

新生大鼠原代软骨细胞分离和培养方法的改进

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[摘要] **目的:** 探讨新生大鼠原代软骨细胞分离和培养的改进方法, 以建立高效经济的体外软骨细胞培养体系。**方法:** 从新生大鼠关节中分离原代软骨细胞, 分为过夜消化(OD)组和快速消化(RD)组进行分离, OD组软骨细胞采用Ⅱ型胶原酶过夜消化, RD组软骨细胞采用预消化的物理化学消化相结合的手段分离细胞。采用含0% (空白组1)、1%、2%、4%和10%胎牛血清(FBS), 0 (空白组2)、0.1、0.2、0.4、0.8、1.0、2.0 g·L⁻¹维生素C(VC)和0 (空白组3)、0.5、1.0、2.0、4.0、8.0、10.0 μg·L⁻¹聚乳酸-羟基乙酸共聚体(PLGA)纳米粒子的改良培养液培养软骨细胞。将杜氏改良Eagle培养基F12营养混合液(DMEM/F12)与含不同浓度FBS、VC和PLGA的培养液分别混合, 并按照各成分浓度进行相应分组。采用细胞计数仪计数各组细胞并检测各组细胞存活率和直径, 采用甲苯胺蓝特异性染色法检测各组细胞形态表现, 采用CCK-8法检测各组细胞增殖活性, 采用细胞黏附实验检测各组细胞黏附率, 采用Hoechst/碘化丙啶(PI)染色检测各组细胞凋亡情况, 采用MTT法检测改良培养液培养后各组细胞增殖活性, 将细胞分为DMEM/F12+10%FBS组(对照组)、DMEM/F12+1%FBS组、DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组, 采用实时荧光定量PCR(RT-qPCR)法检测改良培养液培养后各组细胞中性别决定区域Y框转录因子9(SOX9)、Ⅱ型胶原α1链(Col2A1)、Ⅰ型胶原α1链(Col10A1)和基质金属蛋白酶13(MMP13)mRNA表达水平, 采用免疫荧光染色检测改良培养液培养后各组细胞中Ⅱ型胶原(COLⅡ)和SOX9表达情况。**结果:** OD组原代软骨细胞存活率小于RD组, 细胞平均直径大于RD组。OD组原代软骨细胞形态较大, 呈梭形, 大多数细胞出现伪足; RD组原代软骨细胞形态较小, 大多数细胞呈菱形, 仅部分细胞出现伪足。2组原代软骨细胞经甲苯胺蓝特异性染色均显色明显, 但RD组消化时间较短, 软骨细胞实际培养时间较OD组缩短9~13 h, 原代软骨细胞形态更为幼稚。OD组原代软骨细胞在培养24 h时增殖较为缓慢, 培养48 h时增殖速度升高, 较培养12 h时增殖活性明显升高($P<0.01$)。RD组原代软骨细胞在培养24 h时增殖稍缓, 培养48 h时增殖速度加快, 较培养12 h时增殖活性明显升高($P<0.01$); 培养24和48 h时, 与OD组比较, RD组原代细胞增殖速度升高($P<0.05$)。RD组软骨凋亡细胞数少于OD组, 2组均无坏死软骨细胞。大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性随着培养液中FBS浓度升高而升高, 与空白组1比较, 培养液中含1%、2%、4%和10%FBS时, 软骨大鼠细胞增殖活性明显升高($P<0.05$)。与空白组2比较, 培养液中含0.2~1.0 g·L⁻¹ VC时大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性明显升高($P<0.05$), 其中含0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC时大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性最高($P<0.01$)。与空白组3比较, 培养液中含1~4 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA时, 大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性明显升高($P<0.05$), 其中含1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA时大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性最高($P<0.05$)。与DMEM/F12+10%FBS组比较, DMEM/F12+1%FBS组大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA和COL2A1 mRNA表达水平均明显升高($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$)。与DMEM/F12+10%FBS组比较, DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组大鼠软

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骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA和COL2A1 mRNA表达水平明显升高 ($P < 0.01$)。免疫荧光染色, 荧光显微镜下DMEM/F12+10%FBS组部分软骨细胞中出现COL II绿色荧光信号和SOX9红色荧光信号, 荧光强度弱; DMEM/F12+1%FBS组大多数软骨细胞中出现COL II绿色荧光信号和SOX9红色荧光信号, 荧光强度明显强于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组; DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组软骨细胞中均出现COL II绿色荧光信号和SOX9红色荧光信号, 荧光强度较DMEM/F12+10%FBS组和DMEM/F12+1%FBS组明显升高。DMEM/F12+1%FBS组软骨细胞中COL II和SOX9蛋白表达量明显高于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组, DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组软骨细胞中COL II和SOX9蛋白表达量明显高于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组。**结论:**改良后的大鼠原代软骨细胞分离和培养方法可以弥补传统方法的缺陷, 缩短原代软骨细胞的分离时间, 提高原代软骨细胞的体外培养质量。

[关键词] 软骨细胞; 原代细胞培养; 体外技术; 条件培养基; 血清

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Improvement of isolation and culture methods for primary chondrocytes of neonatal rats

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ABSTRACT Objective: To discuss the improved methods for the isolation and culture of primary chondrocytes from the neonatal rats, and to establish an efficient and economical *in vitro* chondrocyte culture system. **Methods:** The primary chondrocytes were isolated from the joints of neonatal rats and divided into overnight digestion (OD) group and rapid digestion (RD) group for separation. The chondrocytes in OD group were digested overnight by type II collagenase, while the chondrocytes in RD group were separated by the combination of pre-digestion with physical and chemical digestion methods. The chondrocytes were cultured in modified media containing 0% (blank group 1), 1%, 2%, 4%, and 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS), 0 (blank group 2), 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.8, 1.0, and 2.0 g·L⁻¹ vitamin C (VC), and 0 (blank group 3), 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, 4.0, 8.0, 10.0 μg·L⁻¹ poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) (PLGA) nanoparticles. The media containing different concentrations of FBS, VC, and PLGA were mixed with Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium/nutrient mixture F-12(DMEM/F12), and were divided into related groups based on the concentrations of ingredients. Cell counter was used to count the chondrocytes in various groups and the survival rates and diameters of the chondrocytes in various groups were detected; Toluidine blue staining was used to detect the morphology of the chondrocytes in various groups; CCK-8 method was used to detect the proliferative activities of the chondrocytes in various groups; cell adhesion assay was used to detect the adhesion rates of the chondrocytes in various groups; Hoechst/propidium iodide(PI) staining was used to detect the apoptosis of the chondrocytes in various groups; MTT assay was used to detect the proliferation activities of the chondrocytes in various groups after treated with modified media. The cells were divided into DMEM/F12+10%FBS group, DMEM/F12+1%FBS group, and DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA group. Real-time fluorescence quantitative

