

综述

ACSL4基因表达的调控机制

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摘要: 长链酰基辅酶A合酶4(long-chain acyl-coenzyme A synthase 4, ACSL4)是ACSLs家族的成员。ACSL4是催化长链脂肪酸活化的关键酶, 在脂质代谢通路中发挥重要作用。此外, ACSL4推动细胞内脂质过氧化物的发生, 是铁死亡敏感性的关键决定因素。ACSL4的异常表达与各种生物学反应密切相关。同时由于对肿瘤细胞的铁死亡敏感性有重要影响, ACSL4有望成为可用的肿瘤生物标志物和治疗靶点。阐明ACSL4的表达调控分子机制对于进一步研究脂质代谢通路、铁死亡调控通路以及发现新的肿瘤靶向治疗策略具有重大意义。本文主要从表观遗传水平、转录水平、转录后水平(miRNA和mRNA修饰)、翻译后水平等方面综述了近年来ACSL4基因表达调控的最新进展。

关键词: 长链酰基辅酶A合酶4; 铁死亡; 分子调控

The regulatory mechanism of ACSL4 gene expression

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Abstract: Long-chain acyl-coenzyme A synthase 4 (ACSL4) is a member of the ACSLs family. ACSL4 is a key enzyme activating long-chain fatty acids and plays an important role in the lipid metabolism pathway. In addition, researches have proved that, as a key determinant of ferroptosis sensitivity, ACSL4 drives the process of lipid peroxidation intracellularly. Aberrant expression of ACSL4 is closely associated with various biological responses, and is expected to be a usable tumor biomarker and therapeutic target due to its important influence on the ferroptosis sensitivity of tumor cells. Elucidating the molecular mechanism of ACSL4 expression is of great significance for further investigation of lipid metabolism, ferroptosis regulatory pathways and the discovery of novel tumor-targeted therapeutic strategies. Here, we summarize the recent progress in ACSL4 gene expression regulation mechanism including epigenetic, transcriptional, post-transcriptional (miRNA and mRNA modification) and post-translational regulation.

Key Words: ACSL4; ferroptosis; molecular regulation

长链酰基辅酶A合酶4(long-chain acyl-coenzyme A synthase 4, ACSL4)也被称为

FACL4, 是ACSLs家族的成员。ACSLs家族是一类脂肪代谢酶, 可将长度为8~22碳的饱和或不饱和

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脂肪酸链转化为脂肪酸酰基辅酶A酯,共包括ACSL1、ACSL3、ACSL4、ACSL5、ACSL6五种亚型。ACSLs的不同亚型具有不同的组织定位、细胞内定位和底物特异性。ACSL1在肝脏、心脏、脂肪组织中表达较多,以16-18碳饱和脂肪酸和16-20碳不饱和脂肪酸作为底物,是脂肪酸摄取、 β -脂肪酸氧化和甘油三酯合成等生物过程的关键酶^[1-4]。ACSL3在脑和前列腺中含量丰富,优先以软脂酸作为底物^[5]。ACSL5主要催化16-18碳长链脂肪酸转化为脂肪酸酰基辅酶A酯,在肠道中含量较高^[6]。ACSL6则主要分布于脑、骨髓和肌肉组织中,主要负责二十二碳六烯酸的代谢,在神经保护中发挥重要作用^[7]。

1997年,Kang等^[8]发现一种新的脂肪酸酰基辅酶A酯合成酶,将其命名为ACSL4。ACSL4在细胞内主要定位于线粒体、过氧化物酶体和内质网,在肾上腺、卵巢、睾丸和脑组织内富集^[5]。ACSL4优先选择20碳多不饱和脂肪酸(polyunsaturated fatty acid, PUFA)作为底物,如花生四烯酸(arachidonic acid, AA)和二十碳五烯酸等,在脂质代谢通路中发挥重要作用。另外,有研究已经证明,ACSL4是铁死亡敏感性的关键决定因素^[9,10]。铁死亡在肿瘤发生和肿瘤抑制过程中发挥双重作用。脂质过氧化是铁死亡的基础代谢机制之一。ACSL4催化辅酶A(coenzyme A, CoA)与AA结合,从而促进PUFA与磷脂的酯化反应,推动脂质过氧化物的发生^[11]。

在人和小鼠基因组中,ACSL4均位于X染色体上,人ACSL4基因含有16个外显子,4种转录变异体,编码2种同源蛋白异构体(长度分别为670、711个氨基酸)^[12]。小鼠ACSL4基因也含有16个外显子,3种转录变异体,编码2种同源蛋白异构体(长度与人ACSL4蛋白一致)^[13]。ACSL4的异常表达与各种生物反应密切相关,包括类固醇生成、炎症反应、细胞死亡、免疫激活反应等^[14]。ACSL4对癌症进展、复发和预后有一定的影响,有望成为可用的肿瘤生物标志物和治疗靶点^[15]。因此,阐明ACSL4表达调控的分子机制对进一步研究脂质代谢通路、铁死亡调控通路以及发现新的肿瘤靶向治疗策略具有重大意义。

