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雷公藤甲素致小鼠肝损伤的机制研究

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摘要:本文研究雷公藤甲素致肝损伤作用机制。将雌性 C57BL/6 小鼠 20 只随机分为 2 组,并以雷公藤甲素造模,通过检测血清中谷丙转氨酶(ALT)水平变化,以及观察小鼠肝脏组织切片 HE 染色结果,了解肝脏损伤情况;RT-PCR 法检测小鼠肝脏中白细胞介素(IL)-17、IL-6、维甲酸孤儿核受体(ROR- γ t) mRNA 表达水平,ELISA 法检测 IL-17、IL-6 蛋白表达水平,Western blot 法检测小鼠肝脏中 TLR4 蛋白表达水平。与对照组比较,雷公藤甲素模型组小鼠血清 ALT 水平显著升高($P < 0.005$),HE 染色切片显示较多的肝细胞坏死和炎症细胞浸润,IL-17、IL-6、ROR- γ t mRNA 表达水平和 IL-17、IL-6 蛋白表达水平显著升高($P < 0.005$),此外,TLR4 蛋白表达水平显著升高($P < 0.005$)。结果表明,雷公藤甲素所导致的肝损伤可能通过激活 TLR4 信号,增加 IL-17、IL-6 的表达,影响 Th17 特异性转录因子 ROR- γ t,进而促进 Th17 细胞活化,增强其致炎功能。

关键词:雷公藤甲素;肝损伤;炎症因子;C57BL/6 小鼠

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Mechanism of Triptolide-induced Liver Injury

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Abstract: In this study, the mechanism of triptolide (TP)-induced liver injury was investigated. A total of 20 female C57BL/6 mice were randomly divided into two groups. Serum alanine aminotransaminase (ALT) levels and hepatic pathological change were used to explore the degree of liver damage, and hepatic interleukin (IL)-17, IL-6 were detected through RT-PCR and ELISA. The mRNA expression of hepatic retinoid related orphan receptor (ROR- γ t) was also examined by RT-PCR. The expression of hepatic Toll-like receptor4 (TLR4) was examined by Western blot. Data showed that TP effectively increased serum ALT levels ($P < 0.005$, vs control group) and promoted hepatic pathological damage. Meanwhile, TP also significantly promoted the expression of IL-17, IL-6, ROR- γ t mRNA and IL-17, IL-6 protein in mouse liver ($P < 0.005$). Furthermore, the protein expression of TLR4 was obviously increased, compared with control group ($P < 0.005$). Taken together, the result suggested that TP induced liver injury through activating the TLR4 signal, increasing the expression of IL-17, IL-6 and Th17 specific transcription factor ROR- γ t, and promoting the activation of Th17 cells and enhancing the inflammatory function.

Key words: triptolide; liver injury; cytokines; C57BL/6 mouse

雷公藤甲素是从卫矛科植物雷公藤中分离得到的二萜内酯类活性化合物,具有显著的免疫调节和抗炎活性^[1,2],在临幊上广泛应用于治疗关节炎及免疫性疾病,但其毒性亦不容小觑,尤其是肝毒性是其致死的主要原因^[3-5]。研究表明,雷公藤甲素可通过多种机制引起肝损伤,如诱导细胞凋亡、诱导氧化

应激、诱导诱导型一氧化氮合酶(iNOS)表达、引起免疫损伤等^[6],其中免疫性肝损伤是近年研究热点。单次摄入(300~1000)μg/kg 剂量的雷公藤甲素便能够引起明显的肝脏损伤^[7,8]。动物实验中,雷公藤甲素模型组血清丙氨酸氨基转移酶和门冬氨酸氨基转移酶明显升高^[9-11],且肝中 TNF 和 NO 释放增加,这提示免疫损伤的发生^[12]。另外,雷公藤甲素可通过调控白细胞介素(IL)-17、IL-6 及核转录因子 NF- κ B^[13,14]以及维甲酸孤儿核受体(ROR- γ t)^[15]等因子,调控炎症的发生^[16-18]。因此,本实验拟通过构建雷公藤甲素小鼠肝损伤模型,观察小鼠

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肝脏中几个重要的细胞因子的表达情况,探讨雷公藤甲素致小鼠肝损伤的作用机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 药物和试剂

雷公藤甲素(四川省维克奇生物科技有限公司),谷丙转氨酶(ALT)试剂盒(南京建成生物工程研究所),RNAiso Plus reagent(Takara, Japan),PrimeScript[®] RT reagent Kit with a gDNA Eraser(Takara, Japan),SYBR[®] Premix Ex Taq[™] II(Tli RNaseH Plus)(Takara, Japan),小鼠IL-17、IL-6、IL-10检测试剂盒(上海桥杜生物科技有限公司),Toll样受体4(TLR4),抗体(万类生物有限公司)。

1.2 动物处置和分组

C57BL/6雌性小鼠(体重18~20g),购自重庆医科大学实验动物中心,C57BL/6小鼠共20只,随机分成2组,即正常对照组和雷公藤甲素模型组,模型组小鼠灌胃给予500μg/kg的雷公藤甲素,正常对照组平行给予等体积的生理盐水。22 h后各组

