

◇综述◇

c-Fos蛋白在眼科疾病中的作用研究进展

尚孟秋 综述, 梁丽娜 审校

(中国中医科学院眼科医院眼功能实验室, 北京 100040)

摘要 c-Fos蛋白作为细胞活性及神经环路的功能解剖学标志物, 在神经内分泌调节、自主神经活动及应激等刺激诱发的行为反应研究中具有广泛应用价值。近年来研究发现, 在眼科领域, c-Fos的动态表达与视网膜神经节细胞凋亡、视皮质可塑性、光损伤修复及血管生成等病理生理过程密切相关。本文旨在对c-Fos蛋白在青光眼、弱视、视网膜病变等眼部疾病中的作用机制进行综述;同时探讨通过调控c-Fos蛋白针对这些疾病的潜在治疗方法。本研究表明, 激活c-Fos蛋白可以促进视皮质神经元的发育, 在视网膜视神经疾病中, 抑制c-Fos蛋白表达能够延缓视网膜神经节细胞、神经胶质细胞、光感受器细胞等细胞的凋亡。

关键词 c-Fos蛋白; 眼科疾病; 青光眼; 弱视; 视网膜色素变性; 糖尿病视网膜病变

中图分类号 R77

文献标志码 A 文章编号 1000-1492(2026)02-0362-07

doi:10.19405/j.cnki.issn1000-1492.2026.02.024

c-Fos蛋白作为细胞活性及神经环路的功能解剖学标志物^[1], 在神经内分泌调节、自主神经活动及应激等刺激诱发的行为反应研究中具有广泛应用价值^[2-3]。作为即刻早期基因(immediate early gene, IEG)家族的核心成员, c-Fos基因通过膜受体和离子通道等途径, 能够快速响应胞外信号刺激而被激活^[4]。其编码的62 kDa c-Fos蛋白可与c-Jun蛋白形成异源二聚体激活蛋白-1(activator protein-1, AP-1)复合体^[5], 该复合体作为转录因子能够促进多种靶基因的转录调控^[6]。除神经元外, 星形胶质细胞^[7]、小胶质细胞^[8]及少突胶质细胞^[9]等神经胶质细胞中也存在c-Fos表达现象。近年来研究表明^[6], 在眼科领域, c-Fos的动态表达与视网膜神经节细胞(retinal ganglion cells, RGCs)凋亡、视皮质可塑性、光损伤修复及血管生成等病理生理过程密切相关。近年来, c-Fos蛋白在眼部疾病发生发展中的关键作用日益受到重视, 相关研究也在不断深入。本文系统梳理c-Fos蛋白在相关眼科疾病中的研究进展, 对其在眼科疾病中的作用、分子机制和治疗前景进行

综述。

1 c-Fos表达的分子机制

细胞外信号分子刺激可通过调控细胞内钙离子(Ca²⁺)、丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinases, MAPKs)及环磷酸腺苷反应元件(cAMP response element, CRE)等多种转录调节因子激活c-Fos表达^[10-11]。作为转录因子AP-1的组成单元, c-Fos通过与c-Jun形成二聚体结合于AP-1位点, 直接调控下游靶基因的表达。

如图1所示, AP-1信号通路的激活始于N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体(NMDAR)或电压门控钙通道(VDCC)介导的钙离子内流^[12]。细胞外信号调节激酶(extracellular regulated protein kinases, ERK), MAPKs级联反应成员的活化可诱导ETS样蛋白1(Elk1)、CRE、血清反应因子(SRF)及核糖体蛋白激酶S6(ribosomal protein S6, rpS6)等调控元件的磷酸化。这些元件通过结合c-Fos基因启动子中的血清反应元件(serum response element, SRE), 共同参与c-Fos蛋白合成^[13]。其中, 环磷酸腺苷(cyclic adenosine monophosphate, cAMP)反应元件结合蛋白(cAMP response element binding protein, CREB)在c-Fos转录过程中发挥核心作用。CREB的磷酸化(即激活)需要rpS6等激酶的参与, 其中丝裂原与应激激活蛋白激酶(mitogen-and stress-activated protein kinases, MSK)的作用最为关键。磷酸化后的

2025-12-24 接收

基金项目: 国家自然科学基金面上项目(编号: 82274589); 中国中医科学院眼科医院高水平中医医院项目(编号: GSP5-82、GSP3-03)

作者简介: 尚孟秋, 女, 博士研究生;