基因表达至少存在表观遗传、转录、转录后、翻译与翻译后等多个环节的复杂调控。本文系统

总结了近年来ACSL4基因表达调控的最新研究进展。

1 ACSL4的转录调控

转录调控是基因表达调控过程中的重要环节。ACSL4的转录活性受到表观遗传与转录因子的协同调控。

1.1 表观遗传调控

DNA与组蛋白的共价修饰影响染色质结构与基因转录。ACSL4基因表达受到DNA甲基化、组蛋白甲基化与乙酰化修饰的调控。

1.1.1 组蛋白乙酰化

己糖激酶2(hexokinase 2, HK2)可以导致细胞内乙酰CoA的积累。同时由于乙酰CoA参与组蛋白乙酰化的调控^[16],乙酰CoA的积累使ACSL4启动子和增强子H3K27ac修饰明显上调。H3K27ac是一种促进转录的组蛋白修饰,因此HK2激活的细胞中ACSL4表达增多^[17]。

1.1.2 组蛋白去甲基化

组蛋白去甲基化酶含十字形结构域蛋白3(Jumonji domain-containing protein 3, JMJD3),可以去除支气管上皮细胞中ACSL4启动子区域的H3K27me3修饰,促进ACSL4的转录。JMJD3基因沉默的支气管上皮细胞中ACSL4表达量明显下降,抑制细胞的铁死亡,减轻炎症和氧化应激损伤^[18]。

1.1.3 DNA甲基化

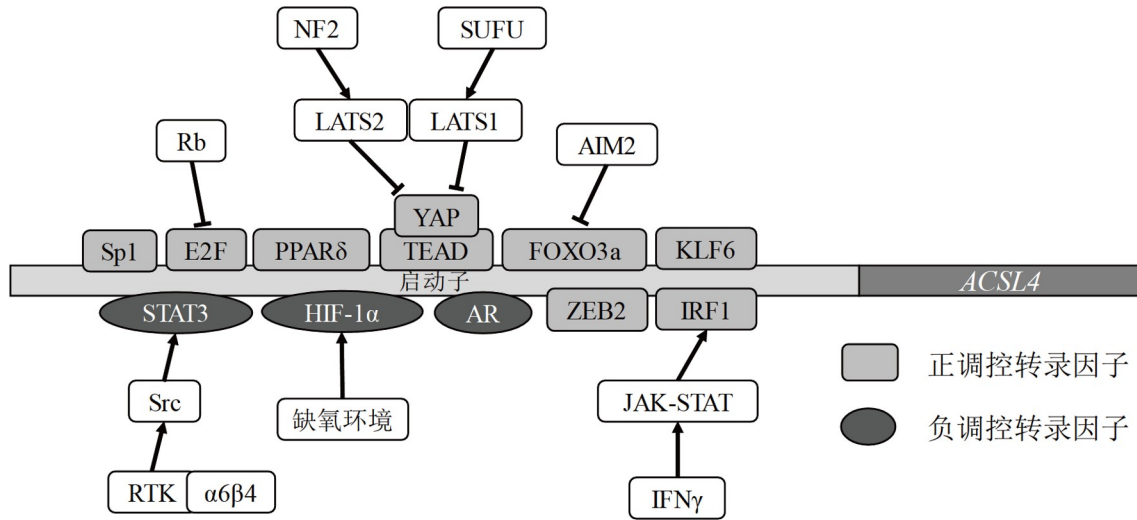
人参皂甙Rg3可以下调DNA甲基转移酶3B(DNA methyltransferases 3B, DNMT3B)的表达量,从而降低ACSL4的甲基化水平,上调ACSL4表达量,促进肝星状细胞铁死亡,预防肝纤维化。进一步研究发现, DNMT3B是miR-6945-3p的靶mRNA,人参皂甙Rg3则可以上调miR-6945-3p的水平,该途径可能是人参皂甙Rg3下调DNMT3B表达的机制之一^[19]。

1.2 转录因子及其上游信号通路

多种转录因子参与调控ACSL4基因的转录。这些转录因子在不同的信号通路中被活化后直接与ACSL4的启动子或调控元件结合,促进或抑制ACSL4基因的转录(图1)。

1.2.1 Sp1信号通路

特异性蛋白1(specificity protein 1, Sp1)是Sp转

图1 *ACSL4*的转录调控通路

录因子家族中的一员,可以识别启动子上CG富集区域,激活多种基因的转录。Sp1与细胞的多种活动有关,如细胞生长、分化、凋亡、癌变等^[20]。对小鼠MA-10睾丸间质细胞和人乳腺癌细胞中*ACSL4*基因序列的分析发现,其启动子上含有Sp1的结合位点,且Sp1被认为控制了*ACSL4*基础转录的激活^[21,22]。另外,有多项研究证明,Sp1可与*ACSL4*启动子结合,促进*ACSL4*的转录^[23-26]。进一步研究发现,脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)可以上调Sp1的表达,间接上调*ACSL4*的表达^[27]。

