

# 基于SDF-1/CXCR4轴探讨补肾壮筋汤促进小鼠BMSCs归巢和保护关节软骨的机制研究

黄艳峰<sup>1,2</sup>, 马德尊<sup>1,2</sup>, 付长龙<sup>1,2</sup>, 叶锦霞<sup>1,2</sup>, 黄云梅<sup>1,2</sup>, 李西海<sup>3\*</sup>

1 福建中医药大学中西医结合研究院, 福建 福州 350122;

2 福建省中西医结合老年性疾病重点实验室, 福建 福州 350122;

3 福建中医药大学中西医结合学院, 福建 福州 350122

\* 通信作者: 李西海, E-mail: lixihaifz@163.com

收稿日期: 2023-07-11; 接受日期: 2023-11-24

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金项目(82074461); 福建省中青年教师教育科研项目(JAT231042); 福建省科学技术厅

引导性项目(2021Y0032); 陈可冀中西医结合发展基金资助项目(CKJ2023004)

DOI: 10.3724/SP.J.1329.2024.01007

开放科学(资源服务)标识码(OSID):



**摘要** **目的** 探讨补肾壮筋汤调控SDF-1/CXCR4轴促进小鼠BMSCs归巢和保护关节软骨的作用机制,为膝骨关节炎(KOA)的康复治疗提供实验依据。**方法** ① 动物实验中,选用8周龄SPF级C57BL/6雄性小鼠30只,采用随机数字表法分为假手术组、模型组、补肾壮筋汤组,每组10只,干预12周。采用micro-CT、HE染色观察各组软骨形态变化;激光共聚焦显微镜观察骨组织SDF-1荧光强度;qPCR、Western blot检测各组归巢相关调控因子mRNA转录水平和蛋白相对表达量。② 细胞实验中,选用4周龄SPF级C57BL/6雄性小鼠,采用全骨髓贴壁法提取原代BMSCs,流式细胞术对所提取的细胞进行鉴定后,筛选最佳慢病毒MOI值;随机将细胞分为空白组、空载组、补肾壮筋汤组、sh-SDF-1组、sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组5组,采用划痕实验观察各组BMSCs迁移情况;阿利新蓝、Collagen II免疫细胞学染色观察各组细胞成软骨分化能力;激光共聚焦显微镜观察各组SDF-1、CXCR4的荧光强度;qPCR检测各组归巢相关调控因子mRNA转录水平。**结果** ① 动物实验中,关节组织形态学结果(micro-CT、HE染色)显示:与假手术组比较,模型组股骨髁间可见一圆形缺损,骨皮质失连,软骨细胞缺失;与模型组比较,补肾壮筋汤组股骨髁间环形缺损好转,软骨细胞排列稍紊乱。关节组织免疫荧光显示:与假手术组比较,模型组SDF-1蛋白相对表达量升高;与模型组比较,补肾壮筋汤组SDF-1的蛋白相对表达量升高( $P<0.05$ )。qPCR与Western blot结果显示:与假手术组比较,模型组归巢关键调控因子(SDF-1、CXCR4、MIP-1 $\alpha$ 、MCP-1、MIP-1 $\beta$ 、RANTES、VEGF、G-CSF、NCAM-1、MMP-2)的mRNA转录水平和蛋白相对表达量升高( $P<0.05$ );与模型组比较,补肾壮筋汤组归巢关键调控因子mRNA转录水平和蛋白相对表达量升高( $P<0.05$ )。② 细胞实验中,BMSCs经细胞流式术鉴定:CD44、CD105呈阳性表达,CD34呈阴性表达。当病毒MOI值为100时,SDF-1基因感染率最高。BMSCs迁移和成软骨分化能力检测结果显示:与空白组比较,sh-SDF-1组细胞向划痕区域迁移的细胞数量、酸性黏多糖及Collagen II蛋白相对表达量显著减少( $P<0.05$ );补肾壮筋汤组和sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组迁移的细胞数量、阿利新蓝染色及Collagen II蛋白相对表达量显著增多( $P<0.05$ )。细胞免疫荧光显示:与空白组比较,sh-SDF-1组细胞SDF-1、CXCR4蛋白相对表达量显著减少;补肾壮筋汤组和sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组细胞SDF-1、CXCR4蛋白相对表达量显著增多( $P<0.05$ )。qPCR结果显示:与空白组比较,sh-SDF-1组归巢关键调控因子的mRNA转录水平降低( $P<0.05$ ),补肾壮筋汤组归巢关键调控因子的mRNA转录水平升高( $P<0.05$ )。**结论** 补肾壮筋汤可通过上调SDF-1/CXCR4轴促进小鼠BMSCs归巢保护关节软骨。

**关键词** 软骨损伤;补肾壮筋汤;BMSCs;SDF-1/CXCR4;归巢

**引用格式:** 黄艳峰, 马德尊, 付长龙, 等. 基于SDF-1/CXCR4轴探讨补肾壮筋汤促进小鼠BMSCs归巢和保护关节软骨的机制研究[J]. 康复学报, 2024, 34(1): 44-54.  
HUANG Y F, MA D Z, FU C L, et al. Mechanism of bushen zhuangjin decoction to promote BMSCs homing and protect articular cartilage in mice by the SDF-1/CXCR4 axis [J]. Rehabil Med, 2024, 34(1): 44-54.  
DOI: 10.3724/SP.J.1329.2024.01007

膝关节炎(knee osteoarthritis, KOA)是一种以软骨退变为主要病理特征,影响整个关节结构,导致关节畸形及功能丧失的疾病<sup>[1]</sup>。由于软骨组织缺乏神经、血管等营养供应,一旦发生退变,便很难实现再生修复,致使KOA的有效治疗严重受到阻碍<sup>[2]</sup>。

骨髓间充质干细胞(bone mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs)因其具备成软骨、成骨等多向分化的特点,被认为是一种适用于骨组织工程研究的种子细胞<sup>[3-4]</sup>。当组织损伤后, BMSCs可通过归巢的方式募集到损伤处参与修复<sup>[5-6]</sup>。其中,趋化因子在BMSCs归巢中起关键作用,尤其是基质细胞衍生因子-1(stromal cell-derived factor-1, SDF-1)可通过与CXC趋化因子受体4(cxc chemokine receptor type 4, CXCR4)结合形成SDF-1/CXCR4趋化轴,被认为是迄今为止动员BMSCs归巢最有效的趋化轴之一<sup>[7-8]</sup>。

当组织受到损伤后,损伤部位上调的SDF-1结合CXCR4可有效动员、趋化、引导BMSCs募集至损伤处进行再生修复<sup>[9-10]</sup>,其机制主要与动员调控生长因子、黏附分子、集落刺激因子、金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinase, MMPs)等有关<sup>[11-12]</sup>。但在损伤晚期,体内持续趋化能力会降低,难以引导足够数量的BMSCs到达受损区域<sup>[13]</sup>,然而,相关研究发现,中医药治疗可以激活SDF-1/CXCR4趋化轴促进BMSCs归巢修复软骨损伤<sup>[14]</sup>。

KOA属于中医学“痹证”范畴,肝肾亏虚,则筋骨失荣,治宜补益肝肾、强筋壮骨<sup>[15]</sup>。补肾壮筋汤最早出自清代《伤科补要》,具有补益肝肾、强壮筋骨的功效<sup>[16]</sup>。BMSCs是骨髓中主要细胞,属于中医“髓”范畴,肾精充足,则骨髓生化有源,骨坚筋强;肾精匮乏,则骨髓化生无源,骨痿筋弱<sup>[17]</sup>。课题组前期研究发现,补肾壮筋汤对软骨细胞具有保护作用,可促进软骨细胞增殖,抑制软骨基质稳态失衡,有效缓解肝肾亏虚型KOA症状,改善关节功能<sup>[18]</sup>。但目前补肾壮筋汤在促进BMSCs归巢和保护关节软骨方面尚未报道。因此,本课题拟采用软骨损伤模型模拟软骨退变,通过体内、体外实验证明补肾壮筋汤调控归巢相关因子,促进退变软骨修复,为KOA的康复治疗提供实验依据。

