前言

肠道病毒 D68(Enterovirus D68,EV-D68)是小核糖核酸病毒科的一员,为单股正链 RNA 病毒,其基因组约含 7600 个核苷酸。由单个开放阅读框(Open reading frame,ORF)编码病毒蛋白前体,经过后期蛋白酶水解加工形成结构蛋白(VP1、VP2、VP3、VP4)和非结构蛋白(2A、2B、2C、3A、3B、3C、3D),这些蛋白在调节病毒诱导的先天免疫反应中发挥重要作用。EV-D68 通过呼吸道途径传播,导致一系列呼吸系统相关疾病的发生,严重者有生命危险。最近的一些报道发现 EV-D68 感染与神经系统疾病-急性弛缓性脊髓炎的发作密切相关。自 2014 年以来,EV-D68 感染在全世界范围内频繁爆发,对全球公共卫生安全造成严重威胁。然而,目前尚未开发出有效的、安全的抵抗EV-D68 感染的药物和预防性疫苗。

Toll 样受体(Toll-like receptors,TLRs)是识别外源病原体并诱导先天免疫反应的重要模式识别受体(Pattern recognition receptor,PRR)。在哺乳动物中共有13种TLRs,其中TLR7在病毒RNA的识别中发挥重要作用。病毒入侵后,TLR7 受体被激活,招募下游信号髓样分化因子 88(Myeloid differentiation factor 88, MyD88),诱导IL-1R 相关激酶(IL-1R-associated kinases,IRAK)磷酸化,磷酸化的 IRAK 与肿瘤坏死因子相关因子 6(TNF receptor associated factor 6,TRAF6)相互作用,进而导致下游I型干扰素和促炎细胞因子的产生,对病毒复制和增殖进行调控。

Vesatolimod 是 TLR7 的选择性激动剂,通过激活 TLR7 介导的抗病毒反应控制病毒复制和感染。以前的研究表明,Vesatolimod 对多种病毒的感染具有显著抑制作用,如乙型肝炎病毒、人类免疫缺陷病毒以及口蹄疫病毒等。本研究评估了 Vesatolimod 抵抗 EV-D68 病毒感染的能力,并初步探索了其影响病毒复制的可能机制,为开发安全、有效的抗肠道病毒药物提供思路。

中文摘要

Toll 样受体 7 激动剂 Vesatolimod 调控肠道病毒 D68 型 复制的机制研究

研究背景及目的:

EV-D68 是重要的人类病原体,通过呼吸道途径传播,引起多种呼吸系统和神经系统相关疾病,严重威胁人类生命安全。目前,仍未开发出有效的预防和治疗 EV-D68 感染的疫苗和药物。

宿主先天免疫系统是抵御病毒感染的第一道防线。TLR7 是重要的免疫防御组成,通过识别病毒 RNA 诱导I型 IFN 和促炎细胞因子的产生。相反,很多病毒发展出了特有的机制逃避宿主免疫系统的识别。针对 EV-D68 与 TLR7 之间的关系,目前尚未有相关研究报道。

Vesatolimod 是 TLR7 激动剂,通过增强宿主先天免疫反应抵抗乙型肝炎病毒、人类免疫缺陷病毒等病毒的复制和传播。本研究旨在探究 EV-D68 与 TLR7 的相互作用,为 EV-D68 药物开发提供新靶点;并探索了 TLR7 激动剂 Vesatolimod 作为 EV-D68 临床治疗药物的应用价值。

研究方法:

1.EV-D68 感染对 TLR7 的影响:使用 EV-D68 原始毒株 Fermon 和流行株 MO、KY 感染细胞,通过免疫印迹法检测病毒感染对 TLR7 的影响。2.Vesatolimod 对 EV-D68 复制的影响: (1) EV-D68 感染不同浓度 Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理的细胞,观察病毒感染引起的细胞病变效应、TCID $_{50}$ 法检测上清中子代病毒的产生、免疫印迹法检测病毒蛋白 VP1 的表达。(2)Vesatolimod 对细胞的毒性及其 EC $_{50}$ 检测:不同浓度的 Vesatolimod 处理细胞,使用 CCK8 法检测细胞活力; EV-D68 感染不同浓度 Vesatolimod 处理的细胞,使用 qRT-PCR 检测病毒 RNA 水平,绘制曲线,计算 EC $_{50}$ 。(3)加药时间点对 Vesatolimod 抑制 EV-D68 复制作用的影响:在 EV-D68 感染前和感染后特定时间点使用 Vesatolimod 处理细胞,24h 后检测 EV-D68 病毒蛋白 VP1 的表达。(4)为探究 Vestolimod 抑制 EV-D68

