

CLK2的生物学功能及相关抑制剂的研究进展

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摘要: 蛋白质磷酸化和选择性剪接都是基因表达调控中的重要环节。CDC2样激酶蛋白(Cdc2-like kinases, CLKs)家族兼具上述两种调控功能。近年来, 越来越多的研究聚焦于阐述该家族成员中CLK2的生物学功能。一方面, CLK2作为一种蛋白激酶直接参与细胞内多条重要信号通路的调控; 另一方面, CLK2通过磷酸化剪接因子间接调控其他基因的表达, 参与肥胖、神经系统疾病和恶性肿瘤等疾病的发生发展。本文总结了CLK2的生物学功能及相关抑制剂进展, 表明CLK2具有作为多种疾病治疗靶点的巨大潜能。

关键词: CLK2; 选择性剪接; 磷酸激酶; 前列腺相关基因4

Research progress on the biological functions and related inhibitors of CLK2

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Abstract: Protein phosphorylation and alternative splicing are two important processes in gene expression regulation. Cdc2-like kinase family (CLKs) proteins have both regulatory functions. In recent years, a growing number of studies have focused on the biological functions of CLK2, one of the CLKs family members. On the one hand, CLK2, as a protein kinase, is directly involved in the regulation of several important signaling pathways. On the other hand, CLK2 regulates the expression of other genes indirectly through phosphorylation of splicing factors, participating in the occurrence and development of multiple diseases, such as obesity, neurological diseases and cancers. This review summarizes the biological functions of CLK2 and the representative inhibitors, indicating that CLK2 has great potential to be a clinical therapeutic target in a variety of diseases.

Key Words: CLK2; alternative splicing; phosphokinase; PAGE4

CDC2样激酶(Cdc2-like kinases, CLKs)家族属于蛋白激酶的CMGC亚组^[1]。CLKs是一组双特异性激酶, 能够自磷酸化, 也能够将底物磷酸化^[2]。该家族包括4个成员(CLK1-4), 与CLK1相比, CLK2-4的序列一致性分别为53%、60%、76%, 推测它们在功能上具有部分相似

性^[3]。CLK1是早期研究CLKs的代表, 至今仍为CLKs中的明星分子。虽然对CLK2的研究不及CLK1广泛, 但近十年的研究结果提示, CLK2在多种疾病中发挥重要的调控功能。目前已知的CLK2底物包括富含丝-精氨酸(Serine/Arginine, SR)蛋白、酪蛋白激酶1(casein kinase 1, CK1)和前

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列腺相关基因4(prostate-associated gene 4, PAGE4)等^[4-6]。其中, 通过SR蛋白调控信使RNA(messenger RNA, mRNA)前体的选择性剪接(alternative splicing, AS)是CLK2主要的功能之一。

AS是蛋白质表达的重要调控方式之一。据统计, 超过90%的人类基因会受到AS影响^[7], 恶性肿瘤中AS的发生率比非恶性组织高30%, 且呈高度多样性^[8-10], 参与细胞周期、应激、转移, 侵袭、血管生成、免疫抑制和耐药等多个方面的调控^[7,11,12]。多种因素可导致AS失调, 如编码剪接因子的基因发生突变、剪接因子表达及活化异常等^[13,14]。SR蛋白是重要的剪接因子之一, 主要通过结合mRNA前体上相应顺式作用元件调控剪接位点的选择, 或通过蛋白质之间的相互作用调控剪接位点的识别^[15]。SR蛋白在真核生物中高度保守, 但不同的翻译后修饰(post-translational modifications, PTMs)导致其表达及功能差异。CLK2通过磷酸化多种SR蛋白调控mRNA前体的剪接, 参与神经系统疾病、感染、恶性肿瘤等多种疾病的发生发展^[16]。

磷酸激酶作为重要的分子开关, 通过广泛地影响底物活性和稳定性参与调控各种细胞内生命活动成为多种疾病治疗的明星靶点, 目前已有多种小分子激酶抑制剂成功投入临床应用^[17]。恶性肿瘤治疗的难点在于几乎不可避免其获得性耐药和复发, 因此, 发现和确定新的治疗靶点具有重要意义。AS导致异常的蛋白质表达, 是各种疾病中异常生物标志物的重要来源, 如雄激素受体剪接变异体^[18]、乳腺癌易感基因1剪接变异体IRIS^[19]等。因此, 以mRNA前体剪接调控为靶点的药物受到越来越多科研工作者的关注^[20,21]。本综述通过总结CLK2的生物学功能和相关抑制剂的研究现状, 探讨CLK2未来的研究方向及将其作为相关疾病治疗靶点的可能性。

