



· 论 著 ·

Circ_0007142吸附miR-647调控CCR8基因促进胃癌细胞的上皮-间质转化和侵袭

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[摘要] 背景与目的: 胃癌是常见的消化道恶性肿瘤, circ_0007142被证实为结直肠癌的致癌因子, 能促进结直肠癌的进展。探究circ_0007142吸附miR-647调控CCR8基因对胃癌细胞上皮-间质转化 (epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT) 和侵袭的影响。方法: 采用实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应 (real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR) 对组织和细胞中circ_0007142、miR-647、CCR8的表达进行检测; 采用荧光原位杂交 (fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, FISH) 实验鉴定circ_0007142的亚细胞定位; 采用双荧光素酶报告基因实验和RNA免疫沉淀 (RNA immunoprecipitation, RIP) 实验验证circ_0007142和miR-647、miR-647和CCR8的相互关系; 采用transwell、克隆形成实验和蛋白质印迹法 (Western blot) 检测细胞的侵袭能力、集落形成能力和EMT程度; BALB/c裸小鼠移植瘤实验检测circ_0007142在体内的促瘤作用。结果: Circ_0007142和CCR8在胃癌组织和细胞中过表达, miR-647在胃癌组织和细胞中低表达。circ_0007142发挥分子海绵的作用抑制miR-647的表达, 而miR-647通过与CCR8 mRNA的3'-UTR结合抑制CCR8表达。敲减circ_0007142或者上调miR-647的表达都可以抑制胃癌细胞的侵袭、克隆形成与EMT。而敲减circ_0007142或上调miR-647表达对胃癌细胞的影响能够被miR-647 inhibitor 或CCR8过表达部分逆转 (P 均 <0.05)。此外, 在胃癌细胞中敲减circ_0007142的表达能够抑制肿瘤的体内生长。结论: Circ_0007142吸附miR-647上调CCR8的表达, 进而促进胃癌细胞的EMT和侵袭, 促进胃癌的进展。

[关键词] Circ_0007142; miR-647; CCR8; 胃癌; 上皮-间质转化; 侵袭

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[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Gastric cancer is the most common malignant tumor of digestive tract. Circ_0007142 has been proved to be a carcinogenic factor of colorectal cancer and can promote the progression of colorectal cancer. This study aimed to explore the effects of circ_0007142 on epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) and invasion of gastric cancer cells via absorbing miR-647 and then regulating CCR8 gene. **Methods:** Real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RTFQ-PCR) was used to detect the expressions of circ_0007142, miR-647 and CCR8 in gastric cancer tissues and cells. Fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) experiment was adopted to determine the subcellular localization of circ_0007142. Dual luciferase reporter experiment and RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP) assay were used to confirm the targeting relationship of circ_0007142 and miR-647 as well as miR-647 and CCR8. Transwell assay, clone formation assay and Western blot were used to test the cell invasion ability, clonality and EMT respectively. Tumor xenograft in BALB/c nude mice was performed to detect tumorigenicity of circ_0007142 *in vivo*. **Results:** Overexpressions of circ_0007142 and CCR8 and downregulation of miR-647 were detected in gastric cancer tissues and cells. Circ_0007142 acted as a molecular sponge to inhibit the expression of miR-647, at the same time, miR-647 inhibited the

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expression of CCR8 by binding with the 3'-UTR of CCR8 mRNA. Knockdown of circ_0007142 or overexpression of miR-647 inhibited the invasion, colony formation and EMT of gastric cancer cells. However, the effects of circ_0007142 inhibition or miR-647 overexpression on gastric cancer cells were partially reversed by miR-647 inhibitor or CCR8 overexpression (all $P < 0.05$). Moreover, knockdown of circ_0007142 in gastric cancer cells inhibited the tumor growth *in vivo*. **Conclusion:** Circ_0007142 upregulates the expression of CCR8 via sponging miR-647, which subsequently accelerates the EMT and invasion of gastric cancer cells and promotes the progression of gastric cancer.

[Key words] Circ_0007142; miR-647; CCR8; Gastric cancer; Epithelial-mesenchymal transition; Invasion

胃癌发病率和死亡率高,是具有高度侵袭性和转移性的恶性肿瘤之一^[1]。手术治疗、化疗、靶向治疗是目前治疗胃癌的有效方法^[2]。胃癌具有高转移和侵袭的特征,因此晚期患者的治疗效果不佳^[3]。所以,加深对胃癌的认识,在分子水平上探讨发病机制,寻找新的治疗靶点显得尤为重要。

环状RNA (circRNA) 因其不易被核酸外切酶降解的特性而备受关注,能在体内保持稳定,具有作为疾病诊断标志物的巨大潜力^[4]。近年来,研究^[5]发现circRNA可以作为癌症的启动因子,例如circ-UMAD1在甲状腺癌患者的血清中表达相对较高,具有较高的生物标志物潜能。Circ_0003829在口腔鳞癌中表达降低,受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线分析circ_0003829在口腔鳞癌中具有较高的敏感性,可以作为口腔鳞癌诊断的生物标志物^[6]。同样,circRNA也可以作为胃癌的启动因子,例如circ_0005556、circ-RNF111都可以促进胃癌的发展^[7-8]。Circ_0007142作为最新发现的circRNA,被鉴定为结直肠癌的致癌基因,能促进结直肠癌的进展^[9],但在胃癌中的作用目前还没有被揭示。

经研究^[10]发现,circRNA可以作为竞争性内源RNA,海绵化microRNA,进而调节下游靶基因,参与疾病的发展。在食管癌中circ_0008717通过调控miR-203/Slug来促进癌细胞的增殖、侵袭和迁移^[11]。microRNA是一类短链RNA,属于非编码RNA的一个亚类,经常被视为抑癌基因并结合上游circRNA来进行研究,Xu等^[12]在关于结直肠癌的研究中发现circRNA DSCAM-AS1通过miR-137/Notch1促进癌症发展,miR-137可以逆转DSCAM-AS1对结直肠癌的促进作用。Ma等^[13]认为血清中miR-647的降

