

# RNA结合基序蛋白20相关心肌病的研究进展\*

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**[摘要]** 扩张型心肌病(DCM)是临床常见的原发性心肌病之一,是造成心脏性猝死的重要原因,至今已报道51个相关致病基因。不同基因导致的DCM亚型具有特异性临床特征与遗传异质性。其中RNA结合基序蛋白20(RNA-binding motif protein 20,RBM20)编码心肌特异性mRNA剪接调节因子,是DCM明确致病基因之一。RBM20基因相关DCM具有遗传外显率高、发病年龄早、心脏猝死率高等严重临床表现。其独特的致病分子机制也显示出其作为心力衰竭潜在治疗靶点的可能性。本文将对RBM20相关DCM的发病机理、分子遗传学、临床特征与治疗进行进述,对于DCM亚型的研究强调了基因检测在心血管精准医疗中的重要性。

**[关键词]** 扩张型心肌病;RNA结合基序蛋白20;RNA结合蛋白;基因检测

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## The progress of RBM20 related cardiomyopathy

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**Abstract** Dilated cardiomyopathy(DCM) is one of the common inherited cardiomyopathies and an important cause of sudden cardiac death. Up to date, 51 DCM-related genes have been reported. Different gene-related DCM subtypes have specific clinical characteristics and genetic heterogeneity. Among them, the gene of RNA-binding motif protein 20(RBM20) encodes myocardium specific mRNA splicing regulator, which is one of the definitive pathogenic genes of DCM. RBM20-related DCM presents severe clinical manifestations such as high genetic penetrance, early onset age and high rate of sudden cardiac death. The unique pathogenic molecular mechanism of

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RBM20 also implies its potential as a therapeutic target for heart failure. This review will conclude the pathogenesis, pathology, molecular genetics, clinical features, and treatment of RBM20-associated dilated cardiomyopathy.

The research on DCM subtype emphasizes the importance of genetic testing in cardiovascular precision medicine.

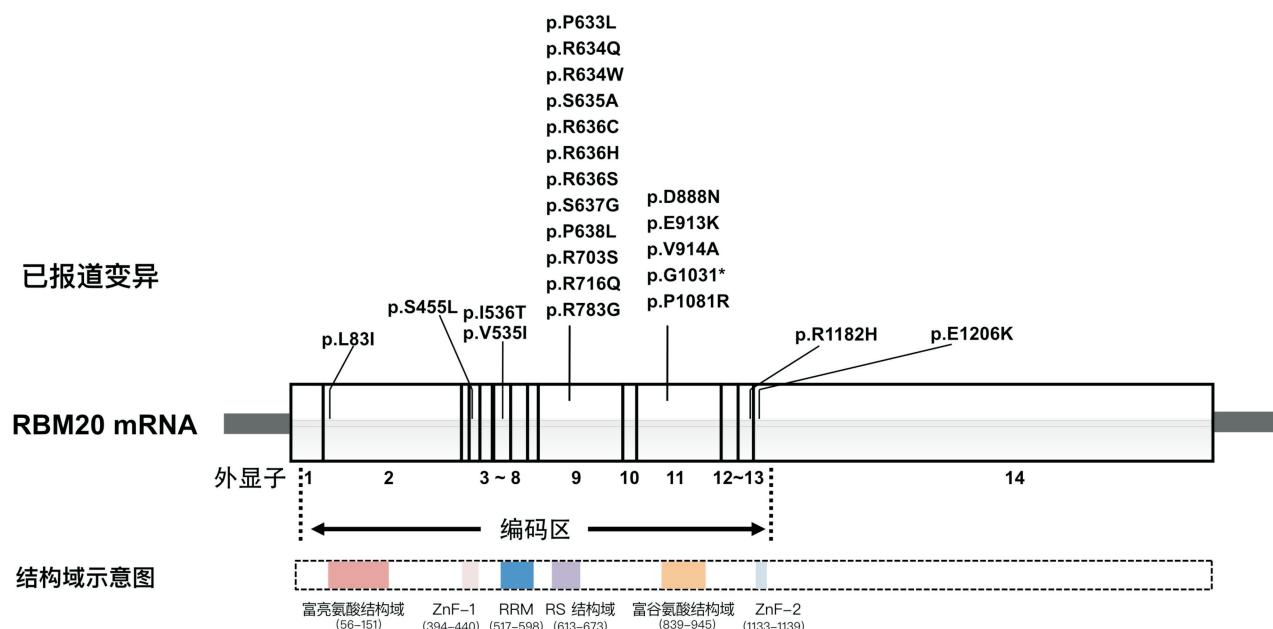
**Key words** dilated cardiomyopathy; RNA-binding motif protein 20; RNA-binding protein; genetic testing

