Phosphodiesterase 1A physically interacts with YTHDF2 and reinforces the progression of non-small cell lung cancer

Chong Zhang[1,2#], Zuoyan Zhang[2,3,4#], Yuchen Wu[5#], Jing Cheng[2,7], Kaizhi Luo[2,6], Zhidi Li[2,7], Manman Zhang[2,7], Jian Wang[1]*, Yangling Li[8]*

[1]Department of oncology, Shangyu People's Hospital of Shaoxing, Shaoxing, Zhejiang, China, 312300

[2]Department of Pharmacy, School of Medicine, Hangzhou City University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310015

[3]Department of Pharmacy, Ningbo First Hospital, Ningbo, China, 315010

[4]Department of Pharmacy, The Affiliated Hospital of Northwest University · XI'AN NO.3 Hospital, Shanxi, China, 710038

[5]Department of Clinical Medicine, The First School of Medicine, Wenzhou Medical University, Wenzhou, Zhejiang, 325035

[6]Department of Pharmacy, Zhejiang University of Technology, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310027

[7]College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310058

[8]Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Key Laboratory of Clinical Cancer Pharmacology and Toxicology Research of Zhejiang Province, Affiliated Hangzhou First People's Hospital, Zhejiang University School of Medicine, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310006

#Chong Zhang, Zuoyan Zhang, and Yucheng Wu contributed equally to this

work

* **Correspondence should be addressed to:** Yang ling Li and Jian Wang;

Address: School of Medicine, Hangzhou City University, No.51 Huzhou Street,

Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China, 310015 and Department of Clinical

Pharmacology, Affiliated Hangzhou First People's Hospital, Zhejiang

University School of Medicine, No.261 Huansha Road, Hangzhou, Zhejiang,

China, 310006;

E-mail: liyangling1215@163.com and 2538765918@qq.com;

Tel.: 86-0571-88283821, Fax: 86-0571-88283821.

Abstract

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common subtype of lung

cancer, and the prognosis is poor due to distant metastasis and drug

resistance. Thus, there is an urgent need to discover novel therapeutic targets

and strategies to overcome cisplatin resistance and metastasis. A series of in

vitro and in vivo phenotype experiments were performed to investigate the

role of PDE1A in NSCLC. The RIP assay, mRNA stability assay and LC-

MS/MS were performed to investigate the molecular mechanisms of PDE1A

in NSCLC progression. We demonstrated that phosphodiesterase 1A (PDE1A)

promoted metastasis and EMT progression of NSCLC. In addition, NSCLC

cells overexpressing PDE1A promoted angiogenesis by regulating exosome

release. IL-6/JAK/STAT3 signaling pathway was highly enriched in PDE1A-

coexpresssed genes, and PDE1A promoted NSCLC metastasis by activating

the STAT3 pathway. GO enrichment analysis of PDE1A-interacting genes

showed that PDE1A might interact with YTHDF2 and participate in m6A-

containing RNA binding. The binding between PDE1A and YTHDF2 was

verified, and PDE1A regulated the STAT3 pathway by interacting with

YTHDF2. The mechanism of YTHDF2/PDE1A complex in regulating STAT3

pathway was predicted by overlapping YTHDF2-interacting-RNAs, and genes

coexpressed with YTHDF2 and STAT3. The interactions between YTHDF2

and target mRNAs were predicted, and there were three predicted targets of

YTHDF2 with high scores: NRF2, SOCS2, and MET. Indeed, PDE1A

interacted with YTHDF2, destabilized SOCS2, and activated STAT3 pathway.

Moreover, PDE1A suppression sensitized anti-NSCLC activity of cisplatin via

regulating NRF2 and MET. This work not only uncovers a novel

PDE1A/YTHDF2/STAT3 pathway in NSCLC progression but also provides

therapeutic strategies for treating NSCLC patients with metastasis or cisplatin-

resistance.

Key word: PDE1A; metastasis; cisplatin resistance; YTHDF2; NSCLC;

STAT3

Introduction

Lung cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers and the leading

cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide [1]. Non-small cell lung cancer

(NSCLC) represents approximately 85% of lung cancers and is the most

common subtype of lung cancer [2]. Despite rapid advances in the clinical

treatment of NSCLC in recent years, the prognosis of NSCLC patients is still

poor due to recurrence and distant metastasis [3]. Cisplatin-based

chemotherapy is the first-line treatment for the majority of metastatic NSCLC

cases, but drug resistance develops rapidly [4, 5]. However, the mechanisms

of cisplatin resistance and NSCLC metastasis are still poorly understood.

Phosphodiesterases (PDEs) are a class of enzymes that hydrolyse cyclic

adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) and cyclic guanosine monophosphate

(cGMP), reducing the signaling of these important intracellular second

messengers [6]. PDEs consist of 11 family members, and each family

member contains multiple subtypes [7]. PDEs are being pursued as

therapeutic targets in multiple diseases, including the cardiovascular system,

metabolism, pulmonary system, nervous system, immunity, and cancers [8].

For example, PDE3 inhibitors are used to treat heart failure and peripheral

artery disease, and PDE4 inhibitors are approved to treat inflammatory

diseases [9]. Multiple studies have shown that PDEs, such as PDE4 and

PDE5, play a vital role in the progression of tumors and are regarded as

potential therapeutic targets for cancer treatment [9, 10]. The PDE1 family

member has three subtypes, including PDE1A, PDE1B and PDE1C, with

different affinities for cAMP and cGMP [11]. The effect and mechanism of

PDE1 in regulating cancer progression remain elusive.

N^6-methyladenosine (m^6A) is the most abundant RNA modification, and the

process of m^6A modification is reversible: m6A is installed by "writers",

removed by "erasers", and recognized by "readers" [12]. YT521-B homology

domain family member 2 (YTHDF2), belonging to the YTH domain protein

family, has been validated as m^6A "reader" and regulates the stability of

messenger RNAs (mRNAs) [13]. YTHDF2 promotes the progression of lung

adenocarcinoma by recognizing m6A modification and influencing mRNA fate

[14]. Furthermore, YTHDF2 orchestrates the reprogramming of tumor-

associated macrophages in the tumor microenvironment (TME), and YTHDF2

is an effective target to enhance cancer immunotherapy [15]. In this study, we

first demonstrated that PDE1A promoted NSCLC metastasis and cisplatin

resistance via interacting with YTHDF2.

Materials and methods

Materials

Vinpocetine (V107535) was purchased from Aladdin (Shanghai, China).

Cisplatin (S1166), SH-4-54 (S7337), SQ22536 (S8283), and GW4869 (S7609)

were obtained from Selleck Chemicals (Houston, TX, USA). Antibodies

against β-actin (SC-1616), GAPDH (SC-25778), MET (SC-514148), and

caspase-3 (SC-7148) were obtained from Santa Cruz Biotechnology (Dallas,

Texas, USA). Antibodies against N-cadherin (14215), STAT3 (9139), p-

STAT3 (Y-705) (9145), p-Met (Tyr1234) (3077), cleaved-PARP (9541),

Vimentin (5741), JAK2 (3230S), and NRF2 (12721) were obtained from Cell

Signaling Technology (Danvers, MA, USA). An antibody against α-tubulin

(AT7819) was purchased from Beyotime Biotechnology (Shanghai, China).

Antibodies against PDE1A (12442-2-AP), YTHDF2 (24744-1-AP), lamin B

(12595-1-AP), and E-cadherin (20874-1-AP) were obtained from Proteintech

(Rosemont, IL, USA).

Cell lines and cell culture

Human NSCLC cell lines (A549, NCI-H1299, and NCI-H460), a bronchial

epithelial cell line (HELF), and umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVECs) were

maintained in RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum

(FBS) and 100 U/ml penicillin/streptomycin. All the cell lines were purchased

from the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology (Shanghai,

China), cultured at 37 °C with 5% CO_2 and confirmed to be mycoplasma-free.

siRNA transfection

Scramble siRNA, siPDE1A, siPDE1B, siPDE1C, siSTAT3, and siYTHDF2

were synthesized by GenePharma (Suzhou, China). Then, NSCLC cells were

transfected with siRNA (40 nM) using PolyPlus-transfection reagent in

accordance with the instructions. The sequences of siRNAs are summarized

in Table S1.

