

绿茶有效活性成分 EGCG 诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡及其机制的研究进展

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摘要: 绿茶是亚洲及中东地区最流行的饮品之一, 具有抗癌、抗炎、抗菌、抗氧化、治疗心脑血管疾病、改善肥胖和糖尿病等活性。表没食子儿茶素没食子酸酯 (Epigallo catechin-3-gallate, EGCG) 是绿茶中含量最高的多酚类物质, 具有抗肿瘤的功效。已知细胞凋亡是各种抗癌药物引发细胞死亡的主要方式, 因此诱导癌细胞凋亡是治疗癌症的一个明确目标。大量研究报道了 EGCG 的抗肿瘤活性, 并揭示了 EGCG 诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用及机制, 因此本文综述了近几年 EGCG 诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用及机制, 包括 p53、STAT3、Akt、p38 MAPK、Wnt/ β -catenin 和 TRAIL 等与凋亡相关的途径, 还综述了 EGCG 与天然产物、抗肿瘤药物及其它化合物协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用机制, 并对 EGCG 的生物利用率、体内实验及临床实验的开展进行了展望, 为 EGCG 的临床应用提供理论依据。

关键词: 表没食子儿茶素没食子酸酯; 肿瘤细胞凋亡; 分子机制

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Tumor Cell Apoptosis Induced by EGCG in Green Tea and Its Mechanism: A Research Review

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Abstract: Green tea is one of the most popular drinks in Asia and the Middle East. It is a cancer-fighting, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antioxidant drink, and it can help treat cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases. Moreover, it improves obesity and diabetes. Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) is found in the highest amount in green tea compared to other polyphenols and demonstrates noticeable antitumor activity. It is well known that apoptosis is the main way for various anticancer drugs to induce cell death. Therefore, inducing apoptosis of cancer cells is a clear goal in cancer treatment. At present, a large number of studies have reported the antitumor activity of EGCG and revealed the effectiveness and mechanism of EGCG-induced tumor cell apoptosis. This study summarizes recently reported studies on the

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effects and mechanisms of EGCG in inducing tumor cell apoptosis. The pathways discussed include p53, STAT3, Akt, p38 MAPK, Wnt/ β -catenin, and TRAIL. This study also discusses the mechanisms by which EGCG and natural products, antitumor drugs, and other compounds act synergistically to induce tumor cell apoptosis. Future research on the bioavailability, *in vivo* experiments, and clinical trials of EGCG is considered, offering a theoretical basis for clinical applications of EGCG.

Key words: Epigallo catechin-3-gallate (EGCG); tumor cell apoptosis; molecular mechanism

癌症是世界上最具威胁性地健康问题之一。根据《2018年全球癌症统计》报告,2018年中国约有430万新发癌症病例和290万癌症死亡病例。与美国和英国相比,虽然中国的癌症发病率较低,但是癌症的死亡率较美国和英国分别高出40%和30%^[1]。据世界卫生组织统计,癌症发病率逐年上升,因此,寻找有效的防治方法是当今社会面临的重大课题。

癌症的标准化治疗包括手术、化学疗法、放射疗法和免疫疗法。尽管癌症治疗的主要目的是杀死癌细胞而不破坏正常细胞,但是在癌症治疗过程中仍然会对患者产生一些不良影响,包括贫血、食欲不振、谵妄和周围神经病变。目前,人们对癌症发生和发展的机制尚未完全了解。但是,已知癌症的扩散与癌细胞具有规避细胞程序性死亡(即细胞凋亡)的能力有关^[2]。因此,诱导癌细胞凋亡是治疗癌症的一个明确目标。天然产物及其衍生物具有较正常细胞更强的癌细胞凋亡诱导特性^[3,4],并且目前几种传统的化学治疗剂,包括紫杉醇、埃博霉素、长春花生物碱,都来源于天然产物^[5],因此,天然产物及其衍生物可能是有希望的及潜在的癌症治疗候选药物。

