晚期肺腺癌瘤内趋化因子 CCR1、CXCR6 和 CXCL9 对免疫治疗的预测及预后作用分析

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「摘要] 目的 构建能够预测晚期肺腺癌(lung adenocarcinoma, LUAD)患者免疫检查点阻断(immune checkpoint blockade, ICB)治疗疗效与预后的趋化因子模型。方法 从既往研究数据中回顾性收集确诊为晚期 LUAD 且经过 ICB 治疗的 42 例患者(训练队列),取得其 ICB 治疗前肿瘤组织转录组测序数据,通过生物信息学方 法,筛选出显著影响 ICB 治疗疗效与患者生存预后的趋化因子,通过无进展生存期(progression-free disease, PFS)评 价疗效, 通过总生存期(overall survival, OS)评价患者的预后。从高通量基因表达数据库(Gene Expression Omnibus, GEO)中的数据集(GSE 135222)下载 25 例非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC)转录组测序数据和相 关的生存数据,将其作为验证队列。结果 通过单因素 Cox 回归分析,筛选出 9个与晚期 LUAD 患者良好 OS 显 著相关的趋化因子,其中 CCR1、CXCR6 和 CXCL9 高表达的患者明显具有更长的 OS。基于这 3 个趋化因子的表 达量构建风险模型,生存分析结果表明风险分数与患者的 PFS 和 OS 呈负相关,即低风险(risk score ≤ -1.33)的晚 期 LUAD 患者在 ICB 治疗中明显获益更多。低风险组中位 PFS 为 19.7 个月对比高风险组(risk score > -1.33) 2.9个月 [95% 可信区间(confidence interval, CI)为 0.12~0.51, P < 0.001]。中位 OS 低风险组未达到对比高风险组 6.0 个月(95%CI 0.08~0.38, P < 0.001)。GEO 数据集验证了该结果, 中位 PFS 低风险(risk score ≤ -1.85)对比高风 险(risk score > -1.85)为 2.7 个月对比 1.2 个月(95%CI 0.12~0.93, P = 0.009)。结论 CCR1、CXCR6 和 CXCL9 高 表达表明晚期 LUAD 患者疾病进展的风险较低,与患者良好的 PFS 和 OS 相关,可能为晚期 LUAD 患者的 ICB 辅 助治疗提供新的方向。

[关键词] CCR1; CXCR6; CXCL9; 肺腺癌; 免疫检查点阻断治疗
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Prediction and Prognosis Analysis for Immunotherapy of Intra-tumoral Chemokines CCR1, CXCR6, and CXCL9 in Advanced Lung Adenocarcinoma

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Abstract: Objective Constructing a chemokine model to predict immune checkpoint blockade (ICB) efficacy and prognosis in advanced lung adenocarcinoma (LUAD). Methods A total of 42 advanced LUAD patients (training cohort) who underwent ICB were retrospectively collected from the data of the previous study. We obtained transcriptome sequencing data from tumor tissues before ICB treatment. Screening for chemokines that significantly affect the efficacy of ICB treatment and the survival prognosis of patients with advanced LUAD by bioinformatics methods, and the efficacy was evaluated by progression-free disease (PFS), and the prognosis was evaluated by overall survival (OS). Transcriptome sequencing and survival-related data of 25 cases of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) were downloaded from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database dataset (GSE 135222) and identified as a validation cohort. Results Through univariate Cox regression analysis, nine chemokines significantly associated with favorable OS in advanced LUAD patients were screened, among which patients with high expression of CCR1, CXCR6, and CXCL9 had significantly longer OS. A risk model based on the expression of these three chemokines could be constructed. Survival analysis results show that risk score was negatively correlated with patients' PFS and OS, which means advanced LUAD patients with low risk (risk score ≤ -1.33) could benefit more from ICB treatment. The median PFS in the low-risk group was 19.7 months, whereas in the high-risk group (risk score > -1.33) was 2.9 months [95% confidence interval (CI) $0.12 \sim 0.51$, P < 0.001, and the median OS in the high-risk group was 6.0 months, while it was not reached in the low-risk group (95%CI 0.08~0.38, P < 0.001). The results from the GEO dataset confirmed the association between the risk score and PFS. Patients were classified as low-risk based on the risk score (risk score ≤ -1.85) were associated with a longer median PFS of 2.7 months, whereas the high-risk group (risk score > -1.85) had a shorter median PFS of 1.2 months $(95\%CI 0.12 \sim 0.93, P = 0.009)$. Conclusions The high expression of CCR1, CXCR6, and CXCL9 indicates that patients with advanced LUAD have a low risk of disease progression, which is associated with favorable PFS and OS, and may provide a novel perspective for the adjuvant setting of ICB therapy for advanced LUAD patients.

