

·综述·

调节性细胞死亡在脊髓损伤中作用的研究进展

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摘要: 脊髓损伤(SCI)作为一种常见的神经系统疾病,主要由机械性创伤引起,通常会导致患者出现大范围的感觉、运动和自主神经损伤,严重影响患者生存质量。近年来研究发现,凋亡、坏死性凋亡、自噬、焦亡、铁死亡以及铜死亡等调节性细胞死亡(RCD)的发生机制与SCI的发生发展密切相关,且各RCD之间还存在一定的串扰关系。因此,本文将对SCI发病过程中与RCD相关的机制和基于细胞死亡抑制剂、外泌体和组织工程疗法治疗SCI的最新研究进展进行综述,以期对未来SCI相关基础研究及临床治疗提供参考。

关键词: 脊髓损伤;调节性细胞死亡;凋亡;自噬;焦亡;铁死亡;铜死亡;研究进展

中图分类号:R651.2 文献标志码:A 文章编号:1672-3554(2026)01-0106-13

DOI:10.11714/jssystemed.YX20250126

Progress in Research on Regulatory Cell Death in Spinal Cord Injury

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Abstract: Spinal cord injury (SCI), a prevalent neurological disorder, is primarily caused by mechanical trauma, leading to extensive impairments in sensory, motor, and autonomic functions, significantly compromising patients' quality of life. Accumulating evidence indicates that various forms of regulated cell death (RCD), including apoptosis, necroptosis, autophagy, pyroptosis, ferroptosis, and copper-dependent cell death, play critical roles in the pathogenesis and progression of SCI, with notable interplay among these pathways. This review aims to summarize the current understanding of RCD-related mechanisms in SCI and highlight recent advances in therapeutic strategies targeting cell death inhibitors, stem cell transplantation, and tissue engineering approaches, thereby providing insights for future basic research and clinical interventions.

Key words: spinal cord injury (SCI); regulated cell death (RCD); apoptosis; autophagy; pyroptosis; ferroptosis; cuproptosis; research progress

[J SUN Yat-sen Univ (Med Sci), 2026, 47(1): 106-118]

脊髓损伤(spinal cord injury, SCI)是由机械或生物因素引起的中枢神经系统疾病,表现为受损节段以下运动、感觉和自主神经功能障碍^[1]。SCI具

有高死亡率和高致残率的特点,给患者和社会造成沉重的经济负担^[2]。根据损伤的病理特点,SCI可分为原发性和继发性损伤,前者是由机械压迫因素

收稿日期:2025-09-12

录用日期:2025-12-15

基金项目:河南省卫生健康中青年学科带头人项目(豫人卫[2024]3号);河南省中医学“双一流”创建科学研究专项(HSRP-DFCTCM-2023-3-27)

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导致的不可逆性损伤,后者为继于原发性损伤后出现的包括氧化应激、炎症反应、神经细胞死亡和脱髓鞘等一系列病理级联过程^[3-4]。调节性细胞死亡(regulated cell death, RCD)是一种由基因决定的主动有序的细胞死亡形式,死亡过程涉及大量蛋白和信号通路^[5]。继发性SCI阶段发生的细胞死亡多属于RCD,此阶段的神经元死亡是神经功能障碍的主要原因。RCD主要包括凋亡、坏死性凋亡、自噬、焦亡、铁死亡以及铜死亡等,这些机制共同影响神经细胞和胶质细胞的存亡,是导致SCI后神经功能障碍的重要因素,贯穿整个病程,并以各种方式影响疾病的进展^[6](图1、表1)。因此,明确SCI后各细胞死亡的具体机制和相关串扰关系及在SCI后病理进程中的作用,并通过早期干预减少继发性神经元死亡对于改善SCI后的结果至关重要。

1 脊髓损伤中调节性细胞死亡的作用

1.1 细胞凋亡与脊髓损伤

细胞凋亡是在细胞受控方式下自我拆解、死亡的过程,是RCD中最常见的形式。其形态学特征表现为细胞皱缩、染色质凝聚及凋亡小体的形成,凋亡过程中无明显的炎症反应^[7]。细胞凋亡的过程主要受半胱氨酸蛋白酶(caspase)家族的调节,凋亡途径包括内源性线粒体途径、外源性死亡受体信号途径和内质网应激途径^[8]。研究发现,在脊髓原发性损伤后数小时内开始出现细胞凋亡,在损伤后的大鼠脊髓神经元、星形胶质细胞、少突胶质细胞和小胶质细胞中都能够观察到损伤诱导的细胞凋亡^[9-10]。正常情况下,细胞内的促凋亡机制和抗凋亡机制处于平衡状态,以维持细胞正常发育;当机体处于病理状态下,细胞凋亡增加,加重疾病病理进程^[11]。

在内源性线粒体途径中,当受到细胞内应激信号刺激损伤后,细胞色素C从线粒体膜间隙中被释放出来,激活半胱氨酸蛋白酶-9和半胱氨酸蛋白酶-3(caspase-3),随后介导细胞凋亡并调节其他内源性凋亡级联反应,导致细胞死亡^[12]。B淋巴瘤-2(B-cell lymphoma-2, Bcl-2)和Bcl-2相关X蛋白(Bcl-2 related X protein, Bax)作为重要的抗凋亡和促凋亡相关蛋白,能够通过调节线粒体膜通透性来决定内源性细胞凋亡过程的启动。研究人员

