

## 基础研究

A20 介导 TNF- $\alpha$  炎症微环境下髓核细胞衰老的机制研究

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**【摘要】目的:**探讨锌指蛋白 A20[也称为肿瘤坏死因子诱导蛋白 3(tumor necrosis factor-induced protein 3, TNFAIP3)]在肿瘤坏死因子  $\alpha$ (tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$ , TNF- $\alpha$ )炎症微环境下髓核细胞(nucleus pulposus cells, NPCs)衰老发生机制。**方法:**体外分离培养 SD 大鼠髓核细胞。实验分为三组:正常对照组(只加入正常培养基)、TNF- $\alpha$  干预组(加入不同浓度的 TNF- $\alpha$ , 10ng/ml, 50ng/ml, 100ng/ml)和自然衰老组(在体外通过细胞不断增长传代至 P20 代)。应用 CCK-8 细胞增殖实验、 $\beta$  半乳糖苷酶染色、Western blot(WB)、QT-PCR、immunofluorescence(IF)从基因、蛋白及细胞功能水平评估髓核细胞衰老变化。应用 WB、QT-PCR 和 IF 检测锌指蛋白 A20、NF- $\kappa$ B(p65)、NF- $\kappa$ B(p-p65/phospho S536)表达情况。**结果:**与正常对照组相比, TNF- $\alpha$  干预 48h、72h 后髓核细胞的增殖能力明显降低; TNF- $\alpha$  干预组和衰老组  $\beta$  半乳糖染色阳性率较对照组明显增高; QT-PCR 结果提示, 与对照组比, TNF- $\alpha$  干预组 p53 表达增加( $P<0.05$ ), 而 A20 表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增高而降低; 衰老组 A20 表达较对照组减少, 而 p53 扩增升高。WB 检测显示: TNF- $\alpha$  可以诱导 p53、A20、p-p65 表达上调, 而 A20 表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增加而降低; 同时衰老组 A20 表达较对照组减少, 而 p-p65 和 p53 表达增加( $P<0.05$ ); IF 显示: 与对照组对比, TNF- $\alpha$  处理下 A20、p-p65 表达增加, 但是 A20 的表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  增加而降低, 衰老组 A20 较对照组也明显降低, p-p65 表达增加。**结论:**髓核细胞衰老程度与 TNF- $\alpha$  干预存在剂量关系, TNF- $\alpha$  可以刺激髓核细胞 A20 表达升高, 并激活 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路。而 A20 表达情况受细胞衰老程度影响, 随着髓核细胞衰老 A20 所参与的作用效能逐渐减低。

**【关键词】**髓核细胞; 锌指蛋白 A20; 肿瘤坏死因子  $\alpha$ ; 炎症反应; 细胞衰老

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Mechanism research of senescence of NP cells mediated by A20 in TNF- $\alpha$  inflammation microenvironment/PENG Xin, ZHANG Cong, WANG Feng, et al//Chinese Journal of Spine and Spinal Cord, 2019, 29(9): 834-840

**【Abstract】Objectives:** To investigate the mechanism of zinc finger protein A20(also known as tumor necrosis factor-inducible protein 3, TNFAIP3) involved in the senescence of nucleus pulposus cells(NPCs) in the tumor necrosis factor  $\alpha$ (TNF- $\alpha$ ) inflammatory microenvironment. **Methods:** Isolated NPCs of sprague-dawley rat (SD) were cultured with or without TNF- $\alpha$  in vitro. The experiment was divided into three groups: normal control group(0ng/ml), TNF- $\alpha$  intervention group(10ng/ml, 50ng/ml, 100ng/ml), and natural aging group(p20 generation). CCK-8 cell proliferation assay,  $\beta$ -galactosidase staining, Western blot(WB), QT-PCR and immunofluorescence (IF) were used to assess senescence changes in NP cells from genes, proteins and cell function levels. The expressions of p53, A20, NF- $\kappa$ B(p65) and NF- $\kappa$ B (p-p65/phospho S536) were observed by Western Blotting, QT-PCR and IF. **Results:** Compared with the normal control group, the proliferation ability of NP cells significantly decreased after TNF- $\alpha$  intervention for 48h and 72h. The positive rate of  $\beta$ -galactose staining in the TNF- $\alpha$  intervention group and the aging group was significantly higher than that of the control group. The results of QT-PCR demonstrated that compared with the control group, the expression of p53 in the

