



· 综述 ·

# 小细胞肺癌免疫治疗相关生物标志物研究进展

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**[摘要]** 最近30年来小细胞肺癌 (small cell lung cancer, SCLC) 的治疗手段无明显突破, 整体预后也无显著改善。随着免疫治疗时代的开启, 免疫检查点抑制剂在SCLC治疗中取得了重大进展, 但整体获益仍有限。如何筛选获益人群以进一步提高免疫治疗效果是当下SCLC研究的热点问题之一。通过概述SCLC现状, 聚焦SCLC免疫治疗相关生物标志物, 综述近年来SCLC免疫治疗标志物研究现状与进展, 以期为未来优化免疫治疗策略提供线索和思路。

**[关键词]** 小细胞肺癌; 免疫治疗; 生物标志物

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**[Abstract]** There is no obvious breakthrough in treatment for small cell lung cancer (SCLC) in more than 30 years, and the prognosis has not improved significantly. With the opening of the immune era, immune checkpoint inhibitors have made breakthroughs in SCLC treatment, but the overall benefit population is limited. How to select patients accurately and how to increase the efficacy of immunotherapy are hot topics in SCLC research. Therefore, this article summarized the current status of SCLC with focus on biomarkers related to SCLC immunotherapy, reviewed the progress in the research of immunotherapy markers in recent years, to provide clues and ideas for future immunotherapeutic strategies.

**[Key words]** Small cell lung cancer; Immunotherapy; Biomarkers

小细胞肺癌 (small cell lung cancer, SCLC) 是高度恶性的神经内分泌肿瘤, 约占全部肺癌的15%<sup>[1]</sup>。按照美国退伍军人医院分期标准, SCLC可分为局限期和广泛期, 大部分患者初诊时已为广泛期, 治疗手段有限, 5年生存率不足2%<sup>[2]</sup>。依托泊苷联合铂类药物作为广泛期小细胞肺癌 (extensive-stage small cell lung cancer, ES-SCLC) 一线标准治疗方案已有30余年<sup>[3]</sup>。近些年免疫检查点抑制剂 (immune checkpoint inhibitor, ICI) 的发展改善了SCLC患者的生存。然而, 仅一部分SCLC患者能从免疫治疗中长期获益, 寻找合适的免疫生物标志物用于指导免疫治疗的临床实践, 是进一步提升SCLC患者

生存获益的关键。

## 1 SCLC的生物学特征

了解SCLC的生物学特征可以帮助我们更好地寻找有效的生物标志物。SCLC亚型的演变与肿瘤免疫微环境 (tumor immune microenvironment, TIME) 是近年来SCLC生物学特征研究领域的关注点。

### 1.1 肿瘤亚型的演变

SCLC是一种高度异质性的肿瘤, 如何更好地定义SCLC亚型一直是研究热点之一。1985年, Carney等<sup>[4]</sup>对SCLC异质性进行初步探索, 其依据左旋多巴脱羧酶、蛙皮素样免疫反应性、神经元特异性烯醇化酶和肌酸激酶脑型

同工酶的不同将SCLC细胞系分为经典型和变异型两大类。有研究<sup>[5-6]</sup>根据SCLC中无刚毛鳞甲复合体同源物样1 (achaete-scute complex-like 1, ASCL1)、神经源分化因子1 (neurogenic differentiation factor 1, NEUROD1)、转录共激活因子1 (Yes-associated protein 1, YAP1) 及2级POU结构域转录因子3 (POU domain, class 2, transcription factor 3, POU2F3) 表达的不同将SCLC分为SCLC-A、SCLC-N、SCLC-Y及SCLC-P四种亚型, 不同亚型SCLC的生物学特点和对药物的敏感性存在差异, SCLC-Y是潜在免疫获益的亚型。然而进一步研究<sup>[7]</sup>发现, YAP1在SCLC-P中也会表达, 因此YAP1作为SCLC亚型分类的标志物存在争议。近期, Gay等<sup>[8]</sup>通过对81例SCLC患者的手术切除标本进行肿瘤基因表达数据分析与非负矩阵因式分解重新定义SCLC的分型, 并在SCLC-A、SCLC-N、SCLC-P的基础上提出了高表达抗原提呈相关基因、T细胞炎性基因表达谱 (gene expression profile, GEP) 的亚型—SCLC-I。与SCLC-Y相比, SCLC-I更加准确地定义了潜在的免疫获益亚型的特征, 为后期SCLC免疫获益患者的筛选提供了可能。

