ORIGINAL RESEARCH

# RETRACTED ARTICLE: miR-182 promotes tumor growth and increases chemoresistance of human anaplastic thyroid cancer by targeting tripartite motif 8

Yao Liu Bing Zhang Tiefeng Shi Huadong Qin

The Fourth Department of General Surgery, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, Harbin, Heilongjiang, People's Republic of China **Abstract:** Chemotherapy is one of the most effect c forms of canc used in the treatment of various malignant tumo. We have gained significant insight into the s of the olecular chanisms remain unclear. mechanisms of chemoresistance but the det In the present study, we found that trips motif 8 (T. 48 Apression was downregulated in anaplastic thyroid cancer (ATC) to ues a. cell lines. This downregulation of TRIM8 was significantly correlated with the upregulation of 12-182 in human ATC tissues. Bioinformatic assays identified TR 18 as a direct target of miR-182 in ATC. analysis and luciferase report A functional assay using a MTT assay and colony formation showed that miR-182 induced cellular growth by repressing RIM8 expre on. Additionally, overexpressed miR-182 contributed to the chemoresistance of SC cells the repression of TRIM8 expression. In conclusion, that miR-102/TRIM8 may be a therapeutic target for the treatment of these results dem illary cancer. chemoresistant hul n thy

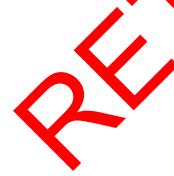
Keywo miR-18 RIM8, ATC, growth, chemoresistant

## in trocking

Anaptotic thyroid carcinoma (ATC) is the most common aggressive histology subtype of thyroid malignancy and causes up to 14%–39% of thyroid cancer-related deaths. 1,2 although treatment strategies for patients with ATC include surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy, these therapies sometimes fail due to therapeutic resistance. However, the underlying molecular mechanisms of this resistance remain incompletely understood.

MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are a class of small, endogenous, noncoding RNAs (~22 nucleotides in length) that act as negative regulators of target genes by binding to the 3'-untranslated regions (3'-UTR) of genes, resulting in gene silencing and/or translational repression. A growing number of studies have found that miRNAs function as either onco-miRNAs or tumor suppressors in different steps of human cancers and are associated with tumor initiation, development, and progression. <sup>4-6</sup> Some miRNAs are dysregulated in ATC, including miR-618, miR-200, miR-99a, miR-206, and miR-20a. A recent study reported overexpression of miR-182 in papillary thyroid carcinoma compared to the levels in adjacent normal tissues. However, the specific role of miR-182 in anaplastic thyroid cancer and the underlying mechanisms remain to be established.

In this study, we confirmed the upregulation of miR-182 and downregulation of tripartite motif 8 (TRIM8) in human ATC tissues and cells. Additionally, we found



Correspondence: Huadong Qin The Fourth Department of General Surgery, The Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University, 157 Baojian Road, Harbin, 150086, People's Republic of China Email huadongqinaa@163.com



that miR-182 induced cellular growth by directly targeting TRIM8 while increasing chemoresistance to cisplatin. Our study demonstrates that miR-182 is a novel regulator of cisplatin sensitivity in ATC and may be exploited as a potential new therapeutic target to improve the efficacy of this drug for chemotherapy.

## **Methods**

## Tumor tissue samples

A total of 30 pairs of ATC and the adjacent normal thyroid tissues were obtained from The Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University from 2010 to 2014. Tissues were immediately stored at -80°C and histologically confirmed. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients, and the study approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The Second Affiliated Hospital of Harbin Medical University.