梁丽娜, 女, 研究员, 博士生导师, 通信作者, E-mail: lianglina163@163.com

CREB与CRE结合,随后该磷酸化转录因子复合体进一步结合SRE启动子,最终驱动c-Fos基因的转录激活及其产物向细胞质转运^[14]。

新合成的c-Fos蛋白经翻译后迅速转运至细胞核,与c-Jun蛋白形成异源二聚体AP-1复合体^[15](图1),进而启动多种基因的转录调控。基础状态下,由于mRNA的不稳定性及Fos蛋白介导的自我负反馈调节机制^[16],c-Fos基因表达水平极低。其转录激活在刺激施加后5 min内即可快速启动,mRNA表达峰值约出现于30 min,而c-Fos蛋白表达高峰则延迟至刺激后90~120 min^[17]。研究^[18]显示,核因子κB(nuclear factor kappa-B, NF-κB)的激活与c-Fos诱导存在正向调控关系。除ERK-Elk-1与ERK-MSK-CREB信号通路参与c-Fos表达调控外,p65同源二聚体与c-Fos启动子的结合对于小鼠c-Fos转录具有决定性作用^[18]。然而,在Elk-1和/or CREB磷酸化水平不足的情况下,NF-κB的激活并不能上调c-Fos表达^[18]。此外,通过增强钙信号或激活环cAMP通路的药物及神经递质均可快速诱导c-Fos基因活化,这两类作用均通过介导转录因子CREB的磷酸化实现^[19]。

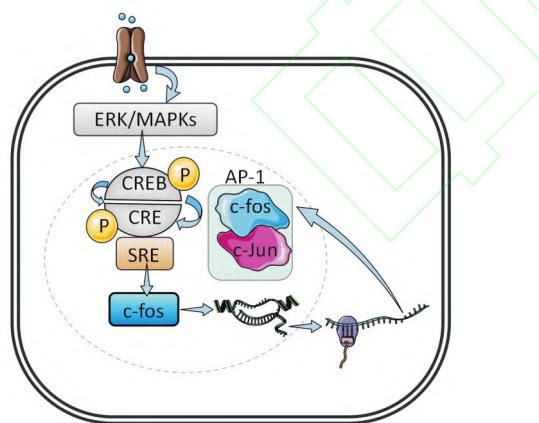


图1 c-Fos蛋白分子机制图

Fig. 1 Diagram of the molecular mechanism of c-Fos protein

2 c-Fos蛋白在青光眼中的研究进展

青光眼常表现为眼压升高,伴有视野逐渐丧失等症状,最终导致不可逆性失明,作为以RGCs进行性死亡为特征的神经退行性疾病,其病理过程与c-Fos蛋白的动态表达密切相关,c-Fos蛋白能够响应神经元活动或外界刺激(如机械压力、氧化应激)被快速诱导表达,其动态变化不仅可作为评估神经元功能活性的生物标志物,更直接参与细胞凋亡、炎

症反应及突触重塑等分子过程^[20]。

在实验性高眼压(ocular hypertension, OHT)的大鼠模型中,视神经乳头(optic nerve head, ONH)内的星形胶质细胞在24 h内显著上调c-Fos蛋白和磷酸化c-Jun(p-cJun)的表达,提示AP-1转录复合物通过激活氧化应激相关基因(如血红素氧合酶-1, HO-1)加剧视神经损伤^[21],进一步研究表明,AP-1的激活与MAPKs信号通路密切相关:免疫组化分析显示,OHT模型中c-Fos/c-Jun的核定位与ERK和MAPKp38的磷酸化水平呈显著正相关,表明MAPK/AP-1轴在反应性星形胶质细胞表型的诱导和维持中起到重要作用。值得注意的是,此类病理机制在非人灵长类动物(如猴)的慢性高眼压模型中同样得到验证,其ONH星形胶质细胞中c-Fos/c-Jun的持续激活与视神经纤维层变薄及轴突运输障碍直接相关^[22]。这些跨物种研究的一致性证实,AP-1通路的异常活化是青光眼性视神经病变的重要分子特征。

除氧化应激外,c-Fos还参与缺血再灌注(ischemia-reperfusion, I/R)损伤的病理过程。在大鼠视网膜I/R模型中,缺血30 min后恢复血流可导致RGCs内c-Jun与c-Fos的mRNA水平显著升高,同时伴随Bax/Caspase-3等促凋亡因子的上调^[23]。然而,骨髓间充质干细胞(bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, BMSCs)移植可通过抑制c-Fos/c-Jun的转录活性,显著减少RGCs凋亡并改善视网膜功能,其机制可能与BMSCs分泌的旁分泌因子,如脑源性神经营养因子(brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)调控MAPK/AP-1信号衰减有关^[24]。这一发现为干细胞疗法在青光眼治疗中的应用提供了实验依据。

针对c-Fos的干预策略已展现出显著的治疗潜力。例如,褪黑激素在OHT大鼠模型中能够抑制视交叉上核(supra chiasmatic nucleus, SCN)中c-Fos的异常过表达,从而保护非成像视觉系统功能(如瞳孔对光反射和昼夜节律调节)。通过对其机制的研究^[25]表明,褪黑激素通过激活其膜受体MT1/MT2,抑制ERK/c-Fos信号传导,并减少活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)的生成,最终缓解高眼压诱导的神经退行性病变。此外,可溶性Nogo-66受体(soluble Nogo-66 receptor-Fc, sNgR-Fc)通过阻断神经生长抑制因子A(neurite outgrowth inhibitor A, Nogo-A)与神经调节蛋白1(neuregulin-1, NgR1)的

