



人参皂苷Rh₁抗肝纤维化的作用机制研究*

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【摘要】 目的 研究稀有人参皂苷Rh₁(ginsenoside Rh₁, G-Rh₁)是否可以降低由胆碱缺乏, L-氨基酸缺乏的高脂饮食(choline-deficient, L-amino acid-defined, high-fat diet, CDAHFD)诱导的肝纤维化, 并探讨其可能存在机制。**方法** 将雄性C57BL/6J小鼠随机分为标准饲料组(Control组)、高脂饲料组(CDAHFD组)、水飞蓟素组(Silymarin, 5 mg/kg)、G-Rh₁低剂量组(5 mg/kg)、G-Rh₁中剂量组(10 mg/kg)、G-Rh₁高剂量组(20 mg/kg), 每组8只。Control组正常喂养, 其余小组均以CDAHFD连续喂养7周建立小鼠肝纤维化模型; 于第一周起, 各给药组小鼠分别灌胃相应药液, 每天1次, 连续7周。末次给药后, 称定各组小鼠体质量、脏器质量并得出脏器指数; HE染色、天狼星红染色和免疫组织化学染色(IHC)观察肝脏组织; Western blot检测肝纤维化相关蛋白 α -平滑肌肌动蛋白(α -SMA)、转化生长因子- β_1 (TGF- β_1)、通路相关蛋白成纤维细胞生长因子12(FGF-12); 检测血清生化指标天冬氨酸转移酶(AST)、丙氨酸转氨酶(ALT)、总胆红素(TBIL)和直接胆红素(DBIL)。将小鼠巨噬细胞(RAW246.7)随机分为5组[对照组、脂多糖(LPS)组、3个给药组]。除对照组RAW246.7细胞只含有RAW246.7细胞和培养基外, 其余组RAW246.7细胞均加入培养基、RAW246.7细胞和LPS(终浓度500 ng/mL), 3个给药组在此基础上分别加入10 μ mol/L、20 μ mol/L、40 μ mol/L G-Rh₁。取5组RAW246.7细胞的上清液与大鼠肝星状细胞(HSC-T6)共培养24 h, 观察比较G-Rh₁或LPS对HSC-T6中 α -SMA、I- α 1型胶原蛋白(Col1a1)等纤维化相关蛋白, 及对RAW246.7中FGF-12和p-STAT3/STAT3纤维化信号通路相关蛋白表达的影响; 流式分析检测RAW246.7表型; ELISA检测促纤维化因子单核细胞趋化蛋白1(MCP-1)和TGF- β 。**结果** 与正常Control组比较, CDAHFD组小鼠明显出现肝纤维化。与CDAHFD小鼠比较, G-Rh₁给药组小鼠肝纤维化均有一定缓解, 存在剂量依赖相关性, 且缓解效果优于对照药物水飞蓟素; 同时, G-Rh₁可缓解CDAHFD导致的体质量下降($P<0.01$), 降低肝脏指数($P<0.01$), 血清AST、ALT、DBIL和TBIL含量显著下降($P<0.0001$), 肝脏中 α -SMA、TGF- β_1 和FGF-12蛋白表达差异均有统计学意义($P<0.01$)。与LPS组相比, LPS+G-Rh₁各组RAW246.7中FGF-12和p-STAT3/STAT3, HSC-T6中 α -SMA和Col1a1的表达差异有统计学意义($P<0.001$); LPS+G-Rh₁(20 μ mol/L、40 μ mol/L)组中Ly6C低表达RAW246.7向Ly6C高表达的转化比例显著降低($P<0.0001$), 同时促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF- β 分泌减少($P<0.0001$), 与HSC-T6的激活程度趋势一致。**结论** G-Rh₁可预防改善CDAHFD诱导的小鼠肝纤维化, 其机制可能与降低FGF-12过表达介导的RAW246.7表型转化相关。

【关键词】 人参皂苷Rh₁ 肝纤维化 巨噬细胞 肝星状细胞 FGF-12

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[Abstract] Objective To investigate whether ginsenoside Rh₁ (G-Rh₁) can alleviate liver fibrosis induced by a choline-deficient, L-amino acid-defined, high-fat diet (CDAHFD) and to explore its underlying mechanisms. **Methods** Male C57BL/6J mice were randomly divided into 6 groups ($n = 8$ in each group), including a standard diet group (or the control group), a high-fat diet group (or the CDAHFD group), a silymarin group (given silymarin at 5 mg/kg), a low-dose G-Rh₁ group (given G-Rh₁ at 5 mg/kg), a medium-dose G-Rh₁ group (given G-Rh₁ at 10 mg/kg), and a high-dose G-Rh₁ group (given G-Rh₁ at 20 mg/kg). The control group was given a standard feed, while the other groups were fed CDAHFD for 7 weeks to establish the mouse model of liver fibrosis. Starting from the first week, the mice in the treatment groups were administered the corresponding drugs by intragastric gavage once daily for 7 weeks in succession. After the administration of the final drug treatment, the body mass and organ mass of the mice in different groups were measured, and the organ index was obtained according. Liver tissues were examined using HE staining, Sirius red staining, and immunohistochemistry (IHC) staining. Western blot was performed to measure α -smooth muscle actin (α -

