



· 论 著 ·

miR-203a-3p通过靶向调控GATA6抑制食管鳞癌细胞的增殖和侵袭

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[摘要] 背景与目的: 生物信息学分析提示GATA6是miR-203a-3p的潜在靶基因, 明确miR-203a-3p通过靶向调控GATA6抑制食管鳞癌细胞的增殖和侵袭。方法: 采用Lipofectamine™RNAiMAX对培养的KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞瞬时转染。采用实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)检测miR-203a-3p和GATA6的表达水平。采用蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)检测GATA6蛋白的水平。质粒联合转染后检测相对萤光素酶活性。对食管鳞癌患者标本进行恶性肿瘤与异型增生组织miR-203a-3p和GATA6的表达检测。结果: RTFQ-PCR及Western blot检测结果显示, 与对照组比较, GATA6基因和蛋白的表达在miR-203a-3p转染组中降低, 在miR-203a-3p inhibitor组却升高, 差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。与对照组比较, miR-203a-3p转染组KYSE-70细胞增殖能力下降, miR-203a-3p inhibitor组中却升高, 差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。在KYSE-180中虽然差异无统计学意义, 但其趋势却与KYSE-70一致。与对照组比较, 在KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞系中, 侵袭细胞数值/视野在miR-203a-3p转染组中均明显下降($P<0.01$), 在miR-203a-3p inhibitor组中却明显升高($P<0.05$)。与miR-203a-3p掠夺型+GATA6野生型组和miR-203a-3p野生型+GATA6突变型组比较, 相对萤光素酶活性在miR-203a-3p野生型+GATA6野生型组中降低, 差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。与异型增生组织相比较, 100% (10/10)食管鳞癌患者miR-203a-3p在恶性肿瘤组织的表达下调, 而GATA6表达水平上调。结论: miR-203a-3p通过靶向调控GATA6抑制食管鳞癌细胞的增殖和侵袭能力。

[关键词] 食管鳞状细胞癌; miR-203a-3p; GATA6; 增殖; 侵袭

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miR-203a-3p inhibits cell proliferation and invasion of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma by targeting

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[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Bioinformatics analysis showed that GATA6 was a potential target gene for miR-203a-3p. This study aimed to determine whether miR-203a-3p could inhibit proliferation and invasion of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma (ESCC) cells by targeting GATA6. **Methods:** Transient transfection was performed with Lipofectamine™RNAiMAX in cultured KYSE-70 and KYSE-180 cell lines. The expressions of miR-203a-3p and GATA6 were detected by real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RTFQ-PCR). GATA6 protein expression was detected by Western blot. The relative luciferase activity was further detected by dual-luciferase reporter assay after co-transfection with plasmid by FuGENE reagent. The expression levels of miR-203a-3p and GATA6 in esophageal malignant and dysplastic tissues were determined by RTFQ-PCR after

microdissection of specimens. **Results:** The RTFQ-PCR and Western blot results showed that, compared with the control group, the expression levels of GATA6 mRNA and protein were significantly decreased in miR-203a-3p mimic transfection group, while significantly increased in the miR-203a-3p inhibitor transfection group ($P < 0.05$). The expression levels of GATA6 and miR-203a-3p were inversely correlated. Compared with the control group, the cell proliferation viability in the KYSE-70 cell line was decreased in the miR-203a-3p mimic transfection group, while increased in the miR-203a-3p inhibitor transfection group, which was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). Although it did not reach statistical significance in the KYSE-180 cell line, its trend was consistent with that of the KYSE-70 cell line. Compared with the control group, the relative number of invasive cell per field in the miR-203a-3p mimic transfection group decreased significantly ($P < 0.01$), while increased in the miR-203a-3p inhibitor transfection group ($P < 0.05$), which had significant statistical significance. Compared with miR-203a-3p scrambled + GATA6 wild type group and miR-203a-3p wild type +GATA6 mutant group, relative luciferase enzyme activity in miR-203a-3p wild type+GATA6 in wild type group significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$). Compared with the dysplastic tissues, the miR-203a-3p expression in esophageal malignant tissues decreased in all the ESCC patients, while GATA6 expression level increased. **Conclusion:** miR-203a-3p could inhibit the proliferation and invasion ability of ESCC by targeting GATA6.

