

丁酸钠对脂多糖联合D-氨基半乳糖诱导小鼠急性肝损伤的保护作用及其机制

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[摘要] **目的:** 探讨丁酸钠(NaB)脂多糖(LPS)联合D-氨基半乳糖(D-Gal)诱导小鼠急性肝损伤的保护作用, 并阐明其作用机制。**方法:** 30只雄性昆明小鼠随机分为对照组、模型组和NaB组, 每组10只。NaB组小鼠给予 $200\text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}\cdot\text{d}^{-1}$ NaB, 对照组和模型组小鼠给予等体积无菌水。模型组和NaB组小鼠腹腔注射 $20\text{ }\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ LPS和 $600\text{ mg}\cdot\text{kg}^{-1}$ D-Gal诱导建立小鼠急性肝损伤模型。检测各组小鼠体质量和肝脏质量, 计算肝脏指数。HE染色观察各组小鼠肝脏组织病理形态表现, 试剂盒检测各组小鼠血清中丙氨酸氨基转移酶(ALT)和天门冬氨酸氨基转移酶(AST)活性及肝脏组织中总超氧化物歧化酶(T-SOD)和过氧化氢酶(CAT)活性及丙二醛(MDA)水平, Western blotting法检测各组小鼠肝脏组织中核因子E2相关因子2(Nrf2)和血红素加氧酶1(HO-1)蛋白表达水平。**结果:** 各组小鼠体质量比较差异均无统计学意义($P>0.05$); 与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠肝脏指数明显升高($P<0.01$); 与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠肝脏指数明显降低($P<0.01$)。HE染色观察, 对照组小鼠肝脏组织结构正常, 肝细胞边界清晰、大小一致, 围绕中央静脉呈放射状均匀排列, 且核位于细胞中央; 模型组小鼠可见肝细胞排列紊乱, 细胞肿胀, 多发灶状肝细胞坏死, 炎症细胞浸润及出血; 与模型组比较, NaB组肝细胞形态结构得到改善, 炎症浸润减少。与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性均明显升高($P<0.01$); 与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性均明显降低($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$)。与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性均明显降低($P<0.01$), MDA水平明显升高($P<0.01$); 与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性均明显升高($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$), MDA水平明显降低($P<0.01$)。Western blotting法检测, 与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平均明显降低($P<0.05$); 与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平均明显升高($P<0.01$)。**结论:** NaB对LPS/D-Gal诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤具有保护作用, 其机制可能与NaB上调肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达和增加抗氧化酶活性, 进而减轻肝脏氧化应激水平有关。

[关键词] 丁酸钠; 急性肝损伤; 氧化应激; 核因子E2相关因子2; 血红素加氧酶1

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Protective effect of sodium butyrate on acute liver injury in mice induced by lipopolysaccharide combined with D-galactosamine and its mechanism

