胚胎干细胞向肝实质细胞体外 定向诱导分化过程中的肝卵圆细胞*

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摘要如果肝脏严重受损致使肝细胞大部分坏死,或由于某些原因(肝毒性物质、致癌物质的作用)抑制残存肝细胞增殖时,肝内前体/干细胞——肝卵圆细胞便被激活并分化生成肝细胞和胆管细胞等以参与肝修复.基于此理论,人们建立了啮齿类动物肝卵圆细胞诱导实验模型.但显然上述模型不适用于人类,所以有必要开发一种适用于人类的、高效的肝卵圆细胞的新诱导模型.选用小鼠胚胎干细胞,转成拟胚体分化3天后分组,诱导组添加肝细胞生长因子(HGF)、表皮生长因子(EGF)作定向诱导分化.其间用免疫细胞化学(ICC)检测肝卵圆细胞标志物A6等的表达,用流式细胞仪筛选肝卵圆细胞并行 RT-PCR、透射电镜检测.所筛选的肝卵圆细胞进一步体外培养并进行 ICC 和 RT-PCR,检测其分化生成成熟的肝细胞和胆管细胞的能力.研究证实胚胎干细胞体外定向诱导生成肝实质细胞的过程中,存在着有双向分化能力的肝卵圆细胞这个中间分化阶段.诱导组肝卵圆细胞分化率均显著地高于对照组,最高时可达 6.11%左右.HGF 和 EGF 能显著性诱导胚胎干细胞源性卵圆细胞的生成.流式细胞仪筛选 Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺ 细胞占总细胞数的 4.59%,其中 A6 阳性肝卵圆细胞占 90.81%左右.使用流式细胞仪可获得高富集的 A6⁺/Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺ 肝卵圆细胞.提供了一种可适用于人类的肝卵圆细胞的新诱导模型.

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肝卵圆细胞 (hepatic oval cell) 作为一种肝干细 胞 (hepatic stem cell),是指那些能向肝细胞和胆管 上皮细胞分化,并具有自我更新能力的成体干细 胞. 肝卵圆细胞最初是在 1958 年 Leduc 和 Wilson 用电镜研究药物诱导小鼠肝损伤后局部形态变化时 发现的.如果肝脏严重受损致使肝细胞大部分坏死, 或由于某些原因(肝毒性物质、致癌物质的作用) 抑制残存肝细胞增殖时,肝内卵圆细胞便被激活. 正是基于这个理论,人们建立了啮齿类动物肝卵圆 细胞较成熟的实验模型:食物中持续添加低剂量 2-乙酰氨基芴 (2-acetylaminofluorene, 2-AAF) 加上 三分之二肝切除四,或者食物中添加3.5-二乙羰基 -1,4- 二氢 - 三甲基吡啶 (3,5-diethoxycarbonyl-1, 4-dihydro-collidine, DDC)四等. 这些卵圆细胞诱导模 型的建立和发展,极大地促进了人们对啮齿类动物 肝卵圆细胞的研究.研究肝卵圆细胞的根本目的是 为了将来能直接或间接用于治疗人类疾病,诸如肝 衰、肝代谢疾病,但显然上述的卵圆细胞诱导模型 不适用于人类. 能否找到一种适用于人类的、高效 的肝卵圆细胞的新诱导模型呢?骨髓源性间充质干 细胞在一定条件下可以分化生成卵圆细胞,但其产量并不多(低于 2%)^[3].胚胎干细胞 (embryonic stem cell,ESC)是由哺乳动物早期胚泡的内细胞团中分离出的一类未分化二倍体细胞,具有自我更新和全能分化的潜能^[4].特定条件下胚胎干细胞能保持未分化状态并可无限扩增,是一种无限的细胞来源.已有多项研究结果表明,胚胎干细胞能分化生成成熟的肝细胞^[5~7].我们先前的研究也证实了这一点^[8].基于此,我们推断在胚胎干细胞向成熟肝细胞的分化过程中应存在着一个肝干细胞中间分化阶段.可无限扩增的胚胎干细胞理论上便可产生足够多的肝干细胞,若能将这个中间分化阶段的肝干细胞分选出来,毫无疑问对将来肝干细胞的临床应用有着重大的意义.Petersen 等^[9]发现 A6 阳性的小鼠

