

# Bmi-1-siRNA对肺腺癌A549细胞体内 外增殖能力的影响

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**[摘要]** **背景与目的:** 原癌基因Bmi-1是多梳基因家族中的一员, 能调节正常干细胞和肿瘤干细胞的自我更新能力。近年来发现其在多种恶性肿瘤中表达上调。本文旨在观察Bmi-1基因沉默对肺腺癌A549细胞体内外增殖的影响, 并初步探讨其机制。**方法:** 根据本实验室设计的4条针对Bmi-1的小干扰RNA(siRNA)序列, 选择一条已经证实最有效的序列作为靶序列和一条随机序列作为阴性对照, 构建重组逆转录病毒siRNA表达载体并将其转入A549细胞中; 应用RT-PCR和蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)检测对Bmi-1基因的沉默效果; 应用MTT比色法、台盼蓝拒染法及平板克隆形成实验检测Bmi-1-siRNA对A549细胞体外增殖的影响; 利用流式细胞仪分析各组细胞的细胞周期; 通过裸鼠腋窝皮下接种各组细胞, 观察Bmi-1-siRNA对A549细胞在裸鼠体内的致瘤能力的影响; Western blot检测PTEN、p-AKT、cyclin D1、P21、P27蛋白表达。**结果:** Bmi-1-siRNA有效地沉默了Bmi-1基因mRNA和蛋白的表达; 沉默Bmi-1基因的表达能够抑制A549细胞的体内外增殖能力, 使干扰组细胞的细胞周期阻滞于G<sub>1</sub>期; 沉默Bmi-1基因的表达后, 干扰组细胞中PTEN、P21、P27蛋白增加, p-AKT、cyclin D1蛋白表达降低。**结论:** Bmi-1-siRNA通过使细胞周期阻滞于G<sub>1</sub>期来抑制肺腺癌A549的体内外增殖能力, 这种抑制作用涉及cyclin D1和p-AKT表达下降以及P21/P27和PTEN的表达上调。

**[关键词]** 肺腺癌; 小干扰RNA; Bmi-1基因

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**Effect of siRNA-mediated silencing Bmi-1 gene expression on the proliferation of lung cancer cell line A549 *in vitro* and *in vivo*** ZHENG Xiang-yu<sup>1,2</sup>, ZHU Jie<sup>3</sup>, WANG Yi-fang<sup>1</sup>, LIU Chun-qing<sup>1</sup>, LIU Ben<sup>1</sup>, YANG Chun-hui<sup>1</sup>, LIU Dan-dan<sup>1</sup>, MENG Xiu-xiang<sup>1</sup> (1. College of Laboratory Medicine of Dalian Medical University, Dalian Liaoning 116044, China; 2. Department of Laboratory Diagnosis, Henan Province Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Zhengzhou Henan 450002, China; 3. Department of Laboratory Diagnosis, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Dalian Medical University, Dalian Liaoning 116027, China)

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**[Abstract]** **Background and purpose:** The pro-oncogene Bmi-1 is a member of the polycomb- group family, can regulation of the proliferation and self-renewal of normal and tumor stem cells. In recent years, Bmi-1 has been found that it is overexpressed in varieties of human malignant tumors. The study aimed to observe the effects of Bmi-1-siRNA on the growth capacity of lung cancer cell line A549 *in vitro* and *in vivo*, and explore its mechanism. **Methods:** The most effective one as a target sequence was chosen from four Bmi-1 siRNA sequences which were designed by our lab, and one random sequence was chosen as a negative control. In short, the chemically synthesized siRNA and control sequences were connected to a retrovirus expressing vector, pSUPERretro-Neo plasmid, and then transfected into A549 cells. The stably transfected cells were cultured and passed. The level of mRNA and protein of Bmi-1 in A549 cells were assessed by RT-PCR and Western blot respectively. The proliferations of A549 cells *in vivo* was analyzed with MTT, trypan blue exclusion and plate colony forming methods. Flow cytometry was used for cell cycle analysis. The potency of tumorigenesis was observed in nude mouse through hypodermic inoculation of A549 cells. The expressions

of cyclin D, p21/27, p-AKT and PTEN were analyzed by Western blot. **Results:** Compared to A549-ctr and A549-wt cells, Bmi-1 mRNA and protein levels all significantly reduced in A549-Bmi-1-siRNA cells. Bmi-1-siRNA inhibited the growth, colony formation *in vitro* and tumorigenesis *in vitro* of A549 cells, and the interference cells cell cycle arrested in G<sub>1</sub> phase. In A549-Bmi-1-siRNA cells, p-AKT and cyclinD1 expression were down-regulated while p21/p27 and PTEN were up-regulated. **Conclusion:** Silencing Bmi-1 gene inhibits the proliferation of A549 cells through G<sub>1</sub> phase arrest, which involves the downregulation of cyclin D/p-AKT and upregulation of p21/p27/PTEN.