取外周血,并处死小鼠取肝组织备用。

1.3 赖氏法检测小鼠血清中ALT水平

小鼠麻醉后,摘眼球取血,以1200 rpm,室温,离心10 min,取血清,用微板赖氏法检测血清中ALT水平。

1.4 HE染色检测肝脏形态学改变

小鼠麻醉后处死,无菌取肝脏组织,分别经过固定、脱水、石蜡包埋、切片、脱蜡、HE染色、透明、封片等步骤,而后于200×显微镜下观察结果并拍照。

1.5 RT-PCR法检测小鼠肝脏IL-17、IL-6和ROR-γt mRNA表达情况

取30 mg肝组织剪碎,加入1 mL RNAiso Plus,匀浆,按试剂盒说明抽提RNA,逆转录,而后扩增IL-17、IL-6和ROR-γt mRNA。PCR反应体系总体积25 μL,扩增条件:94 °C预变性2 min后,94 °C 5 s,60 °C 30 s,循环39次。根据标准曲线计算出CT值,使用内参β-actin的值校正后即得△^cT,再计算△△^cT,最后通过2^{-△△CT}公式计算得到IL-17、IL-6和ROR-γt mRNA相对表达量,引物序列见表1。

表1 各对引物序列

Table 1 Primer sequence

基因名称 Gene	上游引物 Forward primer	下游引物 Reverse primer
内参β-actin	5'-CCGTAAGACCTCTATGCCAAC-3'	5'-ACTCATCGTACTCCTGCTTGCT-3'
白细胞介素17IL-17	5'-GCTGACCCCTAAAGAAACCCC-3'	5'-GAAGCAGTTGGGACCCCTT-3'
白细胞介素6IL-6	5'-CTGCAAGAGACTTCCATCCAG-3'	5'-AGTGGTATAGACAGGTCTGTTGG-3'
维甲酸孤儿核受体ROR-γt	5'-CAGAGGAAGTCAATGTGGGA-3'	5'-ATGATCTGGTCATTCTGGCA-3'

1.6 ELISA法检测小鼠肝脏IL-17、IL-6表达水平

取适量肝脏组织,用生理盐水制备10%的肝匀浆,按照ELISA试剂盒说明书操作,检测肝匀浆中IL-17和IL-6的水平,并绘制标准曲线,计算结果。

1.7 Western blot法检测小鼠肝脏中TLR4蛋白的表达

将各组裂解后的蛋白样品经过8%SDS聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳60 min,再以200 mA电流湿转转膜100 min,将凝胶上的蛋白转移到PVDF膜上。10%BSA封闭2 h后加入TLR4一抗(1:800稀释),4 °C孵育过夜。过夜后TBST缓冲液反复洗膜8 min×3次,加入山羊抗兔二抗(1:15 000稀释),37 °C孵育120 min,再以TBST缓冲液反复洗膜8 min×3次。加入等比例ECL化学发光试剂后,进行显影、采图和分析。

1.8 统计学处理

采用SPSS软件进行统计分析,数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,组间差异采用t检验。

2 结果与分析

2.1 血清中ALT检测

血清ALT检测结果表明(见表2),雷公藤甲素模型组小鼠血清ALT水平明显高于正常对照组,差异性显著($P < 0.005$),说明雷公藤甲素造成了严重的肝损伤。

2.2 HE染色病理切片

HE染色病理切片显示:正常对照组小鼠肝细胞形态正常,肝小叶结构完整,汇管区正常。雷公藤甲素模型组小鼠肝细胞明显水肿、充血坏死,肝小叶结构不完整,并有大量炎症细胞浸润,提示雷公藤甲

表 2 各组小鼠血清 ALT 水平和肝脏 IL-17、IL-6、ROR- γ t mRNA 表达水平比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n = 10$)Table 2 Comparison of serum ALT and hepatic IL-17, IL-6, ROR- γ t mRNA expression levels among various groups ($\bar{x} \pm s, n = 10$)

组别 Group	AST (IU/L)	IL-17	IL-6	ROR- γ t
正常对照组 Control group	8.80 ± 2.90	1.48 ± 0.40	1.09 ± 0.31	1.13 ± 0.15
雷公藤甲素模型组 TP model group	52.23 ± 7.03 ***	2.43 ± 1.48 ***	2.13 ± 0.96 ***	3.47 ± 0.12 ***

注: *** $P < 0.005$ vs 正常对照组。Note: *** $P < 0.005$ vs Control group.

