

脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白介导的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰对动物脂肪沉积的作用及其应用前景

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摘要: 在动物脂肪沉积过程中, 前体脂肪细胞增殖、分化和脂滴甘油三酯水平的变化受到一系列转录因子和信号通路的调节。目前研究者虽对脂肪形成的转录调控机制进行了深入研究, 但对转录后 mRNA 水平修饰的报道相对较少。甲基化转移酶、去甲基化酶和甲基化阅读蛋白共同调控的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰是动态可逆的且与脂肪沉积密切相关。脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白 (fat mass and obesity associated, FTO) 作为 RNA 去甲基化酶, 影响被修饰基因的表达, 在脂肪沉积中起关键作用。文中系统分析并总结了 FTO 介导的 mRNA m⁶A 去甲基化对动物脂肪沉积的作用及分子调控机制的研究进展, 提示 FTO 可能成为有效治疗肥胖症的靶点; 还对近年来研发 FTO 抑制剂的情况进行了总结, 并展望其在治疗肥胖症方面的研究前景。

关键词: 脂肪沉积; mRNA m⁶A 修饰; 脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白; 肥胖症; FTO 抑制剂

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The effect of fat mass and obesity associated proteins mediated mRNA m⁶A modification on animal fat deposition and its application prospects

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Abstract: In the process of animal fat deposition, the proliferation and differentiation of pre-adipocytes and the change of lipid droplet content in adipocytes are regulated by a series of transcription factors and signal pathways. Although researchers have conducted in-depth studies on the transcriptional regulation mechanisms of adipogenesis, there are relatively few reports on post-transcriptional modification on mRNA levels. The modification of mRNA m⁶A regulated by methyltransferase, demethylase and methylation reading protein is a dynamic and reversible process, which is closely related to fat deposition in animals. Fat mass and obesity associated proteins (FTO) act as RNA demethylases that affect the expression of modified genes and play a key role in fat deposition. This article summarized the mechanism of FTO-mediated demethylation of mRNA m⁶A in the process of animal fat deposition, suggesting that FTO may become a target for effective treatment of obesity. Moreover, this review summarized the development of FTO inhibitors in recent years.

Keywords: fat deposition; mRNA m⁶A modification; fat mass and obesity associated proteins (FTO); obesity; FTO inhibitor

脂肪组织作为一种重要的储能和分泌组织,在动物能量平衡调节过程中发挥着关键作用,并与动物产肉量和肉质性状密切相关^[1]。而过多的脂肪沉积容易引起许多慢性疾病,包括II型糖尿病、高血压和心血管疾病^[2]。脂肪沉积分子调控机制的研究不仅对动物育种工作中脂肪性状的改良,而且对治疗肥胖症及相关代谢疾病均有至关重要的意义。mRNA m⁶A修饰是动态可逆的,且涉及脂肪形成。脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白(fat mass and obesity associated proteins, FTO)作为RNA去甲基化酶,影响被修饰的成脂相关基因表达,从而调控脂肪沉积。尽管研究者对脂肪沉积的转录调控机制进行了深入探究,但对转录后水平mRNA修饰的报道

则相对较少。因此,本文系统分析并总结了转录后水平FTO介导的mRNA m⁶A修饰调控动物脂肪沉积的研究进展,并展望其研究方向。

1 mRNA m⁶A 修饰

DNA、RNA和蛋白质都有相应的化学修饰,其中RNA的化学修饰最为丰富^[3]。mRNA m⁶A修饰,即m⁶A甲基转移酶将S-腺苷甲硫氨酸(S-adenosyl methionine, SAM)上的甲基转移到mRNA腺嘌呤的第6号位N原子上,形成甲基化的腺苷酸^[4]。mRNA m⁶A修饰是当前研究最为深入也是最常见的一种修饰^[5],广泛分布于病毒、细菌、酵母、植物和脊椎动物中^[6-8]。此外,mRNA上的m⁶A修饰分布具有偏好性,

