

颗粒蛋白前体参与肾脏损伤的相关研究进展

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摘 要

肾脏疾病是临床上最常见的疾病之一, 包含原发性和继发性等多种分类, 具有多种表现。其进展至终末期肾衰竭将严重危害人类健康, 因此对其发病机制的探讨研究以及寻求有效延缓疾病进展的治疗手段意义重大。颗粒蛋白前体(progranulin, PGRN)是一种富含半胱氨酸的分泌蛋白, 广泛表达于多种组织及细胞中, 在神经退行性变、肿瘤形成、免疫调节、炎症中发挥重要的作用。最近有研究发现, 颗粒蛋白前体在肾脏疾病中也具有重要作用。本文总结了近年来PGRN在肾脏损伤方面的研究, 以期对临床肾脏病的防治提供新的方向。

关键词

颗粒蛋白前体, 肾病, 肾损伤, 肾炎, 免疫, 炎症

Research Progress on the Role of Progranulin in Kidney Injury

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Abstract

Kidney disease is one of the most common clinical conditions, encompassing primary and secondary classifications, among others, and presents with a variety of manifestations. Its progression to end-stage renal failure poses a serious threat to human health, making the exploration of its pathogenesis and the search for effective treatments to delay disease progression of significant importance. Progranulin (PGRN), a cysteine-rich secretory protein, is widely expressed in various tissues and cells and plays a crucial role in neurodegeneration, tumor formation, immune regulation, and inflammation. Recent

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studies have found that progranulin also plays an important role in kidney diseases. This article summarizes recent research on PGRN in kidney injury, aiming to provide new directions for the prevention and treatment of clinical kidney diseases.

Keywords

Progranulin, Kidney Disease, Kidney Injury, Nephritis, Immunity, Inflammation

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1. 引言

颗粒蛋白前体(progranulin, PGRN)是一种在上皮细胞、免疫细胞、神经元和脂肪细胞中表达的富含半胱氨酸的分泌蛋白。它首先因其生长因子特性而被发现,参与早期胚胎形成、组织重塑和伤口修复,充当抗炎分子。有研究表明,颗粒蛋白前体在中枢神经系统中具有营养和保护神经的作用,而神经退行性变和额颞叶痴呆(frontotemporal dementia, FTD)与 PGRN 缺乏有关。PGRN 在肿瘤的发生发展过程中也起着重要作用,其对肿瘤增殖、侵袭和细胞存活起到促进作用。PGRN 对自体免疫疾病也起着至关重要的作用,参与促进或抑制多种自体免疫疾病的发生和发展。世界范围内各国肾脏疾病的发病率都较高,发展到终末期会对人体健康造成严重威胁,是目前临床上较为常见的一种疾病。近年越来越多的研究显示,PGRN 在肾脏疾病发展中也发挥了一些作用。本文就 PGRN 在肾脏疾病中的研究进展,在急性肾损伤、糖尿病肾脏疾病(diabetic kidney disease, DKD)、系统性红斑狼疮性肾炎(lupus nephritis, LN)中的作用作一综述,为进一步探讨 PGRN 在相关疾病中的作用机制提供参考。

2. 颗粒蛋白前体(PGRN)的结构特性与生物学功能

2.1. PGRN 的结构特性及表达分布

PGRN 是一种富含半胱氨酸的多效分泌型蛋白,又被称为颗粒蛋白-上皮素前体(granulin-epithelinprecursor, GEP)、原上皮素和 PC 细胞衍生的生长因子(PC cell derived growth factor, PCDGF/GP88) [1]。PGRN 以完整形式分泌,被蛋白酶水解后,生成 7.5 个相对分子质量约为 6 kDa、分子结构高度保守、具有生物学活性的多肽片段(Grn A~G)。称为颗粒蛋白(granulin, Grn) [2] [3]。人源性 PGRN 是由位于染色体 17q21.33 上的 GRN (PGRN 编码基因)编码的、由 593 个氨基酸残基组成的分泌性糖蛋白,它在多种细胞中进行表达,包括上皮细胞[4]、免疫细胞[5]、巨噬细胞[6]、神经元[7]和脂肪细胞[8]、成纤维细胞[9]、软骨细胞[10]。每个 PGRN 相对分子质量约为 88 kDa,含有 7.5 个重复序列的结构域(CX5-6CX5CCX8CCX6CCXDX2HCCPX4CX5-6C),每个结构域由 12 个半胱氨酸组成。

