



DOI:10.3872/j.issn.1007-385x.2019.04.005

·基础研究·

AMPK α 过表达对膀胱癌T24细胞增殖、侵袭和EMT的抑制作用及其机制

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[摘要] 目的:探讨AMP依赖的蛋白激酶 α (AMP-activated protein kinase α , AMPK α)过表达对膀胱癌T24细胞增殖、迁移、侵袭和EMT的作用及其机制。方法:建立AMPK α 过表达的膀胱癌T24细胞株,依据转染质粒的不同分为T24空白组、pc-DNA空载组和pc-AMPK α 组。用WB检测T24细胞AMPK α 、EMT相关蛋白及EMT通路相关分子的表达水平,用Hoechst染色法检测转染后T24细胞的凋亡,CCK-8法检测T24细胞的增殖,细胞划痕愈合实验检测T24细胞的迁移,Transwell实验检测细胞的侵袭。结果:成功构建AMPK α 过表达的膀胱癌T24细胞株。与T24空白组和pc-DNA空载组比较,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞上皮钙黏蛋白水平显著升高($P<0.01$)、波形蛋白和神经钙黏蛋白表达水平显著降低(均 $P<0.01$),EMT通路相关信号分子P38、STAT3活性受到显著抑制(均 $P<0.01$),细胞发生明显凋亡、增殖能力显著减弱(均 $P<0.01$);T24细胞迁移和侵袭能力显著降低(均 $P<0.01$)。结论:AMPK α 过表达可使EMT通路相关分子活性受到抑制,使得膀胱癌T24细胞发生明显凋亡、增殖受限并使其侵袭和迁移能力降低及伴随EMT的逆转。

[关键词] AMP依赖的蛋白激酶 α ;膀胱癌;T24细胞;增殖;迁移;侵袭;凋亡;上皮间质转化

[中图分类号] R737.14; R730.23 [文献标识码] A [文章编号] 1007-385X(2019)04-0396-06

Inhibitory effect and mechanism of AMPK α over-expression on proliferation, invasion and EMT of bladder cancer T24 cells

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[Abstract] Objective: To investigate the effect and mechanism of AMP-activated protein kinase α (AMPK α) over-expression on proliferation, migration, invasion and epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of bladder cancer T24 cells. Methods: A bladder cancer T24 cells over-expressing AMPK α was established and divided into T24 group, pc-DNA group and pc-AMPK α group according to different plasmid transfection. Western blotting was used to verify the over-expression of AMPK α and detect the expressions of EMT-related proteins and EMT pathway-related molecules. Hoechst staining was used to detect apoptosis of transfected T24 cells. CCK8 assay was used to detect cell proliferation. Cell scratch test was used to detect cell migration. Transwell assay was used to detect cell invasion. Results: The bladder cancer cell line T24 over-expressing AMPK α was successfully constructed. Compared with the T24 group and the pc-DNA group, the level of E-cadherin in the pc-AMPK α group was significantly increased ($P<0.01$) while the levels of Vimentin and N-cadherin were significantly decreased (all $P<0.01$), and the activities of P38 and STAT3 which related to EMT pathway were significantly inhibited (all $P<0.01$); cell proliferation, migration and invasion were significantly decreased while cell apoptosis was obviously enhanced (all $P<0.01$). Conclusion: Over-expression of AMPK α can inhibit the activity of EMT pathway-related molecules, which leads to obvious apoptosis, limited proliferation, reduced invasion and migration of bladder cancer T24 cells, and accompanied by the reversal of EMT.

[Key words] AMP-activated protein kinase α (AMPK α); bladder cancer; T24 cell; proliferation; migration; invasion; apoptosis; epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT)

[Chin J Cancer Bioter, 2019, 26(4): 396-401. DOI:10.3872/j.issn.1007-385X.2019.04.005]

[基金项目] 河南省医学科技攻关基金资助项目(No.201702119)。Project supported by the Medical Science and Technology Foundation of Henan Province (No.201702119)

