

· 综述 ·

包膜应激响应蛋白 CpxA 突变及其对细菌耐药性和毒力的调控

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摘要: CpxA 是革兰氏阴性细菌中普遍存在的包膜双组分系统 Cpx 的关键成员, 负责信号感应, 兼具磷酸酶和激酶双重活性, 参与多种细菌耐药及致病性等重要生理过程的调控。近年来, 靶向 CpxA 的新型抗菌药物开发引起研究者的关注, 基于其磷酸酶活性抑制功能的药物在大肠杆菌所致尿路感染的治疗中初显成效。本文梳理了细菌包膜应激感应蛋白 CpxA 的结构、功能域及其激活 CpxR 的通路, 总结分析了其参与细菌耐药性形成及毒力调控的机制, 同时综述了当前针对该靶点研发的抗菌药物的最新进展, 以期助力临床严重耐药菌抗感染治疗新策略的研发。

关键词: 包膜应激系统; CpxA; 突变; 抗菌药物敏感性; 致病性; 抗菌治疗靶点

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Mutation of the envelope stress-responsive protein CpxA capable of regulating the antimicrobial resistance and virulence of bacteria

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Abstract: CpxA is a key member of the envelope stress-responsive Cpx two-component system ubiquitous in Gram-negative bacteria. It is responsible for signal sensing and has dual activities of phosphatase and kinase. CpxA has been revealed to participate in the regulation of physiological processes such as virulence and antimicrobial resistance of bacteria. In recent years, the development of novel antimicrobials targeting CpxA has attracted much attention. Drugs developed based on inhibition of the phosphatase activity of CpxA have shown effectiveness in the treatment of urinary tract infections caused by *Escherichia coli*. This review introduces the structure and functional domains of CpxA and the activation of Cpx pathways by CpxA. Furthermore, it summarizes the roles of CpxA in the development of antimicrobial resistance and the regulation of bacterial virulence and reviews the latest progress in the development of new antimicrobials targeting this protein. It is expected to assist in the exploration of CpxA-targeting anti-infection strategies for severely antimicrobial-resistant bacteria whose clinical infections are of urgent need to be controlled.

Keywords: envelope stress-responsive system; CpxA; mutation; antimicrobial susceptibility; pathogenicity; targets of antimicrobial therapies

抗微生物药物耐药性是人类面临的十大全球公共卫生威胁之一^[1]。作为世界卫生组织 (World Health Organization, WHO)界定的重点病原体,耐碳青霉烯类药物的革兰氏阴性菌导致难治性感染及死亡,亟须开发新抗菌药物以控制其感染^[2]。CpxA是普遍存在于革兰氏阴性菌双组分系统Cpx中的应激响应蛋白。基于其在细菌药物敏感性及毒力调控中的关键性作用,近年来靶向于CpxA活性调控的抗菌药物

研究引起了越来越多的关注。基于该机制开发的多种抗菌药物在尿路感染动物模型中初见成效。本文从细菌CpxA的结构、功能域及激活下游通路的机制着手,基于临床自然发生及人工构建CpxA不同突变形式与耐药性及毒力的关联性解析,结合当前靶向于CpxA的抗感染药物研发进展,对其应用于铜绿假单胞菌(*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, PA)等多药耐药菌感染治疗的可行性进行了探讨。

1 细菌 CpxA 的结构及信号激活路径

1.1 CpxA 的结构

CpxA 是一个镶嵌于细胞内膜上的跨膜感应器, 由位于细胞周质的信号输入域(input domain, ID)与位于细胞质的信号传输域(transmitter domain, TD)通过适配器 HAMP 结构域(HAMP adaptor)连接而成, 同时具有自激酶、CpxR 激酶、CpxR 磷酸酶三重活性^[3-4]。如图 1A 所示, 两个跨膜

结构域(transmembrane domain, TMD)经由一个位于细胞周质的感受域(periplasmic sensory domain, PSD)相连, 组成 CpxA 蛋白 N 端的 ID; 而其 C 端高度保守的酶活性中心 TD 则由二聚化和组氨酸磷酸基团转移域(dimerization and histidine phosphotransfer domain, Dhp domain)和催化域(catalytic domain, CA domain)共同组成。输入域感知的信号经 HAMP 域传递至传输域, 通过自磷酸化及磷酸转移, 启动下游基因的转录及表达^[5]。