[Key words] Lung adenocarcinoma; Short interference RNA; Bmi-1 gene

约85%的肺癌是非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC), 肺腺癌是NSCLC未吸烟病人中最常见的类型。肿瘤的形成往往是由于基因的突变包括原癌基因的激活和抑癌基因的失活或者缺失引起的。比如INK4a/ARF分别编码两种抑制蛋白, p16INK4a 和p14ARF。在肺腺癌中往往缺失INK4a/ARF位点<sup>[1]</sup>。INK4a/ARF位点位于9号染色体短臂2区1带, 是周期素依赖性蛋白激酶(cyclin dependent kinase, CDK)抑制剂。p16INK4a 和p14ARF是细胞周期调节蛋白, 在Rb和p53通路中起重要作用。

Bmi-1基因是多梳基因家族的重要成员之一<sup>[2]</sup>, 最初是在鼠淋巴瘤模型中作为一个原癌基因分离出来的<sup>[3]</sup>。在调控细胞增殖和转移中起着重要作用<sup>[4]</sup>。研究发现Bmi-1基因在乳腺癌、NSCLC、胃癌及鼻咽癌等多种肿瘤细胞中呈高表达<sup>[5-9]</sup>, 在肿瘤的发生、发展中起着非常重要的作用。Bmi-1基因通过INK4a位点能够调节细胞的增殖和衰老<sup>[10]</sup>。反义Bmi-1表达质粒能够抑制A549细胞的生长<sup>[11]</sup>, 众所周知, A549细胞中INK4a/ARF位点是缺失的。因此我们推测, 非依赖INK4a信号通路参与了Bmi-1调节A549细胞的增殖。

在以前的研究中, 我们针对Bmi-1基因设计4对发夹式Bmi-1 siRNA质粒, 均能抑制子宫颈癌HeLa细胞的体内外增殖能力<sup>[12]</sup>。在本研究将它们瞬时转染到肺腺癌细胞中, 结果发现均能抑制A549细胞的增殖, 我们选择抑制能力最强的一条链构建到逆转录病毒真核表达载体pSUPERretro-Neo中, 形成重组载体, 然后将其稳定转染至A549细胞中, 构建稳定转染Bmi-1 siRNA的细胞。观察其对A549细胞体内外增殖能力的影响, 并探讨Bmi-1可能参与肺腺癌细胞

增殖的分子机制。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 细胞培养和稳定转染

A549细胞用含10%胎牛血清的RPMI-1640培养基在37℃、CO<sub>2</sub>体积分数为5%的培养箱中培养。重组载体及稳定转染细胞的构建交由广州博川公司操作。未转染的细胞命名为A549-wt, 转染PSUPER-retro-Neo-Bmi-1和自由序列的分别命名为A549-siRNA-Bmi-1和A549-ctr。

### 1.2 RT-PCR

总RNA用TRIzol试剂提取, 然后用RT-PCR试剂盒反转录成cDNA。其操作步骤如下: 94℃ 1 min, 94℃ 30 s, 35个循环, 60℃ 30 s, 72℃ 2 min。所用的引物序列如下: Bmi-1上游引物序列: 5'-TCATCCTTCTGCTGATGCTG-3' 下游序列: 5'-GCATCACAGTCATTGCTGCT-3'。GAPDH上游序列5'-GAAGGTGAAGGTCGGAGTC-3', 下游序列: 5'-GAAGATGGTGATGGGATTC-3'。扩增产物在含0.5%溴化乙锭的1%琼脂糖凝胶电泳中分离。

