

· 综述 ·

# 免疫代谢物衣康酸对不同疾病调控作用及其作用机制研究进展

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程钟坤, 赵静贤, 刘言言, 徐凌, 赵光伟, 倪兴维, 杨晓伟. 免疫代谢物衣康酸对不同疾病调控作用及其作用机制研究进展[J]. 生物工程学报, 2024, 40(11): 3888-3901.

CHENG Zhongkun, ZHAO Jingxian, LIU Yanyan, XU Ling, ZHAO Guangwei, NI Xingwei, YANG Xiaowei. Advancements in the regulatory effects and mechanisms of the immune metabolite itaconate in diseases[J]. Chinese Journal of Biotechnology, 2024, 40(11): 3888-3901.

**摘要:** 衣康酸(itaconate)是免疫细胞三羧酸(tricarboxylic acid, TCA)循环的一种重要中间代谢物, 由免疫应答基因 1 (immune response gene 1, IRG1)编码的乌头酸脱羧酶 1 (aconitate decarboxylase 1, ACOD1)催化顺乌头酸脱羧产生, 其通过调控炎症、重塑细胞代谢和参与遗传调控等方式在不同疾病中发挥重要调控作用。本文综述了衣康酸的结构、对不同疾病调控作用及其作用机制为衣康酸相关药物的研发提供理论依据。

**关键词:** 衣康酸; 免疫; 代谢物; 炎症; 细胞代谢; 遗传调控

资助项目: 国家自然科学基金(32002356); 重庆市自然科学基金(cstc2019jcyj-msxmX0140); 贵州省科技支撑项目(黔科合支撑[2023]一般 022)

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (32002356), the Chongqing Municipal Natural Science Foundation (cstc2019jcyj-msxmX0140), and the Guizhou Province Science and Technology Support Project (Guizhou Science and Technology Cooperation Support [2023] General 022).

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Received: 2024-04-16; Accepted: 2024-06-12; Published online: 2024-06-13

# Advancements in the regulatory effects and mechanisms of the immune metabolite itaconate in diseases

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**Abstract:** Itaconate is a pivotal intermediate metabolite in the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle of immune cells. It is produced by decarboxylation of *cis*-aconitic acid under the catalysis of aconitate decarboxylase 1 (ACOD1), which is encoded by the immune response gene 1 (IRG1). Itaconate has become a focal point of research on immunometabolism. Studies have demonstrated that itaconate plays a crucial role in diseases by regulating inflammation, remodeling cell metabolism, and participating in epigenetic regulation. This paper reviewed the research progress in itaconate from its chemical structure, regulatory effects on different diseases, and mechanisms, proposes the future research directions, aiming to provide a theoretical basis for the development of itaconate-related drugs.

**Keywords:** itaconate; immunization; metabolites; inflammation; cell metabolism; genetic regulation

1836年, Samuel Baup首次发现了一种柠檬酸蒸馏的副产物,而后Crasso将其命名为衣康酸(itaconate)<sup>[1]</sup>。之后在很长一段时间里,衣康酸仅用于工业聚合物合成。直到2011年,Strelko等<sup>[2]</sup>证明脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)或干扰素 $\gamma$  (interferon, IFN- $\gamma$ )刺激后巨噬细胞中衣康酸的含量显著增加。随后,Michelucci等<sup>[3]</sup>发现巨噬细胞在LPS的刺激下,免疫应答基因1 (immune response gene 1, IRG1) 编码的乌头酸脱羧酶1 (aconitate decarboxylase1, ACOD1)通过催化三羧酸(tricarboxylic acid, TCA)循环中间产物顺乌头酸脱羧产生衣康酸,阐明了巨噬细胞内衣康酸生成的途径。2016年, Lampropoulou等<sup>[4]</sup>通过敲除小鼠的*irg1*基因,发现小鼠的骨髓源性巨噬细胞(bone marrow-derived macrophages, BMDMs)在受到LPS刺激

后,胞内白细胞介素 $1\beta$  (interleukin, IL- $1\beta$ )、IL-18等细胞因子的产生增加,并发现了衣康酸对炎症的调节活性。随后,衣康酸成为免疫代谢学的研究热点,越来越多的研究人员从抗炎、抗病毒、组织修复以及肿瘤调控等方面揭示了衣康酸的疾病治疗潜质,为多种疾病的预防与治疗提供了新的选择。本文从衣康酸的结构、不同的抗病作用及其机制等方面综述了衣康酸的研究进展。

## 1 衣康酸及其衍生物

衣康酸是一种具有双键和2个羧基的高极性 $\alpha,\beta$ -不饱和二羧酸( $C_5H_6O_4$ ),且其双键和羧基成共轭关系,其化学性质十分活泼,能够活化乌头酸,在结构上与代谢物磷酸烯醇丙酮酸、琥珀酸、丙二酸和富马酸相似(图1)。衣康酸

