

# 单细胞代谢组质谱分析揭示阿霉素在乳腺癌细胞中的作用机制

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**摘要:** 阿霉素(DOX)被广泛应用于三阴性乳腺癌的临床化疗中,但其作用机制尚未完全阐明。本文采用基于纳米毛细管的电喷雾电离质谱(ESI-MS)技术,对单个乳腺癌细胞(MDA-MB-231)进行原位胞浆采样和代谢物鉴定,在单细胞水平解析阿霉素的作用机制。通过正交偏最小二乘判别分析,实现了阿霉素处理组与对照组单细胞代谢物谱的显著区分,并筛选出变量投影重要性值大于1的差异代谢物。结果表明,阿霉素给药后,5-脱氧核糖-1-磷酸、L-丙氨酸、L-谷氨酸和琥珀酸等代谢物水平显著上调;同时,丙氨酸、天冬氨酸和谷氨酸代谢通路被显著富集,表明阿霉素通过诱导DNA损伤及干扰氨基酸代谢发挥抗肿瘤作用。本工作从单细胞角度揭示了阿霉素的抗癌机制,可为在单细胞水平研究其他肿瘤代谢提供技术参考。

**关键词:** 单细胞代谢组学; 纳米毛细管; 电喷雾电离质谱(ESI-MS); 乳腺癌; 阿霉素(DOX)

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## Reveal the Mechanism of Doxorubicin in Breast Cancer Using Single-Cell Metabolomics by Mass Spectrometry

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**Abstract:** Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women and a major cause of cancer-related deaths. Among its subtypes, triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC), which is defined by the absence of estrogen receptors (ER), progesterone receptors (PR) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) expression, is particularly aggressive and tends to grow and spread fast. Doxorubicin (DOX) is widely used in clinical chemotherapy for TNBC. Studies have shown that this anticancer drug takes effect by inserting into DNA strands, enhancing free radical production, and causing oxidative damage to mitochondria. However, its molecular mechanism remains incompletely understood. Single-cell metabolomics has advanced rapidly in recent years, emerging as a powerful tool for studying tumor heterogeneity and disease mechanisms. In comparison to bulk analysis, single-cell metabolomics minimizes metabolite alterations introduced by sample preparation and better captures the actual metabolic state of cells. Studying the metabolic effects of DOX at the single-cell level helps clarify its anti-tumor mechanisms. In this study, a nanocapillary-based

electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) technique was used to explore the mechanism of DOX in single MDA-MB-231 cancer cells. This capillary-based method enables *in situ* sampling and metabolite identification in single living cells. Orthogonal partial least squares discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) of the control group and DOX-treated MDA-MB-231 cells revealed a significant distinction between the metabolic profiles of DOX-treated and control groups, including 20 differential metabolites with variable importance in the projection (VIP) values greater than 1. Moreover, the heatmap demonstrated strong clustering within each group and a clear separation between the DOX-treated and control groups. Pathway enrichment analysis was performed on the differential metabolites to explore their association with anti-tumor mechanisms. Among them, the upregulation of 5-deoxyribose-1-phosphate is consistent with the mechanism of DOX-induced DNA damage. In addition, alanine, aspartate, and glutamate metabolism pathways were significantly enriched, which suggests that DOX affects tumor cells not only through causing DNA damage, but also by disrupting amino acid metabolism. In summary, this work reveals the antitumor mechanism of DOX from a single-cell perspective. The information obtained can effectively reveal drug mechanisms at the single-cell scale and may support more accurate cancer treatment strategies. It can also provide a technical reference for further studies on tumor metabolism. Subsequent studies may further extend the application of this technique in real tumor cell growth environments.

**Key words:** single-cell metabolomics; nanocapillary; electrospray ionization mass spectrometry (ESI-MS); breast cancer; doxorubicin (DOX)

