

TOP2A在肝癌中的表达及其与预后的关系研究

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摘要

目的: 探讨DNA拓扑异构酶II α (topoisomerase II alpha, TOP2A)在肝癌中的表达及其对预后的影响。方法: 利用Oncomine数据库分析TOP2A基因在肝癌和正常肝组织中的差异表达。用Western blot和qRT-PCR检测TOP2A在收集的肝癌标本和肝癌细胞系中的表达水平。此外, 我们还建立了稳定的肝癌细胞系, 在肝癌细胞中下调或过表达TOP2A。运用CCK-8法检测该基因表达如何影响细胞增殖能力。借助GEPIA网站对肝癌数据集进行与TOP2A相关的生存分析。结果: 肝癌组织或细胞系中TOP2A的表达水平显著高于正常肝组织及细胞; 敲除TOP2A表达可降低原本高表达该基因的肝癌细胞的增殖活力, 而上调其表达对原本低表达该基因的细胞的增殖有促进作用, 且TOP2A表达量高的患者, 其无病生存期(DFS)及总生存期(OS)均较短。结论: TOP2A可能参与肝癌的发生发展, 可作为新型肝癌预后标志物, 为肝癌精准治疗策略选择提供重要依据。

关键词

TOP2A, 肝癌, 表达, 预后

Study on the Expression of TOP2A in Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Its Relationship with Prognosis

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Abstract

Objective: To investigate the expression of DNA topoisomerase II alpha (TOP2A) in hepatocellular

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carcinoma (HCC) and its effect on prognosis. **Methods:** The differential expression of TOP2A in hepatocellular carcinoma and normal liver tissues was analyzed by Oncomine database. Then, we used western blot and qRT-PCR to detect the expression level of TOP2A in collected liver cancer samples and liver cancer cell lines. In addition, we also established a set of stable hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines, which down-regulated or overexpressed TOP2A in them. CCK-8 test was operated to detect how the expression of the gene affected the ability of cell proliferation. The survival analysis of liver cancer data set related to TOP2A was carried out with the assistance of GEPIA. **Results:** Four studies on the expression of TOP2A in HCC tissues and normal tissues (Roessler Liver, Chen Liver, Wurmbach Liver, Roessler Liver 2) were screened from Oncomine database. The expression level of TOP2A in liver cancer group was higher than that in normal tissue group in 4 cohorts. In a cohort of 40 liver cancer and paracancerous tissue samples we collected after radical resection, the expression of TOP2A mRNA was up-regulated in 33 tumor samples and down-regulated in 7 tumor samples. In addition, we also detected the expression of TOP2A in human normal liver cell line and hepatocellular carcinoma cell line. The results showed that the mRNA and protein levels of TOP2A in high metastatic cell lines MHCC97H, HuH7 and LM3 were significantly higher than those in low metastatic cell line Hep3B and normal liver cell line L02. We chose MHCC97H with relatively high expression of TOP2A and Hep3B with relatively low expression of TOP2A for follow-up experiments. To assess the effect of TOP2A on the viability of MHCC97H and Hep3B cells, the absorbance values (OD) of MHCC97H and Hep3B at 450 nm were recorded by CCK8 assay after transfection by the shTOP2A and pcDNA-TOP2A respectively, and the results showed that TOP2A knockout could reduce the viability of MHCC97H cells, while up-regulation of TOP2A expression promoted the proliferation of Hep3B cells ($p < 0.01$). The patients with high expression of TOP2A had shorter disease-free survival (DFS) and total survival (OS). **Conclusion:** TOP2A may be involved in the occurrence and development of hepatocellular carcinoma, and can be regarded as a new type of prognostic marker in liver cancer, which provides an important basis for the selection of accurate treatment strategies for this disease.

