



· 论 著 ·

tRF-Pro-CGG对小鼠胰腺癌细胞生物学行为的影响及其分子机制

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[摘要] 背景与目的: tRNA衍生的片段(tRNA-derived fragments, tRF)是一类长度为14~30 nt的小分子非编码RNA, 其影响着恶性肿瘤的发展进程。本研究旨在探讨tRF-Pro-CGG对小鼠胰腺癌细胞生物学行为的影响及其可能的分子机制。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)检测tRF-Pro-CGG在小鼠胰腺癌细胞系pan02、LTPA, 人胰腺癌细胞系Capan-2和正常胰腺细胞HPDE6-C7中的表达水平。通过慢病毒转染技术过表达pan02细胞及敲低LTPA细胞中tRF-Pro-CGG的表达, 采用RTFQ-PCR和蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)检测过表达和敲低效果。采用细胞计数试剂盒-8(cell counting kit-8, CCK-8)检测细胞增殖情况。采用transwell实验检测细胞迁移和侵袭能力。采用动物模型检测tRF-Pro-CGG对胰腺癌裸鼠移植瘤生长和转移的影响。采用H-E染色观察移植瘤的组织病理学结构。采用Western blot检测移植瘤组织中Ki-67增殖指数、转移相关蛋白E-钙黏蛋白(E-cadherin)、波形蛋白(vimentin)的表达及磷脂酰肌醇3-激酶(phosphoinositide 3-kinase, PI3K)/蛋白激酶B(protein kinase B, AKT)信号转导通路蛋白的表达及磷酸化情况。结果: 小鼠胰腺癌细胞系pan02中tRF-Pro-CGG表达最低, 在pan02细胞中转染tRF-Pro-CGG mimics后, tRF-Pro-CGG的mRNA和蛋白表达水平均显著升高($P<0.01$), 细胞增殖能力显著降低($P<0.01$), 细胞迁移($P<0.001$)和侵袭能力($P<0.001$)显著降低, 裸鼠移植瘤体积($P<0.01$)和重量($P<0.001$)均显著降低, 裸鼠移植瘤组织中出现明显坏死和凋亡细胞; 裸鼠移植瘤组织中Ki-67增殖指数和vimentin的表达显著降低($P<0.001$), 而E-cadherin的表达显著升高($P<0.001$), PI3K、P-PI3K、AKT和P-AKT的表达显著降低($P<0.001$), 胰腺癌肝转移例数差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。小鼠胰腺癌细胞系LTPA中tRF-Pro-CGG表达最高, 在LTPA细胞中转染tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor后, tRF-Pro-CGG的mRNA和蛋白表达水平显著降低($P<0.01$), 细胞增殖能力显著升高($P<0.01$), 细胞迁移($P<0.001$)和侵袭能力($P<0.001$)显著升高, 裸鼠移植瘤体积($P<0.01$)和重量($P<0.01$)均显著升高, 裸鼠移植瘤组织中出现少量的坏死及凋亡细胞; 裸鼠移植瘤组织中Ki-67和vimentin的表达显著升高($P<0.001$), 而E-cadherin的表达显著降低($P<0.001$), PI3K、P-PI3K、AKT和P-AKT的表达显著升高($P<0.001$), 胰腺癌肝转移例数差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。结论: 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG可以抑制小鼠胰腺癌细胞增殖、迁移和侵袭, 抑制胰腺癌裸鼠移植瘤的生长, 下调Ki-67增殖指数、vimentin的表达水平和PI3K/AKT磷酸化水平。tRF-Pro-CGG可能通过调节PI3K/AKT信号转导通路抑制胰腺癌的发生、发展。

[关键词] 胰腺癌; tRNA衍生的片段-Pro-CGG; 增殖; 迁移; 侵袭; 裸鼠移植瘤模型
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Effect of tRF-Pro-CGG on the biological behavior of mouse pancreatic cancer cells and its molecular mechanism FU Qingsheng^{1,2}, JIN Lei², ZHANG Xudong², XU Yingchen¹, ZHU Chunfu², QIN Xihu², WU Baoqiang^{1,2}

