

# C1q 中和抗体可通过 C1q/C3 通路改善小鼠的产后抑郁样行为

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**摘要:**目的 探究补体系统经典途径的启动因子C1q对产后小鼠抑郁样行为的影响以及C1q中和抗体对产后小鼠抑郁样行为的改善作用及其机制。方法 构建产后抑郁小鼠模型,分成对照组及激素模拟妊娠小鼠(HSP)产后抑郁模型组。行为学结果检测小鼠抑郁样行为,ELISA试剂盒及Western blotting检测C1q外周血含量及海马脑区表达,免疫荧光检测C1q与小胶质细胞共标情况,RNA测序分析HSP小鼠海马脑区基因表达差异,爱丁堡产后抑郁量表筛选产后抑郁患者,提取患者外周血单个核细胞,WB检测C1q水平。海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体,分成3组:对照组+IgG(CON+IgG)、模型组+IgG(HSP+IgG)、模型组+C1q Ab(HSP+C1q Ab),检测HSP小鼠抑郁样行为及海马脑区C3表达情况。结果 与对照组相比,HSP小鼠表现出抑郁行为,糖水偏好率显著降低( $P<0.05$ ),强迫游泳及悬尾不动时间增加( $P<0.05$ ),外周血C1q含量( $P<0.05$ )和海马脑区C1q水平表达增加( $P<0.05$ )并伴随海马区Iba1与C1q共标增加( $P<0.05$ );产后抑郁患者外周单个核细胞C1q水平表达增加( $P<0.05$ );海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体缓解HSP小鼠抑郁样行为,与HSP+IgG组相比,HSP+C1q Ab组糖水偏好率显著增加( $P<0.05$ ),强迫游泳及悬尾不动时间减少( $P<0.05$ ),海马脑区C3表达降低( $P<0.05$ ),外周血促炎因子IL-6、TNF- $\alpha$ 含量降低( $P<0.05$ )。结论 C1q中和抗体可能通过C1q/C3信号通路改善产后抑郁小鼠抑郁样行为。

**关键词:**补体C1q;补体C3;中和抗体;小胶质细胞;产后抑郁

## C1q-neutralizing antibodies improves postpartum depressive-like behaviors in mice by regulating the C1q/C3 pathway

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**Abstract: Objective** To explore the role of C1q, the promoter of the classical pathway of the complement system, in regulating postpartum depressive-like behaviors in mice and the therapeutic mechanism of C1q-neutralizing antibodies. **Methods** Female C57BL/6 mouse models of postpartum depression established by hormone-simulated pregnancy (HSP) were evaluated for depression-like behaviors, and peripheral blood levels and hippocampal expressions of C1q were detected using ELISA and Western blotting. Immunofluorescence staining was used for detecting co-labeling of C1q and microglia, and the differentially expressed mRNAs in the hippocampus of HSP mice were analyzed using RNA sequencing. The Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale was used to screen patients with postpartum depression, from whom peripheral blood mononuclear cells were extracted for detecting C1q expression levels with Western blotting. The HSP mice were subjected to stereotactic injection of C1q-neutralizing antibody or a control IgG in the hippocampus, and the changes in depressive-like behaviors and hippocampal expression of C3 were examined. **Results** The HSP mice exhibited obvious depressive behaviors, demonstrated by significantly decreased preference for sugar water and increased forced swimming and tail suspension time. The mouse models showed significantly increased peripheral blood C1q level and hippocampal expression level of C1q, accompanied by an increase in Iba1 and C1q co-labeling in the hippocampus. The expression level of C1q in peripheral monocytes was also significantly increased in patients with postpartum depression. In HSP mice, stereotactic injection of C1q-neutralizing antibody, but not the control IgG, obviously alleviated depressive-like behaviors, shown by significantly increased preference for sugar water and decreased forced swimming and tail suspension time, resulting also in decreased expression of C3 in the hippocampus and lowered serum levels of IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$ . **Conclusion** C1q-neutralizing antibodies improve postpartum depressive-like behaviors in mice possibly by regulating the C1q/C3 signaling pathway.

