

5-羟色胺转运体基因启动子区 CpG 岛甲基化状态与精神分裂症 I 型和 II 型的关联

张海生^{1,2}, 王伟¹, 余道军^{*}, 张顺泉², 谢健²

(1.浙江大学医学部临床心理室,浙江 杭州 310058;

2.杭州市第一人民医院临床心理科,浙江 杭州 310006)

【摘要】 目的:探讨 5-羟色胺转运体(5-HTT)基因启动子区 CpG 岛甲基化状态与精神分裂症 I 型和 II 型的关联。方法:运用特异性甲基检测 PCR 和直接测序法对 62 例精神分裂症 I 型患者、38 例 II 型患者和 50 例健康被试 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛甲基化状态进行检测。结果:三组 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛甲基化阳性率无显著性差异;精神分裂症 I 型患者 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点甲基化率显著高于精神分裂症 II 型患者和健康被试组。结论:5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点高甲基化可能是精神分裂症 I 型的发病机制之一。

【关键词】 精神分裂症; 甲基化; 5-羟色胺转运体 (5-HTT)

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Relationship Between Methylation Status of CpG Islands within the Promoter Region of Serotonin Transporter Gene and Type I or Type II Schizophrenia

ZHANG Hai-sheng, WANG Wei, YU Dao-jun, ZHANG Shun-quan, XIE Jian

Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychiatry, School of Medicine Zhejiang University, Hangzhou 310058, China

[Abstract] **Objective:** To explore the relationship between methylation status of CpG islands in the promoter region of serotonin transporter gene (5-HTT) and type I or II schizophrenia. **Methods:** Methylation Specific PCR and DNA sequencing were used to detect the methylation status of CpG islands in 62 type I schizophrenia patients, 38 type II schizophrenia patients and 50 health subjects. **Results:** The methylation rates of CpG islands within the promoter region of 5-HTT of the three groups are 52% (32/62), 47% (18/38) and 50% (25/50), respectively. The methylation rates of loci in CpG islands within the promoter region of 5-HTT in type I schizophrenia group is significantly higher than those in type II schizophrenia group and health subjects. **Conclusion:** The high methylation rate of loci in CpG islands within the promoter region of 5-HTT should be a possible factor to influence the nosogenesis of type I schizophrenia.

【Key words】 Schizophrenia; Methylation; Serotonin transporter

精神分裂症(schizophrenia)的病因十分复杂,虽然该病是一种遗传相关的疾病^[1],但目前尚未发现与这种疾病直接相关的特异性的基因。遗传与环境因素之间复杂的相互作用是精神分裂症的主要病因^[2]。环境因素,如饮食、药物等,通过个体的摄入及个体体内激素变化影响 DNA 表观遗传修饰改变。表观修饰以 DNA 甲基化最为常见^[3],另外还有组蛋白的修饰等。最初的研究已经证实 DNA 甲基化的的确与精神分裂症有关^[4-7]。其中一项理论认为通过影响转录因子与识别位点的特异性结合即可改变调节区 CpG 岛的甲基化状态,从而影响基因表达^[8]。在精神分裂症的表观遗传学方面,目前研究较多的甲基化基因包括颤蛋白(reelin),多巴胺 D2(DRD2)受体,性别决定 Y 区域转录因子 10(SOX10)等^[9-11]。

5-羟色胺 (5-HT) 在神经发展功能、成人的大脑塑造方面具有各种各样的作用^[12]。已有研究证明 5-HT 的不协调与包括精神分裂症在内的多种精神

障碍有关系^[13]。5-羟色胺转运体 (5-HTT) 通过决定 5-HT 突触信号的强度和持续时间而对 5-HT 神经递质起到关键作用^[13],进而被认为是神经精神疾病相关研究的作用靶点。Jennings 等^[14]和 Deltheil 等^[15]的研究还表明 5-HTT 表达影响 5-HT2A 受体和脑源性神经营养因子(BNDF)水平,而 5-HT2A 受体和 BNDF 影响精神分裂患者的前额叶功能^[16],并且影响精神分裂患者的情绪管理等^[17]。Philibert 等^[18]研究表明 5-HTTmRNA 的转录水平下降与其上游的甲基化有关联。5-HTT 基因的甲基化是 5-HTT 功能的重要调节方式^[19,20],基因的甲基化大部分集中在启动子区 CpG 岛,所以我们认为 5-HTT 启动子区 CpG 岛甲基化水平可能与精神分裂症相关联。