### 1.3 蛋白印迹法(Western blot)检测

用南京凯基总蛋白提取试剂盒提取细胞总蛋白, 蛋白浓度用BCA蛋白浓度测定试剂盒(Pierce)测定。加60 μg蛋白在SDS-PAGE进行分离, 然后转移到PVDF膜上, 用5%脱脂奶粉封闭, TBST清洗, 加上一抗4℃温育过夜。信号用ECL<sup>+</sup>TM Western Blot系统检测(Amersham, Buckinghamshire, UK)。所用的一抗如下: Bmi-1 (Abcam ab54897)、PTEN、Akt、p-Akt、cyclinD1 (Cell Signaling Technology)、p21、p27、p53、β-actin (Santa Cruz Biotechnology)。

#### 1.4 细胞存活率检测

分别将3组细胞消化后用0.4%台盼蓝进行染色,普通光镜下用血球计数板计数,其中着色细胞为死细胞,分别计数100个细胞中的死亡细胞数,计算存活率,每个样品计数3次。

#### 1.5 MTT法检测细胞增殖能力

取对数生长期的3组细胞消化后按每孔细胞数为 $2 \times 10^3$ 单细胞悬液接种于96孔板中,培养基总量为200  $\mu$ L,每组细胞设5个复孔,以后每天各组分别取5孔进行实验,连续测5 d。检测时每孔加入MTT 10  $\mu$ L,继续培养4 h后小心吸去小孔内的液体,加入150  $\mu$ L DMSO,将培养板放在微孔板振荡器上震荡15 min,使结晶物完全溶解,酶标仪测定吸光度,所用波长为490 nm。以时间为横轴,以吸光度为纵轴绘制生长曲线。

#### 1.6 克隆形成能力检测

将各组细胞用胰酶-EDTA消化后,吹打成单个细胞,调整细胞浓度。在6孔板的每个孔中加入300个细胞,每组细胞做3个复孔。培养10 d待细胞形成克隆后,用PBS洗3次,加入10%甲醛固定20 min,用PBS洗后,加入结晶紫染液染15 min,弃掉染色液后,用水冲洗干净。用数码相机拍照。计数肉眼可见的集落数。

#### 1.7 细胞周期测定

用胰酶-EDTA将3组细胞消化成单个细胞,加入70%乙醇轻轻混匀固定,4  $^{\circ}$ C过夜。检测之前用PBS洗3次,再加入RNase A处理15 min,然后加入PI溶液,避光反应1 h后,流式细胞仪上机检测。

#### 1.8 体内成瘤实验

裸鼠(Balb/c Nu/Nu)来自于大连医科大学动物中心。18只裸鼠随机分为3组,每组各6只,将3组细胞分别消化制成单细胞悬液,用PBS调整细胞浓度为 $5 \times 10^7$ /mL。按无菌操作要求,每只裸鼠单侧腋窝皮下注射细胞悬液200  $\mu$ L ( $1 \times 10^7$ 个细胞)。

#### 1.9 统计学处理

用SPSS 13.0统计软件进行统计学处理。数据用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,采用方差分析对实验结果进行差异分析, $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

## 2 结 果

### 2.1 Bmi-1 siRNA成功转染至A549细胞中并抑制了Bmi-1 mRNA和蛋白的表达

在荧光显微镜下观察转染效果,A549-wt组无荧光细胞,而A549-ctr和A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组全部为荧光细胞,转染效率达到100%。RT-PCR和Western Blot分别检测3组细胞中Bmi-1 mRNA和蛋白的表达。与A549-wt和A549-ctr组相比,A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组中Bmi-1 mRNA和蛋白的表达明显下降,差异有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ ),A549-wt组和A549-ctr组相比,差异无统计学意义( $P > 0.05$ )。表明Bmi-1 siRNA能有效沉默A549细胞中Bmi-1的表达(图1)。

### 2.2 Bmi-1 siRNA抑制A549细胞的体内外增殖能力

MTT法检测A549细胞每天的吸光度值(A),绘制的生长曲线(图2A)。A549-siRNA-Bmi-1细胞在第3天及以后的时间,OD值明显低于A549-ctr和A549-wt组细胞,生长速度明显缓慢( $P < 0.05$ );而后两组细胞的生长数值差异无统计学意义( $P > 0.05$ )。台盼蓝实验结果显示,3组细胞的存活率差异无统计学意义( $P > 0.05$ ,图2B)。集落形成实验结果表明,与A549-wt组( $152 \pm 8$ )、A549-ctr组( $147 \pm 5$ )细胞相比,A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组( $20 \pm 3$ )细胞集落形成数目明显减少( $P < 0.05$ ,图2C)。体内成瘤实验表明,接种肿瘤细胞后第28天,与A549-wt组( $1.28 \pm 0.28$  g)、A549-ctr组( $1.06 \pm 0.24$  g)相比,A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组( $0.19 \pm 0.07$  g)细胞形成的肿瘤平均重量明显降低( $P < 0.05$ ,图2D)。