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SMA) and transforming growth factor- β_1 (TGF- β_1), two liver fibrosis-related proteins, and fibroblast growth factor 12 (FGF-12), a pathway-related protein. The serum biochemical indicators, including aspartate transferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), total bilirubin (TBIL), and direct bilirubin (DBIL), were measured. Additionally, RAW246.7 cells were randomly divided into 5 groups, including a control group, a lipopolysaccharide (LPS) group, and 3 G-Rh₁ treatment groups. The control group had only RAW246.7 cells in the culture medium. The other groups were given LPS (500 ng/mL), and the 3 treatment groups received G-Rh₁ at 10, 20, and 40 μ mol/L in addition. The supernatants from the 5 groups of RAW246.7 cells were collected and cocultured with HSC-T6 cells for 24 hours to observe and compare the effects of G-Rh₁ and LPS on the expression of fibrosis-related proteins, including α -SMA, Col1a1, etc, in HSC-T6 cells and on the expression of fibrotic signaling pathway-related proteins, including fibroblast growth factor 12 (FGF-12) and signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3)/phosphorylated STAT3 (p-STAT3), in RAW246.7 cells. Flow cytometry was conducted to analyze the phenotypes of RAW246.7 cells, and ELISA was performed to measure fibrosis-related factors, including monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) and transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β).

Results Compared with the control mice, the mice in the CDAHFD group exhibited obvious liver fibrosis. Compared with CDAHFD mice, mice in the G-Rh₁ treatment groups all showed alleviation of liver fibrosis of was alleviated to some extent in a dose-dependent manner, and the improvement effect was superior to that of silymarin, a reference drug. G-Rh₁ also alleviated CDAHFD-induced body mass loss ($P < 0.01$), reduced the liver index ($P < 0.01$), and significantly decreased the serum levels of AST, ALT, DBIL, and TBIL ($P < 0.0001$). Significant differences in the protein expression of α -SMA, TGF- β_1 , and FGF-12 in the liver were observed ($P < 0.01$). Compared with the LPS group, the LPS + G-Rh₁ groups exhibited significant differences in the expression of FGF-12 and p-STAT3/STAT3 in RAW246.7 cells, and α -SMA and Col1a1 in HSC-T6 cells ($P < 0.001$). In the LPS + G-Rh₁ groups (the 20 μ mol/L and 40 μ mol/L treatment groups), the conversion ratio of Ly6C-low expressing RAW246.7 cells into Ly6C-high expressing RAW246.7 cells decreased significantly ($P < 0.0001$), while the secretion of fibrosis-related factors MCP-1 and TGF- β decreased ($P < 0.0001$), which was consistent with the trend of the activation levels of HSC-T6 cells.

Conclusions G-Rh₁ can prevent and improve CDAHFD-induced liver fibrosis in mice, potentially through mechanisms involving the reduction of RAW246.7 phenotype transformation mediated by FGF-12 overexpression.

[Key words] Ginsenoside Rh₁ Liver fibrosis Macrophage Hepatic stellate cells FGF-12

肝纤维化是慢性肝病发展的关键,持续的恶化通常导致肝硬化和肝细胞癌^[1]。在世界范围内,肝纤维化发病机制方面的研究取得了巨大的进步,对肝纤维化过程的干预为治疗慢性肝病提供了一种方法^[2]。非酒精性脂肪性肝病正在成为全世界慢性肝病的最常见病因,预计至2030年可能近一亿人存在患慢性肝病风险,甚至进一步发展发展为肝纤维化^[3]。但治疗肝纤维化的特效药仍在积极地探索中。

有研究表明,巨噬细胞和干细胞与肌成纤维细胞的转化密切相关。在肝脏发生纤维化的过程中,巨噬细胞激活后释放的信号因子会促进肝星状细胞的激活^[4-5]。通常FGF信号通过调节关键转录因子从而在调节干细胞功能中发挥作用^[6-7],国内最新的研究发现FGF-12在肝脏中具有调节肝纤维化的作用,这为探究药物预防治疗及缓解肝纤维化作用提供了新的思路^[8]。

我国中医药在保肝护肝治疗中取得了显著成效^[9]。传统药材人参改善器官纤维化效果显著^[10],其中具有抗炎、神经保护等^[11]作用的人参皂苷Rh₁(ginsenoside Rh₁, G-Rh₁)能否改善非酒精性脂肪性肝损伤及纤维化尚未见报道。本研究拟通过建立动物模型结合细胞水平的验

证,探讨G-Rh₁对小鼠肝纤维化发展过程的作用,为探索预防或改善非酒精性脂肪性肝纤维化的研究提供新参考。

1 材料与方法

1.1 主要仪器、细胞系和动物

1658033垂直电泳转印设备购自美国Bio-rad公司;ChemiScope 6100型化学发光成像系统及ChemiScope Capture图像采集软件均购自上海勤翔科学仪器有限公司;DM2000光学显微镜及徕卡显微图像系统均购自德国Leica;Vios160i型CO₂培养箱, Multiskan GO 1510型全波长酶标仪均购自美国Thermo Fisher Scientific公司。

大鼠肝星状细胞系(HSC-T6)、小鼠巨噬细胞细胞系(RAW246.7)购自Procell生命科技有限公司(武汉,中国)。RAW246.7和HSC-T6细胞培养在含有10%胎牛血清、100 U/mL青霉素和100 U/mL链霉素的DMEM中,置于37℃、体积分数5%二氧化碳湿化培养箱中。

