

# MK801 Regulates the Expression of Key Osteoarthritis Factors in Osteoarthritis Synovial Fibroblasts Through Complement C5

**Zhi Huang**

Guizhou Medical University

**Yuanyu Feng**

Guizhou Medical University

**Xiaoxi Zhu**

Guizhou Medical University

**Lin Wang**

Guizhou Medical University

**Wei Lu** (✉ [adjqy@126.com](mailto:adjqy@126.com))

Guizhou Medical University

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## Research article

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1           **MK801 regulates the expression of key osteoarthritis factors in**  
2           **osteoarthritis synovial fibroblasts through complement C5**

3   Zhi Huang<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuanyu Feng<sup>2\*</sup>, Xiaoxi Zhu<sup>3</sup>, Lin Wang<sup>4△</sup>, Wei Lu<sup>2,5#</sup>

4   <sup>1</sup>Department of interventional radiology, the Affiliated Cancer Hospital of Guizhou Medical  
5   University, Guiyang 550002, P.R. China

6   <sup>2</sup> Department of Anesthesiology, Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang 550002, P.R. China

7   <sup>3</sup> School of Basic Medical Sciences, Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang 550002, P.R. China

8   <sup>4</sup>Department of pain, Affiliated Hospital of Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang 550002, P.R.  
9   China

10   <sup>5</sup> Lead Contact

11   <sup>△</sup>Co-corresponding author

12   \* These authors contributed equally to this work

13   **#Corresponding authors:**

14   Wei Lu

15   Department of Anesthesiology, Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang city Beijing Road 9#  
16   550002, P.R. China

17   E-mail: [adjqy@126.com](mailto:adjqy@126.com)

18   Phone: 86-0851-86873981

19   Fax: 86-0851-86873981

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29 **Abstract**

30 **Background:** Osteoarthritis is currently one of the most common chronic diseases.  
31 As life expectancy increases, its prevalence and incidence are expected to rise. At  
32 present, more and more evidences prove the correlation between the complement  
33 system and OA. This study aims to investigate complement C5's influence on the  
34 effect of MK801 on osteoarthritis synovial fibroblasts (OA-SFs).

35 **Methods:** We used IL-1b to induce OA-SFs derived from mice to obtain OA-SFs.  
36 And we performed RT-PCR and Western Blot assays to evaluate the expression levels  
37 of associated mRNA and protein. The alteration of MAC expression on OA-SFs cell  
38 membrane was evaluated by immunofluorescence assay. The expression of related  
39 inflammatory factors of OA-SFs was evaluated by ELISA experiment.

40 **Results:** MK801 could significantly inhibit the expression of osteoarthritis (OA)  
41 marker factors, such as: membrane attack complex (MAC), tumor necrosis  
42 factor- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and matrix metalloproteinase-13 (MMP13). Meanwhile, MK801  
43 can significantly inhibit the expression of complement C5 (C5) in OA-SFs.  
44 Immunofluorescence assay showed that MAC expression on OA-SFs cell membrane  
45 was significantly inhibited by MK801. The nucleo-plasmic separation experiment  
46 demonstrated that MK801 could significantly inhibit the activation of Nuclear  
47 factor- $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B) signaling pathway in OA-SFs. Futhermore, koncking down the  
48 the expression of C5 reversed the inhibition MK801 on the expression of OA-SFs  
49 inflammatory factors.

50 **Conclusions:** These results illustrated two points: first, MK801 inhibited the  
51 generation of MAC and the release of inflammation factors in OA-SFs through C5;  
52 second: MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs.

53 **Key words:** OA, C5, MK801, NF- $\kappa$ B, inflammatory factors

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55 **Background**

56 Osteoarthritis (OA), as the most common arthritis, is one of the main causes of  
57 disability worldwide[1]. Currently, OA is considered to be a kind of cartilage matrix  
58 destruction, which is caused by a complex interaction of a series of biochemical and  
59 biomechanical factors that occur simultaneously[2]. Although the research on OA  
60 mainly focuses on the pathogenesis of articular cartilage destruction, the biological  
61 and morphological changes caused by it are not limited to articular cartilage.  
62 Synovium, subpatellar fat, ligaments and bone are also affected[3-7]. In addition,  
63 there is increasing evidence that although cartilage degradation is the earliest event,  
64 synovial inflammation involves many signs and symptoms of OA, including joint  
65 swelling and fluid accumulation[8, 9].

66 Joint swelling due to excessive joint burden leads to cartilage inflammation with  
67 subsequent degradation mediated by the release of inflammation and ECM  
68 degradation factors such as IL-1  $\beta$ , TNF-  $\alpha$  and MMP-1, MMP-3, and MMP-9[10, 11].  
69 Current studies have shown that in addition to overload and joint instability, various  
70 factors released from joint-related tissues, such as catabolism, inflammation, or  
71 damage to tissue integrity, are key factors for OA[12, 13]. Further more, excessive  
72 production of inflammatory synovial cytokines and growth factors may play a crucial  
73 role in the pathophysiology of OA. The secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines,  
74 mainly IL-1 $\beta$ /TNF-  $\alpha$ , is one of the key steps in the regulation of abnormal  
75 degenerative processes common in the pathophysiology of OA, in which  
76 fibroblast-like synovial cells (FLS) play a key role[14-17]. The important role of  
77 IL-1 $\beta$  and TNF-  $\alpha$ , which are both pro-inflammatory and metabolically decomposing  
78 cytokines, in the pathogenesis of OA, has been widely accepted in the past  
79 decades[18-20].

80 At present, more and more evidences prove the correlation between the  
81 complement system and OA, such as complement stimulation affects the expression  
82 of inflammation and degradation molecules in OA chondrocytes, and the deposition of  
83 cell membrane attack complex (MAC) on the surface of chondrocytes[21-24]. In  
84 addition, Wang Q, et al. found that A significant increase in complement expression

85 was found in synovial and membrane specimens of human OA patients, and the  
86 expression of inflammatory markers in mice lacking central complement component  
87 C5 was significantly reduced compared with wild-type mice in the OA model[21].  
88 Despite these novel results, the signaling pathways of complement activation in the  
89 pathogenesis of OA remain unclear, so a better understanding of the interrelationships  
90 between the complement system and various other inflammatory and  
91 non-inflammatory factors in the OA scenario is urgently needed.