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TNF- $\alpha$  intervention group increased ( $P<0.05$ ), while the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$  concentration. The expression of A20 in the aging group decreased compared with that in the control group, while p53 expression increased. WB showed that TNF- $\alpha$  could induce up-regulated expressions of p53, A20 and p-p65, while the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$  concentration. Meanwhile, the expression of A20 in the aging group decreased compared with that in the control group, while the expression of p-p65 and p53 increased ( $P<0.05$ ). IF showed that compared with the control group, the expressions of A20 and p-p65 increased with TNF- $\alpha$  treatment, but the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$ . The A20 of aging group also decreased significantly and the expression of p-p65 increased. **Conclusions:** There is a dose relationship between senescence of NP cells and TNF- $\alpha$  intervention. TNF- $\alpha$  can stimulate the expression of A20 in NP cells and activate NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway. In addition, the expression of A20 is affected by the degree of cellular senescence, with aging of NP cells, the mechanism of action of A20 is decreasing.

**[Key words]** Nucleus pulposus cells; Zinc finger protein A20; TNF- $\alpha$ : Inflammatory response; Cell senescence

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腰痛(low back pain, LBP)是骨科常见疾病,椎间盘退变是其主要原因之一<sup>[1]</sup>,不但影响患者生活质量,而且增加了社会经济负担<sup>[2]</sup>。在椎间盘退变过程中,髓核(nucleus pulposus, NP)区域首先表现出退行性变化,这在一定程度上与髓核细胞外基质的分子变化有关<sup>[3,4]</sup>。已证实退行性的椎间盘内存在衰老的髓核细胞,而且髓核细胞衰老随着椎间盘退变的进展而加剧<sup>[5,6]</sup>。在椎间盘退变中,炎症反应在髓核区域内也是非常明显的<sup>[7]</sup>,并发现炎症因子 TNF- $\alpha$  在退变的椎间盘中表达升高<sup>[8,9]</sup>。TNF- $\alpha$  可以激活核转录因子  $\kappa$ B(nuclear transcription factor- $\kappa$ B, NF- $\kappa$ B)信号通路,导致髓核细胞衰老退变<sup>[10-12]</sup>。可见炎症反应在椎间盘退变的病程中发挥一定作用,故推测通过抑制炎症反应的发生可有效减缓椎间盘退变的进程,为临床治疗椎间盘突出症提供了新方向。

锌指蛋白 A20 最初在人脐静脉内皮细胞中被发现,其是一种能抑制核转录因子- $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B)活性的泛素化修饰酶,在体内炎症反应中发挥负性调节作用<sup>[13,14]</sup>。已有研究证实 A20 在肺损伤、神经系统炎症、狼疮肾炎等疾病中发挥一定的保护作用<sup>[15-17]</sup>。A20 蛋白表达水平升高受多种因素影响,其中有脂多糖(LPS)、IL-1 和 TNF- $\alpha$  刺激作用下 NF- $\kappa$ B 激活<sup>[18,19]</sup>。目前已证实 A20 可以减弱 LPS 干预诱导的椎间盘老化<sup>[20]</sup>,但是关于 A20 在椎间盘退变中的作用及其在 TNF- $\alpha$  干预下髓核细胞老化发生发展机制尚未见报道。基于此,本文拟研究 TNF- $\alpha$  干预和复制性髓核细胞老化后

