

Transcriptome and Metabolome Changes in Hepatic Ischemia-Reperfusion Injury

Transcriptomics and metabolomics analysis reveal the characteristic alterations in different stages of hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury

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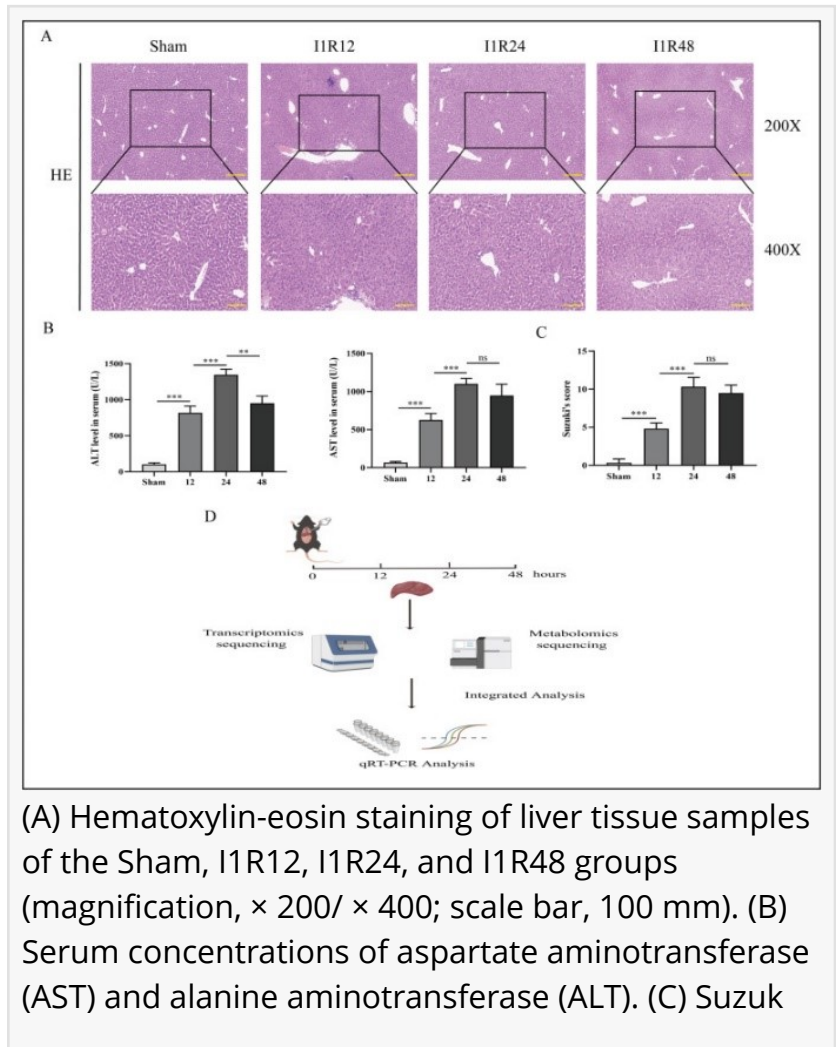
/EINPresswire.com/ -- Hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury (IRI) is a common and unavoidable complication associated with liver transplants that may result in impaired liver function or even post-transplant liver failure. Although various mechanisms have been implicated in the pathogenesis and progression of hepatic IRI, the characteristic alterations occurring at the transcriptome and metabolic levels remain to be investigated.

In this study, published in the *Genes and Diseases* journal, researchers from Chongqing Medical University employed [transcriptomics and metabolomics](#) analyses to identify the

differentially expressed genes and metabolites during the early, intermediate, and late phases of hepatic IRI in a mouse model.

Mouse livers subjected to reperfusion for 12 hrs, 24 hrs, and 48 hrs (corresponding to early, intermediate, and late stages) following 1 hr-ischemia were used for further analysis.

