

三萜类化合物降血糖活性及其作用机制研究进展

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摘要 三萜类化合物在预防糖尿病和降血糖活性方面的研究取得了较大进展。研究发现,三萜类化合物能够通过多种途径降低血糖,包括促进胰岛素分泌,增强胰岛素敏感性,抑制蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶1B(PTP1B),激活腺苷酸活化蛋白激酶(AMPK)促进糖摄取,减少肝脏糖原分解与糖异生,抑制 α -糖苷酶、醛糖还原酶(AR)和二肽基肽酶-4(DPP-4)的活性等。本文对三萜类化合物的降血糖活性及其作用机制进行了综述,为该类化合物降血糖活性的深入研究与开发提供参考。

关键词 三萜类化合物; 降血糖; 机制; 研究进展

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Advances on hypoglycemic activity and mechanism of triterpenoids

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Abstract The research of triterpenoids on hypoglycemic and anti-diabetic activities have made great progress. Findings indicated that triterpenoids could reduce blood glucose via different mechanisms, including increasing insulin secretion, enhancing insulin sensitivity, promoting glucose uptake by activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK), decreasing glycogenolysis and gluconeogenesis, and inhibiting protein tyrosine phosphates 1B (PTP1B), α -glycosidase, aldose reductase (AR) and dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4). This article reviews the hypoglycemic effects and mechanisms of triterpenoids, providing the reference for further research and development of triterpenoids.

Key words triterpenoids; hypoglycemic effects; mechanisms; advances

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糖尿病(DM)是一种复杂的代谢性疾病,伴有胰岛素绝对或是相对不足及碳水化合物代谢紊乱等特征^[1]。其已成为继肿瘤、心血管疾病之后的第3大慢性非传染性疾病。目前,临幊上用于治疗糖尿病的药物主要有磺酰脲类、双胍类、噻唑烷二酮类、 α -糖苷酶抑制剂等。但是患者长期服用会出现不良反应,如体重增加、低血糖等^[2]。因此,寻

找开发低毒、新型的降血糖药物成为研究者们关注的热点。

三萜类化合物(triterpenoids)是自然界中分布广、结构类型多样的一类重要天然产物,具有降血糖、抗肿瘤、抗炎、降血脂等多种生物活性^[3]。近年来,三萜类化合物的降血糖活性研究取得了较大进展,已成为抗糖尿病药物研究的重要先导化合物

之一。因此,本文对三萜类化合物的降血糖活性及其作用机制进行了综述,为该类化合物降血糖活性的深入研究与开发提供参考。

1 三萜类化合物的降血糖活性及其作用机制

1.1 刺激胰岛 β 细胞,促进胰岛素分泌

胰岛素分泌不足是引发2型糖尿病的主要原因之一^[4]。血糖升高可刺激胰岛素分泌增加,而胰岛素分泌速度取决于胰岛 β 细胞对葡萄糖的摄取以及细胞内通路的传导速度^[5]。葡萄糖转运蛋白2(GLUT2)能够将肝、胰腺、肾、小肠和脑中胞外的葡萄糖转运入胞内^[6]。同时,GLUT2作为胰岛细胞膜上的葡萄糖感受器,还参与葡萄糖诱导的胰岛素分泌,从而调节血糖水平^[7]。已有大量研究证实,调节GLUT2有望成为治疗糖尿病的新方法^[8]。