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[**Abstract**] **Background and purpose:** tRNA-derived fragments (tRF) are a kind of short non-coding RNA (14-30 nt) that influences the course of cancer. This study aimed to investigate the molecular pathways that might underlie the effects of tRF-Pro-CGG on the biological behavior of mouse pancreatic cancer cells. **Methods:** Real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RTFQ-PCR) was used to assess the expression of tRF-Pro-CGG in mouse pancreatic cancer cell lines pan02 and LTPA, human pancreatic cancer cell line Capan-2, and normal pancreatic cells HPDE6-C7. tRF-Pro-CGG overexpression in pan02 cells and LTPA cell suppression were achieved through lentiviral transfection, and RTFQ-PCR and Western blot were used to determine overexpression and knockdown effects. Cell counting kit-8 (CCK-8) was used to detect cell proliferation. Transwell assays were used to detect cell migration and invasion ability. The effect of tRF-Pro-CGG on the growth and metastasis of pancreatic cancer transplantation tumors in nude mice model was investigated. H-E staining was used to observe the histopathological structure of transplantation tumors. Western blot was used to detect the expression and phosphorylation of proliferation-related protein Ki-67 and metastasis-related proteins. Western blot was used to assess the expressions of cadherin, vimentin, phosphoinositide 3-kinase/protein kinase B (PI3K/AKT) pathway protein and phosphorylation in transplanted tumor tissues. **Results:** tRF-Pro-CGG expression was lowest in the mouse pancreatic cancer cell line pan02. Both mRNA and protein expression levels of tRF-Pro-CGG were significantly increased ($P < 0.01$) after transfection of tRF-Pro-CGG mimics in pan02 cells, and cell proliferation ability ($P < 0.01$), cell migration ($P < 0.001$) and invasion ability ($P < 0.001$) were significantly reduced. A significant decrease in the volume ($P < 0.01$) and weight ($P < 0.001$) of transplanted tumors in nude mice was observed, and significant necrotic and apoptotic cells in transplanted tumor were identified. In transplanted tumor tissues of nude mice, the Ki-67 proliferation index and expression of vimentin were significantly decreased ($P < 0.001$), while E-cadherin was increased ($P < 0.001$). The expressions of PI3K, P-PI3K, AKT and P-AKT were significantly decreased ($P < 0.001$). There was no significant difference in the number of liver metastases from pancreatic cancer ($P > 0.05$). The mouse pancreatic cancer cell line LTPA had the greatest level of tRF-Pro-CGG expression. The mRNA and protein expression levels of tRF-Pro-CGG were significantly reduced ($P < 0.01$) after transfection of tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor in LTPA cells. The proliferation ability of cells was significantly increased ($P < 0.01$), the migration of cells ($P < 0.001$) and invasive ability ($P < 0.001$) were significantly increased. The volume ($P < 0.01$) and weight ($P < 0.01$) of transplanted tumors in nude mice were significantly increased, and a limited proportion of necrotic and apoptotic cells were seen in nude mice tumor tissues implanted. In the transplanted tumor tissues of nude mice, the Ki-67 proliferation index and expression of vimentin were significantly increased ($P < 0.001$), while E-cadherin was decreased ($P < 0.001$). The expressions of PI3K, P-PI3K, AKT, and P-AKT were significantly increased ($P < 0.001$). There was no difference in the number of liver metastases from pancreatic cancer ($P > 0.05$). **Conclusion:** Overexpression of tRF-Pro-CGG reduced pancreatic cancer cell proliferation, migration and invasion in mice, slowed the formation of pancreatic cancer transplanted tumors in nude mice, and decreased Ki-67 proliferation index and expression of vimentin and PI3K/AKT phosphorylation levels. The PI3K/AKT signaling pathway may be regulated by tRF-Pro-CGG, which may suppress the development of pancreatic cancer.

[**Key words**] Pancreatic cancer; tRNA-derived fragments-Pro-CGG; Proliferation; Migration; Invasion; Tumor transplantation model in nude mice

胰腺癌因其发病隐匿, 早期缺乏诊断方法, 确诊时多为中晚期, 5年生存率为7%~8%^[1]。在临床上, 胰腺癌的治疗方法有手术治疗、放疗、化疗、靶向治疗及免疫治疗等, 然而其复发转移率仍较高, 预后极差^[2]。寻求新的肿瘤标志物以早期诊断及治疗胰腺癌有重大意义。tRNA衍生的片段(tRNA-derived fragments, tRF)来源于tRNA的小分子非编码RNA(small non-coding RNA, sncRNA), 由前体或成熟tRNA片段衍生而来, 其长度为14~30 nt^[3]。tRF在乳腺癌、前列腺癌、结直肠癌及肺癌等肿瘤中

发挥重要作用, 然而在胰腺癌中的表达及相关作用机制尚不明确。本课题组的前期研究^[4]经tRF、tRNA衍生的应激诱导RNA(tRNA-derived stress-induced RNAs, tiRNA)测序及标本组织实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)证实tRF-Pro-CGG在胰腺癌和正常胰腺组织中差异表达, 人胰腺癌组织中tRF-Pro-CGG的表达比正常胰腺组织低, 提示tRF-Pro-CGG在胰腺癌中表达不足, 与临床生存期短和预后差相关^[5]。本研究旨在探讨tRF-Pro-CGG基因在小鼠

胰腺癌细胞中的表达及其对相关生物学行为的影响,并探讨其可能的分子机制。

1 材料和方法

1.1 材料

小鼠胰腺癌细胞系pan02、人胰腺癌细胞系Capan-2和正常胰腺细胞HPDE6-C购自中国科学院上海生命科学研究院细胞资源中心,小鼠胰腺癌细胞系LTPA购自上海弘顺生物科技有限公司,胎牛血清(fetal bovine serum, FBS)、DMEM培养基、胰蛋白酶、青链霉素购自美国Gibco公司, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics、NC mimics、tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor、NC inhibitor质粒、抗tRF-Pro-CGG及riboFECTTMCP转染试剂购自广州锐博生物科技有限公司, RTFQ-PCR试剂盒购自日本Takara公司, 细胞计数试剂盒(cell counting kit-8, CCK-8)购自美国MCE公司, Matrigel购自美国BD公司, 免疫印迹化学发光试剂购自美国Millipore公司, β -actin抗体、抗Ki-67抗体、抗vimentin、抗E-cadherin、抗PI3K、抗P-PI3K、抗AKT及抗P-AKT购自英国Abcam公司, BALB/c裸鼠购自杭州子源实验动物科技有限公司。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 细胞培养和转染