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肝卵圆细胞亦表达 CD34、Sca-1 等造血细胞表面 标志物,并籍此用流式细胞仪分选出了高富集的 A6 阳性肝卵圆细胞. 肝细胞生长因子(hepatocyte growth factor, HGF)、表皮生长因子 (epidermal growth facter, EGF)和转生长因子 α(transforming growth factor α, TGF-α)是参与肝再生过程的 3 个 最重要的因子. HGF 和 EGF 可通过促有丝分裂作 用促进肝卵圆细胞的增殖,并对肝卵圆细胞分化生 成肝细胞有促进作用 [10-13]. 但 HGF 和 EGF 是否对 诱导胚胎干细胞定向分化生成肝卵圆细胞有作用, 尚无相关报道,因此我们选用 HGF 和 EGF 作为胚 胎干细胞经肝卵圆细胞向肝细胞分化的定向诱导 剂.本研究中,我们首次证实在此过程中存在着肝 卵圆细胞中间分化阶段,其肝卵圆细胞产量显著高 于对照组,并使用流式细胞仪分选出的 CD34+/ Sca-1⁺细胞亦有较高含量的 A6 阳性肝卵圆细胞.

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验材料

1.1.1 胚胎干细胞的来源.选取中山大学实验动物 中心建系的 Balb/c 系小鼠胚胎干细胞.

1.1.2 细胞培养基.

胚胎干细胞培养基: 含高糖和谷氨酰胺的 DMEM (Dubecco's modifided Eagle's medium) (美国 Hyclone 公司), 含 20%胎牛血清(杭州四季清公 司), 1 000 U/ ml 重组小鼠白血病抑制因子 (recombinant murine leukemia inhibitory factor, LIF) (ESGRO[®] -Chemicon 公司), 0.1 mmol/L β- 巯基乙 醇(Invitrogen 公司), 25 mmol/L HEPES (Invitrogen 公司), 100 U/ml 青霉素和 100 mg/L 链霉素 (Invitrogen 公司).

分化阶段基本培养基: 与胚胎干细胞培养基 相比较,不含 LIF,胎牛血清的浓度变为 15%,并 添加了 0.1 mmol/L 非必需氨基酸(Invitrogen 公司), 其余成分相同.

1.1.3 细胞生长因子. 肝细胞生长因子(hepatocyte growth factor, HGF), 表皮生长因子(epidermal growth facter, EGF)(Peprotech 公司).

1.1.4 免疫细胞化学及流式细胞术试剂和仪器.大鼠 A6 单克隆抗体由美国国家健康研究院癌症研究中心 Factor 教授(National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD)惠赠,抗小鼠 / 人白蛋白 (albumin, ALB) 单克隆抗体 (R&D 公司). SABC 免疫组化试剂盒 (武汉博士德公司). PE-Cy5 共轭的抗小鼠 Sca-1 单克隆抗体(eBioscience 公司), R-PE 共轭的抗小鼠 CD34 单克隆抗体 (BD Pharmingen 公司), FITC 共轭的抗小鼠 CD45 单克隆抗体 (Biolegend 公司).

带拍摄系统(日本 NIKON E4500)的倒置相差显 微镜(日本 Nikon Eclipse TS100). 流式细胞仪为 BECTON DICKINSON FACScalibur Flow Cytometers.