相互作用,抑制c-Fos介导的突触变性,提高慢性青光眼模型中RGCs的存活率^[26]。胚胎干细胞来源的神经祖细胞(embryonic stem cell-derived neural progenitors, ES-NPs)移植后,宿主视网膜中c-Fos表达的恢复不仅标志着移植细胞的功能整合,更与视觉诱发电位(visual evoked potential, VEP)振幅的改善显著相关,突显c-Fos在突触可塑性调控中的核心地位^[27]。

光遗传学技术的引入为靶向调控c-Fos提供了创新手段。利用稳定阶跃视蛋白(step-function opsins, SSFO)对小鼠上丘(superior colliculus, SC)进行光刺激,可诱导RGCs中c-Fos的持续表达(超过6 h),并通过免疫组化与行为学实验证实其神经元活性的增强。值得注意的是,SSFO介导的c-Fos激活不仅能抵抗高眼压导致的轴突损伤,还可通过促进神经营养因子的分泌,维持视网膜内信号通路的完整性^[28]。这一发现将光遗传学从传统的神经元激活工具拓展为神经保护策略,为青光眼的精准治疗开辟了新方向。

3 c-Fos蛋白在弱视中的研究进展

弱视是一种由早期视觉剥夺或异常视觉经验导致的神经发育性疾病,Hubel et al^[29]经过数年的研究发现,弱视的主要病变与视皮质有关,其核心病理机制涉及视皮质可塑性受损。作为视觉发育的关键中介分子,c-Fos基因及其编码的蛋白在调控突触重塑、神经元活性及视觉环路形成中发挥重要作用^[30]。c-Fos基础表达水平较低,但在神经元活动或外界刺激(如光信号输入)下可被快速诱导^[19]。研究^[31]证实,在正常视觉发育过程中,外界光刺激通过激活RGCs中的谷氨酸能信号通路,触发视皮质c-Fos的瞬时表达,进而促进突触连接和视觉通路的成熟。视皮质可塑期的相关研究^[32]结果表明,视皮质神经元发育可塑性的程度可以由IEG的差异表达水平反映。经过视觉发育可塑期后,c-Fos蛋白的表达程度在视觉发育关键期内达到顶峰^[33]。

动物实验表明,在单眼斜视性弱视模型的成年大鼠中,剥夺眼对应的初级视皮质区神经元c-Fos表达水平较对照组降低,且与行为学测试中的视觉敏锐度下降呈显著正相关^[34]。这一现象表明,视觉输入的减少直接抑制了视皮质神经元的电活动,导致AP-1介导的突触可塑性信号通路受阻。值得注意的是,外侧膝状体(lateral geniculate nucleus, LGN)

作为视网膜至视皮质的中继站,其c-Fos表达在剥夺早期显著下调,但在成年期因代偿机制得到部分回升^[35]。这种动态变化提示,c-Fos不仅是神经元活性的实时标志物,更是评估视觉系统重塑潜力的关键指标。

基于c-Fos的分子功能,多项干预策略已被开发用于弱视治疗。临床研究^[36]表明,热敏灸治疗通过激活视皮质中蛋白激酶A(PKA)-cAMP反应元件结合CREB蛋白通路,上调c-Fos与BDNF的协同表达,使弱视患儿的最佳矫正视力(BCVA)提高。其机制可能与热敏灸治疗增强突触可塑性有关^[37]。此外,L-多巴甲酯(L-dopa methylester, LDME)通过提高多巴胺能递质水平,间接激活多巴胺受体D1(dopamine receptor D1, DRD1)/c-Fos信号轴,修复视觉皮层IV层的功能性柱状结构^[38]。因此,光遗传学刺激结合c-Fos激活剂可能成为未来增强视觉环路重塑的创新手段。

4 c-Fos蛋白在视网膜色素变性(retinitis pigmentosa, RP)中的研究进展

RP是一种以光感受器进行性凋亡为核心病理特征的遗传性视网膜疾病,其发病机制涉及光损伤信号异常放大与氧化应激失衡。研究^[39]表明,c-Fos在RP的病理进程中发挥重要调控作用。

在急性光暴露模型中,强光刺激可诱导视网膜外层c-Fos与炎症小体关键组分天冬氨酸特异性的半胱氨酸蛋白水解酶1(cysteinyl aspartate specific proteinase 1, Caspase-1)的共表达显著上调,进而激活AP-1下游促凋亡基因(如*Bax*、*FasL*),导致光感受器外段崩解及线粒体膜电位去极化,最终引发Caspase-3依赖性凋亡级联反应^[39]。这一过程与光感受器内ROS的过量积累密切相关,而抗氧化剂依达拉奉(edaravone)可通过抑制c-Fos磷酸化并下调Caspase-1表达,显著延缓光感受器凋亡进程^[40]。在*rd1-FTL*基因敲除小鼠模型中,c-Fos报告基因在疾病晚期的无长突细胞和RGCs中异常激活,其激活区域与Müller细胞胶质增生区域及视锥细胞突触末端缺失区高度重叠,免疫荧光分析显示,此类区域的Müller细胞中胶质纤维酸性蛋白(GFAP)表达上调,同时伴随促炎因子(如TNF-α、IL-6)的释放增加,提示c-Fos驱动的神经炎症反应可能通过旁分泌机制加剧光感受器变性^[39]。进一步研究^[41]显示,强光诱导的JunB/c-Fos异源二聚体在Müller细胞中特