**Keywords:** complement C1q; complement C3; neutralizing antibody; microglia; postpartum depression

产后抑郁症(PPD)是围产期女性常见的心理健康问题<sup>[1]</sup>,全球发病率为10%~20%,其特征为持续的情绪低落、兴趣丧失和认知功能受损,严重威胁母婴健康及家庭稳定<sup>[2,3]</sup>。目前临床治疗PPD的主要手段为抗抑郁

药物(如选择性5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂),但其存在起效延迟、副作用明显及部分患者应答不足等局限性<sup>[4-6]</sup>。因此,深入解析PPD的病理机制并探索新型治疗靶点具有重要的临床意义。

近年研究表明,神经免疫失调在抑郁症发生发展中起关键作用<sup>[7,8]</sup>。补体系统作为先天免疫的重要组成部分,其异常激活可能通过介导神经炎症和突触修剪失衡参与抑郁样行为的发生<sup>[9-11]</sup>。其中,补体C1q是经典补体通路的起始分子,可通过与C3的级联反应触发突触吞噬和神经连接丢失<sup>[12,13]</sup>,而这一过程在慢性应激模

收稿日期:2025-04-24

基金项目:国家自然科学基金(82104152);高校中青年教师培养行动项目(YQYB2025016)

Supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (82104152).

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型中已被证实与突触可塑性损伤及抑郁行为相关<sup>[3,14-16]</sup>。值得注意的是,围产期女性体内补体系统活性显著变化<sup>[17]</sup>,提示C1q/C3信号通路可能在PPD的病理进程中发挥潜在作用。然而,C1q是否直接参与PPD的发生,以及靶向抑制C1q能否通过调控补体通路改善PPD症状,目前尚未明确。

本研究聚焦于C1q/C3信号通路在PPD中的调控作用,提出科学假设:C1q中和抗体可通过阻断C1q介导的补体级联反应,抑制神经炎症及突触过度修剪,从而缓解PPD小鼠的抑郁样行为。为此,我们构建产后抑郁小鼠模型,结合行为学测试和分子生物学水平,系统评估C1q中和抗体对抑郁样行为的改善效果,并揭示其对C1q/C3通路下游分子的调控机制。本研究不仅为PPD的免疫病理机制提供新视角,也为开发基于补体调控的靶向治疗策略奠定实验基础。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 动物及试剂

SPF级雄性C57BL/6小鼠,体质量18~20 g,12周,购自杭州子源实验动物科技有限公司[动物许可证号:SCXK(浙)2019-0004]。小鼠单克隆抗体Iba1(1:1000,Wako),小鼠多克隆抗体β-actin(1:2000,Sigma),兔多克隆抗体C1q、兔单克隆抗体C3(1:1000,Abcam),小鼠单克隆抗体C1q(1:1000)、补体C1q(鼠)ELISA试剂盒(Hycult Biotech),山羊抗小鼠-HRP(1:2000,KPL),绿

色荧光羊抗兔二抗、红色荧光羊抗鼠二抗(1:1000,Invitrogen),补体C1q(人)ELISA试剂盒(赛默飞)、C1q中和抗体(上海吉玛),-20℃储存。

### 1.2 产后抑郁患者的筛选

本研究纳入蚌埠医科大学第一附属医院产科2024年1~12月产后2~12周的产妇,根据爱丁堡产后抑郁量表(EPDS),包括10个条目,涵盖情绪、焦虑、自责、睡眠等方面。每个条目0~3分,总分范围0~30分。≥13分:可能存在产后抑郁。10~12分:可能有轻度抑郁,需进一步评估。<10分:正常范围。将评分≥13分的列为产后抑郁组,<10分的列入对照组。排除其他精神障碍,本研究通过蚌埠医科大学医学研究伦理会的批准(伦理批号:伦科批字[2025]第440号)。

### 1.3 激素模拟妊娠(HSP)小鼠模型构建

制备HSP小鼠模型,模拟PPD的发病特征<sup>[18,19]</sup>。应用C57BL/6雌性小鼠制备HSP模型:雌性小鼠摘除卵巢后,饲养7 d,颈部皮下注射苯甲酸雌二醇25 μg/mL与黄体酮40 mg/mL,16 d后撤去黄体酮,给予苯甲酸雌二醇500 μg/ml 7 d,药物溶剂为大豆油,小鼠给药剂量8 μL/10 g。干预方案:实验组小鼠腹腔注射C1q中和抗体(10 mg/kg,隔日1次,共2剂),对照组注射同型IgG(图1)。本研究动物实验均得到蚌埠医科大学动物保护与伦理委员会的批准(伦理批号:伦动科批字[2025]第141号)。

