## •基础研究•

## 慢病毒介导的 Sox9 基因在兔骨髓间充质 干细胞的过表达促进软骨损伤修复

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【摘要】目的:明确在体内 Sox9 基因过表达的兔骨髓间充质干细胞对于关节软骨损伤修复的作用。方法:以慢病毒介导的 Sox9 基因转染兔骨髓间充质干细胞(BMSCs),体外检测软骨特异性分子,将新西兰大白兔 24 只 48 个膝关节随机分为 3 组,动物麻醉后,双侧股骨滑车处的关节面上用直径 4 mm 的钻头钻孔,深度 3 mm,穿透软骨下骨,造成全层关节软骨损伤,将转染后的细胞植入体内用以修复全层关节软骨损伤,实验组植入 BMSCs-(Lenti-Sox9-EGFP)-藻酸钙复合物,实验对照组植入 BMSCs-藻酸钙复合物,空白对照组只钻孔。术后 6、12 周分别进行光镜、电镜观察,以及 HE、免疫组织化学染色检测软骨的修复程度。结果:经 Sox9 基因转染后的细胞在 3 d 时,Sox9 基因表达最高,随后下降。转染后 3 d, II 型胶原开始表达,到 14 d 时达到最高。表明 Sox9 过表达启动了兔骨髓间充质干细胞的软骨分化。组织学观察显示,实验组术后 6 周缺损处有透明软骨样组织填充,术后 12 周缺损处软骨和软骨下骨修复良好。两对照组,缺损处由纤维组织填充。免疫组织化学显示,修复组织内 II 型胶原,免疫组化染色结果阳性强于两对照组。组织学评分结果显示实验组软骨损伤修复各时间点效果明显优于两对照组,差异有统计学意义。结论:Sox9 基因过表达的兔骨髓间充质干细胞(BMSCs)促进软骨损伤的修复。

【关键词】 Sox9 基因; 骨髓间充质干细胞; 转染; 软骨; 兔 **DOI**: 10.3969/j.issn.1003-0034.2015.05.011

Overexpression of Sox9 gene by the lentiviral vector in rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells for promoting the repair of cartilage defect WANG Zhen, LIANG Da-chuan, BAI Jie-yu, KANG Ning, FENG Jun-yu, and YANG Zi-quan. Department of Orthopaedics, the Second Hospital of Shanxi Medical University, Taiyuan 030001, Shanxi, China

ABSTRACT Objective: To study the overexpression of Sox9 gene on rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells for repairing articular cartilage injury in vivo. Methods: Rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) were transduced with lentivirus vector containing Sox9 gene and then cartilage specific molecule was detected by RT-PCR in vitro. Total 48 knee joints of 24 mature New Zealand white rabbits were randomly divided into 3 groups according to different defect treatment. After animals anesthesia, a full-thickness cylindrical cartilage defect of 4 mm diameter and 3 mm deep was created in the patellar groove using a stainlesssteel punch. Meanwhile, the transfected cells were implanted to repair the rabbit model with fullthickness cartilage defects. Cartilage defects tissue was observed with light microscope, electron microscope, HE and immunohistochemistry staining to assess the repair of defects by the complex at 6 weeks or 12 weeks after the implantation. Results: At 3 days after the transfection, Sox9 gene expression was highest and Sox9 gene expression decreased with the increase of time. At 3 days after the transfection, the expression of collagen type II began and reached the peak at 14 days. It showed that the bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells went into chondrogenic differentiation after transfected by Sox9 gene. Histological observation showed that at 6 weeks after the operation, the defects in the experimental group was filled with hyaline like cartilage tissue, 12 weeks after operation, the defects of cartilage and subchondral bone had satisfactory healing. Both at 6 and 12 weeks postoperatively, the defects were filled with fibrous tissues in control groups. Meanwhile, immunohistochemical staining of sections with type II collagen antibodies showed the proteins in the regenerated tissue stained positive for type II collagen and stronger than the control groups. The histological scoring system indicated that the cartilage repair of experiment groups were better than the two control groups with statistical significances. Conclusion: Overexpression of Sox9 gene on rabbit bone mar-

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row mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs) promote the repair of cartilage defect.

