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· 基础研究 ·

lncRNA SBF2-AS1 通过调控 miR-140-5p/VEGFA 分子轴促进宫颈癌 HeLa 细胞上皮间质转化

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[摘要] 目的:探讨 lncRNA SBF2-AS1 通过调控 miR-140-5p/血管内皮生长因子 A(VEGFA)分子轴对宫颈癌 HeLa 细胞上皮间质转化(EMT)的影响。方法:细胞培养和转染后分为 NC、miR-140-5p mimic、miR-140-5p mimic+pcDNA-VEGFA、si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+pcDNA-VEGFA 及 si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+miR-140-5p mimic 组 5 组。采用 qPCR 检测 lncRNA SBF2-AS1 在宫颈癌组织及细胞系中的表达水平,双荧光素酶报告基因验证 lncRNA SBF2-AS1、miR-140-5p 与 VEGFA 的靶向关系,WB 检测 HeLa 细胞中 VEGFA 及 EMT 标志物 N-cadherin、Vimentin 和 E-cadherin 的表达水平,Transwell 实验检测 HeLa 细胞侵袭和迁移能力。结果:lncRNA SBF2-AS1 在宫颈癌组织及细胞系中高表达($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$) ,lncRNA SBF2-AS1 靶向结合 miR-140-5p,且 VEGFA 是 miR-140-5p 的靶基因($P<0.05$)。敲降 lncRNA SBF2-AS1 抑制 HeLa 细胞侵袭、迁移及 EMT。进一步实验证实,lncRNA SBF2-AS1 通过 miR-140-5p 上调 VEGFA 的表达水平,从而促进 HeLa 细胞侵袭、迁移及 EMT($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$)。结论:lncRNA SBF2-AS1 通过 miR-140-5p/VEGFA 分子轴促进 HeLa 细胞 EMT。

[关键词] lncRNA SBF2-AS1;miR-140-5p;血管内皮生长因子 A;宫颈癌;HeLa 细胞;上皮间质转化

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lncRNA SBF2-AS1 promotes epithelial-mesenchymal transition of cervical cancer cells via regulating miR-140-5p/VEGFA axis

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[Abstract] Objective: To investigate the effect of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 on epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of cervical cancer HeLa cell via regulating miR-140-5p/VEGFA (vascular endothelial growth factor A) axis. Methods: After cell culture and transfection, the cells were divided into 5 groups: NC group, miR-140-5p mimic group, miR-140-5p mimic+pcDNA-VEGFA group, si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+pcDNA-VEGFA group and si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+miR-140-5p mimic group. The expression level of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 in cervical cancer tissues and cell lines was detected by qPCR. The targeted relationship between lncRNA SBF2-AS1, miR-140-5p and VEGFA was confirmed by Dual luciferase reporter gene assay. The expression levels of VEGFA and EMT-related proteins N-cadherin, Vimentin and E-cadherin in HeLa cells were detected by WB. The invasion and migration of HeLa cells were detected by Transwell. Results: lncRNA SBF2-AS1 was highly expressed in cervical cancer tissues and cell lines ($P<0.05$ or $P<0.01$). Dual luciferase reporter gene assay confirmed that lncRNA SBF2-AS1 targetedly combined with miR-140-5p and VEGFA was a target gene of miR-140-5p ($P<0.05$). Knockdown of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 inhibited invasion and migration as well as EMT of HeLa cells. Further experiment confirmed that lncRNA SBF2-AS1 up-regulated the expression level of VEGFA via miR-140-5p, thereby promoting invasion, migration and EMT of HeLa cells. Conclusion: lncRNA SBF2-AS1 promotes EMT of HeLa cells via miR-140-5p/VEGFA axis.

