

# MicroRNA-510 Plays Oncogenic Roles in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer by Directly Targeting SRC Kinase Signaling Inhibitor 1

Wei Wu,\* Linyan He,†‡ Yan Huang,\* Likun Hou,\* Wei Zhang,\* Liping Zhang,\* and Chunyan Wu\*

\*Department of Pathology, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Tongji University School of Medicine, Shanghai, P.R. China

†Jiangsu Institute of Hematology, Key Laboratory of Thrombosis and Hemostasis of Ministry of Health, The First Affiliated Hospital of Soochow University, Suzhou, P.R. China

‡Collaborative Innovation Center of Hematology, Soochow University, Suzhou, P.R. China

An increasing number of studies have demonstrated that microRNAs (miRNAs) may play key roles in various cancer carcinogenesis and progression, including non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). However, the expressions, roles, and mechanisms of miR-510 in NSCLC have, up to now, been largely undefined. In vivo assay showed that miR-510 was upregulated in NSCLC tissues compared with that in adjacent nontumor lung tissues. miR-510 expression was significantly correlated with TNM stage and lymph node metastasis. In vitro assay indicated that expressions of miR-510 were also increased in NSCLC cell lines. Downregulation of miR-510 suppressed NSCLC cell proliferation and invasion in vitro. We identified SRC kinase signaling inhibitor 1 (SRCIN1) as a direct target gene of miR-510 in NSCLC. Expression of SRCIN1 was downregulated in lung cancer cells and negatively correlated with miR-510 expression in tumor tissues. Downregulation of SRCIN1, leading to inhibition of miR-510 expression, reversed cell proliferation and invasion in NSCLC cells. These results showed that miR-510 acted as an oncogenic miRNA in NSCLC, partly by targeting SRCIN1, suggesting that miR-510 can be a potential approach for the treatment of patients with malignant lung cancer.

**Key words: Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC); MicroRNA-510; Proliferation; Invasion; SRC kinase signaling inhibitor 1 (SRCIN1)**

## INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer is a life-threatening malignant tumor and is among the leading causes of mortality worldwide<sup>1</sup>. According to the data from GLOBOCAN 2012, there are approximately 1.82 million of new cases and 1.59 million deaths due to lung cancer all around the world<sup>2</sup>. There are two pathological patterns of lung cancer: small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)<sup>3</sup>. NSCLC, including nonsquamous carcinomas and squamous carcinomas, is the predominant form of lung cancer and accounts for approximately 85% of all lung cancer cases<sup>4</sup>. Up to now, several risk factors for NSCLC have been identified, including environmental pollution, smoking, and occupational carcinogens<sup>4–7</sup>. Despite improvements in early stage diagnostic techniques, surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and other targeted therapies, the prognosis for patients with NSCLC remains unsatisfactory with a 5-year survival rate of 6%<sup>5</sup>. A high proportion of advanced disease stage at diagnosis and a limited understanding of tumor heterogeneities are mainly

responsible for the poor prognosis of NSCLC<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, it is important to elucidate the mechanisms underlying the formation and progression of NSCLC and reveal appropriate early diagnosis methods and more effective therapies for patients with this disease.

MicroRNAs (miRNAs), a group of nonprotein-coding and short RNA molecules of 21–25 nucleotides, are broadly expressed in eukaryotes<sup>7</sup>. Mature miRNAs usually bind to the 3'-untranslated regions (3'-UTRs) of their target genes to negatively regulate the expression of target genes at posttranscriptional levels by inducing the degradation of the targeted mRNA or inhibiting translation of the targeted mRNA<sup>8,9</sup>. A single miRNA can negatively regulate a large number of target genes, thereby participating in the regulation of various biological processes, such as cell proliferation, survival, apoptosis, differentiation, and angiogenesis<sup>10–12</sup>. Evidence has shown that expressions of certain miRNAs would be changed in different tumor types including NSCLC, and these abnormality have been considered as important players in tumorigenesis and

Address correspondence to Chunyan Wu, Department of Pathology, Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Tongji University School of Medicine, No. 507 Zhengmin Road, Yangpu District, Shanghai 200433, P.R. China. E-mail: [wuchunyan787@126.com](mailto:wuchunyan787@126.com)

tumor development<sup>13–15</sup>. In addition, miRNAs may act as oncogenes or tumor suppressors depending on tumor types and their specific target genes<sup>16</sup>. Therefore, investigations of miRNAs in NSCLC may provide potent therapeutic strategy or diagnosis markers for NSCLC.

