

环磷酰胺所致小鼠肝损伤的动态变化

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摘要: 环磷酰胺 (cyclophosphamide, CPA) 是烷化剂类抗肿瘤药物, 在体内由细胞色素 P450 酶代谢为 4-羟基环磷酰胺发挥抗肿瘤作用。CPA 除引起骨髓抑制、膀胱炎等毒性反应外, 还会引起肝损伤。本研究旨在评估 CPA 在小鼠体内产生肝损伤的动态变化过程。雄性 BALB/c 小鼠单次腹腔注射 CPA (200 mg·kg⁻¹), 分别于 0、2、6、12 和 24 h 后采集血清和肝脏样本进行生化 and 病理检测。动物实验方案经中山大学动物伦理委员会批准。结果表明, 小鼠给予 CPA 2 h 后开始出现肝损伤, 在 12 h 肝损伤最严重, 血清天冬氨酸氨基转移酶 (AST)、丙氨酸氨基转移酶 (ALT) 和丙二醛 (MDA) 显著升高, 还原型谷胱甘肽 (GSH) 显著下降, 广泛可见肝细胞水肿并伴有空泡变性, 而 24 h 之后肝损伤显著改善。由于 CPA 产生氧化应激损伤, 机体应激性激活核因子红细胞系相关因子-2 (nuclear factor-erythroid 2-related factor 2, NRF2) 信号通路, 上调 NRF2 下游醌氧化还原酶 1 (quinone oxidoreductase 1, NQO1)、血红素加氧酶-1 (heme oxygenase-1, HO-1)、谷氨酰半胱氨酸合成酶催化亚基 (glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit, GCLC) 和谷氨酰半胱氨酸连接酶修饰亚基 (glutamate cysteine modifier subunit, GCLM) 的表达, 从而抵抗氧化应激损伤。本研究阐明了 CPA 所致肝损伤随时间的动态变化过程, 并探讨了 NRF2 介导的机体保护机制的动态变化, 为抵抗 CPA 所致肝损伤提供了科学数据。

关键词: 环磷酰胺; 肝损伤; 氧化应激; 核因子红细胞系相关因子-2

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Dynamic changes of cyclophosphamide-induced liver injury in mice

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Abstract: Cyclophosphamide (CPA) is one of the most commonly used alkylating agents in the treatment of malignant cancer. CPA is metabolized by cytochrome P450 enzymes into 4-hydroxycyclophosphamide *in vivo* which can exhibit anti-tumor activity. Metabolic activation of CPA can cause adverse reactions such as myelosuppression, cystitis, and liver injury. The aim of this study was to evaluate the dynamic changes of hepatic injury induced by CPA in mice. Male BALB/c mice were injected CPA (200 mg·kg⁻¹) intraperitoneally. Both serum and liver samples were collected at 0, 2, 6, 12 and 24 hours after dosing. The animal experiment protocol was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at Sun Yat-sen University. The results showed that hepatotoxicity was observed at 2 hours after CPA dosing, and the most serious liver injury was measured at 12 hours. The level of serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and malondialdehyde (MDA) was significantly increased, glutathione (GSH) level was significantly decreased, hepatocyte edema and vacuolar degeneration were widely observed in liver tissue, and began to recover 24 hours after dosing. In addition, due to

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oxidative stress damage caused by CPA, nuclear factor-erythroid 2-related factor 2 (NRF2) signaling pathway was activated and the mRNA and protein expression of its downstream targets such as quinone oxidoreductase 1 (NQO1), heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1), glutamate-cysteine ligase catalytic subunit (GCLC) and glutamate cysteine modifier subunit (GCLM) were up-regulated, which alleviated oxidative stress injury. In a summary, this study demonstrate the dynamic change of CPA-induced liver injury and the NRF2-mediated protective mechanisms, providing new insights into the CPA-induced liver injury.