## 1 实验材料

### 1.1 实验动物

8周龄SPF级C57BL/6雄性小鼠30只,体质量(25±5)g,用于动物实验;4周龄SPF级GFP C57BL/6雄性转基因小鼠10只,体质量(20±5)g,用于提取原代BMSCs。所有动物均购自上海斯莱克实验动

物有限公司[生产许可证:SCXK(沪)2022-0004],饲养于福建中医药大学实验动物中心[使用许可证:SYXK(闽)2019-0007],每笼5只饲养,12 h/12 h的光照/黑暗周期交替,21~22℃室温饲养,本研究已通过福建中医药大学动物伦理委员会审核通过(审批号:FJTICM IACUC 2021046)。

### 1.2 实验药物

补肾壮筋汤中药饮片购自福建中医药大学附属第三人民医院中药房,药物组成:熟地黄12 g,当归12 g,山茱萸12 g,茯苓12 g,续断12 g,杜仲10 g,白芍10 g,牛膝10 g,五加皮10 g,青皮5 g。药物经冷凝回流法提取制备成浓缩液。

### 1.3 主要实验试剂

异氟烷购自深圳瑞沃德公司;4%多聚甲醛购自北京赛国生物科技有限公司;HE染色试剂盒购自北京索莱宝公司;RNA提取试剂盒购自北京天根生化科技有限公司;逆转录试剂盒购自南京诺唯赞生物科技有限公司;蛋白提取试剂盒购自上海碧云天有限公司;SDF-1、G-CSF、VEGF、GAPDH抗体均购自美国Abcam有限公司;CXCR4、NCAM-1抗体均购自武汉Proteintech公司;IgG(H+L)HRP购自上海玉博生物科技有限公司;小鼠BMSCs培养基购自上海OriCell公司;胎牛血清购自美国Gibco公司;CD105、CD44、CD34均购自美国Biolegend公司;RNAi-Easy-慢病毒购自上海吉凯基因有限公司;MMP-2抗体、荧光二抗均购自美国CST有限公司。

### 1.4 主要实验仪器

小动物micro-CT购自美国PerkinElmer公司;RNA定量系统购自美国Thermo Scientific公司;实时荧光定量PCR仪、电泳仪、全能型成像系统均购自美国Bio-Rad公司;激光共聚焦显微镜购自于德国蔡司公司;流式细胞仪购自于美国BD公司;酶标仪购自于美国Thermo Fisher公司。

## 2 实验方法

### 2.1 动物实验

**2.1.1 小鼠软骨损伤模型制备及分组与干预** 取8周龄C57BL/6雄性SPF级小鼠30只,采用随机数字表法分成假手术组、模型组、补肾壮筋汤组,每组10只,使用异氟烷麻醉后,除假手术组外,其余2组采用环状打孔法构建软骨损伤模型<sup>[19-20]</sup>。假手术组和模型组给予0.9%生理盐水灌胃1 mL/(100 g·d),补肾壮筋汤组给予补肾壮筋汤灌胃1 mL/(100 g·d),3组均干预12周,1次/d。

**2.1.2 关节组织形态学观察** ① micro-CT观察软

骨损伤情况:动物麻醉后,仰卧膝关节伸直位固定,选择90 kV电压,88  $\mu$ A电流,调整合适角度进行CT平扫,结束后选择Sub:4.788 mm区间进行局部放大处理,并在局部病损部位进行矢状位切片观察。  
 ② HE染色观软骨损伤情况:3组膝关节用4%多聚甲醛固定24 h,经EDTA-2Na脱钙4周制备石蜡切片,按照HE试剂盒步骤在苏木精染色液中浸泡1 min,分化液清洗10 s,在蒸馏水中返蓝10 min,伊红染色液浸泡30 s,蒸馏水快速冲洗,乙醇脱水后封片。在显微镜下观察各组软骨组织病理学变化。

**2.1.3 关节组织中SDF-1荧光表达情况** 将关节组织切片经脱蜡处理后,依次进行柠檬酸钠抗原高温修复,0.5%曲拉通透膜,5%BSA封闭30 min,滴加SDF-1(1:200)抗体过夜孵育,清洗后滴加荧光同源二抗IgG Fab2(555)(1:1 000)孵育,激光共聚焦显微镜下观察3组细胞SDF-1荧光表达情况。

**2.1.4 补肾壮筋汤干预后归巢关键调控因子的变化** ① qPCR检测SDF-1、CXCR4、MIP-1 $\alpha$ 、MCP-1、MIP-1 $\beta$ 、RANTES、VEGF、G-CSF、NCAM-1、MMP-2

的mRNA转录水平:按RNA提取试剂盒实验步骤,将提取的组织总RNA上机检测RNA纯度与浓度;按逆转录试剂盒实验步骤配制逆转录体系进行逆转录反应;按照Hiscript<sup>®</sup> II试剂盒步骤,提前合成相关基因引物并按照说明书配成10  $\mu$ mol/L,引物序列见表1,热循环条件按:94  $^{\circ}$ C,5 min;94  $^{\circ}$ C,10 s;55  $^{\circ}$ C,15 s;72  $^{\circ}$ C,10 s循环32次;72  $^{\circ}$ C,5 min;以GAPDH为内参,采用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 计算各目的基因mRNA转录水平。  
 ② Western blot检测SDF-1、CXCR4、G-CSF、VEGF、NCAM-1、MMP-2蛋白相对表达量:提取3组软骨组织总蛋白后按BCA定量试剂盒测定蛋白浓度,配制10%分离胶进行电泳,400 mA恒流,4  $^{\circ}$ C转膜,常温封闭2 h,一抗GAPDH(1:5 000)、SDF-1(1:1 000)、CXCR4(1:1 000)、G-CSF(1:1 000)、VEGF(1:1 000)、NCAM-1(1:5 000)、MMP-2(1:1 000)4  $^{\circ}$ C过夜孵育,次日二抗IgG(H+L)HRP二抗(1:5 000)常温孵育1 h,滴加ECL化学发光液于凝胶成像系统拍照,Image Lab软件定量分析条带灰度值。

表1 相关基因引物序列

Table 1 Related gene primer sequences

基因名称	引物序列(5'→3')
SDF-1	F:5'GGTTCTTCGAGAGCCACATC3' R:5'CACTTGCTGTTGTTGTTCTTCAG3'
CXCR4	F:5'AGCTAAGGAGCATGACGGAC-3' R:5'TGAAGGCCAGGATGAGAACG3'
MIP-1 $\alpha$	F:5'GAAGATTCCACGCCAATTCATC3' R:5'GCATTTCAGTTCCAGGTCAGT3'
MCP-1	F:5'CACCTGCTGCTACTCATTAC3' R:5'TGTCTGGACCCATTCTTCTT-3'
MIP-1 $\beta$	F:5'CAAGCCAGCTGTGGTATTCCTGA3' R:5'CTGAACGTGAGGAGCAAGGAC3'
RANTES	F:5'ATATGGCTCGGACACCACTC3' R:5'ACTTGGCGGTTCCCTTCGAG3'
VEGF	F:5'ACTGGACCCTGGCTTTACTG3' R:5'GCAGTAGCTTCGCTGGTAGA3'
G-CSF	F:5'GCAGGCTCTATCGGGTATTTTC3' R:5'GCTGGAAGGCAGAAGTGAAG3'
NCAM-1	F:5'ACACCGTCTTCTCCATCCATT3' R:5'CGACTTCCACTCAGCCTTGTA3'
MMP-2	F:5'AGATTGACGCTGTGTATGAGG3' R:5'TGTCTTCTTGTCTTACTCCAGTT3'
GAPDH	F:5'ACGGCAAGTTCAACGGCACAG3' R:5'GAAGACGCCAGTAGACTCCACGAC3'

