

Basic Study

Dysregulation of mRNA profile in cisplatin-resistant gastric cancer cell line SGC7901

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Abstract**AIM**

To explore novel therapeutic target of cisplatin resistance in human gastric cancer.

METHODS

The sensitivity of SGC7901 cells and cisplatin-resistant SGC7901 cells (SGC7901/DDP) for cisplatin were detected by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay. High-quality total RNA which isolated from SGC7901/DDP cells and SGC7901 cells were used for mRNA microarray analysis. Results were analyzed bioinformatically to predict their roles in the development of cisplatin resistance and the expression of 13 dysregulated mRNAs we selected were validated by quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR).

RESULTS

SGC7901/DDP cells highly resistant to cisplatin demonstrated by MTT assay. A total of 1308 mRNAs (578 upregulated and 730 downregulated) were

differentially expressed (fold change ≥ 2 and P -value < 0.05) in the SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells. The expression of mRNAs detected by qRT-PCR were consistent with the microarray results. Gene Ontology, Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes pathway and protein-protein interaction analysis demonstrated that the differentially expressed mRNAs were enriched in *PI3K-Akt*, *Notch*, *MAPK*, *ErbB*, *Jak-STAT*, *NF-kappaB* signaling pathways which may be involved in cisplatin resistance. Several genes such as *PDE3B*, *VEGFC*, *IGFBP3*, *TLR4*, *HIPK2* and *EGF* may associated with drug resistance of gastric cancer cells to cisplatin.

CONCLUSION

Exploration of those altered mRNAs may provide more promising strategy in diagnosis and therapy for gastric cancer with cisplatin resistance.

Key words: Gastric cancer; Dysregulate; Cisplatin resistance; Microarray; Biology

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Core tip: We tested the sensitivity of human gastric cancer cells SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 for cisplatin and compared their mRNA expression profile using a human mRNA microarray, and then performed bioinformatics analysis to depict comprehensively the properties of the differentially expressed mRNAs. Results demonstrated that the dysregulated mRNA were enriched in functions and pathways that may be involved in cisplatin resistance. Exploration of the dysregulated genes could suggest a promising strategy in diagnosis and therapy of gastric cancer with cisplatin resistance.

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INTRODUCTION

Gastric cancer is the fourth most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death globally^[1], and more than two thirds of patients when diagnosed with unresectable disease^[2]. The 5-year overall survival rate of patients with advanced gastric cancer approximately 25%^[3]. Currently, platinum-based chemotherapy regimen is the standout chemotherapy frequently used for advanced gastric cancer^[4,5], and median overall survival and progression free survival was significantly longer in cisplatin-containing combination therapy compared to non-

cisplatin containing regimens^[6,7]. However, cisplatin-based chemotherapeutic agents are often limited in chemotherapy due to drug resistance^[8,9].

Cisplatin resistance of gastric cancer is multifactorial, accumulating evidence have suggested that the aberrant expression of proteins which associated with decreased cellular accumulation, increased DNA repair capacity, increased drug inactivation^[10] play important role in the acquisition of cisplatin resistance. Previous researches have shown that abnormal expression of copper transporter 1 (CTR1) and MRP2 lead to cisplatin resistance by reducing the concentration of cisplatin in cells^[11-13]. Moreover, the upregulation of excision repair cross complementing 1 (*ERCC1*)^[14], X-ray repair cross complementing 1 (*XRCC1*)^[15] and breast cancer 1 (*BRCA1*)^[16] have shown to be involved in cisplatin resistance by removal of Pt-DNA adducts^[17,18]. Other studies have shown that downregulation of the human epidermal growth factor receptor II (ErbB2) can significantly enhanced the apoptosis-inducing effects of cisplatin in gastric cancer^[19,20].

The mechanisms of cisplatin resistance are quite complex and have not been fully revealed till now, so investigation of the molecular mechanisms and biomarkers is urgently needed. This study aims to analyze mRNA expression profiles in SGC7901/DDP cells to explore more chemotherapeutic molecular targets and to guide appropriate chemotherapy for gastric cancer with cisplatin resistance.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell lines and culture

The human cisplatin-resistant gastric cancer cell line SGC7901/DDP and its parental cells SGC7901 were purchased from KeyGEN Biotechnology Company (Nanjing, Jiangsu, China). Cells were cultured in RPMI-1640 medium (Gibco, Grand Island, NY, United States) containing 10% fetal calf serum (Gibco, NY, United States) supplemented with 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 µg/mL streptomycin. Cells were cultured in a humidified atmosphere with 5% CO₂ at 37 °C. Cisplatin (Sigma, CA, United States) with final concentration of 800 ng/mL was added to the culture media for SGC7901/DDP cells to maintain the cisplatin-resistant phenotype.

MTT method assay for SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 cells viability

SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 cells were suspended at a density of 1×10^5 cells/mL and planted into 96-well culture plate. After 24 hours, the cells were treated with freshly prepared DDP. The final concentrations were 133.34 µmol/L, 66.67 µmol/L, 6.67 µmol/L, 0.67 µmol/L and 0.067 µmol/L, because the human peak plasma concentration for DDP has been reported

as 6.67 $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ^[21]. Cell viability was examined after 48 h and was determined by adding 20 μL MTT (5 mg/mL) to each well and incubated for a further 4 h. The resulting formazan crystal was dissolved by addition of 150 μL dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (sigma, Germany) each well, and then plates were shaken for 10 minutes. The absorbance at 490 nm was measured by spectrophotometer (ELx 800; BioTek; Winooski, VT, United States). The inhibition of growth (IC50) for DDP was calculated by the cells relative viability. Each experiment was performed in triplicate.

Total RNA extraction and mRNA microarray

Cells were harvested when they had grown to 80%-90% confluency and were still in logarithmic phase. Total RNA was extracted from the three matched pairs of SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 cells using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, United States) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The quality of total RNA was measured by NanoDrop ND-2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific, Waltham, MA, United States). Total RNA from three paired samples were amplified and transcribed into fluorescent cDNA, and then the fluorescent labeled samples were hybridized to the Agilent LncRNA-mRNA Human Gene Expression Microarray V4.0 (Capital Bio Corp, Beijing, China) which contains 25069 human mRNA according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The microarray was scanned by an Agilent Microarray Scanner. Image processing was conducted using Agilent Feature Extraction software and raw microarray signals normalized using Agilent Gene-Spring software. The normalized mRNA expression profiles data output was received in Excel spreadsheets. The two group of samples data were analyzed by *t*-test to get the *P*-values. FC values representing the differently expressed mRNAs between SGC7901/DDP and their parental cells. Cluster 3.0 software was performed to show differential expression patterns of mRNAs.

Bioinformatics analysis

Bioinformatics analysis were generated using KOBAS software and STRING 9.1 software. KOBAS software was used to analyze Ontology, Disease and pathways of the dysregulated mRNAs. KOBAS associated with 1 ontology database (Gene Ontology), 5 disease databases (OMIM, KEGG DISEASE, PID Reactome, FunDO, GAD, NHGRI) and 7 pathway databases (KEGG PATHWAY, PID Curated, PID BioCarta, BioCyc, eactome, Panther). The entire analysis process includes two steps: first, bring the input gene ID map to the gene in the databases, and then annotate pathways, disease and function of these genes involved in. Second step, compare the first step results with background (usually the entire genome of the gene, or the entire probe on the chip), and unearth statistically significant enrichment pathways, disease

or function. Fisher's exact test and χ^2 test were used as statistical tests and the FDR was performed to correct the *P*-value^[22]. Additionally, we used STRING 9.1 software to decipher the protein-protein interaction (PPI) network of the differentially expressed proteins. The PPI network may help in understanding the molecular mechanism of cisplatin resistance. All mRNA microarray data were given by Capital Bio Corp.