miR-510 belongs to the miR-506/514 gene cluster, which contains seven distinct miRNAs (miR-506, -507, -508, -509, -510, -513, and -514), and has been previously reported to be abnormally expressed in several cancers<sup>17–20</sup>. However, the expressions, biological role, and precise mechanisms of miR-510 in NSCLC have not been fully elucidated until now. Therefore, in the present study, we determined the expressions of the miR-510 in lung cancer in vitro and in vivo and tried to analyze molecular mechanisms on tumor growth and invasion of NSCLC.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### *Tissue Specimens and Cell Lines*

This research was approved by the ethics committees of Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital. All NSCLC patients enrolled in the present study provided signed informed consent. Thirty-two paired NSCLC and adjacent nontumor lung tissues were obtained from surgical specimens of each NSCLC patient at Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital between November 2011 and May 2015. Adjacent nontumor lung tissues were obtained at a distance of more than 5 cm from the tumor edge. All tissues were collected after surgery and frozen in liquid nitrogen immediately and then transferred to a  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  refrigerator until use.

Four NSCLC cell lines (A549, SK-MES-1, H522, H460), normal human lung epithelial cell line BEAS-2B, and human embryonic epithelial HEK293T cell lines were purchased from American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA, USA). Cells were maintained in RPMI-1640 or Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; Invitrogen, San Diego, CA, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS; Gibco, Grand Island, NY, USA), 100 IU/ml penicillin (Gibco), and 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$  streptomycin (Gibco), in an atmosphere of 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

### *Total RNA Extraction and Reverse Transcription-Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-qPCR)*

Total RNA was isolated from NSCLC tissues, adjacent nontumor lung tissues, NSCLC cell lines, and BEAS-2B cell line using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., Waltham, MA, USA). For quantification of miR-510 and U6, cDNA was reverse transcribed from total RNA using a TaqMan<sup>®</sup> MicroRNA Reverse Transcription kit (Applied Biosystems; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.; Foster City, CA, USA). The qPCR was

carried out using the TaqMan MicroRNA Assay kit (Applied Biosystems; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.). To detect SRC kinase signaling inhibitor 1 (SRCIN1) and GAPDH mRNA expression levels, reverse transcription was conducted using M-MLV Reverse Transcription system (M1701; Promega Corporation, Madison, WI, USA). PCR amplification and detection were performed on an Applied Biosystems<sup>®</sup> 7900HT Fast Real-Time PCR system (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) using SYBR Premix Ex Taq<sup>™</sup> (Takara, Dalian, P.R. China). U6 and GAPDH were defined as internal control for miR-510 and SRCIN1 mRNA, respectively. Expression levels were analyzed using the  $2^{-\text{C}_q}$  method<sup>21</sup>.

### *miRNA, siRNA, and Cell Transfection*

miR-510 inhibitor, miRNA inhibitor negative control (NC inhibitor), SRCIN1 siRNA, and NC siRNA were designed and purchased from Guangzhou RiboBio Co., Ltd. (Guangzhou, P.R. China). Cells were seeded into six-well plates at a density of 50% confluence. After incubation overnight, transient transfection was conducted using Lipofectamine 2000 transfection reagent (Invitrogen; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.) following the manufacturer's protocols. After incubating for 6–8 h, the medium was replaced by RPMI-1640 or DMEM containing 10% FBS.

### *miRNA Target Prediction*

miRNA target prediction algorithms PicTar (<http://pictar.mdclab.org/>) and TargetScan (<http://www.targetscan.org/>) were utilized to predicate the potential targets of miR-510.

### *Cell Counting Kit-8 (CCK-8) Assay*

Cell proliferation was determined by CCK-8 assay (Dojindo Molecular Technologies, Inc., Kumamoto, Japan). Briefly, cells were plated in 96-well microtiter plates at a density of  $1 \times 10^3/\text{well}$ , transfected with miR-510 inhibitor, NC inhibitor, pcDNA3.1-SRCIN1, or pcDNA3.1 and incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 0, 24, 48, and 72 h. After the culture period, 10  $\mu\text{l}$  of CCK-8 solution was added into each well, and the cells were incubated at  $37^{\circ}\text{C}$  in 5%  $\text{CO}_2$  for another 2 h. The absorbance of the solution was detected at a wavelength of 450 nm with an automatic multiwell spectrophotometer (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., Hercules, CA, USA).