PCR (RT-qPCR) method was used to detect the expression levels of sex-determining region Y-box 9 (SOX9), collagen type II alpha 1 chain (Col2A1), collagen type X alpha 1 chain (Col10A1), and matrix metalloproteinase 13 (MMP13) mRNAs in the chondrocytes in various groups after treated with modified media; immunofluorescence staining was used to detect the expressions of type II collagen (COL II) and SOX9 in the chondrocytes in various groups after treated with modified media. **Results:** The survival rate of primary chondrocytes in OD group was lower than that in RD group, and the average cell diameter was larger than that in RD group. The primary chondrocytes in OD group were larger and spindle-shaped, and most cells exhibited pseudopodia; in RD group, the primary chondrocytes were smaller, mostly rhomboid in shape, with only a portion of the cells showing pseudopodia. The Toluidine blue staining results showed significant coloration in both groups, but the digestion time of the chondrocytes in RD group was shorter, and compared with OD group, the actual culture time of the chondrocytes was reduced by 9–13 h, and more immature morphology of the primary chondrocytes were observed. The proliferation activity of the primary chondrocytes in OD group was slow at 24 h of culture but increased at 48 h of culture, and the proliferation activity of the primary chondrocytes was significantly higher at 48 h of culture compared with 12 h of culture ($P < 0.01$). Compared with 12 h of culture, the proliferation rates of the primary chondrocytes in RD group were increased at 24 and 48 h of culture ($P < 0.01$). At 24 and 48 h of culture, compared with OD group, the proliferation rates of the primary chondrocytes in RD group were increased ($P < 0.05$). The number of apoptotic chondrocytes in RD group was lower than that in OD group, and no necrotic chondrocytes were observed in either group. The proliferation activities of chondrocytes of the rats were increased with the rising of FBS concentration in the culture medium. Compared with blank group 1, the proliferation activities of chondrocytes of the rats after treated with culture mediums containing 1%, 2%, 4%, and 10% FBS were significantly increased ($P < 0.05$). Compared with blank group 2, the proliferative activities of chondrocytes of the rats after treated with culture mediums containing 0.2–1.0 $\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ VC were significantly increased ($P < 0.05$), and the highest proliferation activity was found when the concentration of VC was 0.4 $\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ($P < 0.01$). Compared with blank group 3, the proliferation activities of chondrocytes of the rats after treated with culture mediums containing 1–4 $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA were significantly increased ($P < 0.05$), and the highest proliferation activity was found after treated with culture medium containing 1 $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA ($P < 0.05$). Compared with DMEM/F12+10%FBS group, the expression levels of SOX9 mRNA and Col2A1 mRNA in the chondrocytes in DMEM/F12+1%FBS group were significantly increased ($P < 0.05$ or $P < 0.01$). Compared with DMEM/F12+10%FBS group, the expression levels of SOX9 mRNA and Col2A1 mRNA in the chondrocytes in DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 $\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ VC+1 $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA group were significantly increased ($P < 0.01$). The immunofluorescence staining results showed that the green fluorescence signal of COL II and the red fluorescence signal of SOX9 were observed in some chondrocytes in DMEM/F12+10%FBS group under fluorescence microscope, and the fluorescence intensity was weak. In DMEM/F12+1%FBS group, most chondrocytes exhibited COL II green fluorescence signal and SOX9 red fluorescence signal, and the fluorescence intensity was significantly stronger than that in DMEM/F12+10% FBS group. In DMEM/F12+1% FBS+0.4 $\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ VC+1 $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA group, the COL II green fluorescence signal and SOX9 red fluorescence signal were found in all the chondrocytes, and the fluorescence intensity was significantly higher than those in DMEM/F12+10%FBS and DMEM/F12+1%FBS groups. The expression levels of COL II and SOX9 proteins in the chondrocytes in DMEM/F12+1%FBS group were significantly higher than those in DMEM/F12+10%FBS group, and the expression levels of COL II and SOX9 proteins in the chondrocytes in DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 $\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ VC+1 $\mu\text{g} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA group were significantly higher than those in DMEM/F12+10%FBS group. **Conclusion:** The improved methods for the isolation and culture of primary chondrocytes of the

rats can overcome the shortcomings of traditional methods, shorten the isolation time of primary chondrocytes, and improve the quality of *in vitro* culture of primary chondrocytes.

KEYWORDS Chondrocytes; Primary cell culture; *In vitro* techniques; Conditioned culture media; Serum

软骨细胞是关节软骨组织中的重要组成细胞,其主要作用是维持软骨组织内环境相对稳定^[1]。由于软骨组织缺乏血管、神经和淋巴管等结构分布,一旦损伤很难自愈^[2]。骨关节炎(osteoarthritis, OA)是最常见的老年退行性疾病,由关节软骨细胞损伤和软骨细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)合成及分解紊乱引起,以关节软骨慢性进行性变性为特征^[3]。原代软骨细胞的分离和培养是研究OA的重要途径^[4]。由于软骨组织结构致密,分离原代软骨细胞有一定难度。目前研究^[5-6]最常采用Ⅱ型胶原酶进行过夜消化(overnight digestion, OD),但消化耗时较长,因此可能影响原代软骨细胞的形态和功能。有研究^[7]采取顺序酶消化的方法,但仍耗时较长。软骨细胞的体外培养也存在难点。一方面,培养液的营养物质需要保障软骨ECM的生理特性。软骨细胞扩增通常在含10%胎牛血清(fetal bovine serum, FBS)的培养液中进行^[8-10],但该培养基不利于体外连续传代细胞特性的维持。某些改良培养基^[11-12]由于成分复杂且价格昂贵,难以普及。另一方面,软骨细胞在体外有去分化趋势,宜在三维(three-dimensional, 3D)环境中维持其分化表型^[13]。一些专门的3D培养物,如涡旋培养容器^[14]和材料固相支架^[15-16]等,可聚集细胞,但易因营养物质受损导致细胞坏死^[4]。聚乳酸-羟基乙酸共聚物[poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid), PLGA]是目前应用最广泛的可降解生物材料,具有较好的生物相容性,其纳米粒子作为药物载体对OA的治疗潜力已被研究^[17-18]证实。目前关于纳米颗粒和培养基添加物对软骨细胞体外培养的作用的相关研究较少。本研究对既往原代软骨细胞的分离方法和培养方法进行改良,建立预消化及物理和化学消化相结合的方法来缩短分离时间,并通过降低FBS浓度和添加适宜浓度维生素C(vitamin C, VC)和PLGA纳米颗粒共培养的方法来降低不利因素对软骨细胞培养的影响,为体外软骨细胞培养系统的分离和培养提供新思路。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物、主要试剂和仪器 无特定病原体级

