

研究论文

右美托咪定通过上调LC3-II表达减轻LPS/D-Gal诱导的急性肝损伤

何小姣¹, 谢彬², 黄崧^{2,*}, 刘明华²

¹武警重庆总队医院药剂科, 重庆 400061; ²陆军军医大学第一附属医院急救创伤中心, 重庆 400038

摘要: 本研究旨在探讨右美托咪定(dexmedetomidine, DEX)对脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)/D-半乳糖胺(D-galactosamine, D-Gal)诱导的急性肝损伤的作用及其机制。给雄性BALB/c小鼠腹腔注射LPS和D-Gal诱导急性肝损伤, 注射前30 min给予DEX或联合自噬抑制剂3-甲基腺嘌呤(3-methyladenine, 3-MA)预处理。用试剂盒测定血清丙氨酸氨基转移酶(alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、天冬氨酸氨基转移酶(aspartate aminotransferase, AST)活性, 以及肝组织髓过氧化物酶(myeloperoxidase, MPO)活性, 用ELISA测定血清肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor α , TNF- α)和白细胞介素6 (interleukin-6, IL-6)水平, 用Western blot检测肝组织P62、LC3-II蛋白表达水平, 用HE染色观察肝组织病理学改变。结果显示, 与对照组比较, LPS/D-Gal组血清ALT和AST活性升高, TNF- α 和IL-6水平提高, 肝组织MPO活性升高, LC3-II蛋白表达水平下调, P62蛋白表达水平下调, 肝组织出现明显的病理损伤。DEX可逆转LPS/D-Gal组的上述变化, 而3-MA可阻断DEX的这些肝保护效应。上述结果提示, DEX可减轻LPS/D-Gal诱导的急性肝损伤, 这可能与上调LC3-II蛋白表达、激活自噬有关。

关键词: 右美托咪定; 脂多糖; 急性肝损伤; 自噬

中图分类号: R966

Dexmedetomidine alleviates LPS/D-Gal-induced acute liver injury via up-regulation of LC3-II expression in mice

HE Xiao-Jiao¹, XIE Bin², HUANG Song^{2,*}, LIU Ming-Hua²

¹Department of Pharmacy, Chongqing Armed Corps Police Hospital, Chongqing 400061, China; ²Center of Emergency and Trauma, First Affiliated Hospital of Army Medical University, Chongqing 400038, China

Abstract: The aim of the present study was to investigate the effects of dexmedetomidine (DEX) on acute liver injury induced by lipopolysaccharide (LPS)/D-galactosamine (D-Gal) and the underlying mechanism. Male BALB/c mice were intraperitoneally injected with LPS/D-Gal to induce acute liver injury model, and pretreated with DEX or in combination with the autophagy inhibitor, 3-methyladenine (3-MA) 30 min before injection. Serum alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST) activity, as well as myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity in liver tissue were determined with the corresponding kits. Serum tumor necrosis factor α (TNF- α) and interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels were determined by ELISA. The protein expression levels of LC3-II and P62 in liver tissue were determined by Western blot. Liver histopathological changes were detected by HE staining. The results showed that, compared with control group, LPS/D-Gal enhanced ALT and AST activity, increased TNF- α and IL-6 levels, as well as MPO activity, up-regulated LC3-II and P62 protein expression levels, and significantly induced pathological damage in liver tissue. DEX reversed the above changes in the LPS/D-Gal group, whereas these protective effects of DEX were blocked by 3-MA. The above results suggest that DEX alleviates LPS/D-Gal-induced acute liver injury, which may be associated with the up-regulation of LC3-II protein expression and the activation of autophagy.

Key words: dexmedetomidine; lipopolysaccharide; acute liver injury; autophagy

Received 2020-12-27 Accepted 2021-06-03

This work was supported by the Chongqing Health Commission (No. 2019MSXM012), and the Foundation of the Hospital Management of First Affiliated Hospital of Army Medical University (No. SWH2018QNKJ-20).

*Corresponding author. E-mail: huangsong@cqmu.edu.cn

急性肝炎是肝细胞在炎症与免疫损伤的基础上,发生的细胞变性、坏死等一系列病理组织学改变,可导致肝功能障碍甚至肝功能衰竭而死亡^[1],在临床上发病率很高。目前病因多为感染、自身免疫、药物、毒素等因素^[1-3]。脂多糖 (lipopolysaccharide, LPS) 是革兰氏阴性细菌菌体的一种有毒成分^[4],文献报道其通过作用于细胞膜表面的 Toll 样受体产生强烈致炎作用^[5],因此也被称作内毒素。D-半乳糖胺 (D-galactosamine, D-Gal) 在肝细胞中被选择性代谢,可显著增强肝脏对 LPS 的敏感性^[6]。LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤模型在形态和病理生理学方面与人类肝炎非常相似,因此被广泛用于肝炎的发病机制和新的肝脏保护剂研究中^[7]。