主要在转录起始位点(transcription start sites, TSS)、序列编码区(coding sequence, CDS)和3'非翻译区(3'-untranslated region, 3'-UTR)的RRACH(R=G、A; H=A、C或U)保守序列中^[9]。随着甲基化 RNA 免疫共沉淀结合高通量测序(MeRIP-seq)技术的快速发展,科研人员发现,甲基化转移酶(methyltransferases)、甲基化阅读蛋白(methylated reading protein)和去甲基化酶(demethylases)3类调控蛋白依次作用于m⁶A修饰位点,进而影响mRNA的稳定性、翻译、剪切过程、出核转运以及结构转换等过程^[10-11]。甲基化转移酶和去甲基化酶的协作实现mRNA的m⁶A修饰水平动态调控(图1)。甲基化转移酶3(methyltransferase-like protein 3, METTL3)、甲基转移酶14和肾母细胞瘤1相关蛋白(wilms tumor 1-associated protein, WTAP)主要形成甲基转移酶复合物,在mRNA上打上m⁶A“标签”;核内不均一性核糖核蛋白(heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein, hnRNP)家族、胰岛素样生长因子2的mRNA结合蛋白(mRNA binding protein of insulin like growth factor 2, IGF2BP)家族和YTH结构域家族蛋

白(YTH domain containing family protein, YTH)等作为阅读蛋白识别m⁶A位点,使mRNA的表达情况发生变化进而改变细胞状态,最终影响整个生物体的功能。YTH结构域形成疏水的口袋状紧密结合mRNA m⁶A残基位点,其中N⁶甲基腺嘌呤RNA结合蛋白2(YTH N⁶-methyladenosine RNA binding protein 2, YTHDF2)通过招募关键复合物降解含有m⁶A修饰的mRNA^[12-13]。

脂肪含量和肥胖相关蛋白(fat mass and obesity associated, FTO)及烷基化修复同源蛋白5(α -ketoglutarate-dependent dioxygenase alk B homolog 5, ALKBH5)则作为去甲基化酶去除mRNA上的甲基化修饰。FTO是第一个被鉴定的m⁶A去甲基酶,多在神经和脂肪细胞中表达,它的发现证实了m⁶A修饰是动态可逆的,为mRNA m⁶A修饰参与基因表达调控提供了科学依据,开拓了表观遗传领域研究的新方向^[14]。有研究称,3T3-L1前脂肪细胞和猪肌内前脂肪细胞的增殖和分化均受到FTO基因的调节作用^[15-16]。FTO将m⁶A去甲基化与脂肪形成联系起来^[17],脂肪细胞分化需要FTO的脱甲基酶活性^[18]。

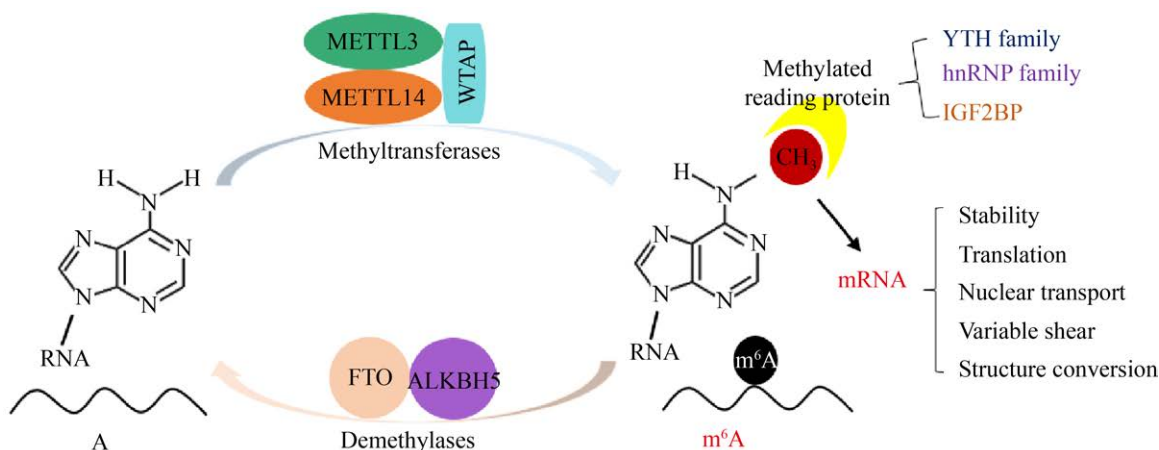


图1 mRNA m⁶A修饰分子机制(参考文献[19]修改后所绘制)

Figure 1 The molecular mechanism of mRNA m⁶A modification (Refer to [19] drawn after modification).

