

综述

β -羟基丁酰化在神经系统疾病中的作用

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摘要: β -羟基丁酰化(β -hydroxybutyrylation, Kbbh)是由 β -羟基丁酸(β -hydroxybutyrate, BHB)介导的一种新型蛋白翻译后修饰(post-translational modification, PTM), 具有调控基因转录和代谢重编程的生物学功能, 参与氧化应激和炎症反应等细胞过程。目前, BHB及Kbbh已被证实在神经系统疾病中发挥着抑制神经元损伤、抗氧化应激和炎症反应等作用, 在癫痫、抑郁症、阿尔茨海默病等神经系统疾病中表现出潜在的治疗效应。然而, 目前仍缺乏大量的动物实验和临床数据进一步验证Kbbh在神经系统疾病中的作用机制和干预靶点。本文通过对Kbbh的研究历程、生物学功能及其在神经系统疾病中的作用机制进行综述, 以为神经系统疾病的诊疗提供新的理论依据。

关键词: β -羟基丁酰化; 神经元损伤; 氧化应激; 炎症反应

Roles of β -hydroxybutyrylation in nervous system diseases

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Abstract: β -hydroxybutyrylation (Kbbh) is a novel post-translational modification (PTM) mediated by β -hydroxybutyrate (BHB). It has biological functions involved in regulation of gene transcription and metabolic reprogramming, and can regulate cellular processes such as oxidative stress and inflammatory responses. At present, BHB and Kbbh play a role in inhibiting neuronal damage, anti-oxidative stress and inflammatory response in neurological system diseases such as epilepsy, depression and Alzheimer's disease, which have shown great therapeutic potential. However, there is still a lack of extensive animal experiments and clinical data to verify the mechanism of action and intervention targets Kbbh in neurological diseases. In this review, we summarize the research process, biological functions and mechanism of Kbbh in neurological diseases. It is hopeful that this work can provide new theoretical basis for the diagnosis and treatment of neurological diseases.

Key Words: β -hydroxybutyrylation; neuronal damage; oxidative stress; inflammatory responses

酮体是肝脏中脂肪酸氧化分解产生的中间产物。 β -羟基丁酸(β -hydroxybutyrate, BHB)是酮体的重要组成成分。在机体葡萄糖供应受限时, BHB能够为代谢活跃组织(如大脑)提供主要能量来

源。同时, BHB不仅可以作为能量来源为肝外组织供能, 还可作为调节多种细胞功能的代谢信号^[1,2]。随着质谱和蛋白质组学技术的发展, 研究发现, BHB与赖氨酸 ϵ -氨基基团通过共价结合能够

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产生一种新型蛋白翻译后修饰, 称为 β -羟基丁酰化(β -hydroxybutyrylation, Kbbh), 且Kbbh程度与BHB浓度呈剂量依赖性^[3]。禁食、生酮饮食(ketogenic diet, KD)和BHB治疗都能够促进Kbbh水平的升高, 并在神经系统疾病中发挥抑制神经元凋亡、减轻神经炎症和氧化应激、促进神经营养因子生成等作用, 对改善神经系统的功能具有良好的效果。因此, 深入探究Kbbh在神经系统疾病中的作用机制, 对阐明BHB相关治疗机理、发现新药物靶点以及提高临床治疗效果具有重要意义。

1 Kbbh的研究历程

早在60多年前, 组蛋白的蛋白翻译后修饰(post-translational modification, PTM)就已被发现并报道。2016年才发现Kbbh是一种由BHB诱导产生的一种新型PTM。在机体各种生命活动中Kbbh不仅受酮体代谢关键酶的影响, 还受“写入”和“擦除”两类酶的调控^[3]。研究Kbbh的生成机制和调控Kbbh的关键酶, 为探究Kbbh的生物学功能和调节作用提供了重要依据。

