Review Article

Cellular Signal Transduction Pathways Involved in Acute Lung Injury Induced by Intestinal Ischemia-Reperfusion

Guangyao Li, Yingyi Zhang, and Zhe Fan

Department of General Surgery, The Third People’s Hospital of Dalian, Dalian Medical University, Dalian, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Yingyi Zhang; zhangyingyidl@outlook.com and Zhe Fan; fanzhe1982@hotmail.com

Received 22 March 2021; Accepted 14 May 2021; Published 4 June 2021

Academic Editor: Haobo Li

Copyright © 2021 Guangyao Li et al. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

Intestinal ischemia-reperfusion (II/R) injury is a common type of tissue and organ injury, secondary to intestinal and mesenteric vascular diseases. II/R is characterized by a high incidence rate and mortality. In the II/R process, intestinal barrier function is impaired and bacterial translocation leads to excessive reactive oxygen species, inflammatory cytokine release, and even apoptosis. A large number of inflammatory mediators and oxidative factors are released into the circulation, leading to severe systemic inflammation and multiple organ failure of the lung, liver, and kidney. Acute lung injury (ALI) is the most common complication, which gradually develops into acute respiratory distress syndrome and is the main cause of its high mortality. This review summarizes the signal transduction pathways and key molecules in the pathophysiological process of ALI induced by II/R injury and provides a new therapeutic basis for further exploration of the molecular mechanisms of ALI induced by II/R injury. In particular, this article will focus on the biomarkers involved in II/R-induced ALI.

1. Introduction

Intestinal ischemia-reperfusion (II/R) injury can occur in a variety of pathophysiological conditions, including acute mesenteric ischemia, severe trauma, acute shock, small bowel transplantation, and sepsis [1]. II/R is a clinical state. During ischemia, the blood supply of the intestine is limited, and then, the tissues and organs are damaged due to reperfusion and oxygen recovery [2]. The recovery of blood flow and oxygen during reperfusion leads to bacterial translocation, tissue damage, inflammatory response, and oxidative stress. During ischemia, tissue hypoxia leads to endothelial cell barrier function damage and increases in vascular permeability, followed by cell death, tissue damage, and organ failure during reperfusion [3]. In addition to intestinal injury, II/R can also lead to distal tissue injury and distal organ failure. Distant organs, especially the lungs, are very sensitive to II/R injury. According to the literature, the mortality of II/R is as high as 60%–80% [4]. An increasing number of reports show that secondary distal organ injury (acute lung injury (ALI) and acute respiratory distress syndrome) is more serious than intestinal injury and has been shown to be the main cause of death in patients with II/R [5].

The pathophysiology and pathogenesis of ALI induced by II/R are complicated and poorly understood. Some researchers have hypothesized that damage to the intestinal mucosal barrier after II/R leads to the translocation of bacteria and endotoxins, which leads to a systemic inflammatory response. The release of a large number of inflammatory mediators (TNF-α, IL-1, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, NO, etc.) into the systemic circulation can lead to cell necrosis, tissue damage, and organ failure. Neutrophils and their products are increased in lung tissue, leading to increased vascular permeability, vascular and pulmonary interstitial edema, and pulmonary edema [6]. However, the specific mechanism of ALI is very complex, involving bacterial translocation, inflammatory response, oxidative stress, and initiation of apoptosis and necrosis. In this review, we focused on the multiple signaling pathways involved in II/R-induced ALI. The search Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms and keywords were as follows: acute lung injury, ALI, intestinal ischemia reperfusion, intestinal ischemia-reperfusion, and
gut ischemia-reperfusion by using PubMed, Embase, and MEDLINE. Cellular signal transduction pathways such as the MAPK signaling pathway, NF-κB signaling pathway, TLR4 signal transduction pathway, PKC/p66Shc signaling pathway, NLRP3 inflammasome, Nrf2 signaling pathway, SIRT1 signaling pathway, and other signaling pathways were also summarized to explore the potential pathogenesis of II/R-induced ALI and examine new targeted therapies using biomarkers.

2. Biomarkers of ALI Induced by Aggravating II/R

2.1. MAPK Signaling Pathway. The mitogen activated protein kinase (MAPK) signaling pathway is activated by a variety of inflammatory signals, including inflammatory mediators and oxidative stress factors [7]. At present, four MAPK pathways have been identified in mammals, including extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK), c-Jun N-terminal kinase (JNK), p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase, and ERK5 [8]. Different extracellular stimuli can activate different MAPK signaling pathways and mediate different cellular biological responses through their mutual regulation. The ERK signaling pathway plays an important role in the process of cell proliferation mediated by growth factors. JNK and p38MAPK pathways activate downstream factors (AP-1 and Jun), which are related to a variety of pathophysiological processes during cell apoptosis and stress [9]. Together with endoplasmic reticulum stress, IL-1β increases apoptosis through the JNK signaling pathway [10]. Recently, the p38MAPK signaling pathway has been proposed to play a key role in the inflammatory response of ALI [11]. During ALI, inflammatory factors enter into the lung tissue and destroy lung endothelial cells, leading to an increase in pulmonary capillary permeability that results in pulmonary edema. Therefore, inflammation and pulmonary edema may be two important pathological features of ALI [12].

It has been reported that one of the most active cytokines in the early stage of ALI is IL-1β, which is a powerful inducer of lung inflammation and can cause the release of various proinflammatory factors [13]. The increase in IL-1β may be the result of ALI induced by II/R, so reducing the expression of IL-1β may be conducive to the recovery from lung injury. Increased expression of p38MAPK can also be observed after II/R. In addition, there are also reports that p38MAPK can activate rat pulmonary interstitial macrophages to produce nuclear factor kappa B (NF-κB) [14]. Studies have shown that the p38MAPK inhibitor sb239063 can effectively reduce the expression level of IL-1β after II/R by inhibiting the p38MAPK pathway, significantly improving lung injury, and providing a new therapeutic approach for the clinical application of p38MAPK as an intervention against ALI after II/R [15].

