

# NLRP3炎症小体与特发性膜性肾病的相关性研究

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## 摘 要

特发性膜性肾病(IMN)是一种自身免疫性疾病,是肾病综合征的主要原因之一,由自身抗体攻击足细胞抗原导致原位产生免疫复合物而引起,该疾病表现出异质性的结果,大约30%的病例进展为终末期肾病。NLRP3炎症小体是一种细胞内多蛋白复合物,作为先天免疫系统中的重要传感器,NLRP3检测外源性致病性侵袭和内源性细胞损伤,并通过形成NLRP3炎症小体(一种激活caspase-1的超分子复合物)来做出反应。越来越多的证据表明,特发性膜性肾病的发病与NLRP3炎症小体有关。抑制NLRP3炎症小体为治疗特发性膜性肾病提供了更多的可能性。

## 关键词

特发性膜性肾病, NLRP3炎症小体, 终末期肾病

# Research on the Correlation between NLRP3 Inflammasome and Idiopathic Membranous Nephropathy

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## Abstract

Idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN) is an autoimmune disease and one of the main causes

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of nephrotic syndrome. It is caused by the *in-situ* formation of immune complexes resulting from the attack of autoantibodies on podocyte antigens. This disease shows heterogeneous outcomes, and approximately 30% of cases progress to end-stage renal disease. The NLRP3 inflammasome is an intracellular multi-protein complex. As an important sensor in the innate immune system, NLRP3 detects exogenous pathogenic invasions and endogenous cell damage and responds by forming the NLRP3 inflammasome, a supramolecular complex that activates caspase-1. There is increasing evidence suggesting that the onset of idiopathic membranous nephropathy is related to the NLRP3 inflammasome. Inhibiting the NLRP3 inflammasome provides more possibilities for the treatment of idiopathic membranous nephropathy.

## Keywords

Idiopathic Membranous Nephropathy, NLRP3 Inflammasome, End-Stage Renal Disease

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## 1. 引言

膜性肾病(MN)是成人肾病综合征的常见原因。特发性膜性肾病(IMN)是 MN 的一种形式。IMN 被描述为一种自身免疫性疾病,其发病机制相当复杂,易发生静脉栓塞、感染等并发症,近年研究发现核苷酸结合寡聚化结构域样受体蛋白 3 (nucleotide-binding domain and leucine-rich repeat protein 3, NLRP3)在肾脏炎症反应过程中具有重要作用,本文旨在回顾 NLRP3 炎症小体在特发性膜型肾病中的重要性及其预测疾病预后指标的潜力。

## 2. NLRP3 炎症小体的结构与功能

NLRP3 是一种 118 kDa 胞质 PRR 蛋白,由多种细胞表达,包括中性粒细胞、巨噬细胞、小胶质细胞、淋巴细胞、上皮细胞、成骨细胞、神经元和树突状细胞。NLRP3 蛋白包含一个 C 末端富含亮氨酸重复序列(LRR)结构域、一个介导寡聚化的含中央 ATP 酶的 NACHT (存在于 NAIP、CIITA、HET-E 和 TP1 中)结构域,以及一个募集蛋白质以形成炎症小体复合物的 N 末端 pyrin (PYD)结构域。与其他炎症小体一样,NLRP3 炎症小体复合物由传感器(NLRP3 蛋白)、接头蛋白(细胞凋亡相关斑点样蛋白,ASC)和效应物(caspase-1)组成。NLRP3 炎症小体是炎症的中心分子介质,通过激活 Caspase-1 促进炎症细胞因子 IL-1 $\beta$  和 IL-18 等分泌,导致氧化应激和慢性炎症。