A20 表达及 NF- $\kappa$ B 通路相关分子,并为进一步明确 A20 在椎间盘退变中的相关分子机制进行实验探索。

## 1 材料和方法

### 1.1 动物、试剂与仪器

SD 大鼠(10 只,4 周,雄性,95~105g,本研究通过动物伦理委员会批准,动物合格证编号:NO. 201824643)。

NPCs 细胞培养基(DMEM/F12,含 10%FBS、1%青霉素和链霉素双抗);II 型胶原酶(0.25%);胰酶(0.25%);CCK-8 增值检测试剂盒(南京凯基);细胞衰老  $\beta$ -半乳糖苷酶染色(碧云天, C0602);重组人 TNF- $\alpha$ (碧云天, P5318);相关抗体(表 1);全蛋白抽提试剂盒(凯基, KGP2100);BCA 试剂盒(凯基, KGP902);SDS-PAGE 凝胶快速制备试剂盒(塞维尔, G2037);TaKaRa Mini-BEST Universal RNA Extraction Kit (TaKaRa, 9767);SYBR Green(Vazyme, Q341-02)。

表 1 蛋白印迹和免疫荧光所用抗体

Table 1 The antibodies of Western Blotting and IF

| 抗体公司, 产品编号, 用量<br>Antibody Company, product number, dosage |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| p53                                                        | Cell signaling, 32532, (1:1000)  |
| A20(TNFAIP3)                                               | Cell signaling, 5630, (1:1000)   |
| TNFAIP3                                                    | Bioss, bs-2803R, (1:100-1:500)   |
| p-p65                                                      | Abcam, ab86299, (1:2000-1:10000) |
| P65                                                        | Cell signaling, (1:1000)         |
| $\beta$ -actin                                             | Servicebio, GB11001, (1:2000)    |

激光共聚焦显微镜(OLYMPUS, 日本)、qPCR 仪(Thermo, 美国)、全自动酶标仪(Thermo, 美国)、电泳仪(BioRad, 美国)、曝光仪(北京赛智)、高速离心机(Eppendorf, 德国)。

## 1.2 细胞提取、培养及传代

10%水合氯醛麻醉大鼠,取大鼠尾巴,碘伏浸泡 5min;在无菌操作台中切开椎间盘,见白色凝胶样物质即为髓核组织,取髓核组织放入 0.25% 的 II 型胶原酶中,37℃、摇床 3h;移去胶原酶,加入培养基 4ml,37℃、饱和湿度、5% CO<sub>2</sub> 细胞培养箱中,每 3d 换液,倒置相差显微镜观察细胞状况,待细胞生长 80%融合时,1:2 传代。

## 1.3 CCK-8 检测 TNF-α 处理后的髓核细胞增殖活力

NPCs 种植于 96 孔板中,2×10<sup>3</sup> 个/每孔,每孔总体积 100μl;用 TNF-α(0、10、50、100 及 500ng/ml)干预,分别在 24h、48h、72h 特定时间点,每孔加入 10μl CCK-8 工作液,孵育 4h 后酶标仪检测每个孔在 450nm 处吸光度值。

## 1.4 β 半乳糖苷酶染色检测细胞衰老

NPCs 种植于 6 孔板,分为对照组(0ng/ml)、TNF-α 干预组和衰老组(P20 代);移去培养液,PBS 冲洗 1 次,室温固定 20min,PBS 洗 3min/3 次;每孔加入 1ml 染色液,用保鲜膜封闭,37℃孵育过夜;次日显微镜下观察阳性细胞。

## 1.5 Real-time PCR 检测基因表达

按照 RNA 提取试剂盒说明书提取对照组、TNF-α 干预组和衰老组 RNA,逆转录,在 PCR 仪中进行扩增,利用 StepOne Software v2.3 软件进行分析。各基因引物序列见表 2。

## 1.6 Western Blot 检测蛋白表达

按说明书抽提对照组、TNF-α 干预组和衰老组细胞全蛋白,BCA 法检测蛋白浓度;热变性后取相同质量的样品,10% SDS-PAGE 凝胶电泳,

转膜,封闭 1h,孵育一抗,4℃过夜;次日加入二抗(1:2000)室温孵育 1h,曝光,拍照。

## 1.7 免疫荧光染色

NPCs 种植于爬片上,TNF-α 干预 48h 后 PBS 冲洗,室温固定 15min,PBS 洗 3min/3 次;室温通透 20min,PBS 洗 3min/3 次,封闭 1h;吸干封闭液,不洗,一抗 4℃孵育过夜;次日 37℃复温 45min,PBS 洗 3min/3 次,吸干液体,滴加二抗,室温湿盒孵育 1h,PBS 洗 3min/3 次;复染核孵育 5min,PBS 洗 3min/3 次;吸干液体,封片液封片,最后荧光显微镜下观察。

