



· 论 著 ·

# PKLR在胰腺癌中的表达水平及临床病理学意义

杨士鹏<sup>1,2</sup>, 刘颖<sup>1,3</sup>, 王馨悦<sup>1,3</sup>, 杨洋<sup>1,3</sup>, 全吉淑<sup>4</sup>, 林贞花<sup>1,3</sup>

1. 延边大学肿瘤研究中心, 吉林 延吉 133002;
2. 延边大学附属医院外科, 吉林 延吉 133002;
3. 民族地区高发肿瘤病理生物学国家重点实验室(延边大学), 吉林 延吉 133002
4. 延边大学医学院生物化学与分子生物学教研室, 吉林 延吉 133002

**[摘要]** 背景与目的: 胰腺癌是一种原发于消化系统的恶性肿瘤, 发病率男性高于女性, 且患者预后差。重组人丙酮酸激酶(pyruvate kinase isozymes R/L, PKLR)属于丙酮酸激酶家族, 哺乳动物丙酮酸激酶同工酶有4种: L、R、M1和M2, 其与肿瘤的发生、发展密切相关。已经有研究发现, PKLR会促进乳腺癌的转移。探究PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌中的临床病理学意义, 分析PKLR对胰腺癌生物学行为的影响及分子机制。方法: 运用免疫荧光染色检测PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌细胞中的定位; 采用免疫组织化学染色EnVision法检测PKLR在胰腺癌组织中的阴性表达率、阳性表达率和强阳性表达率, 并分析PKLR与胰腺癌患者临床病理学特征之间的关系; 运用小干扰RNA转染技术敲减PKLR表达观察其在胰腺癌细胞中的蛋白表达水平; 噻唑蓝实验检测敲低PKLR后细胞增殖活性的变化; 平板克隆实验检测敲减PKLR后BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞菌落形成数量的变化; 应用细胞划痕实验检测PKLR对胰腺癌细胞横向迁移能力的影响; transwell实验检测PKLR对胰腺癌细胞纵向迁移能力的影响; 蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)检测PKLR对上皮-间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transformation, EMT)相关标志蛋白表达变化的影响。结果: 免疫荧光结果显示, PKLR荧光信号定位于BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2胰腺癌细胞的细胞质中; 免疫组织化学染色结果表明, PKLR在胰腺癌组织中的阳性表达率(75.2%)和强阳性表达率(48.6%)显著高于正常胰腺组织(14.3%和7.1%)( $P < 0.01$ ); 且其表达与胰腺癌患者的组织学分级及淋巴结转移密切相关( $P < 0.05$ ); 小干扰RNA转染技术敲减PKLR表达后, PKLR在胰腺癌细胞中的蛋白表达水平明显下调; MTT结果显示, 敲减PKLR后, 细胞增殖活性明显受到抑制, 且呈时间依赖性( $P < 0.05$ ); 平板克隆实验发现, 敲减PKLR可显著减少BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞的集落形成数量; 细胞划痕实验和transwell实验检测发现敲减PKLR后胰腺癌细胞的迁移能力明显受到抑制; 检测PKLR对EMT标志物的影响发现, 下调PKLR表达可明显抑制胰腺癌细胞的增殖及迁移能力, 并上调上皮标志物E-cadherin的表达, 下调间质标志物vimentin和snail的表达( $P < 0.05$ )。结论: PKLR在胰腺癌的发生、发展过程中扮演着重要的促癌角色, 我们将做进一步深入研究。

**[关键词]** 胰腺癌; PKLR; 增殖; 迁移; 上皮-间质转化

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**Clinical significance of PKLR overexpression in the pancreatic cancer** YANG Shipeng<sup>1,2</sup>, LIU Ying<sup>1,3</sup>, WANG Xinyue<sup>1,3</sup>, YANG Yang<sup>1,3</sup>, QUAN Jishu<sup>4</sup>, LIN Zhenhua<sup>1,3</sup> (1. Department of Cancer Research Center, Yanbian University Medical College, Yanji 133002, Jilin Province, China; 2. Department of Surgery, Affiliated Hospital of Yanbian University, Yanji 133002, Jilin Province, China; 3. Key Laboratory of Pathobiology of High Frequency Oncology in Ethnic Minority Areas, Yanbian University, State Ethnic Affairs Commission, Yanji 133002, Jilin Province, China; 4. Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Yanbian University, Yanji 133002, Jilin Province, China)

Correspondence to: LIN Zhenhua E-mail: zhlin720@ybu.edu.cn

**[Abstract]** **Background and purpose:** Pancreatic cancer is a malignant tumor which occurs primarily in the digestive system. The incidence rate is higher in men than in women, and its prognosis is poor. Recombinant human pyruvate kinase isozymes R/L (PKLR) belong to the pyruvate kinase family. There are four kinds of mammalian pyruvate kinase isozymes: L, R, M1 and M2, which are closely related to the occurrence and development of tumor. Studies have shown that PKLR promotes breast cancer metastasis. This study aimed to investigate the clinicopathological significance of PKLR protein in pancreatic cancer, and to analyze

