

基于TCGA数据库筛选与三阴性乳腺癌预后相关的 miRNAs及其基因网络

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[摘要] **目的:** 筛选与三阴性乳腺癌(TNBC)预后相关的关键微小RNA(miRNAs)及其靶基因, 探讨其参与调控的生物学功能和信号通路, 为TNBC患者预后标志物的筛选提供理论依据。**方法:** 基于癌症基因组图谱(TCGA)数据库筛选TNBC患者与非TNBC患者差异表达miRNAs, 通过生存分析明确与患者预后相关的miRNAs。利用miRDB和miRWalk3.0在线数据库筛选miRNAs的靶基因, Cytoscape 3.8.2软件明确miRNA-信使核糖核酸(mRNA)调控网络, 利用R软件limma数据包筛选TNBC患者与非TNBC患者差异表达miRNAs, 利用R软件clusterProfiler包分析靶基因参与的生物学功能和通路。**结果:** 生存分析, miR-9、miR-17、miR-31、miR-146a、miR-188和miR-190b与TNBC患者的预后有关, 且上述miRNAs表达量越低, TNBC患者预后越差。筛选出受这6种miRNAs调控的靶基因224个。基因本体论(GO)功能富集分析, 靶基因主要参与乳腺腺泡的发育、DNA转录的正向调控以及血管生成等功能; 京都基因与基因组百科全书(KEGG)信号通路富集分析, 靶基因主要富集在细胞因子-细胞因子受体相互作用以及胰岛素分泌信号等通路。网络分析, miR-9、miR-17、溶质载体家族24成员2(SLC24A2)、vav鸟苷酸交换因子3(VAV3)、三部结构域含有36(TRIM36)、突触标记素1(SYT1)、富勒林和Sec7结构域含有3(PSD3)、过氧化物酶体增殖物活化受体 α (PPARA)、RNA聚合酶III亚基G(POLR3G)、多形性腺瘤基因1(PLAG1)、泛素相关和SH3结构域含有B(UBASH3B)及SH3结构域和四重肽重复2(SH3TC2)是调控网络中的关键基因, 其中miR-9-SYT1、miR-9-KIF13B、miR-9-KITLG、miR-17-SLC24A2、miR-31-SLC24A2、miR-146a-SYT1、miR-146a-KIF13B、miR-188-SLC24A2和miR-188-SLC24A2的miRNA-mRNA相互作用最为密切。**结论:** miR-9、miR-17、miR-31、miR-146a、miR-188和miR-190b及其靶基因参与乳腺腺泡发育和血管生成等生理过程, 与TNBC患者的不良预后密切相关。

[关键词] 三阴性乳腺癌; 微小核糖核酸; 预后; 调控网络; 靶基因

[中图分类号] R737.9 **[文献标志码]** A

Screening of miRNAs related to prognosis of triple-negative breast cancer and its gene network based on TCGA Database

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[收稿日期] 2022-10-31

[基金项目] 国家自然科学基金项目(81702606); 吉林大学白求恩计划项目(2020B16)