右美托咪定 (dexmedetomidine, DEX) 是一种高选择性 α_2 肾上腺素能受体激动剂,具有良好的镇静、镇痛等作用,被临床广泛应用于手术麻醉和危重症患者治疗中^[8-10]。最近研究显示,DEX 除具有镇静、镇痛效应外,还发挥抗炎、抗氧化应激等药理作用^[11-13],DEX 可显著降低危重症患者白细胞介素 6 (interleukin-6, IL-6)、IL-1 β 和肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor α , TNF- α) 等促炎细胞因子的释放^[14],另外有研究显示,DEX 在体外细胞实验中通过抑制氧化应激发挥对原代神经元的保护作用^[15]。这些研究结果表明,DEX 具有对炎症反应的负性调节作用。自噬是细胞代谢的重要过程,研究表明自噬与炎症有着紧密的关系,激活自噬将减轻炎症反应^[16,17]。而近期研究显示,DEX 通过下调凋亡相关蛋白 Caspase、JNK 等蛋白表达水平减轻 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤和脓毒症诱发的大鼠肝损伤^[18,19],并通过激活自噬相关通路减轻 LPS 诱导的急性肾损伤^[20,21],提示 DEX 可能通过激活自噬作用减轻炎症损伤。另外有研究显示,在 LPS 诱导的急性肺损伤中,自噬相关蛋白 LC3-II 表达水平显著下调^[22]。然而,DEX 是否可通过影响 LC3-II 的表达减轻急性肝损伤,尚不清楚。为此,本研究复制了 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤模型,观察 DEX 对急性肝损伤的作用以及对 LC3-II 蛋白表达的影响,以期为 DEX 在急性肝损伤治疗中的潜在临床应用提供实验证据。

1 材料与方法

1.1 主要试剂材料 LPS、DEX 购于 Sigma 公司;

自噬抑制剂 3-甲基腺嘌呤 (3-methyladenine, 3-MA) 购于 Cayman 公司;丙氨酸氨基转移酶 (alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、天冬氨酸氨基转移酶 (aspartate aminotransferase, AST)、髓过氧化物酶 (myeloperoxidase, MPO) 检测试剂盒购于南京建成生物工程研究所;小鼠 TNF- α 、IL-6 检测试剂盒购于欣博盛生物科技有限公司;抗 P62、LC3-II、 β -actin 抗体、辣根过氧化物酶标记的羊抗兔二抗均购自 Cell Signaling 公司;BCA 蛋白定量试剂盒、增强化学发光 ECL 试剂盒均购于 Thermo 公司。

1.2 动物分组及实验 所用 BALB/c 雄性小鼠,6~8 周龄,体重 18~22 g,购于陆军军医大学实验动物中心实验,动物生产许可证号为 SCXK(渝)2017-0002。饲养环境温度为 20~25 °C,相对湿度为 (50 \pm 5)%, 12 h/12 h 黑暗/白光循环,动物适应 1 周后被用于实验,按实验室标准给予自由饮水和喂食。本研究的动物实验方案获陆军军医大学第一附属医院实验动物伦理委员会批准,动物实验严格按照相关国家实验动物管理规则以及相应操作使用指南进行。总共取 180 只小鼠,其中 40 只小鼠采用随机数字表法分为 5 组,每组 8 只,分别为对照组、单纯 DEX 组、LPS/D-Gal 组、DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组、3-MA+DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组。另取 80 只随机分为 4 组,每组 20 只:对照组、单纯 DEX 组、LPS/D-Gal 组、DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组,用于生存率分析。另再取 60 只随机分为 3 组,每组 20 只,分别为 LPS/D-Gal 组、DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组、3-MA+DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组,用于再一次生存率分析。

处理方法:对照组:等体积生理盐水腹腔注射;单纯 DEX 组:给予 DEX (200 μ g/kg) 腹腔内注射;LPS/D-Gal 组:LPS (10 μ g/kg)/D-Gal (700 mg/kg) 腹腔内注射,建立急性肝损伤模型;DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组:腹腔注射 DEX (200 μ g/kg), 30 min 后同 LPS/D-Gal 组处理;3-MA+DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组:腹腔注射 3-MA (15 mg/kg), 30 min 后同 DEX+LPS/D-Gal 组处理。LPS、D-Gal、DEX 溶液分别用生理盐水溶解配制,3-MA 溶液用 DMSO 和玉米油按 1:9 比例溶解配制。各组动物均在 LPS/D-Gal 处理后 6 h 处死,采集血清和肝组织标本,取固定部位的肝组织用 4% 甲醛固定后切片,用于 HE 染色,其余标本在 -80 °C 低温冰箱保存备用。

1.3 血清 ALT、AST 活性检测 小鼠血清标本用生理盐水 1:20 稀释后,按试剂盒说明书进行操作,

用酶标仪在 505 nm 波长下检测各样本光密度，计算并求出各样本 ALT、AST 活性。

1.4 TNF- α 、IL-6 含量和 MPO 活性检测 按 TNF- α 、IL-6 ELISA 试剂盒说明书进行操作，检测采集的血清含量。MPO 检测依据试剂盒操作说明，将采集的肝组织匀浆并制备检测样本，酶标仪 450 nm 下测得 OD 值，通过与各样本总蛋白进行标准化对比得出 MPO 活性。

1.5 肝组织病理学检查 取肝左外侧叶的肝组织，用多聚甲醛溶液固定后，乙醇脱水，石蜡包埋，切片 (HistoCore BIOCUT, 徠卡) 切片，片厚 4 μm ，HE 染色，光学显微镜下观察肝组织损伤程度。

