

晚期糖基化终产物在口腔鳞状细胞癌发展及治疗的研究进展

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[摘要] 了解口腔鳞状细胞癌 (OSCC) 发生、发展的分子机制仍然是认识 OSCC 恶性生物学特点及探索针对性治疗方法的研究热点。晚期糖基化终末产物 (AGE) 及其受体 RAGE 与其他受体在体内相互作用, 从而激活多个信号通路, 诱导白细胞介素、生长因子和细胞因子的合成。近期的研究表明, AGE/RAGE 相关信号传导通路的激活影响 OSCC 的增殖、侵袭、血管生成、局部复发, 与晚期 OSCC 症患者的预后不良有关。本文对 AGE/RAGE 与 OSCC 恶性演进进行综述, 以期为 OSCC 治疗提供潜在靶点。

[关键词] 口腔鳞状细胞癌; 晚期糖基化终产物; 晚期糖基化终末产物受体

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Role of advanced glycosylation end-products and their receptors in the progression and treatment of oral squamous cell carcinoma

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[Abstract] The molecular mechanisms underlying the occurrence and progression of oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) are still not fully understood. This topic remains a focal point of research to comprehend the malignant biological characteristics of OSCC and explore targeted therapeutic approaches. Advanced glycation end-products (AGEs) and their receptors (RAGE) interact with other receptors *in vivo*, thereby activating multiple signaling pathways to induce the synthesis of interleukins, growth factors, and cytokine synthesis. Recent studies have shown that the activation of AGE/RAGE-related signaling pathways affects the proliferation, invasion, angiogenesis, and local recurrence of oral cancer and is associated with poor prognosis in patients with advanced oral cancer. This paper reviews the relationship between AGEs/RAGE and OSCC with the aim of providing potential targets for OSCC treatment.

[Key words] oral squamous cell carcinoma; advanced glycation end-product; receptor of advanced glycation end-product

在全球范围内, 口腔鳞状细胞癌 (oral squamous cell carcinoma, OSCC) 是最常见的癌症之一, 给人类的健康造成了严重的威胁, 尽管已经

在手术治疗、放射治疗、化学治疗及生物治疗方面取得了长足的进步, 但目前 OSCC 患者 5 年生存率仍低于 60%^[1]。因此, 了解 OSCC 恶性演进的分子机制十分重要, 将有助于改善其预后和开发新的治疗方式。

近年来, 大量的研究表明糖尿病与肿瘤发生发展之间存在密切的关系。例如一项来自美国的前瞻性队列研究^[2]显示: 二型糖尿病会增加包括结

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直肠癌、肺癌、胰腺癌、食管癌、肝癌等多种癌症的发病风险,这种关联性在糖尿病确诊后第8年达到顶峰。而在另一项纳入了659名OSCC患者的回顾性队列研究^[3]中,糖尿病患者表现出较高的肿瘤复发率和较低的癌症相关生存率。糖尿病患者伴随的高血糖症会通过触发脂质过氧化、慢性炎症、DNA氧化修饰和蛋白质功能的损失/增加,诱导羰基化合物和活性氧的释放,从而促进糖基化过程,即晚期糖基化终产物(advanced glycation end-product, AGE)的形成^[4-5]。目前,越来越多的研究^[6-9]显示:AGE、AGE受体(receptor of advanced glycation end-product, RAGE)可通过激活相关信号通路,促进OSCC的恶性发展。因此,本文对AGE/RAGE与OSCC恶性之间的关系进行简要综述。