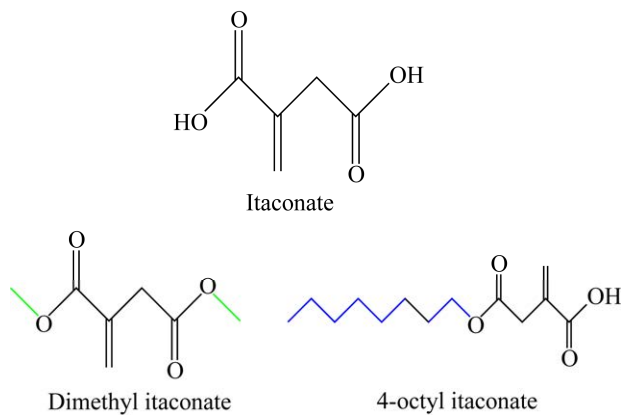


图1 衣康酸及其常用衍生物化学结构示意图  
Figure 1 Itaconate and its common derivatives.

与其他代谢物结构上的相似性为研究其生物学作用提供了一种方向。

衣康酸极性较大，外源性的衣康酸很难透过细胞膜进入细胞质，因此研究人员通过对衣康酸的结构进行修饰，合成了多种衣康酸衍生物。如衣康酸的2个羧基甲酯化后，得到比衣康酸亲电性更强的衣康酸二甲酯(dimethyl itaconate, DI)。DI在细胞质中并没有代谢为衣康酸，但是可以通过亲电作用或者通过受体介导的途径增加衣康酸的生物合成<sup>[5]</sup>。为了克服DI的局限性，Mills等<sup>[6]</sup>设计了衣康酸4-辛酯(4-octyl itaconate, 4-OI)，其酯基位于烯烃的远端，可降低硫醇反应性，并证明其可以在LPS刺激的小鼠BMDMs中被水解为衣康酸，更适合作为衣康酸的模拟衍生物进行试验。目前，常用4-OI和DI作为衣康酸生物活性研究的衍生物，此外还有4-单乙基衣康酸、中康酸、柠康酸等衍生物<sup>[7-8]</sup>。

## 2 衣康酸对不同疾病的调控作用

感染性疾病通常是由细菌、病毒、寄生虫等病原引起的，而非感染性炎症疾病则不由病原微生物引起，其通常包括外周动脉疾病、缺

血再灌注损伤和神经炎性疾病等。衣康酸在感染性疾病和非感染性的炎症反应中都发挥重要的调节作用，显示其在疾病治疗方面具有巨大潜力。

### 2.1 衣康酸抑制多种病原微生物感染

#### 2.1.1 抗细菌感染

衣康酸最初的生物学活性是在LPS刺激的巨噬细胞中被发现的<sup>[4]</sup>，这提示衣康酸具有抗菌潜质。近年的研究表明，衣康酸的确对多种细菌感染有抵抗作用<sup>[6,9-19]</sup>。败血症的发病机制尚未完全清楚，炎症反应与免疫抑制之间的平衡是败血症发展的关键因素。在败血症小鼠模型中，腹腔注射LPS(5 mg/kg)前2 h给予4-OI(50 mg/kg)能够显著提高败血症小鼠的存活率，同时降低血清中IL-1 $\beta$ 和IL-6等炎症因子含量<sup>[6,9]</sup>。此外，衣康酸可以通过抑制消皮素D(gasdermin D, GSDMD)介导的细胞焦亡来保护败血症对多器官的损伤<sup>[10]</sup>。琥珀酸脱氢酶(succinate dehydrogenase, SDH)是败血症炎症反应中促进IL-1 $\beta$ 表达的重要因子<sup>[11]</sup>，在细胞内衣康酸通过竞争性抑制SDH活性，从而减低炎症反应。上述研究表明，4-OI可显著降低LPS诱导的败血症的严重程度。但是，衣康酸也有可能不利于败血症的治疗。临床上，败血症早期虽有急性炎症，但晚期的免疫抑制是患者死亡的主要原因。衣康酸对SDH的竞争性抑制可导致免疫抑制，引发细菌持续性感染<sup>[12-13]</sup>。因此，衣康酸对不同阶段的败血症治疗效果可能存在较大差异。

结核病是由结核分枝杆菌引起的一种致命的传染病，*irg1*<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠在经过结核分枝杆菌处理后的死亡率高于野生型小鼠，这说明衣康酸能够抵抗结核分枝杆菌造成的感染<sup>[14]</sup>。而衣康酸的衍生物衣康酰辅酶A能通过抑制结核分枝杆菌的b12依赖性甲基丙二醇辅酶A变位酶降低结核分枝杆菌的活性<sup>[15]</sup>。此外，内源性衣康酸

