

代谢相关脂肪性肝病中hsa-miR-30a-5p调控SLC7A11促进铁死亡

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摘要: 目的 探讨代谢相关脂肪性肝病 (metabolic associated fatty liver disease, MAFLD) 中微小RNA (microRNA, miRNA) 对铁死亡的调控。方法 在GSE135251数据集中进行差异表达分析及基因集变异分析 (gene set variation analysis, GSVA)。在GSE114923数据集中进行差异分析, 并识别靶向调控铁死亡相关基因的miRNA。以2022年3月1日至2023年4月30日于新疆医科大学第一附属医院经腹部超声确诊为MAFLD的10例患者作为MAFLD组, 以同期性别和年龄匹配的10例健康志愿者作为健康对照组, 采集外周血样本。通过反转录定量聚合酶链式反应 (reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RT-qPCR) 和Western blot检测miRNA及铁死亡相关蛋白 [(溶质载体家族7成员11 (solute carrier family 7 member 11, SLC7A11)、谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶4 (glutathione peroxidase 4, GPX4)、血红素加氧酶1 (heme oxygenase 1, HMOX1)] 的表达。通过酶联免疫吸附试验检测谷胱甘肽 (glutathione, GSH)、丙二醛 (malondialdehyde, MDA) 和炎症因子 [白细胞介素6 (interleukin-6, IL-6)、肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor α , TNF- α)] 水平。结果 GSE135251和GSE114923数据集分析表明, 与健康对照组相比, MAFLD患者中细胞坏死 ($t = 3.229, P = 0.022$) 和铁死亡 ($t = 2.008, P = 0.006$) 通路显著激活, 差异分析结果表明MAFLD和对照组间有8687个有差异表达的基因, 其中有31个为铁死亡相关基因。在31个差异表达的miRNA中鉴定了7个靶向调控铁死亡的miRNA, hsa-miR-192-5p (4.628 ± 1.234 比 3.171 ± 0.456 ; $t = 2.217, P = 0.068$)、hsa-miR-122-5p (13.532 ± 0.946 比 10.536 ± 1.444 ; $t = 3.472, P = 0.013$)、hsa-miR-30a-5p (6.081 ± 0.770 比 4.106 ± 0.269 ; $t = 4.841, P = 0.003$)、hsa-miR-100-5p (5.888 ± 0.933 比 3.888 ± 0.721 ; $t = 3.395, P = 0.015$) 在MAFLD患者中表达上调, hsa-miR-10b-5p (5.077 ± 0.876 比 6.439 ± 1.076 ; $t = 1.963, P = 0.097$)、hsa-miR-223-5 (0.626 ± 0.723 比 2.790 ± 1.912 ; $t = 2.111, P = 0.079$)、hsa-miR-215-5p (0.595 ± 0.771 比 2.738 ± 0.885 , $t = 3.652, P = 0.011$) 表达下调, 其中hsa-miR-30a-5p上调水平最显著。RT-qPCR结果表明, 与对照组比较, MAFLD患者中hsa-miR-30a-5p表达水平显著升高 (1.591 ± 0.229 比 1.012 ± 0.031 ; $t = 9.676, P < 0.001$), SLC7A11 mRNA (0.598 ± 0.108 比 0.997 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.64, P < 0.001$)、GPX4 mRNA (0.724 ± 0.064 比 1.003 ± 0.029 , $t = 15.34; P < 0.001$) 和HMOX1 mRNA (0.688 ± 0.078 比 0.993 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.92, P < 0.001$) 表达水平显著降低。Western blot结果显示, 与对照组相比, SLC7A11蛋白 (0.712 ± 0.074 比 1.000 ± 0.053 ; $t = 10.01, P < 0.001$)、GPX4蛋白 (0.810 ± 0.034 比 1.000 ± 0.019 ; $t = 15.25, P < 0.001$) 和HMOX1蛋白 (0.673 ± 0.026 比 1.000 ± 0.029 ; $t = 26.75, P < 0.001$) 在MAFLD患者中表达显著下调。与健康对照组相比, MAFLD患者GSH [(163.684 ± 15.857) U/g比 (197.728 ± 11.009) U/g; $t = 6.109, P < 0.001$] 水平显著降低, MDA [(2.494 ± 0.253) $\mu\text{mol/g}$ 比 ($1.0612 \pm .205$) $\mu\text{mol/g}$; $t = 7.602, P = 0.002$]、IL-6 [(55.219 ± 0.743) ng/L比 (46.456 ± 1.831) ng/L; $t = 14.48, P < 0.001$] 和TNF- α [(22.883 ± 2.893) $\mu\text{g/L}$ 比 (13.885 ± 0.169) $\mu\text{g/L}$; $t =$