1 AGE、RAGE及其相关信号通路

1.1 AGE的来源与生物学作用

AGE是由一系列糖基化反应产生的一类化合物。

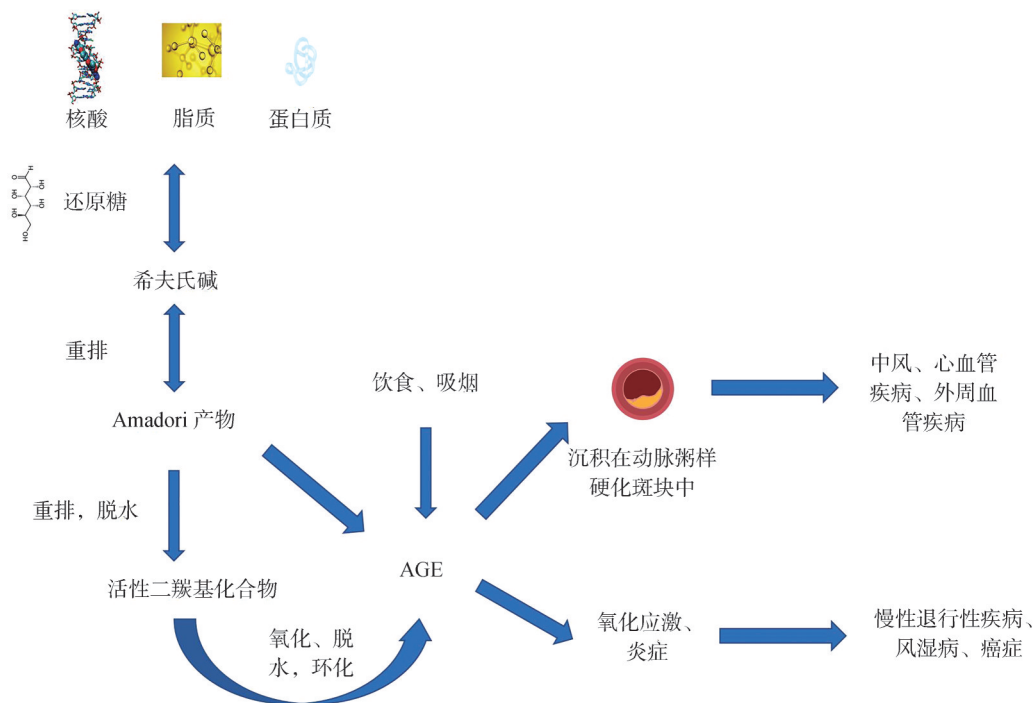


图 1 AGE的形成及与疾病的关系

Fig 1 The formation of AGE and its relationship with clinical diseases

1.2 RAGE相关信号通路

RAGE位于细胞膜表面,参与AGE相关的内稳态,不仅可以激活下游信号通路,加剧炎症和氧化应激,还可通过负反馈作用控制AGE的数量,防止AGE在体内过多积累。目前,研究较多的

物。糖基化是蛋白质、脂质、核酸与还原糖或羰基化合物之间发生的一系列非酶促反应,包括脱水、氧化、缩合、异构化、环化等多个过程,最终形成AGE。

由于体内几乎没有酶能催化分解糖基化衍生化合物,因此其从血液中消除过程非常缓慢,导致AGE不断积累,进而与RAGE之间相互作用。AGE-RAGE轴能够促进还原型辅酶II(nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, NADPH)氧化酶系统激活,进而导致细胞内的活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)水平升高,从而进一步激活转录因子、核因子(nuclear factor, NF)-κβ,诱导氧化促进整个信号通路的修饰^[10]。糖基化虽然是衰老过程中自然的生理变化,但在慢性高血糖等代谢紊乱状态下,糖基化过程会加剧^[11-12]。癌症、神经退行性疾病、中风、风湿病、心血管疾病等许多慢性疾病都可借由AGE诱导的细胞功能障碍和炎症而发生^[13](图1)。

RAGE包括RAGE、AGE-R1、AGE-R2、AGER3、巨噬细胞清道夫受体A(scavenger receptor-A, SR-A)、清道夫受体B(SR-B I、SR-B II)^[14]、ERM蛋白家族[ezrin/radixin/moesin(ERM) protein]:埃兹蛋白(ezrin)、根连蛋白(radixin)、膜突蛋白