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ABSTRACT Objective: To identify the key microRNAs (miRNAs) and their target genes associated with the prognosis of triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) and to discuss their roles in regulatory biological functions and signaling pathways, and to provide the theoretical basis for the selection of prognostic biomarkers for the patients with TNBC. **Methods:** The differentially expressed miRNAs between the TNBC patients and non-TNBC patients were selected based on The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Database; survival analysis was used to clarify the miRNAs related to the prognosis of the patients; miRDB and miRWalk3.0 online Databases were used to screen for the miRNA target gene; Cytoscape 3.8.2 software was used to elucidate the miRNA-messenger RNA (mRNA) regulatory network; the limma package in R software was used to screen the differentially expressed miRNAs of the TNBC patients and non-TNBC patients; the clusterProfiler package in R software was used to analyze the biological functions and pathways involved by the target genes. **Results:** The survival analysis results showed that miR-9, miR-17, miR-31, miR-146a, miR-188, and miR-190b were associated with the prognosis of the TNBC patients, and low expression levels of these miRNAs were correlated with the poorer prognosis of the patients. A total of 224 target genes regulated by these six miRNAs were identified. The Gene Ontology (GO) functional enrichment analysis results showed that the target genes were primarily involved in the development of mammary alveoli, positive regulation of DNA transcription, and angiogenesis. The Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) pathway enrichment analysis results showed that the target genes were mainly enriched in cytokine-cytokine receptor interaction and insulin secretion signaling pathways. The network analysis results identified the key genes in the regulatory network, including solute carrier family 24 member 2 (SLC24A2), vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 3 (VAV3), tripartite motif containing 36 (TRIM36), synaptotagmin 1 (SYT1), pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 3 (PSD3), peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α (PPARA), RNA polymerase III subunit G (POLR3G), pleomorphic adenoma gene 1 (PLAG1), ubiquitin associated and SH3 domain containing B (UBASH3B), and SH3 domain and tetramerization domain containing 2 (SH3TC2); the interactions of miRNA-mRNA of miR-9-SYT1, miR-9-KIF13B, miR-9-KITLG, miR-17-SLC24A2, miR-31-SLC24A2, miR-146a-SYT1, miR-146a-KIF13B, miR-188-SLC24A2, and miR-188-SLC24A2 were the closest. **Conclusion:** MiR-9, miR-17, miR-31, miR-146a, miR-188, miR-190b and their target genes are involved in physiological processes such as mammary alveolar development and angiogenesis, which are closely associated with the poor prognosis of the patients with TNBC.

KEYWORDS Triple negative breast cancer; MicroRNA; Prognosis; Regulatory network; Target gene

乳腺癌是乳腺组织异常增生形成的恶性肿瘤, 在女性中发病率和死亡率最高^[1]。乳腺癌有多种分型方法, 临床上根据雌激素受体 α (estrogen receptor α , ER α)、孕激素受体 (progesterone receptor, PR) 和人类表皮生长因子受体 2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor-2, HER-2) 的表达量, 将乳腺癌分为 ER 阳性型、HER-2 过表达型和三阴性乳腺癌 (triple negative breast cancer, TNBC), 不同分型乳腺癌其治疗方法和预后均不相同。其中, TNBC 是指 ER α 、PR 和 HER-2 的表达均为阴性的乳腺癌, 约占所有类型乳腺癌的 10%。TNBC 好发于年轻女性 (年龄 < 40 岁), 其具有侵袭性和耐药性强及复发转移率高 (易发生

脑和内脏转移) 等特点。由于 TNBC 患者缺乏明确的靶向治疗药物, 临床治疗仅能采用放化疗和手术治疗的方式, 其 5 年无病生存率 (disease free survival, DFS) 和总生存率 (overall survival, OS) 均显著低于非 TNBC 患者^[2], 是预后最差的一类乳腺癌^[3-8]。微小 RNA (microRNA, miRNAs) 是一类长约 18~25 个核苷酸的非编码单链小分子 RNA, 参与调控信使核糖核酸 (messenger RNA, mRNA) 的表达^[9-10], 不编码蛋白质^[11]。miRNAs 可通过调控 mRNA 的表达或诱导 mRNA 降解等机制, 参与调控肿瘤细胞的生长周期、细胞凋亡、血管生成、浸润和迁移等过程, 与肿瘤的预后密切相关^[12-15]。研究^[16]表明: miR-

139、miR-10b和miR-486低表达的TNBC患者易发生术后转移；miRNA-9高表达的TNBC患者无复发生存期较短、miRNA-155高表达的TNBC患者无转移生存期较高^[17]；miR-206通过调控TM4SF1的基因表达抑制乳腺癌的迁移和侵袭能力^[18]。然而这些研究均基于聚合酶链式反应(polymerase chain reaction, PCR)技术立足于单个基因的研究，忽略了基因调控网络的关键作用，本研究基于癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)数据库挖掘与TNBC患者预后相关的关键miRNAs及其靶基因，并构建调控网络，探讨miRNAs靶基因可能参与调控的生物学功能及信号通路，为TNBC患者预后标志物的筛选提供理论依据。