2 FTO 调控动物脂肪沉积的作用机制

脂肪组织主要沉积于成年动物皮下、腹内脏器周围。脂肪组织发育包括脂肪细胞数量和细胞体积的变化。脂肪细胞数量与前脂肪细胞增殖和分化有关。脂肪细胞体积变化主要体现为脂滴中 TG 含量的变化。脂滴是脂肪细胞用于储存甘油三酯 (triglyceride, TG) 和总胆固醇 (total cholesterol, TC) 的细胞器。前体脂肪细胞成为成熟的脂肪细胞需经历有丝分裂克隆扩增阶段 (mitotic clonal expansion, MCE)、终末分化阶段和脂肪细胞成熟 3 个阶段。前体脂肪细胞的成熟和脂质代谢的过程都会受到相应的基因、一系列转录因子及信号通路的调控。FTO 作为去甲基化酶通过下调成脂过程中关键调控因子的甲基化修饰丰度, 增强了成脂基因 mRNA 的稳定性, 从而提高成脂基因表达水平促进脂肪生成。

2.1 FTO 调控前体脂肪细胞的增殖

脂肪细胞数目由前体脂肪细胞分化早期的 MCE 阶段决定, 而 MCE 进程受细胞周期蛋白调控^[20]。细胞周期分为间期的 G1 期、S 期、G2 期和分裂期即 M 期 2 个阶段。不同的周期蛋白 (cyclin) 及周期蛋白依赖性激酶 (cyclin dependent kinase, CDK) 形成的复合物驱动细胞周期各个时期的运转。Wu 等^[21]研究发现, FTO 通过下调 cyclin 和 CDK mRNA 甲基化修饰的丰度, 增强了 cyclin 和 CDK mRNA 的稳定性, 促进前脂肪细胞增殖。在 3T3-L1 前体脂肪细胞中, FTO 的缺失增强了 cyclin A2 和 CDK2 的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰, YTHDF2 识别 mRNA 上的 m⁶A 修饰, 降低了 cyclin A2 和 CDK2 的蛋白质表达水平, 导致细胞延迟进入 G2 期从而抑制了脂肪形成 (图 2)。cyclin D1 是 G1 期进程的关键调节因子, 并在体内和体外控制细胞增殖。

Hirayama 等^[22]发现, FTO 也使 cyclin D1 的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰脱甲基, 提高了 cyclin D1 的表达。此外, Deng 等^[23]在成肌细胞中也发现了这种作用机制, 沉默 FTO 后通过 YTHDF2 可以介导 mRNA 的降解, 降低了 cyclin D1 的表达, 从而延迟了 G1 期进程, 导致成肌细胞增殖受损。

2.2 FTO 调控前体脂肪细胞分化过程中的关键转录因子

脂肪细胞分化过程中最关键的核转录因子过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体- γ (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma, PPAR- γ) 在脂肪细胞分化早期表达并激活脂肪细胞特异基因的表达^[24]。生理状态下成骨细胞和脂肪细胞都由多能祖细胞骨髓间充质干细胞 (bone mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs) 定向平衡分化而来^[25]。生长分化因子 11 (growth differentiation factor 11, GDF11) 是转化生长因子- β (transform growth factor- β , TGF- β) 超家族的一种蛋白质^[26]。Chen 等^[27]发现, FTO 介导 PPAR γ 的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰可以作为开关, 在骨质疏松症期间通过 GDF11-FTO-PPAR γ 轴将 BMSCs 成骨向转化为成脂向分化。正常情况下^[28], GDF11-FTO 信号可以平衡 BMSCs 中脂肪细胞和成骨细胞的分化。但在人和小鼠衰老或骨质疏松过程中^[27], GDF11 促进了 BMSCs 内 FTO 的表达, FTO 去甲基化修饰 PPAR γ 的 mRNA, 导致 PPAR γ 翻译效率增加促进 BMSCs 成脂向分化 (图 2)。此外, Li 等^[29]研究发现, miR-149-3p 与 FTO 结合抑制了 FTO 的表达, 使 PPAR γ mRNA 甲基化水平升高, 翻译效率降低从而抑制成脂分化。