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膀胱癌(bladder cancer)是泌尿系统最常见的恶性肿瘤之一^[1]。膀胱癌具有细胞恶性增生以及全身转移的特点^[2], 95%患者具有高转移性^[3]。EMT是指在胚胎发育、成体修复或者肿瘤进展过程中, 紧密连接的上皮样细胞向间质样细胞转化, 并伴有细胞迁移能力增加、黏附性降低等^[4-7]; 同时肿瘤细胞分泌大量细胞因子, 使其在体内获得侵袭和迁移特性^[8-9], 脱离原位的肿瘤细胞则会沿着血管、淋巴管等途径产生转移灶, 给肿瘤治疗带来严重隐患。AMP依赖的蛋白激酶 α (AMP-activated protein kinase α , AMPK α)是由PRKAA1基因编码的一个蛋白酶, 在肿瘤细胞中, AMPK可以通过抑制mTOR通路活性产生自噬依赖途径的肿瘤细胞死亡并抑制细胞增殖; 还可以下调P53-P21通路促进细胞凋亡等^[10-12]。基于上述研究成果, AMPK可以有效地促进肿瘤细胞发生凋亡, 抑制细胞EMT及侵袭和迁移能力, 因此本研究利用膀胱癌T24细胞过表达AMPK α 来探究对膀胱癌细胞增殖、侵袭和EMT的作用及其机制, 旨在为膀胱癌的治疗提供新的治疗靶点。

1 材料与方法

1.1 细胞株及主要试剂

膀胱癌细胞株T24购自国家实验细胞资源共享平台。DMEM培养基、胎牛血清和胰酶均购自美国Gibco公司, Hoechst 33342染色试剂盒购自Abcam公司, 结晶紫染液、转染试剂盒LipofectamineTM 3000购自Thermo公司, pc-DNA购自Addgene公司, AMPK α 、上皮钙黏蛋白(E-cadherin)、波形蛋白(vimentin)、神经钙黏蛋白(N-adherin)、P38、P-P38、STAT3、P-STAT3、P65、P-P65、GAPDH一抗购自美国Abcam公司, HRP标记的山羊抗小鼠二抗购自美国Santa Cruz公司。

1.2 细胞培养及转染

将膀胱癌T24细胞悬浮于含有10%胎牛血清和1%青链霉素的DMEM培养基中, 置于37℃、5%CO₂的恒温培养箱中培养。镜下观察细胞生长状态, 当细胞汇合度达80%以上时进行消化传代。

T24细胞铺板24 h后换液, 分为T24细胞空白对照组(T24组)、pc-DNA组和pc-AMPK α 组。转染48 h后, 收集细胞待用(CCK8、Hoechst染色等处理直接铺板)。荧光显微镜下(×200)随机挑选5个视野进行观察并计算细胞瞬时转染率。

1.3 CCK-8法检测膀胱癌T24细胞的增殖

将经转染的对数生长期膀胱癌T24细胞铺于96孔板(细胞密度为5×10³个/孔), 每组设置3个重复, 共铺5个板。对第1个96孔板: 待细胞贴壁后加入

10 μl CCK-8溶液, 轻轻混匀, 培养4 h后测定波长450 nm处的光密度(D)值。以后每隔24 h处理一个细胞板, 进行参数统计, 并计算细胞的增殖水平。计算方法: 24 h时间点的细胞增殖倍数=D_{24 h}/D_{0 h}, 48 h时间点的细胞增殖倍数=D_{48 h}/D_{0 h}, 以此类推。

1.4 Hoechst染色法检测膀胱癌T24细胞的凋亡

对转染过的膀胱癌细胞培养48 h后进行染色处理: 吸尽培养液后加入0.5 ml固定液固定10 min, 去除固定液用PBS洗2次(3 min/次), 加入0.5 ml的Hoechst染色液染色5 min, 用PBS洗2次(3 min/次), 滴加抗荧光淬灭封片液, 盖上盖玻片, 于荧光显微镜下观察细胞的凋亡情况, 计算细胞的凋亡率。细胞凋亡率=阳性细胞(深度着色细胞)/总细胞数×100%。

1.5 WB检测膀胱癌T24细胞中上皮钙黏蛋白、神经钙黏蛋白和波形蛋白的表达

各组细胞处理结束后, 用PBS清洗3次, 用添加有终浓度为1 mmol/L的蛋白酶抑制剂苯甲基磺酰氟(PMSF)的细胞裂解液进行裂解, 提取各组细胞总蛋白。用BCA试剂盒检测总蛋白浓度, 10%SDS-PAGE后转至PVDF膜, 5%脱脂牛奶室温封闭蛋白2 h, 后加入一抗(AMPK α , 1:700; E-cadherin, 1:800; N-cadherin, 1:600; Vimentin, 1:800; P38, 1:1 000; P-P38, 1:500; STAT3, 1:800; P-STAT3, 1:500; P65, 1:800; P-P65, 1:400)于4℃封闭过夜。第2天加入相应的山羊抗小鼠二抗(1:10 000)室温封闭1 h, 最后滴加ECL曝光显影显色并检测灰度值, 计算蛋白相对表达量。