KEYWORDS Sox9 gene; Bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BMSCs); Transfection; Cartilage; Rabbit Zhongguo Gu Shang/China J Orthop Trauma, 2015, 28(5):433-440 www.zggszz.com

骨关节炎(osteoarthritis,OA)是一种以进行性的 关节软骨退化损伤、关节边缘和软骨下骨反应性增 生,骨赘形成等为特征的关节疾病。其中,关节软骨 损伤是骨关节炎的重要的病理因素,并且关节软骨 结构特殊,一旦它由于创伤或退化性关节炎被破坏, 它的再生能力有限。因此,目前对于骨关节炎临床上 缺乏有效治疗手段[1-2]。 Sox9 基因主要在软骨细胞 中表达,为软骨发育形成过程中的关键转录因子,对 于软骨的分化有着重要影响[3-4]。Sox9 基因能结合并 激活非软骨组织细胞的软骨基因的序列, 使之呈软 骨细胞表型[5]。相较应用外源性生长因子效率低,持 续时间短,基因治疗更有优势。本实验以慢病毒结合 Sox9 基因构建成载体感染兔骨髓间充质干细胞,并 以此作为实验组移植到软骨缺损处进行修复,采用 实时定量 PCR、HE 及免疫组化等方法进行定量及定 性分析,明确 Sox9 基因对间充质干细胞软骨分化的 重要作用,并评估软骨损伤处修复的程度,为临床上 应用提供参考。

#### 1 材料与方法

#### 1.1 实验动物与分组

新西兰大白兔 24 只,雌雄不限,体重 1.7~2.0 kg,由山西医科大学实验动物中心提供。所有动物单笼饲养允许自由活动,喂养于严格消毒的动物房内,环境温度在 25 ℃,空气湿度为 70%,饲料和水经消毒后进食均为无菌动物。实验过程中对动物的处理符合实验动物的伦理学要求。 24 只新西兰大白兔 48 个膝关节用随机区组法随机分为 3 组:实验组,实验对照组,空白对照组,每组各 16 个膝关节样本。

#### 1.2 实验仪器及试剂

CO<sub>2</sub> 培养箱 (Forma 美国), 倒置荧光显微镜 (Olympas 日本),超净工作台(BoXUN 中国),PCR 仪 (Bio-Rad 美国),流式细胞仪(BD 美国)。藻酸钠粉剂(Fluka 美国),L-DMEM 培养基(Hyclone 美国),胎牛血清(杭州四季青 中国),胰蛋白酶(Sigma 美国),Primescript RT Master Mix (Takara 日本),Trizol试剂 (Invitrogen 美国), II 型胶原鼠抗兔单克隆抗体 (Merck Milipore,1:200 稀释)及二抗羊抗鼠(Merck Milipore),慢病毒基因载体 Lenti-Sox9-EGFP(吉凯公司)。

#### 1.3 细胞培养和细胞转染

1.3.1 兔骨髓间质干细胞的分离与扩增 新西兰 大白兔麻醉后采取空气栓塞法处死,无菌条件下取 其双侧股骨与胫骨并置于 PBS 中,剪去其两端,从一 端用 5 ml DMEM/F12 培养基冲洗骨髓腔,再从另一端冲洗,直至全部将骨髓冲出,充分吹打混匀使用一次性过滤网将杂质过滤,接种到 5 cm×5 cm 的培养瓶中置于 5% CO₂、饱和湿度 37 ℃培养箱。3 d 后首次换液,以后每隔 2~3 d 换液 1 次,7 d 后细胞生长融合达 80%以上,以 0.25%胰蛋白酶消化,按 1:2 传代扩增,以倒置相差显微镜观察细胞。

1. 3. 2 兔骨髓间质干细胞鉴定 通过 CD34、CD44、CD45、CD105 这 4 种 MSCs 表面抗原进行鉴定,证明所培养的细胞为 MSCs。取 3 代生长良好的干细胞,用胰蛋白酶消化,吹打成细胞悬液并计数,细胞数大于 1×106/ml,放置与离心管中,1 200 r/min离心,弃上清保留细胞,加入 500 μl PBS 吹打成悬液标记清楚,第 1 管中加入 CD34、CD45,第 2 管中加入 CD44、CD105、第 3 管中加入 CD105、CD45,第 4 管不加任何抗体。利用流式细胞仪进行干细胞表型的鉴定。

1.3.3 慢病毒感染兔 BMSCs 取第 3 代生长旺盛的兔 BMSCs,对细胞计数并用 Lenti-Sox9-EGFP 按MOI (multiply of infection)为 80 转染细胞,接种到6 孔板中,12 h 后首次换液,此后每 2~3 d 换液 1 次并在荧光显微镜下观察荧光表达情况。并用流式细胞仪检测转染效率。