研究发现^[9],人参皂苷CK能够增加MIN6胰岛 β 细胞中胰岛素的分泌,升高细胞中ATP含量,上调GLUT2蛋白表达,说明人参皂苷CK促进MIN6细胞胰岛素分泌的部分原因是由于上调了GLUT2蛋白的表达水平。此外,人参皂苷CK(30 mg/kg)能够升高2型糖尿病小鼠血浆胰岛素水平,此作用可能是通过抑制AMPK-JNK通路,阻止胰岛 β 细胞凋亡实现的^[10]。人参皂苷Rh₂(0.1~1.0 mg/kg)可降低Wistar大鼠血糖水平并呈浓度依赖性,其降血糖机制为促进胰岛 β 细胞胆碱能神经末梢释放乙酰胆碱(Ach)并激活毒蕈碱M3受体,从而促进胰岛素的分泌与释放^[11]。Park等^[12]发现20(S)-人参皂苷Rg₃能显著增加C2C12成肌细胞中葡萄糖诱导的胰岛素分泌。也有研究发现,积雪草酸具有保护和修复胰岛 β 细胞的作用,降低链脲佐菌素(STZ)诱导的糖尿病大鼠血糖^[13]。桦木酸、熊果酸以及从苦瓜中分离得到的葫芦型三萜苦瓜素Ⅱ、苦瓜皂苷G等均报道能够促进胰岛素的分泌^[14~16]。

1.2 改善胰岛素信号通路,提高胰岛素敏感性

胰岛素与细胞膜上的胰岛素受体(IR)结合,导致IR构象转变并激活其固有的酪氨酸激酶;活化的IR可激活胰岛素受体底物(IRS)并且进一步激活下游的PI3K/Akt信号通路促使GLUT转位,从而促进糖摄取(图1)^[17]。

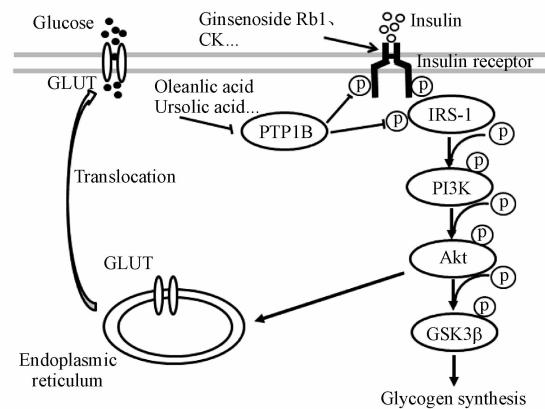


图1 胰岛素介导的糖摄取过程。胰岛素与胰岛素受体(IR)结合进而激活胰岛素受体底物-1(IRS-1), IRS-1进一步激活下游的PI3K/Akt信号通路和糖原合成酶激酶3 β (GSK3 β)从而促进糖摄取及糖原合成。蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶1B(PTP1B)能够使IR和IRS-1上的酪氨酸残基去磷酸化而抑制此过程^[18]

研究发现,三萜类化合物能够改善胰岛素信号通路,提高胰岛素敏感性。人参皂苷Rb₁^[19]可显著提高3T3-L1脂肪细胞和C2C12成肌细胞在非胰岛素和胰岛素介导下的糖摄取,并能显著上调IRS-1、PI3K、Akt、GLUT4和GLUT1蛋白磷酸化水平,表明在一定程度上,其降血糖作用机制是通过激活胰岛素信号通路并促进GLUT4和GLUT1的转位实现的(图1)。Jiang等^[20]发现人参皂苷CK能够促进高脂饲料连续喂养并结合小剂量的STZ诱导的大鼠骨骼肌中IR、IRS-1、PI3Kp85、pAkt和GLUT4的蛋白表达,说明CK可通过增强胰岛素敏感性降低血糖,且与IRS-1/PI3K/Akt信号通路密切相关(图1)。

Li等^[21]采用齐墩果酸(25 mg/kg)灌胃果糖水诱导的胰岛素抵抗大鼠10周,发现齐墩果酸可显著降低血清胰岛素浓度和胰岛素抵抗指数。进一步研究表明,齐墩果酸可升高大鼠脂肪组织IR、IRS-1、PI3K信使RNA水平,同时升高IRS-1和Akt的磷酸化水平,证明齐墩果酸可通过调节IRS-1/PI3K/Akt信号通路改善胰岛素抵抗。而芒果中分离得到的3 β -蒲公英萜醇可修复由地塞米松诱导的PI3K和GLUT4的低表达,改善3T3-L1脂肪细胞胰岛素抵抗,促进脂肪细胞对葡萄糖的摄取^[22]。此外,7 β -hydroxy-3-oxo-D-A-friedooleanan-28-oic acid等木栓烷型三萜化合物也可影响此通路提高胰岛素敏感性^[23]。

