

· 论著 ·

微小RNA-21对动脉粥样硬化内皮细胞炎症反应的影响及其分子生物学机制研究

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【摘要】 目的 探讨微小RNA (miRNA)-21对动脉粥样硬化 (AS) 内皮细胞炎症反应的影响及其分子生物学机制。方法 本实验时间为2021年7月至2022年10月。(1) 动物实验。将3只ApoE^{-/-}小鼠纳入AS组, 给予高脂饲料饲养以构建AS模型; 将3只C57BL/6小鼠纳入对照组, 给予标准饲料饲养。采用RT-qPCR检测AS组和对照组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。(2) 细胞实验。①将人脐静脉内皮细胞 (HUVECs) 分为模拟物组、模拟物对照组、抑制剂组和抑制剂对照组, 分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照、miRNA-21抑制剂、抑制剂阴性对照, 转染48 h后构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。②通过miRNA靶基因数据库TargetScan在线进行生物信息学分析。③构建SPRY1野生型质粒 (SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR) 和SPRY1突变型质粒 (SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR)。将HUVECs分为SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物组、SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物组、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组, 分别转染SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR和miRNA-21模拟物、SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR和模拟物阴性对照、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR和miRNA-21模拟物、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR和模拟物阴性对照, 转染48 h后采用双荧光素酶报告基因实验检测其荧光素酶活性。④将HUVECs分为模拟物组和模拟物对照组, 分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照, 转染48 h后构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量。⑤将HUVECs分为模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组, 分别转染miRNA-21模拟物和Vector、miRNA-21模拟物和pcDNA-SPRY1, 转染48 h后构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。⑥将HUVECs分为模拟物组、模拟物对照组、模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组, 分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照、miRNA-21模拟物和Vector、miRNA-21模拟物和pcDNA-SPRY1, 转染48 h后构建AS细胞模型。采用Western blot法检测各组SPRY1、磷酸化细胞外调节蛋白激酶 (ERK) 1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白。⑦将HUVECs分为模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+U0126组, 分别转染模拟物阴性对照 (模拟物对照组)、miRNA-21模拟物 (模拟物组和模拟物+U0126组), 在此基础上模拟物+U0126组使用ERK1/2抑制剂U0126进行处理, 转染48 h后均构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。采用Western blot法检测各组磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白。结果 (1) 动物实验结果: AS组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于对照组 ($P < 0.05$)。 (2) 细胞实验结果: ①模拟物组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于模拟物对照组 ($P < 0.05$); 抑制剂组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于抑制剂对照组 ($P < 0.05$)。②生物信息学分析结果显示, SPRY1是miRNA-21的潜在靶基因。③双荧光素酶报告基因实验结果显示, SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物组荧光素酶活性低于SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组 ($P < 0.05$); SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物组与SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组荧光素酶活性比较, 差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$)。④模拟物组SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量低于模拟物对照组 ($P < 0.05$)。⑤模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于模拟物+Vector组 ($P < 0.05$)。⑥模拟物组SPRY1蛋白低于模拟物对照组, 磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白高于模拟物对照组 ($P < 0.05$); 模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组SPRY1蛋白高于模拟物+Vector组, 磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白低于模拟物+Vector组 ($P < 0.05$)。⑦模拟物+U0126组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量及磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白低于模拟物组 ($P < 0.05$)。结论 动物实验表明, AS小鼠存在miRNA-21过表达和炎症反应; 细胞实验表明, miRNA-21过表达可降低SPRY1, 抑制ERK/NF- κ B信号通路, 进而促进AS内皮细胞炎症反应, 故miRNA-21可能是治疗AS的新型分子靶点。

【关键词】 动脉粥样硬化; miRNA-21; SPRY1; 炎症; ERK/NF- κ B信号通路**【中图分类号】** R 543.5 **【文献标识码】** A DOI: 10.12114/j.issn.1008-5971.2023.00.081

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Effect of MicroRNA-21 on the Inflammation Response of Endothelial Cells in Atherosclerotic and Its Molecular Biological Mechanism