## 2.2 细胞实验

**2.2.1 BMSCs的提取与鉴定** 采用全骨髓贴壁法<sup>[21]</sup>提取BMSCs,取生长状态良好的第2代BMSCs制成单细胞悬液;PBS洗涤后,依次加入CD105、CD44、CD34抗体,4℃孵育30 min;离心后PBS再次洗涤后于流式细胞仪上机检测BMSCs阳性率。

**2.2.2 SDF-1慢病毒转染** 第2代BMSCs待细胞密度达到40%~60%时再加入慢病毒悬液,感染复数(MOI)设为10、50、100、150,低糖培养基培养16 h后更换为小鼠骨髓间充质BMSCs培养基,72 h后将6孔板置于荧光显微镜下观察荧光表达情况,以荧光强度覆盖80%,且不影响细胞形态为佳,转染成功后的细胞在荧光显微镜下呈现绿色荧光。

**2.2.3 细胞分组与干预** 取第2代BMSCs随机分为空白组、空载组、补肾壮筋汤组、sh-SDF-1组、sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组5组。空白组和空载组予以小鼠BMSCs培养基培养,空载组同时加入空载病毒;补肾壮筋汤组予以BMSCs完全培养基+补肾壮筋汤200 μg/mL;sh-SDF-1组予以BMSCs完全培养基+SDF-1慢病毒;sh-SDF-1组+补肾壮筋汤组予以BMSCs完全培养基+SDF-1慢病毒+补肾壮筋汤200 μg/mL;参照前期实验基础,每组均干预8 h后进行后续实验<sup>[22]</sup>。

**2.2.4 划痕实验观察5组BMSCs迁移能力** 将第2代细胞悬液按 $1 \times 10^5$ /mL浓度均匀铺到6孔板中,在37℃含5%CO<sub>2</sub>培养箱中培养24 h,用100 μL枪头以6孔板的板盖或者直尺为媒介每孔均匀划5条直线,PBS清洗后按照“2.2.3”所述进行干预,光学显微镜下拍照并记录。

**2.2.5 阿利新蓝和免疫细胞化学染色检测5组成软骨分化能力** 取对数生长期的细胞,按照 $1 \times 10^5$ /mL的细胞密度接种至6孔板中,按照“2.2.3”所述进行干预后,每2~3 d更换成软骨诱导培养基,培养约3周。  
①阿利新蓝染色:细胞经PBS清洗后,滴加A试剂室温反应30 min,流水洗涤5 min,滴加试剂B室温反应10 min,流水洗涤1 min后脱水封片,比较5组阳性表达率。  
②Collagen II免疫细胞化学染色:4%多聚甲醛室温固定、0.5% Triton室温通透、3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>室温孵育、5% BSA室温封闭、Collagen II抗体孵育(1:200),4℃过夜、二抗室温反应、DAB室温浸润显色、苏木素复染30 s、PBS返蓝处理、脱水封片后,比较5组Collagen II蛋白相对表达量。

**2.2.6 检测补肾壮筋汤对归巢关键调控因子的影响** ①激光共聚焦显微镜观察5组SDF-1、CXCR4荧光表达情况:细胞干预结束后,加入4%多聚甲醛室温固定30 min,PBS清洗,加入0.5%曲拉通透膜,5%BSA血清封闭,加入SDF-1、CXCR4荧光蛋白抗体过夜孵育(1:200),荧光二抗IgG Fab2(555、488)(1:1 000)结合反应,PBS清洗,共聚焦显微镜下观察各组细胞SDF-1、CXCR4荧光表达情况。  
②qPCR检测5组SDF-1、CXCR4、G-CSF、VEGF、NCAM-1、MMP-2的mRNA转录水平:提取的细胞总RNA上机检测RNA纯度与浓度;参照“2.1.5”实验步骤及引物序列,置于7500 Fast PCR仪上机检测。

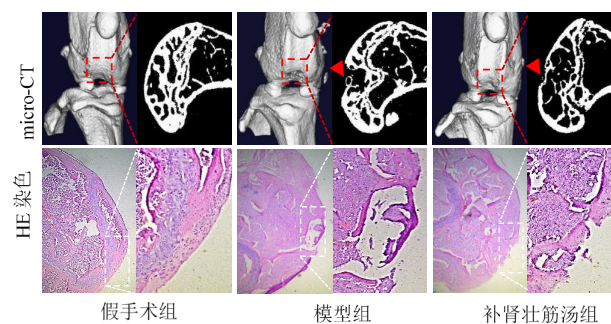
## 2.3 统计学分析

使用SPSS 26.0软件对实验数据进行统计学处理。计量资料数据服从正态分布的用( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )表示,数据不服从正态分布的则采用中位数(四分位数间距)表示。采用单因素方差分析进行组间比较,若组间差异有统计学意义,则进一步采用LSD-*t*法或Games-Howell法进行两两比较。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

## 3 动物实验结果

### 3.1 3组关节软骨形态学比较

micro-CT显示:假手术组股骨关节面光滑平整,骨皮质完整,弧度圆润,HE染色见软骨细胞排列有序;与假手术组对比,模型组股骨髁间可见一圆形缺损,骨皮质缺损连(红色箭头标记处),HE染色见软骨细胞缺失;与模型组对比,补肾壮筋汤组股骨髁间环形缺损较小,大部分骨皮质连接正常,但仍有部分失连,软骨细胞稍紊乱。见图1。



注:红色箭头为损伤处。

Note: Rred arrow represents the damaged area.

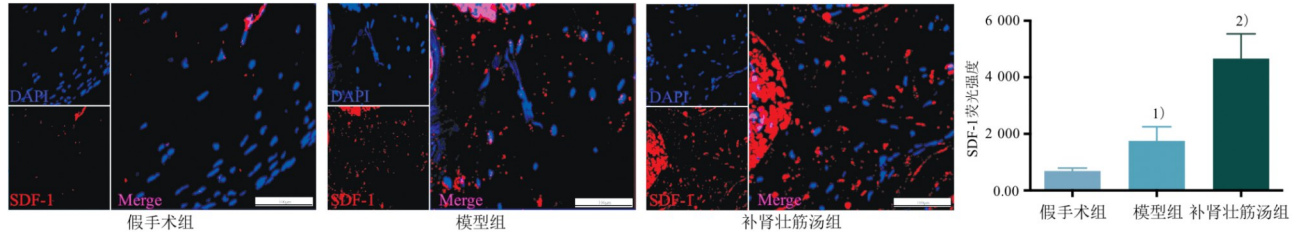
图1 3组软骨损伤修复情况比较(×200)

Figure 1 Comparison of three groups of cartilage injury repair (×200)

### 3.2 3组关节软骨SDF-1荧光强度比较

与假手术组对比,模型组损伤处软骨细胞缺失严重,排列紊乱,SDF-1的荧光蛋白表达升高( $P < 0.05$ );

与模型组对比,补肾壮筋汤组软骨细胞增多,排列稍紊乱,SDF-1的荧光蛋白表达显著升高( $P < 0.05$ )。见图2。



注:蓝色为DAPI,红色为SDF-1荧光,粉色为Merge情况。与假手术组比较,1)  $P < 0.05$ ;与模型组比较,2)  $P < 0.05$ 。

Note: Blue represents DAPI, red represents SDF-1 fluorescence, and pink represents Merge. Compared with the sham group, 1)  $P < 0.05$ ; compared with the control group, 2)  $P < 0.05$ .