在SCI模型小鼠中观察到了Bax蛋白的上调和Bcl-2蛋白的下调,神经元损伤严重,细胞发生大量凋亡,揭示了Bax和Bcl-2在SCI神经元凋亡过程中的重要作用^[13]。此外,Hou等^[14]通过体内体外研究发现,激活核因子E2相关因子2/醌氧化还原酶1信号通路能够显著降低Bax和caspase-3蛋白表达,同时增加Bcl-2的表达,减少了神经元细胞凋亡,有效促进SCI后脊髓组织的恢复。外源性死亡受体信号途径则由Fas受体(fas receptor, Fas)和肿瘤坏死因子受体介导,它们与相应的配体结合后激活下游半胱氨酸蛋白酶caspase-8和caspase-3启动细胞凋亡,该凋亡途径在SCI后占主导地位^[8]。研究发现,下调Fas配体(Fas ligand, FasL)蛋白表达后,外源性凋亡途径受到抑制,SCI大鼠凋亡细胞数量减少,脊髓损伤部位病变减轻^[15]。内质网途径则因细胞内钙稳态紊乱,内质网内错误折叠蛋白的积累导致内质网发生应激反应,增加凋亡蛋白的表达,进而引起细胞凋亡^[16]。内质网葡萄糖调节蛋白78(glucose regulatory protein78, GRP78)、半胱氨酸蛋白酶-12(caspase-12)和C/EBP同源蛋白(C/EBP homologous protein, CHOP)是内质网应激诱导的凋亡反应蛋白,CHOP可通过调控抗凋亡蛋白Bcl-2和超大B细胞淋巴瘤因子的表达激活细胞凋亡,当CHOP和GRP78表达受到抑制后,内质网应激减轻,同时caspase-12、caspase-3和Bax表达降低,神经元凋亡减少^[17]。由上可得,细胞凋亡在SCI中广泛存在,通过对各途径中凋亡相关蛋白的表达进行调节,减少神经元凋亡,促进神经修复和再生,可达到治疗SCI的效果。

1.2 坏死性凋亡与脊髓损伤

坏死性凋亡是一种有别于凋亡的死亡方式,其形态特征与坏死类似,主要表现为细胞和细胞器的肿胀、溶解、质膜破裂和内容物流出,该过程中伴有大量炎症因子的释放^[18]。坏死性凋亡的经典途径主要由TNF- α 诱导触发,通过受体相互作用蛋白激酶1(receptor-interacting protein kinase1, RIPK1)和受体相互作用蛋白激酶3(receptor-interacting protein kinase3, RIPK3)的磷酸化级联反应,最终导致混合谱系激酶结构域样蛋白(mixed lineage kinase domain-like, MLKL)的寡聚化与膜穿孔,引发细胞膜完整性丧失和细胞内容物释放^[19]。此外,FasL、肿瘤坏死因子相关凋亡诱导配体和Z-DNA结合蛋白1也可以介导坏死性凋亡的发生。Kanno

等^[20]建立SCI小鼠模型并检测到在损伤发生后第4小时RIPK1表达量逐渐增加,在第3天达到峰值,并持续增加7 d。此外,抑制RIPK1的表达被证明能够减少坏死性凋亡,促进髓鞘再生,对SCI具有一定的修复作用^[21]。RIPK1、RIPK3和MLKL形成的坏死体是坏死性凋亡的核心,RIPK1/RIPK3/MLKL磷酸化的抑制被证明能够减少紧密连接蛋白和黏附连接蛋白的丢失,恢复脊髓屏障完整性^[22]。与凋亡类似,坏死性凋亡也广泛存在于神经元、小胶质细胞、少突胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞中。小胶质细胞作为机体炎症免疫细胞,在SCI后迅速被募集至病变部位,激活并极化为促炎M1型,释放大炎症因子肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor, TNF- α),诱导神经元和少突胶质细胞坏死性凋亡的发生,引起细胞损伤和轴突脱髓鞘,加重神经损伤^[23-24]。星形胶质细胞是大脑神经元支持细胞,对神经元和髓鞘再生具有重要意义,研究发现,抑制RIPK1/MLKL/TLR4信号通路的激活,可以减轻星形胶质细胞坏死性凋亡程度,下调血清炎症因子白介素-6、白介素-1 β (interleukin-1 β , IL-1 β)和白介素-33水平,减少神经炎症,改善SCI小鼠运动功能^[25]。此外,最新研究发现,在SCI中存在大量坏死性凋亡差异基因表达,CHMP7和Fas相关死亡域蛋白被认为是SCI治疗的潜在靶点,为探寻SCI的诊断标志物开辟了新的途径^[26]。

1.3 自噬与脊髓损伤

自噬是一种自然防御和应激调节过程,通过将细胞内错误折叠的蛋白质、受损的细胞器或病原体等异常细胞成分送至溶酶体或液泡进行消化降解和循环再利用,为细胞提供了生存所需的能量和环境^[27]。目前自噬主要包括3种类型,分别为微自噬、巨自噬和分子伴侣介导的自噬^[28]。

同细胞凋亡一样,自噬被认为对神经细胞具有双重作用,在SCI的早期阶段,增加自噬有助于溶酶体加速受损线粒体和有害蛋白的降解,抑制机体炎症反应,减少神经细胞凋亡,促进神经修复和再生,发挥神经保护作用^[29-30]。微管相关蛋白1轻链3(microtubule-associated protein light chain3, LC3)和自噬衔接蛋白62(autophagy adapter protein62, P62)被认为是自噬的重要标志物,先前的研究发现,在继发性SCI早期阶段病变部位存在自噬,并且LC3阳性细胞数量显著增加,这一结果表明自噬细胞死亡常见于SCI后受损的神经组织中^[31]。此

外,在经过女贞素治疗后的SCI小鼠中Bcl-2/腺病毒E1B 19 ku相互作用蛋白3(Bcl-2/adenovirus E1B-19 ku-interacting protein3, BNIP3)显著上调,并通过BNIP3-LC3相互作用增强线粒体自噬,使线粒体功能障碍减轻,神经元凋亡减少^[32]。磷脂酰肌醇-3-激酶(phosphoinositide3-kinase, PI3K)/蛋白激酶B(protein kinase B, Akt)/哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白(mammalian target of rapamycin, mTOR)被认为是参与自噬的中心信号通路,其中的mTOR作为自噬的主要负调控因子,能够抑制自噬启动,参与调控自噬体与自噬溶酶体的形成过程,通过抑制该信号通路诱导自噬已经成为SCI的潜在治疗策略之一^[33-34]。研究显示,成纤维细胞生长因子18可以通过调节Akt/mTOR信号传导途径促进自噬并抑制细胞死亡,促进SCI后的运动恢复^[35]。