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10.78, $P < 0.001$] 水平显著升高。结论 hsa-miR-30a-5p可能通过靶向SLC7A11促进铁死亡, 在MAFLD中发挥促炎和促氧化作用。

关键词: 代谢相关脂肪性肝病; hsa-miR-30a-5p; 铁死亡; 炎症

Hsa-miR-30a-5p regulates SLC7A11 to promote ferroptosis in metabolic associated fatty liver disease

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Abstract: Objective To investigate the regulation of ferroptosis by microRNA (miRNA) in metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD). **Methods** Differential expression analysis and gene set variation analysis (GSVA) were conducted in GSE135251 data set. Subsequently, differential analysis was performed in GSE114923 data set, and the regulation of miRNA targeting ferroptosis-related genes were identified. Ten patients diagnosed with MAFLD by abdominal ultrasound in the First Affiliated Hospital of Xinjiang Medical University from March 1st, 2022 to April 30th 2023 were selected as the MAFLD group, and ten healthy volunteers matched with gender and age in the same period were selected as the health control group. Peripheral blood samples were collected. The expression of miRNA and ferroptosis-related proteins [solute carrier family 7 member 11 (SLC7A11), glutathione peroxidase 4 (GPX4), heme oxygenase 1 (HMOX1)] were detected by reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) or Western blot. The levels of glutathione (GSH), malondialdehyde (MDA) and inflammatory factors [interleukin-6 (IL-6), tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α)] were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. **Results** Analysis of the GSE135251 and GSE114923 data sets showed that compared with the control group, the cell necrosis ($t = 3.229$, $P = 0.022$) and ferroptosis ($t = 2.008$, $P = 0.006$) pathways were significantly activated in MAFLD patients. Furtherly, 8687 differentially expressed genes were identified, among which 31 were ferroptosis-related genes. Among 31 differentially expressed miRNA, 7 miRNA were identified to regulate ferroptosis, of which hsa-miR-192-5p (4.628 ± 1.234 vs. 3.171 ± 0.456 ; $t = 2.217$, $P = 0.068$), hsa-miR-122-5p (13.532 ± 0.946 vs. 10.536 ± 1.444 ; $t = 3.472$, $P = 0.013$), hsa-miR-30a-5p (6.081 ± 0.770 vs. 4.106 ± 0.269 ; $t = 4.841$, $P = 0.003$), hsa-miR-100-5p (5.888 ± 0.933 vs. 3.888 ± 0.721 ; $t = 3.395$, $P = 0.015$) were upregulated in MAFLD patients, while hsa-miR-10b-5p (5.077 ± 0.876 vs. 6.439 ± 1.076 ; $t = 1.963$, $P = 0.097$), hsa-miR-223-5 (0.626 ± 0.723 vs. 2.790 ± 1.912 ; $t = 2.111$, $P = 0.079$), hsa-miR-215-5p (0.595 ± 0.771 vs. 2.738 ± 0.885 ; $t = 3.652$, $P = 0.011$) were downregulated. The upregulation level of hsa-miR-30a-5p was the most significant. RT-qPCR results showed that compared with the control group, the expression level of hsa-miR-30a-5p (1.591 ± 0.229 vs. 1.012 ± 0.031 , $t = 9.676$, $P < 0.001$) was significantly increased in MAFLD patients, while the expression levels of SLC7A11 mRNA (0.598 ± 0.108 vs. 0.997 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.64$, $P < 0.001$), GPX4 mRNA (0.724 ± 0.064 vs. 1.003 ± 0.029 , $t = 15.34$; $P < 0.001$) and HMOX1 mRNA (0.688 ± 0.078 vs. 0.993 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.92$, $P < 0.001$) were significantly decreased. Western blot showed that compared with the control group, SLC7A11 protein (0.712 ± 0.074 vs. 1.000 ± 0.053 ; $t = 10.01$, $P < 0.001$), GPX4 protein (0.810 ± 0.034 vs. 1.000 ± 0.019 ; $t = 15.25$, $P < 0.001$), and HMOX1 protein (0.673 ± 0.026 vs. 1.000 ± 0.029 ; $t = 26.75$, $P < 0.001$) were significantly downregulated in MAFLD patients. Compared with the control group, GSH level [(163.684 ± 15.857) U/g vs. (197.728 ± 11.009) U/g; $t = 6.109$, $P < 0.001$] in MAFLD group