Keywords

TOP2A, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Expression, Prognosis

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1. 引言

据 WHO 统计, 在世界范围内, 肝癌是癌症相关死亡的第四大原因, 在发病率方面排名第六[1]。肝癌在我国占癌症相关死亡原因的 12.9%, 在消化道恶性肿瘤中排第二位, 在男性最常见的癌症相关死亡原因中位列仅次于肺癌[2]。根治性手术诊断为肝癌的患者提供了长期生存的唯一希望。然而, 当有临床表现时, 大多数患者已进入晚期, 失去手术机会。临床上预测肝癌预后的指标有限, 如肿瘤大小、肝硬化程度、肿瘤分化程度和肿瘤微血管侵犯程度[3], 且暂无研究表明具有明确诊断意义的 AFP 可以预测肝癌分期及预后。由于肝癌根治性切除术后肿瘤复发率和转移率较高, 且肝癌预后缺乏分子层面指标, 因此了解与肝癌转移相关的分子机制和寻找新的治疗靶点对肝癌患者的预后或具有重要意义。

DNA 拓扑异构酶是一种解开双链 DNA 中出现的拓扑问题的酶[4]。根据氨基酸序列结构和/或关系的不同, DNA 拓扑异构酶又分为: IA (DNA 拓扑异构酶 III α 和 III β)、IB (DNA 拓扑异构酶 I 和线粒体 DNA 拓扑异构酶 I⁹⁹)和 IIA (DNA 拓扑异构酶 II α 和 II β) [5]。其中 DNA 拓扑异构酶 II α (TOP2A)参与染色体凝

聚、染色单体分离以及减轻 DNA 转录和复制过程中产生的扭应力等过程。它通过催化两条双链 DNA 的瞬间断裂和重新连接,从而允许这两条链相互穿透,从而改变 DNA 的拓扑结构。此外, TOP2A 在快速分裂的细胞中大量积累,其表达与细胞增殖和细胞周期有关,其产生和降解受细胞周期调控[6] [7] [8]。

2. 材料和方法

2.1. 数据筛选

利用 Oncomine 数据库(<http://www.oncomine.org>)分析肝癌患者血清中 TOP2A 的表达水平,通过比较肝癌组织数据集和正常组织数据集探索 TOP2A 更多信息。

2.2. 肿瘤组织标本选择

本研究收集了 40 例接受根治性肝癌切除术患者肿瘤标本和配对的癌旁正常肝标本。本研究已得到复旦大学中山医院(中国上海)研究伦理委员会批准(鉴定代码: B2013-150)。

2.3. 细胞培养

5 个肝癌细胞系(Hep3B、LM3、Huh7、MHCC97H)和 1 个正常人肝细胞系(L02)均置于 DMEM 培养基中且培养在 37°C、5% CO₂ 的培养箱环境中。

2.4. RNA 提取和 qRT-PCR

按照 Trizol 试剂说明书分别提取组织及细胞样本总 RNA。并按照 Takara 试剂盒(大连宝生物)将提取出的 RNA 逆转录为 cDNA,以 95°C 预变性 30 s; 95°C 5 s, 60°C 30 s, 共 40 个循环; 95°C 5 s, 60°C 1 min 的程序扩增 cDNA,并用 Light Cycler 480 II (罗氏)对其进行检测。以 GAPDH 为内源性参照物,用 2^{-ΔΔCt} 法测定相对基因表达。所用引物序列如表 1 所示。

Table 1. Primer sequence used for qRT-PCR

表 1. qRT-PCR 反应引物序列

Gene	Sequence 5'-3'
TOP2A	Forward: 5'-TGCACCCACTTGATTGAGACAT-3' Reverse: 5'-AGCCCTTAACCAGTACTTGCCT-3'
GAPDH	Forward: 5'-CTCCTCCACCTTTGACGC-3' Reverse: 5'-CCACCACCCTGTTGCTGT-3'

2.5. Western Blot

用含有 RIPA (碧云天)、PMSF (碧云天)和 10% PhosSTOP 的混合裂解缓冲液从肝癌细胞中提取总蛋白,并用 10%的 SDS-PAGE 分离,然后转移到 PVDF 膜上。室温下用 5%脱脂牛奶在 TBST 缓冲液中封闭膜 1 h,然后在 4°C 条件下与稀释的一抗(1:1000, Abcam)反应过夜。进一步将膜与 HRP 偶联的二抗(1:1000, 北京鼎国昌盛生物)在室温下孵育 1 h。最后,使用电化学发光试剂盒(Thermo)使目标条带显影。

