

长链非编码RNA PANDAR促进结直肠癌转移的作用和机制研究

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[摘要] 背景与目的: 越来越多的研究表明, 长链非编码RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)在肿瘤发生、发展过程中有重要作用。LncRNA CDKN1A反义链启动子DNA损伤激动RNA(promoter of CDKN1A antisense DNA damage activated RNA, PANDAR)与多种肿瘤的进展及预后相关, 在结直肠癌转移中的作用尚未得到证实。该研究旨在探索lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌中的功能, 并对其作用机制进行初步探索。方法: 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lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌细胞及组织中的表达, 并分析其表达水平与结直肠癌临床病理特征的关系。构建lncRNA PANDAR沉默(HCT116-shPANDAR)和高表达(DLD1-PANDAR)及其对照(HCT116-shNC、DLD1-vector)稳定转染细胞系。通过Transwell和Matrigel实验检测lncRNA PANDAR对细胞迁移和侵袭能力的影响。采用RTFQ-PCR检测lncRNA PANDAR表达改变后介导细胞上皮-间质转化能力的主要调控基因表达情况, 并对目的基因在介导lncRNA PANDAR调控结直肠癌细胞转移中的作用进行验证。结果: lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌细胞中的表达明显高于结直肠正常上皮细胞; lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌组织中的表达明显高于癌旁组织 [(171.52±97.80)% vs (100.00±63.18)%, $P<0.05$], 且其表达水平与结直肠癌的TNM分期、淋巴结转移和远处转移相关($P<0.05$)。在Transwell及Matrigel实验中, lncRNA PANDAR沉默能够明显减弱结直肠癌细胞的迁移 [100.00% vs (42.08±4.77)%, $P<0.05$] 和侵袭 [100.00% vs (39.14±3.81)%, $P<0.05$] 能力, lncRNA PANDAR高表达能够明显促进结直肠癌细胞的迁移 [100.00% vs (194.12±9.33)%, $P<0.05$] 和侵袭 [100.00% vs (204.08±12.27)%, $P<0.05$] 能力。采用RTFQ-PCR检测lncRNA PANDAR表达改变后介导结直肠癌细胞上皮-间质转化的基因表达情况发现, 锌指E-盒结合同源异形盒(zinc-finger E-box binding homeobox 1, ZEB1)表达与lncRNA PANDAR表达呈显著正相关; 在lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中干扰ZEB1表达能够明显逆转lncRNA PANDAR高表达引起的细胞迁移和侵袭能力的增强。结论: lncRNA PANDAR能够通过调控ZEB1表达进而促进结直肠癌转移, lncRNA PANDAR可能成为结直肠癌新的诊断指标及治疗靶点。

[关键词] 长链非编码RNA; CDKN1A反义链启动子DNA损伤激动RNA; 结直肠癌; 转移

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The functional role of long non-coding RNA PANDAR in promoting colorectal cancer metastasis and its mechanism

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[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Accumulating evidence has revealed that long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) is correlated with carcinogenesis and tumor development. Recent literature suggested that lncRNA promoter of CDKN1A antisense DNA damage activated RNA (PANDAR) was involved in the development of various cancers. However, the functional role of PANDAR in colorectal cancer (CRC) has not been elucidated yet. The present study aimed to explore the functional role of lncRNA PANDAR in promoting CRC metastasis and its mechanism.

