

• 生物育种与工艺优化 •

肝素 C5 异构酶的表达优化及分子改造

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摘要: 肝素和硫酸乙酰肝素是一类应用于临床抗凝血的糖胺聚糖。肝素葡萄糖醛酸 C5 异构酶 (Heparosan-N-sulfate-glucuronate 5-epimerase, C5, EC 5.1.3.17) 是肝素和硫酸乙酰肝素合成过程中重要的修饰酶, 催化 N-硫酸化肝素前体 (N-sulfoheparosan) 的 D-葡萄糖醛酸 (D-GlcA) 上 5 号位羧基翻转生成 L-艾杜糖醛酸 (L-iduronic acid, L-IdoA)。文中以大肠杆菌 *Escherichia coli* 为宿主对斑马鱼来源的肝素葡萄糖醛酸 C5 异构酶基因 *Glce* 进行重组表达优化与分子改造。比较了 3 种不同的表达载体 pET20b(+), pET28a(+) 和 pCold III 对 C5 表达的差异情况, 其中以嗜冷启动型载体 pCold III 表达酶活最高, 达到 $(1\ 873.61 \pm 5.42)$ U/L。为了进一步提高 C5 的可溶表达量, 在 N 端融合促溶标签 SET2 后, 可溶蛋白表达量比对照提高了 50%, 酶活达到 $(2\ 409.25 \pm 6.43)$ U/L。在此基础上, 通过理性设计对底物结合口袋进行定点突变, 获得最优突变体 (V153R) 的酶活和比酶活分别为 $(5\ 804.32 \pm 5.63)$ U/L 和 (145.14 ± 2.33) U/mg, 是原始酶的 2.41 倍和 2.28 倍。肝素 C5 异构酶改造与表达优化为酶法催化合成肝素奠定了基础。

关键词: 肝素, 葡萄糖醛酸-C5-异构化酶, 异源表达, 理性设计, 底物结合口袋

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Expression optimization and molecular modification of heparin C5 epimerase

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Abstract: Heparin and heparan sulfate are a class of glycosaminoglycans for clinical anticoagulation. Heparosan N-sulfate-glucuronate 5-epimerase (C5, EC 5.1.3.17) is a critical modifying enzyme in the synthesis of heparin and heparan sulfate, and catalyzes the inversion of carboxyl group at position 5 on D-glucuronic acid (D-GlcA) of N-sulfoheparosan to form L-iduronic acid (L-IdoA). In this study, the heparin C5 epimerase gene *Gfce* from zebrafish was expressed and molecularly modified in *Escherichia coli*. After comparing three expression vectors of pET-20b (+), pET-28a (+) and pCold III, C5 activity reached the highest ((1 873.61±5.42) U/L) with the vector pCold III. Then we fused the solution-promoting label SET2 at the N-terminal for increasing the soluble expression of C5. As a result, the soluble protein expression was increased by 50% compared with the control, and the enzyme activity reached (2 409±6.43) U/L. Based on this, site-directed mutations near the substrate binding pocket were performed through rational design, the optimal mutant (V153R) enzyme activity and specific enzyme activity were (5 804±5.63) U/L and (145.1±2.33) U/mg, respectively 2.41-fold and 2.28-fold of the original enzyme. Modification and expression optimization of heparin C5 epimerase has laid the foundation for heparin enzymatic catalytic biosynthesis.

Keywords: heparin, glucuronic acid-C5-epimerase, heterologous expression, rational design, substrate binding pocket

肝素是一种存在于细胞表面和胞外基质中的糖胺聚糖^[1], 由己糖醛酸和葡糖胺组成的二糖单位重复连接而成^[2], 在机体内作为细胞识别、信号传导和抗凝血等的生物学活性分子^[3]。临床上主要用于治疗血栓栓塞性疾病、心肌梗死、心血管手术和术后抗凝血等。目前, 肝素的生产方式主要包括生物提取^[4]、化学合成^[5]、酶法合成^[6]等。其中生物提取法获得的肝素中混有多种糖胺聚糖, 对产物造成污染; 化学合成法生产周期长, 过程繁琐^[7]; 而酶法合成产物单一, 过程简单^[8]。