1 CLK2的生物学功能

1.1 CLK2对AS的调控作用

位于CLK2蛋白N端的无序区域可以结合并活化底物, 还能够调控CLK2本身的核内定位^[22]。SR蛋白被CLK2磷酸化后从核斑转移到核质参与剪接

过程^[23]。目前, 已知被CLK2通过AS间接调控的蛋白质包括核糖体蛋白S6激酶(ribosomal protein S6 kinase, S6K)、Bcl-2相关转录因子1(Bcl-2-associated transcription factor 1, BCLAF1)以及MAPK相互作用的丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶2(MAPK interacting serine/threonine kinase 2, MKNK2)等^[24-26]。CLKs本身也能够发生AS, 甚至产生无催化活性的异构体^[27]。Doa是CLKs在果蝇中的同源蛋白^[28], 研究发现, Doa通过调控AS影响果蝇细胞的自噬及脂肪代谢, 而CLK2在哺乳动物中也具有相似功能^[29]。

Transformer 2 β 同源物1(transformer 2 beta homolog 1, TRA2B1)是具有促癌作用的剪接因子之一^[30,31]。CLK2能够超磷酸化TRA2B1, 促进不包含第2、3外显子的TRA2B1剪接变异体形成, 参与TRA2B1自身AS的调节^[32]。此外, CLK2和TRA2B1还能够共同调控其他蛋白质的AS。微管结合蛋白Tau在脑组织内高度表达, 能够促进微管的组装和稳定, 其包含第10外显子的剪接变异体, 与多种神经退行性疾病相关^[33]。研究发现, 散发型阿尔茨海默症(Alzheimer's disease, AD)中, 失活的CLK2剪接变异体和TRA2B1剪接变异体表达均上调, 两者诱导包含第10外显子的Tau剪接变异体增加, 从而使体内Tau蛋白亚型组成比例失调^[34]。探索神经退行性疾病中CLK2失活的原因可能有助于寻找该类疾病新的治疗靶点。

CLK2在乳腺癌细胞和组织中过表达, 其中在luminal型细胞系中表达量最高^[35]。外源性下调CLK2表达能够抑制乳腺癌细胞增殖, 但同时也促进其侵袭和转移。其中, 诱导细胞侵袭和转移是由于下调CLK2后, SRSF1介导的AS失调, 引起上皮间充质转化相关蛋白表达增加。因此, CLK2在乳腺癌中可能具有双向作用, 且部分机制依赖CLK2对AS的调控。

尽管CLKs在蛋白质组成上存在高度一致性并且都具有AS调控作用, 但对同一蛋白质的表达调控却可能存在极大差异。CLK1促进人类免疫缺陷病毒1(human immunodeficiency virus 1, HIV-1)的Gag蛋白表达, 而CLK2显著抑制包括Gag在内的各种结构蛋白的表达, 且这种调控作用依赖CLK2的激酶活性^[3]。过表达不同的CLKs能够引起SR蛋白

磷酸化差异,但SR蛋白的总体修饰程度无差异。因此,对同一蛋白质的相反调控作用可能是不同CLKs对SR蛋白的磷酸化程度存在差异或对SR蛋白有未知的修饰位点。上述研究表明,CLK2对AS的调控涉及多种疾病中的多个关键分子。因此,由AS失调引起的相关疾病中,CLK2有望成为新的治疗靶点。

1.2 CLK2对信号通路的调控作用

1.2.1 细胞周期通路

CLK2的细胞核定位取决于其催化活性及磷酸化状态,激酶失活的剪接变异体位于核斑,发生自磷酸化或具有催化活性的蛋白质分布在核质中^[36]。相关研究鉴定出人类CLK2的自磷酸化可发生在第142位丝氨酸(Ser)^[37],且内源性CLK2和外源性过表达的CLK2存在结构及活性等方面差异。外源性过表达的CLK2具有更高的自磷酸化水平及活性,可能影响CLK2的亚细胞定位及功能^[27]。

