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脊髓室管膜瘤肿瘤微环境与多种细胞的互作网络

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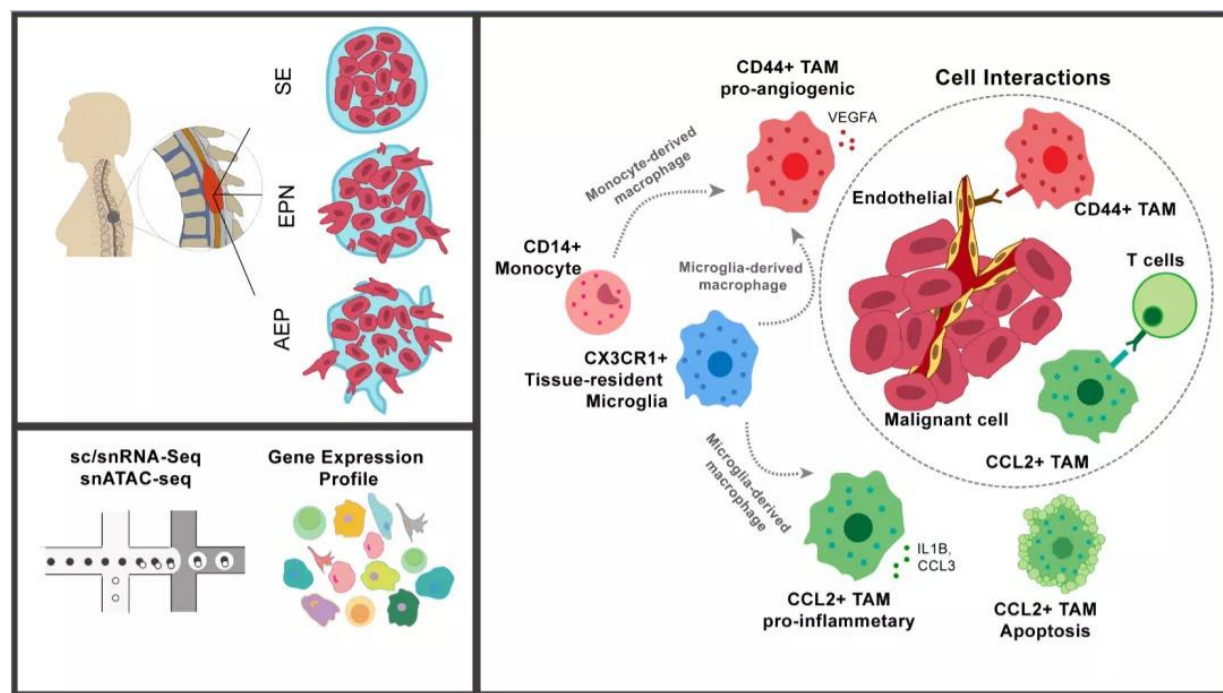
Interrogation of the microenvironmental landscape in spinal ependymomas reveals dual functions of tumor-associated macrophages

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Spinal ependymomas are the most common spinal cord tumors in adults, but their intratumoral cellular heterogeneity has been less studied, and how spinal microglia are involved in tumor progression is still unknown. Here, our single-cell RNA-sequencing analyses of three spinal ependymoma subtypes dissect the microenvironmental landscape of spinal ependymomas and reveal tumor-associated macrophage (TAM) subsets with distinct functional phenotypes. CCL2⁺ TAMs are related to the immune response and exhibit a high capacity for apoptosis, while CD44⁺ TAMs are associated with tumor angiogenesis. By combining these results with those of single-cell ATAC-sequencing data analysis, we reveal that TEAD1 and EGR3 play roles in regulating the functional diversity of TAMs. We further identify diverse characteristics of both malignant cells and TAMs that might underlie the different malignant degrees of each subtype. Finally, assessment of cell-cell interactions reveal that stromal cells act as extracellular factors that mediate TAM diversity. Overall, our results reveal dual functions of TAMs in tumor progression, providing valuable insights for TAM-targeting immunotherapy.

室管膜瘤是发生在儿童和成人中枢神经系统的神经上皮恶性肿瘤，可发生于幕上、颅后窝和脊髓位置。脊髓室管膜瘤多见于成人，在成人脊髓内肿瘤中占比超过60%，手术切除是目前主要治疗方法，对于不能全切除的患者，复发率高达50%-70%，目前发病机制尚不明确。

首都医科大学附属北京天坛医院、国家神经系统疾病临床医学研究中心贾文清教授团队与中科院生物物理研究所王晓群研究员通过对三种恶性程度不同的脊髓室管膜瘤 (subependymoma, ependymoma和anaplastic ependymoma) 进行了多组学的测序分析，得出脊髓室管膜瘤恶性细胞和肿瘤微环境的细胞图谱和表观遗传信息。研究重点关注了肿瘤相关巨噬细胞 (TAM) 不同亚群的基因表达特征和功能。在5个TAM亚群中，CCL2⁺与免疫反应相关，而CD44⁺亚群则与肿瘤血管生成相关，分别发挥“抗肿瘤”和“促肿瘤”作用。通过联合scRNA-seq和scATAC-seq分析，揭示TEAD1和EGR3可能是调控上述两种TAM双重功能的关键转录因子。另外，通过TAM的谱系研究发现CD44⁺亚群可能存在两个起源，分别是组织驻留的CX3CR1⁺TAM亚群和组织侵入的CD14⁺单核细胞，而CCL2⁺亚群则仅来源于CX3CR1⁺TAM亚群。此外，对于不同TAM亚群在脊髓室管膜瘤微环境中的互作关系分析发现CD44⁺TAM亚群在肿瘤微环境中与内皮细胞、成纤维细胞和周皮细胞有着更强的细胞间交流，揭示了CD44⁺TAM亚群可能借助内皮细胞作为中间媒介，积极参与了肿瘤血管生成，促进肿瘤发生发展。CCL2⁺TAM亚群则更倾向于与T细胞等免疫细胞互相作用，参与肿瘤免疫反应、抵抗肿瘤发展。且研究对恶性细胞亚群的特征基因进行了药物靶点预测，为肿瘤靶向治疗提供了重要的参考数据。相关研究结果于2021年11月以“Interrogation of the microenvironmental landscape in spinal ependymomas reveals dual functions of tumor-associated macrophages”为题发表于Nature Communications期刊 (影响因子14.919)。



脊髓室管膜瘤肿瘤微环境多种细胞的互作模式

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