低与胃癌患者的不良预后相关。但circ_0007142结合miR-647在胃癌中的作用尚未被证实,另外有研究^[14]发现,miR-647的下游存在靶基因CC族趋化因子受体8(CC chemokine receptor 8, CCR8),抗CCR8治疗可以有效地抑制小鼠结肠癌肿瘤的生长。此外也有研究^[15]表明胃淋巴瘤中CCR8表达上调。

根据以上发现,本研究探讨circ_0007142吸附miR-647调控CCR8在胃癌发展过程中的生物学作用,旨在为胃癌的靶向治疗提供新的依据。

1 材料和方法

1.1 细胞系与材料

GES-1细胞、AGS细胞、SNU-16细胞、GES-1细胞专用培养基、AGS细胞专用培养基均购自宁波明舟生物科技有限公司。TRIzol分离试剂、大容量cDNA反转录试剂盒、实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)试剂盒、7500 Fast RTFQ-PCR系统、LipofectamineTM3000试剂、PVDF膜均购自美国Thermo Fisher Scientific公司。荧光原位杂交(fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, FISH)实验试剂盒购自上海歌凡生物科技有限公司。双荧光素酶报告基因检测试剂盒购自上海翊圣生物科技有限公司。pmirGLO双荧光素酶报告基因载体质粒、HEK-293T细胞均购自BioVector中国质粒载体菌株细胞株基因保藏中心。RIP试剂盒购自广州吉赛生物科技股份有限公司。Matrigel基质胶购自上海前尘生物科技有限公司。Transwell小室购自美国Corning公司。荧光显微镜购自徕卡显微系统(上海)有限公司。0.1%结晶紫染色、0.5%结晶紫染色、RIPA裂解液均购自北京索莱宝科技有限公司。

1.2 临床组织与实验动物

从北华大学附属医院获取2018年3月—2020年4月就诊的胃癌患者的癌组织与邻近癌旁正常组织48组(距离原发灶边缘4.0~6.5 cm),其中男性患者25例,女性患者23例,TNM分期为:I~II期患者28例,III期患者20例。参与该研究的所有患者承诺之前从未接受过任何放疗及化疗,并签署知情同意书。本实验严格遵守北华大学附属医院伦理委员会的要求。获取的组织存放于液氮中进行保存。20只SPF级BALB/c无菌裸小鼠,5周龄,质量为(19±2)g,购自江苏集萃药康生物科技股份有限公司。

1.3 细胞培养和转染

本研究使用人正常胃黏膜细胞GES-1和人胃癌细胞系AGS、SNU-16进行实验,GES-1细胞使用RPMI-1640培养基+10%胎牛血清+1%青霉素链霉素混合液进行培养,AGS、SNU-16细胞使用F-12培养基+10%胎牛血清+1%青霉素及链霉素混合液进行培养。所有细胞在37℃、CO₂体积分数为5%的环境中培养,1d后更换新鲜培养基,继

续进行培养。

当细胞培养到70%左右融合度,按照实验分组进行转染,siRNA质粒载体、miRNA抑制剂、miRNA过表达载体均来自上海吉玛基因有限公司,体外实验分组为si-NC、si-circ_0007142、miR-647 NC、miR-647 mimic、si-circ_0007142+inhibitor NC、si-circ_0007142+miR-647 inhibitor、miR-647 mimic+vector、miR-647 mimic+OE-CCR8;体内实验分组为si-NC、si-circ_0007142。制备细胞悬液,植入96孔板中,使用LiopfectamineTM3000转染试剂进行转染,步骤按照试剂盒出厂说明书进行。

1.4 RTFQ-PCR

根据试剂盒要求使用TRIzol试剂提取样本中的总RNA,并对RNA的浓度、纯度进行检测。根据大容量cDNA反转录试剂盒的要求将总RNA合成第一链cDNA。引物由苏州金唯智生物科技有限公司提供(表1)。最后根据RTFQ-PCR试剂盒要求,在7500 Fast实时荧光定量PCR系统上进行检测。相对表达量使用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 计算,U6将miRNA进行标准化,GAPDH将circRNA和CCR8标准化。

表1 RTFQ-PCR引物序列

Tab. 1 RTFQ-PCR primer sequences

Gene	Primer sequence (5'-3')	
	Forward	Reverse
Circ_0007142	GAACTCTGCCTCAGGATGAA	AACGTGTAACCTCGGTACCA
miR-647	TGCGGGTGGCTGCACTCACT	CCAGTGCAGGGTCCGAGGT
CCR8	ACGATGACCGACTACTACCCT	TTCCACCTCAAAGACTGCTC
GAPDH	TGTTTCGTCATGGGTGTGAAC	ATGGCATGGACTGTGGTCAT
U6	TGCGGGTGGCTCGCTTCGGCAGC	CCAGTGCAGGGTCCGAGGT

1.5 FISH实验

样本在4%多聚甲醛室温下固定30 min,DEPC水洗并干燥,30% H₂O₂+纯甲醇对样本进行处理,再滴加0.25%的HCl溶液,15 min后用DEPC水洗。样本加入蛋白酶K反应20 min,用0.1 mol/L甘氨酸洗液终止反应。PBS水洗后用4%PFA多聚甲醛进行再固定,5×SSC水洗后加入预杂交液65℃反应1 h。加入500 ng/mL digoxigenin-labeled probe探针,暗室中65℃温育48 h,用封闭液温育30 min,加入生物素化鼠抗地高辛抗体,37℃温育

1 h,加入FITC标记抗体,暗室下37℃温育30 min,DAPI染核,封片,荧光显微镜下观察染色结果。

1.6 双荧光素酶报告基因实验

构建circ_0007142与CCR8基因的野生型片段,命名为circ_0007142-WT、CCR8-WT,将野生型基因片段使用内切酶位点Spe I和Hind III扩增插入到pmirGLO双荧光素酶报告基因载体上。在circ_0007142-WT、CCR8-WT的野生型片段上设计种子序列的互补序列突变位点,命名为circ_0007142-MUT、CCR8-MUT,利用限制性