1.1.5 RT-PCR 试剂. Trizol (TRI REAGENT[®] - 美国 MRC 公司), cDNA 合成试剂盒、PCR 试剂盒 (美国 Fermentas 公司). 引物合成由上海生工生物工程公司合成. 引物序列见表 1.

Types of mRNA	Length of the amplified fragment	Primer sequences	Annealing temperature
a-Fetoprotein	423 bp	5' ACT CAC CCC AAC CTT CCT GTC 3' forward 5' CAG CAG TGG CTG ATA CCA GAG 3' reverse	56℃
Albumin	452 bp	5' CAT GAC ACC ATG CCT GCT GAT 3' forward 5' CTC TGA TCT TCA GGA AGT GTA C 3' reverse	53 °C
Cytokeratin 19	569 bp	5' GTC CTA CAG ATT GAC AAT GC 3' forward 5' CAC GCT CTG GAT CTG TGA CAG 3' reverse	53 °C
Cytokeratin 18	515 bp	5' GGA CCT CAG CAA GAT CAT GGC 3' forward 5' CCA CGA TCT TAC GGG TAG TTG 3' reverse	55°C
Cytokeratin 8	561 bp	5' AGT CTC AGA TCT CAG ACA CG 3' forward 5' CCA TAG GAT GAA CTC AGT CC 3' reverse	55°C
Glucose-6- phosphatase	438 bp	5' AAC CCA TTG TGA GGC CAG AGG 3' forward 5' TAC TCA TTA CAC TAG TTG GTC 3' reverse	55°C
Biliary glycoprotein	407 bp	5' GAA CTA GAC TCT GTC ACC CTG 3' forward 5' GCC AGA CTT CCT GGA ATA GA 3' reverse	53 °C
β-actin	203 bp	5' TTC CTT CTT GGG TAT GGA AT 3' forward 5' GAG CAA TGA TCT TGA TCT TC 3' reverse	

Table 1 Primers for RT-PCR

1.1.6 透射电镜为 PHILIPS TECNAL 10.

1.2 实验方法

1.2.1 胚胎干细胞培养及向肝实质细胞定向诱导分化.

a. 胚胎干细胞的培养:将液氮中冻存的 Balb/c 胚胎干细胞快速取出,立即置于 37℃温水中快速 解冻复温 (1~2 min 内),终止液清洗后离心弃上清, 加入胚胎干细胞培养基,适中密度转种于一次性塑 料培养瓶中,置于 37℃ 5% CO₂培养箱中,每天换 液 1 次,每 2~3 天传代 1 次.

b. 生成拟胚体:将胚胎干细胞转至玻璃培养 瓶中,用分化阶段基本培养基重悬,摇动培养法培 养(每1h摇动培养瓶1次,保持细胞悬浮生长以 发育为拟胚体).每天换液1次,培养3天.开始培 养拟胚体的当天作为分化的第1天.

c.向肝实质细胞定向诱导分化: 拟胚体培养 3 天后,转至塑料培养板或培养瓶并分组,诱导组加 入含 HGF (30 μg/L)和 EGF (100 μg/L)的分化阶段 基本培养基,对照组仅加入分化阶段基本培养基, 使其自然随机分化.

1.2.2 免疫细胞化学(immunocytochemistry, ICC).

染色程序大体如下:培养细胞用冷的4%多聚 甲醛室温固定,检测ALB抗原时用0.3%Triton X-100破膜.H₂O₂甲醇灭活内源性过氧化物酶,5% BSA 封闭. 一抗稀释后(A6-McAb1:20; ALB-McAb1:100)4℃孵育过夜,生物素化二抗及 SABC,依次37℃孵育,PBS充分冲洗后,新鲜 配制的DAB室温显色(镜下控制反应时间),苏木 素轻度复染,常规梯度酒精脱水封片镜检.阴性对 照则用PBS替代一抗孵育,其余步骤不变.

1.2.3 A6 阳性卵圆细胞百分率.

诱导组和对照组消化后的单细胞及流式细胞仪 分选细胞进行 A6 抗原染色,其染色程序大体同 ICC,DAB 显色后滴在载玻片上镜检并细胞计数. 每个样品取 3 次,每次均随机取 5 个视野计数 A6 阳性细胞数与总细胞数,两者的比例即为 A6 阳性 卵圆细胞百分率.诱导组和对照组结果进行统计学 分析 (*t* 检验), *P* < 0.01 时为差异显著性.

1.2.4 逆转录聚合酶链反应(RT-PCR).