6周龄, SPF级, 雄性C57BL/6J小鼠, 体质量(20 $\pm$ 2) g, 购自北京维通利华实验动物技术有限公司, 实验动物生产许可证号为SYXK(浙)2021-0020;胆碱缺乏, L-氨基酸缺乏的高脂饲料(批号为CDAHf60)购自戴茨生物科技

有限公司。饲养温度(23 ± 1) $^{\circ}\text{C}$,光照黑暗环境交替周期为12 h,且均按照SPF级的标准饲养。经温州医科大学伦理委员会对动物进行审查(伦理批号为xmsq2024-0596)。

1.2 主要药品与试剂

G-Rh₁标准品(批号为A0240,纯度HPLC $\geq 98\%$)购自成都曼思特生物科技有限公司;胎牛血清(批号为FND500)购自苏州依科赛生物科技股份有限公司;脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)(批号为BS904-10mg)购自美国Biosharp公司;含各种氨基酸和葡萄糖的培养基(dulbecco's modified eagle medium, DMEM)培养基(批号为11995-500 mL)购自北京Solarbio公司;兔 α -平滑肌肌动蛋白(α -smooth muscle actin, α -SMA)、转化生长因子- β_1 (transforming growth factor- β_1 , TGF- β_1), I-a1型胶原蛋白(collagen I-a1, Col1a1)、 β -肌动蛋白(β -actin)、信号传导转录激活因子3重组蛋白(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)、磷酸化的信号传导转录激活因子3蛋白(phosphorylated STAT3, p-STAT3)抗体(批号分别为AF1032、AF1027、AF0134、AF7018、AF6294、AF3293)均购自美国Affinity公司;兔成纤维细胞生长因子12(fibroblast growth factor 12, FGF-12)抗体、辣根过氧化物酶标记的山羊抗兔免疫球蛋白G二抗(批号分别为13784-1-AP, PR30009-6 mL)均购自美国Proteintech公司;RIPA裂解液、BCA蛋白定量试剂盒(批号分别为P0013C、P0012)均购自上海碧云天生物技术有限公司;HE染色试剂盒、天狼星红染色试剂盒(批号分别为G1120-100、G1472-2*50 mL)均购自北京Solarbio公司。转化生长因子 β (TGF- β)酶联免疫吸附测定试剂盒、小鼠单核细胞趋化蛋白1(MCP-1)酶联免疫吸附测定试剂盒均购自武汉Elabscience公司(批号分别为E-EL-0162c、E-EL-M3001)。

1.3 方法

1.3.1 动物分组及给药方案

随机分为6组(8只/组,样本量测算依据课题组前期实验结果^[12-13]、及对CDAHFD小鼠模型研究^[14])。分别设为对照组,模型组,3个G-Rh₁给药组(5 mg/kg、10 mg/kg和20 mg/kg)(给药剂量参考G-Rh₁改善肝脏损伤相关研究^[15],并增加了更高剂量的给药组),阳性药水飞蓟素(Sylmarin)组(剂量设置参考成人预防用药140 mg/d^[16],并参考《药理实验方法学》换算得到幼年小鼠给药剂量约为5 mg/kg)。对照组给予正常饮食,其他组给予CDAHFD连续喂养7周。所有小鼠都随意喝水。研究前进行了7 d的适应性喂养。将G-Rh₁使用0.5%的羧甲基纤

维素钠中配置成混悬液,根据小鼠体质量给予适宜的量进行灌胃给药,对照组小鼠灌胃等体积生理盐水,每天上午一次,连续7周。每周测量并记录体质量一次。

1.3.2 样本采集

末次给药12 h,称定并记录小鼠体质量,使用小鼠麻醉机群体麻醉后摘眼球取血,血样于4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 下以3 000 r/min离心15 min,取上层血清,用于检测肝功能指标和肝纤维化相关指标检测。处死小鼠后称量脏器质量用于计算脏器质量/体质量(g/g),部分于质量分数4%多聚甲醛固定保存,脱水后石蜡包埋切片,其余肝脏组织立即存入-80 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 冰箱,用于后续的Western blot实验。

1.3.3 血清生化指标水平的检测

取各组小鼠血清样品100 μL ,使用全自动生化分析仪进行检测天冬氨酸转氨酶(aspartate aminotransferase, AST)、丙氨酸转氨酶(alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、直接胆红素(direct bilirubin, DBIL)和总胆红素(total bilirubin, TBIL)。

1.3.4 小鼠肝脏组织病理学观察

取适肝脏切片脱蜡,分别进行HE染色和天狼星红染色,光镜下观察肝脏损伤及肝纤维化。免疫组化分析用PBS清洗组织切片,并用山羊血清封闭15 min,加入约20 μL 的 α -SMA或TGF- β_1 ,37 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 孵育1 h,辣根过氧化物酶标记的链霉素有效液体在常温下孵化15 min,PSB漂洗,DAB染色,苏木精复染,用于检测分析肝脏组织中 α -SMA或TGF- β_1 的表达情况,染色结果棕黄色为阳性反应。

1.3.5 Western blot检测小鼠肝组织中相关蛋白的表达

取各组小鼠肝组织,匀浆离心,BCA法检测蛋白浓度后,十二烷基硫酸钠-聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳,分离转移到PVDF膜上。常温孵化、洗膜后加入内参蛋白(β -actin)、肝纤维化相关蛋白(α -SMA、TGF- β_1 、Col1a1、FGF-12)一抗(稀释比例为1:1 000),4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 振荡孵育过夜。洗膜后,加入对应二抗(稀释比例为1:5 000)室温下用Western blot试剂盒孵育1 h。用配制好的ECL显色液显影,在化学发光成像系统下成像,对灰度值进行定量分析。每组重复3次。以目的条带与内参蛋白 β -actin条带的灰度值之比为目的条带蛋白的相对表达量。