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ABSTRACT Objective: To discuss the protective effect of sodium butyrate (NaB) on acute liver injury in the mice induced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS) combined with D-galactosamine (D-Gal), and to clarify its mechanism. **Methods:** Thirty male Kunming mice were randomly divided into control group, model group, and NaB group, and there were 10 mice in each group. The mice in NaB group were given $200 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ NaB, while the mice in control group and model group were given an equal volume of sterile water. The mice in model group and NaB group were intraperitoneally injected with $20 \mu\text{g} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ LPS and $600 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ D-Gal to induce the acute liver injury models. The body weights and liver weights of the mice in various groups were detected, and the liver index was calculated. HE staining was used to observe the pathomorphology of liver tissue of the mice in various groups; kits were used to detect the activities of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) in serum, and the activities of total superoxide dismutase (T-SOD) and catalase (CAT), and the levels of malondialdehyde (MDA) in liver tissue of the mice in various groups; Western blotting method was used to detect the expression levels of nuclear factor E2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) and heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) proteins in liver tissue of the mice in various groups. **Results:** There were no significant differences in body weights of the mice among various groups ($P > 0.05$). Compared with control group, the liver index of the mice in model group was significantly increased ($P < 0.01$). Compared with model group, the liver index of the mice in NaB group was significantly decreased ($P < 0.01$). The HE staining results showed that the liver tissue of the mice in control group exhibited normal structure, with clear boundaries of hepatocytes, consistent size, radially arranged around the central vein, and the nucleus located in the center of the cells; in model group, the arrangement of hepatocytes was disordered, the cells were swollen, there were multiple foci of hepatocellular necrosis, inflammatory cell infiltration, and hemorrhage; compared with model group, the cells in NaB group showed improved hepatocellular structure and reduced inflammatory infiltration. Compared with control group, the activities of ALT and AST in serum of the mice in model group were significantly increased ($P < 0.01$); compared with model group, the activities of ALT and AST in serum of the mice in NaB group were significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$ or $P < 0.01$). Compared with control group, the activities of T-SOD and CAT in liver tissue of the mice in model group were significantly decreased ($P < 0.01$), and the level of MDA was significantly increased ($P < 0.01$); compared with model group, the activities of T-SOD and CAT in liver tissue of the mice in NaB group were significantly increased ($P < 0.05$ or $P < 0.01$), and the level of MDA was significantly decreased ($P < 0.01$). The Western blotting results showed that compared with control group, the expression levels of Nrf2 and HO-1 proteins in liver tissue of the mice in model group were significantly decreased ($P < 0.05$); compared with model group, the expression levels of Nrf2 and HO-1 proteins in liver tissue of the mice in NaB group were significantly increased ($P < 0.01$). **Conclusion:** NaB has a protective effect on LPS/D-Gal induced acute liver injury in the mice, and its mechanism may be related to the upregulation of the expressions of Nrf2 and

HO-1 proteins and the increases of the activity of oxidant enzyme in liver tissue by NaB, thereby reduces the liver oxidative stress level of liver.

KEYWORDS Sodium butyrate; Acute liver injury; Oxidative stress; Nuclear factor E2-related factor 2; Heme oxygenase-1

肝硬化、病毒性肝炎和肝癌等肝脏疾病每年造成200余万人死亡,占全球死亡人数的4%^[1]。急性肝损伤是指由感染、酒精中毒和药物等多种因素导致的急性肝脏功能损害及肝细胞坏死,是肝脏疾病的重要诱因^[2]。急性肝损伤发展迅速,诊治不及时可导致急性肝衰竭,危及患者生命。急性肝损伤持续性发生将转变为慢性肝损伤,进一步导致肝硬化和肝癌。肝损伤是一个发病率和死亡率较高的世界性健康问题,目前除肝移植外,尚无有效的治疗方法,受肝脏供体的限制,仅有少部分患者接受了有效的治疗^[3-4]。因此,探索安全、天然和有效的急性肝损伤防治药物具有重要意义。丁酸钠(sodium butyrate, NaB)为天然存在的短链脂肪酸盐,是大纤维食物经细菌发酵的主要代谢产物,结构简单且不良反应少,具有肠道屏障功能保护、抑制炎症和抗氧化等作用,开发应用前景良好^[5-7]。近期有研究^[8-9]证实NaB在肝功能保护方面具有潜能。研究^[10]显示:氧化应激是诱发肝损伤的主要病理过程之一。肝细胞坏死会随着过氧化氢酶(catalase, CAT)和超氧化物歧化酶(superoxide dismutase, SOD)等抗氧化酶活性的降低而恶化。因此,抑制氧化应激可以成为缓解急性肝损伤的靶标。脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)联合D-氨基半乳糖(D-galactosamine, D-Gal)可造成肝细胞变性坏死,其建立的小鼠急性肝损伤模型与人类急性肝损伤的病理特征相似,常用于探索肝损伤机制和潜在防治药物。核因子E2相关因子2(nuclear factor E2-related factor 2, Nrf2)是一种重要的转录因子,是改善不同氧化应激和炎症相关疾病所必需的细胞因子^[11]。血红素加氧酶1(heme oxygenase-1, HO-1)是一种可诱导的酶,对暴露于多种刺激,如病毒和细菌产物,包括LPS、细胞因子、癌基因、丝裂原及生长因子,所引起的炎症过程和氧化组织损伤具有保护作用。Nrf2是HO-1表达的主要激活剂^[12]。研究^[13]显示:上调Nrf2蛋白表达可增强相关抗氧化酶的活性,从而改善急性肝损伤。研究^[14]表明:NaB通过促进Nrf2的表达刺激下游抗氧化酶的转