异性激活,通过ERK1/2-MAPK磷酸化级联反应上调基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9)的表达,导致血视网膜外屏障破坏及光感受器外段吞噬功能障碍。

针对c-Fos的干预手段已展现出多维度治疗潜力。中药复方石斛夜光丸通过下调视网膜中c-Fos/c-Jun的表达抑制Bax/Bcl-2比例失衡,同时减轻双极细胞树突萎缩及水平细胞突触重构,其机制可能涉及石斛夜光丸对NF- κ B和c-Jun氨基末端激酶(c-Jun N-terminal kinase, JNK)信号通路的双重调控^[42]。基因治疗方面,重组腺相关病毒载体AAV2-PDE6B通过靶向纠正Pde6b突变,抑制ERK/c-Fos信号轴过度激活,使RP模型大鼠视网膜中抗凋亡因子Bcl-2表达上调,同时减少Müller细胞中胶质瘢痕的形成^[43]。

5 c-Fos蛋白在糖尿病视网膜病变(diabetic retinopathy, DR)中的研究进展

DR是高血糖诱导的微血管并发症,其病理特征包括炎症反应加剧、血管渗漏及新生血管形成。研究表明^[44],c-Fos蛋白通过调控血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)表达及血视网膜屏障(blood-retinal barrier, BRB)完整性,在DR进展中发挥核心作用。

在高糖环境中,C/EBP- β 与c-Fos蛋白协同结合至VEGF启动子区域的功能性转录因子结合位点^[45],激活GPR91-ERK1/2-C/EBP β /c-Fos信号轴,使VEGF的mRNA表达量升高^[44]。这一过程通过促进内皮细胞增殖与迁移,导致视网膜毛细血管基底膜增厚及无细胞毛细血管形成,最终引发病理性新生血管^[46]。此外,VEGF蛋白过表达可破坏内皮细胞间紧密连接蛋白,使BRB通透性增加,加剧黄斑水肿及硬性渗出^[14,47]。Müller细胞作为视网膜主要的胶质细胞,其在高糖应激下的异常激活是DR炎症微环境形成的关键因素。研究^[48-49]显示,Müller细胞中c-Fos磷酸化后与AP-1复合物结合,驱动促炎因子TNF- α 和IL-6的转录上调,同时激活MMP-9的表达,MMP-9通过降解细胞外基质,导致BRB结构破坏,并促进白细胞跨内皮迁移,形成“炎症—渗漏”恶性循环。

内源性光敏视网膜神经节细胞(intrinsically photosensitive retinal ganglion cells, ipRGCs)通过表达黑视蛋白介导非成像视觉功能(如昼夜节律调

节)对视觉产生影响。高糖环境抑制ipRGCs的光诱导c-Fos与Period1基因表达,导致视网膜生物钟基因的振荡幅度衰减,进而破坏褪黑激素分泌节律^[50]。临床研究^[51]显示,DR患者视交叉上核(supra chiasmatic nucleus, SCN)中c-Fos表达水平较健康对照降低,而晶体切除术可通过清除糖基化终末产物(AGEs)及减少氧化应激,使SCN的c-Fos表达恢复,部分逆转昼夜节律紊乱。

针对c-Fos的干预策略显示,抑制AP-1通路可缓解RGCs凋亡。中药半边旗的提取物二萜类化合物EKO通过增强去泛素化酶共济失调蛋白3ATXN3与c-Fos蛋白的结合,抑制其泛素化降解,从而上调黏着斑蛋白的表达,使高糖诱导的内皮通透性降低^[52]。糖皮质激素(如地塞米松)通过激活糖皮质激素受体(GR),抑制Müller细胞内ERK/c-Fos磷酸化级联反应,使促血管生成因子半乳糖凝集素-1(LGALS1)的蛋白水平降低,并减少视网膜新生血管密度^[53]。

6 小结

综上所述,c-Fos蛋白在眼组织中广泛表达,在青光眼、弱视等常见眼科疾病的发生发展中发挥重要作用。激活c-Fos蛋白可以促进视皮质神经元的发育,在视网膜视神经疾病中,抑制c-Fos蛋白表达能够延缓RGCs、神经胶质细胞、光感受器细胞等细胞的凋亡(如图2所示)。未来研究可进一步细化c-Fos蛋白在不同疾病阶段或亚型中的特异性作用,并探索跨学科合作和技术创新在c-Fos蛋白研究中的应用。