素引起了严重的肝损伤。

2.3 IL-17、IL-6 及 ROR- γ t mRNA 表达水平

RT-PCR 结果显示:与正常对照组相比,雷公藤甲素模型组小鼠肝脏中 IL-17、IL-6 和 ROR- γ t mRNA 表达显著升高 ($P < 0.005$) (见表 2)。

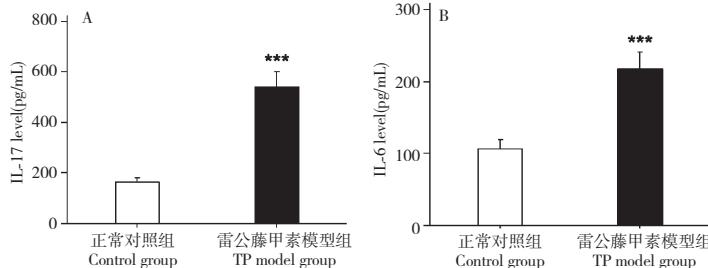


图 1 各组小鼠肝脏 IL-17 和 IL-6 蛋白表达水平比较

Fig. 1 Comparison of hepatic IL-17 and IL-6 levels among various groups

注: *** $P < 0.005$ vs 正常对照组Note: *** $P < 0.005$ vs Control group

2.5 TLR4 蛋白表达水平

Western blot 检测结果显示,雷公藤甲素模型组小

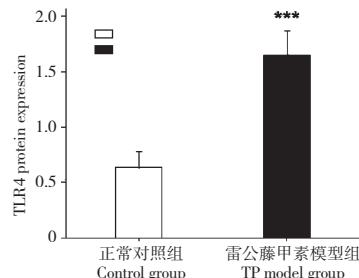
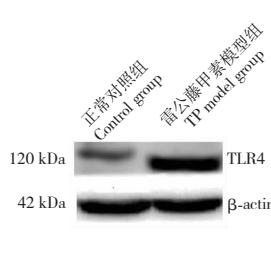


图 2 各组小鼠肝脏 TLR4 蛋白的表达

Fig. 2 The protein expression of TLR4 in each group

注: *** $P < 0.005$ vs 正常对照组Note: *** $P < 0.005$ vs Control group

3 讨论与结论

雷公藤甲素具有免疫抑制、抗炎、抗生育及抗肿瘤等生物活性,因此在临幊上得到广泛的运用,但其毒性和不良反应,尤其是肝毒性,在使用过程中不容

忽视。据报道,雷公藤甲素可通过多种机制引起肝损伤,如诱导细胞凋亡、诱导氧化应激、iNOS 表达、引起免疫损伤等^[6]。研究表明,300 ~ 1000 μ g/kg 的雷公藤甲素能够引起明显的肝损伤^[7,8],并且在动物实验中,雷公藤甲素模型组血清丙氨酸氨基转

移酶和门冬氨酸氨基转移酶明显升高^[9-11]。而后,丁虹等经腹腔给予小鼠雷公藤甲素后发现肝中TNF和NO释放增加;Wang X等经灌胃给予小鼠雷公藤甲素后发现肝中Treg/Th17比例失衡,IL-10表达水平下降,IL-17表达水平升高;这些结论提示免疫损伤在雷公藤甲素引起的肝损伤中起到至关重要的作用^[12,15,19,20]。又有报道称,0.1 mg/kg的雷公藤甲素通过调节IL-17、IL-6及NF-κB等细胞因子水平,可加重或减轻缺血再灌注肝损伤^[13,14]。雷公藤甲素对IL-10也有明确的调节作用,研究表明雷公藤甲素能够上调肿瘤小鼠、实验性自身免疫性脑脊髓膜炎小鼠和结肠炎小鼠的IL-10的表达^[16-18]。同时,雷公藤甲素通过抑制TLR4水平明确的降低了小鼠肝移植过程带来的肝损伤^[21]。这些结论提示雷公藤甲素与细胞因子IL-17、IL-6和IL-10表达水平相关。因此,本实验针对雷公藤甲素引起的免疫性肝损伤,从相关因子入手,试图阐述雷公藤甲素所致的免疫性肝损伤机制。

实验结果表明,灌胃给予雷公藤甲素后,可造成小鼠血清中ALT水平明显升高,且肝脏病理切片显示肝损伤,提示雷公藤甲素诱导肝损伤造模成功。研究表明IL-17是Th17分泌的主要细胞因子,起着促进炎性反应、募集中性粒细胞的作用,ROR-γt(orphan nuclearreceptor)是Th17细胞分化过程中关键的转录激活因子,IL-17和ROR-γt水平与Th17细胞数正相关^[20,22],实验结果显示雷公藤甲素肝损伤模型组小鼠肝脏中IL-17和ROR-γt的水平明显升高,提示Th17细胞数增多。另外,IL-6参与促进Th17细胞的扩增,从而引起Th17细胞数量增加^[23],本实验结果显示雷公藤甲素肝损伤模型组小鼠肝脏中IL-6表达水平明显升高,提示在雷公藤甲素小鼠干模型中IL-6参与促进Th17的分化进而加重小鼠肝脏炎症。也有研究表明TLR4信号的激活能增强IL-17产生炎性T细胞即细胞Th17细胞^[24],本实验中,给予小鼠雷公藤甲素后,小鼠肝脏中TLR4蛋白表达水平明显升高,提示在雷公藤甲素小鼠干模型中,TLR4信号也参与了Th17的分化。因此,我们推测雷公藤甲素可通过促进IL-6、ROR-γt和TLR4的表达,促进Th17细胞的活化,Th17分泌IL-17等炎性细胞增多,从而造成严重的肝组织实质性损伤。

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