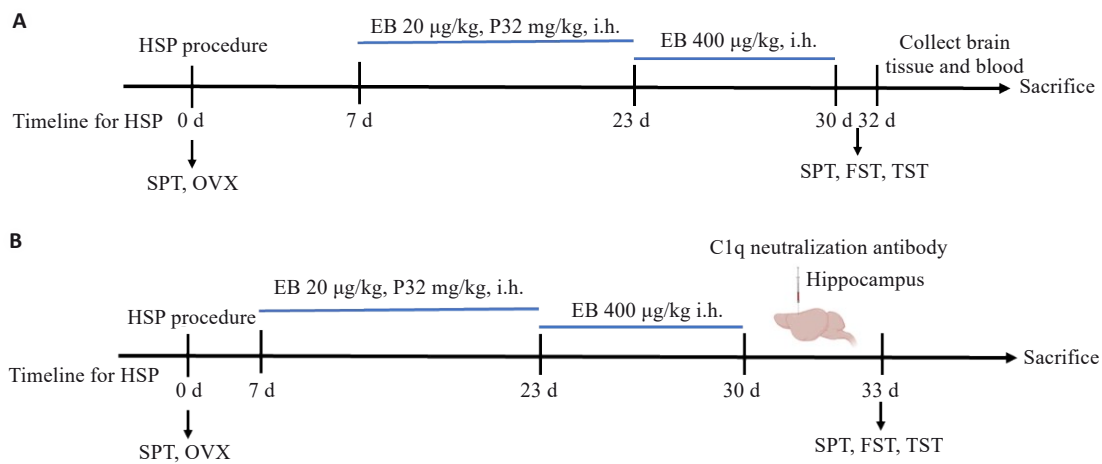


图1 激素模拟妊娠小鼠产后抑郁模型制备

Fig. 1 Preparation of the postpartum depression mouse model. A: The preparation process of the postpartum depression model. B: The preparation process of the postpartum depression model and stereotaxic injection of C1q neutralizing antibody in the hippocampal brain region.

### 1.4 糖水偏好实验(SPT)

本实验采用两个相同的瓶子,分别装有1%~2%蔗糖溶液和普通水,单笼饲养,避免动物间相互干扰,动物自由选择饮用,持续8 h。4小时交换两个瓶子的位置,避免位置偏好。糖水偏好率(%)=糖水消耗量/(糖水消

耗量+普通水消耗量)×100%。

### 1.5 强迫游泳实验(FST)

实验小鼠被置于高25~30 cm,直径15~20 cm的烧杯内,水深约15 cm,水温控制在23~25℃。初期会剧烈挣扎试图逃生,随后进入“不动状态”,即停止主动游泳,

仅保持头部浮出水面的被动行为。抗抑郁药物可显著减少不动时间,而抑郁模型动物不动时间可能延长。全程录像6 min,分析后4 min的行为学,评估抑郁样行为。

#### 1.6 悬尾实验(TST)

将小鼠尾部固定,使其头部向下悬空。动物初期会试图挣扎逃脱,随后逐渐进入“不动状态”,即停止主动挣扎,仅保持轻微肢体运动。全程录像6 min,分析后4 min的行为学,评估抑郁样行为。

#### 1.7 海马组织RNA测序

取各组小鼠海马脑组织3个,使用MultiQC检查原始测序数据的质量,Cutadapt去除低质量reads和接头序列。使用HISAT2将clean reads比对到小鼠参考基因组。HTSeq-count计算基因表达量。使用DESeq2对原始表达量数据进行标准化,基于Fold Change(FC)筛选显著差异表达基因。通过KEGG分析,可以系统地理解小鼠海马组织RNA测序数据中的生物学通路变化。

#### 1.8 ELISA试剂盒检测血清C1q水平

采集各组实验小鼠外周血全血样本,静置30 min后离心(2000×g,10 min,4℃),分离血清。按照说明书将试剂平衡至室温,配制洗涤缓冲液,用标准品稀释液梯度稀释,制备标准曲线。将标准品和血清样本加入预包被抗C1q抗体的微孔板中,100 μL/孔,设置复孔以确保结果可靠性。空白孔加入标准品稀释液作为阴性对照。封板后,37℃孵育1~2 h,弃去孔内液体,每孔加入300 μL洗涤缓冲液,静置30 s后弃去,重复3~5次。每孔加入100 μL酶标记的二抗(如HRP标记的抗C1q抗体),封板后,37℃孵育1 h,洗涤3~5次,每孔加入100 μL底物溶液(如TMB),避光孵育15~30 min,每孔加入50 μL终止液,溶液由蓝色变为黄色。使用酶标仪读取吸光度( $A_{450\text{nm}}$ )。

#### 1.9 密度梯度离心法提取外周血单个核细胞(PBMC)

使用抗凝管采集外周血,轻轻颠倒混匀,避免凝血。使用密度梯度离心法分离外周血单个核细胞,首先将外周血与PBS按1:1比例稀释,稀释后的血液缓慢加在Ficoll分离液上层,离心(400×g,30 min,室温),吸取中间白膜层的PBMC,用PBS洗涤2次(300×g,10 min)。将细胞重悬于ACK裂解液中,室温孵育5 min。加入PBS终止反应,离心(300×g,10 min)收集细胞。