Quantitative real-time PCR validation of microarray results

To validate the reliability of microarray analysis, we performed quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR). The reverse transcription production cDNA was synthesized using oligo-dT primers and Superscript II reverse transcriptase. PCR was performed with SYBR[®] Premix Ex Taq[™] (TaKaRa Bio; Japan) by a Light Cycler PCR system (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, United States) according to the manufacturer's instructions. After amplification, melting curves were analyzed. Beta-actin snRNA used as endogenous control, each sample was done in triplicate. The relative expression levels of target mRNAs were calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}}$ method (where $\Delta\Delta\text{Ct}$ is the difference in threshold cycles for the ΔCt of SGC7901/DDP sample and SGC7901 sample, and ΔCt is the difference between the target gene and endogenous control beta-actin). Sequences of primers for qRT-PCR are provided in supporting Table 1.

Statistical analysis

MTT test and qRT-PCR statistical analysis was performed using GraphPad Prism software (v. 5.0a; GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA, United States). We used one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Student's *t*-test to assess the statistical significance of differences between different cell groups. The threshold for statistical significance was *P*-values < 0.05. Fold changes of mRNAs validated by qRT-PCR in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells are shown as mean \pm SD.

RESULTS

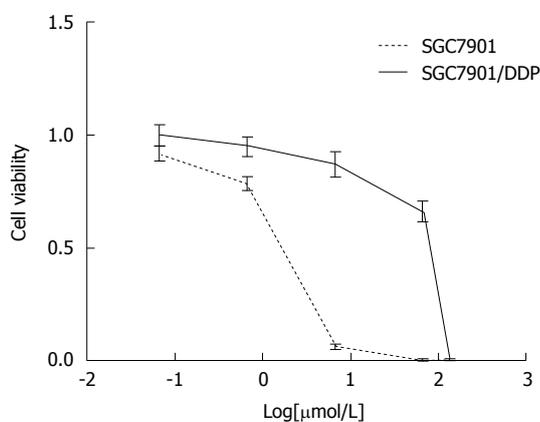
Sensitivity of SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 cells to DDP

To determine the chemotherapy sensitivity of SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 cell line to cisplatin, varying concentrations of cisplatin were added into the 96-well plates and incubated for 48 h. From these data, half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC50) cisplatin dose was calculated. IC50 cisplatin doses for SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901 (after 48 h in DDP-containing media) were $43.47 \pm 0.21 \mu\text{mol/L}$ and $1.24 \pm 0.02 \mu\text{mol/L}$, respectively, and the resistance index for SGC7901/DDP cell lines was 35.12, confirming that these cells are refractory to cisplatin. Cell viability was checked by MTT assay (Figure 1).

Table 1 Primer of quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction

ID	Primer	Sequence (5'to3')	Base (bp)	Tm (°C)	GC
HIPK2	Forward	CCCCGTGTACGAAGGTATGG	20	59.90	60%
	Reverse	GGGATGTTCTTGCTCTGGCT	20	60.03	55%
PDE3B	Forward	TGAGAGTTATGGCTGCCTGT	20	58.72	50%
	Reverse	CTGAGGGGCATTTGTAGCCA	20	60.30	55%
FGF2	Forward	TCCACCTATAATTGGTCAAAGTGGT	25	59.99	40%
	Reverse	CATCAGTTACCAGCTCCCCC	20	59.82	60%
TWIST1	Forward	ATCAAAGAAACAGGGCGTGG	21	59.39	47.6%
	Reverse	CAGAGGTGTGAGGATGGTGC	20	60.39	40%
ZEB2	Forward	GCCTCTGTAGATGGTCCAGTGA	22	61.21	54.6%
	Reverse	ATCGCGTTCCTCCAGTTTTCT	21	60.00	47.6%
VEGFC	Forward	CCCGCCTCTCCAAAAGCTA	20	60.04	55%
	Reverse	CGGGTGTCAAGTAAAAGCCT	20	59.96	55%
SPHK1	Forward	GCTGCGAAGTTGAGCGAAAA	20	60.04	50%
	Reverse	CGTTCCTACAGTGGCCTG	19	60.08	63.2%
BAX	Forward	GCCCTTTTGCTTCAGGTTT	20	59.24	50%
	Reverse	CATCCTCTGCAGCTCCATGT	20	59.82	55%
PTEN	Forward	CAGGATACGGCTCCGGC	17	60.73	70.6%
	Reverse	ACAGCGGCTCAACTCTCAA	20	57.89	50%
HTRA1	Forward	AGCCAAAGAGCTGAAGACC	20	59.96	55%
	Reverse	GACATCATTGGCGGAGACCA	20	60.11	55%
CCL5	Forward	TGCTGCTTTGCCTACATTGC	20	59.76	50%
	Reverse	CTGTTCAGCCGGGAGTCAT	20	60.04	55%
TGM2	Forward	CCTCTGTCTCTCCGGGAACC	20	61.32	65%
	Reverse	TGGCAACCAGGGGTCCTAT	19	60.23	57.9%
TLR4	Forward	CTCGGTACAGCGGTGATAGC	20	59.97	60%
	Reverse	TTTAGGGCCAAGTCTCCACG	20	59.68	55%
ACTB	Forward	CTCACCATGGATGATGATATCGC	23	59.13	47.8%
	Reverse	AGGAATCCTTCTGACCCATGC	21	59.79	52.4%

GC: Gastric cancer.

**Figure 1** Cell viability treated with different concentrations of cisplatin for 48 h. MTT assay for SGC7901 cells and SGC7901/DDP cells treated with cisplatin (133.34, 66.67, 6.67, 0.67 and 0.067 μmol/L, respectively).**Expression profile of mRNAs in SGC7901/DDP cells**

To show mRNA expression profile in cisplatin-resistant SGC7901/DDP cells, we used a stringency cutoff to identify significantly differently mRNAs ($P < 0.05$, $FC \geq 2$) and two-dimensional hierarchical clustering 3.0 to represent expression profiles between samples (Figure 2). The results indicated that 1308 mRNAs were significantly differentially expressed in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells. Among these transcripts, 578 mRNAs were upregulated, and 730 mRNAs were downregulated.

Validation of microarray results by qRT-PCR of 13 mRNAs

First, we concentrated on validating the microarray results. From the abnormally expressed ($P < 0.05$) mRNAs obtained from the microarray analyses, we selected 8 upregulated mRNAs (*HIPK2*, *PDE3B*, *FGF2*, *TWIST1*, *ZEB2*, *VEGFC*, *SPHK1*, *BAX*) and 5 downregulated (*PTEN*, *HTRA1*, *CCL5*, *TGM2*, *TLR4*) mRNAs for qRT-PCR validation. The relative fold-changes (SGC7901/DDP vs SGC7901) detected by qRT-PCR were consistent with the microarray results (Figure 3), indicating the dependability of our microarray platform.

Statistical analysis

To depict comprehensively the properties of the differentially expressed mRNA in SGC7901/DDP cells, GO annotation and enrichment analysis was performed to evaluate which cellular components, molecular functions and biological processes may be affected by this dysregulation. The GO enrichment analysis showed that the differentially expressed genes were involved in a variety of functions, including locomotion, chemotaxis, cell adhesion, regulation of cell migration, extracellular matrix disassembly, response to xenobiotic chemotaxis, localization of cell adhesion and blood vessel morphogenesis (Figure 4A).