Methods: The expression of lncRNA PANDAR in CRC cell lines and tissues was detected by real-time fluorescent quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RTFQ-PCR), and the correlation between lncRNA PANDAR expression and CRC clinicopathological characteristics was statistically analyzed. Then, lncRNA PANDAR stably silencing CRC cells (HCT116-shPANDAR), overexpression cells (DLD1-PANDAR) and control vector cells (HCT116-shNC and DLD1-vector) were established using lentiviral vectors. Moreover, Transwell assay and Matrigel assay were performed to investigate the function of lncRNA PANDAR in CRC migration and invasion. Furthermore, the expression of transcriptional factors mediating epithelial-mesenchymal transition of lncRNA PANDAR overexpression cells were monitored by RTFQ-PCR assay, and the function of the target gene in modulating lncRNA PANDAR mediated CRC metastasis was also explored. **Results:** The expression levels of lncRNA PANDAR in normal colorectal epithelial cells were much lower than in CRC cell. The levels of lncRNA PANDAR in tumor-adjacent tissues were verified to be much lower than in CRC tissues [(171.52±97.80)% vs (100.00±63.18)%, $P<0.05$]. Moreover, the expression of lncRNA PANDAR was detected to be significantly correlated with CRC TNM stage, lymph node metastasis and distant metastasis ($P<0.05$). Besides, lncRNA PANDAR deficiency significantly reduced the migration [100.00% vs (42.08±4.77)%, $P<0.05$] and invasion [100.00% vs (39.14±3.81)%, $P<0.05$] capabilities in CRC cells, in contrast, the migration [100.00% vs (194.12±9.33)%, $P<0.05$] and invasion [100.00% vs (204.08±12.27)%, $P<0.05$] capabilities of CRC cells were obviously increased with lncRNA PANDAR overexpression. Furthermore, zinc-finger E-box binding homeobox 1 (ZEB1) expression was detected to be positively correlated with lncRNA PANDAR expression, and ZEB1 silencing could significantly reverse the increased migration and invasion capabilities induced by lncRNA PANDAR in CRC cells. **Conclusion:** lncRNA PANDAR could promote CRC metastasis by potentially targeting ZEB1. lncRNA PANDAR might be a promising diagnostic marker and therapeutic target for CRC patients.

[**Key words**] Long non-coding RNA; Promoter of CDKN1A antisense DNA damage activated RNA; Colorectal cancer; Metastasis

结直肠癌是世界范围内常见的肿瘤之一。在中国，结直肠癌是常见的致死性肿瘤之一，并且其发病率呈不断上升的趋势。肿瘤转移是造成结直肠癌患者死亡最为主要的原因^[1]。在过去的几十年中，研究者致力于探索结直肠癌的转移机制，但目前其分子机制仍未得到明确的认识。

长链非编码RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)是一种长度超过200 nt，不具有蛋白质编码功能的转录RNA序列。有研究表明，lncRNA在细胞的多种生命活动过程中发挥重要作用，包括细胞的生长、分化及肿瘤的发生、发展。lncRNA表达异常可见于乳腺癌、胃癌、肺癌、前列腺癌及肝癌等多种肿瘤中^[2]。lncRNA CDKN1A反义链启动子DNA损伤激动RNA(promoter of CDKN1A antisense DNA damage activated RNA, PANDAR)是一种新发现的lncRNA^[3-6]。目前，由于其在肿瘤中的重要作用，lncRNA PANDAR被视为一种重要的治疗潜在靶点^[7]，但其在结直肠癌中的功能尚未见报道。

本研究通过检测lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌细胞系及组织中的表达以证实lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌中高表达，且与结直肠癌的发生、发展明显相关。体外实验进一步验证lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌转移中的作用，并对具体的机制进行初步探索。该研究结果旨在进一步揭示结直肠癌的发生、发展机制，并将lncRNA PANDAR作为结直肠癌新的早期诊断指标及治疗靶点提供证据。

1 材料和方法

1.1 细胞培养

人结直肠癌细胞系DLD1、HCT116、LOVO、HCT8、HT29、SW620、SW480及人结肠正常上皮细胞系NCM460均购自中国科学院上海生命科学研究院生物化学与细胞生物学研究所细胞库。所有细胞均按照细胞培养说明使用RPMI-1640培养基或DMEM-H培养基(HYCLONE)添加胎牛血清、100 U/mL青霉素和100 μg/mL链霉素进行培养。细胞培养于37℃、

CO₂体积分数为5%的饱和湿度的细胞培养箱中。

1.2 临床标本收集

收集山东大学齐鲁医院和肥城矿业中心医院2014年5月—2014年12月收治的76例结直肠癌患者的临床标本(其中50例患者有对应癌旁组织标本),肿瘤及癌旁组织标本手术切除后经液氮冻存。所有患者术前均未行放疗或化疗等抗肿瘤治疗,最终诊断由常规病理检查确诊。标本使用经患者签字同意。该研究经山东大学齐鲁医院伦理委员会审核批准。