the effect of PKLR on the biological behavior of pancreatic cancer and its molecular mechanism. **Methods:** Immunofluorescence staining was used to detect the localization of PKLR protein in pancreatic cancer cells. The negative expression rate, positive expression rate and strong positive expression rate of PKLR in pancreatic cancer tissues were detected by immunohistochemical staining EnVision method, and the correlation between PKLR and clinicopathological features of pancreatic cancer was analyzed. Small interfering RNA transfection technology was used to knockdown PKLR expression and observe its protein expression in pancreatic cancer cells. Methylthiazolyldiphenyl-tetrazolium bromide assay was used to detect the changes of cell proliferation activity after knockdown of PKLR. Plate cloning assay was used to detect the changes of colony formation of BxPC-3 and Mia PaCa-2 cells after PKLR knockdown. The scratch healing test was used to detect the effect of PKLR on the lateral migration of pancreatic cancer cells. Transwell assay was used to detect the effect of PKLR on the vertical migration of pancreatic cancer cells. The effect of PKLR on the expression of epithelial-mesenchymal transformation (EMT) related marker proteins was detected by Western blot. **Results:** Immunofluorescence results showed that PKLR fluorescence was localized in the cytoplasm of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 pancreatic cancer cells. Immunohistochemical staining showed that the positive expression rate of PKLR in pancreatic cancer tissues (75.2%) and strong positive expression rate (48.6%) were significantly higher than those in normal pancreatic tissues (14.3% and 7.1%) ( $P<0.01$ ). The expression was closely related to histological grading and lymph node metastasis of pancreatic cancer ( $P<0.05$ ). After knockdown of PKLR expression by small interfering RNA transfection, the protein expression level of PKLR in pancreatic cancer cells was significantly downregulated. MTT results showed that cell proliferation was significantly inhibited in a time-dependent manner ( $P<0.05$ ) after knockdown of PKLR. Plate cloning experiment showed that knockdown of PKLR could significantly reduce the number of colony formation of BxPC-3 and Mia PaCa-2 cells; Scratch healing test and transwell test showed that the migration ability of pancreatic cancer cells was significantly inhibited after knockdown of PKLR. The effect of PKLR on EMT markers was detected. Downregulation of PKLR expression could significantly inhibit the proliferation and migration of pancreatic cancer cells, upregulate the expression of E-cadherin, and downregulate the expression of vimentin and Snail ( $P<0.05$ ). **Conclusion:** PKLR plays an important role in the development and progression of pancreatic cancer. We will do further research.

[Key words] Pancreatic cancer; PKLR; Proliferation; Migration; Epithelial-mesenchymal transformation

胰腺癌恶性程度高,其发病率呈逐年上升及年轻化趋势,病死率在恶性肿瘤中位居第4<sup>[1]</sup>。由于胰腺癌早期诊断困难,侵袭性强,恶性程度高<sup>[2-3]</sup>,患者的5年生存率 $<1\%$ <sup>[4]</sup>。随着基因组学和蛋白组学的快速发展,涌现出大量生物学分子标志物如CA19-9、CEA、CA242、OPN等,但特异性和敏感性等仍显不足<sup>[5]</sup>。因此,阐明胰腺癌的潜在分子机制并寻找更有效的肿瘤分子标志物对于胰腺癌早期诊断及分子靶向治疗至关重要。

丙酮酸激酶(pyruvate kinase, PK)是糖酵解途径中的关键限速酶,可催化磷酸烯醇式丙酮酸转化为丙酮酸,同时使ADP转化为ATP以供给细胞能量<sup>[6]</sup>。PK家族主要包括4种同工酶,分别是PKLR基因编码的PK-L、PK-R以及PKM2基因编码的M1和M2<sup>[7]</sup>。其中,PKLR基因位于染色体1q21,共包含12个外显子,主要表达于肝脏、红细胞中<sup>[8]</sup>。有报道称,PKLR基因缺陷是红细胞丙酮酸激酶缺乏的主要原因,也是遗传性非球形细胞溶血性贫血的常见原因<sup>[9-10]</sup>。近年的研究<sup>[11-12]</sup>显示,PKLR在肿瘤的恶性演进中扮演

着重要的促进作用。Nguyen等<sup>[11]</sup>报道,PKLR蛋白的表达与结直肠癌患者的临床分期和分化程度密切相关,其高表达提示患者的不良预后。Niinivirta等<sup>[12]</sup>亦证实,PKLR与肾细胞癌的恶性演进密切相关。本文旨在探究PKLR蛋白对胰腺癌细胞生物学行为的影响,为胰腺癌早期诊断及靶向治疗提供可能的分子标志物。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 细胞系

人胰腺癌BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞,购自美国典型培养物保藏中心(American Type Culture Collection, ATCC)。

### 1.2 材料

组织芯片购自上海芯超生物科技有限公司,包括109例胰腺癌组织和28例癌旁胰腺组织标本。统计109例胰腺癌标本的临床病理学资料(部分临床数据缺失):男性59例,女性50例;年龄 $<60$ 岁的患者数为41例, $\geq 60$ 的患者数为68例;肿瘤直径 $<3.0$  cm的患者数为15例,

≥3.0 cm的患者数为37例;有淋巴结转移的患者数为60例,无淋巴结转移的患者数为46例;胰腺癌组织分化程度:高分化者7例,中分化者41例,低分化者14例;胰腺癌组织分期分析:I+II期87例,III+IV期22例。