decreased significantly, MDA [(2.494 ± 0.253) μmol/g vs. (1.0612 ± 0.205) μmol/g; $t = 7.602$, $P = 0.002$], IL-6 [(55.219 ± 0.743) ng/L vs. (46.456 ± 1.831) ng/L; $t = 14.48$, $P < 0.001$] and TNF-α [(0.022 ± 0.002) μg/L vs. (0.013 ± 0.001) μg/L; $t = 10.78$, $P < 0.001$] levels increased significantly. **Conclusion** Hsa-miR-30a-5p may promote ferroptosis levels by targeting SLC7A11, playing a pro-inflammatory and prooxidant role in MAFLD.

Keywords: Metabolic associated fatty liver disease; Hsa-miR-30a-5p; Ferroptosis; Inflammation

代谢相关脂肪性肝病 (metabolic associated fatty liver disease, MAFLD) 是一种以肝脏脂肪变性为特征, 并与代谢综合征密切相关的最常见肝病之一^[1]。MAFLD已成为一个严重的公共卫生问题, 影响全球约四分之一成年人的健康, 造成了广泛的社会和经济影响^[2]。MAFLD谱系包括从简单脂肪肝到代谢相关脂肪性肝炎 (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis, MASH), 进一步还可发展为肝硬化或肝细胞癌。MAFLD的全球患病率为25%, 已成为肝脏相关病死率增长最快的原因^[3]。MAFLD的确切病因尚未明确, 可能涉及炎症、氧化应激、胰岛素抵抗和脂质代谢失衡^[4]。近年来, 铁死亡作为一种新型的细胞死亡形式在肝脏疾病中受到了广泛关注^[5]。铁死亡是一种与铁代谢紊乱相关的、可逆的、独特的细胞死亡形式, 由脂肪生成和氧化应激等代谢事件调节^[6]。铁死亡常伴随脂质活性氧积累、谷胱甘肽 (glutathione, GSH) 耗竭、谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶4 (glutathione peroxidase 4, GPX4) 抑制以及与铁代谢和脂质过氧化调节相关基因的改变^[7]。考虑到MAFLD与氧化应激和炎症的密切关系, 铁死亡可能在MAFLD的发病机制中发挥关键作用^[8]。

微小RNA (microRNA, miRNA) 是一类小的非编码RNA分子, 其通过与靶mRNA的3'非翻译区结合, 导致mRNA的降解或翻译抑制, 从而调控基因表达。近年来, 越来越多的证据表明, miRNA在多种生理和病理过程 (包括肝脏疾病) 中都发挥了关键作用^[9]。特别是在MAFLD中, 某些miRNA的异常表达与疾病进展和严重程度密切相关^[10]。从动物模型和人类患者中积累的证据表明, miRNA有助于MAFLD的发病和进展^[11]。本研究旨在探讨铁死亡在MAFLD中的作用及其潜在的分子机制, 利用GSE135251和GSE114923基因表达数据集进行差异表达分析和基因组变异分析, 以鉴定与铁死亡相关的基因和miRNA, 然后在MAFLD患者和健康对照人群中进行验证。本研究结果有助于为MAFLD的分子机制提供新的理解, 并为未来的治疗策略提供潜在的靶点。

1 资料与方法

1.1 数据收集及分析 GSE135251数据集包括206例

具有不同纤维化阶段的MAFLD病例和10例健康对照的活检组织mRNA表达谱数据。GSE114923数据集包括4例MAFLD和4例健康对照的血清miRNA表达谱数据。使用基因集变异分析 (gene set variation analysis, GSVA) 评分对GSE135251数据集进行基因集变异分析, 以鉴定与MAFLD相关的程序性细胞死亡通路 (坏死、细胞凋亡、细胞焦亡、铁死亡、铜死亡) 的激活情况。使用limma软件包分别对GSE135251和GSE114923数据集进行差异分析, 以鉴定在MAFLD患者和健康对照组间显著差异表达的基因和miRNA。筛选条件为 $|\log_2(\text{倍数变化})| \geq 2$ 且 $P \leq 0.05$ 。使用TargetScan在线预测数据库预测差异表达miRNA的潜在靶基因。通过预测的miRNA靶基因和铁死亡相关基因, 识别可能调控铁死亡相关基因的差异表达miRNA。