1.3.6 细胞分组及实验方案

当RAW246.7细胞密度达到50%~60%时,随机分为5组(对照组、LPS组、3个给药组)。除对照组RAW246.7细胞只含有RAW246.7细胞和培养基外,其余组RAW246.7细胞均加入培养基、LPS(终浓度500 ng/mL),3个给药组在此基础上分别加入10 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 、20 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ 、40 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ G-Rh₁(剂量设置参考实验室前期细胞活力预实验结

果)。取上述5组RAW246.7细胞分为2份,一份为全细胞液,直接用于后续检测;一份取上清液作为RAW246.7细胞培养液,以供检测、HSC-T6细胞共培养使用。当HSC-T6细胞密度达到50%~60%时,将生长状态良好的HSC-T6细胞与5组2 mL的RAW246.7细胞培养液共培养24 h。所有上述实验重复3次。

为探讨RAW246.7的激活后FGF-12表达增加,是否会引起HSC-T6的激活,Col1a1和 α -SMA的表达增加,G-Rh₁在此过程中能否在一定程度上抑制这种激活,Western blot检测共培养前的5种RAW246.7细胞全液FGF-12、STAT3和p-STAT3的表达情况,再检测共培养后Col1a1和 α -SMA的表达情况。Ly6C高表型通常是巨噬细胞激活后大量转化而来,会分泌促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF- β 诱导肝星状细胞激活。为检测LPS处理后RAW246.7细胞Ly6C表型转化情况,流式细胞术检测5组RAW246.7细胞全液中Ly6C高表型所占比例。MCP-1和TGF- β 为Ly6C高表型RAW246.7分泌的促纤维化因子,是诱导肝星状细胞激活的主要原因之一,以ELISA检测5组RAW246.7细胞上清液MCP-1和TGF- β 的表达。

1.3.7 Western blot检测细胞中肝纤维化蛋白表达

取5组RAW246.7细胞全液,用培养细胞总蛋白提取试剂与蛋白酶和磷酸酶抑制剂按100:1的比例混合提取总蛋白。Western blot检测细胞中FGF-12、STAT3和p-STAT3(一抗稀释比例均为1:1000)的表达情况。取5组HSC-T6细胞与RAW246.7细胞培养液共培养24 h后的细胞,同样方法检测Col1a1和 α -SMA(一抗稀释比例均为1:1000)的表达情况。以 β -actin为内参。方法同1.3.5。

1.3.8 流式细胞术检测

取5组RAW246.7细胞全液,用流式染色缓冲液将细胞浓度调整为 $1.0 \times 10^7/\text{mL}$ 。从样本管和对照管中取100 μL

细胞悬液至新的流式管中,加入5 μL Anti-Mouse F4/80, 5 μL Anti-Mouse Ly6C。震荡混匀,4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 避光孵育30~60 min;每管加入100 μL FIX & PERM Medium A,震荡混匀,室温避光孵育15 min;每管加入3 mL预冷流式染色缓冲液,300 $\times$ g离心5 min,弃上清;每管加入500 μL 流式染色缓冲液重悬,上机检测。检测巨噬细胞中Ly6C高表型所占比例。

1.3.9 ELISA检测

取5组RAW246.7细胞的上清液,按试剂盒说明书检测促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF- β 的表达。

1.3.10 统计学方法

使用GraphPad Prism8软件(GraphPad Software Inc., CA, USA)绘制图形和统计分析。所有数据均使用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 。服从正态分布的多组间比较使用方差分析(two way-ANOVA),组间两两比较采用 t 检验。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 动物实验结果

2.1.1 G-Rh₁对小鼠体重、脏器指数的影响

与对照组相比,使用CDAHFD饲料喂养的小鼠在前3周体重急剧下降,然后趋于稳定,给予G-Rh₁后小鼠体重有一定上升趋势,其中G-Rh₁(10 mg/kg)组的上升趋势显著($P < 0.01$)。与对照组相比,CDAHFD组的小鼠肝脏/体重升高($P < 0.0001$),但肾脏/体重和心脏/体重差异无统计学意义,给药组与CDAHFD组相比,水飞蓟素差异不明显($P > 0.05$),低剂量G-Rh₁组有一定差异($P < 0.05$),中、高剂量G-Rh₁组的肝脏/体重明显下降($P < 0.01$)。结果如图1。

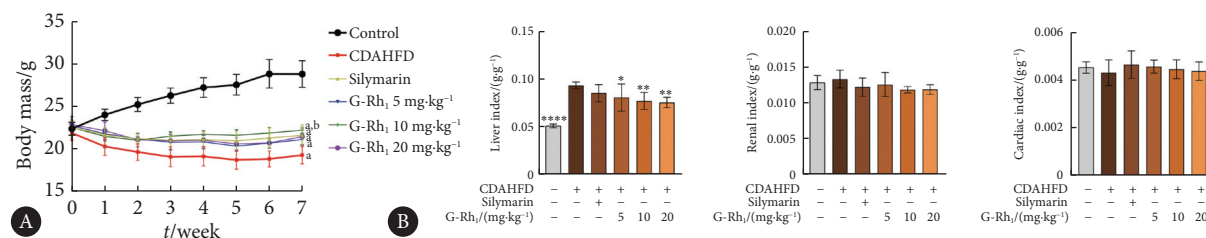


图1 各组小鼠体重(A)和脏器指数(B)

Fig 1 Body mass (A) and organ index (B) of the mice in different groups

^a $P < 0.0001$, vs. control group; ^b $P < 0.01$, vs. CDAHFD group; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, **** $P < 0.0001$, vs. CDAHFD group. $n = 8$ per group.