Additionally, 59 human diseases were significant enriched ($P < 0.05$) in five human disease databases

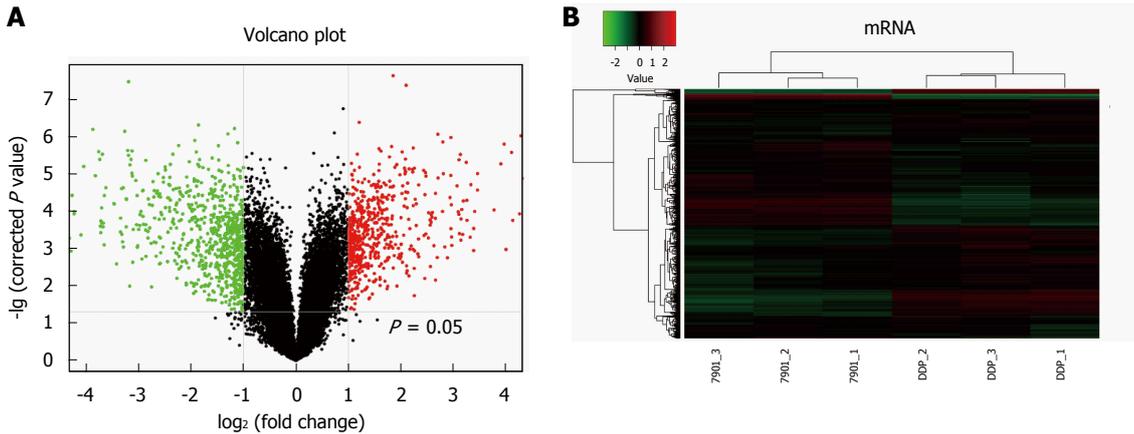


Figure 2 mRNA expression levels from microarray. A: The volcano plot image showed the mRNA expression levels of microarray in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells. Black dots: equally expressed mRNAs between SGC7901/DDP cells and SGC7901 cells ($FC \leq 2$); red dots: mRNAs were over-expressed in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells ($FC \geq 2$); green dots: mRNAs in SGC7901/DDP cells were down-expressed compared to SGC7901 cells (P -values < 0.05 , $FC \geq 2$). Fold changes of these mRNAs in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells are shown as mean \pm SD; B: Two-dimensional hierarchical clustering image of the 1308 dysregulated mRNAs in the SGC7901/DDP cells compared with the SGC7901 cells, each row represents an mRNA, each column represents a sample. 7901-1, 7901-2 and 7901-3 represent the three samples of SGC7901 cells, DDP-1, DDP-2 and DDP-3 represent the three samples of SGC7901/DDP cells. Red: Higher expression levels; green: Lower expression levels.

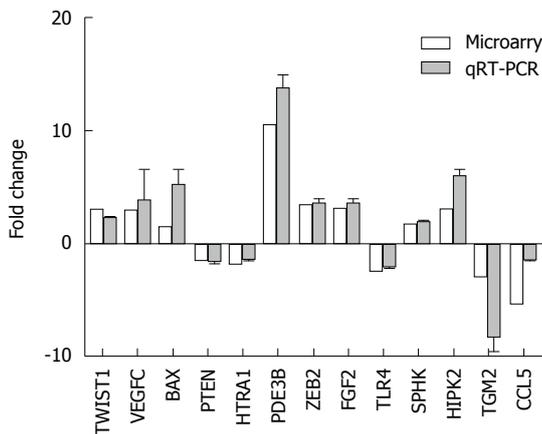


Figure 3 Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction validation of the microarray results of the 13 mRNAs. Relative fold changes in expression between SGC7901/DDP cells and SGC7901 cells were in agreement with microarray.

(KEGG DISEASE, FunDO, GAD, NHGRI GWAS Catalog and OMIM) (Figure 4B, Table 2). Furthermore, it is worth noting that in KEGG disease database, gastric cancer is the most highly enriched disease, and the input genes include *DCC*, *CD44*, *CDH1*, *VEGFC*, *EGF*, *TGFA*.

To determine which pathway might be involved in drug resistance formation, KEGG pathway analysis was used to authenticate pathways and understand biological functions of significantly differentially expressed genes. The result indicated that the differentially expressed mRNAs were enriched for 233 pathways, including the *Rap1* signaling pathway, *PI3K-Akt* signaling pathway, *ECM-receptor* interaction, *TNF* signaling pathway, and pathways in cancer, among others (Figure 5, Table 3). Cluster 3.0 software were performed the heat-map. This finding identified many

candidate pathways and input genes that may play an important role in resistance mechanism.

Interaction network analysis

The STRING 9.1 software (Search Tool for the Retrieval of Interacting Genes) was used to perceive functional relations and generate networks of differential expression of proteins (Figure 6). For all of the 1002 differentially expressed proteins, we extracted a network containing 443 upregulated and 559 downregulated proteins which functionally associated with each other. We found that interacting proteins which participate in angiogenesis, toll-like receptor signaling pathway and cell adhesion had a high level of co-expression.

DISCUSSION

Cisplatin is widely used against a variety of solid neoplasms, including testicular, ovarian, colorectal, bladder, head and neck cancers and gastric cancer^[23]. However, the repeated clinical expose to cisplatin often results in the tumor cells evading the apoptosis program initiated by cisplatin. Therefore, there is a need to explore the molecular mechanisms of cisplatin resistance, in order to overcome drug resistance in tumor therapy. Recently, several studies have indicated that many proteins are involved in the recognition of Pt-DNA adducts and cisplatin-induced apoptosis program^[24,25]. In this study, we used microarray, GO, KEGG pathway and protein-protein interaction (PPI) analysis to explore the roles of differentially expressed mRNAs in cisplatin resistance and to support other studies.

Many genes which shown differential expression in the microarray analysis have been demonstrated to be associated with cisplatin resistance in human cancer