2.2. PGRN 的生物学功能

2.2.1. 生长因子的作用

颗粒蛋白前体拥有类似生长因子的特性,主要通过激活细胞外信号调节激酶(ERK)以及磷脂酰肌醇 3 激酶(PI3K)-蛋白激酶 B (Akt)通路调节细胞存活和迁移,促进细胞进行有丝分裂[7] [11]。临床前研究表明,PGRN 在大鼠的生殖及胚胎细胞中持续保持高水平表达,且能促进大鼠胚胎的发育生长及脑部的功能性男性化[12] [13]。在胚胎发育的早期阶段,PGRN 在神经系统中广泛表达,能够促进神经元轴突生长

与修复, 并增加突触的分支, 被视为一种重要的神经营养因子。还有研究表明, PGRN 在胎盘组织中具有较高的表达水平, 并可能通过参与胚胎和胎盘的血管形成, 在妊娠相关并发症的发生中起重要作用, 并且 PGRN 的水平升高可提高滋养层细胞的增殖、侵袭能力, 抑制其凋亡[14]。有研究表示, 在小鼠经皮穿刺伤口中, PGRN 表达增加, 并且在损伤后的真皮成纤维细胞和血管内皮细胞中起到诱导作用。PGRN 诱导伤口中中性粒细胞、巨噬细胞的聚集增加, 促进成纤维细胞和内皮细胞分裂、迁移和新生毛细血管的形成, 加速了伤口愈合及组织重塑[15]。重组 PGRN 局部给药可有效促进骨折愈合。PGRN 还可通过 TNF- α -Akt 和 Erk1/2 通路诱导软骨内骨化过程中的合成代谢[16]。通过上述相同的通路(ERK、PI3K-Akt), PGRN 还有助于肿瘤增殖、侵袭和细胞存活。PGRN 在黑色素瘤[17]、卵巢癌[18]、乳腺癌[19]、膀胱癌[20]、前列腺癌[21]、肾细胞癌[22]、胃癌[23]、结直肠癌[24]、多发性骨髓瘤[25]、淋巴瘤[26]、淋巴细胞性白血病[27]中发现表达较正常人显著增加, 其中部分可作为预后标志物或分级标准[17] [20] [25] [26]。

2.2.2. 在神经系统中的表达

PGRN 具有营养和保护中枢神经的作用[28]。它参与神经突触的生长, 并可能在成人大脑的可塑性和重塑中发挥作用[7]。此外, PGRN 还保护神经元免于过早死亡[29], 并对应激[28]和神经炎症[28]起作用。研究显示, 神经退行性改变和额颞叶痴呆症(FTD)与 PGRN 裂解短肽片段 GRN 功能突变有关[30]。然而, PGRN 在神经退行性疾病[31]中的小胶质细胞中表达上调, 表现为 FTD, 特别是在具有实质性病理的脑区[32]。目前尚不清楚它是小胶质细胞损伤反应后的结果, 还是促进疾病进展的原因[28]。