Key words: cyclophosphamide; liver injury; oxidative stress; nuclear factor-erythroid 2-related factor 2

环磷酰胺 (cyclophosphamide, CPA) 是经典的烷化剂氮芥类衍生物, 在临床上广泛应用于恶性淋巴瘤、多发性骨髓瘤、白血病、乳腺癌等的治疗^[1,2]。环磷酰胺是一种需要代谢活化的前体药物^[3], 如图 1^[4]所示, 约 90% 的环磷酰胺在体内经由细胞色素 P450 酶体系 CYP2B6、CYP2C9 等羟基化产生 4-羟基环磷酰胺, 并与其开环后形成的互变异构体醛磷酰胺共存, 醛磷酰胺通过非酶催化的 β -消除反应生成两种化合物, 即磷酰胺氮芥和丙烯醛^[5,6]。磷酰胺氮芥通过释放烷基化的氮形成链间和链内 DNA 交联来干扰 DNA 复制, 阻滞快速增殖组织中的有丝分裂活动, 从而发挥抗肿瘤和免疫抑制的作用, 而丙烯醛是引起出血性膀胱炎等毒性症状的原因^[7]。此外, 约 10% 的环磷酰胺经 CYP3A4 代谢产生无治疗作用的 2-去氯乙基环磷酰胺^[8]。

高剂量环磷酰胺可导致多器官毒性如血液 (骨髓抑制)、肝毒性、生殖器官 (性腺衰竭)、心脏毒性、膀胱毒性等^[9]。据报道, 有临床患者在初始剂量给药后短时间内即出现肝损伤, 最早的不良反应在给药 3 h 后出现^[9]。此外, 已有研究发现高剂量 CPA 诱导的肝损伤与其毒性代谢物丙烯醛相关^[10,11]。目前, 丙烯醛诱导肝损伤的机制尚不完全清楚, 但有研究表明丙烯醛能迅速消耗正常细胞内的还原型谷胱甘肽 (glutathione, GSH), 导致活性氧 (reactive oxygen species, ROS) 的大量累积, 可攻击生物功能大分子, 随后引起氧化应激损伤和脂质过氧化, 进而破坏细胞的正常生理功能, 最终导致细胞死亡^[12]。

核因子红细胞系相关因子-2 (nuclear factor-

erythroid 2-related factor 2, NRF2) 是调节和诱导细胞抗氧化基因和肝解毒酶基因表达的一种转录因子^[13]。在生理状态下, NRF2 与 Kelch 样 ECH 相关蛋白-1 (Kelch-like ECH-associated protein-1, Keap1) 的偶联, 锚定在胞浆中。在氧化应激状态下, Keap1 被氧化或共价修饰而与 NRF2 解偶联使得 NRF2 活化并易位至细胞核, 与抗氧化剂反应元件 (antioxidative response element, ARE) 异二聚化, 启动 II 相解毒酶、III 相转运蛋白和抗氧化蛋白的转录^[14,15]。因此, NRF2 信号通路在细胞抵御氧化应激反应的机制中具有重要作用。

综上所述, 氧化应激可能是 CPA 诱导肝损伤的关键, 而 NRF2 抗氧化应激信号通路对 CPA 所致肝损伤可能具有保护效应。本研究旨在阐明 CPA 在体内诱导肝损伤的动态变化过程, 以及 NRF2 通路在 CPA 所致肝损伤过程的变化, 为 CPA 所致肝损伤的基础研究提供科学数据。

材料与方法

仪器 5417-R 低温高速离心机 (德国 Eppendorf 公司); AE260 电子天平 (美国 Mettler 公司); 酶标仪 (美国 Thermo 公司); 普通梯度 PCR 仪 (德国 Eppendorf 公司); ABI7500 实时荧光定量 PCR 仪 (美国 Applied Biosystems 公司); XW-80A 型旋涡混合器 (上海精科实业有限公司); HH 数显恒温水浴锅 (中国金城国胜公司); 台式微量高速离心机 (日本 Hitachi Koki Co 公司); 微量移液器 (德国 Eppendorf 公司)。

试剂与材料 环磷酰胺 (批号: WXBC5093V, 纯

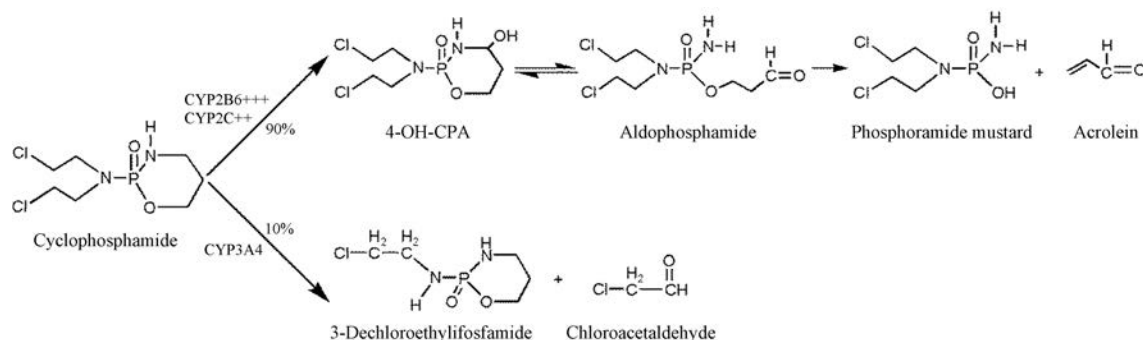


Figure 1 The metabolic pathway of cyclophosphamide^[4]