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【 Abstract 】 Objective To investigate the effect of microRNA (miRNA) -21 on the inflammation response of endothelial cells in atherosclerosis (AS) and its molecular biological mechanism. **Methods** This experiment was conducted from July 2021 to October 2022. (1) Animal experiment. Three ApoE^{-/-} mice were included in the AS group and fed with high-fat diet to construct the AS model. Three C57BL/6 mice were included in the control group and fed with standard diet. The relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA in AS group and control group were detected by RT-qPCR. (2) Cell experiment. ① HUVECs were divided into mimic group, NC mimic group, inhibitor group and NC inhibitor group, and transfected with miRNA-21 mimic, mimic negative control, miRNA-21 inhibitor and inhibitor negative control, respectively. AS cell model was constructed at 48 h after transfection. The relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA in each group were detected by RT-qPCR. ② The bioinformatics analysis was performed online through the of miRNA target gene database TargetScan. ③ SPRY1 wild-type plasmid (SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR) and SPRY1 mutant plasmid (SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR) were constructed. HUVECs were divided into SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR mimic group, SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR NC mimic group, SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR mimic group and SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR NC mimic group, and transfected with SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR and miRNA-21 mimic, SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR and mimic negative control, SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR and miRNA-21 mimic, SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR and mimic negative control, respectively. Luciferase activity was detected by double luciferase reporter gene assay at 48 h after transfection. ④ HUVECs were divided into mimic group and NC mimic group, and transfected with miRNA-21 mimic and mimic negative control, respectively. AS cell model was constructed at 48 h after transfection. The relative expression of SPRY1 mRNA in each group was detected by RT-qPCR. ⑤ HUVECs were divided into mimic+Vector group and mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group, and transfected with miRNA-21 mimic and Vector, miRNA-21 mimic and pcDNA-SPRY1, respectively. The AS cell model was constructed at 48 h after transfection. The relative expression levels of IL-1 β , TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA in each group were detected by RT-qPCR. ⑥ HUVECs were divided into mimic group, NC mimic group, mimic+Vector group and mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group, and transfected with miRNA-21 mimic, mimic negative control, miRNA-21 mimic and Vector, miRNA-21 mimic and pcDNA-SPRY1, respectively. The AS cell model was constructed at 48 h after transfection. SPRY1, phosphorylated extracellular regulated protein kinase (ERK) 1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B were detected by Western blot. ⑦ HUVECs were divided into NC mimic group, mimic group and mimic+U0126 group, and transfected with mimic negative control (mimic control group) , miRNA-21 mimic (mimic group and mimic+U0126 group) , respectively. On this basis, the mimic+U0126 group was treated with ERK1/2 inhibitor U0126. At 48 h after transfection, the AS cell model was constructed. The relative expression levels of IL-1 β , TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA in each group were detected by RT-qPCR. Western blot was used to detect phosphorylated ERK1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in each group. **Results** (1) Animal experiment results: the relative expression levels of miRNA-21, IL-1 β , TNF- α , and IL-6 mRNA in AS group were higher than those in control group ($P < 0.05$) . (2) Cell experiment results: ① the relative expressions levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA in the mimic group were higher than those in the NC mimic group ($P < 0.05$) . The relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA in the inhibitor group were lower than those in the NC inhibitor group ($P < 0.05$) . ② Bioinformatics analysis showed that SPRY1 was a potential target gene of miRNA-21. ③ The results of dual luciferase reporter gene assay showed that the luciferase activity in the SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR mimic group was lower than that in the SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR NC mimic group ($P < 0.05$) . There was no significant difference in luciferase activity between the SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR mimic group and the SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR NC mimic group ($P > 0.05$) . ④ The relative expression level of SPRY1 mRNA in the mimic group was lower than that in the NC mimic group ($P < 0.05$) . ⑤ The relative mRNA expressions of IL-1 β , TNF- α , and IL-6 in the mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group were lower than those in the mimic+Vector group ($P < 0.05$) . ⑥ The SPRY1 protein in the mimic group was lower than that in the NC mimic group, and the phosphorylated ERK1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in the mimic group were higher than those in the NC mimic group ($P < 0.05$) . The SPRY1 protein in the mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group was higher than that in the mimic+Vector group, and the phosphorylated ERK1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in the mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group were lower than those in the mimic+Vector group ($P < 0.05$) . ⑦ The relative expressions levels of IL-1 β , TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA, phosphorylated ERK1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in the mimic+U0126 group were lower than those in the mimic group ($P < 0.05$) . **Conclusion** Animal experiments showed that there was miRNA-21 overexpression and inflammatory response in AS mice. Cell experiments showed that overexpression of miRNA-21 could reduce SPRY1, inhibit ERK/NF- κ B signaling pathway, and promote the inflammatory response of AS endothelial cells. Therefore, miRNA-21 may be a new molecular target for the treatment of AS.