对流式细胞仪分选的 CD34⁺ / Sca-1⁺/ CD45⁺ 细胞及其培养 20 天的细胞群进行 RT-PCR 分析.用 Trizol 抽提细胞总 RNA, RT 和 PCR 大体按试剂盒 说明书操作. 合成的 cDNA 于 94℃变性 1 min,退 火 1 min, 72℃延伸 1 min,共 30 个循环. PCR 产 物于 1%琼脂糖凝胶电泳成像. 1.2.5 流式细胞术分析 (flow cytometric analysis).

诱导组及对照组的细胞适当消化(0.25% Trypsin-1mmol/L EDTA·4Na),并充分吹打成单细 胞悬液,0.1 mmol/L 的 PBS 清洗细胞后,计数细 胞约取 1×10⁶ 个,加入 2.5 μl抗小鼠 Sca-1 -PE-Cy5、0.5 μl抗小鼠 CD45-FITC、10 μl抗小鼠 CD34-PE 及 7 μl 的 PBS,混匀后避光室温孵育 20 min. PBS 清洗并重悬后上机检测.

1.2.6 透射电镜检测 (transmission electron microscopy, TEM).

流式细胞仪分选的三阳细胞 4℃下用 2.5%戊二醛 固定 4h, PBS 充分清洗后用 1% OsO₄ 预固定 30 min, 梯度酒精脱水后用环氧树脂包埋. 制备超薄切片并用 醋酸双氢铀及枸橼酸铅染色后透射电镜观察.

2 结 果

2.1 胚胎干细胞及其向肝实质细胞诱导分化过程 中的细胞生长状态

胚胎干细胞克隆增殖、生长迅速,细胞紧密排列,界限不清(图 1a).消化用分化阶段基本培养基 重悬后摇动培养,胚胎干细胞相互聚集形成透明的 球形拟胚体(图 1b).3天后,分组加入塑料培养板 或培养瓶中,3~4h 拟胚体贴壁后诱导组换用含 HGF和EGF的培养基,开始诱导分化.分化细胞 群以拟胚体着壁处为中心向四周辐射生长,诱导组 的分化细胞群为形态较均一的上皮细胞,呈铺路石 样(图 1c).而对照组的分化细胞群较复杂,形态不 单一,三角形、圆形、梭形细胞相混生长(图 1d).

2.2 胚胎干细胞向肝实质细胞诱导分化过程中细胞 A6 抗原和 ALB 抗原的表达

分化的第6、9、12、15 天对 ESC 定向诱导分 化子代细胞群,用免疫细胞化学检测了 A6 抗原和 ALB 抗原的表达.第6天已有 A6 抗原表达,图 2 a~d 示第9天诱导组分化细胞群 A6 抗原的表达. A6 阳性卵圆细胞主要散布在拟胚体着壁后所形成 的细胞集落之中,以及外周分化较成熟细胞群之间 的小集落中(图 2a).细胞集落的上部夹杂着一个 A6 阳性卵圆细胞,它的旁边有一个双核肝细胞 (图 2b).细胞集落的左下方可见 2 个长梭形的 A6 阳性胆管上皮样细胞(图 2d).图 2 e 示第15 天诱导 组分化细胞群 ALB 抗原的表达,可见多个 ALB 阳 性双核肝细胞.图 2f 示流式细胞仪分选的 CD34⁺/ Sca-1⁺/ CD45⁺细胞培养第15 天后的 ALB⁺ 肝细胞, 其中可见多个双核肝细胞.



Fig.1 The morphological characterization of ESCs differentiation into hepatic parenchyma cells

(a) ESCs formed many colonies, and the bounds of the ESC could not be told for its tightly development (200×). (b) EBs appear to be translucent spheres (200×). (c) The differentiation descendants from induced groups after cultured for 8 days. The cells have a homogeneous morphological characterization which is like slabstone (100×). (d) The differentiation descendants from control groups when cultured for 8 days. The cells have a complicated morphological characterization which may appear round, triangle, shuttle, etc (100×).