当SCI更严重时,会出现自噬流动受到干扰,自噬底物降解困难的现象,此时自噬过度激活将导致氧化应激和神经毒性,以致神经元凋亡坏死,加重SCI病理进程。据研究报道,急性创伤性SCI会诱导自噬过度激活,促进血脊髓屏障完整性相关紧密连接蛋白和黏附连接蛋白的丢失,导致SCI恢复受限,此外,Zang等^[36]通过实验观察到,当通过阻断非受体型蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶1以提高mTOR蛋白表达水平后,细胞过度自噬受到抑制,SCI大鼠功能有所恢复。因此,鉴于自噬在SCI中的双刃剑作用,调节自噬使其在受控范围内抑制细胞凋亡,从而促进SCI后神经功能的恢复是当前研究中的重要思路。

1.4 焦亡与脊髓损伤

神经炎症是SCI发病机制的重要决定因素,细胞焦亡是一种具有高度炎症反应的程序性死亡方式,其基本特征包括细胞体积膨胀、细胞膜破裂和促炎性细胞因子的大量释放^[37]。根据触发的caspase不同,细胞焦亡分为经典途径和非经典途径^[38]。经典焦亡途径是在病原体刺激下,细胞内细胞质模式识别受体通过凋亡相关斑点样蛋白与胱天蛋白酶1前体结合,进一步激活半胱氨酸蛋白酶-1(caspase-1)并切割消皮素D(gasdermin D, GSDMD)形成GSDM-N,导致细胞膜破裂和细胞内容物的释放,此外,成熟的caspase-1能够活化IL-1 β /白介素-18使炎症反应进一步扩大;非经典途径则由caspase-4/5/11介导^[39]。参与细胞焦亡过程中的炎症小体是细胞内负责识别病原体和损伤信号

的一种蛋白质或多蛋白复合体,如NOD样受体热蛋白结构域相关蛋白23(NOD-like receptor thermal protein domain associated protein 3, NLRP3)、GSDMD和黑色素瘤缺乏因子2(absent in melanoma2, AIM2)等^[40]。对这些复合物进行干扰可明显改善SCI患者预后。

SCI后的亚急性炎症反应通常是由神经系统中常驻小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞分泌的细胞因子和趋化因子水平增加介导发生的^[37]。NLRP3是在焦亡过程中研究最为充分的炎症小体^[41]。研究发现,与正常组相比,SCI模型组大鼠焦亡相关蛋白NLRP3、caspase-1和GSDMD-N表达升高,促炎细胞因子IL-1 β 水平显著增加,同时在小胶质细胞中也观察到了同样的结果,其可能与死亡相关蛋白激酶1蛋白表达上调引起的NLRP3/caspase-1/GSDMD信号通路激活有关,当敲低死亡相关蛋白激酶1后细胞焦亡程度减轻,损伤大鼠功能有所恢复^[42]。丁酸钠被证明能够抑制NLRP3/caspase-1/GSDMD介导的神经元焦亡和炎症,对SCI起到保护和治疗作用^[43]。核因子E2相关因子2(nuclear factor erythroid 2 related factor 2, Nrf2)是调节抗氧化应激和炎症反应的关键转录因子,也是NLRP3的上游调节因子,激活Nrf2被证明能够抑制NLRP3/凋亡相关斑点样蛋白(apoptosis-associated speck-like protein containing a CARD, ASC)/caspase-1轴,减轻神经炎症和小胶质细胞焦亡^[44]。另有研究表明,沉默Nrf2基因后得到相反的结果,神经炎症和细胞焦亡加重^[45]。此外,最新研究发现,PI3K/AKT/NLRP3信号轴的激活对小胶质细胞焦亡也具有抑制作用,这在体内体外实验中都得到了验证^[46]。AIM2炎性小体信号传导已被证明能够通过GSDMD进行调节从而在神经发育和中枢神经系统稳态中发挥关键作用^[47]。大脑皮层神经元中的AIM2炎性小体由AIM2、ASC和caspase-1组成,受伤脑细胞释放的DNA可以通过AIM2炎性小体能够通过识别异位双链DNA调控细胞焦亡,在SCI中,抑制AIM2基因的表达能够降低炎症反应,改善脊髓微环境并促进轴突再生和脊髓神经元恢复^[48]。综上,小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞焦亡在SCI中被强烈激活,抑制炎性小体介导的细胞焦亡有望成为治疗SCI的关键靶点。

