

Hedgehog信号通路研究进展

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摘要 Hedgehog(Hh)信号通路是目前研究最热的信号通路之一。它作为进化中保守的信号通路, 在脊椎动物和非脊椎动物的发育中起重要调控作用。而且越来越多的研究表明, 众多的肿瘤发生都与该通路的异常相关。该文综述了该通路如何通过它的成员来调控Hh信号的产生、传播、接收和转导及其与肿瘤的相关性, 旨在为相关领域的研究提供参考。

关键词 Hedgehog; Ptc; Smo; Ci/Gli; 疾病

Progress of Study on Hedgehog Signaling Pathway

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Abstract Hedgehog (Hh) signaling pathway is one of the hottest pathways in present research. It is a conserved signalling system essential to the development of vertebrates and invertebrates. In addition, it is showed that the aberrant Hedgehog signaling is relative to tumorigenesis. To provide useful information for the study of relative fields, here we summary the recent advance on how are the production, propagation, reception, and transduction of the Hh signal controlled through the pathway components and the relationship between cancers and this pathway.

Key words Hedgehog; Ptc; Smo; Ci/Gli; diseases

1 引言

发育从单个细胞——受精卵开始。它不断地分裂, 产生一个多细胞的克隆(即一个个体)。尽管我们已经开始理解发育的原理, 它却依然是一个深邃的令人惊讶的过程。通过模式生物的研究, 人们认为发育过程是细胞命运选择的过程, 程序性细胞运动造就动物个体图式。细胞在这一过程中产生分子信号来影响邻近的细胞, 并对邻近细胞传递给它们的信号做出反应。这种位置信息调控整个复杂的多细胞发育过程, 使一个受精卵变成一个个体。该位置信息是由进化中保守的分泌性信号分子家族(形态

发生素, morphogen)发出的。

分泌蛋白Hedgehog(Hh)家族是这些信号分子家族主要代表之一。Hh家族的成员在脊椎动物和非脊椎动物的发育中起重要调控作用, 包括细胞增殖、分化和组织的形成等^[1]。Hh信号的异常会引起先天性缺陷和癌症, 例如先天畸形、基底细胞癌和肥胖症等^[2-3]。因此, 对Hh信号通路的研究变得极其重要。通过研究可以帮助我们认识肿瘤发生和肥胖形成的机制及理解该形态发生素如何通过不同的剂量来调控发育的过程。

两位美国科学家在筛选影响果蝇发育的基因突变体实验中首先发现了hh基因^[4]。与此同时, 许多实验室克隆到了hh基因, 并且显示hh编码一种分泌蛋白^[5]。随后, 在多种脊椎动物中鉴定出了hh的同源物, 通过刺激hh家族成员Sonic hedgehog(Shh)在胚胎和肢芽中的表达, 人们很快发现hh家族在脊椎动

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物发育中起重要作用^[6-7]。众多的证据显示, Shh和 *Drosophila* Hh一样, 它们都作为形态发生素通过浓度依赖性调控细胞发育^[8-10]。那么, Hh形态发生素的浓度梯度如何形成? 不同的水平的Hh如何在细胞间转导来产生不同的发育结果? 对这些问题的回答要求对Hh信号通路要有透彻的理解。在过去的几十年里, 通过对果蝇的遗传研究鉴定出了许多Hh通路的成员(表1)。Hh通路成员的生化性质及相互之间的物理作用已经得到部分揭示。本文主要阐述它们在Hh信号的产生、传播、接收和转导等过程的作用机制及相关生物学意义并对其与癌症发生的关系做一总结。

2 Hh梯度的形成

依据不同发育阶段的需求, Hh家族成员既可以在局部发挥作用也可通过扩散进行远程调控。在调控过程中Hh信号的产生与传播必须受到严格的控制以形成精确的浓度梯度, 而且Hh最终的活性梯度还受到负反馈机制的调控。Hh通过进化中保守的机制进行加工和分泌。Guerrero和他的同事对Hh梯度的形成做了详细的表述^[11]。

