

·基础研究·

运动神经损伤早期脊髓 Calpain-2 的上调促进 IL-6 的异常表达

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摘要:【目的】探讨 L5 前根切除损伤运动神经的慢性痛模型中早期脊髓内钙依赖性蛋白水解酶 Calpain-2 (CALP2) 介导白细胞介素-6 (IL-6) 异常表达的病理生理。【方法】采用免疫荧光组织化学和蛋白免疫印迹法, 观察 L5-VRT 后 L5 背根、脊髓内 CALP2 的表达改变以及术前预处理 calpain 抑制剂 MDL28170 对脊髓内 L5-VRT 诱导的 IL-6 异常表达的影响, 同时观察单纯给予外源性 CALP2 (rat recombinant calpain-2, rr-CALP2) 对正常大鼠脊髓内 IL-6 表达的影响。【结果】① L5-VRT 诱导邻近 L5 背根以及脊髓背角和前角内钙依赖性蛋白酶 CALP2 表达升高; ② 通过术前预处理 calpain 抑制剂 MDL28170 (25 mg/kg) 部分阻断 L5-VRT 诱导的双侧脊髓 IL-6 异常表达; ③ 在正常大鼠单侧 L5 背根表面给予 rr-CALP2 可直接诱导双侧脊髓 IL-6 蛋白水平升高。【结论】运动神经损伤早期可能首先通过损伤处 CALP2 的激活, 诱导脊髓 IL-6 异常表达, 参与慢性痛的产生。

关键词: 白细胞介素-6; Calpain-2; 脊髓; 神经病理性疼痛

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Increased Calpain-2 Upregulates Expression of IL-6 in Spinal Cord Early after Motor Nerve Injury

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Abstract:【Objective】To discuss the role of calpain-2 (CALP2) on abnormal expression of interleukin-6 (IL-6) in spinal cord early after motor nerve injury by L5 ventral root transection (L5-VRT). 【Methods】Immunohistochemistry and Western blot were used to examine the early expression of CALP2 in ipsilateral L5 dorsal root and bilateral spinal cord. Furthermore, we also observe the effect of calpain inhibitor MDL28170 on the up-regulation of spinal IL-6 induced by L5-VRT, as well as the effect of rat recombinant calpain-2 (rr-CALP2) on spinal IL-6. 【Results】In present experiment, L5-VRT increased the immunofluorescence intensity of CALP2 in the ipsilateral L5 dorsal root and bilateral spinal dorsal horn and ventral horn 0.5 h after surgery. Pre-treatment with calpain inhibitor MDL28170 (25 mg/kg) partly blocked the elevation of IL-6 induced by L5-VRT. Administration of rr-CALP2 on the surface of unilateral L5 dorsal root triggered the up-regulation of IL-6 protein levels in bilateral spinal cord in normal rats. 【Conclusion】These data suggested that the early increased IL-6 in spinal cord induced by L5-VRT was mediated by CALP2 activity.

Key words: interleukin-6; Calpain-2; spinal cord; neuropathic pain

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我们以往研究已证实选择性切断L5前根(L5 ventral root transection, L5-VRT),在不损伤感觉传入的情况下可诱导大鼠双侧后足机械性撤足阈值显著下降,大鼠慢性触诱发痛的发生与脊髓背角致炎细胞因子白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6, IL-6)的异常表达密切相关,因为鞘内给予IL-6中和抗体可缓解触诱发痛的诱导^[1]。但运动神经损伤后脊髓背角IL-6上调的上游机制尚不清楚。Calpain-2(CALP2)是钙依赖性蛋白水解酶calpain的亚型之一,轴突切断时损伤处的Ca²⁺浓度可增加到毫摩尔级^[2],激活CALP2。Ca²⁺异常积聚引起的calpain激活在很多急慢性神经退行性变疾病如阿尔茨海默病、帕金森综合征、亨廷顿病、脑外伤和脊髓损伤进展中发挥着重要的作用^[3]。在病理性疼痛中,神经妥乐平可抑制大鼠中脑内calpain的激活缓解痛觉过敏^[4],使用calpain抑制剂MDL28170可以减轻酵母聚糖引起的炎性痛^[5]。Calpain已被证实是周围神经损伤后最早调节炎性细胞因子上调的因素之一,如我们在运动神经损伤引起的慢性痛模型(L5-VRT)中,发现CALP2可引起初级感觉传入通路中背根神经节(dorsal root ganglion, DRG)上IL-6表达增多,参与慢性痛的诱导^[6]。但是L5-VRT损伤后IL-6异常表达的脊髓上游机制是否通过CALP2介导尚不清楚,本研究通过免疫组织化学和western blot方法揭示L5-VRT后半小时脊髓CALP2与IL-6异常表达的因果关联,旨在为临床慢性痛的早期防治提供实验室依据。