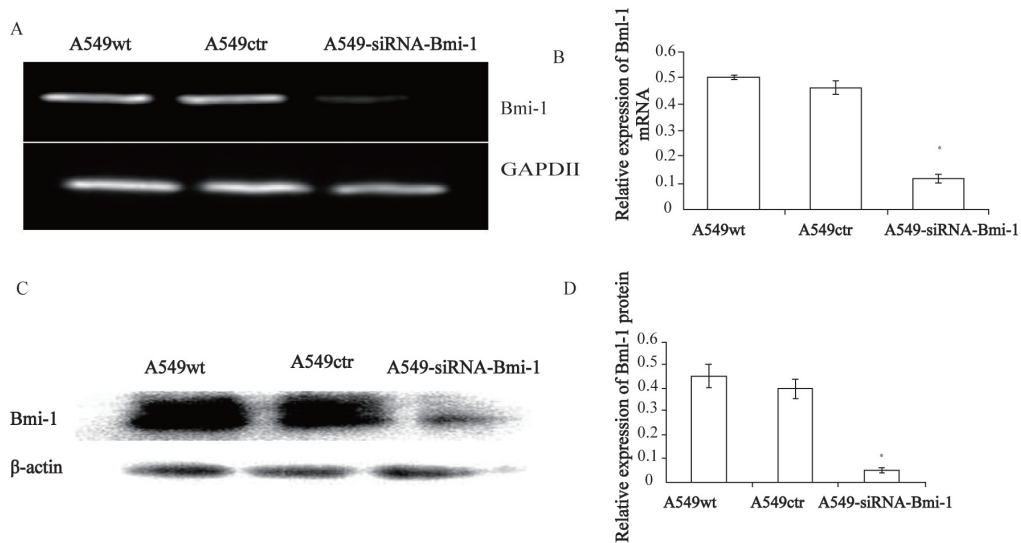


图 1 沉默Bmi-1基因对A549细胞Bmi-1基因表达的影响

Fig. 1 Effects of Bmi-1-siRNA on Bmi-1 mRNA and protein expression in A549 cells

A: Expression level of Bmi-1 mRNA in A549-wt, A549-ctr, and A549-siRNA-Bmi-1 cells (upper panel) and GAPDH as an internal reference (lower panel) as detected by RT-PCR. B: Relative signal intensities of Bmi-1 mRNA levels were shown against GAPDH, scanned by LabWorks software from (A). C: Expression level of Bmi-1 protein (upper panel) from A549-wt, A549-ctr, and A549-Bmi-1-siRNA cells.  $\beta$ -actin was used as a loading control (lower panel) as detected by Western blotting. D: Relative signal intensities of Bmi-1 protein levels were shown against  $\beta$ -actin, scanned by LabWorks software from (C). \*:  $P < 0.05$  vs A549-wt and A549-ctr groups.