Aquaporins (AQPs) are a small family of integral membrane proteins that regulate water transport and play an important role in water homeostasis. Aquaporin 4 (AQP4) is a recently found protein related to edema [16]. Pulmonary edema, as an important pathological feature of ALI caused by II/R, suggests a novel approach for the treatment of ALI. Studies have shown that the increased expression of AQP4 is related to the severity of lung injury induced by II/R, and AQP4 plays an important role in the pathogenesis of ALI induced by II/R. The p38MAPK inhibitor SB239063 reduced the expression of AQP4 and alleviated the extent of lung injury, suggesting that p38MAPK may be the main pathway mediating the expression of AQP4 in ALI induced by II/R. Inhibition of the p38MAPK pathway may thus become an effective target for the prevention and treatment of ALI induced by II/R [17] (Figure 1).

2.2. NF-κB Signaling Pathway. NF-κB plays an important role in transcriptional regulation of many inflammatory and apoptotic regulatory genes during II/R. NF-κB is a rapid nuclear transcription factor. At present, there are five members of the NF-κB family in mammalian cells: NF-κB1 (P50), NF-κB2 (p52), Rel A (p65), Rel B, and c-Rel. NF-κB must form as a homodimer or heterodimer to have biological activity. When cells are stimulated by internal and external factors, NF-κB is activated and enters the nucleus to regulate gene transcription, including the genes for TNF-α, IL-1, IL-6, IL-8, and ICAM-1. Inflammatory factors play an important role in II/R injury, and TNF-α, as the induction factor, induces the release of various inflammatory factors [18–20].

NF-κB enters the nucleus and mediates the transcription and release of a variety of inflammatory factors, which then spread the inflammatory response and are causative factors leading to ALI. Inhibition of the NF-κB pathway can reduce lung inflammation and ALI caused by II/R [21]. After II/R, the levels of visfatin in plasma and lung tissue are significantly increased, and visfatin exerts a proinflammatory effect by upregulating the production of the proinflammatory factors IL-1β, IL-6, and TNF-α in a dose-dependent manner [22]. The visfatin inhibitor FK866 inhibits the nuclear translocation of NF-κB p65 by inhibiting the degradation of cytoplasmic I-κBα. Whether FK866 has the effect of reducing apoptosis in the process of inflammation needs further study. However, it has been reported that TNF-α, one of the main mediators of ALI, starts the apoptosis cascade, and FK866 at least partially inhibits apoptosis in ALI through an indirect pathway [23]. FK866 can significantly reduce the inflammatory response and apoptosis after organ injury by inhibiting the NF-κB signaling pathway and ultimately improves the survival rate [22]. Curcumin can also effectively prevent II/R-induced ALI by inhibiting the NF-κB pathway. After curcumin treatment, myeloperoxidase levels in lung tissue (a marker of neutrophil recruitment and lung injury [24]) were significantly decreased, while superoxide dismutase (SOD) level (an indicator of antioxidant effect [25]) was significantly increased. The levels of IL-6 and ICAM-1 were parallel to the changes of NF-κB, suggesting that curcumin can reduce the recruitment/infiltration of neutrophils and play an anti-inflammatory and antioxidant role by inhibiting the NF-κB pathway [26] (Figure 2).

2.3. TLR4 Signal Transduction Pathway. Toll-like receptors (TLRs) are a class of important proteins involved in innate immunity and act as the first barrier against infectious diseases. TLR4, a member of the TLR family, is responsible for...
recognizing pathogens and activating the innate immune system. It can recognize a variety of ligands, such as endogenous ligands (low-density lipoprotein and heat shock protein) and exogenous ligands (lipopolysaccharide), so it plays a key role in the body's response to I/R injury [27]. TLR4 can activate multiple signaling pathways after specifically binding with ligands, including MAPK and NF-κB pathway proteins, which are key factors involved in the inflammatory immune response that regulate cell survival [8]. In the lung injury model induced by I/R in mice, TLR4 deletion can prevent the activation of p38MAPK and NF-κB signals, and the phosphorylation of p38MAPK and the activation of NF-κB in the lung tissue of TLR4-mutant mice are significantly inhibited, which indicates that these pathways are involved in ALI induced by I/R and are mediated by TLR4 [28]. The downstream effects regulated by TLRs vary with the type of receptors, and these mediators contribute to the production of local inflammation and the aggregation of neutrophils [29].

The signal transduction pathway mediated by TLRs depends on the interaction with cytoplasmic adaptor proteins and mainly myeloid differentiation factor 88 (MyD88). MyD88 is considered the central adaptor protein for signal transduction activated by MAPK and NF-κB in almost all TLRs (except TLR3) [30]. In fact, in the absence of MyD88, bacterial translocation is weakened and intestinal and lung injuries are alleviated, which is due to the reduction in neutrophil aggregation, lower levels of inflammatory mediators, alleviation of pulmonary vascular injury, and the improved survival rate [31]. Victoni et al. confirmed that blocking the TLR/MyD88 pathway reduced intestinal and lung injury after I/R, thus improving the survival rate [32].

