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• 临床研究 •

胶质瘤中MKK7与c-Jun磷酸化的表达及其相关性

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Expression of MKK7 and Phospho-c-Jun in Glioma and Their Correlation

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Abstract: Objective To investigate the expression of phospho-c-Jun and MKK7 in gliomas and their correlation. **Methods** We collected and analyzed retrospectively 92 cases of gliomas, including 15 cases of diffuse astrocytoma, 5 cases of oligodendroglioma, 11 cases of anaplastic astrocytoma, 8 cases of anaplastic oligodendroglioma 53 cases of glioblastoma and 25 normal brain tissues adjacent to glioblastoma. The expression of c-Jun, phospho-c-Jun and MKK7 were detected by immunohistochemical staining. Glioma U87 cell line cultured *in vitro* was transfected with MKK4-siRNA, MKK7-siRNA and control siRNA for 48h, respectively. Western blot was performed to test the expression of c-Jun, phospho-c-Jun and MKK7. **Results** The expression of p-c-Jun and MKK7 in glioblastoma were significantly higher than those in other glioma and normal brain tissues adjacent to glioblastomas ($P=0.000$, $P=0.000$). The expression of MKK7 and phospho-c-Jun were positively correlated with WHO grading of gliomas ($r=0.494$, $P=0.000$; $r=0.606$, $P=0.000$). There was positive correlation between the expression of MKK7 and p-c-Jun ($r=0.387$, $P=0.000$). The knockdown of MKK7 suppressed c-Jun activities. **Conclusion** MKK7 promotes the development of glioblastoma by regulating the activity of c-Jun.

Key words: Gliomas; Glioblastoma; U87; MKK7; Phospho-c-Jun

摘要: 目的 探讨胶质瘤中MKK7和c-Jun磷酸化(p-c-Jun)的表达及意义, 分析两者表达的相关性。**方法** 选取弥漫型星形细胞瘤(15例)、少突胶质细胞瘤(5例)、间变性星形细胞瘤(11例)、间变性少突胶质细胞瘤(8例)、胶质母细胞瘤(53例)及其瘤旁正常脑组织(25例)共117例, 采用免疫组织化学法检测MKK7、c-Jun及p-c-Jun的表达。体外培养神经胶质瘤细胞株U87, 用脂质体转染MKK4-siRNA、MKK7-siRNA和对照siRNA, 48 h后Western blot检测MKK7、c-Jun及p-c-Jun的表达水平。**结果** 胶质母细胞瘤中p-c-Jun及MKK7的表达均明显高于其他组织学类型胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织中的表达($P=0.000$, $P=0.000$)。随着胶质瘤WHO分级的升高, p-c-Jun及MKK7的表达增高, 且与WHO分级呈明显正相关($r=0.494$, $P=0.000$; $r=0.606$, $P=0.000$)。胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织中MKK7与p-c-Jun的表达存在正相关关系($r=0.387$, $P=0.000$)。沉默神经胶质瘤细胞株U87 MKK7表达抑制了c-Jun磷酸化水平。**结论** MKK7可以通过调控JNK/c-Jun活性进而促进胶质母细胞瘤的发生。

关键词: 胶质瘤; 胶质母细胞瘤; U87; MKK7; c-Jun磷酸化

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0 引言

胶质瘤是中枢神经系统最常见的颅内原发性恶性肿瘤, 在所有颅内原发性肿瘤中占70%左右, 其中成年人中最常见、恶性程度最高、预后最差的肿瘤是胶质母细胞瘤(glioblastoma, GBM, WHO IV)^[1]。该肿瘤具有恶性增殖和高侵袭性的特点, 手术及放化疗后肿瘤复发率高。

JNK/c-Jun信号通路在调控细胞增殖、分化、凋亡和存活等基本生物学效应中扮演重要角色。JNK磷酸化下游底物c-Jun并使其激活后,可增强肿瘤细胞的增殖、侵袭和迁移能力^[2-4]。MKK4和MKK7作为丝裂原活化蛋白激酶激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase, MAPKK)家族的两个成员,均可以磷酸化并激活JNK^[5-7]。有报道称MKK7通过调控JNK活性调控细胞凋亡^[8-10]。本课题组前期研究也发现在神经胶质瘤细胞株U251中,小分子干扰沉默MKK7表达后,可以抑制JNK/c-Jun激活^[11]。为进一步了解JNK信号通路的调控机制,本研究通过采用免疫组织化学法、小分子干扰、转染及Western blot等技术检测不同组织学类型胶质瘤样本及U87细胞株中MKK7、c-Jun及其磷酸化的表达情况,分析并验证MKK7是否为直接调控JNK/c-Jun活性的关键分子。

