

MODULATION OF STELLATE CELL EPITHELIAL-MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION BY URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID IN RATS WITH BILIARY CIRRHOSIS

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023

Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 15, 2023

Ursodeoxycholic acid down-regulates epithelial-mesenchymal transition and delays liver fibrosis in hepatic stellate cells and a rat biliary cirrhosis model.

KEY POINTS

- UDCA reduced expression of fibrosis-related genes including α -SMA, Collagen-I, vimentin, and TGF- β 1 in hepatic stellate cells as measured by quantitative RT-PCR.
- UDCA decreased target protein expression through inactivation of the TGF- β 1/Smad3 signaling system, an upstream regulator of fibrosis and EMT-related protein, as demonstrated by Western Blot analysis of Smad3 phosphorylation.
- The effects of UDCA on EMT-related gene and protein expression observed in hepatic stellate cells were reproduced in a rat common bile duct ligation model of biliary cirrhosis.
- The study identifies that UDCA functions to down-regulate epithelial-mesenchymal transition and delay liver fibrosis progression.

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