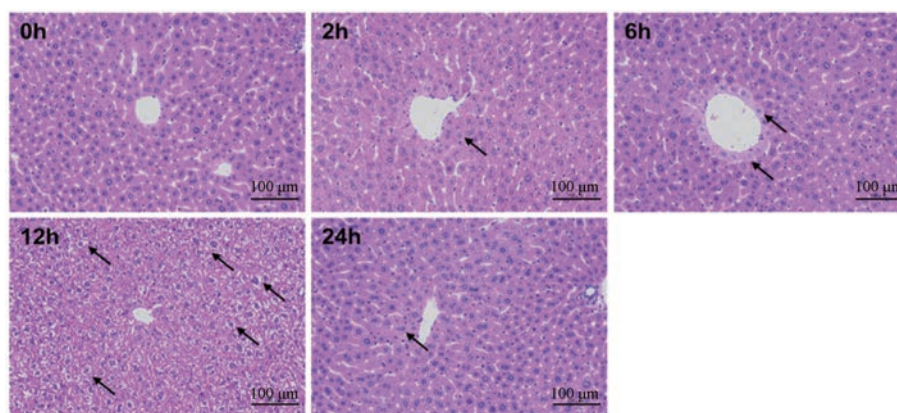


Figure 2 Representative HE-stained liver sections at 0 to 24 h after 200 mg·kg⁻¹ cyclophosphamide (CPA) challenge ($n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$). Hepatic vacuolation of fat type was indicated with arrow

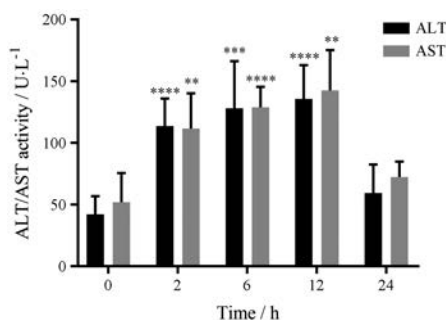


Figure 3 Serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activities at 0 to 24 h after 200 mg·kg⁻¹ CPA challenge ($n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$). ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$ vs 0 h

平显著地降低(图4),这提示CPA所致肝损伤的发生过程中肝细胞内源性GSH迅速耗竭,在6h下降至最低值。线粒体GSH比肝脏总GSH更为敏感,其在2h已降至最低。随着时间的推移,肝脏总GSH有逐渐恢复的趋势。

4 肝脏脂质过氧化水平的动态变化

MDA是脂质过氧化的关键指标。肝脏MDA含量测定的结果表明(图5),小鼠肝脏MDA水平在给予

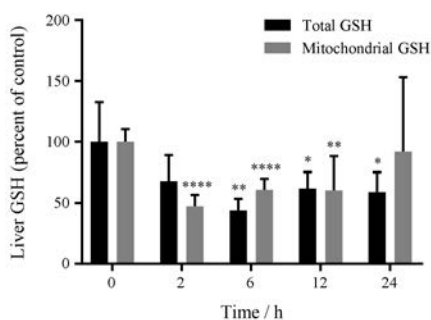


Figure 4 Total liver and mitochondrial glutathione (GSH) levels at 0 to 24 h after 200 mg·kg⁻¹ CPA challenge ($n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, **** $P < 0.0001$ vs 0 h

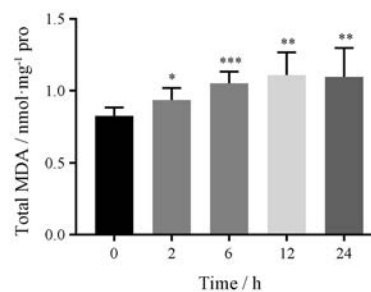


Figure 5 Total liver malondialdehyde (MDA) levels at 0 to 24 h after 200 mg·kg⁻¹ CPA challenge ($n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$ vs 0 h

CPA后逐渐上升,在24h依然高于正常水平。从肝脏MDA水平变化趋势可以看出在CPA所致肝损伤的发生过程中,氧化应激程度很高,随着GSH的耗竭,脂质过氧化逐渐加重,MDA在肝细胞内累积。