#### 1.10 Western blotting检测PBMC和海马组织C1q表达

使用RIPA裂解液(含蛋白酶抑制剂)裂解细胞或组织,离心后取上清,使用BCA法测定蛋白浓度,调整至相同浓度。加入上样缓冲液,煮沸5 min使蛋白变性。配制15%分离胶和浓缩胶倒入凝胶模具中,插入梳子,等待凝固。将蛋白样本加入凝胶孔中,同时加入预染蛋白Marker。120V电泳40 min分离胶,80V电泳30 min浓缩胶。转膜结束后,用TBST缓冲液洗涤膜。将膜放入封闭液中,室温摇床封闭1 h,用TBST稀释一抗,将膜

放入一抗溶液中,4℃孵育过夜或室温孵育1~2 h,用TBST洗涤膜3次,每次5 min,用TBST稀释HRP标记的二抗,将膜放入二抗溶液中,室温孵育1 h,用TBST洗涤膜3次,每次5 min,将ECL化学发光液均匀滴加在膜上,用成像系统检测信号。使用Image J软件扫描分析蛋白灰度值并进行半定量分析。

#### 1.11 免疫荧光染色(IF)

制备冰冻切片,用0.1% Triton X-100室温透化10 min,用PBS洗涤3次,每次5 min。用1% BSA或5%山羊血清室温封闭30 min,减少非特异性结合。用封闭液稀释anti-Iba1一抗(1:1000)和C1q一抗(1:1000),滴加在样本上,4℃孵育过夜或室温孵育1~2 h。用PBS洗涤3次,每次5 min。用封闭液稀释红色荧光兔二抗(1:1000)和绿色荧光鼠二抗(1:1000),避光室温孵育1 h。用PBS洗涤3次,每次5 min。用DAPI(1:1000)染色5 min,标记细胞核。用PBS洗涤3次,每次5 min。在载玻片上滴加封片剂,将盖玻片或组织切片倒扣在封片剂上,避免气泡。避光保存,待封片剂凝固后观察。使用荧光显微镜观察样本并拍照。

#### 1.12 海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体

小鼠术前禁食4 h,用4%戊巴比妥钠腹腔注射麻醉。将小鼠固定于脑立体定位仪,定位海马区(AP: -2.3 mm;ML: ±1.8 mm;DV: -2.0 mm),使用Hamilton微量平头注射器,以0.25 μL/min的速率双侧注射4 μL C1q中和抗体,注射完毕后留针2 min,缝合头皮。对照组注射等量的阴性对照(NC)。

#### 1.13 统计学分析

采用SPSS 22.0以及Prism9.0统计软件对本研究的所有数据进行分析,计量资料用均数±标准差表示,采用单因素方差分析结合Turkey多重比较分析组间差异。 $P<0.05$ 表示差异具有统计学意义。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 HSP小鼠表现出抑郁行为

糖水偏好检测两组小鼠抑郁样行为,结果显示HSP组糖水偏好率降低( $P<0.05$ ,图2A),强迫游泳及悬尾实验结果表明,与对照组相比,HSP组小鼠不动时间显著增加( $P<0.05$ ,图2C、D)。

### 2.2 HSP小鼠海马脑区C1q表达增加

RNA测序检出9320个差异表达基因( $FC>1.5$ , $P<0.05$ ),进一步校正 $P$ 值,筛选912个差异基因(图3A)。KEGG信号通路分析显示,HSP小鼠海马区明显富集免疫激活通路基因,包括突触吞噬相关通路和经典补体信号通路。与对照组相比,HSP组小鼠外周血C1q水平显著增加( $P<0.01$ ,图3B)。Western blotting显示HSP小鼠皮层和海马区C1q蛋白均上调(图3C)。

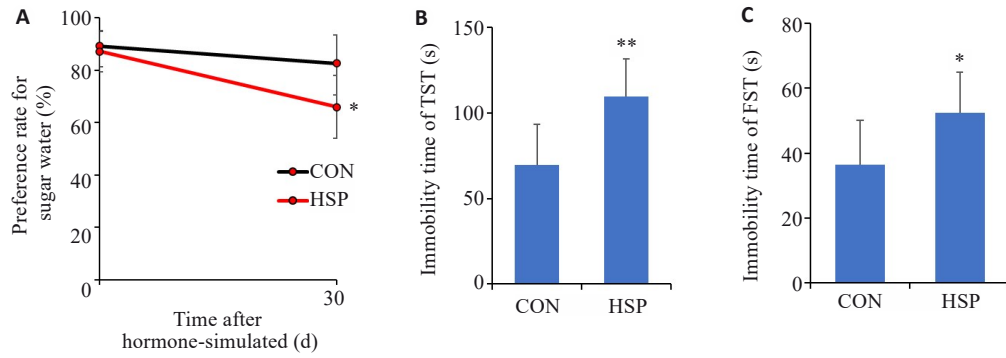


图2 激素模拟妊娠小鼠产后抑郁模型的评估

Fig.2 Evaluation of postpartum depression model in mice with hormone-simulated pregnancy (HSP). A-C: Sucrose preference test, tail suspension test and forced swimming test for evaluation of depressive-like behaviors of the mice. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$  vs CON.

