

代谢相关脂肪性肝病相关肝癌研究进展

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摘要: 目前代谢相关脂肪性肝病 (metabolic associated fatty liver disease, MAFLD) 已累及全球约1/3人口, 是世界上最常见的慢性肝脏疾病之一。近年来, 随着肥胖和代谢综合征的流行, MAFLD发病率呈上升趋势, MAFLD相关肝癌患者也日益增多。因此, 明确MAFLD与肝癌间的关系尤为重要。本文从MAFLD相关肝癌的流行病学、发病机制、与病毒性肝炎的关系、危险因素、临床特点和诊断、防治进行综述, 以期对MAFLD相关肝癌的防治工作提供帮助。

关键词: 代谢相关脂肪性肝病; 肝癌; 危险因素; 临床特点; 预防与治疗

Progress on metabolic associated fatty liver disease related liver cancer

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Abstract: Metabolic associated fatty liver disease (MAFLD) is one of the most common chronic liver diseases in the world, affecting about 1/3 of the global population at present. In recent years, with the prevalence of obesity and metabolic syndrome, the incidence of MAFLD has been gradually on the rise, and the number of patients with MAFLD-related hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is also increasing. Due to the effective prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis, MAFLD has gradually become an important cause of HCC. Therefore, it is particularly important to identify the relationship between MAFLD and HCC. This article reviewed the epidemiology, pathogenesis, relationship with viral hepatitis, risk factors, clinical features, diagnosis, prevention and treatment of MAFLD-related HCC, in order to provide help for its prevention and treatment.

Key words: Metabolic associated fatty liver disease; Liver cancer; Risk factors; Clinical features; Prevention and treatment

肝癌是全球第6大常见、病死率排名居第6位的癌症^[1]。原发性肝癌最常见类型是肝细胞癌 (hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC), 乙型肝炎病毒 (hepatitis B virus, HBV) 和丙型肝炎病毒 (hepatitis C virus, HCV) 感染仍是我国引起HCC的最主要原因^[2]。近年来, 随着肥胖和糖尿病的流行, 代谢相关脂肪性肝病 (metabolic associated

fatty liver disease, MAFLD) 的发病率呈逐年上升趋势, 已累及全球约1/3人口^[8]。由于乙肝疫苗的广泛接种、HBV相关母婴阻断的普及和高效抗病毒药物在临床上的广泛应用, HBV与HCV相关肝癌的发病率显著降低, MAFLD逐渐成为晚期肝病和肝癌的重要病因之一^[3]。本文就目前MAFLD相关肝癌的研究进展进行综述。

1 MAFLD定义的演变及相关背景

1.1 非酒精性脂肪性肝病 脂肪性肝病是以肝脏中脂肪异常蓄积和弥漫性肝细胞脂肪变为病理特征的临床综合征, 肥胖、代谢紊乱和酒精滥用是脂肪性肝病的重要病因。Ludwig等^[4]于1980年首次提出了非酒精性脂肪性肝炎 (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis,

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NASH)的定义:患者无过量饮酒史和其他肝损伤因素,而组织学改变与酒精性脂肪肝病类似。1986年Schaffner等^[5]提出了非酒精性脂肪肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)的概念,其将NAFLD分为单纯性脂肪肝、NASH和NASH相关肝硬化。随着对NAFLD发病机制、临床特征和自然史等方面研究的深入,研究人员发现该病是一种异质性疾病,不同类型患者在病因、危险因素、诱因、发病机制和并发症上存在异质性^[6]。因此,这种命名方式和排他性诊断标准不再适用于指导临床实践和科学研究。

1.2 MAFLD 2020年3月Eslam等^[6]拟定共识,建议将NAFLD更名为MAFLD。该共识高度强调MAFLD的诊断是肯定性诊断而不是排他性诊断^[6]。通过组织学(肝活检)、影像学及血液生物标志物发现肝脏脂肪积聚(肝细胞脂肪变性),同时合并以下3项条件之一:超重/肥胖、2型糖尿病、代谢功能障碍,即可诊断为MAFLD。新的定义可更好地体现MAFLD的内涵,有助于患者的疾病分型,从而推动患者的精准诊疗和随访管理。

2 MAFLD相关肝癌的流行病学

MAFLD已累及全球约1/3人口,不同地域发病率不同,发病率最高的是南美(30%),次之是亚洲(27%)、北美(24%)、欧洲(23%)和非洲(13%)^[7]。随着代谢性疾病的增加,目前我国MAFLD患病率约为20%^[8]。MAFLD相关肝癌的发病率也在逐年上升,2000年至2010年,英国由MAFLD引起的肝癌从21.5%上升至34.8%;2004年至2009年,美国MAFLD相关肝癌的发病率每年增长9%;1991年至2010年,亚洲非病毒感染相关的肝癌增长了14.1%^[9]。