Sulforhodamine B (SRB) assay

NSCLC cells were treated with the indicated compounds, and subsequently

fixed with ice-cold TCA and stained with 0.4% SRB (w/v) solution. Cell

proliferation was determined by SRB assay according to previously reported

methods [16].

Wound healing assay

NSCLC cells were seeded on a 24-well plate and cultured as a monolayer to

90% confluence. The monolayer was scratched with a 10 µL pipette tip, and

then the cells were cultured with FBS-free culture medium for 24 h. Images of

the wounded cell monolayer were taken using a microscope (Olympus, Japan)

at 0 h and 24 h. The wound closure rate was calculated as follows: $(G_0 - G_{24})$ /

$G_0 \times 100\%$, where G_0 and G_{24} represent the gap areas at 0 and 24 h,

respectively.

Migration and invasion assays using transwells

Migration and invasion assays were performed using a 24-well transwell

chamber system (pore size: 8 µm, Corning, USA). A total of 5×10^4 cells were

seeded in the upper chamber of an insert with 0.4 ml serum-free culture

media in 24-well plates. Then, 0.6 ml culture medium with 20% FBS was

added to the lower chamber. For invasion assays, the upper transwell

chamber of the insert was coated with Matrigel (BD Biosciences, Bedford, MA,

USA) before plating cells. After incubation for 24 h, migratory or invasive cells

were stained with 0.5% crystal violet and analyzed under a light microscope.

Protein extraction and western blotting analysis

Briefly, cells were washed three times with cold PBS and pelleted. The pellet

was resuspended in lysis buffer, incubated on ice with frequent vortex for 30

min, and the lysate was obtained by centrifugation at 12000 rpm for 30 min.

Proteins were fractionated by SDS-PAGE, transferred onto PVDF membranes,

blocked in 5% nonfat milk in PBS/Tween-20, and then blotted with specific

primary antibody overnight at 4 °C, followed by incubation with secondary

antibody for 1 h at room temperature. Bands were detected by the Odyssey

CLX Image Studio system (version 5.0.21, LiCor Odyssey, LI-COR

Biosciences).

Immunoprecipitation and LC-MS/MS

For coimmunoprecipitation, the cells were lysed with IP buffer and centrifuged

at 10000 × g for 30 min at 4 °C. The cell lysates were treated with protein G

magnetic beads at 4 °C for 1 h. Subsequent immunoprecipitation reactions

were set up with equal quantities of the lysates. Primary antibody was added

to the lysate, and the mixture was incubated overnight with slow shaking at

4 °C, and then incubated with protein G magnetic beads at 4 °C for 1 h.

Subsequently, the lysates were centrifuged at 3000 g at 4 °C for 5 min. We

aspirated the supernatant, washed the protein G magnetic beads with lysis

buffer 3-4 times, and detected by SDS-PAGE or LC-MS/MS (Micrometer

Biotech Company, Hangzhou, China).

Extraction of RNA and quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

Total RNA was extracted from cells by utilizing TRIzol™ Reagent (Invitrogen,

Thermo Fisher Scientific). RNA was reverse-transcribed into cDNA using an

iScript cDNA Synthesis kit (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). qRT-PCR was

performed using the PerfectStart Green qPCR SuperMix kit (TransGen

Biotech, Beijing, China). The levels of mRNA were analyzed by the Bio-Rad

CFX96 real-time PCR system (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). GAPDH was

used as an endogenous control for mRNA qualification and the 2-ΔΔCt

method was applied to calculate the relative expression. The primers used are

listed in Table S2.

RNA binding protein immunoprecipitation (RIP)

RIP assays were performed using a Magna RIP Kit (17-701, Millipore, MA,

USA) following the manufacturer's instructions. In brief, magnetic beads

precoated with 5 mg normal antibodies against PDE1A/YTHDF2 or rabbit IgG

(Millipore) were incubated with cell lysates at 4 °C overnight. The beads

containing immunoprecipitated RNA-protein complexs were treated with

proteinase K to remove proteins. Then RNAs of interest were purified with

TRIzol and measured by qRT-PCR.

Plasmid and shRNA transfection and infection

Two micrograms of overexpressing plasmid or shRNA of the indicated genes

was transfected into cells using PolyPlus-transfection reagent. For shRNA

used in lentivirus-mediated interference, complementary sense and antisense

oligonucleotides encoding shRNAs targeting PDE1A were synthesized,

annealed, and cloned into pLKO.TRC vector (Addgene, 10878). The PDE1A-

FLAG overexpression plasmid was synthesized by GenScript (Nanjing,

Jiangsu, China). YTHDF2-HA expression plasmids were synthesized via

cloning YTHDF2 with an HA tag into the pcDNA3.1(-) vector.

In vivo **animal experiment**

Female nude mice (BALB/c, 4-6 weeks old) were obtained from Shanghai

SLAC Laboratory Animal Co., Ltd. A total of 2×10^6 NCI-H1299 cells

transfected with shPDE1A/control shRNA or PDE1A overexpressing

plasmid/empty vector were suspended in 0.1 ml of PBS and injected into mice

via the tail vein. After 60 days, the mice were sacrificed, and the lung tissues

were collected to observe pulmonary nodules. The lung, liver, kidney,

pancreas, and other tissues were separated, fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde,

and stained using H&E. All procedures were approved by the Institutional

Animal Care and Use Committee of Zhejiang University City College (No.

22001).

mRNA stability assay

NSCLC cells were seeded in six-well plates and grown to approximately 30%

confluence followed by siRNA transfection and incubation for 24 h. Then, cells

were incubated with actinomycin D (5 μg/ml) for 0, 3 or 6 h followed by RNA

extraction. The half-life of mRNA was analyzed by qRT-PCR. The mRNA

expression for each group at the indicated time was calculated and

normalized to GAPDH.

Statistical analysis

Data are presented as the mean ± SD from 3 independent experiments. Two-tailed Student's t test was used to compare 2 groups. P values < 0.05 were considered significant. *P < 0.05; **P < 0.01; ***P < 0.001.

Results

PDE1A overexpression predicts a poor prognosis in lung cancer patients

First, we found that PDE1A was highly expressed in lung cancer compared with normal lung tissue using immunohistochemistry (Figure 1A and Figure S1) [17, 18]. As shown in Figure 1B, overexpression of PDE1A was also observed in three NSCLC cell lines compared with normal human lung fibroblasts (HELF cells). Additionally, the overexpression of PDE1A was also observed in lung cancer from high-risk patients compared with low-risk patients (p<0.0001, Figure 1C), and lung cancer patients in the high-risk group had shorter survival times than those in the low-risk group (Figure 1D) [19, 20]. Furthermore, lung cancer patients with high levels of PDE1A in their tumors had shorter overall survival than those with low PDE1A expression, indicating that PDE1A overexpression was correlated with a poor prognosis in lung cancer patients (Figure 1E) [21, 22]. Thus, PDE1A might be a novel prognostic predictor in lung cancer treatment and contribute to lung cancer progression.

PDE1A promotes the metastasis and EMT of NSCLC cells both *in vitro*

and *in vivo*

To investigate the biological function of PDE1A in lung cancer development,

gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) and overrepresentation enrichment

analysis (ORA) were performed to analyze the biological process of PDE1A in

NSCLC using LinkedOmics [23]. As shown in Figure S2A, PDE1A might be

involved in the adhesion, migration, and motility of NSCLC cells, which are

critical parameters in the metastatic dissemination of cancer cells. Tumor

angiogenesis, the recruitment of new blood vessels, enables a pre-existing

tumor to grow and metastasize [24]. PDE1A might also participate in

mesenchyme development, angiogenesis, vasculature development, cellular

response to VEGF stimulus, blood vessel morphogenesis and development

(Figure S2A-C). Thus, we hypothesized that PDE1A might promote the

metastatic potential of NSCLC cells.