在酶法合成肝素过程中, 肝素前体先经过脱乙酰和硫酸化作用转变为 N-硫酸化肝素前体^[9], N-硫酸化肝素前体经肝素 C5 异构酶催化^[10-12], 其多糖链上的 D-葡萄糖醛酸 (D-glucuronic acid, D-GlcA) 异构化为 L-艾杜糖醛酸 (L-iduronic acid,

L-IdoA), 其中葡萄糖醛酸 C5 位的氢与介质中的质子发生交换^[13], C5 位的羧基翻转, 导致分子构型发生变化^[14]。含有艾杜糖醛酸的多糖链进一步通过后续不同硫酸化位点的修饰合成具有生物学功能的肝素^[15]。C5 异构化作用是肝素酶法合成过程中的一步关键反应^[16], 含有 IdoA 的 GAGs (糖胺聚糖链) 才具有抗凝血和抗血脂等的功能^[17], 因此 C5 异构化作用是后续硫酸化修饰的前提。

随着药理学及临床医学的进展, 肝素的应用不断扩大。但在体外酶法合成肝素^[18]的过程中, 途径所涉及的关键性异构酶酶活却很低^[19-21], 这严重限制了肝素的工业化生产, 提高 C5 异构酶的催化活性对于肝素的合成及其临床应用具有重大意义。本研究通过优化表达载体、N 端融合促溶标签以及理性改造酶结构等策略, 获得一株催化活性显著提高的突变体 V153R, 其酶活与比酶活分别

为 (5 804.32±5.63) U/L 和 (145.14±2.33) U/mg, 是野生型 C5 异构酶酶活的 2.41 倍、比酶活的 2.28 倍。C5 异构酶的高活性表达为肝素的全酶法合成奠定了基础。

1 材料与方法

1.1 宿主和质粒

本实验所有的质粒构建均在大肠杆菌 *Escherichia coli* JM109 中进行, 重组菌株构建的出发菌株为 *E. coli* BL21(DE3)。菌株 *E. coli* JM109、*E. coli* BL21(DE3), 质粒 pET-28a (+)、pET-20b (+)、pCold III 均为本实验室保存。详情见表 1。

1.2 菌株构建

将密码子优化后的斑马鱼来源的基因 *Glce*

(NP_998014.1) 经 PCR 扩增 (所用引物见表 2) 后酶切连接至 pCold III、pET20b、pET28a, 构建重组载体 pCold III-C5、pET20b-C5、pET28a-C5。将来源于大肠杆菌的麦芽糖蛋白 (Maltose binding protein, MBP)、酿酒酵母的促溶标签 SET2 (Solubility-enhancement tags) 及小泛素样蛋白 (Small ubiquitin-related modifier, SUMO) 基因经 PCR 扩增 (所用引物见表 2) 后一步克隆连接至 pCold III-C5 构建重组载体 pCold III-MBP-C5、pCold III-SET2-C5、pCold III-SUMO-C5。42 °C 热激 90 s 后, 转化至 *E. coli* JM109 感受态细胞中, 挑取转化子测序, 测序正确则上述重组载体构建成功。按上述方法将测序成功的重组质粒转化至 *E. coli* BL21(DE3) 感受态细胞。

表 1 本文所用质粒和菌株

Table 1 Plasmids and strains used in this study

Name	Description	Source
Plasmids		
pET28a	Expression vector, <i>Kan</i> ^R	Lab stock
pET20b	Expression vector, <i>Amp</i> ^R	Lab stock
pCold III	Expression vector, <i>Amp</i> ^R	Lab stock
pET28a-C5	pET28a containing C5	This work
pET20b-C5	pET20b containing C5	This work
pCold III-C5	pCold III containing C5	This work
pCold III-MBP-C5	pCold III containing MBP and C5	This work
pCold III-SUMO-C5	pCold III containing SUMO and C5	This work
pCold III-SET2-C5	pCold III containing SET2 and C5	This work
Strains		
<i>Escherichia coli</i> BL21	Expression host	Lab stock
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pET28a	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pET28a	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pET20b	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pET20b	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pCold III	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pCold III	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pET28a-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pET28a-C5	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pET20b-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pET20b-C5	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pCold III-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pCold III-C5	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pCold III-MBP-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pCold III-MBP-C5	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pCold III-SUMO-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pCold III-SUMO-C5	This work
<i>E. coli</i> BL21-pCold III-SET2-C5	<i>E. coli</i> harboring pCold III-SET2-C5	This work