(moesin)^[15]、凝集素样氧化低密度脂蛋白受体 (lectin-like oxidized low-density lipoprotein receptor-1, LOX-1) 和可溶性 RAGE (soluble RAGE, sRAGE)^[16]。

RAGE是AGE在人体内的主要受体，也是目前研究最多的AGE受体，属于免疫球蛋白超家族。RAGE存在于各种细胞和组织的表面，包括：肺泡^[17]、单核/巨噬细胞、内皮细胞和树突状细胞^[18]，与机体的多种炎症和免疫反应相关^[19]。RAGE在牛肺内皮细胞中被发现，相对分子质量为42.8，与人类RAGE的蛋白序列一致^[10]。RAGE除了与AGE结合外，还与其他几种配体结合，如高迁移率族蛋白B1 (high mobility group box 1, HMGB1)、巨噬细胞相关抗原1 (macrophage-1 antigen, Mac-1)、S-100蛋白、β白淀粉样蛋白

(beta amyloid peptide, β-AP) 以及脂多糖^[20]，从而引起持续而强烈的细胞反应，活化激活蛋白1^[21]以及多种信号转导和转录激活因子 (signal transducer and activator of transcription, STAT)^[22]，释放各种细胞信号通路中间体，如ROS、p21ras、ERK1/2 (p44/p42)、p38、SAPK/JNK、促分裂素原活化蛋白激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)、rhoGTPases、磷酸肌醇-3激酶和JAK (Janus kinase) /STAT^[23]，激活细胞内级联炎症反应，导致促炎细胞因子的释放^[24]、加剧氧化应激、增加凝血障碍风险、细胞外基质蛋白 (如胶原蛋白或层粘连蛋白) 的过度表达^[25]以及激酶C等次级信号传导物的激活。这些过程促进细胞迁移和增殖，导致病理状况发生，如糖尿病并发症、硬化症、阿尔茨海默病、炎症和肿瘤进展^[26](图2)。