92 MK-801 (dizocilpine), an antagonist of the N-Methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)  
93 receptor, has well known to inhibit activation NMDA signaling cascade[25, 26]. E.M.  
94 Kawamoto Wang Q, etal. found that MK-801 can inhibit the activation of NF-κB  
95 signaling pathway in the Rat Hippocampus[27]. In addition, recent evidence suggests  
96 that MK-801 can block the release of a normal complement of neurons. Whilst some  
97 research has been carried out on the relationship between MK-801 and NF-κB  
98 signaling pathway, complement system, there is still very little scientific  
99 understanding of the role of this relationship in OA. Therefore, the specific objective  
100 of this study was to investigate the effect of MK801 on OA based on the complement  
101 system. And this paper attempts to show the possibilityof MK801 in OA therapy.

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110 **Methods**

111 **Reagent**

112 DMEM medium (SH30022.01B), FBS (SH30087.01), penicillin (SH30010) and PBS  
113 (SH30256.01B) were brought from GE™ Hyclone company. Antibodies: Anti-C5  
114 (ab17930), Anti-GAPDH (ab8245), Anti-C5b-9 (ab55811), Anti-TNFA (ab92324),  
115 Anti-MMP13 (ab51072), Anti-Lamin B1 (ab16048), Anti-NF-kB-p65 (ab16502) and  
116 Anti-NFkB-p105/p50 (ab32360) were purchased from Abcam Co., Ltd, Cambridge,  
117 UK.

118 **Acquisition and culture of SFs**

119 The acquisition of SFs is operated as described in “protocol for the culture and  
120 isolation of murine synovial fibroblasts”[28]. In brief, the synovial tissues from total 6  
121 10-week-old male C57BL/6 mice (Beijing Vital River Laboratory Animal Technology  
122 Co., Ltd.) were transferred to a 60 mm Petri dish containing 2 ml DMEM. The  
123 synovium was then transferred to a 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube containing 0.5 ml DMEM  
124 and 0.5 ml 1% type IV collagenase. After incubating for 1 hour at 37°C with constant  
125 temperature shaking (200 rpm), vortex for 1 minute, and then resuspended with  
126 DMEM medium (SH30022.01B, Hyclone, USA) containing with 10% FBS  
127 (SH30087.01, Hyclone, USA), 100 U/ml penicillin (SH30010, Hyclone, USA) and  
128 100 mg/ml streptomycin. The cells were seeded into a 75-cm<sup>2</sup> flask and placed in a  
129 humidified atmosphere at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After the experiment was completed,  
130 the mice were sacrificed by carbon dioxide euthanasia.

131 **Induction of OA-SFs and vector transfection**

132 Cells obtained from the synovium were maintained in DMEM medium containing  
133 with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin and 100 mg/ml streptomycin in a humidified  
134 atmosphere at 37°C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>. After subculturing the cells for 3-4 generations,  
135 add 10nm IL-1β to stimulate the cells for 72h to obtain OA-SFs. C5 shRNA or  
136 overexpression vector was transfected into OA-SFs using Lipofectamine 2000  
137 (Cat.No.11668019, Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer’s instruction. In brief,  
138 1μg of C5 shRNA vector (CAT#: TL511576, OriGene Technologies Inc) or 1μg of C5  
139 overexpression vector was (CAT#: MR225064, OriGene Technologies Inc) diluted

140 with 100 $\mu$ l Opti-MEM, as called fluid A. Fluid B was Opti-MEM contained 1ul of  
 141 Lipofectamine 2000, and dissolved for 5 minutes before mixed with fluid A.  
 142 Transfection reagent was added into OA-SFs were plated in 24-well plates which was  
 143 transferred into Opti-MEM medium 24 hours before transfection. After 4 to 6 hours of  
 144 reaction, culture medium was changed into DMEM full culture medium. Gene  
 145 expression test was performed by qPCR 36 hours after transfection.

#### 146 **Realtime PCR**

147 Total mRNA was isolated from OA-SFs using the Trizol reagent (#15596018) (Life  
 148 Technologies, USA) and then reversed transcribed by the QuantiTect Reverse  
 149 Transcription Kit (#205313) (Qiagen, Shanghai, China). Real-Time PCR was  
 150 performed by the StepOnePlus system (Applied Biosystem, USA) using Thermo  
 151 Fisher Scientific Maxima SYBR Green/ROX qPCR Master Mix assay (2X) (#K0221).  
 152 Primer sequences were showed in Table 1.

#### 153 **Table1 Sequence of primers**

Gene	sequence	
C5	F 5- CCTGTTACCAGTGATGAAGGCAG-3	154
	R 5- TCGTTAGTGAGTCAGGCAGCGT-3	155
TNF- $\alpha$	F 5-GGTGCCTATGTCTCAGCCTCTT-3	156
	R 5-GCCATAGA AACTGATGAGAGGGAG-3	157
MMP-13	F 5-GATGACCTGTCTGAGGAAGACC-3	158
	R 5-GCATTCTCGGAGCCTGTCAAC-3	159
GAPDH	F 5- GTGGACCTGACCTGCCGTCT -3	160
	R 5- GGAGGAGTGGGTGTCGCTGT -3	161

#### 164 **Western Blot**

165 To detect cellular level of target proteins, protein extracted from OA-SFs were  
 166 detected by Western Blot. Whole cell lysates were extracted by using the lysis buffer:  
 167 50 mM Tris pH7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1% Triton, and 10% Glycerol along  
 168 with protease and phosphatase inhibitor cocktail (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) protein  
 169 concentrations were determined by the Bradford assay. Soluble proteins (30~40  $\mu$ g)

170 were subjected to SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Separated proteins were  
171 electrophoretically transferred onto polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes  
172 (Millipore, Billerica, MA,USA). Primary antibodies used in the present study were  
173 diluted into 5% nonfat milk as 1:500.