[**Key words**] Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma; miR-203a-3p; GATA6; Proliferation; Invasion

食管癌发病率和死亡率分别位于全球肿瘤的第8位和第6位, 严重威胁着人类的生命和健康。食管鳞状细胞癌(esophageal squamous cell carcinoma, ESCC)是食管癌的主要病理分型, 在发展中国家, 食管癌患者中约80%属于ESCC, 高死亡率与临床诊断时病情已属于晚期有关, 中国是ESCC的高发地区^[1-2]。微小核糖核酸(micro-ribonucleic acids, microRNAs, miRNAs)是一种包含19~22个核苷酸的进化保守的小的非编码单链RNA, 通过碱基配对在其目标信使RNA(messenger RNA, mRNA)的3'未翻译区域(3'-UTR), 参与调节不同细胞增殖、侵袭、迁移和凋亡等重要的肿瘤细胞生物学过程^[3-4]。许多miRNAs高度保守, 可以通过影响多种靶基因的表达来参与到多种细胞功能途径中, 而miRNAs表达的改变和肿瘤发生有关。miRNAs可以作为恶性肿瘤的早期诊断和临床靶向治疗的新的候选者^[5-6]。miR-203a-3p是影响上皮细胞生长、分化以及功能的重要分子, 并多在上皮源性肿瘤中发挥着防癌、抑癌的作用^[7-9]。转录因子GTAT6是高度保守的锌转录因子家族的一员, 在早期胚胎发生过程中高表达, 在后期胚胎发生过程中定位于内皮细胞, 从而在调控细胞分化和老化、器官形成和肿瘤发生、发展中发挥重要作用^[10]。不同的miRNAs通过不同的信号通路降低GATA6表达后降低细胞的增殖侵袭能力, 影响乳腺癌^[11]、食管癌^[12-15]等肿

瘤的发生、发展过程。我们通过www.mirbase.org和http://mirancer.ecu.edu等工具进行生物信息学分析提示GATA6是miR-203a-3p的潜在靶基因, miR-203a-3p可能通过调节GATA6在ESCC中发挥肿瘤抑制作用。

1 材料和方法

1.1 生物信息学分析和靶基因预测

主要利用www.mirbase.org和http://mirancer.ecu.edu网站以及其他在线工具进行生物信息学分析和miRNAs的靶基因预测。

1.2 细胞培养

ESCC细胞株(KYSE-70和KYSE-180)(由美国约翰斯·霍普金斯大学的Steve Meltzer博士实验室赠送)在RPMI-1640培养液中培养, 辅以10%胎牛血清(fetal bovine serum, FBS)和1%青霉素及1%链霉素, 在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的细胞培养箱中培养。

1.3 miRNAs转染实验

将KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞(2×10^5 细胞/孔)分别种植在24孔细胞培养板中。在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的条件下温育24 h, 细胞生长达到了70%~80%的培养孔板面积时, 使用Lipofectamine™RNAiMAX(购自美国Life Technologies公司)在Opti-MEM无血清培养液(购自美国Life Technologies公司)中

将miR-203a-3p模拟物 (miR-203a-3p mimic, Cat#4464066, 购自美国Life Technologies公司)、miR-203a-3p模拟物阴性对照组 (mock, miRVana™ miRNA Mimic, Negative Control, Cat# 4464059, 购自美国Life Technologies公司)、miR-203a-3p抑制物 (miR-203a-3p inhibitor, Cat# 4464084, 购自美国Life Technologies公司)、miR-203a-3p抑制物阴性对照组 (Inhibitor mock, miRVana™ miRNA Inhibitor, Negative Control, Cat# 4464077, 购自美国Life Technologies公司) 分别瞬时转染到细胞中并继续培养48 h, 进行后续实验。

1.4 RNA提取和实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应 (real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR) 检测

用TRIzol试剂 (购自美国Invitrogen公司) 提取总RNAs, 选择TaqMan™ MicroRNA反转录试剂盒 (购自美国Applied Biosystems公司), 用采用miR-203a-3p茎环引物 (lot#p179813-000 C03, 购自美国Applied Biosystems公司) 对RNAs进行反转录后进一步做RTFQ-PCR实验。iScript™ RT supermix (购自美国Applied Biosystems公司) 用于CYBR Green对RNAs进行反转录, iQTM CYBR Green Supermix和GATA6引物 (lot#p163274538, 购自美国Applied Biosystems公司) 分别用作RTFQ-PCR检测。U6和18S作为内参基因。使用QuantStudio Design&Analysis Software进行RTFQ-PCR分析。