1.6 蛋白免疫印迹 (Western blot) 肝脏组织按总蛋白提取试剂盒操作说明提取总蛋白，制备上样样本，并用 BCA 蛋白检测试剂盒测定总蛋白浓度。各组上样样本在不同浓度 (依据目的蛋白分子量制

备) 聚丙烯酰胺凝胶上进行蛋白电泳分离，然后经电转至硝酸纤维素膜上，5% 脱脂牛奶封闭，用抗 P62 (1:2 000)、LC3-II (1:2 000) 或 β -actin 抗体 (1:4 000) 抗体 4 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ 孵育过夜，TBST 洗涤，二抗 (1:2 000 稀释) 室温孵育 1 h，TBST 洗涤，ECL 发光，采集蛋白表达图片，使用 ImageJ 软件分析条带灰度值， β -actin 作为内参计算各样本中目的蛋白的相对表达量。

1.7 生存率分析 观察并记录各组小鼠 72 h 生存率，通过 Kaplan-Meier 方法描述并绘制生存率曲线图。

1.8 统计学分析 除生存率分析外，其他数据均用 mean \pm SD 表示，用 SPSS 22.0 进行统计分析，多组间样本差异采用单因素方差分析 (one-way ANOVA)，两组间样本差异采用 Turkey's 检验， $P < 0.05$ 时认为差异具有统计学意义。

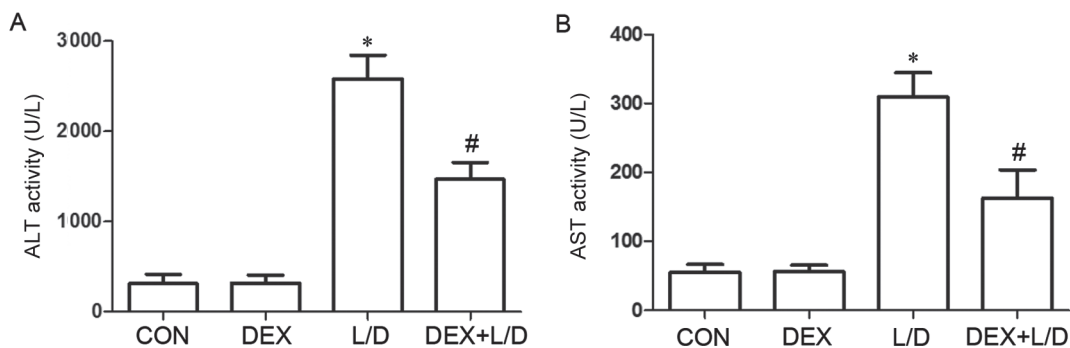


图 1 右美托咪定(DEX)降低LPS/D-Gal处理小鼠血清ALT、AST活性

Fig. 1. Dexmedetomidine (DEX) decreased serum ALT and AST activity in LPS/D-Gal-treated mice. A: Levels of ALT. B: Levels of AST. Mean \pm SD, $n = 8$. * $P < 0.05$ vs control group; # $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

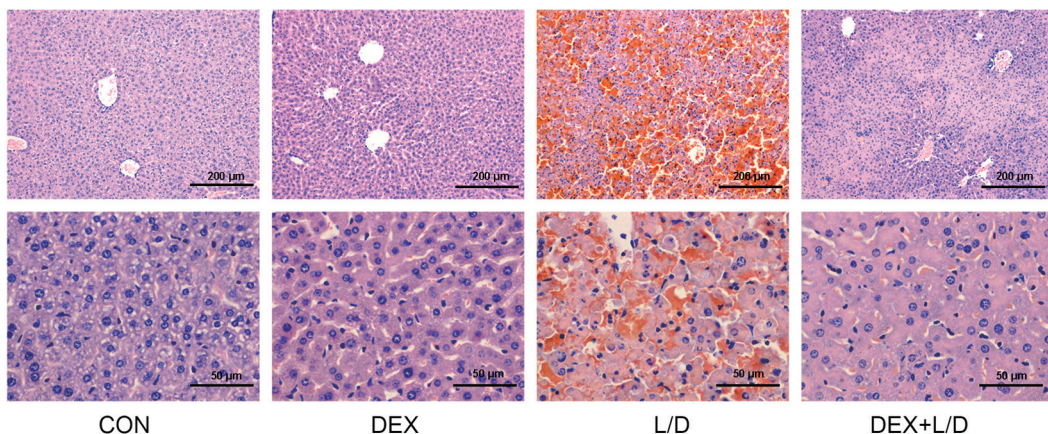


图 2 右美托咪定(DEX)减轻LPS/D-Gal诱导的肝组织病理损伤

Fig. 2. Dexmedetomidine (DEX) alleviated LPS/D-Gal (L/D)-induced pathohistological alterations in liver (HE staining). Scale bar, 200 μm (upper line), or 50 μm (lower line).