1.6 细胞划痕实验检测膀胱癌T24细胞的迁移能力

接种T24细胞, 12 h后进行相应处理组转染, 待转染细胞汇合度达90%(约36 h)时, 使用小号枪尖在细胞均匀区域划线, 经PBS清洗漂浮细胞后加入正常培养基, 0 h拍照1次, 24 h后再次原视野拍照, 计算细胞的迁移率。细胞迁移率=(原划痕间距-终划痕间距)/原划痕间距×100%。

1.7 Transwell实验检测膀胱癌T24细胞的侵袭能力

接种T24细胞12 h后, 进行相应处理组转染, 24 h后消化细胞, 并进行计数, 使用无血清培养基悬浮后, 以6×10⁴个/孔细胞加入预先使用基质胶处理后的Transwell小室中, 每组3个复孔, 轻轻混匀, 下室加入正常培养基, 培养24 h后, 用棉签将Transwell小室内细胞轻轻擦拭掉, 并用4%多聚甲醛溶液固定小室下层细胞, 0.1%结晶紫染色20 min后, 每组在显微镜下随机选取5个视野, 计数侵袭细胞数目。

1.8 统计学处理

上述细胞增殖、凋亡、迁移、侵袭及蛋白检测等实验均重复3次。所有数据均用SPSS 19.0统计软件

进行统计分析。计量数据以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示,组间比较采用t检验,多组间比较方差齐且服从正态分布的用One-Way ANOVA,反之则用秩和检验。以 $P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$ 表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 成功构建AMPK α 过表达膀胱癌T24细胞株

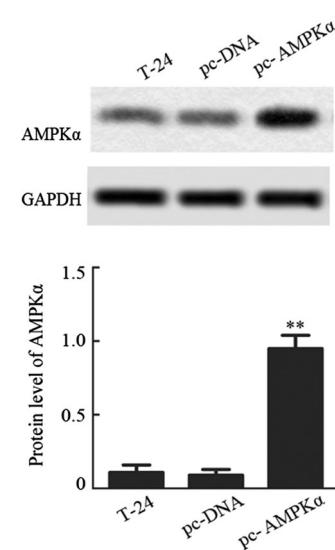
Wb实验结果(图1)表明,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞AMPK α 蛋白的表达水平显著高于T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组(均 $P<0.01$),而T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。

2.2 AMPK α 过表达上调上皮钙黏蛋白并下调神经钙黏蛋白和波形蛋白的表达

转染后细胞通过光学显微镜(图2A)下可见,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞发生明显形态变化——呈MET形态变化,而T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组T24细胞未发生相应的形态变化。

Wb法检测结果(图2B)显示,与T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组细胞比较,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞上皮钙黏蛋白表达水平明显上调(均 $P<0.01$),神经钙黏蛋白和波形蛋白则发生显著下调(均 $P<0.01$);