表 2 本文所用引物

Table 2 Primers used in this study

Name	Primer sequence (5'→3')	Restriction enzyme
C5 (28a)F	CGCGGATCCGAATTCCCGAAAATCGACAGCCAC	<i>Bam</i> H I
C5 (28a)R	CGCAAGCTTGAATTCTTAGTTGTGCTTCGCACGG	<i>Hind</i> III
C5 (20b)F	TTCGGATCCGAATTCCCGAAAATCGACAGCCAC	<i>Bam</i> H I
C5 (20b)R	CGCAAGCTTGAATTCTTAGTTGTGCTTCGCACGG	<i>Hind</i> III
C5 (pCold III)F	TGCATATGGAATTCCCGAAAATCGACAGCCAC	<i>Nde</i> I
C5 (pCold III)R	GCAAGCTTGAATTCTTAGTTGTGCTTCGCACGG	<i>Hind</i> III
MBP (pCold III-C5)F	TCATCATCATCACGAGCTCGGTACCATGAAAATAAAAACAGGTGCACGCATCC	-
MBP (pCold III-C5)R	GTGGCTGTCGATTTTCGGGAATTCAGTCTGCGCGTCTTTCAGG	-
SUMO (pCold III-C5)F	ATCATCACGAGCTCGGTACCATGTCGGACTCAGAAGTCAATCAAGAAG	-
SUMO (pCold III-C5)R	CTGTCGATTTTCGGGAATTCACCACCAATCTGTTCTCTGTGAGC	-
SET2 (pCold III-C5)F	TCATCATCATCACGAGCTCGGTACCGACCCCGAAGAGGCGAGTG	-
SET2 (pCold III-C5)R	GTGGCTGTCGATTTTCGGGAATTCGGATTGGAAGTACAGTTTCTCGGTACC	-

Underlines represent the restriction site.

1.3 突变位点的预测

本实验基于上述表达优化的基础,进一步对 C5 异构酶酶分子结构^[22]理性改造提高 C5 异构酶的催化活性。根据在蛋白质结构数据库 (Protein data bank, PDB) 下载的斑马鱼来源 *Glce* 的蛋白结构 (PDB: 4pxq), 利用软件 Discovery Studio 的 CDOCKER 模块进行分子对接, 具体操作方法和参数设置根据 Discovery Studio 软件的操作手册所述。

1.4 培养基组分

LB 培养基: 酵母粉 5 g/L, 胰蛋白胨 10 g/L, NaCl 10 g/L (固体培养基添加 2% 琼脂粉)。

TB 培养基: 酵母粉 24 g/L, 胰蛋白胨 12 g/L, K₂HPO₄ 12.54 g/L, KH₂PO₄ 2.31 g/L。

1.5 重组菌株培养

挑取单菌落接种于 50 mg/L 卡那霉素或者 100 mg/L 的氨苄霉素的 3 mL 液体 LB 培养基中, 37 °C、220 r/min 过夜培养。按 1% (V/V) 将种子液接种于 50 mL TB 培养基中, 37 °C、220 r/min 培养至 OD₆₀₀ 为 0.6–0.8, 添加终浓度为 0.05 mmol/L 的异丙基-β-D-硫代半乳糖苷 (isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactoside, IPTG), 分别以 30 °C 诱导培养 pET