#### 174 **Immunofluorescence(IF)**

175 Cell in each group was washed with PBS with 4 g/ml concentration of DDP, and then  
176 treated with 4% paraformaldehyde at room temperature for 15min, washed with PBS  
177 buffer three times, added 0.2% Triton-X100 for permeabilization for 5min, washed  
178 with PBS buffer three times, sealed with PBS buffer containing 5%BSA for 1h,  
179 washed with PBS buffer three times, and cell was subjected to rabbit monoclonal  
180 antibody C5b-9 (ab55811, 1:200, Abcam, Shanghai, China) incubated overnight at  
181 4°C, washed with PBS buffer solution for 3 times, incubated with Alexa Fluor  
182 488-combined with the corresponding secondary antibody for 1 hour, washed with  
183 PBS buffer solution for 3 times, incubated with DAPI buffer  
184 solution(C1002 ,Beyotime Biotechnology,Shanghai China.) for 5min, and washed  
185 with PBS buffer solution for 3 times.Finally, the cells were observed and analyzed  
186 using the German Zeiss LSM710 confocal microscopy

#### 187 **ELISA assay**

188 ELISA assay was performed using SimpleStep ELISA Kit of TNF- $\alpha$  (ab212073,  
189 Abcam) or IL-1 $\beta$  (ab197742, Abcam) according to the manufacturer's instruction. In  
190 brief, prepared all reagents, samples, and standards as instructed. Added 50  $\mu$ L  
191 standard or sample to appropriate wells, and then added 50  $\mu$ L Antibody Cocktail to  
192 all wells and incubated at room temperature for 1 hour. Aspirated and washed each  
193 well three times with 350  $\mu$ L 1X Wash Buffer. Add 100  $\mu$ L TMB Development  
194 Solution to each well and incubated for 10 minutes. Added 100  $\mu$ L Stop Solution and  
195 read OD at 450 nm.

#### 196 **Statistical Analysis**

197 All experiments in this study were repeated at least two times and average values of  
198 three experiments were presented as the mean standard deviation (SD) calculated by  
199 STDEV formula in Excel. The significance of all data was estimated by a Tukey's

200 multiple-comparison test in the ANOVA analysis using the SigmaStat 3.5 software.  
201 Importantly, statistical significance was accepted when  $P < 0.05$ .

## 202 **Results**

### 203 **MK801 inhibited the expression of OA marker factors in OA-SFs**

204 We performed western blot assay to analyze the impact of MK801 on OA marker  
205 factors protein expression levels in OA-SFs. We found that MK801 can significantly  
206 inhibit the protein expression levels of OA marker factors (MAC, TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and  
207 MMP13) in comparison to the control group (Figure 1A&B). And NMDA receptor  
208 agonist: NMDA (N-Methyl-D-aspartic acid) could significantly increase these protein  
209 expression levels in OA-SFs (Figure 1A&B). Consistent with this, the mRNA  
210 expression levels of these factors were significantly inhibited by MK801, which was  
211 significantly increased by NMDA as well (Figure 1C&D). Subsequently, we  
212 performed ELISA assay to detect the effect of MK801 on the release of inflammatory  
213 factors (TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ ) from OA-SFs. As shown in Figure 1D&E, MK801 could  
214 significantly inhibit the release of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ , and NMDA could significantly  
215 increase the release of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ . These results indicated that MK801 could  
216 inhibit OA phenotype and inflammatory response in OA-SFs.

### 217 **MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs**

218 As NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway is a known inflammatory response-related signaling  
219 pathway, and it has been reported that MK801 can inhibit the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B  
220 signaling pathway[29]. We speculated that MK801's inhibition of inflammatory  
221 response in OA-SFs might be related to NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway. We performed  
222 nucleocytoplasmic separation experiments and found that compared with the control  
223 group, mk801 can significantly cause the accumulation of p65 and p50 in the  
224 cytoplasm, while significantly inhibiting p50 and p65 of entering the nucleus (Figure  
225 2A&B). These results indicated that MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B  
226 signaling pathway in OA-SFs.

### 227 **MK801 inhibited MAC expression on OA-SFs cell membrane**

228 Due to the formation of MAC on the cell membrane, it is a symbolic event of OA[30].  
229 In order to evaluate the effect of MK801 on the formation of MAC in OA-SFs cell

230 membrane, we performed immunofluorescence assay to detect the expression of  
231 MAC on the cell membrane of OA-SFs. We found that MK801 can significantly  
232 inhibit the protein expression levels of OA marker factors (MAC, TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and  
233 MMP13) in comparison to the control group, and this inhibition could be significantly  
234 reversed by NMDA (Figure 3A&B). As shown in Figure 3C, the formation of MAC  
235 requires the participation of C5b[30]. Therefore, we next tried to evaluate the role of  
236 C5 in MK801 inhibiting the phenotype of OA-SFs.

#### 237 **MK801's inhibition of OA-SFs inflammatory response depends on C5**

238 To evaluate the role of C5 in MK801 inhibiting the inflammatory response of OA-SFs.  
239 As shown in Figure 4A&B, we successfully knocked down C5 (sh-C5) and  
240 overexpressed C5 (OE-C5) in OA-SFs. MK801 significantly inhibited MAC protein  
241 expression levels compared with the control group. However, in the case of C5  
242 knockdown, the inhibitory effect of MK801 on MAC protein expression level  
243 disappeared. Compared with the control group, MK801 can significantly inhibit the  
244 protein expression level of MAC. However, when C5 is knocked down, the inhibitory  
245 effect of MK801 on MAC protein expression level disappears. The MK801's  
246 inhibition on MAC protein expression level was not affected when C5 was  
247 overexpressed (Figure 4C&D). Consistent with this MK801 could significantly inhibit  
248 the release of TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$  in comparison to control group, and this inhibition  
249 could be abolished by knocking down C5 (Figure 4E&F). Taken together, these data  
250 suggested that MK801's inhibition of OA-SFs inflammatory response depends on C5.