1.3 实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescent quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)

采用TRIzol(购自美国Invitrogen公司)法提取细胞和组织总RNA。使用PrimeScript™反转录试剂盒[购自宝生物工程(大连)有限公司]进行反转录反应合成cDNA。按照SYBR® Premix Ex Taq™试剂盒[购自宝生物工程(大连)有限公司]使用说明进行RTFQ-PCR检测。RTFQ-PCR及数据采集均使用ABI PRISM 7900HT序列检测系统(购自美国Applied Biosystems公司)。GAPDH作为内参。LncRNA PANDAR引物序列顺义链:5'-TGACACATTTAACCCGAAG-3',反义链:5'-CCCCAAGCTACATCTATGACA-3'; GAPDH引物序列顺义链:5'-CAAGGTCATCCATGACAACCTTTG-3',反义链:5'-GTCCACCA CCCTGTTGCTGTAG-3'。

1.4 PANDAR沉默和高表达稳定转染细胞系及对照组细胞系构建

LncRNA PANDAR序列按照NCBI提供的序列构建,将LncRNA PANDAR序列克隆入pCDNA3.1质粒(购自美国Invitrogen公司)构建LncRNA PANDAR高表达载体(pCDNA3.1-PANDAR)。pCDNA3.1空质粒作为对照(pCDNA3.1-vector)。LncRNA PANDAR干扰序列:5'-TTTCGAACGGAACAGAGACTTATACAGATT-3'(购自上海吉玛制药技术有限公司),将其克隆入pGU6/Neo

质粒,构建LncRNA PANDAR干扰质粒(pGU6/Neo-shPANDAR)。乱序的shRNA序列作为对照(pGU6/Neo-shNC)。慢病毒感染法构建LncRNA PANDAR沉默稳定转染细胞系和对照组细胞系及高表达稳定转染细胞系和对照组细胞系。采用RTFQ-PCR检测验证细胞系是否构建成功。

1.5 Transwell迁移实验

细胞常规培养至对数生长期,胰酶消化,冲洗悬浮液,按照 5×10^4 个/孔将细胞悬液加入Transwell小室上层,添加200 μ L无血清基础培养基,同时小室下层添加700 μ L含10%胎牛血清培养基作为化学诱导。细胞培养箱中常规培养24 h。擦除滤膜上表面细胞,裁下Transwell小室滤膜,4%的甲醛溶液固定,吉姆萨染色。随机选取5个200 \times 高倍镜视野记录细胞数目并计算平均值。

1.6 Matrigel侵袭实验

Matrigel侵袭实验基本步骤同Transwell迁移实验,不同之处在于Matrigel侵袭实验中需先制备侵袭小室,方法如下:用不含血清的基础培养基稀释Matrigel基质胶(体积比为1:3),均匀铺在小室底部,将小室放置在37 $^{\circ}$ C细胞培养箱中,待胶凝固即制成Matrigel侵袭小室。铺细胞、培养、固定及染色方法同Transwell迁移实验。

1.7 统计学处理

统计分析使用SPSS 19.0软件进行。计量资料采用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,计数资料采用百分比(%)表示;计量资料的比较采用Student *t*检验,计数资料的比较采用 χ^2 检验。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 LncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌中高表达且能够促进结直肠癌转移

采用RTFQ-PCR检测人结直肠癌细胞系DLD1、HCT116、LOVO、HCT8、HT29、SW620、SW480及人结直肠正常上皮细胞系NCM460中LncRNA PANDAR表达发现,LncRNA

PANDAR在人结直肠正常上皮细胞系NCM460中的表达量明显低于人结直肠癌细胞系DLD1、HCT116、LOVO、HCT8、HT29、SW620和SW480($P<0.05$, 图1)。

为进一步验证lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌中的作用,本研究采用RTFQ-PCR检测了76例结直肠癌组织和50例结直肠癌癌旁组织中lncRNA PANDAR的表达水平,结果发现,结直肠癌组织中lncRNA PANDAR表达水平明显高于结直肠癌癌旁组织 [(171.52±97.80)% vs (100.00±63.18)%], $P<0.05$, 图2]。

