



Exploration the Mechanism of Doxorubicin-Induced Heart Failure in Rats by Integration of Proteomics and Metabolomics Data

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Heart failure is a common systemic disease with high morbidity and mortality worldwide. Doxorubicin (DOX) is a commonly used anthracycline broad-spectrum antitumor antibiotic with strong antitumor effect and definite curative effect. However, cardiotoxicity is the adverse reaction of drug dose cumulative toxicity, but the mechanism is still unclear. In this study, proteomics and metabolomics techniques were used to analyze the tissue and plasma of DOX-induced heart failure (HF) in rats and to clarify the molecular mechanism of the harmful effects of DOX on cardiac metabolism and function in rats from a new point of view. The results showed that a total of 278 proteins with significant changes were identified by quantitative proteomic analysis, of which 118 proteins were significantly upregulated and 160 proteins were significantly downregulated in myocardial tissue. In the metabolomic analysis, 21 biomarkers such as L-octanoylcarnitine, alpha-ketoglutarate, glutamine, creatine, and sphingosine were detected. Correlation analysis showed that DOX-induced HF mainly affected phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan biosynthesis, D-glutamine and D-glutamate metabolism, phenylalanine metabolism, biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids, and other metabolic pathways, suggesting abnormal amino acid metabolism, fatty acid metabolism, and glycerol phospholipid metabolism. It is worth noting that we have found the key upstream target of DOX-induced HF, PTP1B, which inhibits the expression of HIF-1 α by inhibiting the phosphorylation of IRS, leading to disorders of fatty acid metabolism and glycolysis, which together with the decrease of Nrf2, SOD, CytC, and AK4 proteins lead to oxidative stress. Therefore, we think that PTP1B may play an important role in the development of heart failure induced by doxorubicin and can be used as a potential target for the treatment of heart failure.

Keywords: doxorubicin, heart failure, proteomics, metabolomics, protein tyrosine-protein phosphatase non-receptor type 1

1 INTRODUCTION

Heart disease has a high mortality and morbidity worldwide. Clinically, anthracyclines are a major reason of cardiotoxicity (Feijen et al., 2019). For example, doxorubicin (DOX) is an effective anticancer agent for the treatment of solid tumors and hematological malignancies, which can cause pathological and physiological damage to the heart, such as progressive cardiac dilation and systolic

dysfunction, and subsequently lead to heart failure (HF) (Eisenberg et al., 2018; Russo et al., 2019; Maurer and Packer, 2020). Studies have shown that the occurrence of HF caused by DOX is related to cardiomyocyte death caused by mitochondrial swelling, myocardial fibrosis, or cardiac contraction/diastole (Zhang K. W. et al., 2018; Galán-Arriola, 2019). Rochette et al. showed in the study that DOX caused a significant reduction in left ventricular ejection fraction, leading to congestive HF (Rochette et al., 2015). In the treatment of breast cancer patients, HF is the main cause of death due to the use of anthracycline drugs, which can be manifested as, under the condition of no abnormal load, left ventricular dilation and poor function lead to cardiac systolic dysfunction (Zhang et al., 2020). Based on the above studies, when anthracycline is used as a chemotherapeutic agent, cardiac toxicity has become the main limiting factor, and the discovery, prevention, and treatment of it will be an important issue.

In medicine, proteomics and metabonomics are used to help identify patients at risk of disease, detect and identify various molecules at the level of proteins and metabolites, and study their functions and interrelationships among various molecules (Mato et al., 2014). The combined analysis of the two techniques can link genotype and phenotype to help determine the causal mechanism of DOX-induced HF and provide a new strategy for the discovery and effective treatment of HF (Hoffman et al., 2017).

Here, we used ultra-high performance liquid chromatography-tandem quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometry (UPLC-Q-TOF/MS) to analyze DOX-induced HF in rats, to explain the toxicological pathways of DOX to the heart, especially the combined proteomic technology, to provide more information for the study of its pathogenesis. We also studied the potential upstream targets for the development of HF.

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Chemicals

Doxorubicin (Solarbio, Beijing, China), formaldehyde (Solarbio, Beijing, China), heparin sodium (Solarbio, Beijing, China), acetonitrile (Merck, Germany), formic acid (CNW, Germany), BCA Kit (Solarbio, Shanghai, China), Tris (Sigma, USA), SDS (Bio-Rad, USA), phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (Solarbio, Beijing), phosphatase inhibitor (Solarbio, Beijing, China), RIPA buffer (Solarbio, Beijing, China), PTP1B (Abcam, USA), IRS-1, P-IRS, HK2, HIF-1 α (Cell Signaling Technology, Inc., USA), Nrf2 (Abcam, USA), NH₄HCO₃ (Sigma, USA), High pH Reversed-Phase Peptide Fractionation Kit (Pierce, USA), TMT 6/10 plex Isobaric Label Reagent (Thermo, USA) were used.

2.2 Animals

A total of 35 male Wistar rats (180–200 g) were purchased from Beijing Weitong Lihua Experimental Animal Technology Co., Ltd., license number: SCXK (Beijing) 2016–0006. After one week of adaptive feeding, the rats were acclimatized to a 12-hour light/dark cycle in a controlled environment with a temperature of approximately 23 \pm 2°C and a relative humidity of 35 \pm 5%. All

animals received care and raising with standard food and tap water. The rats were randomly divided into a treatment group (Dox group) and a control group (NS group). The Dox group was injected intraperitoneally with DOX (3 mg/kg) once a week, and the NS group was injected with the same amount of normal saline intraperitoneally, for 6 weeks.

2.3 Compliance With Ethical Standards

This study was approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (IACUC) and was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health Animal Care and Use Committee.

2.4 Biochemical and Pathological Observation

After induction of anesthesia with 5% chloral hydrate, the long-axis parasternal sections of rats were measured using an ultrasound Doppler instrument, and cardiac function indexes were recorded. Ejection fraction (EF) was used as a parameter to determine the establishment of HF. From each serum sample, 100 μ L was extracted and measured in a fully automated biochemical instrument, the data of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), troponin kinase (CK), and creatine kinase isoenzymes (CK-MB) were recorded.

Small sections of heart tissues of NS group and DOX group were fixed with 10% formaldehyde, embedded in paraffin, and then prepared into 5 μ m-thick sections. Hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining was performed in heart sections to visualize the pathological manifestations under the microscope.

2.5 Metabolomics Analysis

We analyzed the plasma of rats in NS group and DOX group by metabonomics. Plasma samples of rats were centrifuged at 4°C and 3500 rpm for 10 min. Each sample was fed with 100 μ L of plasma, added to 300 μ L acetonitrile (1:3 v/v), and vortexed for 1 min, and then put in ultrasonic ice water bath for 10 min and in the freezing centrifuge (ALLEGRATM-64R; American) in 13,000 rpm, 4°C/15 min, retaining supernatant. QC samples were prepared to contain biological information of all samples.

To further assess the alterations of metabolites in rats treated with DOX, endogenous metabolites were analyzed by Waters Xevo G2-S UPLC-Q-TOF/MS (Waters, USA). 10 μ L of sample solution was injected onto an ACQUITY UPLC BEH C18 (2.1 mm \times 100 mm, 1.7 μ m, Waters) at 45°C and the flow rate was 0.3 ml/min. The optimal mobile phase consisted of a linear gradient system of a) 0.1% formic acid in water and b) 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile, 0–8.5 min, 1–25% B; 8.5–11.0 min, 25–50% B; 11.0–13.0 min, 50–1% B; 13.0–15.0 min, 1–1% B. In addition, the QC samples contained most information of whole plasma samples.

