

CAR-T细胞治疗难治/复发急性T淋巴细胞白血病的临床进展

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摘 要

急性T淋巴细胞白血病(T-ALL)起源于未成熟的胸腺细胞, 患者的总体预后较急性B淋巴细胞白血病(B-ALL)患者差, 生存时间短, 尤其难治/复发T-ALL (R/R T-ALL)。虽然新型化疗药物、靶向治疗等治疗方案使该类患者的预后得到了一定程度的改善, 但患者的获益仍有限。随着肿瘤免疫治疗时代的到来, 嵌合抗原受体T细胞(CAR-T)疗法引入了血液肿瘤的治疗, 一定程度上改善了R/R T-ALL患者的预后, 本文就CAR-T细胞治疗R/R T-ALL的进展进行综述, 以探讨其可行性及潜能。

关键词

CAR-T细胞疗法, 急性淋巴细胞白血病, 治疗

Clinical Progress of CAR-T Cell Therapy for Refractory/Relapsed Acute T Lymphoblastic Leukemia

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Abstract

T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL) originates from immature thymocytes, and the overall prognosis for patients is poorer compared to those with acute B-lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL), with shorter survival times, especially in cases of refractory or relapsed T-ALL (R/R T-ALL). Alt-

though novel chemotherapeutic agents and targeted therapies have improved the prognosis for these patients to some extent, the benefits remain limited. With the advent of the era of tumor immunotherapy, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy has been introduced into the treatment of hematologic malignancies, which has improved the prognosis of R/R T-ALL patients to a certain extent. This article reviews the progress of CAR-T cell therapy for R/R T-ALL, so as to explore this therapy's feasibility and potential.

Keywords

CAR-T Cell Therapy, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, Treatment

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1. 引言

急性 T 淋巴细胞白血病(T-ALL)是一种起源于未成熟胸腺细胞的恶性疾病[1]。T-ALL 占成人急性白血病的 20%~25% [2]。有效的治疗方法比较有限, 尽管近年来强化化疗方案、同种异体造血干细胞移植(allo-HSCT)改善了患者预后, 但 5 年无事件生存率和总生存率仍然很低, 尤其是难治性/复发 T-ALL (R/R T-ALL)患者, R/R T-ALL 患者长期生存率很差[2], 中位生存期为 5~8 个月[3]。因此亟需新的治疗方案改善该类患者的总体预后, 免疫疗法的出现改变了患者的预后, 是治疗血液肿瘤的有力武器。嵌合抗原受体 T 细胞(CAR-T)在治疗急性淋巴细胞白血病上取得了重大成果[4]-[7]。但在 T-ALL 的治疗上受到了限制, 因为 CAR-T 细胞和 T-ALL 肿瘤细胞存在共同的靶抗原导致 CAR-T 细胞自相残杀[8] [9], 使其扩展到 T-ALL 充满挑战性。但在免疫疗法的大力推动下, CAR-T 细胞疗法已经在 R/R T-ALL 的治疗上看到了曙光。

2. CAR-T 治疗 R/R T-ALL 的临床应用靶点

2.1. CD7-CAR-T

CD7 在 T-ALL 患者诊断、复发时的肿瘤细胞中高表达, 在微小残留病灶(MRD)中>99%的肿瘤细胞 CD7+, CD7 在治疗期间保持高水平[10], 是治疗 T-ALL 的可靠靶点。通过 CRISPR-Cas9 编辑、自然选择、重组抗 CD7 抗体、SECTM1 CAR-T 细胞、内质网保留等方式, 阻断 CAR-T 细胞 CD7 的表达[11]-[17], 可以预防 CAR-T 细胞的自相残杀。N. Watanabe 等人还发现使用达沙替尼等激酶抑制剂可以预防 CD7 CAR-T 细胞的自相残杀[18]。