First, PDE1A silencing did not cause a significant decrease in the proliferation

of NSCLC cells relative to that in the control siRNA group (Figure S3A).

Moreover, PDE1A overexpression had no significant effect on the proliferation

of NSCLC cells (Figure S3B). As bioinformatics analysis demonstrated that

PDE1A might promote the metastatic potential of NSCLC cells, wound healing

and transwell assays were used to investigate the migration and invasion

capacity of PDE1 family members. Knockdown of PDE1 family members

suppressed the migratory ability of NCI-H1299 cells, and siPDE1A exerted a

stronger suppression effect on the migration of NCI-H1299 cells than

siPDE1B and siPDE1C transfection (Figure S4A). Meanwhile, siPDE1A

resulted in more profound suppression of EMT progression in NCI-H1299

cells than siPDE1B and siPDE1C transfection (Figure S4B). Thus, PDE1

family members, particularly PDE1A, might be involved in the metastatic

behavior of NSCLC cells.

As shown in Figure 2A and 2B, suppression of PDE1A markedly reduced the

migratory and invasive capacity of NSCLC cell lines, and the wound healing

assay also showed that NSCLC cells with PDE1A knockdown had a slower

wound closure rate than control siRNA-transfected cells (Figure 2C and 2D).

Furthermore, PDE1A knockdown increased E-cadherin expression and

reduced N-cadherin expression, indicating that PDE1A silencing suppressed

EMT progression in NSCLC cells (Figure 2E). Meanwhile, the PDE1 inhibitor

vinpocetine significantly suppressed the migration and EMT of NSCLC cells

(Figure 2F - H). To determine the effects of PDE1A on NSCLC cell migration

and invasion *in vivo*, nude mouse models were established using PDE1A-

shRNA- and control-shRNA-treated NCI-H1299 cells. As shown in Figure 2I

and Figure S4C, the number of pulmonary metastatic nodules was decreased

in the PDE1A-shRNA group compared with the control-shRNA group in nude

mice.

In contrast, PDE1A overexpression significantly enhanced the migratory and

invasive capacities of NSCLC cells (Figure 3A and 3B). In addition, NSCLC

cells with high PDE1A expression had a higher wound closure rate than those

transfected with empty vector (Figure 3C). Meanwhile, PDE1A overexpression

decreased E-cadherin expression and elevated N-cadherin expression,

indicating that PDE1A promoted EMT progression of NSCLC cells (Figure

3D). To compare the expression of PDE1A in NSCLC cells with high and low

invasive potential, we established series of NSCLC cell lines with differential

invasive abilities through multiple selections using a transwell chamber assay

(Figure 3E, Figure S5A and S5B). The protein and mRNA levels of PDE1A

were higher in highly invasive NSCLC cells than in NSCLC cells with low

invasive potential (Figure 3F and 3G). In an *in vivo* nude mouse experiment,

NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A produced more pulmonary metastatic

nodules than the parental NSCLC cells (Figure 3H and Figure S5C).

NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A promote angiogenesis in the TME

GSEA demonstrated that PDE1A expression was positively correlated with

angiogenesis in lung cancer (Figure 4A). Thus, we constructed a tumor

microenvironment by coculturing NSCLC cells with vascular endothelial cells

(Figure 4B). NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A promoted the migration of

HUVECs, and NSCLC cells with low levels of PDE1A suppressed the

migration of HUVECs (Figure 4C and 4D). Next, we treated NSCLC cells with

GW4869 to reduce exosome release and found that GW4869 suppressed the

enhancement of the migratory ability of HUVECs induced by NSCLC cells

overexpressing PDE1A (Figure 4E). Meanwhile, compared with negative

control, shPDE1A significantly suppressed tumor angiogenesis of NSCLC *in*

vivo (Figure 4F). Thus, NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A promote

angiogenesis in the TME.

PDE1A promotes the metastasis of NSCLC cells via the STAT3 signaling

pathway

Then, we investigated whether PDE1A-enhanced metastasis was dependent

on cAMP metabolism activity. As shown in Figure S6A, the cAMP inhibitor

SQ22536 failed to rescue the migrative ability suppressed by siPDE1A in

NSCLC cells, indicating that the basic molecular function might not be

involved in the metastasis of PDE1A. To better explore the mechanism of

PDE1A in NSCLC progression, we performed bioinformatic analysis of PDE1A

coexpressed genes, which revealed that PDE1A might be involved in the

JAK/STAT3, Hedgehog, and TGF-β pathways in NSCLC (Figure 5A).

Meanwhile, GSEA enrichment analysis demonstrated that PDE1A might

participate in IL-6 production (Figure 5B), thus we hypothesized that IL-

6/JAK/STAT3 signaling might be involved in PDE1A-promoted metastasis in

NSCLC. As shown in Figure 5C, PDE1A overexpression increased the

phosphorylation level of STAT3 in NSCLC cells. In contrast, PDE1A

knockdown or the PDE1 inhibitor vinpocetine suppressed the phosphorylation

of STAT3 in NSCLC cells (Figure 5D and 5E). Moreover, STAT3 suppression

by siRNA or SH-4-54 significantly reversed the enhancement of NSCLC cell

migration induced by PDE1A overexpression (Figure 5F and 5G). In addition,

the suppression of STAT3 inhibited PDE1A-induced EMT progression in

NSCLC cells (Figure 5H and 5I). Thus, PDE1A promoted the metastasis of

NSCLC cells via activating the STAT3 signaling pathway, but the direct

interaction between PDE1A and STAT3 could not be observed in NSCLC cells

(Figure 5J). Moreover, PDE1A was mainly overexpressed in the cytoplasm in

NSCLC cells (Figure 5K), and we next further explored the mechanism by

which PDE1A in promotes the STAT3 signaling pathway in the cytoplasm.

PDE1A physically interacts with YTHDF2 and promotes the metastasis

of NSCLC cells

To investigate the mechanism by which PDE1A promotes NSCLC metastasis

and activates the STAT3 pathway, the proteins interacting with PDE1A in

NSCLC were determined using immunoprecipitation followed by mass

spectrometry analysis (Table S3). To identify the key proteins involved in

PDE1A-mediated STAT3 activation, we generated a Venn diagram, which

showed that there were 9 overlapping genes among those coexpressed with

STAT3 in NSCLC clinical samples, PDE1A-interacting proteins, and

overexpressed in NSCLC compared with normal tissues (Figure 6A).

Meanwhile, GO enrichment analysis of PDE1A interacting genes was used to

predict the molecular function of PDE1A, and PDE1A might participate in

m6A-containing RNA binding in NSCLC progression (Figure 6B). Thus, we

hypothesized that PDE1A might interact with YTHDF2 and participate in m6A-

containing RNA binding during NSCLC progression. The physical binding

between PDE1A and YTHDF2 was confirmed by silver staining and

immunoprecipitation (Figure 6C and 6D). Furthermore, YTHDF2 knockdown

reversed the enhancement of NSCLC migration induced by PDE1A

overexpression, indicating that PDE1A might interact with YTHDF2 and

promote the metastasis of NSCLC (Figure 6E and Figure S6B and S6C). The

mRNA and protein levels of YTHDF2 were upregulated in NSCLC compared

with normal lung tissues (Figure S7A and S7B) [25]. In addition, YTHDF2

overexpression predicted poor outcomes in lung cancer patients (Figure S7C)

[21, 22]. Meanwhile, the activation of STAT3 by PDE1A could be reversed by

YTHDF2 knockdown in NSCLC cells (Figure 6F). Furthermore, PDE1A was

positively correlated with YTHDF2 expression with a Pearson correlation

coefficient above 0.3 in NSCLC tissues (Figure 6G) [25]. Thus, PDE1A might

regulate the STAT3 signaling pathway via interacting with YTHDF2.