精神分裂症是一组异质性疾病,不同临床类型的基因表型可能不一致甚至相反^[21]。传统的精神分裂症分型有偏执型、青春型、单纯型等,这种分型和临床表现及预后关系大,和病因关系不大^[22]。而 1980 年 Crow 提出按阳性和阴性症状将精神分裂症划分为 I 型(阳性)和 II 型(阴性的假说^[23],其最重要的推论为 I 型精神分裂症患者为大脑生化改变,II 型为

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通讯作者:王伟

* 杭州市第一人民医院检验科

大脑发育期的损伤或大脑结构变化所致,认为Ⅰ型和Ⅱ型存在着明显的异源性^[24]。因此,将精神分裂症分成Ⅰ型和Ⅱ型为研究样本的同质性提供了有利条件。我们拟采用甲基化特异性PCR和直接测序法检测精神分裂症Ⅰ型、Ⅱ型患者组及健康被试组5-HTT的启动子区甲基化水平,推测精神分裂症Ⅰ型和Ⅱ型5-HTT的启动子区甲基化水平和健康被试组之间都有差异,前两者之间也可能有差异,进而或许能判断5-HTT启动子区CpG岛甲基化是否是精神分裂Ⅰ型或Ⅱ型发病机制之一。

1 对象与方法

1.1 对象

精神分裂症Ⅰ型组与Ⅱ型组:2008年10月至2010年6月就诊于杭州第一人民医院临床心理科、杭州市第七人民医院的浙江省杭州地区汉族人。符合中国精神疾病分类方案与诊断标准第3版^[25]精神分裂症的诊断标准,阳性与阴性症状量表^[26]评分≥60分;不符合酒精依赖及其他精神活性物质依赖的诊断标准,为首次发病或因停药复发患者,并依据Andreasen等的阳性、阴性精神分裂症诊断标准^[27],将研究对象划分为Ⅰ型与Ⅱ型精神分裂症。其中Ⅰ型组共62例患者,包括男性38例,女性24例。年龄28.8±7.8岁,跨度为16~43岁;病程17.92±13.29月,跨度为1个月至5年。Ⅱ型组共38例患者,包括男性20例,女性18例。年龄27.80±7.70岁,跨度为16~44岁;病程16.42±10.33月,跨度为1个月至5年。

健康被试组:50名健康被试,男性29例,女性21例,均为杭州第一人民医院保健科健康体检者。年龄28.51±8.70岁,跨度为16~54岁。年龄、性别与精神分裂症Ⅰ型和Ⅱ型组相匹配。无精神科疾病家族史,依据简明精神疾病评定量表(BPRS量表)评定,无精神科疾病。所有研究对象均取得知情同意并经过杭州市第一人民医院伦理委员会批准备案。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 DNA提取 抽取患者和健康体检者外周静脉血1ml,用EDTA-K2抗凝。基因组DNA提取采用全血基因组DNA提取试剂盒(北京天根生物技术有限公司)进行操作,提取后-80℃保存备用。

1.2.2 亚硫酸盐处理 (ZYMO RESEARCH公司提供的Z DNA Methylation-Gold KitTM试剂盒)按以下步骤操作:①在PCR管中添加130μl的CT Conversion Reagent和20μlDNA样品混匀;②98℃放置10分钟;③64℃放置2.5小时;④置含有M-Binding Buffer的Zymo-Spin IC柱,颠倒数次混合样品;⑤高速离心(10,000rpm)30秒;⑥添加200μl的M-

Wash Buffer到柱中,高速离心(10,000rpm)30秒;⑦添加200μl的M-Desulphonation Buffer到柱中并且在室温下放置15~20分钟,高速离心(10,000rpm)30秒;⑧添加200μl的M-Wash Buffer到柱中,高速离心(10,000rpm)30秒,重复洗涤一次;⑨直接添加10μl的M-Elution Buffer到柱基质中,将柱放置在1.5ml的管中,全速离心来洗脱DNA,得到重亚硫酸氢盐修饰后的基因组DNA。