1 材料与方 法

1.1 实验动物

实验选用成年SD大鼠,雄性,体质量180~220 g,随机分为假手术组($n=10$)、L5-VRT痛模型组($n=5$)、L5-VRT溶剂对照组($n=5$)、L5-VRT给药组($n=5$)、空白溶剂对照组($n=5$)和外源性CALP2(rat recombinant calpain-2, rr-CALP2)给药组($n=5$)。动物由中山大学北校区实验动物中心提供,分笼饲养并能够自由饮食,室温保持在(24±1)℃,湿度保持在60%±10%。按照大鼠的生物节律将光照时间维持在每日的6点到18点。实验过程中,所有步骤均按实验动物的相关

使用原则操作。

1.2 运动神经损伤模型(L5-VRT model)制作

按0.4 g/kg剂量给大鼠腹腔注射100 g/L水合氯醛进行麻醉,在相对无菌条件下,沿左侧脊柱旁肌约L4-S1脊椎节段处做一纵行切口,在L4-L5椎间对大鼠行半椎板切除术,暴露L5 DRG近心端的L5根鞘,用细三角针轻轻挑开L5根鞘表面的硬脊膜,辨别L5背根和前根。将L5前根小心掏出并形成环状,在L5 DRG近脊髓侧3~4 mm处用维纳斯剪剪断前根。假手术组(sham组)只分离L5前根,不做前根切断术。术后30 min取材,进行相关蛋白和免疫荧光活性检测。

1.3 免疫荧光组织化学方法

1.3.1 动物灌注及标本处理 大鼠乌拉坦(1.5 g/kg)静脉麻醉,体循环快速灌注生理盐水300 mL,再用40 g/L多聚甲醛溶液300 mL灌注30 min,解剖大鼠取出脊髓腰膨大段组织后,放入40 g/L多聚甲醛溶液中后固定30 min,随后转入300 g/L蔗糖中脱水3 d。标本经蔗糖脱水后进行冰冻切片(LEICA CM1900,德国),厚度为25 μm,4℃短暂保存。

1.3.2 免疫荧光组织化学染色 收集脊髓冰冻切片,用0.01 mol/L PBS洗3次,每次10 min,室温下封闭液作用1 h后加入抗CALP2抗体(goat anti-calpain-2, sc-7533, Santa Cruz),4℃摇床下作用16 h后,吸去一抗,0.01 mol/L PBS洗3次,加入FITC标记的二抗(FITC-conjugated secondary antibody; Jackson Immuno Research, PA, 68164),避光室温下作用1 h, PBS洗3~5次后随机挑选切片贴于载玻片上,滴上荧光猝灭剂,盖玻片封片。将制作好的玻片4℃下避光晾干后立即于荧光显微镜(Olympus IX71; Olympus Optical, Tokyo, Japan)下观察并拍照。半定量分析使用Image Pro软件,每组每只动物随机挑选10张切片,每组动物数 $n=5$,分析每张切片固定大小固定区域的免疫荧光活性强度值。

1.4 蛋白质印记(Western blot)

按1.6 g/kg剂量给大鼠腹腔注射200 g/L乌拉坦麻醉后,取出脊髓,液氮罐冷冻(10 s),按照100 μL/mg的量加入SDS裂解液和蛋白磷酸酶抑制剂cocktail。匀浆并超声破碎,14 000 ×g,4℃离心20 min,取上清弃沉淀。取上层含组织蛋白的