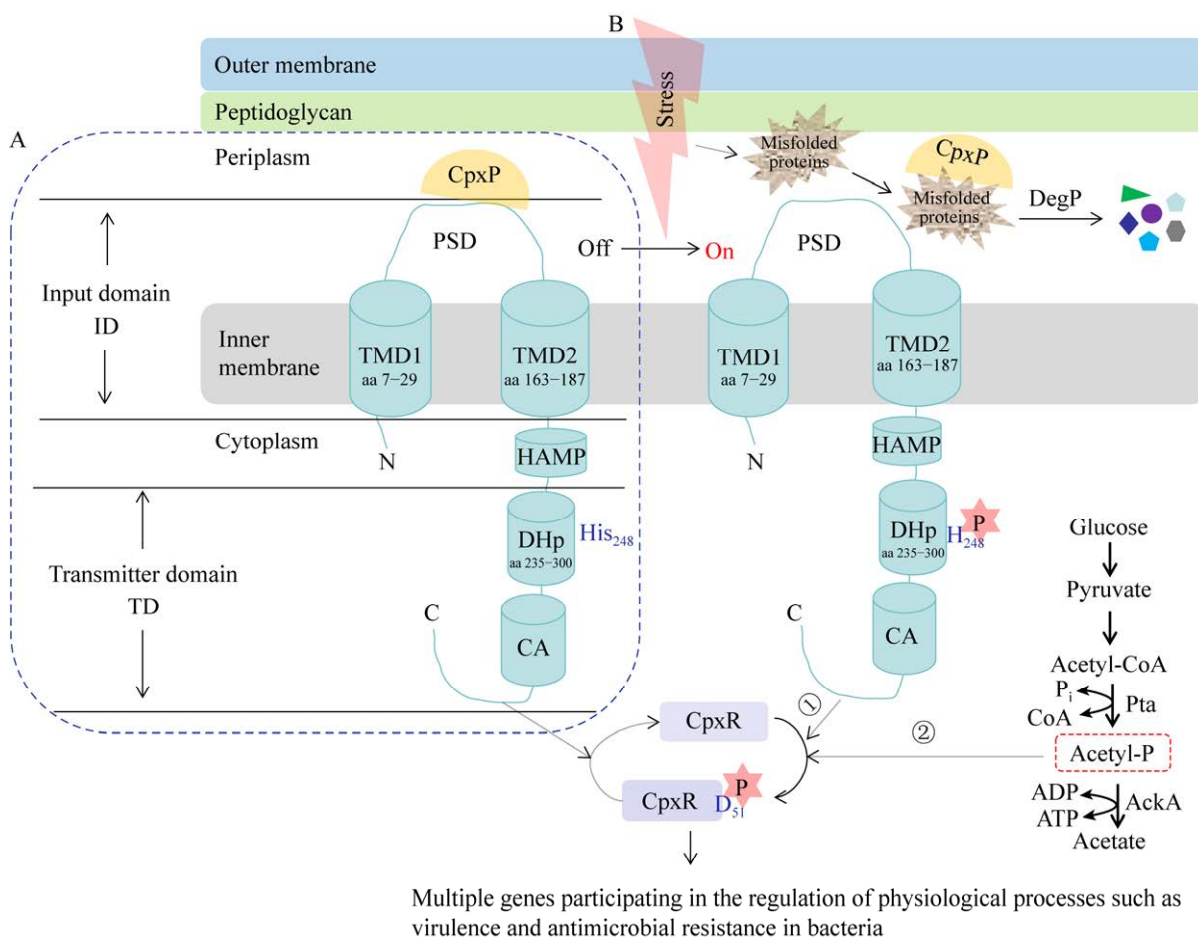


图 1 革兰氏阴性细菌 CpxA 激酶结构及激活路径 A: CpxA 结构及功能域, 各域氨基酸位点的标注以大肠杆菌 CpxA (GenBank 登录号: NP_418347.1) 为例. B: CpxA 下游激活路径

Figure 1 Structure and activation pathways of CpxA in Gram-negative bacteria. A: Structure and function domains, *Escherichia coli* CpxA (GenBank accession number: NP_418347.1) was used as an example to label amino acid sites in various domains. B: CpxA downstream activation pathways.

1.2 CpxA 各功能域与 Cpx 系统激活

早在 20 世纪 90 年代,研究者便在大肠杆菌中发现了一系列 CpxA 的功能获得性突变,从而发掘出其响应外界刺激并通过磷酸化激活下游基因表达的信号传输机制^[6]。功能获得性突变集中于 CpxA 蛋白的 3 个区域——PSD 区、TMD2 周边及胞质酶活性中心,其突变能导致 CpxR 下游基因表达显著提高,相应地,细菌获得耐受不良包膜刺激的能力。其中 PSD 的点突变或部分碱基缺失突变导致该区域无法感应外界刺激信号及完成下游效应调节蛋白 CpxR 的组成型激活。这表明 Cpx 系统的激活受到结合 CpxA-PSD 的负反馈调控蛋白(后被证实是 CpxP^[7])的调节(图 1B):在无刺激条件时,CpxP 紧密结合在 CpxA 的 PSD 区,使该感应激酶处于低激酶/磷酸酶比值的“静息”状态;而当 pH 升高、极端温度或金属离子浓度增高等包膜胁迫条件出现时,CpxP 从 PSD 区解离,释放 CpxA 并引起构象变化,这些构象变化将通过 TMD2 传递到 TD 域,激酶/磷酸酶比率升高,且激活水平与包膜刺激条件呈正相关。而细胞质区的突变则集中在磷酸化位点附近,导致 CpxR 磷酸酶活性丧失,仅余下自激酶和激酶活性,相比于野生菌,这些突变株的 CpxA 激酶酶活得到提升且仍响应包膜刺激信号。TMD2 域的突变则影响了 CpxP 结合/解离时 CpxA 构象的变化,继而干预其胞质结构域的酶活调节。

有研究^[8]发现,除了上述以 CpxA 为枢纽的 Cpx 系统磷酸化能够激活通路外,当 CpxA 因突变而缺失时,反应调节器 CpxR 也可被胞内的乙酰磷酸(acetylphosphate, Ac-P)等小分子磷酸化激活(图 1B),且此时也无法利用 CpxA 的磷酸酶活性来反向调节其磷酸化水平;在野生株中,Ac-P 对 CpxR 的调节则可忽略不计。由于 Ac-P 可以由乙酰辅酶 A 和 Pi 合成,Ac-P 的细胞内浓

