CircRNA expression profiles in human visceral preadipocytes and adipocytes

WENXING SUN1, XUECHENG SUN2, WEIWEI CHU3, SHIGANG YU4, FULU DONG5 and GUANGFEI XU1

1Department of Nutrition and Food Hygiene, School of Public Health, Nantong University, Nantong, Jiangsu 226019; 2Department of Trauma Surgery, Weifang People's Hospital, Weifang, Shandong 26100; 3School of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Shenzhen), Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510275; 4Engineering Research Center of Sichuan Province Higher School of Local Chicken Breeds Industrialization in Southern Sichuan, College of Life Science, Leshan Normal University, Leshan, Sichuan 614000; 5Laboratory of Nuclear Receptors and Cancer Research, Center for Basic Medical Research, Medical College, Nantong University, Nantong, Jiangsu 226019, P.R. China

Received June 24, 2019; Accepted November 8, 2019

Abstract. Circular RNAs (circRNAs) regulate several physiological and pathological processes, but their role in visceral lipid deposition has not been explored. In the present study, human preadipocytes from visceral fat tissue (HPa-v) were induced to form adipocytes, and the circRNA expression profiles in HPa-v and adipocytes were detected using circRNA microarrays. The microarray data revealed that 2,215 and 1,865 circRNAs were significantly up- and down-regulated, respectively, in adipocytes compared with HPa-v. Moreover, the parental genes of differentially expressed circRNAs were associated with fatty acid metabolism based on Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes analysis. Three circRNAs (hsa_circ_0136134, hsa_circ_0017650, and hsa-circRNA9227-1) were selected for quantitative PCR (qPCR) validation, and the qPCR results were consistent with the microarray results. Furthermore, MiRanda software was used to predict the microRNAs (miRNAs) potentially targeting the top 10 up- and downregulated circRNAs, and 14 miRNAs with more than two miRNA response elements targeting these circRNAs. This is the first study of the expression profiles of circRNAs in HPa-v and adipocytes and may suggest potential therapeutic targets for the visceral obesity.

Introduction

Obesity, especially excess visceral lipid deposition, increases the risks of numerous diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and some cancers (1-4). Generally, obesity involves hypertrophy and hyperplasia of excess adipocytes (5,6). Adipocyte hyperplasia is dependent on preadipocyte proliferation and differentiation. Research on adipocyte hyperplasia has been focused largely on deciphering the molecular mechanisms underlying obesity and developing novel therapeutics for obesity.

Circular RNAs (circRNAs) are non-coding RNAs that form a closed circular loop by back-splicing circularization (7), and they exhibit higher stability and resistance against RNA exonucleases compared with linear RNAs (8). Recent research has revealed that circRNAs regulate gene expression via multiple mechanisms, such as regulating gene transcription and splicing (9,10), acting as microRNA (miRNA) sponges (11), and forming RNA-protein complexes (12). Moreover, some circRNAs can be transcribed into proteins (13). In mammals, circRNA expression is tissue- and developmental stage-specific (14). Numerous studies have reported that circRNAs participate in the regulation of various physiological and pathological processes, such as regulating myogenesis and tumorigenesis (13,15,16). However, the role of circRNAs in visceral adipogenesis has not been investigated, and no circRNA examined to date has been associated with visceral adipogenesis.

Examination of the genes differentially expressed in preadipocytes and adipocytes should identify novel factors promoting or inhibiting lipid deposition. To identify the circRNAs associated with visceral adipocyte hyperplasia, the expression profiles of circRNAs in human preadipocytes derived from visceral fat tissue (HPa-v) and adipocytes were analyzed using circRNA microarrays. The results revealed that HPA-v and visceral adipocytes had different circRNA expression patterns, and the parental genes of the differentially expressed circRNAs were related to lipid metabolism; moreover, the candidate circRNAs were revealed to target many potential miRNA sites.
Materials and methods

Preadipocyte differentiation. HPA-v (cat. no. 7210; ScienCell Research Laboratories, Inc.) were isolated from human visceral fat tissue and cultured in preadipocyte medium (cat. no. 7211; ScienCell Research Laboratories, Inc.) containing 5% fetal bovine serum, 100 IU/ml penicillin-streptomycin, and 1% preadipocyte growth supplement (cat. no. 7252; ScienCell Research Laboratories, Inc.). After reaching confluence, the HPA-v were induced to differentiate for 3 days in DMEM containing 0.1 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, 1 µM dexamethasone, and 5 µg/ml insulin. The differentiated HPA-v were then maintained in DMEM containing 5 µg/ml insulin for 6 days.