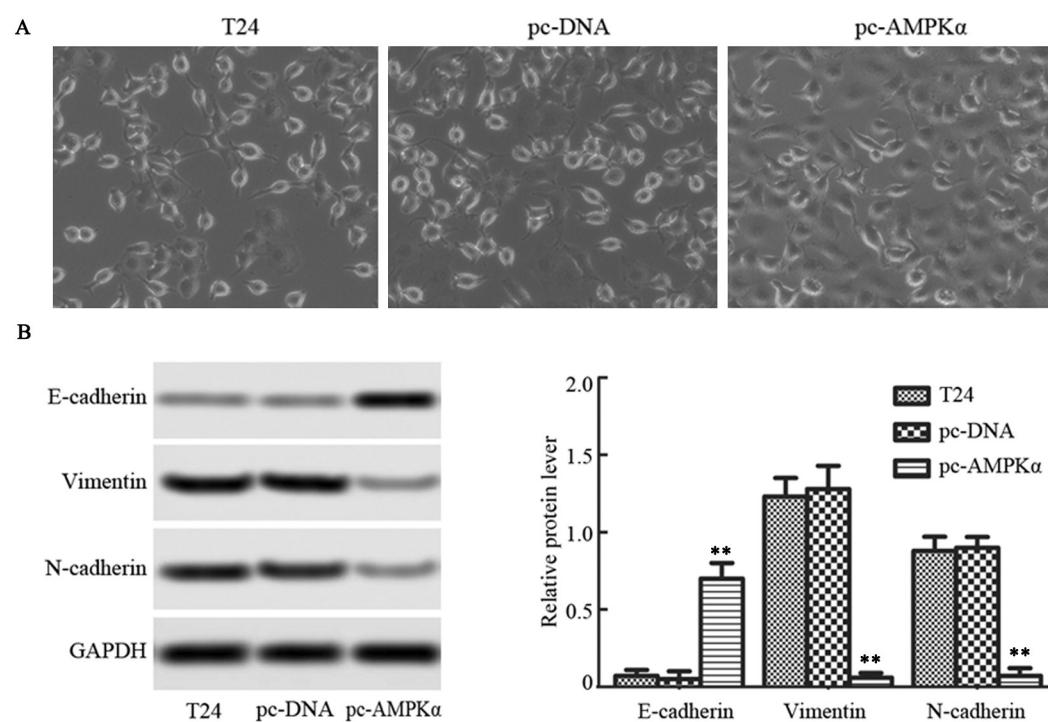
T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较,上述3种蛋白表达水平差异无统计学意义(均 $P>0.05$)。



$^{**}P<0.01$ vs T-24 or pcDNA group

图1 各组膀胱癌T24细胞中AMPK α 蛋白的表达

Fig. 1 Expression of AMPK α protein in bladder cancer T24 cells of each group



$^{**}P<0.01$ vs T24 or pc-DNA group

图2 AMPK α 过表达对T24细胞的形态(A, $\times 200$)及EMT相关蛋白(B)表达的影响

Fig. 2 Effect of AMPK α over-expression on morphology (A, $\times 200$) and EMT related protein expression (B) of T24 cells

2.3 AMPK α 过表达促进T24细胞的凋亡并减弱细胞的增殖能力

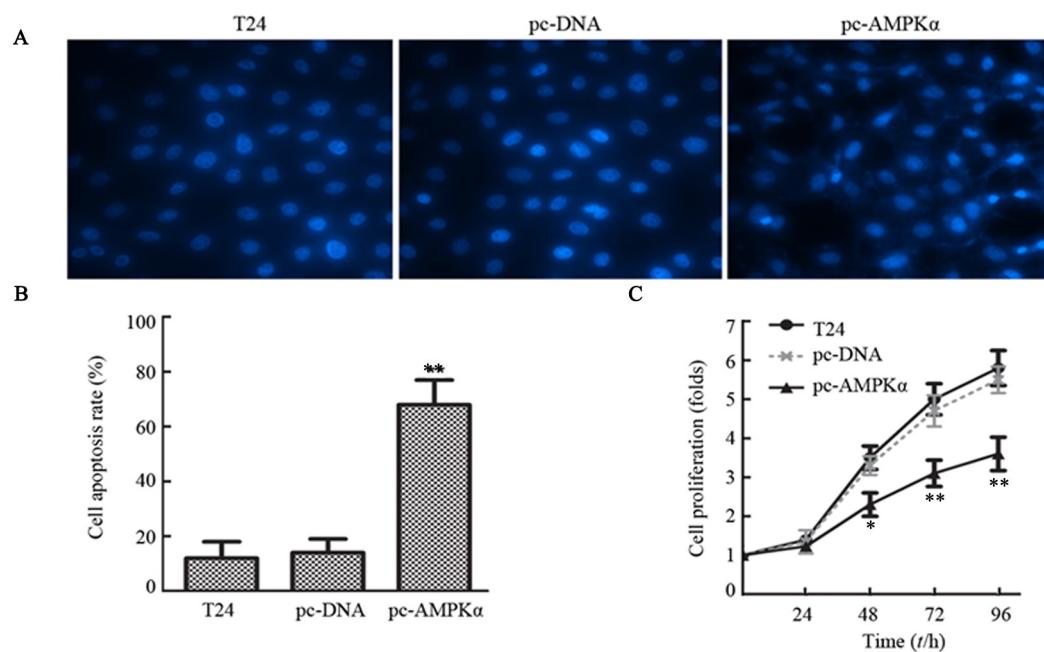
T24细胞转染pc-AMPK α 后,Hoechst染色结果

(图3A、B)发现,与T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体相比,pc-AMPK α 组细胞体积缩小,染色质凝集,发生明显凋亡现象(均 $P<0.01$)。CCK-8法检测结果(图3C)