The mass spectrum optimal conditions of analysis were as follows: Electrospray ionization source was used, in positive and negative ionization modes, the capillary voltage was 3.0 kV, drying gas temperature was set at 325°C, drying gas flow was 10 ml/min, desolvation gas flow was 600 L/h, source temperature

was 120°C, desolvation temperature was 350°C, and cone gas flow was 50 L/h. The quadrupole scan range was set at m/z 50–1000 Da.

2.6 Quantitative Proteomics Analysis

Rat myocardial tissue samples were frozen with liquid nitrogen, ground, and crushed with SDT lysate (4% SDS, 100 mM Tris-HCl, 1 mM DTT, pH 7.6) in MP homogenizer. Protein quantification was performed by BCA method. Each sample was 30 ml protein solution, enzymatically hydrolyzed by filter aided proteome preparation (FASP) method (Marwick, 2015), and the peptide segment was quantified under OD280. Each sample was labeled according to the instructions of Thermo TMT labeling kit. The labeled samples were combined and subjected to fractionation (See **Supplementary 1** for detailed treatment).

Then each fraction was injected for HPLC analysis, followed by LC-MS/MS analysis performed on a Q Exactive mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific) that was coupled to Easy nLC (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Buffer A is 0.1% formic acid buffer; B is 84% acetonitrile and 0.1% formic acid aqueous solution. The chromatographic columns used were packed with nanoViper C18 (Thermo Scientific Acclaim PepMap100, 100 $\mu\text{m} \times 2 \text{ cm}$, 3 μm , 100 A) balanced by 95% A solution at a flow rate of 300 nL/min. The peptides were eluted using a linear gradient (0–80 min, 0–55% B; 80–85 min, 55–100% B; 85–90 min, 100% B).

The detection mode is positive ion, the scanning range of parent ion is 300–1800 m/z , the resolution of primary mass spectrometry is 70,000 at 200 m/z , the target of Automatic Gain Control is $1e6$, Maximum IT is 50 ms, and the Dynamic Exclusion time is 60.0 s. The mass-charge ratio of peptides and peptide fragments is collected according to the following methods: 20 fragment spectra (MS2 scan) were collected after each full scan, MS2 Activation Type was HCD, isolation window was 2 m/z , and secondary mass spectrometry resolution was 17,500 at 200 m/z (TMT 6-plex) or 35,000 at 200 m/z (TMT 10-plex), 30 eV for Normalized Collision Energy and 0.1% for Underfill.

2.7 Data Processing

MassLynx software (Waters, Version 4.1) was used to extract peak values and correct the original mass spectra data of metabolomics for principal component analysis (PCA) and partial least squares-discriminant analysis (PLS-DA). The standards were variable importance in the projection (VIP) > 1.5 and T-test ($p < 0.05$) to select potential biomarkers. Subsequently according to the HMDB database (<http://www.hmdb.ca>), the differential metabolites were further identified by m/z values and Mass Spectrometry Fragmentation. The identified metabolites were analyzed by receiver operating characteristic curve and clustering analysis software was used according to the relative content of each biomarker (<http://www.metaboanalyst.ca/>) to generate a heat map to evaluate the diagnostic ability of metabolic markers. Pathway and visualization analysis was done using the KEGG pathway database (<http://mirror.MetaboAnalyst.ca/>).

For the tandem mass tag (TMT) proteomic data, MS/MS spectra were searched using MASCOT engine (Matrix Science, London, UK, version 2.2) embedded into Proteome Discoverer 1.4 (**Supplementary 1**). LC/MS raw data were searched in the UniProt-reviewed rat protein database and differentially expressed proteins were screened by the criteria of upregulation greater than 1.2 times or downregulation less than 0.83 and p value less than 0.05. All identified proteins were annotated with Blast2GO for GO function (Database version: go_201504.obo, www.geneontology.org), and then differentially expressed proteins were analyzed by Fisher's exact test for GO functional enrichment and bioinformatics. Next, through the KEGG (<http://www.kegg.jp/>) pathway enrichment analysis of significantly differentially expressed proteins, it can help us to understand the metabolic or signal pathways that these proteins may be involved in.

2.8 Western Blot Analysis

The 50 mg heart tissue was added to the phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF), phosphatase inhibitor, and RIPA buffer and lysed and cracked for 30 min on the ice to ensure complete cleavage. The protein was quantified with the BCA protein assay kit and then protein was separated by 8% SDS-PAGE. The proteins were transferred to polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membrane and incubated overnight with primary antibodies against PTP1B, IRS-1, P-IRS, HK2, HIF-1 α , and Nrf2, followed by incubation with β -actin and NADPH, which served as an internal control.

2.9 Statistical Analysis

The analysis of related data was performed using SPSS software (version 17.0). The experimental data are expressed as the mean \pm SD. Data comparison between various experimental groups was performed by T-test or one-way ANOVA. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Effect of Doxorubicin on Heart Biochemical Parameters and Pathological Situations of Rat

DOX is an effective cancer chemotherapy agent, which can cause pathological and physiological HF (Fu et al., 2016). Echocardiography directly reflected the ejection capacity, systolic and diastolic function of the heart, and played an irreplaceable role in the diagnosis of cardiotoxicity. We compared the echocardiograms. A significant elevation of serum diastolic left ventricular volume (LVID, d) and systolic left ventricular volume (LVID, s) was observed in DOX group compared with NS group over the entire time course, whereas the levels of EF, left ventricular diameter shortening rate (FS), left ventricular posterior wall systolic thickness (LVPW, s), and left ventricular posterior wall diastolic thickness (LVPW, d) were decreased, as shown in **Figure 1A**. In addition, we also compared the changes of serum CK, CK-MB, and LDH between the DOX group and the NS group (**Figure 1B**) and evaluated the degree of