1.5 蛋白质印迹法 (Western blot) 检测

对KYSE-70和KYSE-180采用瞬时转染miRNAs, 分成miR-203a-3p模拟物组和模拟物阴性对照组以及miR-203a-3p抑制物组和抑制物阴性对照组, 转染后培养48 h, 用磷酸盐缓冲液 (phosphate-buffered solution, PBS) 洗2次, 然后加入含有蛋白酶抑制剂的RIPA缓冲液 (购自美国ThermoFisher公司), 在冰上放置10 min, 在12 000×g离心10 min, 收集上清液 (即蛋白质液), 用纳米液滴系统 (nanodrop system) 测量蛋白质浓度。蛋白质样品煮沸10 min变性, 装入十二烷基硫酸钠聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳 (sodium

dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, SDS-PAGE) (10%) 凝胶进行电泳, 并转移到PVDF膜 (购自美国Millipore公司) 上。用5%脱脂牛奶的PBS-T (含0.1% Tween) 在室温下对膜封闭30 min, 然后加入一抗 (兔多克隆GATA6抗体, 1:1 000; 购自美国ThermoFisher公司, Cat#PA1-104), 在4 °C温育24 h, PBS-T冲洗后再加入二抗 (兔抗IgG 抗体, 1:2 000; 购自美国Epitomics公司), 在37 °C温育2 h后PBS-T冲洗。用增强化学发光试剂 (购自美国Pierce公司) 检测信号, 在SuperSignal West Pico Chemoluminescence system (美国Pierce公司) 检测结合抗体。兔多克隆β-actin抗体 (1:1 000; 购自美国ThermoFisher公司, Cat#PA1-46296) 作为对照组。整个实验操作程序都严格按照试剂盒说明进行。

1.6 细胞存活率分析

将miRNAs转染的细胞种植在96孔 (1 000个细胞/孔) 细胞培养板中, 在达到70%~80%的培养孔面积时, 在每孔中加入活细胞代谢物还原剂噻唑蓝 [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazoliumbromide, MTT], 并在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的条件下温育3 h, 然后每孔加入100 μL二甲基亚砷 (dimethylsulfoxide, DMSO), 在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的温育30 min, 然后使用ELX800荧光分析仪 (购自美国Bio-Tek公司) 读取吸光度 (D) 值。

1.7 细胞体外侵袭能力测定

使用Matrigel基质胶 (购自美国BD公司) 进行了基底膜基质凝胶细胞体外侵袭能力分析。在每个实验开始之前, 将500 μL的放置至室温的无血清的RPMI-1640培养基添加到上室和下室, 在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的细胞培养箱中水化2 h, 将miR-203a-3p mimics、mock (NC miR-mimics) 和miR-203a-3p inhibitor、inhibitor-mock (NC miR-inhibitor) 转染48 h的细胞种植到上室 (16×10⁴个细胞/室)。下室加入含10%FBS的RPMI-1640培养液, 在37 °C、CO₂体积分数为5%的细胞培养箱培养48 h。用Diff-Quick staining

solution试剂盒按试剂盒要求程序对各组侵袭细胞进行固定, 染色, 并使用倒置显微镜进行计数。细胞计数在5个不重叠的随机区域进行, 计数侵袭细胞。

1.8 双萤光素酶报告实验

将KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞分别种植在24孔培养板 (2×10^5 细胞/孔), 使用FuGENE转染试剂 (FuGENE Transfection Reagent, 购自美国Promega公司) 将100 ng的pEZX-GATA6-3'UTR (野生型GATA6: Cat#HimT088468-MT0; 突变型GATA6: Cat#CS-HimT088468-MT05-01) 与100ng pEZX-miR-203a-3p (野生型miR-203a-3p: Cat#HimR0249-MR04-10, 掠夺型pEZX-scrambled, GeneCopoeia) 进行联合质粒转染, 使用双萤光素酶报告系统 (secrete-pair dual luciferase reporter assay, ThermoFisher, Cat#LF032) 检测相对萤光素酶活性, 每个样品都是用Glomax仪器 (购自美国Promega公司) 测定3次。