对嗜肺军团菌、肠沙门氏菌、海洋弧菌及灿烂弧菌等多种病原菌的生长能产生抑制作用，而其抑菌作用主要通过破坏异柠檬酸裂解酶(isocitrate lyase, ICL)的活性、紊乱细菌中心碳代谢途径实现<sup>[3,16-19]</sup>。

### 2.1.2 抑制病毒复制

衣康酸也可以抑制多种病毒感染。4-OI能够抑制 Vero 细胞中严重急性呼吸系统综合征冠状病毒 2 的复制。核因子 E2 相关因子 2 (NF-E2-related factor-2, Nrf2)依赖性抗氧化基因的表达在新型冠状病毒感染(corona virus disease 2019, COVID-19)患者中被显著抑制，而衣康酸作为 Nrf2 的激活剂，有可能为 COVID-19 或其他病毒感染提供一个非 IFN 依赖的治疗途径<sup>[20]</sup>。庞宇等<sup>[21]</sup>研究发现 4-OI 不仅能抑制猪繁殖与呼吸综合征病毒在猪传代肺泡巨噬细胞的吸附、复制和释放，也能抑制病毒感染后猪传代肺泡巨噬细胞的 IL-6、IL-8、肿瘤坏死因子 $\alpha$  (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , TNF- $\alpha$ )等炎症因子表达。除此之外，4-OI 能够使甲型流感病毒的核输出蛋白 1 (nuclear export protein 1, XPO1)失活，从而抑制该病毒核糖核蛋白复合物的核输出，抑制病毒的复制<sup>[22-23]</sup>。*irg1*<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠颅内感染寨卡病毒后，死亡率和脑病毒负荷均显著高于对照组的野生型小鼠，而将寨卡病毒以及 4-OI 同时颅内注射小鼠，4-OI 能显著降低野生型小鼠与 *irg1*<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠的脑病毒负荷<sup>[24]</sup>。衣康酸同样对甲型流感病毒、寨卡病毒和乙型肝炎病毒表现出抑制复制和抵抗感染的作用<sup>[22-24]</sup>。

### 2.1.3 抑制其他病原微生物感染

在真菌感染中，DI 可以抑制烟曲霉菌的生长，并通过 Nrf2/血红素加氧酶 1 (heme oxygenase, HO-1)通路在真菌性角膜炎中发挥保护作用<sup>[25]</sup>。与细菌和病毒感染不同，在利士曼原虫感染的背景下，巨噬细胞内积累的衣康

酸则表现出抑制细胞抗寄生虫活性，增加寄生虫负荷<sup>[26]</sup>。弓形虫慢性感染导致认知功能障碍，并伴有神经炎症和突触超微结构受损，DI 能够抑制感染弓形虫小鼠的突触损伤、小胶质细胞的激活以及神经炎症，从而减轻认知障碍<sup>[27]</sup>。由于寄生虫种类多且其生长发育比较复杂，衣康酸对线虫、原虫等不同种类寄生虫生长发育的作用不完全一致。

## 2.2 衣康酸对非感染性疾病的调控作用

### 2.2.1 对缺血再灌注组织的保护作用

缺血再灌注损伤 (ischemia-reperfusion injury, IRI)是一个复杂的过程，当流向组织或器官的血流暂时受限后重新恢复时，会导致组织损伤和功能障碍，其发病机制包括氧化应激、炎症反应、钙超载和细胞死亡等<sup>[28]</sup>。2016 年，衣康酸首次被报道能够减轻小鼠心肌 IRI<sup>[4]</sup>。随后，外源性衣康酸被证明能在脑 IRI 模型中启动多种抗氧化和抗炎蛋白的转录，最大限度地减少活性氧和组织损伤<sup>[29]</sup>。此外，4-OI 可以激活 Nrf2/HO-1 抗氧化应激通路，抑制硫氧还蛋白互作蛋白/NOD 样受体家族 3 (nod-like receptor protein 3, NLRP3)炎症通路，从而在脑 IRI 中起保护作用<sup>[30]</sup>。Yi 等<sup>[31]</sup>证明衣康酸能够激活肝细胞抗氧化反应，保护肝脏免受 IRI，并且 4-OI 可以减轻 Nrf2 缺失小鼠在肝 IRI 中的损伤。而 DI 可以通过激活 Nrf2 通路保护肾细胞免受氧化应激并且阻止巨噬细胞的活化，减轻肾脏 IRI 的损伤<sup>[32]</sup>。