2.2.3. 参与免疫炎症反应的调控

免疫系统与炎症机制的变化密不可分。当机体受到损伤或有病原微生物侵袭时, 往往伴有急性炎症, 这是机体保护机制中重要的一环。然而, 不受控制的炎症反应和持续的免疫反应可能导致免疫系统疾病的发生。其中, 肿瘤坏死因子 α (TNF- α) 等细胞因子在免疫反应中至关重要, TNF- α 是炎症级联反应的顶端, TNF- α /TNFR 信号通路协调大量炎症反应过程, 激活此信号通路可能会损害机体组织, 导致自身免疫性疾病的发生发展。全长的 PGRN 与 TNF 可结合同一受体, 通过 TNF 受体 1 (TNF- α 1) 发挥抗炎作用, 通过与 TNF 受体 2 (TNF- α 2) 结合刺激 CD4CD25Foxp3 调节性 T 细胞(Treg)活性, 限制 TNF- α 在一些免疫介导的疾病(如类风湿性关节炎和炎症性肠病)中的作用。即 PGRN 可作为拮抗剂阻断 TNF 的生物活性, 通过抑制 TNF 和 TNF- α 2 的结合而拮抗 TNF 介导的炎症反应[33]。在关节炎小鼠模型中, PGRN 可预防炎症[33]。在类风湿性关节炎中, 观察到血清 PGRN 水平升高, 但其与疾病发病机制的关系尚不清楚[34]。在银屑病患者、小鼠皮炎模型[35] [36]和伤口[15]的皮肤中观察到 PGRN 水平升高。一些研究者认为, 在这些情况下, PGRN 具有减轻炎症的作用, 可作为抗炎分子[35] [36]。在 SLE 患者中, 血清 PGRN 水平较对照组显著升高。PGRN 在体外被弹性蛋白酶裂解以产生 GRN 多肽片段, GRN 在先天免疫的防御感染中起着至关重要的作用。通过 GRN 与 Toll 样受体 9 (TLR9) 结合, 增强对细菌入侵的先天免疫力, 从而协助在巨噬细胞中募集 CpG 寡核苷酸(CpG-ODN) [37] [38]。例如, PGRN 可能通过增强 TLR9 信号转导来促进 SLE 的组织损伤并发挥促炎功能, 加重组织损伤[39]。

3. PGRN 与肾损伤

肾损伤包括原发性和继发性, 原发性肾脏病中包括原发性肾病综合征, 急、慢性肾小球肾炎, 急进性肾小球肾炎及 IgA 肾病等。而继发性肾脏疾病是由其他疾病进展进而导致的肾脏的病变, 如糖尿病肾病、狼疮性肾炎、乙肝相关性肾脏病、痛风性肾病、高血压性肾脏病、过敏性紫癜性肾炎、肾淀粉样变性等。在此研究基础上, 我们发现其中 PGRN 与狼疮肾炎、糖尿病肾病及肾脏炎症性损伤的机制有相关性。

3.1. PGRN 与系统性红斑狼疮性肾炎(LN)

系统性红斑狼疮(systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE)是一种慢性自身免疫性疾病,影响包括肾脏在内的许多器官。系统性红斑狼疮性肾炎(lupus nephritis, LN)是一种免疫复合物介导的肾小球肾炎,是 SLE 最严重的并发症之一,其特征是产生抗双链 DNA (dsDNA)抗体和免疫介导的肾小球损伤[40]。越来越多的证据表明, PGRN 参与了 LN 的发生。例如,最近的一项研究表明, LN 小鼠模型的血清 PGRN 水平显著高于对照组, GRN 可通过促进巨噬细胞 M2b 极化而加重 LN [41]。有研究证实,与正常对照组相比,活动性 LN 患者的血清 PGRN 水平要高得多。经过 3 周的激素治疗后,血清 PGRN 水平明显降低[42]。更重要的是, Tanaka 等人发现, SLE 患者的血清 PGRN 水平与疾病活动指数显著相关, PGRN 在 SLE 患者中上调,并且与促炎细胞因子和抗 dsDNA 抗体相关。糖皮质激素可下调 SLE 患者 PGRN 的表达[43]。

3.2. PGRN 与 2 型糖尿病(Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, T2DM)

2 型糖尿病(T2DM)的特征是对胰岛素作用的抵抗和胰岛素分泌的代偿性不足,导致血糖升高[44]。糖尿病肾病是其主要并发症之一。而 PGRN 被认定是一种关键的脂肪因子,通过脂肪组织中的 IL-6 介导高脂肪饮食诱导的胰岛素抵抗和肥胖。有研究显示, PGRN 及其受体与 2 型糖尿病患者肾功能下降有相关性[45]。