1.5 铁死亡与脊髓损伤

铁死亡是一种新型非凋亡程序性死亡途径,以

细胞内活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)积累、铁过载、脂质过氧化为特征^[49-50]。近年来,随着铁死亡的深入研究发现,铁死亡与SCI的病理生理过程密切相关,在SCI中存在与铁死亡相关的铁代谢紊乱、ROS积累、脂质过氧化和谷氨酸积累,显著导致神经细胞死亡^[51]。因此,铁死亡被认为参与继发性脊髓损伤的病理过程,主要参与SCI的急性期和亚急性期这两个阶段。Feng等^[52]研究人员观察到SCI患者和大鼠运动皮层中铁沉积显著增加,并进一步引发了脂质ROS的积累,最终导致运动神经元铁死亡和运动功能恢复受损;而使用铁螯合剂和铁死亡抑制剂后,运动神经元死亡减缓,运动功能得到改善,提示铁死亡可能是SCI发生发展的潜在机制。此外,Shen^[53]等通过体内外实验验证了减少ROS积累对神经元和少突胶质细胞的铁死亡的抑制作用。系统谷氨酸/胱氨酸逆向转运体/谷胱甘肽(glutathione, GSH)/谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶4(glutathione peroxidase 4, GPX4)轴是一个典型的铁死亡控制轴,GPX4是一种含硒代半胱氨酸的GSH依赖性酶,是铁死亡关键调节蛋白,能够将磷脂氢过氧化物还原为无毒的磷脂酰肌醇,并通过干扰产生ROS的链式反应来抑制铁死亡;GSH是一种抗氧化剂,是GPX4的辅助因子,由谷氨酸、甘氨酸和半胱氨酸合成^[54]。调节胱氨酸摄取、干扰GSH和GPX4是目前影响铁死亡的常见方法。研究显示,四甲基吡嗪和丹参酮IIA可以通过减少ROS、丙二醛和酰基辅酶A合成酶长链家族成员4水平,上调GSH、超氧化物歧化酶和GPX4表达发挥抗氧化作用并减少铁死亡的发生,然而,这些保护作用被GPX4抑制剂Ras选择性致死-3所逆转^[55-56]。此外,Nrf2和腺苷酸活化蛋白激酶(AMP-activated protein kinase, AMPK)相关信号传导通路被证明参与了细胞铁死亡的调节^[57]。最新研究报道,Nrf2/轻链(solute carrier family 7 member 11, SLC7A11)/GPX4信号通路的激活能够加强小胶质细胞M2型极化,减轻神经炎症和促进神经功能恢复^[58]。AMPK是细胞能量代谢的关键调控因子,能够促进Nrf2核转移,激活血红素氧合酶1表达,降低神经元氧化应激,上调GPX4蛋白水平,有效抑制SCI诱导的神经元细胞铁死亡^[59]。以上研究表明,铁死亡能够通过多种途径影响SCI病理进程,靶向铁死亡可能是临床治疗SCI有效策略。

1.6 铜死亡与脊髓损伤

铜死亡是一种铜依赖的细胞死亡方式,是铜离子中毒后的细胞毒性反应。在正常情况下,大脑海马和皮质中铜含量较高,铜离子具有神经保护作用,可以促进神经细胞的存活和恢复细胞功能;而异常代谢铜离子的铜离子能加重机体氧化应激和促进炎症因子的释放,损伤神经细胞^[60]。在铜死亡过程中铜离子直接结合硫辛酰化蛋白,导致线粒体硫辛酰化蛋白质聚集和铁硫簇蛋白破坏,线粒体内氧自由基的生成增加,同时线粒体结构发生改变,包括线粒体细胞膜电位丧失,通透性改变,线粒体肿胀和嵴丧失,这些改变最终影响细胞的能量代谢和生存^[61]。

Seelig等^[62]研究发现,与健康个体相比,SCI患者的血清铜浓度在24 h内呈上升趋势,且铜离子浓度影响着SCI的病理进程。二氢硫辛酰胺脱氢酶(dihydrolipoamide dehydrogenase, DLD)是一种多功能氧化还原酶,是多种线粒体多酶复合物的组成部分,已被证明可诱导铜死亡^[63]。研究发现,SCI之后的DLD蛋白表达水平显著上调,同时M2巨噬细胞极化增加,T细胞数量显著减少,免疫微环境稳态遭到破坏,表明铜代谢相关蛋白DLD可能通过调控SCI后细胞极化水平影响SCI病理进程^[64]。然而,另有研究发现,补充维生素E和铜等微量元素对急性SCI患者有潜在治疗益处,能够促进T细胞活化和增殖,改善免疫抑制,减轻并发症,增强运动恢复^[65]。以上研究表明铜离子浓度过高和过低都不利于SCI的恢复。除了DLD外,铜转运ATP酶 β 、溶质载体家族31成员1、二氢硫辛酸琥珀酰转移酶、二氢硫辛酰胺分支链转酰酶、硫辛酸合成酶和脂酰转移酶1基因的表达也被证明与SCI中铜死亡相关,但具体作用有待研究^[66]。巨噬细胞表达基因1(macrophage expressed gene1, MPEG1)是细胞内的跨膜蛋白,具有炎症和免疫调节作用,MPEG1在SCI后的小胶质细胞中显著表达,它可以减少铜死亡和炎症反应,保护脊髓组织免受损伤^[67]。Wang等^[68]研究发现,铜死亡相关基因腺苷三磷酸(ATP)酶铜转运 α 、铜蓝蛋白、赖氨酰氧化酶样2基因和磷酸二酯酶3B在SCI后被显著激活,并通过促进神经元铜死亡和神经炎症加重病理进程。ATP酶铜转运 β 是调节铜离子外排的关键蛋白,对细胞内同稳态的维持至关重要。最新研究发现,ATP酶铜转运 β 蛋白表达量在脊髓缺血再灌注损伤发生后显著

下调,铜离子外排受阻,大量铜离子在神经元内积累,二氢硫辛酰胺乙酰转移酶寡聚化,铁硫簇蛋白降解,最终激活铜死亡并导致神经功能损伤,而铜螯合剂四硫钼酸铵可抑制这一过程并改善运动功能障碍,表明了抑制神经元铜死亡在SCI治疗中的重要作用^[69]。综上所述,通过调节铜死亡对SCI进行干预是一种很有前途的新的治疗方法,但其潜在治疗机制和临床应用还需要进一步探索。