2.1.2 G-Rh₁改善小鼠肝功能指标和胶原沉积

见图2A。与对照组相比,CDAHFD小鼠血清中AST、ALT、DBIL和TBIL含量均升高($P < 0.0001$);与CDAHFD组相比,水飞蓟素的影响不显著,G-Rh₁在低剂

量时对AST、ALT影响不显著($P > 0.05$),但对DBIL和TBIL有降低作用($P < 0.0001$),在中、高剂量时降低AST和ALT水平($P < 0.001$),同时对DBIL和TBIL的降低作用更显著($P < 0.0001$)。

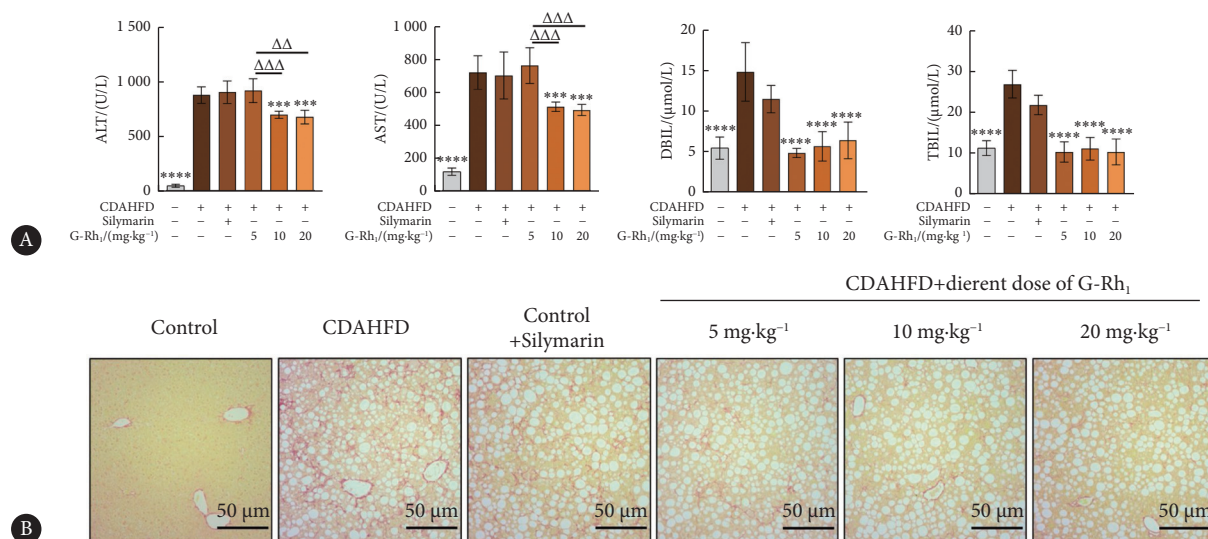


图 2 G-Rh₁改善小鼠肝功能指标 (A) 和胶原沉积 (B, × 400)

Fig 2 G-Rh₁ improves liver function indicators (A) and collagen deposition (B, original magnification × 400) in mice

*** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$, vs. CDAHFD group; $\Delta\Delta$ $P < 0.01$, $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ $P < 0.001$. $n = 8$ per group.

天狼星红染色显示,与对照组相比,CDAHFD组肝脏出现大量的纤维组织增生,胶原沉积明显;与CDAHFD组比较,水飞蓟素和低剂量G-Rh₁组有一定程度的改善,中剂量G-Rh₁组和高剂量G-Rh₁组的胶原沉积得到明显改善。结果如图2B。

2.1.3 G-Rh₁降低小鼠肝脏中纤维化相关蛋白表达

免疫组织化学染色结果显示,与对照组相比,CDAHFD组肝脏 α -SMA和TGF- β_1 表达增加($P < 0.05$);与CDAHFD组比较,水飞蓟素和低剂量G-Rh₁组在一定程度上降低了 α -SMA和TGF- β_1 表达,中剂量G-Rh₁组和高剂量G-Rh₁组其表达明显降低($P < 0.05$)。结果如图3A、3B。与对照组相比,CDAHFD组小鼠肝脏组织中 α -SMA、TGF- β_1 和FGF-12的表达增加($P < 0.05$);与CDAHFD相比,水飞蓟素和低剂量G-Rh₁组在一定程度上降低了 α -SMA、TGF- β_1 和FGF-12表达,中剂量G-Rh₁组和高剂量G-Rh₁组其表达明显降低($P < 0.05$)。结果如图3C。

2.2 细胞实验结果

2.2.1 RAW246.7细胞结果

与对照组相比,LPS诱导的共培养模型中FGF-12和p-STAT3/STAT3表达增加($P < 0.05$),LPS+G-Rh₁组与LPS组相比,FGF-12和p-STAT3/STAT3在RAW264.7中表达降低($P < 0.05$)。结果如图4A。