### 1.3 试剂

胎牛血清、DMEM培养基、青霉素、链霉素、胰蛋白酶等试剂购自美国Gibco公司;磷酸盐缓冲溶液(phosphate-buffered saline, PBS)购自北京中杉金桥生物技术有限公司;二甲基亚砜(dimethyl sulfoxide, DMSO)、Hoechst33342荧光染料、MTT [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide]购自北京索莱宝生物科技有限公司;RIPA裂解液、BCA蛋白定量试剂盒购自北京康为世纪生物科技有限公司;荧光二抗Alexa Fluor468购自美国Invitrogen公司,分装保存于-20℃冰箱。

### 1.4 仪器

CO<sub>2</sub>恒温培养箱,全波长多功能酶标仪。光学倒置显微镜购自日本Olympus公司,台式高速离心机购自美国Thermo公司。

### 1.5 细胞培养

将BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞置于含10%胎牛血清、1%青霉素和链霉素的DMEM培养基中,在37℃、CO<sub>2</sub>体积分数为5%的培养箱中培养。

### 1.6 MTT实验

将BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞以每孔100 μL (1×10<sup>3</sup>个细胞)接种于96孔板,每个浓度设5个平行复孔。次日,每孔加入5 mL/mg的MTT溶液100 μL,继续培养4 h后,弃上清液,加入DMSO,振荡,用全波长酶标仪于490 nm和570 nm波长测定吸光度(D)值。根据公式计算:细胞生存率= $D_{\text{处理组}}/D_{\text{对照组}} \times 100\%$ 。

### 1.7 平板克隆形成实验

取对数生长期的BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞,以每孔2 000个的细胞密度接种于6孔板中,次日更换为完全培养液,置于37℃、CO<sub>2</sub>体积分数为5%细胞培养箱中培养14 d,肉眼可见含有60个以上的细胞集落时,用预冷PBS清洗2次,室温下

4%多聚甲醛固定15 min,苏木精染液染色,自然干燥后拍照。

### 1.8 细胞划痕实验

将细胞等量接种于6孔板中,待细胞的融合度达到80%~90%时,用200 μL移液器吸嘴划痕。加入DMEM培养基,分别处理0、24和48 h后观察,拍照,测量划痕间距,根据公式计算划痕愈合率:划痕愈合率%=(0 h划痕宽度-24 h/48 h划痕宽度)/0 h划痕宽度×100%。

### 1.9 Transwell实验

将BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞消化、离心,并以100 μL (3×10<sup>5</sup>个细胞)接种于transwell上室。细胞贴壁后,上室分别加入DMEM培养基(无血清),下室加入含20%血清的DMEM培养基。于37℃、CO<sub>2</sub>体积分数为5%的培养箱中培养24 h后终止培养,依次进行固定、结晶紫染色、脱色、擦去上室细胞、取膜、封片后,于显微镜下观察、拍照。

### 1.10 蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)检测

BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞经处理48 h后,收集各组细胞,用RIPA裂解液提取总蛋白,BCA蛋白定量试剂盒测定蛋白浓度。取20 μg蛋白依次进行SDS-PAGE、转膜、5%脱脂牛奶封闭后,一抗(1:1 000)4℃温育过夜。次日,洗膜,二抗(1:3 000)室温温育2 h后,ECL法显影、曝光。以β-actin为内参,评价各目的蛋白的相对表达水平。

### 1.11 免疫组织化学染色

制备4 μm厚连续切片,二甲苯脱蜡,梯度乙醇水化,抗原修复,滴加抗PKLR抗体(稀释比例1:100),4℃温育过夜;次日滴加二抗,DAB显色,苏木精对比染色,中性树胶封片。为证明PKLR抗体免疫组织化学检测的特异性,选用PKLR阳性染色的切片,以PBS代替一抗的染色结果作为阴性对照。以着色强度及着色细胞数综合计算作为PKLR阳性染色评分标准。按阳性细胞染色强度计分:无着色为0分,淡黄色为1分,棕黄色为2分,棕褐色为3分;按着色阳性细胞数计分:0~5%为0分,6%~25%为1分,

26%~50%为2分, 51%~75%为3分, >75%为4分; 染色强度与着色细胞数得分相乘, 0~1分为阴性(-), 2~4分为弱阳性(+), 5~7分为中度阳性(++),  $\geq 8$ 分为强阳性(+++)。

### 1.12 免疫荧光染色

在6孔板中放置灭菌处理好的盖玻片并接种细胞, 各组细胞经PKLR处理48 h后, 依次进行多聚甲醛固定、TritonX-100透化、牛血清封闭后, 一抗(1:500)4℃温育过夜。次日洗涤, 荧光二抗(1:400)室温避光温育2 h。洗涤后, DAPI染色, 封片, 于荧光显微镜下拍照。

### 1.13 小干扰RNA转染

取对数生长期的细胞接种于6孔板, 分别设si-control组和si-PKLR组, 次日待细胞生长至30%~50%, si-control组加入2 mL正常完全培养液, si-PKLR组分别加入含1.5 mL的无血清无双抗DMEM培养液、250  $\mu$ L Opti-MEM培养基, A管加入5  $\mu$ L的Lipofectamine<sup>TM</sup> 3000和B管加入

5  $\mu$ L的si-PKLR, 继续培养48 h, 进行Western blot检测、MTT实验、细胞划痕实验、transwell实验、平板克隆形成实验。