Pan 等人使用 IntraBlock 技术设计了一种供体来源的靶向 CD7 的 CAR-T 细胞, 并纳入 20 名 R/R T-ALL 患者进行了 I 期临床试验。90%患者达到完全缓解(CR), 随访 6.3 个月时, 15 名仍处于缓解状态。早期缓解率高。主要不良事件为细胞因子释放综合征(CRS)、血细胞减少, CRS 多为 1~2 级, 3~4 级血细胞减少在所有患者中均可观察到, 60%患者发生 1~2 级移植物抗宿主病(GVHD), 部分患者出现神经毒性、病毒感染等。绝大部分不良事件都是可逆的[17]。持续随访发现, 1 年无进展生存期(PFS)和总生存期(OS)为 51.6%和 72.5%, 远期生存率较高。短期不良事件包括 ≥3 级 CRS 和 1~2 级 GVHD, 是可逆的不良事件, 6 名患者发生了迟发性严重不良事件。复发患者检测多有 CD7 阴性[19]。X. Zhang 等人从大量 T 细胞中提取天然选择的 CD7 CAR-T 细胞(NS7CAR-T), 并进行了 I/II 期临床试验, 分析了 53 名接受 NS7CAR-T 细胞输注的 R/R T-ALL/淋巴母细胞淋巴瘤(LBL)患者的预后情况, 其中 34 人为 T-ALL。完善评估的 48

名患者中 95.8% 在第 28 天达到 MRD 阴性 CR。18 个月 OS 和无事件生存期(EFS)分别为 75.0% 和 53.1%。32 名患者在 3 个月内行巩固性 allo-HSCT, 18 个月 OS 和 EFS 分别为 75.8% 和 71.5%。21 名无巩固性 allo-HSCT 患者中, 未达到 CR 的患者(11/21)接受挽救性移植, 7 (7/21) 名患者在中位 88 (45~122) 天内仍处于 CR 状态, 2 (2/21) 名患者在 5 个月内死亡, 1 (1/21) 名患者在 6 个月后失访。88.7% 患者发生轻度 CRS, 只有 2 名患者出现 I 级神经毒性。同时他们还发现 STIL-TAL1 融合基因阳性患者往往反应较差且复发较早[20]。A. Ghobadi 等人用 CRISPR-Cas9 编辑获得的 WU-CART-007 是一种同种异体 CD7 靶向 CAR-T 细胞[21]。针对该种 CAR-T 细胞进行了 I/II 期临床试验, 入组的 26 名患者中, 13 名患者接受 WU-CART-007 细胞输注, 复合完全缓解率为 81.8%。有 88.5% 患者出现 CRS, 其中 19.2% 为 3~4 级 CRS。严重不良事件比较少见[21]。从上述研究中我们可以发现不同方法制备的 CD7 CAR-T 虽然在临床疗效和安全性上存在一定差异, 但总体来说对于细胞疗法治疗 R/R T-ALL 患者有着较好的疗效及安全性。患者缓解率高, 为 81.8%~90%, NS7CAR-T 细胞治疗 R/R T-ALL/LBL 患者的缓解率甚至达到了 95.8%。1 年以上的 OS 和 EFS 率可以达到 70% 和 50% 以上。最常见的不良事件为 CRS, 发生率为 88.5%~100%, 且以 1~2 级 CRS 为主。同时血细胞减少、GVHD 也是常见的不良反应, 神经毒性、重症感染等相对少见。对于复发的患者多有 CD 靶点的丢失, 是影响复发的重要因素。

Y. Zhang 等人探索了自体 and 同种异体抗 CD7 CAR-T 疗法在 T-ALL 和 T 细胞淋巴瘤中的差异, 与接受自体 CAR-T 细胞疗法的患者相比, 接受同种异体 CAR-T 细胞治疗的患者具有更高的缓解率、更少复发, 同时 CAR-T 存在时间更长[22]。对于 R/R T-ALL 患者供体来源的 CAR-T 细胞疗效可能是更好的选择。

Z. Li 等人回顾性分析了 R/R T-ALL (40, 44.4%) 及 T-LBL (50, 55.6%) 共 90 例患者的预后, 发现使用 CD7 CAR-T 细胞桥接同种异体 HSCT 大大增强了化疗耐药 T-ALL/LBL 患者的长期 DFS [23]。X. Zhang 等人的研究中可以发现予以患者 CAR-T 治疗后行 HSCT 的 EFS 率较总体水平高, 分别为 71.5% 和 53.1% [20]。CAR-T 桥接 HSCT 可能更大程度地改善患者的预后。