与对照组相比,LPS诱导RAW264.7的Ly6C低表达型向Ly6C高表达型转化增加($P < 0.0001$);与LPS组相比,LPS+G-Rh₁的分组RAW264.7的高表达型所占比例逐步降低,G-Rh₁ 10 μ mol/L组在一定程度上减少了其表型转化($P < 0.001$),G-Rh₁ 20 μ mol/L和G-Rh₁ 40 μ mol/L组Ly6C高

表达型所占比例降低($P < 0.0001$),结果如图4B。同时对各组RAW264.7中分泌的促纤维化因子检测分析发现,LPS组分泌MCP-1和TGF- β 显著增加($P < 0.0001$);与LPS相比,LPS+G-Rh₁的分组中RAW264.7的促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF- β 降低($P < 0.0001$),结果如表1。

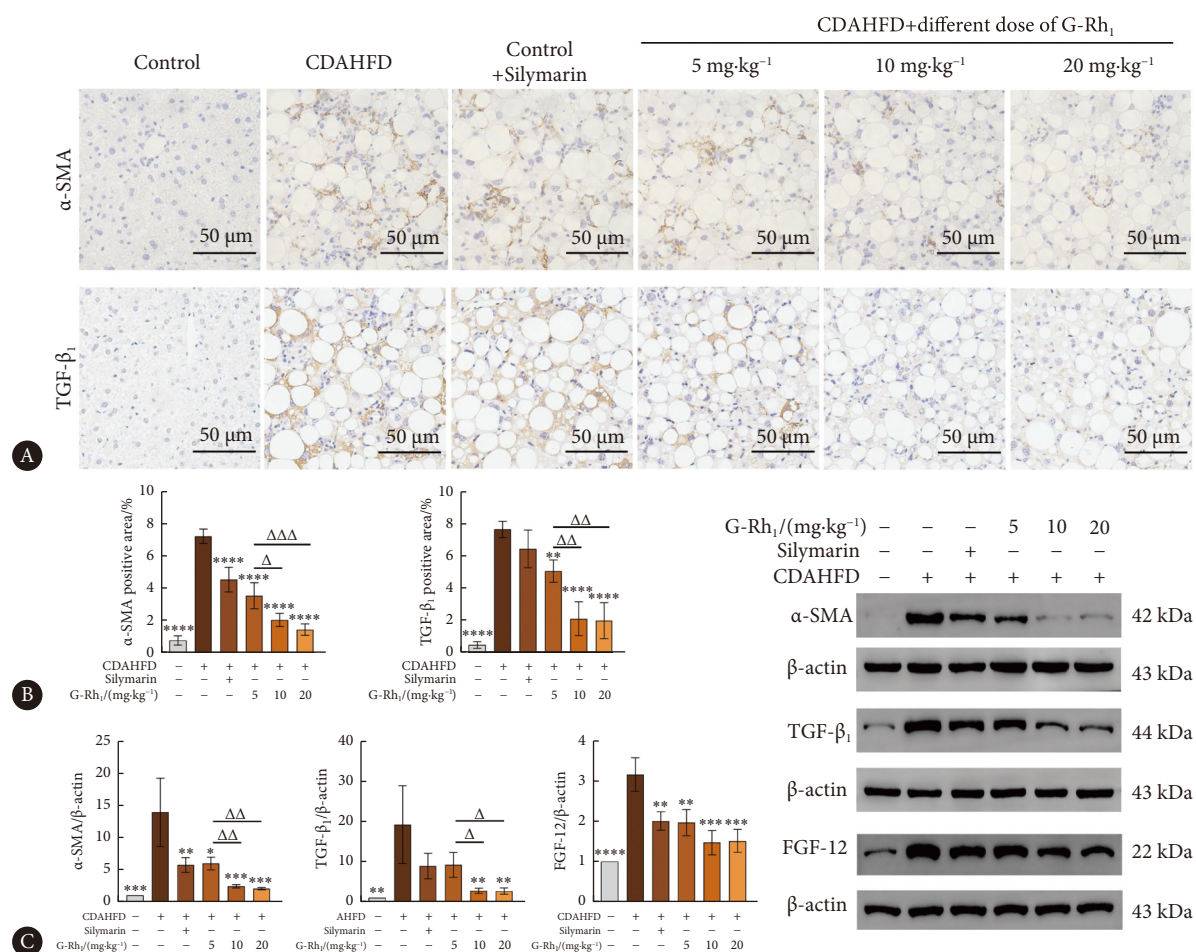
2.2.2 HSC-T6与RAW246.7细胞共培养结果

与对照组相比,LPS组HSC-T6中 α -SMA和Col1a1表达增加($P < 0.0001$),LPS+G-Rh₁组 α -SMA和Col1a1表达与LPS组相比降低($P < 0.0001$),其中20 μ mol/L组与10 μ mol/L组相比 α -SMA表达降低($P < 0.05$),40 μ mol/L比10 μ mol/L组 α -SMA和Col1a1表达降低($P < 0.05$) (图4C)。

3 讨论

肝纤维化是一个复杂的病变过程,曾被认为是不可逆的,现在认为纤维化是一个高度动态的过程^[17]。最新的研究认为,肝纤维化具有进展和消退的双向性质,而这种性质与肌成纤维的形成关系密切^[18]。因此,在肝纤维化阶段给予有效的改善具有重大的医学价值。

