

肠道菌群对肿瘤微环境调节的研究进展

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摘要: 肿瘤微环境是肿瘤生长所处的环境, 作为肿瘤细胞赖以生存的场所, 对肿瘤的演变起着至关重要的作用, 肿瘤微环境能调控肿瘤的生长, 促进肿瘤侵袭和转移, 介导肿瘤的免疫逃避, 对肿瘤的发展起着关键性作用。因此, 研究肿瘤微环境的调节机制对肿瘤的治疗具有积极意义。肠道菌群与肿瘤的发生发展具有相关性, 肠道菌群能够调节肿瘤微环境, 促进肿瘤发展。全文综述肿瘤微环境在肿瘤发展中的作用和介导肿瘤免疫逃避的细胞机制和分子机制, 简述肠道菌群通过对肿瘤炎性微环境和免疫微环境的调节来影响肿瘤的发展, 从而为肿瘤的治疗尤其是免疫治疗开发基于肠道菌群为靶点的新方法提供思路。

主题词: 肿瘤微环境; 肠道菌群; 免疫逃避

中图分类号: R730.2 文献标识码: A 文章编号: 1671-170X(2020)11-0946-07

doi: 10.11735/j.issn.1671-170X.2020.11.B004

Progress on Regulation of Intestinal Flora on Tumor Microenvironment

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Abstract: Tumor microenvironment (TME) is the environment in which tumors grow. TME can regulate tumor growth, promote tumor invasion and metastasis, mediate tumor immune escape, and play a key role in tumor development. Therefore, it is of significance to study the regulatory mechanism of TME for the treatment of tumors. This review introduces the role of TME in tumor development and the cellular and molecular mechanisms of tumor immune escape; it also briefly describes how intestinal microflora can affect tumor development by regulating tumor inflammatory microenvironment and immune microenvironment, to provide reference for tumor treatment, especially immunotherapy based on intestinal microflora as therapeutic targets.

Subject words: tumor microenvironment; intestinal flora; immune evasion

肿瘤微环境 (tumor microenvironment, TME) 是肿瘤生长所必需的微环境, 这种微环境包括围绕并营养肿瘤细胞的各种细胞、分子和新生血管等。TME 中各成分之间相互作用, 有利于肿瘤的进展、侵袭和转移, 而不利于机体免疫系统对肿瘤细胞的监视和清除^[1]。最近研究表明, 整个宿主环境中的免疫细胞和其他因素对 TME 存在着一定的调节作用, 肿瘤的这种系统调节被描述为肿瘤大环境^[2], 肠道菌群成为 TME 的重要调节剂^[2-3]。本文就 TME 及肠道菌群对 TME 调节作一阐述。

基金项目: 云南省科技厅科技项目(2018DH006)

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收稿日期: 2019-12-16; 修回日期: 2020-03-02

1 肿瘤微环境

1.1 肿瘤微环境组成

目前研究发现, 肿瘤所处的微环境在肿瘤的恶性演变中起着决定性的作用^[4]。肿瘤具有转移和侵袭的能力, 不仅和基因改变有关, 还与肿瘤和其所处的微环境相互作用有关^[5], TME 对肿瘤发生的启动和维持至关重要^[6-7]。TME 组成包括细胞成分和非细胞成分, 细胞成分包括多能基质细胞/间充质干细胞、免疫细胞、成纤维细胞、内皮细胞、周细胞和脂肪细胞等, 非细胞成分包括细胞外基质、基质金属蛋白酶、细胞因子和趋化因子等^[4,8-9]。这些成分共同组成复杂的网络系统, 具有促进肿瘤的演变, 保护肿瘤免

受宿主免疫攻击,支持肿瘤生长和侵袭,并帮助肿瘤对治疗产生抗性的作用^[10]。TME 中各成分通过分子水平和细胞水平上的变化作用于肿瘤细胞,影响肿瘤的发展(Table 1)。

1.2 肿瘤微环境在肿瘤发生发展中的作用

在肿瘤的发展过程中,肿瘤细胞和正常细胞间通过间接或直接的相互作用产生多尺度生物效应,包括细胞增殖、生长及代谢,血管生成,缺氧以及先天性免疫和适应性免疫^[11-12],在这一过程中,TME 起着关键性的作用。TME 通过破坏宿主免疫反应,并提供促进肿瘤生长和扩散的生长因子、抗凋亡因子、血管生成因子和蛋白酶而导致肿瘤的恶性发展^[4]。研究表明,TME 与肿瘤特征相关,包括无限复制的潜能、逃避生长抑制、组织浸润和转移、抵抗细胞死亡、刺激血管生成、维持增殖信号、细胞能量异常、避免免疫摧毁、基因组不稳定和突变以及肿瘤促进炎症^[10,13]。此外,TME 具有缺氧、慢性炎症和免疫抑制三大特征,三者相辅相成,对肿瘤的发展产生重要作用^[14]。