液体分装保存在 $-80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 。然后使用BCA试剂盒进行蛋白定量,各组取等量蛋白加入上样缓冲液并用dd H₂O调平体积,沸水浴5 min。冷却后 $3\ 000\times g$ 离心备用。经聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳及转膜后进行抗体孵育,将膜置于封闭液中室温下封闭1 h,去封闭液,将膜浸入含有抗IL-6抗体(rabbit anti-IL-6 antibody, LS-C70904, Lifespan, USA)的一抗稀释液中, $4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ 摇床上轻摇孵育16 h。然后将膜复温,倒入TBST溶液洗膜3次,每次10 min。之后将膜浸入含二抗稀释液中,室温孵育1 h,TBST洗5次,每次5 min。在曝光机下曝光并分析目的蛋白的分子质量和净光密度值。

1.5 药物使用

MDL28170(M6690, Sigma, St Louis, USA)易穿过血脑屏障和细胞膜。将MDL 28170先溶于DMSO形成母液,再用9 g/L NaCl稀释至5 mg/mL。DMSO终体积分数为20%。药物于L5-VRT术前20 min腹腔注射(25 mg/kg)。对照组给予等体积的体积分数为20%的DMSO。分组采取双盲法,治疗大鼠随机分配。

rr-CALP2(B71107, Calbiochem),用9 g/L生理盐水稀释使其酶活性浓度为250 U/L。正常大鼠左侧L5椎板切除,移除L5椎板横突,暴露L5背根神经节,切开此处的硬脊膜和蛛网膜。将明胶海绵切成3 mm长、3 mm宽、3 mm高的块状并置于暴露的L5背根。注射250 U/L(20 μL)的rr-CALP2或等体积的生理盐水于无菌明胶海绵上敷浴。缝合肌肉与皮肤,术后3天取材用western blot方法检测IL-6蛋白表达。

1.6 统计学分析

所有统计学分析均通过SPSS 13.0软件(SPSS Inc, USA)进行,实验结果以均数 \pm 标准误(mean \pm SE)表示。数据处理使用单因素方差分析(one-way ANOVA),Tukey法(Tukey's multiple comparisons test)检测组间差异或使用 t 检验(Student's t -test)进行两组间差异比较, $P < 0.05$ 表示差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

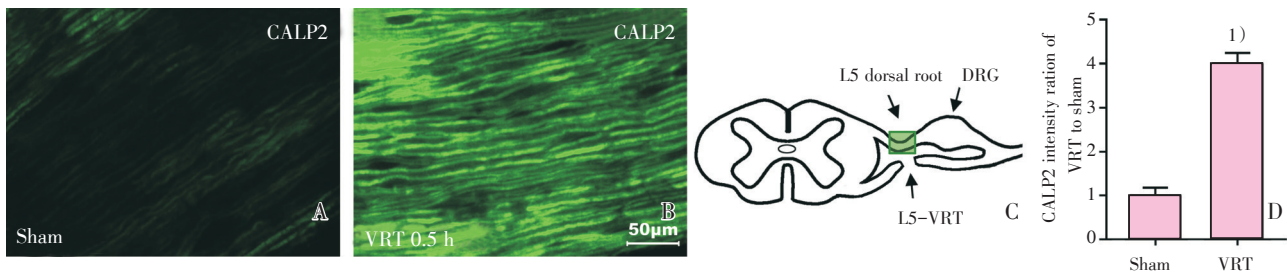
2.1 运动神经损伤早期L5背根和脊髓内CALP2免疫活性升高

目前,运动神经损伤诱导感觉传入系统免疫反应的机制仍不十分清楚,如图1C所示,L5前根损伤可能通过损伤处Ca²⁺释放增加,激活邻近未受损L5背根上的CALP2。为证实这一猜测,本研究用免疫荧光组织化学方法检测L5-VRT后0.5 h L5背根上CALP2免疫活性的改变。结果显示,与假手术组(sham,图1A)相比,L5-VRT诱导术后早期受损侧L5背根CALP2免疫活性显著增强(图1B),定量统计结果显示两组间免疫荧光强度值具有显著性差异($t = 9.783, P < 0.001$)。说明运动神经损伤后早期邻近未受损L5背根内CALP2的表达显著上调。