#### 1.4 细胞分子水平的检测

RT-PCR 定量分析 Sox9 与 II 型胶原 mRNA 含量的变化:分别提取正常细胞及转染后 3,7、14 d 的细胞总 RNA,然后反转录成 cDNA,扩增分析,测定 Sox9 与 II 型胶原 mRNA 含量的变化。引物:Sox9:上游引物 5′-CCAGGTGCTCAAGGGCTACG-3′,下游引物 5′-CGGGTGGTCTTTCTTGTGCTG-3′ (277bp)、II 型胶原:上游引物 5′-GCACCCATGGACATTG-GAGGG-3′,下游引物 5′-GACACGGAGTAGCAC-CATCG-3′ (366bp)。反应参数:95  $^{\circ}$ C,1 min;60  $^{\circ}$ C,34 s;72  $^{\circ}$ C,1 min; 共进行 40 个循环,并取 5  $^{\circ}$ L 产物进行 1%琼脂糖凝胶电泳。

#### 1.5 复合物的构建与移植

1.2 g 藻酸钠粉剂溶于 100 ml PBS 中制成浓度为 1.2%的溶液,使用无菌针头式过滤器过滤,密封 4 ℃保存备用。将转染后的细胞消化,离心,以 1× 10<sup>7</sup> 细胞/ml 密度重悬于藻酸钠溶液中。将细胞悬液吸入无菌注射器内通过 20 gauge 针头缓慢滴入浓度为 10<sup>2</sup> mmol/L 氯化钙溶液中聚合 15 min,用 0.9%氯化钠溶液冲洗 3 次,形成藻酸钙细胞凝胶小球,同理

以正常3代细胞制备凝胶小球。

术前 1 d 对手术部位清洁备皮,术前禁食 8 h,禁水 2 h。耳缘静脉注射 2%戊巴比妥钠 1.5 ml/kg 麻醉兔子,75%乙醇消毒术部皮肤;用刀片钝性分离皮下软组织和肌肉,钻取过程中,双侧股骨滑车处的关节面上用直径 4 mm 的钻头钻孔,深度 3 mm,穿透软骨下骨,造成全层关节软骨损伤,移植复合物。用生理盐水连续冲洗骨碎屑,缝合皮下软组织及皮肤。实验组植人 BMSCs-(Lenti-Sox9-EGFP)-藻酸钙复合物。实验对照组植人 BMSCs-藻酸钙复合物。空白对照组只钻孔不做处理。逐层缝合伤口,术后 3 d 常规应用抗生素,动物单笼养,允许自由活动。

#### **1.6** 组织学观察

**1.6.1** 大体观察 分别于术后 6、12 周处死动物,取出膝关节,10 倍手术显微镜下观察软骨损伤的修复情况。

**1.6.2** 组织形态学观察 标本用 EDTA 脱钙 8 周,石蜡包埋,切片,HE 染色,光镜下观察修复组织。

1. 6. 3 免疫组织化学 4  $\mu$ m 厚石蜡切片脱蜡,水化,0.3%H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>室温浸泡 30 min 灭活过氧化物酶,PBS 漂洗,0.1%胰蛋白酶消化 20 min(37  $^{\circ}$ C)暴露抗原,10%羊血清作用 10 min 封闭非特异性结合位点,PBS 漂洗。滴加鼠抗兔 II 型胶原单克隆抗体(4  $^{\circ}$ C过夜),PBS 漂洗 3 次,每次 5 min,滴加生物素标记羊抗鼠二抗,室温 25  $^{\circ}$ C下 30 min,PBS 漂洗 3 次,每次 5 min,滴加 HRP 标记的链霉亲和素室温 30 min,PBS 漂洗 3 次,每次 5 min, 滴加 HRP 标记的链霉亲和素室温 30 min,PBS 漂洗 3 次,每次 5 min,DAB 显色 10 min,去离子水冲洗,苏木素复染,乙醇脱水,二甲苯透明,中性树脂封片。阳性对照:正常兔关节软骨标本。阴性对照:PBS 代替一抗。

1.6.4 组织学评分 对修复组织进行分级评分,由3个观察员对再生组织进行分级盲评,使用改良

Wakitani 等<sup>⑤</sup>软骨损伤修复组织学评分,从细胞形态、修复组织表面平整程度、修复组织厚度、修复组织与周围软骨的结合情况、Ⅱ型胶原染色等方面对组织学进行评分。

#### 1.7 统计学分析

采用 SPSS 13.0 统计软件进行统计学分析。计量资料采用重复测量数据的方差分析、组织学评分采用秩和检验,各组间总体差异比较采用 Kruskal-Wallis 检验,组间比较采用 Mann-Whitney 检验。以 P<0.05 为差异具有统计学意义。