度随着糖酵解途径的使用而升高。添加葡萄糖及丙酮酸钠提升了胞内 Ac-P 的浓度,导致 CpxA 缺陷型细菌 CpxR 的组成型激活。进一步的研究^[9-11]表明,Pta-AckA 通路中的 AcCoA 还是不依赖于 CpxA 的 Cpx 系统激活所必需的乙酰供体,其通过乙酰转移酶 YfiQ 乙酰化 RNA 聚合酶,启动受 CpxR-P 支配的下游基因表达。因此,基于 Pta-AckA 途径的蛋白乙酰化及磷酸化这两种转录后修饰对于不依赖于 CpxA 的 CpxR 活化不可或缺。

2 CpxA 的突变与耐药变异

2.1 CpxA 自发突变与临床菌株耐药发生

细菌包膜是抗菌药物进入菌体的第一道屏障,而包膜应激系统 Cpx 在细菌应对药物胁迫形成的包膜压力以维持其完整性及稳定性中发挥至关重要的作用^[12]。近年来,已报道多种临床上细菌耐药性的发生与 CpxA 突变相关。

Philippe 等^[13]从亚胺培南治疗 12 d 的产气克雷伯菌感染患者支气管灌洗液中分离到对碳青霉烯类、喹诺酮类和头孢菌素类药物均耐药的菌株,经全基因组比对发现,相比于治疗前从同一患者灌洗液中分离到的敏感菌株,其序列在 CpxA-PSD 发生错义突变(Y144N)并发生膜孔蛋白 Omp35 和 Omp36 的失活突变。进一步研究表明,该突变导致负反馈调节蛋白 CpxP 与 CpxA-PSD 的解离,CpxR 组成型激活,继而提高了下游外排泵 AcrD 的表达,同时降低膜孔蛋白的 OmpF 水平,导致耐药性的发生^[14]。此外,对 2 株分离自同一囊性纤维化患者气管的木糖氧化无色杆菌进行基因组比较分析,发现美罗培南和头孢他啶耐药株相比于敏感株在 CpxA 及另外 3 个基因(*spoT*、*phoQ* 和 *bigR*)上发生了突变^[15]。类似地,相比于非耐药株,分离自同一肠热症患者的耐大环内酯甲型副伤寒沙门菌

的基因组中也发现了 CpxA 的突变^[16]。但这两个报道中并未具体说明其中 CpxA 突变的位点及类型,也未验证是否仅该蛋白突变即可引发菌株产生耐药性。

除了上述耐药发生伴随 CpxA 及其他基因突变的复杂情况,研究者还发现了短期内同一病患同一部位或同一病区同期不同患者的分离株间耐药性变迁仅因其基因组上 CpxA 发生突变,如分离自尿路感染患者尿液样本的 2 株雷氏普罗威登斯菌间对庆大霉素敏感性的差异可以由 CpxA 中 C191R 单氨基酸突变来解释^[17],该突变位于此前已证实可影响 CpxA 活性的 185–222 aa 区段(HAMP 域)内^[4]。HAMP 将传感器激酶的周质信号区与激酶核心催化域相连起到信号传递作用,突变可能对蛋白的结构和功能造成一定影响。Lecuru 等^[18]从 1 名肺移植患者气管灌洗液中间隔 3 个月相继分离到 2 株奇异变形杆菌,后者对亚胺培南和阿米卡星的最小抑菌浓度(minimum inhibitory concentration, MIC)值分别升高了 32 倍和 48 倍。全基因组分析发现,相比于敏感株,耐药株仍仅在 CpxA-HAMP 域发生了单突变(H208P)^[18]。不同于多数临床株

中发现的 CpxA 单个错义突变,Gravrand 等^[19]在黏质沙雷菌临床分离株中发现了 CpxA 移码突变(690delG)所导致的多药耐药性,突变后,CpxA 在 238 aa 处提前终止,较野生型蛋白(464 aa)完全缺失了 HAMP 域后的酶活中心区;此突变导致 CpxA 三种酶功能同时丧失,细菌通过内源性小分子启动 Cpx 通路的组成型激活,赋予其多药耐药性。

2.2 CpxA 人工突变及其调控细菌耐药性的机制

随着 CpxA 结构及其激活下游通路机制的不断明晰,以及该蛋白自发突变在临床细菌耐药性发生中推动作用的持续发现,CpxA 参与细菌耐药性调控的机制引起广泛关注。

2.2.1 CpxA 人工突变与耐药表型

如表 1 所示,当前国内外不同研究团队已在以大肠杆菌为代表的多种病原菌中开展了 CpxA 多种形式的人工突变,比较分析突变前后机体对氨基糖苷类、 β -内酰胺类、大环内酯类、抗菌肽和磷霉素等多种抗菌药物的敏感性,并通过 qPCR、转录组学或蛋白组学手段探究其调控耐药性的分子机制。

表 1 不同细菌 CpxA 突变介导的抗菌药物敏感性

Table 1 Antimicrobial resistance mediated by CpxA mutations in different bacteria