[Key words] lncRNA SBF2-AS1; miR-140-5p; vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGFA); cervical cancer; HeLa cell; epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT)

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宫颈癌具有高发病率及高病死率等特点^[1],上皮间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)在宫颈癌发展中起到重要的作用,是宫颈癌患者预后较差的主要因素之一^[2]。近期研究^[3-4]发现,长链非编码 RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)参与调控宫颈癌 EMT 进程。同时,研究^[5]发现, lncRNA SBF2-

AS1 促进肝癌细胞的 EMT 进程。lncRNA 可以通过海绵吸附 miRNAs 从而影响肿瘤细胞恶性生物学行

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为,如lncRNA NORAD通过竞争性作用于hsa-miR-125a-3p,上调RhoA的表达水平,从而促进胰腺癌细胞EMT^[6];lncRNA Unigene56159通过海绵吸附作用抑制miR-140-5p的表达水平,从而促进肝癌细胞EMT^[7]。此外,有文献^[8-10]报道,血管内皮生长因子A(vascular endothelial growth factor A, VEGFA)在多种肿瘤中充当促癌因子,促进癌症细胞的EMT进程。但尚无文献报道lncRNA SBF2-AS1/miR-140-5p/VEGFA分子轴调控宫颈癌细胞EMT机制的研究。为此,本研究探讨lncRNA SBF2-AS1通过调控miR-140-5p/VEGFA分子轴,从而影响宫颈癌细胞EMT的机制,为宫颈癌的诊断和治疗提供新的靶标。

1 材料与方法

1.1 临床样本、细胞株和主要试剂

收集2015年1月至2018年6月江西省妇幼保健院经术后病理确诊为宫颈癌患者的癌组织和癌旁组织33例,患者术前均未接受放疗和化疗。33例患者中位年龄为50.1岁。临床分级:I级2例,II级11例,III级17例,IV3例。TNM分期:I期2例,II期12例,III期15例,IV期4例。组织标本取材清洗后立即液氮冷冻,-80℃保存。所有研究对象均签署知情同意书,本研究实施方案经医院伦理委员会批准。

人正常宫颈上皮细胞HUCEC(货号:YS452C)购自上海雅吉生物科技有限公司,宫颈癌细胞HeLa(货号:CBP600232)、C-33A(货号:CBP60707)、ME180(货号:CBP60645)购自Cobioer公司。

si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1/pcDNA-lncRNA SBF2-AS1、miR-140-5p mimic、pcDNA-VEGFA由上海北诺生物科技公司代为合成或构建,DMEM和胎牛血清购自美国Biological Industries公司,青霉素和链霉素均购自厦门惠嘉生物科技有限公司,引物序列购自擎科生物科技有限公司,Lipofectamine 2000和逆转录试剂盒均购自日本TaKaRa公司,高纯总RNA快速提取试剂盒购自北京康朗生物科技有限公司,SDS-PAGE凝胶快速制备试剂盒均购自美国Bio-Rad公司,免疫印迹一抗和二抗均购于购自美国CST公司,Transwell小室购自美国Corning公司,双荧光素酶报告基因试剂盒和报告基因载体均购自武汉金开瑞生物工程有限公司。

1.2 细胞培养

人正常宫颈上皮细胞HUCEC和宫颈癌细胞HeLa、C-33A和ME180均在常规条件下(DMEM培养液中胎牛血清浓度为10%,5%CO₂,37℃)过夜培养,待细胞生长至对数生长期时备用。

1.3 细胞转染

HUCEC、HeLa、C-33A和ME180细胞生长至对

数生长期后用胰酶消化、计数,然后接种于6孔板,培养24 h以备转染;严格按照Lipofectamine 2000试剂盒说明书将si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1/pcDNA-lncRNA SBF2-AS1、miR-140-5p mimic、pcDNA-VEGFA转染至HeLa细胞,转染48 h后在荧光显微镜下观察细胞的转染效果,并分为5组:NC、miR-140-5p mimic、miR-140-5p mimic+pcDNA-VEGFA、si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+pcDNA-VEGFA及si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+miR-140-5p mimic组。