乳腺癌是女性发病率最高的恶性肿瘤,已成为女性癌症死亡的主要原因<sup>[1]</sup>。三阴性乳腺癌(triple negative breast cancer, TNBC)是一类不表达雌激素受体(ER)、孕激素受体(PR)和人表皮生长因子受体2(HER2)的乳腺癌,占乳腺癌病例的10%~15%<sup>[2]</sup>,其患者预后相对较差<sup>[3]</sup>。由于TNBC具有高度异质性,分子靶向治疗效果有限,目前临床治疗仍以化疗为主<sup>[4-5]</sup>。阿霉素(doxorubicin, DOX)是一种由波赛链霉菌变种中分离得到的蒽环类抗生素,是美国食品药品监督管理局批准的用于治疗乳腺癌等多种癌症的抗肿瘤药物,已成为临床最常用的化疗药物之一<sup>[6]</sup>。虽然DOX的精确作用机制仍不清楚,但已有研究表明,这种抗癌药物能够嵌入DNA双链、抑制拓扑异构酶活性、增强自由基产生并诱导对线粒体的氧化损伤<sup>[7]</sup>,从而引发细胞凋亡、自噬、衰老和坏死,达到化疗效果。这些作用机制在很大程度上与线粒体功能密切相关<sup>[8]</sup>。因此,深入研究DOX对细胞代谢(尤其在单细胞水平)的影响,对于理解其抗肿瘤机制和潜在毒性具有重要意义<sup>[9]</sup>。

目前,已有研究利用代谢组学方法在体液<sup>[10-11]</sup>、组织匀浆<sup>[11-12]</sup>、群体细胞<sup>[13-14]</sup>中探讨了DOX的

作用机制。然而,这些方法通常需要裂解组织或细胞并提取代谢物,且样本处理过程中可能发生代谢物的降解或转化,从而影响检测结果的准确性<sup>[15]</sup>。因此,开展单个活细胞水平的代谢组学研究具有重要意义。电喷雾电离质谱(electrospray ionization mass spectrometry, ESI-MS)因其无需标记、可原位检测和分析范围广等优势,已成为单细胞代谢物分析的重要手段<sup>[16]</sup>。该技术使用的微/纳米毛细管能够实现对单个活细胞的微创穿刺,原位采集胞内代谢物;结合毛细管口的电喷雾过程和随后的高分辨质谱仪,即可对微量代谢物进行高灵敏度检测<sup>[17]</sup>。目前,该技术已成功应用于单个活神经细胞突触<sup>[18]</sup>、单个免疫细胞<sup>[19]</sup>和单个活体肿瘤球<sup>[20]</sup>的代谢组学分析,为单细胞代谢组学的发展提供了有力支持,展现出广阔的应用前景。

本工作将采用纳米毛细管电喷雾质谱技术,在单细胞水平对DOX处理后的三阴性乳腺癌MDA-MB-231细胞开展代谢物分析,从单细胞代谢组学角度解析该药物对癌细胞的代谢影响,旨在为DOX治疗乳腺癌的机制研究提供科学依据。

## 1 实验部分

### 1.1 主要仪器与装置

G6530B ESI-Q-TOF 质谱仪: 美国 Agilent 公司产品; P-2000 激光拉针仪、MP-225A 电动显微操作器: 美国 Sutter Instrument 公司产品; IX51 显微镜: 日本 Olympus 公司产品; Dhyana 高灵敏度 sCMOS 相机: 中国鑫图公司产品。

### 1.2 主要材料与试剂

硼硅酸盐玻璃毛细管 (BF100-58-10): 美国 Sutter Instrument 公司产品; DMEM 高糖培养基 (含 100 U/mL 青霉素和 1 mg/L 链霉素)、TrypPlus 胰酶消化液、磷酸盐缓冲液 (PBS): 江苏凯基生物科技有限公司产品; 胎牛血清: 美国 Thermo Fisher 公司产品; DOX: 南京 KeyGen Biotech 公司产品。

### 1.3 实验条件

**1.3.1 细胞培养** 将 MDA-MB-231 细胞在补充有 10% 胎牛血清的 DMEM 高糖培养基 (含 100 U/mL 青霉素和 1 mg/L 链霉素) 中培养, 放置于 37 °C、含 5% CO<sub>2</sub> 的培养箱中。在 DOX 给药实验中, 将 MDA-MB-231 细胞传代在 35 mm 细胞培养皿中; 培养 48 h 后, 将培养基更换为含有不同浓度 (2.5、5 μmol/L) DOX 的 DMEM 高糖培养基 (不含胎牛血清), 并将培养于仅含 DMEM 高糖培养基 (不含胎牛血清) 中、未做任何处理的 MDA-MB-231 细胞作为对照组。

**1.3.2 纳米毛细管的制备** 使用激光拉针仪拉制针尖直径为 400 nm 的硼硅酸盐毛细管。激光拉针仪参数设置如下: HEAT=318, FIL=2, VEL=20, DEL=180, PUL=105; HEAT=318, FIL=3, VEL=30, DEL=180, PUL=113。