1.9 FFPE标本微解剖及RNAs提取

为检测miR-203a-3p和GATA6在食管癌患者食管组织的表达水平, 对ESCC患者的4%

的甲醛溶液固定石蜡包埋 (formalin-fixed and paraffin-embedded, FFPE) 标本进行微解剖, 用ABI RecoverAll™总核酸分离试剂盒 (购自美国Ambion公司) 分别提取食管恶性肿瘤组织与异型增生组织总RNAs。

1.10 统计学处理

采用SPSS 19.0软件进行统计学处理。数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示, 采用双侧Student's *t*检验, $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 miR-203a-3p在ESCC转染实验中的表达水平

提取转染miR-203a-3p mimics、mock (NC miR-mimics) 和miR-203a-3p inhibitor、inhibitor-mock (NC miR-inhibitor) 48 h的KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞的总RNA, 进一步做TaqMan RTFQ-PCR。结果显示, 与对照组比较, miR-203a-3p在miR-203a-3p mimics转染组的表达明显升高 ($P < 0.01$), 而其表达在miR-203a-3p inhibitor组中明显下降 ($P < 0.01$, 图1), 提示miRNAs转染成功。

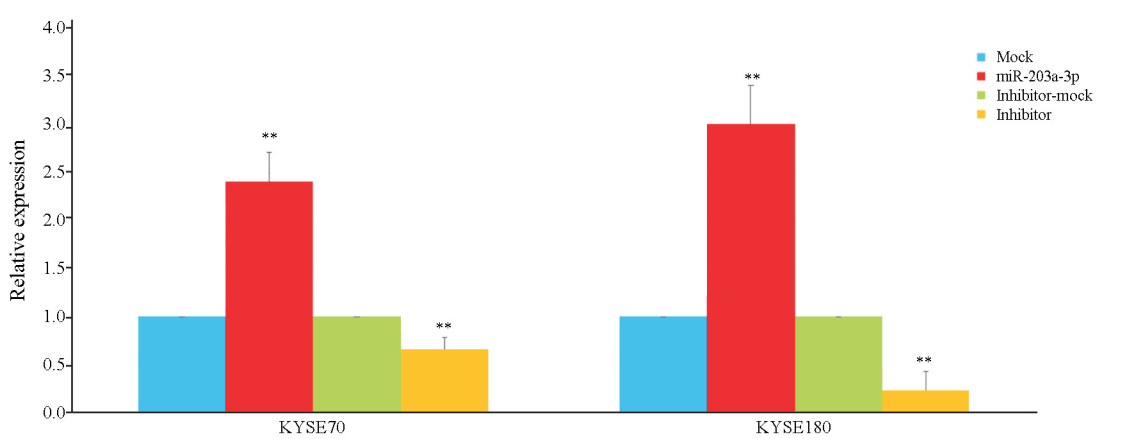


图1 miR-203a-3p在ESCC miRNAs转染实验中的表达水平

Fig. 1 miR-203a-3p expression in ESCC miRNAs transfection assay

Compared with the control group, the expression of miR-203a-3p in the miR-203a-3p mimics transfection group was significantly increased, while the expression was significantly decreased in the miR-203a-3p inhibitor group, all cell lines were successfully transfected; $P < 0.01$

2.2 miR-203a-3p下调GATA6基因的表达水平

提取转染miR-203a-3p mimics、mock (NC miR-mimics) 和miR-203a-3p inhibitor、inhibitor-mock (NC miR-inhibitor) 48 h的KYSE-70和KYSE-180细胞的总RNA, 进一步做CYBR green

RTFQ-PCR检测GATA6的表达水平。结果显示, 与对照组相比较, GATA6在miR-203a-3p mimic转染组中的表达水平明显降低, 而在miR-203a-3p inhibitor转染组中的表达明显升高, 差异均有统计学意义 ($P < 0.05$)。GATA6和miR-203a-3p的

表达水平呈反向关系 (图2)。

2.3 miR-203a-3p下调GATA6蛋白的表达水平

从转染48 h的培养细胞中提取蛋白质后严格按照Western blot检测方法进行操作,用Image J软件对Western blot条带扫描后进行定量和统计学处理。结果显示,与对照相比,GATA6蛋白(45×10^3)条带信号在miR-203a-3p转染组减弱,而在miR-203a-3p inhibitor转染组中的信号增强