## 1.8 统计学分析

采用 SPSS 19.0 统计软件进行分析。计量资料采用均数( $\bar{x} \pm s$ )标准差形式表示,每样本重复 3 次,多组间的均数比较采用单因素方差分析(ANOVA),两组间的均数比较使用独立样本 *t* 检验,检验水准( $\alpha$ )以  $P < 0.05$ 。

# 2 结果

## 2.1 髓核细胞形态特征

原代髓核细胞贴壁效率低呈簇生长且生长缓慢,大约需要 4d 贴壁,传代后的髓核细胞生长速度较快,形态相对均一,呈短梭形,细胞轮廓清晰(图 1a)。

## 2.2 CCK-8 检测髓核细胞增殖活力

与对照组相比,仅 TNF-α(10ng/ml、100ng/ml)干预 24h 后髓核细胞增殖活力无统计学意义;其余 TNF-α 干预后的髓核细胞增殖活性降低( $P < 0.05$ ),后续实验选择干预时间为 48h(图 1b)。

## 2.3 SA-β-Gal 染色检测髓核细胞老化率

与正常对照组比,TNF-α 干预组和衰老组 β 半乳糖苷酶染色阳性比例增加,差异具有显著统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ );随着 TNF-α 干预浓度增加,细胞 β 半乳糖苷酶染色阳性率上升( $P < 0.05$ )(图 1c)。

## 2.4 Real-time PCR 检测 A20、p53 扩增情况

与对照组比,TNF-α(10ng/ml、50ng/ml)干预 48h 后 A20 基因扩增明显增加,统计学意义显著( $P < 0.05$ ),TNF-α(100ng/ml)干预后 A20 变化无统计学意义;而 p53 基因扩增随着 TNF-α 浓度的增加而上升,统计学意义明显( $P < 0.05$ );衰老组 A20 扩增降低,p53 增加且均具有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ )(图 2a)。

表 2 各基因引物序列表

Table 2 Primer sequence of each gene

| 基因 Gene | 引物序列 Primer sequences                                           |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| P53     | F: 5'-CCCCTGAAGACTGGATACTGT-3'<br>R: 5'-TCTCCTGACTCAGAGGGAGC-3' |
| A20     | F: 5'-GTGGCGAAGCATACAACGA-3'<br>R: 5'-GGTCGTGGTTCGGGTCG-3'      |
| β-actin | F: 5'-CCCATCTATGAGGTTACGC-3'<br>R: 5'-TTTAATGTCACGCACGATTTC-3'  |