1 资料与方法

1.1 数据下载及预处理 乳腺癌患者的miRNAseq数据和相关临床数据来自于TCGA数据库(网址：<https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/>)，纳入标准：①女性乳腺癌患者；②乳腺癌分型明确的患者；③无其他恶性肿瘤史；④未进行过其他辅助治疗的患者。并按照患者年龄和人种将TNBC及非TNBC患者(其他非TNBC乳腺癌患者)进行1:2匹配，最终纳入109例TNBC患者和218例非TNBC患者。

1.2 差异表达miRNAs的筛选 采用R软件limma数据包筛选TNBC患者与非TNBC患者组织中差异表达的miRNAs，筛选条件： $P < 0.05$ ，|差异表达量(\log_2FC)| > 1 。生存分析进一步筛选与TNBC患者预后相关的miRNAs作为目标miRNAs，筛选标准 $P < 0.05$ 。

1.3 miRNAs靶基因的筛选 利用miRDB(网址：<https://mirdb.org/>)和miRWalk3.0在线数据库(网址：<http://mirwalk.umm.uni-heidelberg.de/>)预测差异表达miRNAs的靶基因，选取与miRNA 3'-端非翻译区结合的靶基因。选取同时被2个数据库预测到的靶基因与TCGA数据库中筛选的差异表达基因的交集部分作为最终靶基因。

1.4 miRNA-靶基因调控网络的构建 利用Cytoscape 3.8.2构建miRNA-靶基因调控网络并计算最大团中心性(maximal clique centrality, MCC)评分，筛选MCC评分前2位的miRNAs和前10位的靶基因作为关键调控网络。

1.5 基因本体论(Gene Ontology, GO)和京都基因与基因组百科全书(Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes, KEGG)富集分析 利用R软件clusterProfiler包对靶基因进行GO和KEGG通路富集分析，筛选标准为调整后 $P < 0.05$ 。

2 结果

2.1 筛选与TNBC预后相关miRNAs 在TNBC患者与非TNBC患者组织中共筛选出38个差异表达的miRNAs，其中24个miRNAs表达上调，14个miRNAs表达下调(表1)。对筛选出的差异表达miRNAs进行生存分析，结果显示：高表达组患者组织中miR-9、miR-17、miR-31、miR-146a、miR-188和miR-190b较低表达组生存时间更长(图1)。

2.2 miRNA靶基因的生物学功能分析 本研究共筛选出224个同时被miRWalk3.0和miRDB 2个数据库预测到且与TCGA数据库差异表达基因交集的目标miRNAs的靶基因。对这224个靶基因进行GO生物学功能分析，结果显示上述靶基因主要参与的生物过程包括：DNA-模板的正调控、细胞增殖的正调控、细胞黏附和乳腺腺泡发育等(图2)。上述靶基因主要参与的细胞组分包括：膜的组成部分、质膜的组成成分、突触后膜、神经元投射和核周体等(图3)。上述靶基因主要参与的分子功能包括：RNA聚合酶II核心启动子近端区序列特异性DNA结合、RNA聚合酶II核心启动子近端区序列特异性结合、受体结合、转录因子结合、生长因子活性和mRNA 3'-UTR结合等(图4)。

进一步对224个靶基因进行KEGG信号通路分析，结果显示上述靶基因主要参与的信号通路包括细胞因子-细胞因子受体相互作用、黏着力、环磷酸腺苷(cyclic adenosine monophosphate, cAMP)信号通路和Janus激酶(Janus kinase, JAK)-信号传导及转录激活因子(signal transducers and activators of transcription, STAT)信号通路等(图5)。

2.3 miRNA-mRNA调控网络 基于Cytoscape 3.8.2软件对6种miRNAs和224个靶基因构建miRNA-mRNA调控网络，结果显示：miR-9和miR-17为该调控网络的关键miRNAs，且miR-9的靶基因在TNBC患者组织中以下调为主，miR-17的靶基因以上调为主。该调控网络中的关键基因为溶质载体家族24成员2(solute carrier family 24 member 2, SLC24A2)、vav鸟苷酸交换因子3