#### 2 结果

#### 2.1 Sox9 基因转导的骨髓间充质干细胞

经流式细胞仪鉴定,CD34(-)、CD45(-)、CD44(+)、CD105(+),证明所培养的细胞为较纯的 BMSCs(图 1)。

#### 2.2 基因转导的效率直接测定

在荧光显微镜下,骨髓间充质干细胞转导 3 d 后(图 2),可观察到 GFP 阳性细胞。流式细胞仪检测其转染效率为 62%(图 3)。

### 2.3 细胞分子水平的检测结果

RT-PCR 结果,对照组 3.7.14 d 时 Sox9 都出现大小为 277 bp 的条带(图 4)。转染 3 d 后,Sox9 表达为最高水平,随着后随时间的增加而下降,但与正常软骨细胞相比,3 个时间点都呈增高趋势;Sox9 表达上调 3.7.14 d 倍数变化值分别为  $96.8\pm8.2.69.4\pm14.3.52.6\pm5.0;3$  d 时 Sox9 的表达水平高于 7 d (F=53.2,P=0.00);7 d 时 Sox9 的表达水平高于 14 d (F=15.2,P=0.01);3 d 时 Sox9 的表达水平高于 14 d (F=210.1,P=0.00)(表 1)。 II 型胶原表达随时间而增多,到 14 d 时为最高,与正常软骨细胞相比,3 个时间点都是增高趋势; II 型胶原表达上调 3.7.14 d 倍数变化值分别为  $18.8\pm1.9.63.6\pm7.5.148.8\pm11.0;7$  d 时

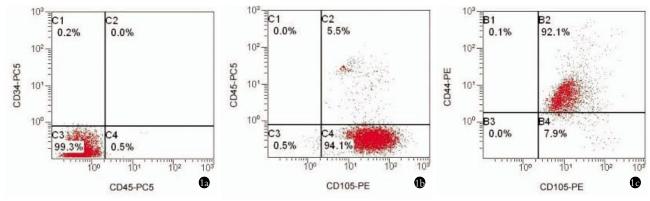
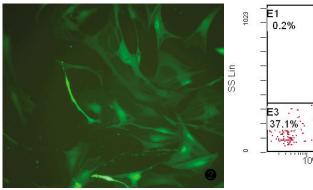


图 1 流式细胞仪鉴定兔骨髓间充质干细胞结果 1a. CD34、CD45 属于阴性范围 1b. CD45 属于阴性范围,CD105 属于阳性范围 1c. CD44、CD105 属于阳性范围

Fig.1 Identification of rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells by flow cytometry 1a. CD34 and CD45 belonged to the negative range 1b. CD45 belonged to the negative range, CD105 belonged to the positive range



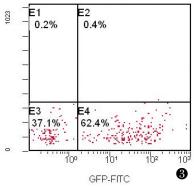
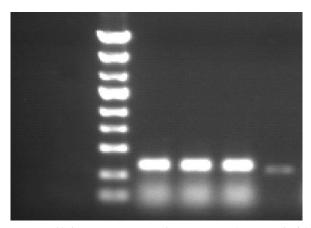


图 2 基因载体转染 72 h 后荧光显微镜观察 (×200) 图 3 流式细胞仪鉴定检测兔骨髓间充质干细胞转染效率

Fig.2 Fluorescence microscopy at 72 h after gene transfection Fig.3 Detection of transfection efficiency of rabbit bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells by flow cytometry



**图 4** 基因转染 72 h 后 RT-PCR 检测 Sox9 M: 自上而下分别为 5 kb,3 kb,2 kb,1.5 kb,1 kb,750 bp,500 bp,250 bp,100 bp;从左到右分别为 Mark,转染后 3、7、14 d,及非转染的正常细胞

**Fig.4** Electrophoresis result of Sox9 on RT–PCR at 72 hours after transfection M: 5 kb, 3 kb, 2 kb, 1.5 kb, 1 kb, 750 bp, 500 bp, 250 bp, 100 bp were from the top to the bottom; Mark, 3, 7, 14 days after transduction and normal cells were from left to right

Ⅱ型胶原表达水平高于 3 d (F=716.8,P=0.00);14 d 时 Ⅱ型胶原表达水平高于 7 d(F=659.9,P=0.00);14 d 时 Ⅱ型胶原表达水平高于 13 d (F=1903.1,P=

### 表 1 RT-PCR 检测软骨细胞特异性分子 Sox9 和 II 型胶原 各时间点的表达(x±s)

Tab.1 Expression of cartilage cells marker genes Sox9 and collagen II at each time point by RT-PCR analysis  $(\bar{x}\pm s)$ 