2.2. CD5

CD5 在大多数 T 细胞恶性肿瘤中表达, 包括 T-ALL 和 T 淋巴瘤, 也在一些 B 细胞淋巴瘤中表达, 但在造血干细胞和其他非造血细胞中不表达[24] [25]。J. Pan 等人纳入了 19 名 R/R T-ALL 患者行临床研究, 16 名患者(既往大多接受过 CD7 CAR-T 治疗)予以靶向 CD5 CAR-T 细胞治疗, 所有患者在第 30 天时均达到 CR 或完全缓解伴不完全血液学恢复(CRi)。中位随访 14.3 个月时, 4 例接受了移植, 3 例缓解, 1 例死于感染; 在 12 名未移植患者中, 2 例缓解, 3 例复发, 5 例死于感染, 2 例死于血栓性微血管病; 14.3 月 OS 和 PFS 为 50.0% 和 31.3%。所有患者均出现 3~4 级血细胞减少症, 1 人在 30 天内出现 3 级感染[26]。巩固性移植可以减轻迟发性严重感染的风险[26]。从上述研究中我们可以看到相较于 CD7 CAR-T, CD5 CAR-T 治疗 R/R T-ALL 患者早期可以获得更高的缓解率, 远期效果似乎 CD7 CAR-T 更佳显著。最常见的不良反应为血细胞减少, 感染等风险相对少见。但该研究的样本量相对较小, 需要扩大样本量及更多的临床研究以深入探索 CD5 CAR-T 细胞疗法的有效性和安全性。

3. CAR-T 治疗 R/R T-ALL 的潜力靶点

3.1. CD1a

CD1a 是一种脂质呈递分子, 仅在皮质 T-ALL (coT-ALL) 和朗格汉斯细胞(LC)表达, 在 coT-ALL 复发时仍有表达[27], 在发育中的皮质胸腺细胞和 LC 以外的其他人体组织中几乎不存在[28]-[30], 从而限制了靶点外毒性的风险。D. Sánchez-Martínez 等人开发并验证了一种 CD1a CAR-T 细胞, 在 coT-ALL 异

种移植模型中具有强大且特异的体外细胞毒性和体内抗肿瘤活性。由于缺少共同抗原, CD1a CAR-T 具有抗自相残杀作用, 可在体内长期存在, 并对病毒抗原做出反应[27]。CD1a CAR-T 治疗 R/R coT-ALL 提供临床前依据。现在有 CD1a CAR-T 治疗复发/难治性 T 细胞急性淋巴细胞白血病/淋巴瘤的临床试验正在招募中(NCT05745181)。

3.2. CCR9

趋化因子受体 CCR9 在>70%的 T-ALL 患者中表达, 包括>85%的难治/复发患者, 仅在一小部分(<5%)正常 T 细胞中表达[31]。P.M. Maciocia 等人开发了一种 CCR9 CAR-T 细胞, 这种 CAR-T 细胞有抗自相残杀作用。通过动物实验发现未治疗、接受未转导 T 细胞或 CAR19 CAR-T 细胞静脉注射的小鼠经历了疾病进展、体重减轻和死亡, 但接受 CCR9 -T 静脉注射的小鼠出现疾病消退、体重持续增加和延长超过 80 天的生存期。建立病人来源异种移植移植模型(PDX)发现随着时间推移所有接受未转导 T 细胞或 CAR19 CAR-T 细胞静脉注射的小鼠外周血 ALL 负荷增加, 体重减轻、脾肿大和最终死亡。而所有予以 CCR9 CAR-T 的小鼠检测不到肿瘤细胞和长期的无病生存, 尸检时骨髓或脾脏中没有检测到原始细胞[32]。即使在低靶抗原密度的情况下在体外和体内仍具有强大的抗白血病活性[31]。CCR9 CAR-T 细胞有强大抗白血病作用, 它可能在治疗 T-ALL 上取得重大进展。

3.3. CD38

CD38 在多发性骨髓瘤(MM)细胞上表达水平较高, 在正常淋巴细胞以及一些非造血组织中表达水平相对较低[32], 多能造血干细胞不表达 CD38 [33], S.D. Jalal 对 282 名 ALL 患者进行的免疫表型分析显示 95.1%的 T-ALL 患者样本表达 CD38 [34], 同时有其他研究发现 T-ALL 细胞中 CD38 表达水平显著高于 B-ALL [35]。这使得 CD38 成为了有潜力的治疗靶点。T. Glisovic-Aplenc 等人建立了 5 个 PDX, 小鼠随机分配接受 CD38 CAR-T、非转导 T 细胞或生理盐水注射, 同时监测小鼠肿瘤负荷, 虽然 CD38 CAR-T 在不同模型中对 T-ALL 的抗肿瘤活性不同, 但 4 个模型中小鼠的生存期均有延长, 在所有未转导 T 细胞或 daratumumab 治疗的对照小鼠中都观察到了白血病快速进展[36]。X. Wang 等人的研究发现 CD38 CAR-T 细胞在体外和小鼠异种移植物中显著抑制 CD38 高表达的 MM、套细胞淋巴瘤(MCL)、Waldenstrom 巨球蛋白血症(WM)、T-ALL 和 NK/T 细胞淋巴瘤(NKTCL)的生长。CD38 CAR-T 细胞显著降低小鼠肿瘤负荷并减缓疾病进展[37]。CD38 CAR-T 有望在 CD38+的 T-ALL 患者中得到应用。