### *Transwell Invasion Assay*

We performed the cell invasion assay using Matrigel<sup>®</sup> (BD Biosciences, Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA)-coated Transwell chambers with an 8- $\mu\text{m}$  pore polycarbonate membrane (Costar; Corning Incorporated, Corning, NY, USA), according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Forty-eight hours after transfection, cells were collected and seeded into the upper chambers at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$ /chamber. The medium in the upper chambers was FBS-free culture medium, and the lower chambers were filled with 500  $\mu$ l of culture medium supplemented with 10% FBS. After incubation at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 48 h, the cells that did not invade through the pores were carefully wiped away with cotton wool. Subsequently, the invasive cells were fixed with 100% methanol, stained with 0.1% crystal violet, and washed with phosphate-buffered saline. Finally, the invasive cells in five randomly selected visual fields were counted with an inverted microscope (CKX41; Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

### 3 -UTR Luciferase Reporter Assay

Luciferase assay reporter plasmids, pGL3-SRCIN1-3 -UTR wild type (Wt) and pGL3-SRCIN1-3 -UTR mutant (Mut), were synthesized and purified by Shanghai GenePharma Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, P.R. China). HEK293T cells were seeded in 24-well plates at a density of 60%–70% confluence. After 24 h, cells were transfected with pGL3-SRCIN1-3 -UTR Wt or pGL3-SRCIN1-3 -UTR Mut, and miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor using Lipofectamine 2000. Cells were harvested 48 h after transfection for assay using the Dual-Luciferase Reporter Assay system (Promega Corporation), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Data were normalized by the ratio of firefly and *Renilla* luciferase activity.

### Western Blotting

After 72-h incubation, transfected cells were collected and lysed in cold radioimmunoprecipitation assay lysis buffer (Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology, Shanghai, P.R. China). Bicinchoninic acid protein assay kit (Beyotime Institute of Biotechnology) was used to detect the concentration of total protein. Equivalent proteins were separated by SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis on 10% gels and then transferred to PVDF membranes (EMD Millipore, Billerica, MA, USA). The membranes were blocked with Tris-buffered saline and Tween 20 (TBST) containing 5% skimmed milk at room temperature for 2 h and incubated overnight at 4°C with the following primary antibodies: rabbit anti-human monoclonal SRCIN1 antibody (1:1,000 dilution; Cat. No. 3757; Cell Signaling Technology, Inc., Danvers, MA, USA) and mouse anti-human monoclonal GAPDH antibody (1:1,000 dilution; Cat. No. sc-47724; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Dallas, TX, USA). After washing three times with TBST, the membranes were incubated with the horseradish peroxidase-conjugated IgG secondary antibody (1:5,000 dilution; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) at room temperature for 2 h. The protein bands were visualized using the Pierce™ ECL

Western Blotting Substrate (Pierce Biotechnology, Inc., Rockford, IL, USA), and analyzed with Quantity One® software (version 4.6.2; Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.).

### Statistical Analysis

Data are presented as mean  $\pm$  SD. Statistical analysis was performed using a windows-based SPSS 13.0 software (SPSS Inc, Chicago, IL, USA). Student's *t*-test or ANOVA was used to evaluate statistical differences. Chi-square test was used to evaluate statistical differences between miR-510 and clinicopathological factors of NSCLC patients. Differences were determined to be significant with a value of  $p < 0.05$ .

