曹雪涛团队在 Cell 杂志发表癌症相关新成果

The Group of Xuetao Cao Has Published the New Results Related to Cancer in Cell



曹雪涛院士

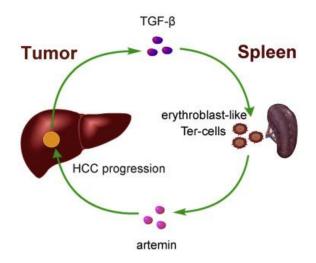
【Cell 系列】2018 年 4 月 19 日,发表在 Cell 杂志上题为"Tumor-Induced Generation of Splenic Erythroblast-like Ter-Cells Promotes Tumor Progression"的论文中,曹雪涛院士团队报道了在晚期癌症肿大的脾脏中发现了一种称之为 Ter 细胞的新型红细胞样亚群,此细胞能够通过分泌神经营养因子 artemin 促进癌症恶性进展。该发现为癌症预后判断和干预治疗提出了新思路。

目前认为,癌症是一种发生于局部而累及全身多器官功能的系统性疾病,例如晚期患者往往脾脏肿大。以往对于癌症发生发展机制和诊断治疗的研究多集中于癌细胞本身,而对于原发瘤体之外机体远端器官异常在癌症免疫逃逸和侵袭转移等恶化过程中的作用认识不足。

该研究中,曹雪涛院士与第二军医大学医学免疫学国家重点实验室韩岩梅、刘秋燕和侯晋课题组通力合作,与中国医学科学院基础医学研究所、复旦大学中山医院肝癌研究所、上海方肝胆外科医院等单位联合攻关,通过系统分析晚期癌症宿主器官中免疫细胞的异常变化,在脾脏中发现了一群能够促进癌症恶性进展的新型细胞亚群并揭示了其作用机制。

研究发现,癌症原发灶通过向血液中释放 β 型转化生长因子,诱导脾脏红系发育障碍并产生一类表达 Ter-119 红系细胞标志的新型细胞亚群,由此将其命名为 Ter 细胞。位于脾脏内的该细胞能分泌大量神经营养因子 artemin,导致血中 artemin 水平显著升高,进而促进癌细胞侵袭转移并伴随恶性贫血。通过多个临床中心的肝癌患者队列研究发现,肝癌患者血清artemin 水平越高,预后越差。通过抗体阻断 artemin 作用可以抑制癌症进展并显著延长宿主存活期。

该工作为癌症预后判断和干预治疗提出了新的潜在靶点,丰富了对于癌症全身性异常变化促进恶性进程的认识,发现了癌症原发灶能够利用远端脾脏产生新型细胞亚群而导致患者病情恶化的新方式,提出了切除晚期癌症患者脾脏或者选择性清除 Ter 细胞有助于综合治疗晚期癌症的观点。





Tumor-Induced Generation of Splenic Erythroblast-like Ter-Cells Promotes Tumor Progression

肿瘤诱导的脾脏红细胞样 Ter 细胞的产生促进肿瘤进展

第二军医大学、中国医学科学院、南开大学 曹雪涛

4月19日

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2018.02.061

Identifying tumor-induced leukocyte subsets and their derived circulating factors has been instrumental in understanding cancer as a systemic disease. Nevertheless, how primary tumor-induced non-leukocyte populations in distal organs contribute to systemic spread remains poorly defined. Here, we report one population of tumor-inducible, erythroblast-like cells (Ter-cells) deriving from megakaryocyte-erythroid progenitor cells with a unique Ter-119+CD45–CD71+ phenotype. Ter-cells are enriched in the enlarged spleen of hosts bearing advanced tumors and facilitate tumor progression by secreting neurotrophic factor artemin into the blood. Transforming growth factor β (TGF- β) and Smad3 activation are important in Ter-cell generation. In vivo blockade of Ter-cell-derived artemin inhibits hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) growth, and artemin deficiency abolishes Ter-cells' tumor-promoting ability. We confirm the presence of splenic artemin-positive Ter-cells in human HCC patients and show that significantly elevated serum artemin correlates with poor prognosis. We propose that Ter-cells and the secreted artemin play important roles in cancer progression with prognostic and therapeutic implications.