($P<0.05$,图3)。

2.4 miR-203a-3p抑制细胞增殖能力

MTT检测结果显示,与对照组相比,在KYSE-70细胞株中细胞增殖能力在miR-203a-3p mimic转染组中下降,而在miR-203a-3p转染组中却升高,其差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$),KYSE-180细胞株中虽然差异无统计学意义,但其趋势却与KYSE-70细胞株一致(图4)。

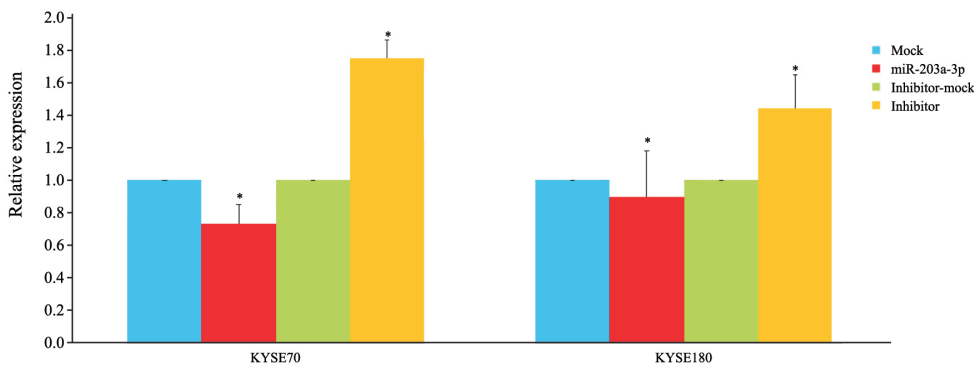


图2 ESCC miRNAs转染实验中miR-203a-3p下调GATA6的表达水平

Fig. 2 The expression of GATA6 was down-regulated by miR-203a-3p transfection in the ESCC cell lines

Compared with control group,GATA6 expression was downregulated when miR-203a-3p mimic was transfected, while its expression was increased when inhibitor was transfected in ESCC cell lines; $P<0.05$

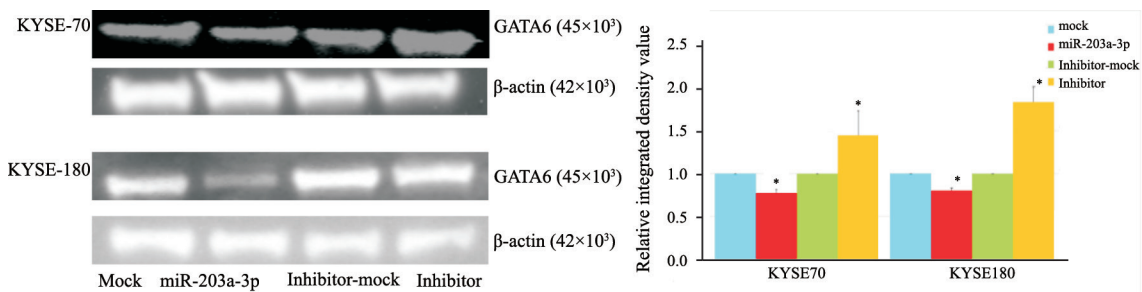


图3 Western blot检测发现miR-203a-3p能降低GATA6蛋白表达水平

Fig. 3 miR-203a-3p decreased GATA6 protein expression by Western blot assay in ESCC cell lines

A: The band image of GATA6 protein expression; B: Relative integrated density value of the band; $P<0.05$

