

[Effects of protein kinase C inhibitor, chelerythrine chloride, on drug-sensitivity of NSCLC cell lines].

[Article in Chinese]

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Abstract

BACKGROUND:

Protein kinase C (PKC) is a potentially important target for cancer therapeutics due to its potential role in carcinogenesis. Abnormal expression and increasing activity of PKC- α are present in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). PKC inhibitor can show anti-tumor effects through inducing tumor cell apoptosis, enhancing cytotoxic effects and down-regulating expressions of multidrug resistance gene. By observing the effects of PKC inhibitor chelerythrine chloride (CH) on drug-sensitivity to cisplatin of four NSCLC cell lines its mechanism of effect initially is explored.

METHODS:

NSCLC cell lines (H1299, H460, A549 and cisplatin-resistant A549) were treated with PKC inhibitor CH respectively. The expressions of PKC- α mRNA and protein in NSCLC cell lines were examined by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and Western blot. The apoptosis rates of NSCLC cell lines were detected by flow cytometry. The drug-sensitivity to cisplatin of NSCLC cell lines was measured by methabenzthiazuron (MTT) assay.

RESULTS:

The expression levels of PKC- α mRNA and protein in cisplatin-resistant A549 cell lines were significantly higher than H1299, H460 and parent A549 cell lines ($P < 0.05$). The expression levels of PKC- α mRNA and protein in four NSCLC cell lines decreased at different extent. The apoptosis rates of cisplatin-resistant A549 cell lines increased obviously after treating with CH for 4 and 24 hours, but it was not seen in H1299, H460 and parent A549 cell lines. The IC₅₀ value of cisplatin of NSCLC cell lines decreased at different degree after treating with CH and it was more obvious in cisplatin-resistant A549 cell lines ($P < 0.05$).

CONCLUSIONS:

High expressions of PKC- α mRNA and protein exist in all four NSCLC cell lines. PKC inhibitor CH can enhance the drug-sensitivity of NSCLC cell lines to cisplatin by inhibiting their expression of PKC- α mRNA and protein. When compared with parent A549 cell lines, cisplatin-resistant A549 cell line's drug-sensitivity to cisplatin is increasing more efficiently by PKC inhibitor CH through inhibition of PKC- α protein's expression and elevation of tumor cell apoptosis rates.