## 1.2 TIME

TIME是肿瘤生长、转移的重要场所, 也是免疫细胞与肿瘤相互作用的关键介质。抑制性TIME可能是SCLC免疫治疗不获益的重要原因。

研究<sup>[9-10]</sup>发现, SCLC可以通过下调主要组织相容性复合体 (major histocompatibility complex, MHC) 的表达, 以及上调脊髓灰质炎病毒受体和CD47的表达等途径促进肿瘤免疫逃逸。其他分子如CD39的上调、巨噬细胞刺激蛋白表达的增加、干扰素诱导的跨膜蛋白1的过表达等也参与抑制性TIME的形成<sup>[11-13]</sup>。

在免疫细胞浸润方面, 一项针对104例SCLC肿瘤组织T细胞浸润情况的研究<sup>[14]</sup>发现, FOXP3<sup>+</sup> T细胞占72.1%, 而CD8<sup>+</sup> T细胞仅占12.5%。Carvajal-Hausdorf等<sup>[15]</sup>研究发现, 肺腺癌中CD8<sup>+</sup> T细胞的绝对值较SCLC高5.4倍, 肺鳞癌中较SCLC高6.0倍。此外, 有研究<sup>[16]</sup>发现,

ES-SCLC患者来源的SCLC循环肿瘤细胞可通过分泌多种细胞因子使肿瘤相关巨噬细胞 (tumor-associated macrophage, TAM) 聚集。骨髓来源的抑制细胞 (myeloid-derived suppressor cell, MDSC) 也是SCLC微环境中抑制性免疫细胞之一, MDSC可诱导调节性T细胞 (regulatory T cell, Treg) 聚集, 促进抑制性TIME的形成<sup>[17]</sup>。基于MDSC在SCLC中的作用, Iclozan等<sup>[18]</sup>发现, MDSC抑制剂全反式维甲酸与p53疫苗联合时可增加SCLC对免疫疫苗的反应, 提示消除MDSC可增强SCLC对免疫治疗的反应。

## 2 SCLC免疫治疗相关生物标志物

### 2.1 临床研究中的免疫治疗相关生物标志物

#### 2.1.1 程序性死亡 [蛋白] 配体-1 (programmed death ligand-1, PD-L1)

PD-L1是肿瘤细胞表面分子之一, 其作为免疫治疗的生物标志物已在包括非小细胞肺癌 (non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC) 在内的多种实体瘤中广泛应用。随着SCLC免疫治疗研究的开展, PD-L1作为SCLC疗效标志物的可行性也受到关注。

2020年欧洲肿瘤内科学会 (European Society for Medical Oncology, ESMO) 会议报道了IMpower133研究中SCLC长期生存者的特征, 发现PD-L1表达水平与免疫治疗长期生存获益无明显相关性<sup>[19]</sup>。KEYNOTE-604研究与CASPIAN研究得到的结论类似<sup>[20-21]</sup>。此外, IFCT-1603研究<sup>[22]</sup>发现, 在54例可检测PD-L1的SCLC肿瘤标本中, 仅1例肿瘤标本PD-L1阳性, 肿瘤PD-L1阳性与阴性患者的无进展生存期 (progression-free survival, PFS) 与总生存期 (overall survival, OS) 差异无统计学意义, 但由于该研究两组样本量相差较大, 结论需谨慎对待。

实际上, 由于肿瘤细胞PD-L1表达水平较低, 现有临床试验结果尚不支持将PD-L1表达作为SCLC免疫疗效标志物。

#### 2.1.2 TMB

SCLC作为一种基因广泛丢失、突变的肿瘤, 抑癌基因TP53、Rb1、PTEN等的缺失, PIK3CA、EGFR等的过度表达, 以及FGFR1、

SOX2、MYC家族的扩增导致SCLC的高肿瘤突变负荷(tumor mutational burden, TMB)<sup>[23]</sup>。SCLC的TMB约为7.4 mut/Mb,与NSCLC相似,高TMB理论上可诱导强烈的T细胞反应,为SCLC的免疫治疗获益带来可能<sup>[24]</sup>。