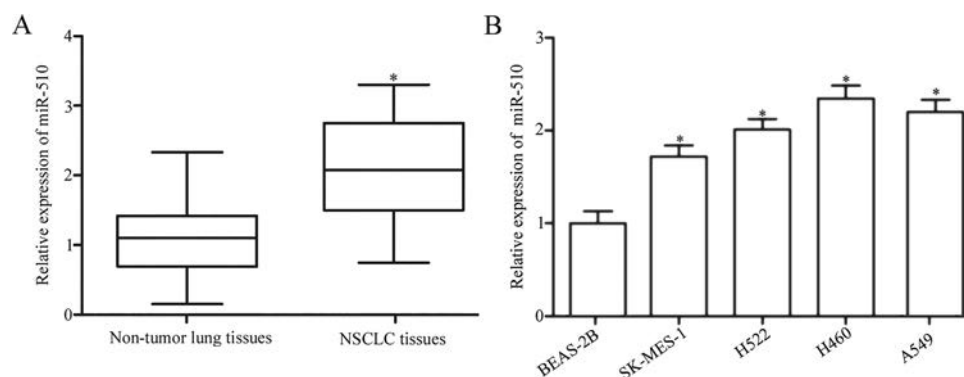
## RESULTS

### Overexpression of miR-510 In Vitro and In Vivo and the Correlation With Pathological Factors

To understand the roles of miR-510 in NSCLC, we first examined miR-510 expression in 32 paired NSCLC and tumor-adjacent tissues using RT-qPCR. The data showed that the expression of miR-510 was significantly higher in NSCLC tissues than that in tumor-adjacent tissues ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 1A). Subsequently, we evaluated the association between miR-510 expression and clinicopathological factors of NSCLC patients. As shown in Table 1, miR-510 expression was correlated with TNM stage ( $p = 0.014$ ) and lymph node metastasis ( $p = 0.039$ ) of NSCLC patients. However, there was no obvious association with sex ( $p = 0.946$ ), age ( $p = 0.169$ ), smoking history ( $p = 0.784$ ), and tumor size ( $p = 0.492$ ). We further measured miR-510 expression in four NSCLC cell lines (A549, SK-MES-1, H522, H460) and a normal human lung epithelial cell line BEAS-2B. As shown in Figure 1B, miR-510 was upregulated in NSCLC cell lines compared with BEAS-2B cell line. These data suggested that upregulation of miR-510 may contribute to the malignant progression of NSCLC.

### miR-510 Underexpression Inhibited NSCLC Cell Proliferation and Invasion In Vitro

To assess whether miR-510 contributes to pathological process of NSCLC, A549 and H460 cell lines were transfected with either miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. RT-qPCR confirmed that endogenous miR-510 expression was markedly downregulated in A549 and H460 cells following transfection with miR-510 inhibitor for 48 h ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 2A). The effect of miR-510 underexpression on NSCLC cell proliferation was analyzed using CCK-8 assay. The absorbance values of the miR-510 inhibitor and NC inhibitor groups were measured at 0, 24, 48, and 72 h after transfection. The results revealed that downregulation of miR-510 suppressed proliferation



**Figure 1.** Expression level of miR-510 in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) tissues and cell lines. (A) Reverse transcription-quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) was performed to measure miR-510 expression in 32 cases of NSCLC tissues and adjacent nontumor lung tissues. (B) RT-qPCR was carried out to examine the expression level of miR-510 in NSCLC cell lines (A549, SK-MES-1, H522, H460) and a normal human lung epithelial cell line BEAS-2B. \* $p < 0.05$ .

of A549 and H460 cells in vitro ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 2B and C). In addition, the impact of miR-510 knockdown on NSCLC cell invasion was examined. Through a Transwell invasion assay, we observed that invasion capacity was significantly limited in A549 and H460 cells transfected with miR-510 inhibitor, compared with that in cells transfected with NC inhibitor ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 2D).

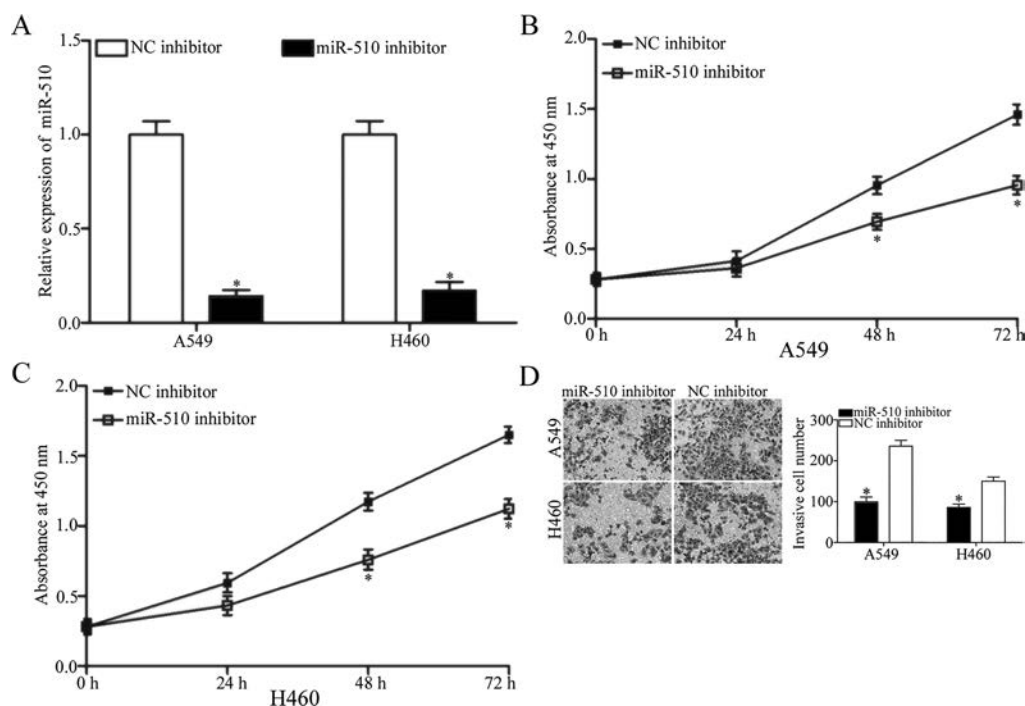
#### *SRCIN1 Is a Direct Target of miR-510 in NSCLC*