1~2日龄SD大鼠10只,雌雄不限,购自长春亿斯实验动物技术有限公司,实验动物使用许可证号:SYXK(吉)2023-0010。杜氏改良Eagle培养基/F12营养混合液(Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium/nutrient mixture F-12, DMEM/F12)和Ⅱ型胶原酶购自美国赛默飞世尔科技公司,青-链霉素混合液和胰酶购自美国Hyclone公司,FBS购自以色列Biological Industries公司,细胞计数试剂盒8(cell counting kit-8, CCK-8)、甲苯胺蓝染色液和4',6-二脒基-2-苯基吲哚(4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole, DAPI)染色液购自北京索莱宝科技有限公司,抗Ⅱ型胶原蛋白(anti-collagen type II, Anti-COL II)小鼠抗大鼠一抗购自美国Novus Biologicals有限责任公司,抗性别决定区Y框蛋白9(anti-sex determining region Y box protein 9, Anti-SOX9)兔抗大鼠一抗购自英国Abcam公司,抗小鼠二抗和抗兔二抗购自上海爱必信生物科技有限公司,Hoechst 33342/碘化丙啶(propidium iodide, PI)双染试剂盒购自北京兰杰柯科技有限公司,VC购自北京兰博利德生物技术有限公司,PLGA(LA/GA=50/50,相对分子质量100 000)购自上海源叶生物科技有限公司,RNA反转录试剂盒购自上海吐露港生物科技有限公司,大鼠β-肌动蛋白内参引物购自生工生物工程(上海)股份有限公司。CO₂恒温培养箱和台式高速冷冻型微量离心机购自赛默飞世尔科技公司,倒置生物显微镜和倒置荧光显微镜购自日本奥林巴斯公司,瑞沃德C100细胞计数仪购自深圳瑞沃德生命科技有限公司,MX3000P实时荧光定量PCR(real-time fluorescence quantitative PCR, RT-qPCR)仪购自美国安捷伦科技有限公司,酶标仪购自瑞士帝肯公司,超声波清洗机购自深圳洁盟清洗设备有限公司,超净台购自苏州安泰空气技术有限公司。

1.2 大鼠软骨组织分离、分组和处理方式

采用CO₂窒息法处死大鼠,75%乙醇浸泡15 min后转移至超净台中。去除大鼠后肢膝关节皮肤和肌肉,暴露关节软骨。分离关节软骨,磷酸盐缓冲液(phosphate buffered saline, PBS)清洗2次,采用2只1 mL注射器针头机械破碎软骨组织,其中一只针

头固定组织,另一只针头斜面切割组织。将破碎后的软骨组织转移至新培养皿中,分为OD组和快速消化(rapid digestion, RD)组。OD组软骨组织中按照1:1的比例加入Ⅱ型胶原酶和含10% FBS的DMEM/F12,然后置入培养箱中培养12~16 h。RD组软骨组织加入胰酶预消化15 min,吸弃胰酶,培养液清洗2次后按照1:1的比例加入Ⅱ型胶原酶和含10% FBS的DMEM/F12,置于离心管中每隔1 h超声15 s,共消化3 h。2组细胞随后转移至离心管中,采用细胞过滤器(孔径70 μm)过滤软骨组织,1 000 $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心5 min。加入培养液重悬细胞,接种于培养瓶中,置于37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、5% CO_2 培养箱中培养。

1.3 2组软骨细胞的存活率和直径检测 取2组原代分离后的软骨细胞,移液枪反复吹吸均匀后稀释50倍,与0.4%台盼蓝染色液等比例混合,制备成细胞悬液稀释液。在细胞计数板中加入10 μL 细胞悬液稀释液,采用细胞计数仪检测2组分离的原代软骨细胞存活率和直径。细胞存活率=存活细胞数/细胞总数 $\times 100\%$ 。

1.4 甲苯胺蓝染色观察2组软骨细胞形态表现

取原代分离的软骨细胞,以 $1\times 10^5\text{ mL}^{-1}$ 的密度接种于24孔细胞培养板中,每孔500 μL ,培养箱培养2 d后。取出24孔细胞培养板,吸干培养基,加入PBS,清洗2次,每次1 min。再向24孔细胞培养板加入甲苯胺蓝染液预染10 min,每孔200 μL 。预染后,每孔滴加等量蒸馏水吹打混匀,静置30 min复染。随后每孔加入蒸馏水清洗2次,每次30 s。最后加入适量蒸馏水完全浸没软骨细胞,在显微镜下观察2组软骨细胞形态表现。

1.5 CCK-8法检测2组软骨细胞增殖活性 取原代分离后的软骨细胞,以 $1\times 10^5\text{ mL}^{-1}$ 的密度接种于96孔细胞培养板中,每孔100 μL ,待软骨细胞成功贴壁后,培养12、24和48 h时,每孔加入10 μL CCK-8试剂,混匀后放入培养箱孵育2 h。采用酶标仪检测于450 nm波长处检测吸光度(A)值,并计算软骨细胞增殖活性。细胞增殖活性=(实验孔A值-空白孔A值)/(对照孔A值-空白孔A值) $\times 100\%$ 。

1.6 2组软骨细胞黏附率检测 取培养至第2天的原代细胞,在显微镜下观察其密度达到80%~90%时,在贴壁的软骨细胞中加入适量胰酶进行消化,待软骨细胞呈现悬浮状态时加入培养液终止消化,