1.4 qPCR检测宫颈癌组织及细胞系中lncRNA SBF2-AS1和miR-140-5p的表达水平

采用TRIzol提取转染后各组宫颈癌组织及细胞系中的总RNA,琼脂糖凝胶电泳检测RNA的浓度和纯度。随后,采用逆转录试剂盒合成cDNA,然后,严格按照SYBR GREEN试剂盒说明对lncRNA SBF2-AS1和miR-140-5p的表达水平进行检测。反应体系(20 μl)为:2 μl逆转录产物、10 μl SYBR Green Mix、0.4 μl ROX Reference Dye、上下游引物(10 μmol/L)各0.8 μl、6 μl dH₂O。PCR热循环参数为:95℃5 min、94℃变性30 s,60℃退火30 s,进行45个循环。以U6作为内参,lncRNA SBF2-AS1引物序列F:5'-AGACCAT-GTGGACCTGTCACTG-3', R: 5'-GTTGGAGTGG-TAGAAATCTGTC-3'; miR-140-5p F: 5'-TGTGTC-TCTCTCTGTGTCCTG-3', R: 5'-GGTATCCTGTCC-GTGGTTCTA-3'; U6 F: 5'-CTCGCTTCGGCAGCA-3', R: 5'-AACGCTTCACGAATTGCGT-3'。检测结果采用2^{-ΔΔCt}法进行计算。

1.5 WB实验检测转染后HeLa细胞中VEGFA及EMT标志物的表达水平

胰酶消化贴壁细胞,离心5 min,PBS溶液洗涤,弃上清,重复3次。运用细胞蛋白提取试剂盒提取HeLa细胞总蛋白,并进行BCA定量。分别取等量蛋白,采用10%SDS-PAGE分离蛋白,将分离的蛋白转移至聚偏二氟乙烯膜上,5%脱脂奶粉封闭1 h。加入一抗(1:1 000),4℃孵育过夜。次日,去除一抗,TBST清洗3次;加入稀释的二抗(1:5 000),室温孵育1 h;去除二抗,TBST清洗3次;加入ECL化学显色液置于凝胶系统中采集图像,Image J对蛋白条带进行半定量分析。

1.6 双荧光素酶报告基因验证lncRNA SBF2-AS1、miR-140-5p和VEGFA的靶向关系

取对数生长期的转染后HeLa细胞接种于24孔细胞培养板,孵育24 h,扩增lncRNA SBF2-AS1、miR-140-5p和VEGFA结合片段并导入到荧光素酶载体中构建野生型质粒。将结合片段部分核苷酸突变,获得突变型质粒。根据Lipofectamine 2000说明书进行

转染, 转染24 h后去除培养基, 用PBS冲洗细胞2次, 加入细胞裂解液, 涡旋混匀10 min, 12 000×g离心10 min, 转移上清至新的EP管。参考双荧光素酶试剂盒说明书进行染色, 以海肾荧光值作为内参, 采用酶标仪检测萤火虫和海肾荧光值。

1.7 Transwell实验检测HeLa细胞侵袭和迁移能力

胰酶消化细胞并用无血清培养基重悬, 在迁移实验中, 上室加入200 μl细胞悬液, 下室加入600 μl含有20%血清的培养基, 在37 °C, 5% CO₂的条件下孵育24 h, 棉签去除上室的残余细胞, 下室细胞用甲醛固定30 min后0.1%的结晶紫染色, PBS清洗3次, 干燥后置于显微镜(×200)下观察计数并进行统计分析。侵袭实验需在Transwell上小室中预铺人工基质胶, 其余操作同迁移实验。

