

·基础研究·

基于转录组学探讨骨肉瘤关键基因与相关通路[△]

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摘要: [目的] 通过转录组测序和生物信息学分析寻找骨肉瘤发生的关键基因和相关通路。[方法] 收集骨肉瘤组织和癌旁对照组织, 通过转录组芯片建立表达谱并筛选差异性表达基因 (differentially expressed genes, DEGs)。利用在线数据库对 DEGs 进行基因本体 (gene ontology, GO) 和京都基因与基因组百科全书 (kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes, KEGG) 富集分析。[结果] 本研究共纳入 5 对骨肉瘤和癌旁对照组织, 共筛选出 1 211 个在肿瘤组织中表达显著上调和 810 个显著下调的基因。表达量上调最多的 5 个基因依次为 COL1A1 (collagen type I alpha 1 chain)、SPP1 (secreted phosphoprotein 1)、POSTN (periostin)、TYMS (thymidylate synthetase) 和 TNC (tenascin C); 表达量下调最多的 5 个基因依次为 ATP1A2 (ATPase, Na⁺/K⁺ transporting, alpha 2 polypeptide)、PDK4 (pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase, isozyme 4)、CLIC5 (chloride intracellular channel 5)、ACTA1 (actin, alpha 1, skeletal muscle) 和 FABP4 (fatty acid binding protein 4)。GO 富集分析提示 DEGs 主要富集于组织发育、小分子代谢过程和细胞周期等生物过程, KEGG 富集分析提示 DEGs 主要涉及黏着斑、细胞外基质受体相互作用、癌症信号通路和细胞周期相关通路。[结论] COL1A1、SPP1、POSTN、TYMS、TNC、ATP1A2、PDK4、CLIC5、ACTA1 和 FABP4 基因可能在骨肉瘤的发生发展中起重要作用。

关键词: 骨肉瘤, 转录组, 基因, 信号通路, 测序

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Identification of key genes and related pathways in osteosarcoma based on transcriptomics // ZHAO Le^{1,3}, XU Lei-lei^{1,2}, WANG Shou-feng^{1,2}. 1. Drum Tower Clinical College, Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 211200, China; 2. Department of Orthopaedics, Drum Tower Hospital, Medical School, Nanjing University, Nanjing 211200, China; 3. Orthopaedic Department, People's Hospital of Lishui District, Nanjing 210008, China

Abstract: [Objective] Transcriptome sequencing and bioinformatics analysis were used to identify key genes and related pathways in osteosarcoma. [Methods] The osteosarcoma tissues and adjacent control tissues were collected to analyze the expression profiles by transcriptome microarray and differential expression genes (DEGs). The Gene Ontology(GO) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) enrichment analysis of DEGs was performed through online database. [Results] A total of 5 pairs of osteosarcoma and para-tumor control tissues were included in this study. A total of 1 211 genes with significantly up-regulated expression and 810 significantly down-regulated expression were screened in tumor tissues. GO analysis suggested that DEGs was mainly concentrated in biological processes such as tissue development, small molecule metabolism and cell cycle, while KEGG analysis suggested that DEGs was mainly involved in adhesion plaques, extracellular matrix receptor interactions, cancer signaling pathways and cell cycle related pathways. [Conclusion] COL1A1, SPP1, POSTN, TYMS, TNC, ATP1A2, PDK4, CLIC5, ACTA1 and FABP4 may play an important role in the development of osteosarcoma.

Key words: osteosarcoma, transcriptome, genes, signaling pathway, sequencing

骨肉瘤 (osteosarcoma, OS) 是儿童和青少年最常见的原发恶性骨肿瘤, 通常合并较高的转移风险, 是全球儿童和青少年癌症相关死亡的第二大原因^[1]。OS 起源于间充质细胞, 好发于长骨的干骺端, 如股

骨远端和肱骨近端^[2, 3]。OS 的具体发病机制至今尚未明确, 遗传因素在 OS 发病机制中的作用受到广泛关注^[4]。近年来分子生物学的发展为骨肉瘤的诊断和治疗提供了新见解^[5], OS 的综合治疗迎来了新的契

机,以基因治疗、免疫治疗、分子靶向治疗为代表的新治疗方法吸引了学界的广泛关注。各类新型化疗药物的使用以及新辅助化疗概念的提出,使得OS患者5年生存率从不到20%提升至60%~75%,然而肿瘤远处转移和较差的化疗敏感性是OS患者治疗失败的关键因素,且发生远处转移患者的5年生存率仍然不足20%^[6, 7]。此外,手术治疗以及各类非特异性靶向化疗药物的联合使用需要漫长的治疗过程,且在治疗患者的同时也带来了诸多副作用、高昂的花费以及不确定的预后,易导致残疾与死亡,给患者及家庭的经济、心理、社会关系带来巨大的负面影响^[8]。因此,探索骨肉瘤的发病机制,寻找特异性治疗靶点和改进生物治疗策略显得尤为必要。因此,探究OS发展的分子机制和寻找OS潜在的治疗靶点至关重要。