表1 TNBC患者与非TNBC患者中差异表达的miRNAs
Tab. 1 Differentially expressed miRNAs in patients with TNBC and non-TNBC

Gene ID	Log ₂ FC	P	Gene expression status
Hsa-miR-34c	1.02	3.55E-08	Low expression
Hsa-miR-30a	1.04	8.15E-10	Low expression
Hsa-miR-887	1.06	4.66E-09	Low expression
Hsa-miR-182	1.06	4.86E-15	Low expression
Hsa-miR-196a-2	1.06	1.13E-06	Low expression
Hsa-miR-342	1.48	7.62E-27	Low expression
Hsa-miR-153-2	1.59	7.98E-13	Low expression
Hsa-miR-10a	1.79	2.97E-21	Low expression
Hsa-miR-149	1.88	1.14E-23	Low expression
Hsa-miR-375	2.13	9.27E-17	Low expression
Hsa-miR-653	2.34	9.83E-20	Low expression
Hsa-miR-184	3.43	1.19E-17	Low expression
Hsa-miR-190b	3.46	6.87E-47	Low expression
Hsa-miR-877	1.00	4.99E-10	High expression
Hsa-miR-130b	1.01	9.70E-25	High expression
Hsa-miR-511	1.03	2.52E-12	High expression
Hsa-miR-188	1.03	1.33E-13	High expression
Hsa-miR-146a	1.05	1.79E-15	High expression
Hsa-miR-942	1.07	2.55E-19	High expression
Hsa-miR-937	1.17	3.56E-08	High expression
Hsa-miR-19a	1.24	6.77E-20	High expression
Hsa-miR-17	1.26	9.58E-30	High expression
Hsa-miR-31	1.31	5.37E-11	High expression
Hsa-miR-505	1.31	3.12E-32	High expression
Hsa-miR-455	1.51	6.81E-31	High expression
Hsa-miR-9-3	1.56	4.18E-11	High expression
Hsa-miR-9-1	1.57	3.58E-11	High expression
Hsa-miR-9-2	1.57	3.58E-11	High expression
Hsa-miR-584	1.62	7.46E-29	High expression
Hsa-miR-483	1.65	1.16E-13	High expression
Hsa-miR-224	1.84	1.76E-18	High expression
Hsa-miR-452	1.86	7.46E-29	High expression
Hsa-miR-18a	1.92	7.34E-48	High expression
Hsa-miR-1269a	2.23	3.35E-06	High expression
Hsa-miR-135b	2.88	5.38E-34	High expression
Hsa-miR-577	3.37	9.58E-30	High expression
Hsa-miR-934	4.78	8.82E-55	High expression