【 Key words 】 Atherosclerosis; miRNA-21; SPRY1; Inflammation; ERK/NF- κ B signaling pathway

动脉粥样硬化 (atherosclerosis, AS) 是一种慢性炎症性疾病, 是心血管疾病的重要发病机制, 可由多种因素诱发^[1]。目前, 以脂质浸润理论和损伤反应理论为基础的炎症理论是AS发病机制的主要理论^[2]。近年研究表明, 微小RNA (microRNA, miRNA) 是调节血管内皮炎症反应和AS进展的潜在表观遗传因子^[3-5], 如miRNA-30e和miRNA-92a可通过靶向ABCA1而参与调控AS的进展^[6]。既往研究表明, miRNA-21过度表达与冠心病严重程度呈正相关^[7], AS患者miRNA-21表达明显升高^[8], 提示miRNA-21可能是AS的潜在生物标志物。研究表明, 促分裂原活化蛋白激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK) 信号通路可通过调节血管内皮细胞和平滑肌细胞增殖和迁移而参与AS的发病机制^[9], 其中MAPK亚家族细胞外调节蛋白激酶 (extracellular regulated protein kinases, ERK) 1/2是表观遗传靶标, SPRY1是ERK信号通路的上游调控因子, 故基于SPRY1/ERK信号通路预防和治疗AS具有潜在可行性。NF- κ B是一种可以调控多种基因转录功能的转录因子, 其可以与细胞基因启动子或增强子序列中的多个特定位点特异性结合, 以促进基因转录, 并与多种疾病的病理生理过程密切相关^[10-11]。近期研究表明, ERK/NF- κ B信号通路可参与调控AS斑块形成过程中的炎症反应^[12]。本研究旨在探讨miRNA-21对AS内皮细胞炎症反应的影响及其分子生物学机制, 现报道如下。

1 材料与方法

1.1 主要试剂与仪器 人脐静脉内皮细胞 (human umbilical vein endothelial cells, HUVECs) 购自中国科学院细胞库, LipofectamineTM 3000转染试剂购自美国Invitrogen公司, PrimeScript反转录试剂盒购自日本Takara公司, miScript II反转录试剂盒、miScript SYBR Green PCR试剂盒均购自德国QIAGEN公司, SYBR Green qPCR试剂盒购自上海艾研生物科技有限公司, Pierce BCA蛋白质定量试剂盒购自杭州百莱博科技有限公司, SPRY1、磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白抗体购自美国Abcam公司, miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照、miRNA-21抑制剂、抑制剂阴性对照、Vector、pcDNA-SPRY1均购自上海吉玛制药技术有限公司; Mx3000P实时荧光定量PCR仪购自美国Agilent Technologies公司, 多功能酶标仪购自瑞士Tecan公司, 凝胶成像分析系统购自美国Bio-Rad公司。

1.2 实验时间 实验时间为2021年7月至2022年10月。

1.3 动物实验 本实验经广州市胸科医院动物护理与使用委员会批准。3只ApoE^{-/-}小鼠和3只C57BL/6小鼠均饲养在12 h光照+12 h黑暗、温度(22±1)℃、湿度50%~60%的动物房中, 可自由获取食物和水。将3只ApoE^{-/-}小鼠纳入AS组, 给予21%脂肪+0.15%胆固醇的

高脂饲料饲养, 连续饲养12周, 构建AS模型。将3只C57BL/6小鼠纳入对照组, 给予标准饲料饲养, 连续饲养12周。使用戊巴比妥钠麻醉并处死所有小鼠, 采集其全血, 离心15 min (1 000 r/min, 离心半径15 cm) 后收集血清样品, 在-80℃冰箱中保存。采用RT-qPCR检测AS组和对对照组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。

1.4 细胞实验

1.4.1 细胞培养与转染 将HUVECs置于含10%胎牛血清和1%青霉素/链霉素的DMEM培养基中, 并于5% CO₂、37℃的培养箱中培养。待贴壁细胞融合度达到80%~90%时, 进行细胞传代。将HUVECs分为模拟物组、模拟物对照组、抑制剂组和抑制剂对照组, 分别以1×10⁵个/孔接种至6孔板, 在37℃、5% CO₂的细胞培养箱中培养, 并在细胞达到60%~70%汇合时使用LipofectamineTM 3000转染试剂分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照、miRNA-21抑制剂、抑制剂阴性对照, 转染48 h后采用100 ng脂多糖处理6 h, 以构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。