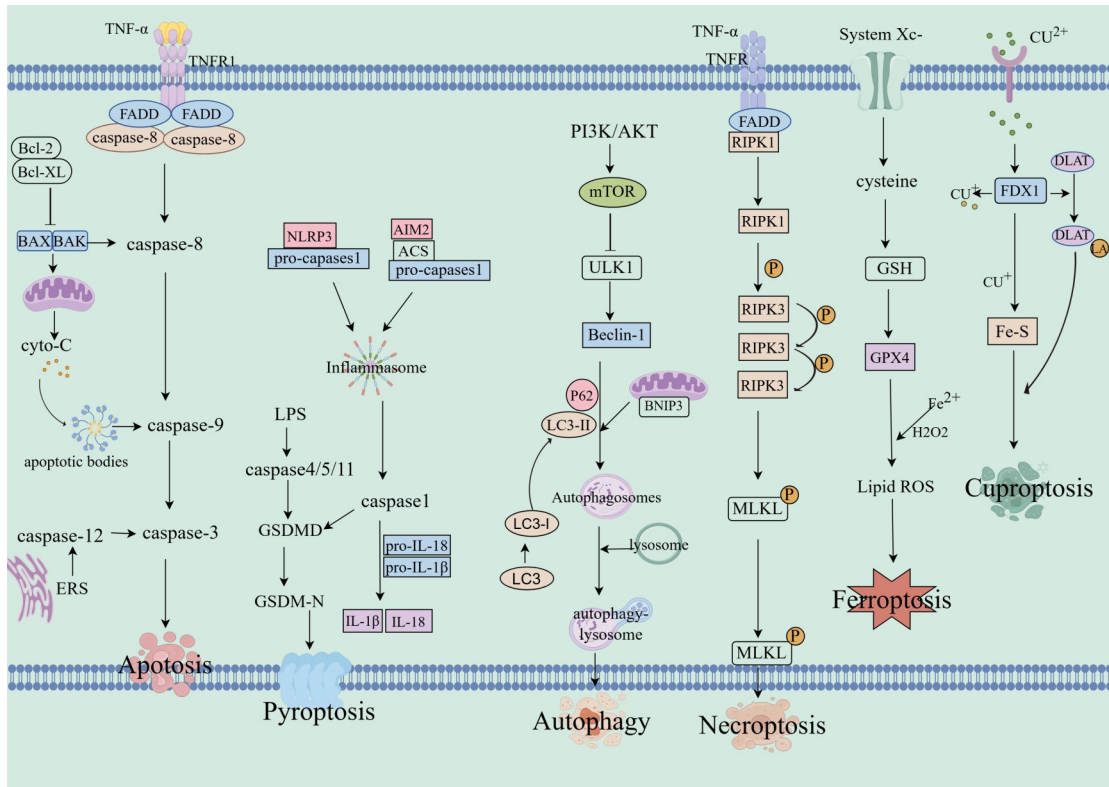
2 调节性细胞死亡之间的串扰

虽然各种细胞死亡途径有其独特的调控机制,但越来越多的研究表明,细胞死亡途径是并存的,不同RCD之间还存在极为复杂的串扰和联系(图2)。

2.1 自噬相关串扰

自噬作为在SCI损伤早期出现的程序性细胞死亡,能够选择性清除或激活其他死亡相关蛋白,进而与另外几种细胞死亡方式发生联系。研究表明,低剂量的脂多糖通过诱导长链非编码RNA转移相关肺腺癌转录物1上调,激活自噬通量和Nrf2核易位,调节凋亡相关基因的表达,抑制神经细胞凋亡,缓解脊髓损伤^[70]。此外,Hao^[71]等通过构建SCI模型观察到,当自噬受到抑制时,细胞内凋亡相关蛋白caspase-3和Bax蛋白表达水平升高,Bcl-2表达降低,该研究也进一步验证了自噬对凋亡的调节作用。Huang等^[72]研究发现,氨氯地平能够激活细胞中的自噬通量抑制细胞凋亡,且使用自噬抑制剂3-甲基腺嘌呤组的腹侧脊髓细胞与对照组相比,细胞凋亡率增加,p62显著积累,表明氨氯地平是通过上调自噬和减轻细胞凋亡进而发挥SCI后的治疗作用。另有研究表明,激活线粒体自噬能够减少线粒体功能障碍和ROS的产生,从而抑制神经细胞坏死性凋亡^[73-74]。Gao等^[75]研究发现,艾塞那肽能够通过抑制细胞中哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白mTOR的磷酸化水平,降低溶酶体膜通透性,恢复自噬通量,进而加速坏死性凋亡相关蛋白RIPK3和MLKL的降解,改善SCI。

除了凋亡和坏死性凋亡外,焦亡、铁死亡和自噬之间也存在一定的串扰。自噬可以通过清除受损线粒体,减少ROS的产生,直接或间接抑制NLRP3炎性小体的激活,抑制焦亡的发生。Wu等^[76]研究表明,白桦脂酸可以增加AMPK的磷酸



TNF- α : tumor necrosis factor; TNFR1: TNF receptor superfamily member1; FADD: fas-associated protein with death domain; Bcl-2: B-cell lymphoma-2; Bcl-XL: B-cell lymphoma-extra large; BAX: Bcl-2 related X protein; BAK: Bcl-2antagonist/killer; ERS: endoplasmic reticulum stress; NLRP3: NOD-like receptor thermal protein domain associated protein 3; AIM2: absent in melanoma2; ACS: apoptosis speck-like protein; LPS: lipopolysaccharide; GSDMD: gasdermin D; IL-1 β : interleukin-1 β ; IL-18: interleukin-18; PI3K: phosphoinositide3-kinase; AKT: protein kinase B; mTOR: mammalian target of rapamycin; ULK1: unc-51like kinase1; P62: autophagy adapter protein62; LC3: microtubule-associated protein light chain3; BNIP3: Bcl-2/adenovirus E1B-19 ku-interacting protein3; RIPK1: receptor-interacting protein kinase1; RIPK3: receptor-interacting protein kinase3; MLKL: mixed lineage kinase domain-like; System Xc-: cystine/glutamate transporter; GSH: glutathione; GPX4: glutathione peroxidase4; ROS: reactive oxygen species; FDX1: ferredoxin1; DLAT: dihydrolipoamide S-Acetyltransferase; Fe-S: Iron-sulfur clusters.