扩张型心肌病(dilated cardiomyopathy, DCM)是临幊上常见的原发性心肌病之一,30%~50%与家族遗传相关,是导致青年发生心脏性猝死(sudden cardiac death, SCD)的重要原因之一<sup>[1]</sup>。DCM至今已报道51个致病基因,其中有明确遗传学致病证据的有14个,临床指南推荐对诊断DCM患者与家庭进行基因筛查,可以在疾病诊断、预后判断与个体化治疗中使患者获益<sup>[2]</sup>。不同致病基因导致的DCM亚型也具有特异性的临床特征与发病机制。RNA结合基序蛋白20(RNA-binding motif protein 20, RBM20)是DCM明确致病的非肌小节基因之一,其致病变异可解释约6%的遗传性DCM病例<sup>[3]</sup>。2009年,自首例RBM20基因相关DCM报道以来,因其遗传高外显率以及心力衰竭(心衰)、心律失常和SCD的高发生率的特征表现而不断受到重视<sup>[4]</sup>。本文将对RBM20相关DCM(RBM20-DCM)的发病机理、病理学、分子遗传学、临幊特征与治疗进行综述。

## 1 RBM20在心肌中的作用与DCM致病机制

RBM20蛋白是一种主要定位于细胞核中的mRNA反式剪接因子,在横纹肌中呈广泛表达,以心肌组织为主。RBM20主要功能是调节靶基因的

转录后mRNA的可变剪接,其靶基因涉及多个心肌小节相关结构蛋白,在心肌细胞中参与了肌小节组装、离子通道功能及钙离子稳态的调控。RBM20结构包含RNA识别基序结构域(RNA-recognition Motif, RRM)、富含丝氨酸和精氨酸的区域(RS结构域)、富含谷氨酸的区域、富含亮氨酸的区域及两个锌指结构域<sup>[3,5]</sup>(图1)。其中RS结构域通过与其他剪接因子相互作用参与调节RNA剪接体的结合与组装,在信使RNA前体(pre-mRNA)剪接和可变剪接调控中起关键作用<sup>[6]</sup>。此外,RS结构域也被认为是细胞核定位的关键信号区域,受到其中丝氨酸残基磷酸化的调节,当磷酸化氨基酸被突变,则导致RBM20定位失调,剪接功能异常<sup>[3]</sup>。RRM结构域的主要功能是识别可变剪接外显子两侧内含子中RNA核心识别元件UC-UU,并参与RBM20的细胞核定位与RNA剪接功能。除了上述两个关键结构域,保守的富谷氨酸的区域与锌指结构域也参与了维持RNA剪接活性<sup>[3,7-9]</sup>,表明RBM20是一个各结构域有不同分工又相互协作的RNA结合蛋白,其与剪接位点附近以及U1和U2小核糖核蛋白(snRNP)结合位点附近的内含子结合以调节剪接。



RBM20基因mRNA示意图,共包含14个外显子,并标注了已报道变异。RBM20蛋白结构域。大部分错义突变主要位于RS结构域(富含丝氨酸和精氨酸结构域)、富谷氨酸结构域和RRM(RNA识别基序)结构域,少数位于富亮氨酸结构域及锌指结构(ZnF)。