1.8 统计学处理

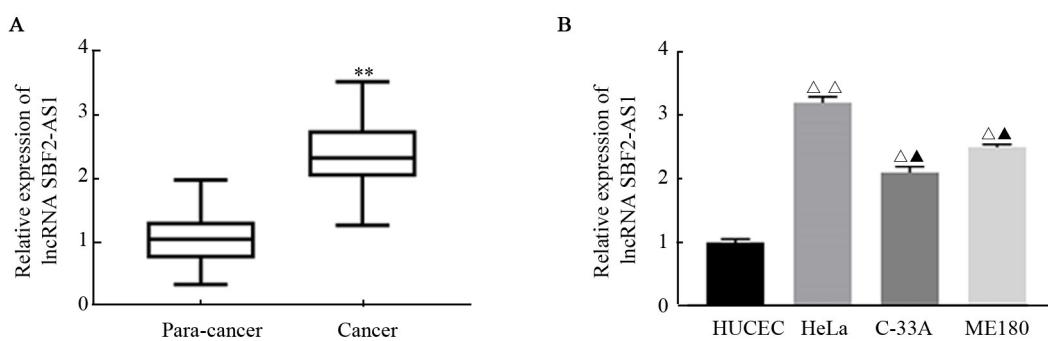
qPCR、WB、Transwell、双荧光素酶验证等实验均重

复3次。采用SPSS 20.0软件进行统计数据分析, 用GraphPad Prism 7软件绘图。计量数据以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示, 两组间比较采用t检验, 多组间比较采用单因素方差分析。以P<0.05或P<0.01表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结 果

2.1 lncRNA SBF2-AS1在宫颈癌组织及细胞系中呈高表达

qPCR检测结果显示, lncRNA SBF2-AS1在宫颈癌组织中的表达水平高于配对的癌旁组织(P<0.01, 图1A); 相对于人正常宫颈上皮细胞HUVEC, lncRNA SBF2-AS1在宫颈癌细胞系中高表达(P<0.05或P<0.01), 且在HeLa细胞中表达水平最高(均P<0.05, 图1B), 并选取HeLa细胞进行后续实验。上述结果表明, lncRNA SBF2-AS1的异常高表达可能与宫颈癌有密切的关系。



**P<0.01 vs Para-cancer group; △P<0.05, △△P<0.01 vs HUVEC group; ▲P<0.05 vs HeLa group

A: The expression of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 in cervical cancer tissues and Para-cancer tissues detected by qPCR;

B: The expression of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 in cervical cancer cell lines measured by qPCR

图1 lncRNA SBF2-AS1在宫颈癌组织及细胞系中的表达水平

Fig.1 Expression level of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 in cervical cancer tissues and cell lines

2.2 敲降lncRNA SBF2-AS1抑制HeLa细胞EMT

qPCR检测结果显示, 转染si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1后, lncRNA SBF2-AS1在HeLa细胞中表达水平显著低于对照组(P<0.01, 图2A)。WB实验检测结果显示, 转染si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1后, HeLa细胞中EMT标志蛋白N-cadherin及Vimentin表达水平显著下调(P<0.05, 图2B、C), E-cadherin表达水平显著上调(P<0.01, 图2B、C)。Transwell实验检测结果显示, 转染si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1后, HeLa细胞的侵袭和迁移数目显著下调(均P<0.01, 图2D、E)。上述结果表明, 敲降lncRNA SBF2-AS1能够显著抑制HeLa细胞侵袭、迁移及EMT、侵袭及迁移。