We then explored the underlying molecular mechanism of the oncogenic roles of miR-510 in NSCLC. To identify

the potential target of miR-510, bioinformatics analysis was conducted using PicTar and TargetScan. Among the predicted genes, SRCIN1 attracted our attention because SRCIN1 was involved in tumorigenesis and tumor development<sup>22,23</sup> (Fig. 3A). To confirm whether SRCIN1 is a direct target of miR-510, 3'-UTR Luciferase reporter assay was performed and found that downregulation of miR-510 increased the luciferase activity of SRCIN1-3'-UTR Wt ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 3B) but not that of SRCIN1-3'-UTR Mut in HEK293T cells. We next examined the regulatory roles of miR-510 on SRCIN1 expression in

**Table 1.** Correlation Between MicroRNA-510 Expression and Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients' Clinicopathological Factors

Factors	No. of Cases	MicroRNA-510 Expression		<i>p</i>
		High	Low	
Sex				0.946
Male	19	10	9	
Female	13	7	6	
Age (years)				0.169
<60	13	5	8	
60	19	12	7	
Smoking				0.784
No	12	6	6	
Yes	20	11	9	
Tumor size (cm)				0.492
<3	15	7	8	
3	17	10	7	
TNM stage				0.014
I-II	14	4	10	
III-IV	18	13	5	
Lymph node metastasis				0.039
Negative	18	6	12	
Positive	14	11	3	



**Figure 2.** miR-510 has oncogenic roles on proliferation and invasion of A549 and H460 cells. (A) After transfection with miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor, RT-qPCR was used to detect miR-510 expression in A549 and H460 cells. (B, C) A549 and H460 cells were transfected with miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. After transfection, CCK-8 assay was carried out to determine cell proliferation. (D) Transwell invasion assay was utilized to evaluate cell invasion ability in A549 and H460 cells after transfection with miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. \* $p < 0.05$ .

NSCLC cells. RT-qPCR and Western blotting indicated that miR-510 inhibitor treatment significantly improved the SRCIN1 mRNA and protein expression level when compared with NC inhibitor-transfected A549 and H460 cells (both  $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 3C and D). Taken together, these data demonstrated that SRCIN1 is a direct target gene of miR-510 in NSCLC.

#### *The Correlation Between SRCIN1 and miR-510 in NSCLC Tissues*

To further explore the relationship between SRCIN1 and miR-510 expression in NSCLC, SRCIN1 mRNA expression was determined in 32 paired NSCLC and adjacent nontumor lung tissues using RT-qPCR. As shown in Figure 4A, SRCIN1 mRNA was notably downregulated in NSCLC tissues instead of adjacent nontumor lung tissues ( $p < 0.05$ ). We also measured SRCIN1 protein expression in NSCLC tissues and adjacent nontumor lung tissues, and found that expression level of SRCIN1 was reduced in NSCLC tissues ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 4B). Additionally, we evaluated the association between SRCIN1 mRNA and miR-510 level in NSCLC tissues, and results of Spearman's correlation analysis indicated that the expression of SRCIN1 mRNA and miR-510 showed a remarkably negative correlation ( $r = -0.6811$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ) (Fig. 4B).