1.2.3 甲基化特异性PCR(MSP) 5-羟色胺转运体基因启动子区基因序列来自GenBank,应用“methprimer”(<http://www.urogene.org/methprimer/>)网上在线设计软件设计5-HTT的MSP引物,然后对其引物继续Blast验证其特异性。5-HTT基因甲基化特异性PCR引物序列:上游5'-GTAGGAAAGT-TAGGATTTTCGTTTC-3',下游5'-GCTAAATAAA-ATTACGCTCGCC-3';非甲基化特异性PCR引物序列:上游5'-TACGAAACTTACGATTTCTTTG-3',下游5'-CCCACTAAATAAAATTACACTCACC-3'。引物由上海INVITROGEN公司合成。甲基化特异性PCR反应:95℃预变性3min;94℃30s,52℃20s,72℃20s,37个循环;最后72℃延伸5min。非甲基化特异性PCR程序(120bp):95℃预变性3min;94℃30s,52℃20s,72℃20s,37个循环;最后72℃延伸5min。2%琼脂糖凝胶电泳分析。

1.2.4 直接测序 PCR产物送到上海英俊公司测序,对PCR产物进行测序并且与未经处理的序列比较,判断是否CpG岛内位点发生甲基化,分析甲基化率(CpG岛内CpG位点甲基化和CpG岛内总CpG位点比例)。

2 结 果

阳性(甲基化)标本是指用甲基化和非甲基化引物扩增均有特异性扩增产物;阴性(非甲基化)标本是指仅有非甲基化引物扩增的产物。62例精神分裂症Ⅰ型患者、38例精神分裂症Ⅱ型患者和50例正常人5-HTT基因启动子区甲基化阳性率组间差异不显著。见附表。对PCR甲基化产物进行测序,对CpG位点进行定量分析,发现5-HTT基因启动子区有16个CpG位点,最多有11个位点甲基化,最少有2个位点甲基化。对三组被试的5-HTT基因启动子区CpG岛内位点甲基化率(CpG位点甲基化和总CpG位点比例)进行比较,发现三组被试的5-HTT基因启动子区CpG岛内位点甲基化率主效应显著($F(2,147)=9.543, P<0.001$)。Post-hoc检验发现,精神分裂症Ⅰ型患者5-HTT基因启动子区CpG岛内位点甲基化率显著高于精神分裂症Ⅱ型患者($P<0.01$)和健康被试组($P<0.01$),而后两者无明显差异。见

附表。

附表 精神分裂症 I 型组、II 型组和健康被试组的 5-HTT 基因启动子区甲基化水平比较

	I型组 (n=62)	II型组 (n=38)	健康被试组 (n=50)
5-HTT 基因启动子区甲基化阳性率	0.52 (32/62)	0.47 (18/38)	0.50 (25/50)
5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点甲基化率 (mean±S.D.)	0.54 ± 0.12* [△]	0.43 ± 0.09	0.46 ± 0.16

注: *P<0.01 vs. II 型组, △P<0.01 vs. 健康被试组

3 讨 论

本研究发现精神分裂症 I 型患者、II 型患者和健康被试的 5-HTT 基因启动子区甲基化阳性率没有明显的差异,而精神分裂症 I 型患者 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点甲基化率显著高于精神分裂症 II 型患者和健康被试组。

本研究结果提示 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点高甲基化和精神分裂症 I 型相关联。其中可能的机制是精神分裂症 I 型临床表现主要以幻觉妄想等阳性症状为主,而阳性症状与神经生化改变关系比较大^[28],具有较高的遗传性^[29],其中包括 5-HT 神经元的生化改变。DNA 的甲基化对基因的调控比较复杂,高甲基化可以抑制基因的表达^[30],5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 位点的高甲基化减少 5-HTT mRNA 的转录,间接增加了突触间隙的 5-HT 的浓度,并且增加了血浆 BDNF 水平,从而引起一系列的精神分裂的阳性症状。

本研究还提示 5-HTT 基因启动子区 CpG 岛内位点甲基化水平可能不是精神分裂症 II 型患者发病的一个影响因素。精神分裂症 II 型临床表现主要以思维贫乏、情感平淡等阴性症状为主,而阴性症状主要和大脑的结构异常有关系^[31],和神经元的凋亡有关。董燕等^[32]报道 5-HTT 基因启动子区甲基化水平和精神分裂症无明显的关联,与本研究结果不完全一致,可能与本研究将精神分裂症分成 I 型和 II 型研究有关系,进一步表明精神分裂症在基因表型方面也是异源性的,在基因研究方面上将精神分裂症 I 型作为同质性较高样本群体是可行的。

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