2 结果

2.1 DEX减轻LPS/D-Gal诱导的肝损伤

和对照组相比, LPS/D-Gal 组小鼠血清 ALT 和 AST 显著升高 ($P < 0.05$), 而 DEX 干预显著抑制 LPS/D-Gal 组 ALT、AST 活性的升高 ($P < 0.05$) (图 1A、B)。HE 染色结果与此结果一致, 与对照组比较, LPS/D-Gal 组小鼠肝小叶界限模糊, 肝索结构破坏, 大量肝细胞溶解、死亡, 并伴有大量炎性细胞浸润, 红细胞淤积, 而 DEX 可明显减轻 LPS/D-Gal 组肝脏病理改变 (图 2)。同时, DEX 干预组生存率较 LPS/D-Gal 模型组有明显的提高 ($P < 0.05$) (图 3)。以上结果表明, DEX 可减轻 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的肝损伤。

2.2 DEX减轻LPS/D-Gal诱导的炎症反应

与对照组相比, LPS/D-Gal 组血清 TNF- α 和 IL-6 水平显著提高 ($P < 0.05$), 而 DEX 干预可显著降低 LPS/D-Gal 组这些炎症因子水平 ($P < 0.05$) (图 4)。同时, 与对照组相比, LPS/D-Gal 组小鼠肝组织 MPO 水平显著提高 ($P < 0.05$), 而 DEX 干预可显著降低 LPS/D-Gal 组 MPO 活性 ($P < 0.05$) (图 5)。以上这些结果表明, DEX 可抑制 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的炎症反应, 这与病理学结果相一致。

2.3 在LPS/D-Gal诱导的急性肝损伤中DEX上调自噬蛋白LC3-II

Western blot 结果显示, 和对照组相比, LPS/D-Gal 组 LC3-II 蛋白表达水平显著下调, P62 蛋白表达水平显著上调, DEX 可逆转 LPS/D-Gal 组的这些变化 (图 6)。

2.4 自噬抑制剂3-MA逆转DEX对急性肝损伤的保护作用

3-MA 逆转 DEX 对急性肝损伤模型小鼠血清

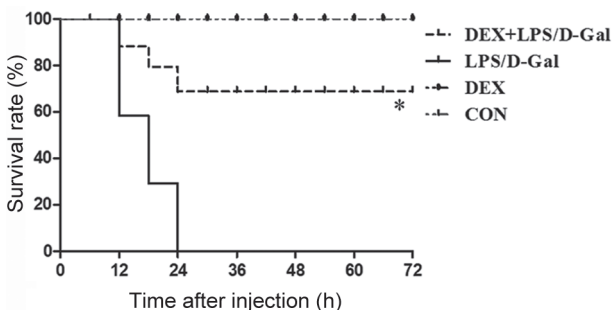


图 3 右美托咪定(DEX)提高LPS/D-Gal暴露的小鼠生存率
Fig. 3. Dexmedetomidine (DEX) increased survival rate in LPS/D-Gal-exposed mice. $n = 20$. * $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group.

ALT、AST 活力的降低作用 (图 7A) 和对小鼠的生存率的提高作用 (图 7B)($P < 0.05$); 3-MA 阻断 DEX

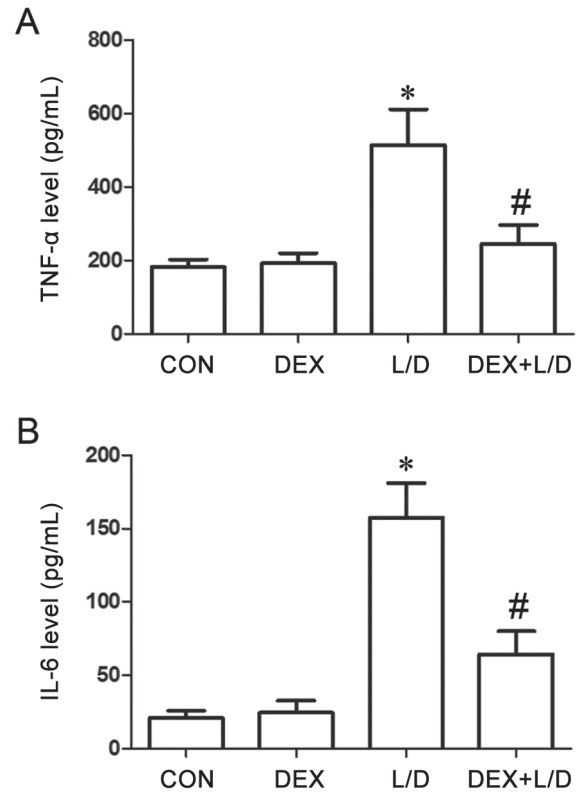


图 4 右美托咪定(DEX)降低LPS/D-Gal诱导的炎症因子 TNF- α 、IL-6水平

Fig. 4. Dexmedetomidine (DEX) decreased serum TNF- α and interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels in LPS/D-Gal-induced mice. A: Levels of serum TNF- α . B: Levels of serum IL-6. Mean \pm SD, $n = 8$; * $P < 0.05$ vs control group; # $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

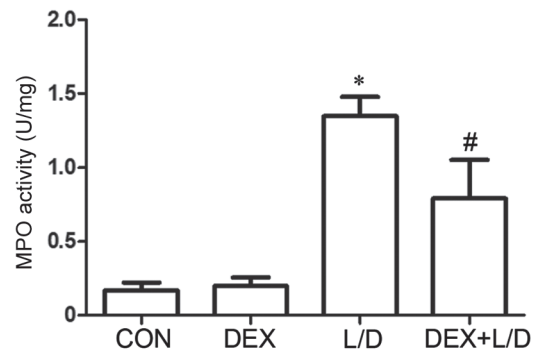


图 5 右美托咪定(DEX)降低LPS/D-Gal诱导的肝组织MPO活性

Fig. 5. Dexmedetomidine (DEX) decreased hepatic myeloperoxidase (MPO) activity in LPS/D-Gal-exposed mice. Mean \pm SD, $n = 8$. * $P < 0.05$ vs control group; # $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