内切酶与T4 DNA连接酶将突变型基因片段扩增插入到pmirGLO载体上。将这些报告质粒与miR-647 NC或miR-647 mimic使用Lipofectamine™3000试剂共转染到HEK-293T细胞中,48 h后收集细胞并进行充分裂解,离心后取上清液加入荧光素酶反应试剂,再加入细胞裂解液,最后测量萤火虫荧光素酶活性,并以肾素荧光素酶活性为标准化参考。以上详细步骤均按照试剂盒说明书进行。

1.7 RNA结合蛋白免疫沉淀(RNA-binding protein immunoprecipitation, RIP)实验

应用RIP试剂盒验证circ_0007142与miR-647、CCR8与miR-647的靶向关系。将细胞使用PBS水洗以后,裂解,收集裂解液进行实验,最后使用RTFQ-PCR检测circ_0007142、miR-647、CCR8的丰度。详细实验步骤按照RIP试剂盒出厂说明书进行严格操作。

1.8 Transwell实验

将冷冻的Matrigel基质胶融化,加入无血清培养基进行稀释,稀释液添加到transwell小室的上室,以 5×10^4 个细胞/孔的密度植入到上室的24孔板中,并添加无血清培养基,下室则添加含有10%胎牛血清的培养基,37℃下温育24 h,多聚甲醛固定细胞,0.1%结晶紫染色,在显微镜下观察细胞侵袭数量。

1.9 克隆形成实验

将细胞植入6孔板,每孔 5×10^3 个细胞,置于培养箱中培养14 d,每3 d更换新培养基。培养结束后经PBS洗涤、乙醇固定后,使用0.5%结晶紫进行染色。最后在显微镜下观察细胞集落形成数量。

1.10 Western blot检测

RIPA裂解液将细胞分离提取蛋白,加入PMSF调整浓度,使用BCA定量试剂盒按照说明书要求检测蛋白浓度;蛋白在10%十二烷基硫酸钠聚丙烯酰胺凝胶中电泳分离,然后将其转移到PVDF膜上,再加入5%脱脂牛奶进行封闭。加入一抗vimentin(1:2 000)、E-cadherin(1:500)、N-cadherin(1:500)、GAPDH(1:1 000)与膜4℃过夜温育,使用TBST进行冲洗,加入HRP标记的山羊抗兔二抗IgG(1:1 000),室温下温育1 h。加入ECL使蛋白信号可视化,在Image J软件上进行分析。

1.11 免疫组织化学实验

石蜡切片并脱蜡至水,加入3% H_2O_2 温育以灭活内源性过氧化物酶。蒸馏水和PBS冲洗,微波抗原修复,血清封闭后加入一抗CCR8,4℃温育过夜,PBS冲洗后加入生物素标记的二抗,室温温育30 min后PBS冲洗,DAB显色,自来水冲洗、脱水、透明并封片,显微镜下拍照。借助Image J软件对染色结果进行半定量分析,计算阳性表达率。

1.12 裸小鼠移植瘤实验

BALB/c裸小鼠被安置在无菌环境中饲养。对癌细胞分别转染si-NC、si-circ_0007142,之后再细胞注射到裸小鼠右侧皮下,每隔4 d测量1次皮下肿瘤体积。35 d以后,注射异氟醚麻醉裸小鼠,断颈处死,取出肿瘤后拍照、测量体积并称重。

1.13 统计学处理

本实验数据采用SPSS 22.0软件完成统计学分析,体外实验重复进行3次,所得结果用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示;两组间符合正态分布则采用 t 检验,多组间采用单因素方差分析。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 Circ_0007142在胃癌组织和细胞中高表达

通过RTFQ-PCR检测circ_0007142在胃癌组织和细胞中的表达,结果显示,与癌旁组织相比,胃癌组织中circ_0007142显著高表达($P < 0.05$,图1A)。与GES-1细胞相比,胃癌细胞系AGS、SNU-16中circ_0007142的表达都显著升高(P 均 < 0.05 ,图1B),其中AGS细胞的表达(3.47 ± 0.29)比SNU-16(2.98 ± 0.21)高,因此本研究选择AGS细胞进行后续功能实验。ROC曲线分析显示,circ_0007142可作为胃癌诊断的一个重要指标($AUC=0.8598$, $P < 0.0001$,图1C)。通过分析circ_0007142的表达与临床病理学特征的相关性可见,circ_0007142高表达与TNM分期和肿瘤浸润深度相关(P 均 < 0.05 ,表2)。以上实验结果表明,circ_0007142高表达可能与胃癌发展相关。

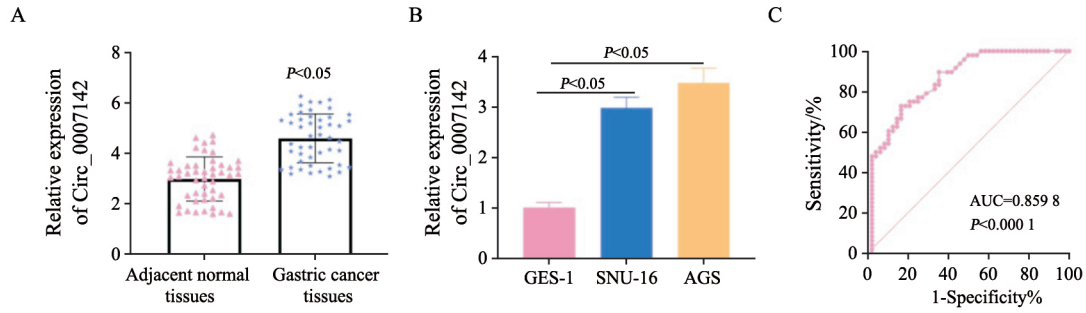


图1 RTFQ-PCR检测circ_0007142的表达

Fig. 1 RTFQ-PCR was adopted to detect the expression of circ_0007142

A: The expression of circ_0007142 in normal tissues and gastric cancer tissues was detected by RTFQ-PCR; B: The expression of circ_0007142 in GES-1 and gastric cancer cell lines; C: ROC curve analysis revealed the diagnostic value of circ_0007142 in gastric cancer