### 2.2.2 参与自身免疫性疾病的发展

系统性红斑狼疮(systemic lupus erythematosus, SLE)是一种累及机体多系统和器官的自身免疫性疾病，临床表现复杂，病程长且反复发作。4-OI 能够抑制 SLE 患者体内巨噬细胞和外周血单核细胞产生 TNF- $\alpha$ 、IL-1 $\beta$  和 IL-6 等促炎细胞因子，当 Nrf2 被沉默或敲除时，这种抑制效

应减弱<sup>[33]</sup>。而在小鼠红斑狼疮模型中, 4-OI 处理后的小鼠体内蛋白尿、肾脏免疫复合物沉积、自身抗体、I 型 IFN 和促炎细胞因子均显著减少<sup>[34]</sup>。

多发性硬化症(multiple sclerosis, MS)同样是自身免疫性疾病, 专门针对中枢神经系统的白质, 导致其脱髓鞘。DI 通过抑制小胶质细胞和巨噬细胞中 GSDMD 的裂解, 从而减轻 MS<sup>[35]</sup>。此外, 衣康酸结构相似物富马酸二甲酯被证明可以通过靶向小鼠腹腔巨噬细胞甘油醛-3-磷酸脱氢酶 (glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase, GAPDH) 和有氧糖酵解来减轻 MS 的严重程度<sup>[36]</sup>, 推测衣康酸通过调控巨噬细胞能量代谢, 维持细胞活性, 减轻 MS。Michopoulos 等<sup>[37]</sup>通过液相色谱-串联质谱法分析发现类风湿性关节炎(rheumatoid arthritis, RA)小鼠模型的血清、尿液和滑膜成纤维细胞中衣康酸浓度与疾病表型存在相关性, 提示衣康酸与疾病进展密切联系, 可作为 RA 的疾病标志物。此外, 衣康酸也被证明在罕见的干扰素基因刺激因子相关血管病变中发挥治疗作用<sup>[38]</sup>。

### 2.2.3 阻止组织纤维化

衣康酸能够通过改变巨噬细胞表型和功能来缓解特发性肺纤维化<sup>[39-40]</sup>。在特发性肺纤维化患者的气道巨噬细胞中 ACOD1 表达降低, 支气管肺泡灌洗液中衣康酸水平降低, 且这种降低被证明会加重小鼠肺纤维化的严重程度, 而吸入外源性的衣康酸可以改善博来霉素诱导的肺纤维化小鼠胶原蛋白和纤连蛋白的表达以及肺气道弹性和顺应性<sup>[41]</sup>。此外, 4-OI 对肾纤维化也具有保护作用, 研究人员发现在 Sprague-Dawley 大鼠单侧输尿管闭塞模型、腺嘌呤诱导纤维化模型两种肾纤维化模型中, 4-OI 治疗可防止与肾间质纤维化相关的纤维化相关蛋白  $\alpha$ -SMA、PAI-1 以及纤连蛋白和转化生长因子  $\beta$  的积累, 并且在使用 4-OI 的过程中并未发现副作用。这也显示了衣康酸治疗组织

纤维化的巨大潜力<sup>[42]</sup>。

### 2.2.4 双重调控癌症发展进程

在视网膜母细胞瘤细胞生长过程中, 4-OI 通过触发铁蛋白自噬依赖性铁死亡, 抑制瘤细胞的生长<sup>[43]</sup>。内源性衣康酸通过诱导细胞凋亡和代谢重编程选择性抑制雌激素受体阳性乳腺癌细胞的生长<sup>[44]</sup>。衣康酸可以直接抑制肿瘤细胞的生长, 也可以通过改变肿瘤组织的免疫微环境而影响其发展。髓源性抑制细胞(myeloid-derived suppressor cell, MDSCs)是肿瘤组织中调节免疫抑制、促进肿瘤发展的未成熟骨髓细胞, 在小鼠结肠癌模型构建过程中, 腹腔注射 DI 可以显著降低肿瘤微环境中 MDSCs 的浸润, 降低结肠癌发生的风险, 但在 *irg1*<sup>-/-</sup>肿瘤小鼠体内, 由于内源性衣康酸产生的减少, 其肿瘤组织生长受到抑制<sup>[45]</sup>。体外培养的 MDSCs 分泌的内源性衣康酸能够通过抑制 CD8<sup>+</sup> T 细胞中天冬氨酸与丝氨酸或甘氨酸的生物合成, 削弱其增殖和免疫功能, 促进肿瘤的生长<sup>[46]</sup>。此外, 巨噬细胞来源的衣康酸能够通过表观遗传诱导 CD8<sup>+</sup> T 细胞衰竭来促进肝癌发展<sup>[47]</sup>。由此可见, 衣康酸既可以通过减少 MDSCs 的活性而抑制肿瘤生长, 还可以通过影响 CD8<sup>+</sup> T 细胞活性而促进肿瘤发展(图 2)。