1.2.2 Rb/E2F信号通路

成视网膜细胞瘤基因(retinoblastoma gene, *Rb*)是最早被克隆和完成全序列测定的抑癌基因,在多种肿瘤中发生突变。*Rb*蛋白在调节细胞分裂周期中发挥重要作用,可与转录因子E2F家族结合并抑制其功能,从而使包括*ACSL4*在内的一系列基因表达下调^[28]。研究发现,*Rb*基因突变的前列腺肿瘤细胞中,E2F1、E2F3与*ACSL4*启动子的结合显著增加,上调*ACSL4*的转录水平,使前列腺肿瘤细胞对铁死亡更敏感,这一结果为*Rb*基因突变的肿瘤治疗提供了新方向和新思路^[29]。对人乳腺癌细胞中*ACSL4*基因序列的分析结果发现,其启动子上含有E2F的结合位点,然而在不同乳腺癌细胞系中,E2F对*ACSL4*转录的调控效果并不一致^[22]。

1.2.3 HIF-1 α 信号通路

缺氧诱导因子-1 α (hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α , HIF-1 α)是缺氧反应过程中的关键转录因子,已被

证明在肿瘤、炎症免疫、血管生成等过程中发挥重要作用^[30]。HIF-1 α 可以与*ACSL4*启动子结合,作为抑制性转录调控因子下调*ACSL4*的表达,抑制铁死亡的发生^[31]。在缺氧条件的人肾小管上皮细胞^[31]和人神经母细胞瘤细胞^[32]中,HIF-1 α 表达均上调,导致*ACSL4*转录被抑制。另外,研究发现,在脑发生缺血-再灌注损伤后,环境丰富(enriched environment)的处理也可以通过上调HIF-1 α 表达,抑制*ACSL4*的转录,减轻铁死亡损伤^[33]。然而,在急性肾损伤情况下,HIF-1 α 表达反而下调,解除对*ACSL4*转录的抑制,促进肾脏组织的损伤^[31]。

1.2.4 $\alpha 6\beta 4$ /Src/STAT3信号通路

整合素 $\alpha 6\beta 4$ (integrin $\alpha 6\beta 4$)是整合素家族的一员。整合素是一类主要介导细胞与细胞外基质黏附、使细胞得以附着在基质表面的黏附分子^[34]。研究发现,整合素 $\alpha 6\beta 4$ 高表达时,*ACSL4*的表达量明显降低。在乳腺癌细胞系MCF10A中的机制研究发现,整合素 $\alpha 6\beta 4$ 与细胞膜上的受体酪氨酸激酶结合,激活Src家族的蛋白激酶,活化下游的抑制性转录因子STAT3,下调*ACSL4*的转录,使细胞铁死亡敏感性降低,而 $\alpha 6\beta 4$ 缺失的MCF10A细胞存活率显著降低,铁死亡抑制剂处理后细胞存活率可回升^[35]。

1.2.5 PPAR δ 信号通路

过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, PPAR)是一类与配体结合激活后调节基因表达的转录因子,包括

PPAR α 、PPAR δ 、PPAR γ 。之前的研究表明, PPAR δ 在脂质代谢和糖代谢过程中发挥重要作用^[36]。研究发现, 激活PPAR δ 可以使*ACSL4*的表达显著上升。对摄入高脂饮食动物模型的研究发现, 肝组织中PPAR δ 表达上调并介导了*ACSL4*的转录水平上升^[37]。

1.2.6 Hippo/YAP信号通路

Hippo信号通路由一组保守的激酶构成, 是一条抑制细胞生长的信号通路。神经纤维瘤2型基因(neurofibromatosis type 2 gene, *NF2*)表达产生肿瘤抑制因子NF2(也称为Merlin蛋白)。NF2可以通过激活Hippo通路中的关键因子大肿瘤抑制激酶2(large tumor suppressor kinases 2, *LATS2*), 促进下游效应因子Yes相关蛋白(yes-associated protein, *YAP*)的泛素化降解过程, 抑制YAP进入细胞核与TEAD形成复合物发挥促进*ACSL4*转录的作用^[38]。而融合同源物抑制因子可以与Hippo通路中的另一因子*LATS1*结合, 抑制YAP的激活, 下调YAP-*ACSL4*轴的表达^[39]。另外, YAP-TEAD复合物在*ACSL4*蛋白层面的表达调节中也发挥重要作用(见下文)。

1.2.7 AIM2/FOXO3a信号通路

炎症小体(inflammasome)是一种多蛋白复合物, 其异常表达和激活在肿瘤的诱导和进展中发挥重要作用。黑色素瘤缺乏因子2(absent in melanoma 2, *AIM2*)是炎症小体的重要组成成分之一。研究发现, *AIM2*可以抑制转录因子FOXO3a介导的*ACSL4*转录过程。在肾细胞癌中, *AIM2*通过促进转录因子FOXO3a的磷酸化失活和泛素化降解过程, 抑制*ACSL4*转录过程, 从而抑制铁死亡的发生, 促进肾细胞癌的发展^[40]。

1.2.8 ZEB2信号通路

锌指E盒结合同源蛋白2(zinc finger E-box-binding homeobox protein 2, *ZEB2*)是一种转录因子, 主要参与上皮-间充质转化过程^[41]。研究发现, 在人乳腺癌细胞中, *ZEB2*可以直接与*ACSL4*基因启动子区域结合, 维持*ACSL4*的基础转录水平。事实上, *ACSL4*也可以调控*ZEB2*的转录过程和蛋白质稳定性, 二者形成一个互作回路, 在乳腺癌转移过程中发挥重要作用^[42]。