1.2 研究对象与样本收集 收集2022年3月1日至2023年4月30日于新疆医科大学第一附属医院经腹部超声确诊为MAFLD的10例患者, 纳入标准: ①经腹部超声诊断为MAFLD的患者, 具体超声表现为肝实质回声增强, 肝内血管结构模糊或显示不清, 声波在肝脏中的衰减增加, 导致远场 (即肝脏深部) 回声减弱, 肝脏轮廓不清晰; ②年龄18~65岁; ③无酒精摄入史或每周酒精摄入量男性低于140 g, 女性低于70 g。排除标准: ①有其他肝病, 如酒精性肝病、肝硬化、肝癌等; ②有其他慢性疾病, 如心血管疾病、糖尿病、肾脏疾病等; ③近6个月内使用过可能影响肝功能的药物; ④孕妇或哺乳期妇女。同期收集性别和年龄匹配的10例健康志愿者作为健康对照组。所有参与者采集空腹外周血5 ml, 放入抗凝管中, 存储在-80 °C超低温冰箱中备用。本研究经新疆医科大学第一附属医院伦理委员会批准 (K202309-11)。所有受试者均签署知情同意书。

1.3 miRNA和mRNA水平的检测 使用TRIzol试剂 (Invitrogen, 美国) 按照说明书从外周血样本中提取总RNA。使用NanoDrop 2000光谱光度计评估RNA的纯度和浓度, 选取 A_{260} / A_{280} 在1.8~2.0的RNA样本用于实验。对于溶质载体家族7成员11 (solute carrier family 7 member 11, SLC7A11)、GPX4、血红素加氧酶1 (heme oxygenase 1,

HMOX1), 使用PrimeScript RT reagent Kit (TaKaRa, 日本) 按照制造商的说明进行cDNA合成, 随后使用SYBR Premix Ex Taq II (TaKaRa, 日本) 对cDNA进行反转录定量聚合酶链式反应(reverse transcription quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RT-qPCR)。对于hsa-miR-30a-5p, 使用miRNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, 德国) 按照制造商的说明进行cDNA合成, 随后使用miRCURY LNA SYBR Green (Qiagen, 德国) 对cDNA进行定量聚合酶链式反应(quantitative polymerase chain reaction, qPCR)。PCR反应体系如下: 95 °C, 30 s; 95 °C, 15 s, 60 °C, 30 s和72 °C 1 min, 40个循环; 72 °C 10 min。使用 $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ 法计算目标基因的相对表达量, 以 β -actin和U6为内参基因进行归一化。特异性引物序列见表1。

1.4 SLC7A11、GPX4和HMOX1蛋白表达水平的检测 使用放射免疫沉淀分析缓冲液(radioimmunoprecipitation assay buffer, RIPA) 缓冲液(含1%的蛋白酶抑制剂和1%的磷酸酶抑制剂; 索莱宝, 中国) 从外周血单核细胞中提取总蛋白。随后使用二辛可宁酸(bicinchoninic acid, BCA) 蛋白浓度测定试剂盒(碧云天, 中国) 对蛋白浓度进行定量。将等量的蛋白样本(30 μ g) 与5 \times SDS-PAGE缓冲液混合, 煮沸5 min进行变性。将样本加载到SDS聚丙烯酰胺凝胶中, 并在恒电流下进行电泳。使用湿法转将分离的蛋白转移到PVDF膜上。在室温下用5%脱脂乳在旋转振荡器上封闭2 h后, 将膜与一抗(爱博泰克, 中国) 在4 °C下孵育过夜。然后将膜在TBST中洗涤3次后在常温下与HRP缀合的二抗(爱博泰克, 中国) 孵育2 h。使用增强化学发光底物显影。以 β -actin为内参蛋白, 使用Image J软件对目的蛋白进行定量分析。

表1 PCR 引物序列

基因	引物序列(5'-3')
SLC7A11	上游引物: TGGAACGAGGAGGTGGAGAA
	下游引物: TGTGCTTTTTCTTCACAGCG
GPX4	上游引物: TCACCAAGTTTGGACACCGT
	下游引物: ATAGTGGGGCAGGTCTTCT
HMOX1	上游引物: TCCTGGCTCAGCCTCAAATG
	下游引物: CACGCATGGCTCAAAAACCA
hsa-miR-30a-5p	上游引物: GAAGGTCAGCTCCTACAAATGT
	下游引物: CAGTGCCTGTCGTGGAGT
U6	上游引物: GCTTCGCGACACATATACTAAAAT
	下游引物: CGCTTACGAAATTGCGTGTGTCAT
β -actin	上游引物: GTGGGCCGCCCTAGGCACCA
	下游引物: CGGTTGGCCTTAGGGTTACG

