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· 基础研究 ·

# 环状RNA CDR1as促进小鼠骨髓间充质干细胞成骨分化和成血管相关基因表达

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**【摘要】目的** 探讨环状RNA小脑变性相关蛋白1的反义转录物(antisense to the cerebellar degeneration-related protein 1 transcript, CDR1as)在Balb/C小鼠骨髓间充质干细胞(bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs)中过表达与低表达后对其成骨和成血管相关基因的影响。**方法** 体外培养及鉴定BMSCs,将含过表达与沉默circRNA CDR1as基因的慢病毒(lentiviruses, LV)载体及对照组慢病毒分别转染至小鼠BMSCs并筛选稳定的细胞株,分为circRNA CDR1as过表达组、过表达对照组、circRNA CDR1as低表达组和低表达对照组。各组成骨诱导14、21 d后分别进行茜素红染色和碱性磷酸酶染色;qRT-PCR检测目的基因circRNA CDR1as、成骨分化特异标志物碱性磷酸酶(alkaline phosphatase, ALP)、Runt相关基因2(runt - related transcription factor 2, RUNX2)、骨钙素(osteocalcin, OCN)、骨桥素(osteopontin, OPN)、锌指结构转录因子(osterix, OSX)、I型胶原蛋白(collagen-I, COL-1),以及成血管特异标志物血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)、血管生成素-1(angiogenin-1, Ang-1)的mRNA表达水平。**结果** 茜素红和ALP染色均显示:过表达实验组钙沉淀和ALP染色区域多于过表达对照组;而低表达实验组钙沉淀和ALP染色区域少于低表达对照组,随着成骨诱导天数的增加,各组的钙沉淀和ALP染色面积也增大。qRT-PCR结果显示:过表达实验组BMSCs中circRNA CDR1as、ALP、RUNX2、OCN、OPN、OSX、COL-1、VEGF和Ang-1的mRNA表达水平显著升高( $P < 0.001$ );低表达实验组BMSCs中circRNA CDR1as、ALP、RUNX2、OCN、OPN、OSX、COL-1、VEGF和Ang-1的mRNA表达水平显著降低( $P < 0.001$ )。**结论** 过表达circRNA CDR1as基因可促进BMSCs的成骨分化及血管生成的能力;低表达circRNA CDR1as基因可抑制BMSCs的成骨分化及血管生成的能力。

**【关键词】** 骨; 环状RNA CDR1as; 基因沉默; 小鼠骨髓间充质干细胞; Runt相关基因2; I型胶原蛋白; 血管内皮生长因子; 成骨分化; 骨组织工程

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**CircularRNA CDR1as promotes osteogenic differentiation and angiogenesis related genes expression in mouse bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells** YANG Weizhe<sup>1</sup>, HAN Xiangzhen<sup>1</sup>, ZHENG Meijie<sup>1</sup>, ZHOU Qiqi<sup>1</sup>, HE Huiyu<sup>1,2</sup>. 1. Department of Prosthodontics, the First Affiliated Hospital (Affiliated Stomatological Hospital) of Xinjiang Medical University, Urumqi 830054, China; 2. Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Institute of Stomatology, Urumqi 830011, China

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**[Abstract]** **Objective** To investigate the effects of over expression and low expression of antisense transcripts of circular RNA cerebellar degeneration associated protein 1 (CDR1as) in Balb/C mouse bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) on factors related to osteogenesis and angiogenesis. **Methods** BMSCs were cultured and identified *in vi-*

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tro. The lentiviral (LV) vector containing the overexpressed and silenced circRNA CDR1as genes and the control lentivirus were respectively transfected into mouse BMSCs, and stable cell lines were screened. The cells were divided into the circRNACDR1as over expression group and the over expression control group, and the CircRNACDR1as low expression group and the low expression control group. The components were stained with Alizarin Red S and alkaline phosphatase after 14 and 21 days of osteoinduction; qRT-PCR was used to detect the target genes circRNA CDR1as, osteogenic differentiation markers alkaline phosphatase (ALP), runt - related transcription factor 2 (RUNX2), osteocalcin (OCN), osteopontin (OPN), osterix(Osx), collagen I (COL-1), and the mRNA expression levels of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and angiogenin-1 (Ang-1). **Results** The results of alizarin red staining and alkaline phosphatase staining showed that the extracellular matrix calcium precipitation and ALP staining area of the over expression experimental group was greater than its control group, and those of the low expression experimental group was less than its control group. As the number of days of osteogenic induction increased, the calcium precipitation and ALP staining in each group also increased. RT - PCR results showed that the mRNA expression levels of circRNA CDR1as, ALP, RUNX2, OCN, OPN, OSX, COL-1, VEGF and Ang-1 in the over expression experimental group BMSCs were significantly increased ( $P < 0.001$ ). In the low expression experimental group, the mRNA expression levels of circRNA CDR1as, ALP, RUNX2, OCN, OPN, OSX, COL-1, VEGF and Ang-1 in BMSCs were significantly reduced ( $P < 0.001$ ). **Conclusion** Over expression of the circRNA CDR1as gene promotes the osteogenic differentiation and angiogenesis of BMSCs. Low expression of the circRNA CDR1as gene inhibits the osteogenic differentiation and angiogenesis of BMSCs.