上述细胞在37℃、CO₂体积分数为5%的DMEM培养基中培养,该培养基含有10%的FBS、100 U/mL链霉素和100 U/mL青霉素。将处于对数生长期的细胞以每孔 2.5×10^5 个细胞/mL的密度加入到6孔板中,用完全培养基培养1 d,直到密度达到80%。根据LipofectamineTM3000的使用说明书,用tRF-Pro-CGG mimics及inhibitor转染相关细胞后培养24 h,进行后续实验。

1.2.2 RTFQ-PCR实验

利用TRIzol试剂(美国ThermoFisher公司)分离细胞中的总RNA,通过反转录总RNA和扩增试剂盒制备cDNA模板,并进行RTFQ-PCR扩增,扩增条件为:95℃ 5 min; 95℃ 15 s, 58℃ 30 s, 72℃ 30 s,共40个循环。本研究使

用的引物购自广州锐博生物科技有限公司,U6被用作内部参考。tRF-Pro-CGG引物的正义链为5'-GGCTCGTTGGTCTAGGGGTATG-3',反义链为5'-ACGTGTGCTCTTCCGATCTGAA-3'; U6引物的正义链为5'-GCTTCGGCAGCACAT ACTAAAAT-3',反义链为5'-CGCTTCACGAA TTTGCGTGTCAT-3'。利用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 计算tRF-Pro-CGG的平均相对表达水平。

1.2.3 CCK-8实验

将对数生长期的细胞以 1×10^4 个细胞/孔均匀铺设于96孔板中,每孔体积为100 μ L,细胞附壁后分别于第0、24、48、72和96 h加入10 μ L CCK-8试剂,外围孔填充磷酸缓冲盐溶液(phosphate-buffered saline, PBS),将96孔板置于37℃、CO₂体积分数为5%的培养箱中温育2 h,测量450 nm处细胞的吸光度(D)值。

1.2.4 Transwell迁移和侵袭实验

将处于对数生长期的细胞饥饿6 h,用无血清培养基将50 mg/L的matrigel按1:8的比例稀释,使用前与培养基混合,用胰蛋白酶消化细胞后用含有10%FBS的完全培养基终止消化,细胞以10 000 r/min离心5 min后弃去上清液,PBS洗涤2次后用无血清培养基重新悬浮。细胞计数后在含有基质和不含基质的上腔室中分别加入 5×10^4 个细胞,体积均为500 μ L。将腔室放入24孔板中,并在下腔室中加入700 μ L含有10%FBS的完全培养基,细胞在37℃、CO₂体积分数为5%的条件下培养24 h,随后取出腔体放入新的孔中,并用PBS清洗2次,用4%多聚甲醛溶液固定15 min后,用800 μ L 0.5%结晶紫染色液染色20 min,干燥后在显微镜下对细胞进行计数并拍照。

1.2.5 动物实验

选取5周龄雌性BALB/c裸鼠随机分为4组(每组9只),将过表达tRF-Pro-CGG(tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组和NC mimics组)的pan02细胞及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG(tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组和NC inhibitor组)的LTPA细胞分别经皮下注射到裸鼠体内,每只裸鼠注射浓度为 5×10^6 个细胞/mL的0.2 mL单细

胞悬液, 建立胰腺癌裸鼠皮下移植瘤模型。利用动物活体成像系统观察并记录肿瘤生长情况, 取下瘤体后称重, 将瘤体在4%多聚甲醛溶液中固定后常规做H-E染色。建立裸鼠胰腺癌肝转移模型, 随机分为4组(每组5只), 将过表达tRF-Pro-CGG(tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组和NC mimics组)的pan02细胞及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG(tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组和NC inhibitor组)的LTPA细胞分别经尾静脉注射到裸鼠体内, 每只裸鼠注射浓度为 2×10^6 个细胞/mL的0.2 mL单细胞悬液, 每隔4 d经尾静脉追加上述各组细胞, 10周后处死解剖裸鼠并观察胰腺癌肝脏转移瘤的结节个数。

1.2.6 蛋白质印迹法(Western blot)实验

收集各组稳定转染tRF-Pro-CGG的细胞或液氮研磨肿瘤组织, 添加裂解液(美国Sigma-Aldrich公司)后从细胞或组织中提取总蛋白, 用二辛可宁酸(bicinchoninic acid, BCA)试剂盒检测蛋白浓度, 用十二烷基硫酸钠聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳(sodium dodecylsulphate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, SDS-PAGE)将蛋白转移到PVDF膜上, 用5%脱脂牛奶密封4 h, 加入抗tRF-Pro-CGG、Ki-67、抗vimentin、抗E-cadherin、抗PI3K、P-PI3K、抗AKT及P-AKT的一抗4 °C温育蛋白过夜, 含有吐温-20三乙醇胺缓冲盐溶液(tris-buffered saline Tween, TBST)洗涤后加入二抗, 在常温下温育1 h, 最后加入免疫印迹化学发光试剂后凝胶成像曝光, 以 β -肌动蛋白为内部对照, 用ImageJ软件分析目标蛋白的灰色值。