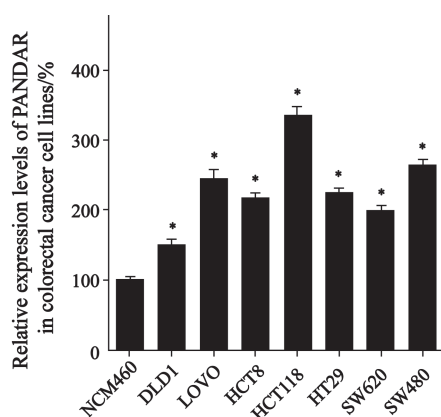


图1 采用RTFQ-PCR检测结直肠正常上皮细胞和结直肠癌细胞中lncRNA PANDAR相对表达量

Fig. 1 The relative expression level of lncRNA PANDAR in colorectal normal epithelial cells (NCM460) and colorectal cancer cells by RTFQ-PCR

*: $P<0.05$, compared with NCM460

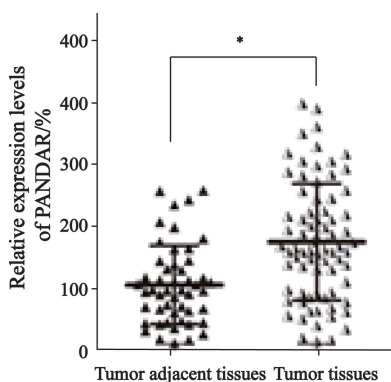


图2 采用RTFQ-PCR检测lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌组织和癌旁组织中的相对表达量

Fig. 2 The relative expression level of lncRNA PANDAR in colorectal cancer tissues and tumor adjacent tissues by RTFQ-PCR

*: $P<0.05$

此外,以76例结直肠癌患者lncRNA PANDAR相对表达量均数(171.52)为截点,将患者分为lncRNA PANDAR低表达组(42例)和lncRNA PANDAR高表达组(34例)。统计分析发现,lncRNA PANDAR高表达与结直肠癌的TNM分期、淋巴结转移和远处转移明显相关($P<0.05$, 表1)。

表1 lncRNA PANDAR表达量与结直肠癌患者临床病理特点分析

Tab. 1 The correlation between lncRNA PANDAR expression and clinicopathological features of colorectal patients

Clinicopathological feature	lncRNA PANDAR		χ^2	P value
	Low (n=42)	High (n=34)		
Gender			0.03	0.87
Male	19	16		
Female	23	18		
Age/year			0.69	0.41
< 55	10	11		
≥ 55	32	23		
Location			0.09	0.76
Left	22	19		
Others	20	15		
Differentiation			0.25	0.62
Well and moderate	34	29		
Poor	8	5		
T stage			0.13	0.72
T ₁ +T ₂	14	10		
T ₃ +T ₄	28	24		
N stage			4.51	0.03
N ₀	32	18		
N ₁ +N ₂	10	16		
M stage			4.51	0.03
M ₀	40	27		
M ₁	2	7		
TNM stage			6.93	0.01
I / II	31	15		
III / IV	11	19		

2.2 体外实验证实lncRNA PANDAR能够促进结直肠癌转移

为进一步探索lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌转移中的作用,本研究首先使用lncRNA PANDAR表达量较高的结直肠癌细胞系HCT116构建lncRNA PANDAR稳定沉默细胞系及其对照组细胞系(HCT116-shPANDAR及HCT116-shNC),使用lncRNA PANDAR表达量较低的DLD1细胞系构建lncRNA PANDAR稳定高表达细胞系及其对照组细胞系(DLD1-PANDAR及DLD1-vector),经RTFQ-PCR检测验证细胞系构建成功(图3)。

经Transwell迁移实验证实, HCT116-shPANDAR细胞穿过滤膜数目明显少于HCT116-shNC细胞 [(42.08±4.77)% vs 100.00%, $P<0.05$] ; DLD1-PANDAR细胞穿过滤膜数目明显多于DLD1-vector细胞 [(194.12±9.33)% vs 100.00%, $P<0.05$] 。经Matrigel侵袭实验证实, HCT116-shPANDAR细胞穿过滤膜数目明显少于HCT116-shNC细胞 [(39.14±3.81)%

vs 100.00%, $P<0.05$] ; DLD1-PANDAR细胞穿过滤膜数目明显多于DLD1-vector细胞 [(204.08±12.27)% vs 100.00%, $P<0.05$, 图4] 。