**1.3.3 单个活细胞的采样** 在实验开始前, 倒掉培养皿中的培养基 (培养基可能对质谱图造成干扰)。用 2 mL PBS 清洗细胞 3 遍, 再加入 2 mL PBS 浸没细胞, 用于后续实验。将灌注 10 μL 超纯水的纳米毛细管通过塑料软管与气泵连接, 然后将毛细管固定在电动显微操作器上。在显微镜下观察目标细胞并拍照记录。当毛细管接触细胞并使其产生微小形变时, 用气泵施加约 76 kPa 的负压, 持续 5 s 进行代谢物提取。取样后立即将毛细管从电动显微操作器上取下, 断开与气泵的连接, 随后转移至质谱仪进行代谢物检测。

**1.3.4 质谱进样参数设置** 采集单细胞内代谢物后, 将毛细管尖端定位于距 ESI 离子源约 1.5 cm 处进行电喷雾电离。在负离子模式下, 金属丝电压 3 500 V, 采用 MS 和 Target MS/MS 模式采集数据, 干燥气体温度 300 °C, 气体流速 2.0 L/min, 质量扫描范围  $m/z$  50~1 000。

**1.3.5 代谢物鉴定** 基于 MS/MS 碎片信息对代谢物进行注释, 并通过人类代谢组数据库 (Human Metabolome Database, HMDB) 和 MSDIAL (v4.80, 日本) 进行匹配。其余代谢物根据精确质量和同位素分布信息在 HMDB 数据库中进行鉴定。质量偏差设为 30 ppm。鉴定到的单细胞代谢物名称和  $m/z$  值列于表 1。

**1.3.6 数据分析** 将质谱原始数据导入 Agilent MassHunter 定量分析软件 (B.06.00) 进行分析。将峰值强度阈值设为 500, 导出  $m/z$  值和峰强度值, 继续进行代谢物注释。将处理后的代谢物数据

表 1 单个 MDA-MB-231 细胞中鉴定到的代谢物

Table 1 Metabolites identified in single MDA-MB-231 cells

代谢物名称 Metabolite name	质荷比 $m/z$	电荷数 Charge number	分子式 Formula
NADH	664.1175	1	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>29</sub> N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>14</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
NAD	662.1018	1	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>27</sub> N <sub>7</sub> O <sub>14</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
UDP-D-Galacturonic OR UDP-D-Glucuronate	579.0270	1	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>22</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>18</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
Guanosine-3,5-diphosphate	442.0171	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>11</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
ADP	426.0221	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>10</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
UDP	402.9949	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>12</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
CDP	402.0109	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>11</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
S-Lactoylglutathione	378.0977	1	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>21</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> S
GMP OR 2-GMP OR 3-GMP	362.0507	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>8</sub> P

续表

代谢物名称 Metabolite name	质荷比 <i>m/z</i>	电荷数 Charge number	分子式 Formula
AMP OR 3-AMP	346.0558	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P
Glycerophosphoinositol	333.0592	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>19</sub> O <sub>11</sub> P
CAMP	328.0452	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P
UMP	323.0286	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>9</sub> P
CMP	322.0446	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> P
TRP-Asp	318.1095	1	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
GSH	306.0765	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub> S
GSSH	305.0687	2	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>32</sub> N <sub>6</sub> O <sub>12</sub> S <sub>2</sub>
CTMP	303.0388	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P
UDP-GlcNAc	302.5335	2	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>27</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>17</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
Galactosyl 4-hydroxyproline OR 4-Hydroxyproline galactoside	292.1038	1	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>19</sub> NO <sub>8</sub>
Glutamine-glutamate	290.0994	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub>
UDP-D-Glucose OR UDP-Galactose	282.0202	2	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>17</sub> P <sub>2</sub>
Phosphogluconic acid	275.0174	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> O <sub>10</sub> P
Glucose 6-phosphate OR Glucose 1-phosphate OR myo-Inositol 1-phosphate OR myo-Inositol 6-phosphate	259.0224	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> O <sub>9</sub> P
ATP	252.4906	2	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>5</sub> O <sub>13</sub> P <sub>3</sub>
Glycerophosphoglycerol	245.0432	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>15</sub> O <sub>8</sub> P
Biotin	243.0809	1	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> S
Cytidine	242.0782	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
UTP	240.9770	2	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>15</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>15</sub> P <sub>3</sub>
CTP	240.4850	2	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>14</sub> P <sub>3</sub>
D-Ribulose 5-phosphate	229.0119	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>8</sub> P
GPEA	214.0486	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>14</sub> NO <sub>6</sub> P
5-Deoxyribose-1-phosphate OR Deoxyribose 5-monophosphate OR Deoxyribose 1-phosphate OR Deoxyribose 5-phosphate	213.0170	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P
N-Lactoyl ethanolamine phosphate	212.0329	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>12</sub> NO <sub>6</sub> P
Phosphocreatine	210.0285	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>10</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>5</sub> P
L-Dopa	196.0615	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>
D-Mannonic acid OR Gulonic acid OR Gluconic acid OR Galactonic acid	195.0510	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>
Citric acid	191.0197	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>7</sub>
3-Phosphoglyceric acid OR 2-Phosphoglyceric acid	184.9857	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P
Phosphorylcholine	182.0593	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>4</sub> P
Glyceraldehyde phosphate	180.9544	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>3</sub> O <sub>7</sub> P
L-Tyrosine	180.0666	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>
Fructose OR Glucose OR Galactose	179.0561	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
Ascorbic acid OR Diglyceride	175.0248	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>6</sub>
N-Acetyl-L-aspartic acid	174.0408	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>
L-Arginine	173.1044	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Glycerol 3-phosphate	171.0064	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>9</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P
Glutathione thiol	168.5207	2	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>17</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>6</sub> S <sub>2</sub>