1.3 统计学处理

服从正态分布的计量资料采用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示, 两组比较采用独立样本 t 检验, 多组间比较采用单因素方差分析。计数资料两组比较采用Fisher确切概率法。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 tRF-Pro-CGG在胰腺癌细胞系中的表达

RTFQ-PCR结果显示, tRF-Pro-CGG在小鼠胰腺癌细胞系pan02、LTPA和人胰腺癌细胞系

Capan-2中的表达低于在正常胰腺细胞HPDE6-C中的表达, 在pan02细胞中的表达最低, 在LTPA细胞中的表达相对较高, 故选用pan02细胞和LTPA细胞进行tRF-Pro-CGG的过表达及敲低实验(图1)。

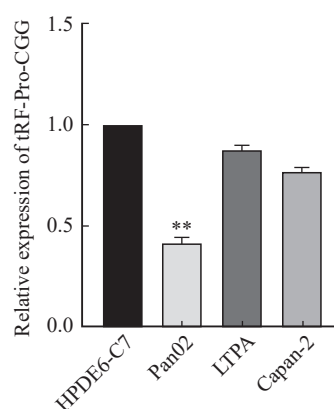


图1 tRF-Pro-CGG在小鼠胰腺癌细胞系pan02、LTPA及人胰腺癌细胞系Capan-2中的表达

Fig. 1 tRF-Pro-CGG expression in mouse pancreatic cancer cell lines pan02 and LTPA, as well as human pancreatic cancer cell line Capan-2

** $P < 0.01$, compared with HPDE6-C cell line.

2.2 tRF-Pro-CGG稳定过表达及敲低细胞系的构建

RTFQ-PCR结果显示, 与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组中tRF-Pro-CGG的表达水平显著升高($P < 0.001$); 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组中tRF-Pro-CGG的表达水平显著降低($P < 0.001$)。Western blot结果显示, 与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组中tRF-Pro-CGG蛋白表达水平显著升高($P < 0.01$); 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组中tRF-Pro-CGG蛋白表达水平显著降低($P < 0.01$, 图2)。

2.3 tRF-Pro-CGG影响小鼠胰腺癌细胞增殖

tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组中pan02细胞增殖能力与NC mimics组相比显著降低($P < 0.01$); tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组中pan02细胞增殖能力与NC inhibitor组相比显著升高($P < 0.01$, 图3)。

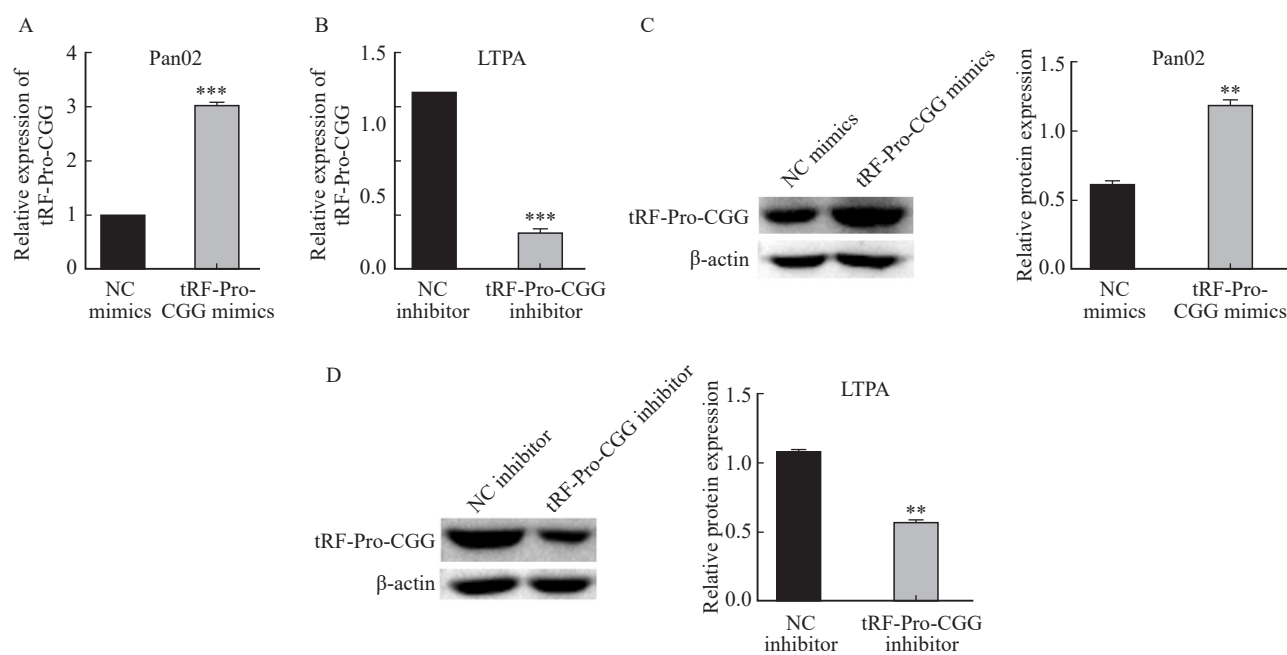


图2 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG后pan02细胞tRF-Pro-CGG表达

Fig. 2 Expression of tRF-Pro-CGG in pan02 cells after overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG

A, B: RTFQ-PCR was used to detect mRNA expression of tRF-Pro-CGG in each group; C, D: Western blot was used to detect protein expression of tRF-Pro-CGG in each group. ***: $P < 0.001$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor by RTFQ-PCR; **: $P < 0.01$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor by Western blot.

