



革兰氏阴性菌外膜囊泡作为亚单位疫苗的研究进展

易洁^{1,2,3}, 刘青^{4*}, 孔庆科^{1,2,3*}

¹ 四川农业大学预防兽医研究所, 四川 成都 611130

² 四川农业大学动物医学院禽病防治中心, 四川 成都 611130

³ 四川农业大学动物疫病与人类健康四川省重点实验室, 四川 成都 611130

⁴ 四川农业大学动物医学院生物工程系, 四川 成都 611130

摘要: 外膜囊泡(OMVs, Outer membrane vesicles)是一种在革兰氏阴性菌甚至某些革兰氏阳性菌中普遍存在的包含生物学活性物质的囊泡状结构, 其大小在20–250 nm之间。其组成成分包括脂多糖、外膜蛋白、磷脂、DNA以及在形成过程中被外膜包裹的周质成分等。由于外膜囊泡不能复制且含有大量的细菌抗原, 并能有效激活免疫系统, 所以被认为是极具潜力的疫苗候选。虽然外膜囊泡从发现至今有50多年的历史, 但针对其作为疫苗的潜力探究最近几年才开始, 中国关于这方面的文献报道还很少。本文从外膜囊泡诱导免疫应答的机制以及其作为疫苗的研究进展两个方面概述了外膜囊泡可以作为一种新颖的防控疾病的疫苗策略, 为今后外膜囊泡疫苗的深入研究提供参考。

关键词: 革兰氏阴性菌, 外膜囊泡, 免疫应答, 亚单位疫苗

外膜囊泡(OMVs)是革兰氏阴性菌表面分泌的产物, 是细菌外膜在一定的机制下发生出芽并在细菌表面形成一种囊泡状的结构, 这种结构包括了外膜以及周质成分^[1]。外膜囊泡大多数为球形, 直径大约在20–250 nm之间^[2]。1959年, De等首次发现霍乱弧菌滤除细菌后的培养液能够诱导家兔对霍乱弧菌的免疫反应^[3]。Chatterje等^[4]在研究对数生长期霍乱弧菌的超微结构时, 发现在液体培养基无菌滤液中有革兰氏阴性菌细胞壁出芽

形成的囊泡, 而且在外膜容易发生囊泡出芽的位点附近, 颗粒物质含量较高, 这些颗粒可以随着细胞质进入出芽的囊泡中。OMVs的产生代表着细菌具有向外部环境释放大量的, 复杂的蛋白组分和磷脂的独特机制。后来的研究发现, 几乎所有的革兰氏阴性菌都能产生OMVs, 其化学结构的组成成分除了外膜蛋白还有其他一些膜结构成分, 所以人们将这种膜结构的囊泡称为外膜囊泡(图1)。

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*通信作者。E-mail: 刘青, Qing.liu.2@sicau.edu.cn; 孔庆科, qingke.kong@sicau.edu.cn

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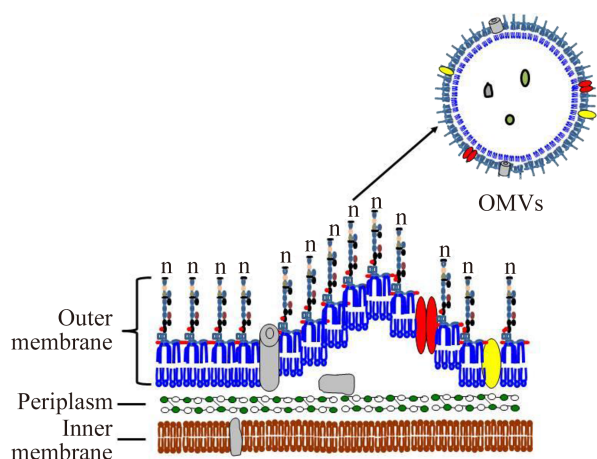


图 1. OMVs产生的模式图

Figure 1. Model of OMVs production. Bacterial outer membrane structure is bulging to form vesicles, which includes pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs), such as outer membrane protein, periplasmic material and phospholipids.