TLRs play an important role in innate immunity by regulating the activity of different NF-κBs. It was reported that the TLR4/NF-κB signaling pathway is the key mechanism regulating proinflammatory factors in the I/R-induced lung injury model [28]. Activation of TLR4 can promote the activation of NF-κBP65 and lead to the release of proinflammatory factors TNF-α, IL-1, IL-6, and IL-8 from pulmonary macrophages, resulting in ALI. The α-7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor agonist can inhibit the expression of TLR4, reduce the transport of p65, diminish the activation of NF-κB and production of proinflammatory factors, and also inhibit the inflammatory reaction, thus reducing ALI caused by I/R [33]. In addition, bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells can downregulate the expression of TLR4/NF-κB and reduce cell apoptosis and inflammatory responses, thereby alleviating ALI induced by I/R. The inactivation of TLR4/NF-κB signaling also leads to the downregulation of caspase-3, a key protease in the apoptotic response [34]. The results of this study suggested that using bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells to target TLR4 offers a therapeutic regimen for ALI induced by I/R. The same results were verified in an experiment by Soares et al. The lung inflammatory response and apoptosis in TLR4-deficient mice were significantly reduced, which confirms that the TLR4 receptor signaling pathway plays an important role in ALI. Consequently, interfering with the TLR signal may be a promising therapeutic strategy [35] (Figure 3).

2.4. PKC/p66Shc Signaling Pathway. SHC protein is widely expressed in mammals and is a proapoptotic factor and proinflammatory mediator. Adaptor protein p66Shc (a member of the SHCA protein family) is a proapoptotic protein, which is composed of p64shc and p52shc proteins. Its proapoptotic effect mainly depends on the binding of cytochrome-c in mitochondria and its oxidation function; in the oxidation process, cytochrome-c is released into the cytoplasm to activate caspase-3, thus inducing apoptosis [36]. The stress response phosphorylates serine 36 of p66Shc, which plays an important role in the oxidative stress response and apoptosis [37]. Manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD) and Bcl-2 play an important role in the physiopathological process of I/R, and both of which can be regulated by p66Shc [38]. I/R activated changes in reactive oxygen species accumulation, in which p66Shc phosphorylation of antioxidant factors GSH and MnSOD decreased, while phosphorylation of apoptosis-related factors increased for caspase-3 and decreased for Bcl-2. The use of polyphenol protocatechuic acid (PCA) can significantly reduce I/R-induced ALI by inhibiting p66shc, increasing lung antioxidant factors, and reducing proapoptotic factors and inflammatory mediators [39]. This is consistent with previous

**Figure 1**: JNK and p38MAPK in the MAPK pathway aggravate ALI, while SB239063 inhibits the p38MAPK pathway to relieve ALI.

**Figure 2**: Nuclear translocation of p65 in NF-κB aggravates ALI, while FK866 inhibits p65 nuclear translocation to relieve ALI.
studies in which the inhibition of p66Shc phosphorylation had a protective effect on lung epithelial cell apoptosis during ALI induced by II/R [38]. Inhibition of p66Shc phosphorylation may be a new treatment for ALI induced by II/R.

Protein kinase C (PKC) plays an important role in signal transduction by phosphorylating serine and threonine residues. Many conditions can cause PKC activation, including II/R [40]. Previous studies have shown that the activation of PKC βII specifically participates in the primary injury of II/R, and inhibiting the expression of PKC βII can prevent II/R injury [41]. However, PKC βIII is selectively activated in the lung and liver after II/R. LY333531, a specific inhibitor of PKC βII, significantly reduced lung injury, inflammatory response, oxidative stress, and apoptosis after II/R. Meanwhile, it also significantly inhibited the activation of p66Shc and the binding of cytochrome-c, which resulted in a decrease of cytochrome-c release and caspase-3 cleavage, and reduced apoptosis. This study showed that the PKC βII/p66Shc pathway could be a specific therapeutic target, which can not only reduce II/R injury but also improve secondary lung injury, providing a new therapeutic strategy for the prevention of ALI caused by II/R [42] (Figure 4).

2.5. NLRP3 Inflammasome. An increasing number of studies have shown that nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain-like receptor (NLR) initiates an inflammatory response in a variety of diseases. When the body is injured, the NLRP3 inflammasome activates caspase-1 and IL-1β, leading to inflammation and tissue damage [43]. After II/R, the NLRP3 inflammasome plays an important role in early injury of the heart, liver, kidney, lung, intestine, and other organs [44]. Lipid mediators are effective regulators of innate and acquired immune responses and are associated with many inflammatory diseases [45]. II/R stimulates the release of lipid mediators, which can enhance the expression of NLRP3 inflammatory bodies and the production of IL-1β in pulmonary vascular endothelial cells, thereby increasing pulmonary vascular permeability and the inflammatory response and resulting in ALI. Thus, NLRP3 inflammation-driven IL-1β is a new potential target for the prevention and treatment of ALI induced by II/R [46] (Figure 5).

2.6. mTOR, VAP-1, NADPH Enzyme, IRHOM2, and CIRP. mTOR is a serine/threonine kinase, which plays a key role in cell proliferation and survival. A large number of studies have shown that mTOR plays an important role in the pathogenesis of ALI during II/R [47]. mTOR includes two different compounds, mTORC1 and mTORC2. mTORC1 promotes protein synthesis by phosphorylation of P70S6K and eIF4E binding protein (4EBP) [48]. FKBP25 is a member of the FKBP family of immunoadin proteins, which can form a complex with mTOR and then plays a role by regulating mTOR [49]. Neurilifordin F (NF) may reduce lung injury by activating FKBP25 and inhibiting the mTOR/P70S6K pathway. On the other hand, NF can reduce the expression of p65 and the activation of IL-1β by inhibiting TLR4. The decrease in p65 expression also reduces the activation of NLRP3/caspase-1 and the expression of inflammatory mediators, with an overall anti-inflammatory effect that improves ALI induced by II/R [50]. Similarly, the mTOR inhibitor rapamycin can inhibit the activation of NF-kB and reduce distal lung injury after II/R. Inhibition of the mTOR pathway is now a targeted therapy for ALI after II/R [51].