1.2.9 IFN γ -STAT1-IRF1信号通路

干扰素- γ (interferon- γ , IFN γ)是可溶性二聚体

细胞因子, 是唯一的II型干扰素。它主要由自然杀伤细胞和自然杀伤T细胞分泌, 在固有免疫中发挥作用。研究发现, IFN γ 与AA联合诱导免疫原性肿瘤铁死亡, 并作为CD8⁺ T细胞介导杀伤肿瘤的作用方式。机制研究表明, IFN γ 激活细胞内JAK-STAT1信号传导通路, 从而激活干扰素调节因子1(interferon regulatory factor 1, *IRF1*), *IRF1*则与*ACSL4*启动子上的干扰素刺激反应元件结合, 促进*ACSL4*的转录, 促进铁死亡的发生^[14,43]。

1.2.10 KLF6信号通路

Krüppel样因子6(Krüppel-like factor 6, *KLF6*)是Krüppel样转录因子家族的成员, 可介导许多细胞过程, 包括增殖、分化和细胞死亡等。在心肌细胞中, *KLF6*可以直接结合在*ACSL4*启动子区域, 并上调*ACSL4*的转录^[44]。

1.2.11 雄激素受体信号通路

在雄激素受体(androgen receptor, *AR*)依赖性前列腺癌细胞中, *AR*被证明可以直接与*ACSL4*启动子上的雄激素响应元件结合, 并抑制*ACSL4*的转录。而在*AR*非依赖性前列腺癌细胞中, 对*ACSL4*表达的敲低抑制了癌细胞的增殖、迁移、侵袭和异种移植生长。这说明*ACSL4*是治疗*AR*非依赖性前列腺癌的潜在治疗靶点^[45]。

2 *ACSL4*的转录后调控

基因的转录后调控包括RNA分子的剪接、修饰、转运、降解与翻译等过程。mRNA剪接与修饰、microRNAs(miRNAs)、长链非编码RNA(long non-coding RNA, lncRNA)与环状RNA(circular RNA, circRNA)参与了*ACSL4*的转录后调控。

2.1 *ACSL4*的mRNA剪接和mRNA修饰

mRNA的转录后剪接是产生不同亚型的重要步骤, 同时对mRNA的稳定性也有很大影响。丝氨酸/精氨酸剪接因子1(serine/arginine splicing factor 1, *SRSF1*)是一种RNA剪接因子, 在preRNA剪切过程中发挥重要作用^[46]。研究发现, 在缺血肝脏中, 肝细胞内HIF-1 α 表达上升, 并作为转录因子上调lncRNA *KCNQ1OT1*的转录, *KCNQ1OT1*激活*SRSF1*, 使*SRSF1*与*ACSL4* 3'-UTR结合, 增强*ACSL4* mRNA稳定性, 增强肝细胞的铁死亡敏感性^[47]。多聚嘧啶区结合蛋白1(polypyrimidine tract-

binding protein 1, PTBP1)也是一种常见的RNA剪接因子。PTBP1与*ACSL4* mRNA直接结合, 提高mRNA的稳定性, 延长其半衰期。研究发现, 在脓毒症导致的急性肺损伤中, circEXOC5的表达明显上升, 并增加PTBP1与*ACSL4* mRNA的结合程度, 间接上调*ACSL4*的表达, 促进肺血管内皮细胞的铁死亡^[48]。

mRNA的转录后修饰对mRNA的稳定性也有很大影响。N4胞苷乙酰化(N4-acetylcytidine, ac4C)是一种由N-乙酰转移酶10(N-acetyltransferase 10, NAT10)催化的转录组学修饰, 对mRNA的稳定性发挥重要作用。研究发现, 肿瘤细胞中, NAT10通过调控脂肪酸代谢相关基因的mRNA稳定性, 发挥对脂肪酸代谢通路的重要作用。其中, 肿瘤细胞中, *ACSL4* mRNA的ac4C修饰也受到NAT10的调控^[49]。m6A是一种常见的mRNA修饰, 脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白(fat mass and obesity-associated protein, FTO)是一种重要的RNA m6A去甲基化酶, 可以对*ACSL4* mRNA的m6A修饰水平进行负调节。在小鼠海马神经元内的活化转录因子3(activating transcription factor 3, ATF3)被激活时, ATF3可以作为转录因子促进FTO的转录, 间接调控*ACSL4*的表达^[50]。YT521-B同源结构域家族蛋白3(YT521 B homology domain family protein 3, YTHDF3)可以识别*ACSL4* mRNA的AGGACU基序, 读取mRNA的m6A修饰水平, 上调*ACSL4* mRNA的稳定性^[50,51]。

mRNA的UTR存在结构调控元件(structured regulatory elements, structured RE), 且3'-非翻译区(3'-untranslated regions, 3'-UTR)比5'端更多。RE包括许多类型, 嘌呤-尿嘧啶串联重复基序[(RU)_n repeat motifs]是其中的一种。研究人员预测, *ACSL4* mRNA内存在(RU)_n重复基序, 可能通过转录后调控途径影响*ACSL4*的表达水平^[52]。

2.2 MiRNAs对ACSL4的转录后调控及其上游调控因子

MiRNAs是非编码RNAs中的一类, 一般由18~25个核苷酸组成。MiRNAs参与调控多种细胞活动, 包括细胞增殖、凋亡、增殖、分化、DNA修复等。基本机制是直接与目标mRNA结合阻止mRNA翻译或促进mRNA降解^[53]。越来越多的证据