1.4.2 生物信息学分析 通过miRNA靶基因数据库TargetScan (<http://www.targetscan.org/>) 在线进行生物信息学分析, 预测miRNA-21与SPRY1 3'-UTR存在结合位点。

1.4.3 验证SPRY1是miRNA-21的靶基因 (1) 将含有miRNA-21和SPRY1结合位点的野生型 (wild type, WT) 或突变型 (mutant, MUT) 序列片段分别克隆至pmirGLO载体中, 构建SPRY1野生型质粒 (SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR) 和SPRY1突变型质粒 (SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR)。将HUVECs分为SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物组、SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物组、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组, 使用LipofectamineTM 3000转染试剂分别转染SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR和miRNA-21模拟物、SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR和模拟物阴性对照、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR和miRNA-21模拟物、SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR和模拟物阴性对照。转染48 h后收集各组HUVECs, 采用双荧光素酶报告基因实验检测其荧光素酶活性。(2) 将HUVECs分为模拟物组和模拟物对照组, 待细胞汇合度达到60%~70%时使用LipofectamineTM 3000转染试剂分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照, 转染48 h后采用100 ng脂多糖处理6 h, 以构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量。

1.4.4 miRNA-21调控AS内皮细胞炎症反应的机制分析 (1) 将HUVECs分为模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组, 待HUVECs汇合度达到

60% ~ 70%时使用Lipofectamine™ 3000转染试剂分别转染miRNA-21模拟物和Vector、miRNA-21模拟物和pcDNA-SPRY1，转染48 h后采用100 ng脂多糖处理6 h，以构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。(2)将HUVECs分为模拟物组、模拟物对照组、模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组，待HUVECs汇合度达到60% ~ 70%时使用Lipofectamine™ 3000转染试剂分别转染miRNA-21模拟物、模拟物阴性对照、miRNA-21模拟物和Vector、miRNA-21模拟物和pcDNA-SPRY1，转染48 h后采用100 ng脂多糖处理6 h，以构建AS细胞模型采用Western blot法检测各组SPRY1、磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF-κB蛋白。(3)将HUVECs分为模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+U0126组，使用Lipofectamine™ 3000转染试剂分别转染模拟物阴性对照(模拟物对照组)、miRNA-21模拟物(模拟物组和模拟物+U0126组)，在此基础上模拟物+U0126组使用ERK1/2抑制剂U0126进行处理，每天换液1次。各组转染48 h后均采用100 ng脂多糖处理6 h，以构建AS细胞模型。采用RT-qPCR检测各组IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量。采用Western blot法检测各组磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF-κB蛋白。

1.5 检测方法

1.5.1 RT-qPCR 使用Trizol试剂从小鼠血清或转染后HUVECs中分离出总RNA，使用PrimeScript反转录试剂盒将1 μg RNA反转录成cDNA，然后使用SYBR Green qPCR试剂盒在实时荧光定量PCR仪上进行PCR，检测miRNA相对表达量。使用miScript II反转录试剂盒和miScript SYBR Green PCR试剂盒进行PCR，检测mRNA相对表达量。反应条件：95℃预变性5 min；94℃变性30 s，60℃退火30 s，72℃延伸10 s，共40个循环。以U6为内部对照，采用2^{-ΔΔCt}法检测miRNA-21相对表达量；以GAPDH为内部对照，采用2^{-ΔΔCt}法检测IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6、SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量。目标基因引物序列见表1。实验独立重复3次。

表1 目标基因引物序列

Table 1 Target genes primer sequence

基因	上游引物(5'-3')	下游引物(5'-3')
miRNA-21	CTTACTTCTCTGTGTGATTCTGTG	ACAACCTTCCAAAATCCATGAGGC
U6	TCCGATCGTGAAGCCTTC	GTGCAGGGTCCGAGGT
IL-1β	GCTTCAGGCAGGCAGTATCA	TGCAGTTGCTAATGGGAACG
TNF-α	ATCCCGCAGCTGGAAGCTG	ACCGCCTGGAGTCTCGAA
IL-6	CCTCTCTGCAAGAGACTTCCAT	AGTCTCTCTCCGGACTTGT
SPRY1	CCCTGCCCTGGATAAGGAAC	GGCCGAAATGCCTAATGCAA
GAPDH	AGCTTGTATCAACGGGAAG	TTTGATGTTACTGGGCTCTCG