### 2.2.5 改善其他疾病症状

$\beta$ 2 微球蛋白是神经免疫调节的重要蛋白, 与神经炎症密切相关。在神经研究中发现, 衣康酸可以介导  $\beta$ 2 微球蛋白来减轻海马神经的损伤<sup>[48]</sup>以及拮抗小胶质细胞极化<sup>[49]</sup>, 衣康酸还可以通过抑制 NLRP3 炎症小体的激活<sup>[50]</sup>, 减轻不同类型的神经炎症反应。在雌激素缺乏引起的骨质疏松症小鼠模型中, 外源性的衣康酸通过抑制破骨细胞的分化, 阻止骨质流失<sup>[51]</sup>。此外, 近年来多项研究表明, 衣康酸在改善牙周炎<sup>[52]</sup>、降低肥胖风险<sup>[53]</sup>以及抗衰老<sup>[54]</sup>等方面也发挥着积极作用。

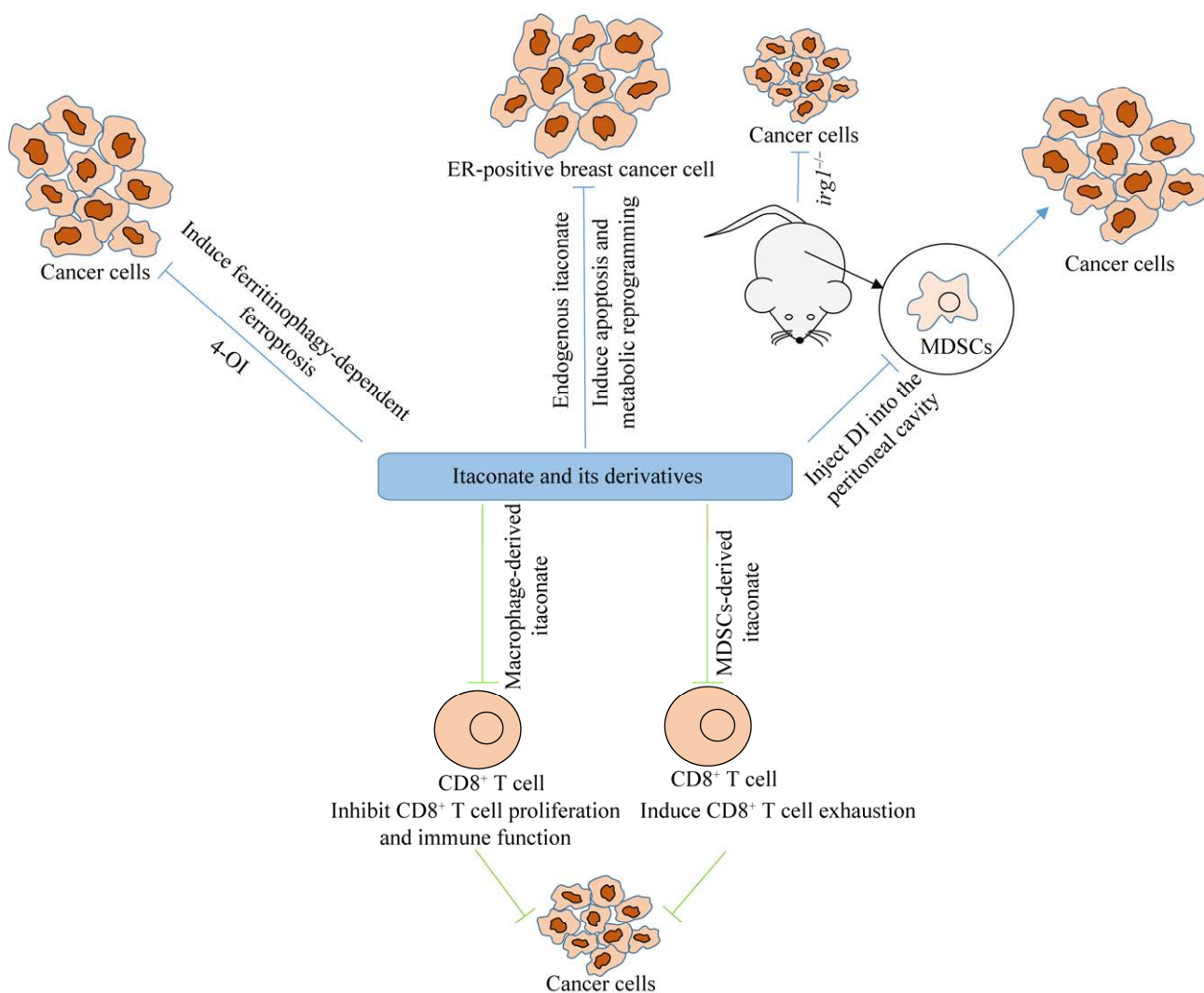


图2 衣康酸对癌症的双重调控作用

Figure 2 The dual regulatory impact of itaconate on cancer.