图1 RBM20基因与蛋白的结构示意图  
Figure 1 Structure diagram of RBM20 gene and protein

近年研究发现超过30个RBM20调控靶基因,大多数属于肌小节结构基因,如肌联蛋白基因( *TTN* )、LIM结构域结合蛋白3基因( *LDB3* )、心肌肌钙蛋白T基因( *TNNI2* )、肌球蛋白重链7基因( *MYH7* ),与心肌钙离子稳态相关基因,如兰尼碱受体2基因( *RYR2* )、Ca<sup>2+</sup>/钙调蛋白依赖性蛋白激酶Ⅱδ基因( *CaMK2D* )、钠钙交换体基因( *NCX* )、L型钙通道α亚单位基因( *CACNA1C* )等<sup>[10-12]</sup>。其中,研究最早也较为深入的靶基因是 *TTN*(编码titin蛋白)<sup>[13]</sup>。RBM20通过抑制 *TTN*前体mRNA中大量外显子的剪接,抑制侧翼内含子的移除,从而介导 *TTN*mRNA中PEVK(富含脯氨酸、谷氨酸、缬氨酸及赖氨酸)区域的外显子跳跃,导致心肌细胞产生titin蛋白多种亚型表达失衡,包括分子量较小的N2B和较大的N2BA亚型。当N2B数量减少时,N2BA增加,并产生超大亚型N2BA-G。这一改变可导致肌小节被动张力降低,肌节长度增大,心肌细胞硬度下降,全心顺应性增加并改变心脏负荷,最终导致心室病理性扩张<sup>[9,14-15]</sup>,并损伤心肌Frank-Starling机制引起心肌收缩障碍<sup>[9,12-13]</sup>。最近研究显示,N2BA与N2B比例对心肌细胞硬度有显著影响。不同的titin亚型比例失衡可导致心肌病的发生<sup>[16]</sup>。此外, *RYR2*的异常剪接与室性心律失常发生相关<sup>[17]</sup>。*LDB3*和*CACNA1C*的亚型的转换分别与DCM或心律失常有关。因此,RBM20通过调节心肌细胞生物力学、钙离子稳态以及钙相关细胞信号转导等多个方面在心脏生理与病理生理中发挥重要作用。

## 2 RBM20的分子遗传学

RBM20-DCM为常染色体显性遗传<sup>[18]</sup>,致病变异以错义突变及无义突变为主。至今已报道23个RBM20-DCM相关的罕见变异(表1)。已报道的RBM20罕见变异中大部分分布在外显子9与11中(图1)。依据美国医学遗传学与基因组学学院(American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, ACMG)2015变异解读指南<sup>[19]</sup>,并依据ACMG贝叶斯计算方法<sup>[20]</sup>对变异进行评分,对23个已报道变异进行分类,其中致病性变异7个,可能致病变异3个,致病意义不明变异10个,良性变异2个,可能良性变异1个。我们发现可能致病性变异或致病性变异(评分高于5分)主要分布在外显子9编码的RS结构域,该区域在进化中高度保守,是RBM20致病变异热点区域。此区域变异占已知变异数量的52.17%,位于该外显子的变异会导致RBM20的RNA剪接功能失活<sup>[21-23]</sup>。外显子11编码的富谷氨酸区域中的致病变异据报道能够影响RBM20的RNA剪接功能并与DCM相

关<sup>[9,18]</sup>。虽尚未确定RRM结构域的变异与人类RBM20-DCM的关联,但有基础研究发现缺失外显子6、7将影响RBM20对CAMK2D及LDB3等靶基因的替代剪接功能<sup>[24]</sup>,进一步破坏蛋白的稳定性,导致靶蛋白功能丧失<sup>[18,21,23]</sup>。

大部分已报道变异以杂合子状态致病,符合RBM20-DCM的常染色体遗传方式。但无义变异RBM20-p.G1031\*较为特殊,它位于RBM20蛋白第2个锌指结构域。在已报道家系中,RBM20-p.G1031\*以纯合子状态致病导致DCM表型,先证者母亲为该变异的杂合子无症状携带者<sup>[3,25]</sup>,致病机制有待进一步探索。多数临床相关致病变异被证明是功能丧失性(loss-of-function),但近期的一项基于RBM20-R636S变异敲入猪的研究表明,RBM20-DCM也可能由功能获得性(gain-of-function)变异引起,介导心肌细胞内RBM20核糖核蛋白(ribonucleoprotein, RNP)颗粒形成异常并在细胞内累积导致心肌结构改变与功能不全<sup>[26]</sup>。有最新研究显示,RBM20-S639G变异敲入小鼠模型发现此突变导致RNP颗粒形成而产生严重的心衰和早期死亡<sup>[27]</sup>。