251

252 **Discussion**

253 Several reports have shown that MK-801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling  
254 pathway in the nerve cells [27, 31], while there is little published data on the MK-801  
255 effect on NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA. Our results showed that MK-801 inhibited  
256 the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway by preventing p65/p50 from entering the  
257 nucleus in OA-SFs. This might also be the reason why MK-801 can inhibit OA-SFs  
258 from releasing TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$ .

259 Honda K and Fujisawa T, et al. reported that activated synovial macrophages,  
260 synovial fibroblasts or chondrocytes themselves induced the expression of MMPs  
261 which directly facilitated persistent joint inflammation and joint cartilage destruction  
262 in OA[10, 11]. Our data showed MK-801 inhibited MMP-13 expression in OA-SFs,  
263 implying the potential of MK801 of inhibiting OA. As mentioned in the literature  
264 review, complement activation appears critical in OA pathogenesis resulting the  
265 deposition of cell membrane attack complex (MAC) on the surface of  
266 chondrocytes[32]. One of our interesting findings is that MK801 can inhibit the  
267 formation of MAC on the OA-SFs cell membrane, which further supports the  
268 potential of MK801 to inhibit OA.

269 Previous studies have shown that the formation of MAC is closely associated with  
270 C5, and the formation of MAC requires the participation of the spliceosome of C5[33,  
271 34], so we speculate that MK801's inhibition of the formation of MAC is related to  
272 C5. Our data proves this hypothesis: the inhibition of MAC expression by MKK801  
273 in OA-SFs is abolished by knockdown C5. In addition, it is somewhat surprising that  
274 our results demonstrate that the inhibition of MK801 on OA-SFs release of  
275 OA-related inflammatory factors also depended on C5. This may be due to the  
276 involvement of complement system activation in the immune activation of OA and the  
277 release of related inflammatory factors[24, 35, 36].

278 Prior studies that have noted the importance of pro-inflammatory cytokines,  
279 complement system and ECM degradation factors in the pathophysiology of OA[10,  
280 11, 21, 22, 37]. These factors are highly expressed in OA-associated tissues, the  
281 inhibition of these factors can be regarded as a sign of OA inhibition. And our results

282 have shown that the antagonist NMDA receptor: MK-801 can significantly inhibited  
283 the expression of these factors, implying the possibility of MK-801 inhibiting OA.  
284 Taken together, these findings suggest two roles of MK801 for OA-SFs: first, MK801  
285 inhibited the complement system activation and the release of inflammation factors  
286 through C5; second, MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in  
287 OA-SFs. These results indicate that MK801 can be used as a potential therapeutic  
288 drug for OA, and C5 is also a good therapeutic target in the formation of OA.

289

## 290 **Conclusions**

291 In this study, we illustrated two points: first, MK801 inhibited the generation of MAC  
292 and the release of inflammation factors in OA-SFs through C5; second: MK801  
293 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs. These results  
294 suggesting MK801 can be used as a potential therapeutic drug for OA, and C5 is also  
295 a good therapeutic target in the formation of OA.

296

297 **Abbreviations:** extracellular cartilage matrix (ECM), interleukin-1 $\beta$  (IL-1 $\beta$ ), tumor  
298 necrosis factor- $\alpha$  (TNF-  $\alpha$ ), matrix metalloproteinases (MMP), complement C5 (C5),  
299 osteoarthritis synovial fibroblasts (OA-SFs), osteoarthritis (OA), membrane attack  
300 complex (MAC), Nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B (NF- $\kappa$ B), fibroblast-like synovial cells (FLS) and  
301 N-Methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA)

302

## 303 **Declarations**

### 304 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

305 All mice were housed in a pathogen-free environment at the Guizhou Medical  
306 University. All experimental protocols were approved by the Institutional Committee  
307 for Animal Care and Use at Guizhou Medical University. All animal work was  
308 performed in accordance with the approved protocol.

### 309 **Consent for publication**

310 Written informed consent for publication was obtained from all participants.

### 311 **Availability of data and material**

312 All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this article.

313 **Competing interests**

314 The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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320 **Authors' contributions**

321 Z. H., and Y. F. performed the experiments. L. W. provided helpful comments. W.L.  
322 conceived the work. W.L. wrote the manuscript. And all authors have read and  
323 approved the manuscript

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417 **Figure legend**

418 **Figure 1. MK801 inhibited the expression of OA marker factors in OA-SFs**

419 A: The expression levels of MAC, TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 protein were detected by  
420 western blot in OA-SFs treated with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24  
421 hours, indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay, Full-length  
422 blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 1; B: Statistical analysis of the MAC,  
423 TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 protein levels based on western blot assay results; C: The  
424 expression levels of TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 mRNA were detected by RT-PCR in  
425 OA-SFs treated with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours; D:  
426 Statistical analysis of the TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 mRNA levels based on RT-PCR  
427 assay results; E&F: TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$  protein levels in OA-SFs cell culture medium  
428 after treating with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours were  
429 detected by .

430 Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by  
431 unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$

432 **Figure 2. MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs**

433 A: Cytoplasm and nucleus p65/p50 protein levels in the cytoplasm detected by  
434 western blot after nucleocytoplasmic separation of OA-SFs (treated with vehicle, 20  
435 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours), indicated antibodies were added during  
436 western blot assay, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 2; B:  
437 Statistical analysis of the p65/p50 protein levels based on western blot assay results.

438 Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by  
439 unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$

440 **Figure 3. MK801 inhibited MAC expression on OA-SFs cell membrane**

441 A: MAC protein expression level on the OA-SFs cell membrane was detected by  
442 immunofluorescence assay after treating with vehicle or 20 nM MK801 for 24 hours,  
443 indicated antibodies were added during immunofluorescence assay, scale bars: 50  $\mu$ m ;  
444 B: Statistical analysis of the OA-SFs cell membrane MAC protein levels based on  
445 immunofluorescence assay results; C: Simplified diagram of the relationship between

446 complement C5 and MAC.