1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象

本研究纳入研究对象为2018年6月—2020年6月于本院手术治疗的骨肉瘤患者,诊断均由组织病理活检确认。术中收集骨肉瘤组织及癌旁对照组织,分装液氮速冻后置于-80℃冰箱保存。

1.2 RNA提取与测序

采用商业化试剂盒Trizol(Invitrogen)提取OS组织和癌旁对照组织总RNA,操作步骤参照试剂使用说明。RNA质量检测合格后采用Affymetrix全转录组芯片进行转录组测序。获取原始数据后进行显著性差异分析,明确与癌症组织显著差异表达的基因。

1.3 数据处理和差异表达基因(differentially expressed genes, DEGs)筛选

采用R语言软件包对原始数据进行背景矫正、质控和标准化处理,OS组织和癌旁对照组织间的DEGs筛选标准为 $\log_{2}FC > 1$ 且矫正 $P < 0.05$ 。 $\log_{2}FC > 1$ 的DEGs被认为是上调基因, $\log_{2}FC < -1$ 的DEGs被认为是下调基因。

1.4 DEGs的基因本体(gene ontology, GO)和京都基因与基因组百科全书(Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes, KEGG)分析

为进一步分析DEGs在OS发展中的潜在功能,本研究对DEGs进行GO分析和KEGG分析。GO分析可分为生物过程(biological process, BP)、细胞组成(cellular component, CC)和分子功能(molecular function, MF)3个部分。KEGG是一个整合基因组信息和生物途径、信号通路、疾病和药物的数据库。本

研究利用公共数据库DAVID(the database for annotation, visualization and integrated discovery)对DEGs进行GO和KEGG分析,筛选条件为 $P < 0.05$ 。

2 结果

2.1 DEGs筛选

如图1所示,散点图展示了各基因在肿瘤和癌旁组织中的相对表达量,参考线内区间的点代表表达无显著变化的基因,区间外的红色点代表在癌旁中相对上调的基因,绿色点代表在肿瘤中相对上调的基因。初步结果显示共有1211个在肿瘤组织中表达显著上调的基因和810个表达显著下调的基因。其中表达量上调最多的5个基因依次为COL1A1(collagen type I alpha 1 chain,)、SPP1(secreted phosphoprotein 1)、POSTN(periostin)、TYMS(thymidylate synthetase)和TNC(tenascin C);表达量下调最多的5个基因依次为ATP1A2(ATPase, Na⁺/K⁺ transporting, alpha 2 polypeptide)、PDK4(pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase, isozyme 4)、CLIC5(chloride intracellular channel 5)、ACTA1(actin, alpha 1, skeletal muscle)和FABP4(fatty acid binding protein 4),详见表1。

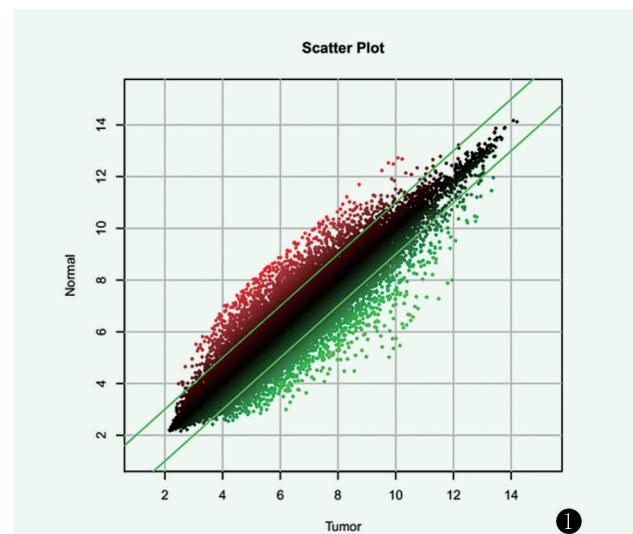


图1. 差异性表达基因散点图。与癌旁组织相比,肿瘤组织中共有1211个基因表达显著上调,810个基因表达显著下调。绿色散点代表肿瘤组织较癌旁组织表达显著上调的基因,红色散点代表肿瘤组织表达显著下调的基因。

Figure 1. Scatter map of differentially expressed genes. The expression of 1211 genes was significantly up-regulated and 810 genes were significantly down-regulated in tumor tissues compared with paracancerous tissues. Green dots represent genes that are significantly upregulated in tumor tissue compared to paracancer tissue, and red dots represent genes that are significantly down-regulated in tumor tissue.