使用免疫组织化学方法,我们进一步检测了脊髓背角和前角内CALP2的表达。结果显示,与假手术组相比,L5-VRT术后0.5 h双侧脊髓背角(图2A-C)和前角(图2D-F)内CALP2免疫活性显著增强(同侧背角, $t = 13.25, P < 0.001$;对侧背角, $t = 13.54, P < 0.001$;同侧前角 $t = 14.69, P < 0.001$;对侧前角, $t = 13.56, P < 0.001$)。蛋白免疫印迹佐证了以上结果,运动神经损伤后早期,邻近未受损的L5背根和脊髓内CALP2的蛋白表达水平平均大幅度升高(图3, $F = 111.4, P < 0.001$)。以上数据说明calpain-2是参与运动神经损伤后清除作用的重要蛋白水解酶,并在术后早期损伤周围处(L5背根和脊髓内)表达均显著增强。

2.2 双向调控CALP2对脊髓IL-6表达的影响

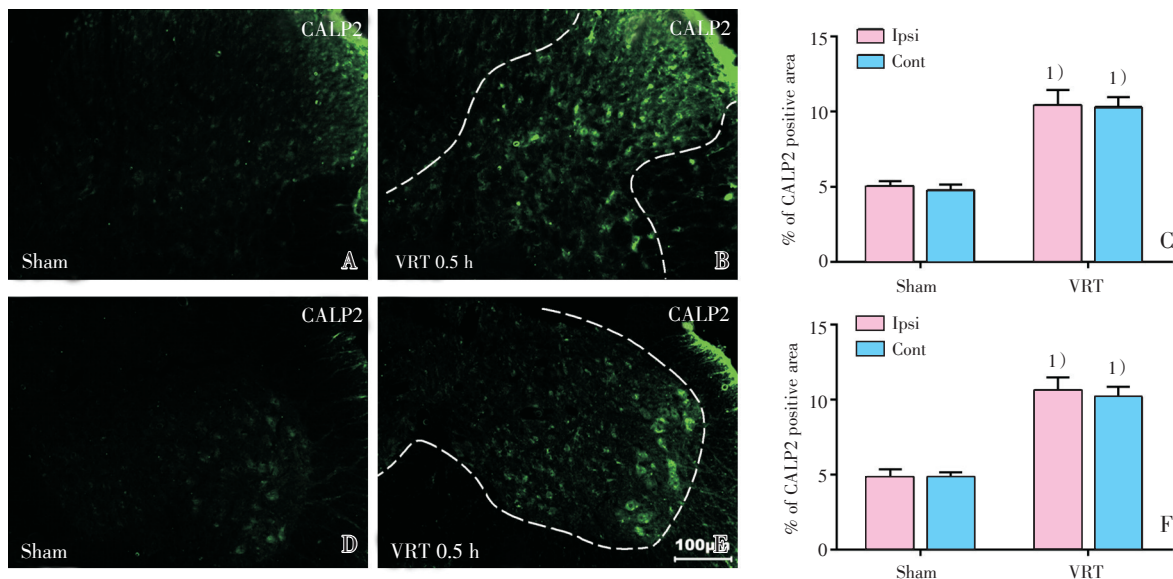
为证实CALP2是否为运动神经损伤后脊髓IL-6异常表达的上游调控分子,我们通过L5-VRT术前20 min腹腔注射calpain抑制剂MDL28170(25 mg/kg),观察抑制CALP2酶活性对L5-VRT诱导的脊髓IL-6异常表达的影响。Western blot结果表明(图4),与假手术组(sham)相比,L5-VRT溶剂对照组(vehicle+VRT)术后0.5 h双侧脊髓IL-6蛋白水平显著增强(同侧 $q = 9.141, P < 0.0001$;对侧 $q = 11.65, P < 0.0001$);L5-VRT抑制剂组(MDL28170+VRT)术后0.5 h双侧脊髓IL-6蛋白水平仍高于sham组(同侧 $q = 3.882, P = 0.044$;对侧 $q = 7.509, P < 0.001$),但显著低于L5-VRT溶剂对照组(同侧 $q = 5.259, P = 0.008$;对侧 $q = 4.145, P = 0.031$)。以上结果表明,抑制calpain酶活性可以部分阻断运动神经损伤后脊髓内IL-6的异常表达。