Leukocyte extravasation is also involved in II/R injury and ALI. Excessive leukocyte extravasation is largely the result of the increased expression of adhesion molecules on the surface of endothelial cells and neutrophils [52]. Vascular adhesion protein-1 (VAP-1) is an extracellular enzyme expressed in endothelial cells, which can regulate leukocyte extravasation. In the II/R state, tissue damage is mainly caused by exudative leukocytes. Blocking adhesion molecules to inhibit the interaction between leukocytes and endothelial cells can reduce the degree of tissue damage in II/R [53]. Jan et al. used gene-targeted animals to show that VAP-1 is important in II/R and ALI. Anti-VAP-1 antibody or small molecule SSAO inhibitor reduced II/R injury and lung injury caused by neutrophil aggregation in the lungs [54].

Oxidative stress is the main underlying factor in ALI induced by II/R, and mast cell activation aggravates oxidative stress and ALI induced by II/R [5]. In the acute lung injury model induced by II/R, NADPH oxidase (p47phox and gp91phox) activity increased. Resveratrol inhibited the activation of mast cells and significantly reduced oxidative stress and inflammatory reactions in lung tissue after II/R [55].
Tryptase released by mast cells also plays a key role in II/R-induced ALI by activating protease-activated receptor-2 (PAR-2). Inhibition of tryptase release may be an effective scheme for the treatment of II/R-induced ALI [5].

TNF-alpha is involved in the pathogenesis of many inflammatory diseases. TNF-alpha converting enzyme (TACE) is necessary for the release of TNF-alpha. Inactivated rhomboid protein 2 (IRHOM2) has recently been identified as an important factor regulating TACE maturation in immune cells. In IRHOM2 gene knockout mice, inflammatory mediators, proapoptotic factors, and lung injury were significantly reduced. Therefore, IRHOM2 may play an important role in the pathogenesis of II/R-induced ALI and may be a new target for the treatment of II/R-induced ALI [56, 57].

The aseptic inflammation during II/R injury is triggered by endogenous injury-associated molecular pattern (DAMP) proteins. Cold-induced RNA-binding protein (CIRP) is a member of the DAMP family and constitutes a new inflammatory mediator, which can cause tissue damage during II/R [58]. DAMP binds to TLRs to enhance the activation of innate immune cells; furthermore, the immune system involves a wide range of inflammatory cascade reactions, which may be potential targets in the treatment of ALI caused by II/R [59]. In clinical trials, directly targeting TLR4 failed to show good efficacy, but targeting CIRP may be beneficial in the treatment of ALI and ARDS caused by II/R [60].

### 3. Biomarkers for Alleviating II/R-Induced ALI

#### 3.1. Nrf2 Signaling Pathway

Nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor (Nrf2) is a key regulator of intracellular oxidative homeostasis and plays an important role in inflammatory defense response [61]. Previous studies have shown that Nrf2 plays a protective role in ALI induced by II/R [62]. After II/R, the conformation of Nrf2 complex changes. Nrf2 dissociates from Keap1 and enters the nucleus through translocation, where it combines with antioxidant response elements to induce anti-inflammatory and antioxidative effects and promote cell survival [63].

Inflammation plays an important role in the pathogenesis of ALI induced by II/R. Blocking the TLR/MyD88 pathway has been shown to reduce lung injury in mice [32]. II/R can upregulate the expression of TLR4 and Nrf2 in the lung tissue of mice, while Nrf2 enters the nucleus to regulate the expression of TLR4, reduce the release of inflammatory mediators, and alleviate ALI. Nrf2 induces the expression of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1), which is related to the PI3K/Akt pathway. The Nrf2/TLR4/Akt pathway, thus, plays an important role in II/R-induced ALI and provides a new therapeutic target for the treatment of ALI [64].

A number of studies have shown that II/R injury involves a nonapoptotic pathway, and ferroptosis is an iron-dependent and caspase-independent type of nonapoptotic cell death [65]. Ferroptosis is different from classical apoptosis in that iron catalyzes the formation of lipid-free radicals and the depletion of glutathione (GSH) [66]. Downstream factors of Nrf2 (HO-1, glutathione peroxidase, and SLC7A11) play a crucial role in cell defense [67]. Activated STAT3 reduces apoptosis under ferroptosis and plays an important role in the inflammatory response and development of tumors [68]. Nrf2 and STAT3 are both antioxidant
response elements. When cells are under oxidative stress, they can promote the expression of downstream target genes (such as SLC7A11) and reduce cell apoptosis and tissue damage. During I/R, Nrf2 and STAT3 jointly upregulate the expression of SLC7A11 and HO-1 and inhibit ferroptosis, thus reducing I/R-induced ALI and providing a new scheme for targeting the Nrf2 pathway in the treatment of I/R-induced ALI [69]. Similarly, p53 inhibitor IASPP inhibits ferroptosis through the Nrf2/HIF-1/TF signaling pathway [70]. Intestinal ischemic postconditioning promotes HO-1 expression through the Nrf2 pathway, inhibits oxidative stress and the inflammatory response, and reduces lung injury [71]. These studies all show that the Nrf2 pathway is an effective target for the treatment of ALI induced by I/R (Figure 6).

3.2. SIRT1 Signaling Pathway. SIRT1 is a nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide- (NAD-) dependent deacetylase. Through deacetylation of FOXO3, SIRT1 plays important antioxidative, anti-inflammatory, and antiapoptotic roles in ALI induced by I/R [72]. SIRT1 enhances cell viability under stress by regulating different downstream factors (p53, NF-κB, and FOXO); for example, SIRT1 deacylates FOXO3 and enhances cell resistance to oxidative stress through an antioxidant molecule (MnSOD) [73]. It is well known that the weakening of antioxidant stress and the activation of apoptotic signals play an important role in the pathogenesis of ALI induced by I/R. The antioxidant molecule MnSOD and antiapoptotic molecule Bcl-2 are closely related to ALI induced by I/R [74]. I/R activates a cascading reaction, which leads to the accumulation of reactive oxygen species, a decrease in SIRT1 and FOXO3 deacetylation, and a decrease in MnSOD and Bcl-2. Icariin can upregulate the expression of SIRT1, promote FOXO3 deacetylation, enhance the release of antioxidant molecules and antiapoptotic factors, and reduce the release of inflammatory mediators, which can protect lung tissue from injury caused by I/R; in contrast, the SIRT1/FOXO3 signaling pathway has little effect on experimental lung injury. The protective effect against ALI induced by I/R may be achieved by upregulating MnSOD and enhancing the expression of Bcl-2 [75].