PDE1A interacts with YTHDF2 to regulate the SOCS2/STAT3 signaling

pathway

To gain mechanistic insights regarding the key target mRNA by which the

PDE1A/YTHDF2 complex regulates the STAT3 signaling pathway, we

generated a Venn diagram, which showed that there were 33 overlapping

genes among RNAs that physically interact with YTHDF2, YTHDF2-

coexpressed genes, and STAT3-coexpressed genes in lung cancer (Figure 7A

and Table S4) [26-29]. Then, the interactions between the YTHDF2 protein

and the mRNAs of 33 overlapping genes were predicted by RNA-Protein

Interaction Prediction online tool. There were three predicted targets of

YTHDF2 with high scores and highly correlated with STAT3 signaling as

previously reported, including NRF2, SOCS2, and MET (Table S5) [30]. SOCS

family members are cytokine-inducible negative regulators of the JAK/STAT

pathway, and SOCS2 suppresses the binding of JAK2 and STAT3, the activity

of JAK, and STAT3 activation [31]. Thus, we hypothesized that PDE1A might

interact with YTHDF2, influence the fate of SOCS2 mRNA, and regulate the

STAT3 signaling pathway in NSCLC cells. As shown in Figure 7B, the

interaction between YTHDF2 protein and SOCS2 mRNA was verified by RIP,

and we also proved the binding between PDE1A protein and SOCS2 mRNA

using RIP. Meanwhile, siPDE1A significantly enhanced the stability of SOCS2

mRNA in NSCLC cells (Figure 7C). Furthermore, YTHDF2 or PDE1A

negatively regulated the expression of SOCS2 mRNA in NSCLC cells, and

YTHDF2 overexpression successfully reversed the siPDE1A-induced SOCS2

mRNA accumulation. In contrast, siYTHDF2 enhanced siPDE1A-induced

SOCS2 mRNA accumulation (Figure 7D). These data indicated that YTHDF2

might negatively regulate the expression of SOCS2 mRNA via cooperating

with PDE1A.

PDE1A suppression enhances the anti-NSCLC activity of cisplatin via

regulating MET and NRF2 expression

As the PDE1A/ YTHDF2 complex might also regulate MET and NRF2, the

activation of MET or NRF2 triggers NSCLC resistance to chemotherapy, such

as cisplatin treatment [32, 33]. As shown in Figure 8A and 8B, siPDE1A

significantly suppressed the expression of MET and NRF2 compared with

control siRNA, and PDE1A overexpression enhanced the expression of MET

and NRF2 in NSCLC cells. Furthermore, vinpocetine restrained the

expression of MET and NRF2 in NSCLC cells (Figure 8C). These data

suggest that PDE1A could positively regulate MET and NRF2; thus, we

hypothesized that PDE1A might be involved in cisplatin resistance in NSCLC

cells. Indeed, PDE1A knockdown significantly enhanced the cytotoxicity of

cisplatin, and PDE1A overexpression decreased cisplatin-induced cytotoxicity

in NSCLC cells (Figure 8D and 8E). Meanwhile, vinpocetine plus cisplatin

synergistically suppressed the proliferation of NSCLC cells compared with

single agent treatment alone (Figure 8F). Furthermore, vinpocetine plus

cisplatin enhanced apoptosis induction in NSCLC cells compared with single

agent alone (Figure 8G). In addition, knockdown of PDE1A significantly

suppresses the mRNA level of MET and NRF2, and siYTHDF2 reversed the

activation of MET and NRF2 induced by PDE1A overexpression (Figure 8H

and 8I). These data indicate that PDE1A positively regulates MET and NRF2

via interacting with YTHDF2, and that PDE1A suppression enhances the anti-

NSCLC activity of cisplatin.

Discussion

NSCLC is becoming a leading cause of death globally due to its fast

progression and metastatic potential, and effective therapeutic targets are

urgently needed to block NSCLC metastasis [34]. PDEs are regarded as

therapeutic targets for multiple diseases, but the feasibility of targeting PDEs

to treat NSCLC metastasis may need further investigation [35]. In this study,

we showed for the first time that PDE1 promoted metastasis and EMT

progression in NSCLC cells. Furthermore, the expression of PDE1A was

closely correlated with the disease progression of NSCLC. These data first

indicated with PDE1A might be an efficacious therapeutic target for patients

with metastatic NSCLC.

The stimulation of the PDEs requires physiological concentrations of Ca^{2+} and

calmodulin, and Ca^{2+}/calmodulin-dependent cyclic nucleotide PDE1 is

involved in the communication between the cyclic nucleotide and Ca^{2+} second

messenger systems [36]. The increasing of Ca^{2+} in cancer cells stimulates

exosome biogenesis and release under both physiological and pathological

conditions [37, 38]. In this context, we assumed that PDE1A might be involved

in exosome biogenesis and release in NSCLC cells and play a vital role in

message communication in the TME. GSEA showed that PDE1A might be

involved in angiogenesis, vasculature development, and blood vessel

development. Indeed, NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A promoted

angiogenesis in the TME, and PDE1A knockdown significantly suppressed

angiogenesis of NSCLC *in vivo*. Furthermore, an exosome release inhibitor

successfully reversed the angiogenesis promoted by NSCLC cells

overexpressing PDE1A. Thus, this study first illustrated that PDEs might play

an important role in angiogenesis and the TME via regulating exosome

biogenesis and release in cancer cells.

During our attempt to reveal the downstream signaling pathway of PDE1A, we

found that the IL-6/JAK/STAT3 signaling pathway was highly enriched in

PDE1A coexpressed genes from NSCLC. Furthermore, PDE1A promoted the

metastasis of NSCLC cells via the STAT3 signaling pathway. Targeting the IL-

6/JAK/STAT3 signaling pathway is considered as a promising therapeutic

strategy for the management of NSCLC [39]. However, the direct interaction

between PDE1A and STAT3 could not be observed in NSCLC cells. Thus, we

next explored the mechanism by which PDE1A promotes the STAT3 signaling

pathway. In our study, we demonstrated that PDE1A interacted with YTHDF2

and participated in NSCLC progression, and our data first verified the

interaction between YTHDF2 and PDE1A in NSCLC cells. Meanwhile,

YTHDF2 might act as an m6A RNA "reader" by interacting with PDE1A, but

the mechanism might need further investigation. YTHDF2 destabilizes

mRNAs via degrading target transcripts, but it also stabilizes important

oncogenic drivers, such as *MYC* and *VEGFA* transcripts, in an m6A-

dependent manner [40]. We demonstrated that YTHDF2 destabilized SOCS2

mRNA and stabilized MET and NRF2 mRNA via interacting with PDE1A, but

the mechanism by which YTHDF2 sorts mRNA might need further

investigation.

Treatment with cisplatin frequently develops chemoresistance leading to

therapeutic failure, and the exploitation of chemosensitization strategies have

significant clinical implications [41]. In this study, we demonstrated that

PDE1A positively regulated the expression of MET and NRF2 in NSCLC cells,

and the expression of PDE1A was closely correlated with the anti-NSCLC

activity of cisplatin. Our findings are the first to indicate that the expression of

PDEs might be involved in NSCLC resistance to cisplatin treatment.

Vinpocetine has been clinically used to treat stroke, senile dementia, and

memory disturbances; no significant side effects or toxicity of vinpocetine

have been reported at therapeutic doses, and it is safe for long-term use [42].

Vinpocetine is also regarded as a PDE1 inhibitor and increases the levels of

cAMP and cGMP [43]. This study first revealed that vinpocetine sensitized

cells to cisplatin treatment via regulating MET and NRF2. Thus, vinpocetine

plus cisplatin might be a novel therapeutic regimen for treating NSCLC

patients with cisplatin resistance. Our finding was supported by the

observations that cAMP signaling increases histone deacetylase 8 expression

and augments cisplatin-induced apoptosis [44].

Collectively, the results of this study suggest that PDE1A promotes metastasis

and cisplatin resistance in NSCLC cells. Furthermore, PDE1A overexpression

is correlated with angiogenesis and poor outcomes of NSCLC patients. In

addition, PDE1A interacts with YTHDF2 and regulates the JAK/STAT3

signaling pathway via degrading SOCS2 mRNA. Meanwhile, PDE1A

regulates cisplatin resistance via stabilizing MET and NRF2. Therefore, this

study reveals the effect and mechanism of PDE1A in promoting HCC

metastasis and cisplatin resistance, this work not only uncovers a novel

PDE1A/YTHDF2/STAT3 signaling pathway in NSCLC progression but also

provides novel therapeutic strategies to treat NSCLC patients with metastasis

or cisplatin resistance.