续表

代谢物名称 Metabolite name	质荷比 <i>m/z</i>	电荷数 Charge number	分子式 Formula
Phosphoenolpyruvic acid	166.9751	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>5</sub> O <sub>6</sub> P
<i>L</i> -Phenylalanine	164.0717	1	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
<i>L</i> -Glutamic acid	146.0459	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>
Oxoglutaric acid	145.0142	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
<i>L</i> -Thyronine	135.5428	2	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>15</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>
Malic acid	133.0142	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>
Aspartic acid	132.0302	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>
<i>L</i> -Asparagine OR Glycyl-glycine	131.0462	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>8</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Leucine OR Isoleucine	130.0874	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Asparaginamide OR Creatine	130.0622	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> N <sub>3</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Taurine	124.0074	1	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>3</sub> S
Nicotinic acid	122.0248	1	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Purine	119.0363	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>4</sub>
<i>L</i> -Threonine	118.0510	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>
Succinic acid	117.0193	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
<i>L</i> -Valine	116.0717	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
<i>L</i> -Proline	114.0561	1	C <sub>5</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Uracil	111.0200	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>
Hypotaurine	108.0125	1	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>2</sub> S
<i>L</i> -Serine	104.0353	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>
Cysteinyll	103.0097	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> NOS
Malonic acid	103.0037	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>
<i>N</i> -Ethylglycine OR 3-Aminobutanoic acid OR $\gamma$ -Aminobutyric acid	102.0561	1	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
<i>L</i> -Lactic acid	89.0244	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
<i>L</i> -Alanine OR Sarcosine OR Lactamide	88.0404	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Pyruvic acid	87.0088	1	C <sub>3</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Glycine	74.0248	1	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>
Glyoxylic acid	72.9931	1	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>
Acetic acid	59.0139	1	C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>2</sub>

输入 MetaboAnalyst(<https://www.metaboanalyst.ca/faces/home.xhtml>), 进行正交偏最小二乘判别分析(OPLS-DA)、多元变量分析及基于 KEGG 数据库的代谢通路分析。

## 2 结果与讨论

### 2.1 DOX 对 MDA-MB-231 细胞的毒性

不同浓度(0、2.5、5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ )DOX 作用于 MDA-MB-231 细胞 24、48 h 后的细胞形态变化示于图 1。在未加入 DOX 的对照组中, 细胞在

48 h 内形态正常, 呈贴壁生长, 细胞轮廓清晰、结构完整。加入 2.5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  DOX 24 h 后, 部分细胞形态略有变化, 出现状态不佳的细胞, 但整体仍保持较好的活力, 未观察到明显的细胞死亡。而在加入 5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  DOX 后, 24 h 内即有一定比例的细胞死亡。用 2.5、5.0  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  DOX 处理 48 h 后, 两组均出现大部分细胞死亡, 仅有少量存活细胞。综合考虑药物作用效果和细胞生存比例, 最终选择 5.0  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  DOX 处理 24 h 用于后续代谢物分析实验。