研究发现,CLK2能够在中体磷酸化极光激酶B(aurora kinase B, AURKB),活化的AURKB进一步磷酸化带电的多泡体蛋白4C(charged multivesicular body protein 4C, CHMP4C),从而抑制染色体桥的过早脱落及染色质断裂^[27,38],表明CLK2具有延缓细胞分裂的作用。敲减CLK2能够诱导丝氨酸-苏氨酸蛋白激酶(serine/threonine kinase, AKT)去磷酸化,通过下调叉形头转录因子的O亚型3a(forkhead box O3a, FOXO3a)的磷酸化水平介导P27表达上调,最终诱导细胞周期从G₁期向S期过渡阻滞^[39]。这种对细胞周期的阻滞作用可以部分解释下调CLK2后抑制肿瘤增殖的现象^[35]。

1.2.2 能量代谢通路

高脂饮食能够诱导肝脏中CLK2表达上调。CLK2通过磷酸化过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体 γ 共激活因子1 α (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- γ co-activator 1 alpha, PGC-1 α),抑制PGC-1 α 与中介体亚基1(mediator subunit 1, MED1)结合而导致PGC-1 α 转录活性下降和下游基因的转录抑制,从而调节肝脏脂肪酸代谢^[40]。与此类似,Hatting等^[41]发现CLK2在棕色脂肪组织(brown adipose tissue, BAT)中的表达量随禁食后再摄食而上调,并参与调控BAT的产热过程及能量消耗。在胰岛素刺激下,CLK2还能够通过磷脂酰肌

醇3激酶(phosphoinositide-3-kinase, PI3K)/AKT信号通路调节下丘脑功能,包括调节进食、能量消耗、糖代谢等^[42]。在下丘脑中过表达CLK2可部分逆转胰岛素抵抗小鼠的肥胖表型,有助于维持小鼠的能量代谢平衡。

1.2.3 CLK2/PAGE4/同源结构域相互作用蛋白激酶1轴与MAPK通路

胞外信号调节激酶(extracellular signal-regulated kinase, ERK)和原癌基因JUN N端激酶(JUN N-terminal kinase, JNK)为MAPK两个重要的蛋白亚家族。PAGE4是一种内在无序蛋白(intrinsically disordered proteins, IDPs),通过上调ERK的磷酸化水平及下调JNK的磷酸化水平,在前列腺癌(prostate cancer, PCa)氧化应激过程中起保护作用^[43,44]。PAGE4上游有两种已知的磷酸化激酶,同源结构域相互作用蛋白激酶1(homeodomain interacting protein kinase 1, HIPK1)主要在T51磷酸化PAGE4,而CLK2能够在此基础上(共8个位点)超磷酸化PAGE4。两种磷酸化形式的PAGE4具有相反的功能:HIPK1-PAGE4能够增强原癌基因JUN产物c-JUN的活性,而CLK2-PAGE4则抑制c-JUN活性^[45]。进一步研究表明,CLK2通过调节PAGE4的蛋白质构象导致PAGE4对c-JUN及其异源二聚体的亲和力下降及功能差异^[6,46]。由于CLK2的N端也存在部分内在无序区域,CLK2可能在IDPs的调控网络中具有重要意义。

Kulkarni等^[6]研究发现,PAGE4能够通过磷酸化形式的转变,引起PCa细胞对雄激素依赖性动态振荡,从而产生非遗传的表型异质性。该研究还发现,CLK2在雄激素依赖性不同的PCa细胞中差异表达,即CLK2只在雄激素依赖性PCa细胞中表达。此外,在雄激素依赖性不同的PCa中,HIPK1的磷酸化对PAGE4抵抗氧化应激的功能存在相反的调控作用^[44]。以上结果表明,CLK2/PAGE4/HIPK1轴与PCa的雄激素依赖性存在密切联系,甚至可能是诱导PCa雄激素非依赖谱系可塑性的机制之一,与去势抵抗性前列腺癌(castrate-resistant prostate cancer, CRPC)密切相关。

1.2.4 PI3K/AKT通路

14-3-3蛋白通过丝氨酸/苏氨酸磷酸化基序与其靶蛋白结合,参与多种细胞活动和疾病进程,

其中部分基序与碱性激酶(如AKT)的磷酸化位点重叠^[47]。在神经胶质瘤细胞中, 14-3-3蛋白与CLK2结合并介导CLK2稳定性增加, 进一步调控蛋白磷酸酶2A的活性, 使AKT去磷酸化减少而引起细胞异常增殖^[48]。该研究还证实, 抑制CLK2与成纤维生长因子受体抑制剂具有协同促进胶质细胞凋亡的作用。Bidinosti等^[49]发现, SH3和多重锚蛋白重复域(SH3 and multiple ankyrin repeat domains 3, SHANK3)的缺失也能够诱导CLK2的稳定性及表达增加, 最终导致AKT活性下降。现有研究表明, CLK2和AKT之间存在复杂的相互调控, 且部分调控作用具有组织特异性^[41,50,51]。由于PI3K/AKT通路是细胞内重要的信号通路之一, CLK2与AKT之间的相互作用可能对细胞内多种生命活动具有重要意义。