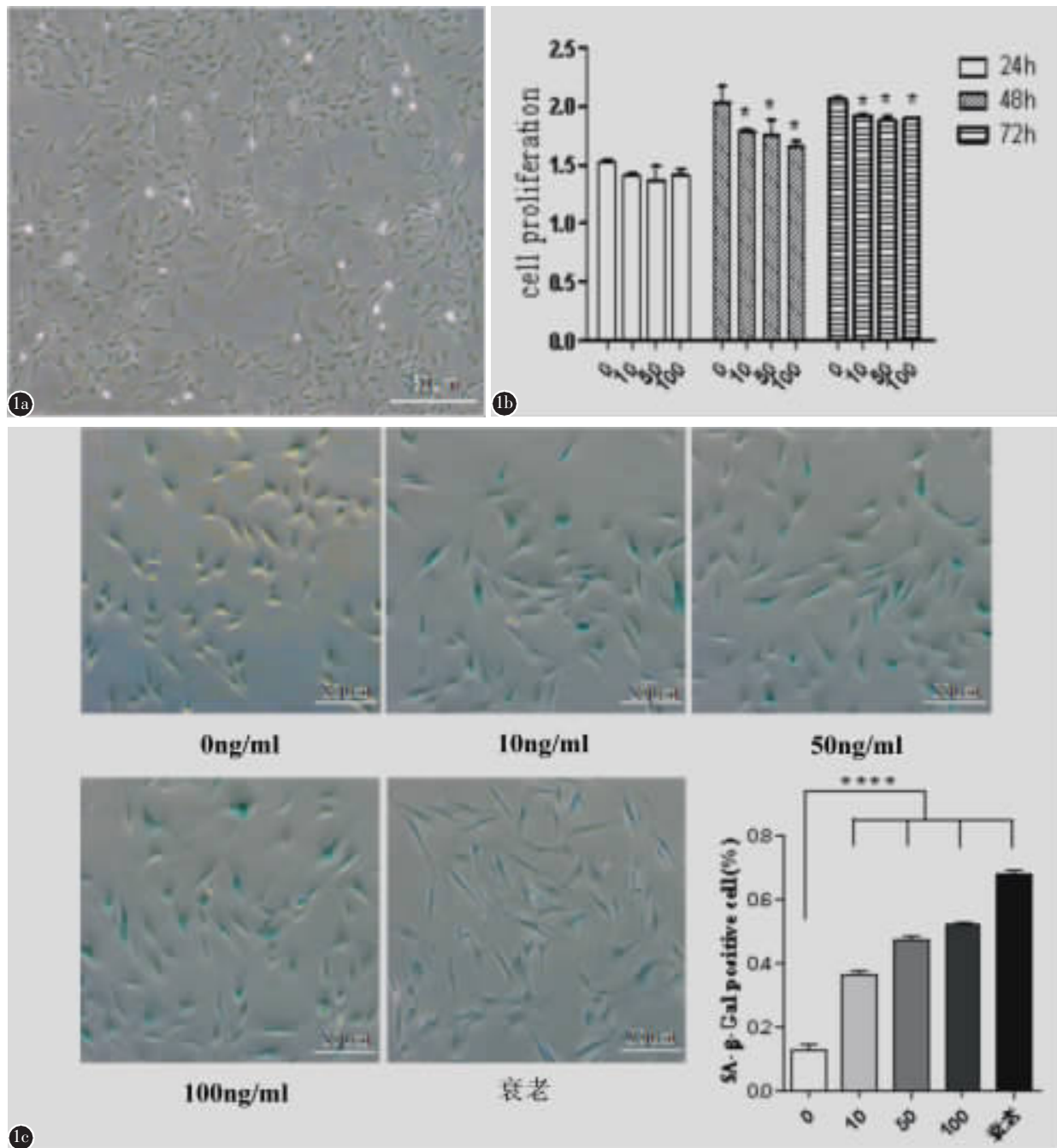


图 1 a P3 代正常髓核细胞 b CCK8 检测在 TNF- $\alpha$  干预 48h、72h 后髓核细胞的增殖活力较对照组减弱明显 c  $\beta$  半乳糖苷酶染色; TNF- $\alpha$  干预组和衰老组  $\beta$  半乳糖染色阳性率较对照组明显增高

**Figure 1** a Normal nucleus pulposus cells P3 b CCK-8 assay show that Cell viability of NPCs was significantly weaker than that of the control group after 48h and 72h of TNF- $\alpha$  intervention c Senescence-associated  $\beta$ -galactosidase staining of NPCs: the positive rate of  $\beta$ -galactose staining in TNF- $\alpha$  intervention group and aging group was significantly higher than that of the control group

## 2.5 Western blot 检测 A20、p-p65 等相关蛋白

与对照组比, 随着 TNF- $\alpha$  干预浓度增加, p53、p-p65 逐渐增高 ( $P < 0.05$ ), 而 A20 在 TNF- $\alpha$  (10ng/ml) 时表达增加 ( $P < 0.05$ ), 但是随着 TNF- $\alpha$

浓度增加, A20 表达有降低趋势, 在 TNF- $\alpha$  (100ng/ml) 时, 细胞 A20 表达与对照组无显著差异; 此外, 衰老组 A20 表达减少, p53 表达增加 ( $P < 0.05$ ) (图 2b)。