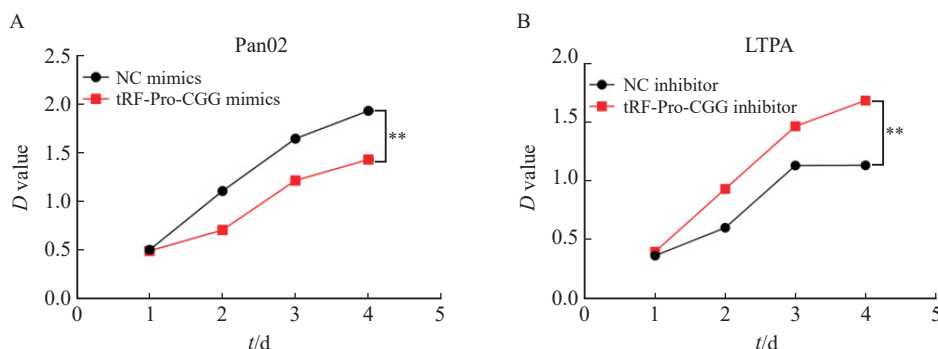


图3 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对pan02细胞增殖的影响

Fig. 3 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on the proliferation of pan02 cells

A, B: CCK-8 was used to detect changes of cell Proliferation in each group. **: $P < 0.01$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor.

2.4 tRF-Pro-CGG影响小鼠胰腺癌细胞迁移和侵袭能力

与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组中细胞迁移和侵袭数目显著减少 ($P < 0.001$); 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组中细胞迁移和侵袭数目显著升高 ($P < 0.001$, 图4)。

2.5 tRF-Pro-CGG影响胰腺癌裸鼠移植瘤的生长

与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG

mimics组中裸鼠瘤体的体积和重量均显著降低 ($P < 0.01$), 然而两组裸鼠的体重变化差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$); 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组中裸鼠瘤体的体积和重量均显著升高 ($P < 0.01$), 然而两组裸鼠的体重变化差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$, 图5)。

2.6 tRF-Pro-CGG对胰腺癌裸鼠移植瘤组织形态结构的影响

与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组坏死组织明显增多, 大部分为凝固性坏死,

坏死周围可见凋亡细胞及坏死细胞残影; 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组坏死组织明显减少, 坏死周围可见凋亡细胞及坏死细胞 (图6)。

2.7 胰腺癌移植瘤组织中增殖、侵袭转移相关蛋白的表达情况

Western blot结果显示, 与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组的移植瘤组织中Ki-67、vimentin的表达明显降低, 而E-cadherin的表达明显升高 ($P < 0.001$); 与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组的移植瘤组织中Ki-67增殖指数、vimentin的表达明显升高, 而E-cadherin的表达明显降低 ($P < 0.001$, 图7)。

2.8 胰腺癌移植瘤组织中PI3K/AKT通路蛋白的相对表达量

PI3K/AKT信号通路是调节肿瘤发生、发展

的重要途径之一。Western blot分析移植瘤组织中P-PI3K/AKT的表达情况显示, 与NC mimics组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组的PI3K、P-PI3K、AKT和P-AKT的表达明显被抑制 ($P < 0.001$); 而与NC inhibitor组相比, tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组的PI3K、P-PI3K、AKT和P-AKT的表达明显升高 ($P < 0.001$, 图8)。

2.9 tRF-Pro-CGG影响裸鼠胰腺癌肝转移情况

tRF-Pro-CGG mimics组4只裸鼠发生胰腺癌肝转移, 1只裸鼠在4周时死亡, 而NC mimics组5只裸鼠都发生胰腺癌肝转移, 两组相比差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$); tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor组3只发生胰腺癌肝转移, NC mimics组3只发生胰腺癌肝转移, 期间1只裸鼠在3周时死亡, 两组相比差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$, 图9)。