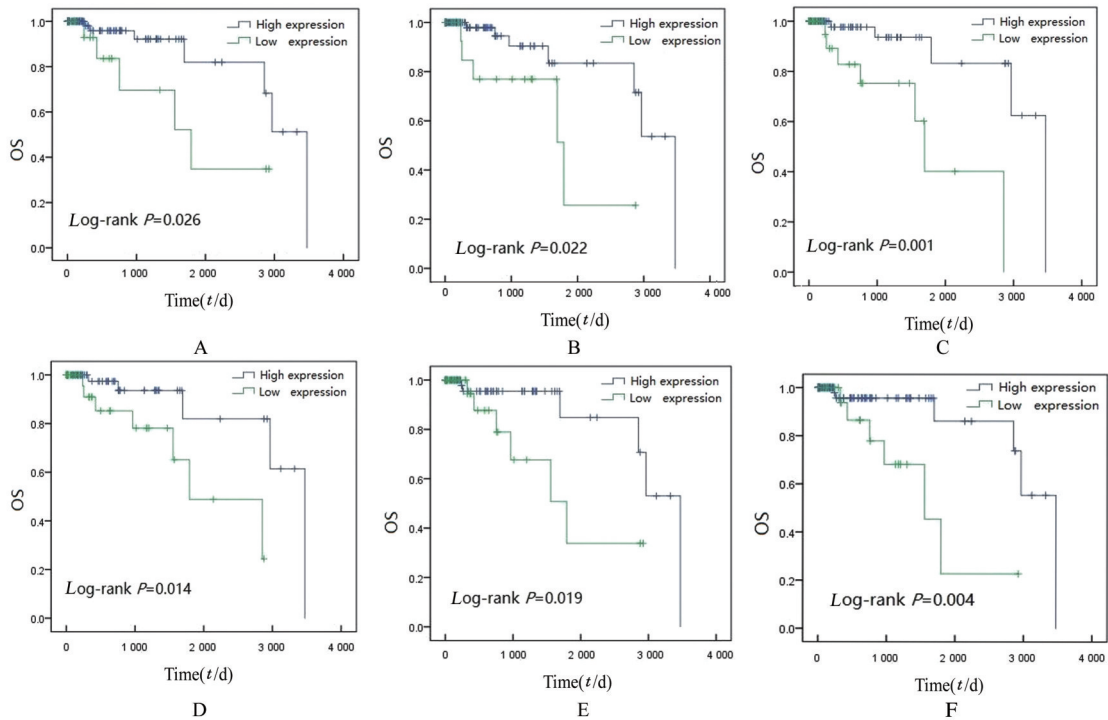
(vav guanine nucleotide exchange factor 3, VAV3)、三部结构域含有36 (tripartite motif containing 36, TRIM36)、突触标记素1 (synaptotagmin 1, SYT1)、富勒林和Sec7结构域含有3 (pleckstrin and Sec7 domain containing 3, PSD3)、过氧化物酶

体增殖物活化受体 α (peroxisome proliferator activated receptor α , PPARA)、RNA聚合酶III亚基G (RNA polymerase III subunit G, POLR3G)、多形性腺瘤基因1 (pleomorphic adenoma gene 1, PLAG1)、泛素相关及SH3结构域含有B (ubiquitin associated and SH3 domain containing B, UBASH3B)及SH3结构域和四重肽重复2 (SH3 domain and tetratricopeptide repeats 2, SH3TC2), 其中SLC24A2、VAV3、TRIM36、SYT1和PSD3在TNBC患者组织中下调, PPARA、POLR3G、PLAG1、UBASH3B和SH3TC2在TNBC患者组织中上调。在该调控网络中相互作用强度较强的miRNA-mRNA: miR-146a-SYT1、miR-146a-KIF13B、miR-9-SYT1、miR-9-KIF13B、miR-9-KITLG、miR-17-SLC24A2、miR-31-SLC24A2、miR-188-SLC24A2和miR-188-SLC24A2。见图6。

3 讨论

乳腺癌是女性最常见的恶性肿瘤之一, 严重威胁女性的身心健康, 而TNBC作为乳腺癌的一种分型, 具有侵袭性和耐药性强、易复发、存活率低且预后差等特点, 是最凶险的一类乳腺癌。越来越多的研究^[19]表明miRNAs参与肿瘤的发生发展, 在细胞凋亡、炎症、应激反应、细胞周期和增殖等过程中发挥作用, 可能成为肿瘤的预后标志物。本研究结果显示: miR-9、miR-17、miR-31、miR-146a、miR-188和miR-190b及其靶基因参与乳腺腺泡发育及血管生成等生理过程, 与乳腺癌患者的不良预后密切相关。

miR-9的上调促使乳腺组织中的正常成纤维细胞激活成为癌症相关成纤维细胞, 从而参与TNBC的发生发展^[19-20]。研究^[21-22]显示: miR-9高表达的TNBC患者DFS较低, 而远处无转移生存期较长, 且在配体依赖的血小板衍生生长因子受体 β (platelet-derived growth factor receptor β , PDGFR β)信号刺激下miR-9通过直接抑制类固醇敏感性调节蛋白相关脂类转运体结构域13 (StAR-related lipid transfer protein 13, STARD13)促进TNBC患者血管生长。miR-17表达水平与肿瘤大小和TNM分期显著相关, 且miR-17高表达的TNBC患者预后更佳, miR-17通过抑制E26转换特异性变体1 (E-twenty-six transformation-specific variant 1, ETV1)的表达, 抑制TNBC细胞的增



A: MiR-9; B: MiR-17; C: MiR-31; D: MiR-146a; E: MiR-188; F: MiR-31.