## 3. NLRP3 炎症小体的激活

NLRP3 的激活包含两个关键步骤,即启动步骤与激活步骤。首先,NLRP3 表达可在识别 PAMP 或 DAMP 时由 PRR 或参与免疫和炎症反应的细胞因子引发。激活 NF- $\kappa$ B 或其他转录因子后,NLRP3 以及其他炎症小体组分的表达转录上调[1]-[4]。NLRP3 的翻译后修饰(包括泛素化、磷酸化和 sumoylation)也会引发 NLRP3 激活,同时仍使 NLRP3 保持自抑制状态[2]-[4]。在第二步中,NLRP3 被各种微生物和无菌刺激激活,这些刺激通常会收敛到 K<sup>+</sup>外排或其他离子变化[3] [5]-[10]。这些刺激的范围从细菌毒素(如黑合菌素)到细胞外 ATP,再到微粒(如尿酸晶体、胆固醇晶体和淀粉样蛋白)。重要的是,已发现一种导致有丝分裂的丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶 NEK7 (NIMA 相关激酶)通过直接结合在 NLRP3 激活中发挥关键作用[11]-[14]。激活后,NLRP3 组装并募集下游组分以形成炎症小体复合体,激活的炎症 caspase 蛋白水解处

理细胞因子以产生成熟形式并诱导高度炎性细胞死亡形式, 称为细胞焦亡[1] [3] [9] [15]。

#### 4. 特发性膜性肾病

MN 也是原发性肾小球肾炎中终末期肾病(ESRD)的常见原因。MN 的主要临床表现包括重蛋白尿 (通常为 $>3.5$  g/d)、低白蛋白血症、不同程度的组织水肿和高脂血症[16]。MN 的诊断取决于肾活检样本病理学结果, 病理特征包括: 光学显微镜下肾小球毛细血管壁增厚, 无明显的肾小球细胞增多, 免疫荧光显微镜下沿肾小球毛细血管壁显示 IgG 和补体 C3, 电子显微镜下上皮电子致密沉积[16]-[18]。根据病因, MN 可分为特发性(也称为原发性)或继发性 MN [19]。PMN 和 SMN 分别约占 MN 病例的 75%~80%和 20%~25% [17] [20] [21]。约 30%的成人肾病综合征由膜性肾病综合征引起[22] [23], 特发性膜性肾病(Idiopathic membranous nephropathy, IMN)是一种抗体介导的足细胞损伤疾病, 是成人肾病综合征的最常见原因之一[17] [21]。是肾病综合征的主要原因之一。MN 的发病机制很复杂, 核心过程是在肾小球基底膜中形成免疫复合物。目前提出, 循环自身抗体及其在肾小球足细胞上的靶抗原的原位免疫复合物沉积在上皮细胞下, 导致补体激活, 从而破坏足细胞结构并导致蛋白尿[24]。

#### 5. NLRP3 炎症小体与 IMN

Nan 等[25]研究发现 NLRP3 炎症小体和 caspase-1 在 IMN 患者肾脏组织中高表达, 在各期 IMN 中的表达趋势与 NLRP3 炎症小体一致, 活化的 caspase-1 将生物无活性肽 pro-IL-1 $\beta$  和 pro-IL-18 分别加工成其活性形式 IL-1 $\beta$  和 IL-18。同时伴有炎症因子 TNF- $\alpha$  和 IL-1 $\beta$  高表达。实验证据表明, 针对 NLRP3 炎症小体的活性调控可有效缓解肥胖相关肾小球病变的早期肾损伤。在肥胖诱发的代谢紊乱背景下, NLRP3 炎症小体的异常活化通过介导 IL-1 $\beta$  和 IL-18 等促炎因子的成熟释放, 加剧肾脏局部的炎性微环境及足细胞损伤, 最终导致肾小球滤过屏障功能障碍。通过药理学手段阻断该炎症小体的活化通路, 可显著降低肾小球系膜基质增生及足细胞脱落等病理改变。这一机制与 NLRP3 介导的线粒体氧化应激及焦亡信号通路的抑制密切相关, 为肥胖相关性肾病的早期干预提供了分子靶点[26]。