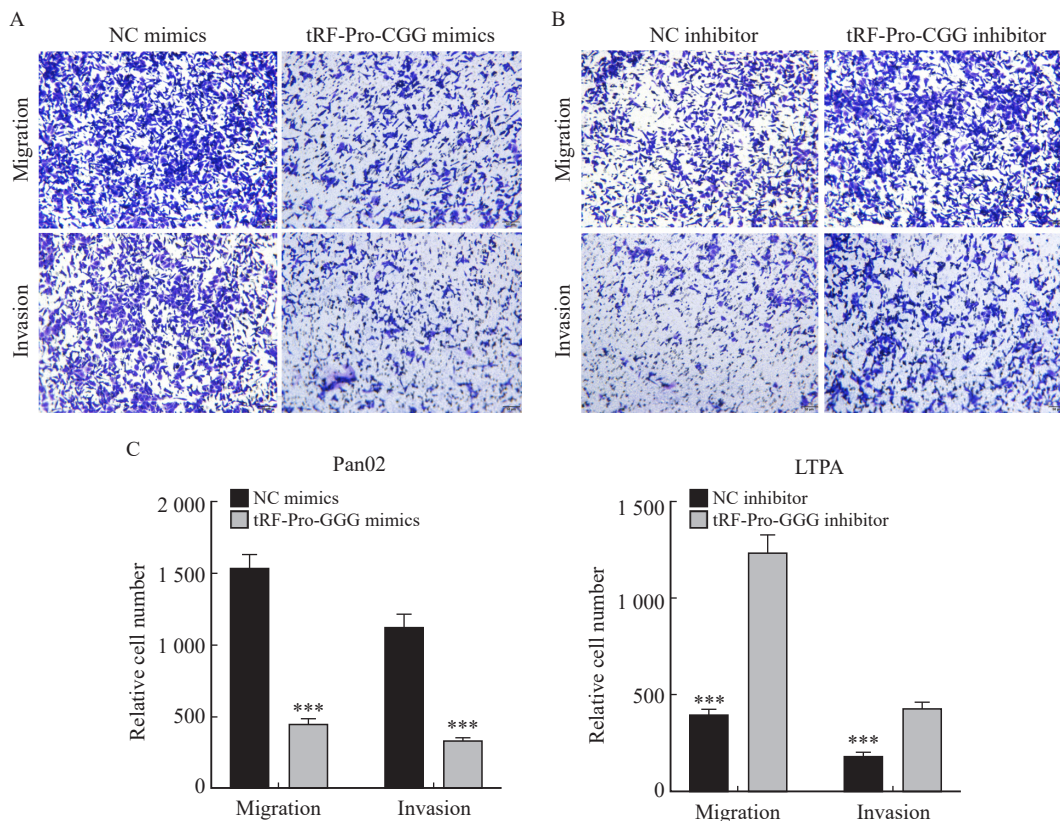


图4 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对pan02细胞迁移和侵袭能力的影响

Fig. 4 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on migration and invasion ability of pan02 cells

A-C: Transwell was used to detect changes of cell migration and invasion in each group; ***, $P < 0.001$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor.

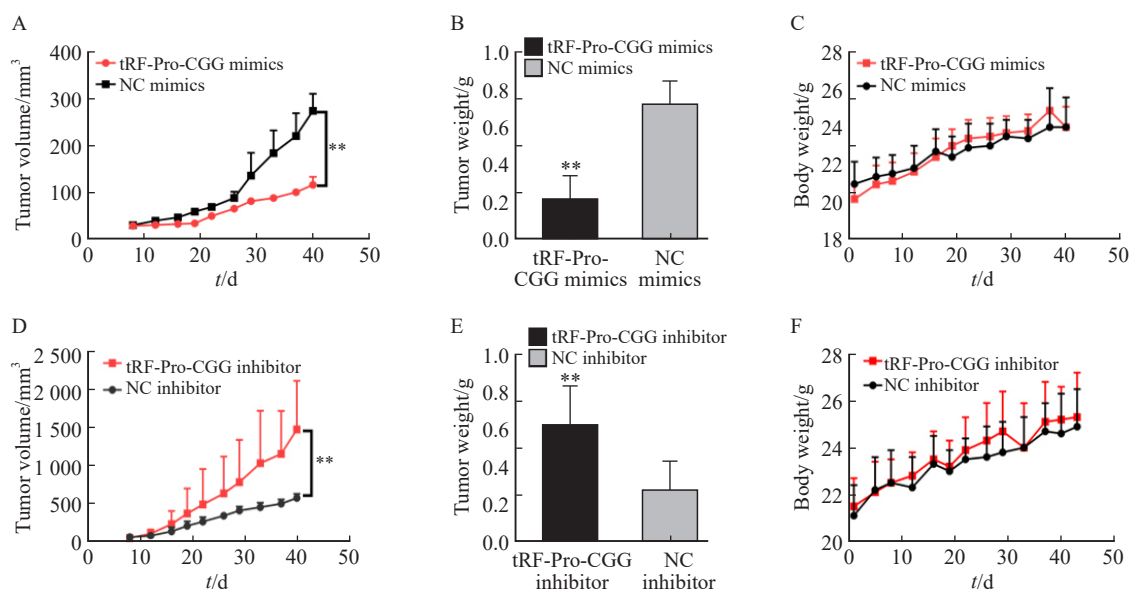


图5 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对裸鼠胰腺癌移植瘤生长的影响

Fig. 5 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on the growth of pancreatic cancer transplant tumors in nude mice

A-C: Effects of overexpression of tRF-Pro-CGG on tumor volume, weight and body weight of nude mice; D-F: Effects of knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on tumor volume, weight and body weight of nude mice. **: $P < 0.01$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor.