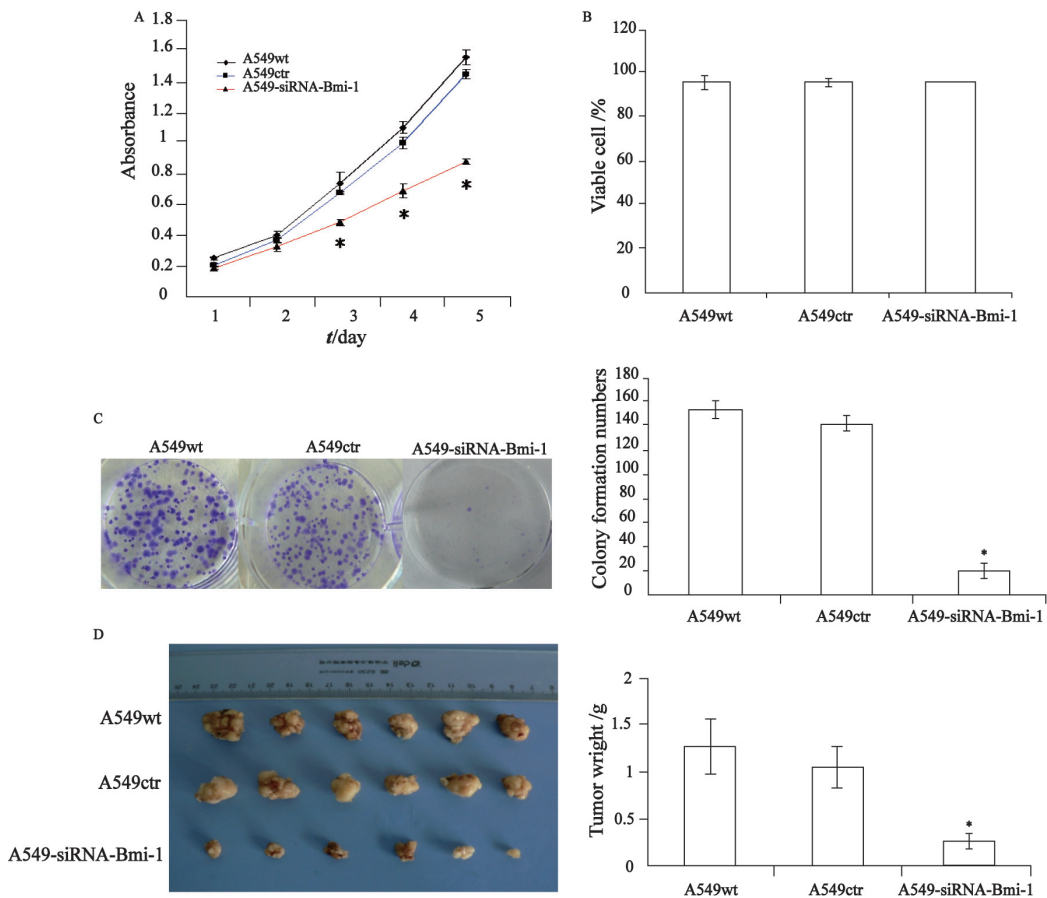


图 2 沉默Bmi-1基因对A549细胞体内外增殖能力的影响

Fig. 2 Effects of Bmi-1-siRNA on proliferation of A549 cells

A: Growth curves of A549 cells were analyzed by MTT assay; B: Cell viability of A549 cells as determined by trypan blue exclusion assay; C: Representative photograph of colony-forming assay of A549 cells and comparison of the colony forming number; D: Effects of Bmi-1 small interfering RNA on the tumorigenesis of A549 cells *in vivo*. \*:  $P < 0.05$  vs A549-wt and A549-ctr groups.

### 2.3 Bmi-1 siRNA阻滞细胞周期在G<sub>1</sub>期

流式细胞仪检测结果显示, 与A549-wt组 [(50.9 ± 2.8)%]、A549-ctr组 [(49.4 ± 4.2)%] 相比, A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组 [(78.2 ± 5.6)%] G<sub>1</sub>期细胞所占比例明显增加, 而3组S期细胞所占比例分别为(17.1 ± 1.3)%、(17.8 ± 2.1)%和(7.6 ± 1.1)%, A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组明显低于其他两组 ( $P < 0.05$ )。

### 2.4 沉默Bmi-1表达下调cyclin D1的表达, 上调P21和P27的表达

我们用Western blot技术检测了cyclin D1、P21、P53和P27蛋白的表达, 结果表明沉默

Bmi-1表达后导致cyclin D1蛋白下降, 而P21和P27蛋白表达上调, 与对照组相比差异有统计学意义 ( $P < 0.05$ , 图3), 而P53蛋白的表达差异无统计学意义 ( $P > 0.05$ )。

### 2.5 沉默Bmi-1使p-AKT表达下降而PTEN的表达上调

与A549-wt、A549-ctr组相比, A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组中p-AKT表达明显下降 ( $P < 0.05$ ), PTEN的表达明显升高 ( $P < 0.05$ ), 但各组之间总AKT表达差异无统计学意义 ( $P > 0.05$ , 图4)。