2.1 Hh的脂质化

在Hh分泌细胞中, Hh全长通过自切割产生N-端

(HhN)和C-端两个片段, 并在HhN的C末端共价结合一个胆固醇分子^[12]。随后, 由酰基转移酶Ski(skinny hedgehog, 是人中HHAT的同源物)催化在HhN的N-端发生棕榈酰化^[13-14]。在果蝇和哺乳动物中, 细胞分泌Hh信号需要Disp(Dispatched)的活性^[15-17]。Disp是一个与Ptc结构相关的多次跨膜蛋白。至少在果蝇中, 只有在信号发生细胞释放被胆固醇修饰的Hh时才需要Disp^[15]。

起初, 人们认为胆固醇修饰只是用于限制Hh的传播^[18]。后来, 实验发现该修饰作用在果蝇和哺乳动物的Hh远程传播及信号发生中都非常重要^[19-20]。棕榈酰化在果蝇的发育中起调控Hh活性的作用, 但是它在果蝇胚胎中对Hh的活动似乎没有影响^[20]。然而, 该修饰在脊椎动物中对Shh活性具有重要的调控作用^[13]。

经脂质化的Hh是如何进行远距离的运动目前还不清楚。但人们检测到含有脂质的可溶性Shh多聚体的存在, 且该多聚体具有很高的信号活性^[21]。这暗示Shh可能是通过包含脂质复合物以可溶性多聚体的形式传播。与此相一致, 棕榈酰化不足的Hh不能形成这种可溶性复合物, 并且信号无法远距离的传播^[13]。最近, 在果蝇中的研究显示脂蛋白颗粒可能包含脂质化蛋白并将它门进行远距离传送^[22],

表1 部分Hh通路的成员

Table 1 Components of the Hedgehog pathway

| 果蝇基因 <i>Drosophila</i> gene | 蛋白质 Protein | 功能 Function | 脊椎动物同源物 Vertebrate counterpart |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>hedgehog(hh)</i> | secreted protein | Igand | Shh, Ihh, Dhh |
| <i>skinny hedgehog(skn)</i> | acyltransferase | Hh palmitoylation | Skn |
| <i>dispatched (disp)</i> | multiple-span transmembrane protein | releasing Hh | Disp |
| <i>tout-velu(ttv)</i> | glycosyltransferase | heparan sulfate polymerization, Hh spreading | EXT1 |
| <i>sister of tout-velou(sotv)</i> | glycosyltransferase | heparin sulfate polymerization, Hh spreading | EXT2 |
| <i>brother of tout-velou(botv)</i> | glycosyltransferase | heparin sulfate polymerization, Hh spreading | EXT3 |
| <i>dally</i> | core protein of HSPGs | Hh movement | Glypican |
| <i>dally-like(dlp)</i> | core protein of HSPGs | Hh movement | Glypican |
| <i>shifted(shf)</i> | secreted protein | Hh spreading | WIF |
| <i>patched(ptc)</i> | multiple-span transmembraneprotein | Hh receptor | Ptc1, Ptc2 |
| <i>smoothened(smo)</i> | seven-transmembrane protein | Hh signal transducer | Smoothened |
| <i>protein kinase A(PKA)</i> | Ser/Thr kinase | Ci processing and Smo activation | PKA |
| <i>casein kinase I(CKI)</i> | Ser/Thr kinase | Ci processing and Smo activation | CKI |
| <i>shaggy(sgg)</i> | Ser/Thr kinase | Ci processing | GSK3β |
| <i>supernumerary limbs(slimb)</i> | F-box protein | substrate recognition subunit of ubiquitin E3 ligase | β-TRCP |
| <i>costal2(cos2)</i> | kinesin-related protein | scaffold for Ci phosphorylation and Hh signal transduction | KIFs |
| <i>fused(fu)</i> | Ser/Thr kinase | activation of full-length Ci | Fu |
| <i>suppressor of fused(su(fu))</i> | PEST domain protein | repression of full-length Ci | Su(fu) |
| <i>cubitus interruptus(ci)</i> | Zinc finger transcription factor | transcriptional activator and repressor of Hh target genes | Gli1, Gli2, Gli3 |

