

# HER-2通过ZEB1促进乳腺癌细胞上皮 间质转化

侯 净<sup>1,2</sup>, 任智晶<sup>3</sup>, 魏 娜<sup>1</sup>, 倪 青<sup>1</sup>, 郭小毛<sup>2</sup>

1. 贵州省人民医院乳腺外科, 贵州 贵阳 550002 ;
2. 复旦大学附属肿瘤医院放疗科, 复旦大学上海医学院肿瘤学系, 上海 200032 ;
3. 贵州省人民医院检验科, 贵州 贵阳 550002

**[摘要]** 背景与目的: 人类表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor-2, HER-2)是表皮生长因子受体家族中的一员, 它参与细胞多个生物过程, 如细胞增殖、侵袭和凋亡等。有研究表明, HER-2与细胞上皮间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)过程相关, 但具体机制有待进一步探讨, 本研究旨在探讨HER-2对EMT的调节机制。**方法:** 用Transwell小室模拟细胞的迁徙侵袭能力; 采用实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescent quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)检测目的基因的表达; 用活性氧检测试剂盒检测细胞活性氧的水平。**结果:** Transwell小室模拟实验发现, HER-2过表达能促进乳腺癌细胞的侵袭转移; 机制研究表明, HER-2能上调ZEB1, 用siRNA降低ZEB1表达使HER-2过表达细胞的侵袭能力受损; 此外, HER-2过表达乳腺癌细胞中活性氧水平较低。**结论:** HER-2可以上调ZEB1的表达而赋予乳腺癌细胞EMT相关特性, ZEB1可作为进一步研究HER-2与EMT调节关系的靶点。

**[关键词]** 乳腺癌; 人类表皮生长因子受体2; ZEB1; 细胞侵袭; 上皮间质转化

DOI: 10.19401/j.cnki.1007-3639.2016.12.002

中图分类号: R737.9 文献标志码: A 文章编号: 1007-3639(2016)12-0968-06

**HER-2 promotes breast cancer cell epithelial-mesenchymal transition by regulating ZEB1** HOU Jing<sup>1,2</sup>, REN Zhijing<sup>3</sup>, WEI Na<sup>1</sup>, NI Qing<sup>1</sup>, GUO Xiaomao<sup>2</sup> (1. Department of Breast Surgery, Guizhou Provincial People's Hospital, Guiyang 550002, Guizhou Province, China; 2. Department of Radiation Oncology, Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center, Department of Oncology, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University, Shanghai 200032, China; 3. Department of Laboratory, Guizhou Provincial People's Hospital, Guiyang 550002, Guizhou Province, China)

Correspondence to: GUO Xiaomao E-mail: guoxm1800@126.com

**[Abstract]** **Background and purpose:** Human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 (HER-2), a member of epidermal growth factor receptor family, initiates a diverse set of signaling pathways that ultimately affect such fundamental processes as cell proliferation, cell motility and cell apoptosis. It is reported that HER-2 was associated with epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) process. However, the mechanism needs further investigation. The purpose of this study was to investigate the mechanism of HER-2 on regulating EMT process. **Methods:** Transwell assay was used to determine the motility of breast cancer cells; Real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-FQ-PCR) was employed to determine the expression of genes of interest, and reactive oxygen species production was measured by reactive oxygen species detection kit. **Results:** HER-2 overexpression in breast cancer cells could promote cell migration and invasion. Mechanistic study showed that HER-2 overexpression could upregulate ZEB1 expression. ZEB1 silencing by siRNA reduced cell motility of HER-2-overexpressing breast cancer cells. Furthermore, reactive oxygen species produced in HER-2-overexpressing breast cancer cells were less than those produced in corresponding control cells. **Conclusion:** Our study demonstrated that HER-2 overexpression endowed breast cancer cells with EMT related properties by upregulating ZEB1 expression. ZEB1 could be a candidate target for further study of the relationship between HER-2 and EMT.

