

间充质干细胞向髓核分化研究进展

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Research progress in differentiation of marrow mesenchymal stem cells into nucleus pulposus

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椎间盘退行性变为下腰痛的重要原因之一^[1]。非手术或手术治疗均不能彻底治愈椎间盘退行性变, 且有复发的可能^[2-3]。间充质干细胞(MSCs)具有体外扩增及分化成正常组织的潜能, 在一定的诱导条件下可以向成骨、成软骨、成脂及髓核细胞分化, 且具有免疫原性低和免疫调节性的特点^[4-7], 一直是组织修复研究的热点。近年来, 诱导MSCs向髓核分化, 用于修复椎间盘退行性变备受关注, 并且在体内及体外实验证实具有可行性^[8-10]。本文回顾分析近年MSCs向髓核分化的相关研究, 从常用髓核细胞鉴定表型及MSCs向髓核分化的诱导方式等方面展开分析, 现综述如下。

1 常用髓核细胞鉴定表型

目前无特异性细胞表型可以确定髓核细胞。Lee等^[11]的研究显示, II型胶原蛋白(COL II)、蛋白多糖、SOX-9是髓核细胞与软骨细胞共同具有的基因表型, 鉴定髓核细胞主要参考这3种基因的表

达差异。近年来, 有学者试图通过比较软骨细胞与髓核细胞基因表达差异, 寻找髓核细胞较为特异性的基因来区别两者, 用以鉴定髓核细胞。Liu等^[12]从6例接受腰椎融合术治疗的患者体内取出椎间盘组织, 并成功分离出正常髓核细胞并培养。KRT18和KRT19为人类脊索特异性标志物, 常作为鉴定髓核细胞的阳性标志物^[13-14]。KRT19可作为髓核细胞鉴定的特有基因用于描述髓核细胞的特征^[15-16]。PAX1与FOXF1作为鉴定髓核细胞新的阳性表型在MSCs向髓核分化研究中广泛应用, PAX1参与胚胎期调节椎间盘生成, FOXF1与椎间盘细胞生长、增殖有关, SHH信号轴激活PAX1、FOXF1的基因表达^[17]。在一项髓核细胞与软骨细胞的比较研究中, 发现髓核细胞中KRT18、KRT19、PAX1及FOXF1的含量远多于软骨细胞^[18]。

2 MSCs向髓核分化方式

2.1 生长因子

细胞的生长因子在组织工程中发挥着重要作用, 通过自分泌、旁分泌及内分泌促进MSCs向髓核分化。其中转化生长因子- β (TGF- β)家族广泛存在于组织细胞中, 具有调节细胞生长、分化、凋亡

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及细胞外基质合成的作用。TGF- β 家族在修复椎间盘退行性变中发挥着重要作用,研究表明,TGF- β 具有促进MSCs向髓核分化的作用,修复发生退行性变的椎间盘,延缓椎间盘退行性变进程,降低髓核细胞的凋亡率^[19]。Tao等^[20]的实验研究中,骨髓MSCs被包封于葡聚糖/明胶水凝胶中的控释给药系统,以TGF- β 3纳米粒为载体移植至发生退行性变的椎间盘,实验结果表明,TGF- β 3具有诱导MSCs向髓核分化的作用,可帮助修复发生退行性变的椎间盘。骨形态发生蛋白(BMP)联合TGF- β 1可促进MSCs增殖及糖胺聚糖(GAG)、蛋白多糖、COL II、SOX-9、KRT19的表达增加^[21]。此外,胰岛素样生长因子、表皮生长因子、血小板衍生生长因子等都具有促进MSCs分化的能力。椎间盘内具有多种生长因子,这些生长因子参与细胞的增殖及分化,在椎间盘退行性变的修复中发挥重要作用,正是这些生长因子的存在,使得MSCs移植修复发生退行性变的椎间盘成为可能。但是生长因子诱导MSCs向髓核分化修复发生退行性变的椎间盘确切机制尚不清楚,有待进一步研究。

2.2 共培养

MSCs与髓核细胞共培养可促进MSCs向髓核分化,有助于修复发生退行性变的椎间盘。Ouyang等^[22]将人MSCs及人髓核细胞按1:1共培养后,COL II、蛋白多糖及GAG的表达增加。Arkesteijn等^[23]将MSCs与髓核细胞共培养在海藻酸钠微球中,GAG的表达增加,在髓核细胞附近观察到蛋白多糖的沉积。Strassburg等^[24]比较了MSCs分别与发生退行性变的髓核细胞及正常髓核细胞共培养,认为与发生退行性变的髓核细胞共培养更利于MSCs向髓核分化,蛋白多糖、COL II、SOX-9表达较正常髓核共培养显著增加,同时增加了软骨源性形态发生蛋白1(CDMP-1)、TGF- β 1、胰岛素样生长因子1(IGF-1)和结缔组织生长因子(CTGF)基因的表达。Lehmann等^[25]把MSCs与正常髓核细胞共培养后,发现TGF- β 1表达升高并参与细胞间通信。MSCs与髓核细胞相互作用,促进了MSCs的表达谱向髓核细胞基因型转化,可能是髓核细胞分泌的细胞因子刺激了MSCs向髓核细胞的分化,同时,MSCs可能对发生退行性变的髓核细胞具有营养作用。