研究者在包括SCLC在内的多种实体肿瘤中探索TMB作为免疫疗效标志物的可行性。在一项探索SCLC中TMB与ICI疗效关系的研究<sup>[25]</sup>中,发现高TMB组中位PFS与中位OS均较中低TMB组明显延长。CheckMate 032试验则对TMB进行了更为细致的划分,研究者分别以143 mut/Mb、247 mut/Mb为界将患者分为低、中、高组,结果显示,无论是单药还是联合用药,高TMB组客观缓解率、1年PFS率及1年OS率均显著延长<sup>[26]</sup>。虽然以上研究中TMB的界值不同,但研究结果表明,高TMB的患者具有免疫治疗获益的优势。值得注意的是,在IMpower133研究<sup>[27]</sup>中,研究者探索血液TMB(blood TMB, bTMB)作为免疫疗效标志物的预测效能,结果发现,bTMB与免疫疗效无关。因此,基于TMB的更深层次的研究仍需进一步开展。

### 2.1.3 GEP

GEP是与抗原呈递、趋化因子表达等相关的基因表达谱,其能从基因层面更全面地描述肿瘤微环境的特征<sup>[28]</sup>。

KEYNOTE-028是一项探索派姆单抗治疗PD-L1阳性肿瘤安全性与有效性的研究<sup>[29]</sup>,该研究包括24例SCLC患者,GEP与临床疗效之间的关系是探索性终点之一,结果发现,高GEP患者预后好,同时TMB与GEP或PD-L1联合有更好的预测效能。但值得注意的是,该研究纳入的SCLC患者较少,可能导致偏倚,同时针对泛瘤种得出的结论能否直接应用到SCLC中仍需进一步探索。

## 2.2 值得探索的免疫治疗相关生物标志物

### 2.2.1 CD47

CD47是一种在细胞表面广泛表达的跨膜蛋白,其主要由N末端的细胞外可变区、5个疏水的跨膜结构和1个C末端的细胞内信号序列组成。信号调节蛋白 $\alpha$ (signal regulatory protein  $\alpha$ ,

SIRP $\alpha$ )是巨噬细胞及MDSC表面的抑制性受体,CD47与SIRP $\alpha$ 结合后引起细胞内酪氨酸抑制基序的磷酸化并抑制巨噬细胞的吞噬功能<sup>[30]</sup>。

Weiskopf等<sup>[10]</sup>通过细胞实验与动物模型证实,阻断CD47可促进巨噬细胞对SCLC的吞噬,肯定了CD47作为SCLC治疗靶标的潜在作用。一项临床回顾性研究<sup>[31]</sup>以CD47表达作为分组依据,探索了不同亚组患者的OS,结果发现,CD47阳性的患者预后较好。以CD47为检查点的免疫疗法正在兴起,CD47作为治疗靶标与免疫疗效标志物是将来值得深入研究的课题。

### 2.2.2 DLL3

$\delta$ 样配体3( $\delta$ -like ligand 3, DLL3)是Notch信号转导通路的抑制性配体,其在SCLC中大量表达,以SCLC-A和SCLC-N亚型为主<sup>[7]</sup>。

随着DLL3靶标功能的解析,许多以DLL3为靶点的新药如AMG 757、AMG 119正在不断的研发中。AMG 757是一种基于双特异性T细胞衔接系统开发的靶向DLL3的双特异性抗体。Giffin等<sup>[32]</sup>通过SCLC患者来源异种移植模型与细胞系异种移植模型验证了该抗体特异性杀伤表达DLL3的肿瘤细胞的作用。2020年世界肺癌大会公布了正在进行的AMG 757 I期临床试验的初步数据,10 mg的AMG 757具有可接受的不良反应且显示出较好的抗肿瘤活性,剂量递增试验正在进行当中<sup>[33]</sup>。AMG 119是一种靶向DLL3的嵌合抗原受体T细胞免疫疗法,临床试验正在进行,暂无数公布。以上针对DLL3的免疫疗法的发展为将来探索DLL3作为免疫治疗标志物提供了线索。