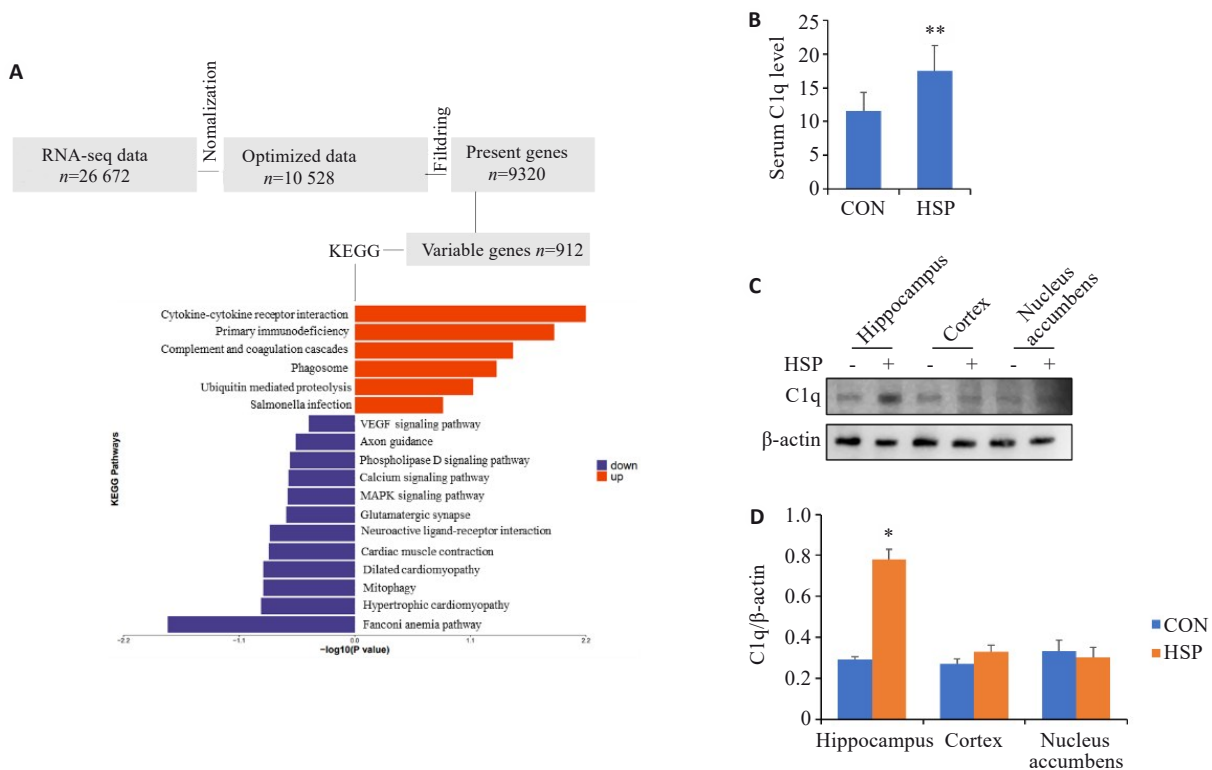


图3 HSP小鼠海马脑区C1q表达情况

Fig.3 Expression of C1q in the hippocampus of HSP mice. A: RNA sequencing for analyzing differentially expressed mRNAs. B: Serum C1q level of the mice. C, D: Expression of C1q in different brain regions. \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$  vs CON.