1.3 抑制蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶-1B(PTP1B)

蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶-1B(PTP1B)属于PTPs超家族,参与酪氨酸的去磷酸化,对代谢通路的调节具有重要作用^[24]。PTP1B对胰岛素信号通路发挥负性调节作用,使激活的IR和IRS去磷酸化,抑制胰岛素信号通路的传导(图1)^[25]。此外,小鼠被敲除PTP1B基因后,肌肉和肝脏中胰岛素敏感性增强,表明特异性抑制PTP1B可发挥降血糖作用^[24]。

齐墩果酸及其衍生物^[26]能够选择性抑制除T细胞蛋白酪氨酸磷酸酶(TCPTP)外与胰岛素通路相关的其他酪氨酸磷酸酶,上调L6成肌细胞中IR和Akt磷酸化水平,提高胰岛素敏感性,促进糖摄取。其中,化合物NPLC441作为PTP1B的竞争性抑制剂,具有高度选择性^[27]。Mohammad等^[28]考察山茶花(*Camellia japonica*)乙酸乙酯部位中分离得到的10个齐墩果酸型三萜化合物对PTP1B的抑制活性时发现含有3-OH或/和28-COOH官能团的化合物显示了较强的抑制活性($IC_{50}=3.77\sim6.40\mu\text{mol/L}$)。

除齐墩果烷型三萜化合物外,熊果酸及其衍生物UA0713同样具有PTP1B抑制活性,提高CHO/hIR细胞IR的蛋白磷酸化水平,增加L6成肌细胞对葡萄糖的摄取(图1)^[29]。此外,三七(*Panax notoginseng*)中分离得到的三七皂苷LY等达玛烷型三萜化合物,苦瓜(*Momordica charantia*)中分离得到的15,19-epoxy-19,23-dimethoxycucurbita-6,24-dien-3 β -ol等葫芦烷型三萜化合物同样也能够抑制PTP1B^[30-31]。

1.4 激活AMPK促进糖摄取

AMPK是维持细胞能量稳态的重要调节蛋白,是由一个催化亚基(α)和两个调节亚基(β,γ)组成的异源三聚体^[32]。当细胞处于低糖、缺血、缺氧等应激状态时均可激活AMPK。活化的AMPK不仅可以加速异化过程,如糖酵解、脂肪酸氧化等,增加ATP的生成^[33],还可促进GLUT4和GLUT1的转位,促进糖摄取(图2)^[34-35]。

Tan等^[36]发现苦瓜皂苷S、Karaviloside XI及它们的苷元能够促进L6成肌细胞以及3T3-L1脂肪细胞中GLUT4从胞浆转位到细胞膜上,增加葡萄糖转运入胞内,并发现此作用与激活AMPK有关(图2)。人参皂苷Rc可显著增加C2C12成肌细

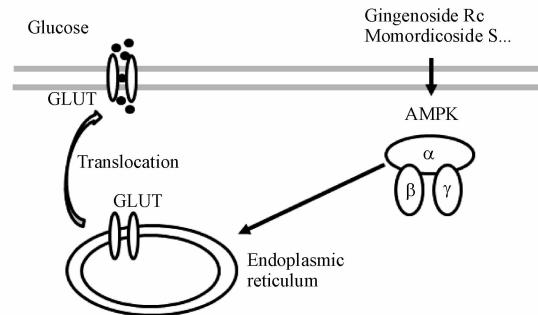


图2 AMPK介导的糖摄取。活化的AMPK可促进GLUT(GLUT4和GLUT1)向细胞膜易位进而增加糖摄取^[34]