In addition, upregulation of SIRT1 level can increase the translocation of Nrf2, thereby inhibiting the activation of MAPK and protecting cells from damage [76]. Nrf2 is an important transcription factor, which not only protects cells from injury but also participates in ischemic angiogenesis [77]. Nrf2 regulates the expression of nonphagocytic oxidase 4 (NOX4), hypoxia-inducible factor 1A, and vascular endothelial growth factor and combines with them to resist oxidative stress [78]. In the model of I/R injury in mice, it was found that Nrf2 participates in the vascular remodeling...
caused by ALI after II/R injury. The increase in SIRT1 level induces the upregulation of Nrf2 and then promotes the angiogenesis of human pulmonary microvascular endothelial cells through gene regulation mediated by NOX4 [79]. Adenosine 5′-monophosphate- (AMP-) activated protein kinase (AMPK) is a key enzyme in bioenergy metabolism, which can be activated by a variety of anti-inflammatory drugs, and when coupled with SIRTs increases the activity of SIRT1 [80]. U-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids inhibit the release of inflammatory mediators and reduce ALI by activating the AMPK/SIRT1 pathway; in addition, these polyunsaturated fatty acids can inhibit p66Shc, restore claudin5 expression, restore the alveolar-capillary barrier, and reduce apoptosis by activating the AMPK/SIRT1 pathway. Therefore, regulating the AMPK/SIRT1 pathway may become a new mechanism to protect against ALI induced by II/R [81] (Figure 7).

4. Conclusion

II/R injury is a common type of tissue and organ injury, secondary to intestinal and mesenteric vascular diseases. Ischemia leads to hypoxia, cell injury, and necrosis. However, the recovery of blood flow and oxygen during reperfusion results in bacterial translocation, tissue damage, inflammatory response, and oxidative stress. II/R can also lead to distal tissue damage and distal organ failure, of which lung injury is the most common, which is also the cause of the high mortality resulting from II/R injury. Previous studies have shown that II/R-induced ALI involves bacterial translocation, inflammatory response, oxidative stress, cell apoptosis, and necrosis; signaling pathways and markers are summarized in Figure 8. Further research has identified biomarkers that play an important role in the pathogenesis of II/R-induced ALI, which involves various targets and signaling pathways in the cascading reaction of II/R-induced ALI. By blocking pathways that can aggravate the disease and activating the pathways that can alleviate the disease, clinical trials have shown exciting results and suggest new approaches for better diagnosis and treatment of ALI caused by II/R. We believe that the continuing development of biomarkers will lead to novel therapeutic applications and cures for ALI caused by II/R.

Data Availability

No data were used to support this study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare they have no competing interests.

Acknowledgments

For information retrieval, this study was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81701965 to ZF) and the Natural Science Foundation of Liaoning Province (20180550116 to ZF and 2019-MS-069 to ZF).

References

[1] A. Pierro and S. Eaton, "Intestinal ischemia reperfusion injury and multisystem organ failure," *Seminars in Pediatric Surgery*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 11–17, 2004.
[2] A. Stallion, T. D. Kou, S. Q. Latifi et al., "Ischemia/reperfusion: a clinically relevant model of intestinal injury yielding systemic inflammation," *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, vol. 40, no. 3, pp. 470–477, 2005.
[3] J.-P. Idrovo, W.-L. Yang, A. Jacob et al., "AICAR attenuates organ injury and inflammatory response after intestinal ischemia and reperfusion," *Molecular Medicine*, vol. 20, no. 1, pp. 676–683, 2015.
[4] D. Tendler, "Acute intestinal ischemia and infarction," *Seminars in Gastrointestinal Disease*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 66–76, 2003.
[5] X. Gan, D. Liu, P. Huang, W. Gao, X. Chen, and Z. Hei, "Mast-cell-releasing tryptase triggers acute lung injury induced by small intestinal ischemia-reperfusion by activating PAR-2 in rats," *Inflammation*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp. 1144–1153, 2012.
[6] R. Ding, J. Han, Y. Tian, R. Guo, and X. Ma, "Sphingosine-1-phosphate attenuates lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia/reperfusion in mice: role of inducible nitric-oxide synthase," *Inflammation*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 158–166, 2012.
[7] T. Zarubin and J. Han, "Activation and signaling of the p38 MAP kinase pathway," *Cell Research*, vol. 15, no. 1, pp. 11–18, 2005.
[8] T. V. Arumugam, E. Okun, S.-C. Tang, J. Thundyil, S. M. Tay, and T. M. Woodruff, "Toll-like receptors in ischemia-reperfusion injury," *Shock*, vol. 32, no. 1, pp. 4–16, 2009.
[9] J. Fang, "The MAPK signalling pathways and colorectal cancer," *The Lancet Oncology*, vol. 6, no. 5, pp. 322–327, 2005.
[10] S. Salim, "VSL#3 probiotics provide protection against acute intestinal ischaemia/reperfusion injury," *Benef Microbes*, vol. 4, no. 4, pp. 357–365, 2013.
[11] Y.-h. Pei, X.-m. Cai, J. Chen et al., "The role of p38 MAPK in acute paraquat-induced lung injury in rats," *Inhalation Toxicology*, vol. 26, no. 14, pp. 880–884, 2014.
[12] R. L. Zemans and M. A. Matthey, "Bench-to-bedside review: the role of the alveolar epithelium in the resolution of pulmonary edema in acute lung injury," *Critical care*, vol. 8, no. 6, pp. 469–477, 2004.
[13] R. Goodman, "Cytokine-mediated inflammation in acute lung injury," *Cytokine & Growth Factor Reviews*, vol. 14, no. 6, pp. 523–535, 2003.
[14] S. Li, Z. Ni, B. Cong et al., "CCK-8 inhibits LPS-induced IL-1beta production in pulmonary interstitial macrophages by modulating PKA, p38, and NF-kappaB pathway," *Shock*, vol. 27, no. 6, pp. 678–686, 2007.
[15] D.-Y. Zheng, M. Zhou, J. Jin et al., "Inhibition of P38 MAPK downregulates the expression of IL-1beta to protect lung from acute injury in intestinal ischemia reperfusion rats," *Mediators Inflamm.*, vol. 2016, article 9348037, 2016.
[16] A. S. Verkman, "Aquaporins in clinical medicine," *Annual review of medicine*, vol. 63, pp. 303–316, 2012.
[17] L.-L. Xiong, Y. Tan, H.-Y. Ma et al., "Administration of SB239063, a potent p38 MAPK inhibitor, alleviates acute lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia reperfusion in rats associated with AQP4 downregulation," *International Immunopharmacology*, vol. 38, pp. 54–60, 2016.
[18] A. S. Baldwin Jr., “The NF-kappa B and I kappa B proteins: new discoveries and insights,” Annual review of immunology, vol. 14, pp. 649–683, 1996.