2.6. 慢病毒构建与细胞转染

pGCSIL-shRNA-TOP2A 慢病毒载体和 pGC-FU-TOP2A cDNA 慢病毒载体购自上海 GeneChem 有限公司。敲除 TOP2A 最有效的 shRNA 慢病毒载体序列是 5'-ATCCTGCAG-GAATGGCATT-3',同时设置无特异性转染的阴性对照,其序列为 5'-TTCTCCGAACGTGTCACGT-3'。以 pGC-FU 慢病毒载体为参照,构建了可上调 TOP2A 表达的 pcDNA3.1 载体。通过 qRT-PCR 和 Western blot 分析对稳定转染的克隆进行

验证。

2.7. CCK-8 增殖试验

将 100 μL 细胞悬液(约 $2 \times 10^4/\text{ml}$)加入至培养板孔。细胞贴壁后,每孔加入 10 μL CCK-8 溶液,在培养箱中孵育 1 h。用酶标仪测定细胞在 450 nm 处的吸光度值(OD)。空白对照为加入等量不含细胞的细胞培养液和 CCK-8 溶液。

2.8. 生存分析

在基因表达谱交互分析(GEPIA)网站(<http://gepia.cancer-pku.cn/index.html>) [9]上进行肝细胞癌 TOP2A 数据集的生存分析。检索条件: 1) Gene: TOP2A; 2) Methods: OS OR DFS; 3) Group Cutoff: Median; 4) Hazards Ratio (HR): Yes; 5) 95% Confidence Interval: Yes; 6) Axis Units: Months; 7) Datasets Selection (Cancer name): LIHC。

2.9. 统计分析

采用 GraphPad Prism 5 软件进行统计分析。两组间的差异用 t 检验进行分析,组间差异比较采用单因素方差分析(ANOVA)检验。每个实验至少重复三次,测量数据用均值 \pm 标准差表示。 $P < 0.05$ 具有统计学意义。

3. 结果

3.1. TOP2A 在人肝癌细胞和组织中表达上调

在 Oncomine 数据库中筛选了 4 项有关 TOP2A 在 HCC 组织和正常组织中表达的研究(Roessler Liver, Chen Liver, Wurmbach Liver, Roessler Liver 2),共有 712 个样本。如图 1(A)所示,4 个研究队列中肝癌组织组 TOP2A 的表达水平均高于正常组织组($p < 0.05$)。另外,在一个由我们收集的 40 个连续行根治术后取得的肝癌组织及癌旁组织样本组成的队列中,经 qRT-PCR 检测,33 个肿瘤样本(82.5%)中 TOP2A mRNA 表达水平呈上调状态,7 个肿瘤样本(17.5%)中 TOP2A mRNA 表达下调(图 1(B))。这一结果在从该队列中随机选择的 8 对肝癌(T)及其癌旁正常组织(N)样本中用 Western blot 方法进行了验证,如图 1(C)所示。此外,我们还检测了 TOP2A 在人正常肝细胞系及肝癌细胞系中的表达。结果显示, TOP2A 在高转移细胞系 MHCC97H、HuH7 和 HCCLM3 的 mRNA 和蛋白水平均显著高于低转移细胞系 Hep3B 和正常肝细胞系 L02 (见图 1(D)), $**p < 0.01$ 。在此我们选择相对高表达 TOP2A 的 MHCC97H 和相对低表达 TOP2A 的 Hep3B 进行后续实验。