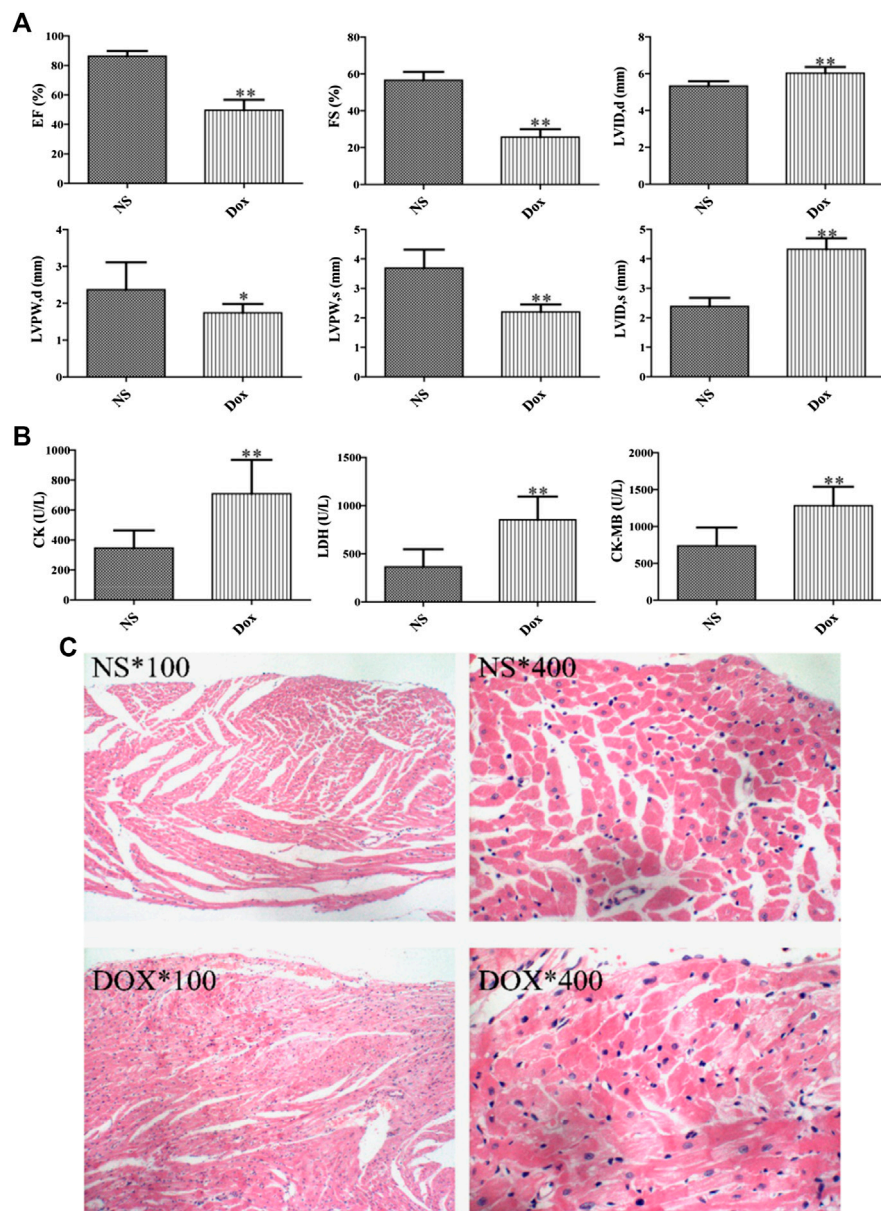


FIGURE 1 | Effects of DOX-induced heart pathology and biochemistry changes in heart failure. **(A)** Echocardiographic evaluation of rat hearts. **(B)** Biochemical indices in rat serum. **(C)** Staining results of rat cardiomyocytes. (* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$). *, 100: magnification $\times 100$; *, 400: magnification $\times 400$).

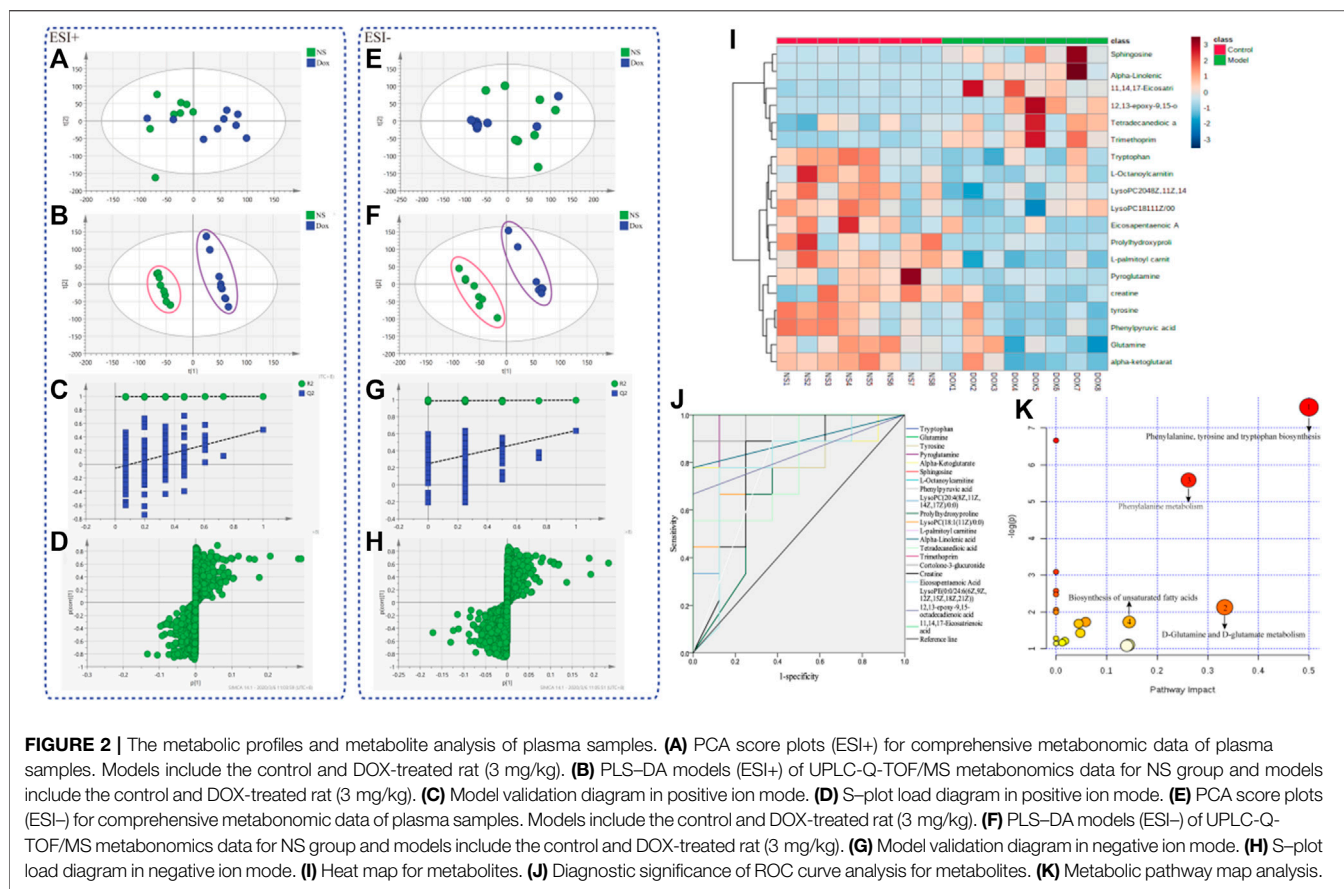
cardiotoxicity of DOX in rats. In conclusion, it indicated that the rats presented the typical pathological features of myocardial damage.

The damage severity was further verified by H&E staining of myocardial cell. In **Figure 1C**, the rat myocardial cells in the NS group are arranged orderly and the texture structure is clear. On the contrary, the myocardial cells in the DOX group had more significant edema, some myocardial nuclei were large and stained deeply, and there were many vacuoles near the nuclei, the obvious infiltration of inflammatory cells can be seen in the stroma, and the myocardial fibers are dissolved and broken. Consequently, combined with the histopathological

manifestation results, DOX can affect the normal physiological state of the heart.

3.2 Metabolomics Analysis

Plasma samples of rats were analyzed by UPLC-Q-TOF/MS to obtain significantly changed metabolites. The original mass spectra data were analyzed with SIMCA software (version 12.0, Sweden) for multivariate statistical analysis respectively. Then PCA (**Figures 2A,E**) and PLS-DA were calculated (**Figures 2B,F**). The results showed complete separation of the heart between the NS group and the DOX injury groups in both negative and positive ionization mode, which were described



by high values of R2Y (0.996 and 0.996) and Q2 (0.665 and 0.665) parameters. We also performed permutation tests (Figures 2C,G), and the results showed that the PLS-DA model was not overfitted and had high reliability. The model validation diagram is used to diagnose, and the number of tests is set to 200. The obtained model validation diagram proves that the PLS-DA model has no overfitting and high reliability. Meanwhile, S-plot load plot (Figures 2D,H) showed that the farther the metabolites from the central origin on the “S” curve, the greater the VIP value and the greater the contribution. All the differential endogenous metabolites meet the requirements of $VIP > 1.5$ and $p < 0.05$. By further MS2 identification, 21 significantly changed ions were matched with endogenous metabolites from HMDB database (Table 1); 12 of the identified metabolites were downregulated and nine were upregulated. Next, we will diagnose the 21 differential metabolites’ diagnostic significance by two ways: ROC curve and cluster analysis. The ROC curve (Figure 2J) shows that the area of the 21 metabolites under the curve is all greater than 0.7; the heat map (Figure 2I) results showed that the content changes of 21 biomarkers in the NS group and the DOX group were significantly different, indicating that they had better accuracy in the diagnosis of heart failure induced by DOX. Based on the KEGG pathway enrichment analysis and topological analysis of MetPA database (Figure 2K), we can intuitively see that these differential metabolites participate in a variety of metabolic pathways, among which the metabolic pathways

more influential in heart failure include the phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan biosynthesis, the D-glutamine and D-glutamate metabolism, the phenylalanine metabolism, and the biosynthesis of unsaturated fatty acids. Through these results, we found that HF mainly involves energy metabolism, amino acid metabolism, fatty acid metabolism, and glycerophospholipid metabolism disorders.