[19] J. H. Yao, X. S. Zhang, S. S. Zheng et al., “Prophylaxis with carnosol alleviates acute liver injury induced by intestinal ischemia/reperfusion,” World Journal of Gastroenterology, vol. 15, no. 26, pp. 3240–3245, 2009.

[20] Z. Yang, X. R. Zhang, Q. Zhao et al., “Knockdown of TNF-α alleviates acute lung injury in rats with intestinal ischemia and reperfusion injury by upregulating IL-10 expression,” International Journal of Molecular Medicine, vol. 42, no. 2, pp. 926–934, 2018.

[21] J. Fan, R. D. Ye, and A. B. Malik, “Transcriptional mechanisms of acute lung injury,” American journal of physiology Lung cellular and molecular physiology, vol. 281, no. 5, pp. L1037–L1050, 2001.

[22] A. R. Moschen, A. Kaser, B. Enrich et al., “Visfatin, an adipocytokine with proinflammatory and immunomodulating properties,” Journal of immunology, vol. 178, no. 3, pp. 1748–1758, 2007.

[23] H. MALHI and G. J. GORES, “Cellular and molecular mechanisms of liver injury,” Gastroenterology, vol. 134, no. 6, pp. 1641–1654, 2008.

[24] M. HASMANN and I. SCHEMAINDA, “FK866, a highly specific noncompetitive inhibitor of nicotinamide phosphoribosyltransferase, represents a novel mechanism for induction of tumor cell apoptosis,” Cancer Research, vol. 63, no. 21, pp. 7436–7442, 2003.

[25] I. Mallick, “Review: ischemia-reperfusion injury of the intestine and protective strategies against injury,” Digestive Diseases and Sciences, vol. 49, no. 9, pp. 1359–1377, 2004.

[26] Z. Fan, J. Yao, Y. Li, H. Shao, and X. Tian, “Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects of curcumin on acute lung injury in a rodent model of intestinal ischemia reperfusion by inhibiting the pathway of NF-kb,” International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Pathology, vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 3451–3459, 2015.

[27] J. A. Hagar, D. A. Powell, Y. Aachoui, R. K. Ernst, and E. A. Miao, “Cytoplasmic LPS activates caspase-11: implications in TLR4-independent endotoxic shock,” Science, vol. 341, no. 6151, pp. 1250–1253, 2013.

[28] D. Ben, “TLR4 mediates lung injury and inflammation in intestinal ischemia-reperfusion,” The Journal of Surgical Research, vol. 174, no. 2, pp. 326–333, 2012.

[29] M. Yamamoto, K. Takeda, and S. Akira, “TIR domain-containing adapters define the specificity of TLR signaling,” Molecular Immunology, vol. 40, no. 12, pp. 861–868, 2004.

[30] D. Jiang, J. Liang, Y. Li, and P. W. Noble, “The role of toll-like receptors in non-infectious lung injury,” Cell Research, vol. 16, no. 8, pp. 693–701, 2006.

[31] J. L. Carvalho, A. Britto, A. L. de Oliveira et al., “Beneficial effect of low-level laser therapy in acute lung injury after I/R is dependent on the secretion of IL-10 and independent of the TLR/MyD88 signaling,” Lasers in Medical Science, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 305–315, 2017.

[32] T. Victoni, F. R. Coelho, A. L. Soares et al., “Local and remote tissue injury upon intestinal ischemia and reperfusion depends on the TLR/MyD88 signaling pathway,” Medical Microbiology and Immunology, vol. 199, no. 1, pp. 35–42, 2010.

[33] Y. He, Z. Q. Ye, X. Li et al., “Alpha7 nicotinic acetylcholine receptor activation attenuated intestine-derived acute lung injury,” The Journal of Surgical Research, vol. 201, no. 2, pp. 258–265, 2016.

[34] J. Liu, T. Chen, P. Lei, X. Tang, and P. Huang, “Exosomes released by bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells attenuate lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia reperfusion via the TLR4/NF-κB pathway,” International Journal of Medical Sciences, vol. 16, no. 9, pp. 1238–1244, 2019.

[35] A. L. Soares, F. R. Coelho, R. Guabiraba et al., “Tumor necrosis factor is not associated with intestinal ischemia/reperfusion-induced lung inflammation,” Shock, vol. 34, no. 3, pp. 306–313, 2010.

[36] M. Giorgio, E. Migliaccio, F. Orsini et al., “Electron transfer between cytochrome c and p66Shc generates reactive oxygen species that trigger mitochondrial apoptosis,” Cell, vol. 122, no. 2, pp. 221–233, 2005.