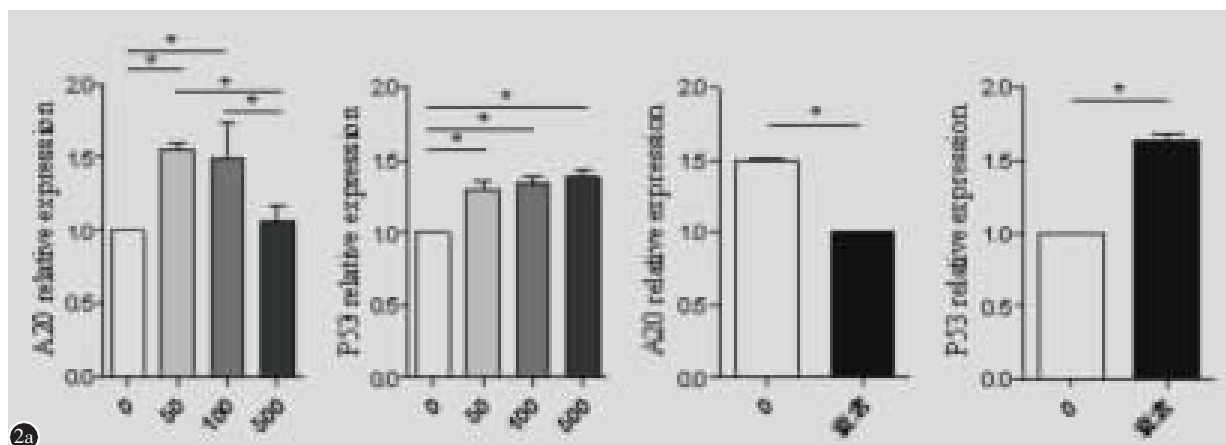
## 2.6 免疫荧光检测髓核细胞内 A20、p-p65 表达

与对照组相比,免疫荧光检测提示 TNF- $\alpha$  干预组髓核细胞内锌指蛋白 A20 表达上调,然随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增加,A20 表达有下降趋势;p-p65 的表达也随着 TNF- $\alpha$  干预浓度升高而增加;此外,衰老组 A20 表达较对照组降低而 p-p65 的表达升高明显(图 3、4)。

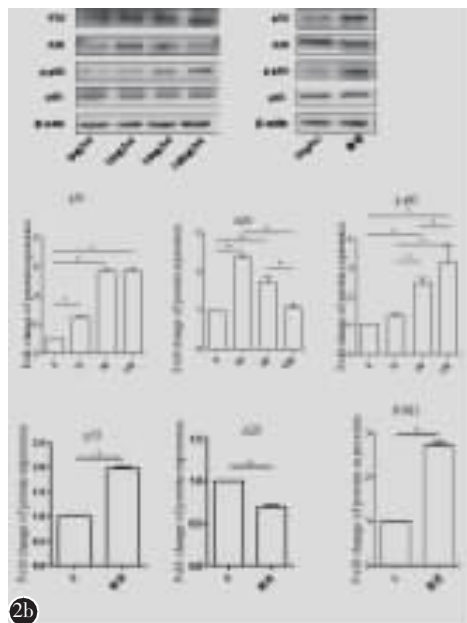
## 3 讨论

椎间盘退变是引起临床上慢性腰腿痛及神经根疼痛的重要原因之一,它受衰老,损伤,氧化应激等多种因素的影响,而炎症因子表达增加是椎间盘退变的一个重要标志<sup>[21]</sup>。椎间盘的退变、修复与多种炎症因子有关,研究表明 TNF- $\alpha$  可增强组织金属蛋白酶(MMP)活性来减少 II 型胶原和蛋白多糖的合成,并介导髓核细胞凋亡,引起椎间盘退变<sup>[22]</sup>。