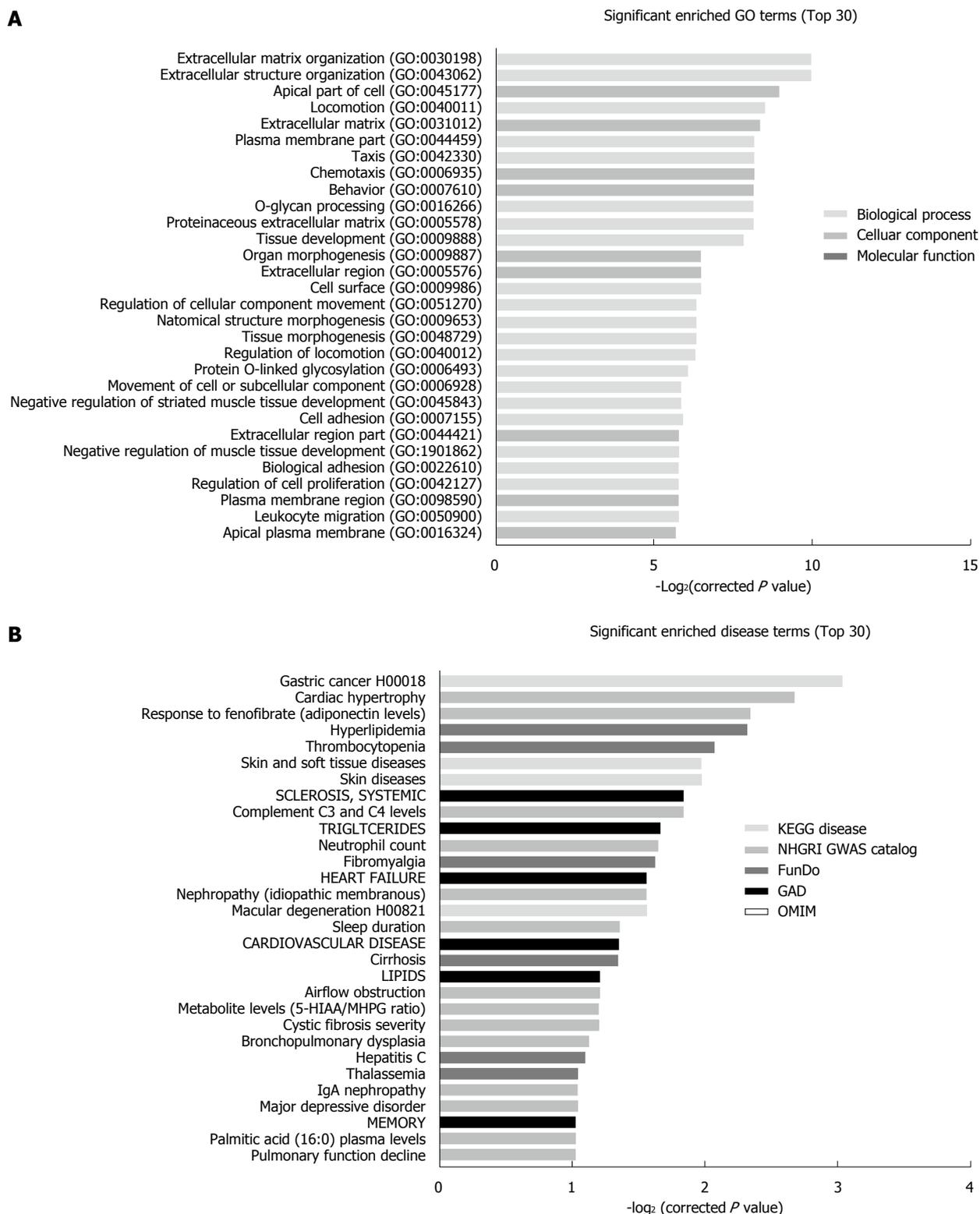


Figure 4 Bioinformatic analysis of differentially expressed mRNAs. Gene ontology analysis of mRNAs dysregulated in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells. A: Top 30 molecular functions of the dysregulated mRNAs may associated with. Gene ontology analysis include biological processes, cellular components and molecular function; B: Gene ontology enriched diseases. Top 30 diseases annotations of dysregulated mRNAs may involve in. The disease enrich system include 5 disease databases: OMIM, KEGG disease, FunDO, GAD and NHGRI GWAS Catalog.

(Table 4), such as *PDE3B*, which was substantially upregulated (P value = 0.00029, Fold Chang (FC) = 10.45) in SGC7901/DDP cells. Treatment with

a combination of a *PDE3B* inhibitor and DDP can significantly increase the number of apoptotic and cell growth-suppressive cancer cells in cisplatin resistant

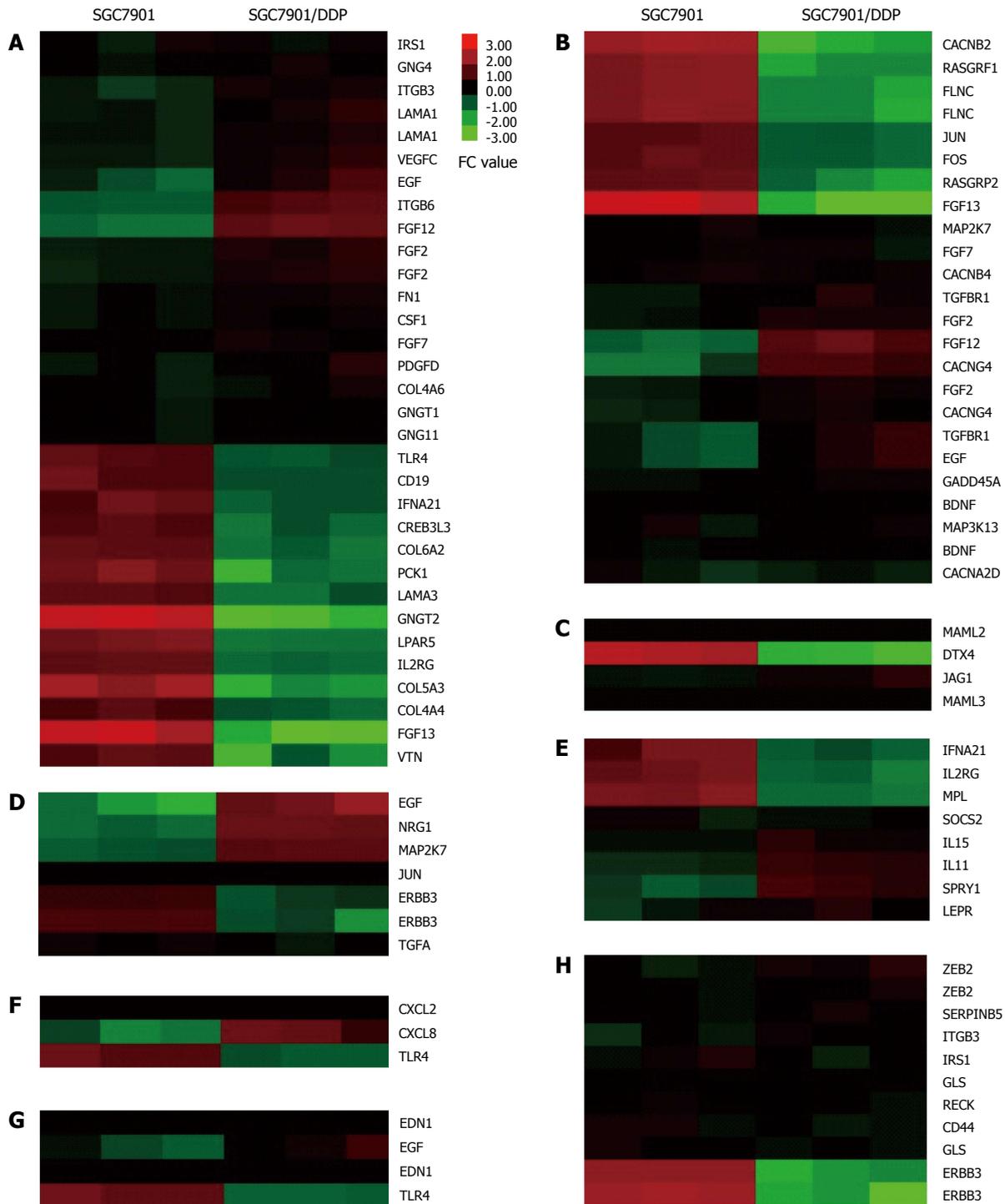


Figure 5 Heat-map of gene ontology enriched cisplatin resistance pathways and input mRNAs which significantly altered in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells. A: PI3K-Akt signaling pathway and input genes; B: MAPK signaling pathway and input genes; C: Notch signaling pathway and input genes; D: ErbB signaling pathway and input genes; E: Jak-STAT signaling pathway and input genes; F: NF-kappa B signaling pathway and input genes; G: HIF-1 signaling pathway and input genes; H: MicroRNAs in cancer and input genes. Each row represents an mRNA, and each column represents a sample. The intensity of the color indicates the relative levels of mRNAs. Red: Higher expression levels; green: Lower expression levels. The name of the input mRNAs which significantly altered ($P < 0.05$, $FC \geq 2$) is present at the right of the figure.

squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) and Hela cells^[26]. Research shows that *VEGFC*, which is upregulated in our data (P value = 0.00013 FC = 2.93), enhanced cell invasion and cisplatin resistance in gastric cancer^[27]. In non-small cell lung cancer, loss of *IGFBP-3* expression may activate the *PI3K/AKT* pathway and induce

resistance to cisplatin^[28]. In support of this association, our results showed that this mRNA is downregulated (P = 0.00007, FC = 2.93) in SGC7901/DDP cells.