Acknowledgements

This study was funded by Huadong Medicine Joint Funds of the Zhejiang

Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China (LHDMY22H160001), Natural

Science Foundation of Ningbo City (2022J206), National Natural Science

Foundation of China (82273352), Public-service Technology Research Plan of

Zhejiang Province (LGF21H310002), Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science

Foundation (LY21H160017).

Authors' contributions

Chong Zhang: Conception and design of the work, drafting the work, writing-

original draft, writing-review and editing; Yangling Li: Conception and design

of the work, supervision, funding acquisition; Zuoyan Zhang: acquisition,

analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; Yuchen Wu: acquisition,

analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; Jing Cheng: acquisition,

analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; Kaizhi Luo: acquisition,

analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; Zhidi Li: acquisition, analysis,

or interpretation of data for the work; Manman Zhang: acquisition, analysis, or

interpretation of data for the work; Jian Wang: funding acquisition. All authors

have approved the final article.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have declared that no competing interest exists.

Availability of data and material

The data presented in the study are included in the article and additional

material.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

The experiments were performed in compliance with the National Institutes of

Health Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Reference

1.   A.A. Thai, B.J. Solomon, L.V. Sequist, J.F. Gainor, R.S. Heist, Lung cancer, Lancet. 398 (10299) (2021) 535-554. doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00312-3.

2.   Y. Alduais, H. Zhang, F. Fan, J. Chen, B. Chen, Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): A review of risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment, Medicine (Baltimore). 102 (8) (2023) e32899. doi.org/10.1097/MD.0000000000032899.

3.   H.W. Xia, Z.Q. Zhang, J. Yuan, Q.L. Niu, Human RECQL5 promotes metastasis and resistance to cisplatin in non-small cell lung cancer, Life Sci. 265 (2021) 118768. doi.org/10.1016/j.lfs.2020.118768.

4.   H. Chen, L. Wang, J. Liu, Z. Wan, L. Zhou, H. Liao, R. Wan, LncRNA ITGB2-AS1 promotes cisplatin resistance of non-small cell lung cancer by inhibiting ferroptosis via activating the FOSL2/NAMPT axis, Cancer Biol Ther. 24 (1) (2023) 2223377. doi.org/10.1080/15384047.2023.2223377.

5.   N. Sarin, F. Engel, G.V. Kalayda, M. Mannewitz, J. Cinatl, Jr., F. Rothweiler, M. Michaelis, H. Saafan, C.A. Ritter, U. Jaehde, R. Frotschl, Cisplatin resistance in non-small cell lung cancer cells is associated with an abrogation of cisplatin-induced G2/M cell cycle arrest, PLoS One. 12 (7) (2017) e0181081. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0181081.

6.   S. Delhaye, B. Bardoni, Role of phosphodiesterases in the

pathophysiology of neurodevelopmental disorders, Mol Psychiatry. 26

(9) (2021) 4570-4582. doi.org/10.1038/s41380-020-00997-9.

7.   T. Peng, J. Gong, Y. Jin, Y. Zhou, R. Tong, X. Wei, L. Bai, J. Shi,

Inhibitors of phosphodiesterase as cancer therapeutics, Eur J Med

Chem. 150 (2018) 742-756. doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2018.03.046.

8.   G.S. Baillie, G.S. Tejeda, M.P. Kelly, Therapeutic targeting of 3',5'-cyclic

nucleotide phosphodiesterases: inhibition and beyond, Nat Rev Drug

Discov. 18 (10) (2019) 770-796. doi.org/10.1038/s41573-019-0033-4.

9.   S. Hsien Lai, G. Zervoudakis, J. Chou, M.E. Gurney, K.M. Quesnelle,

PDE4 subtypes in cancer, Oncogene. 39 (19) (2020) 3791-3802.

doi.org/10.1038/s41388-020-1258-8.

10.   W. Huang, J. Sundquist, K. Sundquist, J. Ji, Phosphodiesterase-5

inhibitors use and risk for mortality and metastases among male

patients with colorectal cancer, Nat Commun. 11 (1) (2020) 3191.

doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-17028-4.

11.   A. Samidurai, L. Xi, A. Das, A.N. Iness, N.G. Vigneshwar, P.L. Li, D.K.

Singla, S. Muniyan, S.K. Batra, R.C. Kukreja, Role of

phosphodiesterase 1 in the pathophysiology of diseases and potential

therapeutic opportunities, Pharmacol Ther. 226 (2021) 107858.

doi.org/10.1016/j.pharmthera.2021.107858.

12.   R. Liu, J. Miao, Y. Jia, G. Kong, F. Hong, F. Li, M. Zhai, R. Zhang, J.

Liu, X. Xu, T. Wang, H. Liu, J. Hu, Y. Yang, A. He, N6-methyladenosine reader YTHDF2 promotes multiple myeloma cell proliferation through EGR1/p21(cip1/waf1)/CDK2-Cyclin E1 axis-mediated cell cycle transition, Oncogene. 42 (20) (2023) 1607-1619. doi.org/10.1038/s41388-023-02675-w.

13. X. Chen, X. Zhou, X. Wang, m(6)A binding protein YTHDF2 in cancer, Exp Hematol Oncol. 11 (1) (2022) 21. doi.org/10.1186/s40164-022-00269-y.

14. Y. Li, H. Sheng, F. Ma, Q. Wu, J. Huang, Q. Chen, L. Sheng, X. Zhu, X. Zhu, M. Xu, RNA m(6)A reader YTHDF2 facilitates lung adenocarcinoma cell proliferation and metastasis by targeting the AXIN1/Wnt/beta-catenin signaling, Cell Death Dis. 12 (5) (2021) 479. doi.org/10.1038/s41419-021-03763-z.

15. S. Ma, B. Sun, S. Duan, J. Han, T. Barr, J. Zhang, M.B. Bissonnette, M. Kortylewski, C. He, J. Chen, M.A. Caligiuri, J. Yu, YTHDF2 orchestrates tumor-associated macrophage reprogramming and controls antitumor immunity through CD8(+) T cells, Nat Immunol. 24 (2) (2023) 255-266. doi.org/10.1038/s41590-022-01398-6.

16. X. Hu, Z.Y. Zhang, L.W. Wu, L.H. Zeng, H. Chen, H.J. Zhu, J.K. Zhang, J. Shao, C. Zhang, Y.L. Li, N.M. Lin, A natural anthraquinone derivative shikonin synergizes with AZD9291 against wtEGFR NSCLC cells through reactive oxygen species-mediated endoplasmic reticulum

stress,   Phytomedicine.   68   (2020)   153189.

doi.org/10.1016/j.phymed.2020.153189.

17. M. Uhlen, L. Fagerberg, B.M. Hallstrom, C. Lindskog, P. Oksvold, A.

Mardinoglu, A. Sivertsson, C. Kampf, E. Sjostedt, A. Asplund, I. Olsson,

K. Edlund, E. Lundberg, S. Navani, C.A. Szigyarto, J. Odeberg, D.

Djureinovic, J.O. Takanen, S. Hober, T. Alm, P.H. Edqvist, H. Berling, H.

Tegel, J. Mulder, J. Rockberg, P. Nilsson, J.M. Schwenk, M. Hamsten,

K. von Feilitzen, M. Forsberg, L. Persson, F. Johansson, M. Zwahlen,

G. von Heijne, J. Nielsen, F. Ponten, Proteomics. Tissue-based map of

the   human   proteome,   Science.   347   (6220)   (2015)   1260419.

doi.org/10.1126/science.1260419.

18. M. Uhlen, C. Zhang, S. Lee, E. Sjostedt, L. Fagerberg, G. Bidkhori, R.

Benfeitas, M. Arif, Z. Liu, F. Edfors, K. Sanli, K. von Feilitzen, P.