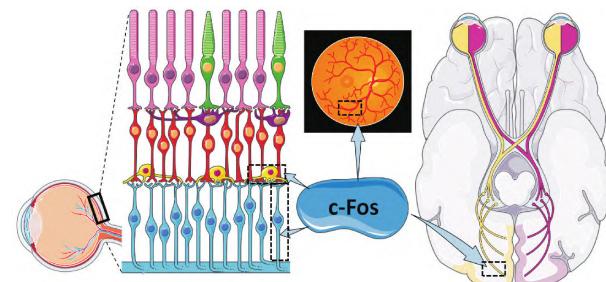


图2 c-Fos蛋白在眼科疾病中作用图

Fig. 2 Diagram of the role of c-Fos protein in ophthalmic diseases

参考文献

- [1] Xie L, Wu Q, Huang H, et al. Neuroregulation of histamine of circadian rhythm disorder induced by chronic intermittent hypoxia [J]. Eur J Pharmacol, 2025, 999: 177662. doi: 10.1016/j.ejphar.2025.177662.

- ejphar. 2025. 177662.
- [2] Bullitt E. Expression of c-fos-like protein as a marker for neuronal activity following noxious stimulation in the rat [J]. *J Comp Neurol*, 1990, 296(4): 517-30. doi: 10.1002/cne.902960402.
- [3] Steckler T, Kalin N H, Reul J M H M. Techniques in the Behavioral and Neural Sciences: 15 [M]// Steckler T, UK: Elsevier, 2005:679-98.
- [4] Herrera D G, Robertson H A. Activation of c-fos in the brain[J]. *Prog Neurobiol*, 1996, 50(2-3): 83-107. doi: 10.1016/s0301-0082(96)00021-4.
- [5] Angel P, Karin M. The role of Jun, Fos and the AP-1 complex in cell-proliferation and transformation [J]. *Biochim Biophys Acta*, 1991, 1072 (2-3) : 129-57. doi: 10.1016/0304-419x (91) 90011-9.
- [6] Gius D, Cao X M, Rauscher F J 3rd, et al. Transcriptional activation and repression by Fos are independent functions: the C terminus represses immediate-early gene expression via CARG elements [J]. *Mol Cell Biol*, 1990, 10 (8) : 4243-55. doi: 10.1128/mcb.10.8.4243-4255.1990.
- [7] Groves A, Kihara Y, Jonnalagadda D, et al. A functionally defined *in vivo* astrocyte population identified by c-fos activation in a mouse model of multiple sclerosis modulated by S1P signaling: immediate-early astrocytes (*iAstrocytes*) [J]. *eNeuro*, 2018, 5 (5) : ENEURO. 0239-18. 2018. doi: 10.1523/ENEURO.0239-18.2018.
- [8] Eun S Y, Hong Y H, Kim E H, et al. Glutamate receptor-mediated regulation of c-fos expression in cultured microglia [J]. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*, 2004, 325 (1) : 320-7. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2004.10.035.
- [9] Muir D A, Compston D A. Growth factor stimulation triggers apoptotic cell death in mature oligodendrocytes [J]. *J Neurosci Res*, 1996, 44 (1) : 1-11. doi: 10.1002/(SICI) 1097-4547 (19960401)44:1<1::AID-JNR1>3.0.CO;2-L.
- [10] Stanisavljević A, Perić I, Bernardi R E, et al. Clozapine increased c-Fos protein expression in several brain subregions of socially isolated rats [J]. *Brain Res Bull*, 2019, 152: 35-44. doi: 10.1016/j.brainresbull.2019.07.005.
- [11] Xu Y, Zheng Z, Ho K P, et al. Effects of spinal cord injury on c-fos expression in hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus and supraoptic nucleus in rats [J]. *Brain Res*, 2006, 1087(1): 175-9. doi: 10.1016/j.brainres.2006.03.003.
- [12] Lerea L S, Butler L S, McNamara J O. NMDA and non-NMDA receptor-mediated increase of c-fos mRNA in dentate gyrus neurons involves calcium influx via different routes [J]. *J Neurosci*, 1992, 12 (8) : 2973-81. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.12-08-02973.1992.
- [13] Johansen F E, Prywes R. Two pathways for serum regulation of the c-fos serum response element require specific sequence elements and a minimal domain of serum response factor [J]. *Mol Cell Biol*, 1994, 14 (9) : 5920-8. doi: 10.1128/mcb.14.9.5920-5928.1994.
- [14] Li T, Hu J, Gao F, et al. Transcription factors regulate GPR91-mediated expression of VEGF in hypoxia-induced retinopathy [J]. *Sci Rep*, 2017, 7: 45807. doi: 10.1038/srep45807.
- [15] Zhao W, Zhang H, Li L, et al. Spinosin enhances non-rapid eye movement sleep and alters c-Fos expression in sleep-wake regulatory brain regions in mice [J]. *Sleep Breath*, 2025, 29(1): 101. doi: 10.1007/s11325-025-03272-9.
- [16] Lucibello F C, Lowag C, Neuberg M, et al. Trans-repression of the mouse c-fos promoter: a novel mechanism of Fos-mediated trans-regulation [J]. *Cell*, 1989, 59 (6) : 999-1007. doi: 10.1016/0092-8674(89)90756-3.
- [17] Kovács K J. C-Fos as a transcription factor: a stressful (re)view from a functional map [J]. *Neurochem Int*, 1998, 33 (4) : 287-97. doi: 10.1016/s0197-0186(98)00023-0.
- [18] Tu Y C, Huang D Y, Shiah S G, et al. Regulation of c-fos gene expression by NF-κB: a p65 homodimer binding site in mouse embryonic fibroblasts but not human HEK293 cells [J]. *PLoS One*, 2013, 8 (12) : e84062. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0084062.
- [19] Sheng M, Greenberg M E. The regulation and function of c-fos and other immediate-early genes in the nervous system [J]. *Neuron*, 1990, 4 (4) : 477-85. doi: 10.1016/0896-6273(90)90106-p.
- [20] Okuno H. Regulation and function of immediate-early genes in the brain: beyond neuronal activity markers [J]. *Neurosci Res*, 2011, 69(3): 175-86. doi: 10.1016/j.neures.2010.12.007.
- [21] Chidlow G, Wood J P M, Casson R J. Investigations into hypoxia and oxidative stress at the optic nerve head in a rat model of glaucoma [J]. *Front Neurosci*, 2017, 11: 478. doi: 10.3389/fnins.2017.00478.
- [22] Hashimoto K, Parker A, Malone P, et al. Long-term activation of c-Fos and c-Jun in optic nerve head astrocytes in experimental ocular hypertension in monkeys and after exposure to elevated pressure *in vitro* [J]. *Brain Res*, 2005, 1054(2) : 103-15. doi: 10.1016/j.brainres.2005.06.050.
- [23] Otori Y, Shimada S, Morimura H, et al. Expression of c-fos and c-Jun mRNA following transient retinal ischemia: an approach using ligation of the retinal central artery in the rat [J]. *Surv Ophthalmol*, 1997, 42 (Suppl 1) : S96-104. doi: 10.1016/s0039-6257(97)80032-x.
- [24] 韩延燕, 曹永亮, 梁冰, 等. BMSC移植对视网膜缺血-再灌注损伤凋亡相关基因c-fos/c-jun表达的影响[J]. 眼科新进展, 2014, 34(3): 209-12. doi: 10.13389/j.cnki.rao.2014.0055.
- [24] Han Y Y, Cao Y L, Liang B, et al. Effect of bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells transplantation on expressions of apoptosis related gene c-fos/c-Jun in retinal ischemia reperfusion injury [J]. *Recent Adv Ophthalmol*, 2014, 34(3) : 209-12. doi: 10.13389/j.cnki.rao.2014.0055.
- [25] González Fleitas M F, Devouassoux J, Aranda M L, et al. Melatonin prevents non-image-forming visual system alterations induced by experimental glaucoma in rats [J]. *Mol Neurobiol*, 2021, 58(8): 3653-64. doi: 10.1007/s12035-021-02374-1.
- [26] Divya M S, Rasheed V A, Schmidt T, et al. Intraocular injection