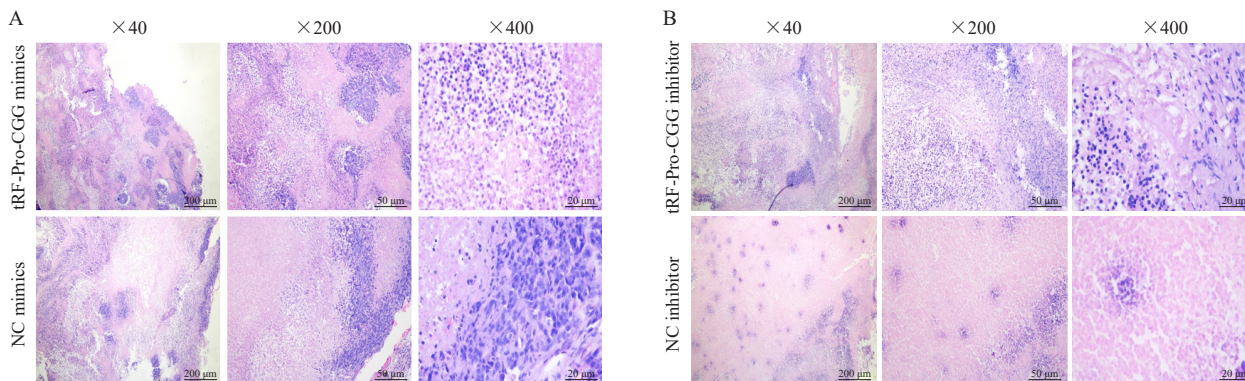


图6 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对裸鼠胰腺癌移植瘤组织形态结构的影响

Fig. 6 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on the morphological structure of transplanted tumor tissues in nude mice with pancreatic cancer

A, B: H-E staining was used to detect changes of histomorphological structure of pancreatic cancer transplantation tumor in nude mice in each group.

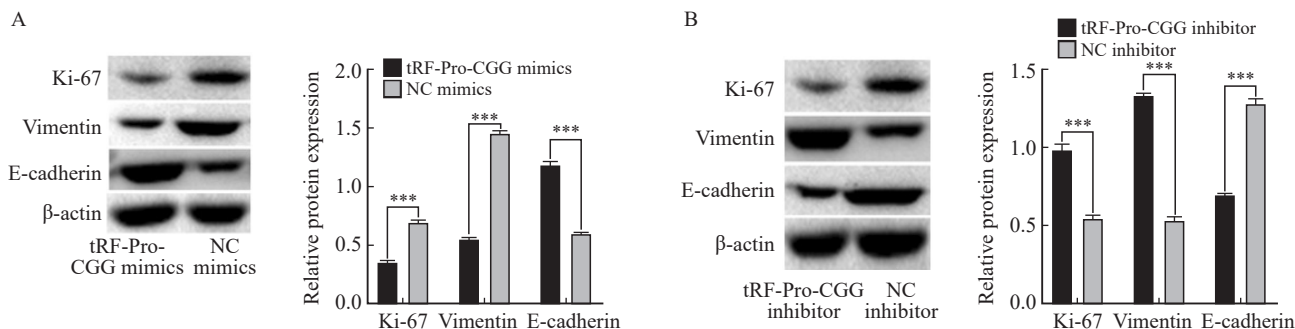


图7 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对Ki-67增殖指数、vimentin和E-cadherin表达的影响

Fig. 7 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on Ki-67, vimentin and E-cadherin expression

A, B: Western blot was used to detect Ki-67 proliferation index, expression of vimentin and E-cadherin in each group. ***: $P < 0.001$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor.

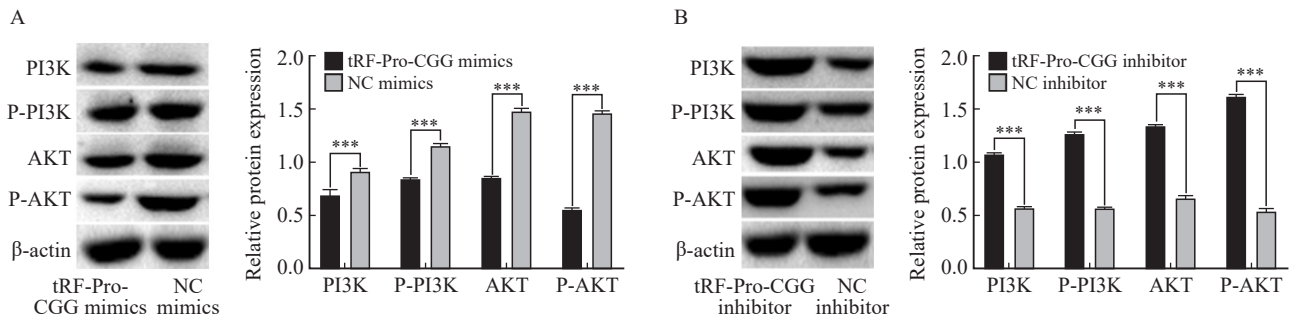


图8 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对PI3K、P-PI3K、AKT和P-AKT表达的影响

Fig. 8 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on the expression of PI3K, P-PI3K, AKT and P-AKT

A, B: Western blot was used to detect protein expression of PI3K, P-PI3K, AKT and P-AKT in each group. ***: $P < 0.01$, compared with NC mimics or NC inhibitor.