Key words: CCR1; CXCR6; CXCL9; lung adenocarcinoma; immune checkpoint blockade therapy

肺癌是全世界癌症死亡的主要原因,其常见的病理亚型是肺腺癌(lung adenocarcinoma, LUAD),约占所有肺癌病例的40%^[1-2]。过去几十年,免疫检查点阻断(immune checkpoint blockade, ICB)治疗方式的发展,显著改善了晚期LUAD患者的预后^[3-4]。然而,仍然存在一些LUAD患者无法从免疫治疗中获得显著的效益^[5]。因此,寻找更为有效的免疫治疗预测因子以及开发合理的药物联合治疗成为当务之急^[6]。随着测序技术的进步,RNA测序通过探讨肿瘤微环境(tumor microenvironment, TME)中复杂的肿瘤与免疫细胞的相互作用,成为预测各类癌症患者对ICB反应的有力工具^[7]。

最近的研究表明,免疫细胞向 TME 的浸润受 到趋化因子和趋化因子受体相互作用的调节,CC 基序和 CXC 基序趋化因子表达可能通过塑造浸润 性免疫细胞群来影响肿瘤进展^[8-10]。例如,在恶性黑 色素瘤向淋巴结转移的过程中,自然杀伤细胞在淋 巴结中的富集为 TME 中 CXC 基序趋化因子配体 8(C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 8, CXCL8)的释放 所介导^[11],而 CXC 基序趋化因子配体 9(C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 9, CXCL9)和 CXC 基序趋 化因子配体 10(C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 10, CXCL10)则是募集效应 CD8⁺T 细胞到黑色素瘤肿 瘤微环境中的关键趋化因子^[12]。CC 基序趋化因子 配体 3(C-C motif chemokine ligand 3, CCL3)同样 可以通过募集 T 淋巴细胞发挥有效的抗肿瘤作用^[13]。 然而, Facciabene 等人则发现 CC 基序趋化因子配 体 28(C-C motif chemokine ligand 3, CCL28)在卵 巢癌中因缺氧表达上调,并且与肿瘤的生长直接相 关,这可能与 CCL28 与其受体结合将调节性 T 细 胞募集到肿瘤部位有关^[14]。

综上所述,趋化因子-趋化因子受体相互作用 可能在肿瘤免疫微环境塑造过程中起到关键作用, 这可能影响患者的 ICB 治疗效果,从而成为其预后 因子。因此,将趋化因子-趋化因子受体信号通路作 为靶标,可能成为增强 ICB 治疗疗效的补充策略^[15]。 目前,影响晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 疗效和预后的趋 化因子类别及其预测效能如何尚不明确。因此,本 研究回顾性分析了接受 ICB 治疗的 42 例晚期 LUAD 和 GEO 数据库中(GSE 135222)数据集 25 例 NSCLC 患者的转录组测序数据和生存相关数据, 寻找有效的预测标志物。

1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象

回顾性收集 42 例接受 ICB 治疗且有 RNA 测 序数据的患者,将其作为训练队列^[7]。患者的基线 特征如表 1 所示。入组的患者年龄范围为 45~74岁,中位年龄为 61岁。男性 37 例(88.1%), 女性 5 例(11.9%)。具有吸烟史的患者 29 例(69.0%), 从未吸烟的患者 13 例(31.0%)。东部肿瘤合作组 健康状态评分(Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status score, EGOC PS score)0~1分患 者 37 例(88.1%), 2~3 分患者 5 例(11.9%)。伴随 脑转移患者 9 例(21.4%),无脑转移患者 33 例 (78.6%)。一线治疗患者 16 例(38.1%),非一线治 疗患者 26 例(61.9%)。经过免疫治疗后部分缓解