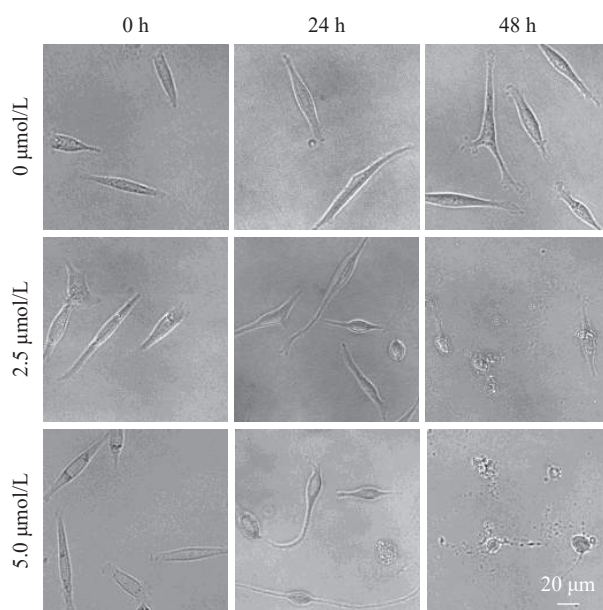
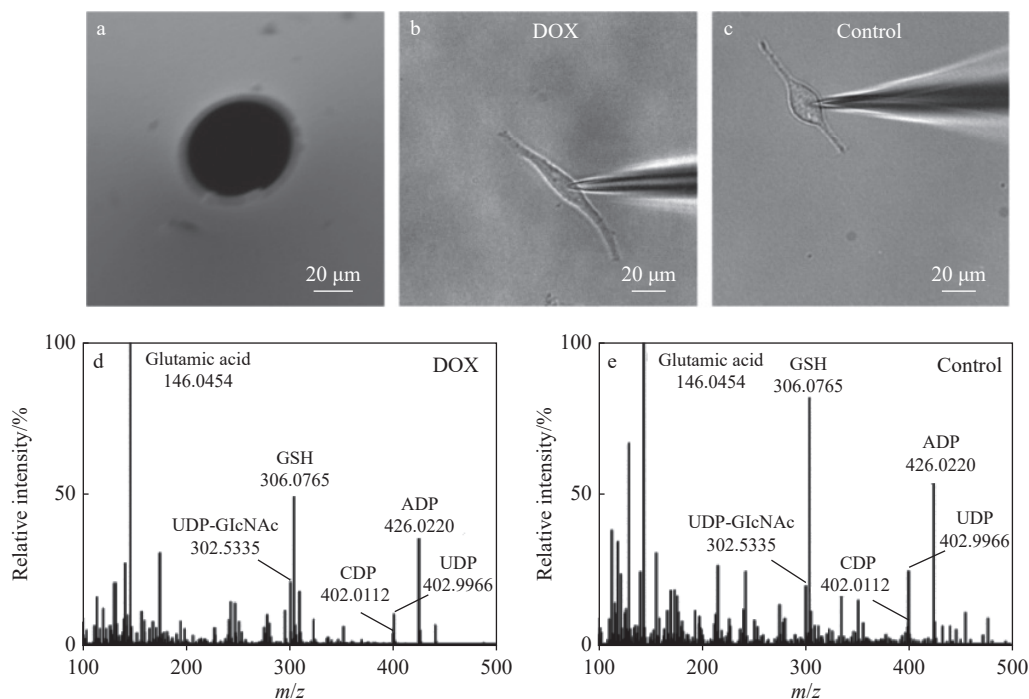


图1 不同浓度 DOX 处理的 MDA-MB-231 细胞在 48 h 培养过程中拍摄的明场图像  
 Fig. 1 Bright-field images of MDA-MB-231 cells treated with different concentrations of DOX during a 48 h period

## 2.2 纳米毛细管采样与代谢物鉴定

利用纳米毛细管对单个 MDA-MB-231 活细胞进行胞质提取, 随后进行代谢物检测。采用针

尖直径约 400 nm 的毛细管(图 2a)扎入细胞, 通过气泵施加负压, 将胞质吸入毛细管内, 示于图 2b、2c。纳米级针尖因具有排斥富集效应和离子浓度



注: DOX 表示处理组; Control 表示对照组

图2 400 nm 纳米毛细管的扫描电子显微镜(SEM)图像(a), 用纳米毛细管对单细胞取样的明场图像(b, c) 及质谱图(d, e)