**[Key words]** bone; CircularRNA CDR1as; gene silencing; mouse bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells; runt-related transcription factor 2; collagen-I; vascular endothelial growth factor; osteogenic differentiation; bone tissue engineering

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**[Competing interests]** The authors declare no competing interests.

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颌骨缺损是口腔临床治疗中的常见疾病,研究发现相较于常规使用的骨移植物和纯生物材料支架,携带生长因子的细胞复合支架材料,能够更好地诱导骨组织再生<sup>[1]</sup>。骨髓间充质干细胞(bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs)经不同的刺激或诱导后可分化为成骨细胞、脂肪细胞等,因此BMSCs在骨组织工程中经常作为种子细胞被用于相应研究<sup>[2]</sup>。课题组前期将miRNA-378a以慢病毒载体的形式转入BMSCs中研究其成骨及成血管性能,验证了骨髓间质干细胞为良好的种子细胞<sup>[3]</sup>。环状RNA(circluar RNA, circRNA)小脑变性相关蛋白1的反义转录物(antisense to the cerebellar degeneration-related protein 1 transcript, CDR1as),是一种特殊的非编码RNA,在骨组织修复中起到调控作用<sup>[4]</sup>。研究发现在股骨头坏死患者中,circRNA CDR1as通过circRNA-miR-7-5p-Wnt5B通路在BMSCs的成脂/成骨分化中发挥关键作用<sup>[5]</sup>。本实验将过表达与低表达的circRNA CDR1as慢病毒转染至小鼠BMSCs,检测BMSCs中相关成骨、成血管因子的表达水平,以探究cir-

cRNA CDR1as对BMSCs成骨及成血管作用的影响,并判断其能否为后期修复骨缺损奠定实验基础。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 主要材料及仪器

4周龄SPF级Balb/C小鼠,雌雄不限,15~25g,购于新疆医科大学动物实验中心,许可证号:SCXK(新)2016-0003,实验经新疆医科大学第一附属医院动物实验伦理委员会批准(动物伦理审核项目编号:IACUC20170706-04)。

低糖DMEM培养基(Gibco,美国);胎牛血清(Gibco,美国);Balb/C小鼠BMSCs成骨诱导分化培养基(Cyagen,中国);实时定量PCR引物合成(上海生物工程公司,中国);反转录试剂盒(Takara,日本);Real-Time PCR试剂盒(Takara,日本);增强型CCK-8(Bioss,北京);荧光定量PCR仪(QuantStudio™ 6Flex, Thermo,美国);流式细胞仪(BD facsaria,美国);高速离心机(5810R, Eppendorf,德国);酶标仪(Thermo,美国);激光共聚焦显微镜(Olympus,日本);倒置相差显微镜(莱卡,德国)。CCK-8



试剂盒(Bioss,中国),茜素红(北京索莱宝公司,中国),碱性磷酸酶(alkaline phosphatase, ALP)(北京索莱宝公司,中国),慢病毒(上海吉凯基因科技有限公司,中国)。

过表达circRNA CDR1as慢病毒来自circbase数据库的mmu\_circ\_0001878过表达的序列,使用的载体元件顺序:CMV-circRNA-EF1-ZsGreen1-T2A-puromycin,过表达阴性对照组的载体元件顺序MV-circRNA-EF1-ZsGreen1-T2A-puromycin,是一个空载体。

低表达组和低表达对照组,使用的载体元件顺序hU6-MCS-Ubiquitin-EGFP-IRES-puromycin,低表达circRNA CDR1as慢病毒靶点序列1:5'-TCT-GCCGTATCC AGGGTTT -3',低表达circRNA CDR1as慢病毒靶点序列2:5'-TATCCAGGGTTT CCAGTGG-3';低表达对照组序列:5'-TTCTCC-GAACGTGTCACGT-3'。

## 1.2 方法

1.2.1 细胞的分离培养与鉴定 麻醉Balb/C小鼠后颈椎脱臼处死,75%乙醇溶液浸泡5 min,无菌条件下分离肱骨和股骨,剪去两端干骺端,用低糖DMEM完全培养基(含10%胎牛血清、0.5%链霉素、0.5%青霉素及1%谷氨酰胺)冲出骨髓,离心(5 min,1 000 r/min,22 °C)后加入完全培养基重悬细胞于培养瓶中,置入恒温培养箱,每72 h换液,待细胞密度长至85%~90%时,0.25%胰酶消化传代。取第3代BMSCs加入特异性表达抗体CD29和CD31上流式细胞仪检测。