图1 脊髓损伤中调节性细胞死亡发生机制

Fig. 1 Mechanisms of regulatory cell death in spinal cord injury (by Figdraw 2025)

化,并抑制 mTOR 的磷酸化,增强脊髓损伤的自噬水平,清除过量的 ROS,抑制细胞焦亡,促进 SCI 后的功能恢复,该作用是通过激活 AMPK/mTOR/转录因子 EB 信号通路介导的。BMSCs 来源的外泌体被证明能够调控 miR-21a-5p/Pellino E3 泛素蛋白连接酶 1 轴,介导细胞自噬的发生,通过减少小胶质细胞中 NLRP3 的激活量,进一步抑制细胞焦亡^[77]。鞘氨醇-1-磷酸受体 1 (sphingosine-1-phosphate receptor1, S1PR1) 是焦亡的关键下游靶点,而 Pon3 蛋白被证明能够抑制 S1PR1 介导的细胞焦亡并促进自噬,实验研究发现,在 SCI 发生后,Dnmt1 表达逐渐升高,Pon3 蛋白表达下降,焦亡标志物 NLRP3、GSDMD、caspase-1、IL-1 β 和 ASC 水平上升,细胞焦亡增加,自噬受到抑制,脊髓损伤加重^[45]。此外,骨髓间充质干细胞来源的外泌体^[77]和

尿素素 A^[78] 则被证明可以上调自噬相关蛋白的表达,抑制 NLRP3 炎症小体的激活,增强自噬途径,抑制巨噬细胞/小胶质细胞焦亡,促进 SCI 后的功能恢复。自噬和铁死亡之间也通过 ROS 相互联系,细胞内铁蛋白自噬过度激活会产生过量的游离铁,当游离铁与细胞膜磷脂发生脂质过氧化反应后生成的 ROS 能够诱导铁死亡的发生^[79-80]。Rong 等^[81] 研究发现,自噬相关蛋白泛素特异性蛋白酶 11 能够通过稳定 Beclin1 直接激活自噬,引起自噬铁蛋白的降解,而使用自噬抑制剂减少 Beclin1 在体内和体外的含量时,神经元细胞铁死亡受到抑制,表明了抑制自噬能够减少铁死亡的发生。

2.2 其他串扰

凋亡与焦亡之间能够通过 caspase 家族发生串扰。研究发现,细胞凋亡的重要标志 caspase-3 在

表1 不同类型的调节性细胞死亡之间的比较
Table 1 Comparison between different types of regulatory cell death

Categories	Morphological characteristics	Inflammation	related pathways	Key factors
Apoptosis	Cell shrinkage, chromatin condensation, DNA fragmentation, and formation of apoptotic bodies	NO	PI3K/AKT, Nrf2/HO-1, Nrf2/NQO-1, microRNA-21-5p/FasL, ULK1/FasL, caspase-3/Bax/Bcl-2	BAX, BAK, Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, caspase-8, caspase-3, caspase-9, caspase-12, CHOP, GRP78
Autophagy	Cytoplasmic vacuolization, autophagosomes and autolysosomes were observed	NO	PI3K/Akt/mTOR, AKT-mTOR-TRPML1, ANXA7/LAMP5/mTOR, PI3K/AKT/FOXO1/KLF4	LC3, Beclin-1, P62, BNIP3, mTOR, ULK1
Cuproptosis	Mitochondrial swelling, cristae loss and mitochondrial membrane rupture were observed	Yes	FDX1-related pathways	DLD, MPEG1, LIPT1, LIAS
Ferroptosis	Mitochondrial atrophy, cristoid disappearance, membrane rupture, and increased membrane density were observed	Yes	GSH/GPX4, Nrf2/SLC7A11/GPX4, AMPK-NRF2-HO-1	GPX4, GSH, SLC7A11, NRF2
Necroptosis	Cells and organelles swell, dissolve, the plasma membrane is ruptured, and the contents flow out	Yes	RIPK1/RIPK3/MLKL RIPK1/MLKL/TLR4	RIPK1, RIPK3, MLKL
Pyroptosis	The cytoplasm swelled, the cell membrane ruptured, and pyroptosis formed	Yes	NLRP3/caspase-1/GSDMD, NLRP3/ASC/caspase-1, PI3K/AKT/NLRP3	caspase-1, caspase-4/5/11, GSDMD, NLRP3, AIM2, ASC

NQO-1: quinone oxidoreductase-1; TRPML1: transient receptor potential mucolipin1; LAMP5: lysosomal associated membrane protein family member5; FasL: Fas ligand; FOXO1: forkhead box O1; KLF4: kruppel-like factor4; CHOP: C/EBP homologous protein; GRP78: glucose regulatory protein78; SLC7A11: solute carrier family 7 member 11; TLR4: toll like receptors4; DLD: Dihydroliipoamide Dehydrogenase; MPEG1: macrophage expressed gene1; LIPT1: lipoyltransferase1; LIAS: lipoicacidsynthetase.