表2 Circ_0007142的表达与胃癌患者临床病理特征关系

Tab. 2 Relationship between expression of circ_0007142 and clinicopathological features in patients with gastric cancer

Characteristics	Case n	Circ_0007142 expression n(%)		P value
		High (n=26)	Low (n=22)	
Gender				0.563
Male	25	15 (60.00)	10 (40.00)	
Female	23	11 (47.83)	12 (52.17)	
Age/year				0.221
<60	32	15 (46.88)	17 (53.13)	
≥60	16	11 (68.75)	5 (31.25)	
Pathological type				0.146
Adenocarcinoma	22	9 (40.91)	13 (59.09)	
Squamous cell carcinoma	26	17 (65.38)	9 (34.62)	
Tumor size D/cm				0.770
>5	20	10 (50.00)	10 (50.00)	
≤5	28	16 (57.14)	12 (42.86)	
Tumor infiltration				0.002
T ₁ -T ₂	25	8 (32.00)	17 (68.00)	
T ₃ -T ₄	23	18 (78.26)	5 (21.74)	
TNM staging				0.040
I - II	28	19 (67.86)	9 (32.14)	
III	20	7 (35.00)	13 (65.00)	

2.2 敲减circ_0007142抑制胃癌细胞的克隆形成、侵袭和EMT

通过克隆形成实验、transwell、Western blot检测探讨circ_0007142表达水平对胃癌细胞生物学行为的影响。结果表明，与si-NC组相比，si-circ_0007142组细胞的集落形成与侵袭均被抑制 (P均<0.05, 图2A、B)。与si-NC

组相比，si-circ_0007142组细胞中vimentin与N-cadherin的蛋白水平均下调，而E-cadherin的蛋白水平上调 (均P<0.05, 图2C)。以上实验说明，敲减circ_0007142的表达能够抑制胃癌细胞的集落形成能力与侵袭，并且抑制EMT的形成，进而参与胃癌的进展。

2.3 在胃癌细胞中，circ_0007142可以吸附miR-647

FISH实验结果显示，circ_0007142在细胞质和细胞核均有表达，但主要定位于细胞质 (图3A)。Circular RNA Interactome (<https://circinteractome.nia.nih.gov/index.html>) 网站中发现miR-647与circ_0007142存在结合位点，同时设计了circ_0007142的突变位点 (图3B)，之后通过双荧光素酶报告基因和RIP实验验证了miR-647和circ_0007142之间的靶向作用关系，结果显示，与circ_0007142-WT+miR-647 NC组相比，circ_0007142-WT+miR-647 mimic组细胞的荧光素酶活性显著降低 (P<0.05)，而circ_0007142-MUT+miR-647 NC组与circ_0007142-MUT+miR-647 mimic组的荧光素酶活性无显著变化 (P>0.05)。RIP实验结果显示，与miR-647 NC组相比，circ_0007142在miR-647 mimic组的Ago2抗体上富集更多，circ_0007142与miR-647的靶向关系得到证实 (图3C、D)。通过RTFQ-PCR发现miR-647在胃癌组织中表达较正常组织降低 (P<0.05, 图3E)，此外，miR-647在胃癌细胞中的表达较正常细胞同样降低 (P<0.05, 图3F)，胃癌组织中miR-647的表达与circ_0007142呈负相关关系 (r=-0.7514,

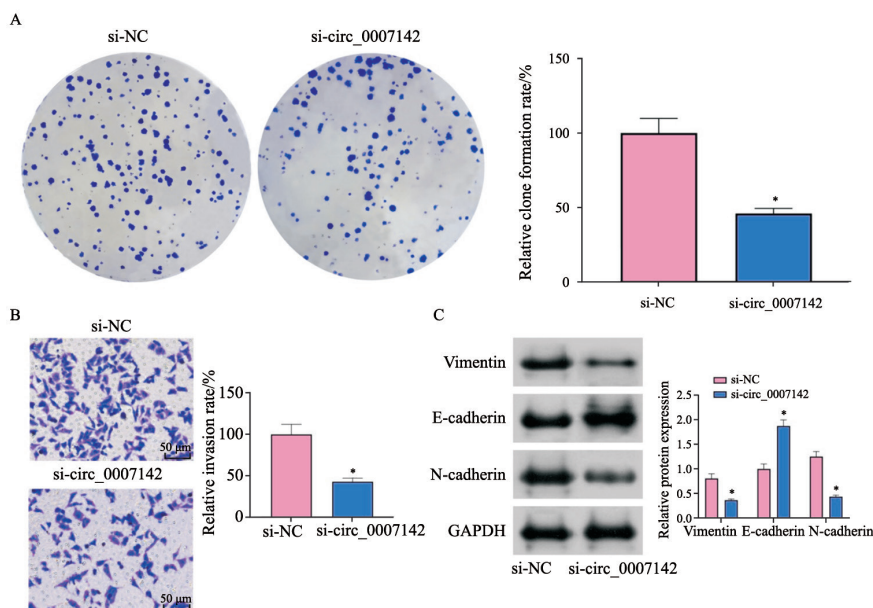


图2 敲减circ_0007142的表达能够抑制胃癌细胞恶性生物学行为

Fig. 2 Knockdown of circ_0007142 expression inhibits the malignant biological behavior of gastric cancer cells

A: Colony forming ability of cells was detected by clone formation assay; B: Cell migration ability was detected by transwell assay ($\times 200$); C: Expressions of EMT related factors were detected by Western blot; $P < 0.05$, compared with each other