图1 miRNA 表达水平与 TNBC 患者 OS 的关系

Fig. 1 Relationship between expression of miRNA and OS of TNBC patients

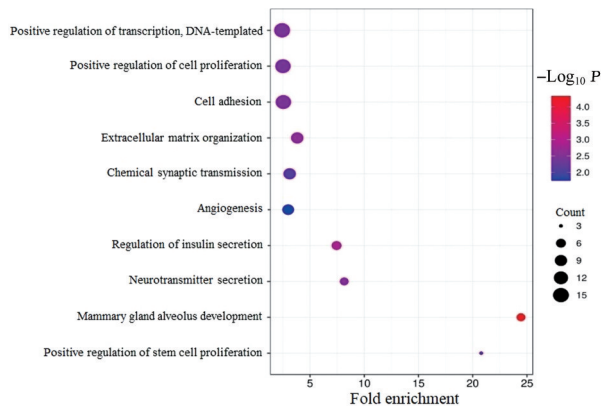


图2 靶基因生物学过程的 GO 功能富集分析

Fig. 2 GO functional enrichment analysis on biological process of target genes

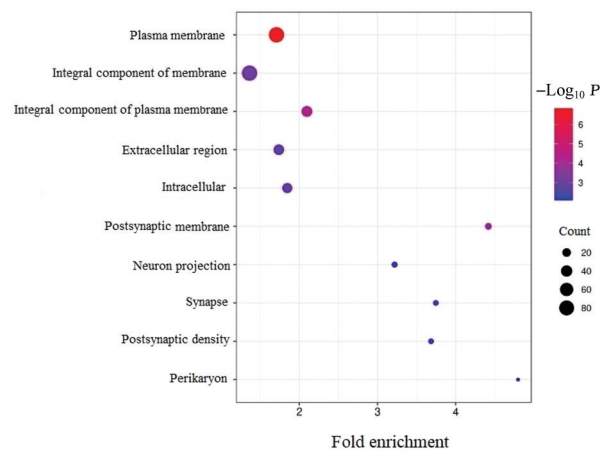


图3 靶基因细胞组分的 GO 功能富集分析

Fig. 3 GO functional enrichment analysis on cell component of target genes

殖和肿瘤的转移^[23]。miR-31通过直接抑制特异AT序列结合蛋白2 (special AT-rich sequence-binding protein 2, SATB2) 的表达抑制 TNBC 细胞的迁移和侵袭^[24]。miR-146a通过抑制SRY相关的高迁移率族盒蛋白5 (SRY-related high mobility group box 5, SOX5) 表达抑制 TNBC 患者细胞的增殖和迁移,且在乳腺癌易感基因1 (breast cancer susceptibility gene 1, BRCA1) 缺失的

TNBC 患者中, miR-146a可能是提高患者 OS 的潜在肿瘤标志物^[25-26]。miR-190b在 TNBC 患者中表达显著下调^[27]。目前关于 miR-188在 TNBC 患者中的预后价值未见相关报道,但 miR-188在乳腺癌组织中低表达,同时 miR-188通过丝裂原活化蛋白激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK) 信号通路抑制 RAS 癌基因家族成员 (member of

