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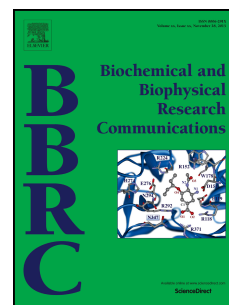
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Autophagy in endometriosis: friend or foe?Lei Zhan¹, Jun Li² and Bing Wei^{1*}

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Abbreviations: 3-MA, 3-methyladenine; ERK, extracellular signal-regulated kinase; MIS, Mullerian inhibiting substance; mTOR, Mammalian target of rapamycin; NF-κB, nuclear factor-k-gene binding κ; OH-1, heme oxygenase-1; TRPV, transient receptor potential vanilloid type

Abstract

Endometriosis is a chronic, estrogen-dependent disease and characterized by the implantation of endometrial glands and stroma deep and haphazardly into the outside the uterine cavity. It affects an estimated 10% of the female population of reproductive age and results in obvious reduction in health-related quality of life. Unfortunately, there is no a consistent theory for the etiology of endometriosis. Furthermore, the endometriosis is hard to diagnose in early stage and the treatment methods are limited. Importantly, emerging evidence has investigated that there is a close relationship between endometriosis and autophagy. However, autophagy is a friend or foe in endometriosis is puzzling, the precise mechanism underlying autophagy in endometriosis has not been fully elucidated yet. Here, we provide an integrated view on the acquired findings of the connections between endometriosis and autophagy. We also discuss which may contribute to the abnormal level of autophagy in endometriosis.

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