表明, miRNAs直接结合*ACSL4* mRNA的3'-UTR, 对*ACSL4*进行转录后调控(表1)。在不同的组织细胞中, 调控*ACSL4*的miRNA的表达量又受到各种上游因素的影响, 增加了*ACSL4*表达调控的复杂性。非编码RNA(miRNA、lncRNA与circRNA等)不同程度地直接或间接参与了*ACSL4*的转录后调控, 提示开发RNA药物靶向*ACSL4*的可能性。

2.2.1 长链非编码RNA

LncRNA是一类长度大于200个核苷酸且不具有编码蛋白质能力的RNA。近年来, 随着对非编码RNA研究的持续深入, 人们发现lncRNA在基因的转录和转录后调节中发挥重要作用^[79]。LncRNA也是miRNA的重要上游调节因子。在前列腺癌中, lncRNA NEAT1与*ACSL4* mRNA竞争性结合miR-34a-5p、miR-204-5p, 从而解除其对*ACSL4*表达的抑制作用^[69]。糖尿病视网膜病变的情况下, lncRNA ZFAS1在视网膜内皮细胞中表达上升, 竞争性结合miR-7-5p, 恢复*ACSL4*的表达, 促进视网膜内皮细胞发生铁死亡, 从而产生视网膜损伤^[76]。LncRNA AABR07025387.1可与miR-205结合, 研究发现, lncRNA AABR07025387.1在损伤的心肌组织中高表达, 解除miR-205对*ACSL4* mRNA的抑制作用, 促进心肌细胞铁死亡^[60]。有多种lncRNA能够竞争性结合miR-106b-5p, 解除其对*ACSL4* mRNA的抑制作用: 脑出血病人的脑微血管内皮细胞内, lncRNA H19表达上调, 与miR-106b-5p结合, 解除其对*ACSL4*表达的抑制^[62]; 人绒毛滋养细胞中可表达lncRNA HOTAIR, H₂O₂处理后LncRNA HOTAIR表达量上升, 解除miR-106b-5p对*ACSL4*表达的抑制, 促进细胞死亡^[78]; 动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)患者的血管内皮细胞中, lncRNA PVT1表达明显上调, 竞争性结合miR-106b-5p, 上调*ACSL4*的表达量, 这对AS的进展有重要影响^[63]。LncRNA还可以与RNA剪接因子共同调控*ACSL4* mRNA的稳定性(见上文), 但lncRNA能否与*ACSL4* mRNA直接结合并调控其表达尚不清楚。

2.2.2 外泌体

外泌体(exosome)是直径为30~150 nm的由细胞分泌的外囊泡, 通过运输脂质、蛋白质、核酸, 在细胞间通讯等过程中发挥重要作用^[80]。MiRNA

表 1 不同类型细胞中对ACSL4进行转录后调控的miRNAs

器官	细胞类型	MiRNAs	ACSL4对应序列	参考文献
肝	肝细胞癌	MiR-211-5p	/	[53]
		MiR-205	GAA UGA AGG	[54]
		MiR-23a-3p	CUU GGG AGU GUG GU	[55]
		MiR-552-5p	GUU AAA	[56]
	肝星状细胞	MiR-3595	AAA UCC	[57]
肺	肺上皮细胞	MiR-23a-3p	AAT GTG A	[58]
	非小细胞肺癌	MiR-1290	AAA UCC A	[59]
心	心肌细胞	MiR-205	AGU GAG GGA	[60]
		MiR-450b-5p	CUG CAA A	[61]
血管	脑微血管内皮细胞	MiR-106b-5p	GCA CUU U	[62]
	血管内皮细胞	MiR-106b-5p	GCA CUU U	[63]
	神经血管内皮细胞	MiR-194	/	[64]
神经	髓母细胞瘤	MiR-211	AAA GGG AA	[65]
	胶质母细胞瘤	MiR-670-3p	GAG GAA A	[66]
	海马神经元	MiR-3098-3p	AGC AGA A	[67]
	神经干细胞	MiR-130a-3p	UUG CAC U	[68]
前列腺	前列腺癌	MiR-204-5p	AAA GGG AA	[69]
		MiR-34a-5p	CAC UGC CA	
卵巢	卵巢癌	MiR-424-5p	UGC UGC U	[70]
子宫	子宫颈癌	MiR-4291	UGC UGA A	[71]
胰腺	胰岛B细胞	MiR-34c	CAC UGC C	[72]
骨	骨关节炎软骨细胞	MiR-141-3p	/	[73]
	骨肉瘤	MiR-22-3p	GCA GCT	[74]
肠	结肠上皮细胞	Mir-129-5p	CAA AAA	[75]
眼	视网膜内皮细胞	MiR-7-5p	AGA AGG U	[76]
其他	脂肪细胞	MiR-224-5p	UAG UGA CUU	[77]
	绒毛滋养细胞	MiR-106b-5p	GCA CUU U	[78]