表1. 差异上调或下调的基因(排名前5)

Table 1. Differentially up-regulated or down-regulated genes (Top 5)

Ensembl ID	Symbol	log2 (fc)	P-Value	FDR	Change
ENSG00000108821	COL1A1	3.919977	3.84883E-05	0.004240163	up
ENSG00000118785	SPP1	3.870589	0.000447166	0.009123484	up
ENSG00000133110	POSTN	3.732288	0.000227142	0.006826535	up
ENSG00000176890	TYMS	3.380540	8.53413E-06	0.00267592	up
ENSG00000041982	TNC	3.373966	0.001165019	0.014022529	up
ENSG00000018625	ATP1A2	-5.400712	2.52461E-05	0.003819887	down
ENSG00000018625	PDK4	-4.427475	0.000129364	0.00555686	down
ENSG00000112782	CLIC5	-4.364151	0.000190241	0.006257595	down
ENSG00000143632	ACTA1	-4.360681	0.000885446	0.012496131	down
ENSG00000170323	FABP4	-4.078164	7.43264E-07	0.000974811	down

2.2 差异基因的功能注释和分析

对在肿瘤组织中1 211个显著上调和810个表达显著下调的基因进行GO功能分析和KEGG通路富集分析。如图2所示,DEGs主要涉及组织发育、小分子代谢过程、内源性刺激反应功能、细胞周期、含氧化合物反应功能、多细胞生物发育的调控等生物过程,所涉及的分子功能包括结合酶结合、大分子复合

物结合、细胞骨架蛋白结合、蛋白复合体、核糖核酸结合等,所涉及的细胞组成主要为内质网、细胞骨架、细胞连接、细胞投影和高尔基体等。如图3,KEGG通路富集分析显示,DEGs主要富集于黏着斑、细胞外基质受体相互作用、癌症信号通路、细胞周期、轴突传导、脂肪酸代谢、p53信号通路、细胞骨架肌动蛋白调节、钙信号通路等相关通路。

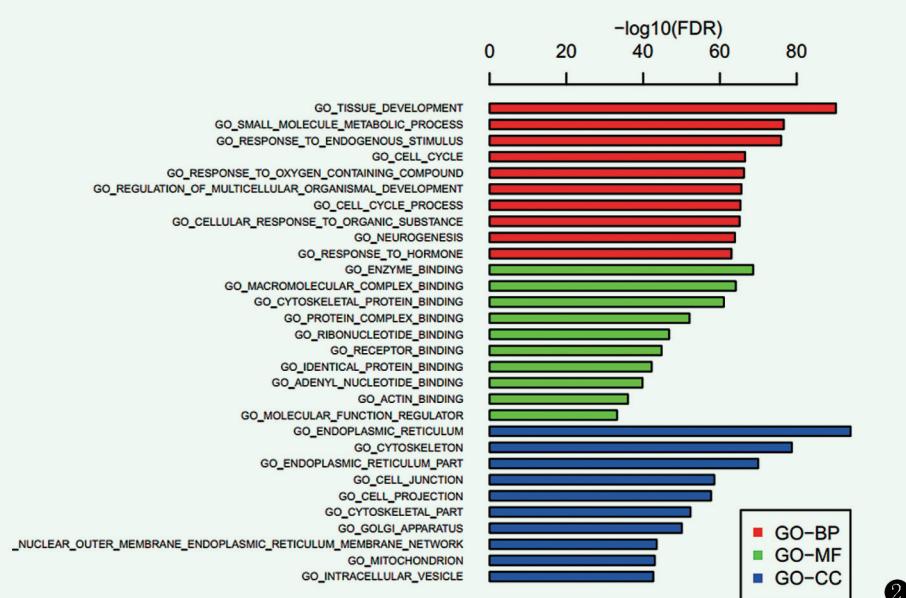


图2. 差异性表达基因GO富集分析柱状图。利用在线数据库对差异性表达基因进行GO富集分析,筛选出相关性排名前十的生物学过程、分子功能和细胞定位,分别用红色、绿色和蓝色表示,条带长度代表显著性大小。

Figure 2. Histogram of GO enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes. GO enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes was performed using an online database, and the top 10 biological processes, molecular functions and cell localization were selected, which were represented in red, green and blue respectively, and the strip length represented significance.