锌指蛋白 A20 是一个可有效抑制 NF- $\kappa$ B 通路活化的胞质蛋白,并且激活 NF- $\kappa$ B 通路的因素几乎均能使 A20 表达增高<sup>[23]</sup>。TNF- $\alpha$  是导致 A20 表达升高的一个重要因素,为了观察 A20 与髓核细胞衰老是否存在联系。在实验中,首先利用不同浓度 TNF- $\alpha$  干预髓核细胞诱导细胞衰老,TNF- $\alpha$  干预后细胞衰老相关指标 (p53、 $\beta$  半乳糖苷酶染色)较对照组增加显著( $P<0.05$ )。研究发现 A20 的表达在 TNF- $\alpha$  (10ng/ml)干预后明显增加,但是随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增加,细胞衰老程度增加,p-p65 也表达明显升高( $P<0.05$ ),而 A20 的表达反而降低,同时,对照组和衰老组(p20 代)相比,衰老组的 p-p65 表达增加,A20 表达较对照组明显减少( $P<0.05$ )。提示与对照组比,高浓度 TNF- $\alpha$  组(100ng/ml)和衰老组 A20 表达减少,低浓度 TNF- $\alpha$  组(10ng/ml)A20 表达明显增加。可知 A20 的表达与细胞状态有关,随着细胞老化程度增加,A20



2a



2b

图 2 a QT-PCR 检测与对照组比,TNF- $\alpha$  干预组 p53 表达增加 ( $P<0.05$ ),而 A20 表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增高而降低;衰老组 A20 表达较对照组减少,而 p53 扩增升高 b TNF- $\alpha$  可以诱导 p53、A20、p-p65 表达上调,而 A20 表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  浓度增加而降低;同时衰老组 A20 表达较对照组减少,而 p-p65 和 p53 表达增加( $P<0.05$ )

**Figure 2 a** QT-PCR demonstrated that compared with the control group, the expression of p53 in the TNF- $\alpha$  intervention group increased ( $P<0.05$ ), while the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$  concentration. The expression of A20 in the aging group decreased compared with the control group, while p53 expansion increased **b** Western blot analysis showed that TNF- $\alpha$  could induce up-regulated expressions of p53, A20 and p-p65, while the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$  concentration. Meanwhile, the expression of A20 in the aging group was decreased compared with that in the control group, while the expression of p-p65 and p53 increased( $P<0.05$ )