1.2.5 Wnt/ β -catenin通路

经典Wnt通路即Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路, 是目前Wnt信号通路中研究较为深入的一条分支。研究发现, CLK2在结直肠癌中高表达, 并促进结直肠癌细胞增殖、迁移和侵袭, 其机制是Wnt/ β -catenin信号通路的激活^[52]。一项基于人类间充质干细胞的研究发现, 下调CLK2的表达能够抑制Wnt通路部分基因的表达(如*AXIN2*、*TCF7*等), 同时上调*CTNIB1*(β -catenin是其编码的蛋白质产物)及下游靶基因的表达^[53]。此外, 多个具有CLK2抑制作用的多靶点抑制剂表现出对Wnt通路的抑制性^[54,55], 但对通路中特定基因的调控可能存在组织特异性, 且不能排除其他靶点的干扰。因此, CLK2与Wnt通路之间的调控机制还需要更多研究证实。

2 CLK2抑制剂进展

Araki等^[26]研究发现, 抑制CLK家族蛋白表达可诱导AS增加并抑制细胞生存。一方面, 含有提前终止密码子(pre-mature termination codons, PTCs)的剪接变体可能由于无义介导的mRNA降解(nonsense-mediated mRNA decay, NMD)而无法被转录, 导致细胞赖以生存的蛋白质减少, 最终抑制细胞生存。另一方面, CLKs抑制剂可能通过调控凋亡相关基因的AS而上调其蛋白质表达, 从而诱导细胞凋亡^[26]。因此, 以CLKs为靶点的抑制剂逐渐被重视。此外, 双特异性酪氨酸磷酸化调节

激酶(dual-specificity tyrosine phosphorylation-regulated kinases, DYRKs)是CMGC激酶组中的另一类蛋白激酶家族, 也能够通过对剪接体蛋白、SR蛋白的磷酸化修饰调控AS。其中, DYRK1与CLK1有32.8%同源性^[56-59]。由于CLKs和DYRKs激酶结构域的相似性和功能的交叉性, 众多研究致力于研发和优化CLKs和DYRKs的双靶点抑制剂^[60-63]。本文主要对涉及CLK2且理化数据较完善的化合物进行总结(表1)。

2.1 TG003

苯并噻唑类化合物TG003^[64]是最早合成的泛CLKs抑制剂之一(图1), 主要靶点为CLK1和CLK4, 对CLK2抑制作用较弱($IC_{50}=200$ nmol/L), 而对CLK3无明显抑制作用。TG003对CLKs之间的抑制活性差异可能与CLKs蛋白空间构象差异相关。TG003通过抑制激酶活性、改变剪接相关基因本身的AS, 从而影响细胞整体AS^[64]。由于TG003对CLK2的 IC_{50} 相对较高并存在一定的脱靶效应^[57], TG003并非理想的CLK2抑制剂。但由于药物可及性等原因, TG003仍为科学研究中最常用的CLK2抑制剂。目前, TG003在胃癌中已经显示出积极的抗肿瘤效果^[71]。

2.2 T-025

T-025(图1)是一种泛CLKs抑制剂, 对CLK1-4的Kd值分别为4.8 nmol/L、0.096 nmol/L、6.5 nmol/L和0.61 nmol/L, 但同时DYRK1也有较高的选择性^[24]。体内外实验表明, T-025呈剂量依赖性地抑制SR蛋白磷酸化, 并诱导多种基因发生异常剪接(外显子跳读), 从而诱导细胞凋亡及抑制肿瘤生长^[24]。体外实验中T-025能够抑制240种肿瘤细胞的增殖活性, 显现出强大的抗肿瘤能力, 且在MYC扩增的肿瘤中更敏感, 从而有利于未来研究中对优势肿瘤的筛选^[72]。

2.3 SM04755

SM04755是CLK2/DYRK1A的双靶点抑制剂^[65], 现有文献资料暂无法获得其准确的化学结构式。SM04755具有抑制Wnt信号通路的作用, 其中CLK2可能参与调控Wnt通路下游靶点的AS。体外研究表明, SM04755能促进肌腱分化, 减少使肌腱破坏的蛋白酶合成及炎性细胞因子的释放, 对肌腱具有保护性作用^[65]。