## Cell culture and transfection

The human anaplastic thyroid carcinoma cell lines, SW1736 and 8305C, and human thyroid follicular epithelial cells (Nthy-ori 3-1) were cultured in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, containing 100 U/mL penicillin and 100 mg/mL streptomyc Cells were maintained at 37°C in a humidified atmospher containing 5% CO<sub>2</sub>.

miR-182 mimics, miR-182 inhibitor, nble miRNA were synthesized and purified Gene (Shanghai, People's Republic of China The sequence of TRIM8 was cloned into the pc (A3.1(+) ve mega, WI, USA) as previously describe and then directly confirmed by DNA sequences. All transferiors were carried out using Lipofecta ne 2000 (Invitrogen, CA, USA) according to the manual turer instructions.

#### Quantitati e re -tim

Total RNA som tis and cell lines was extracted with TRIzol (Invitre according to the manufacturer's instruce reverse transcribed to cDNA using the tions. The RNAs w PrimeScript™ real-time-polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Kit (Takara, Shiga, Japan). And then quantitative PCR was performed on iQ5 real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc., Hercules CA, USA) with SYBR Premix EX Tag (Takara). U6 and β-actin were used as endogenous controls for detection of miRNA and messenger RNA (mRNA), respectively. All measurements were carried out in triplicate. The fold changes in gene expression were calculated using the  $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method. The primer sequences were used as follows: TRIM8 forward: 5'CGTGGAGATCCGAAGGAATGA3'; reverse: 5'CAGGCGCTTGTCTGACTCG3'; GAPDH forward: 5'GGGAAACTGTGGCGTGAT-3'; reverse: 5'GGGTGTC GCTGTTGAAGT3'.

## Dual-luciferase reporter assay

The TRIM8 3'-UTR containing the miR-182 targeting sequence was cloned into the pGL3 basic plasmid as described previously.<sup>13</sup> In dual-luciferase reporter assays, cells were cultured to ~80% confluence in a six-well plate, and then co-transfected either pGL3-WT-TPM-8-3'-UTR (wildtype) or pGL3-Mut-TRIM8-3'-UT (mutant, vector with the miR-182 mimic for 48 hours. Ciferase acti measured using the Dual-Ly Terase Norter A ay system (Promega) and normalize to firefly lucil

## MTT assay

Cells transfect th RNA olig reotides or plasmids for different time period vere seeded in 96-well plates  $(5\times10^3)$ ells were thated with various concentrations platin for various times, and untreated cells served control. Sub quently, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2, 5-dip nyltetraz lium bromide (Sigma-Aldrich Co., St (A) was used and OD value detected at 490 nm ut Universal Microplate Spectrophotometer (Bio-Tek struments, Winooski, VT, USA).

## Vestern blot

Cell lysed using RIPA buffer containing protease inhibitors and the total protein was extracted from the lysate, followed by centrifugation at  $12,000 \times g$  for 10 minutes. A total of 30 µg of protein were resolved by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and transferred to PVDF membranes (Bio-Rad Laboratories Inc.). The membranes were incubated with the primary antibodies anti-TRIM8 (all from Abcam, Cambridge, MA, USA) at 4°C overnight, followed by incubation with horseradish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies (Santa Cruz, CA, USA) for 2 hours. The protein band was detected by chemiluminescence with Pierce ECL kits (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). GAPDH was used as an internal control.

# Colony formation assay

After the transfection of RNA oligonucleotides or plasmids for 24 hours, the cells were harvested and resuspended in complete medium containing 10% fetal bovine serum. Subsequently, 500 cells were seeded into one well of a six-well plate. These cells were cultured under standard

culture conditions for 14 days. The colonies were fixed with methanol for 15 minutes and stained with crystal violet for 20 minutes. A light microscope was used to count the number of colonies as previous described.<sup>14</sup>

## Statistical analysis

SPSS version 17.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA) was used to perform the statistical analysis. The data are presented as the mean  $\pm$  standard deviation of at least three independent experiments. Two groups were compared with Student's *t*-test. *P*-values <0.05 were considered to indicate significant differences.