2.3 锌指E-盒结合同源异形盒(zinc-finger E-box binding homeobox 1, ZEB1)介导lncRNA PANDAR促进结直肠癌转移的作用

采用RTFQ-PCR检测lncRNA PANDAR表达改变后影响结直肠癌上皮-间质转化的主要转录调控因子(Slug、Snail、ZEB1、ZEB2、Twist1和Twist2)表达改变发现, ZEB1变化最为明显 [100.00% vs (244.00±10.87)%, $P<0.05$] , 与lncRNA PANDAR表达呈明显正相关(图5)。

使用siRNA技术在lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中干扰ZEB1表达能够明显逆转lncRNA PANDAR高表达引起的细胞迁移 [100.00%、(192.11±8.02)%和(119.80±5.02)%, $P<0.05$] 和侵袭 [100.00%、(213.32±10.11)%和(112.71±6.38)%, $P<0.05$] 能力的增强(图6)。

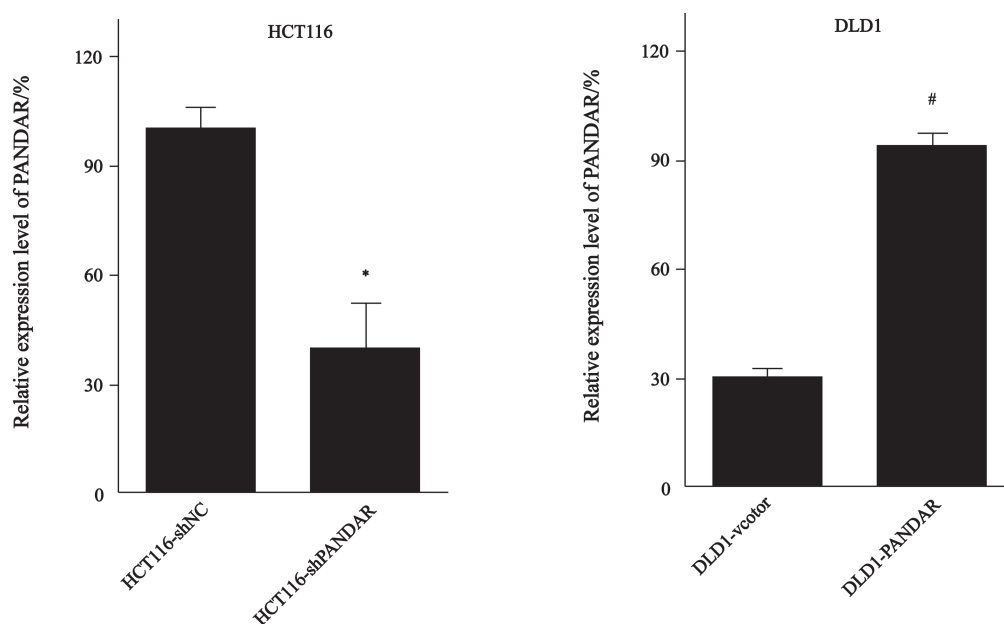


图3 RTFQ-PCR检测lncRNA PANDAR沉默稳定转染细胞系HCT116细胞及其对照细胞系和lncRNA PANDAR稳定高表达DLD1细胞及其对照组细胞中lncRNA PANDAR相对表达量

Fig. 3 RTFQ-PCR was adopted to measure the expression levels of lncRNA PANDAR in lncRNA PANDAR stably overexpressed HCT116 cells, its control vector cells and lncRNA PANDAR stably silencing DLD1 cells and its control cells