Bacteria	Mutant/Functional domain	Changes in antimicrobial resistance ^a	Mechanism	References
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	CpxA (Y144N)/PSD	β -lactam (imipenem, ceftazidime); Aminoglycosides (gentamicin, amikacin); Fosfomycin	Higher efflux pump AcrD; Lower membrane porin OmpF	[14]
	① CpxA (Δ 93-124)/PSD	Aminoglycosides (amikacin, gentamicin); Hydroxyurea	Constitutive activation of CpxR	[20]
	② Δ CpxA/whole protein	Unchanged: fluoroquinolones (norfloxacin)		
	① CpxA (F218Y)/HAMP	Aminoglycosides (kanamycin)	Constitutive activation of CpxR	[21]
	② Δ CpxA/whole protein			
	Δ CpxA/whole protein	Fosfomycin	Lower fosfomycin transporters glpt and uhpt	[22]

(待续)

(续表 1)

Bacteria	Mutant/Functional domain	Changes in antimicrobial resistance ^a	Mechanism	References
	CpxA (H248A)/DHp	β-lactam (ampicillin)	Lower OmpF	[23]
	CpxA (T248P)/DHp	Aminoglycosides (gentamicin); Hydroxyurea	Through transcriptome: ① Higher efflux pump ② Lower OmpF ③ Lower ROS production	[24]
	① CpxA (Δ93-124)/PSD ② CpxA (L38F G415C)/TMD1 CA	Lowered: β-lactam (amdinocillin, ampicillin, cephalosporin) Unchanged: vancomycin, neobiotin, bacteriocins, erythromycin, and rifampicin	Excessive activation of the Cpx system by CpxA* mutants leads to a loss of PG homeostasis and thus cell division and shape defects	[25]
	ΔCpxA/whole protein	β-lactam (ampicillin); Aminoglycosides (gentamicin)	① Higher periplasmic protease and chaperon such as degP; ② Lower formation of hydroxyl radicals	[26]
	ΔCpxA/whole protein	Lowered: chloramphenicol and nalidixic acid	Higher OmpF and OmpC through regulation of AtpB	[27]
<i>Salmonella enterica</i> serovar Typhimurium	① ΔCpxA/whole protein ② CpxA (L38F)/PSD ③ CpxA (Δ92-104)/PSD	β-lactam (cephalosporin, cefuroxime, ceftriaxone, cefotaxime); Aminoglycosides (netilmicin, amikacin, streptomycin, kanamycin)	① Lower porins ompW and stm3031; ② Higher AcrD; ③ Higher proteases and chaperon genes: <i>ppiA</i> , <i>htpX</i> , <i>spy</i> and <i>yccA</i> ; ④ Lower ROS-forming genes: <i>nuoA</i> and <i>sdhC</i>	[28]
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	ΔMisS (CpxA)/whole protein	Unchanged: cationic antimicrobial peptide (polymyxin B)	/	[29]
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	CpxA (Δ97-133)/PSD	β-lactam (ampicillin) Unchanged: tetracycline, gentamicin, polymyxin B, erythromycin	Higher efflux pump: vexRAB and vexGH	[30]
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	CpxA (A154S)/TMD2	Aminoglycosides (gentamicin); Vancomycin	Restore cell wall structural defects caused by missing AmidA and AmiB	[31]
	ΔCpxA/whole protein	Aminoglycosides (gentamicin)	/	[32]
<i>Haemophilus parasuis</i>	ΔCpxA/whole protein	Aminoglycosides (gentamicin); Unchanged: erythromycin	/	[33]
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	CpxA/not specified	Lowered: amikacin, aztreonam, cefazolin, imipenem, cevfloxacin	/	[34]
<i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>	ΔCpxA/whole protein	Polymyxin B	Higher VP_RS01045 and VP_RS08405 required for outer membrane formation; Higher biofilm formation	[35]

^a: Enhanced unless otherwise specified.

整体而言,不论是 CpxA-PSD 区突变导致其磷酸酶活性丧失及后续 CpxR 组成型激活,抑或是 DHp、CA 及 HAMP 等区域或全蛋白缺失突变所导致的 CpxA 三种酶活性的同时丧失及后续胞内小分子磷酸供体作为替代品启动 CpxR 的激活, CpxA 突变在多数细菌中均导致其耐药性的增强。但如表 1 所示,不同抗菌药物对 Cpx 系统的响应各异, CpxA 的突变并不能改变细菌对所有抗菌药物的敏感性。众所周知, Cpx 系统在细菌包膜稳态维持中发挥着重要作用^[36],因此对靶向于破坏细胞壁肽聚糖合成的 β -内酰胺类药物、作用于核糖体导致周质等区域蛋白错误折叠或转运异常的氨基糖苷类药物的敏感性,在上述受试细菌中呈基本一致的变化趋势,即随 CpxR 激活水平上升而呈现出更高的耐药性。值得一提的是, Delhaye 等^[25]提出细菌对 β -内酰胺类药物的响应因 CpxR 的激活水平呈动态变化, CpxA 的突变 [CpxA (Δ 93-124)和 CpxA (L38F G415C)]对 CpxR 的激活强度远高于传统的 NlpE 过表达所致的效应,反而导致细菌胞壁肽聚糖合成紊乱,对药物敏感性增强。对于阳离子抗菌肽类药物多黏菌素 B, CpxA 突变在不同细菌耐药性干预中的表现各异,同为全基因缺失突变,副溶血性弧菌耐药性提高,淋病奈瑟菌则与野生型无差异,而 PSD 域缺失突变的霍乱弧菌耐药性也未见变化。正如 Raivio^[37]在 CpxA 不同突变体对抗菌药物响应关系研究中所发现的,这些差异可能与细菌种类、突变的类型和耐药性测试方法等多种因素有关。