绿茶是亚洲及中东地区最流行的饮品之一,约占全球茶总产量的20%。绿茶具有抗癌、抗炎、抗菌、抗氧化、治疗心脑血管疾病、改善肥胖和糖尿病等活性^[6,7],其中多酚儿茶素是绿茶的主要活性成分,并且在各种儿茶素中,表没食子儿茶素没食子酸酯(Epigallo catechin-3-gallate, EGCG)是绿茶中含量最高的多酚类物质,占绿茶茶叶水提物的16.5%^[8]。流行病学数据显示,EGCG对激素相关的癌症(例如乳腺癌或前列腺癌)具有一定的防治作用^[9]。并且,经过化学修饰的EGCG,可改善癌细胞对化学疗法的敏感性^[10]。总之,已有大量的体内和体外研究表明了EGCG或EGCG与其它化学药剂的协同抗癌作用^[11]。因此本文综述了EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用及其分子机制,以期对癌症治疗药物或辅助治疗药物的开发利用提供理论依据。

1 绿茶有效活性成分 EGCG 具有抗肿瘤活性

大量实验表明,EGCG对肾上腺癌、膀胱癌、乳腺癌、宫颈癌、结直肠癌、食道癌、胃癌、肝癌、肺

癌、口腔癌、卵巢癌、胰腺癌、前列腺癌和皮肤癌等多种癌细胞具有体外生长抑制作用^[12]。并且,EGCG可通过抑制生长/增殖,降低运动性和刚度,抑制粘附、迁移、侵袭和转移,抑制血管生成,诱导细胞凋亡,增强抗肿瘤免疫力等作用机制发挥抗癌作用^[13]。此外,EGCG可以抑制体内肿瘤的生长,包括抑制乳腺、结直肠、食道、胃、肺、口腔和前列腺等肿瘤的生长^[12,14]。以上研究表明,EGCG具有抗肿瘤活性。

2 EGCG 诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的分子机制

细胞凋亡主要由两个途径触发,即内在的线粒体途径和外在的死亡受体途径。线粒体途径可被细胞应激(例如氧化应激和DNA损伤)诱导,使得细胞色素C从线粒体膜中释放出来,并形成由细胞色素C、凋亡蛋白酶激活因子1(Apaf 1)和pro-caspase-9组成的凋亡小体复合物,从而导致促凋亡蛋白caspase-9、caspase-3和caspase-7的顺序激活;死亡受体途径可由死亡配体触发,如Fas配体(FasL)、肿瘤坏死因子 α (TNF α)和TNF相关的凋亡诱导配体(TRAIL)与细胞表面受体TNFR1和2、死亡受体(DR)4和5以及Fas结合后,导致促凋亡蛋白caspase-8、caspase-3和caspase-7的顺序活化^[15]。

目前已有很多的研究证实了EGCG具有诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用,并且EGCG通过调节癌细胞中的各种信号通路,从而导致促凋亡基因Bax的上调和caspase的级联反应,以及抗凋亡基因Bcl-2的下调来诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。随着人们对EGCG抗肿瘤研究的深入,EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的机制已逐渐明晰,因此我们综述了近几年关于EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的分子机制。

2.1 p53 途径

p53肿瘤抑制因子可响应不同的应激信号来调节各种信号通路,其中p53最关键的作用之一是触发癌前细胞和癌细胞的凋亡^[16]。研究发现,EGCG通过增加鼻咽癌NPC细胞中p53和p21的表达水平,激活caspase-3,从而诱导细胞凋亡^[17]。此外,EGCG可通过激活p53,促进Bax、caspase-9和caspase-3表达,增加细胞色素c释放,降低线粒体膜电位,诱导人肝细胞

癌HCCLM6细胞凋亡^[18]。Huang等^[19]研究发现, EGCG通过增加乳腺癌MCF-7细胞中p53表达水平, 降低Bcl-2表达水平, 诱导MCF-7细胞凋亡。