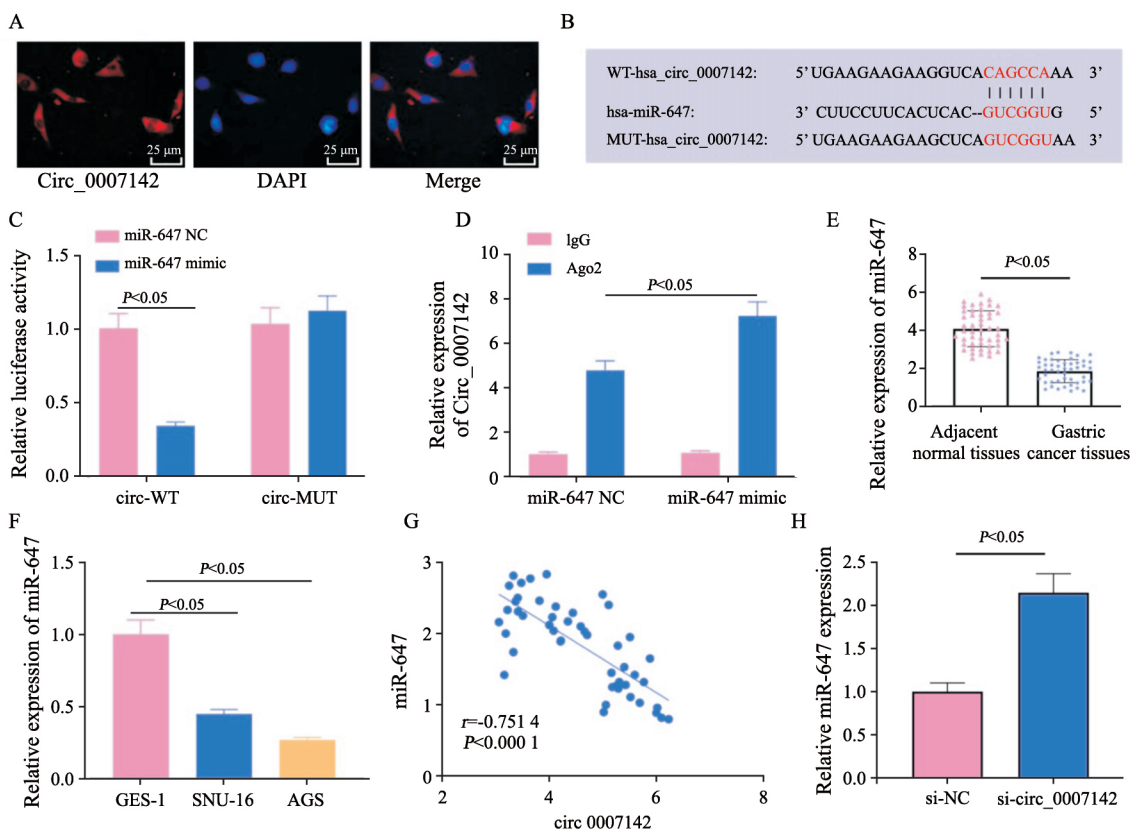


图3 Circ_0007142可以作为分子海绵吸附miR-647

Fig. 3 Circ_0007142 absorbs the expression of miR-647 as a molecular sponge

A: FISH experiment results ($\times 400$); B: The binding sequences between circ_0007142 and miR-647; C: Results of dual luciferase reporter assay; D: Results of RIP experiment; E: Expressions of miR-647 in normal tissues and gastric cancer tissues were detected by RTFQ-PCR; F: Expression of miR-647 in gastric cancer cells was detected by RTFQ-PCR; G: miR-647 and circ_0007142 expressions were negatively correlated; H: The effect of circ_0007142 knockdown on the expression of miR-647 was detected by RTFQ-PCR

$P < 0.0001$, 图3G), 且敲减circ_0007142能够诱导miR-647的表达 ($P < 0.05$, 图3H)。以上实验结果表明circ_0007142可以作为分子海绵吸附miR-647而发挥作用。

2.4 miR-647抑制剂可以部分挽救沉默circ_0007142对胃癌细胞的作用

对circ_0007142通过miR-647调控胃癌细胞的生物学行为进行研究, 结果表明si-circ_0007142转染对胃癌细胞的克隆形成、侵袭和EMT有抑制作用, 但该作用被miR-647 inhibitor部分挽救 (P 均 < 0.05 , 图4A~C)。

2.5 CCR8是miR-647的下游靶点且在胃癌组织和细胞中表达增强

在TargetScan (http://www.targetscan.org/vert_71/) 数据库中发现CCR8与miR-647存在结合位点, 同时设计CCR8的突变位点 (图

5A)。双荧光素酶报告基因实验显示, 与CCR8-WT+miR-647 NC组相比, CCR8-WT+miR-647 mimic组细胞的荧光素酶活性下调 ($P < 0.05$), CCR8-MUT+miR-647 NC组与CCR8-MUT+miR-647 mimic组的荧光素酶活性差异无显著变化 ($P > 0.05$)。RIP实验结果显示, 与miR-647 NC组相比, CCR8在miR-647 mimic的Ago2抗体上富集更多 ($P < 0.05$)。CCR8与miR-647的互作用关系被证实 (图5B、C)。结合GEPIA (<http://gepia>) 数据库与UALCAN (<http://ualcan.path.uab.edu/index.html>) 数据库发现CCR8在胃癌组织中高表达 (图5D、E)。RTFQ-PCR和免疫组织化学检测结果显示与网站预测结果一致, CCR8在胃癌组织中的表达高于正常组织 ($P < 0.05$, 图5F、G), 在胃癌细胞中也得到同样的结果 (P 均 < 0.05 , 图5H), 相关性分析显示,

