

· 基础研究 ·

基于全基因表达谱的骨关节炎软骨下骨转录因子预测及分析

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【摘要】 目的: 利用生物信息分析方法对骨关节炎软骨下骨全基因表达谱进行转录因子预测及分析。方法: 下载基因芯片实验数据(GSE30322), 使用软件包 limma package in R (版本: 3.3.1) 筛选差异表达基因, 筛选差异基因的标准以基因表达上调或下调的倍数 ≥ 2 为标准 ($P < 0.05$), 进一步使用 Cytoscape 软件 (版本: 3.4.0) 的 iRegulon 插件预测分析调控这些差异表达基因的转录因子, 并分析预测的转录因子所调控的差异表达基因。结果: 发现上调的差异表达基因可能相关 15 个转录因子及其相对应的靶基因: FOXN4, NANOS1, E2F6, RAD21, MECOM, ETS1, MEF2A, POU2F3, BRCA1, GATA3, ZNF706, ZBTB33, SUZ12, DBP, SETDB1 等。发现下调的差异表达基因可能相关 12 个转录因子及其相对应的靶基因: ARID3A, YY1, RDBP, ATF1, CRX, TAF1, XBP1, SOX3, E2F4, PGR, TIMM8A, HOXA2 等。结论: 预测分析的转录因子可能在骨关节炎软骨下骨致病机制调控中起了重要作用, 其有可能成为新的防治骨关节炎的靶点。

【关键词】 基因芯片; 骨关节炎; 软骨, 关节; 转录因子

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ABSTRACT Objective: To identify the master transcription factors (TF) that might be responsible for the gene expression alteration of OA. **Methods:** Raw expression data for rat OA model (GSE30322) was downloaded from NCBI GEO database. Microarray data analysis for rat and human was carried out separately using functions from limma package in R, gene expression was considered as significantly changed between conditions if adjusted P -value < 0.05 and the absolute value of fold change ≥ 2 . iRegulon was applied to differentially up-regulated and down-regulated genes in OA separately. **Results:** (1) 15 TFs, including FOXN4, NANOS1, E2F6, RAD21, MECOM, ETS1, MEF2A, POU2F3, BRCA1, GATA3, ZNF706, ZBTB33, SUZ12, DBP and SETDB1, were identified as the potential master TFs of up-regulated DEGs with statistical significance. (2) 12 TFs, including ARID3A, YY1, RDBP, ATF1, CRX, TAF1, XBP1, SOX3, E2F4, PGR, TIMM8A and HOXA2, were identified as the potential master TFs of down-regulated DEGs with statistical significance. **Conclusion:** The newly identified TFs maybe play important roles in pathogenesis of early experimental osteoarthritis, and our study provides new diagnostic markers or therapeutic targets for OA.

KEYWORDS Gene chip; Osteoarthritis; Cartilage, articular; Transcription factor

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骨性关节炎 (osteoarthritis, OA) 是一种复杂多病因退变性疾病, 涉及关节所有组织, 以关节软骨退行性变、软骨下骨硬化、囊性化、无菌性坏死及骨赘形成等改变为主^[1]。以往对 OA 致病机制及治疗靶

点研究主要集中在关节软骨, 但近年来越来越多研究将研究方向转移到非软骨组织, 其中软骨下骨的重要性越来越受到关注^[2]。目前基因芯片技术正日益成为 OA 研究领域重要的高效新手段之一, 而 GEO (Gene Expression Omnibus) 数据库是世界上规模最大、收录最全、免费共享的综合型数据库, 收录了大量的基因芯片实验数据, 为后期数据挖掘和信息推广提供了良好的平台。然而, 大量的生物数据只有通过生物信息学进行分析归纳, 才能选择出所在研究领域的正确方向^[3]。本研究首次利用最新的生

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物信息分析方法对 OA 软骨下骨全基因表达谱进行转录因子预测及分析,为阐述 OA 致病机制提供新的研究思路与方向,有利于 OA 的早期诊断、治疗^[4]。

1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象与分组

从 GEO 数据库 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/>) 下载前期实验基因芯片数据 (GSE30322), 本实验所采用的安捷伦大鼠全基因表达谱芯片含 41 000 个基因探针。选手术建模术后 4 周大鼠实验数据为分析研究点, 包含 10 个样本, 实验组与对照组各 5 例。

1.2 实验方法

实验组为内侧副韧带切断+内侧半月板切除手术导致右膝关节不稳构建骨关节炎模型; 对照组大鼠只切开右膝关节囊, 其他处理与实验组相同。建模术后第 4 周取材并提取软骨下骨 RNA 进行全基因芯片实验^[5]。