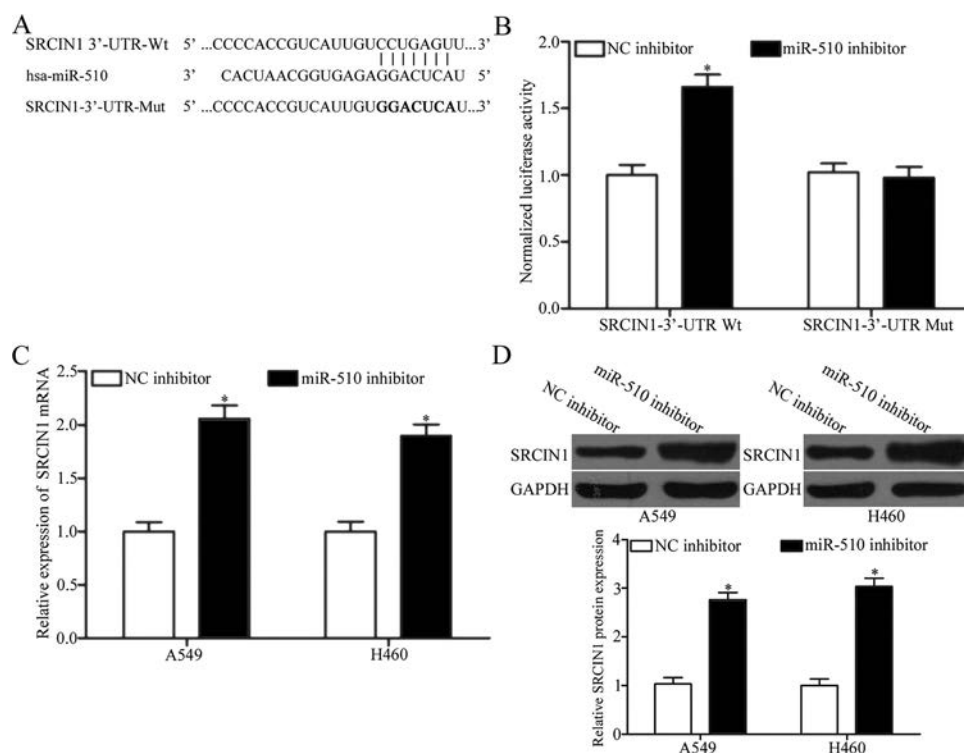
#### *SRCIN1 Knockdown Inhibits NSCLC Cell Proliferation and Invasion*

To evaluate if SRCIN1 is responsible for the biological roles of miR-510 in NSCLC, rescue experiments were performed. Western blot analysis confirmed that SRCIN1 expression was downregulated in A549 and H460 cells after transfection with SRCIN1 siRNA ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 5A). The rescue experiments indicated that downregulation of SRCIN1 reversed the inhibition effects on cell proliferation ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 5B and C) and invasion ( $p < 0.05$ ) (Fig. 5D) in A549 and H460 cells induced by miR-510 inhibitor. The results demonstrated that downregulation of miR-510 mediated suppressed NSCLC proliferation and invasion.

## DISCUSSION

Extensive studies have demonstrated that aberrant expression of miRNAs is associated with the occurrence and development of various types of cancers, including NSCLC<sup>24–26</sup>. The identification of miRNAs and their target genes provides a novel insight into understanding the mechanisms of the tumor formation and progression, and promising therapy for different cancers<sup>27,28</sup>.

Deregulations of miR-510 have been reported in many human cancers. For example, Zhang et al. found that



**Figure 3.** SRC kinase signaling inhibitor 1 (SRCIN1) is a direct target of miR-510 in NSCLC. (A) The predicted miR-510 binding sites in the 3'-UTR of SRC kinase signaling inhibitor 1 (SRCIN1) by bioinformatic analysis. (B) 3'-UTR luciferase reporter assay was performed in HEK293T cells cotransfected with pGL3-SRCIN1-3'-UTR Wt or pGL3-SRCIN1-3'-UTR Mut, and miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. Luciferase activity was examined at 48 h posttransfection. (C) The mRNA expression levels of SRCIN1 were measured in A549 and H460 cells transfected with miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. (D) Western blotting analysis of SRCIN1 protein in A549 and H460 cells transfected with miR-510 inhibitor or NC inhibitor. \* $p < 0.05$ .