也是外泌体运输物的一种。一些细胞可以通过分泌包含miRNA的外泌体至其他细胞，调节*ACSL4*的表达。研究表明，铁死亡与吸烟诱导的肺上皮细胞损伤有关，肺泡巨噬细胞分泌的外泌体包裹miR-23a-3p至肺上皮细胞内，与*ACSL4* mRNA的3'-UTR区域结合，下调*ACSL4*的表达，抑制吸烟诱导的细胞铁死亡^[58]。源于间充质细胞的外泌体可以与人脑微血管内皮细胞(human brain microvascular endothelial cells, HBMECs)融合，通过转移miR-194降低*ACSL4*等基因的表达水平，修复HBMECs的糖氧剥夺/恢复损伤^[64]。间充质细胞还可以分泌运送miR-129-5p的外泌体至结肠上皮细胞，抑制*ACSL4*表达，抑制铁死亡的发生，减轻炎

症性肠病^[75]。在缺血性心衰的病人中，心肌细胞来源的外泌体和miR-22-3p表达量明显升高，miR-22-3p被包裹在外泌体内，运输至骨肉瘤细胞，通过直接与*ACSL4* mRNA结合抑制翻译，降低肿瘤细胞对铁死亡的敏感性，说明合并心脏疾病的肿瘤患者可能有更差的治疗效果和预后^[74]。

2.2.3 环状RNA

CircRNA是一类单链环状非编码RNA，在各种物种的细胞内广泛表达。有研究发现，circRNA在转录和转录后水平的表达调控对肿瘤的进展有重要作用^[81]。CircRNA也可以作为miRNA的上游调节因子，间接调控*ACSL4*的表达。在急性脑梗死中，circRNA Carm1表达上调，与miR-3098-3p竞争

性结合, 解除miR-3098-3p对*ACSL4*表达的抑制作用。研究发现, 抑制circRNA *Carm1*的表达可以通过抑制*ACSL4*表达减轻铁死亡损伤, 保护缺氧的海马神经元细胞^[67]。CircRNA *SCN8A*可以竞争性结合miR-1290, 解除其对*ACSL4*的表达抑制。在非小细胞肺癌中, circRNA *SCN8A*表达下调, 这与患者的不良预后相关^[59]。另外, circRNA *LMO1*也可以通过竞争性结合miR-4291, 解除对*ACSL4*的抑制^[71]。虽然circRNA可以通过miRNA和RNA剪接因子对*ACSL4*表达进行间接调控, 但目前暂无文献报道circRNA直接调控*ACSL4*基因转录或mRNA翻译。

2.2.4 其他上游因子

病毒、药物与转录因子等也可以作为miRNA的上游影响因素, 通过调节miRNA的表达量间接调控*ACSL4*的转录后过程。在乙型肝炎病毒X蛋白(hepatitis B virus X protein, HBX)诱导的肝细胞癌(hepatic cell cancer, HCC)中, HBX使miR-205表达下调, 解除对*ACSL4*翻译的抑制, 从而导致脂质代谢过程异常^[54]。在索拉非尼耐药的HCC中, miR-23a-3p的表达在转录因子ETS1的调控下升高, 导致*ACSL4*表达降低, 增强HCC对铁死亡的耐受性^[55]。MiR-552-5p也可以抑制*ACSL4*的表达, 但是在HCC中, 抑制性转录因子ZNF2与miR-552-5p的启动子结合, 抑制miR-552-5p的转录, 从而恢复*ACSL4*的表达^[56]。过氧化物酶体ABCD2(peroxisome ABCD2)的存在可以抑制miR-141-3p的表达, 从而上调*ACSL4*在软骨细胞内的表达。而在

骨关节炎患者的软骨细胞内, ABCD2被显著抑制, *ACSL4*表达相应地明显下调, 导致脂质代谢紊乱, 胞内脂质积累产生损伤^[73]。药物方面, 表没食子儿茶素没食子酸酯可以上调缺血心肌中miR-450b-5p的表达量, 通过miR-450b-5p/*ACSL4*轴抑制铁死亡进程, 从而减轻心肌缺血损伤^[61]。