2.3 lncRNA SBF2-AS1和VEGFA竞争性吸附miR-140-5p

通过starBase数据库预测lncRNA SBF2-AS1、

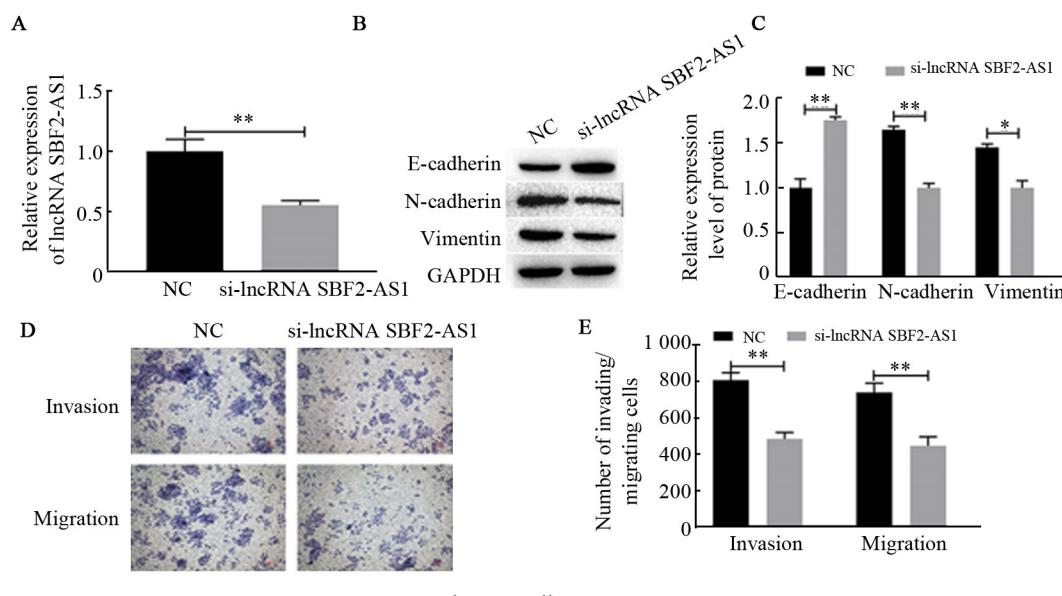
miR-140-5p和VEGFA间的靶向关系, 结果如图3A所示。双荧光素酶报告基因结果显示, 过表达miR-140-5p能够显著抑制lncRNA SBF2-AS1及VEGFA野生型质粒的荧光强度(P<0.05, 图3B、C), 且对lncRNA SBF2-AS1及VEGFA突变型质粒荧光强度无显著抑制(P>0.05)。qPCR检测结果显示, 敲降lncRNA SBF2-AS1能显著上调miR-140-5p的表达水平(P<0.01, 图3D); WB实验结果显示, 过表达miR-140-5p能够显著抑制VEGFA的表达水平(P<0.01, 图3E、F)。上述结果表明, lncRNA SBF2-AS1靶向负调控miR-140-5p且VEGFA是miR-140-5p的靶基因。

2.4 lncRNA SBF2-AS1通过miR-140-5p/VEGFA分子轴促进HeLa细胞EMT

qPCR检测结果显示, 过表达miR-140-5p显著上调miR-140-5p的表达水平(P<0.01, 图4A); WB检测

结果显示,过表达miR-140-5p显著下调EMT标志蛋白N-cadherin及Vimentin的表达水平,同时显著上调E-cadherin的表达水平($P<0.05$ 或 $P<0.01$,图4B、C);Transwell检测结果显示,过表达miR-140-5p显著抑制HeLa细胞的侵袭和迁移($P<0.01$,图4D、E),而miR-140-5p mimic+pcDNA-VEGFA、si-lncRNA SBF2-

AS1+pcDNA-VEGFA及si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+miR-140-5p mimic组中miR-140-5p、N-cadherin、Vimentin及E-cadherin的表达水平和HeLa细胞的侵袭和迁移情况与NC组无显著性差异(均 $P>0.05$)。由此可知,lncRNA SBF2-AS1与VEGFA竞争性吸附miR-140-5p,从而促进HeLa细胞EMT、侵袭及迁移。

