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· 综述 ·

Hedgehog 信号通路在下颌骨发育过程中作用机制的研究进展

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【摘要】 下颌骨的发育来源及发育过程均与全身其他骨骼有着显著差异,其发育异常会导致各种骨相关疾病,严重影响了患者的生活质量。近年来 Hedgehog 信号通路在骨骼发育过程中的作用越来越受到关注。Hedgehog 基因包括 Sonic Hedgehog (Shh)、Indian Hedgehog (Ihh) 和 Desert Hedgehog (Dhh) 3 种亚型,其中 Shh 及 Ihh 可通过多种途径参与骨代谢调节,Shh 主要参与肢体发育过程,而 Ihh 主要是在软骨内成骨过程中发挥关键作用。Hedgehog 信号通路包括 Hedgehog 信号蛋白配体、Patched (Ptch) 受体、Smoothed (Smo) 受体、核内转录因子神经胶质瘤相关癌基因同源蛋白 (glioma-associated oncogene homologue, Gli) 和下游靶基因等。典型 Hedgehog 信号通路由 Gli 激活调控,而非典型 Hedgehog 信号主要由 Ptch、Smo 等调控。Shh 在早期脊椎动物胚胎形成过程中调控多种生物学行为,如器官的分化、神经干的形成、干细胞的分化增殖、四肢骨骼发育以及牙胚发育等;在骨细胞分化过程中,Shh、Ptch1 和 Gli1 在成骨细胞中均有表达,进一步促进骨髓间充质干细胞向成骨细胞和软骨细胞分化。Ihh 对骨骼生长发育以及稳态维持具有不可或缺的功能作用,参与膜内骨领的形成、软骨细胞的增殖和成熟,Ihh 在成熟的颅骨成骨细胞中表达,其可作为促成骨因子调控 Ptch 和骨形态发生蛋白 (bone morphogenetic protein, BMP) 的表达来诱导膜内骨化过程;脑和肌肉 ARNT 样蛋白 1 (brain and muscle ARNT-like 1, BMAL1) 可通过与 Ptch1 和 Ihh 结合,调节 Hedgehog 信号通路,在颞下颌关节的软骨形成和软骨内成骨过程中发挥关键作用;而 Hedgehog 信号激活剂可以改善由 BMAL1 缺失引起的下颌骨骨量减少。Hedgehog 信号失调会对骨发育过程产生重大影响,并导致一系列骨疾病如骨发育异常、骨折、骨质疏松和骨关节炎。然而,Hedgehog 信号通路在下颌骨疾病的相关作用机制尚未完全阐明,未来研究可进一步探讨 Hedgehog 信号作为治疗下颌骨发育相关疾病的潜在靶点。

【关键词】 Hedgehog 信号通路; 下颌骨; 髁突; 膜内成骨; 软骨内成骨; Sonic Hedgehog; Indian Hedgehog; 作用机制; 下颌骨发育异常; 颞下颌骨关节炎

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Research progress on the mechanism of the Hedgehog signaling pathway during mandibular development

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【Abstract】 The source and process of mandible development are significantly different from those of other bones in the body, and abnormal development can lead to various bone-related diseases, seriously affecting the quality of life of patients. In recent years, the role of the Hedgehog signaling pathway in bone development has received increasing attention. The Hedgehog gene includes three subtypes: Sonic Hedgehog (Shh), Indian Hedgehog (Ihh), and Desert Hedgehog (Dhh). Shh and Ihh can participate in bone metabolism regulation through various pathways, with Shh primarily involved in limb development and Ihh playing a key role in endochondral osteogenesis. The Hedgehog signaling pathway includes