2.2 STAT3 途径

研究发现信号转导和转录激活因子3 (STAT3) 在癌症转化和致癌性中发挥重要作用。已知STAT3在乳腺癌、前列腺癌、卵巢癌和肝癌等癌细胞中可被多种细胞因子和生长因子激活^[20], 从而促进肿瘤细胞生长、转移和血管生成^[21,22]。因此, 靶向抑制STAT3被认为是一种有前途的策略。Yuan等^[23]认为EGCG通过降低p-Akt (Ser473) 和p-STAT3 (Tyr705) 的表达水平, 增加Bax、caspase-9和caspase-3的表达水平, 降低Bcl-2的表达水平, 诱导人舌鳞状细胞癌CAL27 (CAR) 细胞凋亡。用EGCG处理的白血病CML细胞, 线粒体膜通透性降低, 线粒体和细胞核中凋亡诱导因子 (AIF) 表达水平增加, 磷酸化(p)-JAK2、磷酸化(p)-STAT3和磷酸化(p)-Akt的表达水平降低, 从而导致细胞凋亡, 但是EGCG诱导的CML细胞凋亡不依赖caspase途径^[24]。此外, EGCG衍生物EGCG-MP通过增加蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶1 (SHP-1) 的表达水平, 降低磷酸化(p)-BCR-ABL和p-STAT3的表达水平, 增加cleaved-PARP、cleaved-caspase-9和cleaved-caspase-3的表达水平, 诱导慢性髓细胞白血病CML细胞凋亡^[25]。

2.3 Akt 途径

Akt又称蛋白激酶B (PKB), 是一种丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶, 其参与几种关键的细胞途径, 包括存活、增殖、侵袭、凋亡和血管生成。尽管磷脂酰肌醇3激酶 (PI3K) 是Akt活化的关键调节因子, 但许多刺激和激酶会启动Akt信号传导, 从而激活Akt途径以驱动细胞生长和存活^[26]。研究发现^[27], EGCG可通过第十号染色体上缺失的磷酸酶和张力蛋白同源物 (PTEN) 抑制p-Akt和磷酸化(p)-mTOR的表达, 从而诱导人胰腺癌细胞凋亡。EGCG处理肝癌Hep-G2细胞和结肠癌HCT-116细胞后, 细胞中Nek2和p-Akt的蛋白表达水平降低, 从而导致Hep-G2细胞和HCT-116细胞凋亡^[28]。Shen等^[29]研究发现, EGCG通过降低肝癌细胞SMMC7721中PI3K、Akt和NF- κ B的mRNA水平, 降低Akt的蛋白水平和抑制Akt丝氨酸473位点磷酸化, 从而诱导肝癌细胞凋亡。Maruyama等^[30]研究发现, EGCG通过抑制Akt磷酸化, 活化p38, 降低血管内皮生长因子受体2 (VEGFR2) 的表达水平, 诱导结肠癌RKO细胞凋亡。此外, 经EGCG处理的肺癌H1299细胞, 磷酸化(p)-PI3K和p-Akt的表达水平显著降低, caspase-3

和Bax表达水平增加, Bcl-2表达水平降低, 从而导致H1299细胞凋亡^[31]。

2.4 p38 MAPK 途径

丝裂原活化蛋白激酶 (MAPK) 途径参与细胞的许多基本过程, 包括细胞生长、增殖、存活、迁移和凋亡^[32]。Cerezo-Guisado等^[33]的研究显示, EGCG处理增加了结肠癌HT-29细胞ERK1/2, JNK1/2和p38 α , p38 γ 和p38 δ 以及Akt的磷酸化水平, 但是使用了激酶抑制剂后, EGCG诱导癌细胞死亡的作用被抵消, 表明EGCG通过活化Akt, ERK1/2和p38MAPK信号通路诱导癌细胞凋亡。Xiao等^[24]研究发现EGCG具有诱导慢性粒细胞白血病CML细胞凋亡的作用, 其机制与降低线粒体膜通透性, 增加线粒体和细胞核中凋亡诱导因子 (AIF) 表达水平, 降低p38和磷酸化(p)-P38表达水平有关。

2.5 Wnt/ β -catenin 途径

Wnt信号通路在细胞增殖、分化、迁移、凋亡和肿瘤发展中起着重要作用。研究发现, 在许多恶性肿瘤中, 包括结肠癌、前列腺癌、卵巢癌和乳腺癌, Wnt/ β -catenin信号转导异常激活^[34]。Shin等^[35]研究发现EGCG通过增强 β -catenin泛素化和蛋白酶体降解, 降低p-AKT和cyclinD1表达水平, 增加磷酸化(p)-GSK-3 β 、cleaved-PARP和cleaved-caspase-3的表达水平, 进而诱导头颈癌KB和FaDu细胞凋亡。此外, EGCG通过降低SGC-7901细胞中磷酸化(p)- β -catenin (Ser552)、p-GSK3 β (S9)、 β -catenin和Bcl-2的表达水平, 显著抑制胃癌SGC-7901细胞增殖并增加其凋亡^[36]。