### 1.14 统计学处理

本实验中所有的数据全部采用SPSS 25.0软件和GraphPad Prism7.0软件进行统计学处理; 实验数据全部采用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示; 多组之间数据的比较使用单因素方差分析; 对于两个独立样本的互比较采用t检验; PKLR蛋白表达与临床病理学特征的相关性分析采用 $\chi^2$ 检验或Fisher精确检验法, 每组实验均重复3次以上。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 PKLR蛋白定位于胰腺癌细胞的细胞质中

免疫荧光染色结果显示: PKLR的荧光信号主要定位于BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2胰腺癌细胞的细胞质中(图1)。

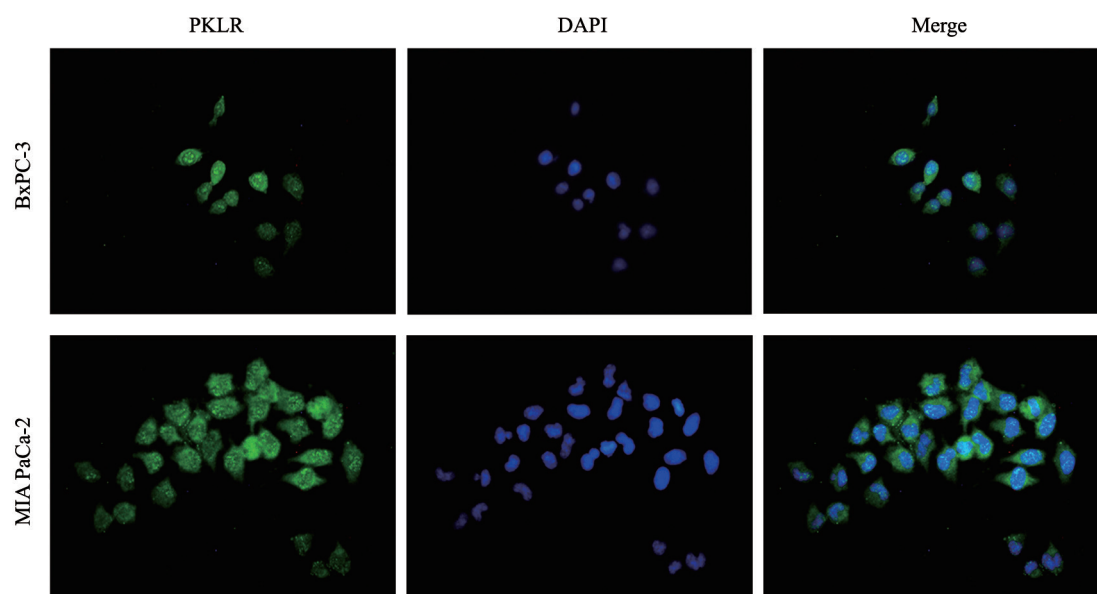


图1 PKLR蛋白定位于BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2胰腺癌细胞的细胞质( $\times 200$ )

Fig. 1 The PKLR was mainly located in the cytoplasm of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells ( $\times 200$ )

### 2.2 PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌组织中呈高表达

免疫组织化学染色结果发现, PKLR蛋白主要表达于胰腺癌细胞BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2的细胞质, 与免疫荧光结果相一致。其在正常胰腺组织中呈阴性, 在胰腺癌组织中呈阳性/强阳性(图2A)。进一步统计其阳性率发

现, PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌组织中的阳性表达率和强阳性表达率分别为75.2% (82/109) 和48.6% (53/109), 显著高于其在正常胰腺组织中的表达(14.3%和7.1%,  $P < 0.01$ , 图2B)。

### 2.3 PKLR蛋白过表达与胰腺癌患者组织分化及淋巴结转移呈正相关

进一步探究PKLR蛋白过表达与胰腺癌患者临床病理学特征之间的关系发现: PKLR过表达与胰腺癌患者的组织学分级及淋巴结转移密切相关 ( $P < 0.05$ ), 但与胰腺癌患者性别、年龄、临床分期、肿瘤大小等无明显相关性 ( $P > 0.05$ , 表1)。其中, PKLR在低分化组织中的强阳性率 (85.7%, 12/14) 明显高于中分化组织 (46.3%, 19/41) 和高分化组织 (42.8%, 3/7) ( $P < 0.030$ ); 在发生淋巴结转移患者的胰腺癌组织中, PKLR表达强阳性率为 (75.0%, 45/60), 亦显著高于无淋巴结转移的胰腺癌组织 (56.5%, 26/46), 提示PKLR蛋白与胰腺癌的发生、发展过程密切相关 ( $P < 0.029$ , 图3)。

### 2.4 PKLR下调明显抑制胰腺癌细胞的增殖

进一步采用小干扰RNA转染技术敲减PKLR表达后发现, 与对照组相比, PKLR在胰腺癌细胞中的蛋白水平明显下调 (图4A); MTT结果显示, 与对照组相比, si-PKLR #1、si-PKLR #2组细胞增殖活性明显受到抑制, 且呈时间依赖性 ( $P < 0.05$ , 图4B); 平板克隆实验