取软骨细胞悬液计数。再在24孔细胞培养板中接种软骨细胞,密度为 $1\times 10^5\text{ mL}^{-1}$,每孔1 mL,置于培养箱培养1.5 h。吸干孔板中的培养液,转至15 mL离心管中,采用1 mL培养液洗涤孔板1次,与上述培养液混合,1 000 $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心5 min,吸弃上清,加入1 mL培养液重悬离心管底部的细胞沉淀,吹打均匀后与细胞计数液以1:100比例混合,制成细胞悬液稀释液,采用细胞计数板进行计数。重复操作3次,计算软骨细胞黏附率^[19]。软骨细胞黏附率=(细胞总数-脱落细胞数)/细胞总数 $\times 100\%$ 。

1.7 Hoechst/PI染色法检测2组软骨细胞凋亡情况

取原代分离的软骨细胞,接种于含不同成分培养液的24孔细胞培养板,密度为 $1\times 10^5\text{ mL}^{-1}$,置于培养箱中培养1 d。吸干培养基,PBS缓冲液洗涤2次。在含1 mL PBS缓冲液的离心管中加入5 μL Hoechst染色液和5 μL PI染色液,采用移液枪反复吹打混匀后加入24孔细胞培养板中,4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 避光孵育15 min,PBS缓冲液洗涤1次。在荧光显微镜下检测红色荧光和蓝色荧光观察并采集图像。正常细胞表现为低蓝色/低红色(Hoechst+/PI+),凋亡细胞表现为高蓝色/低红色(Hoechst++/PI+),坏死细胞表现为低蓝色/高红色(Hoechst+/PI++)。

1.8 MTT法检测含不同成分培养液中软骨细胞的增殖活性

取原代分离的细胞,以 $1\times 10^5\text{ mL}^{-1}$ 的密度接种于96孔细胞培养板中,每孔加入100 μL 细胞悬液和含0% (空白组1)、0.5%、1.0%、2.0%、4.0%和10.0%的FBS,0 (空白组2)、0.1、0.2、0.4、0.8、1.0、2.0 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC及0 (空白组3)、0.5、1.0、2.0、4.0、8.0、10.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA纳米粒子的培养液,培养箱中培养12 h。每孔加入10 μL MTT (5 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$),置于培养箱中培养,2 h后彻底吸干上清,每孔的甲臜颗粒采用100 μL 二甲基亚砜溶解,采用酶标仪检测570 nm处A值,并依据“1.5”中计算公式计算各组软骨细胞增殖活性。

1.9 RT-qPCR法检测软骨细胞中目的基因表达水平

将细胞分为DMEM/F12+10%FBS组、DMEM/F12+1%FBS组、DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC+1 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA组。取各组培养48 h后的细胞,分别加入1 mL TRIzol RNA提取液,充分裂解,每管加入200 μL 氯仿试剂,4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下、13 000 $\text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心15 min。在新的离心管中加入

200 μL 上层水相, 加入等量预冷异丙醇, 混匀, 置于冰上 5 min, $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、 $13\ 000\ \text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心 5 min。弃上清, 向沉淀中加入 500 μL 75% 乙醇 (由 RNase free ddH₂O 与无水乙醇配制), 混匀, 洗涤沉淀, $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、 $13\ 000\ \text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心 5 min。弃上清, 尽量吸干乙醇, 晾干沉淀, 根据离心管底部 RNA 沉淀的量加入 20~100 μL RNase free ddH₂O 溶解沉淀。测量提取总 RNA 浓度, 按照 RNA 反转录试剂盒操作说明进行逆转录合成 cDNA。按照 FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master (Rox) 试剂盒说明书进行 RT-qPCR 检测, 反应条件为 $95\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、15 s, $60\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 、60 s, 共 40 个循环, 以大鼠 β -肌动蛋白为内参重复 3 次, 采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{CT}}$ 法计算 2 组软骨细胞中性别决定区域 Y 框转录因子 9 (sex-determining region Y-box 9, SOX9)、II 型胶原 $\alpha 1$ 链 (collagen type II alpha 1 chain, COL2A1)、X 型胶原 $\alpha 1$ 链 (collagen type X alpha 1 chain, COL10A1) 和基质金属蛋白酶 13 (matrix metalloproteinase 13, MMP13) mRNA 表达水平。引物序列见表 1。

表 1 引物序列
Tab. 1 Primer sequences

Primer	Sequence(5'-3')
SOX9	Forward:GCCACCGAACAGACTCAC
	Reverse:ACCCTGAGATTGCCCGGA
COL2A1	Forward:CTGTGAAGACCCAGACTGCC
	Reverse:TTCTCCTTTCTGCCCTTTGG
COL10A1	Forward:GGATGCCTCTTGTCAGTGCTAACC
	Reverse:TCATAGTGCTGCTGCCTGTTGTAC
MMP13	Forward:CAAGCAGCTCCAAAGGCTAC
	Reverse:TGGCTTTTGCCAGTGTAGGT

1.10 免疫荧光法观察软骨细胞中 COL II 和 SOX9 表达情况 取原代分离的软骨细胞, 接种于 10%FBS、1%FBS、1%FBS+ $0.4\ \text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC+ $1\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA 3 种不同成分培养液的 24 孔细胞培养板, 加入 DMEM/F12, 分为 DMEM/F12+10%FBS 组、DMEM/F12+1%FBS 组和 DMEM/F12+1%FBS+ $0.4\ \text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC+ $1\ \mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA 组, 密度为 $1\times 10^5\ \text{mL}^{-1}$, 置入培养箱中培养 1 d。吸弃一半培养液, 加入 200 μL 4% 多聚甲醛 (paraformaldehyde, PFA) 预固定 5 min。吸弃液体, 加入 300 μL 4% PFA 固定 30 min。吸弃固定液后, 每孔加入 1 mL PBS 缓冲液洗涤 3 次, 每次

3 min。每孔加入 500 μL 封闭通透液 (5% 牛血清白蛋白与 0.3% Triton 1:1 混合) 室温避光封闭 40 min。PBS 缓冲液洗涤 3 次, 每次 3 min。加入稀释后的 SOX-9 (1:250) 和 II 型胶原 (type II collagen, COL II) (1:500) 一抗, 将 24 孔细胞培养板置于湿盒中, 置于 $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 冰箱孵育过夜。PBS 缓冲液洗涤 3 次, 每次 3 min。加入稀释后的抗兔 (1:500) 和抗小鼠 (1:500) 标记二抗避光孵育 1 h。PBS 缓冲液洗涤 3 次, 每次 3 min。每孔加入 200 μL DAPI 染液避光染色 8 min。PBS 缓冲液洗涤 3 次, 每次 3 min, 于倒置荧光显微镜下观察各组软骨细胞中 COL II 和 SOX9 表达情况, 以荧光强度代表细胞中 COL II 和 SOX9 表达量。