Oil Red O staining. Cellular lipids were detected using Oil Red O staining. Briefly, upon reaching 100% confluence or differentiation, the preadipocytes were washed three times with phosphate-buffered saline and fixed in 10% formalin for 15 min at room temperature. After fixation, the cells were stained with Oil Red O for 20 min at room temperature. Stained cells were visualized using a Leica DMI 4000 B fluorescent microscope on the white light setting (magnification, x100).

Total RNA isolation. Total RNA was isolated from 5x10⁶ HPA-v cells and adipocytes, which were differentiated from HPA-v cells, using TRIzol® reagent (cat. no. 15596018; Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) and reverse transcribed into cDNA using the HiScript III 1st Strand cDNA Synthesis kit (cat. no. R312-01; Vazyme Biotech Co., Ltd.), according to the manufacturer's protocol. RNA integrity was evaluated by electrophoresis on 2% (w/v) denaturing agarose gels. The concentration and purity of RNA were determined according to the OD₂₆₀/OD₂₈₀ values using the NanoDrop1000 Spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.).

CircRNA microarray analysis. A human circRNA microarray (Agilent Technologies, Inc.) containing 170,340 human circRNA probes was used. Six samples (three HPA-v and three adipocyte samples) were detected by CapitalBio Corporation using circRNA microarrays. CircRNAs were purified, amplified, labeled with Cy3-dCTP, and hybridized onto the circRNA array according to the manufacturer's protocol. The circRNA expression data were normalized using the GeneSpring GX software version 13.0 (https://www.agilent.com). Differentially expressed circRNAs between HPA-v and adipocytes were selected according to the following thresholds: |fold change| ≥5 and P-value <0.01. Volcano plots were generated to visualize the circRNAs differentially expressed between HPA-v and adipocytes. Hierarchical cluster analysis was used to evaluate differential circRNA expression patterns across the six samples. The parental genes of the differentially expressed circRNAs were analyzed using the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) database within the Database for Annotation, Visualization and Integrated Discovery (https://david.ncifcrf.gov). The homology of circRNAs between human and mice was analyzed using CIRCpedia version 2 software (http://circatlas.biols.ac.cn). The miRNA response elements (MERS) within circRNAs were predicted using MiRanda version 3.3 software (http://www.microrna.org).

Quantitative PCR (qPCR). The expression levels of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma 2 (PPARG2), CCAAT enhancer binding protein alpha (CEBPA), fatty acid binding protein 4 (FABP4), hsa_circ_0136134, hsa_circ_0017650, and hsa-circRNA9227-1 were detected by qPCR. Ribosomal protein lateral stalk subunit P0 (RPLP0) was used as an invariant control. qPCR was performed using the ChamQ SYBR® qPCR Master mix (cat. no. Q311-02; Vazyme Biotech Co., Ltd.), according to the manufacturer's instructions, on an ABI 7300 instrument (ABI; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.). The primers used for qPCR were as follows: PPARG2 forward, 5’-CCGATTGTATCTTTGCTA-3’ and reverse, 5’-CTCTTTGGGTACATAGGAG-3’; CEBPA forward, 5’-CGTGGAGACGCAGCAGA-3’ and reverse, 5’-GGCCTTCAACAGGAAGCT-3’; FABP4 forward, 5’-CAGCACCTCTGGAACAG-3’ and reverse, 5’-GCAAAGCCACTCCTACT-3’; RPLP0 forward, 5’-CTCTGATTCTTCTGCTTCC-3’ and reverse, 5’-GACTCGTTGTACCCGTGT-3’; hsa_circ_0136134 forward, 5’-AAGGACCCTTGCGGTA-3’ and reverse, 5’-AGGCCAGAAGCCTCCTACT-3’; hsa_circ_0017650 forward, 5’-AAGACCTTCTCCTCTTACCC-3’ and reverse, 5’-GCAACAGTCTGCTTGCCTC-3’; and hsa-circRNA9227-1 forward, 5’-CCGACGCACCACACAG-3’ and reverse, 5’-GACCGGCCAGAAAGG-3’. The thermocycling conditions for the qPCR were as follows: Initial denaturation at 95˚C for 30 sec; 45 cycles of denaturation at 95˚C for 5 sec; and annealing and extension at 60˚C for 30 sec. The relative expression levels of RNA were analyzed with the 2ΔΔCq method (17) and normalized to the loading control RPLP0.