Fig.2 Immunocytochemistry for A6 and ALB antigens on the cells during the course of ESCs' hepatic differentiation (a)~(d) show the A6⁺ cells from the induced group after cultured for 9 days (long arrows). (b)~(d) are the local magnification of (a). (b) The A6⁺ oval cells could be found in the upside of the colony, and beside it there is a binuclear hepatocyte (arrowhead). An A6⁺ biliary epithelial-like cell which looks like long shuttle(short arrows). (c) The A6⁺ oval cells lie on the margin and vicinity of the colony. (d) Two A6⁺ biliary epithelial-like cells(short arrows). (e) The ALB⁺ hepatocytes after cultured for 15 days, and several binuclear hepatocyte could be found (arrowhead). (f) The ALB ⁺ hepatocytes when the sorted cells re-cultured for 15 days, and some were binuclear too (arrows). (g) Negative control. The positive cells appear to be brown, and the nuclear appear to be blue(dyed by hematoxylin). (a), (g) ×100, (b), (c), (d), (e), (f)×200

2.3 胚胎干细胞的肝系定向诱导分化过程中卵圆 细胞的流式细胞术分析

取分化第6天的诱导组和对照组的分化子代细胞进行流式细胞术分析,结果见图3.以 Sca-1为初筛指标,之后检测 Sca-1+细胞群中 CD34、 CD45的分布情况.诱导组的分化子代细胞中 Sca-1+/

CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ 占总细胞数的 4.59%, 而对照组的 只有 0.64%的为三阳. R1 区中的细胞以小细胞为 主,大多数细胞结构复杂性较小.分析数据表示 Sca-1⁺ 的细胞几乎均共表达 CD45, 因此 CD45 在 本实验体系中无明显筛选作用.



Fig.3 FACS analysis of the oval cells populations during the course of ESCs' hepatic differentiation
(a) R1 scatter plots demarcated the analyzed cell population. (b) Gate R2 define the sca-1⁺ cell population (using Sca-1 PE-Cy5-conjugated antibody). (c) A density plot of the further enriched sca-1⁺ cell population using both CD34 PE-conjugated antibody and CD45 FITC-conjugated antibody. UL represents CD34⁺ / CD45⁻, UR represents CD34⁺ / CD45⁺, LL represents CD34⁻ / CD45⁻, LR represents CD34⁻ / CD45⁺. Approximately 4.59% of the R1 cells are Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ in the induced group, whereas approximately 0.64% in the control group. Almost all the sca-1⁺ cells express CD45.

2.4 流式细胞仪筛选三阳细胞行 A6 标志物的检测、RT-PCR 及透射电镜

我们检测了对照组流式细胞仪筛选三阳细胞 A6抗原的表达(图 4),其中 A6⁺ 卵圆细胞的占 (90.81±1.95)%,部分细胞呈强阳性,而非三阳细 胞中 A6⁺ 卵圆细胞占(1.47±0.19)%. Sca-1⁺ 细胞几 乎均共表达 CD45. 新鲜筛选的三阳细胞 RT-PCR 结果见图 5a,可见肝细胞标志物 AFP、ALB,胆 管细胞标志物 cytokeratin19,肝系细胞标志物 cytokeratin8、cytokeratin18 均有阳性带,而成熟肝 细胞标志物 glucose-6-phosphatase 和成熟胆管细胞 标志物 biliary glycoprotein 为阴性;图 5b为筛选 Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺细胞培养了 20 天细胞群的 RT-PCR 结果,与图 5a 不同的是,AFP 不表达,而 glucose-6-phosphatase 和 biliary glycoprotein 则有阳 性条带.透射电镜结果见图 6,卵圆细胞体积较小, 约 7~15 μm 左右,胞核大而胞浆较少,核浆比例 高,核呈卵圆形,可见浓缩的染色质,核浆内细胞 器较少,可见少量线粒体及粗面内质网,细胞边缘 可见少量微绒毛.