	表 1	42 例晚期 LUAD 患者基线特征
Tab.1	Clir	nical and pathological characteristics of
		12 advanced LUAD nationts

Characteristics $n = 42$ Age, median (range) $61(45 \sim 74)$ Sex, n (%) Male 37 (88.1%) Female 5 (11.9%) Smoking history, n (%) Never 13 (31.0%) Ever 29 (69.0%) ECOG PS score, n (%) $0 \sim 1$ 37 (88.1%) $0 \sim 1$ 37 (88.1%) $2 \sim 3$ $0 \sim 1$ 37 (88.1%) $2 \sim 3$ $2 \sim 3$ 5 (11.9%) Stage, n (%) III B 2 (4.8%) IVA 21 (50.0%) IVB 19 (45.2%) Line of immune checkpoint blockade, n (%) 1 Ist 16 (38.1%) 2nd 37 (40.5%) 3rd 6 (14.3%) 4th and beyond 3 (7.1%) With brain metastases, n (%) No No 33 (78.6%) Yes 9 (21.4%) PR 12 (28.6%) SD 17 (40.5%) PD 13 (30.9%)		
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SD17 (40.5%)PD13 (30.9%)	PR	12 (28.6%)
PD 13 (30.9%)	SD	17 (40.5%)
	PD	13 (30.9%)

(partial response, PR)的患者 12 例(28.6%),疾病稳 定(stable disease, SD)患者 17 例(40.5%),疾病进展 (progression disease, PD)患者 13 例(30.9%)。

从 GEO 数据库(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) 的数据集(GSE 135222)下载 25 例 NSCLC 患者的 RNA 测序数据以及生存相关数据,并将其作为验证 队列。患者年龄范围为 44~73 岁,中位年龄为 62 岁。男性患者 20 例(80.0%),女性患者 5 例 (20.0%)。

1.2 统计分析

采用 IBM SPSS Statistics 27.0(version 27.0)软件进行单因素和多因素 Cox 回归分析。R语言 (version 4.3.1)建立最优预测模型。利用 X-tile (version 3.6.1)软件获得 risk score 的最佳截断值。 通过 GraphPad Prism(version 8.4.2)运用 Kaplan-Meier 生存曲线进行生存分析,比较高风险组与低风险组患者的 OS 和 PFS;以及受试者工作特征曲线(receiver operating characteristic curve, ROC)分析 计算曲线下面积(area under curve, AUC)。风险分数计算方式为各因素的影响系数与基因表达量乘积之和。

2 结 果

2.1 建立预测晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 疗效和预后的 风险模型

总共在 56个 CC 基序和 CXC 基序的趋化因 子中,通过单因素 Cox 回归分析得到 9 个与患者良 好 OS 相关的趋化因子(P < 0.1), 其中 7 个趋化因 子具有显著统计学意义(P<0.05, 如图 1A 所示)。 以此为基础,进一步分析建立最佳的预测模型,如 图 1B 所示, 趋化因子受体 1(C-C motif chemokine receptor 1, CCR1), 趋化因子受体 6(C-X-C motif chemokine receptor 6, CXCR6), CXCL9 的组合为预 测患者 OS 的最佳模型。将模型的 3 个趋化因子纳 入多因素 Cox 回归分析, 获取各个趋化因子的影响 系数,发现 CXCR6 对患者 OS 预测的贡献最大(P< 0.05)。根据多因素 Cox 回归分析所得系数, 计算 各患者的风险分数:风险分数=-0.11×(CCR1表 达量)-0.14×(CXCR6表达量)-0.01×(CXCL9表 达量),如图 1C 所示,推测 3 个趋化因子组合得到 的风险模型具有对晚期 LUAD 患者进行风险分 层的潜能,即将患者区分为高风险人群和低风险 人群。





Fig.1 Establishing a risk model for predicting ICB efficacy and prognosis in advanced LUAD patients

注: A. 9个影响晚期 LUAD 患者生存的趋化因子; B. 建立最佳的晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 治疗疗效与预后的预测模型, 分别为 CCR1, CXCR6, CXCL9; C. 多因素 Cox 回归分析计算 3 个趋化因子的影响系数。

Note: A. 9 chemokines that affect survival in advanced LUAD patients; B. The optimal prediction model for ICB efficacy and prognosis of advanced LUAD patients were established, which were CCR1, CXCR6, and CXCL9 respectively; C. Multivariate Cox regression analysis was used to calculate the influence coefficients of the three chemokines.