### 2.3 HSP小鼠海马脑区C1q与Iba1共标表达增加

与对照组相比,HSP小鼠海马脑区红色荧光Iba1与绿色荧光C1q共标表达增加( $P < 0.05$ ),说明小胶质吞噬能力增加(图4)。

### 2.4 产后抑郁患者外周血C1q水平增加

EPDS量表统计结果显示,纳入2024年1月~12月产后2~12周的产妇65人,对照组患者38人,占比58.46%,产后PPD患者27人,占比41.54%;与对照组相比,PPD组患者外周血C1q水平显著增加(图5A)。此外,免疫印迹结果也同样表明,与对照组相比,

PPD外周血单个核细胞C1q蛋白表达上调( $P < 0.05$ ,图5B、C)。

### 2.5 海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体缓解HSP小鼠抑郁样行为

糖水偏好检测两组小鼠抑郁样行为,结果显示HSP组糖水偏好率降低( $P < 0.05$ ),HSP+C1q Ab组糖水偏好率显著改善( $P < 0.05$ ,图6A),强迫游泳及悬尾实验结果表明,与对照组相比,HSP组小鼠不动时间显著增加( $P < 0.01$ ),HSP+C1q Ab组不动时间显著下调( $P < 0.05$ ,图6B、C)。

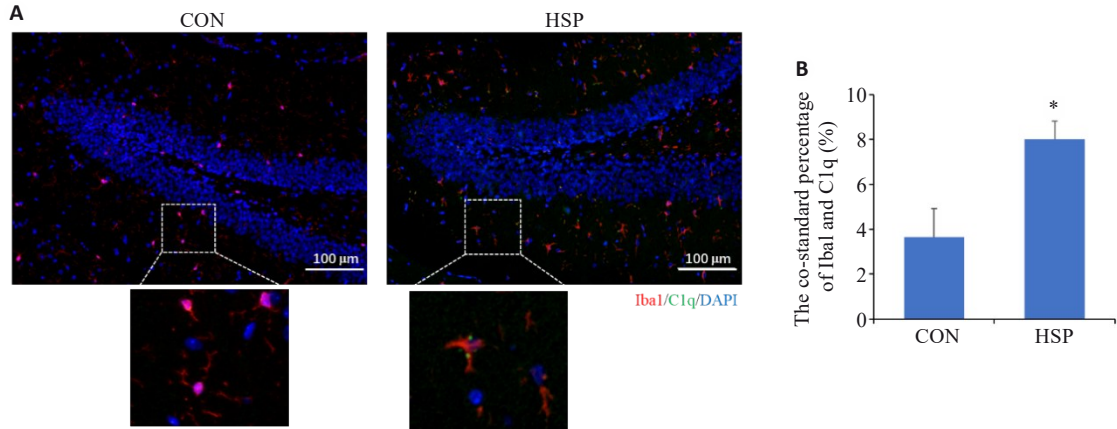


图4 HSP小鼠海马脑区C1q与Iba1共标情况  
 Fig.4 Co-labeling of C1q and Iba1 in the hippocampus of HSP mice. A: Immunofluorescence staining for detecting co-labeling of C1q and Iba1 in the hippocampus (Scale bar=100 μm). B: Quantitative analysis of C1q and Iba1 co-labeling in control and HSP mice. \* $P < 0.05$  vs CON.

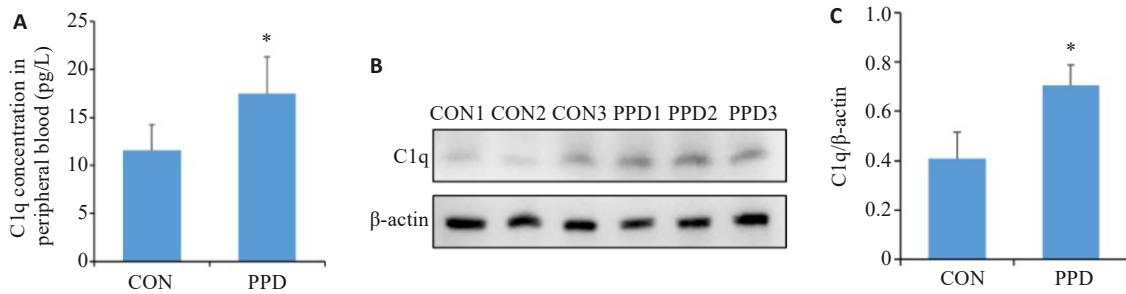


图5 产后抑郁患者外周血C1q水平  
 Fig.5 Peripheral blood C1q level (A) and expression of C1q in peripheral blood mononuclear cells (B, C) in patients with postpartum depression. \* $P < 0.05$  vs CON.