1.5.2 Western blot法 收集转染后的HUVECs，并使用RIPA裂解缓冲液提取总蛋白。使用Pierce BCA蛋白质定量试剂盒检测细胞裂解液的蛋白质浓度，通过10% SDS-PAGE分离蛋白质并转移至聚偏二氟乙烯膜。将聚偏二氟乙烯膜在5%脱脂牛奶中于室温孵育1 h，并与一抗在4℃环境下孵育过夜。TBST中洗涤聚偏二氟乙烯膜，并与二抗在室温下孵育1 h。之后使用增强型化学发光检测系统对条带进行可视化分析，并通过AlphaView软件检测SPRY1、磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF-κB蛋白。实验独立重复3次。

1.6 统计学方法 应用SPSS 21.0统计学软件进行数据处理。计量资料以($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示，多组间比较采用单因素方法分析，组间两两比较采用LSD-t检验；两组间比较采用成组t检验。以P<0.05为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 动物实验结果 AS组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于对照组，差异有统计学意义(P<0.05)，见表2。

表2 AS组和对照组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量比较($\bar{x} \pm s$, n=3)

Table 2 Comparison of relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1β, TNF-α, IL-6 mRNA between AS group and control group

组别	miRNA-21	IL-1β mRNA	TNF-α mRNA	IL-6 mRNA
对照组	1.000 ± 0.090	1.000 ± 0.104	1.000 ± 0.085	1.000 ± 0.088
AS组	3.214 ± 0.296	3.117 ± 0.395	3.527 ± 0.412	3.906 ± 0.427
t值	12.548	8.977	10.404	11.545
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

注：miRNA=微小RNA，AS=动脉粥样硬化

2.2 细胞实验结果

2.2.1 miRNA-21对上皮细胞炎症的影响 模拟物组miRNA-21及IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于模拟物对照组，差异有统计学意义(P<0.05)，见表3；抑制剂组miRNA-21及IL-1β、TNF-α、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于抑制剂对照组，差异有统计学意义(P<0.05)，见表4。

2.2.2 SPRY1是miRNA-21的靶基因 生物信息学分析结果显示，SPRY1是miRNA-21的潜在靶基因，在SPRY1 3'UTR中含有miRNA-21的结合位点。双荧光素酶报告基因实验结果显示，SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物组荧光素酶活性为(0.381 ± 0.036)，低于SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组的(1.000 ± 0.084)，差异有统计学意义(t=11.732, P<0.001)；SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物组荧光素酶活性为(0.951 ± 0.092)，与SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组的(1.000 ± 0.105)比较，差异无统计学意义(t=0.608, P=0.576)。模拟物组SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量为(0.352 ± 0.051)，低于模

拟物对照组的 (1.000 ± 0.103), 差异有统计学意义 ($t=9.765, P<0.001$)。

2.2.3 miRNA-21通过调控SPRY1影响内皮细胞炎症 模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于模拟物+Vector组, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$), 见表5。

2.2.4 miR-21通过调控SPRY1影响ERK/NF- κ B信号通路 模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组SPRY1、磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白比较, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$); 其中模拟物组SPRY1蛋白低于模拟物对照组, 磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白高于模拟物对照组, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$); 模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组SPRY1蛋白高于模拟物+Vector组, 磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白低于模拟物+Vector组, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$), 见表6。

2.2.5 抑制ERK/NF- κ B信号通路对内皮细胞炎症的影响 模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+U0126组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量及磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白比较, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$); 其中模拟物组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量及磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白高于模拟物对照组和模拟物+U0126组, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$), 见表7。

表3 模拟物对照组和模拟物组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 3 Comparison of relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA between mimic group and NC mimic group

组别	miRNA-21	IL-1 β mRNA	TNF- α mRNA	IL-6 mRNA
模拟物对照组	1.000 \pm 0.102	1.000 \pm 0.095	1.000 \pm 0.114	1.000 \pm 0.128
模拟物组	3.524 \pm 0.316	3.228 \pm 0.381	3.706 \pm 0.425	3.519 \pm 0.394
t值	13.166	9.828	10.651	10.532
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