3.2. TOP2A 促进肝癌细胞体外增殖

为了探究敲低或上调 TOP2A 表达后对肝癌细胞增殖情况的影响,我们将 shTOP2A-1、shTOP2A-2、shTOP2A-Ctrl 分别转染至原本高表达 TOP2A 的 MHCC97H 细胞中,并用 Western Blot 检测转染效果,图示 shTOP2A-2 转染效率较高;同时将含 pcDNA-TOP2A 及 pcDNA-Ctrl 的质粒分别转染原本低表达 TOP2A 的 Hep3B 细胞,Western Blot 结果显示上调基因表达后 TOP2A 蛋白表达明显增加(图 2(A))。另外用 qRT-PCR 验证了 shRNA 在 MHCC97H 细胞中敲除 TOP2A 的效率和 pcDNA 在 Hep3B 细胞中上调 TOP2A 的结果(见图 2(B)), $***p < 0.001$ 。为评估 TOP2A 对 MHCC97H 和 Hep3B 细胞活性的影响,在 shTOP2A 或 pcDNA-TOP2A 转染 0 h、12 h、24 h、48 h、72 h 后采用 CCK8 分析法分别记录 MHCC97H 和 Hep3B 在 450 nm 处的吸光度值(OD),如图 2(C)所示, TOP2A 基因敲除可降低 MHCC97H 细胞的活力,而上调 TOP2A 表达对 Hep3B 细胞的增殖有促进作用, $**p < 0.01$ 。

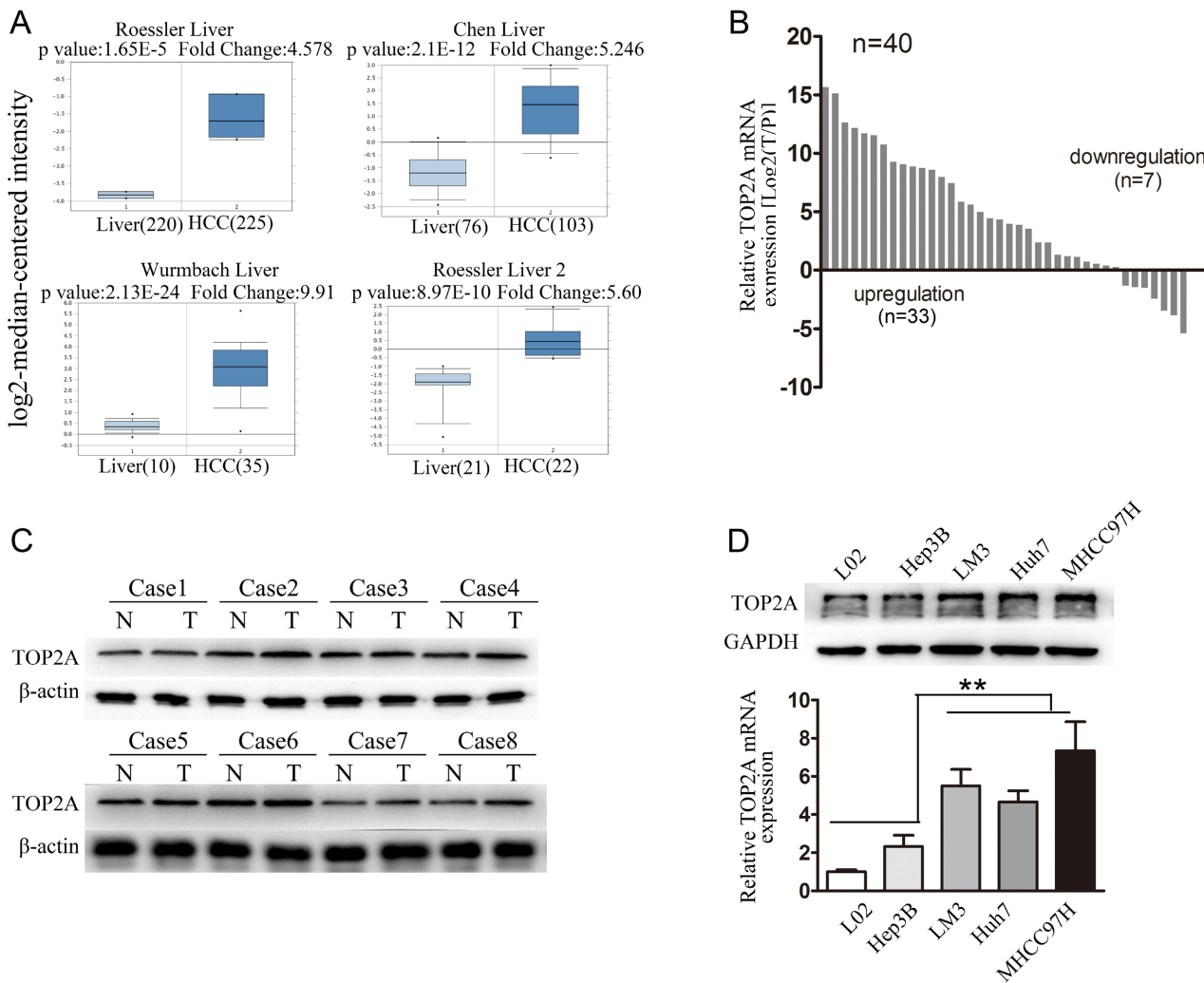
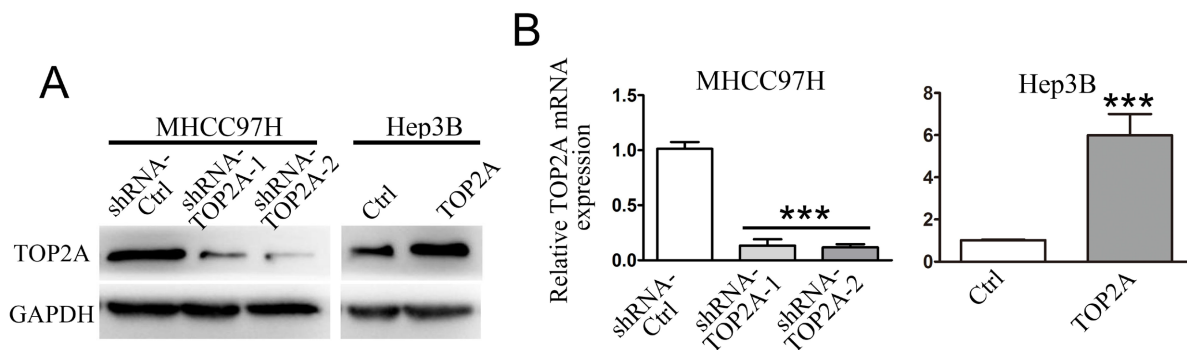