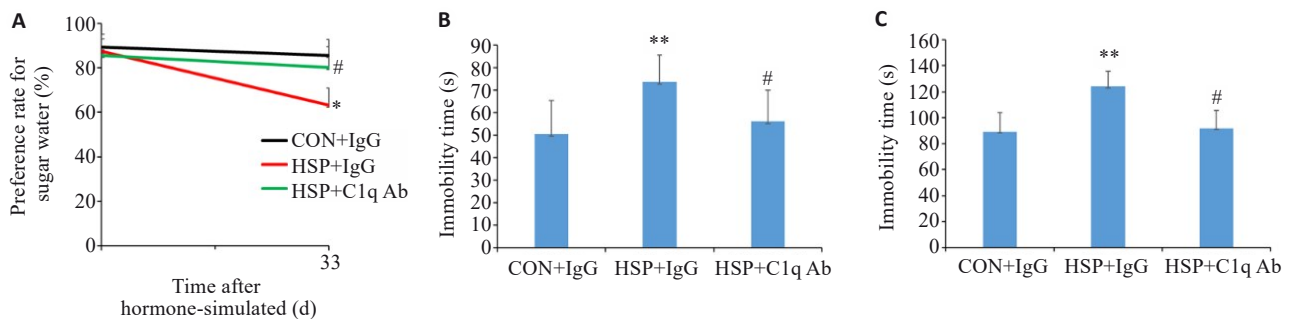


图6 海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体评估HSP小鼠抑郁样行为  
 Fig.6 Effect of stereotactic injection of C1q-neutralizing antibody in the hippocampus on depressive-like behaviors of HSP mice. A-C: Sucrose preference test, tail suspension test and forced swimming test for evaluation of depressive-like behaviors of the mice. \* $P < 0.05$  vs CON+IgG, \*\* $P < 0.01$  vs CON+IgG, # $P < 0.05$  vs CON+C1q Ab.

### 2.6 海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体缓解HSP小鼠C3及促炎因子水平

与对照组相比,HPS组C3表达增加( $P < 0.01$ ),海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体后C3表达降低( $P < 0.05$ ,图7A、B)。与对照组相比,HSP组促炎因子IL-6、TNF- $\alpha$ 表达水平显著增加( $P < 0.01$ ),与HSP组相比,HSP+C1q Ab组促炎因子IL-6( $P < 0.05$ )、TNF- $\alpha$  ( $P < 0.01$ )表达水平显著降低(图7C、D)。

### 3 讨论

产后抑郁症是围产期女性常见的心理健康问题,其特征包括兴趣丧失和悲伤感,是全球普遍存在的公共健康问题,对公共健康构成了重大挑战,因此,迫切需要对产后抑郁症的潜在机制进行深入探究。为此我们制备HSP小鼠模型,行为学结果提示,HSP小鼠表现明显的抑郁样行为,同时伴有突触缺陷。此外产后抑郁模型小鼠海马脑区蛋白质组学富集于补体级联反应以及突触

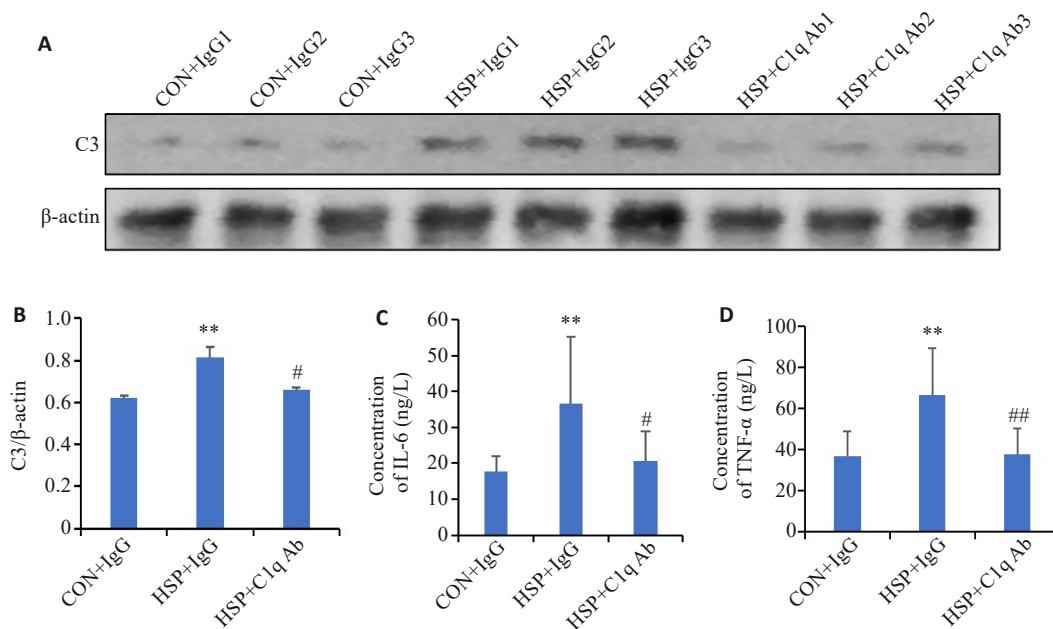


图7 海马脑区立体定位注射C1q中和抗体HSP小鼠C3及促炎因子水平

Fig.7 Hippocampal expression level of C3 and serum levels of pro-inflammatory factors in HSP mice following stereotactic injection of C1q-neutralizing antibody in the hippocampus. **A, B:** Expression of C3 in different brain regions of the mice detected by Western blotting. **C:** Serum IL-6 level. **D:** Serum TNF-α level. \*\* $P < 0.01$  vs CON+IgG, # $P < 0.05$  vs CON+C1q Ab, ## $P < 0.01$  vs CON+C1q Ab.