如Hh和Wingless(Wg)。

2.2 硫酸肝素蛋白聚糖对Hh信号的调控

除了受脂质化调控外,通过对果蝇的遗传研究发现, Hh的活动及信号的发生还受硫酸肝素蛋白聚糖(heparan sulfate proteoglycans, HSPGs)的调控^[23]。硫酸肝素蛋白聚糖是一种胞外基质大分子。*tout-velu(ttv)*编码糖基转移酶EXT家族,该基因缺陷的突变细胞克隆能抑制Hh信号的传播^[24]。另外两个EXT家族成员Sotv(Sister of Ttv)和Botv(Brother of Ttv)也参与了Hh信号通路^[25-26]。在人的遗传性多发外生骨疣病例中发现基因*EXT*发生了突变^[27]。近来研究证实,小鼠中*EXT1*能在软骨发育中调控Hh信号的分布^[28],说明HSPGs可能也在脊椎动物中控制Hh信号。HSPGs是否在脊椎动物的发育中调控Hh家族的成还需进一步的研究证实。

果蝇的遗传研究鉴定出了两个编码HSPGs核心蛋白的基因, *dally*和*dally-like(dlp)*。它们都是Hh信号活性的重要调控子。在胚胎发育和组织培养系统中, Hh信号特别需要Dlp。然而在翼圆盘中, Dally相对于Dlp是冗余的。虽然HSPGs如何调控Hh信号还不完全清楚,但Dlp与Hh间的物理相互作用暗示Dlp可能作为Hh的辅助受体^[29]。Dlp可能使Hh在细胞表面富集进而促进它与Ptc的相互作用。Dlp也可能作为基石促进胞内Hh的活动。

最近的光学成像研究显示,寡聚化的HhN能与HSPGs形成可见簇。对HhN中保守赖氨酸的突变会

影响HhN的寡聚化、HhN/HSPG间的相互作用及高度有序的聚集^[30]。这样的HhN突变体虽然具有自分泌活性但无法进行远距离扩散。因此,寡聚化、HSPG的结合和远程的信号发生间高度相关的。

2.3 Ptc的反馈调节作用

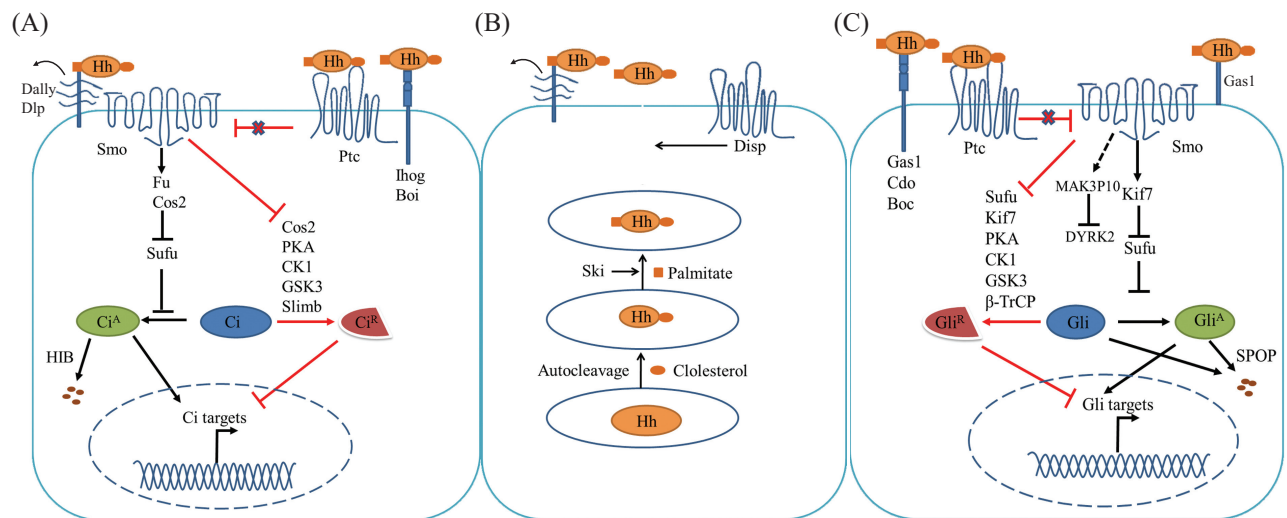
Hh信号通路的一个特征是,它会通过上调*ptc*的表达来应答Hh信号。*Ptc*通过这种负反馈抑制Hh信号的传播。通过转基因代替内源*ptc*后, *Ptc*不再受Hh的上调导致翼圆盘中形成广阔的Hh范围^[31]。Hh直接与Ptc结合后通过发动蛋白依赖性的胞吞作用内化并被溶酶体降解^[32-33]。Ptc正是通过这一途径来去除细胞表面的Hh分子。因此, Ptc在Hh的浓度梯度形成中起至关重要的调控作用。