系列重组菌株 10 h、以 15 °C 诱导培养 pCold 系列载体 22 h, 诱导异构酶的表达。

1.6 粗酶液的制备

将上述发酵结束后的菌液于 4 °C、7 000 r/min 条件下离心 10 min, 弃上清收集菌体, 用 20 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH 7.4) 洗涤 2 次, 稀释菌体至 OD₆₀₀ 为 8.0, 冰水浴超声破碎后(功率 300 W, 工作 4 s, 间歇 6 s, 10 min), 4 °C、12 000 r/min 离心 30 min, 分别收集上清和沉淀。上清液即为所需粗酶液。

1.7 目的蛋白的纯化

用 25 mL 溶液 A (20 mmol/L Tris-HCl, pH 7.4) 平衡 Ni-His Trap FF 柱后上样已过 0.22 μm 滤膜的粗酶液, 分别用 10%、30%、100% 的溶液 B (20 mmol/L Tris-HCl, 500 mmol/L 咪唑, pH 7.4) 进行洗脱并收集相对应的洗脱液。对得到的洗脱液进行脱盐处理, 所用脱盐缓冲液为 20 mmol/L Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 脱盐柱为 G10。经基质辅助激光解吸电离飞行时间质谱 (Matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time of flight mass spectrometry, MALDI-TOF-MS) 鉴定所得条带为目的异构酶条带。

1.8 酶活性的检测

C5 异构酶酶活测定: 采用与肝素硫酸转移酶 2-OST (2-O-硫酸转移酶, 2-O-sulfotransferase) 偶联^[23-26]测酶活方法。标准反应条件为向 1.5 mL 的 Tris-HCl (20 mmol/L, pH 7.4) 中添加 50 mmol/L PNPS (对硝基苯硫酸盐, para-nitrophenylsulfate), 0.5 mmol/L PAP (3-磷酸腺苷-5'-磷酸, 3'-phosphoadenosine-5'-phospho), 0.5 mg AST IV (芳香磺基转移酶, aryl sulfotransferase IV), 0.4 mg N-sulfoheparosan, 0.3 mg 硫酸转移酶 2-OST, 0.3 mg C5 异构酶 (对照组为基于上述条件下添加等量失活的 C5 异构酶酶液) 于 37 °C 反应 2 h 后, 100 °C 水浴煮沸 5 min 终止反应。10 000 r/min 离心 10 min 去除沉淀, 在 OD_{400} 的吸光度测定对硝基苯酚 (PNP) 的吸光值变化^[27]。酶活单位定义为: 在最适反应条件下(37 °C, pH 7.4), 每小时生成 1 μ mol/L 的 PNP 所需的酶量。

1.9 动力学常数测定

C5 异构酶的动力学常数测定反应液为 1.5 mL Tris-HCl (20 mmol/L, pH 7.4), 其中包括 50 mmol/L

PNPS, 0.5 mmol/L PAP, 0.5 mg AST IV, 0.3 mg 2-OST, 0.3 mg C5 及 1.6–4 700 mg/L 等不同浓度的 N-sulfoheparosan 作为底物测定 C5 异构酶的酶活, 根据测定值进行米氏常数拟合。

2 结果与分析

2.1 不同载体对 C5 异构酶表达的影响

将 C5 异构酶基因 *Glce* 分别构建在 pET20b (+)、pET28a (+) 和 pCold III 3 种表达载体中, 考察不同载体对 C5 异构酶表达差异性的影响。在液体培养基中接种重组菌 pET20b-C5、pET28a-C5、pCold III-C5 及空载体作为对照菌, 当 OD_{600} 达到 0.6 时, 加入 IPTG 诱导表达, 收集 pET 系列 10 h 后的菌体及 pCold 系列 22 h 后的菌体, 破碎细胞后利用 SDS-PAGE 分析胞内上清及沉淀。如图 1A 所示, C5 异构酶在 3 种载体中均实现成功表达, 其中 pCold III 载体的上清可溶部分表达量最高, 酶活最高为 $(1\ 873.61 \pm 5.42)$ U/L。这可能是因为在低温条件下 (15 °C), 嗜冷型启动子的转录强度高于 T7 启动子^[28], 且低温使得合成的 C5 异构酶可以正确折叠, 可溶表达部分增加。