GO enrichment analysis exhibits many functions which the differently expressed mRNAs are involved in, including locomotion, chemotaxis, cell adhesion,

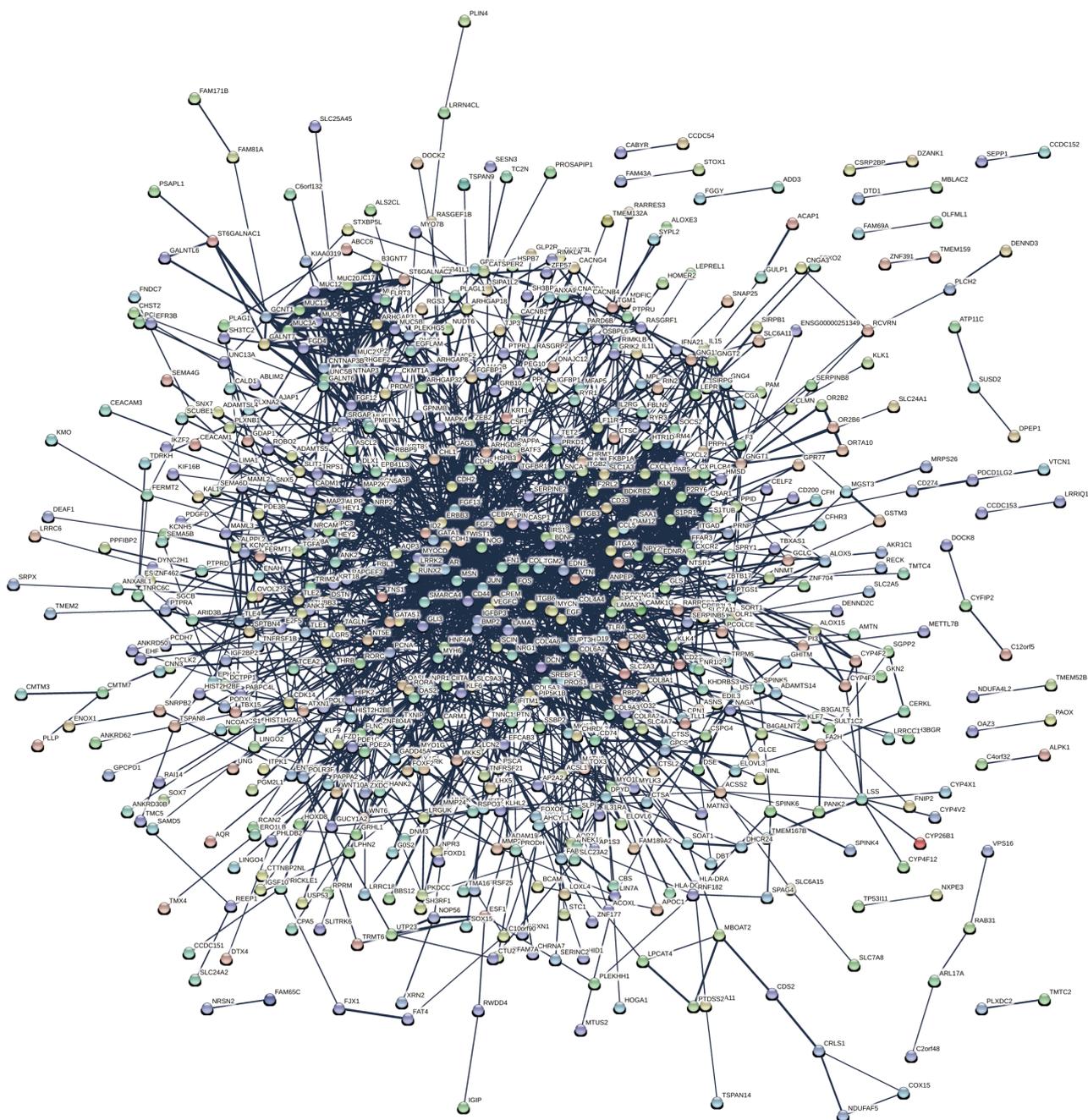


Figure 6 Interaction network analyses of differentially express proteins. In the network, nodes represents proteins, lines as functional associations between the abnormal expressed proteins and the thickness of the lines indicates the level of confidence in association reported.

regulation of cell migration, extracellular matrix disassembly, response to xenobiotic chemotaxis, localization of cell adhesion and blood vessel morphogenesis. Functional annotation showed that the differently expressed mRNAs mainly regulate cellular biological behaviors in the progress of regulation of transcription. How the underlying targets of each GO term are implicated in the cisplatin resistance needs further investigation in the future.

Our KEGG pathway analysis showed that the differently expressed mRNAs are enriched in pathways of *ECM-receptor interaction*, *PI3K-Akt*, *Rap1*, *MAPK*, *Notch1*, *ErbB*, *ABC transporters*, *Jak-STAT*, *NF-*

κB, *HIF-1* and *TGF-β*. All of those pathways have been confirmed to be involved in cisplatin resistance in different experiments described previously. For example, the inhibition of *PI3K-Akt* signaling pathway may increase the sensitivity of gastric cancer cells to cisplatin chemotherapy^[29]. Another study found that Janus kinase 2 (*JAK2*) signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (*STAT3*) signaling pathways were activated by overexpressed *AKT* in cisplatin resistant human gastric cancer cells^[30]. A study revealed that the canonical *NF-κB* signaling pathway was involved in APRIL-mediated cisplatin resistance in gastric cancer^[31]. Our data are consistent with these previous