[Key words] Breast cancer; Human epidermal growth factor receptor-2; ZEB1; Cell invasion; Epithelial-mesenchymal transition

乳腺癌是女性最常见的恶性肿瘤，世界范围内其发病率居第1位，死亡率居第2位<sup>[1]</sup>，严重影响女性健康。近年来，随着乳腺癌的综合治疗手段发展，乳腺癌患者的预后得到极大改善，但肿瘤侵袭转移问题仍是乳腺癌治疗中面临的重要问题<sup>[2]</sup>，是影响乳腺癌治疗效果的重要因素，因此，研究乳腺癌侵袭转移的机制具有重要的临床意义。根据雌激素受体(estrogen receptor, ER)、孕激素受体(progesterone receptor, PR)和人类表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor-2, HER-2)的表达不同，乳腺癌可主要分为三种不同的亚型[ER+和(或)PR+型、HER-2阳性型及三阴性]。有研究表明，三种亚型的乳腺癌治疗手段有所不同，预后也有差别<sup>[3]</sup>，其中，HER-2过表达型局部复发危险性明显高于ER+和(或)PR+型(luminal型)，虽然HER-2基因的靶向治疗药物赫赛汀可以显著改善HER-2过表达型乳腺癌的预后，但耐药及肿瘤转移问题也普遍存在<sup>[4]</sup>。有研究表明，HER-2过表达乳腺癌与其他类型的乳腺癌相比，脑转移的概率较高<sup>[5-6]</sup>，说明HER-2过表达与乳腺癌的转移密切相关，探讨HER-2对乳腺癌细胞的侵袭转移机制有助于了解其引起脑转移的原因，并为解决乳腺癌转移问题提供一定思路。

上皮间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)是近年来肿瘤研究的热点，是指上皮细胞通过特定程序转化为具有间质表型细胞的生物学过程<sup>[7]</sup>。EMT参与肿瘤细胞侵袭转移过程调节，此外，EMT与癌细胞的化疗耐受及肿瘤干细胞特性等密切相关<sup>[8]</sup>。已有研究表明，HER-2与EMT过程密切相关<sup>[9]</sup>，但HER-2与影响EMT过程中的特定基因如ZEB1、Snail、Slug和Twist等的具体关系目前研究还较少，本研究通过Transwell小室模拟细胞的运动能力，为揭示HER-2与EMT关系及其对乳腺癌侵袭转移的机制提供进一步依据。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 细胞培养

MCF-7、MDA-MB-231、SK-BR-3和293T培养在DMEM培养基中，培养基含有10%的胎牛血清、1 mmol/L非必需氨基酸、2 mmol/L L-谷氨酰胺，100 U/mL的青霉素和100 mg/mL的链霉素，在37 °C、CO<sub>2</sub>体积分数为5%的饱和湿度的环境中培养。

### 1.2 HER-2过表达及敲低细胞系的构建

首先构建HER-2过表达质粒，其慢病毒载体为pCDH-CMV-MCS-EF1-Puro，用TRIzol裂解法从SK-BR-3细胞中提取总RNA，通过反转录合成cDNA，然后通过实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescent quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)扩增HER-2基因，HER-2的PCR上游引物序列：5'-AATTGCTAGCGCCACCATGGAGCTGGCGGCCTTGT-3'，下游引物序列：5'-ATAAGAATGCGGCCGCTCACACTGGCACGTCCAGAC-3'。Nhe I限制性内切酶位点：GCTAGC；Not I限制性内切酶位点：GCGGCCGC；Kozak序列：GCCACC。