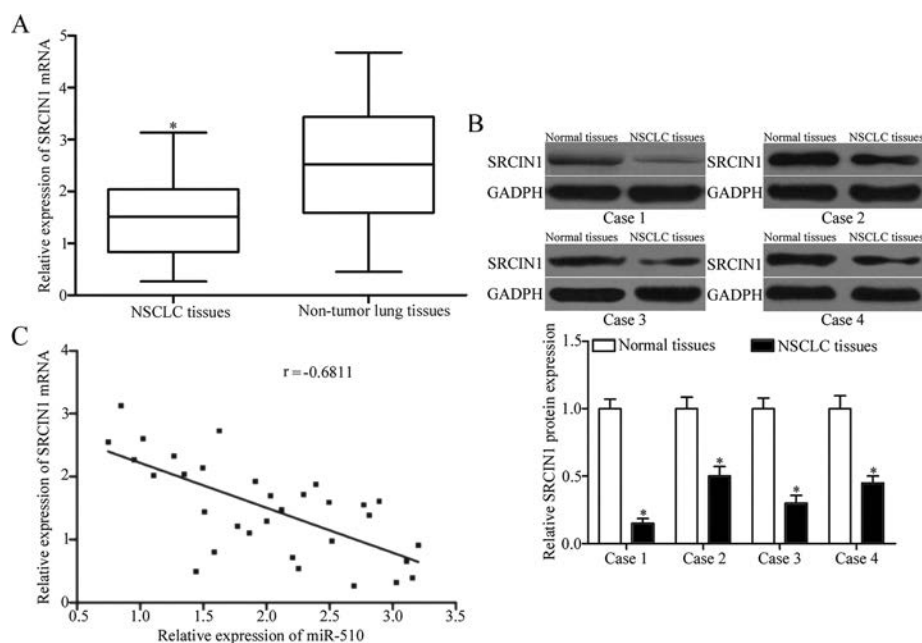
miR-510 was downregulated in epithelial ovarian cancer tissues and significantly correlated with FIGO stage<sup>18</sup>. Chen et al. demonstrated that miR-510 expression was low in renal cell carcinoma tissues. Upregulation of miR-510 suppressed cell proliferation, migration, and induced apoptosis of renal cell carcinoma<sup>19</sup>. However, in breast cancer, miR-510 was identified as an oncogene, and the expression was increased in breast cancer tissues compared with that in nontumor breast tissue samples<sup>20</sup>. Enforced expression of miR-510 enhanced breast cancer cell proliferation, migration, invasion, and colony formation in vitro through directly targeting peroxiredoxin 1<sup>29</sup>. These findings suggested that expression pattern and biological roles of miR-510 in human cancer have tissue specificity. The conflicts may be explained by the "imperfect complementarity" of the interactions between miRNAs and target genes<sup>30</sup>.

It is generally acknowledged that miRNAs are important in various biological processes by interaction with the 3'-UTRs of their direct target genes in a base pairing manner<sup>31,32</sup>. To determine the targets of miR-510, bioinformatic analysis was performed, which enabled us to predict candidate target genes. Among a large number of

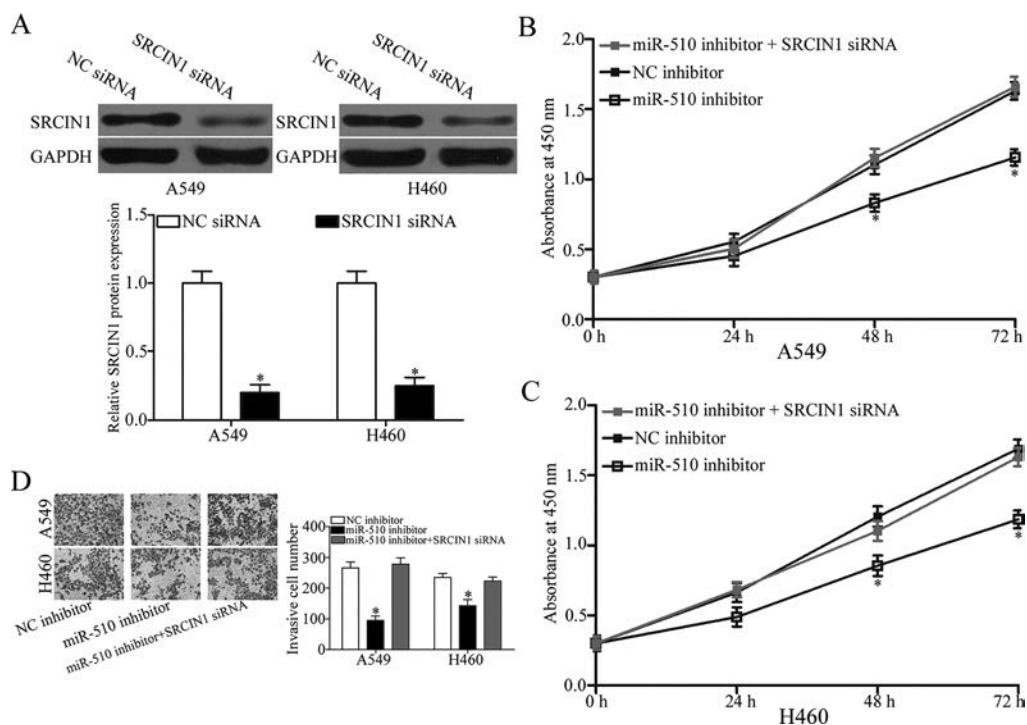
putative targets, we focused on SRCIN1, which contained a putative binding site for miR-510 in its 3'-UTR. To confirm this hypothesis, 3'-UTR luciferase reporter assay was conducted and found that inhibition of miR-510 enhanced the activity of luciferase assay reporter plasmid containing the Wt SRCIN1 3'-UTR. Furthermore, RT-qPCR and Western blotting indicated that miR-510 inhibitor negatively regulated endogenous SRCIN1 expression at both mRNA and protein levels in NSCLC cells.