2.4 Hh信号种属特异性胞外调控子

虽然在脊椎动物和非脊椎动物中都存在着前面提到的通用调控机制,但也存在一些种属特异性的调控机制。例如,在脊椎动物中, Shh会诱导Hh互作蛋白(the Hh-interacting protein, Hip)来减弱Hh信号, Hip是一种脊椎动物特异性的膜结合糖蛋白^[34-35]。在随后的果蝇研究中鉴定出了*shifted(shf)*基因的产物,它是人的Wnt抑制因子(Wnt inhibitory factor, WIF)同源物,在果蝇翼成虫盘Hh的传播中起重要调控作用^[36-37]。

3 Hh信号接收与转导

Hh通过一条复杂的信号转导级联反应来执行



A: 果蝇的Hh信号通路; B: Hh信号的发生细胞; C: 哺乳动物的Hh信号通路。

A: *Drosophila* Hh pathway; B: Hh producing cell; C: mammalian Hh pathway.

图1 Hedgehog(Hh)信号通路的机制(根据参考文献[99]改编)

Fig.1 Schematic of the Hedgehog (Hh) pathways (modified from reference [99])

它的生物学功能(图1)。总的来说,该通路可分为两大步:第一步是从质膜到胞内的过程,该过程涉及7次跨膜受体样蛋白Smo的调控;第二步是从胞内到核内的过程,该过程涉及锌指转录因子家族Ci/Gli的调控。通路在各个阶段都有反抑制调控机制的参与,例如,在细胞表面,Smo的信号活性受Ptc抑制,通过Hh结合到Ptc来去抑制激活Smo^[31,38-39];在细胞中,胞内的复合物抑制着Ci/Gli的转录活性,Hh信号会缓解这种抑制作用^[40]。Hh还能够抑制Ci和Gli3通过蛋白酶解作用生成截短的抑制剂的过程。

3.1 Hh信号的接收

除了glypical dally-like,跨膜蛋白iHog和boi(哺乳动物中Cdo和Boc的同源物)能够促进Hh与应答细胞的结合。这些蛋白质通过保守的纤连蛋白串联重复与Hh结合,从而加强Hh与受体Ptc的相互作用^[41-42]。在应答Hh信号后,iHog和boi的表达水平下调,形成负反馈调控。这作为另一条限制Hh通路活性的负反馈途径。

在没有Hh配体时,Ptc通过催化作用抑制7次跨膜蛋白Smo的活性。Hh与Ptc结合使其失去活性,从而激活Smo。Smo再将Hh信号向胞内转导^[39,43]。这一信号传导模型是通过遗传研究得到的。缺失Hh或者Smo引起相似的表型,并且Ptc缺失的表型与Hh过表达相似。上位分析显示,Ptc位于Hh的下游并处于Smo的上游或与之平行^[44-46]。随后人们在培养过表达Ptc的细胞中纯化Shh鉴定到Hh能与Ptc结合^[39,47]。

通过推测过表达后与Hh结合和没有与Hh结合的Ptc的比例,Casali和Struhl揭示Hh通路的活性依赖于两种Ptc状态间的比例。然而,实际中提高Ptc蛋白的水平降低了细胞对Hh的应答反应^[43,48],这说明细胞中的未结合配体的Ptc的绝对数量控制着通路的活性。这一机制与Hh对Ptc的感应共同致使细胞逐渐地对Hh脱敏并导致细胞精确地形成广阔范围的Hh形态发生素浓度梯度。