1.2.2 慢病毒转染BMSCs 将3代BMSCs按细胞密度为 $5 \times 10^4$ 个/孔接种于6孔板,细胞长至60%左右时,根据说明书确定转染时病毒滴度,按照转染慢病毒载体的不同分为circRNA CDR1as过表达组(过表达实验组)和circRNA CDR1as低表达组(低表达实验组)以及分别相对应的阴性对照组,每孔转染液体总量1 mL,放入培养箱中,24 h后换液,2 mL/孔培养基继续培养,荧光显微镜观察72~96 h转染情况。

1.2.3 流式细胞术检测转染效率 各组细胞培养72 h后,胰酶消化收集细胞,流式检测各组慢病毒载体转染后增强绿色荧光蛋白(enhaned green fluorescent protein, EGFP)表达效率。同时将各组细胞收集后按照 $1 \times 10^5$ 个/mL的细胞密度分别接种到激光共聚焦小皿培养24 h,共聚焦显微镜观察EGFP荧光数量。

1.2.4 CCK-8检测细胞毒性 各组BMSCs转染72 h后,按照1 000个/孔的细胞密度接种至96孔板,培养24 h后,弃去原培养基,每孔加入10 μL CCK-8液孵育,2 h后测OD<sub>450 nm</sub>值,每隔24 h检测1次,连续测10 d,检测病毒转染后对BMSCs增殖的影响。

1.2.5 茜素红染色 各组BMSCs转染72 h后,加入成骨诱导液,成骨诱导14、21 d后染色。多聚甲醛固定,超纯水洗涤,茜素红染液染色,超纯水洗涤,倒置相差显微镜下观察钙结节区域。

1.2.6 碱性磷酸酶染色 各组BMSCs转染72 h后,成骨诱导14、21 d后染色。2 mL 4%多聚甲醛固30 min,蒸馏水洗3遍,按比例加入碱性磷酸酶染色液,避光孵育20~30 min,直至显色至预期深浅,蒸馏水洗2遍,倒置相差显微镜下观察钙沉淀区域。

1.2.7 qRT-PCR检测成骨成血管相关基因表达 BMSCs转染72 h后,Trizol法提取各组总RNA,测量浓度与纯度。使用Takara逆转录试剂盒两步法将RNA逆转为cDNA,以20 μL体系进行qRT-PCR,反应条件:95 °C 30 s,95 °C 5 s,60 °C 34 s,40个循环。检测各组circRNA CDR1as基因,成骨分化特异标志物ALP、Runt相关基因2(runt-related transcription factor 2, RUNX2)、骨钙素(osteocalcin, OCN)、骨桥素(osteopontin, OPN)、锌指结构转录因子(osterix, OSX)、I型胶原蛋白(collagen-I, COL-1),以及成血管特异标志物血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)、血管生成素-1(angiogenin-1, Ang-1)的mRNA表达水平,实验至少重复3次。qRT-PCR所用引物见表1。

表1 RT-PCR引物序列

Table 1 Primers sequences of RT-PCR

Gene	Primer sequence (5'-3')
GAPDH	F: AAGTCGGAGTCACCGGATTT R: GGTTCACGCCATCACAAA
circRNACDR1as	F: TTTCTGGTGTCTGCCGTATC R: GGAAGATCACGATTGTCTGGAA
ALP	F: GGTGGTAGTCATTGGCATAG R: GTTGGTGTGTACGTCTTGGAA
RUNX2	F: CAGACCAGCACACTCCATA R: CAGCGTCAACACCATCATTC
OCN	F: GCTGTGGCCGCACCTCTGC R: AGAGTGGGGCTGGCCGCTC
OPN	F: CCCATCTCAGAAGCAGAATCTT R: GTCATGGCTTCATTGGAGTTG



续表

OSX	F: AGAACCCATAACACTGACCTTTC R: GGTGGGTAGTCATTGGCATAG
COL-I	F: TGGGGCAAGACAGTGATCG R: GGAGGGAGTTACAGGAAGCACG
VEGF	F: ACATCTCAAGCCGTCTGTGTGC R: AAATGGCGAATCCAGTCCCACGAG
Ang-1	F: GACACCTGAAGGAGGAGAAAG R: GTGTCCATGAGCTCCAGTTGT

circRNA CDR1as: circular RNA antisense to the cerebellar degeneration - related protein1 transcript; ALP: alkaline phosphatase; RUNX2: runt - related transcription factor 2; OCN: osteocalcin; OPN: osteopontin; OSX: osterix; COL-1: collagen-I; VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor; Ang-1: angiogenin-1