2.6 TRAIL 介导的途径

TRAIL是TNF超家族的成员, 可与DR4和DR5结合来启动凋亡途径^[37]。Shen等^[38]研究发现EGCG通过增加DR4和caspase-3的表达水平, 提高由TRAIL介导的人黑色素瘤A375细胞的凋亡。Onoda等^[39]研究发现EGCG通过活化p73, 增加cleaved-PARP、cleaved-caspase-3、Bax和TRAIL的表达水平, 降低survivin表达水平, 诱导胃癌NUGC-3细胞凋亡。此外, EGCG通过活化caspase-3, 提高DR4和DR5的表达水平, 降低Bcl-2和细胞型Fas相关死亡结构域蛋白样白介素-1 β 转换酶抑制蛋白 (cFLIP) 的表达水平, 诱导由TRAIL介导的肝细胞癌Hep-G2细胞^[40]凋亡。

2.7 其它途径

EGCG通过调节 miR-1/c-MET 的相互作用诱导骨肉瘤 OS 细胞凋亡^[41]；通过抑制葡萄糖调节蛋白 78 (GRP78) 的活性和表达从而促进恶性胶质瘤细胞凋亡^[42]；通过降低 Bmi-1 的表达水平，进而诱导皮肤癌细胞凋亡^[43]；通过乙酰化淀粉样前体蛋白 APP 从而诱导神经母细胞瘤 SK-N-SH 细胞凋亡^[44]；通过 Hippo-TAZ 信号通路诱导舌鳞状细胞癌 TSCC 细胞凋亡^[45]；通过降低表皮生长因子受体 (EGFR) 表达水平，抑制 ERK1/2 和 Mek 的磷酸化，下调 Bcl-2 的表达水平和上调 Bax 的表达水平，诱导唾液腺样囊性癌细胞凋亡^[46]。

综上所述，EGCG通过p53途径、STAT3途径、Akt途径、p38 MAPK途径、Wnt/ β -catenin途径、TRAIL途径和其它途径诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。

3 EGCG 和一些化合物协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡及其分子机制

3.1 EGCG 和天然化合物协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡及其分子机制

大量的试验表明EGCG和天然化合物能协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。如EGCG和姜黄素通过增加cleaved-caspase-7、cleaved-caspase-9和cleaved-PARP表达水平，降低Bcl-2和survivin和P-糖蛋白 (P-gp) 的表达水平，从而诱导乳腺癌MCF-7细胞凋亡^[47]；通过降低PI3K (p85) 和p-Akt (Ser 473) 的表达水平，增加p53、Bax、cleaved-caspase-3和cleaved-PARP表达水平，降低Bcl-2的表达水平，诱导宫颈癌Hela细胞凋亡^[48]；另外，EGCG、姜黄素和牛蒡苷元通过协同作用，显著增加乳腺癌细胞MCF-7细胞中Bax/Bcl-2比率，抑制NF- κ B、Akt和STAT3信号通路的活化，诱导MCF-7细胞凋亡^[49]。EGCG和紫杉醇通过协同作用，降低Bcl-2表达水平，增加cleaved-PARP表达水平，活化caspase-3，从而诱导人非小细胞肺癌细胞NCI-H460细胞凋亡^[50]。D'Angelo等^[51]研究发现，EGCG、二十碳五烯酸游离脂肪酸 (EPA-FFA) 和原花青素 (GS) 通过降低磷酸化(p)-p70S6k和磷酸化(p)-4EBP1的表达水平，协同抑制mTOR信号通路，进而诱导结肠癌细胞HCT116和SW480凋亡。