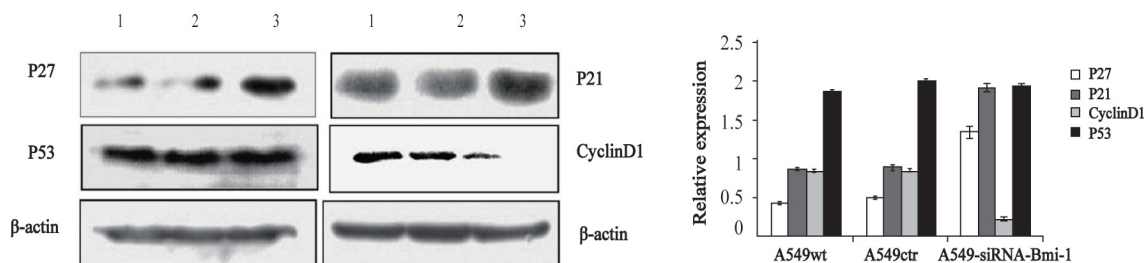


图3 沉默Bmi-1基因对P53、P21、P27和cyclin D1蛋白表达的影响

Fig. 3 Effects of Bmi-1-siRNA on P53, P27, P21 and cyclin D1 levels

A: The protein expression levels of on P53, P27, P21 and cyclin D1 were determined by Western blot and  $\beta$ -actin was used as a loading control. Triplicate experiments showed consistent results. B: The protein relative expression levels of on P53, P27, P21 and cyclin D1 against  $\beta$ -actin, scanned by LabWorks software from (A). \*:  $P < 0.05$  vs A549-wt and A549-ctr groups.

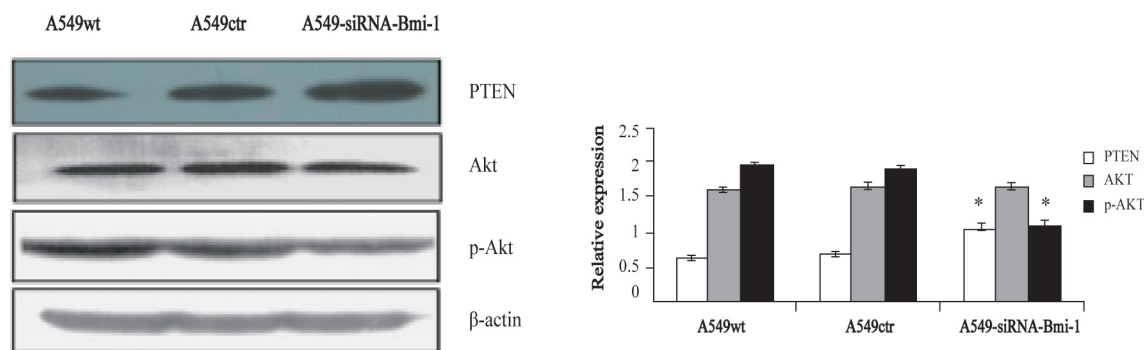


图4 沉默Bmi-1基因对PTEN、total-AKT和p-AKT蛋白表达水平的影响

Fig. 4 Effects of Bmi-1-siRNA on PTEN, total-Akt and p-Akt levels

A: The protein expression levels of PTEN, total-Akt and p-Akt were determined by Western blot and  $\beta$ -actin was used as a loading control. Triplicate experiments showed consistent results. B: The protein relative expression levels of PTEN, total-Akt and p-Akt were shown against  $\beta$ -actin, scanned by LabWorks software from (A). \*:  $P < 0.05$  vs A549-wt and A549-ctr groups.

## 3 讨论

细胞周期分为4期: 即G<sub>1</sub>、S、G<sub>2</sub>和M期, 其与细胞增殖密切相关。细胞周期异常调节是肿瘤发生的重要机制。细胞周期进程受许多因素

的调节, 主要包括细胞周期调节蛋白、CDK、周期素依赖蛋白激酶抑制剂(cyclin dependent kinase inhibitor, CDKI) [13]。研究表明90%以上的人类肿瘤中, 肿瘤基因或者肿瘤抑制基因和细胞周期改变有关。其中, G<sub>1</sub>期相关的肿瘤基因发生改变的频率更高 [14]。