The immunofluorescence intensity of CALP2 in the ipsilateral L5 dorsal root from 0.5 h after L5-VRT or from sham rats are analyzed by immunohistochemistry. The representative signals are shown in (A) and (B), the schematic showing the test site is in (C) and the quantitative data are shown in (D). $n = 5/\text{group}$, $t = 9.78302$ $P < 0.001$ compared to sham group.

图1 L5-VRT 诱导 L5 背根钙依赖性蛋白酶 CALP2 表达

Fig.1 L5-VRT induces the expression of CALP2 in L5 dorsal root



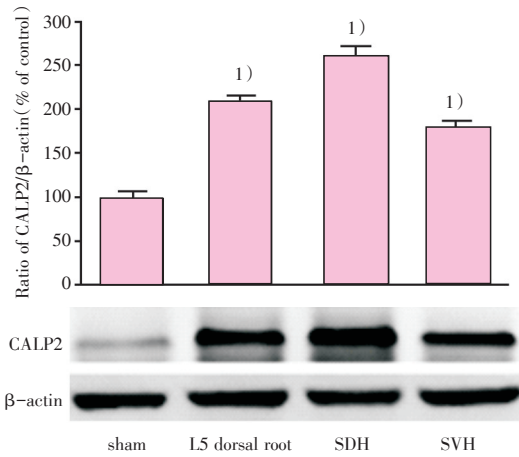
The immunofluorescence intensity of CALP2 in bilateral spinal cord from 0.5 h after L5-VRT or from sham rats are analyzed by immunohistochemistry. The representative signals about spinal dorsal horn and spinal ventral horn are shown in (A, B) and (D, E), respectively. The quantitative data about spinal dorsal horn and spinal ventral horn are shown in (C) and (F), respectively. $n = 5/\text{group}$, $t = 13.25$, $1)P < 0.001$; $t = 13.54$, $1)P < 0.001$; $t = 14.69$, $1)P < 0.001$; $t = 13.56$, $1)P < 0.001$, compared to sham group.

图2 L5-VRT 0.5 h 诱导双侧脊髓背角和前角 CALP2 表达

Fig.2 L5-VRT induces the expression of CALP2 in bilateral spinal dorsal horn and ventral horn

由于MDL28170不能选择性阻断CALP2的表达,我们无法排除其对calpain的另一亚型calpain-1(CALP1)的影响,尽管我们在以往研究中已证实CALP1在L5-VRT后DRG内的表达是下调的^[6]。因此,为了进一步确定CALP2对IL-6表达的影响,我们在正常大鼠L5背根处敷浴外源性CALP2(rr-CALP2),发现3天后与空白溶剂对照

组(vehicle)相比,双侧脊髓内IL-6表达均显著上调(图5,同侧 $t = 6.82875$, $P = 0.002$;对侧, $t = 4.73785$, $P = 0.009$)。我们过去的研究已证实,外源性应用rr-calpain不会改变神经组织内calpain-2的表达水平^[6]。综合以上结果,提示运动神经损伤后,早期上调的CALP2可促进IL-6的异常表达。



The expression of CALP2 protein level was examined in L5 dorsal root, spinal dorsal horn and spinal ventral horn at 30 min after L5-VRT by western blot. Compared with sham rats, the protein level of CALP2 was significantly risen up in L5 dorsal root, spinal dorsal horn and spinal ventral horn after surgery. β-actin is a loading control. $n = 5/\text{group}$, $F = 111.4$, $1) P < 0.001$ versus the sham group.