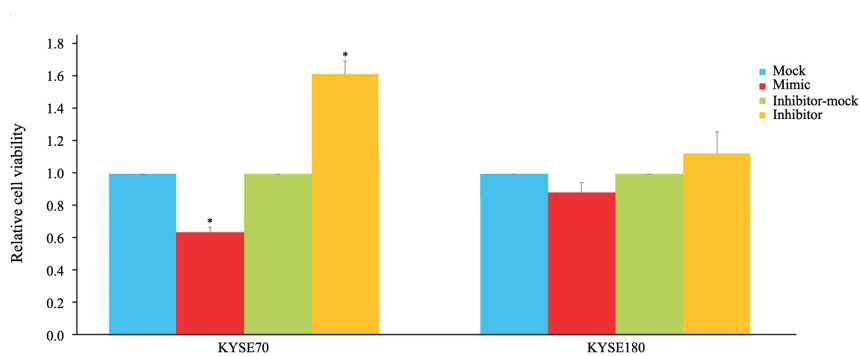


图4 MTT检测中miR-203a-3p降低ESCC细胞增殖能力

Fig. 4 miR-203a-3p decreased cell viability detected by MTT assay in ESCC cells

Compared with control group, cell viability decreased in miR-203a-3p mimic group, while increased in miR-203a-3p inhibitor group in ESCC cell lines; $P<0.05$

2.5 miR-203a-3p抑制细胞侵袭能力

使用Matrigel基质胶进行细胞体外侵袭能力实验。结果显示, 与对照组相比较, 相对侵袭细胞数/视野在miR-203a-3p mimic转染组中均明

显下降 ($P<0.01$), 而在miR-203a-3p inhibitor转染组中KYSE-70细胞株却升高 ($P<0.05$), 差异均有统计学意义 (图5)。

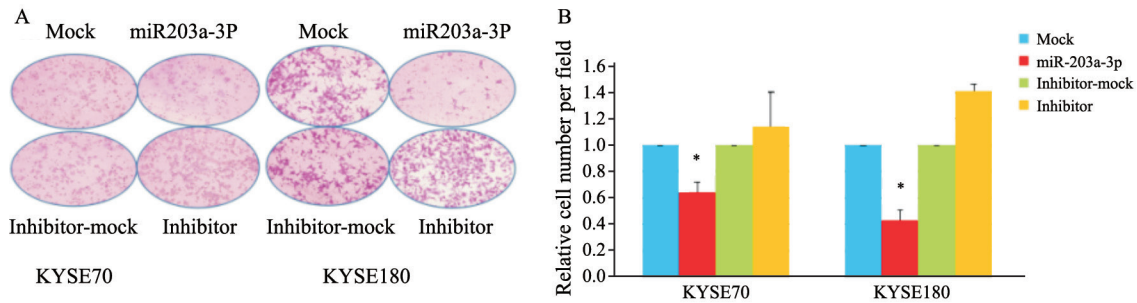


图5 miR-203a-3p降低ESCC细胞系的侵袭能力

Fig. 5 miR-203a-3p decreased invasion in ESCC cell lines

A: Invasive cells under the microscope ($\times 10$); B: Relative invasive cell numbers per field. Compared with control group, cell invasion capacity was decreased after transfection with miR-203a-3p mimic, but increased after transfection with miR-203a-3p inhibitor

2.6 miR-203a-3p是通过与GATA6的3'-UTR的结合部位直接绑定而起到靶向调控作用

双萤光素酶报告分析结果显示, 与miR-203a-3p掠夺型+GATA6野生型组和miR-203a-3p野生型+GATA6突变型组相比, 相对萤光素酶活性

在miR-203a-3p野生型+GATA6野生型组中明显降低, 差异均有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$)。miR-203a-3p是通过与GATA6的3'-UTR的结合部位直接绑定而起到靶向调控作用 (图6)。