录,从而有助于改善高脂肪饮食诱导的氧化应激。因此,本研究通过LPS/D-Gal诱导构建急性肝损伤小鼠模型,探讨NaB对急性肝损伤小鼠的影响,并从氧化应激的角度阐明其可能的机制,为NaB开发利用及急性肝损伤防治奠定基础。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物、主要试剂和仪器 30只雄性昆明小鼠,体质量(20±2)g,购于湖南省长沙市天勤生物技术有限公司,动物生产许可证号:SCXK(湘)2019-001。NaB购于美国Sigma-Aldrich公司,血清丙氨酸氨基转移酶(alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、天门冬氨酸氨基转移酶(aspartate aminotransferase, AST)、总SOD(total SOD, T-SOD)、丙二醛(malondialdehyde, MDA)和CAT试剂盒均购于南京建成生物工程研究所, Nrf2和HO-1购于武汉三鹰生物技术有限公司,β-actin购于杭州华安生物技术有限公司,兔二抗购于美国Abclonal公司,鼠二抗购于武汉亚科因生物技术有限公司。电泳仪电源购于北京六一仪器厂,凝胶成像仪购于上海天能科技有限公司,酶标仪购于美国Bio-Tek仪器有限公司。

1.2 实验动物分组和模型制备 30雄性昆明小鼠随机分为对照组、模型组和NaB组,每组10只,常规饲料喂养,自由饮水,12h光/暗循环。各组小鼠均采用灌胃给药方式,NaB组小鼠给予200 mg·kg⁻¹·d⁻¹ NaB^[15],对照组和模型组小鼠给予等体积无菌水,持续灌胃7周。末次给药1h后,模型组和NaB组小鼠腹腔注射20 μg·kg⁻¹ LPS和600 mg·kg⁻¹ D-Gal诱导建立小鼠急性肝损伤模型^[16]。实验过程中,每周测定小鼠体质量,密切观察小鼠状态。取各组小鼠肝脏组织,称量肝脏质量,计算各组小鼠肝脏指数。肝脏指数=小鼠肝脏质量(g)/小鼠体质量(g)。

1.3 HE染色观察各组小鼠肝脏组织病理形态表现 将4%多聚甲醛固定的肝脏组织脱水并包埋于石蜡块中,制备5 μm厚的切片,用苏木精和伊红处理小鼠肝脏组织,切片,光学显微镜下观察各组小鼠肝脏组织病理形态表现。

1.4 试剂盒检测各组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性

模型小鼠建立6 h后麻醉, 采用眼球摘除法收集小鼠血液样本, 分离血清, 参照生化试剂盒说明书操作, 检测各组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性。

1.5 试剂盒检测各组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性及MDA水平 取各组小鼠肝脏组织, 按照1:9的比例将小鼠肝脏组织与预冷生理盐水混合匀浆, $2\ 500\ \text{r}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ 离心10 min, 取上清, 采用试剂盒检测各组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性及MDA水平。

1.6 Western blotting法检测各组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平 取小鼠冷冻肝脏组织20 mg, 提取组织总蛋白。样品通过SDS-PAGE分离, 切出含有靶蛋白和内参的凝胶并转印。将PVDF膜于5%脱脂奶粉中封闭, 并于4℃下与一抗孵育过夜, 室温孵育二抗1~2 h, ECL显影, 采用Image J软件分析蛋白条带灰度值, 以 β -actin为内参, 计算目的蛋白表达水平。目的蛋白表达水平=目的蛋白条带灰度值/内参蛋白条带灰度值。