Oksvold, E. Lundberg, S. Hober, P. Nilsson, J. Mattsson, J.M.

Schwenk, H. Brunnstrom, B. Glimelius, T. Sjoblom, P.H. Edqvist, D.

Djureinovic, P. Micke, C. Lindskog, A. Mardinoglu, F. Ponten, A

pathology atlas of the human cancer transcriptome, Science. 357

(6352) (2017) doi.org/10.1126/science.aan2507.

19. R. Aguirre-Gamboa, H. Gomez-Rueda, E. Martinez-Ledesma, A.

Martinez-Torteya, R. Chacolla-Huaringa, A. Rodriguez-Barrientos, J.G.

Tamez-Pena, V. Trevino, SurvExpress: an online biomarker validation

tool and database for cancer gene expression data using survival

analysis, PLoS One. 8 (9) (2013) e74250.

doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0074250.

20.   D. Chitale, Y. Gong, B.S. Taylor, S. Broderick, C. Brennan, R. Somwar,

B. Golas, L. Wang, N. Motoi, J. Szoke, J.M. Reinersman, J. Major, C.

Sander, V.E. Seshan, M.F. Zakowski, V. Rusch, W. Pao, W. Gerald, M.

Ladanyi, An integrated genomic analysis of lung cancer reveals loss of

DUSP4 in EGFR-mutant tumors, Oncogene. 28 (31) (2009) 2773-2783.

doi.org/10.1038/onc.2009.135.

21.   S. Rousseaux, A. Debernardi, B. Jacquiau, A.L. Vitte, A. Vesin, H.

Nagy-Mignotte, D. Moro-Sibilot, P.Y. Brichon, S. Lantuejoul, P. Hainaut,

J. Laffaire, A. de Reynies, D.G. Beer, J.F. Timsit, C. Brambilla, E.

Brambilla, S. Khochbin, Ectopic activation of germline and placental

genes identifies aggressive metastasis-prone lung cancers, Sci Transl

Med. 5 (186) (2013) 186ra166. doi.org/10.1126/scitranslmed.3005723.

22.   C.P. Goswami, H. Nakshatri, PROGgeneV2: enhancements on the

existing database, BMC Cancer. 14 (2014) 970. doi.org/10.1186/1471-

2407-14-970.

23.   S.V. Vasaikar, P. Straub, J. Wang, B. Zhang, LinkedOmics: analyzing

multi-omics data within and across 32 cancer types, Nucleic Acids Res.

46 (D1) (2018) D956-D963. doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkx1090.

24.   A. Onn, R.S. Herbst, Angiogenesis, metastasis, and lung cancer. An

overview, Methods Mol Med. 74 (2003) 329-348. doi.org/10.1385/1-

59259-323-2:329.

25.   D.S. Chandrashekar, B. Bashel, S.A.H. Balasubramanya, C.J.
Creighton, I. Ponce-Rodriguez, B. Chakravarthi, S. Varambally,
UALCAN: A Portal for Facilitating Tumor Subgroup Gene Expression
and Survival Analyses, Neoplasia. 19 (8) (2017) 649-658.
doi.org/10.1016/j.neo.2017.05.002.

26.   H. Shi, X. Wang, Z. Lu, B.S. Zhao, H. Ma, P.J. Hsu, C. Liu, C. He,
YTHDF3 facilitates translation and decay of N(6)-methyladenosine-
modified RNA, Cell Res. 27 (3) (2017) 315-328.
doi.org/10.1038/cr.2017.15.

27.   A. Bartha, B. Gyorffy, TNMplot.com: A Web Tool for the Comparison of
Gene Expression in Normal, Tumor and Metastatic Tissues, Int J Mol
Sci. 22 (5) (2021) doi.org/10.3390/ijms22052622.

28.   E. Cerami, J. Gao, U. Dogrusoz, B.E. Gross, S.O. Sumer, B.A. Aksoy,
A. Jacobsen, C.J. Byrne, M.L. Heuer, E. Larsson, Y. Antipin, B. Reva,
A.P. Goldberg, C. Sander, N. Schultz, The cBio cancer genomics
portal: an open platform for exploring multidimensional cancer
genomics data, Cancer Discov. 2 (5) (2012) 401-404.
doi.org/10.1158/2159-8290.CD-12-0095.

29.   J. Gao, B.A. Aksoy, U. Dogrusoz, G. Dresdner, B. Gross, S.O. Sumer,
Y. Sun, A. Jacobsen, R. Sinha, E. Larsson, E. Cerami, C. Sander, N.
Schultz, Integrative analysis of complex cancer genomics and clinical

profiles using the cBioPortal, Sci Signal. 6 (269) (2013) pl1. doi.org/10.1126/scisignal.2004088.

30. U.K. Muppirala, V.G. Honavar, D. Dobbs, Predicting RNA-protein interactions using only sequence information, BMC Bioinformatics. 12 (2011) 489. doi.org/10.1186/1471-2105-12-489.

31. B. Sen, S. Peng, D.M. Woods, I. Wistuba, D. Bell, A.K. El-Naggar, S.Y. Lai, F.M. Johnson, STAT5A-mediated SOCS2 expression regulates Jak2 and STAT3 activity following c-Src inhibition in head and neck squamous carcinoma, Clin Cancer Res. 18 (1) (2012) 127-139. doi.org/10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-11-1889.

32. G.E. Wood, H. Hockings, D.M. Hilton, S. Kermorgant, The role of MET in chemotherapy resistance, Oncogene. 40 (11) (2021) 1927-1941. doi.org/10.1038/s41388-020-01577-5.

33. S. Mirzaei, A.T. Mohammadi, M.H. Gholami, F. Hashemi, A. Zarrabi, A. Zabolian, K. Hushmandi, P. Makvandi, M. Samec, A. Liskova, P. Kubatka, N. Nabavi, A.R. Aref, M. Ashrafizadeh, H. Khan, M. Najafi, Nrf2 signaling pathway in cisplatin chemotherapy: Potential involvement in organ protection and chemoresistance, Pharmacol Res. 167 (2021) 105575. doi.org/10.1016/j.phrs.2021.105575.

34. T. Zhu, X. Bao, M. Chen, R. Lin, J. Zhuyan, T. Zhen, K. Xing, W. Zhou, S. Zhu, Mechanisms and Future of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Metastasis, Front Oncol. 10 (2020) 585284.

doi.org/10.3389/fonc.2020.585284.

35.   S. Chen, C. Yan, An update of cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase as

a target for cardiac diseases, Expert Opin Drug Discov. 16 (2) (2021)

183-196. doi.org/10.1080/17460441.2020.1821643.

36.   R. Kakkar, R.V. Raju, R.K. Sharma, Calmodulin-dependent cyclic

nucleotide phosphodiesterase (PDE1), Cell Mol Life Sci. 55 (8-9)

(1999) 1164-1186. doi.org/10.1007/s000180050364.

37.   Q.F. Han, W.J. Li, K.S. Hu, J. Gao, W.L. Zhai, J.H. Yang, S.J. Zhang,

Exosome biogenesis: machinery, regulation, and therapeutic

implications in cancer, Mol Cancer. 21 (1) (2022) 207.

doi.org/10.1186/s12943-022-01671-0.

38.   S.W. Messenger, S.S. Woo, Z. Sun, T.F.J. Martin, A Ca(2+)-stimulated

exosome release pathway in cancer cells is regulated by Munc13-4, J

Cell Biol. 217 (8) (2018) 2877-2890. doi.org/10.1083/jcb.201710132.

39.   J. Mohrherr, I.Z. Uras, H.P. Moll, E. Casanova, STAT3: Versatile

Functions in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Cancers (Basel). 12 (5)

(2020) doi.org/10.3390/cancers12051107.

40.   D. Dixit, B.C. Prager, R.C. Gimple, H.X. Poh, Y. Wang, Q. Wu, Z. Qiu,

R.L. Kidwell, L.J.Y. Kim, Q. Xie, K. Vitting-Seerup, S. Bhargava, Z.