5 NRF2通路基因mRNA表达的动态变化

小鼠给予CPA后肝脏组织的Keap1基因的mRNA表达水平被下调,6h下降到最低值,随后开始上升,24h逐渐高于正常水平。CPA可以诱导小鼠肝脏Nrf2表达,并在6h出现峰值,Nrf2在后续时间点逐渐降低但仍高于0h。此外,NRF2下游的抗氧化基因和二相代谢酶的mRNA表达显示,Ho-1、Gclc和Gclm在给予CPA后显著上升,并在6h达到峰值,随后逐渐降低。Nqo1表达结果显示在给予CPA后2~12h呈上调趋势,12h达到峰值,24h仍高于正常水平(图6)。这些结果表明Nrf2及下游靶基因的mRNA在CPA产生肝损伤时均被上调,以抵抗CPA所致的氧化应激损伤,从而促进肝修复。

6 NRF2通路蛋白表达的动态变化

小鼠给予CPA后肝脏NRF2和NQO1蛋白表达上调,与mRNA的变化一致,并分别在6和12h出现峰值,NRF2在后续时间点逐渐降低,但仍高于正常

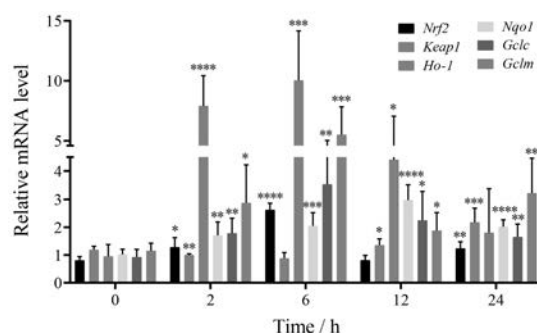


Figure 6 Q-PCR analysis of *Nrf2*, *Keap-1*, *Nqo1*, *Ho-1*, *Gclc*, *Gclm* mRNA expression in CPA-treated mice liver after CPA challenge ($n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$). * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$ vs 0 h

水平。NRF2 蛋白表达结果显示在 CPA 肝损伤过程中呈先上调后降低的现象, 在给予 CPA 后 2~6 h 呈上调趋势, 12 h 开始下降。表明 NRF2 及下游靶基因被显著上调以抵抗 CPA 所致的氧化应激性肝损伤, 其中 HO-1、NQO1、GCLM 蛋白在 12 h 被显著上调, 而 GCLC 蛋白在 2 h 被显著上调; HO-1 蛋白表达在 12 h 达峰值, 在 24 h 表达显著下调 (图 7)。

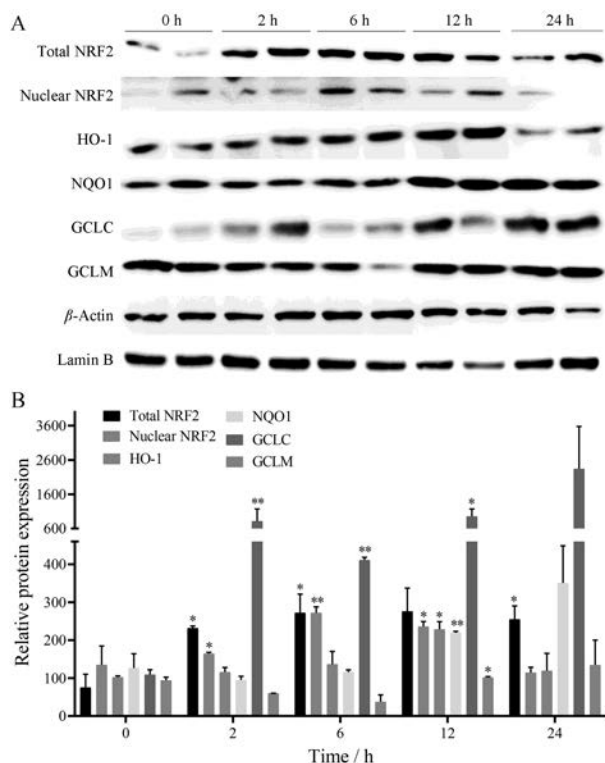


Figure 7 Dynamic regulation of NRF2 signaling pathway was involved in CPA-induced liver injury. (A) Western blot analysis of total NRF2, nuclear NRF2, HO-1, NQO1, GCLC, GCLM, β -actin, Lamin B protein expression in CPA-treated mice liver after CPA challenge. (B) Densitometric analysis of western blots and normalized to β -actin. $n = 6, \bar{x} \pm s$. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ vs 0 h