#### Results

# The expression levels of miR-182 and TRIM8 in ATC tissues and cell lines

Increased levels of miR-182 were previously reported in papillary thyroid carcinoma. 12 However, its expression in anaplastic thyroid cancer had not been investigated. Here, we measured miR-182 expression in 30 human ATC tissues and adjacent normal tissues using a quantitative real-time-PCR assay. As shown in Figure 1A, miR-182 expression was obviously upregulated in ATC tissues compared with

the expression in the corresponding adjacent normal tissues. Similarly, we found that the expression level of miR-182 was evidently upregulated in ATC cell lines (SW1736 and 8305C) compared with miR-182 levels in human thyroid follicular epithelial cells (Nthy-ori 3-1; Figure 1B). Next, we measured TRIM8 expression in ATC tissues and cell lines. As shown in Figure 1C and D, TRIM8 expression was significantly lower in ATC tissues and cell lines. Collectively, our findings suggest that upregulated miR-182 may function as an oncogene and the decreased levels of TRIM8 may function as a tumor suppressor and be involved in the transigenesis of ATC.

# miR-182 acts as a neg tive regulator of TRIM8 in ATC

As miRNAs inhibit by birring to 3'-UTR of their target mRNAs; we use the miPNA target prediction website www.microRN.org are rargetScan 6.2 and found that TRR18 has potential taget of miR-182 (Figure 2A). To test this, a dayl-luciferase reporter system was used your co-transfection 5 miR-182 mimic or inhibitor and a acciferase reporter plasmid containing a wild-type or mutant 4-UTR of human TRIM8. As shown in Figure 2B and C, the reality from the dual-luciferase reporter assay revealed that

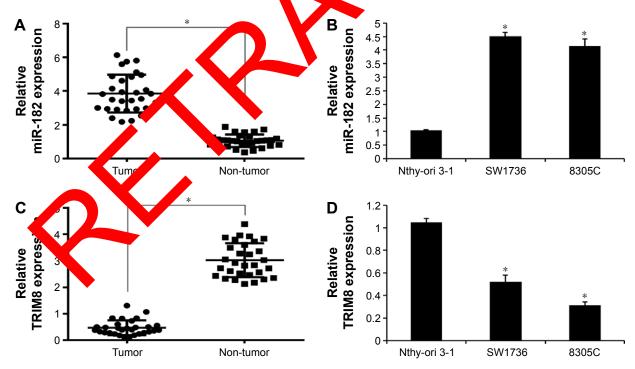
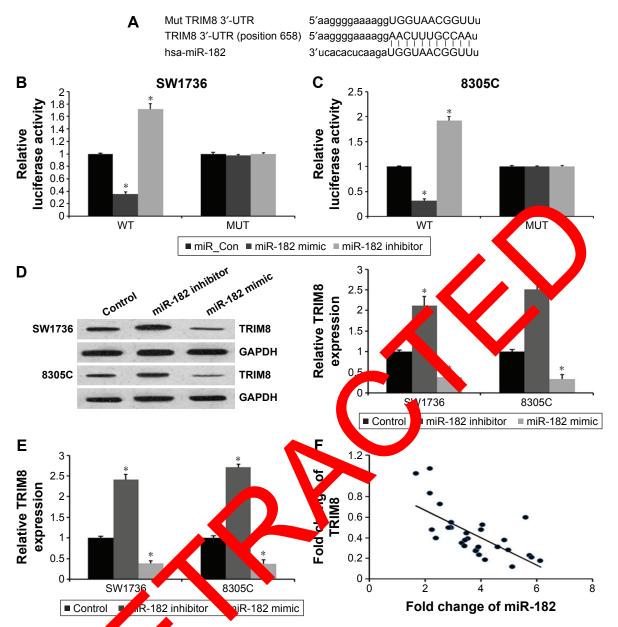


Figure 1 The expression levels of miR-182 and TRIM8 in ATC tissues and cell lines.