1.1 Kbbh的发现和生成机制

Zhou等^[3]在BHB处理的细胞中和长期禁食和糖尿病酮症酸中毒的小鼠肝脏中发现Kbbh, 并进一

步在酵母、果蝇、小鼠和人类等真核生物中也检测到了Kbbh的存在。根据BHB的C3手性特点, BHB可分为R-BHB和S-BHB, 其中参与酮体生成的主要是R-BHB。Kbbh的生成主要通过脂肪酸 β -氧化生成乙酰CoA, 乙酰CoA进一步被催化为乙酰乙酰CoA, 在酮体代谢的关键酶3-羟基-3-甲基戊二酰辅酶A合成酶2(mitochondrial 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA synthase 2, HMGCS2)和 β -羟基丁酸脱氢酶1(β -hydroxybutyrate dehydrogenase 1, BDH1)作用下生成R-BHB, R-BHB通过自由扩散或单羧酸转运蛋白(monocarboxyl-ate transporter, MCT)被特定组织吸收。值得注意的是, MCT具有组织特异性, 如MCT1在各组织中普遍表达, MCT2在神经元和肾脏中特异性表达, 而MCT4则在心脏、肺、骨骼肌和胶质细胞中表达^[4]。在肝外组织中, BHB进入三羧酸循环(tricarboxylic acid cycle, TCA)产生ATP作为替代能源; 另一方面乙酰辅酶A合成酶短链家族成员2(acyl-CoA synthetase short chain family member 2, ACS2)将R-BHB转化为R-BHB-CoA, 经酰基转移酶p300的催化, 引起特定蛋白发生Kbbh(图1)。

1.2 Kbbh的调控酶

蛋白Kbbh修饰受“写入”和“擦除”两类酶

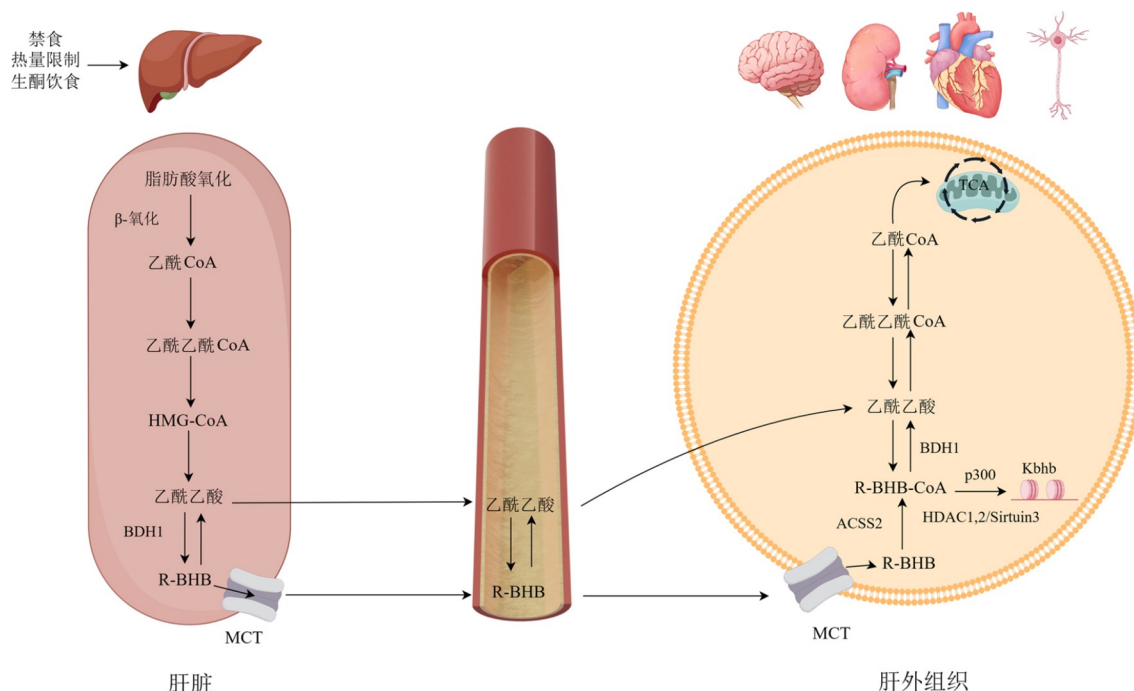


图1 Kbbh生成机制图

的调控。蛋白Kbhb“写入”酶是指能够产生组蛋白乙酰化修饰的酶^[5],目前主要有三个组蛋白乙酰转移酶(histone acetyltransferases, HATs)家族,包括p300/CREB结合蛋白(p300/CREB-binding protein, p300/CBP)家族、MYST(MOZ、Ybf2/Sas3、Sas2和Tip60)家族和GNAT家族^[3,5,6]。而p300作为一种强效组蛋白乙酰基转移酶,在细胞实验中已被证实不仅具有催化蛋白Kbhb的能力^[7],还可直接激活体外转录^[8]。