胞对葡萄糖的摄取,并升高AMPK磷酸化水平,加入AMPK抑制剂6-[4-[2-(1-哌啶基)乙氧基]苯基]-3-(4-吡啶基)吡唑并[1,5- α]嘧啶(compound C)后糖摄取作用被减弱,但对胰岛素信号通路中关键蛋白IRS-1和Akt的表达无影响。说明人参皂苷Rc促进糖摄取是通过激活AMPK通路实现的(图2)^[37]。除此以外,人参皂苷Rg₁、牡丹皮(*Moutan Cortex*)中分离得到的30-降常春藤皂苷元等三萜化合物、野生苦瓜(wild variant of *Momordica charantia*)中分离得到的(23E)-5 β ,19-epoxy-25-methoxycucurbita-6,23-diene-3 β ,19-diol都能通过AMPK途径促进糖摄取^[38-40]。

1.5 抑制糖原分解和糖异生

肝脏在调节糖原分解和内源性葡萄糖合成的过程中起着非常重要的作用。因此,调节肝脏中糖原分解和糖异生途径中关键酶的活性已经成为潜在的治疗糖尿病的途径。糖原经过糖原磷酸化酶(GP)和磷酸葡萄糖变位酶的催化生成葡萄糖-6-磷酸(G-6-P),在葡萄糖-6-磷酸酶(G6Pase)的作用下G-6-P脱去磷酸最终生成葡萄糖。非糖物质如丙酮酸、甘油等经磷酸烯醇式丙酮酸羧激酶(PEPCK)、G6Pase催化也可生成葡萄糖。此外,活化的AMPK能够抑制PEPCK、G6Pase等酶的活性,减少肝脏中葡萄糖的生成(图3)。

肝脏GP抑制剂可模拟胰岛素促进糖原合成来降低血糖^[41]。研究发现,一些五环三萜化合物如山楂酸、齐墩果酸、科罗索酸及其衍生物都能抑制GP的活性(图3)^[42-44]。Wen等^[45]对25个五环三萜化合物进行活性研究,发现了熊果酸、23-羟基桦木酸等多个活性较好的化合物。天然产物2 β ,3 α -二羟基-12-齐墩果烯-28-羧酸和2 β ,3 α -二羟基-12-乌苏烯-28-羧酸^[46]均能显著抑制GP($IC_{50}=$

6.25, 1.1 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)。Zhu 等^[47]对白头翁(*Pulsatilla chinensis*)中分离得到的23-羟基桦木酸进行结构修饰,结果发现,其衍生物对GP都具有抑制活性,其中化合物Lup-20(29)-en-28-amide-3, 23-bis(acetyloxy)-N-(6-aminoxyhexyl)-(3 β , 4 α)-diol表现出较强的抑制作用(IC_{50} : 3.5 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)。

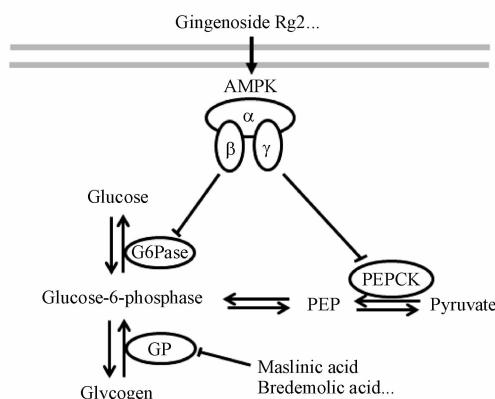


图3 碳水化合物代谢途径。活化的 AMPK 也可通过抑制 PEPCK 和 G6Pase 减少肝糖异生, 山楂酸等可抑制 GP 活性从而增加肝糖原合成^[18]

Yuan 等^[48]发现, 人参皂苷 Rg₂ 能够显著抑制 HepG2 肝癌细胞糖异生, 使肝脏激酶 B1(LKB1)、AMPK、糖原合成酶激酶 3 β (GSK3 β)磷酸化并呈时间和浓度依赖性, 此作用可被 AMPK 抑制剂 compound C 逆转。其还能降低肝糖异生中 cAMP 反应元件结合蛋白(CREB)的表达, 升高 SHP 基因水平, 降低 PEPCK、G6Pase 的基因水平, 此作用也可被 compound C 所逆转。这些结果说明人参皂苷 Rg₂ 可通过激活 AMPK 增加 GSK3 β 磷酸化, 升高 SHP 基因水平, 抑制 PEPCK、G6Pase, 从而抑制肝糖异生(图3)。研究发现:积雪草酸可显著降低 STZ 诱导的糖尿病大鼠空腹血糖, 糖化血红蛋白, 抑制 G6Pase 和果糖-1, 6-二磷酸酶的活性, 升高己糖激酶、丙酮酸激酶和葡萄糖-6-磷酸脱氢酶的活性以及糖原水平^[49]。因此, 积雪草酸主要通过调节碳水化合物代谢中的关键酶来降低血糖。