Fig. 2 Scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of 400 nm nanocapillary (a), bright-field images (b, c) and mass spectra (d, e) of single cell sampling using a nanocapillary

极化效应,相较于传统微米级针尖有更高的离子化效率,且受盐离子的影响更小<sup>[21]</sup>。取样过程中细胞仅发生轻微形变,分别对经 5.0  $\mu\text{mol/L}$  DOX 处理 24h 的给药组及对照组的 10 个细胞进行取样分析。

随后,利用 ESI-MS 在负离子模式下分析毛细管内提取物。将获得的质谱数据与代谢物数据库进行比对注释,在单细胞胞浆中鉴定出 77 种代谢物,包括谷氨酸(glutamic acid, Glu)、谷胱甘肽(glutathione, GSH)和二磷酸腺苷(adenosine diphosphate, ADP)等,这些代谢物类型与先前报道一致<sup>[22-23]</sup>。从图 2d、2e 可见,对照组与给药组细胞在代谢物相对丰度方面存在显著差异,表明 DOX 处理对细胞代谢产生了显著影响。

### 2.3 DOX 处理引起单细胞代谢物与代谢通路的变化

为进一步探究 DOX 处理对肿瘤细胞代谢状

态的影响,本实验对质谱数据进行比较分析。OPLS-DA 结果表明,给药组(绿色)与对照组(红色)沿横轴明显分离,组间代谢物存在明显差异;同时,两组数据沿纵轴分布离散,且出现组内亚群聚集现象,这可能是由单细胞异质性导致的,结果示于图 3a。基于 OPLS-DA 的变量投影重要性(variable importance in the projection, VIP)值,筛选出两组间具有显著差异的 20 个代谢物( $VIP > 1$ ),示于图 3b。随后,对这 20 个差异代谢物进行热图聚类分析(使用  $t$ -test 计算显著性,标准为  $P < 0.05$ ),结果示于图 3c。相同组别的细胞之间聚类程度较高,且组间分界清晰,进一步验证了 DOX 处理会对细胞代谢状态产生显著影响。在这 20 个差异代谢物中,有 7 个在给药组中上调,13 个在给药组中下调,其中 5-脱氧核糖-1-磷酸(5-deoxyribose-1-phosphate)的上调最为显