1.3 统计学处理

从网站 <https://www.r-project.org> 下载软件包 Limma package in R (版本: 3.3.1)^[6], 对基因芯片原始数据进行预处理, 筛选差异表达基因, 筛选标准为基因表达上调或下调倍数 ≥ 2 ($P < 0.05$)。使用 Cytoscape 软件 (版本: 3.4.0) 的 iRegulon 插件预测分析调控这些差异表达基因的转录因子, 并分析预测转录因子所调控的差异表达基因^[7]。

2 结果

2.1 上调差异表达基因相关转录因子分析

发现上调差异表达基因可能相关 15 个转录因

子 (表 1): FOXN4, NANOS1, E2F6, RAD21, MECOM, ETS1, MEF2A, POU2F3, BRCA1, GATA3, ZNF706, ZBTB33, SUZ12, DBP, SETDB1。每个预测转录因子相对应的靶基因如图 1 所示。

2.2 下调差异表达基因相关转录因子分析

发现下调差异表达基因可能相关 12 个转录因子 (表 2): ARID3A, YY1, RDBP, ATF1, CRX, TAF1, XBP1, SOX3, E2F4, PGR, TIMM8A, HOXA2。每个预测转录因子相对应的靶基因如图 2 所示。

3 讨论

3.1 高通量基因调控研究概述

从基因表达为切入点探索 OA 的病因和发病机制, 寻找 OA 预防和早期治疗的有效方法重要而迫切。转录因子分为诱导子和抑制子, 分别起催化、促进或抑制转录过程, 可通过与其靶基因的上游调控区的一段特定序列 (调控元件) 进行结合, 从而控制靶基因的表达及其表达水平。对转录因子的调控机制研究首先在于识别转录因子, 判别转录因子调控的靶基因, 以及找出对靶基因的调控关系和调控条件等^[8]。随着高通量实验技术的发展, 如基因测序、基因芯片、染色质免疫沉淀测序等, 为基因调控的研究提供了大量的数据^[9-10]。为了探讨机械应力刺激在活体组织中对 OA 关节软骨下骨的影响, 在前期的实验中, 建立机械应力与 OA 关系的动物模型——大鼠膝关节不稳 OA 模型^[11], 模拟关节机械应力改变, 首次利用基因芯片新技术全面、系统从基因表达入手, 研究了该 OA 模型软骨下骨 mRNA 变化, 筛选

表 1 与上调差异表达基因相关的转录因子

Tab.1 Transcription factors (TFs) associated with up-regulated differentially expressed genes

基因符号	全称	NES	靶基因数	调控元件数
FOXN4	forkhead box N4	4.584	31	3
NANOS1	nanos C2HC-type zinc finger 1	4.14	39	4
E2F6	E2F transcription factor 6	3.95	57	11
RAD21	RAD21 cohesin complex component	3.896	52	5
MECOM	MDS1 and EVI1 complex locus	3.873	27	4
ETS1	ETS proto-oncogene 1, transcription factor	3.744	25	11
MEF2A	myocyte enhancer factor 2A	3.7	19	2
POU2F3	POU class 2 homeobox 3	3.569	27	3
BRCA1	BRCA1, DNA repair associated	3.518	27	1
GATA3	GATA binding protein 3	3.471	14	1
ZNF706	zinc finger protein 706	3.306	13	1
ZBTB33	zinc finger and BTB domain containing 33	3.27	12	1
SUZ12	SUZ12 polycomb repressive complex 2 subunit	3.258	9	1
DBP	D-box binding PAR bZIP transcription factor	3.136	10	1
SETDB1	SET domain bifurcated 1	3.02	9	1