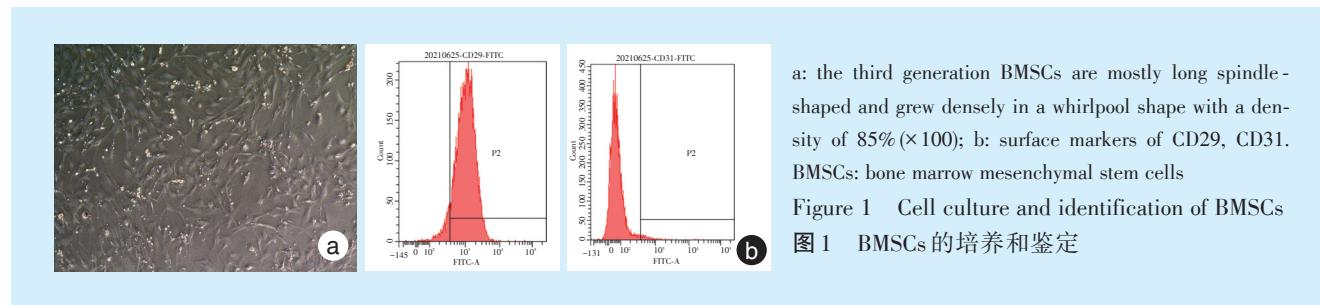
### 1.3 统计学分析

实验数据使用统计学软件 SPSS 25.0 进行分析,符合正态性,选用两独立样本 *t* 检验,各组基因的表达量通过  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$  计算,实验数据以表示,  $P < 0.05$  为差异有统计学意义,统计图使用 GraphPad Prism 软件绘制。

## 2 结果

### 2.1 BMSCs 培养及鉴定

生长良好的3代细胞多为长梭状,生长密集呈旋涡状;流式细胞术检测细胞表面特异性抗体 CD29 阳性表达(93.1%),而 CD31 阴性表达(2.4%),符合 BMSCs 的表型特点(图1)。



### 2.2 BMSCs 转染效率

各组细胞转染 72 h 后,采用激光共聚焦显微镜观察携带 EGFP 绿色荧光的细胞,DAPI 染色后细胞核镜下呈蓝色荧光;明场图观察细胞数量,各组细胞转染率无明显差异;使用流式细胞仪检测 EGFP 表达效率,过表达实验组转染率为 88.7%,过表达对照组为 77.3%;低表达实验组转染率为 81.9%,低表达对照组为 68.8%,四组转染率差异无统计学意义( $P > 0.05$ )(图2)。

### 2.3 CCK-8 细胞毒性检测

根据所测 OD 值,绘制 4 组细胞生长曲线图,类似“S”形,4 组细胞 1 d、2 d 增殖速率较缓和,各组细胞增殖活性无统计学差异( $P > 0.05$ ),7 d 时增至最高,8 d 时细胞增殖速率开始减缓;3~10 d,过表达实验组细胞增殖活性高于过表达对照组( $P < 0.05$ ),而低表达实验组细胞增殖活性低于低表达对照组( $P < 0.05$ )(图3)。

### 2.4 茜素红染色结果

随着成骨诱导天数的延长,每组红色钙结节数量相应增多,由单一钙结节变为团块状钙结节。同一时间段内,过表达实验组红色钙化区域大于过表达对照组;而低表达实验组红色钙化区

a: the third generation BMSCs are mostly long spindle-shaped and grew densely in a whirlpool shape with a density of 85% ( $\times 100$ ); b: surface markers of CD29, CD31. BMSCs: bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells

Figure 1 Cell culture and identification of BMSCs  
图 1 BMSCs 的培养和鉴定

域少于其对照组(图4)。

### 2.5 ALP 染色结果

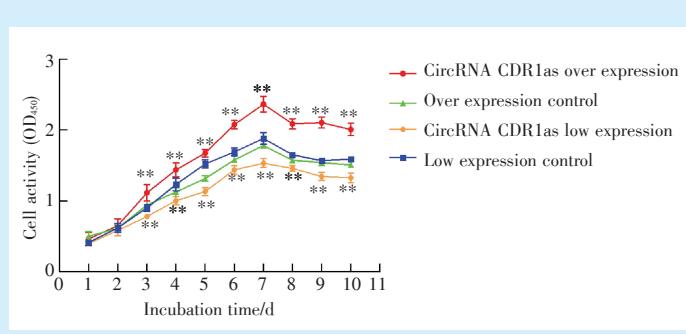
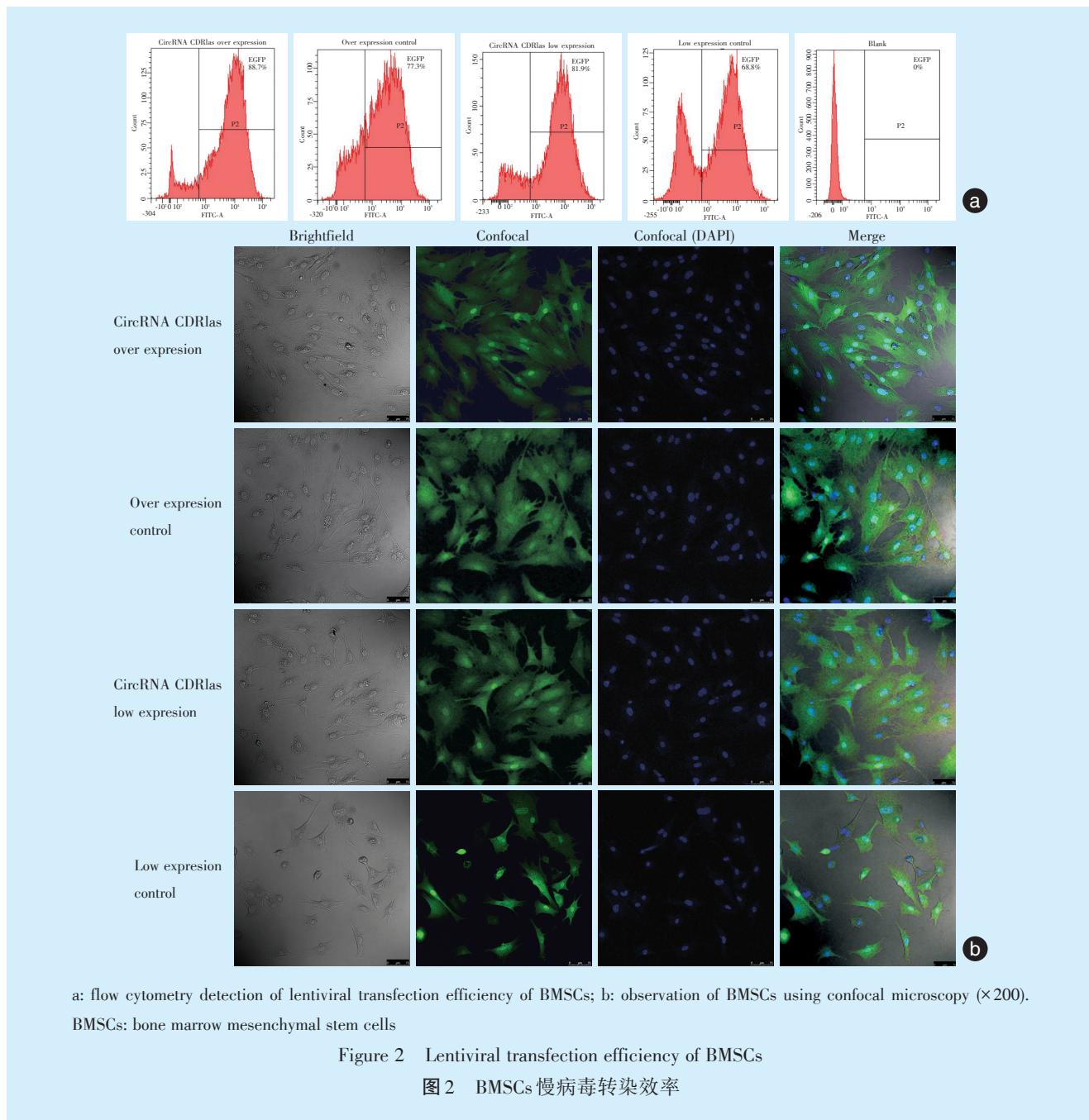
过表达实验组 ALP 染色面积多于过表达对照组,而低表达实验组 ALP 染色面积少于其对照组,随着成骨诱导天数的增加,各组的 ALP 染色面积逐渐增大(图5)。

### 2.6 各组成骨及成血管相关基因 mRNA 表达

circRNA CDR1as 的 mRNA 表达水平,在低表达实验组中 circRNA CDR1as 的表达显著降低( $P < 0.001$ ),在过表达实验组中显著增高( $P < 0.001$ )。RUNX2、ALP、VEGF、Ang-1、OSX、COL-1、OCN 和 OPN 的 mRNA 表达水平在过表达实验组中高于其对照组,差异有统计学意义( $P < 0.001$ );RUNX2、ALP、VEGF、Ang-1、OSX、COL-1、OCN 和 OPN 的 mRNA 表达水平在低表达实验组中低于其对照组,差异有统计学意义( $P < 0.001$ )(图6)。

## 3 讨论

近年在组织工程骨的研究中,circRNA 为骨组织疾病及干细胞成骨分化方面注入了新的“血液”<sup>[6]</sup>。研究发现,在人类和小鼠的神经元细胞中,circRNA CDR1as 被微小 RNA (microRNA, miRNA)-