虽然OMVs产生的具体机制尚不清楚,但现有的研究表明OMVs的释放与细胞内膜膨胀的压力密切相关,外膜的蛋白,内外膜相关的结构或肽聚糖结构层的缺陷都会导致大量的OMVs产生^[5]。在研究过程中为了得到更多的OMVs,可以通过改变细菌的生长环境,譬如在培养基中加大剂量的抗生素^[6],限制培养基中某些营养物质的含量等^[7],另外,通过缺失基因抑制保持膜完整性的一些蛋白的合成同样能达到效果^[8]。

外膜囊泡普遍存在于革兰氏阴性菌中,在革兰氏阳性菌和古细菌中也有报道^[9-10]。但本文的重点放在描述革兰氏阴性菌的OMVs上。从外膜囊泡的生物学功能上来说,其在细菌的生长,生存,毒力等生理活动中扮演着多重角色^[11],譬如:(1)有助于生物膜的形成;(2)在细胞间递送生物分子;(3)杀灭竞争性微生物细胞;(4)对环境中的物理、化学压力做出反应;(5)为细菌细胞提供营养;(6)防御和抵抗。OMVs在细菌培养的任何生长阶段都能产生,但是它们的产量或组成成分会受环境的影响^[12]。

由于OMVs包含主要的外膜结构以及周质蛋白,无生命活性,且能有效地激活免疫系统,产生保护性免疫反应,所以它们能够作为良好的疫苗候选。脑膜炎奈瑟菌(*Neisseria meningitidis*) B群OMVs疫苗是最成功的例子,基于OMVs,预防其他传染性疾病的疫苗的研究工作也在进行中^[13-15],开发OMVs疫苗具有巨大潜力。要想更加安全高效的开发OMVs疫苗,我们必须充分了解OMVs刺激机体产生免疫应答的机制,所以接下来我们对OMVs诱导的免疫应答进行一个概述。

1 OMVs诱导的免疫应答及机制

1.1 固有免疫反应

OMVs与宿主相互作用可以引发广泛的固有免疫反应,譬如直接与免疫细胞相互作用,增强细胞介导的免疫反应,激活导致细胞毒性的炎症反应。病原相关分子模式(PAMPs, pathogen-associated molecular patterns)是一种被宿主识别的信号分子,组成OMVs的外膜蛋白、LPS、脂类、脂蛋白和鞭毛都属于PAMPs。PAMPs是独特的生物分子,它可以被一系列模式识别受体PRR (pattern recognition receptors)识别并结合在这些分子的保守区域,而后被邻近的上皮细胞或免疫细胞内化并刺激一系列细胞因子的产生^[16]。Jun等^[17]用乙二醇四乙酸和蛋白酶K分别处理鲍曼不动杆菌(*Acinetobacter baumannii*) OMVs诱导上皮细胞促炎性细胞因子基因的表达,结果表明,处理后的OMVs诱导的促炎性细胞因子表达量都明显低于完整的OMVs。该研究充分说明鲍曼不动杆菌OMVs膜蛋白可以诱导固有免疫反应。也有研究者指出自然分泌的铜绿假单胞菌^[18]、百日咳杆菌和脑膜炎奈瑟氏菌^[19]的OMVs可以通过暴露在表面的脂多糖(LPS)刺激TLR4信号通路,从而显著增强免疫反应。

1.2 体液免疫反应

OMVs是通过B细胞独立的机制激活B淋巴细胞反应的。这里我们以卡他莫拉菌(*Moraxella*

catarrhalis)为例来讨论。B细胞反应开始于B细胞表面的IgD [immunoglobulin (Ig) D]受体和通过B细胞受体的内化进入细胞质的钙离子。具体来说,分泌MID [*Moraxella*immunoglobulin (Ig) D binding protein]的OMVs与B细胞表面的IgD绑定形成复合物,然后这个抗原-受体复合物通过细胞膜上特定的区域或者脂筏进入细胞质,使OMVs内化。交联的复合物会促进酪氨酸激酶的磷酸化或自身磷酸化,从而促进下游一系列信号通路如3-磷酸肌醇激酶或蛋白酶C的活化并引起钙离子的内流。这一系列生化反应可以导致包括NF- κ B在内的多