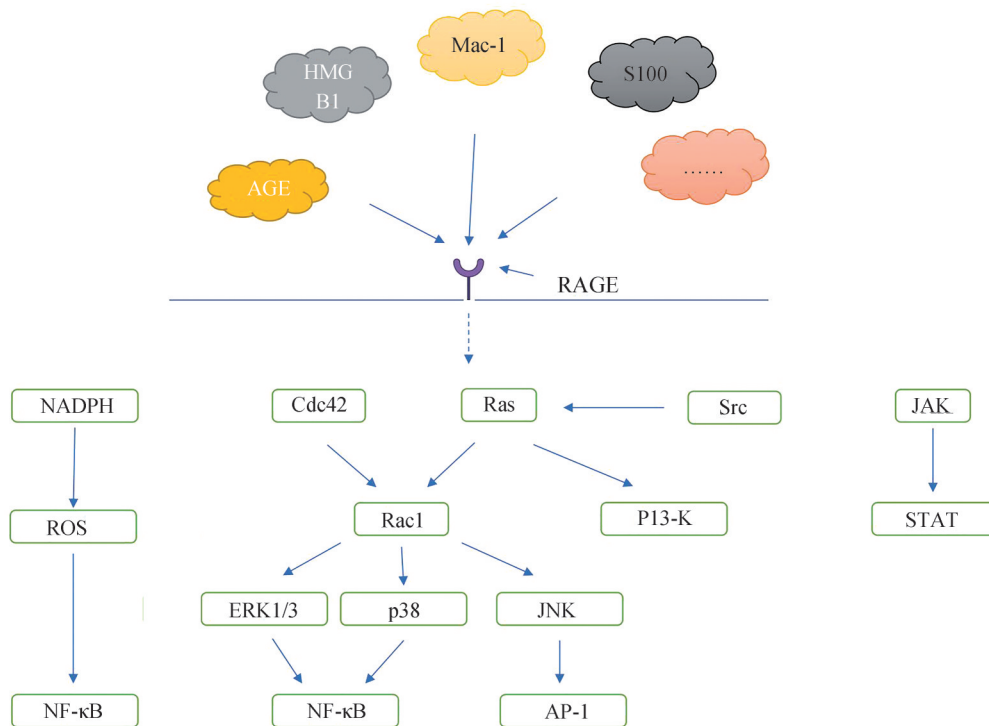


图 2 AGE/RAGE 相关信号通路

Fig 2 AGE-RAGE axis signaling

2 AGE/RAGE 与肿瘤之间的关系

2.1 AGE/RAGE 促进肿瘤的发生、发展

糖基化过程中DNA被还原糖或氨基糖基化，导致DNA碎片化或部分损伤^[27]。当肿瘤抑制基因遭到破坏时，就可能引发癌症。Ashraf等^[27]发现：DNA与活性糖基化合物3-脱氧葡萄糖苷 (3-deoxy-

glucosone, 3-DG) 发生糖基化反应后产生的晚期糖基化产物在癌症发展中发挥着潜在的作用，一些癌症患者血清中还发现有针对3-DG与DNA糖基化产物的自身抗体。此外，DNA损伤还会导致基因组不稳定，而基因组不稳定与肿瘤发生有关。

当RAGE与配体结合后，会活化多种信号转导和转录激活因子，其中最重要的是NF-κB，它是RAGE信号转导的关键靶点之一^[28]。与NF-κB相

关的细胞黏附分子、转化生长因子- β (transforming growth factor- β , TGF- β)和促炎细胞因子[白细胞介素(interleukin, IL)-6和肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF) α]表达上调,进而促进ROS和活性氮自由基(reactive nitrogen species, RNS)累积^[29-30],最终导致慢性炎症状态。而现有的研究^[31]表明,肿瘤发生和慢性炎症之间存在密切的关系。多个研究^[32-35]通过阻止AGE的积累和/或RAGE的激活或活化,抑制多种肿瘤的转移,包括肺癌、乳腺癌、喉癌、前列腺癌、肝癌和黑色素瘤等。通过RNAi沉默RAGE表达或通过拮抗配体靶向RAGE可抑制肿瘤生长和侵袭^[36-37]。在体外和体内实验中,通过抑制RAGE激活产生的相关信号,可以降低血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)等因子的表达,进而抑制结肠癌诱导的血管生成^[28,38]。

2.2 sRAGE通过拮抗AGE/RAGE抑制肿瘤生长

AGE能够通过与RAGE结合引起氧化应激和炎症,而sRAGE能够通过与AGE结合来拮抗这一过程。从结构上来说,RAGE包含有1个V型和2个C型的胞外结构域、一段跨膜结构域以及由43个氨基酸组成的胞内尾巴。RAGE的V型区域与配体结合密切相关,而胞内的尾巴则参与调控胞内的信号传导。sRAGE是RAGE的一种可溶性变体,仅含有胞外部分的3个结构域,但没有跨膜部分和胞内的尾巴。sRAGE由细胞释放到胞外,能够与RAGE的配体结合,从而对AGE-RAGE轴进行负调控^[39]。在乳腺癌中,研究^[40]发现:相比健康对照组,乳腺癌患者血清中sRAGE浓度更低,并且在预后较好的患者(低级别或者雌激素阳性)中,sRAGE浓度明显高于晚期乳腺癌患者,随着癌症进展,sRAGE浓度也会逐渐降低。而在一项针对芬兰男性吸烟者的人体研究^[41]中,血清中sRAGE水平与胰腺癌发病率呈负相关。升高的sRAGE还能够与多种RAGE的配体相互作用,从而削弱RAGE介导的促肿瘤细胞生长和侵袭作用^[42]。

3 AGE/RAGE与OSCC之间的关系

3.1 AGE/RAGE与OSCC的发生、发展

RAGE表达量受环境因素影响,并参与OSCC的发生。OSCC是由多种环境因素相互作用促成的,如吸烟和饮酒^[43]。吸烟目前被公认为是发展OSCC的主要原因之一^[44-45]。根据现有研究^[45]数据,