Dong, L. Jiang, Z. Zhu, P. Hamerlik, S.R. Jaffrey, J.C. Zhao, X. Wang,

J.N. Rich, The RNA m6A Reader YTHDF2 Maintains Oncogene

Expression and Is a Targetable Dependency in Glioblastoma Stem

Cells, Cancer Discov. 11 (2) (2021) 480-499. doi.org/10.1158/2159-

8290.CD-20-0331.

41.   L. Galluzzi, L. Senovilla, I. Vitale, J. Michels, I. Martins, O. Kepp, M.

Castedo, G. Kroemer, Molecular mechanisms of cisplatin resistance,

Oncogene. 31 (15) (2012) 1869-1883. doi.org/10.1038/onc.2011.384.

42.   Y.S. Zhang, J.D. Li, C. Yan, An update on vinpocetine: New discoveries

and clinical implications, Eur J Pharmacol. 819 (2018) 30-34.

doi.org/10.1016/j.ejphar.2017.11.041.

43.   N.J. Kim, J.H. Baek, J. Lee, H. Kim, J.K. Song, K.H. Chun, A PDE1

inhibitor reduces adipogenesis in mice via regulation of lipolysis and

adipogenic cell signaling, Exp Mol Med. 51 (1) (2019) 1-15.

doi.org/10.1038/s12276-018-0198-7.

44.   J.Y. Park, Y.S. Juhnn, cAMP signaling increases histone deacetylase 8

expression via the Epac2-Rap1A-Akt pathway in H1299 lung cancer

cells,   Exp   Mol   Med.   49   (2)   (2017)   e297.

doi.org/10.1038/emm.2016.152.

Figure legends

Figure 1. High expression of PDE1A predicts a poor prognosis of lung cancer patients. (A) The expression of PDE1A was detected in lung cancer and normal lung tissue. The data were obtained from The Human Protein Atlas (https://www.proteinatlas.org). (B) The expression of PDE1A in HELF, A549, NCI-H1299, and NCI-H460 cells was detected by western blot. (C and D) Box plot analysis of the PDE1A mRNA levels in clinical lung cancer tissue samples. The data were collected from SurvExpress (http://bioinformatica.mty.itesm.mx:8080/Biomatec/SurvivaX.jsp). Gene: PDE1A; Access database Numbers: Chitale Lung (n=185); Censored: Recurrence Months or Survival months. (E) The data was collected from PROGgene V2 Prognostic Database (http://www.progtools.net/gene/index.php). Single user input genes: PDE1A; Cancer type: LUNG; Survival measure: Death; Bifurcate gene expression at: Median; GSE30219-Off-context gene expression in lung cancer identifies a group of metastatic-prone tumors.

Figure 2: PDE1A knockdown suppresses the metastasis of NSCLC cells. (A-B) NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA and PDE1A siRNA for 24 h, cells were transferred to Transwell chambers without (A) or with (B) a Matrigel coating on the insert membrane, and the cell migrative and invasive abilities were determined, respectively. (C-D) NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA and PDE1A siRNA for 24 h, and the wound healing assay

was established in NSCLC cells. (E) NSCLC cells were transfected with

control siRNA and PDE1A siRNA for 48 h, and the expression of indicated

proteins were detected. (F-G) NSCLC cells were treated with DMSO or

vinpocetine (5, 10, 20 μM) for 24 h, and the migrative ability of treated NSCLC

cells was determined using Transwell assay for 24 h. (H) NSCLC cells were

treated with DMSO or vinpocetine (5, 10, 20 μM) for 24 h, and the expression

of indicated proteins was determined. (I) The pulmonary metastatic nodules

were stained using H&E staining and counted in nude mice harboring NCI-

H1299 cells transfected with PDE1A shRNA and control shRNA.

Figure 3: PDE1A promotes the metastasis and EMT of NSCLC cells. (A-

B) NSCLC cells were transfected with PDE1A plasmid and empty vector for

24 h, cells were transferred to Transwell chambers without (A) or with (B) a

Matrigel coating on the insert membrane, and the cell migrative and invasive

abilities were determined, respectively. (C) NSCLC cells were transfected with

PDE1A plasmid and empty vector for 24 h, and the wound-healing assay was

established in NSCLC cells. (D) NSCLC cells were transfected with PDE1A

plasmid and empty vector for 48 h, and the expression of indicated proteins

were detected. (E) The highly invasive NSCLC cells were separated using

transwell chamber assay, and P3 cells were obtained from P0 cells after three

generations. (F-G) The protein (F) and mRNA (G) levels of indicated genes

were determined in P3 and P0 NSCLC cells. (H) The pulmonary metastatic

nodules were stained using H&E and Bouin's solution and counted in nude

mice harboring NCI-H1299 cells transfected with PDE1A plasmid and empty

vector.

Figure 4: NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A promote angiogenesis in

the TME. (A) Data were collected from LinkedOmics. (B-D) NSCLC cells were

transfected with empty vector / PDE1A overexpressing plasmid or control

siRNA / siPDE1A for 48 h, and then NSCLC cells were placed on the upper

panel of transwell with 0.4 μm insert, HUVECs were placed on the lower panel

of transwell, and wound healing assay was performed to determine the

migrative abilities of HUVECs. (E) NSCLC cells with PDE1A overexpression

were treated with 10 μM GW4869, and wound healing assay was performed

to determine the migrative abilities of HUVECs. (F) NSCLC cells were

transfected with empty vector or shPDE1A, then cells were transplanted into

nude mice via subcutaneous injection, the blood vessels were counted after

60 days.

Figure 5: PDE1A promotes the metastasis of NSCLC cells via STAT3

signaling pathway. (A) A Venn diagram was generated using LinkedOmics,

ORA was performed to analysis the molecular pathway regulated by PDE1A

in NSCLC. Sample cohort: TCGA_NSCLC; Institute: UNC; Data type:

RNAseq; Platform: HiSeq RNA; Attribute: PDE1A; Statistical methods:

Spearman Correlation test; Patients: 515; Tools: ORA; Gene Ontology

analysis: Wikipathway and Panther Pathway; Select Rank Criteria: FDR;

Select Sign: Positively correlated; Significance Level: 0.05; TOP40 was

selected to generate Venn diagram. (B) GSEA was performed to analyze the

biological process of PDE1A in NSCLC. (C) NSCLC cells were transfected

with PDE1A plasmid and empty vector for 48 h, and the expression of

indicated proteins were detected. (D) NSCLC cells were transfected with

control siRNA and PDE1A siRNA for 48 h, and the expression of indicated

proteins were detected. (E) NSCLC cells were treated with DMSO or

vinpocetine (5, 10, 20 μM) for 24 h, and the expression of indicated proteins

was determined. (F) NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A were transfected

with control siRNA and STAT3 siRNA for 48 h, the migrative abilities of

NSCLC cells were determined by Transwell assay. (G) NSCLC cells

overexpressing PDE1A were treated with STAT3 inhibitor SH-4-54 (5 μM) for

24 h, the migrative abilities of NSCLC cells were determined by Transwell

assay. (H) NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A were transfected with control

siRNA and STAT3 siRNA for 48 h, and the expression of indicated protein was

detected by western blot. (I) NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A were

treated with STAT3 inhibitor SH-4-54 (5 μM) for 24 h, and the expression of

indicated protein was detected by western blot. (J) The interaction between

PDE1A and STAT3 was determined by immunoprecipitation. (K) NCI-H1299

cells were transfected with empty vector and PDE1A overexpressing plasmid

for 48 h, and the contribution of PDE1A in the cytoplasm and nucleus was

determined.