*: $P<0.05$, compared with HCT116-shNC; #: $P<0.05$, compared with DLD1-vector

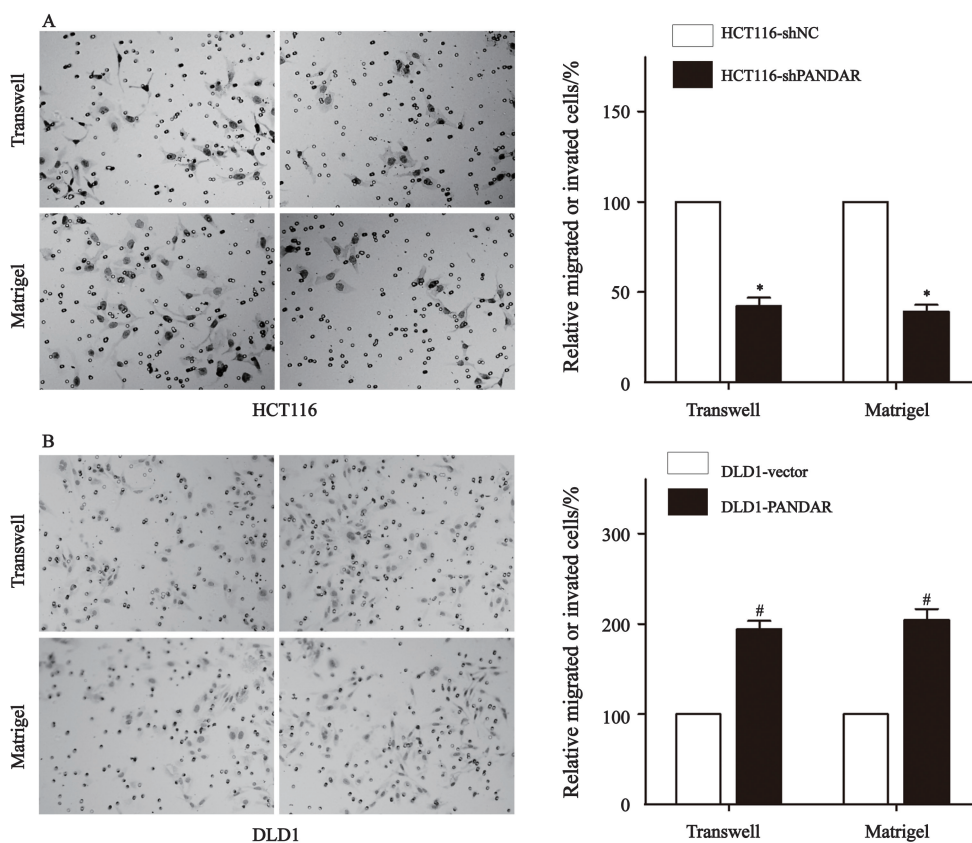


图4 Transwell实验和Matrigel实验检测lncRNA PANDAR表达沉默和高表达后细胞迁移和侵袭能力改变

Fig. 4 Transwell assay and Matrigel assay were adopted to detect the migration and invasion capabilities in lncRNA PANDAR silencing and overexpressed cells

*: $P < 0.05$, compared with HCT116-shNC; #: $P < 0.05$, compared with DLD1-vector

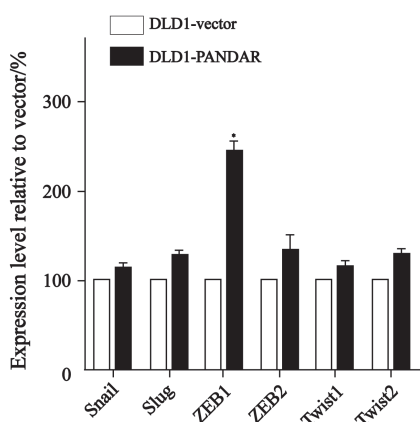


图5 lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中上皮-间质转化转录调控因子mRNA表达变化

Fig. 5 The mRNA levels of transcriptional factors regulating epithelial-mesenchymal transition in lncRNA PANDAR overexpressed cells