Table 2 Different expressed mRNAs enriched by KOBAS

Term	Database	P value	Input gene symbols
Gastric cancer	KEGG DISEASE	0.0016	DCC, CD44, CDH1, VEGFC, EGF, TGFA
Skin diseases	KEGG DISEASE	0.0078	DSP, TGM1, CCL5, IL31RA, SPINK5, HLA, FERMT1, KRT14, CTSC, COL17A1, LAMA3, REEP1, RIN2, ALOXE3, ABCC6, WNT10A, FBLN5
Skin and soft tissue diseases	KEGG DISEASE	0.0078	DSP, TGM1, CCL5, IL31RA, SPINK5, HLA, FERMT1, KRT14, CTSC, COL17A1, LAMA3, REEP1, RIN2, ALOXE3, ABCC6, WNT10A, FBLN5
Macular degeneration	KEGG DISEASE	0.0140	C3, FBLN5, CFH, TLR4
Cancers of the digestive system	KEGG DISEASE	0.0439	DCC, CD44, CDH1, VEGFC, EGF, TGFA
Familial thoracic aortic aneurysm and dissection (TAAD)	KEGG DISEASE	0.0459	MYLK, TGFBR1
Hypomagnesemia	KEGG DISEASE	0.0459	TRPM6, EGF
Multiple epiphyseal dysplasia (MED)	KEGG DISEASE	0.0459	COL9A3, MATN3
Transient neonatal diabetes mellitus (TNDM)	KEGG DISEASE	0.0459	PLAGL1, ZFP57
Non-syndromic autosomal dominant mental retardation	KEGG DISEASE	0.0461	EPB41L1, DOCK8, PACS1, SMARCA4
Cardiac hypertrophy	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0028	PLXNA2, GRIK2, COL17A1, JAG1, SNAP25, BTBD3, SLX4IP
Response to fenofibrate (adiponectin levels)	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0046	OAS2, PMEPA1, SHANK2, SCUBE1, SLC30A4, PCK1
Complement C3 and C4 levels	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0094	HLA, CFHR3, CFH, C3
Neutrophil count	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0119	PLCB4, TGFA, FGGY, PDGFD, PSD3
Nephropathy (idiopathic membranous)	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0137	HLA, ITGB6, PLA2R1
Sleep duration	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0195	PLLP, TMC5, ADAMTS14
Airflow obstruction	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0259	HYKK, LEF1, SERPINB8, GPR126, MAP3K13, PTPRD
Cystic fibrosis severity	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0265	HLA, EHF, AHRR
Metabolite levels (5-HIAA/ MHPG Ratio)	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0265	PIEZO2, ROBO2, ADAM12
Bronchopulmonary dysplasia	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0296	PLXDC2, ZNF770, SPOCK1, TRPS1, RASGRF1, HIVEP3
Major depressive disorder	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0346	PCLO, SLC6A15, ENOX1, SYPL2, IGFBP1, IGFBP3, C12orf5, ATXN1, PIEZO2, TRPS1, RASGEF1B, FGF12, KCNH5
IgA nephropathy	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0346	HLA, ACOXL, TNFSF13
Pulmonary function decline	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0368	MUSK, CSMD1, RORA, FLRT2
Palmitic acid (16:0) plasma levels	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0368	SCD, CNN3, GRIK2, PTPRD
Male-pattern baldness	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0439	AUTS2, EDA2R, AR
Response to citalopram treatment	NHGRI GWAS Catalog	0.0439	LAMA1, RORA, EGFLAM
Hyperlipidemia	FunDO	0.0050	IRS1, CCL5, C3, PAPP, TXNIP, APOC1, F3, SCD
Thrombocytopenia	FunDO	0.0068	GATA1, CCL5, ITGB3, IL11, CXCL8, MPL
Fibromyalgia	FunDO	0.0126	MAOB, CXCL8, BDNF, IGFBP3
Cirrhosis	FunDO	0.0209	RBP4, KRT18, IGFBP3, KRT8, EGF, F3, FGF2IGFBP1
Hepatitis C	FunDO	0.0321	CD274, CCL5, RBP4, MKI67, CXCL8, KRT18, TLR4, KRT8, FGF2
Thalassemia	FunDO	0.0345	LCN2, CXCL8, ANK2, KIR3DL1, MUC1
Gingival overgrowth	FunDO	0.0417	EDN1, IL15, FGF7
Pulmonary fibrosis	FunDO	0.0474	CSF1, BDNF, MMP7, EDN1, CCL5, ERBB3
Ovary cancer	FunDO	0.0477	LCN2, IL15, CXCL8, FGF7, CASP1
Esophageal tumor	FunDO	0.0477	CD274, TSPAN8, FRAT1, PDCC1LG2, FGF7
Hyperlipidemia	GAD	0.0093	CCL5, HLA, CXCL8, CD22, TNFRSF1B, CD19
Thrombocytopenia	GAD	0.0114	CSMD1, DOCK4, GALNTL6, SOBP, PLXDC2, SESN3, ADAMTS5, EHF, TMC5, LPL, CD109, FAM117B, PDE1C, TAGLN, PTN, FGD4, DYNC2H1, GNG4, MUSK, FBLN5, CCDC54, TTC9, PMEPA1, TLR4, ANK3, EDA2R, APOC1, BMP2, TOX3, NRG1, ITPK1, PTPRD, KLF6, PAM, PTPRU, LEPR, IKZF2, LHX5, MCTP2, ANKRD50, SEMA6D, PLXNA2, DPYD, GRIK2, SRGAP3, ACOXL, TDRKH, FAM135B, VEGFC, CHST2
Fibromyalgia	GAD	0.0136	GLI3, CELF2, VWA3B, PLXDC2, EDNRA, EDN1, JUN, DOCK8, DCLK2, BTBD3, DCN, CD74, EGFLAM, TLL1, TLR4, BMP2, PTPRD, ANK2, PTPRU, JADE2, IGF2BP2, PAPP, DOCK2, KLK4, FAM49A, RGS3, AATK, FN1, IGSF10, NCOA7, SCIN, TNS1, FAM135B, MUC16, ADAM19, ATXN1, MTUS2, NXNL2, KCNQ3, ANPEP, CDH2
Cirrhosis	GAD	0.0204	IRS1, CCL5, ITGB3, NPR1, NPR3, APOC1, LPL
Hepatitis C	GAD	0.0258	DPYD, CELF4, CELF2, FAM117B, TDRKH, LPCAT4, FBLN5, SOBP, PMEPA1, CSMD1, STOX1, CACNB2, CADM1, VEGFC, SLC7A11, LPL, CD109, MCTP2, SLC24A2, PTPRD, ITPK1
Thalassemia	GAD	0.0362	MCTP2, PSD3, CCDC54, ROBO2, ELOVL6
Gingival overgrowth	GAD	0.0419	PLXNA2, ATXN1, IGF2BP2, ABCA13, FN1
Pulmonary fibrosis	GAD	0.0420	CREG2, GALNTL6, LINC01550, KIF16B, SH3BGR, TRPS1, PDE1C, NCKAP5, TNFRSF21, RYR3, MAGEC2, EDIL3, CXCL16, MCF2, DTD1, GPC5, KLF6, IKZF2, KCNH5, AJAP1, BTBD3, PHACTR2, ITPK1, IGSF10, SRGAP3, C12orf75, ABI3BP, FOS, SCUBE1

Ovary cancer	GAD	0.0426	CELFG4, TRPS1, TWIST1, PQLC2L, MAL2, PSD3, RCAN2, SUPT3H, TGFA, TMEM131L, HIVEP3, CSMD1, ROBO2, CCDC54, PRNP, APOC1, HRK, GPC5, AR, FN1, ABCA13, F2RL2, KLF6, IGF2BP2, LEPREL1, GNG4, SNAP25, MCTP2, FAM49A, ANKRD50, CACNA2D1, PLXNA2, ELOVL6, RUNX2, SCN8A, ATXN1, ID2, SLC24A2, CMTM7, LINGO2
Esophageal tumor	GAD	0.048	CACNA2D1, SLC46A3, CHST2, PKDCC, PPID, CDH2

Table 3 Cisplatin resistance pathway and input gene ($P < 0.05$, $FC \geq 2.0$)