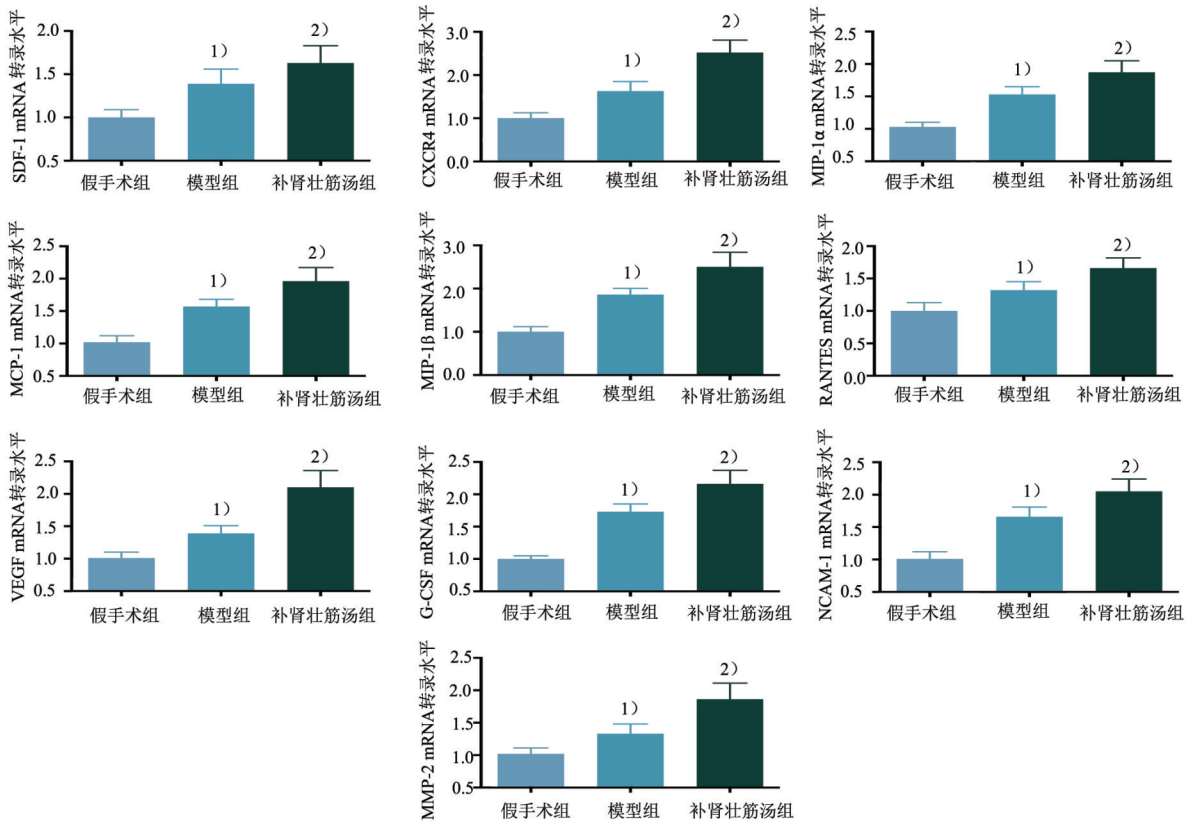
图2 3组关节软骨SDF-1荧光强度比较( $\times 200$ )

Figure 2 Comparison of fluorescence intensity of SDF-1 in three groups of articular cartilage ( $\times 200$ )

### 3.3 3组关节软骨损伤中归巢相关调控因子的mRNA转录水平比较

与假手术组对比,模型组趋化因子SDF-1、CXCR4、MIP-1 $\alpha$ 、MCP-1、MIP-1 $\beta$ 、RANTES、生长因子VEGF、集落刺激因子G-CSF、黏附分子NCAM-1、基

质金属蛋白酶MMP-2的mRNA转录水平升高( $P < 0.05$ );与模型组对比,补肾壮筋汤组SDF-1、CXCR4、MIP-1 $\alpha$ 、MCP-1、MIP-1 $\beta$ 、RANTES、VEGF、G-CSF、NCAM-1、MMP-2的mRNA转录水平升高( $P < 0.05$ )。见图3。



注:与假手术组比较,1)  $P < 0.05$ ;与模型组比较,2)  $P < 0.05$ 。

Note: Compared with the sham group, 1)  $P < 0.05$ ; compared with the control group, 2)  $P < 0.05$ .

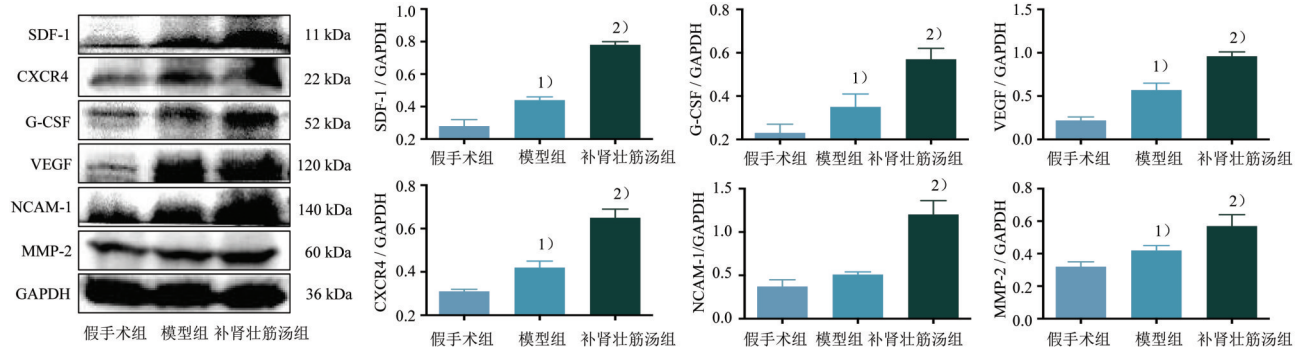
图3 3组归巢相关调控因子mRNA转录水平比较

Figure 3 Comparison of mRNA transcription level of three homing related regulatory factors

### 3.4 3组关节软骨归巢相关因子蛋白相对表达量比较

与假手术组比较,模型组趋化因子SDF-1、CXCR4、集落刺激因子G-CSF、生长因子VEGF、黏附因子

NCAM-1、基质金属蛋白酶MMP-2的蛋白相对表达量升高( $P<0.05$ );与模型组比较,补肾壮筋汤组SDF-1、CXCR4、G-CSF、VEGF、NCAM-1、MMP-2的蛋白相对表达量升高( $P<0.05$ )。见图4。



注:与假手术组比较,1)  $P<0.05$ ;与模型组比较,2)  $P<0.05$ 。

Note: Compared with the sham group, 1)  $P<0.05$ ; compared with the control group, 2)  $P<0.05$ .

图4 3组归巢相关调控因子蛋白相对表达量比较

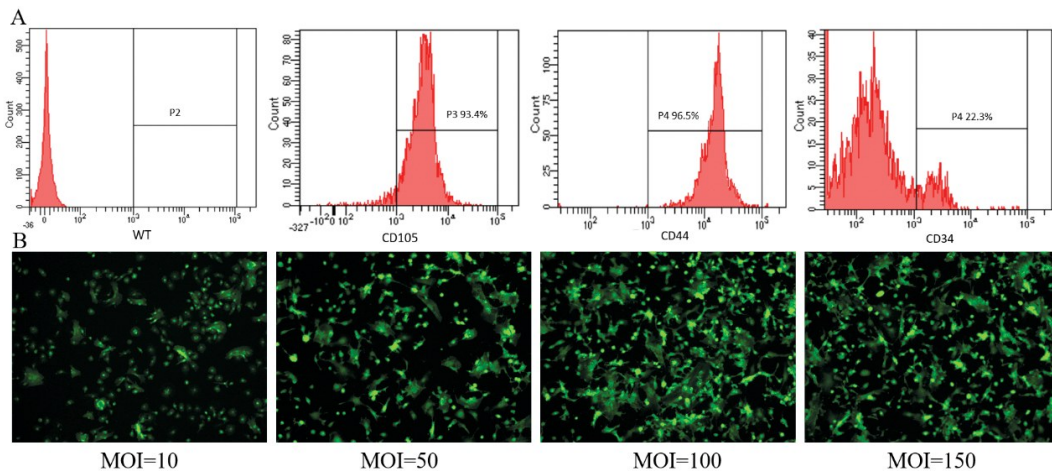
Figure 4 Comparison of protein expression level of three homing related regulatory factors

## 4 细胞实验结果

### 4.1 BMSCs 鉴定及慢病毒转染情况

第2代BMSCs经细胞流式术鉴定:CD105、CD44呈阳性表达,CD34呈阴性表达。见图5A。慢病毒

MOI值为100时,SDF-1基因转导的第2代BMSCs感染效率最高,且细胞状态未受到明显影响,在双转盘激光共聚焦显微镜下可观察到较强的绿色荧光。见图5B。



注:A为BMSCs鉴定;B为SDF-1慢病毒转染。

Note: A is Identification of BMSCs; B is SDF-1 lentivirus transfection.