1 资料与方法

1.1 资料

收集2015年11月—2017年11月广州医科大学附属第二医院病理科存档的胶质瘤石蜡包埋标本117例,其中92例胶质瘤和25例胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织。按2016年版“WHO中枢神经系统肿瘤的病理分类”,92例胶质瘤中:WHO II:弥漫型星形细胞瘤15例,少突胶质细胞瘤5例;WHO III:间变性星形细胞瘤11例,间变性少突胶质细胞瘤8例;WHO IV:胶质母细胞瘤53例(仅25例有相应的正常对照),患者临床病理特征见表1。所有患者术前均未行放化疗,均知情同意。本研究得到医院医学伦理会审核批准。

人脑胶质瘤U87细胞株购自上海细胞生物研究所中国科学院细胞库。胎牛血清、0.25%胰酶购于美国Gibco公司。培养基高糖DMEM、转染试剂RNAi MAX、opti-MEM reduced serum medium均购于美国Invitrogen公司。MKK7-1 siRNA、MKK7-2 siRNA、MKK4 siRNA、空白对照siRNA购自上海Gene Pharma公司。anti-MKK7(#4172)、anti-MKK4(#9152)、anti-p-c-Jun(#3270)、anti-GAPDH (#2118s)均购于美国Cell Signaling Technology公司。anti-c-Jun(sc-74543)购美国Santa Cruz Biotechnology公司。

MKK4-siRNA小分子片段序列正义链:5'-GCCUACGAAGGAUGAAUCCATT-3',反义链:5'-UGGAUUCAUCCUUCGUAAGGCTT-3';MKK7-siRNA1小分子片段序列正义链:

表1 92例胶质瘤患者临床病理特征

Table1 Clinicopathological features of 92 gliomas patients

Clinicopathological feature	n(%)
Gender	
Male	58(63.0)
Female	34(37.0)
Age(years)	
≤45	37(40.2)
>45	55(59.8)
Histological type	
Diffuse astrocytoma	15(16.3)
Oligodendroglioma	5(5.4)
Anaplastic astrocytoma	11(12.0)
Anaplastic oligodendroglioma	8(8.7)
Glioblastoma(GBM)	53(57.6)
WHO	
II	20(21.7)
III	19(20.7)
IV	53(57.6)

5'-CCAACACGGACGUCUUCAU-3',反义链:5'-AUGAAGACGUCCGUGUUGG-3';MKK7-siRNA2小分子片段序列正义链:5'-GCUGGCAA-CAGGACAGUUU-3',反义链:5'-AAACUGUC-CUGUUGCCAGG-3'。

1.2 方法

1.2.1 免疫组织化学染色及评判标准 所有石蜡包埋病理标本均经10%中性福尔马林固定,常规HE染色组织学观察。采用Envision二步法进行免疫组织化学染色。检测标志物:MKK7、c-Jun和p-c-Jun。4 μm厚度切片经脱蜡水化和抗原修复后,滴加一抗,放入37℃水浴箱孵育60 min,PBS冲洗后按照采用Envision检测试剂盒(DAKO公司)说明书进行,室温孵育30 min,再次PBS冲洗,DAB显色,苏木精对比染色,然后脱水、透明、封片,每例均设阳性和阴性对照。按照抗体说明书分别用膀胱组织及肺癌组织作为阳性对照,另外用PBS代替一抗作为阴性对照。

免疫组织化学结果半定量判定:染色程度:基本不着色为0分;着色呈淡黄色为1分;着色呈黄色为2分;着色呈棕褐色为3分。染色阳性细胞百分比计数,计算阳性肿瘤细胞占总肿瘤细胞的比例,将其分为5个等级:着色阳性细胞占计数细胞≤5%为0分(-),5%~25%为1分(+),>25%~50%为2分(++),>50%~75%为3分(+++),>75%为4分(++++)。将染色程度分级与染色细胞百分比相乘,乘积≥4分为高表达,<4分为低表达^[12-13]。