Pathway	Input gene	Fold change	Regulation	Genomic coordinates	Cyto band	
PI3K-Akt signaling pathway	LAMA1	2.60826	Up	Chr18:6958512-6956742	hs 18p11.31	
	LAMA1	2.75269	Up	Chr18:6942035-6941976	hs 18p11.31	
	GNG4	2.09356	Up	Chr1:235714443-235714384	hs 1q42.3	
	ITGB3	2.96629	Up	Chr17:45389027-45389086	hs 17q21.32	
	ITGB6	7.72783	Up	Chr2:160964233-160958330	hs 2q24.2	
	VEGFC	2.92538	Up	Chr4:177604882-177604823	hs 4q34.3	
	PDGFD	2.42861	Up	Chr11:103778445-103778386	hs 11q22.3	
	IRS1	2.00967	Up	Chr2:227596677-227596618	hs 2q36.3	
	GNGT1	2.04779	Up	Chr7:93536149-93540155	hs 7q21.3	
	CSF1	2.25620	Up	Chr1:110466137-110466196	hs 1p13.3	
	EGF	4.76437	Up	Chr4:110932689-110932748	hs 4q25	
	FGF2	3.02437	Up	Chr4:123819331-123819390	hs 4q28.1	
	FGF2	2.99240	Up	Chr4:123819317-123819376	hs 4q28.1	
	FN1	2.31254	Up	Chr2:216288895-216288217	hs 2q35	
	COL4A6	2.08497	Up	ChrX:107399109-107399050	hs Xq22.3	
	FGF12	10.99211	Up	Chr3:191860574-191860515	hs 3q28	
	GNG11	2.01984	Up	Chr7:93555764-93555823	hs 7q21.3	
	FGF7	2.19252	Up	Chr15:49776810-49776869	hs 15q21.2	
	LAMA3	2.56116	Down	Chr18:21534735-21534794	hs 18q11.2	
	IFNA21	2.30808	Down	Chr9:21166331-21166272	hs 9p21.3	
	CREB3L3	2.40183	Down	Chr19:4172219-4172278	hs 19p13.3	
	TLR4	2.13271	Down	Chr9:120476856-120476915	hs 9q33.1	
	COL6A2	2.89458	Down	Chr21:47546086-47546145	hs 21q22.3	
	CD19	2.09302	Down	Chr16:28950600-28950659	hs 16p11.2	
	LPAR5	3.83177	Down	Chr12:6728794-6728735	hs 12p13.31	
	COL4A4	2.11177	Down	Chr2:227867523-227867464	hs 2q36.3	
	PCK1	4.49558	Down	Chr20:56141030-56141089	hs 20q13.31	
	VTN	3.82587	Down	Chr17:26694806-26694747	hs 17q11.2	
	GNGT2	16.48365	Down	Chr17:47284034-47283975	hs 17q21.32	
	IL2RG	2.87954	Down	ChrX:70328539-70328480	hs Xq13.1	
	COL5A3	7.53410	Down	Chr19:10070602-10070543	hs 19p13.2	
	FGF13	17.08866	Down	ChrX:137713947-137713888	hs Xq26.3	
	MAPK signaling pathway	FLNC	4.57879	Down	Chr7:128498538-128498597	hs 7q32.1
		FLNC	4.81302	Down	Chr7:128498476-128498535	hs 7q32.1
		CACNB2	7.83293	Down	Chr10:18787305-18787364	hs 10p12.31
		RASGRF1	4.87152	Down	Chr15:79254554-79254495	hs 15q25.1
		FOS	2.17501	Down	Chr14:75748214-75748273	hs 14q24.3
		JUN	2.04000	Down	Chr1:59246570-59246511	hs 1p32.1
		RASGRP2	3.10358	Down	Chr11:64508971-64508912	hs 11q13.1
		FGF13	17.08866	Down	ChrX:137713947-137713888	hs Xq26.3
TGFBR1		2.93035	Up	Chr9:101916322-101916381	hs 9q22.33	
TGFBR1		4.76437	Up	Chr4:110932689-110932748	hs 4q25	
EGF		4.76437	Up	Chr4:110932689-110932748	hs 4q25	
FGF12		10.99211	Up	Chr3:191860574-191860515	hs 3q28	
MAP3K13		2.25019	Up	Chr3:185161379-185165590	hs 3q27.2	
FGF2		3.02437	Up	Chr4:123819331-123819390	hs 4q28.1	
FGF2		2.99240	Up	Chr4:123819317-123819376	hs 4q28.1	
MAP2K7		2.08267	Up	Chr19:7979302-7979361	hs 19p13.2	
FGF7		2.19252	Up	Chr15:49776810-49776869	hs 15q21.2	
CACNG4		8.83585	Up	Chr17:65028139-65028198	hs 17q24.2	
CACNG4		2.94145	Up	Chr17:65029115-65029174	hs 17q24.2	
CACNB4		2.14311	Up	Chr2:152694239-152694180	hs 2q23.3	
GADD45A		2.56659	Up	Chr1:68153371-68153430	hs 1p31.3	
BDNF		2.32411	Up	Chr11:27679959-27679900	hs 11p14.1	
BDNF		2.30323	Up	Chr11:27677072-27677013	hs 11p14.1	
CACNA2D1	2.09452	Up	Chr7:81579504-81579445	hs 7q21.11		

Notch signaling pathway	<i>MAML2</i>	2.03379	Up	Chr11:95712434-95712375	hs 11q21
	<i>JAG1</i>	3.20086	Up	Chr20:10619120-10619061	hs 20p12.2
	<i>MAML3</i>	2.57919	Up	Chr4:140810806-140810747	hs 4q31.1
ErbB signaling pathway	<i>DTX4</i>	9.99859	Down	Chr11:58975615-58975674	hs 11q12.1
	<i>EGF</i>	4.76437	Up	Chr4:110932689-110932748	hs 4q25
	<i>NRG1</i>	2.77996	Up	Chr8:32474390-32585512	hs 8p12
	<i>MAP2K7</i>	2.08267	Up	Chr19:7979302-7979361	hs 19p13.2
	<i>JUN</i>	2.04000	Down	Chr1:59246570-59246511	hs 1p32.1
	<i>ERBB3</i>	5.29571	Down	Chr12:56482380-56482439	hs 12q13.2
	<i>ERBB3</i>	8.12050	Down	Chr12:56496160-56496219	hs 12q13.2
Jak-STAT signaling pathway	<i>TGFA</i>	2.37427	Down	Chr2:70675378-70675319	hs 2p13.3
	<i>IL11</i>	4.21849	Up	Chr19:55875847-55875788	hs 19q13.42
	<i>IL15</i>	2.92970	Up	Chr4:142654431-142654490	hs 4q31.21
	<i>SOCS2</i>	2.00180	Up	Chr12:93969799-93969858	hs 12q22
	<i>SPRY1</i>	5.95682	Up	Chr4:124324494-124324553	hs 4q28.1
	<i>LEPR</i>	2.90187	Up	Chr1:66102129-66102188	hs 1p31.3
	<i>IL2RG</i>	2.87954	Down	ChrX:70328539-70328480	hs Xq13.1
NF-kappaB signaling pathway	<i>MPL</i>	3.41581	Down	Chr1:43819826-43819885	hs 1p34.2
	<i>CXCL2</i>	2.03846	Up	Chr4:74963044-74962985	hs 4q13.3
	<i>CXCL8</i>	9.97781	Up	Chr4:74609265-74609324	hs 4q13.3
HIF-1 signaling pathway	<i>TLR4</i>	2.13271	Down	Chr9:120476856-120476915	hs 9q33.1
	<i>EDN1</i>	2.39081	Up	Chr6:12296672-12296731	hs 6p24.1
	<i>EDN1</i>	2.46437	Up	Chr6:12296218-12296277	hs 6p24.1
	<i>EGF</i>	4.76437	Up	Chr4:110932689-110932748	hs 4q25
MicroRNAs in cancer	<i>TLR4</i>	2.13271	Down	Chr9:120476856-120476915	hs 9q33.1
	<i>IRS1</i>	2.00967	Up	Chr2:227596677-227596618	hs 2q36.3
	<i>ZEB2</i>	3.32563	Up	Chr2:145146320-145146261	hs 2q22.3
	<i>ZEB2</i>	2.70558	Up	Chr2:145182422-145182363	hs 2q22.3
	<i>CD44</i>	2.02409	Up	Chr11:35253812-35253871	hs 11p13
	<i>RECK</i>	2.25018	Up	Chr9:36124319-36124378	hs 9p13.3
	<i>ITGB3</i>	2.96629	Up	Chr17:45389027-45389086	hs 17q21.32
	<i>SERPINB5</i>	2.61864	Up	Chr18:61172218-61172277	hs 18q21.33
	<i>GLS</i>	2.36144	Up	Chr2:191829716-191829775	hs 2q32.2
	<i>GLS</i>	2.07371	Up	Chr2:191827822-191827881	hs 2q32.2
<i>ERBB3</i>	5.29571	Down	Chr12:56482380-56482439	hs 12q13.2	
<i>ERBB3</i>	8.12050	Down	Chr12:56496160-56496219	hs 12q13.2	