2.2.2 CpxA 介导耐药性调控的机制

随着研究的不断深入, CpxA 调控细菌耐药性的内在分子机制也逐渐揭示。首先,以庆大霉素为代表的氨基糖苷类药物依赖质子动力势进入细胞,导致核糖体蛋白 A 位蛋白的错译及

后续毒性、异常膜蛋白的产生^[38]。若相关蛋白酶或蛋白分子伴侣无法有效地降解或修正上述错误的蛋白,势必导致膜完整性破坏及细菌死亡。因此,上调能辅助蛋白正确折叠的伴侣蛋白(如 degP、spy、dsbA 和 yccA 等)或促成其快速降解的蛋白酶(如 ppiA、htpX 等)的表达水平是 CpxA 功能性突变导致耐药性提高的重要机制^[36]。如 Jing 等^[28]在耐药性增强的鼠伤寒沙门氏菌中即发现了上述基因的上调。

其次,细菌包膜的完整性及可透过性极大影响细菌对药物的敏感性。膜孔蛋白(porin)是排布于细菌包膜上的通道结构,其失活性突变的发生直接限制药物内流,减少药物对细菌的损伤,继而提高其耐受性。如在大肠杆菌^[14,23-24]及鼠伤寒沙门菌^[28]的 CpxA 突变株中均发现了膜孔蛋白表达的下调;大肠杆菌中负责将磷霉素从胞外向胞内转运的 *glpt* 及 *uhpT* 的转录下调导致了该菌 Δ CpxA 株对此药物耐受性的产生^[22]。此外,调控包膜重要结构合成的相关酶类(如 *amiA*、*amiB*、*amiC* 和 *slt* 等)有利于维持细胞外膜完整性,减少药物对细菌的损伤。Yakhnina 等^[31]在铜绿假单胞菌肽聚糖酰胺酶 *AmiA*、*AmiB* 缺失所致细胞壁结构缺陷株的回复突变中发现, CpxA 的功能获得性突变 CpxA (A154S)可以回补上述缺陷并提高细菌耐药性;而副溶血性弧菌 Δ cpxA 株中 2 个基因的上调能增强脂质 A 的合成,同时有利于细菌自身集结形成生物被膜,同样推进其耐药性发生^[35]。

再者,外排泵的增强表达也是 CpxA 突变株调控细菌耐药性的常见机制。在大肠杆菌^[14,24]、鼠伤寒沙门^[28]、霍乱弧菌^[30]及副猪嗜血杆菌^[33]中,研究者均发现了 CpxA 对外排泵的正向调控作用,通过将药物泵出增强细菌耐药性。

最后,近期研究发现几乎所有的抗菌药物都会依赖 NADH 消耗及电子传递链刺激活性氧

(reactive oxygen species, ROS)水平的激增以杀死细菌^[39], 而 CpxA 的突变能通过下调琥珀酸脱氢酶、NADH 脱氢酶和细胞色素氧化酶编码基因的水平减少 ROS 的产生^[40], 进而赋予细菌耐药性^[24,28]。目前基于 ROS 水平调控解析 CpxA 影响细菌耐药性的研究仍比较有限, 而细菌氧化应激又能影响到其生命活动的方方面面, 值得在重要病原菌中进行深入研究。

3 CpxA 突变与细菌毒力

相对于耐药性研究中 CpxA 人工突变的多样性, 目前在探讨该基因调控细菌致病性的相关研究中所构建的突变体, 除肠致病性大肠杆菌为 93-124 aa 部分缺失^[41]外, 均为 Δ CpxA。如表 2 所示, 在目前已测定的细菌中, CpxA 缺失多造成其对细胞或机体毒力的削弱, 其调控涉

表 2 CpxA 突变与细菌毒力调控

Table 2 CpxA mutation and bacterial virulence regulation

Bacteria	CpxA-regulated pathogenicity processes			Virulence changes		References
	Adhesion & invasion	Colonization & replication	Dissemination	Toxin		
Enteropathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	ND	ND	ND	↓ T3SS	ND	[41]
<i>E. coli</i>	ND	↓ Bactericidal peptidoglycan recognition protein (PGRP)	ND	ND	ND	[42]
Uropathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	ND	↓ Bacterial load in kidney, bladder and urine	ND	ND	ND	[43]
Avian pathogenic <i>E. coli</i>	↓ HeLa epithelial cells	ND	ND	ND	ND	[44]
Enterohemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>	↓ HeLa epithelial cells	ND	ND	↓ T3SS	↓ <i>Galleria mellonella</i>	[45]
<i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i>	↓ HBMEC and Caco-2 cell	↓ ① Within macrophages; ② Bacterial load in organs	↓ HBMEC and Caco-2 cell	ND	↓ ① Caco-2 cell; ② Mouse	[46]
<i>Shigella sonnei</i>	↓	ND	ND	↓ T3SS	ND	[47]
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	↓ Intestinal epithelial cells	↓ Within macrophages	ND	ND	↓ Mouse	[48-49]
<i>Aeromonas Veronii</i>	↓ EPC cell	↓ Bacterial load in organs	ND	ND	↓ ① EPC cells; ② Mouse; ③ Zebrafish	[50]
<i>Yersinia pseudotuberculosis</i>	↓ HEp-2 cell	↓ Bacterial load in organs	ND	↓ T3SS; T6SS4	↓ ① Hela cell; ② Mouse	[51-55]
<i>Citrobacter rodentium</i>	ND	↓ Bacterial load in organs	ND	ND	↓ Mouse	[56]
<i>N. gonorrhoeae</i>	ND	↓ Bacterial load in organs	ND	ND	↓ Mouse	[57]
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>	ND	↓ ① Within macrophages; ② Bacterial load in amoeba	ND	↓ T4SS	ND	[58-59]
<i>Dickeya dadantii</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	↓ ① Carrots; ② Chicory leaves; ③ Potato tubers	[60]
<i>Haemophilus ducreyi</i>	ND	↓ ① Within macrophages; ② Within human serum	ND	ND	↓ Human	[61-63]
<i>V. anguillarum</i>	ND	ND	ND	ND	↓ Blue gourami	[64]