用Nhe I、Not I双酶切系统处理HER-2扩增片段及载体，再利用T4 DNA连接酶连接，最后通过大肠杆菌转化、筛选、DNA抽提、酶切验证及DNA测序验证完成HER-2过表达质粒的构建。HER-2干扰质粒shRNA的构建过程基本同过表达质粒构建，靶向HER-2的shRNA序列参考TRCN0000039878：正向5'-CCGGTGTCAGTATCCAGGCTTTGTACTCGAGTACAAAGCCTGGATACTGACATTTTTG-3'；反向5'-AATTCAAAAATGTCAGTATCCAGGCTTTGTACTCGAGTACAAAGCCTGGATACTGACA-3'。shRNA片段由生工生物工程(上海)股份有限公司合成。具体的构建步骤参考pLKO.1 puro质粒使用操作手册(<http://www.addgene.org/tools/protocols/>)

plko)。将构建好的质粒通过慢病毒包装系统制备慢病毒液, 再利用病毒液感染靶细胞, 通过嘌呤霉素(1~5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ )筛选阳性细胞, 最终得到HER-2过表达的乳腺癌细胞。

### 1.3 Transwell实验

用Transwell小室模拟体外细胞迁移(侵袭)实验, 迁移实验和侵袭实验步骤基本相同, 不同的是侵袭实验需要在Transwell小室底部铺基质胶, 以基质胶侵袭实验为例简述其方法步骤: 铺胶前将所用的枪头、24孔板和EP管预冷; 将基质胶取出, 无菌条件下在冰上融化, 将Transwell小室置于24孔板中; 将基质胶与无血清培养基以1:3~1:5的比例混匀, 然后取60  $\mu\text{L}$ 混合液铺于Transwell小室, 37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 放置1 h使胶凝固; 细胞准备, 常规消化细胞, PBS洗涤1次, 然后用无血清的培养基重悬, 计数, 将细胞数目调节至(2~5) $\times 10^5$ 个/mL(不同细胞接种数目需要预实验确定); 取200  $\mu\text{L}$ 细胞悬液加入Transwell小室, 在小室下(24孔板中)加入500  $\mu\text{L}$ 含2%~10%FBS的培养基; 在37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下培养24 h(不同细胞培养时间不同); 取出小室, 用4%多聚甲醛固定30 min, 然后用结晶紫进行染色; 用棉棒擦去小室上面未穿膜的细胞及基质胶; 在倒置显微镜下直接观察计数穿过的细胞, 观察计数时中央和周围各随机取3个视野, 然后计算每个视野的平均数; 分析数据。

### 1.4 活性氧检测

利用上海碧云天生物技术有限公司的活性氧检测试剂盒检测细胞中的活性氧水平, 实验步骤参考试剂盒说明书: 按照1:1 000用无血清培养液稀释DCFH-DA, 使终浓度为10  $\mu\text{mol}/\text{L}$ 。细胞收集后悬浮于稀释好的DCFH-DA中, 细胞浓度为(1~20) $\times 10^6$ /mL, 在37  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下温育20 min。每隔3~5 min颠倒混匀一下, 使探针和细胞充分接触。用无血清细胞培养液洗涤细胞3次, 以充分去除未进入细胞内的DCFH-DA, 流式细胞仪分析活性氧水平。

### 1.5 RTFQ-PCR

用TRIzol裂解法提取总RNA, 反转录体系为Takara-PrimeScript<sup>TM</sup> RT reagent Kit; RTFQ-PCR反应体系为LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I Master(购自瑞士Roche公司); 数据分析采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}}$ 法, 所有实验重复3次, 每次设置3个平行孔, 用GAPDH作为内参, 数据分析用柱状图表示, 部分基因的RTFQ-PCR引物序列见表1。

表 1 相关基因的RTFQ-PCR引物序列

Tab. 1 RTFQ-PCR primer sequences of related genes	
Genes	Primer sequence (5'-3')
GAPDH	F: ACCCAGAAGACTGTGGATGG
	R: TCTAGACGGCAGGTCAGGTC
HER-2	F: CCCATATGTCTCCCGCCTTC
	R: GGTTTTCCCGGACATGGTCT
ZEB1	F: TACCAGAGGATGACCTGCCA
	R: TGCCCTTCCTTCCTGTGTC