##### 5.1. 足细胞损伤方面

既往研究[27]发现 NLRP3 炎症小体激活后产生的炎症环境可能会直接或间接影响足细胞的功能和结构。一方面, 细胞因子可以导致足细胞骨架蛋白的破坏, 使足细胞形态发生改变; 另一方面, 炎症反应可能会干扰足细胞与基底膜之间的相互作用, 导致足细胞从基底膜上脱落, 从而破坏肾小球滤过屏障。NLRP3 炎症小体在膜性肾病大鼠肾脏被激活, 并引起炎症反应导致足细胞损伤, 足细胞是肾小球滤过屏障的重要组成部分, 在 IMN 中足细胞损伤是关键环节, IL-1 $\beta$  可以诱导足细胞产生氧化应激反应, 导致足细胞的骨架蛋白破坏, 影响足细胞的正常功能, 如滤过屏障的完整性受损, 从而加重蛋白尿。

##### 5.2. 免疫调节方面

NLRP3 炎症小体参与了机体的免疫调节过程。IL-8 则参与并调节 T 细胞的活化和分化, 介导其他炎性细胞因子的产生, 并诱导炎症细胞活化[28]。几项研究确实发现 IMN 中 Th17 细胞表达增强, IL-17 和其他细胞因子上调, 这表明 IMN 中确实存在炎症环境。在 IMN 发病过程中, 它可能通过调节 T 细胞的功能来影响免疫反应, 激活的 NLRP3 炎症小体产生 IL-8, 它可以促进辅助性 T 细胞 17(Th17)的分化, Th17 细胞分泌细胞因子 IL-17 等可以进一步招募炎症细胞到肾小球局部, 加剧炎症反应和组织损伤[29]-[31]。

##### 5.3. 纤维化过程

长期的炎症反应会导致肾脏纤维化。许多研究表明, NLRP3 和 caspase-1 水平升高与 CKD 患者的肾

纤维化有关[32][33], 表明 NLRP3 炎性小体可能参与肾纤维化。我们之前的研究表明, MCC950 是 NLRP3 炎性小体的特异性抑制剂, 可以减轻顺铂诱导的肾纤维化[34]。在肺和血清中使用抗 IL-1 $\beta$  可以降低小鼠的炎症反应并减轻肾纤维化[35]。简而言之, NLRP3 炎性小体激活产生 IL-1 $\beta$ , 介导炎症反应并参与肾纤维化的早期阶段, 通过激活成纤维细胞, 使其产生过多的细胞外基质成分, 如胶原蛋白等, 促进肾脏纤维化的发展。在 IMN 患者中, 随着病情的进展, 肾脏纤维化逐渐加重, NLRP3 炎症小体的持续激活可能是其中一个重要的机制。

## 6. 结论

因此, NLRP3 炎性小体在特发性膜性肾病的发生和发展中起着复杂而重要的作用。NLRP3 炎性小体已成为药物发现领域中一个有吸引力的靶点, 其抑制剂对许多疾病的治疗具有很高的治疗价值。寻找具有足够药代动力学特性的有效和选择性 NLRP3 炎性小体抑制剂仍然存在一些障碍, 需要更多的研究来进一步了解靶向该通路的化合物的结合和机制。

## 7. 未来展望

尽管 IMN 的知识和临床管理取得了重大进展, 利妥昔单抗正在成为 IMN 的标准免疫抑制疗法, 但该疾病仍表现出异质性预后。对于需要治疗干预的 IMN 患者, 只有 60% 的患者在利妥昔单抗治疗的 24 个月期间表现出部分或完全缓解[36], 但获得的关于 NLRP3 炎性小体的知识需要转化为临床靶向治疗。要达到这一地位, 目前对 IMN 的理解需要大幅度的进步。因此我们需要更好地了解特发性膜性肾病的发病机制, 从而找到更有效的治疗靶点, 更好地对患者进行分层, 更好地评估患者的治疗效果和治疗耐药性。

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