Statistical analysis. The data are presented as the means± standard deviation. The significance of the differences was analyzed using Student's t-test. P<0.05 was considered to indicate a statistically significant difference.

Results

HPA-v differentiation. To obtain mature visceral adipocytes, HPA-v were induced to differentiate in medium containing 0.1 mM 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, 1 µM dexamethasone, and 5 µg/ml insulin. The characteristics of HPA-v differentiation were confirmed by Oil Red O staining and evaluation of adipogenic marker gene expression (Fig. 1). Oil Red O staining revealed substantial lipid deposition in the cytoplasm after differentiation (Fig. 1A). In addition, PPARG2, CEBPA and FABP4 mRNA expression levels were significantly increased in mature visceral adipocytes (Fig. 1B).

Expression profiles of circRNAs in HPA-v and adipocytes. To investigate whether circRNAs are associated with lipid deposition, a human circRNA microarray (version 2.0; Agilent Technologies, Inc.) was used to assess circRNA expression profiles in HPA-v and adipocytes. The distribution of circRNA expression was illustrated in a box plot after normalization using the GeneSpring GX software (Fig. 2A), which revealed that the distribution of log₂ ratios was similar among all samples. Volcano plots were generated to compare the circRNA expression profiles between HPA-v and adipocytes (Fig. 2B). The circRNAs differentially expressed between HPA-v and
adipocytes were identified as those with a fold change ≥5.0 and a P-value ≤0.01. In total, 2,215 up- and 1,865 downregulated circRNAs were identified in adipocytes compared with HPA-v (Table S1). Table I lists the top 10 up- and downregulated circRNAs, and the homologous circRNAs of hsa_circ_0094183, hsa_circ_0116913 in mice were MMu_circpedia_216382, MMu_circpedia_14213, respectively, while the other 18 circRNAs did not find their homologous circRNAs in mice (Table I). The expression patterns of the differentially expressed circRNAs were visualized by hierarchical cluster analysis (Fig. 2C), which indicated different expression circRNA patterns between visceral adipocytes and HPA-v.
To examine the reliability of the circRNA microarray data, three circRNAs were selected for validation by qPCR. According to the qPCR results, hsa_circ_0136134 was detected in adipocytes exclusively, hsa_circ_0017650 and hsa-circRNA9227 were upregulated 30.0- and 2.3-fold in adipocytes compared with HPa-v, respectively (Fig. 2d). The qPCR results were consistent with those of the circRNA microarrays (Fig. 2d and e).

**General characteristics of the differentially expressed circRNAs.** The distribution of the differentially expressed circRNAs on human chromosomes was analyzed, and it was revealed that 3,968 differentially expressed circRNAs were derived from genes located on all chromosomes, although rarely on chromosomes 13, 18, 21, and Y (Fig. 3a). When the distribution of these circRNAs was analyzed among the parental genes, it was revealed that 3,968 (97.25%) circRNAs were mapped to 971 parental genes, with 437 (45.01%) parental genes generating one circRNA and 179 (18.43%) parental genes generating more than five circRNAs (Fig. 3B).