- of ES cell-derived neural progenitors improve visual function in retinal ganglion cell-depleted mouse models [J]. *Front Cell Neurosci*, 2017, 11: 295. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2017.00295.
- [27] Fu Q L, Liao X X, Li X, et al. Soluble Nogo-66 receptor prevents synaptic dysfunction and rescues retinal ganglion cell loss in chronic glaucoma [J]. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*, 2011, 52(11): 8374-80. doi: 10.1167/iovs.11-7667.
- [28] Geeraerts E, Claes M, Dekeyster E, et al. Optogenetic stimulation of the superior *Colliculus* confers retinal neuroprotection in a mouse glaucoma model [J]. *J Neurosci*, 2019, 39(12): 2313-25. doi: 10.1523/JNEUROSCI.0872-18.2018.
- [29] Hubel D H, Wiesel T N. The period of susceptibility to the physiological effects of unilateral eye closure in kittens [J]. *J Physiol*, 1970, 206(2): 419-36. doi: 10.1113/jphysiol.1970.sp009022.
- [30] Mower G D, Kaplan I V. Immediate early gene expression in the visual cortex of normal and dark reared cats: differences between fos and egr-1 [J]. *Brain Res Mol Brain Res*, 2002, 105(1-2): 157-60. doi: 10.1016/s0169-328x(02)00405-9.
- [31] Van der Gucht E, Clerens S, Cromphout K, et al. Differential expression of c-fos in subtypes of GABAergic cells following sensory stimulation in the cat primary visual cortex [J]. *Eur J Neurosci*, 2002, 16(8): 1620-6. doi: 10.1046/j.1460-9568.2002.02226.x.
- [32] Yamada Y, Hada Y, Imamura K, et al. Differential expression of immediate-early genes, c-fos and zif268, in the visual cortex of young rats: effects of a noradrenergic neurotoxin on their expression [J]. *Neuroscience*, 1999, 92(2): 473-84. doi: 10.1016/s0306-4522(99)00003-2.
- [33] Zhang F, Halleux P, Arckens L, et al. Distribution of immediate early gene zif-268, c-fos, c-Jun and Jun-D mRNAs in the adult cat with special references to brain region related to vision [J]. *Neurosci Lett*, 1994, 176(2): 137-41. doi: 10.1016/0304-3940(94)90067-1.
- [34] 刘 珉, 陈 剑, 周 清, 等. c-fos蛋白在单眼斜视性弱视成年大鼠视皮质神经元的表达[J]. 暨南大学学报(自然科学与医学版), 2010, 31(2): 163-7. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1000-9965.2010.02.013.
- [34] Liu J, Chen J, Zhou Q, et al. Study on the expression of c-fos protein in the visual cortex of adult rats with monocular strabismus amblyopia [J]. *J Jinan Univ Nat Sci Med Ed*, 2010, 31(2): 163-7. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1000-9965.2010.02.013.
- [35] Ma Y. Relationship between monocularly deprivation and amblyopia rats and visual system development [J]. *Asian Pac J Trop Med*, 2014, 7(7): 568-71. doi: 10.1016/S1995-7645(14)60095-X.
- [36] 韩秀敏, 李 廷, 李德辉. 热敏灸对弱视患儿泪液中VEGF及C-Fos、CREB蛋白表达水平的影响[J]. 河北医药, 2020, 42(12): 1832-4, 1838. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-7386.2020.12.017.
- [36] Han X M, Li T, Li D H. Effects of heat-sensitive moxibustion on the expression levels of vascular endothelial growth factor, CFos and CREB in tear of children with amblyopia [J]. *Hebei Med J*, 2020, 42(12): 1832-4, 1838. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-7386.2020.12.017.
- [37] 潘 青, 王文奇, 宋曙光, 等. 热敏灸治疗儿童弱视的临床效果分析及对CREB和C-Fos蛋白的影响研究[J]. *临床和实验医学杂志*, 2016, 15(15): 1505-8. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-7386.2020.12.017.
- [37] Pan Q, Wang W Q, Song S G, et al. Effect of heat-sensitive moxibustion on children's amblyopia and the regulation of CERB and C-Fos [J]. *J Clin Exp Med*, 2016, 15(15): 1505-8. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1002-7386.2020.12.017.
- [38] Li R, Liang T, Chen Z, et al. L-dopa methyl ester attenuates amblyopia-induced neuronal injury in visual cortex of amblyopic cat [J]. *Gene*, 2013, 527(1): 115-22. doi: 10.1016/j.gene.2013.05.072.
- [39] Greferath U, Anderson E E, Jobling A I, et al. Inner retinal change in a novel rd1-FTL mouse model of retinal degeneration [J]. *Front Cell Neurosci*, 2015, 9: 293. doi: 10.3389/fncel.2015.00293.
- [40] 耿园园, 张小玲, 黎彦宏, 等. 小鼠急性光损伤视网膜组织中c-Fos、Caspase-1蛋白的表达及依达拉奉的干预作用[J]. 西安交通大学学报(医学版), 2013, 34(3): 331-5, 340. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1671-8259.2013.03.011.
- [40] Geng Y Y, Zhang X L, Li Y H, et al. C-Fos and Caspase-1 protein expressions in mice with acute retinal photodamage and the interventional effect of edaravone [J]. *J Xi'an Jiaotong Univ Med Sci*, 2013, 34(3): 331-5, 340. doi: 10.3969/j.issn.1671-8259.2013.03.011.
- [41] Gu D, Beltran W A, Li Z, et al. Clinical light exposure, photoreceptor degeneration, and AP-1 activation: a cell death or cell survival signal in the rhodopsin mutant retina? [J]. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*, 2007, 48(11): 4907-18. doi: 10.1167/iovs.07-0428.
- [42] Wu H, Xu J, Du X, et al. Shihu Yeguang Pill protects against bright light-induced photoreceptor degeneration in part through suppressing photoreceptor apoptosis [J]. *Biomed Pharmacother*, 2020, 126: 110050. doi: 10.1016/j.biopha.2020.110050.
- [43] Qiu R, Yang M, Jin X, et al. AAV2-PDE6B restores retinal structure and function in the retinal degeneration 10 mouse model of retinitis pigmentosa by promoting phototransduction and inhibiting apoptosis [J]. *Neural Regen Res*, 2025, 20(8): 2408-19. doi: 10.4103/NRR.NRR-D-23-01301.
- [44] 丁 睿, 王 媛, 丁正霞, 等. 兴奋下丘脑腹外侧视前区对结节乳头体核c-Fos表达的影响及其受体途径[J]. 安徽医科大学学报, 2015, 50(9): 1219-22. doi: 10.19405/j.cnki.issn1000-1492.2015.09.004.
- [44] Ding R, Wang Y, Ding Z X, et al. The effect of c-Fos expression in tuberomammillary after exciting ventrolateral preoptic and its receptor passway [J]. *Acta Univ Med Anhui*, 2015, 50(9): 1219-22. doi: 10.19405/j.cnki.issn1000-1492.2015.09.004.
- [45] Liu X, Liu K, Qin J, et al. C/EBP β promotes angiogenesis