1.6 抑制 α -糖苷酶, 调节餐后血糖

减少胃肠道对葡萄糖的吸收也是降低血糖水平的一种重要方法。其主要是通过抑制消化道中 α -糖苷酶的活性如 α -葡萄糖苷酶、 α -淀粉酶, 减少小肠绒毛膜刷状缘上皮细胞对葡萄糖的吸收, 进而降低餐后血糖。目前, 临幊上常用的 α -糖苷酶抑制剂主要有阿卡波糖、伏格列波糖等, 它们的效果

显著, 但也存在一些不良反应^[50]。

Ali 等^[51]发现苦味叶下珠(*Phyllanthus amarus*)正己烷提取物对 α -淀粉酶具有抑制作用, 进一步分离等到 4 个单体化合物, 生物活性研究表明, 同分异构体齐墩果酸和熊果酸(2:1)的混合物, 对 α -淀粉酶具有显著的抑制活性(IC_{50} : 4.41 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)。Fatmawati 等^[52]从灵芝(*Ganoderma lingzhi*)子实体提取物中分离得到一系列羊毛甾醇型三萜化合物, 其中灵芝酸 Df、灵芝烯酸 A 和灵芝酸 B 表现出较好的 α -葡萄糖苷酶抑制活性。此外, 有报道称羽扇豆醇具有抑制 α -淀粉酶的活性^[53], inolactone A、B, α -香树精-3-O- β -(5-羟基)阿魏酸、阿江榄仁酸和科罗索酸等也能够抑制 α -葡萄糖苷酶^[54-55]。

1.7 抑制醛糖还原酶(AR)和二肽基肽酶-4(DPP-4)

醛糖还原酶(AR)是多元醇通路中的限速酶。血糖升高时 AR 被激活, 将体内的葡萄糖转化成山梨醇, 山梨醇在体内蓄积过多会导致细胞代谢和功能受损, 诱发神经病变、肾病、足病、白内障等一系列糖尿病并发症^[56]。研究发现, 人参皂苷 20(S)-Rh₂ 可有效抑制醛糖还原酶的活性(IC_{50} : 147.3 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)^[57]。

二肽基肽酶-4(DPP-4)是一种膜糖蛋白, 它对肠道生成的促进胰岛素分泌作用的胰高血糖素样肽-1(GLP-1)和葡萄糖依赖性促胰岛素分泌肽(GIP)具有降解作用。抑制 DPP-4 可以增强肠道内 GLP-1 和 GIP 的生物活性^[58]。Saleem 等^[59]研究发现喹诺酸、喹诺酸-3 β -O- β -D-吡喃葡萄糖苷、喹诺酸-3 β -O- β -D-吡喃葡萄糖基-(28 \rightarrow 1)- β -D-吡喃葡萄糖酯、羽扇豆醇都能够抑制 DPP-4 活性(IC_{50} : 30.7, 57.9, 23.5, 31.6 $\mu\text{mol/L}$)。

1.8 其他

三萜类化合物结构多样、数量众多。因此, 除上述降血糖机制外, 还可通过其他途径降低血糖, 如抗炎、抗氧化、激活 PPAR γ 等。

Cheng 等^[60]发现从野生苦瓜(*Momordica charantia* wild variant)中分离得到的化合物 EMCD 能够改善 FL83B 细胞中 TNF- α 诱导的炎症反应, 并推测这可能是 EMCD 降血糖的作用机制。

齐墩果酸[20 mg/(kg·d), ip, 2 周]^[61]能够通过抑制线粒体产生 ROS, 调节血脂, 降低炎性因子的表达, 从而改善 db/db 小鼠胰岛素抵抗状态下各