脊椎动物中,Ptc存在两种亚型:Ptc和Ptc2。Ptc2缺陷的小鼠可存活,但表皮发育不全并且秃头。任一Ptc等位基因的突变都会增加发生肿瘤的风险^[49-50]。Ptc缺失导致Hh通路完全活化,暗示Ptc的功能同源于果蝇Ptc。据推测,Ptc作为通透酶影响小分子的Smo活化剂或抑制剂的跨膜运动与浓度^[43]。许多合成的小分子和天然产物能够影响Smo的活性也支持这一推测^[51]。这些物质包括甾体生物碱类环巴胺和

蒜藜芦碱。

环巴胺与甾醇间结构上的相似性说明内源甾醇可能参与调控Smo的活性^[52]。遗传研究也证实了这一点,胚胎胆固醇合成的阻断导致与Hh突变相似的发育畸形。氧代固醇和维生素D3衍生物被认为是调控Smo的活性的内源代谢物,其中vitamin D3能够与环巴胺竞争结合Smo^[53-54]。

致癌性Smo蛋白活性的增加通常伴随着它们对环巴胺抗性的增强,这一事实说明Smo存在活化和非活化两种形式^[55]。果蝇实验也显示出相似的结果,dSmo存在两种不同的状态^[56]。然而,所有小分子物质只能特异性地激活或抑制脊椎动物的Smo蛋白,这说明果蝇和哺乳动物间Smo的作用机制可能存在差异。结构和功能分析显示,Smo的C-端功能域在脊椎动物和非脊椎动物间进化中发生了分化。

众多的证据证实,果蝇和哺乳动物间在胞内成员和Hh信号转导机制方面存在差异。其中,对果蝇的研究比较透彻,因此下面我们先讨论果蝇中Hh信号的胞内转导,然后我们再讨论哺乳动物中Hh信号从Smo到Ci/Gli转录因子的转导。

3.2 果蝇中Hh信号的胞内转导

在没有Hh时,Ptc保持dSmo处于一种非磷酸化状态。非磷酸化的dSmo通过内吞从细胞表面进入胞内被溶酶体降解^[57-58]。在Hh刺激后,Smo被高度磷酸化并且它的内化和降解被抑制。通过将磷酸化位点突变为带负电氨基酸残基或将相邻的带正电精氨酸簇突变为丙氨酸模拟Smo的磷酸化显示磷酸化中和了dSmo C-端的正电荷并诱导胞内C-端的构象发生转变,随后dSmo发生二聚或多聚化。然而这些事件如何活化下游的信号通路成员依然不清楚^[56]。

dSmo的C-端可直接与驱动蛋白样蛋白Cos2结合。Cos2作为支架蛋白将Hh通路的各种胞内成员联系在一起^[59-60],其中包括Ci^A(Ci全长的转录激活剂形式,155 kDa)和多种丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶^[61]。Fu(Fused)是Hh通路特有的蛋白激酶,而PKA、GSK3 β 、CKI α 和CKI ϵ 则是几种普遍的蛋白激酶^[62-63]。

在没有Hh信号时,Ci^A首先被PKA高度磷酸化,GSK3 β 和酪蛋白激酶然后对其进行一步磷酸化。高度磷酸化促使Ci^A被E3泛素连接酶Slimb(脊椎动物中 β -TrCP的同源物)所识别^[64],导致其被加工生成Ci^R(Ci截短的转录抑制剂形式,75 kDa)^[65]。在促进Ci^R形成的同时,Cos2还通过使Ci^R留在胞质和阻止

其向核内的转运来调控Ci^[66]。

当存在Hh信号时, Smo在膜表面积累并通过与Cos2结合抑制Ci^A向Ci^R的转变^[67]。然而该机制并不能有效地完全激活Hh通路, 因为部分Ci^A会被SUFU(suppressor of fused)等其他蛋白羧留在胞质内^[68]。果蝇的遗传研究显示, Hh通路的完全活化还需要Fu蛋白激酶, 因为Fu能够解除SUFU对Ci的负调控^[60,69]。进入核内后, Ci^A通过结合到启动子或增强子区域的特异性序列来控制Hh靶标基因的转录^[70]。