1.7 统计学分析 采用SPSS 26.0统计软件进行统计学分析。各组小鼠体质量和肝脏指数, 血清中ALT和AST活性, 肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性及MDA水平, 肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平均符合正态分布, 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SNK-*q*检验。以 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 各组小鼠体质量和肝脏指数 各组小鼠体质量比较差异均无统计学意义 ($P>0.05$)。与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠肝脏指数明显升高 ($P<0.01$)。与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠肝脏指数明显降低 ($P<0.01$)。见表1。

表1 各组小鼠体质量和肝脏指数

Tab. 1 Body weights and liver indexes of mice in various groups ($n=6, \bar{x}\pm s$)

Group	Body weight(m/g)	Liver index
Control	52.02±3.02	0.038±0.003
Model	49.88±2.89	0.074±0.010*
NaB	47.09±2.36	0.056±0.009 Δ

* $P<0.01$ vs control group; $\Delta P<0.01$ vs model group.

2.2 各组小鼠肝脏组织病理形态表现 对照组小鼠肝脏组织结构正常, 肝细胞边界清晰、大小一致, 围绕中央静脉呈放射状均匀排列, 且核位于细胞中央。模型组小鼠可见肝细胞排列紊乱, 细胞肿胀, 多发灶状肝细胞坏死, 炎症细胞浸润及出血。与模型组比较, NaB组肝细胞形态结构得到改善, 炎症浸润减少。见图1。

2.3 各组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性 与对照组比较, 模型组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性均明显升高 ($P<0.01$)。与模型组比较, NaB组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性均明显降低 ($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$)。见表2。

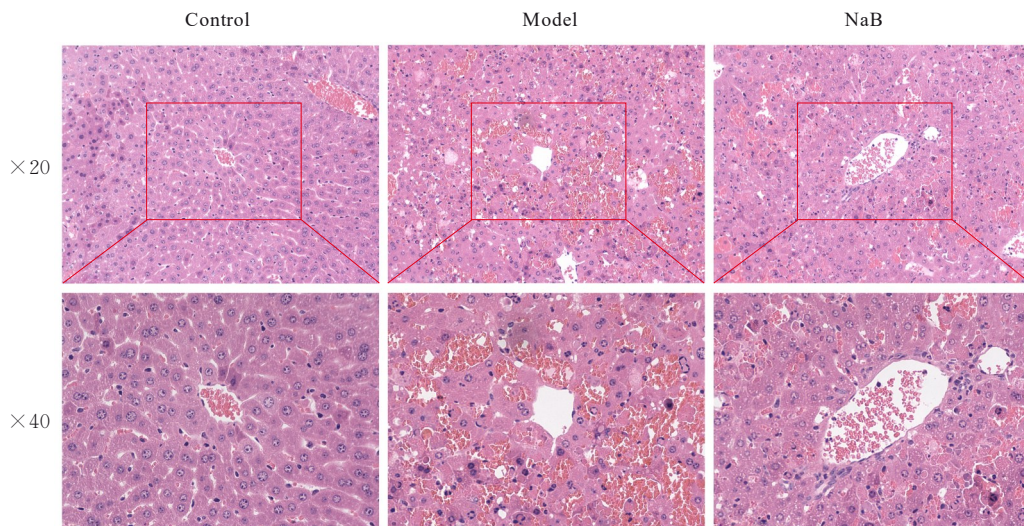


图1 HE染色观察各组小鼠肝脏组织病理形态表现

Fig. 1 Pathomorphology of liver tissue of mice in various groups observed by HE staining

表2 各组小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性

Tab. 2 Activities of ALT and AST in serum of mice in various groups $[n=6, \bar{x}\pm s, \lambda_B/(U\cdot L^{-1})]$

Group	AST	ALT
Control	7.54±1.77	9.04±1.79
Model	38.51±6.56*	106.66±31.98*
NaB	20.37±3.00 ^{△△}	59.23±20.19 [△]

* $P<0.01$ vs control group; $^{\Delta}P<0.05$, $^{\Delta\Delta}P<0.01$ vs model group.