指标的异常。

人参皂苷 Re^[62]可抑制 TNF- α 的表达,改善胰岛素抵抗,促进 3T3-L1 脂肪细胞摄取葡萄糖,并发现此作用与激活 PPAR γ 有关。

2 结语与展望

三萜类化合物广泛分布于自然界,其资源丰富、结构多样,很多具有显著的降血糖活性。研究发现,三萜类化合物可以通过某一种途径降低

血糖,也可能通过多种途径、多个靶点共同发挥作用,这为进一步研究其降血糖机制提供了参考。目前,三萜类化合物的降血糖机制主要是通过细胞实验和动物实验进行研究,大多数三萜类化合物的作用机制还不十分明确,需要更加深入的探索。未来可利用现代分离技术结合化学结构修饰手段,深入研究三萜类化合物降血糖机制并探讨构效关系,寻找新靶点或新作用机制的有效降血糖药物。

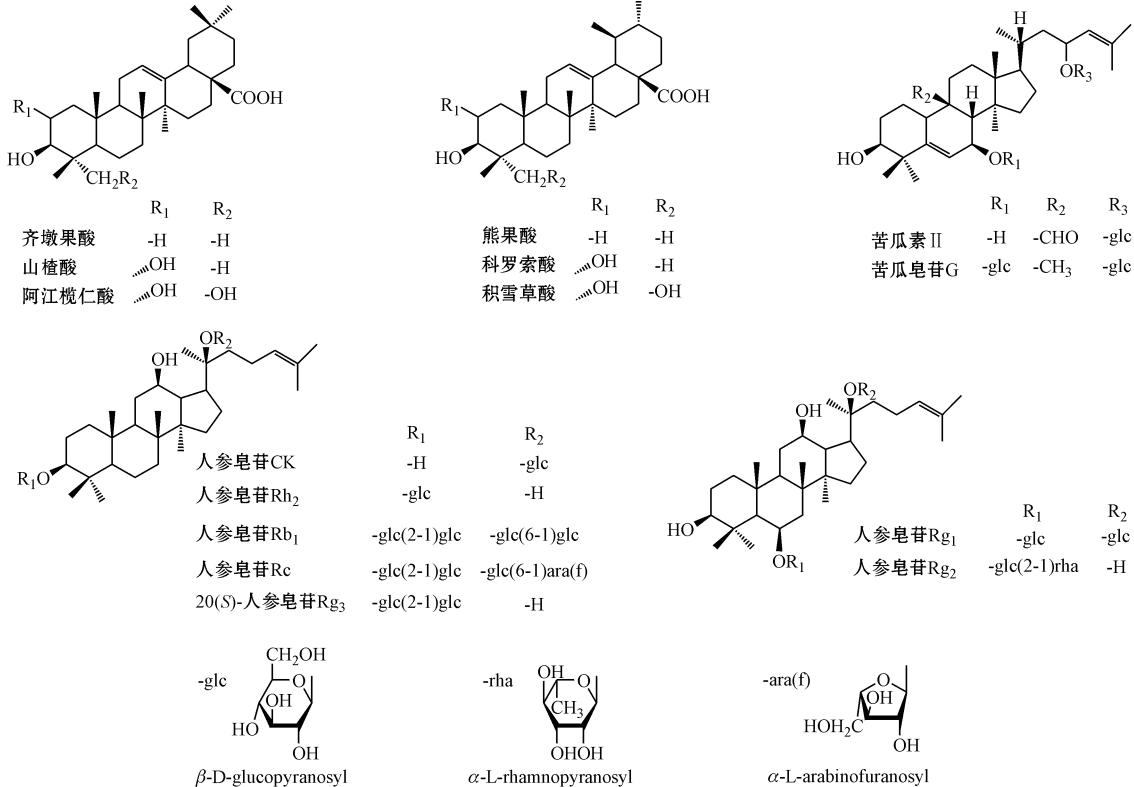


图4 主要三萜类化合物的化学结构

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