图5 BMSCs 鉴定及慢病毒转染情况( $\times 100$ )

Figure 5 Identification of BMSCs and lentivirus transfection status ( $\times 100$ )

### 4.2 5组BMSCs 迁移能力比较

与空白组比较,sh-SDF-1组细胞向划痕区域迁移的细胞数量显著减少,而补肾壮筋汤组细胞迁移

数量显著增多;与sh-SDF-1组比较,补肾壮筋汤组和sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组细胞迁移数量显著增多。见图6。

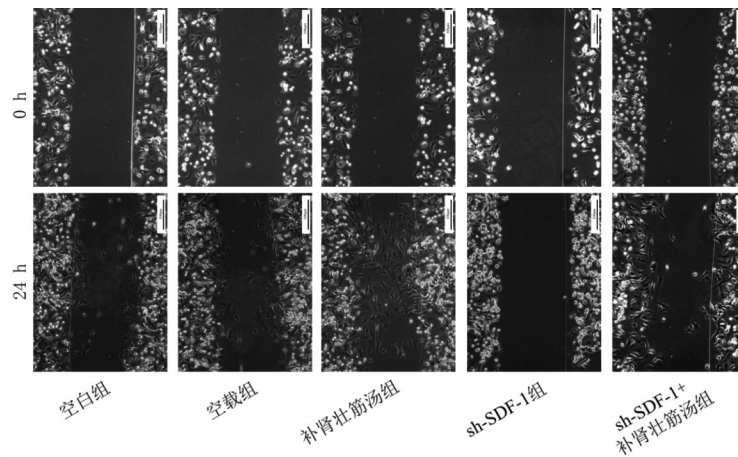


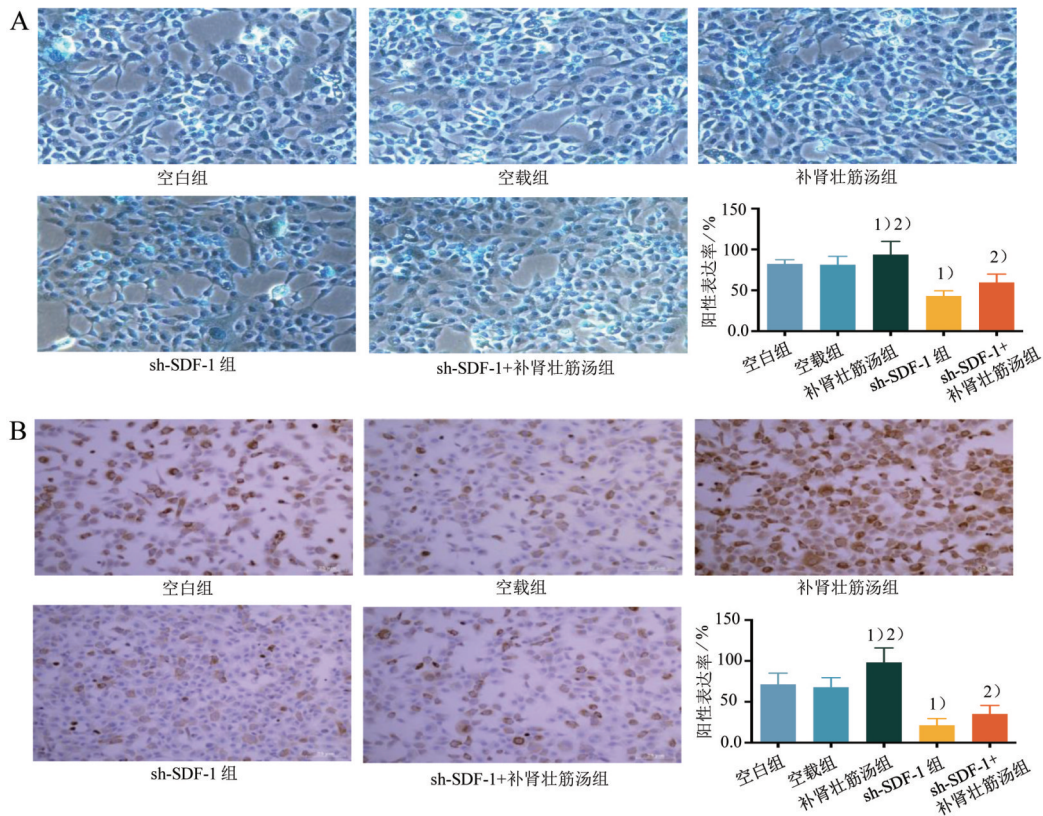
图6 5组BMSCs迁移能力比较(×100)

Figure 6 Comparison of migration ability in five groups of BMSCs (×100)

### 4.3 5组BMSCs成软骨分化能力比较

与空白组比较,sh-SDF-1组酸性黏多糖和 Collagen II 蛋白表达显著减少,而补肾壮筋汤组酸性黏多糖和 Collagen II 蛋白表达显著增强( $P < 0.05$ );与

sh-SDF-1组比较,补肾壮筋汤组和 sh-SDF-1+补肾壮筋汤组酸性黏多糖和 Collagen II 蛋白表达均显著增强( $P < 0.05$ )。见图7。



注:图A为阿利新蓝染色;图B为 Collagen II 免疫细胞化学染色。与空白组比较,1)  $P < 0.05$ ;与 sh-SDF-1组比较,2)  $P < 0.05$ 。

Note: Figure A is Alcian blue staining; Figure B is Collagen II immunocytochemical staining. Compared with the control group, 1)  $P < 0.05$ ; compared with the sh-SDF-1 group, 2)  $P < 0.05$ .