吸烟者发展为OSCC的概率比不吸烟者高7~10倍。在二手烟环境暴露下,细胞表面的RAGE受体表达量会显著增加,RAGE受体在吸烟相关的OSCC发生发展中扮演着重要的角色^[46-47]。当正常口腔黏膜发生癌变及OSCC进展过程中,RAGE的表达量会随之改变。Bhawal等^[48]通过反转录聚合酶链反应(reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, RT-PCR)、Western Blot检测10种不同类型的OSCC细胞系以及正常口腔黏膜细胞中的RAGE mRNA水平和RAGE蛋白表达量,结果显示正常口腔黏膜细胞中几乎不能检测出RAGE蛋白,RAGE mRNA的表达水平也很低,而在OSCC细胞系中,均能检测出RAGE蛋白,RAGE mRNA表达量也相对较高,并且转移性OSCC中的RAGE mRNA表达量也比原发性OSCC更高。

RAGE受体及其配体相关的基因多态性影响OSCC的发生发展。目前,已有多个证据发现RAGE受体及其配体基因的单核苷酸多态性(single-nucleotide polymorphism, SNP)与OSCC之间的关系。Lin等^[49]分析了772名OSCC患者以及1200名正常对照人群的HMGB1基因SNP后发现:HMGB1基因中的rs1045411 SNP与OSCC风险显著相关,相比野生型,rs1045411 SNP位点的C等位基因会增加OSCC的发病风险。事实上,该位点的C等位基因会导致HMGB1 mRNA结构产生轻微的扭曲,使mRNA稳定性下降,而rs1045411 SNP位点同时也是miRNA hsa-miR-5055p的易结合位点,这种结构变化会影响mRNA与miRNA的结合强度,影响HMGB1基因转录过程。同样的,Supic等^[50]在分析了193个基因样本后发现:HMGB1基因的rs3742305 SNP中,GG基因型与OSCC的淋巴结转移和肿瘤分期显著相关,并且rs3742305 SNP的GG基因型患者表现出更低的无复发生存率。而在另一项包含了618名OSCC患者和作为对照的592名正常人群的实验^[51]中,RAGE基因的rs1800625 SNP与OSCC发病率有着明显的统计学关系,且该SNP突变型与晚期肿瘤(Ⅲ/Ⅳ期),大型肿瘤(最大直径>2 cm)也有着明确的统计学相关性。

RAGE受体及其配体表达量影响肿瘤的增殖、侵袭和远处转移。Bhawal等^[48]将RAGE基因沉默后,肿瘤细胞穿过transwell膜的细胞数减少为原有的1/4。划痕实验中肿瘤细胞的细胞迁移率明显下降。而另一位研究者^[7]在沉默OSCC细胞RAGE基因,也发现了类似的结果,表现为OSCC细胞的增

殖和侵袭能力受到显著抑制。在Chapman的实验中, Ca9-22OSCC细胞经0.05%的香烟提取物暴露后, RAGE受体表达量增加了1.3倍, 肿瘤细胞侵袭能力增加了1.8倍, 进一步的实验结果显示: 香烟提取物暴露下肿瘤细胞中RAGE相关的Ras活化, ERK、蛋白激酶B (protein kinase B, AKT) 和NF- κ B信号通路激活, 基质金属蛋白酶基 (matrix metalloproteinase, MMP) -2、9、14表达量增加, 进而促进OSCC细胞侵袭^[9]。Ko等^[52]加入体外生成的AGE处理SAS OSCC细胞后, 肿瘤细胞迁移能力得到了提升, 不过与之前的实验不同的是, AGE处理后的肿瘤细胞数量明显减少, 细胞增殖率下降, AGE对于OSCC细胞增殖似乎起到了抑制的作用。