447 Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by  
448 unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$

449 **Figure 4. MK801's inhibition of OA-SFs inflammatory response depends on C5**

450 A: The expression level of C5 in OA-SFs was detected by western blot after  
451 indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs, indicated antibodies were added  
452 during western blot assay, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary  
453 Figure 3; B: Statistical analysis of the C5 protein level based on western blot assay  
454 results after indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs, Full-length blots/gels are  
455 presented in Supplementary Figure 4; C: MK801's impact on OA-SFs MAC protein  
456 expression level was detected by western blot after indicated plasmids were  
457 transfected in OA-SFs, indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay; D:  
458 Statistical analysis of MAC protein expression level based on western blot assay  
459 results; E&F: MK801's impact on TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$  protein levels in OA-SFs cell  
460 culture medium were detected by ELISA assay after indicated plasmids were  
461 transfected in OA-SFs.

462 Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by  
463 unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \* $P < 0.05$ ; \*\* $P < 0.01$ ; \*\*\* $P < 0.001$

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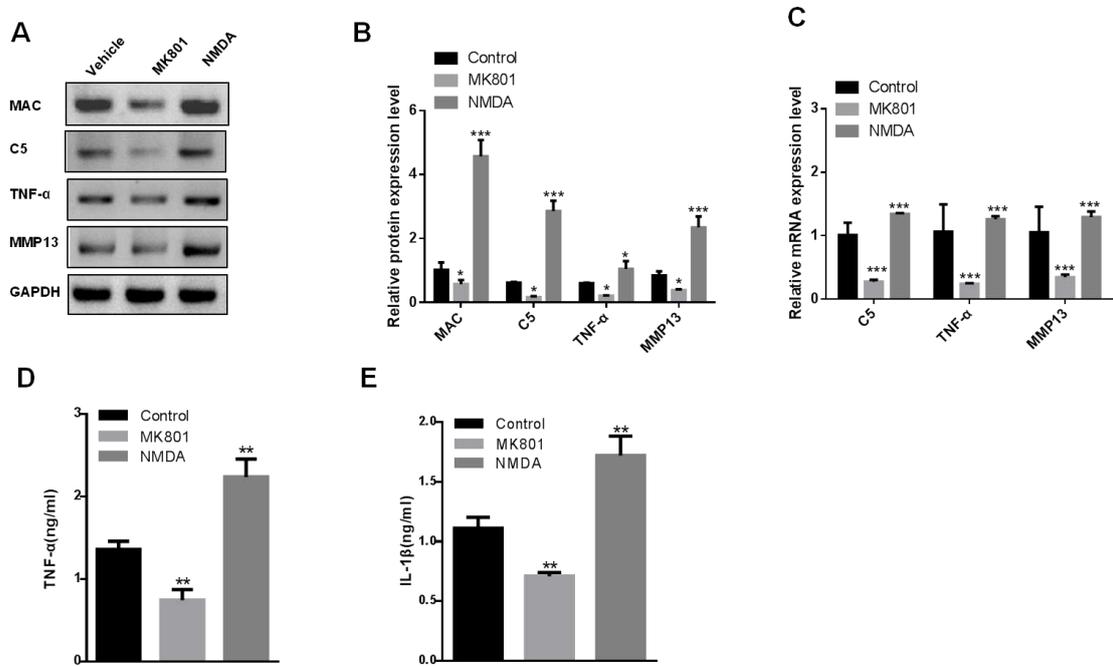
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479 **Figure 1. MK801 inhibited the expression of OA marker factors in OA-SFs**

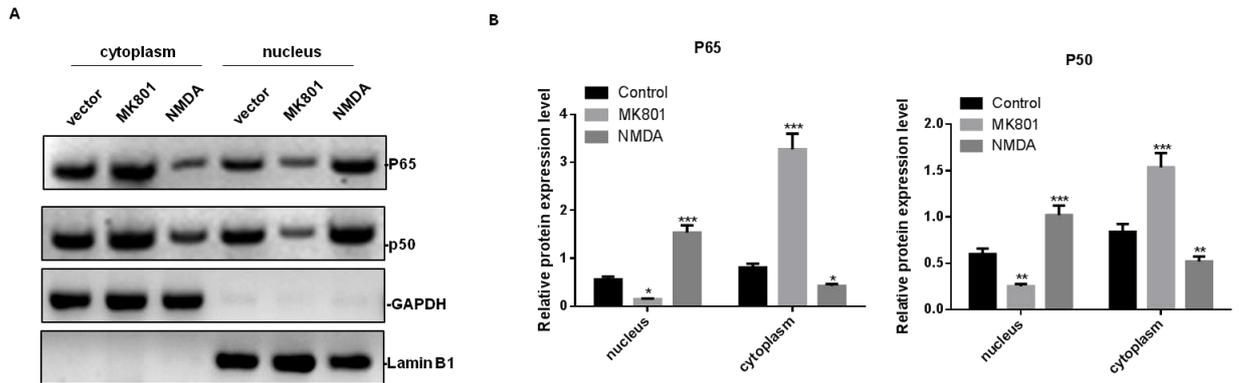


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483 **Figure 2. MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs**