### 1.6 统计学处理

应用Graphpad prism 6软件进行统计学分析。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

## 2 结 果

### 2.1 HER-2促进乳腺癌细胞的侵袭转移

本研究选择HER-2低表达或不表达的乳腺癌细胞系MCF-7和MDA-MB-231(231)构建HER-2过表达细胞系; 选择HER-2高表达的乳腺癌细胞系ZR-7530(7530)和SK-BR-3构建HER-2沉默细胞系。用RTFQ-PCR和蛋白[质]印迹法(Western blot)验证细胞构建成功后, 直接采用Transwell小室检测细胞的运动能力, 发现HER-2过表达后的MCF-7 PCDH HER-2细胞、231 PCDH HER-2细胞与对照细胞相比, 迁移能力与侵袭能力都增强; 而HER-2沉默后的7530 PLKO HER-2i、SK-BR-3 PLKO HER-2i细胞与对照细胞相比, 迁移能力与侵袭能力都减弱(图1、2)。证明HER-2能调节乳腺癌细胞的迁移侵袭能力。

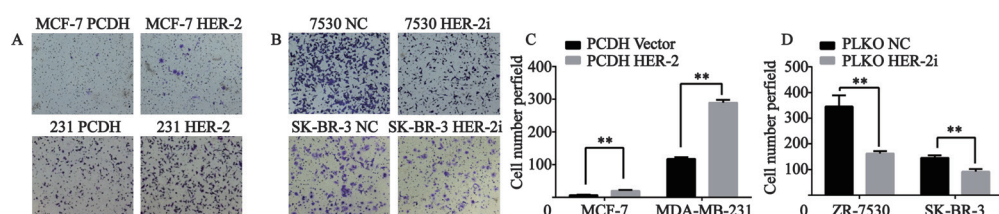


图 1 HER-2促进乳腺癌细胞迁移

Fig. 1 HER-2 promotes breast cancer cell migration

A, B: Representative images of migrated cells; C, D: Quantitative analysis of the number of migrated cells; \*\*:  $P < 0.05$

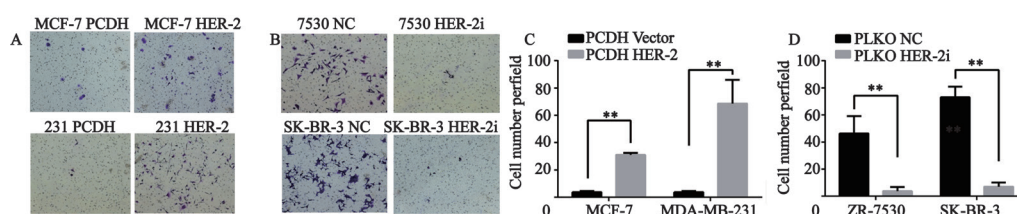


图 2 HER-2调节乳腺癌细胞的侵袭能力

Fig. 2 HER-2 promotes breast cancer cell invasion

A, B: Representative images of migrated cells; C, D: Quantitative analysis of the number of migrated cells; \*\*:  $P < 0.05$

## 2.2 HER-2调节EMT相关基因的表达

为了解HER-2调节细胞侵袭的机制，我们用RTFQ-PCR检测了HER-2表达干预后乳腺癌细胞系中EMT相关基因的mRNA表达情况。结果表明，当HER-2沉默后，7530 PLKO HER-2i细胞中EMT相关的基因如*Snail*、*Slug*、*ZEB1*、*ZEB2*、*N-cadherin(N-cad)*、*Fibronectin(FN)*和*Vimentin*等的mRNA表达量跟对照细胞7530 PLKO NC相比都有不同程度的下调；而HER-2过表达后的231 PCDH HER-2和MCF-7 PCDH HER-2细胞与对照细胞相比，上述基因中大部分的mRNA表达也有不同程度的上调(图3)。说明HER-2通过调节部分EMT相关基因的转录而