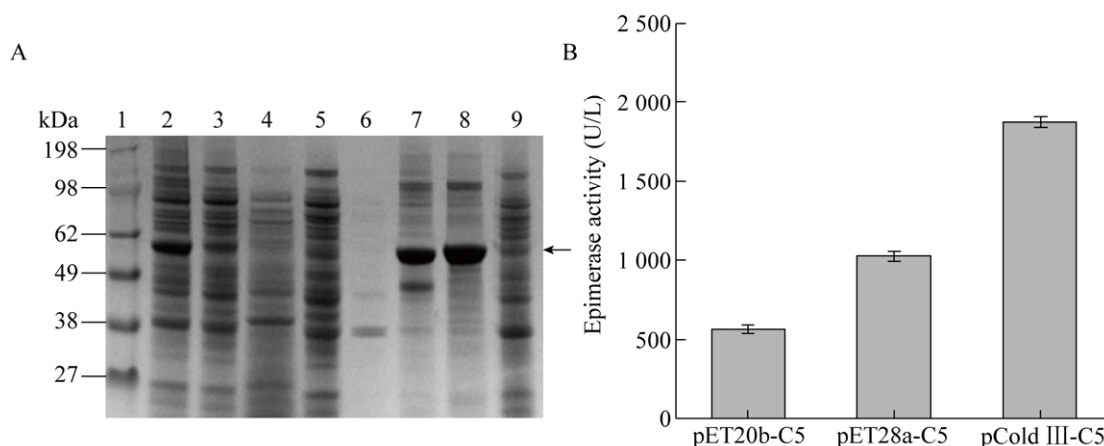


图 1 不同载体对 C5 异构酶表达的影响

Fig. 1 Effect of different vectors on the expression of C5 epimerase. (A) SDS-PAGE analysis of C5 epimerase expression in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3). 1: marker; 2: supernatant of pCold III-C5; 3: supernatant of pET28a-C5; 4: supernatant of pET20b-C5; 5: supernatant of control; 6: precipitation of pCold III-C5; 7: precipitation of pET28a-C5; 8: precipitation of pET20b-C5; 9: precipitation of pET28a-C5. (B) Enzyme activity analysis of C5 epimerase expressed with different vectors.

2.2 不同融合标签对 C5 异构酶表达的影响

以上 3 种载体均实现了 C5 异构酶的活性表达,其中以 pCold III 载体表达的 C5 异构酶胞内可溶表达量最高。在此基础上,进一步研究了 N 端融合促溶标签 MBP、SUMO、SET2 对 C5 异构酶活性表达的影响。如图 2 所示,在 N 端融合 SET2 后 C5 异构酶可溶性表达量最高,酶活也最高,达到 $(2\ 409.25 \pm 6.43)$ U/L,是融合前的 1.28 倍。结果表明促溶标签 SET2 可有效地促进异构酶的可溶表达^[29]。

2.3 定点突变提高 C5 异构酶催化活性

根据已报道的酶晶体结构分析,经分子对接,选择距离底物结合口袋 5 \AA 范围内的氨基酸位点,以 pCold III-SET2-C5 为模板,对 V153、D155、Q185、K397、G399、N478、D529、D545 进行饱和突变。获得催化活性显著提高的突变体 V153R,胞内上清酶液纯化后比酶活达到 (145.14 ± 2.33) U/mg。反应动力学常数显示其 K_m 值由原来的 (1.922 ± 0.131) mmol/L 降低至 (0.941 ± 0.083) mmol/L,催化常数 k_{cat}/K_m 由 (16.129 ± 0.111) 增加至 (44.633 ± 0.547) L/(s·mol);突变体 G399E K_m 值降低至 (1.525 ± 0.273) mmol/L,