3.4. CD99

CD99 在新诊断的 T-ALL 中表达更高[38], 也被用作检测 MRD 的新工具[39]。J. Shi 等发现, T-ALL 肿瘤细胞与正常 T 细胞相比, CD99 在转录产物和蛋白质水平上调[40]。他们分离了一种低亲和力 CD99 (12E7)抗体, 它特异性识别表达 CD99 的 T-ALL 细胞系, 但不识别正常血细胞。通过系统的分析发现仅在胸腺观察到部分 12E7 mAb 阳性信号, 在脾脏、肝脏、肾脏或其他重要器官中没有观察到 12E7 mAb 阳性信号, 说明该抗体识别肿瘤细胞特异性高。进一步研究发现抗 CD99 CAR-T 细胞在体外显示出对 CD99+T-ALL 细胞系和原代肿瘤细胞的强大细胞毒性[40]。结果表明抗 CD99 CAR-T 细胞是用于治疗 T-ALL 的潜在靶点。

3.5. CD147

CD147 是一种免疫球蛋白超家族的高度糖基化跨膜糖蛋白, 在各种肿瘤中高度表达[41] [42]。尽管 CD147 在健康受试者的白细胞、红细胞、血小板和内皮细胞中也有表达[40], 大约一半的 T 细胞低表达 CD147, 但是 T-ALL 患者大多数 T 细胞的 CD147 表达显著高于健康受试者, 并且 CD147 在淋巴母细胞

淋巴瘤、间变性大细胞淋巴瘤和血管免疫母细胞性 T 细胞淋巴瘤中过表达[43]。N.-S. Zheng 等构建 CD147 特异性 CAR-T 细胞, 并完善了动物实验, 通过监测和分析小鼠肿瘤负荷、体重和生存率, 发现 CD147 CAR-T 细胞对 T-ALL 具有极好的抑制作用[44]。

3.6. NKG2D

自然杀伤组 2D (NKG2D)受体是一种激活受体, 在保护宿主免受感染和癌症方面发挥重要作用[45]。NKG2D 受体配体(NKG2DL)在急性髓系白血病(AML)和 ALL 在内的肿瘤中有表达[46] [47], 在白血病原始细胞中上调[45]。以上发现使其成为基于 NKG2D CAR-T 治疗的潜力靶点。L. Driouk 等人报道了 NKG2D CAR-T 细胞具有强大、特异的抗白血病细胞活性[48]。已经有难治/复发急性髓系白血病患者在接受自体 NKG2D CAR-T 细胞治疗后达到 CR [49]。M. Ibáñez-Navarro 等人发现 NKG2D CAR-T 细胞在体内控制了 T-ALL 负荷并提高了小鼠的存活率, 但未能治愈。在人 T-ALL 的小鼠模型中, NKG2D CAR-T 细胞延迟了白血病进展并延长了生存期, 同时在最高剂量下也没有观察到治疗相关的毒性表现[50]。