肿瘤发展与其所处微环境形成的炎性微环境有关^[15-16],这种炎性微环境将由 TME 特定组成以某种

方式激活炎症而形成^[17]。某些致癌基因如 Ras 和 Myc 能够触发信号级联反应,导致 TME 中促炎细胞的募集和细胞因子的表达,以及血管生成因子的产生^[18-19]。Vakkila J 等^[20]指出实体肿瘤的核心区域中形成的坏死会诱导 TME 炎性细胞因子的释放,进一步导致血管生成因子的释放,从而直接通过增加肿瘤组织的氧供和营养来促进肿瘤细胞的存活,并且间接地通过募集促炎细胞和细胞因子释放促进肿瘤发展^[21]。

研究发现,TME 中的免疫细胞形成的免疫微环境可能参与了这种炎症的调节,TME 中 CD8⁺细胞毒性 T 细胞(cytotoxic T lymphocyte,CTLs)和 CD4⁺辅助性 T1 细胞(helper T1 lymphocyte,Th1)的增加似乎与更好的预后有关,这是因为 TME 中 CTLs 和 Th1 减少与肿瘤发展有关^[22],然而,有文献表明,除自然杀伤性 T (natural killer T cells,NKT)细胞外,T 淋巴细胞(CTLs,Th1,Th2 和 Th17)可能发挥癌前作用^[23]。此外,一些肿瘤细胞能通过与 Toll 样受体(Toll-like receptors,TLR)相互作用激活 TME 中巨噬细胞,使其特定功能的表型向促炎性表型(M2)发生转化,对

Table 1 Composition and functions of TME^[4]

Composition	Functions	
Immune cells	Tumor-associated macrophages, (TAMs) Dendritic cell(DC) Myeloid suppressor cells (MDSCs) Macrophages expressing tie2 (Tregs)	Enhance tumor cell invasion and metastasis, promoting angiogenesis and extracellular matrix remodeling,inhibiting tissue immune surveillance DC is transformed into immunosuppressive regulatory cells to induce T cell defects through various mechanisms Down-regulates the secretion of TGF-β and arginase -1,changes T cell signal and inhibits immune function,inhibiting CD8 ⁺ T cells from producing interferon-gamma, promoting tumor angiogenesis,enhance Treg expression Promoting tumor angiogenesis,inhibition of T cell proliferation ,promoting Treg infiltration Inhibit the proliferation of other T cells,promoting tumor metastasis
Non-immune cells	Cancer-related fibroblasts(CAFs) Endothelial cells Pericyte Adipose cell	Promoting immune cell recruitment,angiogenesis and tumor growth,secreting a variety of factors affecting tumor growth to stimulate the proliferation, survival ,migration and invasion characteristics of tumor cells Promoting tumor angiogenesis Expression of α -smooth muscle actin (not normally expressed),platelet-derived growth factor β(PDGFRβ),glial antigen -2 and desmin Enhance the metastatic ability of tumor cells
Acellular component	Extracellular matrix(ECM) Matrix metalloproteinase Cytokines Chemokines Signal Transduction and Transcription Activator 3(STAT3)	Prevent tumor invasion,protecting tumor cells from apoptosis induced by chemotherapy drugs,mediate tumor drug resistance Degradation of extracellular matrix,matrix metalloproteinases are up-regulated to induce epithelial-mesenchymal transition(EMT) and promote tumor invasion and metastasis. Maintaining inflammatory microenvironment and promoting tumor progression(such as IL-6,IL-10,TNF-α,TGF-β),induces tumor immune evasion(IL-10,TGF-β) Affect the proliferation,angiogenesis and metastasis of tumor cells,inducing tumor immune evasion,affect the degree and phenotype of lymphocyte infiltration The key medium to induce tumor immune escape,inhibit innate immunity and adaptive immunity