CCAAT 增强子结合蛋白 (CCAAT/enhancer binding proteins family, C/EBPs) 家族是前体脂肪细胞分化中另一类关键转录因子。C/EBP α 和 C/EBP δ 均在前体脂肪细胞分化前实现最高表达水平, 随分化时间的增加表达水平降低,

C/EBP β 的表达随着诱导分化天数的增加而增加^[30]。敲除小鼠全身的 C/EBP α 基因,小鼠出生后不久就因低血糖而死亡^[31]。目前为止,在脂肪形成过程中并未发现 FTO 对 C/EBP α 和 C/EBP β mRNA 的直接去甲基化作用。但是, Sun^[19]和 Merkestein^[20]等发现,在 3T3-L1 前体脂肪细胞或小鼠胚胎成纤维细胞中的体外研究均表明,敲低或过表达 FTO 都会改变脂肪形成相关基因的(例如 PPAR γ 、C/EBP α)表达水平。此外, Wang 等^[32]发现,在分化期的猪肌内前体脂肪细胞中过表达 FTO 的同时,也显著增加了 PPAR γ 和 C/EBP α 蛋白质的表达水平。

2.3 FTO 调控前体脂肪细胞分化过程中的经典信号通路

Wnt/ β -连环蛋白(β -catenin)信号通路通过抑制 C/EBP α 和 PPAR γ 的表达量从而抑制前体脂肪细胞分化^[33]。Chen 等^[34]发现,FTO 通过抑制猪肌内前体脂肪细胞中的 Wnt/ β -catenin 信号通路促进脂肪细胞的增殖和分化。当 FTO 沉默时,PPAR γ 和 C/EBP α 的表达被下调, β -catenin 的表达被上调。基于以上发现,笔者认为在 Wnt/ β -catenin 等抑成脂的信号通路中可探究以甲基转移酶介导的甲基化修饰过程的作用机制。

JAK 激酶(janus kinase, JAK)-信号转导及转录激活因子(signal transduction and activator of transcription, STAT)通路促进脂肪形成,胞内磷酸化的 STAT 蛋白进入细胞核与靶基因结合,调控基因的转录进而完成信号转导^[35]。在 7 种已知的 STAT 中,只有 STAT3 和 STAT5 对脂肪形成有影响^[36-37]。Wu 等^[38]发现,mRNA m⁶A 甲基化可通过 JAK-STAT-C/EBP β 信号轴调节脂肪生成。在猪和小鼠前体脂肪细胞中,FTO 通过去除 JAK2 mRNA m⁶A 修饰促进 JAK2 表达,STAT3 被 JAK2 磷酸化并易位至细胞核以激活 C/EBP β 转录,促进脂肪形成(图 2)。相应地,

Yao 等^[39]发现,在猪 BMSCs 中敲低甲基化酶 3(METTL3)可减少 JAK1 mRNA m⁶A 修饰,YTHDF2 介导的 JAK1 mRNA 降解被阻止,从而增强 JAK1 mRNA 稳定性和蛋白质表达,JAK1-STAT5-C/EBP β 途径被激活进而促进脂肪生成。

磷脂酰肌醇-3 激酶(PI3K)-蛋白激酶 B(Akt)信号通路能够促进脂质生物合成并抑制脂解。在细胞质中,活化的 PI3K 使 AKT 磷酸化作用于下游相关因子,提高成脂基因的转录水平^[40]。Chen 等^[16]发现,在 3T3-L1 细胞中,当敲低 FTO 后,线粒体膜电位和 ATP 水平降低的同时还使 4 型葡萄糖转运蛋白(glucose transporter 4, GLUT4)的表达和 Akt 磷酸化水平都降低,最终抑制了细胞的增殖和分化。当 FTO 过表达时则具有相反的结果。同时,PI3K 抑制剂渥曼青霉素(wortmannin)也可以抑制过表达 FTO 时 Akt 的磷酸化。此外,Liu 等^[41]在乳腺癌细胞中发现,FTO 抑制剂可部分降低 PI3K 和 Akt 的水平使丙酮酸激酶和己糖激酶的活性降低从而抑制乳腺癌细胞的糖酵解。Gholamalizadeh 等^[42]发现,雌激素可通过促进 FTO 基因的表达,激活雌激素受体阳性患者的 PI3K-Akt 信号通路来促进乳腺癌细胞增殖。综上,FTO 可能通过调节 PI3K-Akt 信号传导进而促进前体脂肪细胞的增殖和分化,但是 FTO 促进 Akt 磷酸化的确切机制仍不清楚,需要进一步探究。