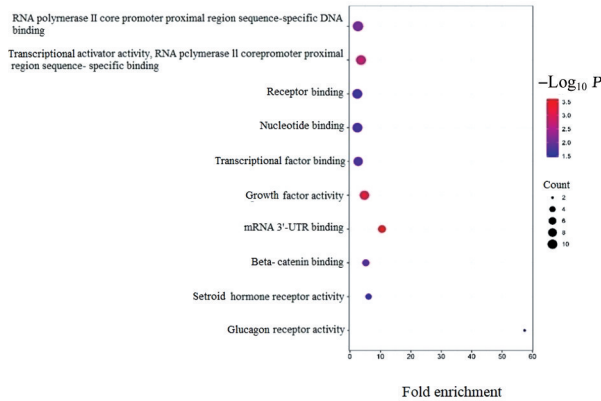


图4 靶基因分子功能的GO功能富集分析

Fig. 4 GO functional enrichment analysis on molecular function of target genes

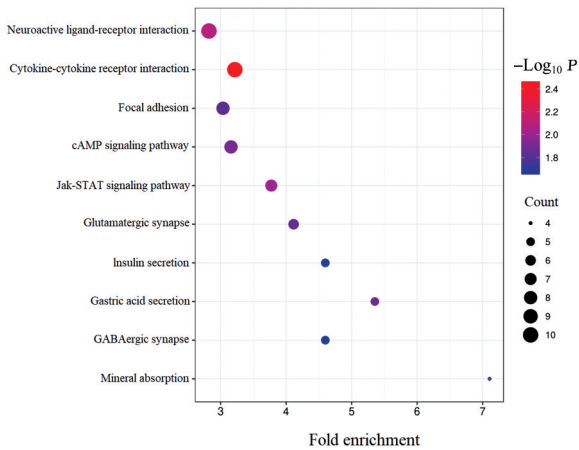


图5 靶基因的KEGG信号通路富集分析

Fig. 5 KEGG signaling pathway enrichment analysis on target genes

RAS oncogene family, RAP2C) 表达促进乳腺癌细胞凋亡并抑制乳腺癌细胞的增殖^[28]。miR-188在TNBC患者的预后价值有待进一步的研究；而miR-9、miR-17、miR-146a和miR-190b可能作为有效的预后标志物应用到临床的早期诊断和预后预测等方面；miR-9、miR-17、miR-31和miR-146a则可能作为有效的治疗靶点应用到临床中。

对基因生物学功能分析和信号通路分析可以对肿瘤发展的分子机制提供研究思路。因此，本研究进一步探讨了miRNAs靶基因参与的生物学过程和信号通路，结果显示：靶基因与乳腺腺泡的发育、DNA转录的正向调控、细胞增殖的正向调控、血管生成、细胞间黏附、 β -连环蛋白结合、与mRNA 3'-非翻译区结合及调控生长因子活性和调控转录激活因子活性等功能，因此，上述基因的异

常表达可能与DNA的异常转录和翻译及乳腺细胞的异常增殖分化有关。研究^[29]显示：ITGA9基因通过整合素连接激酶（integrin-linked kinase, ILK）/蛋白激酶A（protein kinase A, PKA）/糖原合酶激酶3（glycogen synthase kinase 3, GSK3）通路促进 β -连环蛋白降解来抑制TNBC患者肿瘤的生长和转移，提示 β -连环蛋白可能在TNBC的生长和转移起关键作用。

本研究结果显示：有部分基因富集在胰岛素分泌信号通路和细胞因子-细胞因子受体相互作用信号通路。胰岛素样生长因子1（insulin-like growth factor 1, IGF-1）及其认知受体胰岛素样生长因子1受体（insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor, IGF-1R）可能促进TNBC的发展，而胰岛素样生长因子2（insulin-like growth factor 2, IGF-2）能够促进TNBC细胞的增殖^[30-31]，因此，胰岛素分泌信号通路可能作为关键的信号通路在TNBC的发生发展中起到关键作用。细胞因子信号通路被认为能够调控肿瘤细胞增殖和间质血管网络的形成。癌细胞及其相关的基质分泌细胞因子在许多肿瘤的耐药机制中发挥关键作用，研究^[32]表明细胞因子-细胞因子受体相互作用通路可能是TNBC产生耐药性的关键通路。同时部分基因在JAK-STAT信号通路富集，人CCAAT增强子结合蛋白 β （CCAAT enhancer binding proteins, C/EBP β ）蛋白是促进TNBC发生的关键蛋白，且C/EBP β 蛋白可直接结合并调控TNBC中JAK-STAT基因^[33]，因此JAK-STAT信号通路在TNBC的发生发展中也发挥着重要作用。