3.3 Proteomic Analysis

By utilization of TMT-based quantitative proteomics, we identified 29,483 peptides in the rats heart tissue samples of the two groups and identified 3,727 proteins (Supplementary 2), among which 278 proteins were significantly altered (fold change > 1.2 or < 0.83 , $p < 0.05$) as a result of doxorubicin treatments. In detail, 118 proteins were upregulated and 160 proteins were downregulated in adriamycin treated group (Supplementary 2). In order to better understand which functions or biological pathways are significantly affected by biological processing, we annotated 278 differential proteins by Blast2Go software (<https://www.blast2go.com/>) for GO function. It can be seen that significant changes have taken place in the top 20 GO terms (Figure 3A): Biological processes such as the generation of precursor metabolites and ATP metabolic process; molecular functions such as glutathione binding and antioxidant activity; cellular components such as mitochondrial envelope, extracellular space, and extracellular region. Notably, to

TABLE 1 | Potential biomarkers were selected in plasma of COX-treated rats and normal rats.

No	T _R (min)	Compound	Molecular formula	m/z obsd	m/z calcd	Error (ppm)	Ion mode	Treatment group vs. control group
1	0.93	Tryptophan	C ₁₁ H ₁₂ N ₂ O ₂	227.0796	227.0796	0	+	↓**
2	0.92	Tyrosine	C ₉ H ₁₁ NO ₃	182.0817	182.0819	1.10	+	↓*
3	0.80	Glutamine	C ₆ H ₁₀ N ₂ O ₃	169.0589	169.0587	-1.18	+	↓*
4	0.83	Pyroglutamine	C ₅ H ₈ N ₂ O ₂	129.0664	129.0665	0.77	+	↓*
5	11.31	Alpha-ketoglutarate	C ₅ H ₆ O ₅	184.9852	184.9864	6.49	+	↓**
6	4.41	Sphingosine	C ₁₈ H ₃₇ NO ₂	300.2903	300.2902	-0.33	+	↑*
7	2.80	L-Octanoylcarnitine	C ₁₅ H ₂₉ NO ₄	288.2175	288.2169	-2.08	+	↓*
8	0.93	Phenylpyruvic acid	C ₉ H ₈ O ₃	165.0552	165.0547	-3.03	+	↑*
9	2.45	Prolylhydroxyproline	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₄	251.1008	251.1014	2.39	+	↓*
10	5.37	LysoPC(20:4 (8Z,11Z,14Z,17Z)/0:0)	C ₂₈ H ₅₀ NO ₇ P	566.3223	566.3218	-0.80	+	↓**
11	6.25	LysoPC(18:1 (11Z)/0:0)	C ₂₆ H ₅₂ NO ₇ P	544.3379	544.3381	0.37	+	↑*
12	5.48	L-Palmitoyl carnitine	C ₂₃ H ₄₅ NO ₄	400.3427	400.3432	1.25	+	↓**
13	5.66	Alpha-linolenic acid	C ₁₈ H ₃₀ O ₂	279.2324	279.2314	-3.58	+	↑*
14	6.03	Tetradecanedioic acid	C ₁₄ H ₂₆ O ₄	297.1468	297.15	10.77	+	↑*
15	6.28	Trimethoprim	C ₁₄ H ₁₈ N ₄ O ₃	291.1457	291.1437	-6.87	+	↑**
16	5.94	Cortolone-3-glucuronide	C ₂₇ H ₄₂ O ₁₁	565.2625	565.2661	6.37	+	↓**
17	2.53	Creatine	C ₄ H ₉ N ₃ O ₂	130.0617	130.0623	4.61	-	↓*
18	5.28	LysoPE (0:0/24:6 (6Z,9Z,12Z,15Z,18Z,21Z))	C ₂₉ H ₄₈ NO ₇ P	552.3090	552.3085	-0.91	-	↑*
19	7.69	Eicosapentaenoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₀ O ₂	301.2168	301.2188	6.64	-	↓*
20	5.93	12,13-Epoxy-9,15-octadecadienoic acid	C ₁₈ H ₃₀ O ₃	293.2117	293.2119	0.68	-	↑*
21	5.83	11,14,17-Eicosatrienoic acid	C ₂₀ H ₃₄ O ₂	305.2481	305.2500	6.22	-	↑**

The change trend is compared between the DOX group and the NS group. ↑ and ↓ represent up- and downregulation. *p < 0.05. **p < 0.01.

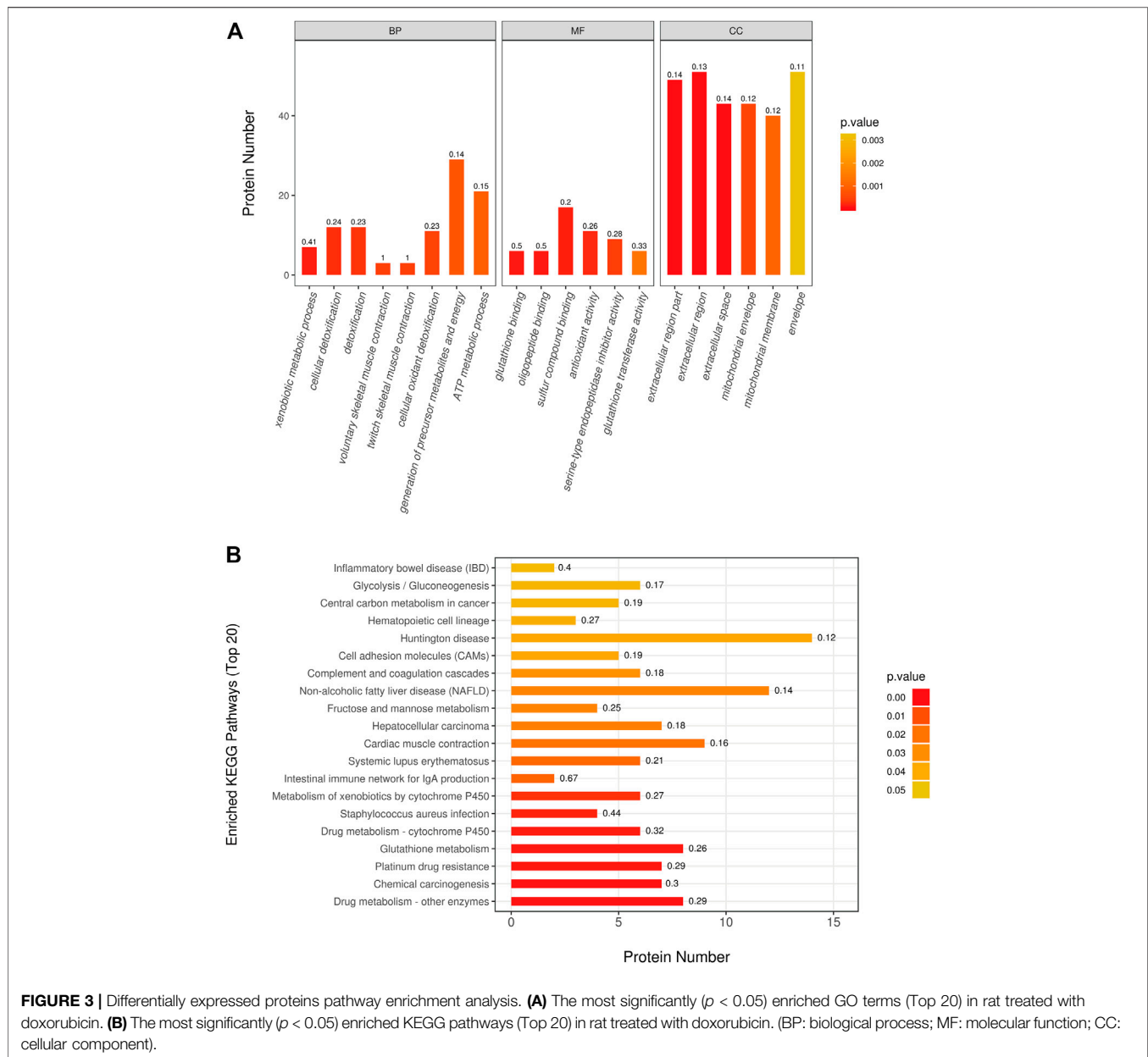
understand the metabolic or signaling pathways that these proteins may be involved in, we performed KEGG pathway (Figure 3B) annotation and found that significant changes have taken place in important pathways such as glutathione metabolism, drug metabolism–cytochrome P450, cardiac muscle contraction, fructose and mannose metabolism, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, and complement and coagulation. However, the mechanism is still not clear and needs further clarification.