蛋白Kbhb“擦除”酶是指去乙酰化修饰的转移酶^[9]。目前去乙酰化酶分为四类,其中I、II、IV类是依赖Zn的组蛋白去乙酰化酶(histone deacetylases, HDACs),III类是依赖烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸的Sirtuins家族^[5,9,10]。研究发现,I类和III类HDACs均具有去Kbhb修饰酶的活性,而与I类HDACs(包括HDAC1、HDAC2)相比,Sirtuin3对Kbhb有很强的活性^[9,10]。

2 Kbhb的生物学功能与调节作用

在生物体各种细胞活动中,Kbhb具有参与代谢重编程以及调节基因表达的能力,能够适应细胞能量的变化、减轻神经炎症和保护神经元免受氧化应激损伤,对机体具有显著的保护作用。研究Kbhb的生物学功能与调节作用对阐明机体活动机制、发现药物靶点以及对临床治疗的发展具有重要意义。

2.1 Kbhb参与基因转录调控

BHB通过Kbhb对基因表达的调控限制体内碳水化合物含量的增加^[11],能够促进叉头框转录因子1(forkhead box protein O1, FOXO1)上的组蛋白H3的第9个赖氨酸位点(H3K9)和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 α , PGC-1 α)的表达^[12]。同样,BHB也可以通过H3K9bhb上调脂联素基因的表达,起到降低肥胖糖尿病血糖水平的作用^[13]。通过禁食限制机体对碳水化合物的吸收也能够使BHB的水平提高,从而使FOXO1和抗氧化酶血红素氧化酶-1(heme oxygenase-1, HO-1)的表达增强,并抑制核因子- κ B(nuclear factor- κ B, NF- κ B)和核苷酸寡聚化结构域样受体蛋白3(nucleotide-binding domain and leucine-rich repeat

protein 3, NLRP3)炎症小体的表达,发挥抗炎和减少细胞凋亡的作用^[14]。

2.2 Kbhb参与代谢重编程

在能量匮乏的情况下,代谢重编程能为细胞生长和增殖提供所需的能量。小肠细胞隐窝代谢基因程序的激活与禁食时近端启动子元件上H3K9bhb的富集有关,当小肠上皮细胞中线粒体HMGS2被敲除时,组蛋白H3K9bhb修饰水平就会降低,表明局部产生的BHB能够小肠细胞隐窝内发生代谢重编程^[15]。在肿瘤细胞中,代谢重编程是其重要的特征之一,肿瘤细胞通过对代谢途径的重编程,为自身增殖提供所需的物质和能量^[16]。转移相关蛋白2(metastasis-associated protein 2, MTA2)是肝细胞癌恶性发展的标志物。有研究发现,MTA2过表达时体内成瘤率明显提高,敲低MTA2则结果相反^[17]。进一步研究发现,MTA2能与HDAC2、染色质解旋酶DNA结合蛋白4(chromodomain helicase DNA-binding protein 4, CHD4)结合,形成一个新的MTA2-HDAC2-CHD4复合物,并通过形成R环抑制BDH1表达,使得BHB水平升高进而促进H3K9bhb表达,导致肝癌的发生或加速病情恶化^[17]。