Moreover, the expression of SRCIN1 mRNA and miR-510 showed a remarkably negative correlation. Rescue experiments revealed that SRCIN1 knockdown abolished the impact of miR-510 inhibitor on NSCLC cell proliferation and invasion. Taken together, targeting SRCIN1 is a major underlying molecular mechanism by which miR-510 exerts its oncogenic roles in NSCLC.

SRCIN1, also known as p140 Cas-associated protein (p140CAP), contains two amino acids, two proline-rich regions, and two coiled-coil domains<sup>33,34</sup>. It is observed mainly in such epithelial-rich tissues as mammary glands, lungs, colon, and kidneys<sup>35</sup>. Previous studies demonstrated that SRCIN1 acted as a tumor suppressor in tumors and was closely implicated with tumorigenesis and tumor



**Figure 4.** Expression of SRCIN1 was downregulated in NSCLC tissues and negatively expressed related to miR-510. (A) RT-qPCR analysis of SRCIN1 mRNA expression in 32 cases of NSCLC tissues and adjacent nontumor lung tissues. (B) Western blotting analysis of SRCIN1 protein in NSCLC tissues and adjacent nontumor lung tissues. (C) The relationships between miR-510 and SRCIN1 mRNA levels in NSCLC tissues were analyzed using Spearman's correlation analysis.  $*p < 0.05$ .



**Figure 5.** SRCIN1 was a downstream functional mediator of miR-510 in NSCLC cells. (A) After transfection with SRCIN1 siRNA or NC siRNA, Western blotting was adopted to measure SRCIN1 expression in A549 and H460 cells. (B, C) A549 and H460 cells were transfected with miR-510 inhibitor, NC inhibitor, or miR-510 inhibitor together with SRCIN1 siRNA. After transfection, CCK-8 assay was conducted to assess cell proliferation. (D) Transwell invasion assay was performed to assess cell invasion in A549 and H460 cells transfected with miR-510 inhibitor, NC inhibitor, or miR-510 inhibitor together with SRCIN1 siRNA, and the number of invasive cells was calculated.  $*p < 0.05$ .

progression<sup>23,36,37</sup>. For instance, in breast cancer, upregulation of SRCIN1 attenuated cell spreading and metastasis<sup>36</sup>. In osteosarcoma, restoration expression of SRCIN1 decreased cell proliferation, colony formation, and invasion in vitro<sup>23</sup>. In gastric cancer, SRCIN1 knockdown promoted cell growth and metastasis<sup>38</sup>. In our current study, SRCIN1 expression was low in NSCLC tissues and inversely correlated with the miR-510 expression. Downregulation of SRCIN1 could obviously rescue the proliferation and invasion inhibition induced by miR-510 inhibitor. miR-510/SRCIN1-based targeted therapy may serve as novel and effective treatment for patients with NSCLC.

In this study, we found that miR-510 acted as an oncogene in NSCLC through directly targeting SRCIN1. First, miR-510 expression was increased in NSCLC tissues and cell lines. Expression of miR-510 was tightly correlated with advanced TNM stage and lymph node metastasis. Second, inhibition of miR-510 suppressed cell proliferation and invasion in NSCLC. Third, SRCIN1 was identified as a direct target gene of miR-510 in NSCLC. Fourth, SRCIN1 in NSCLC tissues was inversely correlated with miR-510 expression level. Last, the effects of miR-510 underexpression on malignant phenotypes of NSCLC could be reversed by SRCIN1 knockdown. Collectively, these findings suggested that miR-510 may serve as a novel prognostic marker and potential therapeutic target in NSCLC.

In conclusion, this study revealed that miR-510 acted as an oncogene in the regulation of NSCLC cell proliferation and invasion, to a certain extent, via targeting SRCIN1. Accordingly, miR-510 knockdown may have therapeutic potential in NSCLC.

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