Figure 1. (A) Expression levels of TOP2A in normal liver tissues and liver cancer tissues in four studied arrays from the Oncomine database. (B) qRT-PCR was performed on TOP2A mRNA expression in tumor tissues from 40 patients who underwent curative resection of liver cancer. Expression of (C) TOP2A protein in normal tissues (N) and hepatocellular carcinoma tissues (T). Expression of (D) TOP2A mRNA and protein in human normal liver cell line L02 and hepatoma cell lines Hep3B, LM3, Huh7, MHCC97H. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

图 1. (A) 来自 Oncomine 数据库的 4 个研究阵列中正常肝脏组织及肝癌组织中 TOP2A 的表达水平。(B) 对 40 名接受肝癌根治性切除术患者的肿瘤组织中 TOP2A mRNA 表达进行 qRT-PCR 检测。(C) TOP2A 蛋白在癌旁正常组织(N)和肝癌组织(T)中的表达。(D) TOP2A mRNA 和蛋白在正常肝细胞系 L02 和肝癌细胞系 Hep3B、LM3、Huh7、MHCC97H 中的表达。* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$



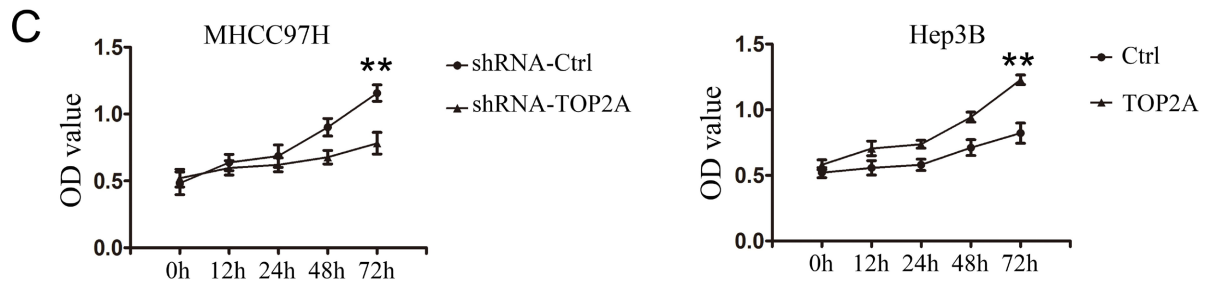


Figure 2. (A) TOP2A protein expression levels in MHCC97H or Hep3B cells after knockdown or up-regulation of TOP2A gene expression. (B) qRT-PCR was performed to detect the knockdown efficiency of TOP2A in MHCC97H cells by shRNA and the stable up-regulation of TOP2A expression in Hep3B cells by pcDNA, respectively. *** $p < 0.001$. (C) The effect of knockdown or up-regulation of TOP2A gene expression on the proliferation of MHCC97H or Hep3B cells was analyzed by CCK8 assay. ** $p < 0.01$

图 2. (A) 敲除或上调 TOP2A 基因表达后 MHCC97H 或 Hep3B 细胞 TOP2A 蛋白表达水平。(B) qRT-PCR 分别检测 shRNA 在 MHCC97H 细胞中 TOP2A 的敲除效率和 pcDNA 使 Hep3B 细胞中 TOP2A 表达的稳上调。*** $p < 0.001$ 。(C) CCK8 法分析敲低或上调 TOP2A 基因表达对 MHCC97H 或 Hep3B 细胞增殖的影响。** $p < 0.01$

3.3. TOP2A 表达水平与肝癌患者预后相关

GEPIA (Gene Expression Profile Interactive Analysis)是一个基于 Web 的工具,可以根据 TCGA 和 GTEx 数据提供关键的交互式 and 可定制功能,包括差异表达分析、轮廓绘制、相关性分析、患者生存分析、相似基因检测和降维分析[9]。本研究借助 GEPIA 内数据库进行生存分析(图 3(A)、图 3(B)),结果显示高表达 TOP2A 的患者 DFS 及 OS 均劣于低表达患者。

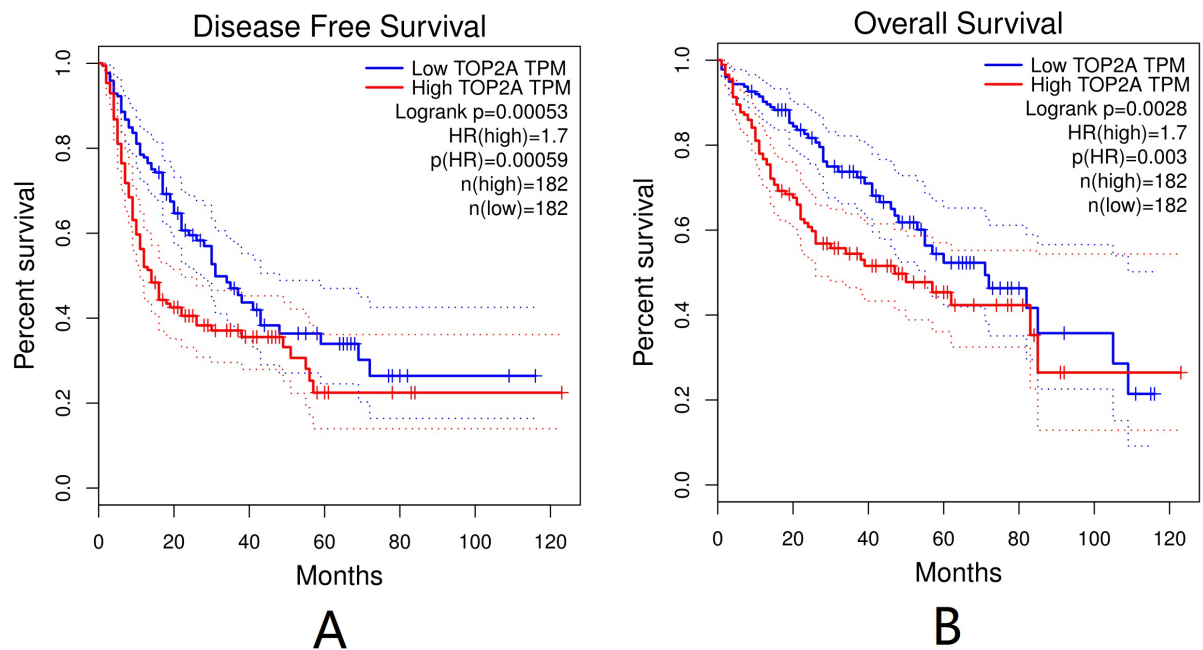


Figure 3. The level of (A) TOP2A expression correlated with disease-free survival (DFS). (B) TOP2A expression levels correlate with overall survival (OS)