### 3 衣康酸及其衍生物的作用机制

#### 3.1 调控炎症反应通路

Nrf2 是一种重要的抗氧化转录因子，能够抑制巨噬细胞的促炎作用<sup>[55-56]</sup>。正常状况下，它受 Kelch 样 ECH 相关蛋白 1 (Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1, KEAP1) 的调控，KEAP1 在细胞质中与 Nrf2 结合并通过蛋白酶体系统介导 Nrf2 的降解。氧化应激状态下，Nrf2 与 KEAP1 分离，然后转移到细胞核中激发转录反应，从而实现多种 Nrf2 依赖性抗氧化酶的表达

和抗炎基因的转录翻译<sup>[57]</sup>。衣康酸作为一种  $\alpha, \beta$ -不饱和二羧酸，具有轻度亲电性，可以使其形成 2,3-二羧基加合物的修饰，通过共价修饰 KEAP1 上的 151 位半胱氨酸残基<sup>[6]</sup>，使 KEAP1 失活并释放抗氧化转录因子 Nrf2<sup>[58]</sup>，从而促进下游抗氧化和抗炎基因的表达。目前，有研究表明衣康酸发挥其亲电特性，能够在 LPS 的刺激下激活 Nrf2 和 ATF3，而衣康酸预处理静息巨噬细胞已被证明不会强烈激活亲电应激特征<sup>[59-60]</sup>。

I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$ (也被称为 NF- $\kappa$ B $\zeta$ )是一种与 I $\kappa$ B 家族成员 Bcl-3 具有高度同源性的含有固定蛋白重复序列的核蛋白,由人类染色体 3q12.3 上的 *Nfkbiz* 基因编码<sup>[61-62]</sup>。I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$  能够调节次级转录反应,调控 IL-6 的产生<sup>[63]</sup>。激活转录因子 3 (activating transcription factor 3, ATF3)是一种抗炎转录因子,它不仅能够调节 IL-6 等细胞因子的产生,还与线粒体应激有关。ATF3 缺失能增加 I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$  的表达,并增强促炎细胞因子的分泌,这表明 ATF3 能够抑制 I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$  的表达<sup>[64]</sup>。衣康酸及其衍生物 DI 能够促进小鼠巨噬细胞中 ATF3 的表达,清除 LPS 诱导的 I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$  蛋白<sup>[65]</sup>。在慢性淋巴细胞白血病细胞体外培养的过程中,外源性添加的 DI 不仅能降低细胞内 I $\kappa$ B $\zeta$  的表达,还能阻断细胞代谢,诱导细胞凋亡<sup>[66]</sup>。

炎性小体是天然免疫系统的重要组成部分<sup>[67]</sup>, NLRP3 是最重要的炎性小体之一,在感应到 LPS 等微生物产物的启动信号或 ATP 等的细胞损伤信号时,促炎细胞因子的分泌增加<sup>[67]</sup>。DI 可下调 LPS 诱导的小鼠巨噬细胞中 IL-1 $\beta$ 、凋亡相关颗粒样蛋白和 NLRP3 蛋白水平,抑制 NLRP3 炎性小体的激活<sup>[4]</sup>。4-OI 能够修饰 NLRP3 上的特定半胱氨酸 C548,干扰 NLRP3 与 NIMA 相关蛋白激酶 7 的相互作用,从而阻断 NLRP3 炎性体的激活<sup>[68]</sup>。并且,4-OI 不影响黑素瘤缺乏因子 2、NLR 家族 CARD 结构域 4 和非经典炎性小体相关通路,这表明 4-OI 的作用是 NLRP3 特异性的。内源性衣康酸可调节 LPS 诱导的对 NLRP3 炎性小体激活的耐受性<sup>[60]</sup>。GSDMD 是 NLRP3 重要的下游分子,也是细胞焦亡的执行人。长时间 LPS 刺激下衣康酸的积累阻止了 Caspase-1 的激活和 GSDMD 的加工,并且研究人员发现在小鼠 BMDMs 中,GSDMD 的半胱氨酸 77 可能是衣康酸修饰的靶标<sup>[60]</sup>。

IFN 是一种具有抗肿瘤、细胞生长分化调

节、免疫调节等作用的多效细胞因子。最初衣康酸被认为能够抑制 I 型 IFN 反应,因为在用 4-OI 处理的 LPS 激活的巨噬细胞中, I 型 IFN 相关基因显著减少<sup>[6]</sup>。还有研究表明,4-OI 处理会使 Nrf2 激活,抑制 STING 蛋白表达和 STING 依赖的信号通路表达,同时抑制 I 型 IFN 的释放<sup>[38]</sup>。衣康酸衍生物 DI 和 4-OI 可以抑制 LPS 刺激的巨噬细胞释放 IFN- $\beta$ ,但未经修饰的衣康酸则可以促进 LPS 诱导的巨噬细胞产生 IFN- $\beta$ <sup>[59]</sup>。这些结果表明衣康酸及其衍生物在调节 IFN 方面的作用可能存在差异。