ND denotes undetermined; ↓ means reduced.

及从感染起始的黏附和侵入到造成机体损伤的毒性代谢物产生各个环节。可见, CpxA 对细菌致病性的调控为全局性的, 且在不同细菌及感染模型中参与的环节存在一定的差异。

基于对 CpxA 参与毒力调控的机制研究表明, 多数情况下, CpxA 的缺失造成 CpxR 不依赖于 CpxA 的组成型激活, 继而通过其转录调节子活性负向调控大量毒力因子, 削弱致病性; Δ CpxR 则提高细菌毒力。但在淋病奈瑟菌^[57]、达旦提狄克氏菌^[60]等部分细菌中也发现两种缺失突变均造成细菌毒力的下调, 推断 Cpx 系统的平衡才是保持上述细菌致病力所必需的。此外, 在同一细菌的不同部位感染模型中也发现了 Δ CpxA 毒力的差异。如 Dbeibo 等^[43]发现大肠杆菌 Δ CpxA 株在肾脏、膀胱及尿液中独立存活的能力各异, 这可能与葡萄糖等碳源启动的 Pta-AckA 途径虽是 CpxA 缺失后 CpxR 激活所必需但细菌在不同微环境并不均优先利用此类碳源有关。

3.1 对黏附和侵入的调控机制

黏附和侵入宿主细胞的是细菌致病的第一步。作为包膜应激系统的感应激酶, CpxA 的功能获得性突变可通过多种不同机制削弱细菌对目标细胞的黏附和侵入能力。如菌毛是革兰氏阴性病原体重要的表面结构, 在细菌与宿主细胞的互作及介导黏附中发挥关键作用^[65]。而研究发现大肠杆菌^[66]、胸膜肺炎放线杆菌^[67]等细菌的菌毛形成及组装均受到 Cpx 系统的严格调控。因此, CpxA 的突变可能影响其经菌毛介导的细胞黏附力。肠致病性大肠杆菌 CpxA 突变前后比较转录组分析发现, F1C 菌毛基因、IV 型菌毛 Pap 亚基编码基因和 fim 操纵子等多个黏附相关的基因转录水平较突变前显著下降^[41]; CpxA 缺失后肠杆菌科丝氨酸蛋白酶自身转运子基因 *upaB* 的转录下调可能影响大肠杆菌黏

附于尿路^[43]; 阪崎克罗诺杆菌 Δ CpxA 株对 HBMEC 和 Caco-2 细胞的黏附和侵入率显著下降, 则可能与 *uvrY*、*LuxR* 和 *wzx* 等与入侵宿主相关基因的转录下调有关^[46]; 鼠伤寒沙门菌 CpxA 缺失突变所导致的 CpxR 活化增强, 通过直接结合 *HilD* 启动子区抑制决定细菌黏附及侵入力的沙门致病力岛 1 (*Salmonella pathogenic island 1*, SPI1) 基因^[48]; 水解酶助力植物病原菌突破植物细胞壁, 达旦提狄克氏菌果胶酶及纤维素酶产量因 CpxA 的突变而显著降低, 限制了其进一步入侵^[60]。

3.2 对定殖、增殖及扩散的调控

细菌成功侵入机体后, 需要应对宿主微环境内营养物质及生存条件限制、宿主防御机制和竞争性微生物群的变化, 才能得以成功定殖、增殖并播散^[68]。如表 2 所示, 许多细菌中 CpxA 的突变均降低了其在宿主内成功定植的能力, 表现为体外吞噬细胞内存活力及(或)体内器官载菌量的下降, 这与该激酶参与细菌宿主内适应及抗吞噬和杀菌物质相关基因的调控密切相关。

首先, CpxA 突变影响细菌对氧化还原态失衡、金属离子限制及极端酸碱度等多种不良感染生态条件的适应。如哺乳动物肽聚糖识别蛋白(peptidoglycan recognition protein, PGRP) 激发氧化、硫醇和金属压力, CpxA 突变降低大肠杆菌与 PGRP 共培养的存活率^[42], 而下调应对磷酸盐及金属限制、寡肽摄取必需基因的转录, 影响了该菌在小鼠尿道中的存活^[43]; 产生大量 ROS 形成氧胁迫是宿主灭活入侵微生物的重要策略, 因此细菌应对机体内氧胁迫的能力是其能否成功定植的关键因素^[69]。维氏气单胞菌^[50]、假结核耶尔森氏菌^[54]、达旦提狄克氏菌^[60]和鳃弧菌^[64]的 Δ CpxA 株均较野生株表现更弱的氧胁迫耐受力; 另外, CpxA 缺失还造成维氏气单胞菌^[50]、淋病奈瑟菌^[57]对高渗透压及高温