Fig.4 The A6 antigen expression of the Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ cells populations sorted by FACS from the induced group
(a) Most of the Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ cells (90.81±1.95)% are A6 positive, and some show strong positive. (b) Only a few none Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ cells are A6 positive (1.47±0.19)%. (c) Negative control. The positive cells appear to be brown. (a), (b), (c) ×100



Fig.5 RT-PCR analysis

(a) The result of the Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ cells populations sorted by FACS. The hepatocyte marker (AFP, ALB), the biliary epithelial marker CK19, and hepatic marker (CK8, CK18) are positive, whereas glucose-6phosphatase (G6Pase) expressed by mature hepatocyte and biliary glycoprotein (BG) expressed by mature biliary epithelial are negative. (b) The result of the re-cultured descendants (cultured for 20 days). All the markers except for AFP are positive. BG indicated biliary glycoprotein, G6Pase indicated glucose-6-phosphatase. β-actin was used as the endogenous control.



Fig.6 TEM analysis of the Sca-1⁺ / CD34⁺ / CD45⁺ cell populations sorted by FACS

The cell assumed an oval-shaped appearance is small (approximately 10 μm). It shows a large nuclei/cytoplasm ratio; ovoid nucleus, condensed chromatin; few organelles including mitochondria, rough endoplasmic reticulum; a few microvilli on the surface of the cell. 2.5 胚胎干细胞向肝实质细胞诱导分化过程中卵 圆细胞的分化率

分化的第5、7、9、11天将诱导组和对照组各 取样消化成单细胞悬液进行 A6-McAb 染色, DAB 显色后滴在载玻片上镜检计数(图 7). 所得的两组卵圆细胞的分化率见表 2, t 检验结果示同期诱导组卵圆细胞的分化率比对照组的高,且有显著性差异.



Fig.7 The differentiation ratio of the A6* hepatic oval cells during the course of ESCs' hepatic differentiation

The freshly isolated cells from the induced group and the control group were tested on the expression of A6 antigen by ICC. By using isolated cells from 3 different samples from differentiating system someday as well as performing 3 separate ICC staining procedures, we counted 5 random fields from each sample. The A6 positive rate was calculated to determine the differentiation ratio of hepatic oval cells (the result also see Table 2). (a) The induced group. (b) The control group. (c) Negative control. The positive cells appear to be brown. $\times 100$

differentiation					
	Day 5	Day 7	Day 9	Day 11	
The induced group	(2.21±0.16)%	(6.11±0.28)%	(3.64±0.29)%	(1.38±0.18)%	
The control group	(0.14±0.05)%	(0.43±0.06)%	(0.32±0.04)%	(0.22±0.04)%	
Р	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	< 0.01	

 Table 2
 The differentiation ratio of the A6* hepatic oval cells during the course of ESCs' hepatic differentiation

P < 0.01 represents the significant difference.

3 讨 论

现今,作为肝干细胞的一种,肝卵圆细胞诱导 激活的实验模型虽较成熟,但这些模型有其固有的 不足之处.诱导过程繁琐耗时,一般要花几个月时 间.相对较为简便的 DDC 诱导法,虽然可省去大 部分肝切除,诱导时间也减少至4至6周,但显而 易见它们作为化学毒性物质很难应用于人体模型研 究.如果不解决卵圆细胞来源问题,卵圆细胞将很 难进入临床为人类健康服务.胚胎干细胞作为一种 无限的细胞来源,理论上可以分化生成构成人体的 各种组织细胞.多项研究显示胚胎干细胞能分化生 成成熟的肝细胞,所以我们推测在胚胎干细胞的这个 中间分化阶段.若能找到并分离胚胎干细胞源性肝 卵圆细胞,必将使肝卵圆细胞与临床应用更近 一步.