3.4 Integrated Proteomics and Metabolomics Analysis

To associate the proteomics data with the metabolomics data, we conducted a joint pathway analysis with differential metabolites and proteins. We found that 25 differential proteins (Table 2) were closely related to the differential metabolites. The results revealed that several metabolic pathways were significantly targeted, including fatty acid metabolism, glycolysis, amino acid metabolism, glycerol phospholipid metabolism, glutathione metabolism, and myocardial contraction (Figure 4), further relating these pathways to the occurrence of heart failure. In fatty acid metabolism, carnitine substances such as L-octanoylcarnitine and L-palmitoylcarnitine and proteins such as acetyl-CoA acyltransferase 2 and acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, C-2 to C-3 short chain affect the decrease of the fatty acid beta-oxidation catalytic enzyme, suggesting that the energy supply process of fatty acid β-oxidation in cardiomyocytes is affected. The upregulation of protein phosphatase and the reduction of glycolytic enzymes in glycolysis indicate that the

glycolysis process of cardiomyocytes is also affected. Meanwhile, the decrease of alpha-ketoglutarate, ATP synthase, H⁺-transporting, mitochondrial Fo complex, subunit F6, and succinate-CoA ligase ADP-forming beta subunit in TCA cycle indicated that the efficiency of TCA cycle was reduced. The decrease of superoxide dismutase 2, mitochondrial, cytochrome c, adenylate kinase 4, and FK506 binding protein 4 suggests the level of oxidative stress was higher. Creatine, transthyretin, and ryanodine receptor 2 decrease indicates that myocardial contraction is affected. The decrease of lysophosphatidylcholine and the increase of alpha-linolenic acid suggested that glycerol phospholipid metabolism has been affected. Elevated expression of glutathione-S-transferase represents the imbalance of glutathione metabolism in cardiomyocytes. We speculate that DOX may lead to inadequate myocardial energy supply and accumulation of cardiac reactive oxygen species through abnormal fatty acid metabolism and glucose metabolism, which together lead to calcium homeostasis affecting cardiac contractile function and lead to HF ultimately.

However, we found that most of these proteins were downstream effector proteins through KEGG analysis, so it is particularly important to find the upstream key target proteins. Then we use the protein prediction function of the STRING database to select the proteins that play an important role in proteomics results to predict the upstream proteins based on the known DOX target proteins, and we enrich the key target protein tyrosine-protein phosphatase non-receptor type 1 (PTP1B). Through the KEGG database, we can find that PTP1B can



inhibit insulin receptor (IR) substrate and PI3K achieves GLUT4 transport by activating Akt/PKB and PKC cascade and protein synthesis by mTOR and downstream components after protein kinase B activation. PP2A has an inhibitory effect on Akt and PKC ζ . The negative feedback signal from Akt/PKB, PKC ζ , and p70S6K leads to serine phosphorylation and inactivation of IRS signal transduction, resulting in the formation of HIF- α , and there is a certain correlation between HK2 and HIF- α , which further affects glycolysis. When oxidative stress occurs, protein kinase C and phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase promote the dissociation of Nrf2 and Keap1. Nrf2 enters the nucleus and binds to antioxidant response elements to generate GSTs and SOD, thus exerting the role of antioxidant damage. With the degradation of Nrf2, the activation is terminated. AK4 and FKBP4 also affect oxidative

stress, produce Ttr and Ryr2 to release Ca²⁺, stimulate CytC generation, and at the same time block the scavenging of ROS free radicals and lead to apoptosis. In **Figure 5**, it can be seen that PTP1B is in the upstream position of the pathway, so we speculate that it is one of the key targets upstream.

3.5 Protein Expression in Cardiac Tissue of Two Groups

Previous studies have shown that PTP1B may be a key upstream target for HF. To verify our hypothesis, we detected the expression of PTP1B and its downstream node proteins IRS, HIF-1 α , Nrf2, and HK-2. In results as shown in **Figure 6**, we found that, compared with the NS group, the expression level of PTP1B and IRS protein increased significantly, while the

TABLE 2 | Differentially regulated proteins selected by integration analysis.

No	Accession	Protein names	Gene name	LP/NS ratio	Regulated type
1	ENSRNOP00000018325	Glutathione S-transferase alpha 1	Gsta1	1.31	↑*
2	ENSRNOP00000010579	Microsomal glutathione S-transferase 1	Mgst1	1.27	↑**
3	ENSRNOP00000024601	Glutathione S-transferase pi 1	Gstp1	1.19	↑**
4	ENSRNOP00000025939	Glutathione S-transferase mu 2	Gstm2	1.17	↑*
5	ENSRNOP00000039050	Glutathione S-transferase mu 1	Gstm1	1.13	↑**
6	ENSRNOP00000075572	Glutathione S-transferase alpha 4	Gsta4	1.10	↑*
7	ENSRNOP00000005612	Enolase 3	Eno3	0.85	↓*
8	ENSRNOP00000018227	Phosphoglycerate mutase 2	Pgam2	0.87	↓*
9	ENSRNOP00000008813	Hexokinase 2	Hk2	0.84	↓**
10	ENSRNOP00000070507	Phosphofructokinase, muscle	Pfkm	0.91	↓*
11	ENSRNOP000000022113	Transthyretin	Ttr	0.61	↓*
12	ENSRNOP00000023601	Ryanodine receptor 2	Ryr2	0.87	↓**
13	ENSRNOP000000060140	Acetyl-CoA acyltransferase 2	Acaa2	0.83	↓**
14	ENSRNOP00000001556	Acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, C-2 to C-3 short chain	Acads	0.86	↓**
15	ENSRNOP000000021116	ATP synthase, H+ transporting, mitochondrial Fo complex, subunit F6	Atp5pf	0.91	↓*
16	ENSRNOP000000060229	Succinate-CoA ligase ADP-forming beta subunit	Sucla2	0.90	↓*
17	ENSRNOP000000025794	Superoxide dismutase 2, mitochondrial	Sod2	0.84	↓*
18	ENSRNOP000000041521	Cytochrome c	Cyt C	0.86	↓*
19	ENSRNOP000000065349	Adenylate kinase 4	AK4	0.91	↓**
20	ENSRNOP000000008737	FK506 binding protein 4	Fkbp4	0.88	↓*
21	ENSRNOP000000068826	COX14, cytochrome c oxidase assembly factor	Cox14	0.85	↓*
22	ENSRNOP000000022487	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5B	Cox5b	0.90	↓*
23	ENSRNOP000000025525	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 5A	Cox5a	0.90	↓**
24	ENSRNOP000000066702	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit 7A1	Cox7a1	0.85	↓*
25	ENSRNOP000000023139	Protein phosphatase 2	PP2A	1.10	↑*