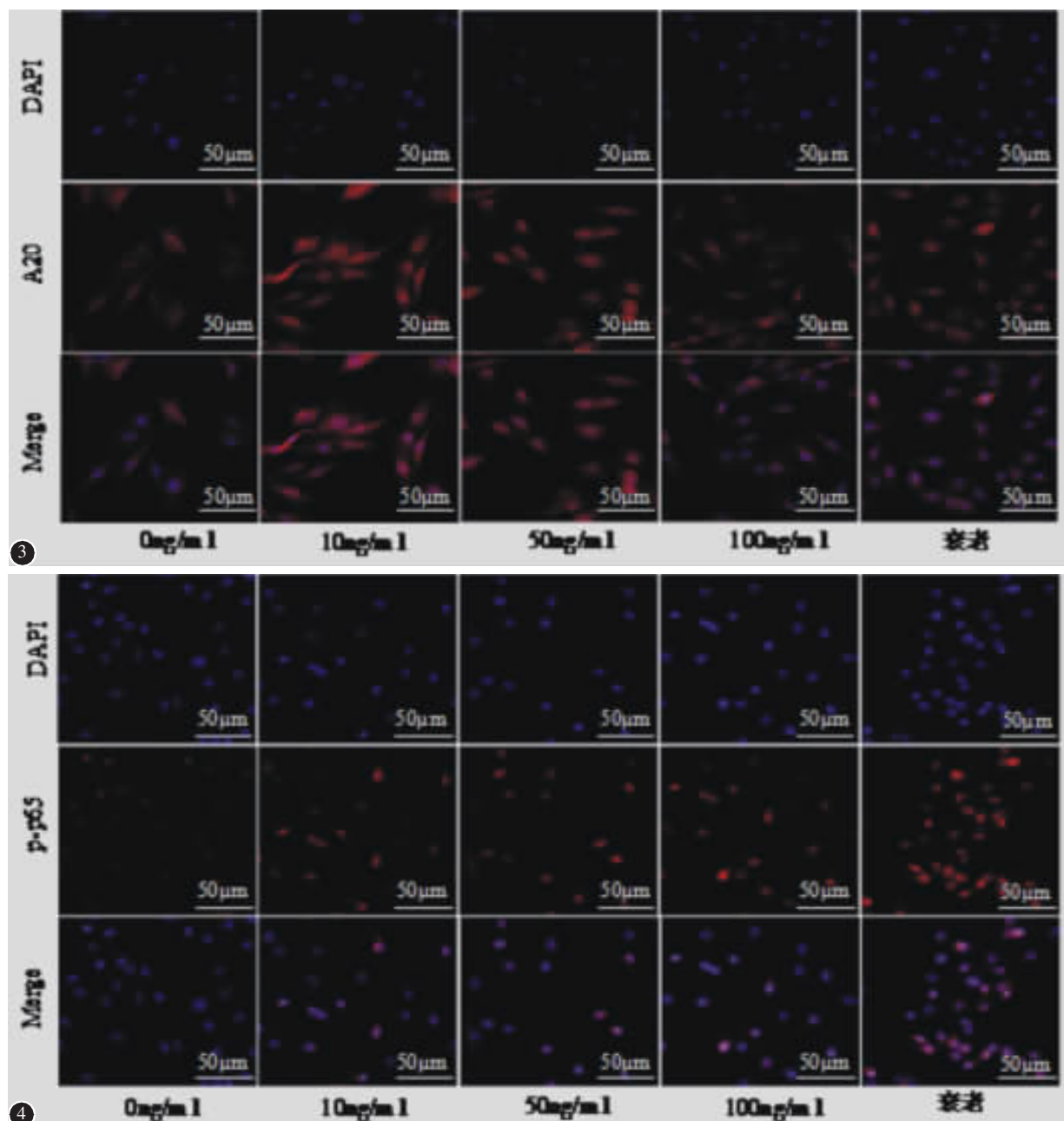


图 3、4 细胞免疫荧光检测结果( $\times 400$ , 蓝色荧光为 DAPI 染色的细胞核, 红色荧光代表 A20, p-p65); 与对照组对比, TNF- $\alpha$  处理下 A20、p-p65 表达增加, 但是 A20 的表达随着 TNF- $\alpha$  增加而降低, 衰老组 A20 较对照组也明显降低, p-p65 表达增加

**Figure 3, 4** Immunofluorescence staining (A20, P-P65 showed red while nucleus counter stained with DAPI turned blue): compared with the control group, the expression of A20 and p-p65 increased with TNF- $\alpha$  treatment, but the expression of A20 decreased with the increase of TNF- $\alpha$ . The A20 of aging group also decreased significantly and the expression of p-p65 increased

表达逐渐减少, A20 可能在细胞衰老中发挥一种代偿作用。此外, TNF- $\alpha$  诱导髓核细胞衰老同时活化 NF- $\kappa$ B 通路, 并且随着髓核细胞衰老 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路活化增强, 但 A20 表达反而降低。已研究证实 A20 与 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路之间存在负反

馈环<sup>[24]</sup>, NF- $\kappa$ B 通路也参与髓核细胞衰老过程。

综上所述, 可知复制性衰老髓核细胞较对照组髓核细胞中 A20 表达降低, p-p65 表达增加, 故 A20 在正常复制衰老髓核细胞过程中与 NF- $\kappa$ B 通路存在一定负性调控关系。低浓度 TNF- $\alpha$  诱导

髓核细胞衰老同时使细胞 A20 表达增加,高浓度的 TNF- $\alpha$  诱导细胞衰老后 A20 表达反而减少,故认为 A20 的表达在衰老细胞中存在一个平衡点,当细胞衰老达到一定程度时 A20 表达减少。然而,髓核细胞衰老是一个复杂的整体的过程,A20 表达的诱导因素也较多,不能单单因为一个因素的改变做出肯定的判断。在 TNF- $\alpha$  微环境下髓核细胞 A20 与 p-p65 的关系也需进一步研究确定。本研究为从 A20 介导 TNF- $\alpha$  微环境下髓核细胞老化提供新的机制认识,也为将来退变生物学修复打下实验理论基础。

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