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· 综述 ·

头颈鳞状细胞癌乏氧微环境与放疗抵抗相关性的研究进展

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摘要: 头颈鳞状细胞癌(HNSCC)的治疗方式有手术和放化疗。治疗后 HSNCC 的高复发率及其显著的转移能力是影响 HNSCC 患者预后的主要因素,且放化疗存在各种并发症,包括放射性口腔黏膜炎、局部软组织损伤等,严重影响患者生活质量。而肿瘤局部组织内乏氧造成的乏氧微环境与肿瘤治疗抵抗和复发的关系密切相关,如果能采取措施改善肿瘤微环境乏氧状况,就有可能提高 HNSCC 的治疗效果。本文对 HNSCC 治疗的现状、与 HNSCC 乏氧微环境相关的放疗抵抗机制、检测肿瘤乏氧程度和实现放疗增敏的方法及相关研究进展进行了综述。

关键词: 头颈鳞状细胞癌;乏氧微环境;放疗抵抗;上皮间质转化

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Research progress on the correlation between hypoxic microenvironment and radiotherapy resistance in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

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Abstract: Treatment for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) includes surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The high recurrence rate and metastasis of HSNCC after treatment are the main factors affecting the prognosis of HNSCC patients. HSNCC radiotherapy and chemotherapy have various complications including radiation-induced mucositis and local soft tissue injury, which seriously affect the quality of life of patients. The hypoxia tumor microenvironment is closely related to tumor radioresistance and clinical recurrence. If measures can be taken to ameliorate hypoxia in the tumor microenvironment, it is possible to improve the therapeutic effect of HNSCC. In this review, we will explore the current treatment of HNSCC, the mechanism of radiotherapy resistance related to HNSCC hypoxic microenvironment, and the methods of detecting tumor hypoxic and enhancing radiotherapy sensitization.

Keywords: Hypoxia microenvironment; Radioresistance; Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma(HNSCC); Epithelial mesenchymal transformation (EMT)

头颈鳞状细胞癌(head and neck squamous cell carcinoma, HNSCC)位列全球恶性肿瘤发病人数排名中的第7位^[1],手术及放化疗仍然是主要的治疗手段。在很长的一段时间内,术后5年生存率并没有得到明显提高,其中治疗后 HNSCC 的高复发率及其显著的转移能力是影响 HNSCC 患者预后的

主要因素。乏氧微环境的存在使肿瘤细胞发生改变以适应乏氧状态,细胞侵袭力增加,对放化疗抵抗性也增强,发生远处转移的机会随之升高,严重影响肿瘤患者的治疗效果和预后。因此,持续性地改善肿瘤乏氧微环境对于改变 HNSCC 放化疗抵抗及提高治疗效果具有重要作用^[2]。

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1 HNSCC 治疗的现状

HNSCC 的治疗方式有手术、放射治疗和化学药物治疗,但手术本身彻底根除肿瘤有一定局限性,而随着放疗技术及化疗药物等综合治疗的进步,许多人倾向于选择保留器官的非手术治疗,这可以使患者在5年生存率和器官功能保留方面同时获益,一旦局部复发可再行挽救性手术。术后放疗能改善局部晚期 HNSCC 患者的疗效,减少局部区域复发的概率^[3]。有研究表明放疗后晚期不良反应(如溃疡、软组织坏死、纤维化、吞咽困难、瘘和骨头坏死等)发生率较高^[4]。因此,术后放疗应采用适当的剂量,术后放疗高危区域照射剂量根据手术切缘的病理结果,推荐60~66 Gy/30~33次,照射6~7周。调强放射治疗(intensity modulated radiation therapy, IMRT)在保证肿瘤靶区得到高剂量照射的同时,可以使原发灶周围危及器官组织得到有效的保护,是目前较常使用的放疗方式^[5]。

2 乏氧微环境诱导肿瘤放疗抵抗的机制

许多研究表明肿瘤细胞对 DNA 损伤的修复能力、耐受能力是放疗抵抗的直接原因,而乏氧微环境为放疗抵抗提供了最重要的环境。细胞对电离辐射的效应依赖于氧,氧在电离辐射和生物体之间相互作用,产生氧效应。迅速增大的实体瘤中,血管增生与肿瘤体积的增大常常是不匹配的,而且肿瘤内部的血管形态是异常的,这导致肿瘤内部出现一部分乏氧区,位于这部分的肿瘤细胞,随着乏氧微环境的产生,细胞内部分子表达亦发生改变,逐渐适应乏氧环境及对 DNA 损伤的耐受能力^[6]。