种信号通路的激活(图2)。Vidakovics等^[20]的研究表明,卡他莫拉菌分泌OMVs可以激活人类分离于鼻腔淋巴组织的B细胞,且通过MID基因缺失株的OMVs与野生株OMVs的一系列对比试验可以得出MID基因在激活B细胞过程中的重要性。而且,在卡他莫拉菌中,B细胞的激活是由Toll样受体介导的,其中卡他莫拉菌的PAMPs主要与宿主细胞表面TLR2和TLR9作用。和卡他莫拉菌相似,乳糖奈瑟菌(*Neisseria lactamica*)产生的OMVs同样能够诱导激活B细胞增殖并表达多克隆IgM,且表现高度保守性^[21]。

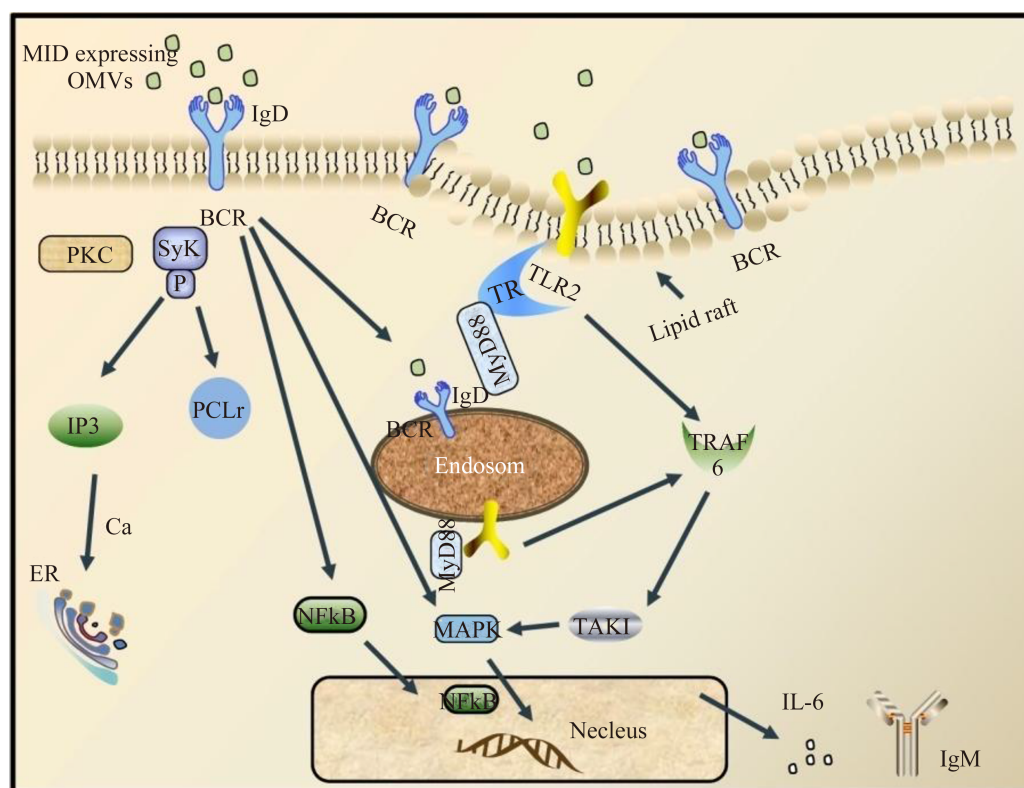


图 2. OMVs与B细胞作用引发体液免疫机制

Figure 2. OMVs interaction with B cells and elicits humoral immunologic mechanism. OMVs express IgD-binding protein MID which reacts with IgD receptors on the surface of B cells. MID is a 200 kDa outer membrane protein belonging to the family of secreted proteins and has specific affinity for the human B-cell receptor (BCR), such as IgD receptor. OMVs are internalized via the lipid rafts formed during the interactions between lipoproteins and TLR2. OMV-associated DNA could be further recognized by TLR9. Together with TLR2, they activate a signaling cascade involving MyD88, TRAF6, TAK1, p38 MAP kinase, and NF- κ B finally lead to IL-6 secretion and the release of non-specific antibody IgM.