1.2.2 细胞培养、转染和Western blot检测 将U87细胞株置于10%胎牛血清、高糖DMEM液体培养

液，37℃、5%CO₂及饱和湿度条件下培养，每3~5天用胰酶消化传代1次，取对数生长期细胞进行实验。

于6孔板内接种对数生长期U87细胞，细胞密度为2×10⁵个每孔，培养液为不含抗生素的DMEM培养液。待细胞生长至60%~80%融合度时，更换为不含血清的DMEM培养液，12 h后按转染试剂RNAi MAX转染方法将MKK4-siRNA、MKK7-siRNA1、MKK7-siRNA2和空白对照siRNA分别转染入U87细胞。

U87转染细胞于37℃培养箱培养48 h后，每孔2 ml PBS漂洗2遍，每孔加入150 μl IP细胞裂解液（50 mmol/L Tris, HCl pH8.0, 150 mmol/L NaCl, 1%Triton×100, 100 μg/ml PMSF），10 min后收集各组细胞。按照IP裂解液法提取细胞总蛋白，并进行BCA法测定蛋白浓度。灌制4%集成胶和10%分离胶。200 V电压电泳45 min。100 V电压转膜60 min。5%脱脂奶粉室温封闭1 h。一抗（anti-MKK4 1:1 000, anti-MKK7 1:1 000, anti-c-Jun 1:1 000,