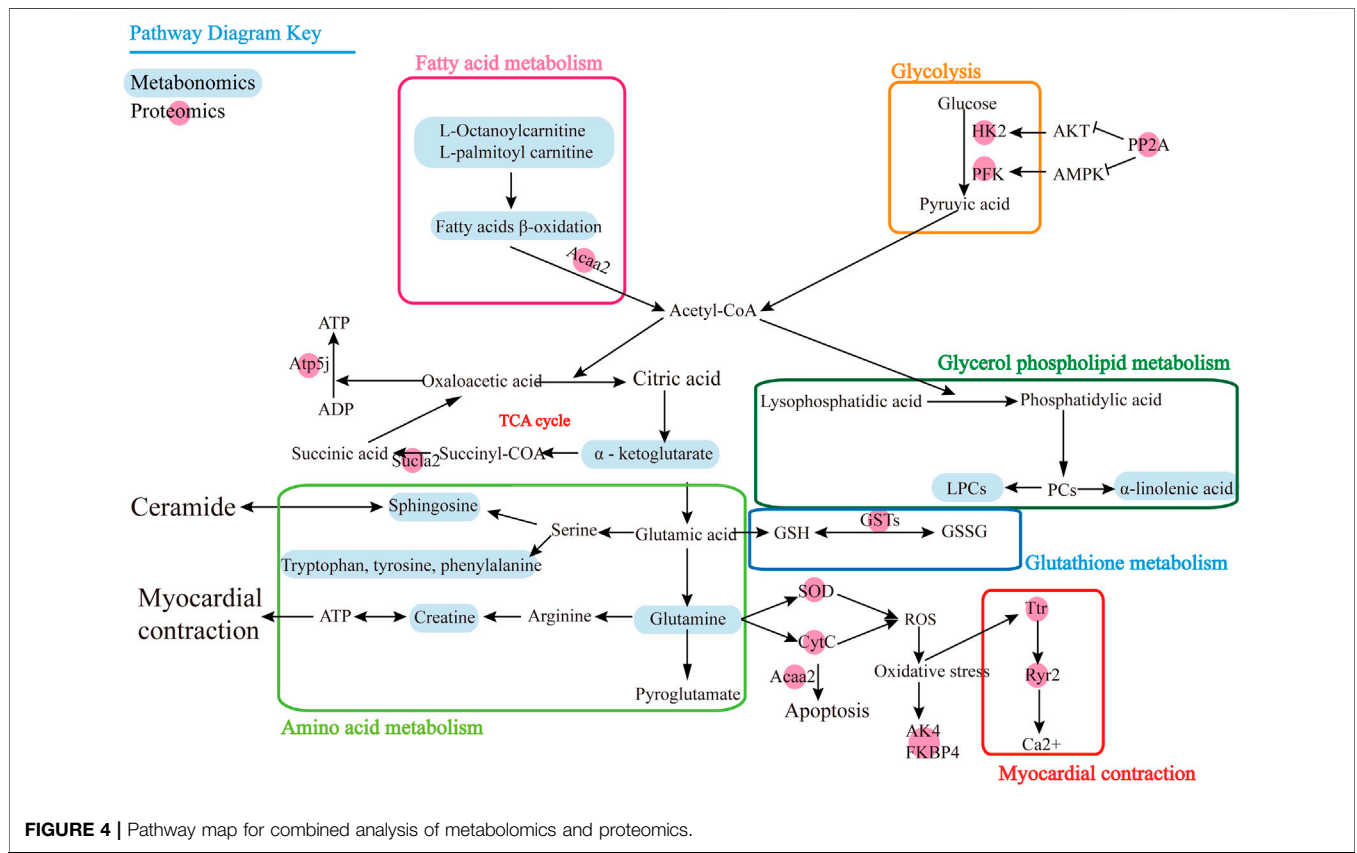
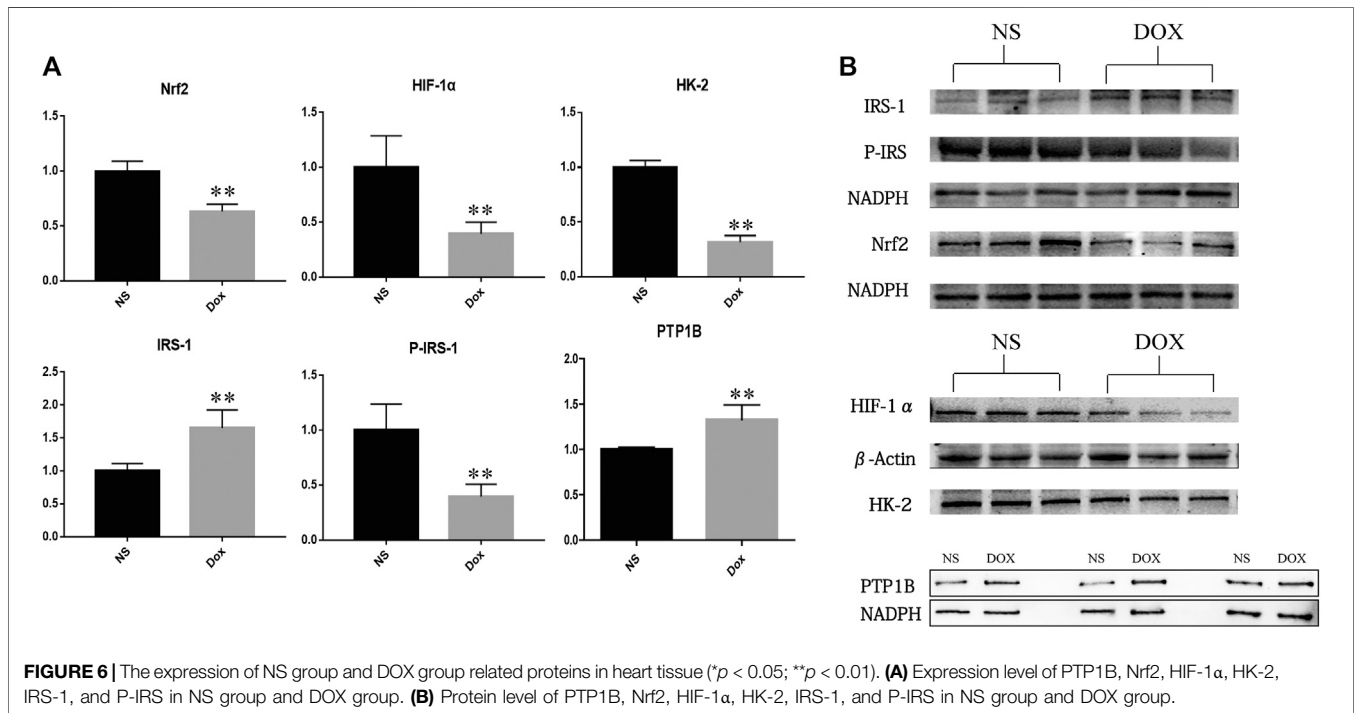
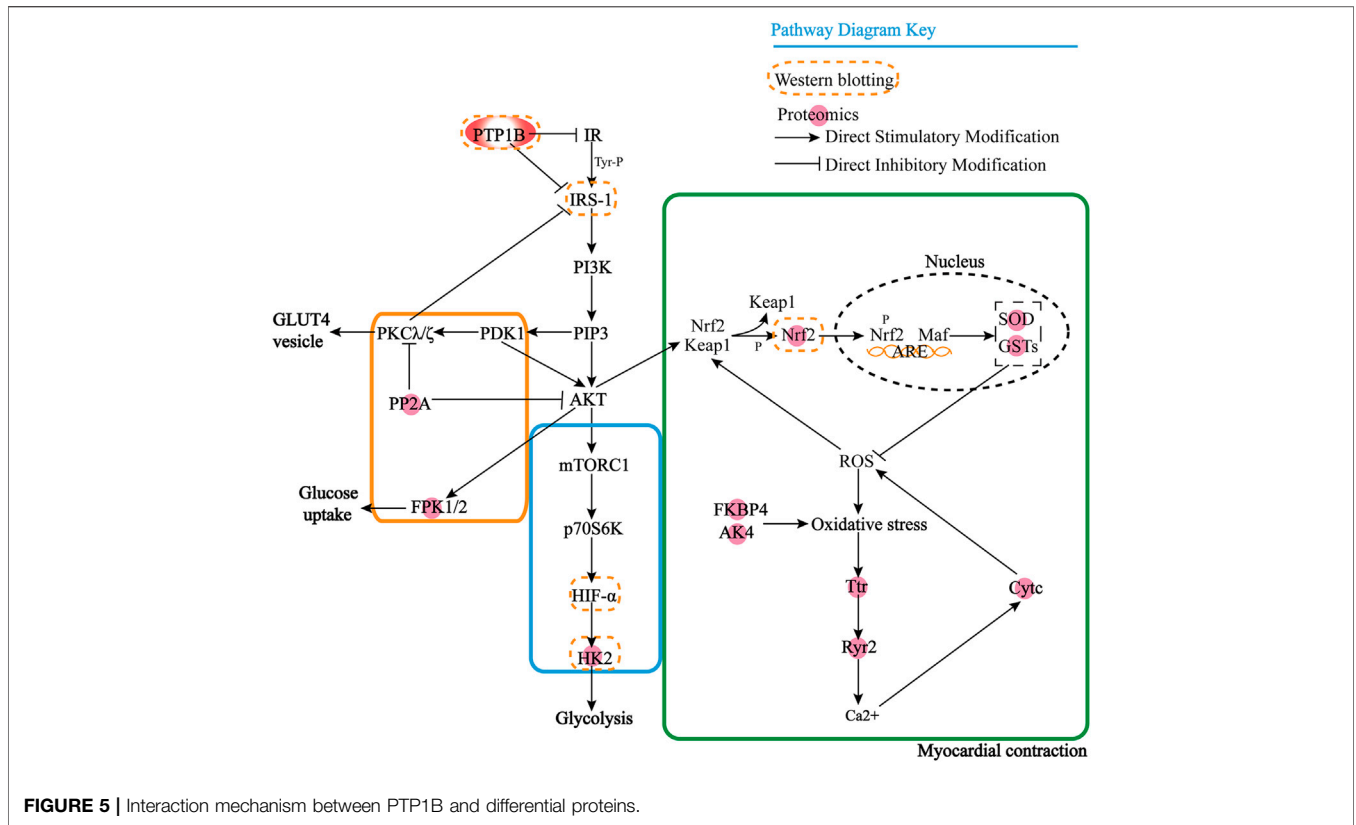