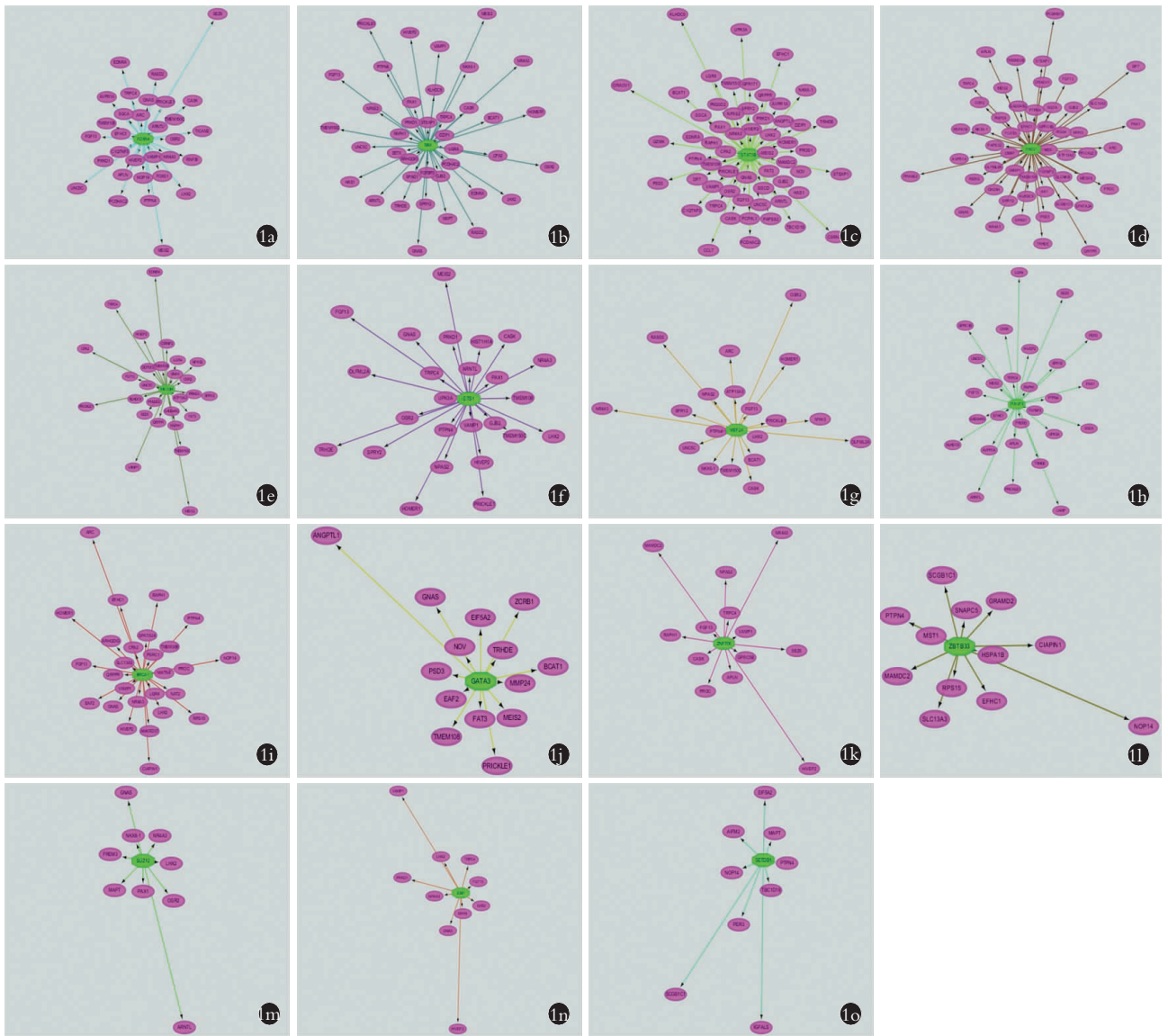


图 1 与上调差异表达基因相关的转录因子的靶基因(DEGs),绿色为预测的转录因子,橙色为靶基因 **1a.** FOXN4 及靶基因 **1b.** NANOS1 及靶基因 **1c.** E2F6 及靶基因 **1d.** RAD21 及靶基因 **1e.** MECOM 及靶基因 **1f.** ETS1 及靶基因 **1g.** MEF2A 及靶基因 **1h.** POU2F3 及靶基因 **1i.** BRCA1 及靶基因 **1j.** GATA3 及靶基因 **1k.** ZNF706 及靶基因 **1l.** ZBTB33 及靶基因 **1m.** SUZ12 及靶基因 **1n.** DBP 及靶基因 **1o.** SETDB1 及靶基因

Fig.1 The established transcriptional regulatory network of the transcription factors (TFs) related to up-regulated differently expression genes (DEGs). Green is a predictive transcription factor and orange is the target gene **1a.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of FOXN4 related to its target DEGs **1b.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of NANOS1 related to its target DEGs **1c.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of E2F6 related to its target DEGs **1d.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of RAD21 related to its target DEGs **1e.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of MECOM related to its target DEGs **1f.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of ETS1 related to its target DEGs **1g.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of MEF2A related to its target DEGs **1h.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of POU2F3 related to its target DEGs **1i.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of BRCA1 related to its target DEGs **1j.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of GATA3 related to its target DEGs **1k.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of ZNF706 related to its target DEGs **1l.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of ZBTB33 related to its target DEGs **1m.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of SUZ12 related to its target DEGs **1n.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of DBP related to its target DEGs **1o.** The established transcriptional regulatory network of SETDB1 related to its target DEGs