2.4 FTO 通过调节脂肪酸合成调节脂质生成

动物体脂沉积由脂肪酸合成和分解代谢的平衡决定。脂肪酸从头合成中的关键限速酶脂肪酸合酶(fatty acid synthase, FASN)催化乙酰 CoA 和丙二酸单酰 CoA 将小分子二碳单位聚合成长链脂肪酸^[43]。FTO 通过介导 FASN mRNA m⁶A 去甲基化在脂肪合成代谢调节中起促进作用。Hu 等^[44]发现,在鸡肝细胞中,过表达 FTO 可下调 FASN mRNA 的 m⁶A 水平从而增加 TG

积累。同时, Sun 等^[45]发现, 敲低 FTO 可以提高 FASN mRNA 的 m⁶A 水平, YTHDF2 识别 m⁶A 修饰, 导致 FASN mRNA 降解, 减少了 FASN 蛋白的表达, 从而导致 HepG2 细胞 (来源于阿根廷一个 15 岁男孩的肝癌组织, 适用于肝细胞代谢方面的研究) 中脂肪生成受到抑制 (图 2)。此外, Wu 等^[46]和 Chen 等^[47-48]研究发现, 过表达 FTO 显著升高了骨骼肌细胞和肝细胞中 FASN 表达水平。Cheng 等^[49]对鸡脂肪组织中 mRNA m⁶A 修饰的转录组分析结果表明, 重要的脂质生成基因长链脂酰辅酶 A 合成酶(long-chain acylCo A synthetase, ACSL) 和低密度脂蛋白受体相关蛋白 4 (low-density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 4, LRP4) 的表达均与 mRNA 的 m⁶A 修饰水平有关。Sun 等^[50]近期研究发现, miR-30b 可通过靶向 FTO 进而降低 mRNA m⁶A 修饰水平, TG 含量降低的同时 FASN 的表达也相应变低, 进而造成脂质代谢紊乱。

2.5 FTO 可以调节脂噬

自噬体将细胞中的蛋白质和细胞器送至溶酶体降解和再循环, 实现细胞代谢和细胞器的更新即为自噬。脂噬则是脂肪细胞中的脂滴被自噬溶酶体选择性识别并降解的过程, 由自噬相关基因 (autophagy-related genes, ATG) 进行调控^[51]。Baerga 等^[52]研究发现, 在小鼠中脂肪特异性的 Atg7 缺失具有抗肥胖和胰岛素增敏作用, 同时, Zhang 等^[53]发现 Atg5 的靶向缺失会损害脂肪形成。在前脂肪细胞分化为成熟的脂肪细胞时会引起 TG 大量积累。Singh 等^[54]研究发现, 在 3T3-L1 细胞中敲除 Atg5 或 Atg7 后, 脂肪细胞分化标志物 (如 ACSLs、FASN 和 GLUT4) 被诱导的程度较小, 脂质沉积减少。表明 TG 无法积累的原因是继发于脂肪细胞分化受损, 抑制脂噬能减少前脂肪细胞分化终末阶段中主要调控因子的表达。Wang 等^[55]近期对自噬控制脂肪量和脂肪形成的具