显示,培养72和96 h后,与T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组相比,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞增殖能力显著降低

(均 $P<0.01$),而T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。



* $P<0.05$, ** $P<0.01$ vs T24 or pc-DNA group

A and B: Cell apoptosis (Hoechst staining, $\times 200$); C: Cell proliferation

图3 AMPK α 过表达对T24细胞凋亡和增殖的影响

Fig. 3 Effects of AMPK α over-expression on apoptosis and proliferation of T24 cells

2.4 AMPK α 过表达促进T24细胞迁移与侵袭

细胞划痕实验结果(图4A)显示,与T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组相比,pc-AMPK α 组细胞迁移能力显著下降(均 $P<0.01$),T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。

Transwell实验结果(图4B)显示,pc-AMPK α 组侵袭细胞数量显著少于T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组(均 $P<0.01$),而T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。

2.5 AMPK α 过表达降低T24细胞中EMT通路相关分子的激活水平

Wb检测结果(图5)显示,pc-AMPK α 组T24细胞中P-P38、P-STAT3和P-P65激活水平显著低于T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组(均 $P<0.01$),而T24空白组和pc-DNA空载体组之间比较差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。

3 讨论

膀胱癌可引起血尿、疼痛等临床症状,最终危及患者生命;进行电切、膀胱灌注等治疗后仍有40%左右的复发率和近95%的转移率^[13-14]。虽然卡介苗灌注治疗可以控制高级别膀胱癌的复发和进展^[15-16],但

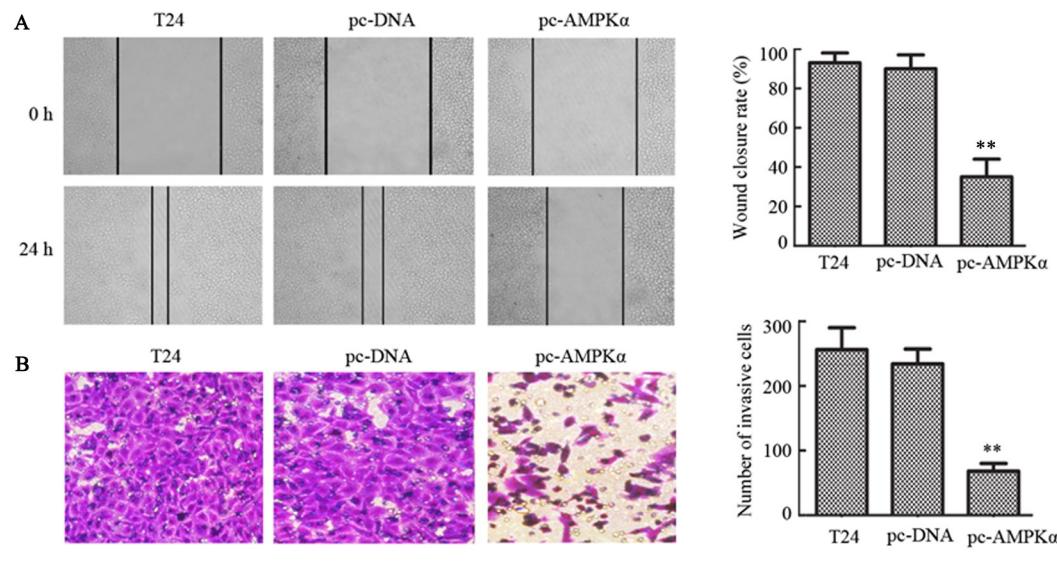
无法改善总生存率和肿瘤特异生存率^[17]。对于膀胱癌发生发展的分子机制尚不完全清楚。因此,探究膀胱癌浸润、转移的分子机制对于其诊断和治疗尤为重要。