Notes: (A) qRT-PCR assay detected the expression of miR-182 in ATC tissue and adjacent normal tissue. (B) qRT-PCR assay detected the expression of miR-182 in ATC cell lines (SW1736 and 8305C) and human thyroid follicular epithelial cells (Nthy-ori 3-1). (C) qRT-PCR assay detected the expression of TRIM8 in ATC tissue and adjacent normal tissue. (D) qRT-PCR assay detected the expression of TRIM8 in ATC cell lines (SW1736 and 8305C) compared with that of human thyroid follicular epithelial cells (Nthy-ori 3-1). \*P<0.01 versus Nthy-ori 3-1 group.

Abbreviations: ATC, anaplastic thyroid cancer; qRT-PCR, quantitative real-time-polymerase chain reaction; TRIM8, tripartite motif 8.



1C cells. Figure 2 miR-182 directly target TRIM8 and 3'-UT Notes: (A) Sequence alignment of FTRIM8. Luciferase reporter assay. SW1736 (B) and 8305C (C) cells were transiently co-transfected with miR-182 mimics or miR-182 inhi T 3'-UTP RIM8 with miRNAs as indicated. (D) Western blot assay revealed the effects of miR-182 on the expression levels of TRIM8 in SW1736 lls. (E) revealed the effects of miR-182 inhibitor and miR-182 mimic on the expression levels of TRIM8 in SW1736 and 8305C cells. (F) Correla n of miRb levels wi A3CD mRNA levels was examined by qRT-PCR in 30 cases of ATC tissues. Data are presented as mean±SD from three independent ex ments. s control group

Abbreviations: cancer; SD, standard deviation; UTR, untranslated regions; TRIM8, tripartite motif 8; mRNA, messenger RNA; SD, standard deviation; WT/MUT, type/mutant.

the miR-182 mimic significantly inhibited luciferase activity and the miR-182 inhibitor increased luciferase activity when co-transfected with the wild-type TRIM8 3'-UTR. The miR-182 mimic and inhibitor failed to affect the expression of luciferase constructs with mutated target sites, suggesting that miR-182 directly targets the 3'-UTR of TRIM8. Additionally, mRNA and protein expression levels of TRIM8 after miR-182 overexpression or inhibition were measured by quantitative real-time-PCR and Western blotting in both SW1736 and 8305C cells (Figure 2D and E), confirming that miR-182 negatively regulates TRIM8 expression by directly targeting the 3'-UTR. Additionally, we analyzed the relationship between TRIM8 and miR-182 expression in the same ATC tissues. As shown in Figure 2F, the mRNA levels of miR-182 and TRIM8 were inversely correlated as determined by Spearman's correlation analysis (R=-0.695, P < 0.01). Taken together, these data strongly supported the model that TRIM8 is a direct target of miR-182 in ATC.

# miR-182 promotes cellular growth by repressing TRIM8 expression

To elucidate the role of miR-182 in the development and progression of ATC, two ATC lines (SW1736 and 8305C) were transfected using Lipofectamine 2000 transduction with miR-182 mimics, inhibitors, or a negative control. The MTT assay showed that overexpressed miR-182 dramatically induced the proliferation of ATC in both SW1736 and 8305C cells. In contrast, miR-182 inhibitors inhibited cell proliferation in SW1736 and 8305C (Figure 3A and B). The colony formation assay indicated that miR-182 upregulation significantly promoted the proliferation rate of SW1736 and 8305C cells compared to the control, but when cells were transfected by the miR-182 inhibitor, there was miR-182 suppression and decreased proliferation (Figure 3C). Interestingly, the increased MTT OD value and colony formation induced by miR-182 mimic could be reversed by TRIM8 in ATC

(Figure 3B and C). Collectively, we conclude that miR-182 induces cell proliferation through TRIM8 in ATC cells.