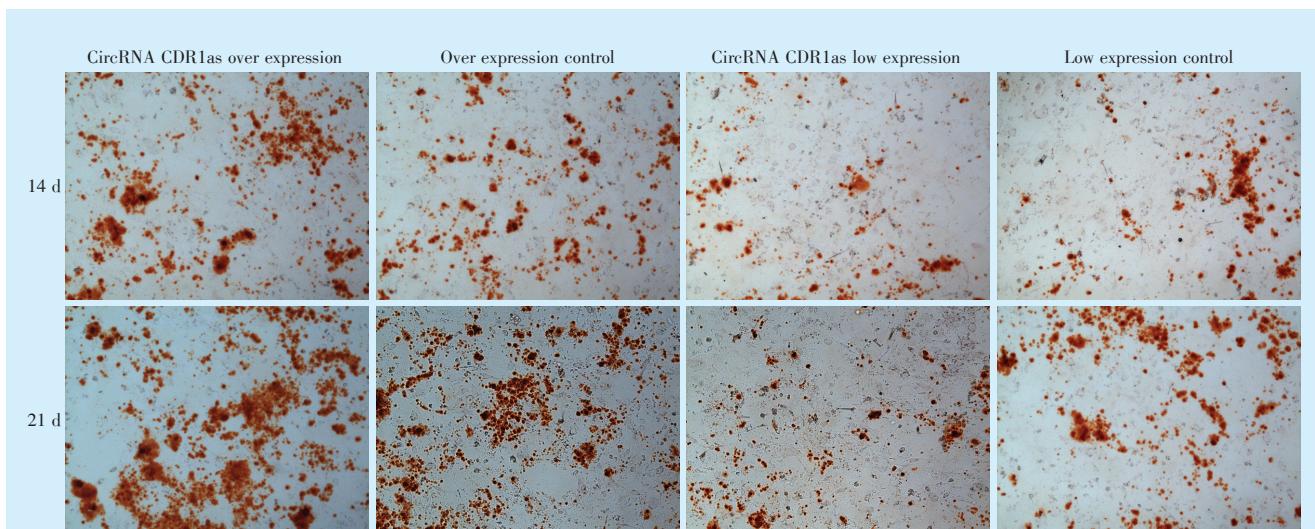


\*\*: compared with the over expression control group and low expression control group,  $P < 0.05$ . BMSCs: bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells; CDR1as: antisense to the cerebellar degeneration-related protein 1 transcript

Figure 3 Growth curves of BMSCs detected using CCK-8 assays  
图3 CCK-8 检测慢病毒转染后 BMSCs 的生长曲线

7 和 miRNA-671 所调控,两者通过敲除 circRNA CDR1as 的基因片段而对细胞发挥不同的刺激作

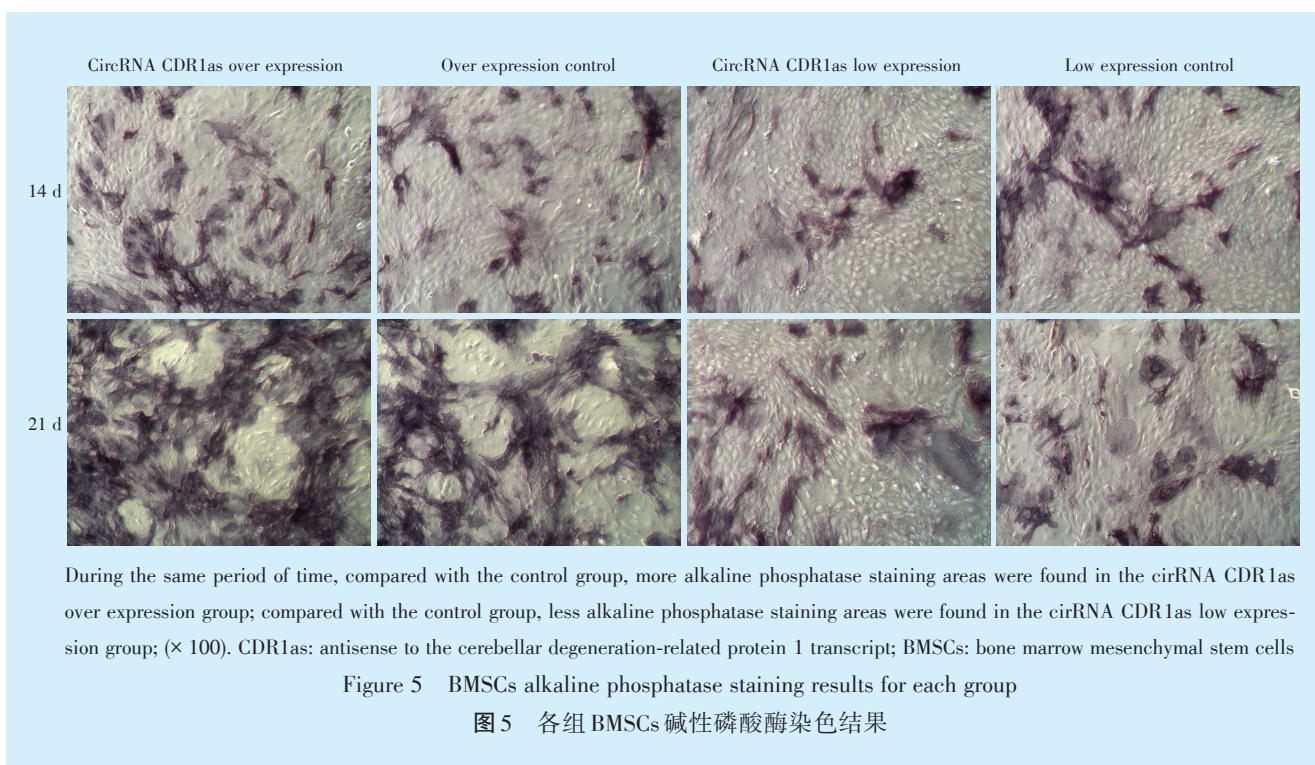
用<sup>[7]</sup>。本实验通过以慢病毒载体的方式,转染 circRNA CDR1as 至小鼠 BMSCs 中以检测 circRNA