诱导肿瘤血管生成和侵袭转移过程至关重要^[24]。可见,TME 中的每个细胞和特定炎症细胞类型的比例在肿瘤进展或肿瘤抑制中具有重要作用^[25]。

1.3 肿瘤微环境与肿瘤免疫逃避

目前国际上开展了大量的抗肿瘤免疫治疗的临床研究,但疗效却并不理想。在进行免疫治疗的患者中,尽管表现出循环或微环境中存在大量抗肿瘤免疫细胞,但肿瘤仍在发展^[26]。现有的观点认为,TME 在肿瘤免疫逃避机制中发挥着重要作用,肿瘤能够通过激活大量细胞和分子免疫抑制机制来创造一个耐受的微环境,这些机制协同对抗免疫反应^[27]。越来越多的证据表明,微环境中的多种组成可能有助于免疫逃逸,如肿瘤相关巨噬细胞(tumor-associated macrophages, TAMs)、调节性 T 细胞 (regulatory T cells, Treg)、肿瘤细胞上的抑制性配体(程序性死亡配体 1(programmed death-ligand 1,PD-L1))等^[27]。

1.3.1 细胞机制

长期以来,TME 被认为是对肿瘤的宿主反应,但越来越多的信息表明,TME 是肿瘤逃避宿主免疫监测的环境,而且能促进肿瘤发生^[28]。在 TME 中发现具有抗肿瘤作用的免疫细胞减少,而具有免疫抑制作用的免疫细胞却增多,如 Tregs、髓源性抑制细胞(myeloid suppressor cells, MDSCs)、TAMs。这些抑制性免疫细胞和细胞因子共同形成了免疫抑制微环境^[29]。

肿瘤的免疫微环境对肿瘤的免疫逃避发挥了巨大作用,在 TME 中发现 Tregs 数量增加,且与治疗效果差及低生存率存在相关性^[30],说明 Tregs 在 TME 积累可以防止抗肿瘤免疫。同时,在肿瘤细胞分泌的趋化因子配体 22 (chemokine (C-C motif) ligand, CCL22) 的影响下,Tregs 被募集到 TME 中,分泌白介素(interleukin, IL)-10 和转化生长因子(transforming growth factor, TGF)- β 抑制其他 T 细胞增殖,发挥抑制宿主免疫的作用^[31],从而促进肿瘤的免疫耐受环境的形成。Jaehong K 等^[32]指出 TME 中 TAMs 能被重新编程,通过释放抑制性细胞因子如 IL-10、前列腺素和活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS) 来抑制淋巴细胞功能,同时抑制免疫系统对肿瘤的免疫监视。而激活的巨噬细胞被趋化因子如巨噬细胞集落刺激因子(macrophage colony stimulating factor, M-CSF) 和 CCL2 集落至 TME,并分化为具有抗炎、组

织修复和促进肿瘤细胞生长和转移的 M2 型巨噬细胞,增强肿瘤细胞的浸润和转移,促进血管生成和细胞外基质重塑^[29,32-33],进一步促进免疫耐受环境的形成。此外,肿瘤细胞还会分泌粒细胞-巨噬细胞集落刺激因子(granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor, GM-CSF)、前列腺素 E2(prostaglandin E2, PGE2)、趋化因子配体 5(chemokine(C-X-C motif) ligand, CXCL5) 和 CXCL12 等细胞因子促进 MDSCs 的产生。MDSCs 通过各种机制抑制细胞介导的免疫:下调 TGF- β 和精氨酸酶-1 分泌,改变 T 细胞信号,抑制免疫功能;抑制 CD8⁺T 细胞产生干扰素(interferon, INF)- γ ;促进肿瘤血管生成;增强 Treg 表达^[4,34-35]。通过以上机制,MDSCs 促进肿瘤的免疫逃避,有利于肿瘤的侵袭及转移。

1.3.2 分子机制

除了 TME 中的细胞成分介导免疫逃避外,一系列的微环境中非细胞成分也介导肿瘤免疫逃避,包括细胞因子、趋化因子和酶等^[4,8-9]。

信号转导和转录激活因子 3(signal transduction and transcription activator 3, STAT3) 是许多致癌途径的汇聚点,已成为肿瘤免疫逃避的关键介质,STAT3 活性的丧失可以诱导细胞因子和趋化因子的产生,从而激活先天免疫,并最终引起 T 细胞反应^[36],因此成为免疫治疗提供了重要的靶点。而异常 STAT3 信号影响先天性免疫和适应性免疫,从而引起免疫抑制效应,TME 中致癌蛋白包括表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)、人类表皮生长因子受体 2(human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, Her2/neu)、血小板衍生生长因子受体(platelet derived growth factor receptor, PDGFR)的激活会导致 STAT3 的持续激活,与肿瘤发展相关靶基因作用后,引起肿瘤细胞增殖、血管生成和侵袭等^[37]。

