

Autophagy는 상피-중간엽 이행을 통해 신섬유화를 조절한다

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Autophagy Deficiency in Tubular Epithelial Cells Deteriorate Renal Fibrosis Through Epithelial-mesenchymal Transition

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Aim: Epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is a process by which injured renal tubular epithelial cell undergo a phenotypic conversion into mesenchymal cell and an important pathway to generation fibroblast in renal fibrosis. Autophagy is a cellular process of degradation of damaged cytoplasmic components and regulates cell death or proliferation. It is unclear whether autophagy plays a role in TGF- β induced tubular EMT. In this study, we investigated the role of autophagy in TGF- β induced tubular EMT and renal fibrosis induced by UUO by using conditional knockout mice in which autophagy gene 7 (Atg7) is genetically ablated specifically in tubular epithelial cell.

Methods: Atg7-floxed mice were crossed with Ksp-Cre mice to generate tubular-epithelial cell-specific Atg7 knockout mice (Atg7flox/flox;Ksp-Cre+). Unilateral ureteral obstruction (UUO) was performed and mice were sacrificed 3, 7 and 14 days after UUO.

Results: In vitro, TGF- β treatment in HK2 cell induced autophagy in dose-dependent and time-dependent manner. In vivo, after UUO, tubular cell apoptosis and renal fibrosis were markedly more induced in Atg7flox/flox;Ksp-Cre+ than in wild-type mice. The expression of TGF- β was more increased in Atg7flox/flox;Ksp-Cre+ than in wild-type mice. The expression of E-cadherin was more decreased and the expression of α -smooth muscle antibody and vimentin were more increased in Atg7flox/flox;Ksp-Cre+ than in wild-type mice.

Conclusions: Our data demonstrate that autophagy regulates apoptosis of tubular epithelial cells and renal fibrosis through TGF- β induced EMT.

Key Words: 자가포식작용, 섬유화, 상피-중배엽세포 전이
Autophagy, Fibrosis, Epithelial-mesenchymal transition