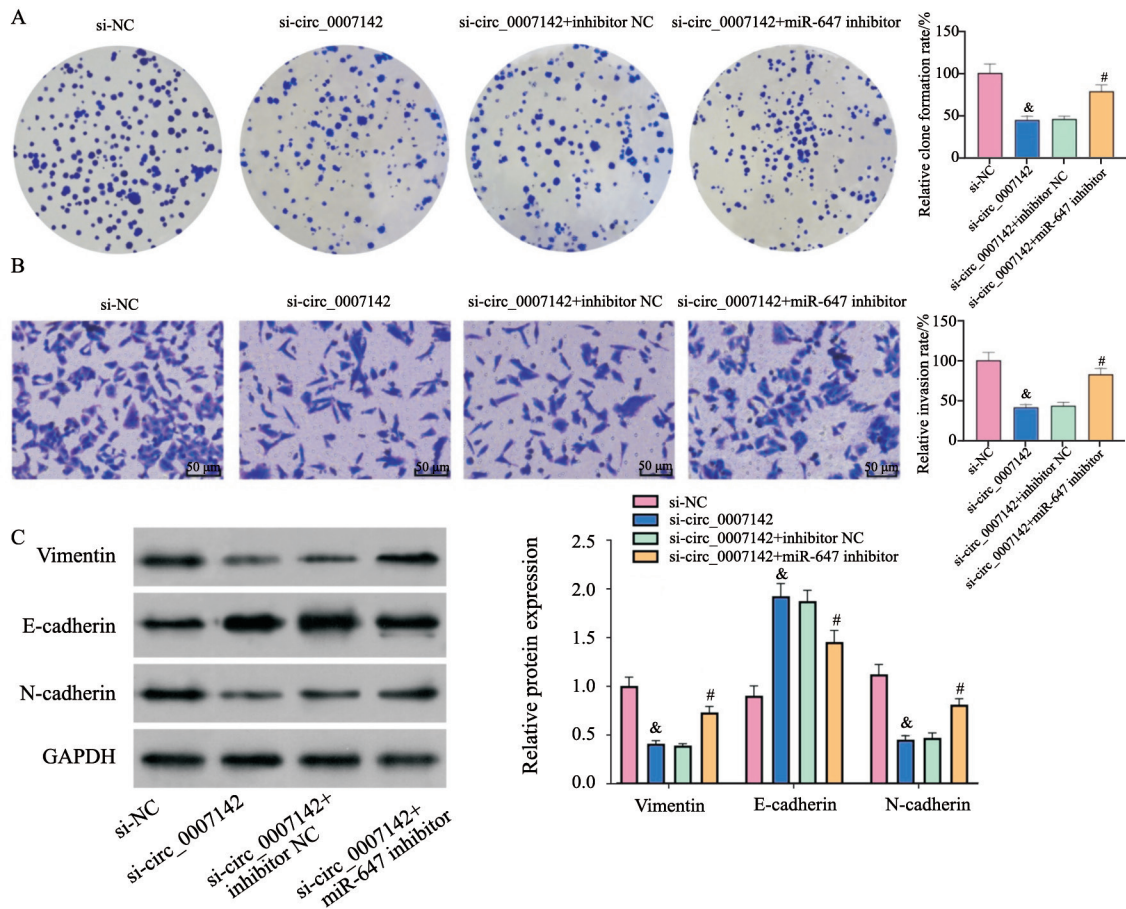


图4 各组细胞克隆形成、侵袭和EMT相关因子表达

Fig. 4 Clone formation, invasion and expressions of EMT related factors in each group of cells

A: Clone formation results in each group; B: Cell invasion results in each group ($\times 200$); C: Protein expressions of EMT related factors in each group. &: $P < 0.05$, compared with si-NC group; #: $P < 0.05$, compared with si-circ_0007142+inhibitor NC group

CCR8的mRNA表达与miR-647表达呈负相关 ($P < 0.0001$, 图5I)。RTFQ-PCR检测干预miR-647的表达对CCR8的影响, 结果显示, 过表达miR-647能够显著抑制CCR8的表达 ($P < 0.05$, 图5J)。相对于inhibitor NC组, 敲减miR-647的表达能够诱导CCR8表达增强, 但该作用被si_circ_0007142部分挽救 ($P < 0.05$, 图5K)。以上实验结果说明, CCR8是miR-647的下游靶点, circ_0007142能够作为分子海绵吸附miR-647进而调控CCR8的表达。

2.6 过表达CCR8可以部分挽救上调miR-647对胃癌细胞的作用

通过克隆形成实验、transwell、Western

blot实验分析CCR8是否能影响miR-647调控的胃癌细胞生物学行为。结果发现, miR-647 mimic能够抑制胃癌细胞的克隆形成、侵袭和EMT, 但该作用被OE-CCR8部分挽救 ($P < 0.05$, 图6)。

2.7 敲减circ_0007142可以抑制裸小鼠体内成瘤能力

本研究通过体内实验进一步验证circ_0007142对胃癌的作用。在小鼠体内注射感染了si-NC、si-circ_0007142的癌细胞, 结果发现si-circ_0007142组肿瘤的体积和重量均比si-NC组低 ($P < 0.05$, 图7A~C)。以上实验数据说明, 敲减circ_0007142可以抑制裸小鼠体内成瘤能力。本研究机制图见图7D。