3.2 EGCG 和抗肿瘤药物协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡及其分子机制

研究发现，EGCG可以和多种抗癌药物（顺铂、艾洛替尼、帕纳替尼、替莫唑胺、阿霉素和博来霉素）协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。例如，EGCG和顺铂通过抑制非小细胞肺癌细胞中肝癌衍生生长因子 (HDGF) 的表达，降低线粒体膜电位，活化caspase-3和caspase-9，诱导A549细胞凋亡^[52]；通过抑制DNA甲基转移酶 (DNMT) 和组蛋白脱乙酰化 (HDAC) 活性，下调基因*GAS1*、*TIMP4*、*ICAM1*和*WISP2*表达水平，协同诱导非小细胞肺癌A549细胞凋亡^[53]；通过降低miRNA has-miR-98-5p表达水平，增加p53表达水平，从而诱导非小细胞肺癌A549细胞凋亡^[54]。EGCG和艾洛替尼通过提高细胞中Bim、p21和p27的表达水平，降低Bcl-2表达水平，抑制ERK和Akt磷酸化，协同诱导头颈部鳞状细胞癌细胞凋亡^[55]。EGCG和帕纳替尼通过协同作用增加*TGF- β 2* mRNA水平，降低*CYCLIND1*和*CDC25A* mRNA水平，诱导慢性髓白血病CML细胞凋亡^[56]。EGCG和替莫唑胺通过降低p-Akt和Bcl-2的表达水平，增加cleaved-PARP的表达水平，协同诱导神经胶质瘤干细胞GSLCs凋亡^[57]。EGCG和阿霉素通过协同作用，提高阿霉素诱导肝癌细胞Hep3B凋亡的能力^[58]。此外，EGCG和博来霉素协同诱导胰腺癌MIA PaCa-2细胞凋亡^[59]。

3.3 EGCG 和其它化合物协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡及其分子机理

EGCG和甲萘醌通过协同作用，诱导人白血病细胞凋亡^[60]。EGCG和轻肌蛋白B (LMB) 通过协同作用，增加细胞中的ROS和调控p21信号通路，从而诱导A549肺癌细胞凋亡^[61]。EGCG和他喷他多联合促进乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞凋亡^[62]。EGCG和二甲双胍通过显著增加caspase-3的表达水平和降低survivin的表达水平，促进肝癌细胞凋亡^[63]。

因此，EGCG可通过和天然化合物（姜黄素、牛蒡苷元、紫杉醇、原花青素等）、抗肿瘤药物（顺铂、艾洛替尼、帕纳替尼、替莫唑胺、阿霉素和博来霉素）和其它化合物（甲萘醌、他喷他多和二甲双胍）通过不同的作用机理协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。

4 总结

从以上的研究得知，EGCG主要通过作用p53、STAT3、Akt、p38 MAPK、Wnt/ β -catenin和TRAIL等与凋亡相关途径诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。另外，EGCG可以通过和天然化合物、抗肿瘤药物和其它化合物通过不同的作用机理协同诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡。此外，对于

不同的肿瘤细胞EGCG诱导其凋亡的分子机制是不同的,如鼻咽癌、肝癌和乳腺癌主要通过p53途径凋亡;白血病细胞主要通过STAT3途径凋亡;肝癌、结肠癌和肺癌主要通过Akt途径凋亡;头颈癌和胃癌主要通过Wnt/ β -catenin途径凋亡;人黑色素瘤和恶性神经胶质瘤主要通过TRAIL途径凋亡等,所以EGCG能诱导多种肿瘤细胞凋亡,同时EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的途径是多样的。

5 展望

虽然已有很多研究揭示了EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的作用机制,但是由于EGCG存在生物利用率低、生物活性不稳定等问题,严重制约着EGCG的临床应用。目前科学家们将目光转向了EGCG的改良,已通过化学合成EGCG类似物或衍生物和EGCG纳米颗粒,提高了EGCG的生物利用度和生物活性。因此我们在提高EGCG生物利用率和生物活性的同时,仍需进一步研究和明确EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的分子机制,明确各个信号通路之间的联系和特定类型肿瘤细胞所对应的凋亡途径,开展更多的EGCG抗肿瘤体内试验和临床研究。研究和揭示EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的机制及其相互关系,无论对于目前正在开展的EGCG诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡的研究,还是为将来EGCG临床应用研究和抗肿瘤新药开发都有重要的意义。

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