## 3 RBM20-DCM的临床表现、病理学特点及基因-表型关联

RBM20-DCM患者的发病年龄是40~50岁,主要临床表现是心衰或心律失常。除DCM外,RBM20致病变异患者也可偶见左心室心肌致密化不全或心室肥厚表现<sup>[14,28]</sup>。男性比女性表现出相对更加严重的表型,包括更早的发病年龄与更高的恶性心脏事件发生率(包括心衰、恶性心律失常、SCD)<sup>[8]</sup>。最新研究显示,1个33例RBM20-DCM队列中发现患者在疾病严重程度方面没有性别差异。此外,在德国和荷兰的RBM20-DCM队列中男性患者并未表现出更差的心功能<sup>[29]</sup>。未来可能需要建立更大样本量的RBM20-DCM患者队列来验证其表型的性别差异。与其他DCM亚型相比,RBM20-DCM有较高遗传外显率(60%~70%)<sup>[10,23]</sup>。

RBM20-DCM相关心肌组织病理主要表现为细胞肥大、空泡变性与组织纤维化。1例RBM20相关心肌病患者的心内膜活检显示其心肌细胞肥大,细胞核大伴胞质空泡变性<sup>[30]</sup>。另1例携带RBM20-I536T杂合变异的DCM患者,其组织病理学检查提示心肌细胞结构紊乱和轻度纤维化<sup>[31]</sup>。此外,携带RBM20基因变异的小鼠表现出心腔扩大、心室壁变薄与心脏纤维化<sup>[32]</sup>;有趣的是,心肌纤维化以心内膜纤维化表现为主,纤维化的程度与小鼠的年龄呈正相关<sup>[13]</sup>。因此,心内膜心肌活检与组织病理学检查并不具有疾病的特异性,病因诊断以分子诊断为主。

表 1 已报道的 DCM 相关 RBM20 变异  
Table 1 Reported RBM20 variants associated DCM

序号	转录本	cDNA 改变	氨基酸改变	外显子	蛋白功能域	ACMG 变异解读	ACMG 评分	参考 文献
1	NM_001134363.1	c. 247C>A	p. L83I	2	富亮氨酸结构域	致病意义不明变异	2	[25]
2	NM_001134363.1	c. 1364C>T	p. S455L	4	—	良性变异	-8	[25]
3	NM_001134363.3	c. 1603G>A	p. V535I	6	RRM	致病意义不明变异	0	[13,21]
4	NM_001134363.3	c. 1607T>C	p. I536T	6	RRM	致病意义不明变异	2	[31]
5	NM_001134363.3	c. 1898C>T	p. P633L	9	RS 结构域	致病意义不明变异	2	[45-46]
6	NM_001134363.1	c. 1901G>A	p. R634Q	9	RS 结构域	致病变异	13	[4,8,21,47]
7	NM_001134363.3	c. 1900C>T	p. R634W	9	RS 结构域	致病变异	14	[3,48-50]
8	NM_001134363.3	c. 1903T>G	p. S635A	9	RS 结构域	可能致病变异	8	[13]
9	NM_001134363.3	c. 1906C>T	p. R636C	9	RS 结构域	可能致病变异	8	[21,51]
10	NM_001134363.3	c. 1907G>A	p. R636H	9	RS 结构域	致病变异	12	[4,21,51-53]
11	NM_001134363.1	c. 1906C>A	p. R636S	9	RS 结构域	致病变异	15	[4,13,54]
12	NM_001134363.1	c. 1909A>G	p. S637G	9	RS 结构域	可能致病变异	8	[4,55-56]
13	NM_001134363.3	c. 1913C>T	p. P638L	9	RS 结构域	致病变异	14	[4,8,57-60]
14	NM_001134363.1	c. 2109G>T	p. R703S	9	—	致病意义不明变异	1	[25]
15	NM_001134363.3	c. 2147G>A	p. R716Q	9	—	致病意义不明变异	1	[21,53,59,61]
16	NM_001134363.3	c. 2347A>G	p. R783G	9	—	致病意义不明变异	1	[17]
17	NM_001134363.1	c. 2662G>A	p. D888N	11	富谷氨酸结构域	良性变异	-8	[25,53]
18	NM_001134363.3	c. 2737G>A	p. E913K	11	富谷氨酸结构域	致病变异	10	[8,47,57,62]
19	NM_001134363.3	c. 2741T>C	p. V914A	11	富谷氨酸结构域	致病意义不明变异	2	[18]
20	NM_001134363.1	c. 3091G>T	p. G1031 *	11	—	致病变异	10	[3,25]
21	NM_001134363.1	c. 3242C>G	p. P1081R	11	—	致病意义不明变异	0	[25]
22	NM_001134363.1	c. 3545G>A	p. R1182H	13	ZnF-2	可能良性变异	-4	[25]
23	NM_001134363.1	c. 3616G>A	p. E1206K	14	ZnF-2	致病意义不明变异	0	[25]