在抗肝纤维化领域,全世界传统医学中使用的天然产物受到广泛认可,潜在的抗肝纤维化潜力正在积极发掘^[19]。与此同时,中药的天然提取物因其潜在的抗肝纤维化作用越来越被认可^[20]。人参皂苷是传统著名中药材人参的提取物,研究证实它具有抗肿瘤^[21]、抗纤维化^[22]、神经保护^[23]、血管保护^[24]等药理作用,有较大的药用潜力。但稀有人参皂苷G-Rh₁,能否改善非酒精性脂肪性肝损伤及纤维化尚不清楚。本研究结果显示,给予G-Rh₁后,小鼠血清中AST、ALT、DBIL和TBIL的释放均显著降

图3 G-Rh₁降低小鼠肝脏中纤维化相关蛋白表达Fig 3 G-Rh₁ reduces fibrosis-related protein expression in mouse liver

A, Immunohistochemical staining of α-SMA and TGF-β₁ in mouse liver; B, quantitative analysis of the positive area of α-SMA and TGF-β₁ immunohistochemical staining in mouse liver; C, Western blot was performed to determine the protein expression of α-SMA, TGF-β₁, and FGF-12 in each group of mice, and their relative expression levels. * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$, *** $P < 0.001$, **** $P < 0.0001$, vs. CDAHFD group; Δ $P < 0.05$, $\Delta\Delta$ $P < 0.01$, $\Delta\Delta\Delta$ $P < 0.001$. $n = 3$ per group.

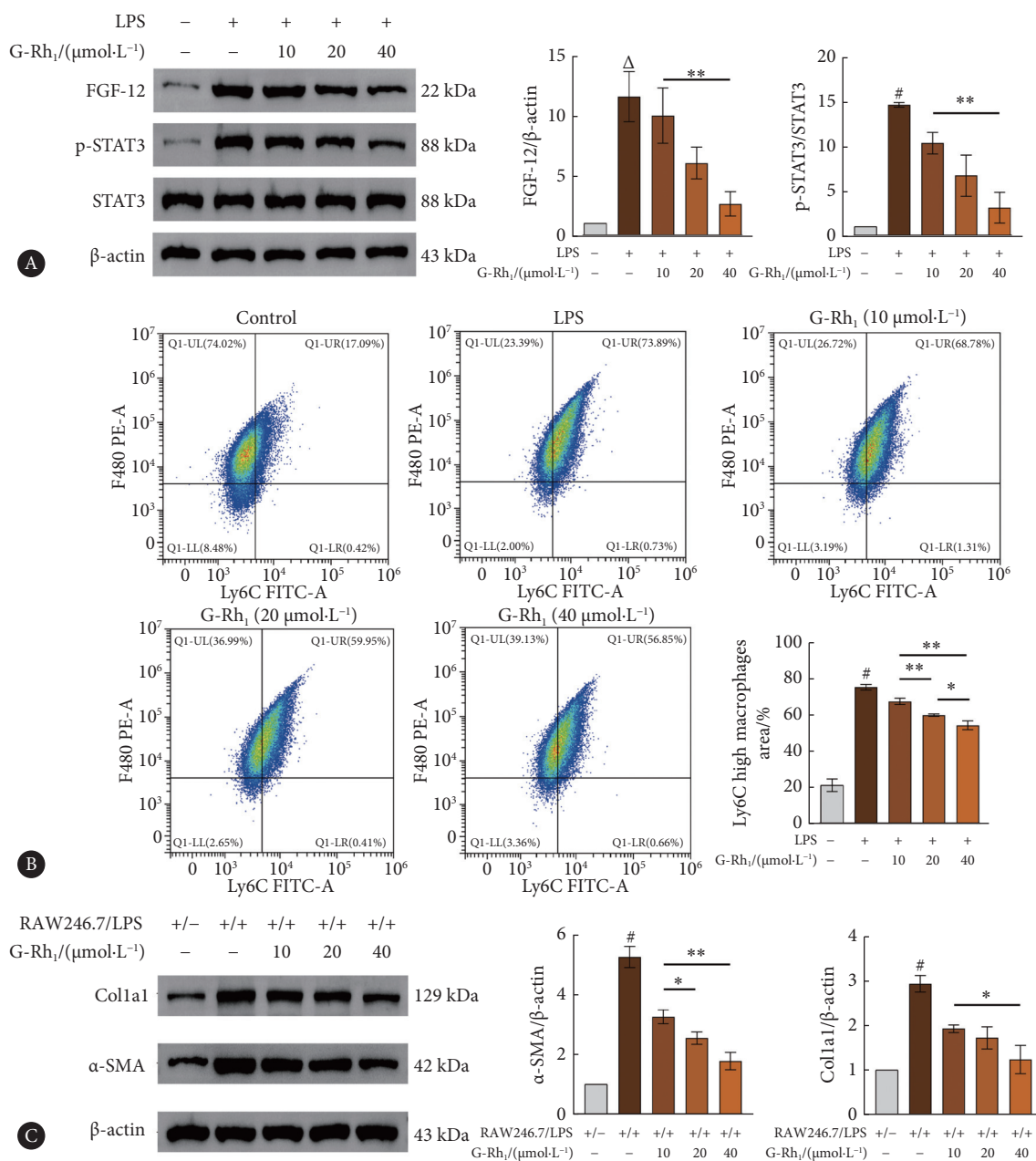
低,且肝脏指数明显改善;肝脏纤维化相关蛋白α-SMA、TGF-β₁和FGF-12表达均显著降低;HE染色和天狼星红染色结果显示G-Rh₁减轻了小鼠肝脏损伤,一定程度上改善了肝纤维化;细胞水平的Western blot结果显示给予G-Rh₁后肝星状细胞的激活被抑制,提示G-Rh₁对小鼠肝纤维化具有一定的改善作用,具有潜在的开发价值。