2.2 基于风险模型的生存分析

根据各患者的风险分数不同,可通过 X-Tile 软 件将患者分为高风险组和低风险组。共有 19 例患 者属于低风险组,23 例患者归为高风险组。综合 Kaplan-Meier 生存分析和多因素 Cox 回归分析, 表 明风险分数与 PFS 和 OS 呈负相关, 即与高风险 组的患者相比,低风险组患者的 PFS 明显更长,低 风险组对比高风险组中位 PFS 为 19.7 个月对比 2.9个月 [95% 可信区间(confidence interval, CI)为 0.12~0.51, P < 0.001](如图 2A 左图所示)。同样地, 高风险患者的 OS 更短, 低风险组中位 OS 未达到 对比高风险组 6.0 个月(95%CI 0.08~0.38, P < 0.001) (如图 2A 右图所示)。ROC 曲线分析(如图 2B 所 示)发现风险模型具有良好的预测效能(AUCPES= 0.88, 95%CI 0.78~0.99, P < 0.001; AUC_{OS} = 0.84, 95%CI 0.68~0.99, P < 0.001), 这表明该模型能够较 好地预测晚期 LUAD 患者在 ICB 治疗中良好的疗 效和预后。为确定3个趋化因子组合建立的风险 模型是否可以独立预测晚期 LUAD 患者的 ICB 疗 效和预后,我们进行了单因素和多因素 Cox 回归分

析。将患者的性别、年龄、吸烟史、PS 评分、临床 分期、是否脑转移、治疗线数和风险分数纳入 Cox 回归模型进行生存分析,结果表明基于趋化因子建 立的风险分数是晚期 LUAD 患者 PFS 和 OS 的独 立预后预测因素(如表 2 所示)。

由于趋化因子表达对 ICB 疗效和预后的重要 性,我们进一步分别研究了 CCR1、CXCR6 和 CXCL9 与 PFS 和 OS 的关系。根据 CCR1, CXCR6, CXCL9 的表达量获取最佳截断值,将晚期 LUAD 患者分别 分为趋化因子高表达和低表达组。在 CCR1 的生 存分析中,发现 CCR1 表达量与 PFS 和 OS 正相关, 即晚期 LUAD 患者的 CCR1 高表达时,中位 PFS 为 9.5 个月显著高于低表达患者 2.8 个月(95%CI 0.21~0.86, *P* = 0.013),中位 OS 高表达患者未达到 对比低表达患者为 9.5 个月(95%CI 0.14~0.70, *P* = 0.006)。当对 CXCR6 进行分析时,结果表明 CXCR6 高表达改善了晚期 LUAD 患者的临床获益效果,中 位 PFS 达到 19.7 个月对比低表达组 2.7 个月 (95%CI 0.10~0.41, *P* < 0.001),中位 OS 未达到对比 低表达组为 5.6 个月(95%CI 0.08~0.41, *P* < 0.001)。





注: A. 晚期 LUAD 患者风险分层生存分析, 左图为 PFS, 右图为 OS; B. 预测模型对晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 疗效和预后预测的概率分析; C. CCR1, CXCR6, CXCL9 单独高表达提高晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 的临床效益。

Note: A. Risk stratified survival analysis on PFS (left panel) and OS (right panel) of patients with advanced LUAD; B. Probabilistic analysis of the prediction model for advanced LUAD patients' efficacy and prognosis; C. The high expression of CCR1, CXCR6 and CXCL9 alone can improve the clinical benefit of advanced LUAD patients with ICB.