### 3.2 重塑细胞代谢

SDH 不仅是 TCA 循环中将琥珀酸转化为富马酸的关键酶,也是线粒体呼吸链复合体 II 的重要组成部分,且在活性氧的生成中起着重要作用<sup>[69]</sup>。抑制 SDH 能够阻断促炎因子 IL-1 $\beta$  的转录,同时提高抗炎因子 IL-1RA 和 IL-10 的水平,发挥抗炎作用<sup>[11,70]</sup>。1949 年,有研究发现衣康酸是 SDH 的竞争性抑制剂<sup>[71]</sup>。但直到 2016 年,衣康酸才被发现具有作为内源性 SDH 抑制剂,调节巨噬细胞免疫活性的作用<sup>[4]</sup>。而衣康酸对 SDH 的抑制作用有明显的浓度依赖性,只有高浓度的衣康酸才能抑制 SDH<sup>[6]</sup>。衣康酸对 SDH 的抑制作用与经典的 SDH 抑制剂丙二酸盐类似,利用结构与琥珀酸的相似性竞争地阻断 SDH 活性。在炎症刺激下,巨噬细胞通过增强糖酵解水平,为细胞极化和炎症反应迅速提供大量的能量支持<sup>[72-73]</sup>。而衣康酸及其衍生物则通过共价修饰含有烷基化半胱氨酸残基的果糖-二磷酸醛缩酶 A、GAPDH 和乳酸脱氢酶 A 等代谢酶,减少果糖-2,6-二磷酸和乳酸等产物的合成,降低细胞外酸化速率,抑制细胞糖酵解,从而发挥抗炎作用<sup>[6,9,74-76]</sup>。此外,4-OI 也能够通过激活游离性脂肪酸刺激的肝细胞中的 Nrf2-AMPK 信号通路来缓解氧化应激

和脂质代谢紊乱<sup>[75]</sup>。

衣康酸重塑代谢的作用不仅体现在真核细胞中。乙醛酸循环是将脂类转化为糖类的关键途径,该循环并不存在于真核细胞内,但对某些细菌的生长至关重要。ICL 是细菌感染期间乙醛酸循环所需的酶,衣康酸能够抑制 ICL 的活性,调控细菌乙醛酸代谢,抑制细菌生长<sup>[77-78]</sup>。

### 3.3 参与表观遗传调控

衣康酸介导表观遗传修饰功能调节基因的表达转录<sup>[79]</sup>。TET 甲基胞嘧啶双加氧酶 2 (ten-eleven translocation methylcytosine dioxygenase 2, TET2)是一种能够将 DNA 中的甲基化胞嘧啶氧化为 5-羟甲基胞嘧啶以调节基因表达的去甲基化酶。衣康酸能够以类似于  $\alpha$ -酮戊二酸的方式直接与 TET2 结合,抑制 TET2 的催化活性,

使 DNA 甲基化水平升高, TET2 调控的炎症基因表达下调。同时转录组分析显示, TET2 是衣康酸抑制包括 NF- $\kappa$ B 和 STAT 信号通路调控 LPS 诱导基因的主要靶点<sup>[79]</sup>。在小鼠内毒素血症模型中,衣康酸可减轻 LPS 诱导的急性肺水肿,减少肝、肺损伤,延长生存期。此外,这种保护作用仅发生在野生型小鼠中,而在 TET2 失活突变体小鼠中不存在,这证明了 TET2 是衣康酸抗炎的重要功能靶点<sup>[79]</sup>。另一项研究发现,衣康酸能够抑制维甲酸孤儿核受体  $\gamma$  (retinoid-related orphan receptor $\gamma$ , ROR $\gamma$ t) 与 Il17a 启动子的结合,使辅助性 T 细胞 17 (helper T cells 17, Th17)和调节性 T 细胞(regulatory T cells, Tregs)中关键转录因子的染色质可及性以及关键基因的表达发生改变<sup>[80]</sup> (图 3)。