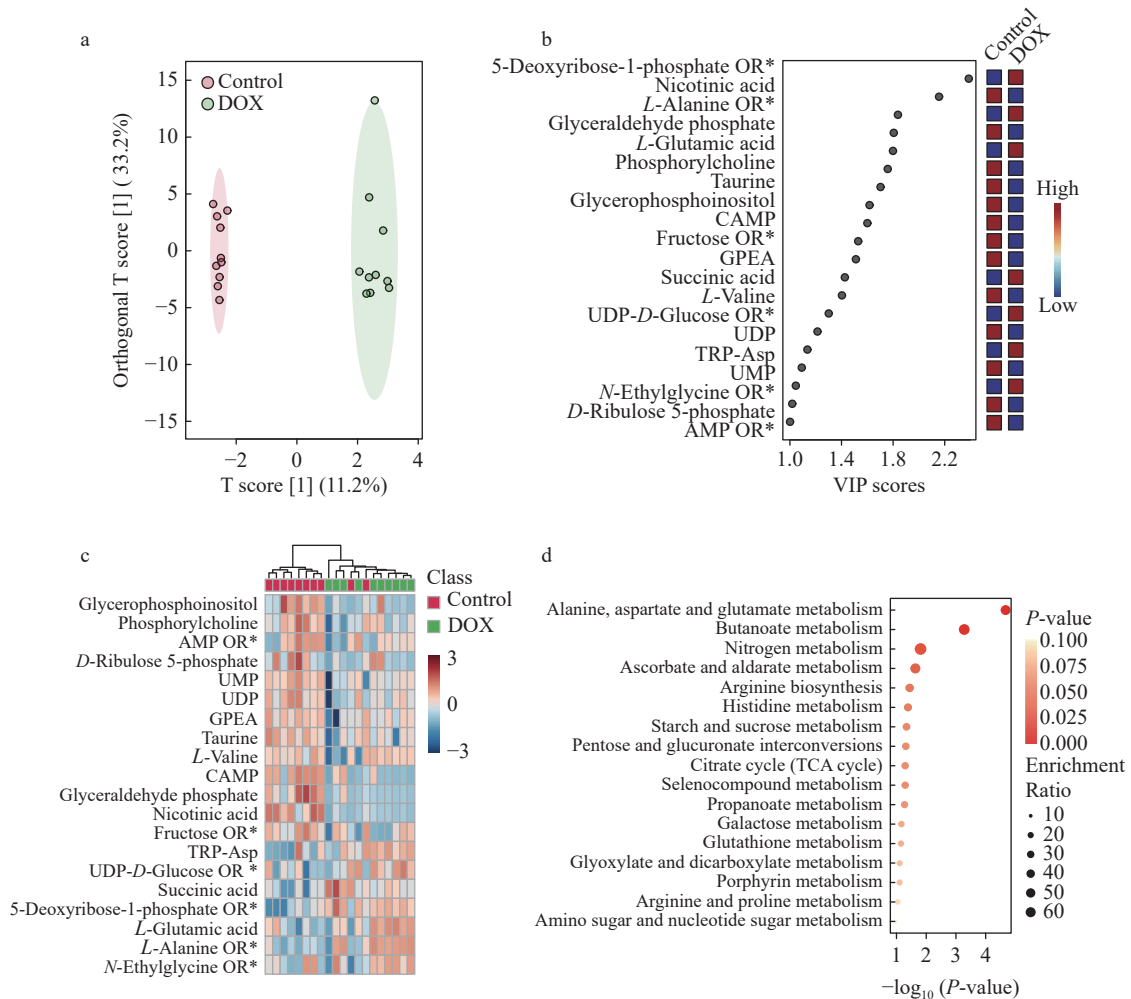


图3 OPLS-DA得分图(a)、VIP图(b)、热图(c)及代谢通路富集分析点图(d)

Fig. 3 OPLS-DA scoreplot (a), VIP plot (b), heatmap (c) and metabolic pathway enrichment analysis dot plot (d)

著。自由基SAM酶(radical S-adenosyl-L-methionine enzymes)是生命活动中一类重要的酶,通过产生5'-脱氧腺苷自由基,参与蛋白质、DNA或RNA等各种底物上引发的基于自由基的反应<sup>[24]</sup>。在其作用过程中,会产生副产物5'-脱氧腺苷。5-脱氧核糖-1-磷酸是5'-脱氧腺苷降解过程的中间代谢产物<sup>[25]</sup>,其显著变化验证了DOX通过损伤DNA诱导细胞死亡的作用机制<sup>[26]</sup>。

对上述在给药组中显著上调的7个代谢物进行KEGG通路富集分析,示于图3d。结果表明,给药组细胞内的丙氨酸(alanine)、天冬氨酸(aspartate)和谷氨酸代谢(glutamate metabolism)通路被显著富集。该代谢通路属于氨基酸代谢通路,而氨基酸在细胞氧化应激和营养不足时,能够促进癌细胞的存活和增殖<sup>[27]</sup>。L-丙氨酸(L-alanine)、琥珀酸(succinate)和L-谷氨酸(L-glutamate)是该通路中的关键代谢物,三者在线粒体中的代谢转化路径示于图4a,其中红色向

上箭头代表DOX处理后细胞内显著上调的代谢物。DOX可引起线粒体功能障碍和活性氧积累,并伴随ATP合成减少<sup>[7]</sup>。L-丙氨酸可在丙氨酸转氨酶(alanine aminotransferase, ALT)的催化下生成丙酮酸(pyruvate),随后进一步转化为乙酰辅酶A(acetyl-coenzyme A, Acetyl-CoA),进而进入三羧酸循环(tricarboxylic acid cycle, TCA cycle),从而参与细胞能量代谢<sup>[28]</sup>。L-谷氨酸作为三羧酸循环的底物之一,能在谷氨酸脱氢酶(glutamate dehydrogenase, GDH)催化下生成 $\alpha$ -酮戊二酸( $\alpha$ -ketoglutaric acid),再进入TCA循环以供能。琥珀酸是TCA循环的重要代谢物之一,通过琥珀酸脱氢酶(succinate dehydrogenase, SDH)转化为富马酸,SDH活性下调会导致细胞中琥珀酸积累<sup>[29]</sup>。因此,DOX给药组细胞内L-丙氨酸、琥珀酸、L-谷氨酸含量上升,分别示于图4b~4d,表明MDA-MB-231细胞线粒体内的代谢状态发生变化。为应对DOX的药物作