在 CXCL9 的生存分析中观察到了类似的影响作用, 晚期 LUAD 患者高表达 CXCL9, 经 ICB 治疗后 PFS 和 OS 均显著延长,中位 PFS 为 9.5 个月对比 低表达患者 2.4 个月(95%CI 0.09~0.52, *P* < 0.001), 中位 OS 高表达对比低表达患者为 25.0 个月对比 4.3 个月(95%CI 0.11~0.64, *P* < 0.001)。因此,综上 结果表明 3 个趋化因子独立高表达均为有益于延 长晚期 LUAD 患者 PFS 和 OS 的因素(*P* < 0.05), 该结果与风险模型的预测结果一致,如图 2C 所示。

2.3 风险模型普遍适用性的验证

为进一步验证风险模型的预测效能,我们从 GEO数据库中的数据集(GSE 135222)下载接受 ICB治疗的 25例 NSCLC 患者。通过与训练队列 相同的计算方式,分别计算每位患者的风险分数, 随后利用 X-Tile 获取最佳截断值,共有低风险患 者 15例,高风险患者 10例。生存分析的结果表明 低风险组的患者比高风险组患者明显能从 ICB 治 疗中获得较好的疗效,低风险组中位 PFS 对比高风 险组为 2.7 个月对比 1.2 个月(95%CI 0.12~0.93, P=0.009)(如图 3A 所示)。此外, CCR1, CXCR6, CXCL9 独立高表达,均与改善 NSCLC 患者的 PFS 显著相关(P<0.05)(如图 3B 所示)。

3 讨 论

研究表明免疫细胞在 TME 中的浸润是癌症预 后的重要因素, 趋化因子在诱导激活和抑制免疫细 胞类型的迁移过程中起着至关重要的作用^[16-18]。虽 然免疫细胞向肿瘤组织的迁移因为实体瘤的异位 性和异质性而难以预测, 但了解实体瘤的趋化环境 和识别调节免疫细胞进入实体瘤的趋化因子, 对于 改善当前的 ICB 治疗策略尤为重要^[19-20]。

对于 CCR1, Liu 等人发现其在 LUAD 患者肿

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				egression	analysis in advance	LU LUA	D patients	
	PFS				OS			
Variables	Univariate COX		Multivariate COX		Univariate COX		Multivariate COX	
	HR (95%CI)	P value	HR (95%CI)	P value	HR (95%CI)	P value	HR (95%CI)	P value
Risk score								
Low risk	Reference							
High risk	5.05 (2.19, 11.67)	< 0.001	5.60 (2.24, 13.95)	< 0.001	7.41 (2.48, 22.12)	< 0.001	9.54 (2.82, 32.25)	< 0.001
Sex								
Female	Reference							
Male	0.98 (0.34, 2.82)	0.971	2.73 (0.62, 12.01)	0.185	0.53 (0.15, 1.87)	0.323	0.87 (0.14, 5.32)	0.877
Age								
<60 years	Reference							
\geq 60 years	0.45 (0.23, 0.91)	0.026	0.51 (0.21, 1.26)	0.147	0.52 (0.23, 1.14)	0.101	0.65 (0.24, 1.72)	0.382
Smoking history								
Never	Reference							
Ever/current	0.97 (0.46, 2.05)	0.931	1.45 (0.58, 3.64)	0.424	0.68 (0.29, 1.58)	0.369	1.32 (0.44, 3.95)	0.625
ECOG PS score								
≤ 1	Reference							
>1	2.34 (0.80, 6.81)	0.119	5.16 (1.29, 20.59)	0.02	6.30 (1.92, 20.69)	0.002	10.72 (2.24, 51.23)	0.003
Clinical stages								
Ш	Reference							
IV	0.31 (0.70, 1.37)	0.122	0.65 (0.13, 3.34)	0.605	0.56 (0.13, 2.43)	0.443	1.67 (0.27, 10.45)	0.583
With brain metas	tasis							
No	Reference							
Yes	0.63 (0.26, 1.55)	0.316	0.60 (0.21, 1.71)	0.342	0.73 (0.25, 2.16)	0.574	0.33 (0.08, 1.28)	0.108
Lines of therapy								
First-line	Reference							
Non-first-line	1.01 (0.50, 2.04)	0.981	1.41 (0.57, 3.49)	0.461	0.95 (0.42, 2.11)	0.891	1.05 (0.38, 2.93)	0.929

表 2	晩期 LUAD	患者单因素-	多因素(lox 回归分析
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Tab.2 Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analysis in advanced LUAD patients

注: 单因素和多因素Cox回归显示, 风险评分P< 0.05在训练队列中具有统计学意义。HR: 风险比。 Note: Univariate and multivariate Cox regression shown that *P* values <0.05 in risk score were statistically significant in the training cohort. HR: hazard ratio.