# miR-182 enhances the cisplatin resistance of ATC cells

Previous studies found that miRNAs may play a role in the chemosensitivity or chemoresistance of several cancers. 14-16 We next investigated the role of miR-182 on the chemoresistance of ATC cells to cisplatin. ATC cells were transfected with a miR-182 mimic or miR-182 inhibitor or co-transfected with miR-182 and TRIM8, and the ere tested for their wn in Fig sensitivity to cisplatin. As shi e 4, the MTT assay was used to evaluate the oliferation SW1736 and 8305C in response to 2 mM cisp tin treat ent for different amounts of time 24, 48, and 72 he proliferation of SW1736 and assay was used to e \uate 8305C in reg onse to hours varying concentrations

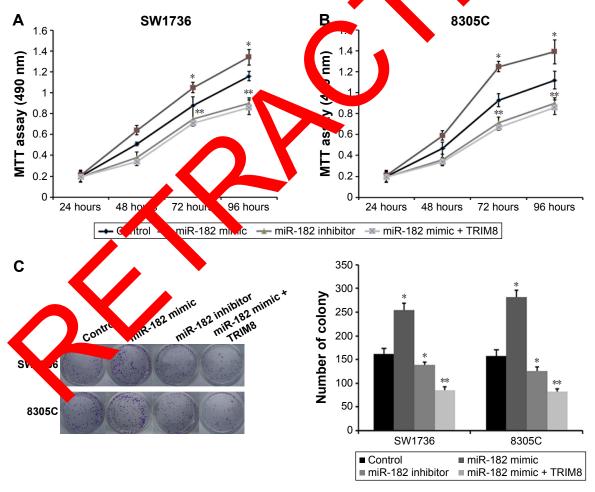


Figure 3 miR-182 affects ATC cell proliferation and colony formation.

**Notes:** An MTT assay was performed to detect the viability of SW1736 (**A**) and 8305C (**B**) cells 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours after being transfected with miR-182 mimics, miR-182 inhibitor, or co-transfected with miR-182 mimics + TRIM8. (**C**) A colony formation assay was performed to detect the effect of miR-182 on the growth of SW1736 and 8305C cells. The colonies were stained with crystal violet and then counted. Data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD of at least three independent experiments (\*P<0.01 vs control group, \*\*P<0.01 vs miR-182 group).

Abbreviations: ATC, anaplastic thyroid cancer; SD, standard deviation; TRIM8, tripartite motif 8.

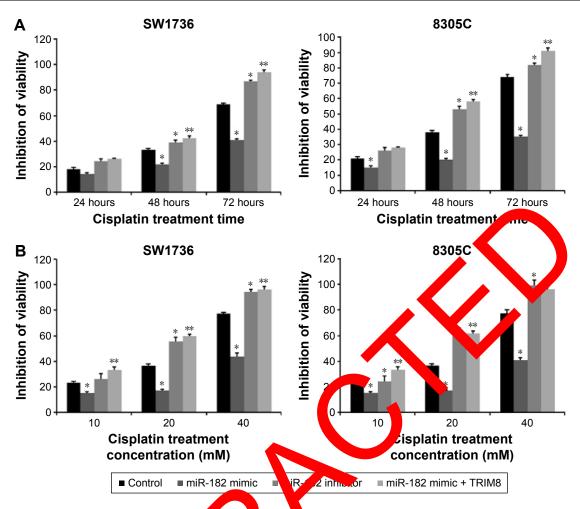


Figure 4 miR-182 attenuates ATC cells sensitivity to cisplating Notes: An MTT assay was performed to detect the viability of SW1736 (and 830) (B) cells 24, 48, 72, and 96 hours after being transfected with miR-182 mimics, as performed to assess the inhibition of ATC cells viability. The cells were treated miR-182 inhibitor, or co-transfected with miR-182 mimig ours. Data are expressed as the mean  $\pm$  SD of at least three independent experiments (\*P<0.05 vs with cisplatin at different concentrations (10, 20, and control group, \*\*P<0.01 vs miR-182 mimic group

Abbreviations: ATC, anaplastic thyroid cand ndard deviatio RIM8, tripartite motif 8.

platin. The results indicated that (10, 20, and 40 mM) of miR-182 enhanced the collating nemoresistance of SW1736 and 8305C cells, by increases in viability. Cells ridenc transfected wid exhibited a significantly the m -182 n relatin, which could be reversed by lower sens vity to ftor or by co-transfection with TRIM8. the miR-182 ults, we concluded that miR-182 can Based on these i increase the chemoresistance of ATC cells to cisplatin by suppressing TRIM8.