的耐受性削弱。

其次, CpxA 还影响细菌抵抗宿主吞噬和血清天然杀菌物质的能力。如阪崎克罗诺杆菌 CpxA 缺失后, 鞭毛基因转录下调, 限制了其运动及扩散, 削弱了其在巨噬细胞及宿主肠道中的存活力^[46]; 运动力降低的情况也在肠致病性大肠杆菌^[41]、维氏气单胞菌^[50]、假结核耶尔森氏菌^[54-55]和达旦提狄克氏菌^[60]等细菌的 Δ CpxA 株中有所报道; 生物被膜有利于细菌逃避宿主的免疫攻击, 在铜绿假单胞菌^[32]、维氏气单胞菌^[50]及鳗弧菌^[64]等细菌中发现 CpxA 缺失还导致细菌被膜形成能力的显著下降; CpxA 突变后杜克雷伊嗜血杆菌抗吞噬基因 *lspB-lspA2*、血清耐受蛋白基因 *DsrA* 下调^[62], 对人血清中的天然抗菌肽敏感性增强, 在提狄克氏菌中也有类似的现象^[60], 而淋病奈瑟菌 CpxA 缺失却并不影响其在人血清中的存活力^[57]。

此外, 鼠伤寒沙门氏菌 CpxA 缺失导致 CpxR 组成型激活, 继而通过结合 *ssrAB* 调控子抑制 *SPI2* 基因转录, 干扰细菌在宿主体内的存活及增殖^[49]; 柠檬酸杆菌在小鼠肠道中定植力的完全丧失则与其肠细胞脱落位点毒力岛 LEE 中 *eae* 基因的下调有关^[56]; 淋病奈瑟菌也在 CpxA 突变后下调体内存活及定植必需基因 *opaD*^[57]。

3.3 对毒性代谢物的调控

III型分泌系统(type III secretion system, T3SS)是一种复杂的细菌结构, 为革兰氏阴性病原体提供了独特的毒力机制, 使其能够绕过细胞外环境, 将细菌效应蛋白直接注入宿主细胞质中, 通过干扰宿主细胞骨架以促进黏附及入侵、增强细胞毒性及操纵宿主免疫反应等多种机制助力细菌定植、存活、增殖及对宿主的毒性损伤^[70]。形似注射器的 T3SS 由 20 多种蛋白质和嵌入细菌内膜和外膜的一系列环状结构以

及宿主细胞膜中的易位孔组成, 联通细菌与宿主细胞, 是一个精密的跨膜复合体。研究发现, 多种细菌 CpxA 的突变对 T3SS 产生负调控, 削弱细菌的细胞及动物毒性。如大肠杆菌 CpxA (Δ 93-124)^[41]及 Δ CpxA^[45]株中均发现 T3SS 的削弱, 与其中 CpxR 组成型激活后上调 *rpoH* 和蛋白酶 LonF, 继而抑制 LEE 毒力岛的阳性调节子有关; 志贺氏菌 CpxA 缺失干扰毒力因子 VirF 和 VirB, 抑制 T3SS^[47]; 而假结核耶尔森菌 Ysc-Yop III型分泌系统中的蛋白 SycE、YopE 和 YopH 则直接受 CpxR 抑制, CpxA 缺失后该菌毒力相关 T3SS 蛋白表达下调^[53-54]。

4 CpxA 靶向性抗菌药物的研发及应用

4.1 研发策略及现状

基于上述研究中发现的 CpxA 功能获得性突变对细菌致病性及药物敏感性的重要调控作用, 加之 Cpx 系统是细菌所特有的, 调控该系统作为一种新型的抗菌/抗毒力策略具有很高的应用潜力。近年来, 研究者开始探索基于对 CpxA 活性及下游关键基因调控, 以削弱病原菌的致病性或增强其对药物的敏感性从而达到控制感染的目的。如 van Rensburg 等^[71]以响应 CpxR-P 的 *lacZ* 报告基因建立了一种 Cpx 系统激活剂高通量筛选体系, 在 36 000 种化合物中筛选到一种能抑制野生株 CpxA 磷酸酶活性的化合物。随后该团队还对其结构进行了优化及改造, 获得了抑制活性增强约 30 倍且细胞毒性显著降低的一种新的先导化合物^[72]。进一步研究表明, 该化合物能显著减少大肠杆菌在肾、膀胱及尿液中的滞留量, 在小鼠尿路感染模型中的疗效与环丙沙星等同^[73]。上述化合物并非通过杀菌来控制感染, 而是经选择性酶活抑制

及 Cpx 系统激活从而削弱涉及铁载体生物合成和结合、血红素降解和鞭毛运动等过程的重要细菌毒力因子而发挥疗效,因此相较于传统抗菌药物能更有效地避免耐药性的产生,在抗多药耐药菌感染治疗中具有良好的应用前景。