[37] E. MIGLIACCIO, M. GIORGIO, and P. G. PELICCI, “Aptosis and aging: role of p66Shc redox protein,” Antioxidants & Redox Signaling, vol. 8, no. 3–4, pp. 600–608, 2006.

[38] S. Haga, K. Terui, M. Fukai et al., “Preventing hypoxia/reoxygenation damage to hepatocytes by p66Shc ablation: up-regulation of anti-oxidant and anti-apoptotic proteins,” Journal of Hepatology, vol. 48, no. 3, pp. 422–432, 2008.

[39] G. Z. Wang, J. H. Yao, H. R. Jing et al., “Suppression of the p66shc adapter protein by protocatechuic acid prevents the development of lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia reperfusion in mice,” The Journal of trauma and acute care surgery, vol. 73, no. 5, pp. 1130–1137, 2012.

[40] T. Fujita, T. Asai, M. Andrassy et al., “PKCβeta regulates ischemia/reperfusion injury in the lung,” The Journal of Clinical Investigation, vol. 113, no. 11, pp. 1615–1623, 2004.

[41] Z. Chen, G. Wang, X. Zhai et al., “Selective inhibition of protein kinase C _β_2 attenuates the adapter P66Shc-mediated intestinal ischemia-reperfusion injury,” Cell Death & Disease, vol. 5, no. 4, article e1164, 2014.

[42] G. Wang, Z. Chen, F. Zhang et al., “Blockade of PKCβ protects against remote organ injury induced by intestinal ischemia and reperfusion via a p66shc-mediated mitochondrial apoptotic pathway,” Apoptosis, vol. 19, no. 9, pp. 1342–1353, 2014.

[43] Y. He, H. Haru, and G. Núñez, “Mechanism and regulation of NLRP3 inflammasome activation,” Trends in Biochemical Sciences, vol. 41, no. 12, pp. 1012–1021, 2016.

[44] Y. Jia, R. Cui, C. Wang et al., “Metformin protects against intestinal ischemia-reperfusion injury and cell pyroptosis via TNXIP-NLRP3-GSDMD pathway,” Redox biology, vol. 32, article 101534, 2020.

[45] J. Rossaint, J. L. Nadler, K. Ley, and A. Zarbock, “Eliminating or blocking 12/15-lipoxygenase reduces neutrophil recruitment in mouse models of acute lung injury,” Critical care, vol. 16, no. 5, p. R166, 2012.

[46] H. Ito, H. Kimura, T. Karasawa et al., “NLRP3 inflammasome activation in lung vascular endothelial cells contributes to intestinal ischemia/reperfusion-induced acute lung injury,” Journal of immunology, vol. 205, no. 5, pp. 1393–1405, 2020.

[47] Y. Hu, J. Liu, Y. F. Wu et al., “mTOR and autophagy in regulation of acute lung injury: a review and perspective,” Microbes and Infection, vol. 16, no. 9, pp. 727–734, 2014.

[48] J. Jin, K. Hu, M. Ye, D. Wu, and Q. He, “Rapamycin reduces podocyte apoptosis and is involved in autophagy and mTOR/P70S6K/4EBP1 signaling,” Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 765–772, 2018.
[49] C. Kang, "FKBP family proteins: immunophilins with versatile biological functions," *Neuro-Signals*, vol. 16, no. 4, pp. 318–325, 2008.

[50] Y. Tan, W. Zuo, L. Huang et al., "Nervilifordin F alleviates intestinal ischemia/reperfusion-induced acute lung injury via inhibiting inflammatory and mTOR pathway," *International Immunopharmacology*, vol. 89, article 107014, Partt A, 2020.

[51] T. Iida, T. Takagi, K. Katada et al., "Rapamycin improves mortality following intestinal ischemia-reperfusion via the inhibition of remote lung inflammation in mice," *Digestion*, vol. 92, no. 4, pp. 211–219, 2015.

[52] K. Ley, C. Laudanna, M. I. Cybulsky, and S. Nourshargh, "Getting to the site of inflammation: the leukocyte adhesion cascade updated," *Nature Reviews Immunology*, vol. 7, no. 9, pp. 678–689, 2007.

[53] A. Kakkar, "Leukocyte and endothelial adhesion molecule studies in knockout mice," *Current Opinion in Pharmacology*, vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 154–158, 2004.

[54] J. Kiss, S. Jalkanen, F. Fülop, T. Savunen, and M. Salmi, "Ischemia-reperfusion injury is attenuated in VAP-1-deficient mice and by VAP-1 inhibitors," *European Journal of Immunology*, vol. 38, no. 11, pp. 3041–3049, 2008.

[55] X. Huang, W. Zhao, D. Hu et al., "Resveratrol efficiently improves pulmonary function via stabilizing mast cells in a rat intestinal injury model," *Life Sciences*, vol. 185, pp. 30–37, 2017.

[56] P. Issuree, T. Maretzky, D. R. McIlwain et al., "iRHom2 is a critical pathogenic mediator of inflammatory arthritis," *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, vol. 123, no. 2, pp. 928–932, 2013.

[57] J. H. Kim, J. Kim, J. Chun, C. Lee, J. P. Im, and J. S. Kim, "Role of iRhom2 in intestinal ischemia-reperfusion-mediated acute lung injury," *Scientific reports*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 3797, 2018.

[58] X. Qiang, W. L. Yang, R. Wu et al., "Cold-inducible RNA-binding protein (CIRP) triggers inflammatory responses in hemorrhagic shock and sepsis," *Nature Medicine*, vol. 19, no. 11, pp. 1489–1495, 2013.

[59] H. Eltzschig, "Ischemia and reperfusion–from mechanism to translation," *Nature Medicine*, vol. 17, no. 11, pp. 1391–1401, 2011.