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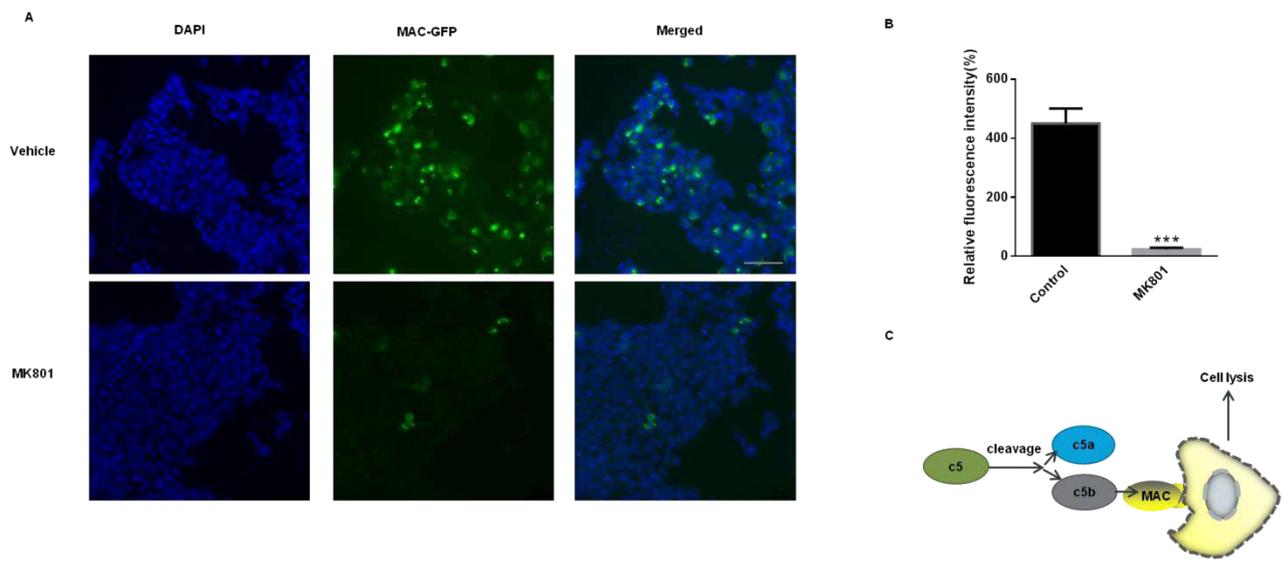
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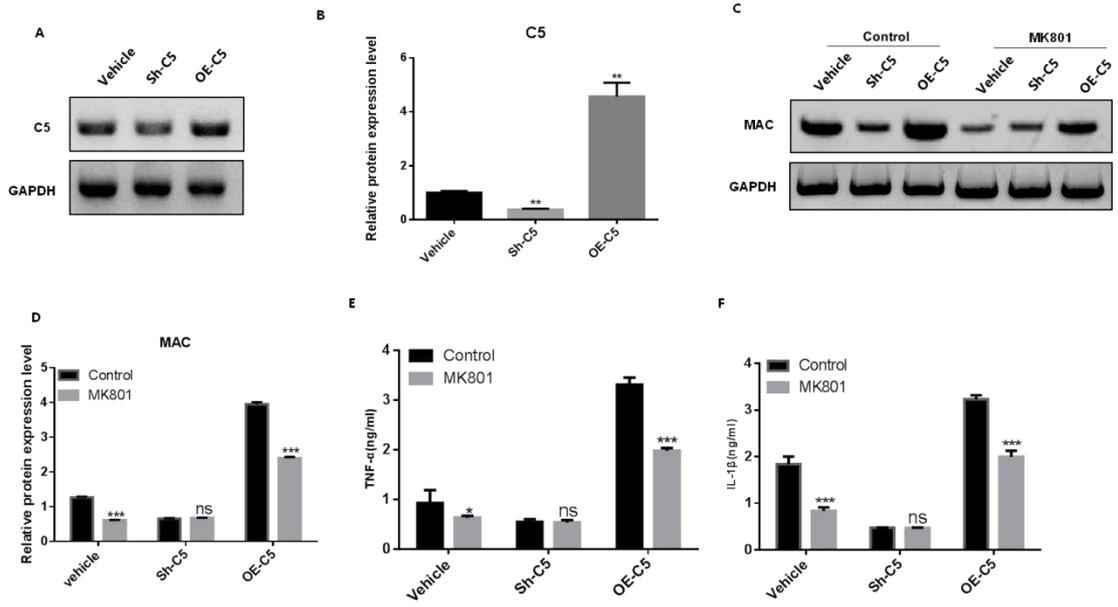
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**Figure 4. MK801's inhibition of OA-SFs inflammatory response depends on C5**