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Hedgehog signaling protein ligands, Patched (Ptch) receptors, Smoothed (Smo) receptors, nuclear transcription factors, glioma-associated oncogene homologues (Gli), and downstream target genes. The activation of typical Hedgehog signaling pathways requires the involvement of Gli, whereas atypical Hedgehog signaling is mainly regulated by Ptch, Smo, and others. Shh regulates various biological behaviors during early vertebrate embryogenesis, such as organ differentiation, neural stem formation, stem cell differentiation and proliferation, limb bone development, and tooth germ development. During the process of bone cell differentiation, Shh, Ptch1, and Gli1 are expressed in osteoblasts, further promoting the differentiation of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells into osteoblasts and chondrocytes. Ihh plays an indispensable functional role in bone growth, development, and homeostasis and participates in the formation of intramembrane bone collars, proliferation, and maturation of chondrocytes. Ihh is expressed in mature skull osteoblasts and can act as a promoter of bone factor regulation of Ptch and bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) expression to induce intramembrane ossification. Brain and muscle ARNT-like protein 1 (BMAL1) can regulate the Hedgehog signaling pathway by binding to Ptch1 and Ihh, playing a crucial role in cartilage formation and endochondral osteogenesis in the temporomandibular joint. Hedgehog signal activators can improve the reduction in mandibular bone mass caused by BMAL1 deficiency. Hedgehog signaling imbalance can have a significant impact on bone development and lead to a series of bone diseases, such as abnormal bone development, fractures, osteoporosis, and osteoarthritis. The mechanism of the Hedgehog signaling pathway in relation to mandibular diseases has not been fully elucidated, and future research should seek to further explore Hedgehog signaling as a potential target for treating mandibular developmental-related diseases.

【Key words】 Hedgehog signaling pathway; mandible; condyle; intramembranous ossification; intramembranous ossification; Sonic Hedgehog; Indian Hedgehog; mechanism; abnormal development of the mandible; temporomandibular osteoarthritis

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下颌骨是颌面部骨中唯一能活动的体积最大、面积最广、位置最突出并与整个颅骨相对的骨,位于面部下1/3。其后上方的髁突是下颌骨的主要生长中心之一,与颞骨的关节窝及关节结节共同参与颞下颌关节的构成。下颌骨相关疾病严重影响患者面容、心理、言语以及生活质量等。脊椎动物 Hedgehog 信号通路保守且极其重要,多种类型细胞的分化、增殖以及组织和器官的发育都与该通路相关^[1]。颌面骨包括下颌骨在内的生长发育过程受到 Hedgehog 信号通路的影响^[2]。本文就 Hedgehog 信号通路在下颌骨发育过程中的相关作用机制进行综述。

1 下颌骨的发育

颌面骨与身体其他部位骨骼相比,在发育来源及发育过程方面均有着较大的差异。脊椎动物的骨骼来源于外胚层和中胚层,其中颌面骨来源于外胚层,身体其他部位的骨骼来自于中胚层。骨骼的发育过程主要包括膜内成骨和软骨内成骨,均开始于间充质细胞的凝聚。在凝聚过程中

间充质细胞分化为成骨细胞并直接形成骨骼即膜内成骨^[3],如颅面部骨骼中的额骨、顶骨、上颌骨等;在凝聚过程中间充质细胞分化为软骨细胞并经过严格控制的增殖、肥大和凋亡,软骨雏形最终被替换为骨即软骨内成骨^[4]。而下颌骨同时包括软骨内成骨和膜内成骨两种方式,其体部和支部主要通过膜内成骨发育而来,髁突通过软骨内成骨发育而来^[5]。

下颌骨发育始于神经嵴间充质细胞的聚集并形成下颌骨始基,这些细胞亚群分化成软骨细胞,形成麦克尔软骨(Meckel's cartilage)^[6]。在胚胎发育过程中,其作为下颌骨发育的支架可引导下颌骨的生长发育。胚胎第6周,在麦克尔软骨的侧方观察到结缔组织细胞致密区并分化出成骨细胞,接着出现膜内成骨过程,下颌骨骨化中心由此而来,此后骨化向各个方向扩展形成下颌骨体部和支部。

下颌骨髁突为继发性软骨(secondary type cartilages),这里的继发性软骨是相对于麦克尔软骨而言的,由于其在种系发生和个体发育过程中继发形成,因此其既受局部因素的影响又受生长因

素的影响。髁突软骨的生长发育始于胚胎第12周,通过软骨内成骨进一步骨化,起初形成一个锥形的软骨团,之后通过软骨膜内层的未分化细胞向软骨表面不断分化增殖,形成成熟的软骨细胞,分泌富含I型胶原纤维的基质,使软骨从表面向外扩大,继而矿化形成新骨,至20周时,仅有薄层软骨覆盖在髁突头部,这部分软骨将持续至出生后20岁,促进下颌骨在矢状向及垂直向的生长^[7]。