表1 部分CLK2抑制剂的体外活性(IC₅₀)

| 化合物 | CLKs(nmol/L) | | | | 相关激酶(nmol/L) | | | 参考文献 |
|-----------|--------------|-------|----------------------|------|--------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| | CLK1 | CLK2 | CLK3 | CLK4 | DYRK1A | DYRK1B | CK2 α | |
| TG003 | 20.0 | 200.0 | >1.0×10 ⁴ | 15.0 | 12.0 | 130.0 | — | [57,64] |
| SM04755 | 37.4 | 0.8 | 47.0 | 18.7 | 5.5 | 4.6 | — | [65] |
| T-025(Kd) | 4.8 | 0.1 | 6.5 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 1.5 | — | [24] |
| CX-4945 | 82.3 | 3.8 | 90.0 | — | — | — | 14.7 | [66,67] |
| T3 | 0.7 | 15.0 | 110.0 | — | 260.0 | 230.0 | — | [68] |
| SM04690 | 239.0 | 5.8 | 44.3 | 21.0 | 26.9 | 41.2 | — | [53] |
| CC-671 | 300.0 | 6.0 | — | — | 104.0 | 157.0 | — | [69,70] |

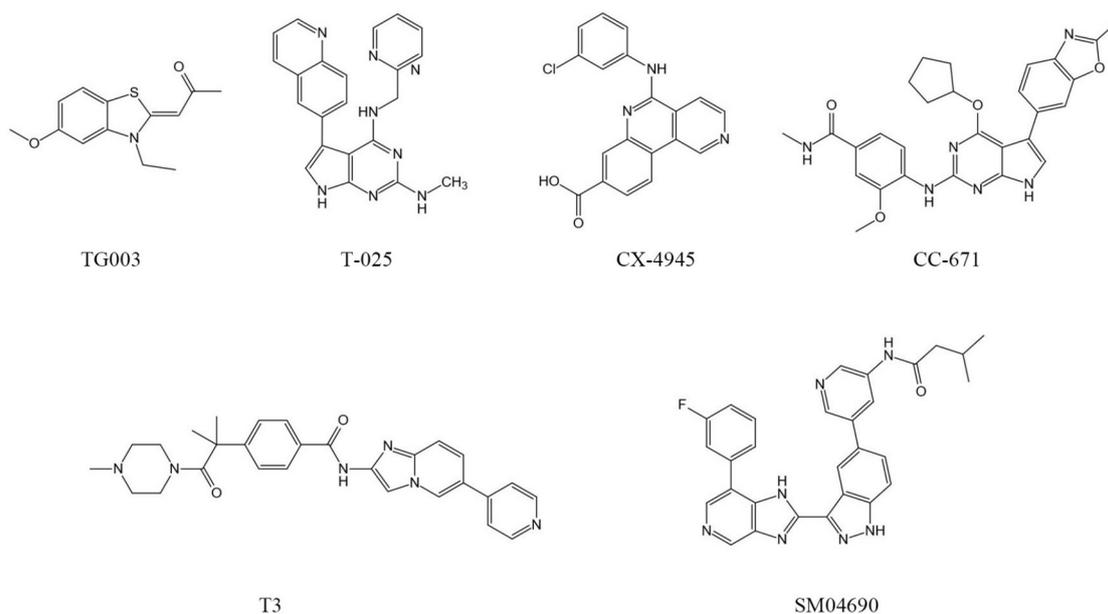


图1 部分CLK2抑制剂化学结构式

2.4 SM04690

SM04690(图1)与SM04755具有相似的药理特点和作用^[53],通过调控信号传导与转录激活因子家族成员3(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)、核因子- κ B(nuclear factor kappa B, NF- κ B)信号转导,抑制炎症因子的生成及软骨细胞基质降解酶的释放,从而加强软骨细胞的合成活性,目前处于膝部关节炎临床试验阶段^[53,73,74]。另外, Moroney等^[55]研究发现, SM04690能够强烈抑制子宫内膜癌细胞活力,其抑制作用在CTNNB1突变的细胞中更明显。未来对CLK2与Wnt/ β -catenin通路之间调控机制的深入研究将有助于明确CLK2的功能,可能为子宫内膜癌