anti-p-c-Jun 1:1 000, anti-GAPDH 1:5 000）4℃孵育过夜，HRP标记抗兔或抗鼠室温孵育1 h。ECL化学发光后曝光。

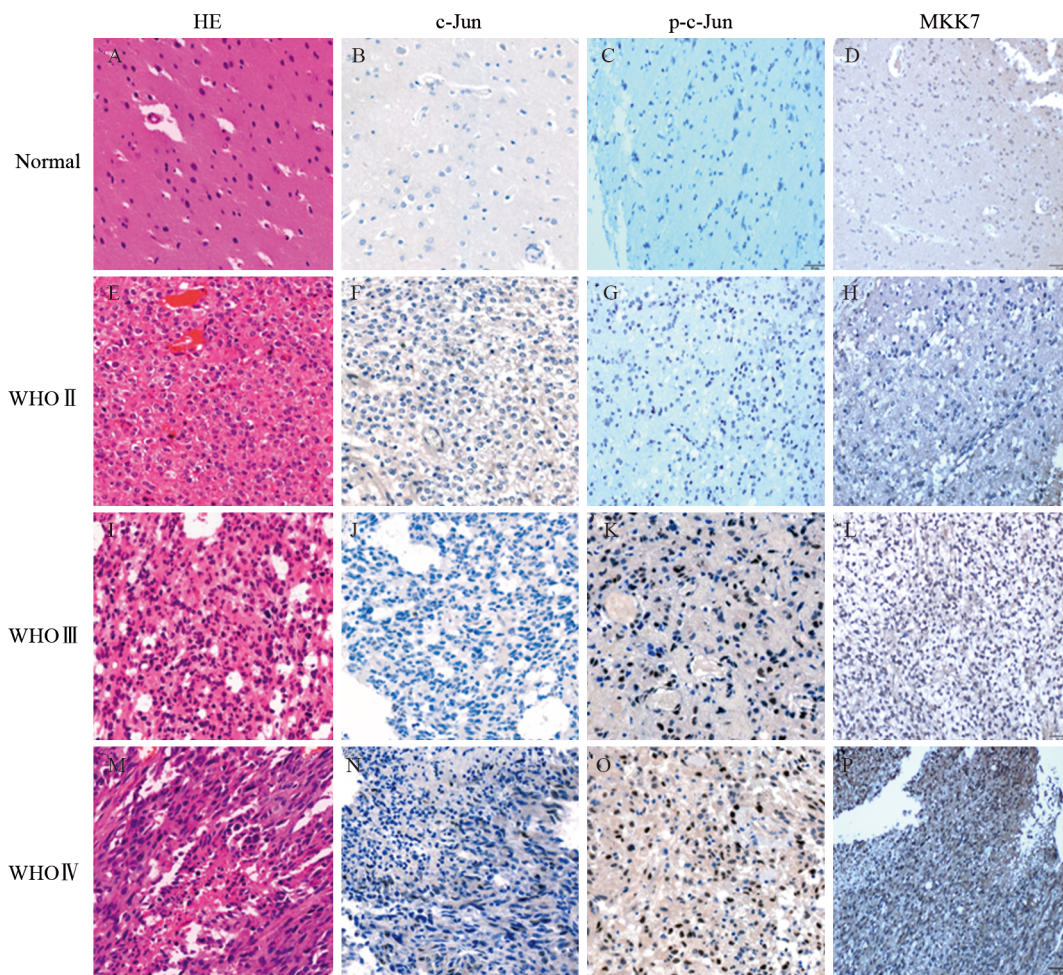
1.3 统计学方法

用SPSS20.0统计分析软件包进行数据处理。多组间MKK7及p-c-Jun表达率的比较用多个样本率的χ²检验。数据以平均值±标准差（ $\bar{x} \pm s$ ）表示，多样本间比较采用单因素方差分析One-way ANOVA，两组间的比较采用独立样本t检验。相关性分析采用Spearman等级相关分析。P<0.05为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 c-Jun和p-c-Jun在胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织中的表达

c-Jun和p-c-Jun阳性表达表现为细胞核内见棕黄色颗粒，见图1。25例胶质母细胞瘤中3例



A-D: c-Jun, p-c-Jun and MKK7 expression in normal brain tissues adjacent to glioblastoma; E-H: oligodendroglioma(WHO II); I-L: anaplastic astrocytoma(WHO III); M-P: glioblastoma (WHO IV); A, E, I, M: HE×200; B-D, F-H, J-L, N-P: IHC ×200

图1 不同WHO分级胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织中c-Jun、p-c-Jun、MKK7的表达

Figure1 Expression of c-Jun, p-c-Jun and MKK7 in gliomas with different WHO classification and normal brain tissues adjacent to glioblastoma

(12%) c-Jun高表达,其瘤旁正常脑组织中均低表达,两者间差异无统计学意义($\chi^2=3.128, P=0.077$),而胶质母细胞瘤中p-c-Jun高表达19例(76%),明显高于瘤旁正常脑组织6例(4%),差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=27.000, P=0.000$)。胶质母细胞瘤中c-Jun的表达与其他类型胶质瘤无明显差异($P=0.086$),但p-c-Jun表达明显升高($P=0.000$),见表2。根据WHO分级,WHO IV级胶质瘤p-c-Jun高表达率明显高于WHO II级及WHO III级胶质瘤($P=0.000$),见图2A,且p-c-Jun表达强度与胶质瘤WHO分级呈明显正相关($r=0.494, P=0.000$)。

2.2 MKK7在胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤瘤旁正常脑组织中的表达

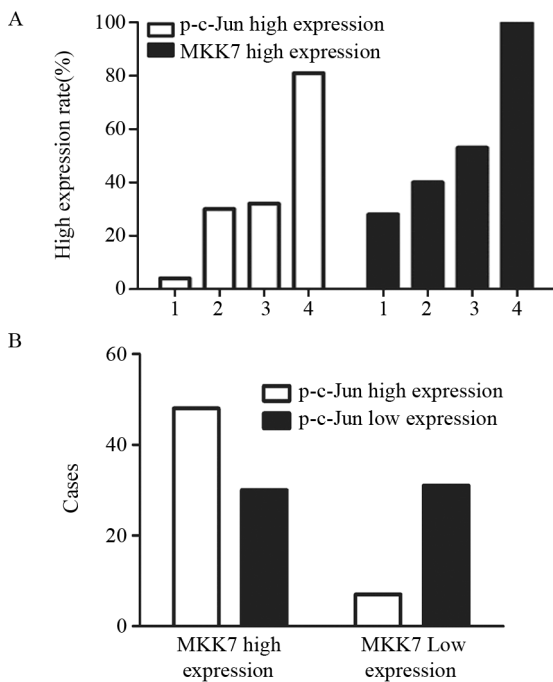
MKK7阳性表达表现为细胞核或质内见棕黄色颗粒,见图1。胶质母细胞瘤中MKK7的表达高

于其他类型胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤瘤旁正常脑组织($P=0.000$),见表3。且MKK7高表达率随着WHO分级的升高而增加($P=0.000$),见图2A。MKK7表达强度与胶质瘤WHO分级呈明显正相关($r=0.606, P=0.000$)。