During the same period of time, compared with the control group, more calcium salt deposition areas were found in the circRNA CDR1as over expression group; compared with the control group, less calcium salt deposition areas were found in the circRNA CDR1as low expression group; ( $\times 100$ ). CDR1as: antisense to the cerebellar degeneration-related protein 1 transcript; BMSCs: bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells

Figure 4 BMSCs alizarin red staining results for each group

图4 各组BMSCs茜素红染色结果



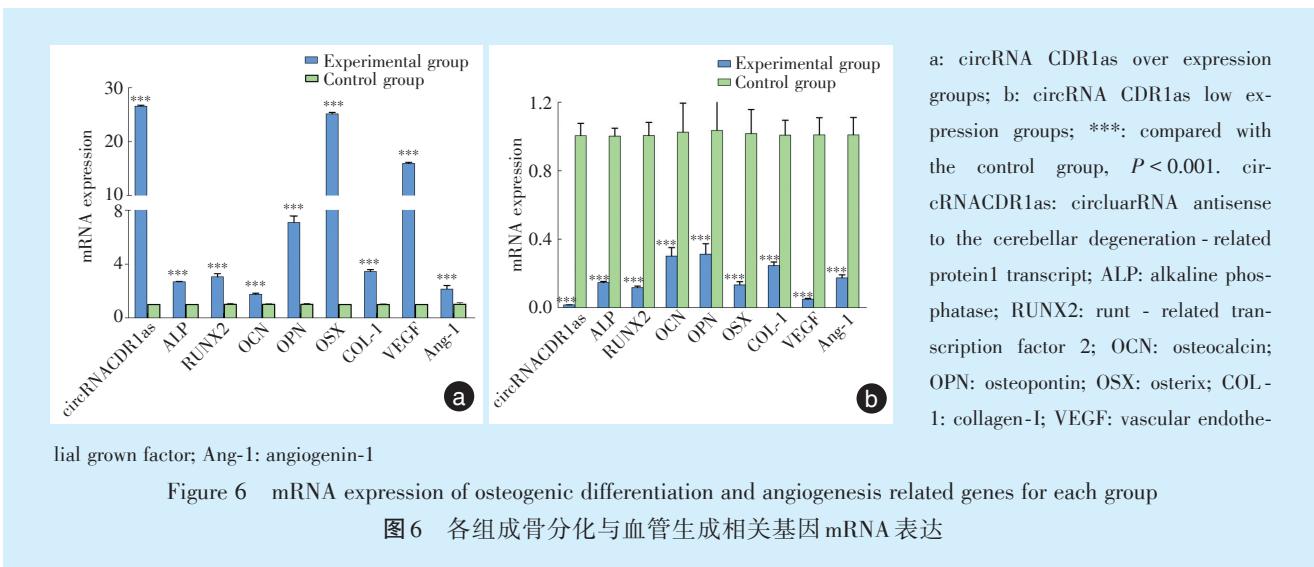
During the same period of time, compared with the control group, more alkaline phosphatase staining areas were found in the circRNA CDR1as over expression group; compared with the control group, less alkaline phosphatase staining areas were found in the circRNA CDR1as low expression group; ( $\times 100$ ). CDR1as: antisense to the cerebellar degeneration-related protein 1 transcript; BMSCs: bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells

Figure 5 BMSCs alkaline phosphatase staining results for each group

图5 各组BMSCs碱性磷酸酶染色结果

CDR1as对骨髓干细胞成骨和成血管基因表达的影响,为后期转染过circRNA CDR1as的BMSCs膜片包裹生物支架材料修复骨缺损奠定实验基础,以探索circRNA CDR1as在骨组织工程中的研究价值。本研究中,分别将过表达与低表达circRNA CDR1as基因和空载慢病毒转染至BMSCs中,通过

