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Host long non-coding RNAs: key modulators in rotavirus infection dynamics

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General molecular mechanism of IncRNAs



- miRNA sponges
- Target proteins
- Promote or inhibit mRNA stability
- Secreted by extracellular vesicles for cell-cell communication

Significance of host IncRNAs in viral infection dynamics

- Viral infection leads to large alterations in the host transcriptome and stimulates an antiviral host immune response involving numerous host cellular components and signaling pathways.



Recent data suggests that host IncRNAs play crucial roles at the host pathogen interface modulating viral infection.



Reports suggests host lncRNAs being significantly modulated during infection with **SARS-CoV virus**(Peng et al.,2010), **HCV**(Zhang, 2016), **PEDV** (Chen et al.,2019), **ZIKV** (Hu et al.,2017), **IAV** (Wang & Cen, 2020) etc.



But no studies have previously been performed to examine IncRNA expression profiling during rotavirus infection.



LncRNAs are key modulators of transcriptional and post-transcriptional processes. A deeper understanding of their regulation in manipulating rotaviral infection will provide a better insight.

WORKPLAN AND METHODOLOGY

12hpi

24hpi

1. Expression profiling of IncRNAs in rotavirus infected cells:

- HT-29 cells were infected with the RV-SA11 for two time points along with uninfected control.
- After incubation total cell RNA was isolated and subjected to: IncRNA PCR based array and RNA sequencing.
- ➢ Differentially regulated IncRNAs with fold change ≥5 in response to rotavirus infection were further validated and quantified by qRT-PCR.







2. Assessing the role of differentially expressed lncRNAs in the context of rotavirus infection biology:



> To confirm the role of dysregulated lncRNA:

- knock-down of virus induced IncRNAs
- overexpression of virus repressed lncRNAs.
- > To investigate the effects of these IncRNA knockdown/overexpression on viral infection and replication:
- Western blot to check viral protein expression.
- **qRT-PCR** to quantify **viral RNA synthesis.**
- Estimation of infectious virus particle by plaque assay .

3. Identification of <u>key cellular components</u> (DNA/mRNA/miRNA/proteins) targeted by differentially expressed IncRNAs and reveal their mechanisms of action in promoting or inhibiting rotavirus infection.

In-silico Identification of targets that associate with differentially expressed IncRNAs:



Target Validation:

Analysis tools in LncTarD 2.0

- > RNA-Immunoprecipitation was done to study the target protein interaction with IncRNA.
- Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR) was performed to check the expression of IncRNAregulated mRNA or miRNA in virus infected cells.

Differential expression of cellular lncRNAs in response to RV infection are screened and identified by a qPCR based microarray:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A	A2ML1-AS1	ABCA11P	AC000120.7	AC007228.9	AC016629.8	AC068196.1	AC104820.2	CEP83-AS1	CROCCP2	CTC-444N24.	CTC-487M23.	CTD-3185P2.
										11	5	1
В	DLEU2	EPB41L4A-AS1	ERICH1-AS1	FAM211A-AS1	FGD5-AS1	FGF14-IT1	FLJ31306	FOXN3-AS2	GAS5	GAS5-AS1	GRM5-AS1	HCG11
с	HCG18	HNRNPU-AS1	HOTAIR	HTR4-IT1	IQCF5-AS1	JPX	LINC00094	LINC00116	LINC00293	LINC00324	LINC00338	LINC00421
D	LINC00635	LINC00657	LINC00662	LINC00667	LL22NC03-N2	LOC653160	LRRC37BP1	MALATI	MCM3AP-AS1	MEG3	NAV2-AS5	NCBP2-AS2
					7C7.1							
E	NEAT1	NUTM2A-AS1	OIP5-AS1	PDXDC2P	RMST	RP11-1134114.	RP11-282O18.	RP11-29G8.3	RP11-325K4.3	RP11-363E7.4	RP11-363G2.	RP11-367N14.
			0113701	1 DAD CET		8	3				4	3
	RP11-38P22.2	RP11-399K21.	RP11-473I1.	RP11-473M20.	RP11-498C9.	RP11-549J18.	RP11-819C21.	RP11-84C13.1	RP11-96D1.10	RP1-239B22.5	PPC 04400 7	SDCBB2 AS1
'		11	10	16	15	1	1				KF0-24A23./	SDCBF2-AST
G	SENP3-EIF4A1	SIK3-IT1	SLC7A11-AS1	SNHG11	SNHG16	SNHG5	SNHG7	TP73-AS1	TUG1	XIST	ZFAS1	ZNRD1-AS1
н	ACTB	B2M	RPLPO	RN7SK	SNORA73A	HGDC	RTC	RTC	RTC	PPC	PPC	PPC

84 LncRNAs, 5 House-keeping genes and 7 other control genes for Human genomic DNA contamination, Reverse transcription control, positive PCR control primer pairs were coated inside the 96 well-qPCR array plate.