2.4 各组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性及MDA水平 与对照组比较,模型组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性均明显降低($P<0.01$),MDA水平明显升高($P<0.01$)。与模型组比较,NaB组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性均明显升高($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$),MDA水平明显降低($P<0.01$)。见表3。

表3 各组小鼠肝脏组织中T-SOD和CAT活性及MDA水平

Tab. 3 Activities of T-SOD and CAT, and levels of MDA in liver tissue of mice in various groups $(n=6, \bar{x}\pm s)$

Group	T-SOD [$\lambda_B/(U\cdot mg^{-1})$]	CAT [$\lambda_B/(U\cdot mg^{-1})$]	MDA [$c_B/(\mu mol\cdot g^{-1})$]
Control	460.94±77.59	670.76±68.11	212.39±46.18
Model	308.86±56.15*	411.88±44.70*	391.35±69.04*
NaB	446.00±69.20 [△]	602.78±129.99 ^{△△}	221.93±59.22 ^{△△}

* $P<0.01$ vs control group; $^{\Delta}P<0.05$, $^{\Delta\Delta}P<0.01$ vs model group.

2.5 各组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平

与对照组比较,模型组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平均明显降低($P<0.05$)。与模型组比较,NaB组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平均明显升高($P<0.01$)。见图2。

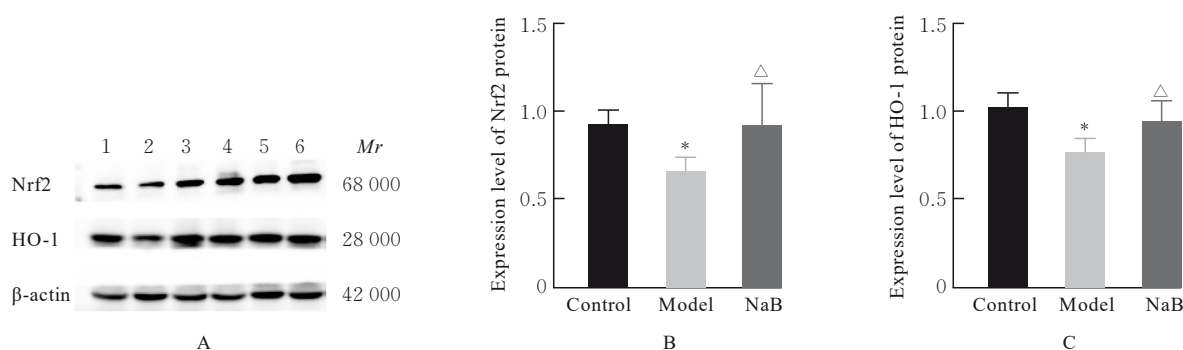
Lane 1,4: Control group; Lane 2,5: Model group; Lane 3,6: NaB group. * $P<0.05$ vs control group; $^{\Delta}P<0.01$ vs model group.

图2 Western blotting法检测各组小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达电泳图(A)及直条图(B和C)

Fig. 2 Electrophoregram(A) and histograms(B, C) of expressions of Nrf2 and HO-1 proteins in liver tissue of mice in various groups detected by Western blotting method

3 讨论

肝脏在调节新陈代谢、体内平衡和免疫活动方面发挥重要作用。LPS作为一种经典的内毒素,可诱导肝细胞凋亡和坏死。D-Gal是一种氨基糖,是抑制肝细胞中RNA和蛋白质合成的肝毒性物质之一,可导致肝损伤。D-Gal可特异性地增强肝脏对LPS细胞毒性作用的敏感性,促进急性肝损伤的发生发展^[17]。本研究结果显示:与对照组比较,模型组小鼠肝脏指数明显升高,血清中ALT和AST活性明显升高,出现明显细胞结构紊乱、坏死及炎症细胞浸润,提示急性肝损伤模型构建成功;与模型组比较,NaB组小鼠肝脏指数明显降低,且NaB明显改善广泛的细胞坏死和炎症细胞浸润。ALT和