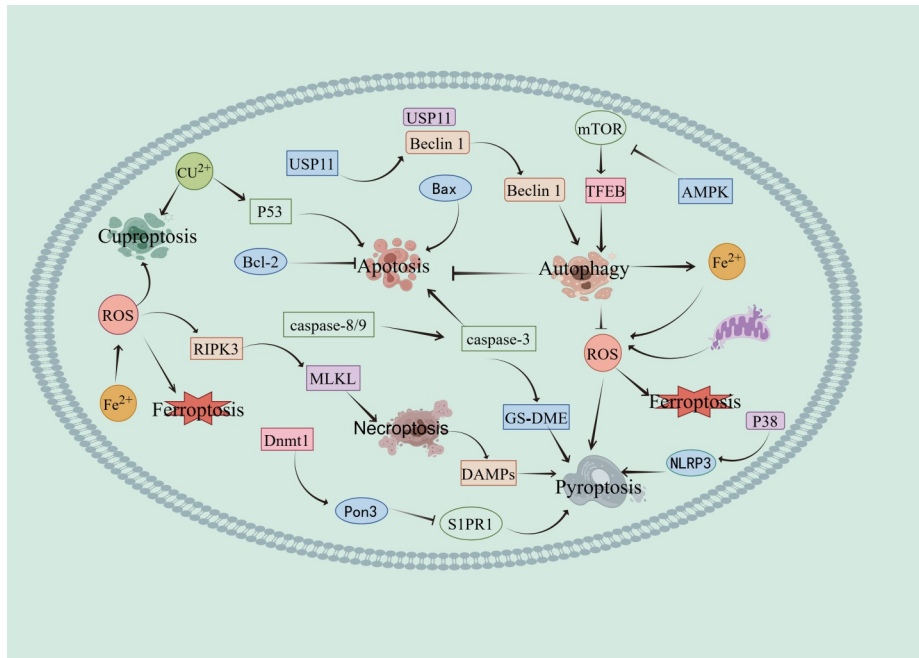
焦亡的发生过程中也起到一定的作用,半胱氨酸蛋白酶-8(caspase-8)是焦亡和凋亡的共同关键调节因子,既可引发经典的caspase依赖性凋亡,也可以诱导经典细胞焦亡途径的发生^[82]。凋亡caspase-8/9也被证明可以通过激活caspase-3,裂解GS-DME相关蛋白诱发细胞焦亡^[83]。此外,在SCI小鼠体内外模型中发现敲除范可尼贫血互补群C组(Fanconi anemia complementation group C, FANCC)基因会引起小胶质细胞焦亡,机体炎症反应进一步增加的同时观察到由p38丝裂原活化蛋白激酶/NLRP3信号通路介导的神经元的凋亡也增加,这可能与细胞焦亡有关^[84]。以上研究表明,在SCI中,细胞焦亡和凋亡之间存在炎症反应和细胞信号通路交叉等相互作用。在铁过载引起的铁死亡过程中,线粒体膜通透性转换孔开放,RIPK1磷酸化加

剧,细胞出现坏死性凋亡,该期间释放的损伤相关分子模式对焦亡也具有激活的可能性^[85]。肿瘤蛋白p53(tumor protein53, p53)基因与多种细胞死亡相关,先前发现铜稳态失调与p53调节的细胞凋亡有关,高浓度的铜会诱导p53的激活并引起细胞凋亡,表明铜死亡与细胞凋亡之间联系,但二者之间的具体串扰机制及在SCI中的作用仍有待研究^[86-87]。

3 基于RCD的SCI治疗策略

3.1 抑制剂

细胞死亡抑制剂是治疗SCI的重要方法,通过调节细胞死亡相关信号分子抑制SCI病理进程。RIPK1、MLKL是介导细胞坏死性凋亡的关键因子。



USP11: ubiquitin-specific protease11; AMPK: AMP-activated protein kinase; P53: tumor protein53; TFEB: transcription factor EB; DAMPs: damage-Associated Molecular Patterns; Dnm1: DNA methyltransferase1; S1PR1: sphingosine-1-phosphate receptor1.

图2 脊髓损伤中调节性细胞死亡之间的串扰机制

Fig. 2 Crosstalk mechanisms between regulatory cell death in SCI (by Figdraw 2025)

研究发现,坏死抑素1作为RIPK1的有效抑制剂,能够显著抑制RIPK1表达,减轻细胞氧化应激和线粒体损伤,抑制坏死性凋亡的发生^[88]。MLKL的抑制剂坏死磷酰胺则通过与MLKL的残基共价结合,抑制MLKL寡聚化和膜易位,减少细胞坏死性凋亡^[89]。自噬抑制剂胰岛素样生长因子1则被证明通过抑制p-Akt和p-mTOR蛋白表达,促进P62蛋白表达,抑制细胞过度自噬,清除髓鞘碎片,减少神经损伤,发挥神经保护作用^[90]。SCI中细胞的焦亡发生主要与NLRP3炎性小体相关,MCC950是目前研究较多的NLRP3炎性小体特异性抑制剂,其能够与NLRP3的NACHT结构域结合,抑制ASC募集和caspase-1裂解,减少神经炎症和细胞焦亡^[91]。此外,拓扑替康是一种具有抗炎作用的抑制剂,对拓扑异构酶1具有抑制作用,Jiang等^[92]实验研究发现,拓扑替康在抑制拓扑异构酶1的同时NLRP3的激活也受到了抑制,细胞内caspase-1和炎症因子表达水平降低,细胞焦亡减少。铁抑素-1是一种选择性铁死亡抑制剂,Zhou等^[93]通过实验研究发现铁抑素-1对铁死亡的抑制作用主要是通过减少细胞内过量的铁和脂质ROS,抑制GPX4的表达,减少脂质过氧化和少突胶质细胞铁死亡,促进损伤

小鼠脊髓神经功能恢复。和其他细胞死亡相比,目前关于铜死亡在脊髓损伤中的研究相对较少,最新研究发现,负载神经营养因子3的壳聚糖有下调铜死亡相关基因表达,促进脊髓功能恢复的作用,但具体作用机制和途径尚不清楚,靶向铜死亡的抑制剂仍有待开发。

3.2 外泌体

外泌体是由细胞释放到细胞外液的生物囊泡,内含蛋白质、DNA、mRNA和miRNA等多种生物分子,在治疗SCI方面具有细胞低毒性、特异性和生物相容性的优点。研究发现,骨髓间充质干细胞来源的外泌体能够通过促进miR-181c表达进而抑制磷酸酶和张力蛋白同源物表达,增加Cleaved-caspase-3和Bax蛋白水平,下调Bcl-2水平,减少细胞凋亡,改善SCI大鼠组织损伤^[94]。另外,据报道,外周巨噬细胞能有效改善SCI病变部位的抗炎微环境,其来源的外泌体也具有相似的生物学特性,通过抑制PI3K/AKT/mTOR途径增强自噬来促进抗炎型小胶质细胞极化,减轻神经炎症反应,发挥神经保护作用^[95]。Pan等^[96]在体内和体外实验中观察到经过施万细胞来源外泌体干预后的脊髓损伤细胞自噬作用增强,减少了轴突损伤和细胞