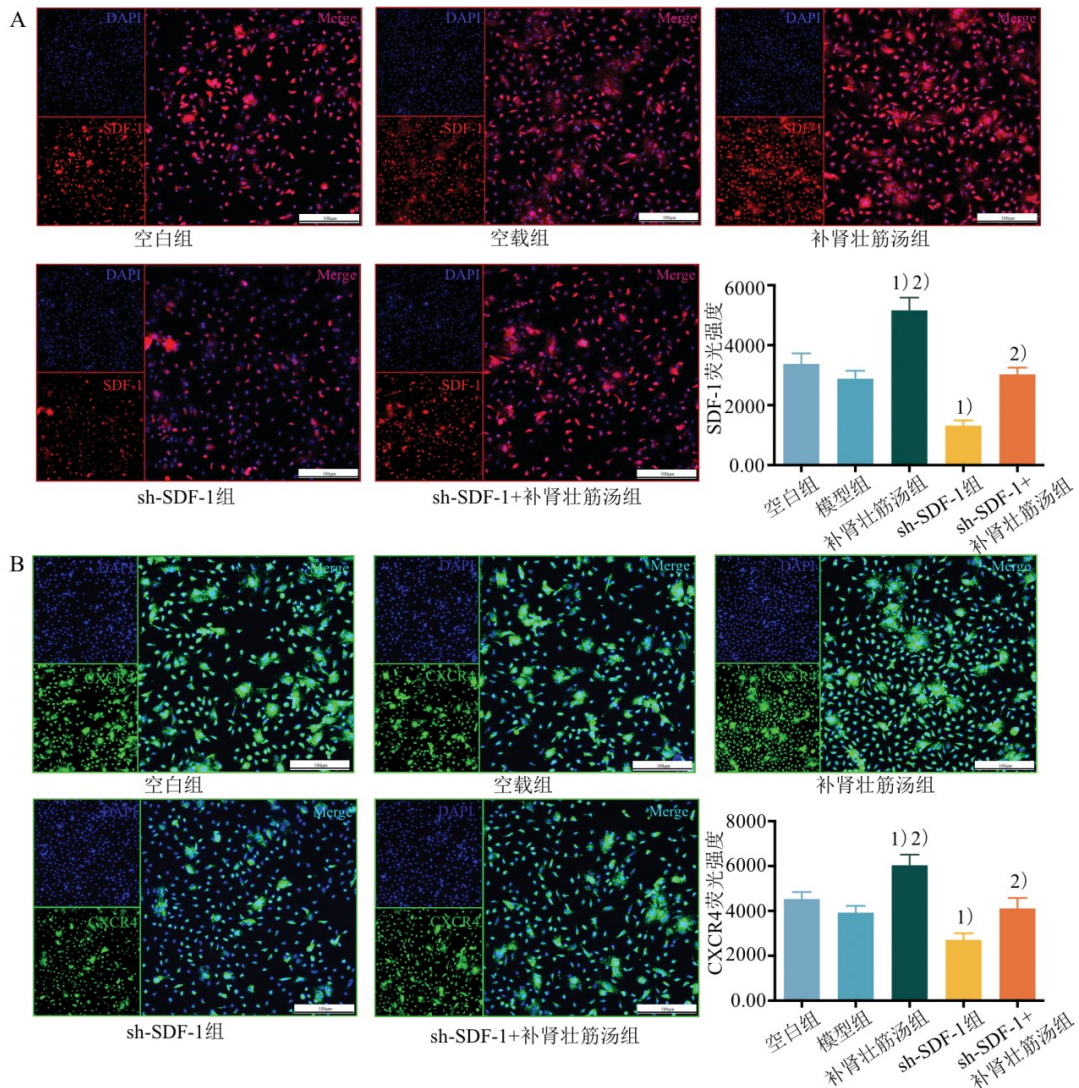
图7 5组BMSCs的成软骨分化能力比较(×100)

Figure 7 Comparison of chondrogenic differentiation ability in five groups of BMSCs (×100)

#### 4.4 5组 BMSCs 中 SDF-1、CXCR4 荧光强度比较

与空白组对比, sh-SDF-1 组 SDF-1、CXCR4 蛋白表达显著降低( $P<0.05$ ), 补肾壮筋汤组的 SDF-1、CXCR4 蛋白表达显著增强( $P<0.05$ ); 与 sh-SDF-1

组对比, 补肾壮筋汤组和 sh-SDF-1+ 补肾壮筋汤组的 SDF-1、CXCR4 蛋白表达显著增强( $P<0.05$ )。见图 8。



注:图 A 红色为 SDF-1 荧光,图 B 绿色为 CXCR4 荧光。与空白组比较, 1)  $P<0.05$ ; 与 sh-SDF-1 组比较, 2)  $P<0.05$ 。

Note: Red color in Figure A shows the fluorescence of SDF-1, Green color in Figure B shows the fluorescence of CXCR4. Compared with the control group, 1)  $P<0.05$ ; compared with the sh-SDF-1 group, 2)  $P<0.05$ .

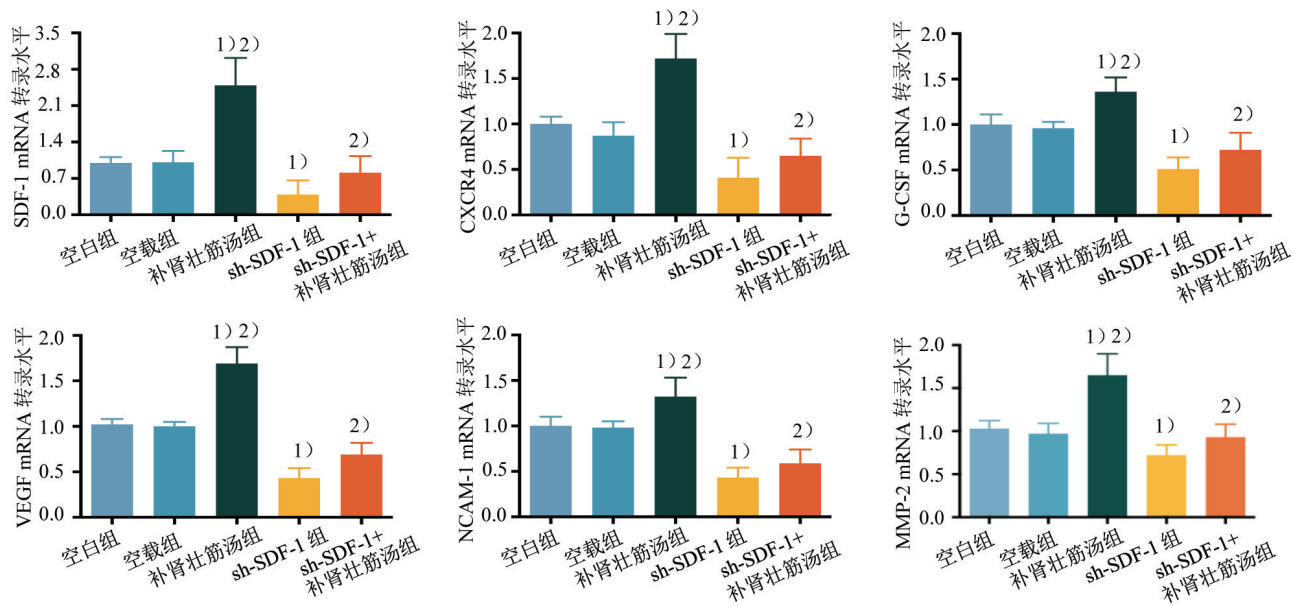
图 8 5 组 BMSCs 中 SDF-1、CXCR4 荧光强度对比 ( $\times 100$ )

Figure 8 Comparison of fluorescence intensity of SDF-1 and CXCR4 in five groups of BMSCs ( $\times 100$ )

#### 4.5 5组 BMSCs 中归巢相关调控因子的 mRNA 转录水平比较

与空白组对比, sh-SDF-1 组趋化因子 SDF-1、CXCR4、集落因子 G-CSF、生长因子 VEGF、黏附分子 NCAM-1、基质金属蛋白酶 MMP-2 的 mRNA 转录水平降低( $P<0.05$ ), 而补肾壮筋汤组 SDF-1、CX-

CR4、G-CSF、VEGF、NCAM-1、MMP-2 的 mRNA 转录水平升高( $P<0.05$ ); 与 sh-SDF-1 组对比, 补肾壮筋汤组和 sh-SDF-1+ 补肾壮筋汤组的 SDF-1、CXCR4、G-CSF、VEGF、NCAM-1、MMP-2 的 mRNA 转录水平升高( $P<0.05$ )。见图 9。



注:与空白组比较,1)  $P < 0.05$ ;与 sh-SDF-1 组比较,2)  $P < 0.05$ 。  
 Note: Compared with the control group, 1)  $P < 0.05$ ; compared with the sh-SDF-1 group, 2)  $P < 0.05$ .