检测项目	正常细胞	3 d	7 d	14 d
Sox9	1	96.8±8.2	69.4±14.3	52.6±5.0
Ⅱ型胶原	1	18.8±1.9	63.6±7.5	148.8±11.0

注:Sox9 表达水平,3 d 高于 7 d,F=53.2,P=0.00;7 d 高于 14 d,F=15.2,P=0.01;3 d 高于 14 d,F=210.1,P=0.00。 II 型胶原表达水平,7 d 高于 3 d,F=716.8,P=0.00;14 d 高于 7 d,F=659.9,P=0.00;14 d 高于 3 d,F=1903.1,P=0.00

Note; Sox9 expression after transduction, at 3 days was higher than at 7 days, F=53.2, P=0.00; at 7 days was higher than at 14 days, F=15.2, P=0.01; at 3 days was higher than at 14 d, F=210.1, P=0.00. Collagen II expression after transduction, at 7 days was higher than at 3 days, F=716.8, P=0.00; at 14 days was higher than at 7 days, F=659.9, P=0.00; at 14 days was higher than at 13 days, F=1903.1, P=0.00

0.00)(表 1)。

#### 2.4 组织学观察

2.4.1 大体观察复合物表面的形态 移植术后所 有动物伤口愈合良好,各个关节面未见感染,关节粘

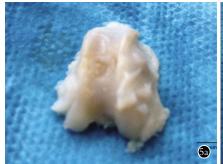






图 5 术后 6 周软骨缺损修复 5a. 空白对照组修复效果较差,中心杂乱,关节有骨赘形成 5b. 实验对照组修复效果较差,中心杂乱,关节有骨赘形成 5c. 实验组修复效果较好,表面光泽较好,但手术印记清晰

Fig. 5 The cartilage defect healing at 6 weeks after operation in 3 groups 5a. Gross specimen of the blank control group had poor repair effect, the center was messy, and the osteophyte formation was found at the operation area 5b. Gross specimen of the experimental control group had poor repair effect, the center was messy, and the osteophyte formation was found at the operation area 5c. Gross specimen of the experimental group had better repairing effect with a glossy white surface at the operation area, but it was easy to distinguish the operation area from the normal cartilage

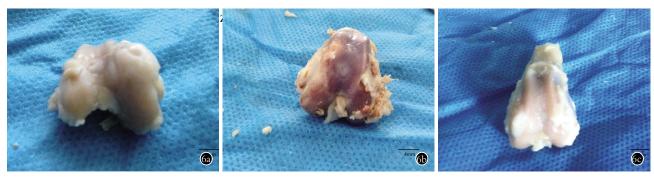


图 6 术后 12 周软骨缺损修复 6a. 空白对照组修复效果较差,中心杂乱,关节有骨赘形成 6b. 实验对照组修复效果较差,中心杂乱,表面光泽较好 6c. 实验组修复效果较好,表面光泽良好,手术印记不清

Fig. 6 The cartilage defect healing at 12 weeks after operation in 3 groups 6a. Gross specimen of the blank control group had poor repair effect, the center was messy, and the osteophyte formation was found at the operation area 6b. Gross specimen of the experimental control group had poor repair effect, the center was mess, and had a glossy white surface at the operation area 6c. Gross specimen of the experimental group had better repairing effect with a glossy white surface at the operation area, but it was difficult to distinguish the operation area from the normal cartilage

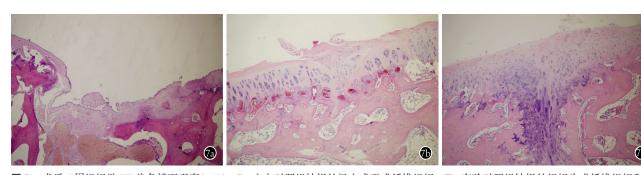


图 7 术后 6 周组织学 HE 染色镜下观察(x40) 7a. 空白对照组缺损处极少或无成纤维组织 7b. 实验对照组缺损处组织为成纤维组织和软骨样组织的混合物 7c. 实验组缺损处为软骨样细胞和软骨样细胞外基质填充但软骨样细胞较多

Fig. 7 Hematoxylin and Eosin (HE) staining of sections at 6 weeks after operation (×40) 7a. Cartilage defect in the blank control group had little or no fibrous tissue 7b. In the experimental control group a mixture of fibrous tissue and chondroid tissue was found at the cartilage defect 7c. In the experimental group, the defect was filled with chondroid cell and cartilage extracellular matrix, but the number of chondroid cells was more than normal tissue at the operation area