3.7. CD2

CD2 是一种局限于造血细胞的跨膜糖蛋白, 在 NK 细胞和 T 细胞中高表达[51]。CD2 在 T 细胞活化以及免疫突触形成起重要作用[52]。CD2 在多种 T 细胞恶性肿瘤中表达, 包括 T-ALL、SS (Sezary 综合征)、外周 T 细胞恶性肿瘤和成人 T 细胞白血病/淋巴瘤(ATL)。而且 CD2 是 T 细胞恶性肿瘤中缺失或丢失频率最低的表面标志物之一[53]。J. Xiang 等人研发了一种针对同种异体通用 CD2 靶点 CAR-T 细胞 (UCART2), 通过移除 CD2 分子和 T 细胞受体, 有效预防了细胞自相残杀现象以及移植物抗宿主病(GVHD)的发生[54]。CD2 缺失导致的 CAR-T 功能功效的丧失通过与 rhIL-7-hyFc (重组人白细胞介素 7 与杂交 Fc 融合)的共同处理来补偿, 以达到增强 CAR-T 胞的扩增、疗效和持久性[55]。在临床前模型体内使用 rhIL-7-hyFc, 以达到 UCART2 能治疗 T 细胞恶性肿瘤的目的。UCART2 对 T-ALL、皮肤 T 细胞淋巴瘤(CTCL)和患者来源的 T-ALL 异种移植物表现出有效的反应。UCART2 可能是一种有效的治疗方法, 可用于多种 CD2+T 细胞肿瘤[54]。

3.8. CD4

CD4 是一种 T 细胞标志物, 在 45%~80%的 T-ALL [56]和外周 T 细胞淋巴瘤(PTCL)上表达[57], 但不在造血干细胞上表达。双阴性 T 细胞(DNT)是一种罕见的成熟 T 细胞亚群, 表达 CD3 但不表达 CD4 或 CD8 [58]。K.K.-L. Fang 等人发现了同种异体 CD4 CAR-DNT 作为治疗 T 细胞恶性肿瘤的潜力, 并为同种异体 DNT 作为治疗其他 T 细胞肿瘤的载体开辟了道路[59]。G. Ma 等也证实了 CD4 CAR-T 细胞在将来用于治疗 CD4 阳性 T-ALL 的潜在用途[60]。

3.9. TfR

转铁蛋白受体(TfR/CD71)在肿瘤增殖、侵袭和转移中起重要作用[61]-[63], 其过表达与癌症患者的不良预后有关。TfR 在快速增殖的肿瘤细胞上普遍表达, 并有可能成为替代靶标[64]。Z. Guo 等人生成了 TfR CAR-T 细胞, 并针对几种 TfR + 血液恶性细胞评估 TfR CAR-T 细胞的效果, TfR CAR-T 细胞杀死体外多种肿瘤细胞和体内 T-ALL 细胞效果强大[62]。TfR 可能是扩大和提高 CAR-T 细胞治疗效果的通用靶点。

4. 结语

随着不同治疗方法的出现 R/R T-ALL 患者得到了一定的改善。以奈拉滨为基础的化疗方案在一定程

度上改善了患者的预后, R/R T-ALL 患者 CR 率和 PR 率分别为 37.2%和 10.2% [65], 1 年总生存率为 24%~37% [66] [67]。BCL-2 抑制剂维奈克拉联合多药化疗、去甲基化药物、达雷妥尤单抗治疗 R/R T-ALL 也显示出了一定的疗效[68]-[72]。维奈克拉联合多药化疗治疗 R/R ETP-ALL 总缓解率为 67.7%, 1 年的 OS 率为 60.0%, 中位 OS 为 17.7 个月[69]。随着 CAR-T 细胞疗法的问世进一步改善了 R/R T-ALL 患者的预后, 使患者获益更多, CR 率可以达到 80%以上, 1 年以上的 OS 和 EFS 率较新化疗方案及靶向治疗更高[16] [18]-[20]。新型化疗方案、CAR-T 细胞疗法等桥接 HSCT 可以改善患者的总体预后[22] [66] [67], 同时也有研究发现巩固性移植有减轻迟发性严重感染的风险的作用[26]。HSCT 仍然是影响患者预后的重要因素之一, 未来造血干细胞移植的地位是否会被撼动需要更多的研究来证实。尽管随着 CAR-T 疗法的发展, 我们对 R/R T-ALL 的治疗有了更多的选择, 但如何使 R/R T-ALL 患者的总体预后如何得到提升, 减少治疗相关不良反应以及管理治疗不良反应需要更多的经验累计。CAR-T 细胞疗法潜在靶点的研究可能会进一步提升疗效, R/R T-ALL 的治疗可能有更多的选择和空间。靶点丢失可导致疾病复发[18] [20], 通过双靶点 CAR-T 细胞疗法也许能使患者的预后得到改善, 但制备技术要求更高及不良反应可能更严重。同时, 随着新的免疫细胞(如自然杀伤细胞[41]、巨噬细胞[73]等)的运用可能是治疗 R/R T-ALL 的有效策略。

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