本研究基于发现的6个miRNAs和224个基因构建调控网络，挖掘miR-9和miR-17的关键作用，发现了miRNAmiR-146a-SYT1、miR-146a-KIF13B、miR-9-SYT1、miR-9-KIF13B、miR-9-KITLG、miR-17-SLC24A2、miR-31-SLC24A2、miR-188-SLC24A2和miR-188-SLC24A2的强调控作用。为miR-9和miR-17成为评估TNBC患者预后的分子标志物提供了理论支持。

综上所述，miR-9、miR-17、miR-31、miR-146a、miR-188和miR-190b的表达水平与TNBC患者预后相关。其靶基因参与乳腺腺泡发育和血管生成等生理过程，与TNBC患者的不良预后密切相关，有望为评估TNBC预后提供新的分子标志物和潜在的治疗靶点。

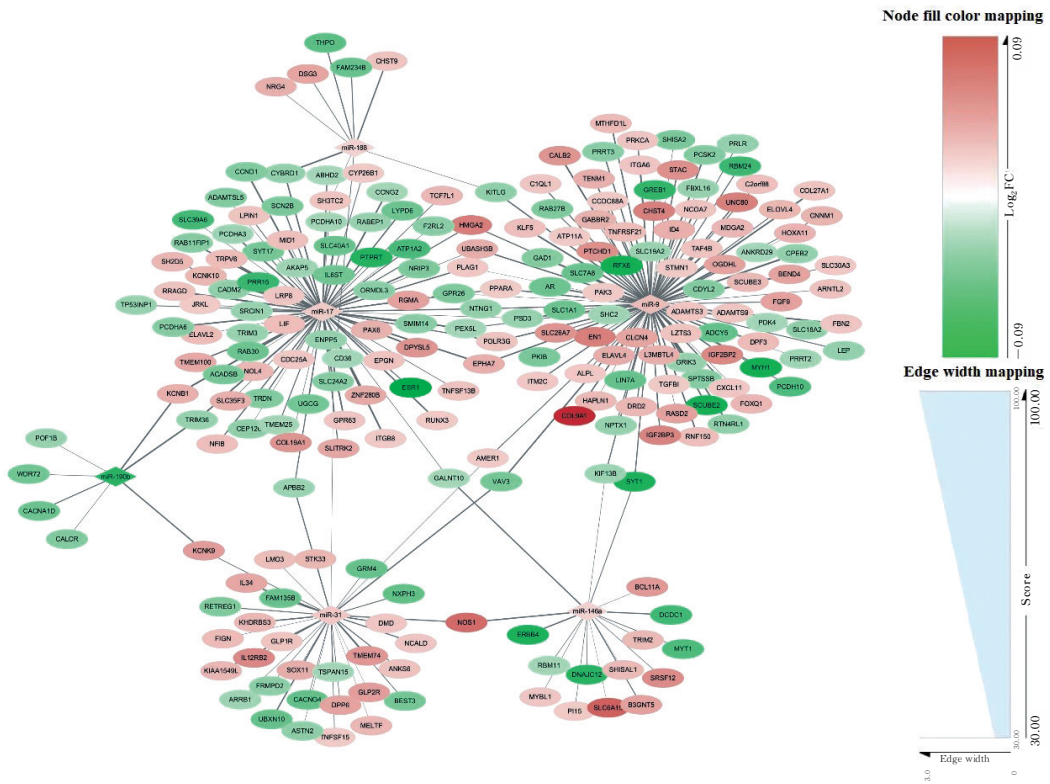


图6 miRNA-mRNA 基因调控网络图

Fig. 6 Diagram of miRNA-mRNA gene regulatory network

利益冲突声明:

所有作者声明不存在利益冲突。

作者贡献声明:

李卓林和乔乙春负责论文的整体设计, 高超和陈文俊负责论文的撰写, 宋玥莹和邵艾或负责论文的数据处理及统计学分析。

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