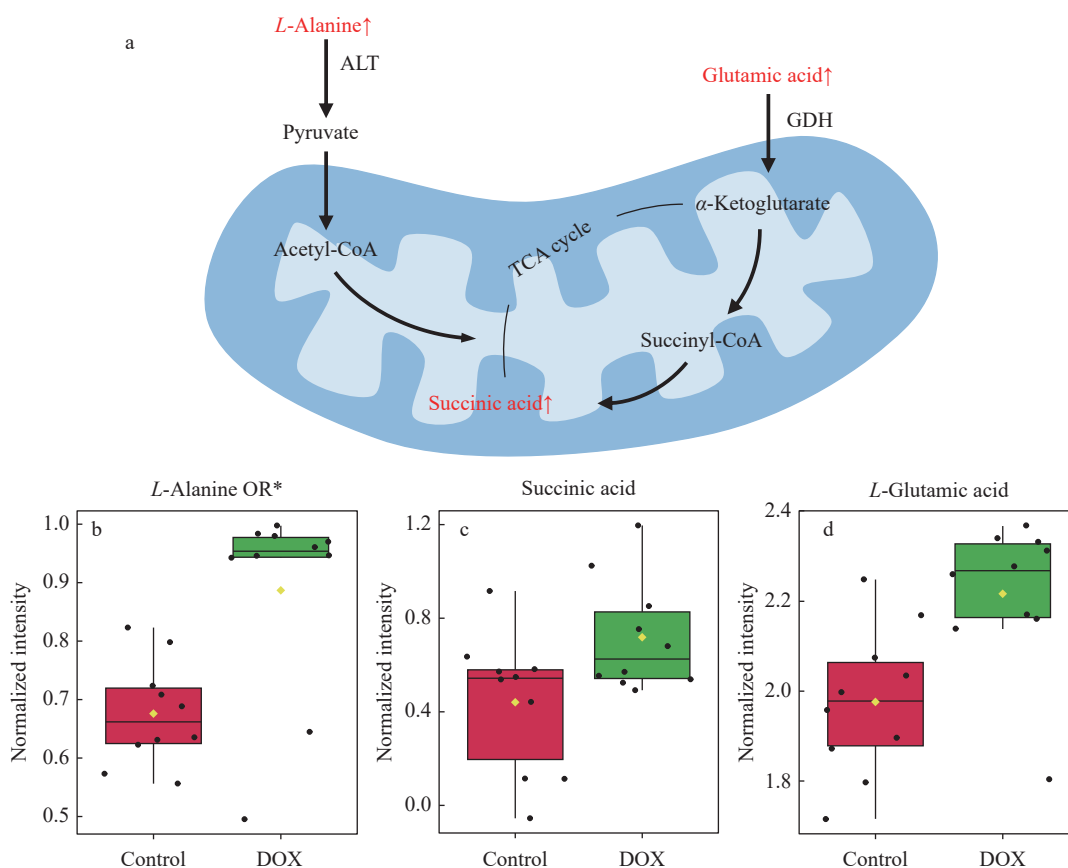


图4 L-丙氨酸、琥珀酸、L-谷氨酸在线粒体中转化的示意图(a)及在细胞中的水平(b, c, d)

Fig. 4 Schematic diagram (a) of the conversion of L-alanine, succinate, and L-glutamate in mitochondria and their levels in cells (b, c, d)

用,癌细胞可能通过增强氨基酸代谢来维持生存所需能量。这一代谢重编程过程虽能在短期内帮助细胞应对药物毒性,但也会造成其代谢失调,最终诱导癌细胞死亡。

### 3 结论

本研究基于纳米毛细管电喷雾电离质谱技术和代谢组学方法,对 DOX 处理后单个 MDA-MB-231 细胞内的代谢变化进行系统分析。结果表明,DOX 给药组细胞中与 DNA 相关的代谢物显著上调,且丙氨酸、天冬氨酸和谷氨酸代谢通路发生明显改变。这一结果不仅验证了 DOX 通过干扰 DNA 功能发挥抗肿瘤作用的机制,也揭示了氨基酸代谢在药物治疗过程中的重要作用。综上,基于纳米毛细管的单细胞代谢组学技术在解析抗癌药物作用机制方面具有巨大潜力。未来可进一步聚焦于真实肿瘤细胞发生发展环境下的细胞内代谢水平变化,为深入理解肿瘤细胞状态提供更多分子水平的信息。

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