Zhou 等人研究发现,线粒体功能障碍和足细胞损伤被认为与 2 型糖尿病肾功能下降的发生密切相关[46]。PPAR- γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α)被确定是一种线粒体生物发生的重要调节因子。早期研究发现,糖尿病肾病患者肾脏病理中 PGC-1 α 较正常患者或糖尿病无肾病患者水平降低,并且糖尿病肾病的发生被认为与 PGC-1 α 表达或活性降低的线粒体生物发生缺陷有关。研究中显示,在体外,给予糖尿病模型小鼠施用重组人 PGRN (rPGRN), rPGRN 给药 6 周后,尿白蛋白排泄水平显著降低、系膜扩张减少、足细胞损伤显著改善以及肾小球细胞凋亡减少,显著改善了肾损伤,并伴有线粒体自噬增强。研究机制上,在高糖条件下,足细胞中的 PGC-1 α 水平和相关线粒体基因水平受到抑制。通过重组 PGRN 处理诱导 PGC-1 α 后,线粒体 DNA 含量和呼吸链功能恢复,表明 PGRN 可能通过线粒体生物发生和靶向 PGC-1 α 来促进足细胞损伤的恢复[47]。PGRN 通过调节线粒体生物发生和线粒体自噬维持其在线粒体稳态中的作用[46]。总的来说,糖尿病模型小鼠和经高葡萄糖处理的肾脏足细胞中的 PGRN 水平下调。PGRN 缺陷加剧了糖尿病小鼠足细胞的死亡和线粒体的损伤。而自噬的抑制干扰了 PGRN 在高糖诱导的足细胞毒性中的保护作用。此外,还通过实验数据明确恢复自噬和激活 CAMKK-AMPK 通路确定了 PGRN 在足细胞损伤中的保护作用[48]。

3.3. PGRN 与急性肾损伤(AKI)

在肾缺血再灌注损伤等急性情况下,早期研究显示,小鼠肾脏中 PGRN 水平明显下降。此外,还观察到 PGRN 缺陷小鼠较野生型小鼠相比,表现出血清肌酐和血尿素氮升高,形态学改变更严重以及炎症反应升高。研究发现, rPGRN 减弱了由缺氧引起的近端肾小管上皮细胞的炎症作用和细胞凋亡,在体外,经 rPGRN 预处理或延迟给药的小鼠,可以促进肾缺血再灌注损伤后的炎症恢复[49]。因此, PGRN 在肾缺血再灌注损伤后在肾脏中起保护作用并具有抗炎作用。另一项研究发现,由脂多糖(LPS)诱导的小鼠内毒素血症所致 AKI 期间, PGRN 在肾脏中过表达。PGRN 缺陷小鼠与野生小鼠相比, LPS 输注后小鼠出现了更严重的肾损伤和炎症反应表现。在 rPGRN 延迟给药后, PGRN 免疫缺陷小鼠肾脏损伤和炎症反应都表现出明显改善。并且 Zhang 等人的研究显示,补体 C5a/C5aR 通路通过抑制 PGRN 表达加重肾缺血再灌注诱导的急性肾损伤,研究中发现肾脏缺血再灌注后 C5aR 表达较前显著上调,重组 C5a 加强了 TNF α 诱导的 HK-2 细胞中 NF- κ B 活化,导致肾小管上皮细胞(HK-2 细胞)中 PGRN 水平下调,且 C5aR 缺陷导

致 PGRN 表达显著增加, 而 C5aR 缺陷导致缺血再灌注后 24 小时 NF- κ B 表达减弱。抑制 NF- κ B 激活, 使得 C5a 诱导的 PGRN 表达下调, 减少炎症细胞因子的产生及肾小管损伤[50]。

4. 总结与展望

PGRN 作为一种多效性蛋白, 参与了细胞多种信号通路的调节, 在细胞发育、细胞周期控制、胚胎发生、血管生成、肿瘤、伤口愈合、炎症过程以及自身免疫过程中显示出强大的调节作用, 需要在不同领域进行更加深入的研究, 本文就 PGRN 的结构与功能, 以及其在多种肾脏疾病中的调节机制和潜在作用进行阐述。PGRN 在系统性红斑狼疮性肾炎中起到促炎作用, 而在糖尿病肾病、肾脏缺血再灌注以及内毒素血症所致 AKI 中起到抗炎保护作用。

目前, 对于 PGRN 的结构和生物学功能的研究正在不断完善, 但是异常表达的 PGRN 造成多种疾病的发病机制尚不清楚, 未来对 PGRN 和 GRN 的研究仍至关重要, 将有助于为临床治疗肾脏损伤提供新思路。

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