TME 含有抑制 T 细胞功能的细胞因子,如 IL-10 和 TGF- β 。TGF- β 是一种由多种肿瘤产生的细胞因子,具有多向效应,可影响免疫系统的几乎所有免疫细胞,可诱导血管生成,阻断 T 细胞活化,介导细胞外基质的产生,并促进成纤维细胞和内皮细胞产生细胞因子^[3]。TGF- β 在某些肿瘤中升高,并与预后不良有关。TGF- β 与 IL-10 共同下调 CTL 活性和下调免疫识别的主要组织相容性复合体 (major histocompatibility complex, MHC) 类分子^[38],促进肿瘤细

胞的免疫逃避。

此外,由肿瘤细胞和TME中的细胞产生的趋化因子和细胞因子影响肿瘤细胞的增殖、血管生成和转移,趋化因子及其受体在许多肿瘤的发生和发展中起着关键作用。各种实体肿瘤细胞表达高水平的趋化因子受体,如趋化因子受体4(chemokine(C-X-C motif) receptor,CXCR4)、CCR7、CCR9和CCR10。这些趋化因子可以影响淋巴细胞浸润的程度和表型,并促进肿瘤的转移^[7-11]。综上,TME中细胞因子、趋化因子等分子组成的网络可以调节肿瘤的免疫反应,介导肿瘤细胞免疫逃避。

2 肠道菌群对肿瘤微环境的调节

最近有研究指出,TME是将癌细胞置于病变的背景中,因此提出“肿瘤大环境”的概念,将癌细胞的致癌作用置于全身环境中^[1,2,39],发现TME与肠道微生物存在紧密的联系。

越来越多的证据表明,肠道菌群及其代谢产物(如短链脂肪酸)影响食物摄入、肥胖、脂质和能量稳态相关的重要代谢途径,同时,相关研究也表明,肠道菌群能够影响下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴(hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal,HPA)和神经活性物质及各种激素的产生,包括催产素、睾酮和甲状腺素^[40-47]。除此之外,宿主的免疫系统、代谢特征和心理状况都受到微生物群的影响,这些因素在整个机体水平上也相互影响,是致癌和肿瘤进展的重要决定因素^[3]。

Erdman等^[46]提供了微生物-免疫相互作用在肿瘤中的早期证据,表明免疫缺陷敲除(KO)小鼠被共生细菌定植,存在于一种慢性、隐性的促炎和促肿瘤状态,相比之下,野生型小鼠免疫能力强的对肿瘤具有更强的抗性。最近的研究数据显示,肠道细菌代谢物和炎症分子如细菌脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide,LPS)可能进入血液循环并影响远离胃肠道的组织中的肿瘤形成^[47],Yoshimoto S等^[48]发现与肥胖相关的肠道微生物增加循环脱氧胆酸,它通过诱导肝星状细胞衰老相关的分泌表型促进肝癌的发生。另外,动物实验证明反复抗生素治疗与某些癌症如胃癌、结直肠癌、肺癌、前列腺癌和膀胱癌的发病率增加有关,这是因为抗生素的使用改变了肠道菌群的组成,而当恢复其肠道菌群组成时,可导致几种肿瘤细胞

系进展缓慢^[49],这表明微生物群具有促进肿瘤进展和保护肿瘤的功能^[50]。

研究表明,致癌性主要归因于微生物的生物失调,微生物失调可通过多种途径导致癌症的易感性^[51-52],其中肠道菌群对肿瘤炎性微环境与免疫微环境起到重要作用^[53]。

2.1 肠道菌群对肿瘤炎性微环境的调节

肿瘤是一种系统性疾病,炎症免疫细胞、趋化因子和细胞因子在远端影响肿瘤生长和转移,TME中这些炎症免疫细胞、细胞因子等共同形成了炎性微环境。而慢性炎症已被证实是肿瘤的驱动因素,在促进肿瘤进展,加速侵袭和转移的同时,炎症细胞因子还直接导致上皮细胞DNA损伤,造成异常的DNA甲基化引发炎症相关肿瘤^[54]。炎性微环境中的炎性细胞因子如IL-1、6、10和肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor,TNF)- α 水平的增加将启动癌症发展的过程,通过活化B细胞的核因子 κ -轻链增强子,激活Wnt信号和丝裂原活化蛋白激酶途径,抑制细胞凋亡,增强氧化应激反应^[55],促进肿瘤发展。此外,IL-6和IL-11能使STAT3敏感性增强,对转化上皮细胞的产生显著性影响^[56]。炎症相关因子的产生也可以使抑癌基因失活(例如p53突变),并激活癌基因(例如KRAS突变)^[57]。

