meng等^[21]发现, hnRNPA1亚型hnRNPA1可促进间充质干细胞(MSCs)向软骨分化, 其机制与促进Wnt信号通路中WNT3A、WNT5A及 β -catenin蛋白的表达有关。有研究证实, Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路的异常激活与CRC的复发、转移等恶性生物学行为密切相关^[22-23]。本研究采用Western blotting检测结肠癌细胞中WNT3A、WNT5A和 β -catenin蛋白的表达水平, 结果显示, 实验组WNT3A、WNT5A和 β -catenin蛋白表达水平较对照组升高, 提示过表达hnRNPA1基因可导致Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路激活。

综上所述, 本研究结果表明, 过表达hnRNPA1基因可诱导结肠癌SW480和HT29细胞发生EMT, 增强其迁移和侵袭能力, 其机制可能与激活Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路有关。该结果为hnRNPA1在临床上用于结肠癌的分子靶向治疗提供了理论依据。但本研究仅在体外细胞水平证实了hnRNPA1对结肠癌细胞迁移和侵袭能力的影响, 而体内功能验证及其EMT与Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路之间的具体调控机制尚需进一步研究。

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