### 2.2.3 多种标志物组合

SCLC高度异质性的特征可能会限制单一的生物标志物用于筛选免疫治疗获益人群的准确性,相比之下,多种指标联合可为潜在免疫获益亚群的检出提供更有针对性的信息。

Chen等<sup>[34]</sup>通过免疫组织化学法分析了102例SCLC患者的手术切除标本,并以浸润淋巴细胞上Gal-9的表达为基础建立了SCLC的免疫风险评估模型,对该模型进行验证发现,多标志物组合较单一标志物预测效能提升。开发多种生物标志物联合检测平台是未来SCLC标志物的研究方

向之一。

### 3 总结与展望

近年来生物信息学技术发展迅速, 测序技术的普及和空间转录组学的发展使充分探索SCLC生物学特性成为可能。但受SCLC肿瘤异质性强、取材困难等制约, 目前对于SCLC生物标志物的研究进展较为缓慢, 一些在NSCLC中有效的

标志物对于SCLC免疫疗效的预测效能未达到预期。图1从SCLC免疫治疗生物标志物出发, 结合SCLC特征, 概括总结具有发展前景的标志物。研究者对于SCLC的进一步探索从未止步, 更加全面地了解SCLC特性、准确地定义SCLC的亚型以挖掘真正有临床价值的疗效预测物将是未来SCLC领域发展的方向之一。

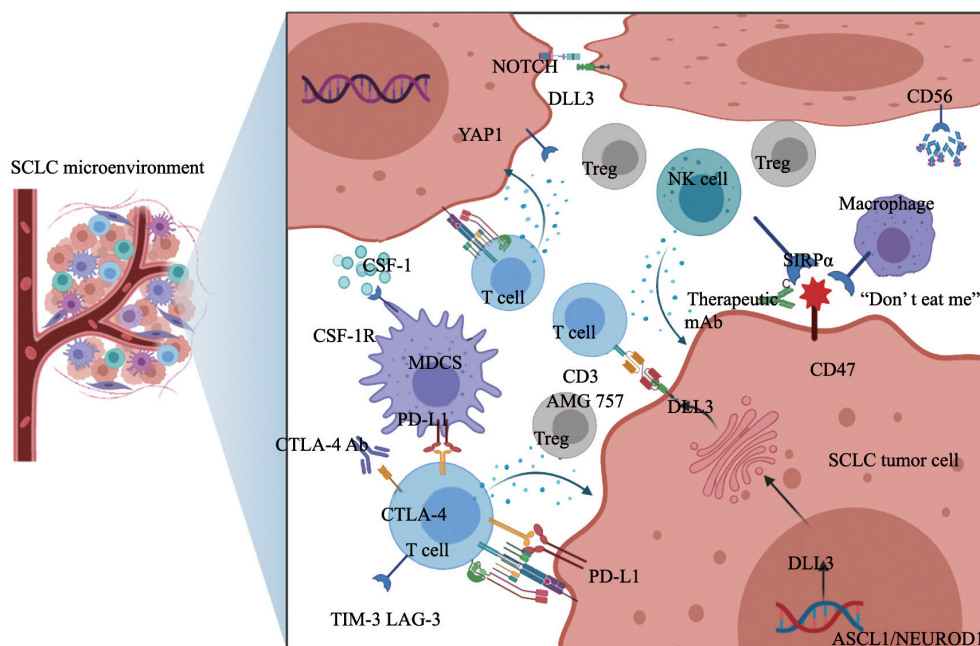


图1 SCLC免疫治疗相关生物标志物研究概况

Fig. 1 Overview of immune biomarkers for SCLC

MDC: Myeloid-derived suppressor cells; NK: Natural killer; DLL3:  $\delta$ -like ligand 3; YAP1: Yes-associated protein 1; CSF1: Colony-stimulating factor 1; CSF1R: Colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor; SIRP $\alpha$ : signal-regulatory protein  $\alpha$ ; CTLA-4: Cytolytic T lymphocyte-associated antigen-4; PD-L1: Programmed death ligand-1; TIM3: T-cell immunoglobulin and mucin domain 3; LAG3: Lymphocyte-activation gene 3

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