表7 模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+U0126组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量及磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 7 Comparison of relative expression levels of IL-1 β , TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA and phosphorylated ERK1/2, phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in the NC mimic group, mimic group and mimic+U0126 group

组别	IL-1 β mRNA	TNF- α mRNA	IL-6 mRNA	磷酸化ERK1/2蛋白	磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白
模拟物对照组	1.000 \pm 0.132	1.000 \pm 0.157	1.000 \pm 0.105	1.000 \pm 0.143	1.000 \pm 0.118
模拟物组	2.964 \pm 0.369 ^a	3.263 \pm 0.352 ^a	3.716 \pm 0.413 ^a	2.985 \pm 0.311 ^a	2.768 \pm 0.261 ^a
模拟物+U0126组	1.582 \pm 0.201 ^b	1.755 \pm 0.214 ^b	1.903 \pm 0.172 ^b	1.284 \pm 0.126 ^b	1.135 \pm 0.164 ^b
F值	47.214	61.477	81.536	77.954	80.008
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

注: ^a表示与模拟物对照组比较, $P<0.05$; ^b表示与模拟物组比较, $P<0.05$

表4 抑制剂对照组和抑制剂组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 4 Comparison of relative expression levels of miRNA-21 and IL-1 β , TNF- α , IL-6 mRNA between inhibitor group and NC inhibitor group

组别	miRNA-21	IL-1 β mRNA	TNF- α mRNA	IL-6 mRNA
抑制剂对照组	1.000 \pm 0.105	1.000 \pm 0.086	1.000 \pm 0.074	1.000 \pm 0.081
抑制剂组	0.351 \pm 0.038	0.384 \pm 0.045	0.334 \pm 0.061	0.448 \pm 0.075
t值	10.067	10.992	12.029	8.822
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	0.001

表5 模拟物+Vector组和模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 5 Comparison of relative expression levels of IL-1 β , TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA between mimic+Vector group and mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group

组别	IL-1 β	TNF- α	IL-6
模拟物+Vector组	1.000 \pm 0.082	1.000 \pm 0.075	1.000 \pm 0.064
模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组	0.474 \pm 0.038	0.466 \pm 0.042	0.386 \pm 0.032
t值	10.081	10.760	14.863
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

注: ^a表示与模拟物对照组比较, $P<0.05$; ^b表示与模拟物+Vector组比较, $P<0.05$; ERK=细胞外调节蛋白激酶, NF- κ B=核因子 κ B

表6 模拟物对照组、模拟物组、模拟物+Vector组、模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组SPRY1、磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 6 Comparison of SPRY1, phosphorylated ERK1/2 and phosphorylated NF- κ B protein in NC mimic group, mimic group, mimic+Vector group and mimic+pcDNA-SPRY1 group

组别	SPRY1蛋白	磷酸化ERK1/2蛋白	磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白
模拟物对照组	1.000 \pm 0.101	1.000 \pm 0.121	1.000 \pm 0.148
模拟物组	0.322 \pm 0.045 ^a	3.102 \pm 0.304 ^a	3.662 \pm 0.343 ^a
模拟物+Vector组	0.357 \pm 0.053	3.216 \pm 0.353	3.518 \pm 0.467
模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组	0.914 \pm 0.096 ^b	1.675 \pm 0.162 ^b	1.504 \pm 0.125 ^b
F值	63.604	55.092	60.050
P值	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