Transcriptome data analysis revealed that 1115 differentially expressed genes were co-expressed between the three groups. KEGG and GO analysis revealed the enrichment of glucose and carbohydrate metabolic pathways in early IRI, enrichment of glucose/lipid metabolic pathways and activation of the inflammatory pathway in intermediate IRI, and the enrichment of the lipid metabolic pathways during the late phase of IRI. These results were further validated with



(A) Hematoxylin-eosin staining of liver tissue samples of the Sham, IIR12, IIR24, and IIR48 groups (magnification, × 200/ × 400; scale bar, 100 μm). (B) Serum concentrations of aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). (C) Suzuki

Western blotting and qRT-PCR, which revealed the activation of the PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway.

Metabolomics analysis showed that primary metabolic characteristics of lipid metabolism were altered in the early, intermediate, and late phases of IRI. Furthermore, quantification of free fatty acids in the mouse liver tissues showed a significant decrease in the IR12 and IR24 groups, suggesting a disorder in lipid metabolism.

In conclusion, the key findings of this study show that i) intermediate IRI is characterized by an inflammatory disorder triggered by the overproduction of ROS and the release of DAMPs and pro-inflammatory cytokines, which aggravate apoptosis and hepatocyte damage, ii) the marked upregulation of the PI3K-AKT and HIF-1 pathways in the intermediate phase serves as an adaptive response in regulating anaerobic glycolysis and the inflammatory response to improve IRI, and iii) the glycolysis/gluconeogenesis pathway is altered exclusively during the early phase of IRI. The authors suggest therapeutic interventions targeting glucose and lipid metabolism reprogramming pathways may help mitigate hepatic IRI.