2.3 c-Jun磷酸化与MKK7在不同WHO级别胶质瘤组织中的表达及其相关性

92例胶质瘤及25例胶质母细胞瘤瘤旁正常脑组织中,48例MKK7和p-c-Jun均高表达,31例均低表达,30例MKK7高表达和p-c-Jun低表达,8例MKK7低表达和p-c-Jun高表达。根据Spearman相关分析检验,MKK7表达与c-Jun磷酸化水平正相关($r=0.387, P=0.000$),见图2B。

2.4 转染siRNA对MKK4、MKK7表达及c-Jun活性的影响 与空白对照组siRNA相比,U87细胞转染MKK4-siRNA、MKK7-siRNA1和MKK7-siRNA2可分别显著抑制MKK4($P=0.003$)和MKK7($P=0.009$)表达,但只有转染MKK7-siRNA可同时下调c-Jun磷酸化水平($P=0.004$),见图3。



1: normal brain tissue adjacent to GBM; 2: WHO II; 3: WHO III; 4: WHOIV

图2 MKK7及p-c-Jun在胶质瘤中的表达相关性分析
Figure2 Correlation of MKK7 and p-c-Jun expression in gliomas

表2 不同组织学类型胶质瘤组织中c-Jun及p-c-Jun表达情况

Table2 c-Jun and p-c-Jun expression in different histological types of gliomas

Histological types	c-Jun expression		χ^2	P	p-c-Jun expression		χ^2	P
	Low	High			Low	High		
Diffuse astrocytoma(n=15)	15(100%)	0(0)	8.142	0.086	10(66.7%)	5(33.3%)	54.732	0.000*
Anaplastic oligoden droglioma(n=5)	5(100%)	0(0)			4(80.0%)	1(20.0%)		
Anaplastic astrocytoma(n=11)	11(100%)	0(0)			7(63.6%)	4(36.4%)		
Anaplastic oligoden droglioma(n=8)	8(100%)	0(0)			6(75.0%)	2(25.0%)		
Glioblastoma(GBM) (n=53)	46(86.8%)	7(13.2%)			10(18.9%)	43(81.1%)		

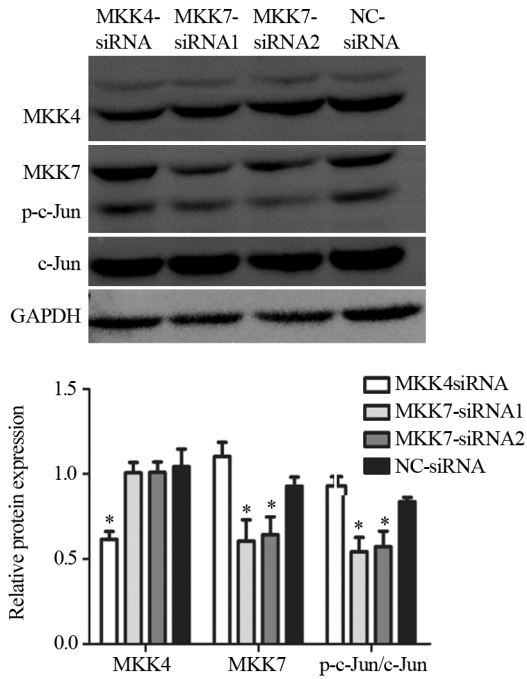
Notes: *: Glioblastoma vs. other gliomas

表3 不同组织学类型胶质瘤及胶质母细胞瘤瘤旁正常脑组织组织中MKK7表达情况

Table3 MKK7 expression in gliomas with different histological types and normal brain tissues adjacent to glioblastoma

Tissues	MKK7 expression		χ^2	P
	Low	High		
Normal brain tissues adjacent to GBM(n=25)	18(72.0%)	7(28.0%)	66.633	0.000*
Diffuse astrocytoma (n=15)	9(60.0%)	6(40.0%)		
Anaplastic oligoden droglioma(n=5)	3(60.0%)	2(40.0%)		
Anaplastic astrocytoma (n=11)	6(54.5%)	5(45.4%)		
Anaplastic oligoden droglioma(n=8)	3(37.5%)	5(62.5%)		
Glioblastoma(n=53)	0(0)	53(100%)		