*: $P < 0.05$, compared with DLD1-vector

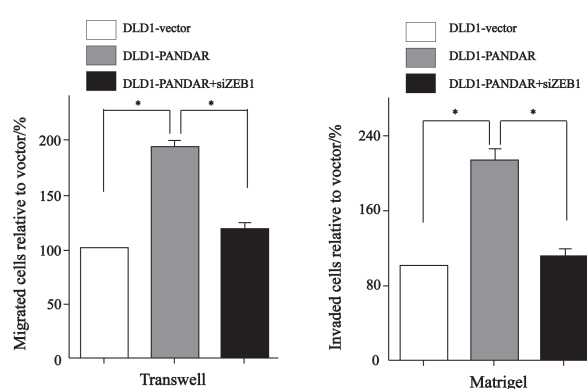


图6 Transwell实验和Matrigel实验检测在lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中干扰ZEB1对细胞迁移和侵袭能力的影响

Fig. 6 The migration and invasion capabilities of lncRNA PANDAR overexpressed cells with ZEB1 silencing were investigated by Transwell assay and Matrigel assay

*: $P < 0.05$

3 讨 论

尽管过去几十年在结直肠癌发生、发展的机制研究中取得了诸多进展,且目前其根治性治疗手段包括手术治疗、化疗及分子靶向治疗等多种方法,但是由于结直肠癌筛查手段较少,且难以广泛进行,因此,很多患者就诊时已出现淋巴结转移或远处转移,明显影响患者预后。此外,结直肠癌具有较高的异质性,不同患者间或同一例患者在肿瘤进展的不同时期治疗方案差异较大,分子靶向治疗耐药的发生率高。因此,进一步揭示结直肠癌发生、发展的分子机制,寻找早期的诊断指标及治疗靶点,进而根据患者不同基因表达谱和病理特点采取个体化的治疗手段,对于改善患者预后具有十分重要的意义^[8-11]。

LncRNA是近年新发现一种非编码RNA,自发现后便引起了极为广泛的关注,其功能也不断被揭示。LncRNA能够通过调控基因及miRNA表达进而影响肿瘤生物学行为,并参与染色体重塑、转录调控及RNA降解等多种过程。此外,由于其具有组织特异性,在疾病诊断中敏感性明显高于DNA、蛋白编码RNA及蛋白质标志物^[12]。已有多项研究报道了lncRNA在结直肠癌中的功能,如lncRNA H19、MALAT1、CCAT1及HOTAIR等在促进结直肠癌发生、发展中的作用已经得到了较为广泛的认可。因此,进一步探索lncRNA在结直肠癌中的功能不仅对于揭示结直肠癌发生、发展机制具有重要意义,同时可能为寻找结直肠癌新的诊断指标及治疗靶点提供证据^[12-15]。

在DNA损伤反应中,lncRNA PANDAR能够由p53激活,lncRNA PANDAR的表达缺失能够明显促进DNA损伤所诱导的损伤反应。近期有研究显示,lncRNA PANDAR与膀胱癌、肝癌、乳腺癌、胃癌及非小细胞肺癌的发生、发展和预后相关^[16-19],但其在结直肠癌中的功能尚未见报道。本研究发现,lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠正常上皮细胞和癌旁组织中的表达明

显低于结直肠癌细胞和组织,并且与结直肠癌的TNM分期、淋巴结转移和远处转移相关,提示lncRNA PANDAR在结直肠癌中也是一种促癌基因,能够促进结直肠癌转移。体外细胞实验进一步证实,lncRNA PANDAR高表达能够促进结直肠癌细胞的转移;相反,干扰lncRNA PANDAR表达能够明显抑制结直肠癌细胞的转移。上述实验证实,lncRNA PANDAR能够促进结直肠癌细胞的转移。上皮-间质转化在肿瘤转移过程中发挥极为重要的作用,因此,本研究检测了lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中主要的上皮-间质转化转录调控因子mRNA的表达,结果发现,ZEB1表达变化明显,且在lncRNA PANDAR高表达的细胞中干扰ZEB1表达会明显逆转lncRNA PANDAR高表达引起的结直肠癌细胞侵袭和迁移能力的增强,提示lncRNA PANDAR可能通过调控ZEB1表达进而促进结直肠癌上皮-间质转化,从而增强结直肠癌转移能力。

综上所述,lncRNA PANDAR可促进结直肠癌转移能力,且ZEB1可能介导该过程。LncRNA PANDAR可能成为结直肠癌新的诊断指标及治疗靶点。

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