结果与之相一致, 敲减PKLR可显著减少BxPC-3和MIA PaCa-2细胞的集落形成数量 (图4C), 提示PKLR下调可抑制胰腺癌细胞的增殖能力。

### 2.5 PKLR下调抑制胰腺癌细胞的迁移能力

细胞划痕实验结果发现, si-PKLR #1、si-PKLR #2作用细胞0、24和48 h后, 与对照组相比, si-PKLR #1、si-PKLR #2处理组细胞横向迁移距离明显缩短 (图5A); 进一步的transwell实验结果亦发现, PKLR表达下调后, 胰腺癌细胞的纵向迁移能力明显受到抑制 ( $P < 0.05$ ), (图5B), 提示敲减PKLR表达可抑制胰腺癌细胞的迁移能力。

### 2.6 PKLR下调通过上皮-间质转化 (epithelial-mesenchymal transformation, EMT) 途径抑制胰腺癌细胞的迁移

进一步通过Western blot检测PKLR对EMT标志物的影响发现, si-PKLR #1、si-PKLR #2处理细胞后, 上皮表型标志物E-cadherin的表达明显上调, 间充质表型标志物vimentin及snail的表达明显下调 ( $P < 0.01$ , 图6), 提示PKLR可能通过EMT途径调控胰腺癌细胞的迁移。

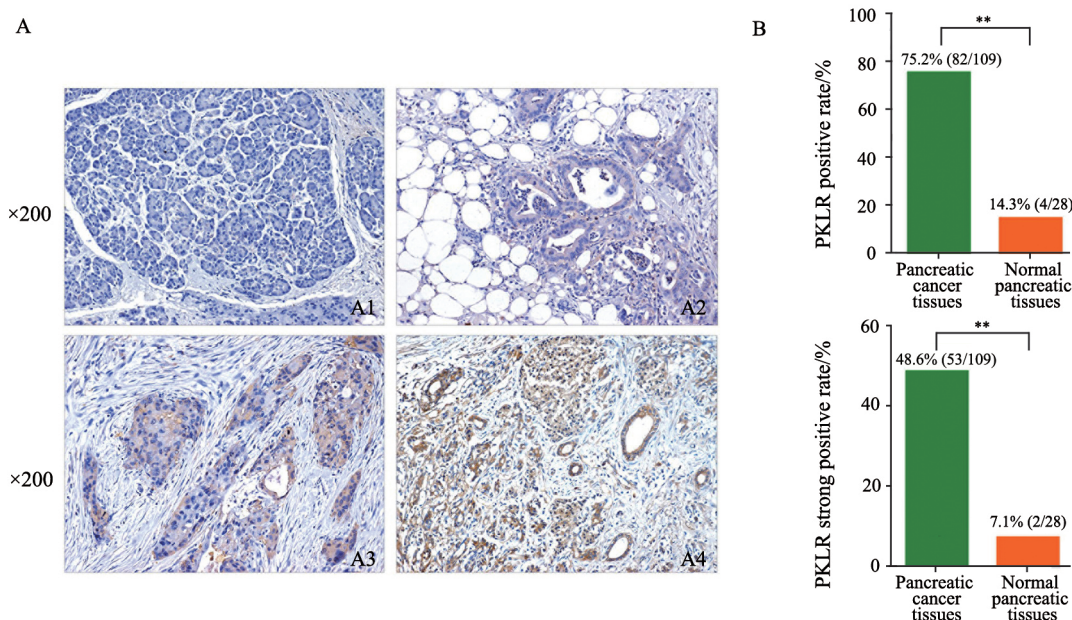


图2 PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌组织中的阳性表达显著高于在癌旁正常组织中的表达水平 ( $\times 200$ )

Fig. 2 The protein expression of PKLR in normal pancreatic tissues adjacent to tumor and pancreatic cancer tissues

A: Pathological diagnosis; A1: PKLR protein was negatively expressed in normal pancreatic tissues; A2: PKLR protein was weakly positive in pancreatic cancer tissues; A3: Positive expression of PKLR protein in pancreatic cancer tissues; A4: PKLR protein was strongly positive in pancreatic cancer tissues; B: Expression of PKLR in normal pancreatic tissues and pancreatic cancer tissues ( $\times 200$ )

表 1 PKLR表达水平与胰腺癌临床病理学参数之间的关系

Tab. 1 Relationship between PKLR expression level and clinicopathological parameters of pancreatic cancer

Clinical feature	Case <i>n</i>	PKLR strong positive <i>n</i> (%)	$\chi^2$	<i>P</i> value
Gender			0.014	0.905
Male	59	29 (49.2)		
Female	50	24 (48.0)		
Age/year			0.137	0.711
<60	41	19 (46.3)		
$\geq 60$	68	34 (50.0)		
Tumor size <i>D</i> /cm <sup>#</sup>			1.836	0.175
<3.0	15	5 (33.3)		
$\geq 3.0$	37	20 (54.1)		
Differentiation <sup>#</sup>			6.990	0.030*
High	7	3 (42.8)		
Well-middle	41	19 (46.3)		
Low	14	12 (85.7)		
Clinical stage			0.679	0.410
I - II	87	41(47.1)		
III -IV	22	12 (57.1)		
Lung metastasis <sup>#</sup>			4.761	0.029*
No	46	26 (56.5)		
Yes	60	45 (75.0)		