凋亡,这可能与表皮生长因子受体/Akt/mTOR 信号通路受到抑制有关。在靶向细胞焦亡治疗 SCI 方面,Zhao 等^[97]通过实验研究发现,骨髓间充质干细胞来源外泌体可通过传递 circ_003564,降低炎性小体相关的焦亡标志物的 caspase-1、GSDMD、NLRP3 和 IL-1 β 的表达,减少神经元焦亡,促进 SCI 大鼠运动功能恢复。Chen 等^[98]通过实验研究发现,间充质干细胞来源的外泌体对 SCI 模型组进行干预后,模型组大鼠 Nrf2、GPX4、SLC7A11、铁蛋白重链、前列腺素内过氧化物合酶 2、四氢生物蝶呤和 GTP 环化水解酶 1 的水平升高,Fe²⁺、ROS 和丙二醛下降,减少小胶质细胞铁死亡,促进神经功能恢复,该作用与 Nrf2/GTP 环化水解酶 1/四氢生物蝶呤轴激活有关。Wu 等^[99]通过体内实验研究发现,脂肪间充质干细胞外泌体能够通过激活 Nrf2/SLC7A11/GPX4 信号通路上调人脑微血管内皮细胞中 GPX4 的表达,抑制过度炎症,减少 SCI 后内皮细胞铁死亡来促进神经和血管功能的修复。以上研究结果证明了外泌体可以通过靶向 RCD 有效缓解脊髓的损伤,为进一步的临床治疗提供了理论依据。

3.3 组织工程

近年来,将生物材料与干细胞或生长因子相结合的组织工程技术已成为治疗 SCI 的新策略。水凝胶是常用的神经组织工程支架,具有较高的组织相容性,可以有效地提高 SCI 的治疗效果。Wang 等^[100]通过体内实验证实了热敏水凝胶递送的 G12G13 工程外泌体显著降低了星形胶质细胞内凋亡相关蛋白 caspase-3 和 BAX 表达,抑制神经元凋亡,对神经再生具有修复作用。另有研究报道,由聚乙醇酸共聚物和聚乙二醇的三嵌段聚合物合成的温度敏感水凝胶能够靶向递送含有 miR-138 的脐带间充质干细胞来源外泌体通过 Nrf2/Kelch 样 ECH 相关蛋白 1 信号通路下调小胶质细胞内 ROS 水平来减少神经元细胞凋亡,促进 SCI 大鼠运动功能恢复^[101]。此外,Zhang 等^[102]研究人员在实验观察中观察到自噬激活标志物自噬相关蛋白 5、Beclin1 蛋白表达和 LC3II/LC3I 比值在 SCI 后急剧增加,而将负载海藻酸钠的成纤维细胞生长因子水凝胶注射到受伤的脊髓后细胞过度自噬受到抑制,紧密连接蛋白和粘附连接蛋白的蛋白水平表达下降,血液脊髓屏障完整性有所恢复。除了水凝胶外,纳米颗

粒和纳米纤维也是被广泛用于组织工程的生物材料。Tang 等^[103]研究发现,应用巨噬细胞膜包被且负载米诺环素的纳米颗粒可下调 NLRP3、ASC 和 caspase-1 水平蛋白水平,IL-1 β 和白介素-18 产生降低,有效减少 SCI 后炎症因子的产生和细胞焦亡。ROS 敏感纳米系统 mPEG-b-Lys-BECI-TCO 与人脐间充质干细胞的联合应用也被证明显著促进了 GPX4 和 xCT 信号通路的表达,减少铁死亡和神经炎症反应,对 SCI 具有改善作用^[104]。尽管大量的基础研究已经证明组织工程在调控细胞死亡治疗 SCI 中具有显著作用,但仍缺乏相关的临床试验。

4 总结与展望

综上所述,在 SCI 后会出现各种类型的细胞死亡模式,包括凋亡、自噬、焦亡、铁死亡和铜死亡,这些调节性细胞死亡方式对各类神经细胞造成的不同程度的影响是导致神经功能障碍的基本因素。除了自噬在 SCI 后早期适度的激活可以发挥神经保护外,其他类型的 RCD 调节性细胞死亡对脊髓组织和细胞大多具有破坏作用。虽然各细胞死亡之间虽然作用机制不同,但被证明能够通过一定的蛋白和通路发生联系,并在调节 SCI 病理进程中发挥协同或拮抗作用,即存在一定的串扰。其中,自噬与细胞凋亡和焦亡之间的串扰研究较多,通过激活自噬能够通过抑制神经元的凋亡,坏死性凋亡、焦亡和铁死亡,减轻 SCI 病理进程,凋亡和焦亡之间更多的是通过释放炎症因子,加重 SCI 损伤,而铜死亡在 SCI 中的作用以及与其他细胞死亡方式的串扰相关研究较少。虽然目前对于 RCD 在 SCI 中的作用研究已较为广泛,但是这些研究还存在一定的局限性。首先,一些细胞死亡和相关蛋白在 SCI 中作用的具体机制尚不明确,仍需进一步深入研究;其次是脊髓损伤后不同阶段的细胞死亡水平存在差异,各种死亡类型及调节因子发挥主导作用的具体阶段并不清楚;另外,现阶段对于 RCD 在 SCI 中的研究和治疗大部分仅限于基础实验,缺乏临床实践数据和相关治疗方法的临床转化。因此,未来还需对这些问题进行深入思考研究,以帮助大家更全面地了解脊髓损伤后细胞死亡^[105]。

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