1.5 氧化应激和炎症因子的检测 按照说明书使用酶联免疫吸附分析试剂盒检测血清样本中谷胱甘肽(glutathione, GSH)、丙二醛(malondialdehyde, MDA)、白细胞介素6(interleukin-6, IL-6)和肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor α , TNF- α)的水平。

1.6 统计学处理 使用Graphpad Prism 4.0进行统计分析。miRNA及蛋白的相对表达量均为正态分布的计量资料, 以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示, 两组间比较采用独立样本 t 检验。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 程序性细胞死亡通路和差异表达基因 与健康对照组相比, MAFLD患者中细胞坏死($t = 3.229$, $P = 0.022$)和铁死亡($t = 2.008$, $P = 0.006$)通路显著激活(图1A), 差异分析结果表明MAFLD和对照组间有8687个有差异表达的基因(图1B), 其中有31个为铁死亡相关基因(图1C)。

2.2 miRNA的差异分析及与铁死亡的关联 在GSE114923数据集中, MAFLD和健康对照间共发现31个差异表达的miRNA(图2A), 预测发现了535个靶向调控铁死亡相关基因的miRNA, 其中7个miRNA表达有显著差异(图2B), hsa-miR-192-5p (4.628 ± 1.234 比 3.171 ± 0.456 ; $t = 2.217$, $P = 0.068$)、hsa-miR-122-5p (13.532 ± 0.946 比 10.536 ± 1.444 ; $t = 3.472$, $P = 0.013$)、hsa-miR-30a-5p (6.081 ± 0.770 比 4.106 ± 0.269 ; $t = 4.841$, $P = 0.003$)、hsa-miR-100-5p (5.888 ± 0.933 比 3.888 ± 0.721 ; $t = 3.395$, $P = 0.015$)表达上调, hsa-miR-10b-5p (5.077 ± 0.876 比 6.439 ± 1.076 ; $t = 1.963$, $P = 0.097$)、hsa-miR-223-5 (0.626 ± 0.723 比 2.790 ± 1.912 ; $t = 2.111$, $P = 0.079$)、hsa-miR-215-5p (0.595 ± 0.771 比 2.738 ± 0.885 ; $t = 3.652$, $P = 0.011$)表达下调, hsa-miR-30a-5p上调水平最显著, 见图2C。hsa-miR-30a-5p靶向调控的铁死亡相关基因SLC7A11在MAFLD中表达下调, 见图2D。

2.3 hsa-miR-30a-5p和铁死亡相关蛋白的表达 RT-qPCR检测结果显示, 与对照组相比, MAFLD患者中hsa-miR-30a-5p表达水平显著升高(1.591 ± 0.229 比 1.012 ± 0.031 ; $t = 9.676$, $P < 0.001$), SLC7A11 mRNA (0.598 ± 0.108 比 0.997 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.64$, $P < 0.001$)、GPX4 mRNA (0.724 ± 0.064 比 1.003 ± 0.029 , $t = 15.34$; $P < 0.001$)和HMOX1 mRNA (0.688 ± 0.078 比 0.993 ± 0.034 ; $t = 13.92$, $P < 0.001$)表达水平显著降低, 见图3A。Western blot结果显示, 与对照组相比, SLC7A11蛋白(0.712 ± 0.074 比 1.000 ± 0.053 ; $t = 10.01$, $P < 0.001$)、GPX4蛋白(0.810 ± 0.034 比 1.000 ± 0.019 ;

$t = 15.25, P < 0.001$) 和HMOX1蛋白 (0.673 ± 0.026 比 1.000 ± 0.029 ; $t = 26.75, P < 0.001$) 在MAFLD患者中表达显著下调, 见图3B。

2.4 MAFLD患者GSH、MDA和炎症因子水平 与健康对照组相比, MAFLD患者GSH [(163.684 ± 15.857) U/g 比 (197.728 ± 11.009) U/g; $t = 6.109, P < 0.001$] 水

平显著降低, MDA [(2494 ± 0.253) $\mu\text{mol/g}$ 比 (1.0612 ± 0.205) $\mu\text{mol/g}$; $t = 7.602, P = 0.002$]、IL-6 [(55.219 ± 0.743) ng/L比 (46.456 ± 1.831) ng/L; $t = 14.48, P < 0.001$] 和TNF- α [(0.022 ± 0.002) $\mu\text{g/L}$ vs. (0.013 ± 0.001) $\mu\text{g/L}$; $t = 10.78, P < 0.001$] 水平显著升高, 见图4。