参与EMT过程的调节。

## 2.3 HER-2通过ZEB1调节乳腺癌细胞侵袭转移

为进一步探索HER-2调节乳腺癌细胞侵袭的机制，选取上述EMT相关基因中变化较明显的*ZEB1*作进一步研究，用靶向*ZEB1*的两个siRNA处理231 PCDH HER-2细胞，两个靶向*ZEB1*的siRNA能有效降低*ZEB1*的转录水平(图4A)。然后检测*ZEB1*干扰后细胞的侵袭转移能力变化，发现当231 PCDH HER-2细胞中的*ZEB1*表达下调后，细胞的侵袭转移能力减弱，基本恢复到基线水平，说明*ZEB1*可以介导HER-2对细胞运动能力的调节(图4B、C)。

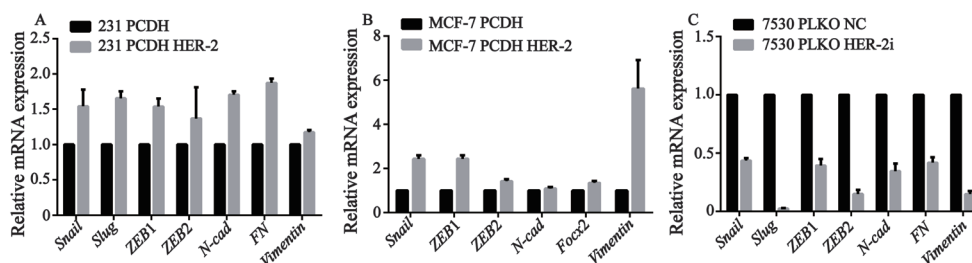


图 3 HER-2调节EMT相关基因的表达

Fig. 3 HER-2 regulates the expression of EMT related genes

A, B: HER-2 overexpression upregulated expression of EMT related genes; C: HER-2 silencing reduced expression of EMT related genes

## 2.4 HER-2调节乳腺癌细胞中活性氧水平

EMT与细胞的代谢过程密切相关,为进一步证实HER-2通过调节ZEB1参与EMT过程,我们检测了HER-2干预后的乳腺癌细胞中活性氧的水平,发现HER-2过表达后,MCF-7 PCDH HER-2细胞中的活性氧水平较对照细胞水平

低,而HER-2沉默后的SK-BR-3细胞较对照细胞中的活性氧水平高(图5)。说明HER-2过表达能调节乳腺癌细胞的代谢水平,表现出EMT特性,可降低活性氧水平,避免细胞受活性氧的伤害。

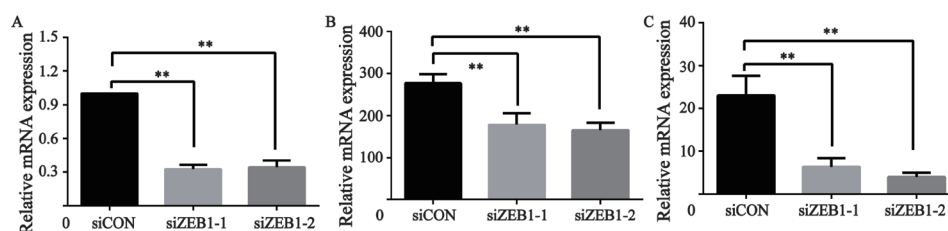


图4 HER-2通过ZEB1调节乳腺癌细胞侵袭转移

Fig. 4 HER-2 regulates breast cancer cell migration and invasion through ZEB1

A: Verification of the efficiency of siRNA; B, C: ZEB1 silencing reduced breast cancer cell migration and invasion; \*\*:  $P < 0.05$