相关功能,这也进一步验证先前研究结果,说明突触缺失与产后抑郁样行为密切相关。

突触在神经回路中扮演着关键角色,它促进神经元之间的信息传递<sup>[20-22]</sup>。最新研究表明C1q可以通过与突触相互作用来介导突触修剪,该功能对发育过程中的突触清除至关重要,当胶质细胞异常激活导致突触过度修剪,影响神经退行性变化和情绪认知障碍<sup>[15, 23]</sup>。C1q的高表达与抑郁症患者中的突触丢失有关,特别是在慢性炎症状态下,C1q可以通过促进神经细胞的吞噬导致进一步的突触破坏<sup>[24]</sup>。此外,我们的研究结果也提示小胶质细胞与C1q共标增加,说明C1q还通过调控胶质细胞的活化,参与神经元损伤和修复的过程。与对照组相比,产后抑郁症患者外周血单个核细胞C1q表达增加,说明抑郁症患者及HSP模型小鼠均存在C1q表达上调,且与抑郁样行为相关。

本研究进一步证实C1q与抑郁样行为相关性,海马立体定位注射C1q中和抗体,行为学实验证实,C1q中和抗体能够显著改善PPD模型小鼠的抑郁样行为,表明抑制C1q活性可能通过调控中枢神经系统功能缓解抑郁症状。这一结果与近年关于补体系统在抑郁症中作用的研究相呼应,例如补体过度激活已被发现与慢性应激诱导的突触丢失和神经炎症相关<sup>[22, 25, 26]</sup>。本研究进一步聚焦于产后这一特殊生理阶段,提示C1q可能在围产期激素波动和免疫稳态失衡中扮演关键角色<sup>[27]</sup>。产后雌激素和孕激素的急剧下降可能通过激活补体系统,导致神经炎症反应增强和突触可塑性受损,而C1q中和抗体

可能通过阻断这一病理过程恢复神经网络的正常功能。

其次,机制研究显示,C1q中和抗体治疗显著降低了前额叶皮层和海马区的促炎细胞因子(如IL-6、TNF-α)水平,同时抑制了补体下游效应分子C3a的表达。这提示C1q中和抗体的抗抑郁作用可能通过双重途径实现,一方面直接抑制补体级联反应,减少神经炎症和突触过度修剪<sup>[21, 28]</sup>;另一方面间接调节小胶质细胞从促炎表型(M1)向抗炎表型(M2)的转化,从而改善神经微环境<sup>[12, 29]</sup>。值得注意的是,产后抑郁患者中已观察到补体激活标志物的异常升高,而本研究在小鼠模型中验证了靶向C1q的治疗潜力,为转化医学研究提供了重要依据。

然而,本研究仍存在一定局限性。首先,实验仅采用卵巢切除后激素诱导小鼠模拟PPD,未能完全涵盖人类产后抑郁的复杂性,如社会心理因素和个体遗传差异<sup>[30, 31]</sup>。其次,C1q在围产期脑内的动态变化及其与激素波动的相互作用仍需进一步解析。C1q是否通过调控突触重塑参与母婴行为调节,或与血脑屏障通透性改变相关,仍需通过时空特异性基因敲除或单细胞测序技术深入探讨。此外,长期使用C1q中和抗体的安全性亦需在未来研究中评估。

综上所述,本研究首次揭示了C1q中和抗体对PPD模型小鼠抑郁样行为的缓解作用,并通过行为学、分子生物学及神经免疫学分析,阐明了补体系统经典通路的关键分子C1q在PPD发病中的潜在机制。本研究的发现为深入理解PPD的神经免疫调控机制提供了新的实验证据,同时为靶向补体系统的干预策略开发奠定了理

论基础。未来研究可进一步探索C1q特异性抑制剂的设计优化,并结合多组学技术解析其下游信号网络,以推动针对产后抑郁的精准免疫干预策略的临床转化。

**Declaration of interests:** The authors declare no competing interests.

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(编辑:吴锦雅)