图 3. (A) TOP2A 表达水平与无病生存期(DFS)相关。(B) TOP2A 表达水平与总生存期(OS)相关

4. 讨论

肝癌是全世界最常见的恶性肿瘤之一。经过多年的发展,肝癌的治疗方法已从早期的手术切除、肝

移植、TACE、化疗和放疗逐渐演变为分子靶向治疗结合免疫治疗[10]。AFP 先前被指南推荐作为监测 HCC 的血清标志物。Agopian 等人[11]的一项研究报告说,在 665 名 HCC 患者中,31.3%的 AFP 水平在正常范围内。虽然直到现在 AFP 仍在临床上使用,但它不作为监测指标用于 AFP 水平正常的患者[12]。欧洲肝脏研究协会(EASL)建议,除了甲胎蛋白,血管内皮生长因子和血管生成素 2 也可以作为预后标记物[13]。此外,寻找新的有效的肝癌预后生物标志物的努力正在进行中。

TOP2A 在不同类型肿瘤中被检测到高表达,如肺癌[14][15]、结肠癌[16][17]、膀胱尿路上皮癌[18]、前列腺癌[19][20]、乳腺癌[21][22]、卵巢癌[23]等,均提示与不良预后相关。Panvichian 等人[24]证实 TOP2A 在 HCC 中的高表达与 Ki-67 的高表达有关, Ki-67 的表达与 HCC 的肿瘤生长速度和不良预后有关[25],提示 TOP2A 可以作为治疗肝癌的潜在靶点。我们的研究首先验证了肝癌组织和高转移肝癌细胞系中 TOP2A 在 mRNA 和蛋白水平表达均高于正常组织和低转移细胞系。TOP2A 主要位于处在分裂增殖状态细胞的细胞核内,且在快速增殖的细胞中,其表达水平是静止细胞的数倍。在细胞周期中, TOP2A 在 G0/G1 期含量较低, S 期增多, G2/M 期达到高峰,它在此期间发挥调控核酸空间结构动态变化、调控核酸生理功能的关键作用[26][27]。我们通过慢病毒载体稳定转染构建了过表达和敲除 TOP2A 的两组细胞,通过 CCK8 试验发现上调 TOP2A 基因表达后低转移细胞系增殖能力明显增加,而敲除该基因后高转移细胞系增殖能力相应下降($p < 0.01$)。这与前人的部分研究[28]结果相符,提示 TOP2A 在肝癌组织中的高表达可能与肿瘤的发展有关。

根据 GEPIA 数据库显示,高表达 TOP2A 的患者 OS 和 DFS 均高于低表达 TOP2A 的患者。CAI [26]等人的研究中发现,与白人种族相比,亚洲人群中 TOP2A 的高表达与不良预后之间的关联更为显著。这可能与亚洲肝癌的病因多与病毒性肝炎有关,而肝炎病毒又对 DNA 复制过程产生影响。本研究在生存分析方面存在一定局限性。虽然 GEPIA 是获得研究线索的有用资源,但这一结果后续需要在大量临床样本中进行验证。

5. 结论

综上所述,我们的研究结果验证了相较于正常细胞和组织, TOP2A 在肝癌细胞和组织中呈现高表达水平,表明 TOP2A 可能与部分肝癌的发生有关。而且在上调 TOP2A 基因表达时会提高原本低扩增的细胞系的增殖能力,相反,下调其表达会减少高扩增细胞系的增殖,这表明 TOP2A 的表达水平可能与肝癌细胞倍增有关。检索 GEPIA 数据库显示,当以 OS 和 DFS 为观察终点时, TOP2A 高表达的患者预后差于低表达患者。因此 TOP2A 将来有潜力成为预测肝癌预后的重要生物标志物。

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