FIGURE 4 | Pathway map for combined analysis of metabolomics and proteomics.



expression levels of P-IRS1, HIF-1α, Nrf2, and HK-2 protein decreased significantly in the DOX group. It is suggested that the upregulation of PTP1B protein will inhibit IRS phosphorylation,

resulting in decreased P-IRS1 expression, a decrease in the expression of HIF-1α, and inhibition of downstream glycolysis; at the same time, it can also cause decreased expression of Nrf2,

leading to increased levels of oxidative stress in the body, promoting the occurrence of HF through energy metabolism and oxidative stress.

4 DISCUSSION

Studies have shown that protein PTP1B, a molecular target for anti-type II diabetes, obesity, and cancer treatment, can regulate the level of protein tyrosine phosphorylation in cells (Chen et al., 2018). PTP1B is widely expressed in cardiovascular tissues, especially in the heart and endothelial cells (Thiebaut et al., 2016). Many studies have shown that inhibition of PTP1B can reduce cardiac dysfunction, systemic inflammation, and mortality (Maupoint et al., 2016; Thiebaut et al., 2016). Meanwhile, endothelial cell PTP1B deletion is associated with cardiac vascular endothelial growth factor signaling and angiogenesis and can protect against chronic afterload-induced heart failure (Gogiraju et al., 2016). Therefore, we believe that PTP1B is an interesting molecular target for the treatment of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. However, the mechanism of PTP1B with the HF is not very clear. In our research, we found that target protein PTP1B can cause damage to the heart through energy metabolism, oxidative stress, and calcium homeostasis disorders.

4.1 Energy Metabolism

The heart is the most energy-consuming organ of the body and requires a large amount of ATP to provide energy. Removing mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation, the main source of ATP is fatty acid oxidation, followed by glucose oxidation, amino acid oxidation, and so on. In heart failure, energy production is converted from fatty acid beta-oxidation to glucose oxidation, which contributes to the progressive deterioration of cardiac function in hypertrophy and heart failure (Dong et al., 2017). In this study, carnitine, Acaa2, and Acads showed a downward trend, which proved that the oxidation ability of fatty acids was affected and cardiac function was impaired (Bertero and Maack, 2018). Studies in knockdown PTP1B mice have shown that PTP1B protein has significant effects on insulin sensitivity, glucose homeostasis, and lipid metabolism (Owen et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2016). PTP1B attenuates insulin signal transduction by removing tyrosine from activated insulin receptors and IRS-1 triggers PI3K activation and catalyzes the lipid product phosphatidylinositol (3,4,5-) triphosphate, which in turn leads to the activation of protein kinase B to stimulate GLUT4 translocation affecting glucose absorption (Riehle and Abel, 2016; Nguyen et al., 2018; Ormazabal et al., 2018). Meanwhile, PTP1B activates mTOR through the Akt/PI3K pathway, thereby affecting HIF-1 α and HK2, and converts to aerobic glycolysis metabolism (Wolf et al., 2011; Cheng et al., 2014).

Pyruvate can be oxidized by acetyl coenzyme A or as a complementary substrate to supplement the intermediate products of the TCA cycle (Turer et al., 2019). Therefore, when the rate-limiting enzyme HK-2, which reacts with glycolytic capacity, and phosphofructokinase (Pfk, Pfk_m),

which is a key regulator in glycolysis decrease, lead to a decrease in glucose utilization, pyruvate also decreases (Gibb et al., 2017; Jiao et al., 2018). Meanwhile, the level of nonessential amino acid glutamine also plays a role in regulating cellular energy homeostasis, which is converted into α -ketoglutarate, an intermediate of the citric acid cycle, by a two-step process (Tebay et al., 2015). The decrease of metabolite α -ketoglutaric acid, differential protein atp5j, and sucla2 indicated the decrease of TCA cycle efficiency. This reflects the reduced TCA cycle efficiency of cardiomyocytes and the inability to provide sufficient ATP, indicating that fatty acid oxidation and glycolysis can affect the downstream TCA cycle, resulting in a decrease in ATP.

In the study, we found that the LPCs decreased significantly, which has been demonstrated to be accompanied by a decrease in ejection fraction when cardiovascular disease occurs, and a decrease in EF is associated with disorders in phospholipid metabolism (Marcinkiewicz-Siemion et al., 2018). Christin Stegemann et al. (Stegemann et al., 2014) analyzed the relationship between molecular lipids and cardiovascular risk and found that LPCs, cholesterol esters, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine, sphingomyelin, and triacylglycerol were associated with cardiovascular disease. Combined with the above factors, PTP1B protein affected the phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate protein IRS, caused disorders of glycolysis and lipid metabolism, and was accompanied by the imbalance of glutamine regulatory capacity homeostasis, which together led to the impact of TCA cycle, resulting in the reduction of cardiac energy supply.