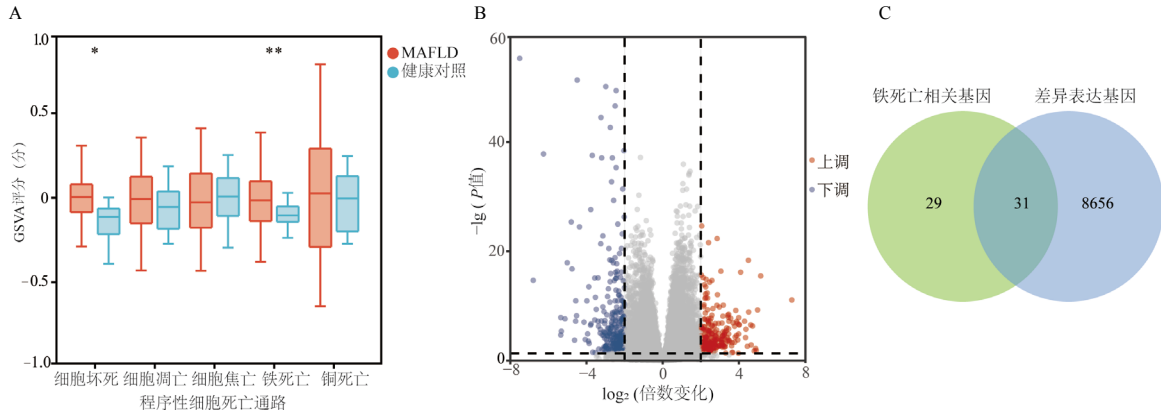


图1 健康对照和 MAFLD 患者间程序性细胞死亡通路和差异表达基因

注: A 为 MAFLD 和对照组间进行程序性细胞死亡通路的基因组变异分析; B 为 MAFLD 和健康对照组间差异表达基因的火山图; C 为差异表达基因与铁死亡相关基因的交集; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ 。