AGE/RAGE促进OSCC血管生成。RAGE与AGE结合后, 通过细胞内信号通路增加NF- κ B和激活蛋白1 (activator protein 1, AP-1) 的转录活性, 进而上调VEGF和血管生成素2 (angiopoietin-2, Ang-2) 的表达量, 促进血管生成^[53]。而血管生成是OSCC进展的主要原因之一^[54-55]。Sasahira等^[56]从20名OSCC患者中分别获取OSCC细胞样本, 通过酶联免疫吸附测定 (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay, ELISA) 测定RAGE、VEGF和VEGF-C的浓度, 免疫荧光测定微血管密度 (microvessel density, MVD) 和淋巴管密度 (lymphatic vessel density, LVD), 结果显示: MVD与肿瘤的RAGE浓度之间呈明显的正向相关, 肿瘤细胞中的VEGF浓度也随RAGE浓度增加而增加。将人重组HMGB1 (human recombinant HMGB1, hrHMGB1) 作为RAGE配体处理OSCC细胞后发现: 这些细胞分泌的VEGF会随着hrHMGB1的添加呈剂量相关性增加。RAGE与配体结合后通过激活细胞内信号通路可引起VEGF表达增加, 进而促进OSCC血管生成。

3.2 AGE/RAGE与OSCC预后

AGE/RAGE与OSCC复发和预后不良密切相关。Sasahira等^[57]收集了74个OSCC患者的肿瘤标本, 通过免疫组织化学对肿瘤细胞的RAGE表达量进行评估, 并按照奥尔雷德分数 (Allred's score) 对RAGE表达量进行定量分级, 在这74名患者中, 30名患者出现了局部复发, 其中22 (73%) 名患者表现出高RAGE表达, 而在另外40名无复发的患者中, 仅有18%高表达RAGE蛋白, RAGE的高表达与肿瘤局部复发呈显著相关。

晚期OSCC经常侵犯和破坏颌骨, 是导致OSCC患者临床预后不良的重要因素^[58]。目前, 广泛骨切除术是治疗OSCC相关骨破坏的一线手术治疗方法, 但这种方法会严重影响患者的生活质量^[59]。而RAGE及其配体可能在晚期患者溶骨破坏中扮演着重要的作用。在骨组织中, AGE累积会刺激破骨细胞的活性, 加速骨吸收, 并且随着年龄增加, 这种刺激作用会更加显著^[60]。Kim等^[61]发现: 发生骨转移的乳腺癌细胞系MDA-MB-231中S100A4表达量显著升高, 当使用质粒转染沉默S100A4表达后, 乳腺癌细胞的条件培养基的促破骨细胞生成作用降低, 进一步的分子实验阐明了乳腺癌细胞分泌的S100A4通过与RAGE受体结合激活NF- κ B通路促进破骨细胞生成, 从而在乳腺癌骨转移中发挥溶骨作用。Sakamoto等^[6]使用OSCC细胞系SAS细胞的条件培养基培养小鼠骨髓细胞, 并加入破骨细胞分化因子 (receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa-B ligand, RANKL) 和巨噬细胞集落刺激因子 (macrophage colony-stimulating factor, M-CSF), 结果发现: SAS条件培养基的加入使TRAP阳性多核破骨细胞样细胞和骨吸收陷窝的形成显著增加, 而在加入HMGB1中和抗体或者RAGE拮抗剂FPS-ZM1后, SAS条件培养基促进TRAP阳性多核破骨细胞样细胞和骨吸收陷窝形成的效果减弱, 这表明SAS细胞分泌的HMGB1可通过RAGE受体促进破骨细胞形成和骨吸收。随后, 研究者将SAS细胞接种至小鼠胫骨处建立OSCC骨破坏小鼠模型, X线和micro-CT检测结果显示: SAS细胞接种3周后胫骨内出现明显溶骨病变, 对小鼠注入HMGB1中和抗体或RAGE拮抗剂FPS-ZM1后, 小鼠的溶骨破坏程度明显减弱。这些结果均表明: OSCC细胞分泌的HMGB1以及RAGE受体相关信号转导途径在晚期OSCC相关的骨破坏中扮演了重要的角色, AGE或其他RAGE配体的累积可能会加速晚期OSCC患者的溶骨破坏。