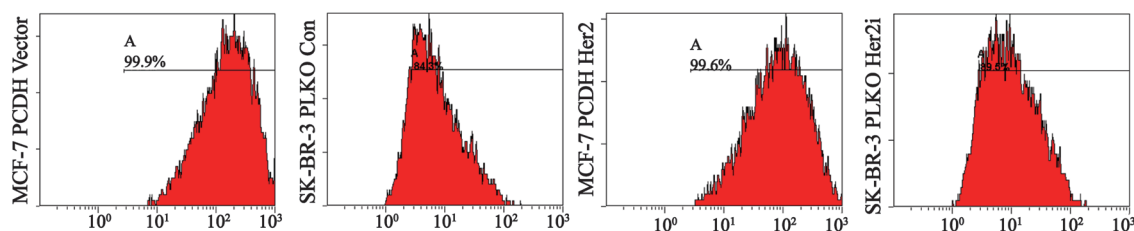


图5 HER-2调节乳腺癌细胞中活性氧水平

Fig. 5 HER-2 regulates reactive oxygen species production in breast cancer cells

Reactive oxygen species produced in HER-2 overexpressed breast cancer cells was less than corresponding control cells. The opposite results was seen when HER-2 was silenced. (Horizontal axis presents fluorescence intensity or Reactive oxygen species level)

## 3 讨 论

约25%~30%的乳腺癌病例伴有HER-2基因的扩增,在低恶度的乳腺导管原位癌中HER-2基因扩增比例更高,可达50%~70%,说明HER-2在乳腺癌发生、发展过程中有重要的作用<sup>[10-11]</sup>。有研究发现,HER-2可参与细胞增殖、凋亡、周期及侵袭转移等过程的调节,其机制主要涉及Ras/MAPK通路和PI3K/AKT通路<sup>[12]</sup>。近年来,随着研究的深入,HER-2调节细胞侵袭转移的机制不断得到拓展,有研究发现,HER-2与EMT有密切关系<sup>[9]</sup>,为解释HER-2与细胞侵袭转移和细胞耐药等机制提供了更多的理论基础,但HER-2与EMT相关基因的具体关系还有待更多的研究探索。EMT的发

生与细胞上皮标志物E-钙黏蛋白(E-cadherin)的缺失或表达减弱,而获得间皮标志物如N-钙黏蛋白(N-cadherin)、波形蛋白(vimentin)和纤连蛋白(fibronectin)等相关<sup>[13]</sup>。ZEB1是一种锌指蛋白,可以作为转录因子识别E-cadherin蛋白启动子区的E盒,下调E-cadherin的表达,同时导致vimentin和fibronectin等的表达上调而诱导EMT的发生<sup>[14]</sup>;同时,ZEB1可以抑制miR-200家族,招募SWI和(或)SNF染色质重构蛋白BRG1加速EMT过程<sup>[15-16]</sup>。近年来的研究还发现,ZEB1与细胞顶-底极性的丧失有关,而该过程与EMT密切相关<sup>[17]</sup>。本研究在细胞水平上验证了HER-2过表达能促进乳腺癌细胞侵袭转移,同时能上调EMT相关基因的转录水平。我们进一步选择变化较为明显的基因ZEB1进行后

续研究, 通过siRNA干扰证实ZEB1在HER-2过表达对乳腺癌细胞的侵袭转移调节过程中有重要作用, 该结果也表明HER-2能通过调节ZEB1的表达而赋予HER-2过表达细胞间质转化的能力, 使HER-2过表达细胞具有更强的侵袭转移能力, 同时能减少细胞中活性氧的产生使细胞具有更强的存活能力, 本研究结果为进一步了解HER-2与乳腺癌细胞侵袭转移和EMT之间的调节机制提供了一定的理论基础, 但HER-2与ZEB1的具体调节机制有待进一步研究。