**KEGG analysis of the circRNA parental genes.** To investigate the potential functions of the differentially expressed circRNAs, 971 parental genes were analyzed using the KEGG database. The top 15 most significantly enriched pathways, which included fatty acid metabolism, fatty acid degradation, fatty acid biosynthesis, and PPAR signaling pathways, were presented in Fig. 4. The most significantly enriched pathway was fatty acid metabolism ($P=7.83E-08$), and most genes were involved in metabolic pathways (Gene count=104).

**CircRNA-miRNA interactions.** To dissect the potential functions of differentially expressed circRNAs, the MERs of top 10 up- and downregulated circRNAs were predicted. Table II lists the miRNAs with more than two MERs targeting the top 10 up- and downregulated circRNAs.
Molecular Medicine re PorTS  21:  815-821,  2020

hsa_circ_0136134, hsa_circ_0067409, hsa_circrna9227-1, hsa_circ_0060971, hsa_circrna9333-2, hsa_circ_0052586, and hsa_circrna2910-9 potentially interact with 1, 1, 1, 2, 3, and 5 Mers, respectively. The interaction between circrnas and mirnas requires further study.

Discussion

Adipocytes are traditionally classified into white, brown, and beige adipocytes (18,19). White adipocytes are involved mainly in energy storage and can trans-differentiate into beige adipocytes and de-differentiate into preadipocyte-like precursors (20-22), while brown and beige adipocytes are involved in adaptive thermogenesis (23). Removing visceral fat (white adipose tissue) (24,25) or increasing the activity or number of beige adipocytes can reverse or reduce metabolic dysfunction, including insulin resistance and obesity (20,26). In the present study, the expression profiles of circRNAs between HPA-v and visceral adipocytes were compared, which were produced by HPA-v differentiation, to reveal the potential molecular mechanisms of visceral fat accumulation and provide clues for the treatment of visceral obesity.

CircRNAs participate in numerous physiological and pathological processes (13,15,16). However, it is not clear whether circRNAs are associated with adipogenesis and lipid metabolism. Li et al reported that circRNAs have different expression profiles in the subcutaneous adipose tissues of the Laiwu pig and Large White pig, which implies that circRNAs participate in subcutaneous adipose deposition (27). In this study, the circRNA expression profiles in HPA-v and adipocytes were first analyzed by microarray analysis, which identified 4,080 circRNAs differently expressed circRNAs in HPa-v and adipocytes, suggesting that HP a-v and adipocytes have different circRNA expression patterns, and that these circRNAs may be associated with visceral adipocyte hyperplasia.

Some circRNAs regulate the expression of their parental gene (e.g., ci-ankrds regulate the ankyrin repeat domain) (28),
sometimes by affecting the alternative splicing of the parental gene (9,29,30). The parental genes of hsa_circ_0136134 and hsa_circ_0017650 are lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and inter-alpha-trypsin inhibitor heavy chain 5 (ITIH5), respectively. LPL, a key enzyme in adipose tissue triglyceride metabolism, is an adipocyte differentiation marker and upregulated during preadipocytes differentiation (31,32). ITIH5 is a secreted protein, and the ITIH5 expression in adipose tissue is increased in obesity and reduced after diet-induced weight loss, but the role of ITIH5 in preadipocyte differentiation has not been reported (33). Thus, hsa_circ_0136134 and hsa_circ_0017650 may influence HPA-β differentiation by regulating the expression of their parental genes. Further studies are required to confirm the regulatory relationship between circRNAs and their parental genes.