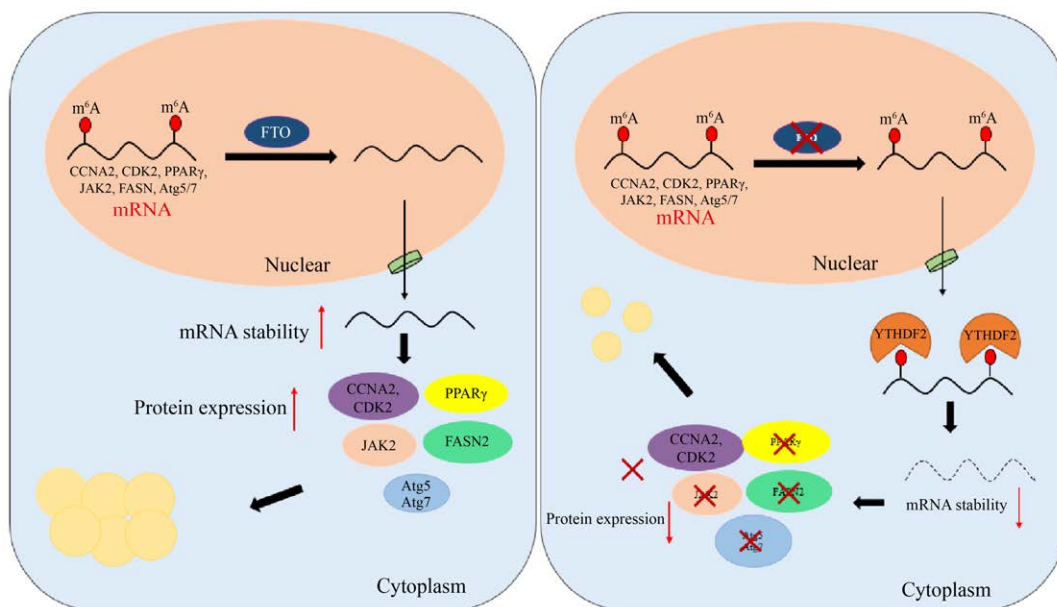


图 2 在动物脂肪沉积过程中去甲基酶 FTO 和甲基化阅读蛋白 YTHDF2 调控模式 (参考文献[55]对本文第二部分内容归纳总结所绘制)

Figure 2 Regulation modes of demethylase FTO and methylation reading protein YTHDF2 in the process of animal fat deposition (Refer to [55] drawn according to the summary of the second part of this article).

体机制提供了新的见解,即 FTO 通过促进脂噬增强脂肪细胞分化从而促进脂滴中 TG 的积累。在小鼠 3T3-L1 细胞系和猪原代前脂肪细胞中,FTO 使 Atg5 和 Atg7 的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰脱甲基,促进脂噬。敲低 FTO 后,高的 mRNA m⁶A 修饰被 YTHDF2 特异性识别,Atg5 和 Atg7 的表达降低,导致自噬体形成减弱,C/EBP β 表达降低,从而抑制脂噬和脂肪形成 (图 2)。

3 FTO 的上游调控机制

研究表明,FTO 作为去甲基化酶不仅会介导 mRNA 的 m⁶A 修饰过程,其自身也会受到相应的上游调控。RNA 结合蛋白 (splicing factor proline-and glutamine-rich, SFPQ) 协助 FTO 进行去甲基化底物的选择。SFPQ 可能先锚定到 mRNA 上的 CUGUG 基序,之后将 FTO 募集到

相邻的 m⁶A 位点进行去甲基化,过表达 SFPQ 会导致相邻的 m⁶A 位点去甲基化^[56]。新陈代谢也与 mRNA m⁶A 修饰之间有直接联系,烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸磷酸 (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, NADPH) 通过增强 FTO 活性来促进 mRNA m⁶A 去甲基化和脂肪形成,而在 3T3-L1 细胞中敲低 FTO 后减弱了这种效果^[57]。锌指蛋白 217 (zinc finger protein 217, Zfp217) 不仅可以在转录水平上协调 FTO 表达,还与 YTHDF2 相互作用以调节 mRNA 的 m⁶A 甲基化水平从而调控成脂分化,以协调转录和转录后调控^[58]。

由于在基础研究中发现去甲基化 FTO 的高表达与肥胖症及癌症的发展密切相关^[59],近年来研究者寻找或设计合成了一系列具有活性的小分子化合物想通过抑制 FTO 的表达为治疗这些疾病提供新的机会 (表 1)。