#### [参 考 文 献]

- [1] CLARKE R, TYSON J J, DIXON J M. Endocrine resistance in breast cancer – An overview and update [J]. *Mol Cell Endocrinol*, 2015, 418 Pt 3:220–234.
- [2] LUO M, BROOKS M, WICHA M S. Epithelial–mesenchymal plasticity of breast cancer stem cells: implications for metastasis and therapeutic resistance [J]. *Curr Pharm Des*, 2015, 21(10): 1301–1310.
- [3] SHIM H J, KIM S H, KANG B J, et al. Breast cancer recurrence according to molecular subtype [J]. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 2014, 15(14): 5539–5544.
- [4] HYNES N E, LANE H A. ERBB receptors and cancer: the complexity of targeted inhibitors [J]. *Nat Rev Cancer*, 2005, 5(5): 341–354.
- [5] HEDAYATIZADEH-OMRAN A, RAFIEI A, ALIZADEH-NAVAEI R, et al. Role of HER2 in brain metastasis of breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis [J]. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*, 2015, 16(4): 1431–1434.
- [6] KOO T, KIM I A. Brain metastasis in human epidermal growth factor receptor 2–positive breast cancer: from biology to treatment [J]. *Radiat Oncol J*, 2016, 34(1): 1–9.
- [7] BURGESS D J. Breast cancer: Circulating and dynamic EMT [J]. *Nat Rev Cancer*, 2013, 13(3): 148–149.
- [8] COWIN P, WELCH D R. Breast cancer progression: controversies and consensus in the molecular mechanisms of metastasis and EMT [J]. *J Mammary Gland Biol Neoplasia*, 2007, 12(2–3): 99–102.
- [9] GIORDANO A, GAO H, ANFOSSI S, et al. Epithelial–mesenchymal transition and stem cell markers in patients with HER2–positive metastatic breast cancer [J]. *Mol Cancer Ther*, 2012, 11(11): 2526–2534.
- [10] SLAMON D J, GODOLPHIN W, JONES L A, et al. Studies of the HER–2/neu proto–oncogene in human breast and ovarian cancer [J]. *Science*, 1989, 244(4905): 707–712.
- [11] NOFECH–MOZES S, SPAYNE J, RAKOVITCH E, et al. Prognostic and predictive molecular markers in DCIS: a review [J]. *Adv Anat Pathol*, 2005, 12(5): 256–264.
- [12] ZHENG L, REN J Q, ZHANG L, et al. Overexpression of HER2/neu downregulates wild p53 protein expression via PI3K and Ras/Raf/MEK/ERK pathways in human breast cancer cells [J]. *Zhonghua Bing Li Xue Za Zhi*, 2004, 33(4): 358–362.
- [13] VOULGARI A, PINTZAS A. Epithelial–mesenchymal transition in cancer metastasis: mechanisms, markers and strategies to overcome drug resistance in the clinic [J]. *Biochim Biophys Acta*, 2009, 1796(2): 75–90.
- [14] MAZDA M, NISHI K, NAITO Y, et al. E–cadherin is transcriptionally activated via suppression of ZEB1 transcriptional repressor by small RNA–mediated gene silencing [J]. *PLoS One*, 2011, 6(12): 1–14.
- [15] SANCHEZ–TILLO E, LAZARO A, TORRENT R, et al. ZEB1 represses E–cadherin and induces an EMT by recruiting the SWI/SNF chromatin–remodeling protein BRG1 [J]. *Oncogene*, 2010, 29(24): 3490–3500.
- [16] DIAZ–LOPEZ A, DIAZ–MARTIN J, MORENO–BUENO G, et al. Zeb1 and Snail1 engage miR–200f transcriptional and epigenetic regulation during EMT [J]. *Int J Cancer*, 2015, 136(4): E62–E73.
- [17] SPADERNA S, SCHMALHOFER O, WAHLBUHL M, et al. The transcriptional repressor ZEB1 promotes metastasis and loss of cell polarity in cancer [J]. *Cancer Res*, 2008, 68(2): 537–544.

(收稿日期: 2016–06–17 修回日期: 2016–09–07)