Clustergram of differential expression of IncRNAs in mock infected and rotavirus infected cells at 12 hpi and 24 hpi. The red colour represents upregulation whereas the green represents downregulation of IncRNAs during rotavirus infection.

Ct values were normalized against housekeeping genes (ACTB).



Rotavirus infection triggered **downregulation of 19 IncRNAs** and **upregulation 15 IncRNAs** among 84 IncRNAs at both 12 hpi and 24 hpi.

Position	Gene Symbol		Fold regulation(comparing to control group)	Position	Gene Symbol		Fold regulation(comparing to conti	rol group)
Downregulated gene	es	12 hpi	24hpi	Upregulated genes		12hpi	24hpi	
1 ^{A01}	A2ML1-AS1	-6.36	-3.29	1 ^{B06}	FGF14-IT1	3.77	2.24	
2 ^{A05}	MZF1-AS1	-11.27	-11.74	2 ^{B08}	FOXN3-AS2	1597.76	820.31	
A06	AC068196.1	-3.26	-15.74	3 ^{B10}	GAS5-AS1	3.46	3.96	
A08	CEP83-AS1	-20.4	-158.97	4 ^{B11}	GRM5-AS1	3.69	56.26	
4 _ B01	DLEU2	-67.49	-31.8	C09 5	LINC00293	2.53	5.14	
B12	HCG11	-3.17	-26.78	6 ^{E05}	RMST	2.27	4.62	
6		-11.64	.7.22	7 ^{E10}	RP11-363E7.4	4.15	9.19	
7	LINC00094	-11.04	-2.55	8 E11	RP11-363G2.4	137.89	4.41	
8 ^{C11}	SNHG20	-11.58	-49.11	0 F01	RP11-38P22.2	7.09	13.06	
9 ^{D01}	LINC00635	-58.3	-806.94	9 10 F02	RP11-399K21.11	3.41	75.87	
10 ^{D10}	MEG3	-50.36	-36.04	10 11 F04	RP11-473M20.16	5.6	11.95	
E02 11	NUTM2A-AS1	-10.12	3.26	G03	SLC7A11-AS1	466.5	10217.95	
12 E06	LOC100287846	-10.68	-8.13	12	TUC4	2.5	2.20	
E07	RP11-282018.3	-5.71	-20.45	13 ^{G09}	IUGI	3.5	2.28	
13		15 77	7.02	14 ^{D04}	LINC00667	3.61	2	
14	NP11-323N4.3	-15.77	-7.05	15 ^{EO1}	NEAT1	1.75	2.51	
15 ^{F06}	RP11-549J18.1	-3.5	-11.76					
16 ^{F12}	SDCBP2-AS1	-4.66	-14.05					
17 ^{G07}	SNHG7	-5.92	-3.8					
18 ^{G08}	TP73-AS1	-5359.62	-1398.37					
19 ^{D08}	MALAT1	-5.59	-1.67					

These results suggest rotavirus infection dysregulate the expression of IncRNAs which may have important role in rotavirus replication and pathogenesis.

MEG3: Maternally expressed gene 3 transcript variant 1

- This gene is a maternally expressed imprinted gene.
- 1,595 bp linear ncRNA
- Multiple alternatively spliced transcript variants have been transcribed from this gene and all of them are lncRNAs.
- Several functional studies in cancer have shown that this lncRNA controls expression of several tumor suppressor genes and oncogenes (Xu et al.,2022)
- MEG3 was reported to play antiviral function in RSV infection(Tao et al.,2018)



Transcript expression detected by qRT-PCR

	Fold regulation in RV compared to			
Gene symbol	uninfected control			
	SA11 12hpi	SA11 24hpi		
MEG3	-50.36	-36.04		

RNA from patient stool samples were tested for MEG3 expression :



RNA was isolated from 30 Rota positive and 30 Rota negative diarrheal stool samples and real-time RT-PCR was done for MEG3.

MEG3 transcripts were **low in expression in rota-positive** samples than in rota-negative samples.

MEG3 overexpression reduced rotavirus infection :



In silico study revealed association of MEG3 with PI3K



MEG3 overexpression resulted in downregulation of rotavirus induced PI3K-AKT pathway



MEG3 interacts with PI3K directly and downregulate its activation



RV infected condition:

MEG3 expression is reduced and PI3K-AKT signalling is activated by RV.





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