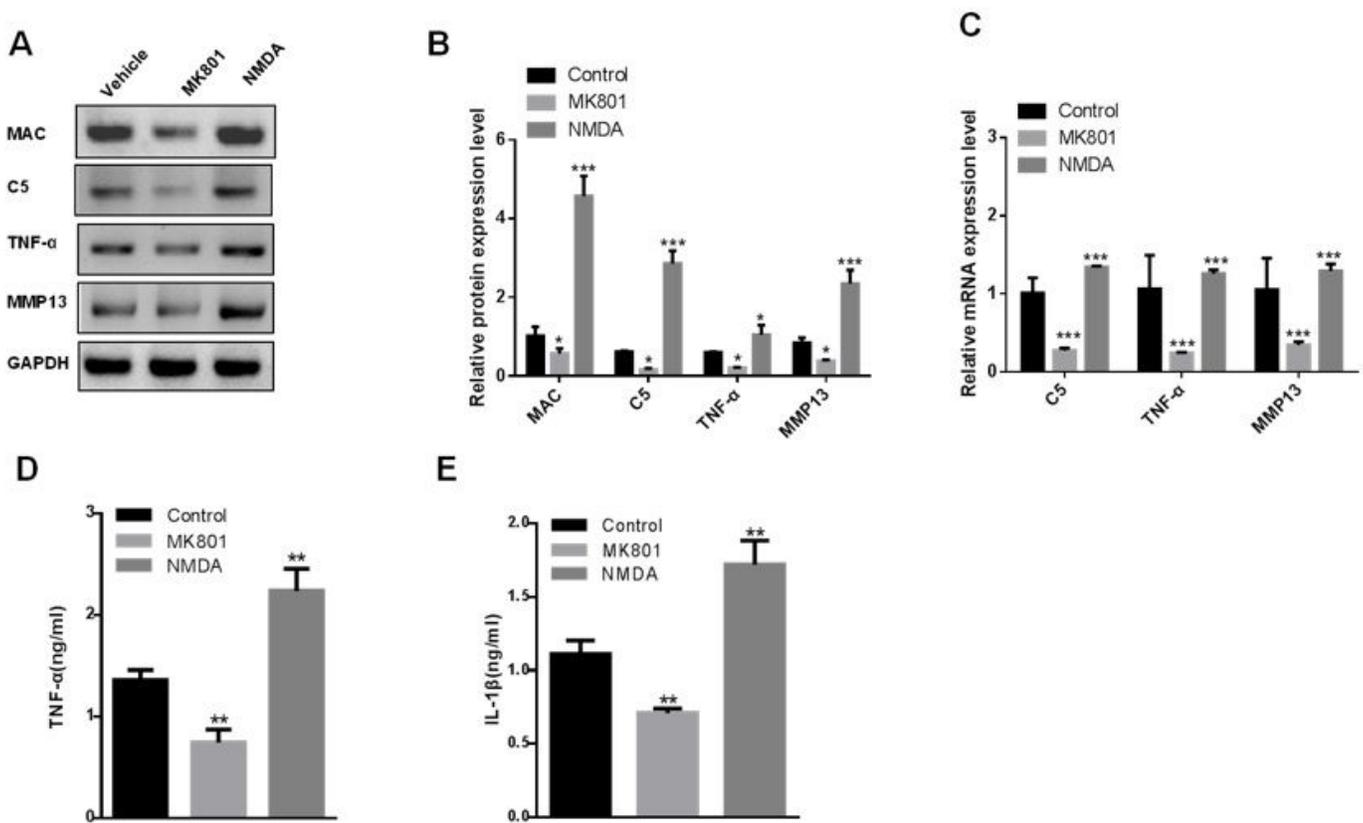


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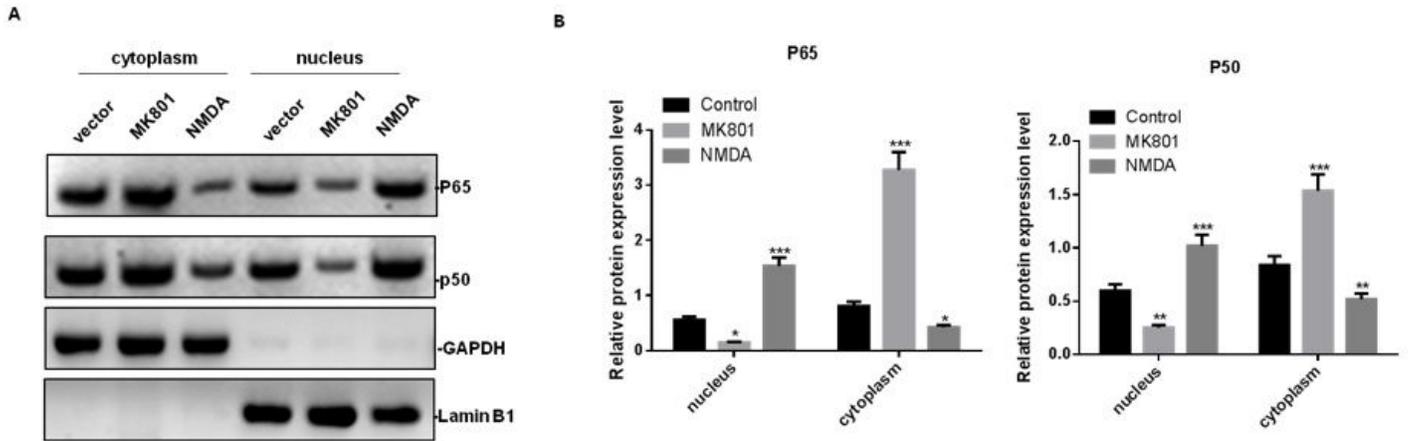
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# Figures



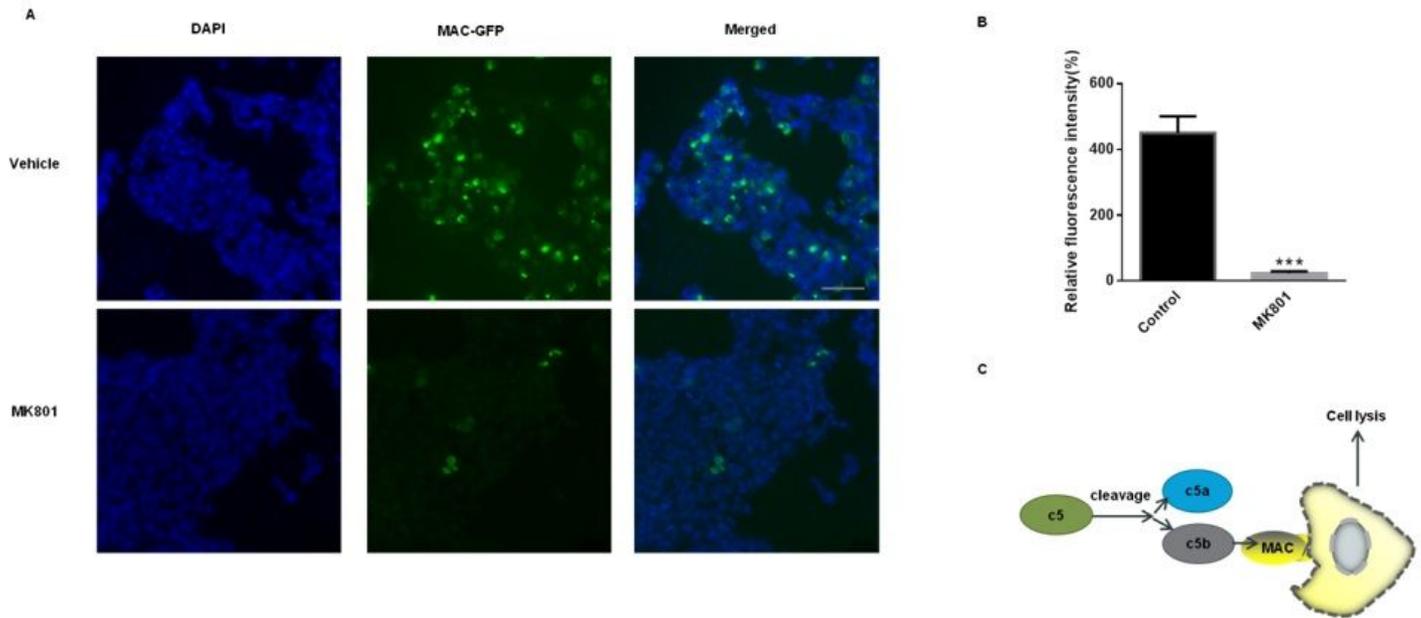
**Figure 1**

MK801 inhibited the expression of OA marker factors in OA-SFs A: The expression levels of MAC, TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 protein were detected by western blot in OA-SFs treated with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours, indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 1; B: Statistical analysis of the MAC, TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 protein levels based on western blot assay results; C: The expression levels of TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 mRNA were detected by RT-PCR in OA-SFs treated with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours; D: Statistical analysis of the TNF- $\alpha$ , C5 and MMP13 mRNA levels based on RT-PCR assay results; E&F: TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-1 $\beta$  protein levels in OA-SFs cell culture medium after treating with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours were detected by . Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \*P < 0.05; \*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001