2.3 低氧

椎间盘内是一个特殊的低氧环境,髓核细胞在特殊低氧环境下具有正常繁殖及更新的能力,有学者根据这一特性,在模拟的低氧环境下诱导MSCs

向髓核分化。Hudson等^[26]报道了MSCs在低氧(5% O₂)和常氧下向髓核分化的实验结果,低氧条件促进MSCs向髓核分化,GAG及胶原蛋白表达增加。Stoyanov等^[27]的研究显示,在低氧条件及TGF-5作用下,COL II、蛋白多糖、KRT19及GAG表达增加,认为在低氧条件及TGF-5作用下更有利于MSCs向髓核分化。Feng等^[28]在研究低氧和支架构筑对兔MSCs向髓核分化的影响时发现,在低氧三维支架中,COL II、蛋白多糖、SOX-9及GAG表达增加,同时低氧诱导因子-1 α (HIF-1 α)增加,认为MSCs低氧三维支架可用于椎间盘内移植,修复发生退行性变的椎间盘。Cui等^[29]采用低氧联合含有TGF- β 1的三维支架诱导MSCs向髓核分化,发现在低氧(2% O₂)条件下,COL II、蛋白多糖、SOX-9和HIF-1 α 表达增加,认为含TGF- β 1的静电纺丝纳米纤维支架支持MSCs在低氧下向髓核分化,是髓核再生的一种较为合适的选择。Ni等^[30]在低氧诱导胚胎源性干细胞向髓核细胞分化的研究中发现,低氧可促进MSCs增殖及向髓核分化,表现为髓核细胞标志物COL II、蛋白多糖、SOX-9及HIF-1 α 表达增加。体外低氧条件模拟了椎间盘的低氧环境,在低氧微环境中,MSCs可向髓核表型分化,并且HIF-1 α 表达增加,进一步证明低氧环境促进MSCs向髓核细胞分化的可行性。

2.4 三维支架

支架材料可以为MSCs提供三维的生长环境,避免了单层细胞培养的弊端,使细胞间形成适宜的空间分布和良好的联系,提供特殊的生长和分化信号,维持细胞的定向分化并维持表型。Vaudreuil等^[9]采用MSCs光聚合生物凝胶支架修复椎间盘退行性变,MRI示髓核的基质改善,组织学检查示凝胶组细胞增多,椎间盘退行性变减轻。Thorpe等^[31]将MSCs及水凝胶一起注射到退行性变的椎间盘,注射后水凝胶与周围髓核组织结合,促进了MSCs向髓核分化,可以恢复腰椎的力学功能。Smith等^[32]将MSCs接种于三维互穿网络水凝胶的体外研究发现,蛋白多糖、COL II和GAG表达增加。Naqvi等^[33]比较藻酸盐和壳聚糖水凝胶中骨髓MSCs向髓核分化差异,结果显示,壳聚糖水凝胶可调节GAG和胶原的表达;与壳聚糖相比,海藻酸钠能更好地支持MSCs中GAG和COL II表达。陈春等^[34]介绍了采用明胶微支架装载MSCs移植治疗犬退行性变椎间盘比单纯MSCs移植疗效更佳。三维支架可对MSCs起保护和支撑作用,相当于细胞外基质,三维支架结构可

容纳更多的细胞,使细胞有更多的接触机会,增加了细胞间的信号传递。同时,利用三维支架作为载体,与MSCs一起注射移植,为微创治疗椎间盘退行性变提供了方便。但如何让三维支架具有良好的生物可降解性,并且在组织形成过程中逐步降解而不影响正常组织生长及功能,仍是目前亟待解决的问题。

2.5 其他

有学者给予MSCs一定的应力,促进MSCs向髓核分化。Gan等^[35]发现,给予MSCs较低压缩负荷(5%)时,MSCs向髓核分化被促进,蛋白多糖、COL II、SOX-9及GAG表达增加。Luo等^[36]模拟微重力诱导MSCs向髓核分化,结果显示,微重力下蛋白多糖、COL II、SOX-9的表达增加,MSCs向髓核分化得到促进。Yan等^[37]将不同浓度丹酚酸b联合MSCs移植入新西兰家兔椎间盘内,发现8周后蛋白多糖、COL II的表达增加,结果提示丹酚酸b(1~10 mg/L)联合MSCs移植修复椎间盘退行性变较单纯MSCs移植更有效。还有部分学者将MSCs应用于临床,如Henriksson等^[38]将MSCs移植入4位志愿者退行性变的椎间盘中,发现COL II及SOX-9表达增加,表明MSCs向髓核分化。

3 结语和展望

应用组织工程修复退行性变椎间盘已成为目前研究热点,各种方式诱导MSCs向髓核分化在一定程度上取得了效果。使退行性变的椎间盘再生是未来修复椎间盘退行性变的理想手段。但由于椎间盘特有的生物力学性能及生理环境,目前大部分研究尚停留在实验阶段,还不能应用于临床。另外,目前也没有确切有效的鉴定髓核细胞的方法,不能形成统一有效的鉴定标准,在髓核细胞鉴定方面尚有不足。由于大部分诱导MSCs向髓核分化的研究仅有纵向比较,少有横向的各种诱导方式之间的比较,故各种诱导方式之间差别目前尚不清楚,亦没有形成一套安全、有效、稳定的诱导方案。后续研究可考虑对各种诱导方案通过体内外实验进行横向比较,总结筛选出一套安全、合理、有效的方案,通过临床试验取得临床资料,再次总结优化,最终在临床推广。

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(上接第268页)

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