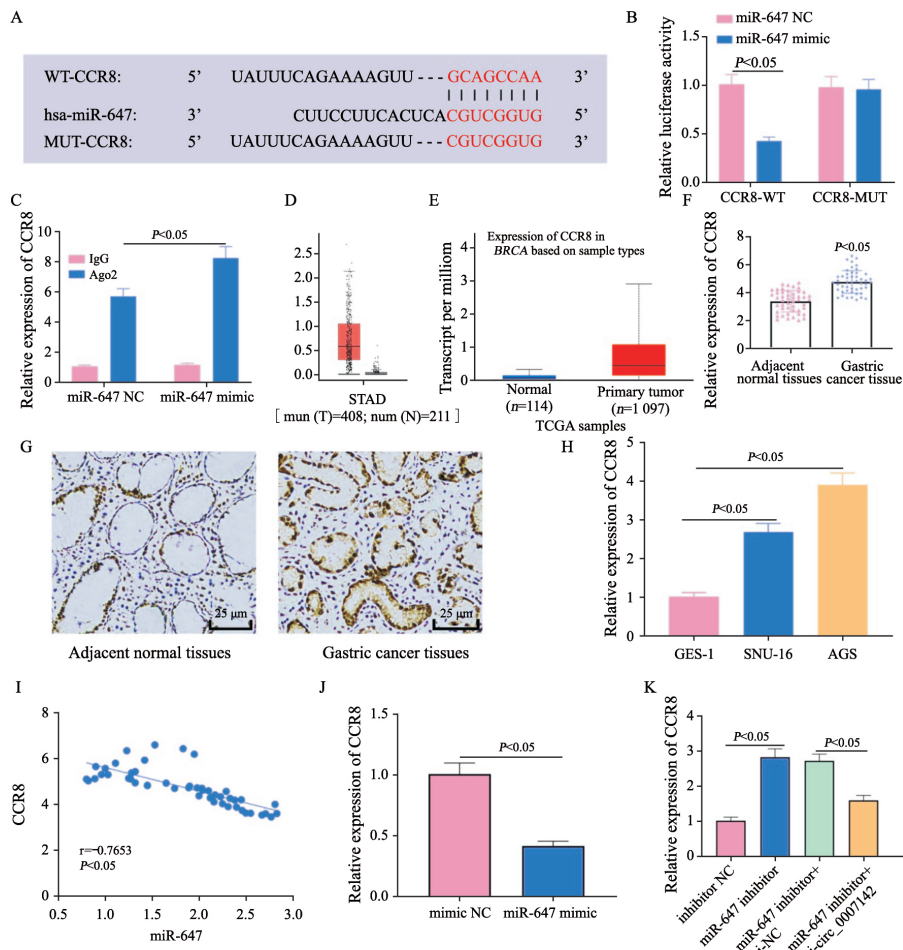


图5 CCR8是miR-647的下游靶基因且其表达受circ_0007142的调控

Fig. 5 CCR8 was a downstream target gene of miR-647 and its expression was regulated by circ_0007142

A: The binding sequences between miR-647 and CCR8; B: Results of dual luciferase reporter assay; C: Results of RIP experiment; D: GEPIA database showed high expression of CCR8 in gastric cancer tissues; E: UALCAN database showed high expression of CCR8 in gastric cancer tissues; F: The expressions of CCR8 in normal tissues and gastric cancer tissues were detected by RTFQ-PCR; G: CCR8 expressions in normal tissues and gastric cancer tissues were detected by immunohistochemical method ($\times 400$); H: CCR8 expression in gastric cancer cell lines was detected by RTFQ-PCR; I: miR-647 and CCR8 expressions were negatively correlated; J: Effect of miR-647 overexpression on CCR8 expression was determined by RTFQ-PCR; K: Effects of miR-647 inhibitor and miR-647 inhibitor combined with circ_0007142 knockdown on the expression of CCR8 were determined by RTFQ-PCR

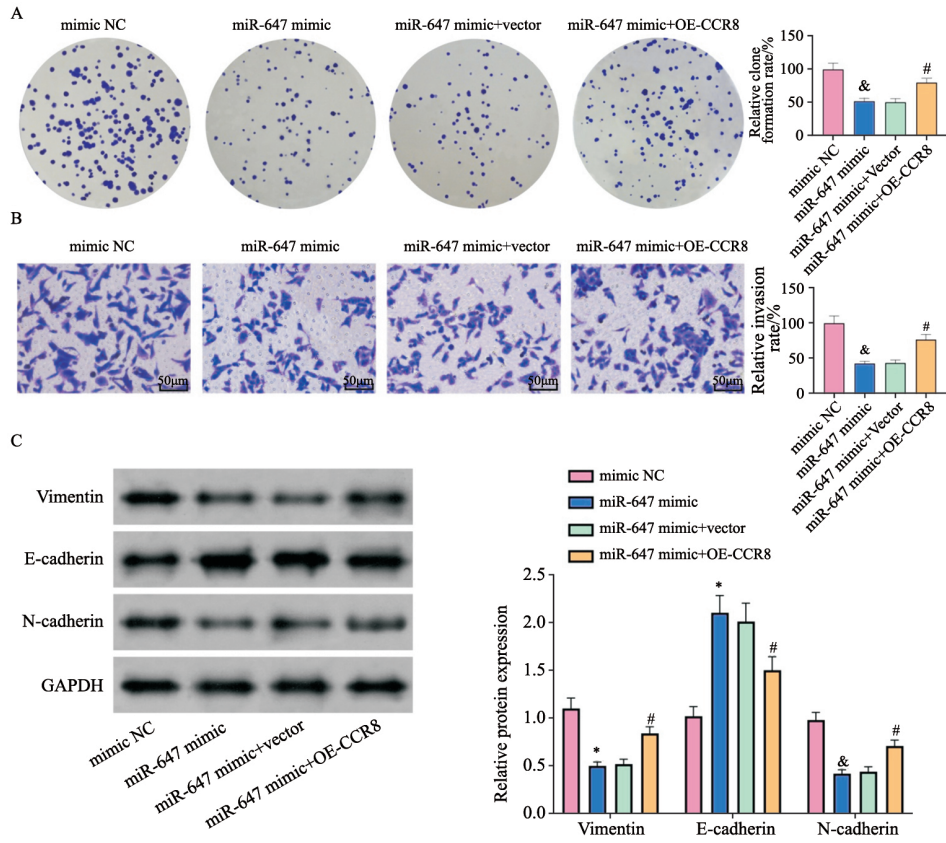


图 6 各组细胞克隆形成、侵袭和EMT相关因子表达

Fig. 6 Clone formation, invasion and expressions of EMT related factors in each group of cells