复制的广谱性,使用 EV-D68 感染 BEAS-2B、SH-SY5Y、T98G 细胞,48 h 后检测病毒 VP1 蛋白表达、子代病毒产生;接下来,我们又探究了 Vesatolimod 对 EV-D68 流行株的抑制作用,使用 MO、KY 分别感染 A549 细胞和 SH-SY5Y 细胞,检测病毒蛋白 VP1 的表达、TCID50 法检测子代病毒的产生。3.Vesatolimod 抑制 EV-D68 复制的作用阶段研究:(1)Vesatolimod 处理后对病毒吸附和进入阶段的影响:EV-D68 分别在 $4 \, ^{\circ}$ C或 $37 \, ^{\circ}$ C条件下感染 Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理的 A549 细胞,采用 qRT-PCR 检测细胞中病毒 RNA 的表达水平。(2)用同样MOI 的 EV-D68 感染 Vesatolimod 处理的细胞,在特定时间点收集细胞和上清,检测细胞和上清中病毒蛋白 VP1、病毒 RNA 的表达水平。4.Vesatolimod 抗 EV-D68 病毒机制的初步探究:(1)构建稳定敲低 TLR7 的 A549 细胞系,使用 EV-D68 感染 Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理的 shTLR7 细胞系,24 h 后观察 CPE 并检测病毒蛋白 VP1 水平。(2)Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理 A549 细胞,在 EV-D68 感染后 0 h、12 h、24 h 收集细胞沉淀,使用 qRT-PCR 检测I型 IFN RNA 的表达水平。

结果:

- 1.EV-D68 感染诱导 TLR7 蛋白的表达。
- 2.Vesatolimod 显著抑制 EV-D68 复制。与 DMSO 对照组细胞相比,Vesatolimod 处理的细胞 CPE 现象受到抑制。通过免疫印迹和子代病毒滴度的测定等实验发现 Vesatolimod 处理细胞可以减少 EV-D68 病毒 RNA 的复制水平和 VP1 蛋白的合成,并且对 EV-D68 原始毒株 Fermon 和流行株 MO、KY 的复制均具有显著的抑制作用。此外,Vesatolimod 抑制 A549 细胞中 EV-D68 复制的 EC50 值约为 0.16 μM。CCK8 检测结果表明,Vesatolimod 使用浓度即使高达 100 μM,A549 细胞中也没有观察到明显的细胞毒性或细胞增殖下降。对 BEAS-2B、SH-SY5Y 和 T98G 细胞来说,使用浓度为 1-50 μM 的 Vesatolimod 处理同样对细胞没有明显的毒性。此外,在病毒感染前 2 h 至病毒感染同时使用 Vesatolimod 处理对 EV-D68 复制的抑制作用最显著。
- 3.Vesatolimod 抑制 EV-D68 复制的作用阶段研究:在吸附和进入实验中,我们分别检测了 Vesatolimod 处理组和 DMSO 对照组的病毒 RNA 表达水平,发现两组没有显著差异。接下来,我们使用 EV-D68 感染 Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理

的细胞,在0h、4h、6h、8h、12h、24h这几个时间点收集细胞和上清,检测 EV-D68 RNA 和病毒蛋白 VP1的表达,发现 Vesatolimod 在 EV-D68 进入宿主细胞后的复制阶段抑制病毒复制。

4.Vesatolimod 对 EV-D68 复制的抑制作用依赖 TLR7 信号通路的激活,但不依赖I型 IFN 的产生。我们构建了敲低 TLR7 蛋白的 A549 细胞系,发现在 shTLR7 细胞系中 Vesatolimod 对 EV-D68 复制的抑制作用显著降低。接下来,我们使用 Vesatolimod 或 DMSO 处理细胞,在 EV-D68 感染后检测I型 IFN RNA 的表达水平,发现 Vesatolimod 并不诱导I型 IFN RNA 的表达。