图9 5组BMSCs中归巢相关调控因子的mRNA转录水平比较

Figure 9 Comparison of mRNA transcription level of homing related regulatory factors in five groups of BMSCs

## 5 讨论

本研究从动物影像学 and 形态学层面证明了补肾壮筋汤可促进软骨缺损修复,并与趋化轴调控的归巢关键因子有关;继而对BMSCs趋化轴关键基因——SDF-1基因进行慢病毒敲减,结果显示,SDF-1基因敲减后BMSCs迁移、成软骨分化及归巢能力一致降低,但通过补肾壮筋汤干预后可逆转这些现象。这些结果表明,补肾壮筋汤可通过调控趋化轴促进BMSCs归巢修复关节软骨损伤,可为KOA的康复治疗提供实验依据。

### 5.1 补肾壮筋汤促进BMSCs修复KOA软骨退变

KOA属于中医学“痹证”范畴,与肝、肾关系密切,补肾壮筋汤出自清代《伤科补要》,具有补益肝肾、强壮筋骨功效<sup>[16]</sup>,全方以山茱萸、熟地黄为君药,阴阳互补,补肾柔肝、强筋骨;佐以杜仲、续断、五加皮祛风湿、强筋骨;白芍敛阴和营、柔肝止痛,当归补血活血,青皮行气疏肝,茯苓健脾和胃、化痰除湿;牛膝补益肝肾、强筋壮骨、活血通经,引药下行,直达病所,诸药合用标本兼治,共奏补益肝肾、强壮筋骨的功效。而BMSCs源于骨髓腔,与肝、肾关系密切,相关学者认为肝、肾精血是BMSCs的物质基础,通过滋补肝肾的方式可促进BMSCs的增殖分化<sup>[23]</sup>。本研究采用软骨缺损模型模拟KOA软骨退变剥脱,通过micro-CT及HE验证了补肾壮筋汤

可促进软骨退变的修复,同时通过划痕及成软骨分化实验证明了补肾壮筋汤可促进BMSCs的迁移和成软骨分化能力。因此,软骨退变的修复主要与补肾壮筋汤促进了BMSCs功能有关。

### 5.2 补肾壮筋汤上调SDF-1/CXCR4轴促进BMSCs归巢

在正常情况下,骨髓和BMSCs维持着一种动态平衡,即少量BMSCs不断离开骨髓,巡回在外周组织,大多数BMSCs在体内骨髓腔微环境中保持相对静止,直到机体遭受损伤需要更多细胞来维持组织功能而被激活<sup>[24]</sup>。在损伤后,BMSCs会主动退出生态位,在趋化因子等的驱动下,募集归巢到损伤处并广泛增殖、自我更新和分化,以再生丢失的组织,但面对修复时间较长的损伤,其归巢再生能力往往不足<sup>[25]</sup>。研究表明,有效动员SDF-1/CXCR4趋化轴可有效引导BMSCs募集至损伤处进行再生修复<sup>[9-10]</sup>。当BMSCs被调动并迁移到损伤部位后,需要BMSCs表达细胞黏附分子与细胞外基质表达的黏附分子配体相结合,通过在血管内皮细胞上附着迁移,加上MMPs协助分解基底膜进行跨膜转运,并利用集落因子、生长因子等协同作用,完成BMSCs在受损部位的定植<sup>[26]</sup>。

本研究通过动物实验发现补肾壮筋汤可促进损伤区域CXC趋化因子SDF-1蛋白表达,接着进一步检测了SDF-1及受体CXCR4和归巢密切相关的

CXC趋化因子家族中同类型配体MIP-1 $\alpha$ 、MCP-1、RANTES、CC趋化因子家族中配体MIP-1 $\beta$ 、生长因子VEGF、集落刺激因子G-CSF、黏附分子NCAM-1及金属蛋白酶MMP-2的mRNA转录水平,结果呈现一致性升高,并通过蛋白进一步验证得到了同样的结果。基于此,进而细胞实验对BMSCs进行SDF-1慢病毒敲减,结果表明:补肾壮筋汤可逆转SDF-1基因敲减后的SDF-1、CXCR4、VEGF、G-CSF、NCAM-1、MMP-2的mRNA和蛋白表达。综上,本实验证明补肾壮筋汤可通过上调SDF-1/CXCR4轴促进小鼠BMSCs归巢来修复关节软骨退变。但本研究结果只停留在表观层面,仍具有许多局限,如机制层面深入不足,补肾壮筋汤具体是哪些成分起的修复作用,SDF-1/CXCR4趋化轴促进BMSCs归巢后通过什么渠道实现软骨退变修复,以及补肾壮筋汤药物浓度设计不足等方面还有待后续进一步研究。

## 参考文献

- [1] SHIMIZU H, SHIMOURA K, IJIMA H, et al. Functional manifestations of early knee osteoarthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis [J]. *Clin Rheumatol*, 2022, 41(9): 2625-2634.
- [2] PERRIN S, COLNOT C. Periosteal skeletal stem and progenitor cells in bone regeneration [J]. *Curr Osteoporos Rep*, 2022, 20(5): 334-343.
- [3] PITTENGER M F, DISCHER D E, PÉAULT B M, et al. Mesenchymal stem cell perspective: cell biology to clinical progress [J]. *NPJ Regen Med*, 2019, 4: 22.
- [4] GALIPEAU J, SENSÉBÉ L. Mesenchymal stromal cells: clinical challenges and therapeutic opportunities [J]. *Cell Stem Cell*, 2018, 22(6): 824-833.
- [5] GALILI U, GOLDFUSKY J W, SCHAER G L.  $\alpha$ -gal nanoparticles mediated homing of endogenous stem cells for repair and regeneration of external and internal injuries by localized complement activation and macrophage recruitment [J]. *Int J Mol Sci*, 2022, 23(19): 11490.
- [6] MARIC D M, VELIKIC G, MARIC D L, et al. Stem cell homing in intrathecal applications and inspirations for improvement paths [J]. *Int J Mol Sci*, 2022, 23(8): 4290.
- [7] ZHANG Y F, LI X L, LI J, et al. Knee loading enhances the migration of adipose-derived stem cells to the osteoarthritic sites through the SDF-1/CXCR4 regulatory axis [J]. *Calcif Tissue Int*, 2022, 111(2): 171-184.
- [8] GARCÍA-MORUJA C, ALONSO-LOBO J M, RUEDA P, et al. Functional characterization of SDF-1 proximal promoter [J]. *J Mol Biol*, 2005, 348(1): 43-62.
- [9] GU J X, WANG B, WANG T L, et al. Effects of cartilage progenitor cells, bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells and chondrocytes on cartilage repair as seed cells: an *in vitro* study [J]. *Drug Des Devel Ther*, 2022, 16: 1217-1230.
- [10] MA X, YANG R, WANG P, et al. Bioinspired dual dynamic network hydrogels promote cartilage regeneration through regulating BMSC chondrogenic differentiation [J]. *Mater Today Chem*, 2022, 23: 100648.
- [11] CHUTE J P. Stem cell homing [J]. *Curr Opin Hematol*, 2006, 13(6): 399-406.
- [12] HE X T, WANG J, LI X, et al. The critical role of cell homing in cytotherapeutics and regenerative medicine [J]. *Adv Ther*, 2019, 2(1): 1800098.
- [13] FAN L L, WEI A H, GAO Z H, et al. Current progress of mesenchymal stem cell membrane-camouflaged nanoparticles for targeted therapy [J]. *Biomedicine Pharmacother*, 2023, 161: 114451.
- [14] GAO Z R, FENG Y Z, ZHAO Y Q, et al. Traditional Chinese medicine promotes bone regeneration in bone tissue engineering [J]. *Chin Med*, 2022, 17(1): 86.
- [15] 许云腾, 陈达, 谭雪, 等. 补肾壮筋汤抑制膝骨关节炎软骨退变机制研究[J]. *中华中医药杂志*, 2021, 36(7): 4178-4181.  
XU Y T, CHEN D, TAN X, et al. Study on the mechanism of Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction inhibiting cartilage degeneration in knee osteoarthritis [J]. *China J Tradit Chin Med Pharm*, 2021, 36(7): 4178-4181.
- [16] 贾良良, 陈达, 许丽梅, 等. 补肾壮筋汤调节 miR-140 抑制脂多糖介导软骨细胞 IL-1 $\beta$ 、TNF- $\alpha$  表达的研究[J]. *福建中医药*, 2019, 50(3): 56-60.  
JIA L L, CHEN D, XU L M, et al. Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction inhibited lipopolysaccharide induced chondrocytes IL-1 $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$  expression via miR-140 regulation [J]. *Fujian J Tradit Chin Med*, 2019, 50(3): 56-60.
- [17] 赖满香, 廖利平, 谭玮璐, 等. “肾精-骨质疏松-骨髓间充质干细胞”理论探讨[J]. *中医杂志*, 2018, 59(2): 100-103.  
LAI M X, LIAO L P, TAN W L, et al. Analysis of "kidney essence-osteoporosis-bone marrow stromal cells" theory [J]. *J Tradit Chin Med*, 2018, 59(2): 100-103.
- [18] 李西海, 梁文娜, 党传鹏, 等. 补肾壮筋汤抑制炎症细胞因子表达延缓骨关节炎软骨退变的研究[J]. *风湿病与关节炎*, 2014, 3(5): 20-25.  
LI X H, LIANG W N, DANG C P, et al. Empirical study on Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction inhibiting inflammatory cytokine expression experiments to delay the degeneration of articular cartilage [J]. *Rheum Arthritis*, 2014, 3(5): 20-25.
- [19] SEEDHOM B B, LUO Z J, GOLDSMITH A J, et al. *In-situ* engineering of cartilage repair: a pre-clinical *in-vivo* exploration of a novel system [J]. *Proc Inst Mech Eng H*, 2007, 221(5): 475-488.
- [20] 董苑, 李彩霞, 赵娴, 等. 小鼠股骨缺损模型的构建及SDF-1表达的检测[J]. *昆明医科大学学报*, 2020, 41(5): 29-32.  
DONG Y, LI C X, ZHAO X, et al. Establishment of bone defect model on mice and detection of SDF-1 expression [J]. *J Kunming Med Univ*, 2020, 41(5): 29-32.
- [21] 王晓庆, 仲照东, 陈智超, 等. 全骨髓贴壁法培养人骨髓间充质干细胞的改良研究[J]. *中国实验血液学杂志*, 2014, 22(2): 496-502.  
WANG X Q, ZHONG Z D, CHEN Z C, et al. Modified method for whole bone marrow adherent culture of human bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells [J]. *Zhongguo Shi Yan Xue Ye Xue Za Zhi*, 2014, 22(2): 496-502.
- [22] 陈达. 补肾壮筋汤抑制炎症介导骨关节炎软骨基质降解的作用机制研究[D]. 福州: 福建中医药大学, 2018: 24.