3 MAFLD相关肝癌的发病机制

MAFLD进展为肝癌是一个复杂的、多因素共同作用的过程,以下主要从遗传因素、代谢、免疫和内分泌4个方面对MAFLD相关肝癌的发病机制进行阐述。

3.1 遗传因素与肝癌 22号染色体上PNPLA3基因突变是MAFLD相关肝癌进展的一个重要因素,该突变与肝脏中脂质积累增加密切相关,使得个体易发生脂肪性肝病相关疾病^[10]。miRNA是内源性小非编码RNA,在基因表达调控中发挥重要作用。有研究表明,在多种癌症中,miRNA的表达会因各种机制发生失调,在一定条件下可能作为致癌基因或肿瘤抑制因子而发挥作用^[11]。miRNA的表达改变参与肝癌发生的信号转导通路,包括TGF- β 、Wnt/ β 连环素、MAPK和PI3K/AKT/mTOR^[12]。目前,miRNA

在MAFLD相关肝癌中的作用仍有待进一步研究。

3.2 代谢与肝癌 高脂饮食、肥胖和糖尿病等代谢相关因素与胰岛素抵抗和高胰岛素血症密切相关,其会增加胰岛素和类胰岛素样生长因子-1(insulin-like growth factor-1, IGF-1)的表达,它们与各自受体结合后触发级联反应,从而激活下游的PI3K和MAPK信号转导通路^[13]。这两条通路可诱导细胞增殖和抑制细胞凋亡,在HCC发生发展过程中发挥重要作用。PI3K信号转导通路通过影响周期蛋白D1、Mdm2/p53和m-TOR而改变细胞周期、细胞凋亡和细胞生长^[14]。MAPK信号转导通路通过诱导原癌基因、c-fos和c-jun的转录影响细胞生长,最终会激活Wnt/ β 连环素级联反应,导致肝纤维化和肝癌^[15]。

胰岛素抵抗的另一个严重后果是引起肝脏中过多脂质的积累,能量代谢不平衡会增加肝脏脂毒性^[16]。慢性脂毒性可通过氧化应激损伤肝细胞,产生大量活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)^[17]。ROS可促进内质网内钙的释放,细胞质中过量的钙使线粒体和溶酶体通透性增加,进一步增加线粒体ROS的释放,从而引发炎症和肝星状细胞的活化,最终导致肝细胞坏死、肝纤维化、肝硬化甚至肝癌^[17]。

3.3 免疫与肝癌 胰岛素抵抗和氧化应激可激活核因子- κ B(nuclear factor-kappa B, NF- κ B)信号转导通路,NF- κ B活化后启动和调节炎症因子的转录,上调炎症因子表达,在肝脏炎症反应中发挥重要作用^[18]。因此,氧化应激不仅可促进ROS释放,也可通过免疫反应引发炎症反应,促进肝癌进展。ROS和脂质过氧化产物会增加炎症细胞因子如肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)和白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6, IL-6)的释放^[19]。INF- α 通过激活肝脏原始细胞促进肝癌的发生,也会进一步激活NF- κ B和c-jun氨基末端激酶等信号分子从而损伤DNA^[20]。IL-6能够激活信号转换器和转录因子3的激活物,诱导细胞增殖,抑制细胞凋亡,从而促进细胞增长、血管生成、肿瘤生长和侵袭^[21]。相关动物模型研究表明,CD8⁺和CD4⁺淋巴细胞在肝细胞损伤和癌变中具有潜在作用^[22]。此外,肝细胞损伤会刺激免疫细胞募集到损伤部位,Kupffer细胞在肝癌发生和进展中都发挥了重要作用^[23]。在NAFLD中,脂质代谢失调导致肝脏CD4⁺T淋巴细胞选择性减少,加速炎症和肝癌的发生^[24]。

3.4 内分泌与肝癌 MAFLD相关肝癌在男性患者中的发病率更高,这表明内分泌因素可能会增加MAFLD患者发展为肝癌的风险。雌激素和雄激素均属于类固醇激素,它们通过与核受体结合再作为转录因子调节

多种基因的表达。雄激素受体是一种能够与DNA结合的转录因子,可被雄激素激活,也可通过PI3K和MAPK通路被激活,雄激素受体激活后诱导细胞周期相关激酶的转录,从而促进肝癌的发生^[25]。

4 MAFLD与病毒性肝炎

MAFLD与病毒性肝炎可共同加重肝脏损伤,增加肝硬化和肝癌发生风险,合并MAFLD是HBV相关肝癌发生的独立危险因素^[26,27]。有研究表明,MAFLD可能使慢性乙型肝炎患者发生HCC的风险增加3倍^[28]。因此,慢性乙型肝炎患者不仅要进行抗病毒治疗,还需控制体质量、规律锻炼,预防MAFLD的发生。