结论:

- 1.EV-D68 感染诱导 TLR7 的表达。
- 2.在不同细胞中,Vesatolimod 均具有抑制 EV-D68 原始毒株和流行株复制的能力。
- 3.Vesatolimod 并不影响 EV-D68 吸附和进入细胞,其抗肠道病毒作用在 EV-D68 复制阶段发挥作用。
- 4.Vesatolimod 通过 TLR7 介导的抗病毒信号发挥抵抗 EV-D68 感染的作用,但其抗病毒作用不依赖I型 IFN 的产生。

关键词:

肠道病毒 D68; TLR7; Vesatolimod; I型 IFN

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论文级别: ■硕士 □博士

学科专业: 生物化学与分子生物学

论文题目: Toll 样受体 7 激动剂 Vesatolimod 调控肠道病毒 D68 型

复制的机制研究

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2023年5月27日

Abstract

Study of the Mechanism On Enterovirus Replication modulated by Toll-like receptor 7 agonist Vesatolimod

Research background and objective:

EV-D68 is an important human pathogen, which spreads through respiratory tract and causes a variety of respiratory and nervous system-related diseases, posing a serious threat to human life.At present, effective vaccines and drugs have not yet been developed to prevent and treat EV-D68 infection.

The host's innate immune system is the first line of defense against viral infection. TLR7 is an important immune defense component that induces the production of type I IFN and proinflammatory cytokines by recognizing viral RNA. On the contrary, many viruses have developed unique mechanisms to evade recognition by the host immune system. The relationship between EV-D68 and TLR7 has not been reported so far.

Vesatolimod is a TLR7 agonist that can enhance the host innate immune response to resist the replication and transmission of HBV, HIV and other viruses. The purpose of this study is to explore the interaction between TLR7 and EV-D68, and to provide a new target for drug development of EV-D68. The value of TLR7 agonist Vesatolimod as a therapeutic agent for EV-D68 was also explored.

Methods:

1. Effect of EV-D68 infection on TLR7: Using the EV-D68 prototype strain Fermon and isolated circulating strains MO and KY to infect cells, the effect of virus infection on TLR7 was detected by immunoblotting. 2. Effects of Vesatolimod on the replication of EV-D68: (1) EV-D68 infected Vesatolimod or DMSO-treated cells at different concentrations to observe the cytopathic effect caused by viral infection, the production of progeny virus in supernatant was detected by TCID₅₀, and the expression of viral protein VP1 was detected by immunoblotting. (2) Toxicity of Vesatolimod to cells and detection of its half effective concentration: Cells were treated with Vesatolimod of different concentrations, and cell viability was detected by CCK8.EV-D68 infected Vesatolimod-treated cells of different concentrations. qRT-PCR was used to detect viral RNA levels, and curves were drawn to calculate EC₅₀. (3) Effects of

Vesatolimod on inhibition of EV-D68 replication: Vesatolimod cells were added at specific time points before and after EV-D68 infection, and the expression of VP1 protein was detected at 24 h post-infection(hpi). (4) In order to explore the broad spectrum of inhibition effect of Vestolimod on EV-D68, BEAS-2B, SH-SY5Y and T98G cells were infected with EV-D68, and the expression of VP1 protein and generation of progeny virus were detected at 48 hpi. Next, we tested the inhibitory effect of Vesatolimod on isolated circulating strains. MO and KY were used to infect A549 cells and SH-SY5Y cells, respectively. The expression of VP1 protein and the production of progeny viruses were detected by TCID₅₀. 3. Study on the stage of inhibition of EV-D68 replication by Vesatolimod: (1) Effect of Vesatolimod treatment on virus attachment and entry stage: Vesatolimod or DMSO-treated A549 cells were infected with EV-D68 at 4 °C or 37 °C for 2 h, respectively. The level of viral RNA after infection was detected by qRT-PCR. (2) Vesatolimod-treated cells were infected with EV-D68 of the same MOI, and cells and supernatants were collected at specific time points to detect the expression levels of viral RNA and viral protein VP1 in cells and supernatants at different time points. 4. Preliminary study on the mechanism of Vesatolimod against EV-D68: (1) Construct a stable TLR7 knockdown A549 cell line, and Vesatolimod or DMSO-treated shTLR7 cell line were infected with EV-D68, and observe CPE, detect the level of VP1 protein at 24 hpi. (2) A549 cells were treated with Vesatolimod or DMSO, and cells were collected at 0 hpi, 12 hpi and 24 hpi, respectively. The expression level of type I IFN RNA was detected by qRT-PCR.