Visceral adipocyte hyperplasia is a complex process that involves multiple intracellular signaling pathways. In the present study, the signaling pathways related to fatty acids, which are the substrates of triglyceride synthesis (34), such as ‘fatty acid metabolism’, ‘fatty acid degradation’, and ‘fatty acid biosynthesis’ were enriched. This indicated that circRNAs influence the expression of genes associated with fatty acid metabolism to regulate the accumulation of triglycerides. The ‘PPAR signaling pathway’, ‘AMPK signaling pathway’, ‘Metabolic pathways’, and ‘Cell cycle’ serve important roles in preadipocyte differentiation, fatty acid oxidation, fatty acid transport, fatty acid synthesis, lipolysis, gluconeogenesis, glycolysis, and cell growth, and may induce the expression of genes related to preadipocyte differentiation or alter the activities of enzymes related to lipid metabolism, contributing to lipid storage. The circRNAs related to these pathways may play critical roles in visceral adipocyte hyperplasia.

CircRNAs can recruit miRNAs to regulate target gene expression (11), and most circRNAs have more than one miRNA binding site; for example, ciRS-7 contains over 60 target sites for miR-7 and can function as a miR-7 sponge and influence miR-7 target gene expression (11). In the present study, it was revealed that the top 10 up- and downregulated circRNAs had many potential miRNA binding sites; for example, hsa-circRNA9227-1, which was upregulated in visceral adipocytes (Table I), contained at least two target sites for hsa-miR-665 (Table II). Previous studies revealed that hsa-miR-665 is downregulated during adipocyte differentiation of human mesenchymal stem cells, and Seipin, which promotes adipocyte differentiation (35), is a potential target gene of miR-665 (36). These results indicated that hsa-circRNA9227-1 was involved in regulating adipogenesis by recruiting hsa-miR-665. However, more research is required to elucidate the function of circRNAs as miRNA sponges in visceral lipid deposition.

The present study assessed the circRNA expression profiles in human visceral preadipocytes and adipocytes. The markedly different circRNA expression profiles between the two cell types reflect the close association between circRNAs and adipogenesis. Further research is required to clarify the function of circRNAs in visceral preadipocyte differentiation and lipid deposition to develop novel therapeutics for obesity.

Acknowledgements
Not applicable.

Funding
The present study was supported by grants from The National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant nos. 81502803 and 31801196), The Natural Science Research Program of Jiangsu Province (grant no. 15KJB330005), and The Shenzhen Science and Technology Innovation Committee (grant no. JCYJ2018030712).

Availability of data and materials
The datasets used or analyzed during the present study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Authors’ contributions
FD and GX conceived and designed the experiments; WS performed the experiments and drafted the manuscript; and WS, XS, SY and WC performed the data analysis.

Ethics approval and consent to participate
Not applicable.

Patient consent for publication
Not applicable.

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

References
1. Cefalu WT, Wang ZQ, Werbel S, Bell-Farrow A, Crouse Jr III, Hinson WH, Terry JG and Anderson R: Contribution of visceral fat mass to the insulin resistance of aging. Metabolism 44: 954-959, 1995.
2. Fujimoto WY, Bergstrom RW, Boyko EJ, Chen KW, Leonetti DL, Newell-Morris L, Shofer JB and Wahl PW: Visceral adiposity and incident coronary heart disease in Japanese-American men. The 10-year follow-up results of the Seattle Japanese-American Community Diabetes Study. Diabetes Care 22: 1808-1812, 1999.
3. Sakaguchi M, Fujisaka S, Cai W, Winnay JN, Konishi M, O'Neill BT, Li M, García-Martín R, Takahashi H, Hu J, et al: Adipocyte dynamics and reversible metabolic syndrome in mice with an inducible adipocyte-specific deletion of the insulin receptor. Cell Metab 25: 448-462, 2017.
4. Silva HM, Bafica A, Rodrigues-Luiz GF, Chi J, Santos PDA, Reis BS, Hoytema van Konijnenburg DP, Crane A, Arifa RDN, Martin P, et al: Vasculature-associated fat macrophages readily adapt to inflammatory and metabolic challenges. J Exp Med 216: 786-806, 2019.
5. Avram MM, Avram AS and James WD: Subcutaneous fat in normal and diseased states 3. Adipogenesis: From stem cell to fat cell. J Am Acad Dermatol 56: 472-492, 2007.
6. Fajas L: Adipogenesis: A cross-talk between cell proliferation and cell differentiation. Ann Med 35: 79-85, 2003.
7. Hentze MW and Preiss T: Circular RNAs: Splicing’s enigma variations. EMBO J 32: 923-925, 2013.
8. Memczak S, Jens M, Elefsinioti A, Torti F, Krueger J, Rybak A, Maier L, Mackowiak SD, Gregersen LH, Munschauer M, et al: Circular RNAs are a large class of animal RNAs with regulatory potency. Nature 495: 333-338, 2013.
9. Zhang XO, Wang HB, Zhang Y, Lu X, Chen LL and Yang L: Complementary sequence-mediated exon circularization. Cell 159: 134-147, 2014.
10. Li Z, Huang C, Bao C, Chen L, Lin M, Wang X, Zhong G, Yu B, Hu W, Dai L, et al: Exon-intron circular RNAs regulate transcription in the nucleus. Nat Struct Mol Biol 22: 256-264, 2015.