流式细胞术检测各组的转染效率,四组转染效率无统计学差异。激光共聚焦显微镜观察到BMSCs转染72 h后,细胞贴壁生长且形态规则,呈扁梭角形且触角短小,由此可知慢病毒对细胞的形态无明显影响。同时CCK-8生长曲线结果显示,circRNA CDR1as过表达实验组细胞增殖率3~10 d



高于其对照组,而circRNA CDR1as低表达实验组细胞增殖率3~10 d低于其对照组,提示过表达circRNA CDR1as可促进BMSCs增殖,而低表达circRNA CDR1as可抑制BMSCs增殖。

骨缺损修复的过程中往往伴随着成骨和成血管因子的基因变化,课题组前期左新慧等<sup>[8]</sup>通过在BMSCs中过表达与低表达低氧诱导因子,发现了相关成骨和成血管基因的不同表达水平。Peng等<sup>[9]</sup>的研究指出,在上颌窦膜干细胞的成骨分化期间,OSX的mRNA表达水平随着circRNA\_33287的过表达或沉默而增加或降低。Xu等<sup>[10]</sup>在骨质疏松症患者中构建了circRNA\_0011269-miRNA靶标结合的网络,并在该网络中探寻到miR-122;利用双荧光素酶报告验证了miR-122与circRNA\_0011269/RUNX2的靶向关系;并证实circRNA\_0011269的过表达可以促进RUNX2的表达并抑制骨质疏松症。ALP和RUNX2是成骨细胞的早期标志物,反映了成骨细胞的分化能力,同时可以将BMSCs的相关成骨基因进行定向分化、转录和翻译<sup>[11-12]</sup>。本实验结果显示当过表达或低表达circRNA CDR1as作用于BMSCs时,ALP和RUNX2的mRNA的表达水平分别呈升高和下降趋势。OCN是细胞骨向分化的晚期标志物,能灵敏反映成骨细胞活性和骨转换状况<sup>[13]</sup>。OPN广泛存在于骨细胞中,充当催化剂作用,加速类骨质的矿化和成骨细胞的形成<sup>[14]</sup>。OSX是一种特殊的成骨分化转录因子,其特殊性是只在骨组织细胞中表达,是骨形成所必需的相关因子<sup>[15]</sup>。COL-1由成骨细胞分泌,在成骨细胞早期形成阶段表现活跃,其表达活性持续至骨成熟

a: circRNA CDR1as over expression groups; b: circRNA CDR1as low expression groups; \*\*\*: compared with the control group,  $P < 0.001$ . circRNACDR1as: circularRNA antisense to the cerebellar degeneration - related protein1 transcript; ALP: alkaline phosphatase; RUNX2: runt - related transcription factor 2; OCN: osteocalcin; OPN: osteopontin; OSX: osterix; COL-1: collagen-I; VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor; Ang-1: angiogenin-1

阶段<sup>[16]</sup>。本实验OCN、OPN、OSX、COL-1的mRNA表达水平过表达组呈增高趋势,而低表达组呈下降趋势,提示过表达circRNA CDR1as促进BMSCs的成骨分化。VEGF可促进血管内皮细胞增生和新生血管形成,是成血管的关键指标<sup>[17]</sup>。Ang-1在吸引血管周细胞、促进血管重塑和成熟等方面具有重要作用,可进一步增强内皮细胞屏障的完整性<sup>[18]</sup>。本实验中,成血管标志物VEGF、Ang-1随着circRNA CDR1as的过表达和低表达而分别增高和降低,提示当过表达或低表达circRNA CDR1as作用于BMSCs时,可以调节BMSCs中的成骨-血管生成偶联过程。Li等<sup>[19]</sup>发现当过表达或敲低circRNA CDR1as作用于牙周膜干细胞时,观察到过表达的circRNA CDR1as促进成骨细胞分化,而敲低的circRNA CDR1as抑制了ALP的活性和成骨基因的表达,以及ALP和茜素红矿物沉积的减少,证实了circRNA CDR1as参与了牙周膜干细胞成骨分化的调节。本实验中,对各组的茜素红染色和ALP染色结果证明了circRNA CDR1as对BMSCs的成骨分化具有调节作用。

综上所述,本实验通过构建慢病毒载体的方式,将过表达和低表达的circRNA CDR1as转染至BMSCs中,证实了circRNA CDR1as对BMSCs的成骨及成血管基因起到一定的调控作用,为circRNA结合干细胞修复骨缺损提供了新思路。但本实验仅限于体外细胞学实验,后期将复合生物支架进行动物回植实验,进一步证实circRNA CDR1as在体内的成骨及成血管的能力,以期更好的使其应用于组织工程中。



**[Author contributions]** Yang WZ performed the experiments and wrote the article. Zheng MJ performed the experiments. Han XZ and Zhou QQ revised the article. He HY designed the study and reviewed the article. All authors read and approved the final manuscript as submitted.

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