在果蝇中, 受体细胞对Hh的应答受Ci表达水平所调控。Hh和其受体在果蝇翼圆盘的后部区域中都表达, 但靶标基因并不被激活。这是因为Ci mRNA的表达被抑制^[71]。果蝇眼睛中皱纹形成细胞的后部区域也不能应答Hh, 是因为Ci的表达在转录后被hib(Hh诱导的MATH和BTB蛋白, 脊椎动物SPOP的同源物)下调。Hib是一种E3泛素连接酶Cul3所识别底物的亚单位。与Slimb介导的部分Ci降解的泛素化途径不同, hib/Cul3介导的泛素化途径能造成Ci的全部降解^[72]。Hib的表达对Hh应答反应的加强作为该通路的又一种的负调控途径^[73]。

3.3 哺乳动物中胞内Hh信号转导的差异

尽管Hh信号通路及其许多成员在发育中的作用在脊椎动物和非脊椎动物间非常保守^[74], 但果蝇和哺乳动物中由Smo向Ci/Gli转录因子转导Hh信号的机制存在明显的区别^[75]。

包括Smo、Cos2和Fu在内的这些Hh通路成员进化相对较快, 在其序列上表现的比较明显。脊椎动物Smo的C-端序列明显比非脊椎动物中的短且缺少主要的磷酸化区域。Cos2在哺乳动物中有两个同系物: Kif27和Kif7, 它们没有Cos2的任何特异性的序列特征。这将Cos2排除在马达蛋白的激酶家族之外。根据序列分析, Kif27和Kif7似乎发挥分子马达的功能, 然而Cos2虽发挥马达蛋白功能但似乎失去了与ATP结合的能力。哺乳动物中与果蝇Fu最近的同源物与Fu也存在高度的差异, 它们仅仅在蛋白激酶区域同源性比较明显^[76]。

果蝇中Smo的活化与其高度磷酸化相偶联, 其C-端胞内尾上的26个丝氨酸/苏氨酸残基能被PKA和CKI磷酸化^[57,77]。然而这些磷酸化位点在脊椎动物中并不保守。脊椎动物的Smo C-端缺少一个与Cos2结合的结构域并且其他结构域的同源区对于小鼠的Smo(mSmo)功能发挥是非必要的^[67,69,78]。果蝇

Cos2或小鼠Kif27和Kif7都显示不能与mSmo或GLI蛋白家族结合, 且在NIH-3T3细胞中过表达也不会影响Shh信号的转导^[78]。在果蝇中, Fu蛋白与Cos2形成紧密的复合物且对于Hh信号的转导不可缺少, 但是它的缺失并不影响小鼠的Hh信号转导^[79-80]。因此, Cos2-Fu复合物对于果蝇的Hh通路非常重要, 然而它在哺乳动物中并不起什么作用。但是, 哺乳动物Hh信号通路极其依赖于SUFU蛋白(SUFU在果蝇中起着较小的作用)和众多通路成员与初级纤毛的联系^[81-82]。

初级纤毛是脊椎动物细胞表面向外凸起的一种细胞器。通过突变Kif3a、Ift88和Ift172等与纤毛形成相关蛋白的遗传研究显示, 纤毛的破坏能造成与缺失Shh信号类似的胚胎表型特征^[83-85]。随后的研究发现, 这些蛋白与Gli转录因子的加工相关, 初级纤毛作为信号中心, 信号传导的生化事件在此位置上发生^[84,86]。人们还发现在应答Shh时, 活化的哺乳动物Smo在纤毛上积累^[87]; 在无Shh信号时, Ptc抑制了Smo在纤毛上的积累^[88]。Hh通路的其他成员, SUFU和未加工的Gli蛋白也定位于初级纤毛上^[89]。