1.3 细胞免疫反应

OMVs可以激发宿主的细胞免疫,我们以沙门氏菌(*Salmonella*)的OMVs为例来阐释。沙门氏菌的OMVs包含OmpA,可以刺激Toll样受体(TLRs)的配体,同时也包括能被CD4⁺T细胞识别并对细菌感染做出反应从而免受蛋白酶消化的天然抗原^[22]。

Alaniz等^[23]发现,鼠伤寒沙门氏菌的OMVs可以在体外刺激专职的抗原递呈细胞APCs,如巨噬细胞和树突状细胞,从而诱导先天炎症反应。沙门氏菌OMVs可以被巨噬细胞识别,反过来又可以激活并产生两种重要的炎症介质,肿瘤坏死因子(TNF- α)和一氧化氮(NO)。树突状细胞是专职抗原递呈细胞,沙门氏菌OMVs可以有效激活树突状细胞(DCs)并促进其成熟,增加组织相容性复合体II型(MHC-II)和CD86的表达,并产生促炎性细胞因子,包括肿瘤坏死因子(TNF- α)和白细胞介素12(IL-12)。而且OMVs这种天然结构可以介导树突状细胞的激活可受TLR4通路和不依赖TLR4的通路识别其他PAMPs分子,这也与OMVs包含了LPS以外的其他PAMPs的事实相符合。同时,OMVs还被证明能介导补体系统反应^[24]和促炎反应^[25]。

2 OMVs作为疫苗的应用

细菌感染仍然是导致人类生病和死亡的主要原因之一^[26-27]。由于耐药菌的增加和快速传播,抗生素治疗细菌性疾病的有效性受到了挑战。因此,疫苗被认为是后抗生素时代应对细菌性疾病最直接有效的策略^[28]。高效的疫苗必然具备三大因素,(1)抗原:能够触发免疫反应,产生免疫记忆防止机体受到进一步的攻击。(2)佐剂:保证免疫反应足够强大。(3)具一定的安全性。OMVs中包含的外膜组分可以刺激机体产生适应性免疫记忆,含有的LPS可作为自身佐剂,而且作为非复

制性疫苗具一定安全性。所以这些因素促使OMVs成为开发非复制性高效疫苗的热门选择(表1)。

2.1 天然产生的OMVs疫苗

细菌培养后可以很容易获得OMVs,而且通过基因工程手段改造细菌,如引入抗原或去除引起机体毒性反应的毒力因子可进一步修饰OMVs。天然产生的OMVs是指细菌在正常生长状态下自然释放到周围环境中的OMVs,包含完整的外膜抗原及天然构象。自从OMVs作为疫苗预防脑膜炎奈瑟菌感染取得良好效果以来,研究人员对其他致病菌的OMVs疫苗的探索就没有停止。

Ellis等^[43]研究铜绿假单胞菌(*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) OMVs时指出OMVs的各组分对机体都有作用,强大的炎症反应是巨噬细胞感知蛋白复合物和LPS的累积效应。而且完整的囊泡可以诱导比单纯的LPS更强的炎症反应,外膜囊泡中的LPS可以在蛋白复合物与巨噬细胞相互作用时起到佐剂的作用。

Roier等^[36]发现用流感嗜血杆菌(*Hemophilus influenza*) OMVs滴鼻免疫小鼠不仅可以诱导其产生强大的黏膜免疫和体液免疫反应,而且此OMVs还能保护小鼠免受异源的流感嗜血杆菌的感染。这个研究团队还尝试用多杀性巴氏杆菌(*Pasteurella multocida*)的OMVs和溶血性曼氏杆菌(*Mannheimia haemolytica*)的OMVs的共同滴鼻免疫小鼠,结果表明混合的OMVs可以同时诱导产生强大的特异性的黏膜免疫及体液免疫反应^[44],这些发现意味着我们以后可以开发多联OMVs疫苗来抵御细菌性混合感染引发的疾病。