- CHEN D. Mechanism of Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction on the inhibition of inflammation mediated cartilage matrix degradation [D]. Fuzhou: Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 2018: 24.
- [23] 黄进. 补肾益精法对骨髓间充质干细胞增殖的影响及机理研究[D]. 广州: 广州中医药大学, 2010: 149.
- HUANG J. Effect of invigorating kidney and nourishing essence on MSCs proliferation *in vitro* and its mechanism [D]. Guangzhou: Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, 2010: 149.
- [24] LUTOLF M P, GILBERT P M, BLAU H M. Designing materials to direct stem-cell fate [J]. *Nature*, 2009, 462: 433-441.
- [25] CRISAN M, YAP S, CASTELLA L, et al. A perivascular origin for mesenchymal stem cells in multiple human organs [J]. *Cell Stem Cell*, 2008, 3(3): 301-313.
- [26] HAN Y H, MAO Y Y, FENG Y Y, et al. Identification of peroxiredoxin II and its related molecules as potential biomarkers of dermal mesenchymal stem cell homing using network analysis [J]. *Appl Biol Chem*, 2022, 65(1): 37.

## Mechanism of Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction to Promote BMSCs Homing and Protect Articular Cartilage in Mice by the SDF-1/CXCR4 Axis

HUANG Yanfeng<sup>1,2</sup>, MA Dezun<sup>1,2</sup>, FU Changlong<sup>1,2</sup>, YE Jinxia<sup>1,2</sup>, HUANG Yunmei<sup>1,2</sup>, LI Xihai<sup>3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Academy of Integrative Medicine, Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Fuzhou, Fujian 350122, China;

<sup>2</sup> Fujian Key Laboratory of Integrative Medicine on Geriatrics, Fuzhou, Fujian 350122, China;

<sup>3</sup> School of Integrative Medicine, Fujian University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Fuzhou, Fujian 350122, China

\*Correspondence: LI Xihai, E-mail: lixihai@163.com

**ABSTRACT Objective** To investigate the mechanism by which Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction (BZD) regulates the SDF-1/CXCR4 axis to promote the homing of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) and protect articular cartilage in mice, thereby providing experimental basis for the rehabilitation treatment of knee osteoarthritis (KOA). **Methods** (1) In the animal experiment, 30 SPF male C57BL/6 mice, 8 weeks old, were selected and randomly divided into sham group, model group and BZD group, with 10 mice in each group. Intervention in each group lasted for 12 weeks. The morphological changes of the cartilage in each group were observed by micro-CT and hematoxylin-eosin staining. The fluorescence intensity of SDF-1 in bone tissue was observed by laser confocal microscopy. qPCR and Western blot were used to detect mRNA transcription level and protein relative expression level of homing-related regulatory factors in each group. (2) In the cell experiment, 4-week-old SPF male C57BL/6 mice were selected and the primary BMSCs were extracted by the whole bone marrow adherence method. After the extracted cells were identified by flow cytometry, the optimal lentivirus MOI value was screened. The cells were randomly divided into five groups: blank group, empty vector group, BZD group, sh-SDF-1 group and sh-SDF-1+BZD group. The migration of BMSCs in each group was observed by cell scratch test. The chondrogenic differentiation ability of cells in each group was observed by immunocytological staining of Collagen II and Alcian blue. The fluorescence intensity of SDF-1 and CXCR4 in each group was observed by confocal laser microscope. mRNA transcription level of homing-related regulatory factors were detected by qPCR. **Results** (1) In the animal experiment, the joint histomorphologic findings (micro-CT and hematoxylin-eosin staining) showed that compared with the sham group, there was a circular defect between the femoral condyles, with cortical separation and loss of chondrocytes in the model group ( $P < 0.05$ ); compared with the model group, the annular defect between the femoral condyles was improved and the arrangement of chondrocytes was slightly disordered in the BZD group. The immunofluorescence staining of joint tissues showed that compared with the sham group, the relative expression of SDF-1 protein increased in the model group ( $P < 0.05$ ); compared with the model group, the relative expression level of SDF-1 increased in the BZD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). qPCR and Western blot results showed that compared with the sham group, the mRNA transcription level and protein relative expression level of key homing regulatory factors (SDF-1, CXCR4, MIP-1 $\alpha$ , MCP-1, MIP-1 $\beta$ , RANTES, VEGF, G-CSF, NCAM-1, MMP-2) increased in the model group ( $P < 0.05$ ); compared with the model group, the mRNA transcription level and relative protein expression level of key homing regulatory factors increased in the BZD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). (2) In the cell experiment, BMSCs were identified by flow cytometry: CD44 and CD105 were positively expressed, while CD34 was negatively expressed. When the MOI value was 100, the infection rate of SDF-1 gene was the highest. The results of BMSCs migration and chondrogenic differentiation showed that the number of cells migrating to the scratched area, the relative expression of Collagen II protein, and acid mucosaccharide of sh-SDF-1 cells were significantly reduced compared with the blank group. The number of migrated cells, Alcian blue staining and the relative expression of Collagen II protein significantly increased in the BZD group and the sh-SDF-1+BZD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). Immunofluorescence finding showed that compared with the blank group, the relative protein expression of SDF-1 and CXCR4 in the sh-SDF-1 group was significantly reduced ( $P < 0.05$ ), while the relative protein expression of SDF-1 and CXCR4 significantly increased in the BZD group and the sh-SDF-1+BZD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). qPCR results showed that compared with the blank group, the mRNA transcription level of key homing regulatory factors decreased in the sh-SDF-1 group ( $P < 0.05$ ), while those increased in the BZD group ( $P < 0.05$ ). **Conclusion** BZD can promote the homing of BMSCs to protect articular cartilage in mice by upregulating the SDF-1/CXCR4 axis.

**KEY WORDS** cartilage injury; Bushen Zhuangjin Decoction; BMSCs; SDF-1/CXCR4; homing

DOI:10.3724/SP.J.1329.2024.01007