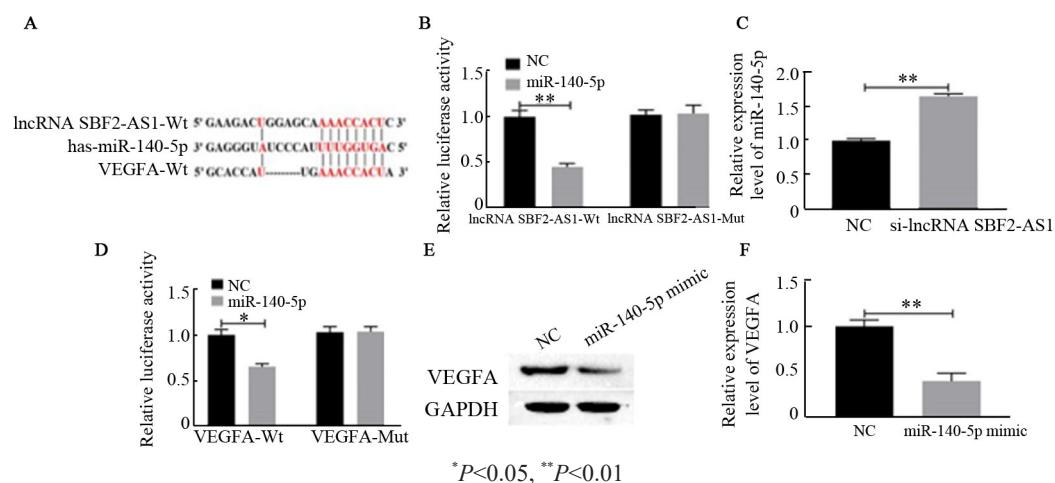


* $P<0.05$, ** $P<0.01$

A: The expression of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 detected by qPCR; B and C: Expressions of EMT related proteins in HeLa cells measured by WB; D and E: The invasion and migration of HeLa cells detected by Transwell assay ($\times 200$)

图2 敲降lncRNA SBF2-AS1对HeLa细胞EMT的影响

Fig.2 Effect of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 knockdown on EMT of HeLa cells



A: The targeted bond site of lncRNA SBF2-AS, miR-140-5p and VEGFA verified by starBase database; B and D: The luciferase activity detected by dual luciferase reporter gene assay; C: The regulated relationship of lncRNA SBF2-AS1 and miR-140-5p measured by qPCR; E and F: The regulated relationship of miR-140-5p and VEGFA measured by WB

图3 lncRNA SBF2-AS1和VEGFA竞争性吸附miR-140-5p

Fig.3 miR-140-5p was competitively sponged by lncRNA SBF2-AS1 and VEGFA

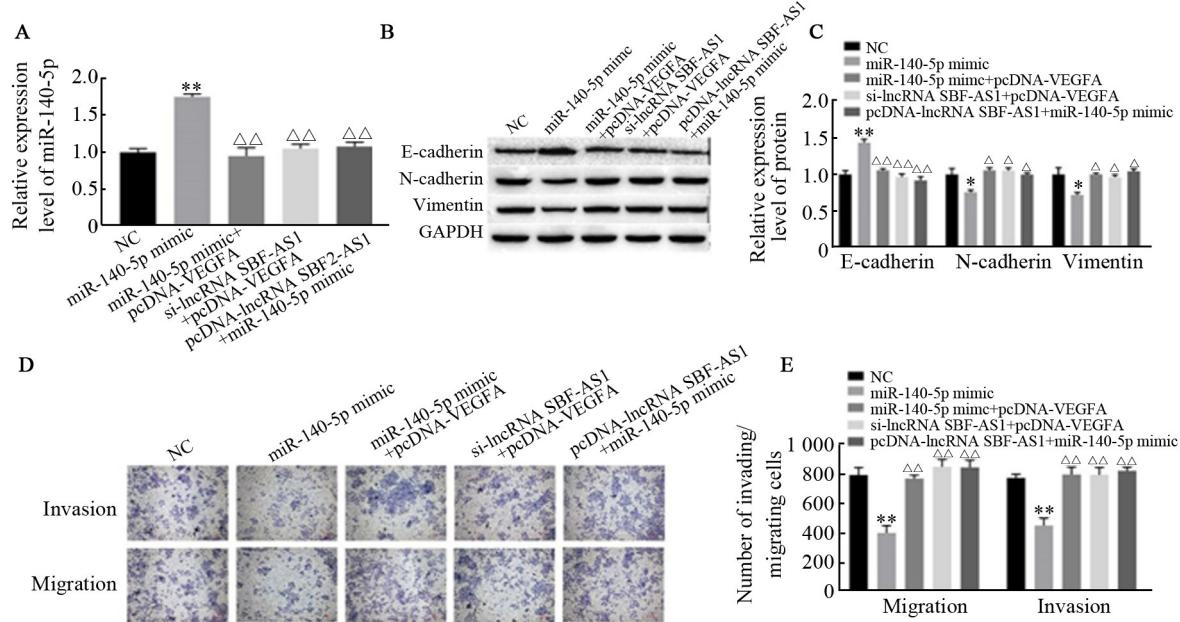
3 讨 论

宫颈癌细胞发生EMT是其预后较差的主要原因

之一^[1]。有文献^[12]报道,lncRNA参与调控肿瘤的EMT进程,如lncRNA HOST2通过激活JAK2/STAT3信号通路促进肝癌细胞的EMT进程及增殖、侵袭和