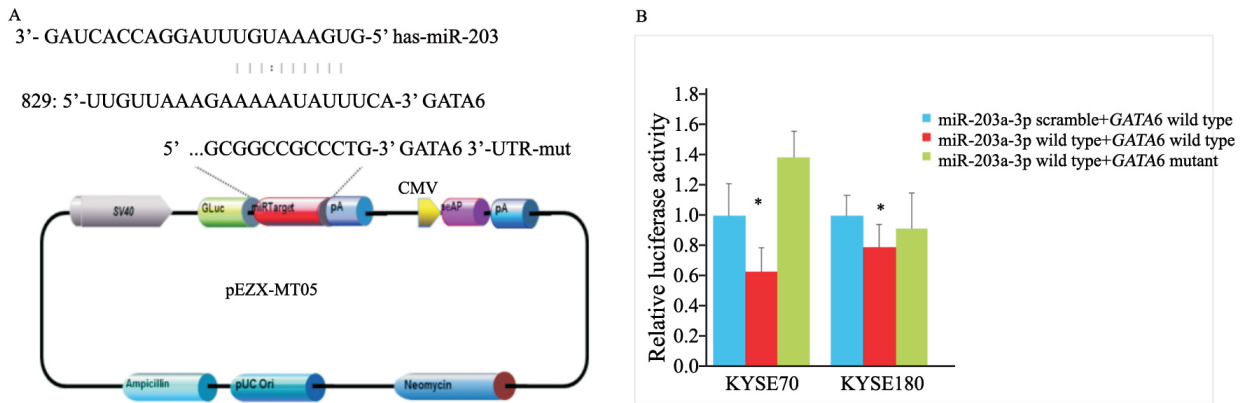


图6 miR-203a-3p通过直接绑定在GATA6的3'-UTR而发挥靶向调控作用

Fig. 6 miR-203a-3p targets GATA6 by directly binding to its 3'-UTR

A: Location of the miR-203a-3p binding site at the 3'-UTR of GATA6 corresponding to the miR-203a-3p sequence; B: Luciferase assays confirmed that miR-203a-3p targets GATA6 by directly binding to its 3'-UTR. Relative luciferase activity was measured by dual luciferase reporter assay after co-transfection with miR-203a-3p or miR-203a-3p-scrambled control, and GATA6 (wild type or mutant) by FuGENE Reagent for 48 h

2.7 食管鳞癌患者恶性肿瘤组织中miR-203a-3p低表达而GATA6高表达

用RTFQ-PCR检测食管鳞癌患者恶性肿瘤组织与异型增生组织中miR-203a-3p和GATA6, 与

异型增生组织相比较, 100% (10/10) 食管鳞癌患者miR-203a-3p在恶性肿瘤组织中表达下调, 而GATA6的表达水平上调 (图7)。

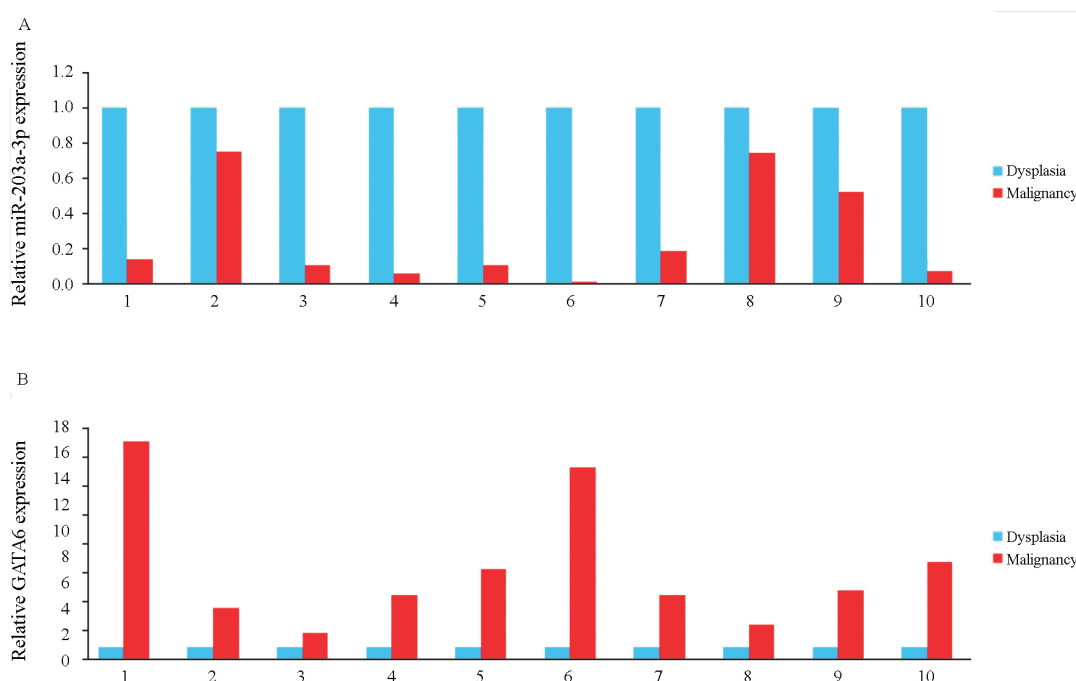


图7 食管鳞癌病人恶性肿瘤组织中miR-203a-3p低表达而GATA6高表达

Fig. 7 Down-regulation of miR203a-3p and up-regulation of GATA6 in malignant tissues of ESCC patient