了一系列与机械应力密切相关的差异表达基因^[5]。

3.2 转录因子在 OA 调控的机制

本研究通过生物信息学分析出了一些与 OA 软

骨下骨高度相关的转录因子,其中有部分 TF 在 OA 中的作用已得到实验证实。比如本研究中发现与上调 DEG 相关的转录因子 ETS1,属于 ETS 转录因子

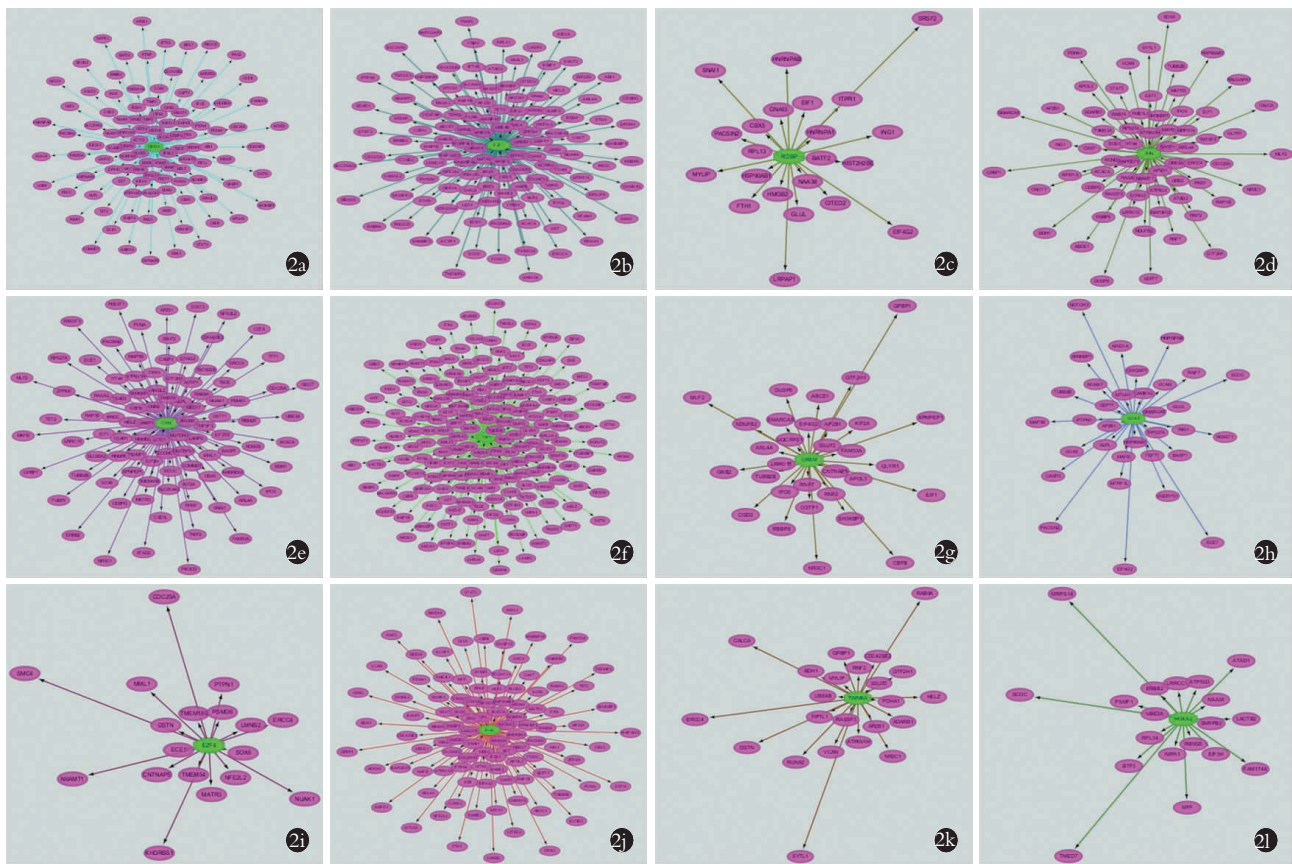


图 2 与下调差异表达基因相关的转录因子的靶基因,绿色为预测的转录因子,橙色为靶基因 2a. ARID3A 及基靶基因 2b. YY1 及基靶基因 2c. RDBP 及基靶基因 2d. ATF1 及基靶基因 2e. CRX 及基靶基因 2f. TAF1 及基靶基因 2g. XBP1 及基靶基因 2h. SOX3 及基靶基因 2i. E2F4 及基靶基因 2j. PGR 及基靶基因 2k. TIMM8A 及基靶基因 2l. HOXA2 及基靶基因