4.2 Oxidative Stress

Oxidative stress is an important feature of the onset and development of many diseases (including cardiovascular diseases), and one of the common features that play an important role in the pathophysiology of heart failure is chronic oxidative stress (Belch et al., 1991; Hill and Singal, 1997; Zima and Mazurek, 2016). PTP1B increases glutathione S-transferase (GSTs) protein levels by stimulating insulin receptor substrates, activating downstream PI3K, Akt/protein kinase B, ribosomal p70S6 kinase, and PKC (Kim et al., 2006). Gamma 1-glutamyl-1-cysteine glycine (GSH), a tripeptide that can prevent oxidative stress and can be oxidized to form glutathione two sulfur (GSSG), when the ratio between oxidized and reduced GSH increases and glutathione is mixed with disulfide, will play a pathogenic factor in cardiovascular diseases (Lu, 2013; Zima and Mazurek, 2016; Chevallier et al., 2020). The increased expression of glutathione S-transferase represents the imbalance of glutathione metabolism in cardiomyocytes, depletion of GSH increases and the ratio of GSH/GSSG decreases, which enhanced oxidative stress from ROS in cardiomyocytes (Cramer et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2018). Among them, Gstp1 can sensitize cells to free radical-mediated damage by reducing the ability of reactive electrophiles to bind to glutathione, and its main active site is Val105, which is mainly associated with cardiovascular diseases (Doney et al., 2005). The GSTM family is associated with breast cancer, and there is a certain association between breast cancer and oxidative stress (Li

et al., 2018). Anthracyclines are also metabolized by GSTMs-mediated reactions, which can accelerate the metabolic inactivation of therapeutic drugs (Tan et al., 2008). GSTA4 is a 2-phase detoxifying enzyme whose expression increases in response to oxidative stress (Shearn et al., 2016). In this study, Gsta1/4, Gstm1/2, and Gstp1GSTs all showed a significant upward trend, demonstrating that doxorubicin-induced heart failure has a strong correlation with oxidative stress.

On the other hand, Sharma Sudha et al. demonstrated that the absence of SOD2 leads to an increase in ROS (Sharma et al., 2020). Nrf2 is widely recognized as a transcription factor activated by oxidative stress, and cells lacking Nrf2 can lead to mitochondrial dysfunction, resulting in increased ROS and impaired antioxidant capacity and further aggravated heart failure (Tebay et al., 2015). Nrf2 plays a crucial role in activating the Sirt3/SOD2 signaling pathway, and studies have demonstrated significant inhibition of silenced Nrf2 cells, SOD2 activity, and GSH/GSSG ratio, as well as increased ROS and MDA levels in induced oxidative stress cell models (Zhou et al., 2019). Abnormal cell membrane potential leads cytochrome C (CytC) to the cytoplasm and enhances apoptosis (Sun Jang et al., 2009; Zhang et al., 2019). And the increase of ROS level will inhibit superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (Marwick), GSH-PX activity, and GSH content (Liu et al., 2020). Overexpression of AK4 stabilizes HIF-1 α protein by increasing intracellular ROS levels (Jan et al., 2019). In this study, AK4 and HIF-1 α showed a downward trend, while Nrf2, SOD, and CytC showed a significant downward trend, indicating that oxidative stress played a crucial role in heart failure. Therefore, GSH, Nrf2, SOD2, and CytC are related to the occurrence of heart failure during oxidative stress.

4.3 Calcium Homeostasis

Calcium homeostasis is a central point in maintaining normal cardiac contractility in heart failure. Dysfunction of systolic Ca transport caused by dysfunction of the type 2 ryanodine receptor (RyR2) in the sarcoplasmic reticulum is associated with a variety of heart diseases, including catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, and HF (Connell et al., 2020). In cardiomyocytes, Ca²⁺ enters through L-type Ca²⁺ channels, which mediate the opening of RyR2 channels, allowing Ca²⁺ to contract from sarcoplasmic reticulum to cytoplasm, thus releasing energy from ATP hydrolysis by binding to enzymes on mitochondria (Kaplan et al., 2003; Gonano and Vila Petroff, 2020). Suetomi et al. studies have shown that when RyR2 deficiency or expression decreases, Ca²⁺ spontaneously leaks from the sarcoplasmic reticulum (Suetomi et al., 2011), which influences the calcium homeostasis of cardiomyocytes, reduces the production of ATP from mitochondria, and leads to heart failure due to cardiac systolic dysfunction. This study demonstrates that oxidative stress leads to the expression of Ttr protein (Zhang P. et al., 2018), which subsequently affects the low expression of RyR2, leading to Ca²⁺ homeostasis disorders affecting myocardial contraction. FK506-binding protein 52 (FKBP52, also known as FKBP4), whose downregulation is associated with cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, regulates Ca²⁺ signaling in a

manner dependent on overexpression of peptidyl-prolyl isomerase (PPIase) (Bandleon et al., 2019).

Also, ATP derived from the conversion of phosphokinase to creatine is an important chemical source of myocardial contraction, and the downregulation of creatine also indicates that cardiac systolic and diastolic function is affected during heart failure (Haris et al., 2014).

5 CONCLUSION

The combined analysis results showed that the occurrence of heart failure was mainly related to the metabolic disorders of fatty acid metabolism, glycolysis, TCA cycle, glycerophospholipid metabolism, glutathione metabolism, and amino acid metabolism. These metabolic pathways are closely related to energy metabolism, oxidative stress, and myocardial contraction. In this study, we focused on the discussion that PTP1B inhibits the expression of hypoxia-inducible factor-1 α (HIF-1 α) by inhibiting the phosphorylation of IRS, leading to the disorder of fatty acid metabolism and glycolysis; on the other hand, the increased expression of GSTs, which leads to the decrease of GSH/GSSG ratio and the decrease of Nrf2, SOD, CytC, and AK4 together lead to oxidative stress. Decreased expression of Ryr2 results in abnormal cardiac contraction with abnormal Ca²⁺ homeostasis and decreased ATP. Heart failure is usually defined as a condition of chronic oxidative stress due to energy shortage, so this study suggests that the occurrence of heart failure may be related to a harmful cycle of calcium homeostasis disorders resulting from increased energy demand and increased workload in HF (Seddon et al., 2007; Zima and Mazurek, 2016). It provides a new strategy for the effective treatment of heart failure, the development of new drugs, and the study of pharmacodynamic material basis, but in this study, only the important target protein PTP1B and the subsequent pathway of heart failure have been preliminarily validated; therefore, further functional validation of the target protein is needed from the cellular and animal levels.

Compared with other omics, data generated by proteomics and metabolomics are more directly related to the pathological symptoms and clinical parameters observed by patients (Rinschen and Saez-Rodriguez, 2020). Proteomics remains the most commonly used tool for discovering new biomarkers (Montaner et al., 2020). At present, the combination of multiomics has become a hot topic in the study of disease mechanism. From a clinical point of view, blood has more easily acquired advantages and plasma/serum metabolomics integrated systemic metabolism has better diagnostic and prognostic value than conventional biomarkers (Cheng et al., 2015; Hunter et al., 2016; McGarrah et al., 2018). In this study, we found the changes of metabolites and proteins during heart failure in rats by metabolomics and proteomics, explained the mechanism of heart failure at the phenotypic and genotypic levels, and provided a reference for the study of DOX-induced heart failure. However, in order to provide more information related to the heart's own metabolism, we need further studies of tissue metabolomics to reflect molecular processes closer to the disease state.

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/**Supplementary Material**, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding authors.

ETHICS STATEMENT

The animal study was reviewed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee of Tianjin University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (IACUC), and was conducted in accordance to the guidelines of the National Institutes of Health Animal Care and Use Committee.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

YW and YL planned and supervised the experiments. SF, WH, YY, YW, and LS analyzed and interpreted the data. YY and YW wrote the article. All authors agreed to the publication. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fphar.2020.600561/full#supplementary-material>

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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