由于缺少中心粒, 果蝇缺少所有由中心粒衍生而来的微管结构, 例如中心体、纤毛和鞭毛。这说明果蝇的Hh信号转导中并不需要纤毛的参与^[90]。相反, 遗传研究证实哺乳动物的Hh信号通路依赖于初级纤毛。与此相一致, 一些Hh通路中其他关键的微管依赖性过程会随着微管相关蛋白的缺失而受到破坏。但是任何时间在初级纤毛上检测到的Hh通路成员的量都很少。因此, 纤毛在哺乳动物Hh通路中的作用和Hh通路是否需要通路成员在纤毛的定位仍需进一步确定。

由于缺少果蝇FU蛋白同源物参与Hh信号的调控, 说明哺乳动物存在其种属特异性的调控激酶。人们近来的研究已经鉴定出两种这样的激酶: DYRK2和MAP3K10, 它们在NIH-3T3细胞中参与Shh信号的调控, 其中DYRK2直接磷酸化Gli2和Gli3并诱导它们的降解; MAP3K10则更多通过间接的方式参与, 它能够结合并磷酸化多种调控Hh通路的其他蛋白, 例如GSK3 β 、DYRK2和Kif3 α ^[91]。由于MAP3K10与多种通路成员都有关系, 因此其作用机制可能比较复杂, 需要进一步的研究。除了DYRK2和MAP3K10外, 还报道了一些其他脊椎动物特异性的Shh通路调控激酶。例如蛋白激酶C- δ (PKC δ)、

促分裂原活化蛋白/胞外信号调控激酶-1(MEK-1)、Akt和DYRK1^[92-93]。这些激酶的调控机制也需要进一步的研究来阐明。

总之,哺乳动物和果蝇间的Hh通路的作用机制存在明显的差异。这说明即使再保守的信号通路,其信号传导机制在进化中也不会一成不变,它们受进化的驱使而发生相应的改变。但有一些通路,如Notch信号通路,它们由相同的蛋白Notch作为受体并且转录共激活子都比较简单,通路特异性的成员也比较少。另外,像Hh这类信号通路,它在果蝇中除了多功能蛋白外还包括11个已知的通路特异性成员:Hh、Ski(Skinny hedgehog)、Dispatched、iHog/boi、Ptc、Smo、Cos2、Fu、Su(Fu)和Ci。非脊椎动物中Cos2-Fu系统的出现说明这些多成员信号通路通过在现存的成员间插入新的蛋白而发生进化。

3.4 Gli活性的调控

Gli蛋白的活性调控与Ci的调控相似,但哺乳动物中存在三个Gli蛋白同源物: Gli1、Gli2和Gli3,这就增加了其调控的复杂性^[94]。Gli1和Gli2主要发挥激活剂的功能且两者在蛋白水平具有相近的活性^[95]。其中Gli1对于正常发育是非必需的,但Gli2的缺失会导致胚胎致死^[90]。Gli1由Hh配体诱导表达,它作为正反馈调控来延长细胞对Hh的应答。Gli3主要发挥抑

制剂的功能,它的缺失或突变会导致小鼠和人的肢体畸形^[96-97]。

在没有Hh信号时, Gli3发生磷酸化后被 β -TrCP识别并酶解加工形成截短的抑制剂形式。虽然Shh能够抑制Gli2和Gli3的加工并促使其全长形式的积累,但Gli2是否也能通过相似的途径被完全降解或形成截短的抑制剂形式目前还不清楚^[98]。

4 Hedgehog信号通路与疾病

正常状态下, Hedgehog信号通路对胚胎发育、干细胞自稳态、细胞分化、组织极化和细胞增殖等过程起着重要的调控作用。胚胎发育成熟后, Hh通路失活, Smo蛋白的活性收到抑制。如果出现Hh配体的异常表达、Smo蛋白被过度活化及Smo的抑制被不恰当解除,最终将会导致Hh信号通路的不正常激活, Gli转录因子以全长的形式转运进入细胞核内,发挥其转录激活子的功能,促进下游VEGF、*c-myc*等靶标基因的异常表达,造成细胞过度增殖,最终将导致肿瘤的发生。Hedgehog信号通路与肿瘤的增殖分化、血管新生、侵袭转移、细胞凋亡等有着密切的关系,暗示Hh信号通路的异常在癌症的发生、发展过程中起到重要作用。