2 Hedgehog 信号通路

Hedgehog 信号通路是一种配体依赖性信号通路,在结构和功能上都很保守,参与了脊椎动物的胚胎发育、器官形成和肿瘤发生发展等生理及病理过程^[8]。Nusslein-Volhard等^[9]于1980年在果蝇中首次发现Hedgehog基因,因其突变会导致果蝇呈刺猬状而被命名。在哺乳动物中Hedgehog包括Sonic Hedgehog(Shh)、Indian Hedgehog(Ihh)和Desert Hedgehog(Dhh)3种亚型^[10-12]。

2.1 Hedgehog 信号通路的组成

Hedgehog 信号通路中包括众多因子,如Hedgehog信号蛋白配体、Patched(Ptch)受体、Smoothed(Smo)受体、核内转录因子神经胶质瘤相关癌基因同源蛋白(glioma-associated oncogene homologue, Gli)和下游靶基因等。Hedgehog信号蛋白配体发挥着启动整个信号通路的重要作用;Ptch是一种12次跨膜蛋白受体,包含2个同源基因Ptch1和Ptch2, Ptch1主要对Hedgehog信号通路起负性调节作用,而Ptch2主要对Ptch1起补充作用^[13];Smo是一种7次跨膜蛋白受体,起初被置于纤毛之外并处于静止状态,被Ptch触发后在纤毛中积累并抑制Ptch活性进而激活Hedgehog信号的传递^[14];Gli蛋白是具有锌指结构的核内转录因子,脊椎动物包含3种Gli蛋白,即Gli1、Gli2和Gli3,其中Gli1可被Hedgehog信号蛋白配体诱导进而发挥激活作用,而Gli2和Gli3是组成性表达的,根据通路激活的水平,它们既可以发挥激活作用也可以发挥抑制作用^[15],这是由于Gli2和Gli3具有N末端抑制区而Gli1没有,但三者均可参与下游靶基因的转录。

2.2 Hedgehog 信号通路的作用机制

经典Hedgehog信号传导过程中,初级纤毛是必不可少的,初级纤毛是一种从脊椎动物细胞表面凸起的微管结构,是Hedgehog信号通路的信号枢纽^[16]。Hedgehog配体与Ptch受体结合后。Ptch1失去活性并从纤毛中释放,而被激活的Smo则转运

到纤毛中并抑制蛋白激酶A(protein kinase A, PKA)、酪蛋白激酶1(casein kinase 1, CK1)和糖原合酶激酶3 β (glycogen synthase kinase 3 β , GSK3 β)等,随之触发融合抑制因子与Gli2/3结合体(Sufu-Gli2/3)的解离并释放有活性的Gli 2/3。Sufu-Gli是由Sufu和Gli蛋白组成的复合物,其中Sufu通过将Gli隔离在细胞质中发挥关键的负调控作用。随后激活的Gli2和Gli3进入细胞核并调节Hedgehog靶基因的转录,包括诱导Gli1以及Ptch1的表达,此过程发挥正调控作用,将进一步促进Hedgehog信号的激活。因此,Gli1的表达是Hedgehog信号通路激活的标志^[17]。

非典型Hedgehog信号途径的定义尚不明确,简单来说是指只对Hedgehog信号通路的一个或多个组成部分的信号反应,而不是上述总Hh-Ptch-Smo-Gli的典型通路,此外非典型Hedgehog信号通路也不需初级纤毛的参与^[18]。根据其调节机制,非典型Hedgehog信号传导主要分为两种类型:I型和II型。I型是Ptch介导即只需Ptch不需Gli的Hedgehog信号传导,包括IA型即Ptch通过募集促亡因子如胱天蛋白酶-9(caspase-9)、衔接蛋白DRAL(downregulated in rhabdomyosarcoma LIM-domain protein, DRAL)、TUCAN/CARDINAL(一种含有CARD即胱天蛋白酶募集结构域的蛋白质)等参与细胞凋亡,IB型即Ptch通过与细胞周期蛋白cyclin B1相互作用参与细胞周期调控。II型是Smo介导即只需Smo不需Gli的Hedgehog信号传导,即Smo通过激活小GTPases引起特定的细胞反应,小GTPases是一种单体G蛋白,作为分子开关,从而快速调节细胞过程,其中包括细胞骨架重建排列、细胞迁移和轴突导向进而调节细胞的协调运动。除此之外,任何独立于Smo的Gli激活模式也被称为非典型信号,即不依赖Smo但依赖Gli的Hedgehog信号传导,Gli转录因子的激活不受Gli的上游信号如Hedgehog配体、Ptch和Smo的调控,而受多种信号级联如转化生长因子- β (transforming growth factor- β , TGF- β)、快速加速纤维肉瘤(rapidly accelerated fibrosarcoma, RAF)-促分裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)、磷脂酰肌醇3-激酶(phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase, PI3K)-蛋白激酶B(protein kinase B, AKT)的调控^[17]。