Petersen等^[13]用类鼻疽伯克氏菌(*Burkholderia pseudomallei*) OMVs免疫猕猴,结果表明,该OMVs能够提供针对相关蛋白和脂多糖的体液免疫保护且临床检测数据显示猕猴的肝肾功能指标并没有受到影响,免疫后注射部位也没有出现红斑、肿胀和坏死等现象,这使类鼻疽伯克氏菌OMVs成为人类疫苗更进一步。

表1. 部分革兰氏阴性致病菌外膜囊泡疫苗潜力评价

Table 1. Evaluation of vaccine potential of out membrane vesicles from partial pathogenic bacteria

Species	OMVs	Antigen	Adjuvant	Immunization and Route	Immunity	References
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	Wild type	—	—	Mouse; i.p.	Protective immunity	Alaniz et al. ^[23]
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	<i>AmsbB</i> ; <i>OmpA</i> ::CPV VP2 VP2 fusion protein	—	—	Mouse; i.p.	Protective immunity	Lee et al. ^[29]
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	χ 9241 <i>AfliCAfljB</i>	PspA	—	Mouse; i.n.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgA	Muralinath et al. ^[30]
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	<i>AtolRA</i>	PspA, Ply	—	Mouse; i.n.	Protective immunity, IgG	Kuipers et al. ^[31]
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (ETEC)	Wild type	EtpA, CexE, LT	—	Mouse; i.n.	Protective immunity	Roy et al. ^[32]
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>AOmpA</i>	SpyCEP, Streptolysin O, Spy0269	Aluminum hydroxide	Mouse; i.p.	Protective immunity, IgG	Fantappiè et al. ^[33]
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	Wild type	—	Aluminum phosphate	Mouse; i.m.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgM	McConnell et al. ^[34]
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	Wild type	—	Aluminum hydroxide	Pneumonia and Sepsis mouse models; i.m.	Protective immunity, IgG	Huang et al. ^[35]
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Wild type and <i>AlsA</i> R	—	—	Mouse; i.n.	Protective immunity, cytokines	Zhao et al. ^[18]
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	Wild type	—	—	Mouse; i.n., i.p.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgA, IgM	Roier et al. ^[36]
<i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>	Wild type	—	—	Mouse; i.n., s.c.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgA	Nieves et al. ^[37]
<i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>	Wild type	—	—	Mouse; s.c.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgM	Nieves et al. ^[15]
<i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>	Wild type	—	cpG	Rhesus Macaques; s.c.	Protective immunity, IgG	Petersen et al. ^[13]
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	Wild type	—	LPS	Mouse; i.n., i.p., i.g.	Protective immunity, IgG, IgA, IgM	Schild et al. ^[38]
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	Wild type	—	LPS	Rabbit; oral	Protective immunity, IgG, IgA, IgM	Roy et al. ^[39]
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	Detergent treated	OMP	—	Rabbit; i.v.	Bactericidal antibodies	Zollinger et al. ^[40]
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	Wild type	LOS	Aluminum hydroxide	Mouse; i.p.	Bactericidal antibodies	Zollinger et al. ^[41]
<i>B. pertussis</i>	Detoxified	—	Aluminum hydroxide	Mouse; i.n., i.p.	Protective immunity	Roberts et al. ^[14]
<i>B. pertussis</i>	PagL expressed and detoxified LOS	—	—	Mouse; i.n.	Protective immunity	Asensio et al. ^[42]