催化常数 k_{cat}/K_m 增加至 (22.951 ± 0.146) L/(s·mol)、D545Y K_m 值降低至 (1.366 ± 0.196) mmol/L,催化常数 k_{cat}/K_m 增加至 (27.086 ± 0.102) L/(s·mol),说明突变体与底物的亲和力增加。原因可能是由于底物带有较强的负电荷,当 153 位氨基酸由侧链不带电荷的缬氨酸变为带有正电荷的精氨酸时,异构酶底物结合口袋局部环境中的正电荷强度增加(如图 4A、4B 所示),且突变后(图 4B)相比突变前(图 4A),侧链更长,距离底物更近,底物更容易进入结合口袋;399 位氨基酸突变前后如图 4C、4D 所示,突变前 399 位甘氨酸(图 4C)与底物只有一个氢键作用力,突变为谷氨酸(图 4D)后相比突变前氢键作用力增加,但同时底物结合口袋负电荷强度也增加;545 位氨基酸突变前后如图 4E、4F 所示,突变前 545 位天冬氨酸(图 4E)与底物没有作用,突变为酪氨酸后(图 4F)与底物增加了疏水作用力,同时突变后底物结合口袋局部负电荷强度变弱,因此以上 3 个氨基酸位点可能发生多重作用力的叠加,导致催化活性呈现不同程度的提高。基于以上结果对 153R、399E、545Y 3 个单点突变体进行了两两叠加突变,并未发现明显效果(数据未展示)。

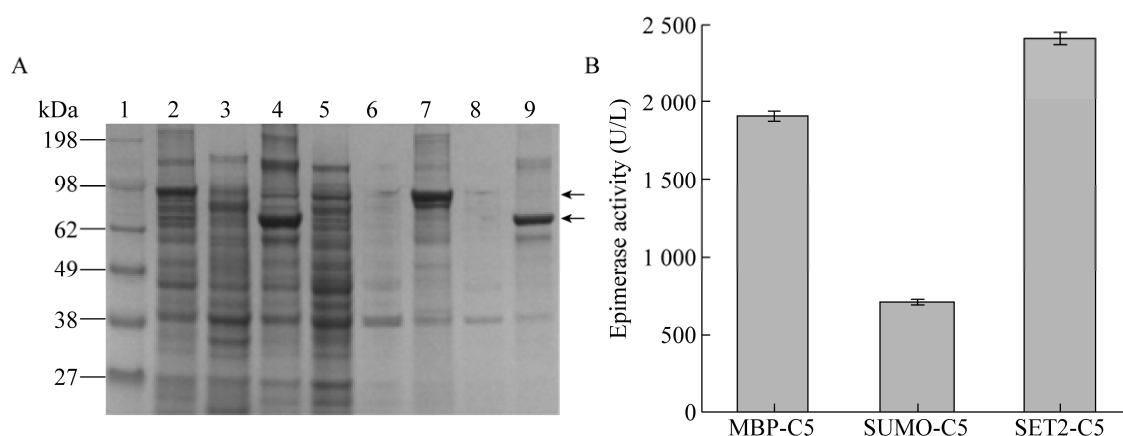


图 2 不同促溶标签对 C5 异构酶表达的影响

Fig. 2 Effect of different soluble labels on the expression of C5 epimerase. (A) SDS-PAGE analysis of C5 epimerase expression with different labels in *E. coli* BL21 (DE3). 1: marker; 2: supernatant of pCold III-MBP-C5; 3: supernatant of pCold III-SUMO-C5; 4: supernatant of pCold III-SET2-C5; 5: supernatant of control; 6: precipitation of control; 7: precipitation of pCold III-MBP-C5; 8: precipitation of pCold III-SUMO-C5; 9: precipitation of pCold III-SET2-C5. (B) Enzyme activity analysis of epimerase expressed with different soluble labels.