在健康成人中,某些菌群的丰富程度与炎症细胞因子的产生有关,如TNF- α 、IL-6、IL-1 β 、IFN- γ 、IL-17、IL-22,这些细胞因子都能够通过多种机制影响肿瘤进展,包括将抑制性免疫细胞募集到TME中来促进肿瘤生长,或抑制机体免疫系统对肿瘤细胞的监测^[58]。然而,在肠道菌群失调状态下,与炎症相关的菌群可能会发生变化,引起炎症和代谢异常,导致不利的后果^[59]。尽管菌群失调是直接影响肿瘤进展还是作为肿瘤发生的生物标志物目前还不清楚,但是却发现肿瘤相关菌群多样性的减少与对组织具有保护作用的炎症性先天信号受体(如TLR2、TLR5和NOD1和NOD2)表达的减少相关^[60],这些炎症信号的失调会促进炎症或破坏DNA的细菌物种的生长。此外,还发现了一种肿瘤特异性梭杆菌,这是一种含有成核杆菌的细菌,这种细菌与大肠癌的炎症和癌变直接相关^[61]。可见,肠道菌群的失调导致细菌移位、炎症因子的产生以及代谢改变,促进肿瘤炎性微环境的形成,调控肿瘤发生发展。

2.2 肠道菌群对肿瘤免疫微环境的调节

肠道菌群失调触发了许多与肿瘤形成过程相关的先天性和适应性免疫反应。先天免疫系统可以识别细菌的结构成分,如鞭毛蛋白、脂多糖和肽聚糖^[62-63]。TLRs 具有区分微生物分子和宿主的能力,在先天性免疫系统中起着至关重要。Nod 样受体(NOD-like receptors, NLR)也调节先天性免疫反应,同时调节菌群组成并激活炎症体介导的菌群失调。此外,辅助性T 细胞、Tregs 和 B 细胞等通过适应性免疫系统参与肿瘤发生^[64-65]。肠道菌群的变化会诱导 IL-6、GM-CSF、TGF-β 等细胞因子的产生,促进肿瘤炎症微环境的形成,同时增强 MDSCs 和 Tregs 向肿瘤微环境的募集,维持免疫微环境,在这些细胞的存在下,T 细胞消除肿瘤的能力受到抑制^[66]。

此外,肠道菌群的代谢物如脂磷壁酸(lipoteichoic acid, LTA)、次生胆汁酸和短链脂肪酸(short-chain fatty acids, SCFAs) 在致癌作用中具有双重作用^[67],LTA、次生胆汁酸会促进肿瘤的恶化,而 SCFAs 能够通过海藻糖介导免疫调节,因此表现出抗炎和抗肿瘤作用^[68]。

研究表明,微生物群及其相关代谢物不仅通过诱导炎症和免疫失调(导致遗传不稳定)与肿瘤发生密切相关,而且干扰抗肿瘤药物的药效学。此外,目前已经证明微生物群中特定细菌种类的丰富或缺乏影响特定肿瘤的生长和进展^[27,64]。

除了肠道菌群,肿瘤内的细菌本身也可能影响肿瘤的发展和治疗,某些细菌如具核梭杆菌和牛链球菌与原发性肿瘤^[69]以及转移部位^[70]相关,并且肿瘤中细菌相关分子的改变跨越基因组、表观遗传和免疫领域,肿瘤相关菌群的免疫调节作用与观察到的基因组和生化作用一样具有多样性^[71]。可见,肠道菌群诱导癌变的机制可能包括炎症诱导、细胞信号改变和抑制免疫细胞的杀伤效应,然而肿瘤内细菌在肿瘤中的确切作用仍未完全阐明。

3 小 结

肿瘤微环境通过调控肿瘤的营养、生长、免疫逃避以及侵袭转移来促进肿瘤的发展,而肠道菌群的变化不仅会直接影响肿瘤增殖,还能通过影响细胞因子的分泌及代谢和免疫功能的改变促进肿瘤炎性

微环境和免疫微环境的形成调控肿瘤的生长。更全面地了解肠道菌群对肿瘤微环境中肿瘤生长及免疫功能的效应,对于肿瘤治疗,尤其是免疫治疗,寻找新的基于肠道菌群的靶点具有积极意义。

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