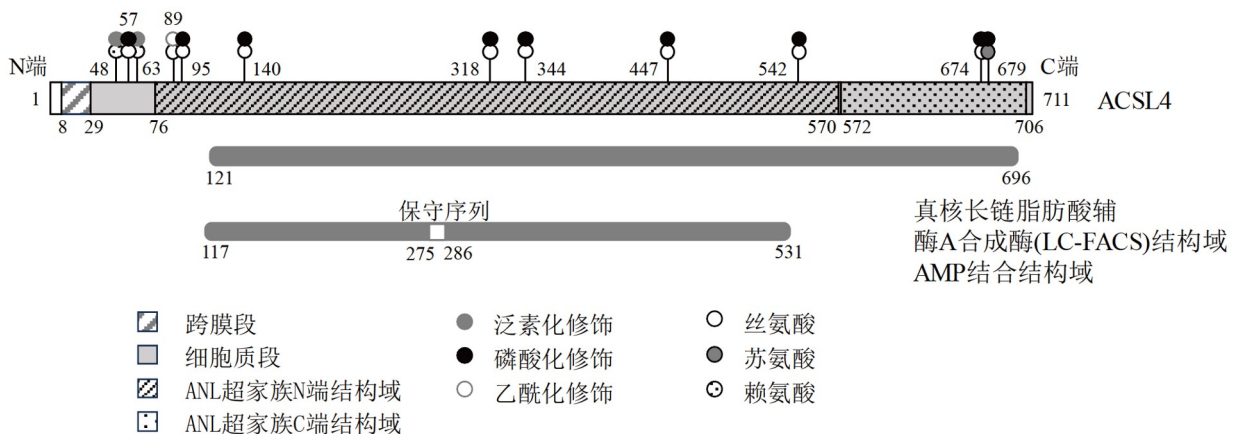
3 *ACSL4*的翻译后调控

*ACSL4*蛋白上存在多种翻译后修饰, 包括泛素化、磷酸化与精氨酸甲基化等(图2), 从而影响*ACSL4*蛋白的稳定性与活性。

3.1 泛素化修饰

泛素-蛋白酶体系统(ubiquitin-proteasome system, UPS)通过对蛋白质进行泛素化修饰, 使蛋白酶体高选择性地降解目标蛋白, 是一类重要的翻译后修饰。泛素化的主要过程由泛素激活酶E1、泛素结合酶E2、泛素连接酶E3参与的一系列酶促反应构成^[82]。

E3表达量改变是调控*ACSL4*蛋白稳定性的重要途径之一。3-羟基-3-甲基戊二酰还原酶降解蛋白1(HMG-CoA reductase degradation 1, HRD1)和环指蛋白146(ring finger protein 146, RNF146)是两种E3泛素连接酶。ATF3是一种应激诱导的转录因子, 其表达在没有细胞应激的情况下普遍维持在低水平, 在调节代谢、免疫应答和肿瘤发生中发挥重要作用。ATF3可以抑制HRD1的转录, 但促进RNF146的转录。在胃癌细胞中, miR-221-3p表达上调, 与ATF3 mRNA结合发挥抑制作用, 从而恢



图中未在本文提及的结构域、修饰位点来源于NCBI、UniProt、InterPro、Pfam数据库

图2 *ACSL4*蛋白已知的各结构域及氨基酸修饰位点

复HRD1蛋白的表达量。此时,HRD1占主导作用,介导ACSL4的泛素化和降解,抑制肿瘤细胞的铁死亡^[83]。在缺血再灌注模型中,ATF3水平升高,RNF146水平也升高,此时RNF146功能占主导地位,ACSL4泛素化降解增多^[84]。另外,研究发现,在YAP过表达的心肌细胞中,YAP通过与转录因子TEAD4相互作用,促进NEDD4样E3泛素蛋白连接酶的转录表达,使ACSL4泛素化降解增多^[85]。E3泛素连接酶TRIM21和去泛素化酶USP15共同调节ACSL4蛋白的泛素化平衡,且ACSL4的稳定性影响胃肠道间质瘤的伊马替尼耐药性^[86]。

蛋白酶体的活性改变也是UPS调控ACSL4蛋白稳定性的途径之一。在ER α +型乳腺癌细胞系MCF7中,17 β -雌二醇通过降低其蛋白酶体的降解率,延长ACSL4蛋白的半衰期,提高ACSL4蛋白的水平^[87]。

研究人员发现,暴露于AA中的细胞ACSL4泛素化程度增强,蛋白质含量减少^[88]。进一步研究发现,细胞内囊泡转运因子p115与ACSL4具有高亲和力,并且这种相互作用可以被AA增强。p115是参与肝细胞中ACSL4蛋白稳定性调控的重要因素,因此可能与AA诱导的ACSL4蛋白降解机制有关^[89]。另外,在雷帕霉素不敏感的细胞中剔除mTOR组分Rictor后,发现ACSL4蛋白泛素化水平提高,说明Rictor可以抑制ACSL4的泛素化降解^[90]。另外,血管内皮细胞中锌指蛋白A20可以上调ACSL4的泛素化水平^[91];但又有研究结果表明,A20与ACSL4蛋白直接相互作用并上调其表达^[92,93]。这些结果说明,A20对ACSL4的调控作用仍有待进一步研究。

3.2 磷酸化修饰

磷酸化修饰是细胞内调节蛋白活性和功能的最普遍、最基本的蛋白质修饰机制。ACSL4在正常情况下是一种磷酸化蛋白,在Ser95、Ser140、Ser674、Thr679位点有磷酸化修饰^[94,95],且类固醇激素可以诱导磷酸化状态的发生。有研究发现,ACSL4在体外被蛋白激酶A(protein kinase A, PKA)磷酸化后活性明显上升,蛋白激酶C(protein kinase C, PKC)作用则相反^[96]。但PKA、PKC使ACSL4磷酸化的具体位点尚不清楚,因此暂时难以解释二者对ACSL4活性调节作用相反的原因。

含Src同源2结构域蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶(Src homology 2-containing phosphotyrosine phosphatase 2, SHP2)是一种非受体蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶。cAMP信号通路激活的SHP2通过磷酸化修饰上调ACSL4蛋白的表达^[97,98]。此外,奥沙利铂耐药的结直肠癌细胞中细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶1(cyclin dependent kinase 1, CDK1)表达明显上调,CDK1直接与ACSL4蛋白结合,并磷酸化其S447位点,招募E3泛素连接酶UBR5,导致ACSL4的泛素化降解增多。总而言之,CDK1通过降低细胞对铁死亡的敏感性,使其产生奥沙利铂抗性^[99]。