3 讨论

AS是一种涉及多细胞、多因子和多步骤的全身性疾病,其是由血管壁中的多种因素诱导的慢性炎症性疾病^[13]。研究报道,许多炎症因子(如IL-1 β 、TNF- α 和IL-6)均与血管疾病的病理机制相关,炎症因子表达上调被认为是AS相关损伤的原因^[14-15]。miRNA是由约22个核苷酸组成的单链小非编码RNA,其可以与特定靶mRNA的3'-UTR中的互补序列结合,可在转录后水平负调控基因表达;此外,miRNA异常表达还与许多疾病的发生发展密切相关^[16]。近年来,miRNA在AS中的作用越来越受到关注^[17]。斑块的形成、发展、破裂和血栓形成均受到miRNA的调控。经典的AS过程可以分为四个阶段,即起始阶段(内皮细胞激活和炎症)、发生阶段(内膜下脂质沉积和泡沫细胞形成)、进展阶段(平滑肌细胞增殖和迁移、斑块内脂质核增大和坏死,血管生成)和终点阶段(不稳定斑块破裂诱发急性冠状动脉事件)。研究证实,miRNA可以通过参与内皮细胞炎症反应而影响AS的发生发展^[18]。miRNA-21异常表达与心血管疾病(如缺血性心脏病)的发病机制有关^[19],但其在AS中的作用机制尚不清楚。本研究构建了AS小鼠模型,结果显示,AS组小鼠miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于对照组,提示miRNA-21可能与AS的发病机制有关。本研究进一步构建脂多糖诱导的AS细胞模型,结果显示,模拟物组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量高于模拟物对照组,抑制剂组miRNA-21及IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于抑制剂对照组,提示促进miRNA-21表达可提高内皮细胞炎症因子水平,而抑制miRNA-21表达可降低内皮细胞炎症因子水平。

miRNA靶基因不同,对内皮细胞功能的影响不同,如miRNA-26a-5p下调可通过抑制PI3K/Akt信号通路而诱导冠心病内皮细胞凋亡^[20]。本研究进一步探究miRNA-21在AS中的分子生物学机制发现,SPRY1可能是miRNA-21的潜在靶基因,且SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物组荧光素酶活性低于SPRY1-WT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组,SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物组荧光素酶活性与SPRY1-MUT 3'-UTR模拟物对照组比较无统计学差异,且模拟物组SPRY1 mRNA相对表达量低于模拟物对照组,上述研究结果证实SPRY1是miRNA-21的直接靶基因。SPRY1属于SPRY蛋白家族,是多种受体酪氨酸激酶下游Ras-ERK信号通路的抑制剂。研究发现,SPRY1蛋白可参与不同类型癌症的发生发展过程,如在急性髓系白血病中SPRY1可通过激活Hedgehog通路而促进细胞增殖,抑制细胞凋亡^[21];SPRY1蛋白过表达可能与人口腔鳞状细胞癌变有关^[22]。此外,SPRY1还与心脑血管疾病的发生有关,如下调SPRY1会抑制血管平滑肌细

胞迁移和增殖^[23]。本研究结果显示,模拟物+pcDNA-SPRY1组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量低于模拟物+Vector组,SPRY1蛋白高于模拟物+Vector组,提示过表达SPRY1可逆转过表达miRNA-21在AS细胞模型中的促炎作用,进一步证实miRNA-21可能通过调控SPRY1而参与AS的炎症反应。

ERK是MAPK家族成员,其在许多信号级联反应中具有重要作用。磷酸化ERK1/2可以激活NF- κ B,而磷酸化NF- κ B可进入细胞核并结合特定的DNA片段,进而调节炎症相关基因和蛋白的表达,故ERK/NF- κ B信号通路对包括AS在内的许多疾病的炎症启动和进展至关重要^[24-25]。NING等^[26]研究报道,miRNA-21可通过直接靶向SPRY1而调控ERK/NF- κ B信号通路介导血管紧张素II诱导的肝纤维化,但miRNA-21与ERK/NF- κ B信号通路在AS中的作用少见报道。本研究结果显示,模拟物组IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6 mRNA相对表达量及磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白高于模拟物对照组和模拟物+U0126组,提示过表达miRNA-21可有效提高炎症因子和磷酸化ERK1/2、磷酸化NF- κ B蛋白表达水平;而这一结果可被ERK1/2特异性抑制剂U0126逆转,故miRNA-21过表达在AS中的促炎作用可能与其可激活ERK/NF- κ B信号通路有关。

综上所述,动物实验表明,AS小鼠存在miRNA-21过表达和炎症反应;细胞实验表明,miRNA-21过表达可降低SPRY1,抑制ERK/NF- κ B信号通路,进而促进AS内皮细胞炎症反应,故miRNA-21可能是治疗AS的新型分子靶点。

作者贡献:贾敏、李城城进行文章的构思与设计;王丽妹、张玲进行研究的实施与可行性分析;张玲、陈家华进行数据收集、整理、分析;陈家华、李俊红进行结果分析与解释;贾敏负责撰写、修订论文;贾敏、李俊红负责文章的质量控制及审校;贾敏对文章整体负责、监督管理。

本文无利益冲突。

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