Notes: *: Glioblastoma vs. other gliomas and normal brain tissues adjacent to GBM



*: $P < 0.05$, compared with NC-siRNA groups

图3 U87细胞株小分子干扰对MKK4、MKK7的表达及对c-Jun活性的影响

Figure3 Effects of siRNAs on MKK4, MKK7 expression and c-Jun activities in glioma U87 cell line analyzed by Western blot

3 讨论

c-Jun N-末端激酶 (C-Jun N-terminal kinase, JNK) 属于丝裂原活化蛋白激酶家族, 其家族包括 JNK1、JNK2和JNK3^[14], 其中JNK1和JNK2广泛表达于各种组织中, 而JNK3主要表达于脑、心脏及睾丸等组织中^[15]。JNKs参与许多生理过程, 如炎症反应、细胞增殖、分化及死亡, Nacken等^[16]研究表明JNK活化可促进流感病毒A (IAV) 的非结构蛋白 (NS1) 的表达, 从而诱导细胞的凋亡。而且肿瘤的发生和进展也存在JNKs的持续激活, 有研究通过体内或体外实验证明多种恶性肿瘤与JNK/c-Jun的激活密切相关, 如胃癌、肝癌、胰腺癌、骨肉瘤、脑肿瘤及结直肠癌等中均存在不同JNK蛋白的高表达或突变^[17-20]。本研究基于免疫组织化学方法, 探讨胶质瘤中c-Jun的磷酸化水平的表达情况。与正常脑组织及非胶质母细胞瘤相比, 胶质母细胞瘤中磷酸化c-Jun的表达明显升高, 胶质母细胞瘤的高表达率为81.1%, 表明磷酸化c-Jun过表达参与了胶质母细胞瘤的发生与发展。

替莫唑胺 (TMZ) 是目前公认的治疗脑胶质瘤效果较好的化疗药物, 然而脑胶质瘤对TMZ产生耐药性是导致化疗失败的重要原因。因此, 为胶质母细胞瘤的化疗寻找新的靶点及新的化疗

药物成为了胶质瘤的研究热点。有研究证明在JNK/c-Jun激活后, 可以增强替莫唑胺和尼莫司汀等烷化剂等药物对胶质母细胞瘤的促凋亡作用。Tomicic等^[21]发现烷基化抗癌药物作用于胶质瘤细胞LN-229后, JNK/c-Jun激活参与了晚期促凋亡反应。Ueno等^[22]通过建立耐TMZ细胞模型, 与对照组相比, 试验组c-Jun终末激酶 (JNK) 的磷酸化水平增加, 其下游信号通路的活性增加。上调JNK表达或siRNA特异性干扰及JNK抑制剂抑制JNK表达可以促进或抑制试验组细胞迁移及侵袭。因此, 表明JNK信号通路可能成为新型治疗TMZ耐药胶质瘤的靶点。本研究也进一步证明不同级别胶质瘤c-Jun的表达水平不同, 为胶质瘤的化疗, 特别是TMZ耐药的处理提供了证据。

JNK/c-Jun通路的激活在胶质母细胞瘤的发生发展过程中起重要作用, 但其上游调控机制并不完全清楚。JNK上游有两个MAPKK, 即MKK4和MKK7。我们通过小分子干扰的方法沉默胶质瘤U87细胞株中MKK4及MKK7, 发现沉默MKK7后c-Jun磷酸化水平明显下调, 而沉默MKK4后c-Jun磷酸化水平无明显变化, 在细胞学水平证明了MKK7是调控JNK/c-Jun活性及胶质瘤细胞增殖的关键分子。为了进一步探讨MKK7和磷酸化c-Jun的表达在胶质瘤发生发展中的关系。本研究检测了胶质母细胞瘤旁正常脑组织与不同组织学类型及WHO分级的胶质瘤中MKK7和磷酸化c-Jun的表达情况, 发现随着胶质瘤WHO分级的增加, MKK7及磷酸化c-Jun的高表达率明显升高; 且MKK7及磷酸化c-Jun的表达正相关, 进一步验证了MKK7及JNK/c-Jun通路的信号在胶质母细胞瘤发生发展的中的重要作用, 为寻找胶质瘤化疗的新靶点、新化疗药物提供重要的理论依据。

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