**Figure 2**

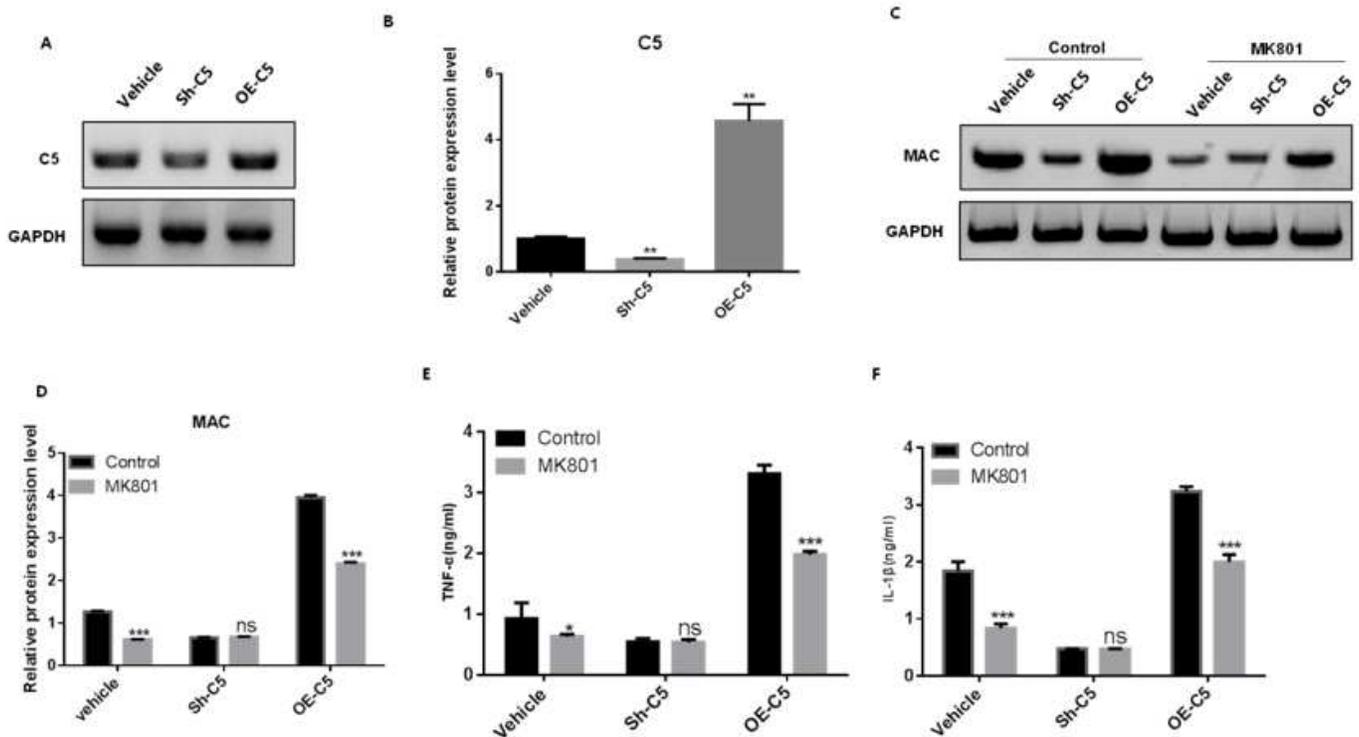
MK801 inhibited the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway in OA-SFs A: Cytoplasm and nucleus p65/p50 protein levels in the cytoplasm detected by western blot after nucleocytoplasmic separation of OA-SFs (treated with vehicle, 20 nM MK801 or 100  $\mu$ M NMDA for 24 hours), indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 2; B: Statistical analysis of the p65/p50 protein levels based on western blot assay results. Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \*P < 0.05; \*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001



**Figure 3**

MK801 inhibited MAC expression on OA-SFs cell membrane A: MAC protein expression level on the OA-SFs cell membrane was detected by immunofluorescence assay after treating with vehicle or 20 nM MK801 for 24 hours, indicated antibodies were added during immunofluorescence assay, scale bars: 50

µm ; B: Statistical analysis of the OA-SFs cell membrane MAC protein levels based on immunofluorescence assay results; C: Simplified diagram of the relationship between complement C5 and MAC. Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \*P < 0.05; \*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001



**Figure 4**

MK801's inhibition of OA-SFs inflammatory response depends on C5 A: The expression level of C5 in OA-SFs was detected by western blot after indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs, indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 3; B: Statistical analysis of the C5 protein level based on western blot assay results after indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs, Full-length blots/gels are presented in Supplementary Figure 4; C: MK801's impact on OA-SFs MAC protein expression level was detected by western blot after indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs, indicated antibodies were added during western blot assay; D: Statistical analysis of MAC protein expression level based on western blot assay results; E&F: MK801's impact on TNF-α and IL-1β protein levels in OA-SFs cell culture medium were detected by ELISA assay after indicated plasmids were transfected in OA-SFs. Data are representative of three independent experiments, and were analyzed by unpaired t-test. Error bars denote SD. \*P < 0.05; \*\*P < 0.01; \*\*\*P < 0.001

## Supplementary Files

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