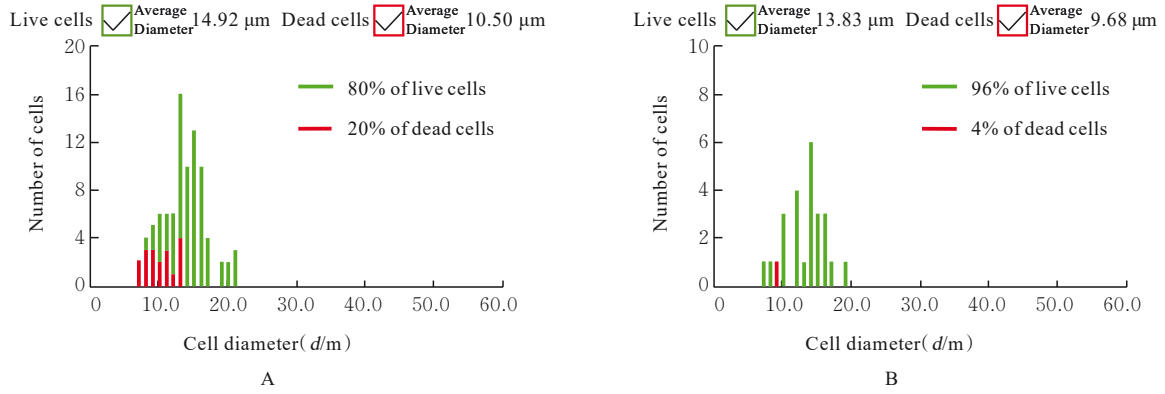
1.11 统计学分析 采用 GraphPad Prism 8 统计软件进行统计学分析。2 组软骨细胞增殖活性、黏附率和各组细胞中 SOX9、COL2A1、COL10A1 和 MMP13 mRNA 表达水平符合正态分布, 以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示, 多组间样本均数比较采用单因素方差分析, 组间样本均数两两比较采用 Tukey 检验。以 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 2 组软骨细胞存活率和直径 OD 组原代软骨细胞存活率为 80%, 细胞平均直径为 10.50 μm ; RD 组原代软骨细胞存活率为 96%, 细胞平均直径为 9.68 μm , 提示 RD 组分离的原代软骨细胞存活率更高, 且大小更为幼稚。见图 1。

2.2 2 组软骨细胞形态表现 OD 组原代软骨细胞形态较大, 呈梭形, 大多数细胞出现伪足; RD 组原代软骨细胞形态较小, 大多数细胞呈菱形, 仅部分细胞出现伪足。2 组原代软骨细胞经甲苯胺蓝特异性染色均显色明显, 但 RD 组消化时间较短, 软骨细胞实际培养时间较 OD 组缩短 9~13 h, 原代软骨细胞形态更为幼稚。见图 2。

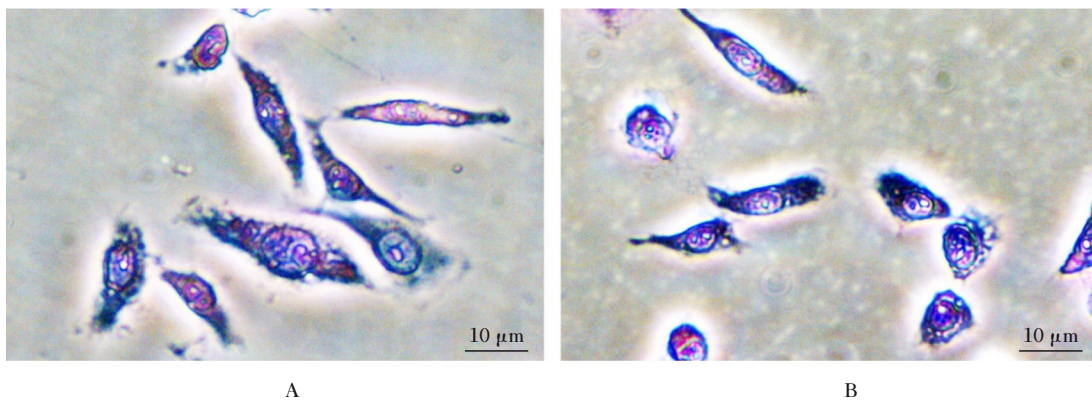
2.3 2 组软骨细胞增殖活性 OD 组原代软骨细胞在培养 24 h 时增殖较为缓慢, 培养 48 h 时增殖速度升高, 较培养 12 h 时增殖活性明显升高 ($P<0.01$)。RD 组原代软骨细胞在培养 24 h 时增殖速度稍缓, 培养 48 h 时增殖速度升高, 较培养 12 h 时增殖活性明显升高 ($P<0.01$)。在培养 24 和 48 h 时, 与 OD 组比较, RD 组原代细胞增殖速度升高 ($P<0.05$)。RD 组原代软骨细胞黏附率 ($89.17\%\pm 8.04\%$) 比 OD 组 ($88.33\%\pm 2.89\%$) 略有降低, 组间比较差异无统计学意义 ($P>0.05$)。见图 3。



A:OD group; B:RD group.

图1 细胞计数仪检测2组大鼠软骨细胞存活率

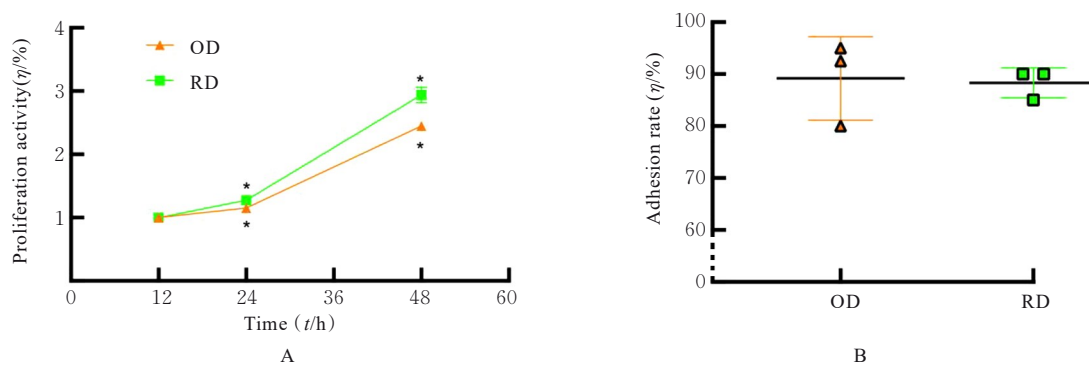
Fig. 1 Survival rates of chondrocytes of rats in two groups detected by cell counter



A:OD group; B:RD group.