讨论

环磷酰胺 (CPA) 具有显著的抗肿瘤疗效和强免疫抑制作用, 预后良好, 因此在临床上被广泛使用, 其主要不良反应是骨髓抑制和生殖毒性。近年来, 研究发现 CPA 会引发不同程度的肝损伤^[17]。相关临床病例报道表明^[9,18-25], 大多数患者在第 1 次服药后造成轻微肝损伤, 而连续第 2 次服药会导致急性肝炎的发生。如果早期停药, 药源性肝损伤的预后通常较好。但当表现为急性肝损伤时, 可能出现不可逆的暴发性肝衰竭, 导致高死亡率。因此, 了解 CPA 产生肝损伤的发生过程, 对于早诊断早治疗 CPA 所致肝损伤具有重要意义。本研究给予小鼠一次性腹腔注射 ($200 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$) 环磷酰胺溶液, 并分别于不同时间点检测肝功能各项指标, 以充分考察 CPA 所致肝损伤的动态变化, 并在分子水平探究 NRF2 通路对 CPA 所致肝损伤的保护机制。

首先基于血清中 ALT、AST 动态变化的结果表明 CPA 在 12 h 内引发明显的肝损伤。肝细胞中 AST、ALT 逸出导致其在血液中的水平升高^[26]。在 2 h 血清中 ALT、AST 较空白组显著升高, 在 12 h 达到峰值, 24 h 下降至接近正常水平, 这表明给予环磷酰胺能造成急性肝损伤, 2~12 h 是肝损伤发生的关键时间。研究发现^[27] 用不同剂量的 CPA 在小鼠上造模, 剂量为 $200 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ 时小鼠肝脏中肝细胞肿胀、血窦充血、肝细胞呈气球样变性、门静脉和中央静脉正常, 未见炎性浸润。同样地, 本文研究结果也表明在给予环磷酰胺 2 h 后出现明显的肝细胞水肿, 在 12 h 肝细胞可见广泛的重度水肿、细胞肿胀、胞质呈空泡状变性, 这与血清中 AST、ALT 变化趋势一致。GSH 在保护细胞免受氧化损伤方面起着至关重要的作用, 已有研究表明^[28,29], 环磷酰胺的毒性代谢产物丙烯醛能迅速耗竭肝脏 GSH, 导致细胞抵抗自由基能力下降, 引起细胞坏死或凋亡^[26,30,31]。检测氧化应激指标结果显示, 在给予小鼠环磷酰胺 2 h 后, 肝脏总 GSH 和线粒体 GSH 水平显著降低, 在 6 h 达到最低值, 直至 24 h 未能恢复到正常水平。CPA 引起的自由基激增可以攻击脂质并导致细胞膜结构和功能的严重改变, 从而引起脂质过氧化^[32], MDA 是细胞损伤和氧化应激的可靠指标^[33]。因此, 进一步检测了肝脏中脂质过氧化代谢产物 MDA 的含量, 结果表明给予 CPA 后肝脏中 MDA 水平在 24 h 内持续上升。上述结果表明环磷酰胺造成肝脏氧化应激损伤并引起了脂质过氧化。

已有研究表明细胞氧化应激和 ROS 累积均可激活 NRF2, NRF2 入核与 DNA 结合并诱导抗氧化基因的转录^[34,35]。进一步检测了小鼠体内抗氧化应激通路

NRF2 信号在给予环磷酰胺后的变化情况, 结果发现 2 h 开始 NRF2 的基因和蛋白的表达均被上调。此外在 6 h 细胞核内 NRF2 表达也在给予 CPA 后增加, 同时其下游靶基因的表达增加, 逆转 GSH 耗竭, 清除 ROS, 帮助机体抵抗氧化应激损伤。

综上所述, 环磷酰胺给药后, 小鼠在 2 h 开始出现肝损伤, 在 12 h 时肝损伤最严重, 24 h 后肝损伤有显著改善。氧化应激在 CPA 所致的肝损伤中具有重要作用, 机体在氧化应激刺激下, 抗氧化通路 NRF2 被激活, 从而抵抗氧化应激损伤。这些研究结果为 CPA 所致肝损伤的基础研究提供了科学数据, 为预防和治疗 CPA 所致肝损伤提供了潜在的用药策略。

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