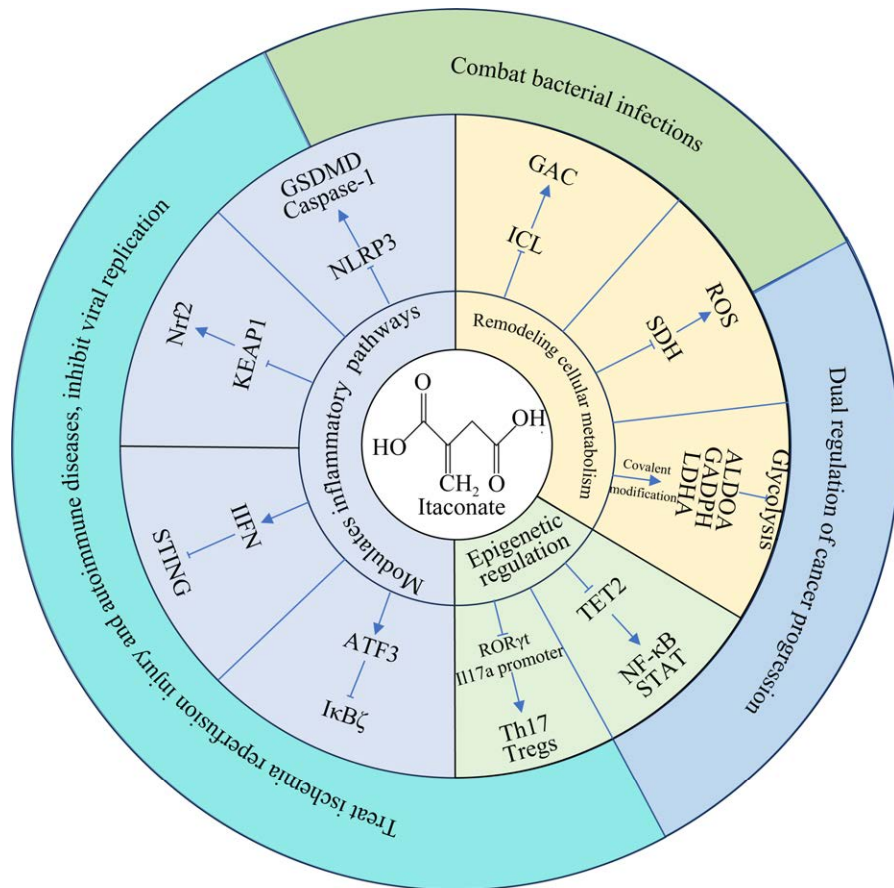


图 3 衣康酸的作用机制  
Figure 3 Mechanism of Itaconate.



## 4 展望

最初, 衣康酸作为一种工业原料用于聚合物合成。2011年<sup>[2]</sup>, 研究人员在巨噬细胞中发现衣康酸含量的显著变化, 证实其是细胞三羧酸循环的中间代谢物。衣康酸的结构相似物富马酸二甲酯(dimethyl fumarate, DMF)是临床上治疗复发缓解型多发性硬化症和次进展型多发性硬化症药物, 衣康酸在抑制 GADPH, 激活 Nrf2 以及修饰 GSDMD 等抗炎机制与 DMF 也非常相似, 由此推测衣康酸是对多种疾病具有治疗潜力的代谢产物<sup>[36,81]</sup>。此外, 衣康酸还具有可以调控巨噬细胞活性、干扰多种细菌代谢抑制其生长的作用, 因此, 开发衣康酸作为畜禽增强免疫的饲料添加剂或抗菌药物具有较高生产应用价值。但在细菌性败血症中后期, 衣康酸可能引发免疫麻痹导致持续感染, 而在肿瘤治疗过程中, 衣康酸抑制肿瘤细胞生长的同时, 也削弱了肿瘤特异性免疫细胞的功能。因此, 在开发衣康酸作为疾病治疗药物研究中, 还应深入探明其对不同机体细胞活性的影响以及在疾病不同发展阶段的作用机制, 为开发其作为疾病治疗药物提供必要的支撑。

本课题组在开展子宫自然杀伤细胞活性调控机制研究中发现, 去甲基化酶 TET1 在调控子宫自然细胞的细胞因子表达等活性时, 能影响细胞内衣康酸含量。目前有关衣康酸活性研究主要集中在巨噬细胞中, 而对其他免疫细胞如自然杀伤细胞活性调控作用的研究较少。因此, 利用不同炎症的动物模型开展衣康酸调控作用的研究时, 应在巨噬细胞基础上同时分析体内参与炎症反应的其他免疫细胞如中性粒细胞、自然杀伤细胞等活性变化, 更全面更深入解析衣康酸对不同炎症的调控机制。另外, 在抑制炎症过程中, 衣康酸可以通过抑制去甲基

化酶 TET2 活性, 下调炎症基因表达, 而本研究中发现子宫自然杀伤细胞内去甲基化酶 TET1 可以影响衣康酸生成, 由此推测衣康酸与去甲基化酶家族(包括 TET1、TET2、TET3)之间可能存在相互调控作用, 解析二者互作的机制也是全面掌握衣康酸活性调控机制的重要基础。

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