RRM: RNA 识别基序结构域; RS 结构域: 富含丝氨酸和精氨酸结构域; ZnF-2: 第 2 个锌指结构域。

RBM20-DCM 的心衰和恶性心律失常表现较其他 DCM 亚型更加突出。RBM20-DCM 的心衰出现时间明显早于其他 DCM 亚型<sup>[4]</sup>。与一般 DCM 及 TTN 心肌病相比, RBM20-DCM 有较高的持续性心律失常的发生率, 其风险与核纤层蛋白(LMNA)基因型相仿<sup>[23]</sup>。在一项小样本的心肌病病例对照研究中显示, 在相同左心室收缩功能的前提下, 携带 RBM20 变异的患者中有 44% 出现持续性室性心律失常(室性心动过速或心室颤动), 而携带 TTN 变异的患者中仅有 5% 出现持续性室性心律失常<sup>[10]</sup>。SCD 可能是 RBM20-DCM 的首发临床表现, 部分患者仅通过尸检才明确分子诊断<sup>[8]</sup>。超过 50% 的 RBM20-DCM 患者有 SCD 家族史, 显著高于 TTN 相关心肌病(15%)<sup>[10,23]</sup>。部分患者在左心室功能障碍出现前先表现出心脏骤停事件<sup>[23]</sup>。除了恶性心律失常, RBM20-DCM 患者非持续性室性心律失常与心房颤动发生率分别为 36% 与 17%<sup>[10,23]</sup>。此外, 在携带 RBM20 变异的 DCM 中, 30% 可出现心肌传导系统障碍(如窦房结功能障碍、房室传导阻滞、束支阻滞等)<sup>[28]</sup>。在基因型-表型关联方面, 在 RBM20 外显子 9 与外显子

11 上的致病变异较其他位置的变异表现出较高的心肌病、恶性心律失常与 SCD 的发生风险, 但尚缺乏统计学意义<sup>[23]</sup>。未来可能需要建立更大样本量的 RBM20-DCM 患者队列, 为基因型-表型关联提供相关研究数据。

#### 4 RBM20-DCM 的治疗

现阶段暂无 RBM20-DCM 特异性的治疗手段, 其治疗原则主要有控制心衰、预防心脏猝死与心脏移植。对于射血分数降低型心衰(Heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, HFrEF),  $\beta$  受体阻滞剂、肾素-血管紧张素-醛固酮系统抑制剂[血管紧张素转换酶抑制剂(ACEI), 血管紧张素受体抑制剂(ARB)或血管紧张素受体-脑啡肽酶抑制剂(ARNI)]与醛固酮受体拮抗剂仍然是治疗的基石, 可有效降低心衰患者的患病率和病死率, 受到最新心衰指南的推荐<sup>[33-35]</sup>。对于家族性 DCM, 建议应用心肌能量代谢药物(如辅酶 Q<sub>10</sub>)辅助治疗<sup>[35]</sup>。对于射血分数保留型心衰(Heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, HFpEF), 主要针对合并症进行治疗以改善症状与预后, 使用钠-葡萄糖协同转运蛋白 2 抑制剂(SGLT2i)可能使患者获