Figure 6: PDE1A physically interacts with YTHDF2 and promotes the

metastasis of NSCLC cells. (A) Venn diagram showing the overlap among

PDE1A interacting proteins (The data was collected from mass spectrometry

analysis in NSCLC cells), STAT3 coexpressed genes (collected from gene

correlation using UALCAN), upregulated proteins in NSCLC compared with

normal tissues (analyzed by UALCAN based on CPTAC database), and

upregulated genes in NSCLC compared with normal tissues (analyzed by

UALCAN based on TCGA database). (B) GO enrichment analysis of PDE1A

interacting genes. (C) Immunoprecipitation followed by silver staining was

performed to identify protein and protein interaction using A549 cell lysate with

the anti-PDE1A antibody. (D) Immunoprecipitation was used to confirm protein

and protein interaction in NCI-H1299 cells. (E) NSCLC cells overexpressing

PDE1A were transfected with control siRNA and YTHDF2 siRNA for 48 h, the

migrative abilities of NSCLC cells were determined by Transwell assay. (F)

NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A were transfected with control siRNA and

YTHDF2 siRNA for 48 h, and the expression of indicated protein was detected

by western blot. (G) The Pearson correlation coefficient between the

expression of YTHDF2 and STAT3 was identified using UALCAN.

Figure 7: PDE1A interacts with YTHDF2 to regulate SOCS2/STAT3

signaling pathway. (A) YTHDF2-RNA complexes were identified by LC-

MS/MS and collected from reference; YTHDF2 corelated genes were

collected from TNMplot (https://tnmplot.com/analysis/), Gene: YTHDF2, Gene

vs. all genes correlation: Genechip data, Tissue: Lung; STAT3 corelated

genes were collected from cBioPortal (http://www.cbioportal.org/), Lung

cancer (SMC, cancer research 2016); n=22; Gene: STAT3. The interaction

between YTHDF2 protein and the mRNA of 33 overlapping genes were

predicted   by   RNA-Protein   Interaction   Prediction

(http://pridb.gdcb.iastate.edu/RPISeq/index.html), and the values of RF

classifier and SVM classifier above 0.5 were considered positive. (B) The

interactions between protein and mRNAs were verified by RIP experiments.

(C) NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA and siPDE1A for 48 h,

and the stability of mRNA was determined by qRT-PCR. (D) NSCLC cells

were transfected with control siRNA and siPDE1A for 48 h, and the

expression of SOCS2 mRNA was determined by qRT-PCR.

Figure 8: PDE1A suppression enhances anti-NSCLC activity of cisplatin

via regulating MET and NRF2 expression. (A) NSCLC cells were

transfected with control siRNA or siPDE1A for 48 h, and the expression of

indicated proteins were determined. (B) NSCLC cells were transfected with

empty vector or PDE1A overexpressing plasmid for 48 h, and the expression

of indicated proteins were determined. (C) NSCLC cells were treated with

vinpocetine for 24 h, and the expression of indicated proteins were

determined. (D) NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA or siPDE1A

for 24 h, and then cells were treated with cisplatin for 72 h, SRB assay was

performed to evaluate cell proliferation. (E) NSCLC cells were transfected with

empty vector or PDE1A overexpressing plasmid for 24 h, and then cells were

treated with cisplatin for 72 h, SRB assay was performed to evaluate cell

proliferation. (F) NSCLC cells were treated with vinpocetine and/or cisplatin

for 72 h, and SRB assay was performed to evaluate cell proliferation. (G)

NSCLC cells were treated with vinpocetine and/or cisplatin for 48 h, and the

expression of indicate proteins were detected. (H) NSCLC cells were

transfected with control siRNA or siPDE1A for 48 h, and the mRNA level of

indicated proteins were determined. (I) NSCLC cells overexpressing PDE1A

were transfected with control siRNA and YTHDF2 siRNA for 48 h, and the

expression of the indicated proteins was detected.

Supplementary information

1.   Supplementary file 1: Figure S1. tif

The expression of PDE1A in normal lung (A) and lung cancer (B). The data

were obtained from The Human Protein Atlas (https://www.proteinatlas.org).

2.   Supplementary file 2: Figure S2. tif

The biological processes related to PDE1A in NSCLC is predicted using the

LinkedOmics.   Data   collected   from   LinkedOmics

(www.linkedomics.org/admin.php) are shown. ORA (A) and GSEA (B) were

performed to analyze the biological processes related to PDE1A in NSCLC.

Sample cohort: TCGA_NSCLC; Institute: UNC; Data type: RNAseq; Platform:

HiSeq RNA; Attribute: PDE1A; Statistical methods: Spearman Correlation

test; Patients: 515; Tools: ORA and GSEA; Gene Ontology analysis: biological

process. (C) GSEA demonstrated that PDE1A participated in mesenchyme

development and the cellular response to VEGF stimulus.

3.   Supplementary file 3: Figure S3. tif

The expression of PDE1A does not affect the proliferation of NSCLC cells. (A-

B) NSCLC cells were transfected with PDE1A siRNA or control siRNA (A) and

empty vector or PDE1A plasmid (B) for 24 h in 6-well plates, then transferred

to 96-well plated for the indicated times, and finally subjected to SRB assay.

4.   Supplementary file 4: Figure S4.tif

PDE1A silence suppresses the metastasis of NSCLC cells. (A) NSCLC cells

were transfected with control siRNA, siPDE1A, siPDE1B, and siPDE1C for 24

h, and cells were transferred to Transwell chambers without a Matrigel coating

on the insert membrane, and the cell migration were determined after 24 h.

(B) NSCLC cells were transfected with indicated siRNA for 48 h, and the

expression of the indicated proteins were detected. (C) The lungs of nude

mice were separated and stained with Bouin's solution and the pulmonary

metastatic nodules were counted.

5.   Supplementary file 5: Figure S5.tif

PDE1A promotes the metastasis of NSCLC cells. (A) The migrative abilities of

P3 and P0 NSCLC cells were determined. (B) The mRNA levels of indicated

genes were determined in P3 and P0 NSCLC cells using qRT-PCR. (C)

Before the NSCLC cells were injected into the nude mice, the migrative

abilities of NSCLC cells were determined using Transwell assay.

6.   Supplementary file 6: Figure S6. tif

PDE1A promotes the metastatic potential in a cAMP-independent manner. (A)

NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA and PDE1A siRNA, after 24

h cells were collected for Transwell assay, cells were treated with DMSO or 5

µM SQ22536 for 24 h, and the migrative abilities of NSCLC cells were

determined. (B-C) NSCLC cells were transfected with control siRNA and

YTHDF2 siRNA for 48 h, and the knockdown efficiency of YTHDF2 was

confirmed by western blot (B) and qRT-PCR (C).

7.　　Supplementary file 7: Figure S7. tif

Overexpression of YTHDF2 predicts poor outcomes for lung cancer patients.

(A-B) The mRNA and protein levels of PDE1A in NSCLC and normal lung

tissues are shown. Data collected from UALCAN was shown. Gene: YTHDF2;

TCGA dataset: Lung adenocarcinoma (A); CPTAC dataset: Lung

adenocarcinoma (B). (C) The prognostics value of YTHDF2 in NSCLC

patients was identified using PROGgeneV2 online tool

(www.progtools.net/gene).

8.　　Supplementary file 8: Table S1. xls

The siRNA sequence used for knocking down the indicated genes.

9.　　Supplementary file 9: Table S2. xls

Primers sequences for detecting the expression of the indicated genes.

10. Supplementary file 10: Table S3. xls

Identification of PDE1A protein interactions by mass spectrometry.

11. Supplementary file 11: Table S4. xls

The potential target genes of YTHDF2 in NSCLC cells.

12. Supplementary file 12: Table S5. xls

The potential target genes of YTHDF2 in NSCLC cells.

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

A Enrichment plot: Angiogenesis

B High/low PDE1A NSCLC cells / HUVEC cells

C EV PDE1A NC siPDE1A — HUVEC — 0 h / 24 h — 50μm

D HUVEC — Migrated distance (Fold change) — PDE1A / siPDE1A — ***

E EV PDE1A EV+GW PDE1A+GW — HUVEC — 0 h / 24 h — 50μm — HUVEC — Migrated distance (Fold change) — PDE1A / GW4869 — ***

F PLKO / shPDE1A — Number of blood cessels — PLKO / shPDE1A

Figure 5

Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8