瘤组织中表达较 CC 基序的其他趋化因子受体高, 且其表达量与 CD8⁺T 细胞浸润肿瘤组织呈正相关, 与患者的临床结果显著相关^[21]。Xiong 等研究人员 在关于黑色素瘤的研究中也发现 CCR1 与 CD8⁺T 细胞浸润正相关,并且 CCR1 高表达提示患者预后 良好^[22]。综上结果, CCR1 可能通过影响免疫状态 参与肿瘤的进展。而在本研究中,同样发现 CCR1 高表达具有延长晚期 LUAD 的 PFS 和 OS 的潜力, 因此我们推测 CCR1 可能通过诱导免疫细胞进入 TME 以消除肿瘤细胞来影响患者的预后。

其次是关于 CXCR6,则有先前关于肺癌的研 究报道 CXCR6 蛋白在组织驻留记忆 CD8⁺ T 细胞 上表达较高,利于 T 细胞驻留在肿瘤组织,使免疫 细胞发生抗肿瘤作用^[23]。另外,在胃肠道的研究结 果中则发现 CXCR6 仅在瘤内的 CD8⁺T 细胞上高 表达,这类细胞具有抗肿瘤抗原特异性,可以增强 程序性死亡受体 1(programmed cell death protein 1, PD-1)的阻断作用,进而延缓患者的肿瘤进展^[24]。 这些结果表明,T 细胞浸润肿瘤组织也可能受到 CXCR6 与其配体相互作用的调节。基于本研究的 结果,推测可能是高表达 CXCR6 的 CD8⁺T 细胞被 招募至肿瘤部位,形成炎症型的 TME,进而改善患 者的生存预后。

在一项重要的研究中, Hoch 等人发现在免疫 热肿瘤中 CXCL9 表达频数较高, 而冷肿瘤中几乎 没有趋化因子表达, 证明了肿瘤组织表达 CXCL9 有助于"热"肿瘤的形成^[25]。同样地, Niño 等也证明 了在 T 细胞丰富的样品中, CXCL9 高表达的 TME

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图 3 验证风险模型适用性

Fig.3 Validation of risk model applicability

注: A. NSCLC 患者 PFS 生存分析; B. CCR1, CXCR6, CXCL9 高表 达有利于改善 NSCLC 患者的 ICB 治疗效果。

Note: A. PFS survival analysis of patients with NSCLC; B. The high expression of CCR1, CXCR6 and CXCL9 was conducive to improving the ICB therapeutic effect of NSCLC patients.

构成了炎症和抗肿瘤反应性的特点^[26]。与之契合的 是,本研究同样发现可能是由于 CXCL9 高表达助 力患者形成"热"肿瘤,进而改善患者的 ICB 疗效和 预后。

目前尚无研究综合讨论 CCR1, CXCR6 以及 CXCL9 与晚期 LUAD 患者 ICB 疗效和生存预后的 关系。本研究综合上述 3 个趋化因子构建风险模 型,发现低风险组患者可能更大限度地从 ICB 治疗 中的获益,并且该结果均得到 GEO 数据库中 NSCLC 患者的数据验证。

综上所述,本研究构建的风险分数预测模型是 有效预测晚期 LUAD 患者接受 ICB 治疗和判断生 存预后的良好预测因子,CCR1,CXCR6,CXCL9 可 能通过与各自的配体相互作用等多种方式,将不同 类型的免疫细胞募集到肿瘤部位,塑造炎症和抗 肿瘤反应性的 TME,使晚期 LUAD 患者对 ICB 治 疗产生应答,最终使其 ICB 治疗效果与预后得以 改善。

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