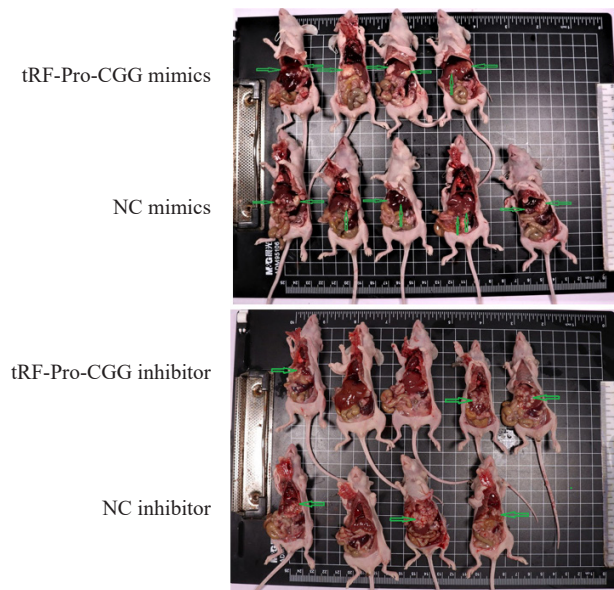


图9 过表达及敲低tRF-Pro-CGG对裸鼠胰腺癌肝转移的影响

Fig. 9 Effects of overexpression and knockdown of tRF-Pro-CGG on liver metastasis of pancreatic cancer in nude mice

3 讨 论

随着高通量二代测序技术的快速发展,大量的sncRNA尤其tRF分子被发现广泛存在于人类疾病中,如癌症、遗传性代谢疾病、神经退行性疾病及病毒感染等。tRF在不同疾病中发挥着不同的生物学功能,特别在各类肿瘤中的表达及生物发生机制也略有差异,且对于肿瘤发生、发展的探索仍停留在初步阶段。随着人们生活方式的改变及工作强度的增加,患消化道肿瘤的概率也显著提高。胰腺癌是恶性程度高、预后差的消化系统恶性肿瘤之一,其患病率和死亡率均较高,手术是治愈胰腺癌的唯一希望,但超过80%的胰腺

癌患者就诊时已丧失了手术治疗的机会^[6-7]。胰腺癌转移早、进展快、局部浸润等特点使其治疗效果并不显著,因此寻找新的肿瘤标志物和有效的治疗靶点非常必要。

近年来tRNA中衍生出一类独特的sncRNA,其被分为tiRNA和tRF两大类,在人体内有着重要的生物发生和肿瘤特性^[8]。根据匹配的区域和长度大小,其tRF可分为tRF-1、tRF-2、tRF-3、tRF-5和i-tRF亚型^[9]。tRF在许多癌症中发挥重要功能。在乳腺癌中,2-tRF可以与YBX-1相互作用,对乳腺癌细胞增殖产生抑制作用^[10]。在前列腺癌中,Zeng等^[11]研究发现,tRF-1001表达水平升高,促进癌细胞从G₂期到M期,提高癌细胞的增殖速度。在结直肠癌中,tRF/miR-1280可以阻止结直肠癌细胞增殖、侵袭和转移^[12]。在胃癌中,tRF-38和tRF-18则充当促癌基因的角色^[13]。此外,tRF-03357可明显促进卵巢癌的进程^[14]。大多数tRF在缺氧环境中产生致癌应激反应,这与胰腺癌的缺氧微环境相匹配^[3],说明tRF的形成条件与胰腺癌密切相连。然而,tRF在胰腺癌中的相关机制研究报道较少。

本课题组前期研究^[4]发现,tRF-Pro-CGG在人胰腺癌组织与癌旁组织中差异表达最明显,京都基因和基因组百科全书数据库(Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes, KEGG)功能富集分析显示,tRF-Pro-CGG下游的PI3K/AKT通路的富集密度最高,相关性最大。此外,tRF-Pro-CGG的低表达与胰腺癌患者的不良临床结局密切相关,也预示着tRF-Pro-CGG作为抑癌基因影响胰腺癌的发生、发展^[5]。本研究采用tRF-

Pro-CGG转染tRF-Pro-CGG mimics或tRF-Pro-CGG inhibitor, 采用RTFQ-PCR和Western blot实验检测了tRF-Pro-CGG在pan02及LTPA细胞中的表达量, CCK-8和transwell实验表明, 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG可以抑制小鼠胰腺癌细胞增殖、迁移和侵袭能力。体内裸鼠移植瘤实验结果显示, 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG能显著抑制瘤体重量和体积。Ki-67增殖指数可反映肿瘤细胞的增殖水平, 其与癌症分期密切相关, 癌症的侵袭和转移常伴随着vimentin的增加和E-cadherin的减少^[15]。本研究表明, 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG可有效抑制移植瘤组织中Ki-67增殖指数和vimentin的表达, 而促进E-cadherin的表达。PI3K/AKT信号通路是调控肿瘤增殖和凋亡的重要通路之一, 参与人类许多肿瘤的发生、发展^[16]。Ebrahimi等^[17]指出, PI3K/AKT信号通路在胰腺癌的发生、进展和转移中发挥着关键作用。本研究的Western blot实验证明, 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG明显抑制PI3K、AKT的磷酸化水平, 抑制PI3K/AKT信号通路的激活, 抑制小鼠胰腺癌移植瘤的生长。

综上, 过表达tRF-Pro-CGG能抑制小鼠胰腺癌细胞增殖、迁移和侵袭。过表达tRF-Pro-CGG可能通过抑制PI3K/AKT信号转导通路, 从而抑制胰腺癌裸鼠移植瘤的生长。过表达tRF-Pro-CGG抑制胰腺癌移植瘤中增殖、侵袭转移蛋白的表达。本研究表明, tRF-Pro-CGG在裸鼠胰腺癌的发生、发展中发挥重要作用, 有望为胰腺癌早期诊断和治疗提供新的线索。

利益冲突声明: 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突。

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