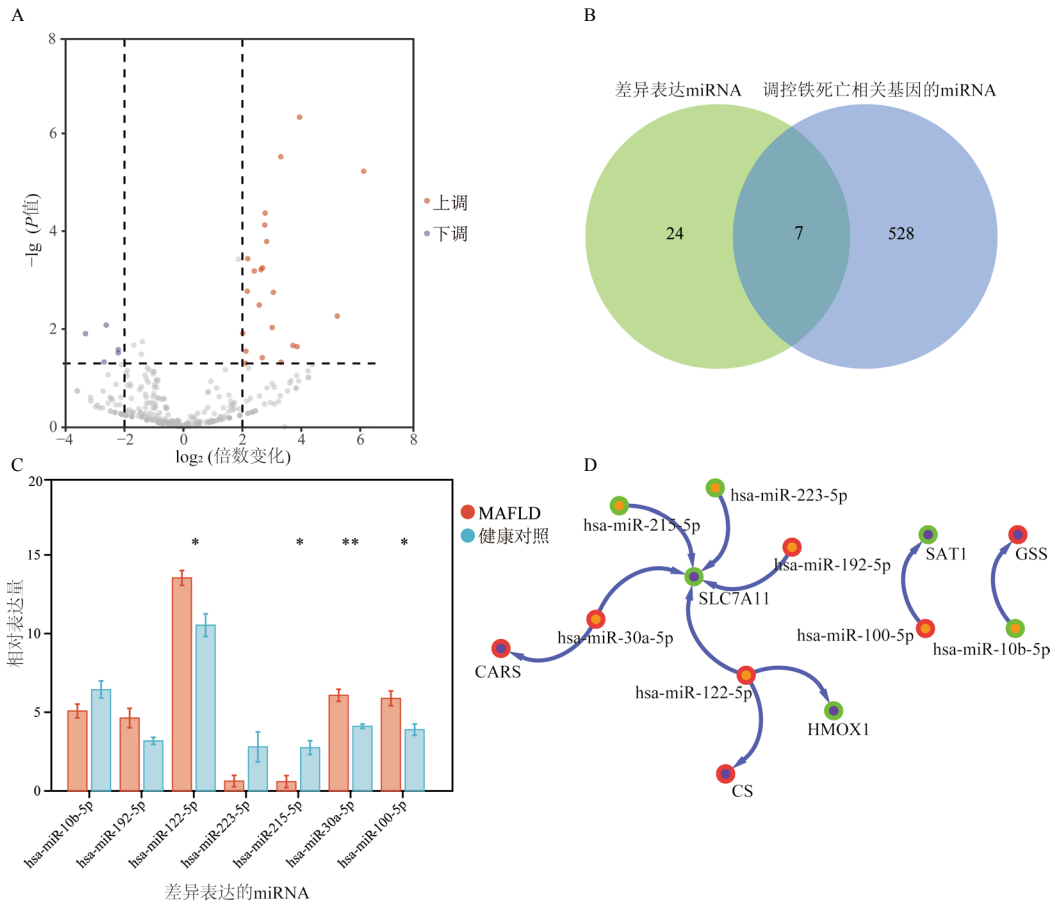


图2 差异表达 miRNA 与铁死亡相关基因的调控网络

注: A 为 GSE114923 数据集中 MAFLD 和健康对照间差异表达的 miRNA 火山图; B 为调控铁死亡相关基因的 miRNA 与差异表达 miRNA 的交集; C 为交集 miRNA 在 MAFLD 和健康对照间的表达情况; D 为交集 miRNA 与铁死亡相关基因间的调控网络; * $P < 0.05$, ** $P < 0.01$ 。

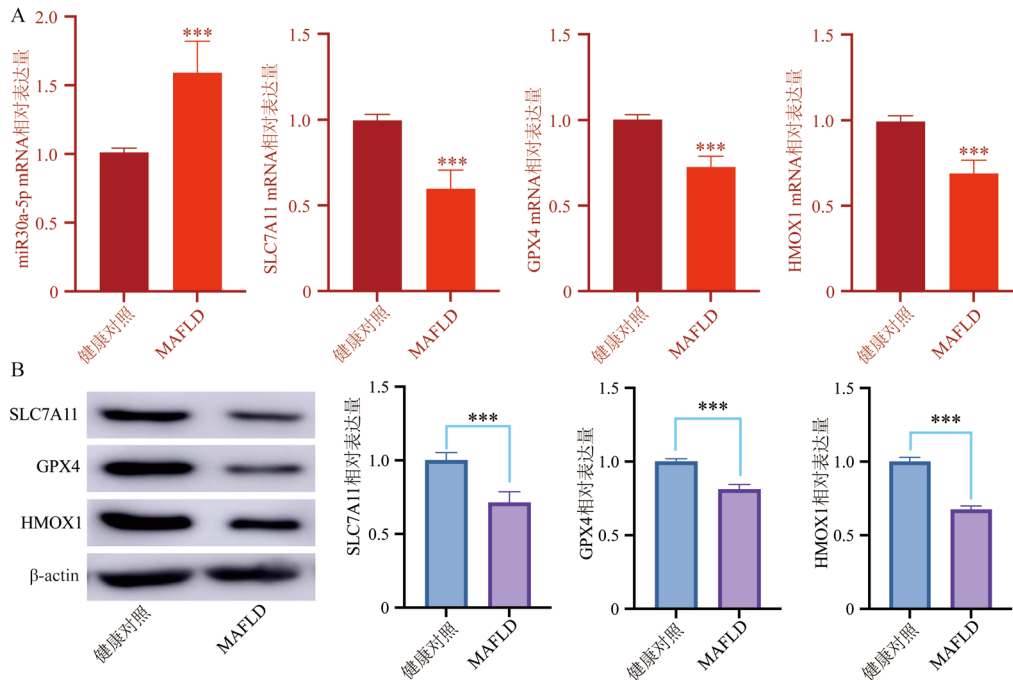


图3 健康对照和MAFLD患者hsa-miR-30a-5p及铁死亡相关基因的表达

注: A为RT-qPCR检测hsa-miR-30a-5p、SLC7A11、GPX4和HMOX1的mRNA水平; B为Western blot检测SLC7A11、GPX4和HMOX1的蛋白表达; *** $P < 0.001$ 。