11. Hansen TB, Jensen T, Clausen BH, Bramsen JB, Finsen B, Damgaard CK and Kjems J: Natural RNA circles function as efficient microRNA sponges. Nature 495: 384-388, 2013.

12. Han D, Li J, Wang H, Su X, Hou J, Gu Y, Qian C, Lin Y, Liu X, Huang M, et al: Circular RNA circMTO1 acts as the sponge of microRNA-9 to suppress hepatocellular carcinoma progression. Hepatology 66: 1151-1164, 2017.

13. Munschauer M, Nguyen CT, Sirokman K, Hartigan CR, Legnini I, di Timoteo G, Rossi F, Morlando M, Briganti F, Hansen TB, Jensen TI, Clausen BH, Bramsen JB, Finsen B, Damgaard CK, and Kjems J: Natural RNA circles function as efficient microRNA sponges. Nature 495: 384-388, 2013.

14. Zhao J, Li L, Wang Q, Han H, Zhan Q and Xu M: CircRNA expression profile in early-stage lung adenocarcinoma patients. Cell Physiol Biochem 44: 2138-2146, 2017.

15. Legnini I, Di Timoteo G, Rossi F, Morlando M, Briganti F, Sthandier O, Fatica A, Santini T, Andronache A, Wade M, et al: Circ-ZNF609 is a circular RNA that can be translated and functions in myogenesis. Mol Cell 66: 22-37 e9, 2017.

16. Yang Y, Gao X, Zhang M, Yan S, Sun C, Xiao F, Huang N, Yang X, Zhao K, Zhou H, et al: Novel Role of FBXW7 Circular RNA in Repressing Glioma Tumorigenesis. J Natl Cancer Inst 110, 2018.

17. Livak KJ and Schmittgen TD: Analysis of relative gene expression levels using real-time quantitative PCR and the 2(-Delta Delta C(T)) method. Methods 25: 402-408, 2001.

18. Chaurasia B, Kaddai VA, Lancaster GI, Henstridge DC, Srima S, Galam DL, Gopalan V, Prakash KN, Velan SS, Bulchand S, et al: Adipocyte ceramides regulate subcutaneous adipose browning, inflammation, and metabolism. Cell Metab 24: 821-834, 2016.

19. Roh HC, Tsai LTY, Shao M, Tenen D, Shen Y, Kumari M, Lyubetskaya A, Jacobs C, Dawes B, Gupta RK and Rosen ED: Warming induces significant reprogramming of Beige, but not brown, adipocyte cellular identity. Cell Metab 27: 1121-1137.e5, 2018.

20. Shao M, Ishibashi J, Kusminski CM, Wang QA, Hepler C, Vishvanath L, MacPherson KA, Spurgin SB, Sun K, Holland WL, et al: Zip423 maintains white adipocyte identity through suppression of the beige cell thermogenic gene program. Cell Metab 23: 1167-1184, 2016.