2.2 OMVs作为抗原递呈载体

OMVs能够通过一定机制将目标抗原包裹入囊泡腔内或者镶嵌至外膜上, 然后递呈至宿主细胞, 被宿主细胞识别并引起免疫反应, 从而达到呈递抗原的目的。OMVs自身也含多种抗原, 除具有天然佐剂效应的Toll样受体激动剂外还有外膜蛋白, 脂蛋白, LPS等。OMVs易于进入组织细胞, 其表面分子可以被免疫系统识别。OMVs可以刺激抗原递呈细胞, 如树突状细胞, 从而诱导T细胞和B细胞免疫保护, 因此, OMVs作为疫苗递呈载体并成为重组多价疫苗, 具有非常大的前途。

2.2.1 简单递送抗原: Kesty等^[45]发现大肠杆菌OMVs可以整合并呈递异源外膜蛋白和周质蛋白, 他们用大肠杆菌表达结肠炎耶尔森杆菌(*Yersinia enterocolitica*)具粘附素和侵袭素功能的Ail蛋白, 并用其OMVs与宿主细胞共培养, 结果表明, 含Ail蛋白的OMVs可以进入真核细胞内, 而没有Ail蛋白的OMVs则不能进入。同时, 他们用绿色荧光蛋白作为模型, 证明了OMVs可以运载周质蛋白。Muralinath等^[30]直接用经过改造的鼠伤寒沙门氏菌(*Salmonella Typhimurium*)疫苗株的OMVs, 在其囊泡腔内呈递肺炎链球菌(*Streptococcus*

pneumoniae)模式抗原PspA, 将其滴鼻免疫小鼠可以诱导产生针对PspA的特异性IgA抗体且能保护小鼠免受致死性肺炎链球菌的攻击, 此研究使OMVs发展成为疫苗载体更进了一步。

2.2.2 利用可控递送平台递送抗原: OMVs由革兰氏阴性菌外膜及周质成分组成, 在形成囊泡的过程中, 一些膜蛋白或周质蛋白增加, 一些蛋白则可能消失。虽然人们对其中具体的机制还不太了解或知之甚少, 但我们可以利用其中一些蛋白选择机制操纵特定蛋白的去除或增加, 使OMVs作为载体递呈异源抗原更加可控。

Schroeder等^[46]运用贯穿于细菌外膜及周质的蛋白, 非粘附素细菌表面蛋白(AIDA, adhesin involved in diffuse adhesion)与利士曼原虫KMP-11抗原在沙门氏菌OMVs上融合表达, 相比用减毒沙门氏菌直接呈递KMP-11抗原, 其加强免疫效果增加40倍。

OmpA是沙门氏菌或大肠杆菌外膜上最丰富的蛋白之一, 而且其晶体结构利于外源蛋白的融合。Kim等^[47]为了能够用OMVs作为安全的递送载体, 突变掉大肠杆菌编码类脂A酰基转移酶的MsbB基因降低了LPS的毒性, 同时将异源抗原与OmpA基因融合表达, 成功建立OMVs递送系统, 为OMVs作为疫苗载体提供理论基础。

还有一种递送系统是利用ClyA蛋白将目的抗原引导至细胞周质内, 从而被外膜囊泡包裹。ClyA(也被称为SheA或HlyE)是细菌溶血素蛋白, 能够在OMVs中富集。Chen等^[48]用大肠杆菌OMVs表达绿色荧光蛋白与细菌溶血素CyA蛋白的融合蛋白, 诱导针对绿色荧光蛋白的免疫反应。

有研究发现通过OMVs表面呈递异源抗原比将抗原包裹在囊泡腔内能诱导更好的免疫保护^[49]。荷兰阿姆斯特丹自由大学的研究者在这方面做了很多工作, 他们开发出基于血红蛋白酶(Hbp, Hemoglobin protease)的自动转运平台将异源抗原呈递在OMVs表面, 单独或者与某种分子结合,

为开发高效的OMVs呈递载体奠定基础。基于Hbp平台, 他们尝试用大肠杆菌OMVs呈递结核分枝杆菌的保守抗原^[8], 用鼠伤寒沙门氏菌OMVs呈递肺炎链球菌PspA和Ply抗原^[31], 结果表明, hbp自动转运平台能够高效转运异源抗原并给予特异性的免疫保护。