卵圆细胞标志物的表达与否是其鉴定指标中重

要的一顶.虽然至今尚未发现卵圆细胞的特异性标 志物,但已筛选出的一些表达较高的标志物包括甲 胎蛋白 (α-fetoprotein, AFP)、白蛋白 (albumin, ALB)、细胞角质素(cytokeratin, CK) CK7、CK8、 CK18、CK19、波形蛋白(vimentin), 等等. 其中一 些为肝细胞表型(如 ALB、AFP 等),一些为胆管细 胞表型(如 CK7、CK19、vimentin 等), CK8、 CK18 等为肝细胞和胆管细胞等共有表型. 与上述 表型相比,现在公认特异性更高的标志物是OV6 和 A6. OV6 为人和大鼠的卵圆细胞及胆管细胞所 表达,作为一种细胞角质素,与CK14、CK19存 在一些公共表面决定簇. OV6 抗体不能与小鼠卵圆 细胞反应,能与小鼠卵圆细胞有较特异反应的抗体 被称为 A6. A6 抗原与早期研究中标志物 BDS7 很 相似, 它亦为胆管细胞所表达, A6 单抗是现今鉴定 小鼠卵圆细胞最有价值的指标[14-18].在本实验中, 我们选取小鼠胚胎干细胞作为研究初始对象.对

ESC定向诱导分化子代细胞群进行 A6 抗原免疫细 胞化学检测,图2a~e和图7可见A6阳性卵圆细 胞. 进一步鉴定流式细胞仪筛选的 Sca-1+ / CD34+ / CD45⁺ 的 卵 圆 细 胞 (A6 阳 性 的 占 绝 大 多 数, 90.81%). 刚分选的 Sca-1+ / CD34+ 细胞进行 RT-PCR(图 5 a),结果表明,这些阳性筛选细胞共 表达肝细胞和胆管细胞标志物 ALB、AFP、CK19 等,但 glucose- 6-phosphatase 和 biliary glycoprotein 阴性,说明成熟的肝实质细胞(肝细胞和胆管细胞) 尚未出现;筛选双阳细胞在培养 20 天后(图 5 b) 出 现 glucose- 6-phosphatase 和 biliary glycoprotein 的 阳性条带,说明分选的 Sca-1+/ CD34+细胞继续分 化的子代细胞中出现了成熟的肝细胞和胆管细胞. Sca-1+/CD34+细胞中占绝大多数的A6阳性卵圆细 胞能进一步分化生成成熟的肝细胞和胆管细胞,并 目, 筛选双阳细胞培养 15 天后的子代细胞中亦可 见 ALB 阳性肝细胞(图 2 f), 这都说明筛选的 A6 阳性卵圆细胞有双向分化能力,透射电镜结果显示 具有卵圆细胞的典型特征[19:体积较小,核浆比 高;卵圆形的核,可见浓缩的染色质;核浆内细胞 器稀少. 综上所述, ESC 向肝系细胞诱导分化过程 中存在着肝卵圆细胞这个中间阶段.分化细胞群中 所见的 ALB 阳性肝细胞和长梭形的 A6 阳性胆管 上皮样细胞,说明 ESC 来源的肝卵圆细胞能进一 步分化生成肝细胞和胆管细胞.

根据以前的研究,多种细胞因子(包括肝细胞 生长因子、表皮生长因子等)参与了卵圆细胞增生 分化过程的调控,在小鼠胚胎的肝发育第10.5天, 肝芽的血管系统形成,之后肝实质块显著增大,胎 肝细胞外周的间质细胞分泌 HGF 以维持其发育. 作为一种强有力的促肝细胞有丝分裂因子,HGF 对肝实质细胞的生长及受损后的肝脏再生至关重 要. 缺乏 HGF 基因的转基因鼠可见其肝发育不正 常^[20-23].对于卵圆细胞,HGF同样有强烈的促进增 殖作用 (使其 DNA 合成水平明显增高). HGF 被认 为可以激活 PI3K/AKT 信号转导途径,后者能进一 步激活卵圆细胞的增殖. EGF 亦可通过促有丝分裂 作用而有类似的作用. 在卵圆细胞增生早期, TGF-α/EGF 受体和 HGF/c-met 的表达均有显著性 升高. HGF 与 EGF 联用时能明显诱导肝板或肝索 样结构的形成, EGF 对卵圆细胞到肝细胞的定向 诱导亦有关键性作用[10-13]. 但对于胚胎干细胞定向 分化生成肝卵圆细胞, HGF 和 EGF 是否有诱导作 用,国内外尚无相关报道,因此我们选用 HGF 和