研究^[18]表明,EMT过程在来源于上皮样恶性肿瘤发生进展的进程中非常关键。EMT过程是一个复杂的多因素过程,不但可以增强肿瘤细胞的侵袭和转移能力,还可以对临床化疗药物产生耐药^[19]。本研究结果表明,膀胱癌T24细胞过表达AMPK α 后,其细胞形态呈现表皮样转变,同时有效抑制波形蛋白和神经钙黏蛋白的表达、促进上皮钙黏蛋白的表达。说明过表达AMPK α 后可以有效地逆转膀胱癌T24细胞EMT过程。

AMPK作为细胞代谢的核心调控者,已被证明是肿瘤进展的主要障碍。STAVROS等^[20]指出,与10例非肿瘤组织样本比较,在40例膀胱癌肿瘤样本中发现有59%的样本AMPK α 2(AMPK α 亚基构成单位)的表达水平被显著抑制;并且证实,与膀胱癌患者正常组织相比,肿瘤组织中AMPK α 2表达水平也降低68%。AMPK的激活能有效抑制TGF- β /Smad3、mTOR-STAT3/P38通路来抑制肿瘤细胞增殖和促进凋亡发生^[21-23];同时STAT3通过

Snail、Twist等、P38通过激活MEK和Smad,两者均能诱导细胞发生EMT,从而增强细胞侵袭和迁移能力^[24-25]。本研究中细胞划痕和侵袭实验证实,AMPK α 过表达可以有效抑制膀胱癌T24细胞迁移和

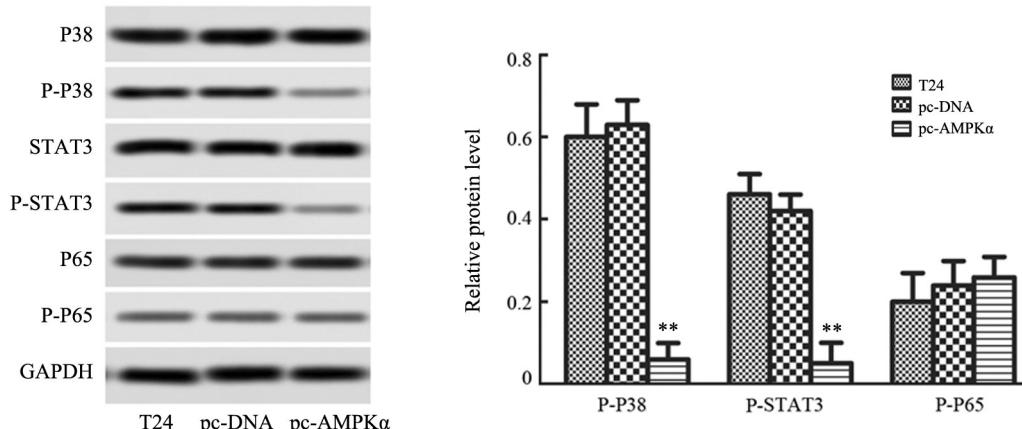
侵袭能力;且过表达AMPK α 后,STAT3和P38的磷酸化水平均受到明显抑制,说明AMPK α 的上调可以显著降低P-STAT3和P-P38活性,从而影响肿瘤T24细胞增殖、凋亡及侵袭迁移能力。



** $P<0.01$ vs T24 or pc-DNA group
A: Scratch healing assay; B: Transwell invasion assay (crystal violet staining, $\times 200$)

图4 AMPK α 过表达对T24细胞迁移与侵袭的影响

Fig. 4 Effect of AMPK over-expression on migration and invasion of T24 cells



** $P<0.01$ vs T24 or pc-DNA group
图5 AMPK α 过表达对T细胞中EMT相关通路分子表达的影响

Fig. 5 Effect of AMPK over-expression on the expression of EMT-related pathway molecules in T cells

综上,AMPK α 过表达对膀胱癌T24细胞增殖具有明显的抑制作用和凋亡促进作用;同时还可以有效地抑制T24细胞迁移、侵袭及EMT,这种对EMT抑制效果与STAT3和P38的磷酸化失活具有一定相关性。因此,靶向AMPK α 在膀胱癌治疗中具有重要意义。但AMPK激活后涉及的调控通路众多、复杂,明确具体信号转导机制并选择性阻断关键分子才能为临床靶向治疗膀胱癌提供一定的指导思路。

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[收稿日期] 2018-11-28

[修回日期] 2019-02-13

[本文编辑] 党瑞山