图2 甲苯胺蓝染色观察2组大鼠软骨细胞形态表现

Fig. 2 Morphology of chondrocytes of rats in two groups observed by toluidine blue staining



* $P < 0.01$ compared with OD group.

图3 2组大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性(A)和黏附率(B)

Fig. 3 Proliferation activities (A) and adhesion rates(B) of chondrocytes of rats in two groups

2.4 2组软骨细胞凋亡情况 2组软骨细胞多为正常细胞(Hoechst+/PI+)。RD组软骨凋亡细胞(Hoechst++/PI+)数少于OD组,2组均无坏死软骨细胞(Hoechst+/PI++)。见图4。

2.5 含不同浓度FBS、VC和PLGA的培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性 大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性随着培养液中FBS浓度升高而升高,与空白组1比较,培养液中含1.0%、2.0%、4.0%和

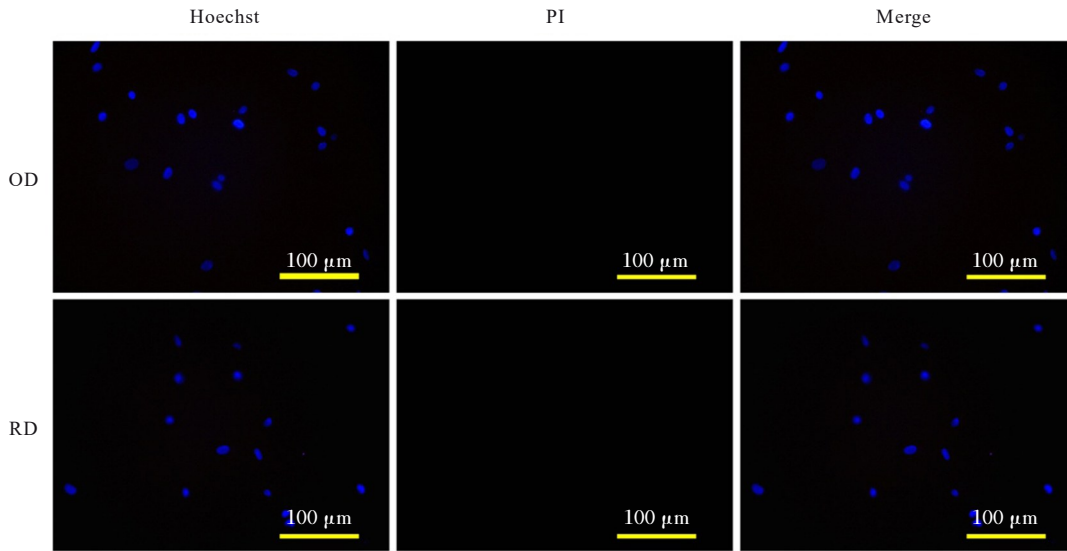
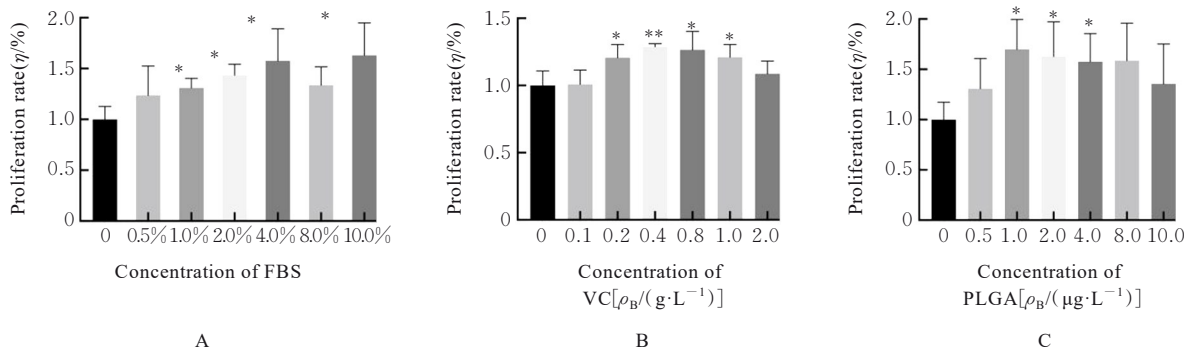


图4 Hoechst/PI染色检测2组大鼠软骨细胞凋亡形态表现

Fig. 4 Apoptotic morphology of chondrocytes of rats in two groups detected by Hoechst/PI staining

10.0%FBS组软骨大鼠细胞增殖活性明显升高 ($P < 0.05$), 见图5A。与空白组2比较, 培养液中含0.2~1.0 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC组大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性明显升高 ($P < 0.05$), 其中含0.4 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC时大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性最高 ($P < 0.01$), 见图5B。与空

白组3比较, 含1.0~4.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA培养液组大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性明显升高 ($P < 0.05$), 其中含1.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA培养液时大鼠软骨细胞增殖活性最高 ($P < 0.05$), 见图5C。



* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ compared with blank group.