EGF 作为胚胎干细胞经肝卵圆细胞向肝细胞分化 的定向诱导剂,并考察它们对胚胎干细胞源性卵圆 细胞生成的作用.图1 c~d 表示生长因子 HGF 和 EGF 对胚胎干细胞向单一类型细胞分化有定向诱 导作用.卵圆细胞的分化率分析表明,同期诱导组 的比对照组的高,且有显著性差异.对照组卵圆细 胞的分化率一直保持着一个低水平,诱导组于诱导 第7天左右达到高峰(约 6.11%).以上说明,HGF 和 EGF 能显著性诱导胚胎干细胞源性卵圆细胞的 生成.

在胚胎的发育过程中存在着一个胎肝造血时 期,近些年来的研究亦表明,卵圆细胞膜表面表达 造血干细胞的一些标志物,如干细胞因子 (stem cell factor, SCF) 及其受体 c-kit、胎肝酪氨酸激酶 flt-3、细胞表面糖蛋白 Thy-1 和 CD34 等[24-26]. Petersen 等¹⁹成功地分选出了 CD34⁺/Sca-1⁺/CD45⁺ /A6+/AFP+的高富集肝卵圆细胞.我们测试了该方法 在本实验模型中的可行性,本实验模型中, Sca-1* 的细胞几乎均共表达 CD45, 即 CD45 在本实验模 型中并无明显筛选作用.用 CD34+/Sca-1+ 双指标亦 能筛选出较高比例 A6+ 肝卵圆细胞 (约 90.81%). 尽 管筛选出的 A6+ 肝卵圆细胞在总细胞中所占的比例 较小(约4.59%),但理论上具有无限增殖性的胚胎 干细胞可产生足够的肝卵圆细胞以应用于临床. 当 然,在今后的研究中,肝卵圆细胞筛选方法仍需进 一步改进,以获得更纯的肝卵圆细胞.

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Hepatic Oval Cells Obtained In The Course of Directional Induction and Differentiation of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells Into Hepatocytes *in Vitro**

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Abstract When either massive damage is inflicted on the liver or liver regeneration after damage is compromised by a variety of toxins and carcinogens, the hepatocyte progenitor/stem cells which called "oval cells" is activated and differentiate into a variety of cell lineages including hepatocytes and biliary epitheliums. Those models used in the study of rodents' oval cells are obviously not suitable for the study on human hepatic oval cells. A new hepatic oval cells produced model suitable for human need be developed. Mouse embryonic stem cells (ES cells) were cultured and induced to develop into embryonic bodies. The induced group and the control group were set up then. Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) and epidermal growth factor (EGF) was added to the culture medium of the induced group. The markers such as A6 antigen, which is expressed by hepatic oval cell, are detected by means of immunocytochemistry. As the descendants of mouse ES cells, hepatic oval cells sorted by FACS were detected by RT-PCR and transmission electron microscopy. The hepatic oval cells sorted by FACS were further cultured and tested the ability of bipotential differentiation by ICC and RT-PCR. It was firstly confirmed that the midterm phase of hepatic oval cells which are bipotential does occur during the course of the directional induction and differentiation of mouse ES cells into hepatic parenchyma cells. The differentiation ratios of hepatic oval cells from the induced group are significantly higher than that from the control group, and the maximal ratio from the induced group could be about 6.11%. HGF and EGF could promote the proliferation of hepatic oval cells derived from ES cells. About 4.59% of the cells sorted by FACS are Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺, and about 90.81% of the Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺ cells are A6 positive. Highly purified $A6^+/$ Sca-1⁺/CD34⁺ hepatic oval cells derived from ES cells could be obtained by FACS. A new hepatic oval cells produced model suitable for human was developed.

Key words A6, hepatic oval cells, embryonic stem cells, cell differentiation

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