3.3 AGE/RAGE与OSCC治疗

RAGE受体及其相关配体是OSCC治疗的潜在靶点。芸香科植物吴茱萸中提取的活性物质吴茱萸碱 (evodiamine, EVO) 可以与HMGB1结合, 抑制各种肿瘤的增殖, 促进细胞凋亡^[62-65]。Ren等^[7]在体外实验中, 使用4 μ mol/L的EVO处理OSCC细胞, 结果显示: 加入EVO处理后, OSCC细胞的增殖和侵袭显著受到抑制, 口腔细胞的RAGE

mRNA表达下调, HMGB1和RAGE蛋白表达下调, RAGE信号通路相关的信号分子NF- κ B/MMP-2也显著降低。通过质粒转染过表达RAGE后, EVO对于OSCC细胞增殖和侵袭的抑制作用受到明显减弱。因此, 研究者认为EVO通过与HMGB1结合后, 诱导HMGB1水解, 干扰HMGB1与RAGE结合, 从而影响RAGE相关的NF- κ B信号通路激活, 抑制OSCC细胞的增殖和侵袭。

EPH受体是目前已知的最大的酪氨酸蛋白激酶受体家族, 在正常人体生理和病理过程发挥广泛的作用^[66]。EPHB4作为EPH受体家族的典型成员, 可通过双向信号转导的方式调控肿瘤发生、肿瘤细胞附着、血管生成、迁移和侵袭等一系列肿瘤细胞的行为和功能^[67]。Yi等^[68]使用质谱分析技术发现: EPHB4与HMGB1有着较高的亲和性, 在免疫沉淀法中EPHB4也能与HMGB1共沉淀。使用siRNA抑制OSCC细胞EPHB4表达后, Western Blot结果表明: 肿瘤细胞中HMGB1表达下调, NF- κ B信号通路成员P-P65和P-I κ B α 的磷酸化过程明显下调; 蛋白半衰期实验表明: EPHB4抑制后HMGB1蛋白的结构稳定性下降。而在加入siRNA抑制OSCC细胞的HMGB1表达后, EPHB4对于OSCC细胞增殖、侵袭和远处转移的影响也受到明显抑制, 研究者根据其一系列的实验结果认为: 高表达的EPHB4能够与RAGE的其中一个配体HMGB1结合, 使HMGB1的蛋白结构稳定, 进而通过激活NF- κ B信号通路促进肿瘤细胞的增殖和转移。由此看来, 通过调节HMGB1或其他RAGE配体的蛋白结构, 干扰RAGE与配体结合和RAGE相关通路激活, 可能是一种潜在的抑制OSCC进展的治疗方向。

此外, 一些广泛应用的药物也会影响RAGE的激活, 如他汀类药物就被证明可以下调RAGE表达, 导致VEGF表达减少, 影响血管生成^[69]。不过目前尚未有相关证据证实这类药物在OSCC治疗中的抗血管生成作用。

4 总结与展望

综上所述, AGE与RAGE相互作用, 激活AP-1、NF- κ B、STAT等多种转录因子, 通过多个信号转导途径, 影响OSCC的发生、增殖、侵袭、转移和血管生成。然而AGE/RAGE与OSCC之间的关系仍然有许多问题亟待解决: 1) AGE/RAGE与OS-

CC之间的分子通路尚未明晰; 2) 缺少足够的高证据等级临床试验和动物实验, 未来需要更多研究的投入。但目前的研究结果仍为理解OSCC的发生、发展、侵袭和远处转移提供了新的角度, 将AGE/RAGE作为靶点进行调控, 会是未来治疗OSCC的潜在方向之一。

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