连,载体材料未见残留。观察移植术后 6 周和 12 周 3 组全层软骨缺损情况。见图 5-6。

实验组:大体观察移植术后6周全层软骨缺损时,发现再生组织完全填满缺损区域,表面呈现有光泽的白色,中心略有凹陷,手术印记区域范围明显。12周时,手术印记区域范围不可清晰辨别,与周围组织颜色光泽一致。

实验对照组:大体观察移植术后6周全层软骨缺损时,发现再生组织虽然填满缺损区域,表面呈暗白色,无光泽,中心凹陷明显,手术印记区域范围清晰。12周时,手术印记区域范围仍清晰可辨,中心凹陷明显,与周围组织颜色光泽差异明显。

空白对照组:大体观察移植术后6周全层软骨缺损时,发现其呈关节炎样改变,缺损区域为一原手术大小凹陷,手术印记区域范围清晰,关节有骨赘形成,有部分粘连。12周时,基本同6周。

2.4.2 组织学 HE 染色 移植 6 周后,空白对照组中可观察关节面缺损凹陷较大,极少或无成纤维组

织,与再生组织边缘的正常软骨无融合。实验对照组中,缺损处组织为成纤维组织和软骨样组织的混合物并且软骨下产生新骨。在实验组中,缺损处的组织表现为一个相对光滑的表面,并由软骨样细胞和软骨样细胞外基质构成,细胞数目明显多于正常软骨,排列紊乱。与其他2组比较,结构较清晰,软骨下骨形成也较完善。见图7。

移植 12 周后,空白对照组中关节面缺陷填充物为少量成纤维组织并且可见凹陷,软骨下产生新骨。在实验对照组中,可见大量的软骨样组织及成纤维组织,但表面仍不规则。在实验组中,HE 染色可见缺损处为软骨样细胞和软骨样细胞外基质填充且表面光滑,细胞数目有所减少,呈现柱状排列趋势与周围软骨差别不大。见图 8。

2.4.3 免疫组织化学染色 Ⅱ型胶原免疫组化染色,组间比较时,实验组阳性高于其他2组,染色阳性比周围正常软骨组织低。12周,染色阳性接近周围正常软骨组织。其余两组6周和12周时差别不明

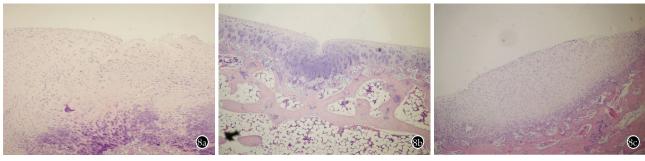
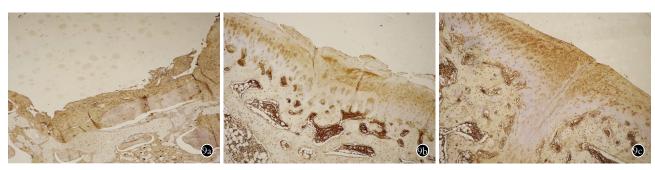


图 8 术后 12 周组织学 HE 染色镜下观察(×40) 8a. 空白对照组缺陷处填充物为少量成纤维组织,软骨下产生新骨 8b. 实验组缺损处为软骨样细胞和软骨样细胞外基质填充,细胞排列整齐,数目正常 8c. 实验对照组缺陷处可见大量的软骨样细胞

**Fig.8** Hematoxylin and eosin (HE) staining of sections at 12 weeks after operation (×40) **8a.** In the blank control group the defect was filled with a small amount of fibrous tissues and new bone formation was also found at the subchondral **8b.** In the experimental group, the defect was filled with chondroid cell and cartilage extracellular matrix, but the number and structure of chondroid cells were the same as normal tissue **8c.** In the experimental control group, a large number of chondrocytes were found at the cartilage defect



**图 9** 术后 6 周 Ⅱ 型胶原免疫组化染色(×40) **9a.** 空白对照组组织结构不清,阳性较弱 **9b.** 实验对照组阳性较弱 **9c.** 实验组阳性比周围正常软骨组织低

Fig.9 Collagen II immunohistological staining of sections at 6 weeks after operation (original magnification×40) 9a. In the blank control group, a mess organizational structure was found at defect with weak positive staining 9b. In the experimental control group, the weak positive staining was found at defect 9c. In the experimental group, the positive staining was found, but it was lower than the surrounding normal cartilage tissue