迁移;lncRNA SNHG7通过miR-34a调控增殖、凋亡、细胞周期及EMT的相关蛋白Notch1、BCL-2、CDK6及SMAD4,从而促进骨肉瘤细胞的增殖、EMT及抑制细胞凋亡^[13];lncRNA SBF2-AS1通过海绵吸附miR-140-5p上调TGFBR1的表达水平,从而抑制肝癌

细胞的侵袭、迁移及EMT进程^[14]。本研究发现,lncRNA SBF2-AS1在宫颈癌组织及细胞系中高表达,且敲降lncRNA SBF2-AS1能够有效抑制HeLa细胞的EMT进程及侵袭和迁移。



*P<0.05, **P<0.01 vs NC group; △P<0.05, △△P<0.01 vs miR-140-5p mimic group

A: The expression of miR-140-5p in HeLa cells detected by qPCR; B and C: The EMT related proteins in HeLa cells measured by WB; D and E: The invasion and migration of HeLa cells detected by Transwell assay ($\times 200$)

图4 lncRNA SBF2-AS1通过miR-140-5p/VEGFA分子轴促进HeLa细胞EMT

Fig.4 lncRNA SBF2-AS1 promoted EMT of HeLa cells via miR-140-5p/VEGFA axis

lncRNA通过海绵吸附作用抑制miRNA的表达水平,从而影响癌细胞的恶性生物学行为,如lncRNA AK002107通过海绵吸附miR-140-5p上调TGFBR1的表达水平,从而促进肝癌细胞的EMT进程^[15];lncRNA SNHG16通过竞争性吸附miR-140-5p上调ZEB1的表达水平促进食管癌细胞的增殖、迁移及EMT进程^[16]。本研究发现,lncRNA SBF2-AS1海绵吸附作用下调miR-140-5p的表达水平,从而促进HeLa细胞的EMT及侵袭迁移。此外,miR-140-5p作为抑癌因子在宫颈癌的发展进程中起到重要的调控作用,如miR-140-5p通过靶向下调IGF2BP1的表达水平抑制宫颈癌细胞的增殖和转移^[17];过表达lncRNA XIST下调miR-140-5p的表达水平,从而上调TGFBR1的表达水平,进而抑制宫颈癌细胞增殖、侵袭、迁移及EMT并诱导细胞凋亡^[18]。本研究发现,过表达miR-140-5p也抑制了宫颈癌HeLa细胞的侵袭、迁移及EMT。

VEGFA是VEGF家族的主要成员之一,在恶性肿瘤的EMT进程中起到重要的调控作用。研究^[19]发

现,敲降miR-466f-3p通过上调VEGFA及其受体Nrp2的表达水平,进而促进入神经管细胞瘤细胞的EMT;ZHONG等^[20]研究发现,circRNA-MYLK通过海绵吸附miR-29a减轻对VEGFA的抑制作用,VEGFA与VEGFR2结合激活下游Ras/ERK信号通路,从而促进膀胱癌EMT;CHEN等^[21]研究发现,VEGFA通过与VEGFR2受体结合,激活下游PI3K/AKT信号通路,并上调FLJ10540的表达水平及P110- α /P85- α (PI3K)复合物形成,进而促进肺癌侵袭迁移及EMT。本研究发现,lncRNA SNHG16通过竞争性结合miR-140-5p上调VEGFA的表达水平,进而促进宫颈癌HeLa细胞的侵袭、迁移及EMT。

综上所述,本研究发现lncRNA SNHG16和miR-140-5p结合位点与miR-140-5p和VEGFA结合位点一致,并且转染miR-140-5p mimic+pcDNA-VEGFA、si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+pcDNA-VEGFA及si-lncRNA SBF2-AS1+miR-140-5p mimic能逆转过表达miR-140-5p对HeLa细胞侵袭、迁移及EMT的促进作用,因此lncRNA SBF2-AS1海绵吸附miR-140-5p从而上

调VEGFA的表达水平,进而促进HeLa细胞侵袭、迁移及EMT。

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