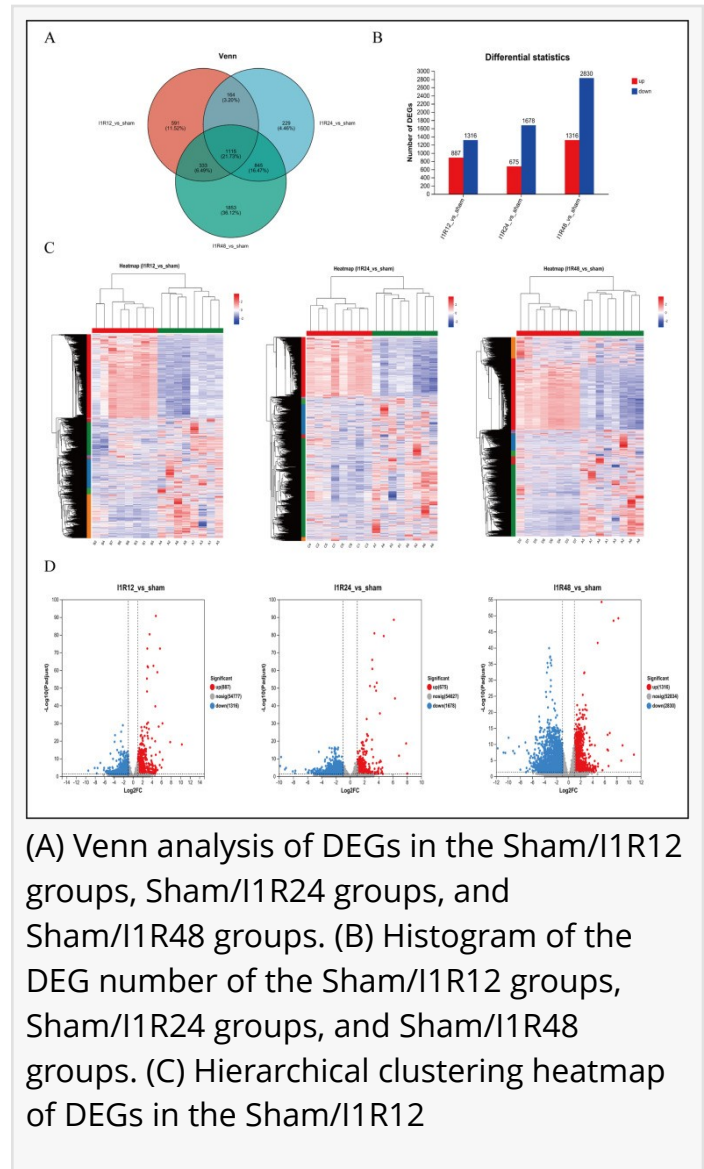
Reference

Title of the original paper: Multi-time point transcriptomics and metabolomics reveal key transcription and metabolic features of hepatic ischemia-reperfusion injury in mice

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(A) Venn analysis of DEGs in the Sham/IR12 groups, Sham/IR24 groups, and Sham/IR48 groups. (B) Histogram of the DEG number of the Sham/IR12 groups, Sham/IR24 groups, and Sham/IR48 groups. (C) Hierarchical clustering heatmap of DEGs in the Sham/IR12

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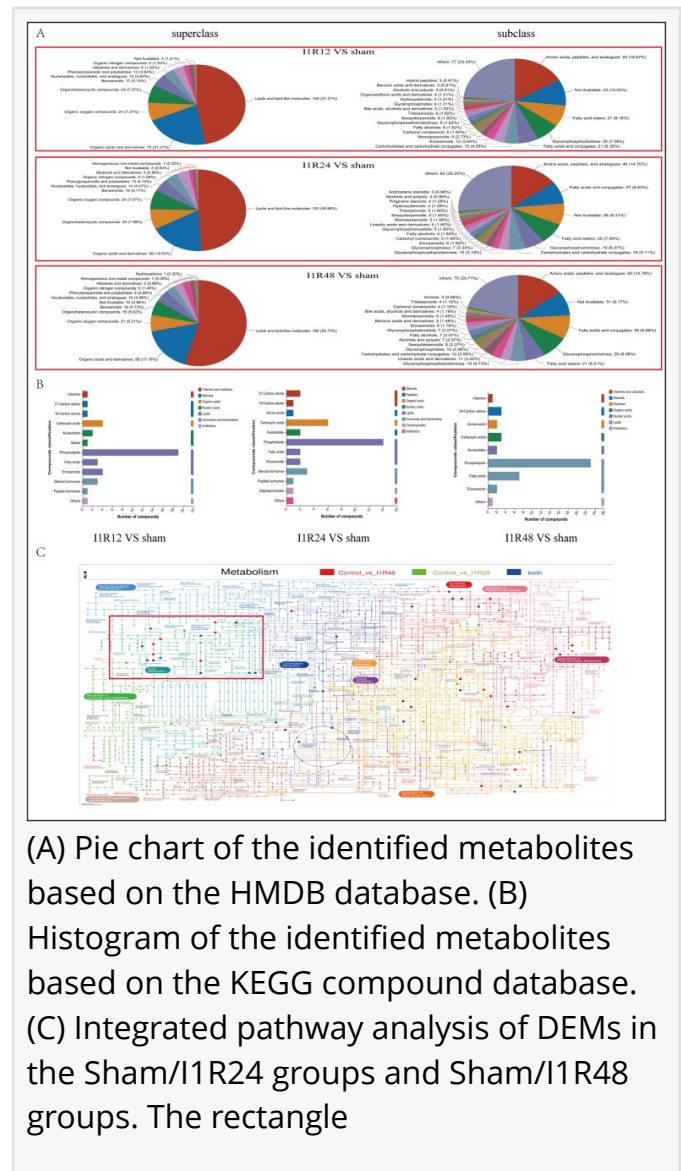
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(A) Pie chart of the identified metabolites based on the HMDB database. (B) Histogram of the identified metabolites based on the KEGG compound database. (C) Integrated pathway analysis of DEMs in the Sham/I1R24 groups and Sham/I1R48 groups. The rectangle

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