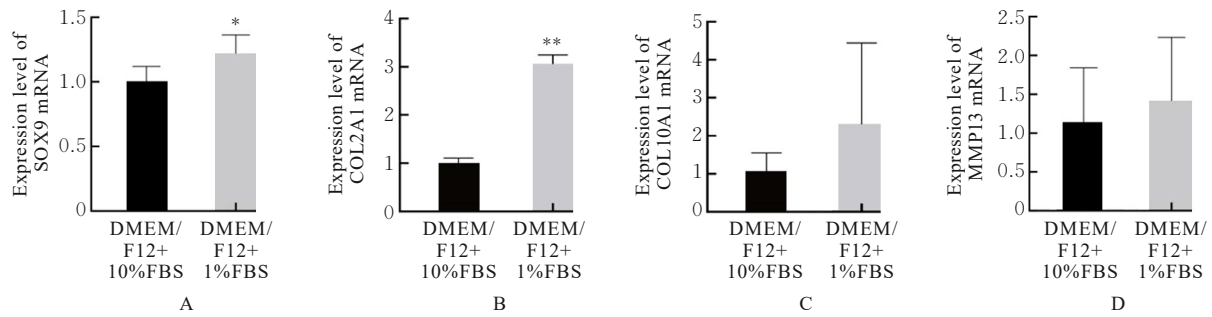
图5 含不同浓度FBS(A)、VC(B)和PLGA(C)培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞增殖率

Fig. 5 Proliferation rates of chondrocytes of rats after treated with mediums with different concentrations of FBS (A), VC(B), and PLGA(C)

2.6 含不同浓度FBS的培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9、COL2A1、COL10A1和MMP13 mRNA表达水平 与DMEM/F12+10%FBS组比较, DMEM/F12+1%FBS组大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA和COL2A1 mRNA表达水平均明显升高 ($P < 0.05$ 或 $P < 0.01$), COL10A1和MMP13 mRNA表达水平略有升高, 但差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$)。见图6。因此在含有1%FBS的培养中

添加0.4 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC和1.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA对现有的培养液进行进一步改进。

2.7 改良培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9、COL2A1、COL10A1和MMP13 mRNA表达水平 与DMEM/F12+10%FBS组比较, DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 $\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ VC+1.0 $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ PLGA组大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA和COL2A1 mRNA表达水平明显升高 ($P < 0.01$), COL10A1和



* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ compared with DMEM/F12+10%FBS group.

图6 含不同浓度FBS的培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA(A)、COL2A1 mRNA(B)、COL10A1 mRNA(C)和MMP13 mRNA(D)表达水平

Fig.6 Expression levels of SOX9 mRNA(A), COL2A1 mRNA(B), COL10A1 mRNA (C), and MMP13 mRNA(D) in chondrocytes of rats after treated with mediums with different concentrations of FBS

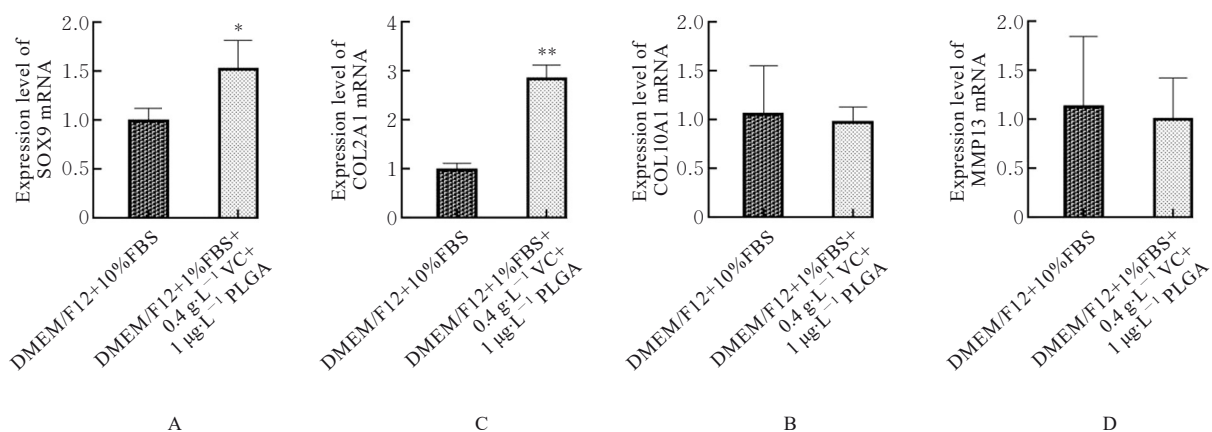
MMP13 mRNA 表达水平略有降低, 但差异无统计学意义 ($P > 0.05$)。见图7。

2.8 改良培养液培养后软骨细胞中COL II和SOX9表达 经COL II免疫荧光染色, 软骨细胞的细胞质呈现绿色荧光, 经SOX9免疫荧光染色细胞核呈现红色荧光; 经DAPI染色细胞核呈现蓝色荧光, 可定位软骨细胞核。荧光显微镜下可见DMEM/F12+10%FBS组部分软骨细胞中出现COL II绿色荧光信号和SOX9红色荧光信号, 荧光强度弱。DMEM/F12+1%FBS组大多数软骨细胞中出现COL II绿色荧光信号和SOX9红色荧光信号, 荧光强度明显强于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组。DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组软骨细胞中均出现COL II绿色荧光信号和

SOX9红色荧光信号, 可见荧光强度较DMEM/F12+10%FBS组和DMEM/F12+1%FBS组明显升高。荧光图像分析结果显示: DMEM/F12+1%FBS组软骨细胞中COL II和SOX9蛋白表达量明显高于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组, DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA组软骨细胞中COL II和SOX9蛋白表达量明显高于DMEM/F12+10%FBS组。见图8。

3 讨论

软骨细胞具有维持ECM合成代谢和分解代谢动态平衡的作用。ECM的主要成分是胶原蛋白和蛋白聚糖。透明软骨的特征是存在聚集蛋白聚糖 (aggrecan, ACAN) 和COL II, ACAN单个分子



* $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ compared with DMEM/F12+10%FBS group.