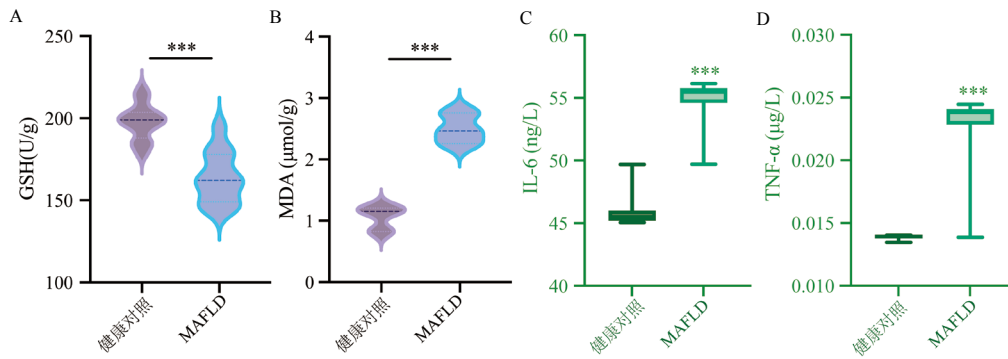


图4 健康对照和MAFLD患者GSH、MDA和炎症因子水平

注: *** $P < 0.001$ 。

3 讨论

MAFLD是常见肝病之一,严重影响公众健康。铁死亡相关基因的表达可能受到miRNA的调控。本研究表明,与正常对照相比,铁死亡在MAFLD患者中显著激活,并伴随炎症和脂质过氧化,hsa-miR-30a-5p通过靶向SLC7A11促进铁死亡参与MAFLD的发病。近年来关于铁死亡在多种疾病中作用的研究结果与本研究一致,进一步强调了铁死亡在MAFLD发病机制中的重要性^[12]。MAFLD发展的初始阶段,肝细胞铁死亡先于细胞凋亡,进而导致肝损伤、免疫细胞浸润和炎症^[13]。铁死亡驱动脂质过氧化,在MAFLD患者的肝组织中被广泛激活^[14]。抑制铁死亡可能成为未来MAFLD新的治疗策略,如通过抑制铁死亡减少肝脏坏死性死亡并改善MASH疾病的进展^[15]。

复杂的人类疾病如MAFLD很少由单个基因引起,而是更可能受相互作用的基因网络影响^[16]。miRNA作为基因表达的调控因子,在多种生物过程和疾病中都发挥关键作用^[17]。在本研究中,共鉴定了7个与铁死亡相关的差异表达miRNA,这些miRNA可能通过靶向调控铁死亡相关基因来影响铁死亡途径的活性,尤其是hsa-miR-30a-5p。miR-30a-5p被发现与肥胖症、2型糖尿病、MAFLD均显著相关^[18]。然而,miR-30a-5p在MAFLD中的作用尚不明确。本研究结果提示miR-30a-5p在MAFLD中显著上调和其靶基因SLC7A11显著下调可能构成了一个关键的调控网络,影响MAFLD的进展。

抑制SLC7A11通过破坏胱氨酸的摄取限制GSH的合成,诱导铁死亡^[19]。在高脂饮食喂养的小鼠

中,包括SLC7A11和GPX4在内的铁死亡生物标志物显著下调^[20]。此外,高膳食铁导致铁死亡诱导的肝损伤可通过敲除SLC7A11表达而加重^[21]。GPX4是一种被充分表征的铁死亡核心抑制因子,可直接还原脂质氢过氧化物以形成无毒的脂质醇^[22]。先前的研究表明,GPX4水平升高可减少Fe²⁺积累,从而缓解MAFLD症状^[23]。此外,增加的GPX4可减少脂质积累并抑制铁死亡^[24]。抗氧化基因HMOX1的表达减少,导致肝脏活性氧积累^[25]。本研究表明,与对照组相比,MAFLD患者SLC7A11、GPX4和HMOX1的表达均显著降低。铁超载在MAFLD患者中普遍存在,铁诱导的脂质过氧化是脂肪性肝病的重要发病机制,可能成为改善MAFLD的关键方向^[26]。铁死亡以铁依赖的方式控制细胞死亡,铁代谢紊乱和脂质过氧化是其主要特征^[27]。GSH和GPX4下降,MDA升高均是铁死亡的标志^[28]。本研究中MAFLD患者MDA水平显著升高。作为铁死亡的结果,脂质过氧化产生MDA,而GPX4是清除过量MDA和活性氧的关键抗氧化酶^[29]。

总之,本研究揭示了铁死亡在MAFLD中的关键作用,并鉴定了可能参与调控这一过程的关键miRNA。这为深入理解MAFLD的分子机制提供了新的线索,并为开发针对铁死亡途径的新的治疗策略提供了理论基础。未来的研究可进一步探讨这些差异表达基因和miRNA在MAFLD中的功能和机制,以及如何利用这些知识进行疾病的预防和治疗。

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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