对血清 TNF- α 、IL-6 水平的降低作用 (图 8A、B), 8C); 同时, 3-MA 逆转 DEX 对 LC3-II 蛋白表达水 并且 3-MA 也阻断 DEX 对肝脏损伤的减轻作用 (图 8C); 同时, 3-MA 逆转 DEX 对 LC3-II 蛋白表达水 平的上调作用和对 P62 蛋白表达水平的下调作用

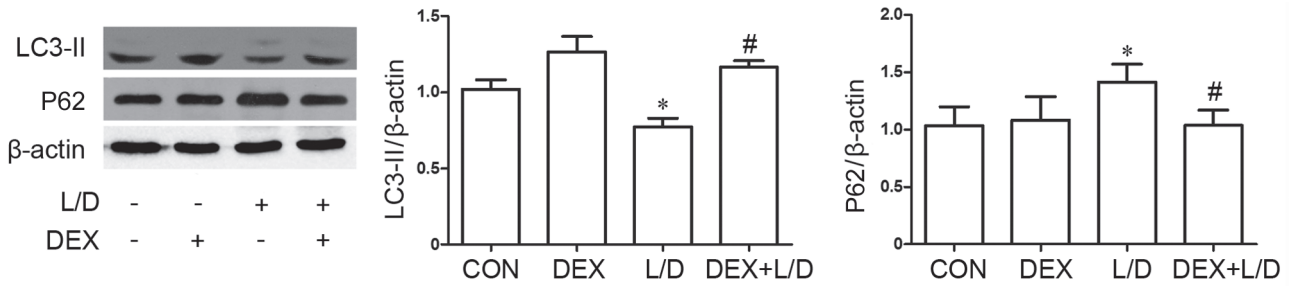


图 6. 各组 LC3-II、P62 自噬蛋白在肝组织的表达水平

Fig. 6. The protein expression levels of LC3-II and P62 autophagy proteins in liver tissue detected by Western blot. Mean \pm SD, $n = 4$; * $P < 0.05$ vs control group; # $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

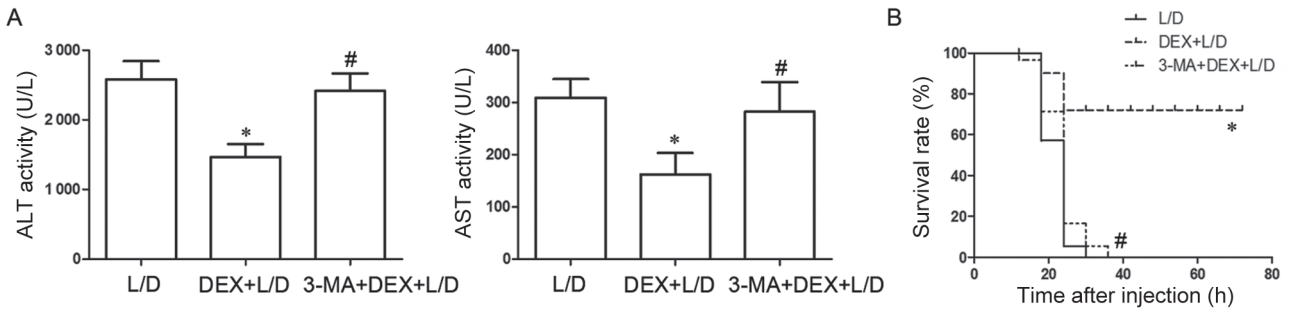


图 7. 自噬抑制剂 3-MA 逆转右美托咪定 (DEX) 对急性肝损伤小鼠血清 ALT、AST 和生存率的影响

Fig. 7. Autophagy inhibitor 3-MA reversed the protective effect of dexmedetomidine (DEX) on ALT, AST activity and survival rate. in acute liver injury. A: Activity of serum ALT and AST. B: Survival rate. Mean \pm SD, $n = 8$. * $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group; # $P < 0.05$ vs DEX+LPS/D-Gal group. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