[60] C. Cen, J. McGinn, M. Aziz et al., "Deficiency in cold-inducible RNA-binding protein attenuates acute respiratory distress syndrome induced by intestinal ischemia-reperfusion," *Surgery*, vol. 162, no. 4, pp. 917–927, 2017.

[61] A. T. Dinkova-Kostova, R. V. Kostov, and A. G. Kazantzis, "The role of Nrf2 signaling in counteracting neurodegenerative diseases," *The FEBS Journal*, vol. 285, no. 19, pp. 3576–3590, 2018.

[62] B. M. Hybertson and B. Gao, "Role of the Nrf2 signaling system in health and disease," *Clinical Genetics*, vol. 86, no. 5, pp. 447–452, 2014.

[63] T. W. Kensler, N. Wakabayashi, and S. Biswal, "Cell survival responses to environmental stresses via the Keap1-Nrf2-ARE pathway," *Annual review of pharmacology and toxicology*, vol. 47, pp. 89–116, 2007.

[64] J. Yan, J. Li, L. Zhang et al., "Nrf2 protects against acute lung injury and inflammation by modulating TLR4 and Akt signaling," *Free Radical Biology and Medicine*, vol. 121, pp. 78–85, 2018.

[65] S. Dixon, "Ferroptosis: an iron-dependent form of nonapoptotic cell death," *Cell*, vol. 149, no. 5, pp. 1060–1072, 2012.

[66] J. Y. Cao and S. J. Dixon, "Mechanisms of ferroptosis," *Cellular and molecular life sciences : CMLS*, vol. 73, no. 11-12, pp. 2195–2209, 2016.

[67] Z. Fan, A. K. Wirth, D. Chen et al., "Nrf2-Keap1 pathway promotes cell proliferation and diminishes ferroptosis," *Oncogene*, vol. 6, no. 8, article ??, 2017.

[68] E. J. Hillmer, H. Zhang, H. S. Li, and S. S. Watowich, "STAT3 signaling in immunity. Cytokine & growth factor reviews," vol. 31, pp. 1–15, 2016.

[69] Z. Qiang, H. Dong, Y. Xia, D. Chai, R. Hu, and H. Jiang, "Nrf2 and STAT3 alleviates ferroptosis-mediated IRI-ALI by regulating SLC7A11," *Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity*, vol. 2020, Article ID 5146982, 2020.

[70] Y. Li, Y. Cao, J. Xiao et al., "Inhibitor of apoptosis-stimulating protein of p53 inhibits ferroptosis and alleviates intestinal ischemia/reperfusion-induced acute lung injury," *Cell Death and Differentiation*, vol. 27, no. 9, pp. 2635–2650, 2020.

[71] Q. Meng, "Ischemic post-conditioning attenuates acute lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia-reperfusion in mice: role of Nrf2," *Laboratory Investigation*, vol. 96, no. 10, pp. 1087–1104, 2016.

[72] L. Lai, L. Yan, S. Gao et al., "Type 5 adenylcyclase increases oxidative stress by transcriptional regulation of manganese superoxide dismutase via the SIRT1/FoxO3a pathway," *Circulation*, vol. 127, no. 16, pp. 1692–1701, 2013.

[73] M. Motta, "Mammalian SIRT1 represses forkhead transcription factors," *Cell*, vol. 116, no. 4, pp. 551–563, 2004.

[74] G. Kostopanagiotou, E. Avgerinos, C. Costopanagiotou et al., "Acute lung injury in a rat model of intestinal ischemia-reperfusion: the potential time depended role of phospholipases A2," *The Journal of Surgical Research*, vol. 147, no. 1, pp. 108–116, 2008.

[75] F. Zhang, Z. L. Li, X. M. Xu et al., "Protective effects of icariin-mediated SIRT1/FOXO3A signaling pathway on intestinal ischemia/reperfusion-induced acute lung injury," *Molecular Medicine Reports*, vol. 11, no. 1, pp. 269–276, 2015.

[76] L. Gu, X. Tao, Y. Xu et al., "Dioscin alleviates BDL- and DMN-induced hepatic fibrosis via Sirt1/Nrf2-mediated inhibition of p38 MAPK pathway," *Toxicology and applied pharmacology*, vol. 292, pp. 19–29, 2016.

[77] Y. Wei, J. Gong, Z. Xu et al., "Nrf2 in ischemic neurons promotes retinal vascular regeneration through regulation of semaphorin 6A," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, vol. 112, no. 50, pp. E6927–E6936, 2015.

[78] S. Pendyala, J. Moitra, S. Kalari et al., "Nrf2 regulates hyperoxia-induced Nox4 expression in human lung endothelium: Identification of functional antioxidant response elements on the Nox4 promoter," *Free Radical Biology & Medicine*, vol. 50, no. 12, pp. 1749–1759, 2011.

[79] D. Chai, L. Zhang, S. Xi, Y. Cheng, H. Jiang, and R. Hu, "Nrf2 activation induced by Sirt1 ameliorates acute lung injury after intestinal ischemia/reperfusion through NOX4-mediated gene regulation," *Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry: International Journal of Experimental Cellular Physiology, Biochemistry, and Pharmacology*, vol. 46, no. 2, pp. 781–792, 2018.

[80] C. Cantó, Z. Gerhart-Hines, J. N. Feige et al., "AMPK regulates energy expenditure by modulating NAD+ metabolism and SIRT1 activity," *Nature*, vol. 458, no. 7241, pp. 1056–1060, 2009.

[81] H. Jing, J. Yao, X. Liu et al., "Fish-oil emulsion (omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids) attenuates acute lung injury induced by intestinal ischemia-reperfusion through adenosine 5'-monophosphate-activated protein kinase-sirtuin1 pathway," *The Journal of Surgical Research*, vol. 187, no. 1, pp. 252–261, 2014.