Result:

1. EV-D68 infection induces the expression of TLR7.2. Vesatolimod inhibits EV-D68 infection, significantly. Compared with cells were treated with DMSO, the CPE phenomenon in the cell treated with Vesatolimod was inhibited. Through experiments such as immunoblotting and the determination of viral titer in progeny, it was found that Vesatolimod treatment of cells reduced the replication level of EV-D68 RNA and VP1 protein synthesis, and had a significant inhibitory effect on the replication of both the Fermon and MO, KY. In addition, Vesatolimod inhibited EV-D68 replication in A549 cells at an EC₅₀ value of approximately 0.16 μM. The results of CCK8 test showed that no significant cytotoxicity or proliferation reduction was observed in A549 cells even when Vesatolimod concentration was as high as 100 μM. For BEAS-2B, SH-SY5Y and T98G cells, Vesatolimod treatment with concentration of 1-50 μM did not

have obvious toxicity. Vesatolimod treatment had the most significant inhibitory effect on EV-D68 replication from 2 h before virus infection to virus infection. 3. Study on the stage of inhibition of EV-D68 replication by Vesatolimod: In the attachment and entry experiments, we detected the level of viral RNA expression in drug and DMSOtreated cells, respectively. We found that there was no significant difference between Vesatolimod and DMSO-treated cells. After Vesatolimod or DMSO-treated cells were infected with EV-D68, we used immunoblotting to detect the expression of EV-D68 virus protein VP1 at 0 h, 4 h, 6 h, 8 h, 12 h, and 24 h, and found that Vesatolimod inhibited the replication of the virus during the replication phase after EV-D68 entered the host cell. 4. The inhibitory effect of Vesatolimod on EV-D68 replication depends on the activation of the TLR7 signaling pathway, but does not depend on the production of type I IFN. We constructed TLR7 knockdown cell line and found that the inhibitory effect of Vesatolimod on EV-D68 replication was significantly reduced in A549 cell line of shTLR7. Next, we treated the cells with Vesatolimod or DMSO and detected the expression level of type I IFN RNA after EV-D68 infection. We found that Vesatolimod did not induce the expression of type I IFN RNA.

Conclusion:

- 1. EV-D68 infection induces the expression of TLR7.
- 2. Vesatolimod inhibits the replication of both the prototype strains and isolated circulating strains of EV-D68 in different cells.
- 3. Vesatolimod does not affect the attachment and entry of EV-D68 into cells, and its anti-enterovirus effect plays a role in the replication phase of EV-D68.
- 4. Vesatolimod inhibits EV-D68 infection through the antiviral signal mediated by TLR7, but its antiviral effect does not depend on the production of type I IFN.

Keywords:

enterovirus D68; TLR7; Vesatolimod; Type I IFN

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中英文缩写对照词表

英文缩写	英文全称	中文全称
AFM	Acute flaccid myelitis	急性弛缓性脊髓灰质炎
BSA	Bovine serum albumin	牛血清白蛋白
CARD	Caspase-recruitment domain	半胱氨酸招募结构域
Caspases	Cysteinyl aspartate specific proteinase	半胱氨酸蛋白酶
dsRNA	Double-stranded RNA	双链 RNA
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide	二甲基亚砜
EV-D68	Enterovirus D68	肠道病毒 D68 型
EC_{50}	Concentration for 50% of maximal	半数有效浓度
	effect	
FBS	Fetal bovine serum	胎牛血清
IFN	Interferon	干扰素
MOI	Multiplicity Of Infection	感染复数
MyD88	Myeloid differentiation factor 88	髓样分化因子88
PBS	Phosphate Buffered Saline	磷酸盐缓冲液
ssRNA	Single-Stranded RNA	单链 RNA
shRNA	Short hairpin RNA	短发夹 RNA
TLR7	Toll-like receptor 7	Toll 样受体 7
TRAF6	TNF receptor associated factor 6	肿瘤坏死因子相关因子 6
UTR	Untranslated region	非翻译区

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