A: Clone formation results in each group; B: Cell invasion results in each group ($\times 200$); C: Protein expressions of EMT related factors in each group; *: $P < 0.05$, compared with mimic-NC group; #: $P < 0.05$, compared with miR-647 mimic+vector group

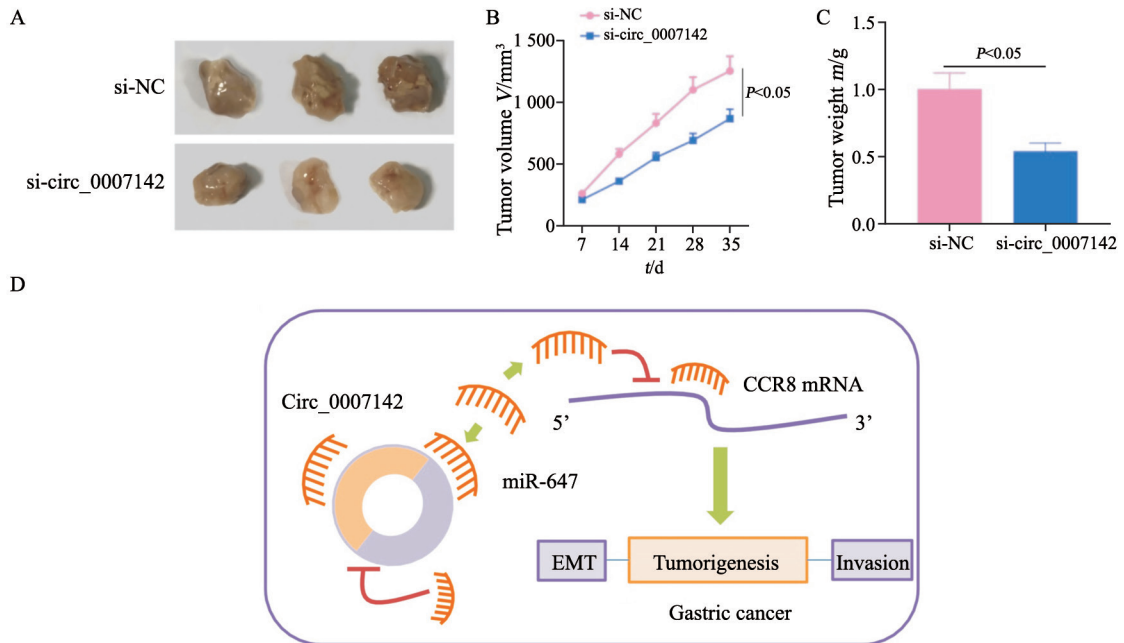


图 7 敲减circ_0007142可以抑制裸小鼠体内成瘤能力

Fig. 7 Knockdown of circ_0007142 inhibits tumorigenesis in nude mice

A: The xenograft tumors from the burdened nude mice were photographed; B: The growth curves of the xenograft tumors were made by the tumor volume; C: The tumor weights of xenografts were quantified

3 讨 论

胃癌的发病机制复杂,细胞生物学、分子生物学等都参与其中,在高通量测序技术与生物信息学分析高速发展的今天,对circRNA在疾病中作用的研究已经成为一大热点。EMT伴随上皮细胞标志物E-cadherin表达被抑制、间充质表型标志物vimentin与N-cadherin表达被促进,这个过程使细胞具有转移和侵袭的能力,对于癌症原发灶转移有重要的意义^[16]。

CircRNA在胃癌中关于EMT和侵袭转移的机制已有研究,Jin等^[17]经过研究发现,沉默circ_0101145的表达通过调节miR-548c-3p/LAMC2轴抑制肝癌EMT。Circ_0007142作为本次的研究对象,曾被发现在肺腺癌和结直肠癌中均可促进癌细胞的增殖、迁移和侵袭^[18-19]。本研究发现,circ_0007142在胃癌组织中呈高表达,并且功能实验显示,沉默circ_0007142可以抑制癌细胞的集落形成、侵袭和EMT,并且在体内实验中沉默circ_0007142能抑制肿瘤的生长与EMT。通过之前研究得知,circRNA可以与miRNA竞争式结合,下调miRNA的表达。借助生物学信息网站寻找circ_0007142的下游靶点,进一步选中miR-647,并使用双荧光素酶报告基因实验验证二者的靶向关系。miR-647之前被报道在胃癌耐药细胞中低表达,miR-647过表达可以降低胃癌细胞的迁移和侵袭能力^[20]。Cao等^[21]通过研究认为miR-647在体内和体外均对胃癌的发展有抑制作用。本研究发现,miR-647在胃癌组织中低表达,并与circ_0007142的表达呈负相关,沉默circ_0007142对胃癌细胞的作用也可以被miR-647抑制剂部分逆转。

分析miR-647的下游靶基因发现,CCR8与miR-647之间具有相互作用。趋化因子是一类信号蛋白,可以诱导细胞定向趋化,参与血细胞发育、血管形成、细胞凋亡等过程,在肿瘤的发展、转移、炎症感染等过程中都发挥着重要作用^[22]。在对浸润性膀胱癌的研究中发现,CCR8水平高与免疫耐受相关,高水平的CCR8预示着预后差,化疗效果差^[23]。Li等^[24]通过研究得

出结论,CCR8可以作为预测胃肠道间质瘤的生物标志物,其高表达与恶性程度、不良预后相关。基于此,本研究在生物学网站中检索到CCR8在胃癌组织中高表达,借助实验进一步证实CCR8在胃癌组织中高表达。并且发现,在胃癌组织中,CCR8与miR-647的表达呈负相关,过表达CCR8可以部分抵制上调miR-647带来的影响。

基于以上分析,本次研究证明circ_0007142可能会通过miR-647/CCR8轴参与胃癌的发展,为胃癌的预防与治疗探索到新的有潜力的诊断标志物。

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