的治疗提供新选择。

2.5 CX-4945

CX-4945(图1)最初被视为一种高选择性酪蛋白激酶2(casein kinase 2, CK2)抑制剂^[75,76],但后期研究发现, CX-4945对CLKs也有较强的抑制作用。其中, CX-4945以ATP竞争的方式强烈抑制CLK2,对其抑制作用甚至强于对CK2的抑制作用(IC₅₀=3.8 vs 14.7 nmol/L)^[66,67]。CLKs之间的结构差异导致CX-4945与CLK2更容易结合,抑制作用更明显。此外, CX-4945能够在体外抑制部分干性基因表达,显示出一定的肿瘤干细胞抑制潜能^[54]。理论上CX-4945可能通过对CLK2的有效抑制而广泛改变细胞内AS事件,但目前还缺乏相关功能验

证实验。

2.6 T3

T3(图1)是一种泛CLKs抑制剂,对CLK1的抑制作用最强,CLK2次之,且对DYRK1的选择性较弱^[68]。应用T3可显著影响AS(最常见的是外显子跳读),并诱导结合-联合基因(conjoined genes, GCs)形成。进一步研究发现,CLK2与GCs密切相关,CLK2可能通过AS影响CGs外显子的选择^[68]。细胞NanoBRET实验显示,T3对CLK1/2/4具有高选择性^[4],其IC₅₀分别为4 nmol/L、17 nmol/L、2 nmol/L,但该研究未涉及CLK3的验证。

2.7 CC-671

苏氨酸酪氨酸激酶(threonine tyrosine kinase, TTK)通过调控有丝分裂中的纺锤体装配检查点控制细胞生命进程。CC-671(图1)是一种TTK/CLK2双靶点抑制剂^[69],能够有效抑制TTK的底物着丝粒支架蛋白1(kinetochore scaffold 1, KNL1)及CLK2底物SR蛋白的磷酸化,通过调控有丝分裂和选择性剪接这两种途径抑制肿瘤生长。相较于CLK1/3,CC-671对CLK2的选择性最高,并且在乳腺癌中显示出比紫杉醇类药物更好的抑瘤作用^[69,70]。G₁/S检查点功能障碍遗传背景与CC-671具有合成致死作用,可能与CLK2抑制细胞周期的作用相关^[39]。此外,ATP结合盒式亚家族G成员2(ATP binding cassette subfamily G member 2, ABCG2)能够逆浓度梯度外排底物,包括抗肿瘤药物如米托蒽醌、多柔比星和吉非替尼等,因此与肿瘤的多药耐药相关。CC-671能够抑制ABCG2外排底物(米托蒽醌)的作用,在一定程度上抑制多药耐药发生^[77],但CLK2在此过程中的作用还需进一步探索。

2.8 其他

SM08502是第一种进入临床试验的CLKs抑制剂,目前正在进展性实体瘤中进行I期临床试验(NCT03355066)^[78],但其药理数据(如对CLK2的选择性)不详。在多种前列腺癌细胞系中,SM08502通过抑制SRSF6磷酸化、抑制Wnt通路相关基因表达等机制,在CRPC异种移植模型中显示出明显的肿瘤抑制作用^[78]。SM08502在小鼠胃肠道肿瘤模型中也显示出较强的抗肿瘤活性^[79]。其他化合物,如苯丙双噻唑类化合物3A、SRI-29329、Cpd-2和DB18等,虽然对CLK2具有较高的选择性,但由于

生化实验中测试激酶通量较低而难以排除对其他激酶的高选择性,或缺乏进一步细胞内功能验证等原因,这些化合物的功能不确切,因此,研究深度和应用范围也在很大程度上受到限制^[4,26,63,80,81]。

3 展望

由于CLK2同时具备磷酸激酶的一般功能和调节AS的特殊作用,越来越多的研究致力于揭示CLK2复杂的生物学功能及开发相应的抑制剂,体现出CLK2在相关疾病中作为研究和治疗靶点的潜力。目前在乳腺癌、肺癌、胃肠道肿瘤的研究中,CLK2主要表现为一种促癌激酶,但机制尚未完全清楚。此外,CLK2在其他肿瘤中的作用还有待探索。例如,挖掘CLK2/PAGE4/HIPK1轴与雄激素受体的关联、CLK2与Wnt通路在不同肿瘤中的调控机制等。虽然目前已有多种CLKs抑制剂问世,但针对CLK2的特异性抑制剂还有待进一步研发。在未来的研究中,积极探索CLK2的上下游调控关系及CLK2与其他激酶、信号通路之间的调控网络,有助于进一步揭示CLK2的重要生物学功能,为相关疾病的治疗提供崭新视角。

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