AST是催化氨基酸与酮酸之间氨基转移的酶,当肝细胞受损时,ALT和AST由肝细胞释放至血液中,导致血清中ALT和AST活性升高。AST和ALT的血清活性已被公认为肝脏组织损伤的敏感血清学指标,其异常升高可引起肝细胞损伤和坏死^[18]。NaB干预后,因腹腔注射LPS/D-Gal小鼠血清中ALT和AST活性明显降低,提示NaB可有效缓解急性肝损伤。

氧化应激与急性肝损伤的发病有密切关联,抑制氧化应激可能是急性肝损伤发展的潜在预防措施^[19]。SOD与CAT的功能相互关联,均可通过直接清除氧自由基发挥肝细胞保护作用。MDA是脂质过氧化的最终产物,MDA水平可提示肝脏氧化损伤的程度^[20]。研究^[21]显示:NaB可通过提高抗

氧化稳定性改善奶山羊亚急性瘤胃酸中毒。研究^[22]发现: NaB干预可减轻过氧化氢引起的氧化损伤, 升高细胞中SOD和CAT等抗氧化酶活性, 明显降低活性氧(resctive oxygen species, ROS)和MDA水平。本研究结果显示: 经过NaB的干预, 腹腔注射LPS/D-Gal的急性肝损伤小鼠MDA水平升高和CAT及T-SOD活性降低的情况被逆转。提示NaB具有抗氧化应激活性, 有助于清除ROS, 从而减轻急性肝损伤的严重程度。

抗氧化应激的机制是目前研究的热点, 核因子 κ B(nuclear factor kappa-B, NF- κ B)、沉默调节蛋白1(silent information regulator protein 1, SIRT1)/Nrf2、磷脂酰肌醇3激酶(phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase, PI3K)-蛋白激酶B(protein kinase B, Akt)、Akt/叉头框蛋白O1(orkhead box protein O1, FoxO1)和Nrf2/HO-1等通路受到广泛关注, 其中, Nrf2/HO-1通路作为人体最关键的内源性防护系统之一, 在保护机体免受氧化应激过程中发挥关键作用。在无应激条件下, Nrf2在蛋白酶体中以Kelch样环氧氯丙烷相关蛋白1(Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1, Keap1)依赖性方式不断泛素化和降解。在氧化条件下, Keap1中关键半胱氨酸残基被共价修饰, 阻止其介导Nrf2泛素化, 新合成的Nrf2可以积累并转移至细胞核中, 与肌腱膜纤维肉瘤蛋白(musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma protein, MAF)蛋白二聚化, 以促进细胞保护基因的转录。Nrf2缺乏会加重小鼠原代肝细胞中ROS的积累^[23]。Nrf2/HO-1信号传导在多种肝脏疾病中的关键作用已被证实, 包括非酒精性脂肪性肝病、酒精性肝病和肝缺血再灌注损伤等^[24-25]。TANG等^[26]研究发现: NaB通过促进糖原合成酶激酶3 β (glycogen synthase kinase-3 β , GSK-3 β)/Nrf2信号通路和线粒体功能, 防止高脂肪饮食诱导的肥胖大鼠的氧化应激。LUO等^[27]研究发现: NaB通过G蛋白偶联受体43(G protein coupled receptor 43, GPR43)/ β 抑制蛋白2(β -arrestin-2)/核因子(nuclear factor kappa-B, NF- κ B)信号通路部分减少炎症反应, 明显减轻了LPS诱导的肝损伤。本研究结果显示: 与对照组比较, 急性肝损伤小鼠肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达水平明显降低, NaB干预可明显上调Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达。

综上所述, NaB对LPS/D-GalN诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤具有保护作用, 其作用机制可能与NaB

上调肝脏组织中Nrf2和HO-1蛋白表达和减少肝脏氧化损伤, 进而增加抗氧化酶活性有关。

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