5 MAFLD相关肝癌的危险因素

MAFLD相关肝癌发生的独立危险因素包括肝硬化程度、糖尿病、肥胖、年龄和性别等。一项大型研究表明,MAFLD相关肝癌患者主要为男性,平均(66±8)岁,体重指数(body mass index, BMI)为(29.8±4.2) kg/m²,8.6%的患者肝脏病理表现存在肝硬化;约89%的患者有肝脏脂肪变性,其中50%有肥胖,56%有2型糖尿病(type 2 diabetes mellitus, T2DM),28%的患者同时患有肥胖和T2DM^[29]。研究表明,BMI>30 kg/m²者发展为肝癌的风险会增加1倍,而BMI>35 kg/m²者风险会增加4倍;30%~70% T2DM患者合并MAFLD^[30]。

6 MAFLD相关肝癌的临床特点与诊断

与HBV、HCV感染及酒精性肝病相比,MAFLD相关肝癌更易发生在无肝硬化患者中。Bengtsson等^[31]一项队列研究表明,1562例HCC患者中255例(14.4%)为MAFLD相关肝癌,其中83例(37%)不存在肝硬化,因此MAFLD相关肝癌可不经肝硬化而直接发展为肝癌。另外,日本一项研究的292例MAFLD相关肝癌患者中有38%无肝硬化^[32];法国一项包括31例合并2个以上代谢综合征表现患者的研究中,66%不存在肝硬化^[33]。Bengtsson等^[31]比较了MAFLD相关肝癌与其他原因引起肝癌的临床特点,结果表明MAFLD相关肝癌患者年龄更大(平均72岁),通常为男性(71%),肝硬化患者比例低;MAFLD相关肝癌患者常合并高血压、高脂血症、T2DM和其他心血管疾病,但患者生存率与其他原因所致肝癌患者无显著统计学差异,MAFLD相关肝癌患者治愈后的5年复发率低于其他原因所致HCC患者。

7 MAFLD相关肝癌的预防与治疗

一项大型前瞻性研究对293例经组织学确诊为NASH的患者进行了1年随访,分析体质量减轻与

NASH改变的关系,结果表明在体质量减轻的人群中NASH改善甚至消失率更高,尤其是体质量减轻10%以上的患者,NASH缓解率达90%,肝纤维化消退率为45%^[34]。T2DM是MAFLD相关HCC的危险因素,使用二甲双胍可诱导细胞周期停滞在G₀/G₁期,抑制肝癌细胞增殖,从而降低发生HCC的风险,使用二甲双胍每增加1年,肝癌发生风险减少约7%^[35]。Kim等^[36]一项队列研究表明,他汀类药物可通过抗增殖、促凋亡、抗血管生成等作用抑制MAFLD相关肝癌的进展,尤其是存在糖尿病和肝硬化等高危因素的肝癌患者。

通过饮食和锻炼减轻体质量是治疗MAFLD的首要方法,也可通过减肥手术控制体质量。目前治疗MAFLD的药物也在不断发展,乙酰辅酶A羧化酶(acetyl-CoA carboxylase, ACC)是脂肪从头合成的关键酶,可作为MAFLD治疗的一个可行靶点。Firsocostat是一种ACC抑制剂,在一项关于该药物的II期临床试验中,每天服用20 mg Firsocostat治疗12周后,肝脂肪含量显著降低29%,与肝脏纤维化相关的血清学标志物水平也有所下降^[37]。奥利司他是一种胃肠脂肪酶抑制剂,研究表明奥利司他能够改善MAFLD患者的生物化学指标如丙氨酸氨基转移酶、天门冬氨酸氨基转移酶和γ-谷氨酰转肽酶,在一定程度上有助于改善患者预后^[38]。另外,维生素E、胰岛素增敏剂、过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, PPAR)激动剂、胰高血糖素样肽-1(glucagon-like peptide-1, GLP-1)受体激动剂和抗氧化剂等药物的疗效仍有待研究。关于MAFLD相关肝癌特殊治疗方式的相关报道较少,MAFLD相关肝癌的临床特点和肿瘤特点与病毒性肝炎所致HCC不同,但治疗原则大致相同。

8 展望

随着肥胖和糖尿病患者数量的增加,MAFLD逐渐成为晚期肝病和肝癌的主要病因之一。绝大多数MAFLD相关肝癌患者在确诊时已发展到晚期阶段,因此对MAFLD患者进行早期干预、监测和筛查极为重要。肝脏超声是肝癌筛查的首选方法,但对于MAFLD患者的诊断准确性较低,因此需进一步寻求特异性高且无创的筛查方法。由MAFLD发展为肝癌是多种因素共同作用的结果,但具体机制尚未完全阐明,目前关于MAFLD相关肝癌的诊断与治疗存在许多有待解决的问题,仍需进一步研究。

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