- through secretion of IL-6, which is inhibited by genistein, in EGFRv III-positive glioblastoma [J]. *Int J Cancer*, 2015, 136 (11): 2524-34. doi: 10.1002/ijc. 29319.
- [46] Wang X, Wang T, Kaneko S, et al. Photoreceptors inhibit pathological retinal angiogenesis through transcriptional regulation of Adam17 via c-Fos[J]. *Angiogenesis*, 2024, 27(3): 379-95. doi: 10.1007/s10456-024-09912-0.
- [47] Hu J, Li T, Du X, et al. G protein-coupled receptor 91 signaling in diabetic retinopathy and hypoxic retinal diseases [J]. *Vision Res*, 2017, 139: 59-64. doi: 10.1016/j.visres.2017.05.001.
- [48] 马小飞. 枸杞多糖对高糖所致视网膜神经节细胞凋亡、基因表达及延迟整流钾电流的影响[J]. 海南医学院学报, 2017, 23 (5): 581-4. doi: 10.13210/j.cnki.jhmu.20161221.005.
- [48] Ma X F. Effect of *Lycium barbarum* polysaccharides on high glucose-induced retinal ganglion cell apoptosis, gene expression and delayed rectifier potassium current [J]. *J Hainan Med Univ*, 2017, 23 (5) : 581-4. doi: 10.13210/j. cnki. jhmu. 20161221. 005.
- [49] Mishra M, Flaga J, Kowluru R A. Molecular mechanism of transcriptional regulation of matrix metalloproteinase-9 in diabetic retinopathy [J]. *Diabetologia*, 2016, 59(11): 2530-7. doi: 10.1007/s00125-016-3830-0.
- [50] Lahouaoui H, Coutanson C, Cooper H M, et al. Clock genes and behavioral responses to light are altered in a mouse model of diabetic retinopathy [J]. *PLoS One*, 2014, 9(7): e101584. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0101584.
- [51] Fernandez D C, Sande P H, de Zavala N, et al. Effect of experimental diabetic retinopathy on the non-image-forming visual system [J]. *Chronobiol Int*, 2013, 30 (4) : 583-97. doi: 10.3109/07420528.2012.754453.
- [52] Ge D, Luo T, Sun Y, et al. Natural diterpenoid EKO activates deubiquitinase ATXN3 to preserve vascular endothelial integrity and alleviate diabetic retinopathy through c-fos/focal adhesion axis [J]. *Int J Biol Macromol*, 2024, 260 (Pt 2) : 129341. doi: 10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2024.129341.
- [53] Hirose I, Kanda A, Noda K, et al. Glucocorticoid receptor inhibits Müller glial galectin-1 expression via DUSP1-dependent and-independent deactivation of AP-1 signalling [J]. *J Cell Mol Med*, 2019, 23(10): 6785-96. doi: 10.1111/jcem.14559.