表 1 FTO 抑制剂

Table 1 FTO inhibitors

No.	Names	Design methods	Experimental models	References
1	Dac51	The structure-based design, synthesis, and biochemical evaluation	CD8 ⁺ T cells/Mouse	[60]
2	Omeprazole	Proton pump inhibitors	Gastric cancer cells	[61]
3	FTO-04	The structure-based design, synthesis, and biochemical evaluation	Glioblastoma stem cells	[62]
4	3-amino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-3-phenylacrylonitrile (1a)	Fluorescence spectroscopy	Leukemia K562 cells	[63]
5	CS1 and CS2	Structure-based virtual screening	Leukemia stem/initiating cell	[64]
6	Clausine E	Isothermal titration calorimetry and spectral approaches	<i>In vitro</i>	[65]
7	Entacapone	Virtual screening	Mouse	[66]
8	FB23 and FB23-2	The structure-based design, synthesis, and biochemical evaluation	Human acute myeloid Leukemia cells/Mouse	[67]
9	Ine2-phenyl-1H-benzimidazole structural analogues	Isothermal titration calorimetry	Leukemia cells	[68]
10	Nafamostat mesilate	Serine protease inhibitor	Various cancer cells	[69]
11	Radicicol	Virtual screening	Leukemia cells	[70]
12	N-CDPCB	Structure-based design and evaluation	3T3-L1	[71]
13	N-phenyl-1H-indol-2-amine	Structure-based design and evaluation	<i>In vitro</i>	[72]
14	IOX3	Inhibitor of the HIF prolyl hydroxylases	C2C12	[73]
15	MA	High-throughput fluorescence polarization (FP) assay	HeLa cells	[74]
16	Compound 12	Molecular modelling, <i>T_m</i> shift, and biochemical studies	<i>In vitro</i>	[75]
17	Rhein	Structure-based virtual screening	<i>In vitro</i>	[76]

4 总结与展望

现代社会中, 肥胖症等代谢性疾病的发生已成为威胁人类生命健康的一大潜在因素。探究清楚影响脂肪沉积的具体机制, 从而找到治疗肥胖症之行之有效的方法就显得尤为重要。本文通过整理和分析发现, 越来越多的证据表明去甲基化酶 FTO 介导的 mRNA m⁶A 去甲基化可促进动物的脂肪沉积。FTO 不仅可以作为去甲基化酶对动物脂肪沉积的关键基因、转录因子和信号通路起调节作用, 其自身也会受到相应的上游调控进而影响脂肪形成。虽然目前并未发现 FTO 对前脂肪细胞分化关键转录因子 C/EBP α 和 C/EBP β mRNA 的直接去甲基化作用, 但在 JAK-STAT-C/EBP β 信号轴中却可以调节 C/EBP β 的表达, 表明 FTO 可能是对 C/EBP α 和 C/EBP β 的上游信号有影响。此外, FTO 通过 PI3K-Akt 信号通路促进脂肪细胞增殖和分化的确切机制仍不清楚, 很有可能与 mRNA m⁶A 修饰相关。另外, 在脂质合成代谢中仅研究了 FTO 对脂肪酸合酶的作用, 可对其他关键合成代谢相关酶进行类似的研究。或者相应地对脂肪酸分解代谢关键酶进行 mRNA m⁶A 甲基化方面的探索。

由表 1 可以看出, 虽然 FTO 抑制剂的研究很多, 但实验所用模型基本都是癌细胞且在活体上进行的也很少。FTO 介导的 mRNA m⁶A 去甲基化促进了动物的脂肪沉积, 之后可对先前筛选出的活性较好的小分子, 引入生物学方法, 在脂肪细胞和肥胖小鼠模型上检测其抑制 FTO 活性的能力。由于常用筛选方法如虚拟筛选和生化分析^[64,66,70,74]、等量滴定和光谱法^[65,68]、荧光偏振^[63,76]和基于结构导向设计合成^[60,62,67,71-72]等都需要复杂的操作步骤。所以未来利用新兴科技如基于单个量子点的荧光共振能量转移纳

米传感器^[77]与高通量筛选^[78]相结合, 超灵敏地检测去甲基化酶 FTO 的活性及筛选其特异又有效的小分子抑制剂仍可能是治疗肥胖症等代谢性疾病的一个重要方向。此外, 基于将已筛选出的 FTO 小分子抑制剂作为研究靶标, 有助于研究人员深入探究 mRNA m⁶A 修饰对脂肪沉积的调控机制。

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