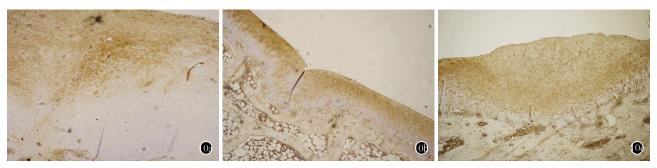


图 10 术后 12 周Ⅲ型胶原免疫组化染色(×40) 10a. 空白对照组阳性较弱 10b. 实验对照组组织结构清晰,阳性较弱 10c. 实验组阳性接近周围正常软骨组织

Fig.10 Collagen II immunohistological staining of sections at 12 weeks after operation (original magnification×40) 10a. In the blank control group, the weak positive staining was found at defect 10b. In the experimental control group, the weak positive staining and a clear organizational structure were found at defect 10c. In the experimental group, the positive staining was found, and it was close to the surrounding normal cartilage tissue

显,染色阳性较弱。见图 9。

**2.4.4** 组织学评分 各组标本的组织学评分间总体差异比较采用 Kruskal-Wallis 检验,组间比较采用 Mann-Whitney 检验。术后 6 周和 12 周,3 组评分总体差异有统计学意义  $(H_6=20.41, P=0.00; H_{12}=18.30, P=0.00)$ ,术后 6 周,实验组的组织学评分优于

实验对照组(u=1.00,P=0.00)及空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00),实验对照组的评分优于空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00)。12 周,实验组的组织学评分优于实验对照组(u=1.50,P=0.00)及空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00),实验对照组的评分优于空白对照组(u=6.50,P=0.01)。12 周时,实验组的组织学评分优于 6 周(u=

6.00, P=0.01);实验对照组的组织学评分与 6 周无差异(u=16.50, P=0.15);空白对照组的组织学评分优于

# 表 2 术后不同时间点各组动物软骨缺损处 Wakitani 评分 $(\bar{x}\pm s, \hat{\mathcal{T}})$

Tab.2 Wakitani score of cartilage defect in different groups at different time points after operation ( $\bar{x} \pm s$ , score)

	=	_		
4	组别	标本数	6周	12 周
-	实验组	8		
	细胞形态		$0.88 \pm 0.35$	0.88±0.64
	修复组织表面平整程度		$0.80\pm0.35$	0.63±0.52
	修复组织厚度		1.13±0.35	0.63±0.52
	修复组织与周围软骨的结合情	况	1.13±0.35	0.36±0.52
	Ⅱ型胶原染色		1.00±0.00	0.75±0.46
	总分		$5.00{\pm}0.76^{\mathrm{ab}}$	3.13±1.13 <sup>ab</sup>
1	实验对照组	8		
	细胞形态		1.50±0.53	1.38±0.74
	修复组织表面平整程度		1.63±0.51	1.38±0.52
	修复组织厚度		1.25±0.46	1.13±0.35
	修复组织与周围软骨的结合情	况	1.50±0.53	1.25±0.46
	Ⅱ型胶原染色		1.63±0.51	1.25±0.71
	总分		$7.50\pm0.93^{\rm b}$	6.38±1.51 <sup>b</sup>
2	空白对照组	8		
	细胞形态		3.13±0.64	2.63±0.52
	修复组织表面平整程度		2.50±0.53	2.13±0.64
	修复组织厚度		1.75±0.46	1.25±0.71
	修复组织与周围软骨的结合情	况	1.63±0.52	1.38±0.74
	Ⅱ型胶原染色		2.75±0.46	2.00±0.53
	总分		11.75±1.28	9.38±1.92°
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			

注:各组总分比较,术后 6 周实验组优于实验对照组(u=1.00,P=0.00) 及空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00),实验对照组优于空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00);术后 12 周,实验组优于实验对照组(u=1.50,P=0.00)及空白对照组(u=0.00,P=0.00),实验对照组优于空白对照组(u=6.50,P=0.01)。实验组术后 12 周优于术后 6 周(u=6.00,P=0.01);实验对照组术后 12 周优于术后 6 周无差异(u=16.50,P=0.15);空白对照组术后 12 周优于术后 6 周(u=9.50,v=0.02)

Note: The total scores in each group, at 6 weeks after operation, experimental group was better than experimental control group (u=1.00,P=0.00) and blank control group (u=0.00,P=0.00), experimental control group was better than blank control group (u=0.00,P=0.00); at 12 weeks after operation, experimental group was better than experimental control group (u=1.50,P=0.00) and blank control group (u=0.00,P=0.00), experimental control group was better than blank control group (u=6.50,P=0.01); in experimental group at 12 weeks after operation was better than 6 weeks (u=6.00,P=0.01), in experimental control group at 12 weeks after operation was better than 6 weeks (u=16.50,P=0.15), in blank control group at 12 weeks after operation was better than 6 weeks (u=9.50,P=0.02)