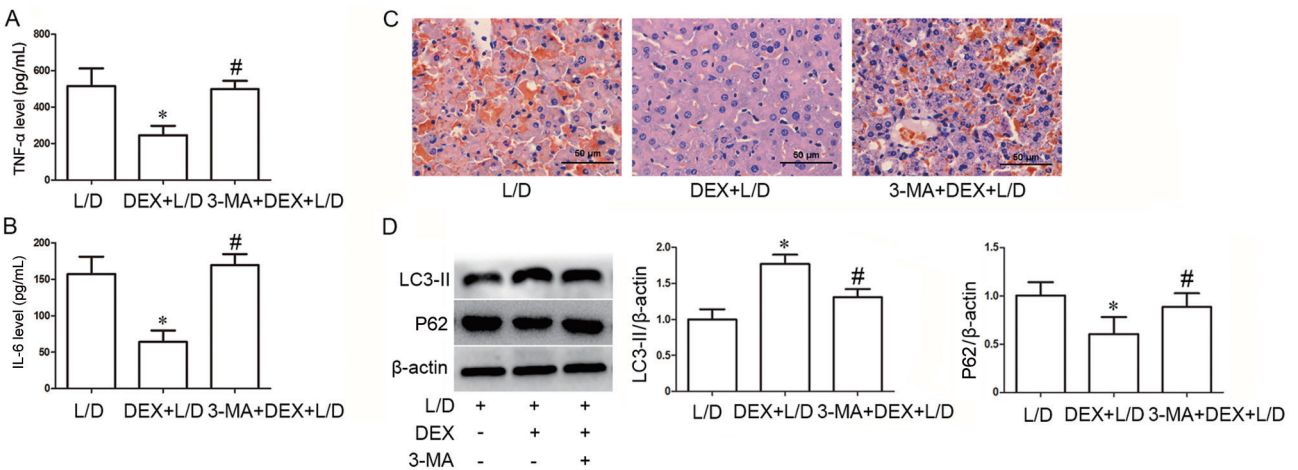


图 8 自噬抑制剂 3-MA 逆转右美托咪定 (DEX) 对急性肝损伤小鼠炎症因子和自噬蛋白的影响

Fig. 8. Autophagy inhibitor 3-MA reversed the protective effect of dexmedetomidine (DEX) on inflammatory factors and autophagy proteins in acute liver injury. A: Levels of serum TNF- α . B: Levels of serum IL-6. Mean \pm SD, $n = 8$. C: Histopathological alterations observed by HE staining. Scale bar, 50 μ m. D: Protein expression levels of LC3-II and P62 detected by Western blot. Mean \pm SD, $n = 4$. * $P < 0.05$ vs control group; # $P < 0.05$ vs LPS/D-Gal group. CON, Control; L/D, LPS/D-Gal.

(图 8D)。这些结果提示, DEX 对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤的减轻作用可能与自噬激活有关。

3 讨论

越来越多的证据表明, DEX 除了在中枢神经系统中具有重要作用外, 在炎症反应中也起着重要的调节作用^[23, 24]。本研究结果显示, DEX 能显著减轻 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤, 抑制血清转氨酶活性升高, 改善组织病理学异常, 提高实验动物的生存率, 表明 DEX 对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤有一定的预防和治疗作用。

LPS 刺激 D-Gal 致敏的小鼠后, 炎症细胞的激活与炎症介质的产生释放被认为是 LPS/D-Gal 诱导肝损伤的早期事件^[25, 26]。本研究结果显示, DEX 抑制 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的代表性炎症介质 TNF- α 、IL-6 水平, 提示 DEX 对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的肝损伤具有抗炎作用。与本研究结果一致, Chang 等和 Bao 等研究显示, DEX 可抑制 LPS 诱导巨噬细胞或胶质细胞产生 TNF- α ^[27, 28]。另外, MPO 活性的增加被认为是炎症中中性粒细胞活化和积聚的一个重要指标^[29]。本研究的 MPO 检测结果提示, LPS/D-Gal 组肝组织中性粒细胞浸润增多, 而 DEX 处理则减轻了这一现象。因此, DEX 的抗炎效应可能是其对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤减轻作用的机制之一。

自噬是真核生物体内一个高度保守的过程, 通过溶酶体降解途径清除受损的细胞器、多余的蛋白质氨基酸、抗微生物等功能, 在生长因子或营养素缺乏的情况下对细胞的生存起着至关重要的作用^[16]。近年来研究表明, 自噬过程与炎症损伤的发病机制和预后有着紧密的联系^[22, 30]。LC3-II、P62 被认为是自噬的标志性蛋白^[16–22]。Zhao 等^[20]研究显示, DEX 通过抑制 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路激活自噬, 减轻 LPS 诱导的急性肾损伤; Yang 等^[21]研究显示, DEX 通过 α 2-AR/AMPK/mTOR 通路增强自噬, 进而抑制 NLRP3 炎性小体激活, 从而减轻 LPS 诱导的急性肾脏损伤, 表明 DEX 可通过增强自噬作用来减轻炎症损伤。而近期研究显示, DEX 减轻 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤, 其机制是下调凋亡相关蛋白 Caspase、JNK 的表达^[18, 19]。目前有多项研究表明自噬存在于各种动物肝损伤模型中, 并通过各种机制调节发挥保护作用, 但具体的机制仍需要进一步探讨^[31–34]。因此, 本研究复制 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤模型, 观察 DEX 是否

通过激活肝脏的自噬作用减轻肝损伤。结果显示, LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤小鼠肝组织内 LC3-II 蛋白表达水平下调, P62 蛋白表达水平上调, 表明自噬作用受到抑制, 而 DEX 药物处理显著上调 LC3-II 蛋白表达水平, 同时下调 P62 蛋白表达水平, 表明 DEX 激活了自噬作用。自噬抑制剂 3-MA 干预可显著阻断 DEX 对急性肝损伤模型小鼠的保护作用。上述这些结果表明, DEX 可在 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝损伤进展中激活自噬。因此, 我们推测 DEX 通过恢复受损的自噬作用, 至少部分地对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤发挥保护作用。然而, DEX 在肝组织中如何激活自噬作用, 并通过具体哪一条通路的激活, 即上调自噬蛋白 LC3-II 表达过程涉及哪些上、下游相关蛋白, 并没有进行深入研究, 同时本研究仅检测自噬的两个标志性蛋白 (LC3-II、P62), 而没有采用电镜检测自噬形态学变化, 我们后续将进一步深入明确 DEX 上调自噬蛋白 LC3-II 是通过哪些上、下游靶蛋白的调控, 从而更加清楚地阐述 DEX 在肝脏中增强自噬的具体机制。