Research progress in the role of c-Fos protein of in eye diseases

Shang Mengqiu, Liang Lina

(Department of Eye Function Laboratory, Eye Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing 1000040)

Abstract As a functional anatomical marker of cellular activity and neural circuitry, c-Fos protein has been extensively utilized in studies which investigate neuroendocrine regulation, autonomic nervous system activity, and behavioral responses to stress. Recent research in ophthalmology has revealed that dynamic c-Fos expression is closely associated with pathophysiological processes such as retinal ganglion cell apoptosis, visual cortical plasticity, photodamage repair, and angiogenesis. This review aims to summarize the mechanistic roles of c-Fos protein in ocular diseases including glaucoma, amblyopia, and retinopathy, as well as exploring potential therapeutic approaches targeting c-Fos modulation. The studies have shown that the activation of c-Fos protein can promote the development of neurons in the visual cortex, and the inhibition of c-Fos can delay the apoptosis of retinal ganglion cells, neuroglia and photoreceptors in retinal and optic nerve diseases.

Key words c-Fos protein; eye diseases; glaucoma; amblyopia; retinitis pigmentosa; diabetic retinopathy

Fund programs National Natural Science Foundation of China (No. 82274589); High-Level Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital Project for Ophthalmology Hospitals from China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (Nos. GSP5-82, GSP3-03)

Corresponding author Liang Lina, E-mail: lianglina163@163. com