3.3 精氨酸甲基化修饰

胱硫醚 β -合酶基因(cystathionine β -synthase gene, CBS)的mRNA存在时,ACSL4的翻译后精氨酸甲基化修饰水平升高。甲基化状态下的ACSL4稳定性更高,对泛素化修饰和蛋白酶体降解不敏感,表型上表现为表达量升高。而研究发现,在缺氧状态的人胃癌细胞中,lncRNA CBSLR表达升高,招募YTHDF2和CBS mRNA形成CBSLR/YTHDF2/CBS mRNA复合体,通过m6A修饰途径降低CBS mRNA的稳定性,降低ACSL4蛋白甲基化水平,增加ACSL4的泛素化修饰和降解,以达到在肿瘤缺氧微环境中保护胃癌细胞免于铁死亡的目的^[100]。

3.4 SUMO化修饰

SUMO化修饰(SUMOylation)是一种可逆的翻译后修饰,其特征是类泛素蛋白修饰因子(small ubiquitin-like modifiers, SUMOs)与真核细胞中的靶蛋白结合,功能包括提高蛋白质稳定性。中心蛋白特异性蛋白酶1(SUMO specific peptidase 1, SENP1)具有去SUMO化修饰的功能。SENP1使ACSL4蛋白去SUMO化,降低ACSL4蛋白的稳定性,并通过该途径影响心肌细胞在缺氧条件下的铁死亡敏感性^[101]。另外,在头颈部鳞状细胞癌细胞中,也发现了SENP1表达上调引起的ACSL4蛋白去SUMO化^[102]。

3.5 O-GlcNAc修饰

氧连接的N-乙酰葡萄糖胺修饰(O-glcNAcylation, O-GlcNAc)是发生在蛋白质丝氨酸、苏氨酸羟基末端连接的乙酰氨基葡萄糖上的单糖基修饰。免疫共沉淀实验结果发现,肝细胞癌中ACSL4可以被

表2 ACSL4小分子抑制剂

名称	抑制原理	参考文献
罗格列酮	噻唑烷二酮(thiazolidinedione, TZD)为抑制的关键组分	[110]
吡格列酮	TZD为抑制的关键组分	[110]
曲格列酮	TZD为抑制的关键组分	[109]
三氮菌素C	N-羟基三氮烯结构抑制ACSL活性	[106-108]
PRGL493	直接结合ACSL4蛋白Lys572位点抑制其酶活性	[111]
阿贝西利	与ACSL4结合活性较高, 但具体抑制机制不明	[112]
舍他康唑	具体抑制机制不明	[113]
AS-252424	直接结合ACSL4蛋白Gln464位点抑制其酶活性	[114]

O-GlcNAc修饰, 且O-GlcNAc修饰水平升高时, *ACSL4*整体表达上调, 蛋白稳定性提高, 促进肝细胞癌的发生发展^[103]。

3.6 蛋白质相互作用

部分非酶蛋白可以直接与ACSL4相互作用, 并影响ACSL4的表达量。超长链脂肪酸家族成员6可与ACSL4蛋白直接相互作用, 并可能通过该途径抑制结直肠癌细胞中*ACSL4*的过量表达^[104]。另外, 热休克蛋白90(heat shock protein 90, Hsp90)可以与Ser637位点去磷酸化的动力蛋白相关蛋白1(dynamin-related protein 1, Drp1)结合为Hsp90-Drp1复合物, 并在蛋白质水平上与ACSL4结合, 提高其稳定性^[105]。

3.7 ACSL4蛋白的小分子抑制剂

多个ACSL4蛋白的小分子抑制剂已经被开发(表2), 但小分子激活剂暂无相关文献报道。*ACSL4*抑制剂包括罗格列酮、吡格列酮、曲格列酮和三氮菌素C。这四种药物也是常用的铁死亡小分子抑制剂。其中, 格列酮类药物的噻唑烷二酮结构为特异性抑制组分, 三氮菌素C为ACSL蛋白家族抑制剂, 关键抑制组分为N-羟基三氮烯结构^[106-110]。PRGL493是ACSL4蛋白选择性抑制剂, 直接结合Lys572位点抑制酶活性, 可以阻断细胞增殖和生长过程, 常用于肿瘤研究^[111]。阿贝西利是CDK4/6选择性抑制剂, 但有研究发现, 它与ACSL4的结合活性较高, 实验证明, 阿贝西利对ACSL4蛋白表达有明显的抑制作用, 但具体机制暂不明晰^[112]。舍他康唑是一种广谱的抗真菌剂, 对ACSL4蛋白表达也有明显抑制作用, 机制仍不明晰^[113]。有研究发现, PI3K γ 抑制剂AS-252424可

以直接结合ACSL4蛋白Gln464位点抑制其酶活性^[114]。

4 总结与展望

综上所述, *ACSL4*的表达受到转录、转录后、翻译与翻译后水平的调控。然而, *ACSL4*在若干重要环节的调控机制尚不清楚(如不同组织细胞类型中*ACSL4*的表达差异可能受到表观遗传调控), 亟待进一步深入研究。此外, 阐明*ACSL4*在疾病发生发展中的表达变化与调控机制, 对疾病的预防和治疗可能具有重要意义。

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