目前,典型与非典型Hedgehog信号传导相比,典型Hedgehog信号通路得到了充分研究,但非典

型 Hedgehog 信号传导的确切机制尚不明确。但典型和非典型 Hedgehog 信号通路以及两者相互联系的信号调控网络均介导 Hedgehog 信号的功能^[19],对骨发育及维持骨稳态发挥着至关重要的作用^[20]。

3 Hedgehog 信号通路在下颌骨发育过程中的作用机制

3.1 Shh 在下颌骨发育过程中的作用机制

Shh 在哺乳动物中的表达最为广泛,尤其在早期脊椎动物胚胎形成过程中调控多种生物学行为,如器官的分化、神经干的形成、干细胞的分化增殖、四肢骨骼发育以及牙胚发育等^[21]。在骨细胞分化过程中,Shh、Ptc1 和 Gli1 在成骨细胞中均有表达,进一步促进骨髓间充质干细胞向成骨细胞和软骨细胞分化^[22-23]。有研究表明,Shh 受损会导致一系列头部中线包括下颌骨在内的颅面发育异常^[24]。半胱氨酸双加氧酶同源蛋白(brother of Cysteine dioxygenase type, BOC)作为 Hedgehog 信号的多功能调节因子也可通过差异性调节 Shh 来影响颅面发育过程^[25]。对于下颌麦尔软骨而言,有研究^[26]发现在小鼠胚胎 11 d 和 12.5 d 的下颌骨麦尔软骨中有 Shh 基因表达,且在较成熟软骨细胞表达有增强的趋势,表明 Shh 基因可能在早期下颌骨形成中发挥作用;而在相对成熟的细胞中表达较强,表明 Shh 还可能参与促进软骨细胞的成熟与分化;在胚胎 14.5 d 颌面部发育完成后,Shh 基因 mRNA 表达消失,表明了 Shh 对麦尔软骨发育调控具有阶段性,在麦尔软骨晚期发育中作用不大。研究者发现 Wnt1-Cre 小鼠(Smofl/fl; Wnt1-Cre)下颌骨形成过程表现出异常,同时在小鼠下颌骨的上皮细胞中观察到 Ptc1 和 Gli1 的表达上调^[27]。转录因子 Meis2 可以调节口腔上皮细胞中 Shh 的表达,其缺失会导致舌头和下颌骨的发育受损^[28]。上面提到,初级纤毛是 Hedgehog 信号通路的信号枢纽,有研究显示初级纤毛同样也参与了软骨内成骨和膜内成骨过程,如成骨细胞和骨细胞中纤毛蛋白 Ift88 在骨骼稳态中发挥重要作用^[29]。另一种纤毛蛋白 Kif3a 的缺失也会导致颅面部发育障碍^[30]。在颅面骨发育过程中,初级纤毛在许多区域限制骨形成^[31],例如许多纤毛病患者都伴有下颌骨异常的表现,其控制下颌骨的分子机制在下颌骨不同区域之间不同,其可能通过 Hedgehog 信

号调节下颌骨形成的方向^[32]。然而,它们在下颌骨发育过程中的具体作用机制尚不明确。Shh 信号在牙齿发育的不同阶段也发挥着必不可少的作用,调控牙齿包括牙釉质、牙本质、牙骨质以及其他软组织的形成^[33]。