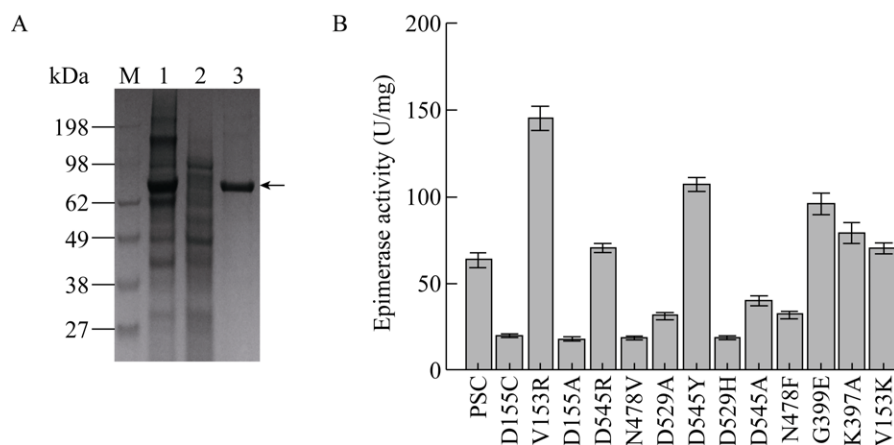


图3 肝素 C5 异构酶纯化及突变体酶活

Fig. 3 Purification of C5 epimerase and enzyme activity analysis of mutants. (A) SDS-PAGE analysis of pure C5 epimerase. (B) Enzyme activity analysis of different mutants.

表3 肝素异构酶酶学性质表

Table 3 Enzyme properties of C5 epimerase

	WT	V153R	G399E	D545Y
K_m (mmol/L)	1.922±0.131	0.941±0.083	1.525±0.273	1.366±0.196
k_{cat} (s^{-1})	0.031±0.002	0.042±0.001	0.035±0.004	0.037±0.002
k_{cat}/K_m (L/(s·mol))	16.129±0.111	44.633±0.547	22.951±0.146	27.086±0.102

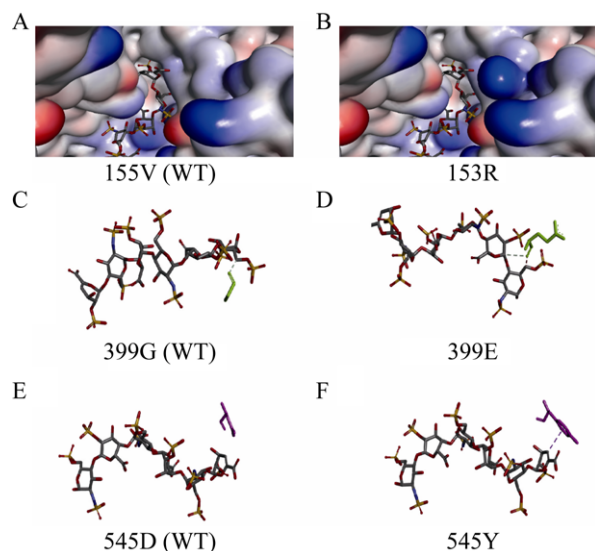


图4 肝素 C5 异构酶突变体结构分析

Fig. 4 Structure analysis of C5 epimerase mutants. (A) Surface potential diagram of WT. (B) Surface potential diagram of V153R. (C) The interaction of amino acid 399G with substrates. (D) The interaction of amino acid 399E with substrates. (E) The interaction of amino acid 545D with substrates. (F) The interaction of amino acid 545Y with substrates.

3 结论

C5 异构酶作为肝素酶法合成中的一个关键酶，催化葡萄糖醛酸异构化为艾杜糖醛酸。本研究通过表达载体优化、N 端融合标签及蛋白质理性改造成功地在在大肠杆菌中实现了斑马鱼来源的肝素 C5 异构酶的活性表达。研究表明 3 种载体 pET28a、pET20b、pCold III 均实现了 C5 异构酶的胞内活性表达，相比嗜冷启动型载体 pCold III 表达的 C5 异构酶活性最高。通过 N 端融合促溶标签 SET2 减少了无活性的包涵体的积累，进一步提高了 C5 异构酶的活性表达 ((2 409.25±6.43) U/L)。在此基础上，为了获得更高催化活性的 C5 异构酶，我们对 C5 异构酶的分子结构进行了理性改造，获得了突变体 V153R，其酶活与比酶活分别为 (5 804.32±5.63) U/L 和 (145.14±2.33) U/mg，是野生型 C5 异构酶的 2.41 倍和 2.28 倍。该研究为实现肝素的全酶法合成奠定了基础。

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