6周(u=9.50,P=0.02),见表 2。

#### 3 讨论

由于软骨本身特点,一旦因疾病或外伤损伤后再生能力有限,无法维持其正常的结构功能,而临床上对于此类疾病只能通过人工置换假体来维持功能<sup>[6]</sup>。组织工程可能是一种新的替代治疗方法<sup>[7]</sup>。但经典的组织工程 3 大部分,即种子细胞、生长因子、生物支架材料,尤其是生长因子在软骨发育中所起的作用虽然明显但是却不可控,过量表达的生长因子会导致一些严重的不良反应<sup>[8]</sup>。

Sox9 主要在软骨细胞中表达,是软骨发育过程中的关键转录因子,对胚胎时期的软骨发育,成熟有着重要的调节作用<sup>[5,9]</sup>。启动 Sox9 基因可促使骨髓间充质干细胞向软骨方向分化<sup>[10]</sup>,并且在软骨内成骨过程中将 Sox9 基因转入增殖期软骨细胞,发现 Sox9的过表达会导致成骨特异性分子 Runx2 表达延迟和减少,抑制成骨过程<sup>[11]</sup>。同时 Sox9 可激活软骨细胞特征分子如 II 型胶原、aggrecan 蛋白等的表达,调控软骨主要基质成分基因,如 Col9a1、Col9a2 和 Col11a2等的表达<sup>[12]</sup>,从而调控软骨分化<sup>[13]</sup>。有研究表明多种生长因子如 TGF-β、FGF等可促进 Sox9 表达,促进成软骨过程<sup>[14-15]</sup>。因此,Sox9 是促使骨髓间充质干细胞向软骨细胞分化过程中的重要环节<sup>[16]</sup>。

本实验采用慢病毒基因诱导的方法,将 Sox9 基因转导到细胞中,相较生长因子产生持续、稳定、长时间的表达,同时避免了一些不良反应。并且慢病毒相较质粒等的转染效率大大提高[17-18]。选用海藻酸盐材料作为支架,由于海藻酸盐在组织工程应用中较其他材料可以更好地承担功能性载荷,因而可以更好地应用在关节等负重要求较高的地方[19]。本实验 Sox9 基因通过慢病毒转染到骨髓间充质干细胞中治疗全层软骨缺损(模拟关节损伤)并进行评定。

首先,在体外通过对转染后细胞进行 PT-PCR 鉴定,发现实验组的 Sox9 的含量在转染 3 d 后上升达到峰值,而 3、7、14 d 后 Sox9 的含量并没有继续上升反而有所下降,7 d 对于 3 d 时相差较小,14 d 后 Sox9 的含量比 7 d 时下降明显。原因可能是转染 3 d 后基因整合到细胞核中出现较大增加,随着时间推移至 14 d 时,Sox9 其本身为转录因子参与细胞代谢过程而耗减,或由于 14 d 时其部分细胞表达软骨细胞的表型,进而抑制了 Sox9 基因的合成,使得 Sox9 基因的表达下降<sup>[20]</sup>。而 II 型胶原相较对照组、实验组在 3、7、14 d 都有较高水平表达。其在 3 d 时最少,7 d 时仅为 14 d 的含量的一半,14 d 时达到峰值,说明 II 型胶原的表达量是随着时间的推移进行逐步的表达。表明骨髓间充质干细胞可能向软骨

细胞分化[21-22]。

其次,为了揭示 Sox9 基因过表达后的骨髓间充质干细胞在体内对关节缺损修复的具体作用及效果,笔者通过从组织学上的证据及评分来评价。实验表明 Sox9 基因过表达后的骨髓间充质干细胞对于关节缺损处修复作用强于对照组的骨髓间充质干细胞。免疫组化结果可以得出修复组织的成分接近于正常的软骨组织。

综上, Sox9 基因过表达可以促进骨髓间充质干细胞向软骨细胞分化。体内试验时,组间比较 Sox9 基因过表达的实验组修复更加完善,组织学上的结构类似于正常组织,表明 Sox9 基因在兔骨髓间充质干细胞的过表达对软骨缺损修复有促进作用,可为临床治疗关节软骨损伤提供一种新的方法和途径,但由于本研究属于小样本实验,观察时间有限,且体内实验时,模型为全层软骨缺损,缺损处下层血供较丰富,其可能为多种因素共同修复的结果,将来需要更进一步长时程的研究来证实。

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