Table 4 Dysregulated mRNAs ($P < 0.05$, $FC \geq 2.0$) associated with cisplatin resistance

Gene symbol	P value	FC (abs)	Regulation	Genename	Ref.
<i>FGF7</i>	0.00035	2.19252	Up	Fibroblast growth factor 7	PMID: 22990650
<i>HIPK2</i>	2.63E-06	4.06213	Up	Homeodomain interacting protein kinase 2	PMID: 24846322
<i>EDN1</i>	9.94E-05	2.46437	Up	Endothelin 1	PMID: 21220476
<i>CBS</i>	0.00108	2.29340	Up	Cystathionine-beta-synthase	PMID: 24236104
<i>PDE3B</i>	0.00029	10.44998	Up	Phosphodiesterase 3B, cgmp-inhibited	PMID: 24133626
<i>E2F5</i>	0.00041	2.42888	Up	E2F transcription factor 5, p130-binding	PMID: 22193543
<i>PIN1</i>	0.00104	2.13293	Up	Peptidylprolyl cis/trans isomerase, NIMA-interacting 1	PMID: 26820938
<i>EGF</i>	0.00346	4.76437	Up	Epidermal growth factor	PMID: 27086487
<i>CSF1</i>	0.00025	2.25620	Up	Colony stimulating factor 1 (macrophage)	PMID: 22005523
<i>PCNA</i>	0.00103	2.17028	Up	Proliferating cell nuclear antigen	PMID: 24474685
<i>HIPK2</i>	2.63E-06	4.06213	Up	Homeodomain interacting protein kinase 2	PMID: 24846322
<i>ENTPD6</i>	0.00011	2.43726	Up	Ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 6 (putative)	PMID: 21519793
<i>AKR1C1</i>	0.00097	2.29646	Up	Aldo-keto reductase family 1, member C1	PMID: 23165153, PMID: 17266043
<i>ASNS</i>	0.00172	2.19491	Up	Asparagine synthetase (glutamine-hydrolyzing)	PMID: 23956056, PMID: 17409444
<i>BDNF</i>	0.00062	2.32411	Up	Brain-derived neurotrophic factor	PMID: 22276165, PMID: 17044982
<i>CABYR</i>	0.01089	2.55664	Up	Calcium binding tyrosine-(Y)-phosphorylation regulated	PMID: 24362251
<i>FGF2</i>	2.15E-06	2.99240	Up	Fibroblast growth factor 2 (basic)	PMID: 12894531
<i>SLC7A11</i>	1.95E-05	2.93256	Up	Solute carrier family 7 member 11	PMID: 24516043
<i>TUBB3</i>	0.00046	2.00213	Up	Tubulin, beta 3 class III	PMID: 25107571
<i>TWIST1</i>	0.00180	2.96340	Up	Twist family bhlh transcription factor 1	PMID: 22673193, PMID: 22245869
<i>JAG1</i>	9.41E-05	3.20086	Up	Jagged 1	PMID: 24659709
<i>ANXA11</i>	0.00031	2.36619	Down	Annexin A11	PMID: 19484149, PMID: 17982121

<i>CCL5</i>	2.67E-05	5.05630	Down	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 5	PMID: 26983899
<i>FGF13</i>	0.00044	17.08866	Down	Fibroblast growth factor 13	PMID: 24113164
<i>IGFBP3</i>	7.48E-05	2.92508	Down	Insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3	PMID: 20023704
<i>KLK6</i>	0.00066	2.24596	Down	Kallikrein-related peptidase 6	PMID: 23307575
<i>SLC7A8</i>	4.50E-05	5.36735	Down	Solute carrier family 7 member 8	PMID: 23462296
<i>TGM2</i>	2.88E-05	6.24520	Down	Transglutaminase 2	PMID: 21424127, PMID: 24828664
<i>TLR4</i>	0.00114	2.13271	Down	Toll-like receptor 4	PMID: 21616060, PMID: 22583829
<i>XAF1</i>	0.02405	3.20613	Down	XIAP associated factor 1	PMID: 25824780, PMID: 25240826
<i>TCEA2</i>	0.00061	3.65969	Down	Transcription elongation factor A (SII), 2	PMID: 16142353

studies, and these pathways and input genes deserve our attention in gastric cancer cisplatin resistance.

Although protein expression is generally stable when organs mature, under various pathological and physiological conditions, gene expression may change and ultimately result in aberrant protein levels. Therefore, research on proteomics is helpful to illustrate some biological mechanisms, including cisplatin resistance. Protein-protein interaction network analysis might uncover previously unknown molecular mechanisms of cisplatin resistance. Hub proteins of subnetworks which interact with many partners might associate with drug resistance. For example, studies have shown that dysregulation of the genes *PDE3B*, *TLR4*, and *HIPK2* is associated with cisplatin resistance in human SCC cells, ovarian granulosa tumor cells and bladder cancer cells, respectively^[26,32,33]. Moreover, hub proteins and their partners may have similar biological functions. Since downregulation of EGF has been shown to substantially overcome resistance to cisplatin in ovarian cancer^[34], we predict that the proteins EDN1 and DCN, whose hub protein is EGF, may contribute to cisplatin resistance in a similar fashion. We also found that ZEB2, which over-expressed in SGC7901/DDP compared with SGC7901 has a similar expression profile to TWIST1, suggesting that ZEB2 may play an important role in cisplatin resistance by regulating the expression of TWIST1. Nevertheless, more evidence and research is needed.

In conclusion, our study identified mRNAs differentially expressed between gastric cancer cell lines SGC7901/DDP and SGC7901. These results provide a global view of the function of the differentially expressed mRNAs. Several molecular and pathway abnormalities detected in our study have previously been reported to be associated with drug resistance in gastric cancer. The dysregulated mRNAs identified participate in cisplatin resistance through diverse mechanisms, and further investigation is required to confirm the role in drug resistance of these transcripts, pathways and the interaction networks of the proteins they code for.

COMMENTS

Background

Cisplatin-contained chemotherapy is one of the most frequently used for

advanced gastric cancer; however, this chemotherapeutic agent is often limited due to drug resistance and result unsatisfactory prognosis. Research increasingly suggests that abnormal expression of biological pathway and proteins associated with cisplatin resistance. This demonstrated that more bioinformatics study is needed to predict targets for gastric cancer with cisplatin.

Research frontiers

Bioinformatics analysis demonstrated that some mRNAs which related to the biological behavior abnormal expression in SGC7901/DDP cells. These mRNAs have already been shown to play important roles in the process of cisplatin resistance of various cancers, including gastric cancer.

Innovations and breakthroughs

The authors performed bioinformatics analysis of mRNA expression profile in SGC7901/DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells, and found that many mRNAs and pathways in SGC7901/DDP cells expressed abnormally, these may participate in and predict cisplatin resistance in gastric cancer.

Applications

These results suggest that targeting the differently expression mRNA may provide more selective approaches to reverse cisplatin resistance of therapeutic targets.

Terminology

The definition of cisplatin resistance: in the clinic, if a patient who have disease recurrence within the first months after the recent cisplatin dose, the patient is considered cisplatin resistance; in cells, generally, resistance index > 20 exhibited high resistance, resistance index 5-15 is moderate resistance, resistance index < 5 represent low or no resistance. Correct *P*: Using Benjamini Hochberg FDR method for correction of *p* values. Fold change (FC): gene expression in SGC7901 / DDP cells compared with SGC7901 cells.

Peer-review

The paper is a good study on mRNAs expression profile in SGC7901/DDP cells. The investigators shown that many mRNAs was abnormal expressed in SGC7901/DDP cells and these mRNAs enriched in many biological process which have already been shown to play important roles in the process of cisplatin resistance in human cancer.

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