Regulation of *TPD52* by antitumor *microRNA-218* suppresses cancer cell migration and invasion in lung squamous cell carcinoma

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Abstract

The development of targeted molecular therapies has greatly benefited patients with lung adenocarcinomas. In contrast, these treatments have had little benefit in the management of lung squamous cell carcinoma (lung SCC). Therefore, new treatment options based on current genomic approaches are needed for lung SCC. Aberrant microRNA (miRNA) expression has been shown to promote lung cancer development and aggressiveness. Downregulation of microRNA-218 (miR-218) was frequently observed in our miRNA expression signatures of cancers, and previous studies have shown an antitumor function of miR-218 in several types of cancers. However, the impact of miR-218 on lung SCC is still ambiguous. The present study investigated the antitumor roles of miR-218 in lung SCC to identify the target genes regulated by this miRNA. Ectopic expression of miR-218 greatly inhibited cancer cell migration and invasion in the lung SCC cell lines EBC-1 and SK-MES-1. Through a combination of in silico analysis and gene expression data searching, tumor protein D52 (TPD52) was selected as a putative target of miR-218 regulation. Moreover, direct binding of miR-218 to the 3'-UTR of TPD52 was observed by dual luciferase reporter assay. Overexpression of TPD52 was observed in lung SCC clinical specimens, and knockdown of TPD52 significantly suppressed cancer cell migration and invasion in lung SCC cell lines. Furthermore, the downstream pathways mediated by TPD52 involved critical regulators of genomic stability and mitotic checkpoint genes. Taken together, our data showed that downregulation of miR-218 enhances overexpression of TPD52 in lung SCC cells, promoting cancer cell aggressiveness. Identification of tumor-suppressive miRNA-mediated RNA networks of lung SCC will provide new insights into the potential mechanisms of the molecular pathogenesis of the disease.