图7 改良培养液培养后大鼠软骨细胞中SOX9 mRNA(A)、COL2A1 mRNA(B)、COL10A1 mRNA(C)和MMP13 mRNA(D)表达水平

Fig. 7 Expression levels of SOX9 mRNA(A), COL2A1 mRNA(B), COL10A1 mRNA(C), and MMP13 mRNA(D) in chondrocytes of rats after treated with modified medium

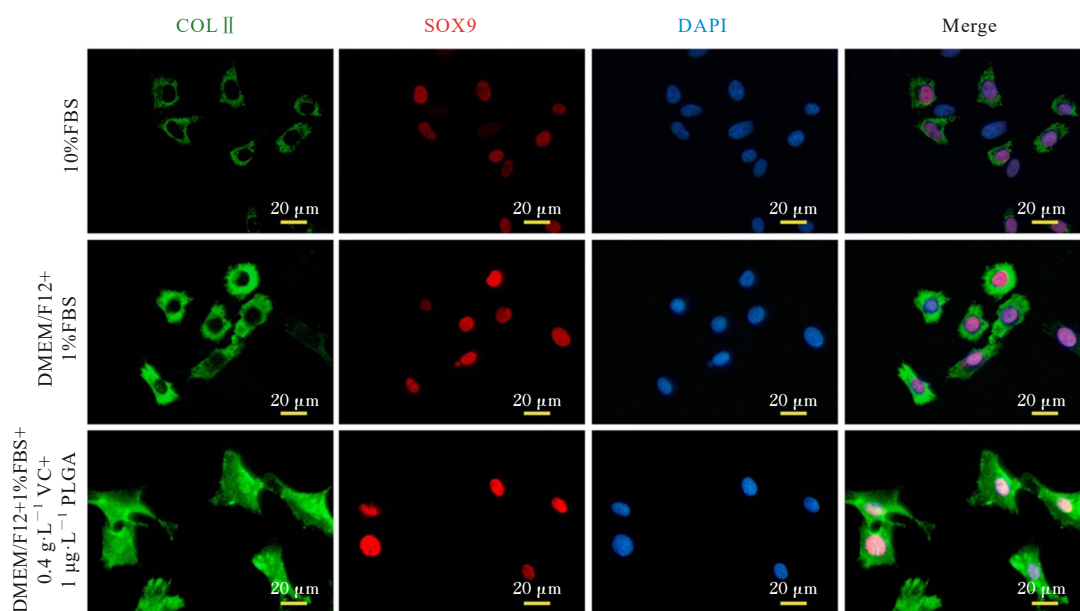


图8 免疫荧光染色检测各组大鼠软骨细胞形态表现

Fig. 8 Morphology of chondrocytes of rats in various groups detected by immunofluorescence staining

上存在阴离子电荷, 确保聚集体的产生。甲苯胺蓝染料中的阳离子与其结合, 使软骨细胞特异性染色。SOX9是调控软骨分化和软骨细胞特异性基质基因表达的一种关键因子, 可以直接调控COL2A1的表达^[20-21]。COL2A1是一种软骨细胞特异性基质基因, 可以编码COL2A1^[21-22]。在OA中, 软骨细胞转变为肥大软骨细胞和纤维软骨细胞。肥大软骨细胞的主要特征是表达Ⅹ型胶原蛋白 (collagen type Ⅹ, COL Ⅹ) 和MMP13等相关转录因子^[23]。COL10A1是软骨细胞肥大和骨化的特征性基因, 编码COL Ⅹ, 促进软骨细胞分化成熟^[24]。MMP13通过降解COL II, 破坏软骨细胞基质^[24-25]。COL10A1和MMP13广泛用作软骨细胞炎症标志基因^[26]。本研究结果显示: 通过RD分离后得到的软骨细胞具有甲苯胺蓝特异性染色, 而改良培养液培养后, 软骨细胞中特异性基因SOX9和COL2A1 mRNA呈高表达, 炎症相关基因COL Ⅹ和MMP13 mRNA呈低表达, SOX9和COL II蛋白高表达, 表明改良分离和培养方法后得到的细胞为软骨细胞, 且尚未发生炎症变化。

原代软骨细胞分离方法的主要缺陷在于消化时间过长。本研究采用RD法将消化时间从原来的12~16 h缩短至3 h, 有效分离了原代软骨细胞, 明显提高了原代软骨细胞的存活率和增殖活性, 降减少了细胞凋亡。RD法分离出的软骨细胞形态更为幼稚, 大部分细胞仍保持菱形。虽然RD法使得

原代软骨细胞的黏附率稍有下降, 但是差异无统计学意义。本研究采用RD法可以有效改善分离细胞时间长的缺陷, 明显提高原代软骨细胞的质量。

原代软骨细胞培养方法的主要缺陷在于培养液所含有的FBS可能对软骨细胞具有不良影响, 包括成分定义不清楚、不同批次之间存在差异和潜在传播动物病原体等, 可能加速软骨细胞去分化, 对软骨细胞的形态和功能产生影响, 使软骨细胞的特异性产物表达水平下降^[10]。本研究通过降低培养液FBS浓度, 从而对现有培养方法进行初步改良, 结果显示: 与含10%FBS的培养液比较, 含1%FBS的培养液中营养物质含量降低, 软骨细胞增殖活性稍有降低, 但不明显。软骨细胞中特异性产物SOX9和COL2A1 mRNA及蛋白表达水平明显提高。FBS浓度降低后, 细胞中COL10A1和MMP13表达水平略微升高。为了降低FBS浓度降低导致的营养不足和炎症风险, 在含1%FBS的培养液中添加VC和PLGA纳米颗粒进行改良。VC是一种常见的抗氧化剂, 研究^[27-28]证实: VC对软骨细胞基因表达起重要调控作用, 可以促进软骨细胞增殖。PLGA具有良好的生物相容性和降解性, 研究^[29]显示: 阳离子PLGA微载体有利于软骨细胞增殖和附着, 可增加与培养液的接触面积。将体外培养的软骨细胞和PLGA纳米颗粒共培养, 可能有利于对人体软骨组织缺损部位进行种子细胞及纳米材料的共移植。在含1%FBS的培养液中添加

0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC 和 1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA 弥补了培养液降低 FBS 浓度带来的细胞增殖活性降低的问题。本研究结果显示:改良培养基培养后,与 DMEM/F12+10%FBS 组比较,DMEM/F12+1%FBS+0.4 g·L⁻¹ VC+1 μg·L⁻¹ PLGA 组细胞中 SOX9 和 COL2A1 表达水平明显升高, COL10A1 和 MMP13 表达水平略有降低,说明改良培养基延缓了软骨细胞的分化成熟与炎症表达,改善了营养缺乏问题,促进了软骨细胞增殖,维持了软骨细胞活力。

综上所述,本研究改进了原代软骨细胞的分离和培养方法,缩短了原代软骨细胞分离时间,提高了分离效率,降低了培养成本,提高了软骨细胞质量,为软骨细胞原代培养实验提供了一个模拟体内环境的体外系统,为软骨细胞的特性及机制研究和软骨细胞相关疾病研究提供了科学依据。

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