在脊椎动物的胚胎发育时, Hh通路活性的丧失

表2 Hedgehog通路中突变与部分人类肿瘤的关系

Table 2 The relation between human tumour and the mutation of hedgehog components

| 病症 Disease | 突变 Mutation |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Nevoid basal cell carcinoma syndrome | PTCH, PTCH2, SHH, SMO, GLI1 |
| Squamous | PTCH |
| Rubinstein 2 taybi syndrome | CBP |
| Pallister 2 hall syndrome | GLI3 |
| Greig cephalopolysyndactyly | GLI3 |
| Breast cancer | SHH, PTCH |
| Primitive neuroectodermal tumor | PTCH |
| Meningioma | PTCH |
| Medulloblastoma | PTCH, PTCH2, SMO, SUFU, GLI3, SHH |
| Basal cell carcinoma | PTCH, PTCH2, SHH, SMO |
| Fetal rhabdomyoma | PTCH |
| Pancreatic cancer | SHH, IHH, HLI1 |
| Trichoepithelioma | PTCH |
| Prostate cancer | SHH, SUFU |
| Esophageal carcinoma | PTCH |
| Rhabdomyosarcoma | PTCH |

会引起严重的发育紊乱,造成前脑无裂畸形、多指畸形、颅面缺陷和骨骼畸形等等^[72]。近年来的研究证明,哺乳动物中Shh信号的依赖于初级纤毛的结构完整与功能正常。因此,纤毛缺陷也会造成人的Hh信号紊乱,引发各种综合征,例如Meckel、Bardet-Biedl、Kartagener syndromes、polycystic kidney disease和retinal degeneration等^[100]。

另一方面, Hh信号通路的异常会引起基底细胞癌、成神经管细胞瘤和横纹肌肉瘤(表2)。这些类型肿瘤的在Ptc种系突变的病人和小鼠中发生的几率较高,偶尔也会由Hh通路中Smo、Sufu或Gli的突变引起。Shh通路的异常活化也会引起神经胶质瘤、食道癌、胃癌、胰腺癌、前列腺癌和小细胞肺癌等。研究显示, Hh通路不仅会引起肿瘤而且能够通过调控细胞的生长与存活来促进癌症的发生。Goodrich及Gorlin等发现, Ptc等位基因的缺失会引起小鼠和人的体形变大。

一些影响人类身高的单核苷酸多态性定位于Hh通路成员,包括Ihh、Ptc及Hip^[101-102]。这暗示个人的身高差异部分是由骨生长过程中Ihh信号的负反馈调控强度所决定的。Hh通路还在胚胎发育中控制细胞的生长。过表达Ptc的转基因小鼠比对照小鼠体形小,但明显比例一致,这说明Hh信号通路控制多种组织的细胞生长。然而,这种对生长的调控是直接还是间接由胎盘的改变或血管的发育引起目前仍然不清楚。

5 小结

从二十多年前在果蝇中发现Hh信号通路到现在,人们逐渐深刻地认识到Hh信号通路是一个调控机体发育的重要信号通路。该通路从果蝇到人类,都非常保守。它参与了多种组织器官的形成与发育。而且研究发现, Hh通路与多种人类癌症的发生密切相关。

虽然Hh配体在组织中的合成、加工、释放和转运以及受体细胞对Hh信号的应答转导已经被广泛的研究,但仍有很多关于信号调控的细节没有被揭示。例如Hh信号梯度是如何通过Smo和Cos2/Fu复合物调控下游基因的表达。虽然果蝇中许多Hh通路关键成员是被磷酸化的,如Smo、Cos2、Fu和Su(fu),但是这些磷酸化事件在Hh信号转导过程中的具体作用现在依然不清楚。例如,在Hh存在时,

Smo会被PKA和CKI磷酸化,并与Cos2/Fu复合物一起转导Hh信号。然而,在信号转导中Fu的激酶活性是如何被调控及Fu的功能是如何被激活仍然不是很清楚。这些问题需要进一步的研究来阐明。而且,需要投资研究开发用于治疗由Hh通路引起的人类退行性疾病和癌症的药物——Hh通路的激活剂或拮抗剂。

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