\*: *P*<0.05, #: Some of the data were missing

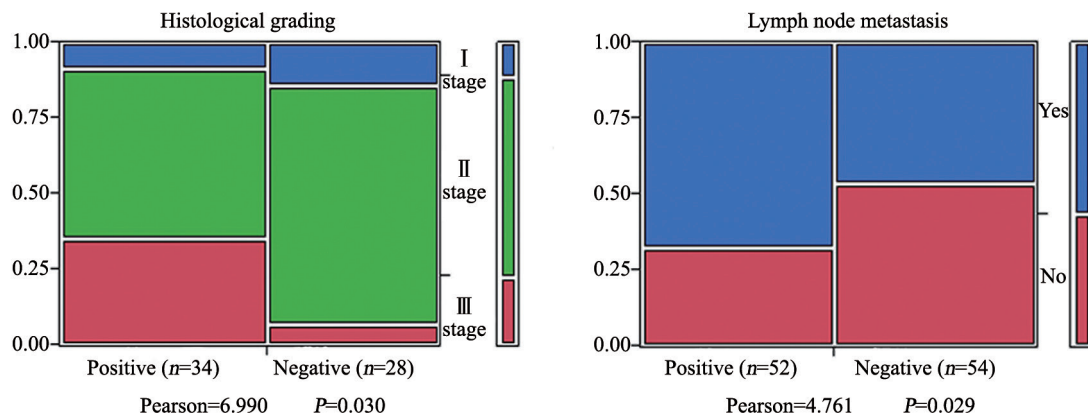


图 3 PKLR蛋白过表达与胰腺癌组织学分级、淋巴结转移呈正相关

Fig. 3 Relationship between overexpression of PKLR and clinicopathological features in patients with pancreatic cancer

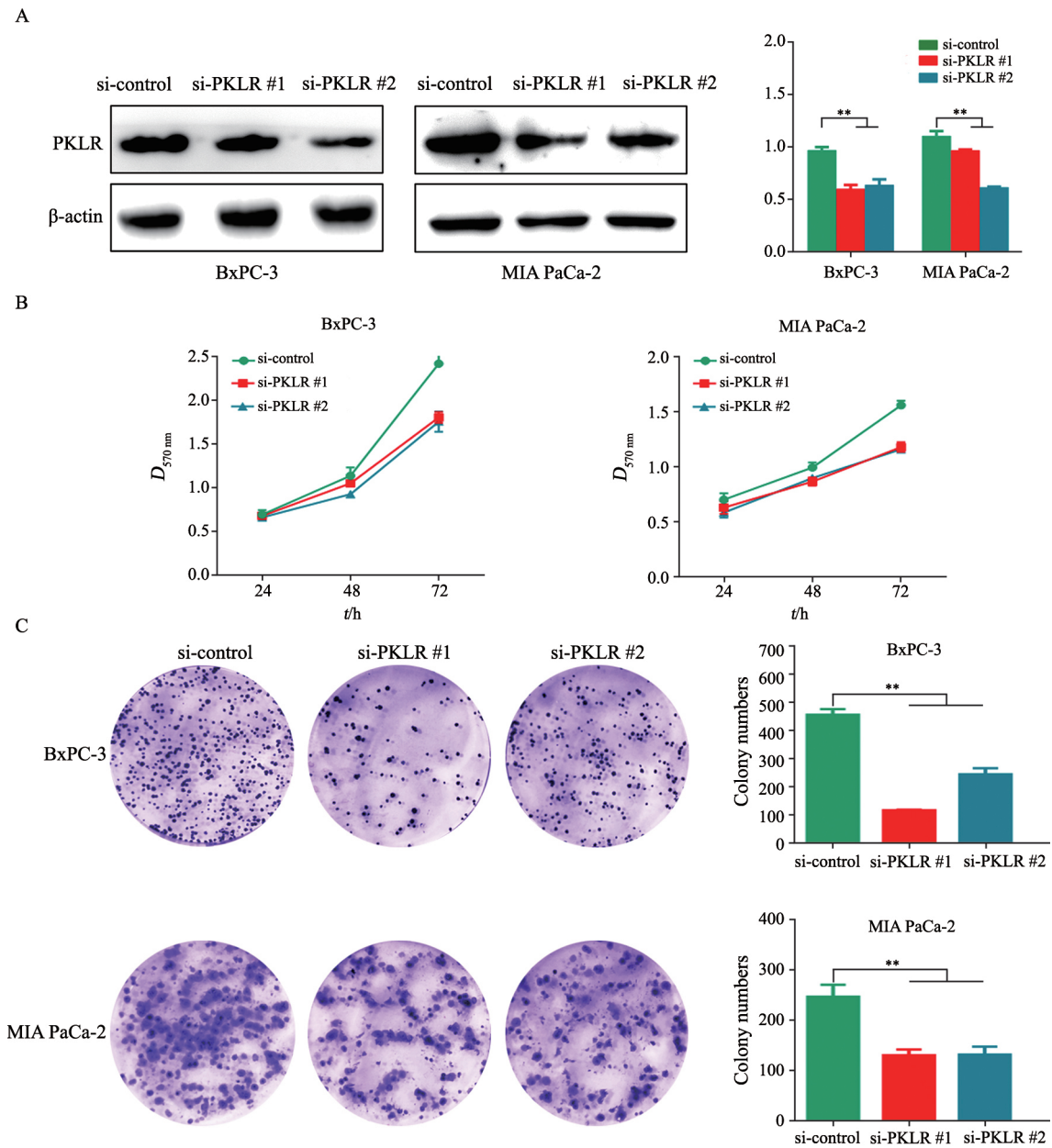


图 4 PKLR下调对胰腺癌细胞增殖能力的影响

Fig. 4 Inhibition of PKLR attenuated the proliferative abilities of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells

A: Western blot results showed that PKLR expression was down-regulated after knockdown of PKLR compared with si-control group; B: The optimal concentration and time of si-PKLR were evaluated by MTT assay; C: After PKLR knockdown, the clonal formation abilities of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells were decreased; \*\*:  $P < 0.01$ , compared with control group

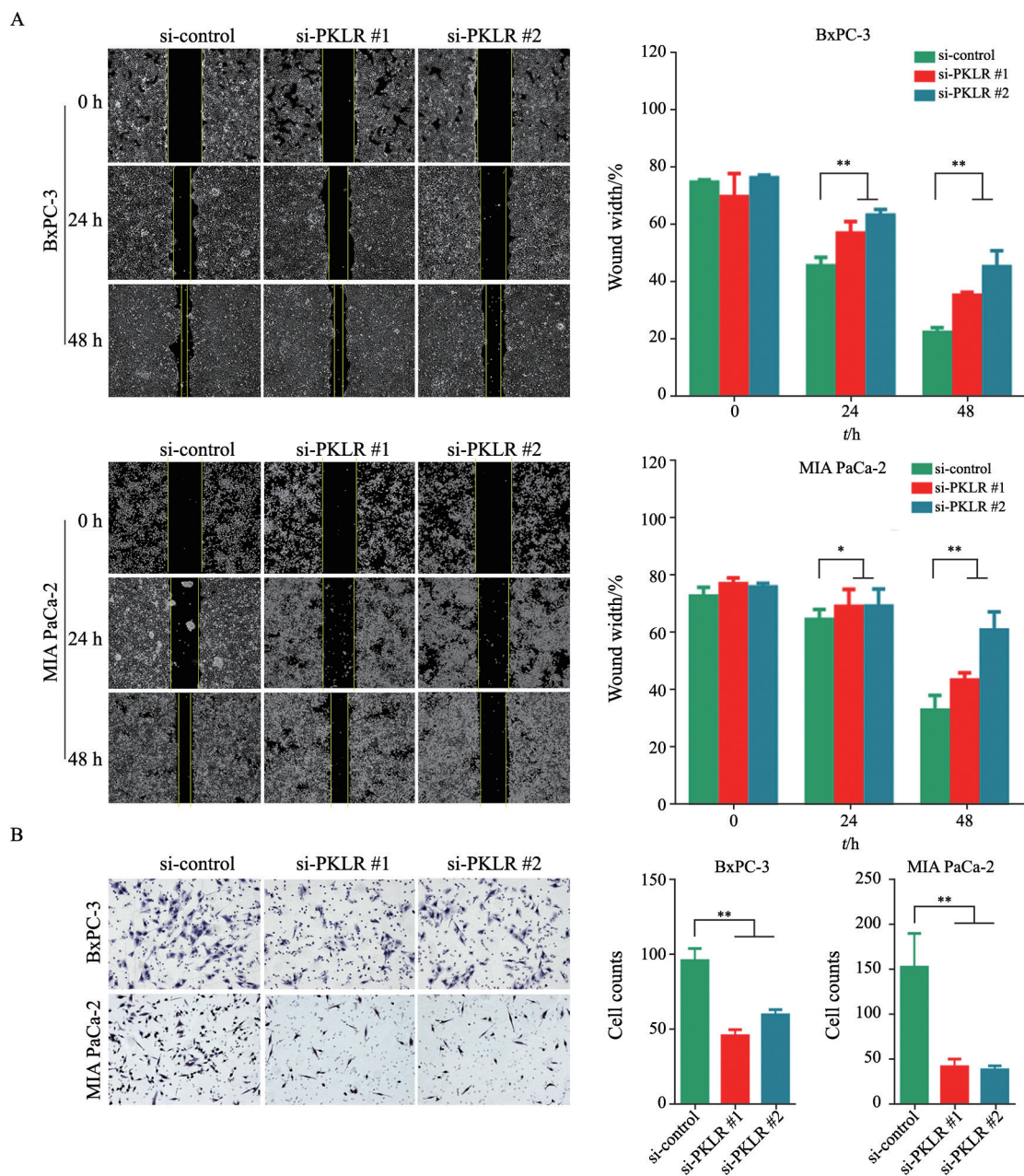


图5 敲减PKLR对胰腺癌细胞迁移能力的影响

Fig. 5 Inhibition of PKLR attenuated the migration abilities of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells

A: The migration abilities of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells were detected by wound-healing assay( $\times 40$ ); B: PKLR knockdown significantly inhibited cell migration detected by transwell assays ( $\times 200$ ); \*\*:  $P < 0.01$  compared with si-control group