2.3 OMVs用于癌症疫苗

由于OMVs在细胞之间的交流过程中扮演重要的角色, 如果能够在OMVs内表达递送某些毒素并与癌细胞作用靶向杀死癌细胞, 那么用OMVs免疫治疗癌症将逐渐成为现实。Gujrati等用基因工程改造后的大肠杆菌OMVs递送针对纺锤体驱动蛋白(KSP/Eg5, kinesin spindle protein)的小分子干扰RNA (siRNA)靶向杀死癌细胞^[50]。其中纺锤体驱动蛋白作为潜在的肿瘤治疗靶点, 对纺锤体驱动蛋白进行抑制代表着一种新颖的抗肿瘤机制, 能避免直接破坏微管的药物所具有的不可避免神经毒性。作者将大肠杆菌的MsbB基因缺失消除了内毒素毒性, 同时利用CyA蛋白在OMVs内表达人表皮生长因子受体2 (HER2)特异性亲合体作为靶向配体可与肿瘤细胞作用, 同时通过电穿孔技术引入siRNA, 诱导目标基因的沉默从而显著抑制肿瘤的生长。更重要的, 修饰后的OMVs具良好的耐受性且没有副作用。这也是首次实验报道用OMVs免疫治疗癌症。

2.4 OMVs作为疫苗佐剂

佐剂是一种能够增强疫苗组分抗原特异性免疫应答的一类物质。由于蛋白疫苗单纯滴鼻免疫诱导的免疫反应水平不够高, 所以人们用譬如霍乱毒素、大肠杆菌不耐热肠毒素等作为疫苗佐剂来增强免疫反应^[51]。然而这些疫苗佐剂存在一定的安全性问题, 譬如经鼻接种流感疫苗混合大肠杆菌不耐热毒素作为黏膜佐剂可能会导致面部神经麻痹等^[52]。

脑膜炎奈瑟菌OMVs疫苗已经在多个国家被使用, 且能够对成人或儿童提供有效的免疫保护^[53]。OMVs作为相对安全的佐剂且能诱导高效的免疫反应。关于OMVs作为疫苗佐剂的研究也有很多, 脑膜炎奈瑟菌OMVs与流感疫苗混合接种, 可以显著增强黏膜和系统免疫反应^[54]。而且, 还有研究发现OMVs与免疫原性很低的肿瘤相关抗原神经节苷脂混合免疫小鼠可以增强机体对肿瘤抗原的免疫反应以抵御癌症^[55]。Aghasadeghi等^[56]将HIV病毒样颗粒VLPs与B群脑膜炎奈瑟菌OMVs混合免疫小鼠, 利用OMVs组分中的佐剂效应以增强VLPs的免疫效果, 结果表明机体能够产生针对HIV特异性的IgG和IgG2a抗体。细胞因子检测和酶联免疫斑点印迹结果表明, VLPs与OMVs的混合免疫原能够有效诱导IFN- γ , IL4等细胞因子的产生。Sardiñas等^[57]将乳糖奈瑟菌的OMVs与乙肝表面抗原HBsAg混合后免疫小鼠, 与单独免疫乙肝表面抗原HBsAg对照组相比, 混合组能够诱导更高水平的HBsAg特异的IgA, IgG抗体的产生, 该研究说明OMVs还是一种有效的黏膜佐剂。

3 问题和展望

OMVs疫苗因为其作为无生命非复制性疫苗具一定安全性, 且含多种抗原具良好的免疫原性成为了未来疫苗开发的热门研究对象。我们课题组针对沙门氏菌的OMVs开展了一些工作。我们分别用鼠伤寒沙门氏菌、肠炎沙门氏菌(*Salmonella enteritidis*)和猪霍乱沙门氏菌(*Salmonella choleraesuis*)的OMVs免疫小鼠, 针对其亲本菌株进行免疫保护评价, 结果表明这三株菌的OMVs免疫小鼠后均能够产生较高水平的特异性IgG抗体, 其中鼠伤寒沙门氏菌和肠炎沙门氏菌的OMVs能够对小鼠提供免疫保护。同时, 我们还用缺失了鼠伤寒沙