益<sup>[33,36]</sup>。对于应用ACEI/ARB/ARNI、β受体阻滞剂、醛固酮受体拮抗剂与利尿剂,仍持续有症状的HFpEF患者,使用地高辛可改善心衰患者的症状和运动耐量。此外有研究表明使用维拉帕米减少细胞钙超载,对RBM20-DCM的心衰治疗可能有良好效果<sup>[10]</sup>。对于心衰进展期或晚期患者通常需要心脏移植或左心室辅助装置<sup>[1,4,8,21,23,28]</sup>。因RBM20-DCM心律失常发生率较高,超过60%的患者需要ICD植入<sup>[1]</sup>。对RBM20-DCM患者植入ICD指征与LMNA相关致心律失常心肌病具有相同的依据<sup>[7]</sup>。鉴于RBM20基因突变主要影响心肌,无骨骼肌病表现<sup>[13]</sup>,因此晚期心脏移植较为推荐。一项荟萃分析表明在RBM20-DCM患者中,12%的患者因终末期心衰接受心脏移植,手术的平均年龄为28岁<sup>[28]</sup>。

HFpEF的主要原因是心室充盈受损,与细胞外基质与titin表达异常相关,但目前临床尚无有效治疗方法<sup>[37]</sup>。有研究观察到在心脏组织中下调RBM20,能够通过调节titin的表达增加心肌细胞顺应性,从而改善HFpEF<sup>[38-40]</sup>。RBM20修饰titin亚型N2BA与N2B比例是减轻心肌细胞硬度的潜在靶点,为治疗心肌细胞顺应性受损的心脏病,特别是HFpEF提供了新的策略<sup>[16]</sup>。最近Radke等<sup>[41]</sup>通过筛选出特异性靶向RBM20的反义寡核苷酸(antisense oligonucleotides, ASO),通过抑制RBM20表达,改变了titin不同剪接变异体的含量,提高了心肌的顺应性,改善了心室充盈和心脏容积。该ASO在小鼠心脏组织与人工类心脏组织中得到了进一步的验证与应用,为RBM20作为HFpEF的一种潜在的治疗靶点提供了思路与科学证据。

诱导性多能干细胞(induced pluripotent stem cell, iPSC)诱导分化的心肌细胞(iPSC-CM)为RBM20-DCM疾病模型的构建提供了一个有效工具,基于CRISPR/Cas9的基因编辑技术也已经显示了遗传疾病基因治疗的前景与潜力。已有研究报道成功构建RBM20-R634W变异阳性患者来源的iPSC-CM,并利用CRISPR/Cas9基因编辑技术将RBM20-R634W修正为野生型<sup>[42]</sup>。最新研究显示,Nishiyama等<sup>[43]</sup>使用腺嘌呤碱基编辑和引物编辑纠正iPSC-CM中致病性变异RBM20-R634Q,使其基因的选择性剪接正常化,恢复了RBM20的核定位,并阻止RNP颗粒的形成。此外iPSC-CM与基因编辑动物作为研究工具在RBM20心肌病的分子机制探索中发挥着重要作用<sup>[26,44]</sup>。未来仍需要更多的基础研究为RBM20心肌病基因治疗提供科学依据。

综上所述,RBM20基因导致的DCM具有遗传外显率高、发病年龄早、心脏猝死率高等严重表

现。及时明确患者诊断,进行家系遗传筛查识别潜在的致病变异携带者,早期预警并采取合适的干预措施将使相关患者明显获益。RBM20相关DCM从基础到临床的认知,表明基于基因检测的家系筛查、危险分层、个体化治疗是心血管精准医学未来的发展方向之一。随着基础与临床研究的深入,更加明确的基因型-表型关联将被揭示,制定出更加精准的心肌病临床决策,使该类疾病患病群体获益。

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