图3 L5-VRT 后 0.5 h CALP2 蛋白表达水平在邻近背根和脊髓均明显增加

Fig.3 The expression of CALP2 was risen up both in L5 dorsal root and spinal cord at 30 min after L5-VRT

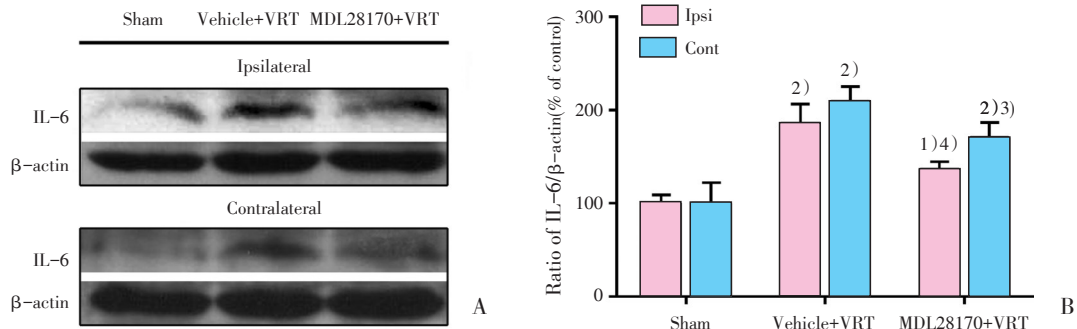
3 讨论

我们早期研究已证实在不损伤初级感觉传入

神经的情况下,通过 L5 前根切断(L5-VRT)损伤运动神经可以诱导大鼠双后足触诱发痛和热痛过敏,DRG 神经元和脊髓上有肿瘤坏死因子-α(tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α)和 IL-6 表达增加^[1,7]。本研究通过 L5 前根切断损伤运动神经(L5-VRT)诱导邻近 L5 背根以及脊髓背角和前角内钙依赖性蛋白酶 CALP2 表达升高;通过术前预处理 calpain 抑制剂 MDL28170 部分阻断 L5-VRT 诱导的双侧脊髓 IL-6 异常表达;在正常大鼠单侧 L5 背根表面给予外源性 CALP2(rr-CALP2)可直接诱导双侧脊髓 IL-6 蛋白水平升高。表明运动神经损伤早期可能首先通过损伤处 CALP2 的激活,诱导脊髓 IL-6 异常表达,参与慢性痛的产生。

近年来发现,神经损伤后炎症细胞的渗透和免疫细胞的激活引起各种炎症细胞因子的表达,在神经病理性疼痛中扮演着重要角色。临床发现,脊髓灰质炎的患者大部分伴有后背和大腿的慢性痛^[8],疼痛是帕金森综合征主要的并发症^[9]。因此通过 L5-VRT 选择性地损伤运动神经诱导的慢性痛模型在某种程度上具有一定的临床代表性,并能在传入神经未受损的情况下客观分析免疫反应在神经病理性疼痛中发挥的作用。

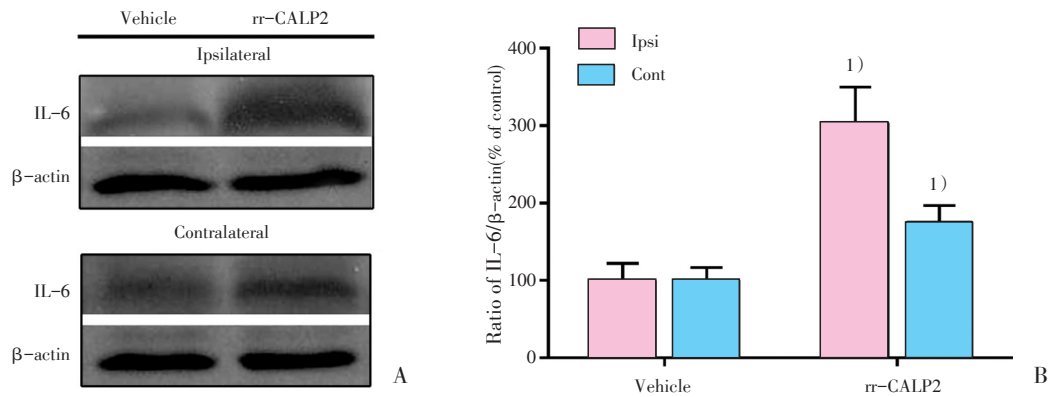
Calpain 是一种半胱氨酸蛋白水解酶,主要包括 CALP1 和 CALP2,两者结构相同,但它们激活所需要的 Ca^{2+} 浓度各不相同。CALP1 和 CALP2 均