Fig.2 The established transcriptional regulatory network of the transcription factors (TFs) related to down-regulated differently expression genes (DEGs) in rat OA model. Green is a predictive transcription factor and orange is the target gene 2a. The established transcriptional regulatory network of SETDB1 related to its target DEGs 2b. The established transcriptional regulatory network of YY1 related to its target DEGs 2c. The established transcriptional regulatory network of RDBP related to its target DEGs 2d. The established transcriptional regulatory network of ATF1 related to its target DEGs 2e. The established transcriptional regulatory network of CRX related to its target DEGs 2f. The established transcriptional regulatory network of TAF1 related to its target DEGs 2g. The established transcriptional regulatory network of XBP1 related to its target DEGs 2h. The established transcriptional regulatory network of SOX3 related to its target DEGs 2i. The established transcriptional regulatory network of E2F4 related to its target DEGs 2j. The established transcriptional regulatory network of PGR related to its target DEGs 2k. The established transcriptional regulatory network of TIMM8A related to its target DEGs 2l. The established transcriptional regulatory network of HOXA2 related to its target DEGs

家族的一员,具有调控血管生成的功能,在血管形成初期阶段,内皮细胞 ETS1 明显表达,可能在类风性关节炎(RA)血管形成中起了重要作用^[12]。Redlich 等^[13]进一步发现 TNF- α 及 IL-1 介导下可诱导类风湿性关节炎滑膜细胞表达 ETS1。Goldring 等^[14]通过体内外实验研究发现 BPM、IL-1 β 、TNF- α 可诱导 OA 软骨细胞表达 ETS1,在 OA 软骨退变中起了重要作用。笔者推测软骨下骨 ETS1 可能在 OA 致病调控中也起了重要作用。有意思的是,Fei 等^[15]采用与笔者相同的分析方法,分析 OA 患者关节滑液的基因表达谱,发现一系列 TF,其中之一为 ARID3A 转录因子,并且与下调 DEG 高度相关,与笔者的研究结果相同。还有学者分析 OA 患者的滑膜组织,得到

一系列重要的 TF,其中包括 YY1。最近,体外实验发现 miR-10a 能通过促进成纤维样滑膜细胞产生各种炎症因子,包括 TNF- α 及 IL-1 β ,并促进了 YY1 的表达,证实了 YY1 作为重要的调控因子在炎症反应中起了重要作用。上述的研究支持了笔者新发现的 TF 在 OA 致病机制的作用,提示了新发现的 TF 可能为 OA 的诊断和治疗提供了新的研究思路。这些转录因子在 OA 关节软骨下骨中的调控作用值得我们进一步深入研究。

本研究尚存在不足之处。由于在本 OA 模型在建模术后 4 周时,关节软骨破坏组织学分析相对其它时间点比较典型,与有症状的临床 OA 患者的组织学特点更为相似,因此本研究只选取了术后 4 周

表 2 下调差异表达基因的转录因子
Tab.2 Transcription factors (TFs) associated with down-regulated differentially expressed genes

基因符号	全称	NES	靶基因数	调控元件数
ARID3A	AT-rich interaction domain 3A	5.341	104	4
YY1	Yin Yang1 transcription factor	4.644	123	6
RDBP	NELFE (RDBP) negative elongation factor complex member E	4.285	22	1
ATF1	activating transcription factor 1	4.147	66	4
CRX	cone-rod homeobox	4.146	95	3
TAF1	TATA-box binding protein associated factor 1	3.78	185	5
XBP1	X-box binding protein 1	3.765	31	3
SOX3	SRY-box 3	3.374	33	4
E2F4	E2F transcription factor 4	3.349	18	1
PCR	progesterone receptor	3.3	103	3
TIMM8A	progesterone receptor	3.3	23	2
HOXA2	homeobox A2	3.125	19	1

为预测分析转录因子^[5]。但其他时间点与哪些转录因子相关,发现的这些转录因子的功能及其调控机制如何,尚需进一步研究。本研究预测分析的转录因子可能在骨关节炎软骨下骨致病机制中起了重要作用,其有可能成为新的防治 OA 的靶点,同时也为 OA 的诊断和治疗提供了可靠的实验依据。

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