Bmi-1基因能调节正常细胞的增殖和抑制Bmi-1<sup>-/-</sup>白血病细胞增殖<sup>[15]</sup>。一般而言, Bmi-1主要是通过p16INK4a这个独立的通路在肿瘤形成的进程中调节细胞增殖<sup>[16-17]</sup>。然而, Bmi-1也能以不依赖p16INK4a通路的方式调节尤文肉瘤的肿瘤形成<sup>[18]</sup>。Bmi-1基因沉默对细胞改变的影响在不同类型的细胞中是不同的。Bmi-1<sup>-/-</sup>白血病细胞显示在G<sub>1</sub>期细胞堆积S期细胞减少<sup>[15]</sup>。但Cui等<sup>[19]</sup>在对人神经母细胞瘤细胞中研究发现, 通过小RNA干扰沉默Bmi-1基因的表达对细胞周期没有影响。本研究结果表明, 在A549细胞中沉默Bmi-1基因的表达能够抑制其体内外增殖能力。一般而言, 细胞生长抑制可能是由于细胞坏死、凋亡或者细胞周期阻滞导致的。为了研究在A549细胞中的这种影响是否由细胞坏死引起, 我们利用台盼蓝拒染实验证实了3组细胞存活率没有变化。流式细胞检测仪结果表明, Bmi-1-siRNA抑制A549细胞的增殖能力是通过将细胞阻滞在G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub>期引起的。

细胞周期与细胞的增殖密切相关。细胞周期调控因子主要有3大类: cyclin、CDK、CDKI。Cyclin表达上调或CDKI表达缺失都会引起细胞增殖失控产生癌症, 其中较具代表性的是在G<sub>1</sub>期发挥作用的cyclinD1及p21/p27蛋白<sup>[20-22]</sup>。Cyclin D是G<sub>1</sub>期细胞增殖信号的关键蛋白, cyclinD1和CDK4/6结合形成复合物, 引起下游蛋白的磷酸化, 进一步释放转录因子, 促使细胞从G<sub>1</sub>期向S期转化。Bmi-1调控细胞增殖的经典下游靶位是INK4a/ARF, 但在A549细胞中缺失INK4a/ARF位点, 我们感兴趣的是, Bmi-1是通过怎样的方式来调控缺失INK4a位点的A549等肿瘤细胞的增殖的。因此为了进一步探讨沉默Bmi-1基因的表达抑制A549细胞增殖的机制, 我们应用Western blot技术首先检测了cyclin D1以及p21/p27蛋白的表达, 发现A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组cyclin D1蛋白表达下降, 而p21/p27表达上调。以前的研究发现AKT调节G<sub>1</sub>/S期细胞周期进程是通过下游靶点cyclin D1增加和p21/p27的下降来实现的<sup>[23]</sup>。有报道称Bmi-1

基因和PI3K/AKT信号通路有关<sup>[24]</sup>。因此我们应用Western blot技术检测了3组细胞中总-AKT和p-AKT蛋白的表达, 发现A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组细胞p-AKT蛋白的表达降低。所以我们推测Bmi-1基因有可能通过PI3K/AKT信号通路调节cyclin D1及p21/p27的表达来调节A549细胞周期的。但Bmi-1基因是一个转录抑制因子, 不能直接激活PI3K/AKT通路。Song等<sup>[25]</sup>在对鼻咽癌细胞的研究中发现沉默Bmi-1基因的表达能引起肿瘤抑制基因PTEN的表达上调, 而PTEN能负调控PI3K/AKT信号通路<sup>[26]</sup>。所以我们猜想是否在肺腺癌A549细胞中也存在着这一现象, 因而又检测了PTEN蛋白的表达, 发现A549-siRNA-Bmi-1组PTEN的蛋白表达与对照组相比明显增高。当然, 在Bmi-1调控A549细胞增殖的信号通路中是否存在着Bmi-1-PTEN-PI3K/AKT-cyclinD1/p21/p27的调节方式还需要以后进一步的实验加以证实。

综上所述, 沉默Bmi-1基因的表达通过将A549细胞阻滞在G<sub>0</sub>/G<sub>1</sub>期而影响其增殖能力, 同时伴有p-AKT和cyclinD1的表达的下降, p21/p27和PTEN的表达水平的增高。因此我们推断在缺乏INK4a/ARF位点的A549细胞中, PTEN/AKT/cyclinD1/p21/p27通路可能与Bmi-1调控细胞周期有关。但这还需要进行大量的实验来证实。

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