门氏菌鞭毛合成蛋白相关基因*fliB*和*fliC*基因后的突变株的OMVs免疫小鼠并做了攻毒保护试验, 结果表明, 突变株的诱导产生IgG的水平较亲本株高, 且用1000倍LD₅₀的野生株攻毒后存活率为100%。在这个突变株的基础上, 我们还做了进一步的改造, 使之呈递其他革兰氏阴性菌如志贺氏菌的O抗原基因簇然后得到多价OMVs疫苗(未发表)。

尽管大量的试验表明OMVs可以作为良好的疫苗选择, 但其仍然存在一些不可忽视的问题。譬如: 我们对OMVs的产生机制以及其与宿主相互作用机制还不是十分了解, 未经任何改造的OMVs作为疫苗仍会存在一定的毒性。所以OMVs作为成熟的商品化疫苗还有很长一段路需要走, 接下来还有许多工作需要做。

(1) OMVs的遗传学基础及其生物学合成的途径是怎样的? 细菌细胞膜是如何弯曲, OMVs如何脱落, OMVs的产生怎样调节, OMVs如何选择性地运载抗原, OMVs的形成与细菌分裂细胞周期有什么关联? 充分的探究这些问题能够为我们更好的利用基于OMVs的疫苗策略提供理论基础。

(2) 我们可以借助一些标签或染料直接观察特定的蛋白选择性地进入OMVs的机制, 或者通过蛋白组学了解不同培养条件, 不同突变背景下OMVs具体组分的动态变化, 从而找到构成OMVs组分的最低配置, 最终找到保持自身免疫原性以及高效递呈外源抗原的最佳平衡。

(3) 要使OMVs作为疫苗, 其纯化方式以及产生量是关键, 需要在基因水平找到如何能够产生更多OMVs, 表达更多目的抗原, 以及优化OMVs的纯化方式。由于不同的病原菌表达不同的毒力因子, 需要揭示OMVs在细菌毒力方面的共同点及菌株特异性, 减小OMVs的毒性并探索其复杂的递送机制以精准递送抗原。

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Advances in outer membrane vesicles of gram-negative bacteria as sub-unit vaccines - A review

Jie Yi^{1,2,3}, Qing Liu^{4*}, Qingke Kong^{1,2,3*}

¹ Institute of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Sichuan Agriculture University, Chengdu 611130, Sichuan Province, China

² Avian Disease Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, Sichuan Agriculture University, Chengdu 611130, Sichuan Province, China

³ Key Laboratory of Animal Disease and Human Health of Sichuan Province, Sichuan Agriculture University, Chengdu 611130, Sichuan Province, China

⁴ Department of Bioengineering, College of Veterinary Medicine, Sichuan Agriculture University, Chengdu 611130, Sichuan Province, China

Abstract: Outer membrane vesicles (OMVs) are vesicle-like structures, widely present in gram-negative bacteria and even in some gram-positive bacteria. OMVs contain biological active substances and their sizes are normally between 20 to 250 nm. Components of OMVs include lipopolysaccharide, outer membrane protein, phospholipids, DNA, as well as the periplasmic components produced during their formation. OMVs are non-viable vesicles that contain multiple antigenic proteins from the bacterial outer membrane, and are capable of activating the immune system, therefore they are considered to be potential vaccine candidates. Although outer membrane vesicles were discovered more than 50 years ago, hardly any reports were published in China. In this review, we summarized the progress of outer membrane vesicles as a novel strategy for disease prevention and control in two aspects: the mechanism of the outer membrane vesicle-induced immune response and the advances in OMVs vaccine. This review provides some information on outer membrane vesicles as vaccine development.

Keywords: gram-negative bacteria, outer membrane vesicle, immunologic response, sub-unit vaccine

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*Corresponding author. E-mail: Qing Liu, Qing.liu.2@sicau.edu.cn; Qingke Kong, qingke.kong@sicau.edu.cn

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