#### Discussion

For the first time, we determined the role and mechanism of miR-182 in ATC cell growth and cellular resistance to cisplatin. We found that miR-182 expression was upregulated in ATC, and miR-182 levels were inversely correlated with TRIM8 mRNA expression in ATC tissues. In addition,

miR-182 can promote cell growth and chemoresistance of ATC by directly targeting the 3'-UTR of TRIM8.

Many recent studies have demonstrated critical roles for miRNAs in the progression of various malignant tumors. 17–19 However, only a few studies have investigated potential roles for miRNAs in ATC.20 For example, miR-206 was reported to inhibit metastasis-relevant traits by degrading MRTF-A in anaplastic thyroid cancer. 10,21 Shao et al showed that miR-4295 promotes cell proliferation and invasion in anaplastic thyroid carcinoma via CDKN1A.<sup>22</sup> miR-182 functions as a tumor suppressor or oncogene in various cancers.<sup>23,24</sup> Tang et al showed that miR-182 acts as a tumor suppressor and inhibits proliferation in gastric cancer.25 However, Wang et al showed that miR-182 is upregulated and targets CEBPA in hepatocellular carcinoma.<sup>26</sup> Increased levels of miR-182 were found in tumorigenesis of high-grade serous ovarian carcinoma.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, miR-182 was found to target CHL1 and control tumor growth and invasion in papillary thyroid carcinoma.<sup>28</sup> In this study, miR-182 expression was obviously increased in ATC tissues and cell lines. Higher levels of miR-182 promoted cellular growth in ATC cells, indicating that miR-182 functions as an oncogene in ATC.

The superfamily of TRIM-containing proteins is defined by the presence of a TRIM composed of a RING domain, one or two B-box motifs, and a coiled-coil region. These proteins participate in diverse biological processes, including important roles in immune responses by regulating various signaling pathways.<sup>29,30</sup> TRIM8, a member of the TRIM family, was reported to be an oncogene that is involved in the progression of various cancers. 31,32 In contrast, in glioma and renal cell carcinoma, TRIM8 was reported to act as a tumor suppressor that showed lowered expression. 13,33 However, the expression and role of TRIM8 in ATC was not previously reported. In this study, for the first time, we determined that TRIM8 is a direct target of miR-182 and that TRIM8 expression was downregulated in ATC tissues and cell lines. Overexpressed TRIM8 reversed miR-182induced cell growth in ATC. Downstream signaling components of TRIM8 may be involved in cell migrati invasion. Further studies are needed to investigate putative functions.

Chemoresistance has significantly united teatmeterificacy for many cancers. 34–36 Recently, miProcap were discovered to play a role in cisplant restricte in various cancers, including ATC. 37 Hove for, the mechanism of this chemoresistance was poorly undergod. In this study, we found that miR-182 reduced chemosens, by ty to cisplatin by repressing TRIM8 expression.

In summary, we determined that miR-182 was significantly upregulated in a C tissue and cells. Additionally, miR-182 is abited the characteristic of ATC cells to cisplatin by targeting TRIM these findings may provide a novel potential biomarker for uncer diagnosis and treatment and warrant further study.

## **Author contributions**

YL, BZ, and TS designed the study, carried out the experiments, and drafted the manuscript; TS and HQ participated in the experiments and data analysis. All authors contributed toward data analysis, drafting and critically revising the paper and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## **Disclosure**

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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