除了直接靶向于 Cpx 组分的酶活性调控外, Ren 等^[74]提出了针对受 CpxA 调控的、对促进抗菌药物杀菌效果有显著作用的酶(如可显著增加胞内 ROS 水平的硝基还原酶 *nfsA/nfsB*) 开发抗菌药物以控制多药耐药细菌感染的策略。此外,添加外源性的谷氨酰胺^[23]或谷胱甘肽^[75]也被证实能通过 Cpx 系统增强大肠杆菌、铜绿假单胞菌及弧菌等细菌中膜孔蛋白的表达或削弱大肠杆菌 AcrAB-TolC 外排泵水平,最终增强细菌对多种抗菌药物的敏感性,提高抗菌治疗效果。类似地, Dong 等^[76]从日本青鳞鱼的血浆中分离到一个对细菌具有广泛毒性的抗菌肽,能抑制 CpxR,减少外排泵表达,提高细菌药敏性,可与常规抗菌药物发挥协同增效杀菌作用。

CpxA 及其下游因子作为新型抗菌靶点已引发研究者关注,并已应用于以大肠杆菌为代表的尿路感染的治疗。但因 CpxR 的激活在多数细菌中导致耐药性增强及毒力下降,在药物研发中应从 Cpx 系统激活增强来抑制毒力控制感染或基于激活抑制提高细菌对药物的敏感性进行设计,则需要针对不同细菌以及感染微生态进行探索。

4.2 在以铜绿假单胞菌为代表的多药耐药菌中应用的可行性探讨

2017 年,WHO 给出 12 种亟须开发的新型抗菌药物以控制感染的病原体,并根据新抗菌药物需求的紧迫性分为 3 个等级^[2]。铜绿假单胞菌位于该名单中的最高优先等级,是医院感染和交叉感染最危险的革兰氏阴性条件致病菌,耐药性严重且能产生众多的毒力因子^[77-78],

导致败血症、肺炎、尿路感染和术后伤口感染,甚至死亡^[79],给当前依赖抗菌药物的抗感染治疗造成严重威胁。靶向 Cpx 系统的抗感染治疗药物不直接杀死细菌,而是通过削减其耐药性或毒力以控制感染,无疑为 PA 等多药耐药菌临床感染的控制提供了高潜力的新策略。但目前国内外对 Cpx 系统参与该菌耐药性及毒力调控的研究仍仅见零星报道: Yakhnina 等^[31]发现 CpxA (A154S)可启动 CpxR 组成型激活,回补了胞壁合成酶缺失引发的结构缺陷及药物敏感性;全基因组随机转座子插入所致的 CpxA 突变仅引起该菌生物被膜形成力的差异,而对绿脓菌素等其他毒力相关因子并未见影响^[32];模式菌 PA01 及 PA14 中 CpxR 的缺失突变并不改变其对多种药物的敏感性,其对外排泵的正向调控作用远弱于 MexR 的抑制作用,仅在 *nalB* 突变株中可见 CpxR 缺失引起的耐药性变化^[80]。可见,PA 中 CpxA 突变及其对耐药及毒力调控相关研究仍处于起步阶段,现有研究呈现的结果也与其他细菌存在一定的差异,CpxA 作为新型抗菌药靶在该菌感染治疗中的应用亟需相关基础研究的推进。本团队基于前期研究发现,临床肺部感染 PA 分离株 CpxR 活性显著低于低毒模式株 PA01,且 PA 对碳青霉烯类、氨基糖苷类及头孢类抗生素的耐药水平与 Cpx 系统密切相关。通过 CpxA 多种突变株构建探索其功能及内在机制,可为开发临床难治性 PA 感染的控制新策略奠定基础。

5 总结与展望

CpxA 缺失突变或局部突变均可能启动 CpxR 的组成型激活,引发一系列下游基因的表达调控,继而影响细菌的耐药及致病表型。基于此,该感应蛋白作为多药耐药细菌感染治疗

靶标的潜力受到国内外研究者的广泛关注, 并已在近年开展了动物感染模型治疗效果论证的有益探索。但 Cpx 系统调控是一个复杂的精密系统, 在不同细菌中有一定差异, 如虽然多数细菌中发现 CpxA 和 CpxR 缺失在耐药性及毒力调控中引发相反的效果, 但也有部分细菌二者缺失所致表型是一致的, 或是缺失后并未能观察到上述关键表型的差异, 这可能与细菌种类、出发菌株、感染模式及测定方法等多种因素相关。因此基于对此系统的调控研发新型抗菌药物仍需根据实际应用场景进行个性化摸索和调整。另外, 基于目前研究, 独立于 CpxA 的 Cpx 系统组成型激活需有葡萄糖或 Pta-AckA 途径中的其他中间产物(如丙酮酸、乙酸盐及乙酰辅酶 A 等)的参与, 但产气克雷伯菌^[14]、黏质沙雷氏菌^[19]和鼠伤寒沙门菌^[28]等细菌 Δ CpxA 体外耐药表型测定所采用的培养基中并未添加上述化合物, 其 CpxR 激活所需的磷酸基及下游基因转录调控中 RNA 聚合酶所需乙酰基的供体仍需进一步研究; 在体内测试中, 不同感染微环境中的营养可获得性各异, 如何协调磷酸基供体以启动 CpxR 的独立激活也影响到基于该机制研发的药物发挥药效。

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