2.3 Kbhb参与氧化应激调节

活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)是一类含有氧自由基的高活性物质,是线粒体中正常细胞呼吸作用的副产物,在调节生物体的各种生理功能方面起着重要的作用^[18]。当ROS的产生超过其抗氧化能力时,细胞或组织就会出现异常病变。有研究发现,BHB可通过抑制脊髓组织中I类HDACs表达,提高机体抗氧化能力,减轻氧化应激对脊髓的损伤^[19]。有研究在心肌缺血再灌注损伤小鼠模型中发现,BHB治疗能够有效保护小鼠心肌线粒体的完整性,减少心肌内线粒体ROS的生成,降低小鼠体内氧化应激水平^[20]。可见,在氧化应激调节中,BHB能够改变线粒体和细胞质的氧化还原能力,并减轻线粒体功能障碍,抑制ROS生成,减轻氧化应激对机体的损伤。

2.4 Kbhb调节炎症反应

高盐能够诱导NLRP3炎症小体的成熟,而G蛋白偶联受体109A(G-protein coupled receptor 109A, GPR109A)可通过介导BHB抑制NLRP3炎症小体的表达,降低白介素-1 β (interleukin-1 β , IL-1 β)和IL-

18的表达,从而发挥抗炎作用,减缓神经退行性疾病症状的发生,提高机体的认知和运动能力^[21,22]。此外,研究还发现,小胶质细胞活化能够诱导神经炎症的发生,而BHB能够抑制脂多糖诱导的小胶质细胞活化,减轻神经炎症^[23]。很多研究将BHB与炎症联系在一起,认为BHB是炎症的调节剂,但BHB的抗炎和促炎作用的表达与细胞类型和BHB浓度等也存在一定的联系。

3 组蛋白Kbhb与神经系统疾病

神经系统疾病是一类病理生理机制复杂、致死率和致残率较高的疾病。积极寻找有效的治疗和预防方法对神经系统疾病的防治具有重要意义。禁食、KD或剧烈运动都会使体内BHB水平升高,从而缓解癫痫、抑郁症、阿尔茨海默病(Alzheimer's disease, AD)和帕金森病(Parkinson's disease, PD)等神经退行性疾病的病理症状,具有显著的脑保护作用。

3.1 癫痫

癫痫是由异常神经元放电引起的神经元损伤、神经炎症和氧化应激等病理变化导致的一种慢性神经系统疾病。在应用BHB治疗毛果芸香碱或红藻氨酸诱导的癫痫鼠模型中发现,BHB能够通过减轻神经元损伤和抑制炎症反应等途径,发挥抗惊厥作用,延长癫痫发作的潜伏期,起到抗癫痫作用^[24,25]。给予患者KD治疗发现,KD能够提高患者BHB水平从而有效调节内质网应激和突触可塑性,改善癫痫大鼠模型或癫痫患者的学习和记忆能力,降低癫痫的发作率^[26,27]。早在100多年前,KD就已被应用到临床,其对于癫痫的治疗效果已得到医疗界公认,但其具体机制并不明确。现有众多研究已经发现,KD对于癫痫的治疗可能与促进患者体内BHB水平有关。另有研究发现,激活电压门控钾离子通道KCNQ2/3形成的神经元M通道也有助于BHB发挥抗癫痫作用^[28]。可见,BHB对于癫痫具有一定的潜在治疗效果,但其具体作用机制还有待进一步研究。

3.2 抑郁症

抑郁症是一种以持续性情绪低落和快感减弱为特征的情绪障碍性疾病,目前尚未确认用于抑郁症的临床诊断标志物。在抑郁症患者死后大脑样

本中发现,其血清、血浆和脑脊液中脑源性神经营养因子(brain derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)水平均异常低,应用抗抑郁药物可以提高抑郁症患者大脑的BDNF水平,改善患者抑郁症状,说明BDNF与抑郁存在一定关联^[29]。有研究发现,BHB可以缓解抑郁症模型小鼠的抑郁样行为^[30],并可改善传统抗抑郁药存在的起效慢和疗效不佳等问题。另一研究发现,BHB通过提高BDNF启动子上组蛋白H3赖氨酸27位点乙酰化(H3K27ac)占用和降低赖氨酸27位点三甲基化(H3K27me3)的占用使得BDNF的表达增强,从而发挥抗抑郁作用^[31-34]。有研究在动物和细胞实验中也发现,患有抑郁症的小鼠脑内BHB含量和H3K9bhb水平均降低,经BHB治疗后,小鼠脑内H3K9bhb水平随BHB浓度的增加呈依赖性升高,逆转了BDNF下调,小鼠抑郁行为得到减轻^[35]。由此可见,BHB可以作为抗抑郁药,而H3K9bhb可能是治疗抑郁症的一个新的靶点。