Protein levels of IL-6 in the ipsilateral and contralateral spinal cord from sham or vehicle+VRT or MDL28170+VRT rats 0.5 h after surgery are analyzed by western blot. The representative signals are shown in (A), and their quantitative data are shown in (B). β-actin is a loading control. $n = 5/\text{group}$, MDL28170+VRT (ipsilateral), $q = 3.882$, $1) P < 0.05$, vehicle+VRT (ipsilateral: $q = 9.141$, contralateral: $q = 11.65$), $2) P < 0.001$, MDL28170+VRT (contralateral), $q = 7.509$, $2) P < 0.001$ compared to sham group; MDL28170+VRT (contralateral), $q = 4.145$, $3) P < 0.05$, MDL28170+VRT (ipsilateral), $q = 5.259$, $4) P < 0.01$ compared to vehicle group.

图4 MDL28170 部分阻断 L5-VRT 诱导的双侧脊髓 IL-6 异常表达

Fig.4 MDL28170 inhibits partly the over-expression of IL-6 in bilateral spinal cord 0.5 h following L5-VRT



Protein levels of IL-6 in the ipsilateral and contralateral spinal cord 3 d after administration of vehicle or rr-CALP2 on the surface of L5 dorsal root are analyzed by western blot. The representative signals are shown in (A), and their quantitative data are shown in (B). β -actin is a loading control. $n = 5/\text{group}$, ipsilateral: $t = 6.82875, 1)P < 0.01$, contralateral: $t = 4.73785, 1)P < 0.01$, compared to vehicle group.

图5 正常大鼠L5背根敷浴rr-CALP2诱导双侧脊髓IL-6蛋白水平升高

Fig.5 Administration of rr-CALP2 on the surface of L5 dorsal root increases the protein levels of IL-6 in bilateral spinal cord

存在于神经系统内,而CALP2主要在轴突内表达。体外实验选择性地抑制CALP1和CALP2发现,与突触内NMDA受体耦联的CALP1的激活具有神经保护性,而与突触外NMDA受体耦联的CALP2的激活却是神经破坏性的^[10]。研究表明,坐骨神经切断后1 h神经损伤处calpain激活^[11],L5-VRT后0.5 h CALP2在DRG内激活^[6]。本研究中,L5-VRT后0.5 h CALP2在脊髓内表达升高。因此,CALP2是神经损伤后脊髓和初级感觉传入上早期异常表达的分子之一。行为学研究显示,抑制calpain可以在多种慢性痛模型中产生镇痛效果^[12-13]。我们以往研究也观察到预处理calpain抑制剂MDL28170可缓解L5-VRT诱导的机械性触诱发痛,在正常大鼠L5背根局部敷浴rr-

CALP2后3 d出现非剂量依赖性的双侧机械撤足阈值降低^[6]。

CALP2参与痛过敏调控的机制可能与 $\text{I}\kappa\text{B}\alpha$ 的降解使核转录因子NF- κB 激活,进而促使IL-6异常表达有关^[14]。在本研究中,给予CALP2抑制剂MDL28170部分降低了神经损伤诱导的双侧脊髓IL-6的异常表达,在正常大鼠L5背根给予rr-CALP2直接诱导双侧脊髓IL-6表达上调,说明CALP2是L5-VRT后早期脊髓内IL-6上调的原因之一。我们推测,脊髓前角增加的CALP2可能与受损神经元的退行性变有关,脊髓背角CALP2的变化可能与L5背根的感觉传入有关,因为L5-VRT后0.5 h L5背根CALP2免疫活性增强。

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