A: Expression of miR-203a-3p in ESCC and their adjacent dysplasia tissues was examined by RTFQ-PCR, 100% (10/10) had lower expression of miR-203a-3p in malignancy compared with dysplasia; B: Expression of GATA6 in ESCC and their adjacent dysplasia tissues was examined by RTFQ-PCR, 100% (10/10) had higher expression of GATA6 in malignancy compared with dysplasia

3 讨 论

我们的生物信息学分析表明, miR-203a-3p 是食管癌的一种肿瘤抑制性miRNAs, *GATA6*是其潜在的靶向调控基因, 本研究目的就是验证我们的假设是否成立。RTFQ-PCR实验发现, 与对照组相比, *GATA6*基因和蛋白的表达水平在miR-203a-3p mimic转染组中明显降低, 而在miR-203a-3p inhibitor转染组中却明显升高, 差异均有统计学意义 ($P < 0.05$)。进一步Western blot结果显示, 与对照组相比, *GATA6*蛋白 (相对分子质量 45×10^3) 条带信号在miR-203a-3p转染组中减弱, 而在miR-203a-3p inhibitor转染组中的信号增强。RTFQ-PCR及Western blot实验结果一致, 证明*GATA6*和miR-203a-3p的表达水平呈反向关系, 在ESCC中miR-203a-3p可明显下调*GATA6*的表达。miR-203a-3p位于染色体14q32.33的区域, 同时也是位于该染色体的一段不稳定的易丢失区域, 在许多类型的恶性肿瘤中表达缺失或下调, 成熟的miR-203a-3p被认为具有重要的抑

癌作用。*GATA*是基因启动子中一段保守序列, *GATA6*是*GATA*家族中的一员, 作为转录调节因子, 调节中胚层及内胚层来源的细胞分化, 在多种肿瘤疾病中成为促癌基因^[10-15]。本研究显示, miR-203a-3p mimic转染后的KYSE-70细胞株中细胞增殖生存能力明显下降 ($P < 0.05$), 虽然在KYSE-180中差异无统计学意义, 但其趋势却与KYSE-70一致。Liu等^[16]在胃贲门腺癌中和Chi等^[17]在非小细胞肺癌中以及Jiang等^[8]在鼻咽癌中的研究均提示miR-203a-3p可以降低肿瘤细胞增殖的作用, 本研究结果与以上研究结论一致, miR-203a-3p可抑制ESCC细胞增殖。在临床上不可切除的肿瘤或转移是造成部分患者死亡的原因, 本研究的Matrigel基质胶细胞体外侵袭能力实验结果显示, 在miR-203a-3p mimic转染组中相对侵袭细胞数值/视野均明显下降 ($P < 0.01$), 侵袭细胞显著减少, 由此可见miR-203a-3p可降低食管癌细胞的增殖及侵袭能力。这为miR-203a-3p抑制ESCC中的细胞侵袭和转移提供了重要线索。miR-203a-3p抑制细胞侵袭和转移的研究结果在肺癌^[18-19]及乳腺癌^[20]和食管癌^[21]等

之中也得到证实。为了证实GATA6的3'-UTR是否为miR-203a-3p在ESCC细胞的功能靶点, 进一步测定质粒联合转染细胞中的萤光素酶活性, 结果显示, 相对萤光素酶活性在miR-203a-3p野生型+GATA6野生型组中明显降低, 提示miR-203a-3p是通过与GATA6的3'-UTR的结合部位直接绑定而起到靶向调控作用。另外, 本研究检测了10例食管鳞癌患者的食管恶性肿瘤组织与周围异型增生组织中miR-203a-3p及GATA6的表达水平, 发现与异型增生组织相比较, 100% (10/10) 食管鳞癌患者miR-203a-3p在恶性肿瘤组织的表达下调, 而GATA6的表达水平上调, 进一步印证了我们在细胞水平的研究结果。本研究的不足之处是临床病例数较少, 我们将收集更多临床患者标本来进一步验证miR-203a-3p对GATA6的调控作用。综合以上所有实验结果, 我们认为miR-203a-3p通过靶向调控GATA6抑制食管鳞癌细胞的增殖和侵袭。

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