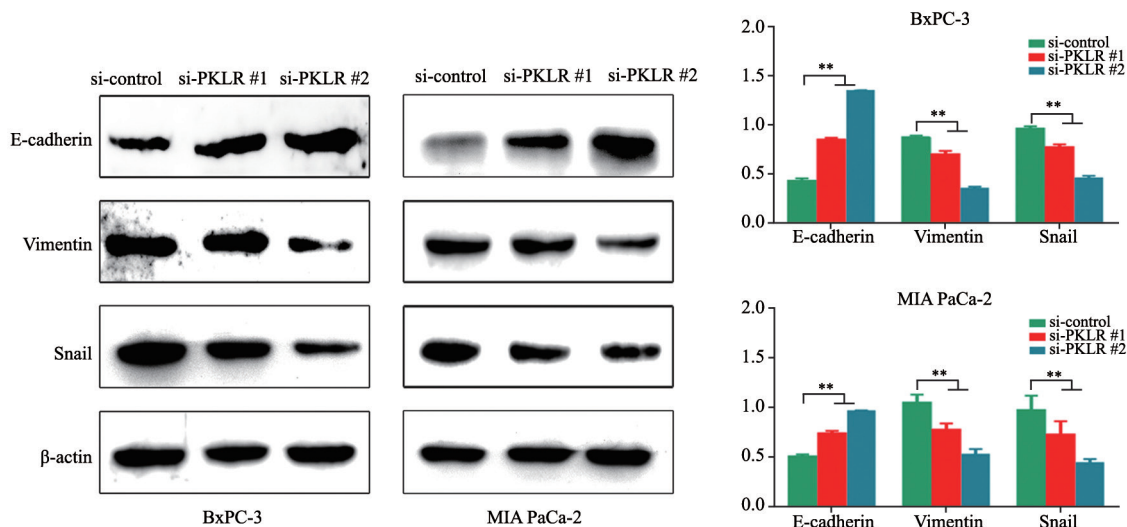


图6 Western blot检测PKLR下调后EMT相关标志物的表达水平

Fig. 6 Inhibition of PKLR attenuated the migration abilities of BxPC-3 and MIA PaCa-2 cells through the EMT pathway detected by Western blot

After PKLR knockdown, Western blot analysis showed that the expression of E-cadherin was significantly upregulated and the expressions of vimentin and snail were significantly downregulated; \*\*:  $P < 0.01$  vs control group

### 3 讨论

PKLR作为糖酵解途径的关键限速酶之一, 其不仅调控糖代谢重编程, 而且在类固醇和脂肪酸等能量代谢过程中发挥着重要作用<sup>[13-14]</sup>。Nie等<sup>[15]</sup>研究揭示, 盐皮质激素受体通过miR-338-3p/PKLR信号轴调控肝癌的瓦博格效应, 进而抑制肝癌的恶性增殖。Nguyen等<sup>[11]</sup>研究发现, PKLR通过诱导谷胱甘肽合成进而促进结肠癌细胞肝转移。Rudnicka等<sup>[16]</sup>报道, PKLR在胃癌组织中异常高表达, 且可正向调控胃癌细胞的增殖、周期阻滞和凋亡。Shaikh等<sup>[18]</sup>研究亦证实, 下调PKLR表达可抑制头颈部鳞状细胞癌的增殖、侵袭和迁移, 与头颈部鳞状细胞癌的发生、发展密切相关。以上研究提示, PKLR在肿瘤中异常表达并与肿瘤发生、发展密切相关。

在本研究中, 免疫组织化学染色结果显示PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌组织中的表达水平显著高于正常胰腺组织; 进一步分析PKLR高表达与胰腺癌临床病理学特征之间的关系, 发现PKLR在晚

期(Ⅲ~Ⅳ期)及有淋巴结转移的胰腺癌组织中的强阳性表达率(57.1% vs 75.0%)均显著高于早期(Ⅰ~Ⅱ期)和无淋巴结转移的胰腺癌(47.1% vs 56.5%,  $P < 0.05$ )。

Wang等<sup>[19]</sup>研究发现, FOXP1通过调控PKLR的表达进而促进胆囊癌的增殖和转移。为进一步探究PKLR在胰腺癌演进中的分子机制, 本研究运用小RNA干扰技术敲减PKLR表达分析其对胰腺癌细胞生物学行为的影响。MTT实验及平板克隆实验显示, PKLR表达下调可显著抑制胰腺癌细胞的增殖及平板克隆形成能力; 进一步的细胞划痕实验、transwell实验结果显示, 敲减PKLR表达对胰腺癌细胞的横向及纵向迁移能力均有明显的抑制作用, 提示PKLR在胰腺癌的增殖和迁移过程中扮演着重要角色。众所周知, EMT进程是促使肿瘤上皮细胞获得较高的迁移及侵袭能力的原因之一, 也是肿瘤发生转移的关键步骤<sup>[19]</sup>。为此, 本研究运用Western blot检测PKLR表达下调后对EMT相关标志物的影响, 结果发现, 上皮表型标志物E-cadherin表达明显上调, 而间充质表型标志物vimentin及snail表达明

显下调。上述结果与本课题组前期研究结果相一致,即PKLR作为NQO1的靶蛋白,下调PKLR表达可显著抑制NQO1诱导的EMT进程<sup>[20]</sup>,提示PKLR可能通过EMT途径促进了胰腺癌的转移。

总之,本研究表明,PKLR蛋白在胰腺癌组织中呈高表达,并与胰腺癌患者的组织学分级和淋巴结转移关系密切;敲减PKLR蛋白表达可抑制胰腺癌细胞的增殖、迁移及EMT进程,提示PKLR蛋白可能参与胰腺癌的演进,有望成为胰腺癌早期诊断的生物标志物和治疗的靶点。

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