在肝纤维化发生和发展的过程中,巨噬细胞具有重要作用,不仅对肝星状细胞有激活作用^[25],进而激活的肝星状细胞促进纤维化发生和发展^[26]。同时巨噬细胞还对肝纤维化具有调节和恢复的作用^[27]。Ly6C高表型巨噬细胞被认为是促进炎症和促进纤维化的细胞,会分泌促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF-β,导致肝星状细胞的大量激活,促进肝纤维化^[28-29]。文献表明,FGF-12在调节巨噬细胞的表型转化中发挥着重要作用,在肝脏受损过程中,巨噬细胞中FGF-12会大量表达,激活STAT3信号通路,从而促进Ly6C低表型巨噬细胞大量转化为Ly6C高表型巨噬细胞^[8]。

因此FGF-12可能是改善肝纤维化的潜在靶点。

为了研究G-Rh₁是否通过降低FGF-12过表达来改善肝纤维化,本研究通过Western blot进行了检测分析,结果显示,与对照组的小鼠和细胞相比,CDAHFD组的小鼠和LPS组的RAW264.7中FGF-12的表达显著升高,给予G-Rh₁后FGF-12的过表达明显降低。为了探究是否通过降低FGF-12的过表达从而降低巨噬细胞Ly6C低表达型向高表达型转化。本研究使用流式细胞术分析,结果显示,与对照组相比,LPS组中巨噬细胞Ly6C高表达型比例显著增加,而不同剂量的G-Rh₁均显著降低了巨噬细胞Ly6C高表达型比例,结合ELISA分析发现MCP-1和TGF-β分泌释放减少。上述结果表明,FGF-12可能是G-Rh₁改善肝纤维化的重要靶点之一。

综上所述,G-Rh₁可以减轻肝脏损伤、改善肝纤维化,上述改善作用可能与降低FGF-12过表达、减少巨噬细胞Ly6C高表达型比例,进而减少对肝星状细胞的激活相

图 4 G-Rh₁抑制模型中肝星状细胞的激活Fig 4 G-Rh₁ inhibits the activation of hepatic stellate cells in the model

A, Western blot was performed to determine the protein expression of FGF-12 in each group of RAW264.7 cells and their relative expression levels. B, The RAW264.7 phenotype was determined by flow cytometry and statistical analysis of the proportion of high Ly6C expression RAW264.7 cells. C, Western blot was performed to determine the protein expression of Colla1 and α-SMA in each group of HSC-T6 and their relative expression levels. # $P < 0.05$, vs. other groups; Δ $P < 0.01$, vs. other groups except for LPS + G-Rh₁ 10 μmol/L group; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$. $n = 3$ per group.

表 1 5组RAW246.7细胞上清液促纤维化因子MCP-1和TGF-β的分泌
Table 1 The secretion of profibrotic factors MCP-1 and TGF-β in the 5 groups of RAW246.7 cells

Group	MCP-1/(pg/mL)	TGF-β/(ng/mL)
Control	14.02±0.69****	0.060±0.004****
LPS	76.99±0.15	1.110±0.200
LPS+10 μmol/L G-Rh ₁	57.66±0.94****	0.710±0.020****
LPS+20 μmol/L G-Rh ₁	44.39±0.72****	0.440±0.010****
LPS+40 μmol/L G-Rh ₁	29.97±0.56****	0.260±0.006****

$n = 3$ per group. **** $P < 0.0001$, vs. LPS group.

关。值得注意的是,虽然本研究发现了G-Rh₁基于降低FGF-12过表达改善肝纤维化的潜在机制,然而其如何与FGF-12发生分子间相互作用尚待进一步研究。同时,肝纤维化的发病机制复杂,是否通过其他方式或信号通路之间的相互作用还有待深入探讨。最后,本研究中的分析方法也具有一定的局限性,在分析大量指标的过程中可能存在多重假设检验的问题而未能完全客观反映实验结果,因此本研究结果仅作为探索性分析。

* * *

作者贡献声明 陈焯负责论文构思、数据编、正式分析、研究方法、初稿写作和审读与编辑写作, 杨赛负责数据编和调查研究, 南博负责研究项目管理和提供资源, 马吉胜负责论文构思、经费获取、提供资源和监督指导, 王艳芳负责论文构思、经费获取、调查研究、研究项目管理和监督指导。所有作者已经同意将文章提交给本刊, 且对将要发表的版本进行最终定稿, 并同意对工作的所有方面负责。

Author Contribution CHEN Xuan is responsible for conceptualization, data curation, formal analysis, methodology, writing--original draft, and writing--review and editing. YANG Sai is responsible for data curation and investigation. NAN Bo is responsible for project administration and resources. MA Jisheng is responsible for conceptualization, funding acquisition, resources, and supervision. WANG Yanfang is responsible for conceptualization, funding acquisition, investigation, project administration, and supervision. All authors approved the final version to be published and agreed to takeresponsibility for all aspects of the work.

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

Declaration of Conflicting Interests All authors declare no competing interests.

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