3.2 Ihh 在下颌骨发育过程中的作用机制

Ihh 对骨骼生长发育以及稳态维持具有不可或缺的功能作用,其主要由前肥大软骨细胞分泌^[23],参与膜内骨领的形成,软骨细胞的增殖和成熟,甲状旁腺激素相关蛋白(parathyroid hormone-related protein, PTHrP)在关节周围组织的表达以及软骨内成骨^[7]。在颅面部骨骼发育过程中,Hedgehog 信号传递必不可少,最近其成为颅骨骨缝结合生物学研究的焦点。其中对 Ihh 蛋白水平升高的早闭模型的研究发现,Ihh 过表达与颅缝早闭呈正相关^[34]。Ihh 在成熟的颅骨成骨细胞中表达,其可作为促成骨因子调控 Ptc 骨形态发生蛋白(bone morphogenetic protein, BMP)的表达来诱导膜内骨化过程^[34]。而 Ihh^{-/-}小鼠的颅骨更小,面积、厚度和矿化程度减小,骨缝变宽。条件性敲除 Ihh 基因的幼年小鼠同时表现为软骨祖细胞和软骨细胞增殖减少;并且随着小鼠生长,髌突软骨内的细胞表现为软骨细胞凋亡率增加、异常肥大、空间分布紊乱,并且会造成软骨下骨退化^[35]。脑和肌肉 ARNT 样蛋白 1(brain and muscle ARNT-like 1, BMAL1)可通过与 Ptc1 和 Ihh 结合,调节 Hedgehog 信号通路,影响其下游级联来调节其靶点,在颞下颌关节的软骨形成和软骨内成骨过程中发挥关键作用。而 Hedgehog 信号激活剂如 Ptc1 以及 SAG 可以改善由 BMAL1 缺失引起的下颌骨骨量减少^[36]。SAG 是一种特异性的 Hh 信号激活剂,据报道可在骨发育不良模型中促进骨生长^[37],其可能通过间接增加 Ihh 的表达来实现此过程^[38]。许多信号通路参与调节生长板中的软骨细胞分化和肥大,其中 Ihh 和 PTHrP 反馈回路发挥关键作用。Vortkamp 等^[39]在 1996 年首次证实 Ihh 和 PTHrP 之间存在负反馈调节机制,胎儿长骨发育过程中软骨细胞的增殖和分化过程就受到此调节机制的控制。Ihh 促进了颞下颌骨关节炎的发展,而抑制 Ihh 则减轻了颞下颌骨关节炎的严重程度^[40],Ihh 的这种作用很可能是通过 PTHrP 信号通路实现的。有研究发现,抑制 Ihh 可通过甲状旁腺激素受体 1 信号依赖机制使颞下颌关节骨关节炎有所改善^[41]。

4 Hedgehog信号通路与下颌骨相关疾病

Hedgehog信号失调会对骨发育过程产生重大影响,并导致一系列骨疾病如骨发育异常、骨折、骨质疏松和骨关节炎^[1]。而应用Hedgehog抑制剂对进行性骨发育异常综合征有很好的治疗效果;增强骨折患者的Hedgehog信号传导可能改善骨修复过程;此外,Hedgehog和Wnt/ β -catenin信号的低表达可改善骨质疏松症中的骨形成不足或软组织中的异位骨化^[42]。软骨细胞中Hedgehog信号的上调可导致骨关节炎中的关节软骨退化,而其在软骨细胞中的抑制可能逆转软骨退化,因此有研究证实靶向抑制Gli1成骨祖细胞中的Hedgehog信号可以调节骨关节炎中的骨稳态进而减轻颞下颌骨关节炎,这为治疗颞下颌骨关节炎提供了一种潜在的方法^[43]。同时有研究者提出Ihh信号通路在成年大鼠咬合创伤引起的颞下颌骨关节炎的早期阶段起着关键作用,其通过驱动软骨细胞肥大进而促进颞下颌骨关节炎的发展,这对研究颞下颌骨关节炎软骨变性的病理机制提供了重要价值^[40]。

5 总结与展望

综上所述,下颌骨无论是从发育来源还是发育过程都比较特殊,Hedgehog信号通路在下颌骨发育过程中至关重要。然而,还需要进一步明确临床干预Hedgehog信号相关潜在靶点,为下颌骨创伤及患有先天性下颌骨发育畸形的患者开发新的药物提供新方向。

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