3 讨论

OS是好发于儿童、青少年人群的原发性恶性骨

肿瘤,全球总发病率约为3.4/1 000 000^[9]。骨肉瘤最常累及部位为长骨,特别是股骨远端、胫骨近端及肱骨区域^[2]。该疾病的典型特征是恶性程度高、进展迅速、预后较差。其主要治疗方法为手术切除辅助放化

疗治疗，然而经过数十年技术发展后，OS患者5年存活率仍不足20%^[10]。因此迫切需要寻找特异性治疗靶点和改进生物治疗策略。近年来转录组学和生物信息学的快速发展为探究疾病发生发展的机制和精准治疗提供了新思路。本研究利用转录组测序筛选出OS组织与癌旁组织DEGs，并对筛选出的DEGs进行GO分析和KEGG分析。

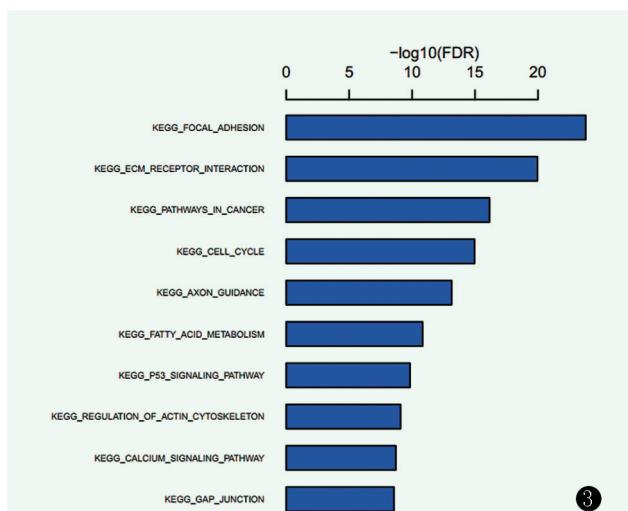


图3. 差异性表达基因KEGG富集分析图。利用在线数据库对差异性表达基因作KEGG通路富集分析，图中为相关性排名前十的通路，条带长度代表显著性大小。

Figure 3. KEGG enrichment analysis of differentially expressed genes. An online database was used to enrich KEGG pathways for differentially expressed genes. The figure shows the top ten pathways with the band length representing significance.

本研究共收集5例骨肉瘤组织和癌旁对照组织，转录组测序分析显示，在OS组织中表达显著上调的基因有1211个，表达显著下调的基因有810个。表达量上调倍数前5的基因依次为：COL1A1、SPP1、POSTN、TYMS和TNC，表达量下调倍数前5的基因依次为ATP1A2、PDK4、CLIC5、ACTA1和FABP4。

OS组织中上调的基因中COL1A1、SPP1和POSTN均为重要的成骨相关蛋白，广泛参与成骨过程的调控^[11]。既往研究报道，以上3个基因与各类恶性肿瘤的增殖、迁移和转移密切相关^[12-14]。其中SPP1基因在骨肉瘤组织中表达显著升高，但与肿瘤进展无明显相关性，可能与骨肿瘤组织中炎症反应和骨形态重塑密切相关^[15]。Xu等^[16]报道，POSTN在骨肉瘤组织中表达显著上调，可通过激活PI3K/AKT通路促进骨肉瘤的发展和转移。目前尚无文献明确报道COL1A1与OS的相关性。此外，TYMS基因编码胸腺酸合成酶，是肿瘤化疗的常用靶点之一^[17]。Sun等^[18]报道，TNC基因可通过整合素α9β1介导YAP

抑制促进骨肉瘤细胞迁移和转移。下调基因中ATP1A2、PDK4、CLIC5、ACTA1和FABP4基因与多种肿瘤的发展和转移相关^[19-23]。其中有研究表明，PDK4的异常表达与OS的发展相关，Weng等^[24]报道miR-15b-5p可通过下调PDK4促进骨肉瘤的增殖，而ATP1A2、CLIC5、ACTA1和FABP4与骨肉瘤的相关性尚无文献报道。

本研究后续通过对DEGs进行GO和KEGG富集分析，结果提示DEGs主要富集的功能在组织发育、小分子代谢和细胞周期、细胞骨架和内质网中。组织发育相关通路如Hippo和FGFR通路被报道与恶性肿瘤的进展相关^[25]。细胞周期的失调和肿瘤细胞的无限制增殖是肿瘤的重要标志之一^[26]。DEGs主要富集通路为黏着斑、细胞外基质受体相互作用、细胞周期和p53等。细胞外基质一方面为细胞提供正常形态支持和稳定的内环境，另一方面也参与肿瘤细胞的增殖迁移^[27]。而黏着斑可以为细胞外基质提供强大的黏附，并作为众多整合素和细胞机械应力的支架，其相关信号通路失调是肿瘤侵袭的重要步骤^[28]。

综上所述，本研究通过转录组测序和生物信息学分析发现了众多OS相关的关键基因和通路，其中差异性表达基因COL1A1、ATP1A2、CLIC5、ACTA1和FABP4与OS的相关性尚缺乏报道和研究，本文研究结果可为OS的发病机制研究和靶向治疗提供新的思路。然而本研究仍存在以下不足：(1)样本量有限，转录组测序得到的结果需要更多临床样本进一步验证；(2)未结合细胞和动物实验深入探究其分子机制；(3)未结合患者的临床资料如肿瘤分期、生存期进行分析。

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