3.3 阿尔茨海默病

AD是由 β -淀粉样蛋白在大脑中积累而引起的一种神经退行性疾病,机体对葡萄糖的低代谢是促成AD发生的潜在因素。酮体可以作为葡萄糖缺乏时的主要替代能源。有研究通过构建小鼠AD模型,发现预给AD小鼠补充一定剂量酮体可显著抑制其氧化应激水平,减少 β -淀粉样蛋白的沉积,提高AD小鼠的学习和记忆能力^[36]。另一研究通过补充BHB发现,作为酮体的主要成分,BHB可以有效逆转葡萄糖低代谢引起的细胞存活率低的现象,对AD的发病率具有一定的抑制作用^[37,38]。KD可以诱导肝脏产生酮体,而过度磷酸化的Tau蛋白组成的神经元纤维缠结被认为是AD的标志性病理特点之一,与 β -淀粉样蛋白的累积有关。有研究通过给予AD小鼠KD喂养发现,KD可以提高小鼠BHB水平,使得 β -淀粉样蛋白沉积和Tau蛋白过度磷酸化显著减轻,有效改善小鼠的认知行为^[39-42]。有研究还发现, β -淀粉样蛋白的自噬清除能力与HMGCS2的丰度也存在一定联系^[43]。也有研究发现,BHB可能通过诱导线粒体生酮途径调节小胶质细胞免疫代谢,抑制 β -淀粉样蛋白寡聚体诱导的小胶质细胞炎症,对AD治疗效果产生积极的干预^[44,45]。综上,酮体和生酮饮食对AD的治疗潜力可能与自噬

的刺激、 β -淀粉样蛋白病理累积和Tau蛋白磷酸化有关,值得进一步研究。

3.4 帕金森病

PD是一种以运动缺陷、多巴胺能神经元损伤和 α -突触核蛋白在大脑中异常聚集为主要特征的神经退行性疾病。研究发现,BHB治疗能够缓解PD小鼠多巴胺能神经元的氧化应激和铁死亡^[46],还可以通过下调信号转导因素和转录激活因子3(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)介导的NLRP3炎症小体的激活,对PD发挥一定的抗炎作用,延缓PD的进展,为PD的防治提供新的干预措施^[47]。研究发现,不同类型的KD也能够逆转PD鼠运动功能的缺陷,减少PD鼠多巴胺能神经元和线粒体的损伤,提高其抗氧化能力和ATP水平,为PD的治疗提供多方面的保护效果^[48-50]。另外有研究报道,一定程度的进行饮食限制也能够使BHB水平提高,起到促进线粒体自噬和抗炎的作用,保护神经元免受与PD有关的氧化和蛋白毒性应激,改善认知功能,延长患者寿命^[51,52]。

4 总结与展望

BHB和Kbhb在神经系统中作为补充剂能够有效治疗和缓解神经系统类疾病:通过减轻神经元损伤、抑制神经炎症和抗氧化应激,从而发挥抗惊厥作用;提高BDNF水平可显著减轻抑郁行为;改善线粒体功能、减轻 β -淀粉样蛋白病理累积和Tau蛋白磷酸化是治疗AD的主要手段;抑制多巴胺能神经元的损伤、抗氧化应激和炎症反应对PD认知和运动等功能的改善具有极大的保护作用。

BHB和Kbhb在神经系统中表现出了巨大的治疗潜力,但关于BHB诱导Kbhb或Kbhb直接作用于神经系统疾病的报道并不多。Kbhb是BHB诱导的新型翻译后修饰,BHB对于神经系统疾病的作用机制在Kbhb中是否同样有效还需进一步探究。另外,关于BHB和Kbhb的研究大多集中在动物疾病模型中,BHB和Kbhb的临床治疗效果还需进一步验证,期待更多的临床研究和动物实验为Kbhb在疾病调控方面提供大量且充分的使用依据和理论支撑。

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