综上所述, 本研究结果显示, DEX 能减轻 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的急性肝脏炎症损伤, 降低血清转氨酶活性, 抑制炎症因子释放, 减轻肝组织病理学损伤, 提高生存率, 这些有益的肝保护作用伴随着自噬标志性蛋白 LC3-II 蛋白表达水平的上调及 P62 蛋白表达水平的下调。此外, 自噬抑制剂 3-MA 可阻断 DEX 对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤的保护作用, 表明 DEX 对 LPS/D-Gal 诱导的小鼠急性肝损伤的保护机制可能与自噬激活有关。尽管 DEX 如何激活自噬的详细机制有待进一步研究, 但目前的研究结果提示了 DEX 可能对急性肝损伤具有潜在的预防和治疗价值。

参考文献

- 1 Bernal W, Wendon J. Acute liver failure. *N Engl J Med* 2013; 369(26): 2525–2534.
- 2 de Boer YS, Sherker AH. Herbal and dietary supplement-induced liver injury. *Clin Liver Dis* 2017; 21(1): 135–149.
- 3 Chen X, Cai X, Le R, Zhang M, Gu X, Shen F, Hong G, Chen Z. Isoliquiritigenin protects against sepsis-induced lung and liver injury by reducing inflammatory responses. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 2018; 496(2): 245–252.
- 4 Jackie J, Lau WK, Feng HT, Li SFY. Detection of endotoxins: From inferring the responses of biological hosts to the direct chemical analysis of lipopolysaccharides. *Crit Rev Anal Chem* 2019; 49(2): 126–137.