21. Wang QA, Song A, Chen W, Schwalie PC, Zhang F, Vishvanath L, Jiang L, Ye R, Shao M, Tao C, et al: Reversible de-differentiation of mature white adipocytes into preadipocyte-like precursors during lactation. Cell Metab 28: 282-288.e3, 2018.

22. Bi P, Yue F, Karki A, Castro B, Wirbisky SE, Wang C, Durkes A, Elzey BD, Andrisani OM, Bidwell CA, et al: Notch activation drives adipocyte dedifferentiation and tumorigenic transformation in mice. J Exp Med 213: 2019-2037, 2016.

23. Wang W, Ishibashi J, Trefely S, Shao M, Cowan AJ, Sakers A, Lim HW, O’Connor S, Doan MT, Cohen P, et al: A PRDM16-driven metabolic signal from adipocytes regulates precursor cell fate. Cell Metab 30: 174-189.e5, 2019.

24. Gabriely I, Ma XH, Yang XM, Atzmon G, Rajala MW, Berg AH, Scherer P, Rossetti L and Barzilai N: Removal of visceral fat prevents insulin resistance and glucose intolerance of aging: An adipokine-mediated process? Diabetes 51: 2951-2958, 2002.

25. Barzilai N, She L, Liu BQ, Vugrin P, Cohen P, Wang J and Rossetti L: Surgical removal of visceral fat reverses hepatic insulin resistance. Diabetes 48: 94-98, 1999.

26. Seki T, Hosaka K, Fischer C, Lim S, Andersson P, Abe M, Iwamoto H, Gao Y, Wang X, Fong GH and Cao Y: Ablation of endothelial VEGFR1 improves metabolic dysfunction by inducing adipose tissue browning. J Exp Med 215: 611-626, 2018.

27. Li A, Huang W, Zhang X, Xie L and Miao X: Identification and characterization of CircRNAs of two pig breeds as a new biomarker in metabolism-related diseases. Cell Physiol Biochem 47: 2458-2470, 2018.

28. Zhang Y, Zhang XO, Chen T, Xiang JF, Yin QF, Xing YH, Zhu S, Yang L and Chen LL: Circular intronic long noncoding RNAs. Mol Cell 51: 792-806, 2013.

29. Ashwal-Fluss R, Meyer M, Famudarti NR, Ivanov A, Bartok O, Hanan M, Evantal N, Memczak S, Rajewsky N and Kadener S: circRNA biogenesis competes with pre-mRNA splicing. Mol Cell 56: 55-66, 2014.

30. Kelly S, Greenman C, Cook PR and Papanontis A: Exon skipping is correlated with exon circularization. J Mol Biol 427: 2414-2417, 2015.

31. Gong H, Ni Y, Guo X, Fei L, Pan X, Guo M and Chen R: Resistin promotes 3T3-L1 preadipocyte differentiation. Eur J Endocrinol 150: 885-892, 2004.

32. Ding ST, McNeel RL and Mersmann HJ: Expression of porcine adipocyte transcripts. Tissue distribution and differentiation in vitro and in vivo. Comp Biochem Physiol B Biochem Mol Biol 123: 307-318, 1999.

33. Anveden A, Sjoholm K, Jacobson P, Palsdottir V, Walley A, Froguel P, Al-Daghri N, McTernan PG, Mejhert N, Arner P, et al: ITIH-5 expression in human adipose tissue is increased in obesity. Obesity (Silver Spring) 20: 708-714, 2012.

34. Beale EG, Harvey BJ and Forest C: PCK1 and PCK2 as candidate diabetes and obesity genes. Cell Biochem Biophys 48: 99-85, 2007.

35. Bi J, Wang W, Liu Z, Huang X, Jiang Q, Liu G, Wang Y and Huang X: Seipin promotes adipose tissue fat storage through the ER Ca2+-ATPase SERCA. Cell Metab 19: 861-871, 2014.

36. Yi X, Liu J, Wu P, Gong Y, Xu X and Li W: The key microRNA in lipid droplet formation during adipogenesis from human mesenchymal stem cells. J Cell Physiol 235: 328-338, 2020.