- 5 Soares JB, Pimentel-Nunes P, Roncon-Albuquerque R, Leite-Moreira A. The role of lipopolysaccharide/toll-like receptor 4 signaling in chronic liver diseases. *Hepatol Int* 2010; 4(4): 659–672.
- 6 Silverstein R. D-galactosamine lethality model: scope and limitations. *J Endotoxin Res* 2004; 10(3): 147–162.
- 7 Hu K, Gong X, Ai Q, Lin L, Dai J, Cai L, Jiang R, Ge P, Zhang L. Endogenous AMPK acts as a detrimental factor in fulminant hepatitis via potentiating JNK-dependent hepatocyte apoptosis. *Cell Death Dis* 2017; 8(3): e2637.
- 8 Cai Y, Xu H, Yan J, Zhang L, Lu Y. Molecular targets and mechanism of action of dexmedetomidine in treatment of ischemia/reperfusion injury. *Mol Med Rep* 2014; 9(5): 1542–1550.
- 9 Luo ZY (罗梓垠), Xiang BQ, Gao H, Qiu XX, Hao ML, Wang WT. Effects of dexmedetomidine on hypoxia/reoxygenation injury-induced cell apoptosis and caspase-12 expression in A549 cells. *Acta Physiol Sin (生理学报)* 2017; 69(4): 437–444 (in Chinese).
- 10 Farag E, Argalious M, Abd-Elseyed A, Ebrahim Z, Doyle DJ. The use of dexmedetomidine in anesthesia and intensive care: a review. *Curr Pharm Des* 2012; 18(38): 6257–6265.
- 11 Keating GM. Dexmedetomidine: A review of its use for sedation in the intensive care setting. *Drugs* 2015; 75(10): 1119–1130.
- 12 Chen XH, Chen DT, Huang XM, Chen YH, Pan JH, Zheng XC, Zeng WA. Dexmedetomidine protects against chemical hypoxia-induced neurotoxicity in differentiated PC12 cells via inhibition of NADPH oxidase 2-mediated oxidative stress. *Neurotox Res* 2019; 35(1): 139–149.
- 13 Zhang X, Yan F, Feng J, Qian H, Cheng Z, Yang Q, Wu Y, Zhao Z, Li A, Xiao H. Dexmedetomidine inhibits inflammatory reaction in the hippocampus of septic rats by suppressing NF- κ B pathway. *PLoS One* 2018; 13(5): e0196897.
- 14 Yang W, Kong LS, Zhu XX, Wang RX, Liu Y, Chen LR. Effect of dexmedetomidine on postoperative cognitive dysfunction and inflammation in patients after general anaesthesia: A PRISMA-compliant systematic review and meta-analysis. *Medicine (Baltimore)* 2019; 98(18): e15383.
- 15 Liu YJ, Wang DY, Yang YJ, Lei WF. Effects and mechanism of dexmedetomidine on neuronal cell injury induced by hypoxia-ischemia. *BMC Anesthesiol* 2017; 17(1): 117.
- 16 Hu Y, Liu J, Wu YF, Lou J, Mao YY, Shen HH, Chen ZH. mTOR and autophagy in regulation of acute lung injury: a review and perspective. *Microbes Infect* 2014; 16(9): 727–734.
- 17 Cai Y, Arikath J, Yang L, Guo ML, Periyasamy P, Buch S. Interplay of endoplasmic reticulum stress and autophagy in neurodegenerative disorders. *Autophagy* 2016; 12(2): 225–244.
- 18 Yang C, He L, Wang C, Huang Y, Wang A, Li X, Ao J. Dexmedetomidine alleviated lipopolysaccharide/D-Galactosamine-induced acute liver injury in mice. *Int Immunopharmacol* 2019; 72: 367–373.
- 19 Li XK, Yang SC, Bi L, Jia Z. Effects of dexmedetomidine on sepsis-induced liver injury in rats. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci* 2019; 23(3 Suppl): 177–183.
- 20 Zhao Y, Feng X, Li B, Sha J, Wang C, Yang T, Cui H, Fan H. Dexmedetomidine protects against lipopolysaccharide-induced acute kidney injury by enhancing autophagy through inhibition of the PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway. *Front Pharmacol* 2020; 11: 128.
- 21 Yang T, Feng X, Zhao Y, Zhang H, Cui H, Wei M, Yang H, Fan H. Dexmedetomidine enhances autophagy via α 2-AR/AMPK/mTOR pathway to inhibit the activation of NLRP3 inflammasome and subsequently alleviates lipopolysaccharide-induced acute kidney injury. *Front Pharmacol* 2020; 11: 790.
- 22 Dong Y, Zhang L, Jiang Y, Dai J, Tang L, Liu G. Emodin reactivated autophagy and alleviated inflammatory lung injury in mice with lethal endotoxemia. *Exp Anim* 2019; 68(4): 559–568.
- 23 Kiyonaga N, Moriyama T, Kanmura Y. Effects of dexmedetomidine on lipopolysaccharide-induced acute kidney injury in rats and mitochondrial function in cell culture. *Biomed Pharmacother* 2020; 125: 109912.
- 24 Zhang H, Sha J, Feng X, Hu X, Chen Y, Li B, Fan H. Dexmedetomidine ameliorates LPS induced acute lung injury via GSK-3 β /STAT3-NF- κ B signaling pathway in rats. *Int Immunopharmacol* 2019; 74: 105717.
- 25 Malagarie-Cazenave S, Ségui B, Lévêque S, Garcia V, Carpentier S, Altié MF, Brouchet A, Gouazé V, Andrieu-Abadie N, Barreira Y, Benoist H, Levade T. Role of FAN in tumor necrosis factor- α and lipopolysaccharide-induced interleukin-6 secretion and lethality in D-Galactosamine-sensitized mice. *J Biol Chem* 2004; 279(18): 18648–18655.
- 26 Dai J (代洁), Lin L, Zhou D, Ai Q, Ge P, Zhang L. AMPK activator down-regulates the expression of tissue factor in fulminant hepatitis mice. *Acta Physiol Sin (生理学报)* 2016; 68(1): 35–40 (in Chinese).
- 27 Chang Y, Huang X, Liu Z, Han G, Huang L, Xiong YC, Wang Z. Dexmedetomidine inhibits the secretion of high mobility group box 1 from lipopolysaccharide-activated macrophages *in vitro*. *J Surg Res* 2013; 181(2): 308–314.
- 28 Bao Y, Zhu Y, He G, Ni H, Liu C, Ma L, Zhang L, Shi D. Dexmedetomidine attenuates neuroinflammation in LPS-stimulated BV2 microglia cells through upregulation of miR-340. *Drug Des Devel Ther* 2019; 13: 3465–3475.
- 29 Aratani Y. Myeloperoxidase: Its role for host defense,

- inflammation, and neutrophil function. *Arch Biochem Biophys* 2018; 640: 47–52.
- 30 Racanelli AC, Kikkers SA, Choi AMK, Cloonan SM. Autophagy and inflammation in chronic respiratory disease. *Autophagy* 2018; 14(2): 221–232.
- 31 Hu C, Zhao L, Shen M, Wu Z, Li L. Autophagy regulation is an effective strategy to improve the prognosis of chemically induced acute liver injury based on experimental studies. *J Cell Mol Med* 2020; 24(15): 8315–8325.
- 32 Wang Q, Liu W, Liu G, Li P, Guo X, Zhang C. AMPK-mTOR-ULK1-mediated autophagy protects carbon tetrachloride-induced acute hepatic failure by inhibiting p21 in rats. *J Toxicol Pathol* 2021; 34(1): 73–82.
- 33 Zhao J, He B, Zhang S, Huang W, Li X. Ginsenoside Rg1 alleviates acute liver injury through the induction of autophagy and suppressing NF- κ B/NLRP3 inflammasome signaling pathway. *Int J Med Sci* 2021; 18(6): 1382–1389.
- 34 Feng J, Niu P, Chen K, Wu L, Liu T, Xu S, Li J, Li S, Wang W, Lu X, Yu Q, Liu N, Xu L, Wang F, Dai W, Xia Y, Fan X, Guo C. Salidroside mediates apoptosis and autophagy inhibition in concanavalin A-induced liver injury. *Exp Ther Med* 2018; 15(6): 4599–4614.