Löck 等^[7]证实,放化疗期间残留的肿瘤存在乏氧状态是导致 HNSCC 治疗产生耐药性的主要驱动力。乏氧微环境为 HNSCC 细胞产生放疗抵抗提供了重要的条件^[8],可刺激细胞产生乏氧诱导因子(hypoxia inducible factor, HIF)。HIF-1、HIF-2 在 HNSCC 组织中高表达^[9],若给与小干扰 RNA 或反义寡核苷酸,细胞自噬水平和凋亡显著升高,但抑制自噬后,细胞凋亡并没有减少,即 HIF 的存在使得肿瘤细胞一定程度上躲避了放疗后的凋亡,这说明细胞在乏氧微环境中主要通过 HIF 实现放化疗抵抗。HIF 可降低细胞增殖,减少活性氧的产生及 DNA 损伤,使细胞代谢维持较低水平,使细胞长期

具有活性,且能促进肿瘤侵袭和转移^[6]。

乏氧对肿瘤细胞上皮间质转化(epithelia-mesenchymal transition, EMT)的调节作用也是乏氧微环境诱导肿瘤放疗抵抗的一个重要机制。乏氧环境下肿瘤细胞形态发生改变,侵袭和移动的能力增强,表面黏附因子丢失,上皮标志物表达降低,而间质细胞标志物增加,即产生了 EMT。EMT 可使肿瘤细胞获得移动性,离开原始部位,向远处迁移扩散,是肿瘤细胞浸润转移的一个途径^[10]。在乏氧环境中参与 EMT 过程的信号通路被直接或间接激活,例如转化生长因子- β (transforming growth factor β , TGF- β)信号通路、Notch(因基因功能缺失导致果蝇翅膀的边缘形成缺刻而命名为 Notch)信号通路、Wnt(由小鼠 integration 基因和果蝇 wingless 基因合成为 Wnt)信号通路、磷脂酰肌醇-3-激酶(phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase, PI3K)/蛋白激酶 B(protein kinase B, PKB, 又称 AKT)信号通路等,这些通路共同促进乏氧下 EMT 的发生和进行^[11]。在一系列的细胞实验中,这些通路得到了验证。在鼻咽癌细胞中,小檗碱可通过阻断 TGF- β 通路来抑制 EMT,从而增强细胞的放射敏感性^[12];在5种 HNSCC 细胞株中,抑制 Notch 通路可以使肿瘤细胞侵袭能力减弱^[13];在口腔鳞癌细胞实验中,敲除同源框基因 10 可通过抑制 Wnt 通路来抑制细胞的 EMT,降低细胞侵袭和迁移的能力^[14];微小 RNA-155 过表达可以导致 PI3K/AKT 通路的激活,进而调节 EMT,促进鼻咽癌细胞的放疗抵抗^[15]。总而言之,乏氧导致肿瘤细胞中 HIF-1 的稳定存在,诱导了 EMT 的发生,增加了肿瘤放疗抵抗。

3 检测肿瘤乏氧程度的方法

避免肿瘤内部低氧区的细胞存活的一类方法是加大放疗的辐射剂量,但辐射剂量加大的同时带来了更大的副作用,风险随之增大,因此,如何选择肿瘤乏氧程度高的患者也非常重要,然而目前还没有测量肿瘤乏氧程度的金标准。由于硝基咪唑类化合物在低氧条件下无法被氧化为硝基扩散出细胞外,因此目前已研发出多种应用于正电子发射显像(positron emission tomography, PET)的基于硝基咪唑的低氧特异性示踪剂。使用 18F-氟硝基咪唑 PET 来测量治疗第2周后的肿瘤乏氧程度,可能是选择具有局部区域高复发风险患者的一种方法^[7]。18F-FAZA(1- α -D-[5'-脱氧-5'-氟阿拉伯呋喃糖基]-2-硝基咪唑)也是一种基于硝基咪唑的低氧特异性示

踪剂,使用¹⁸F-FAZA PET/CT扫描,可以筛选出肿瘤乏氧水平高、需要加强治疗的患者^[16]。有研究证实改善低氧微环境能够对人乳头瘤病毒阴性的HNSCC肿瘤产生放射增敏的效益^[17]。一项影像学临床实验表明,对于淋巴细胞浸润程度高的肿瘤患者,改善其乏氧状态能够获得更好的预后^[18]。内源性代谢和乏氧相关标志物作为预后和预测标志物也具有重要意义,可以用于测定肿瘤乏氧程度^[19]。由于不同的标志物对乏氧和其他环境因素的反应不同,这些标志物的组合可用于预测治疗结果和选择合适的患者进行新的靶向治疗。还有学者设置了一种体外模型,使用哌莫硝唑和其他乏氧相关蛋白(骨桥蛋白,hif1 α 和葡萄糖转运蛋白1)染色,绘制了前列腺癌的供氧图,用于精确检测肿瘤组织中的氧气供应^[20]。

4 改善乏氧微环境及实现放疗增敏的方法

改善肿瘤乏氧微环境,即增加肿瘤乏氧区的氧供应,是放疗增敏的一种有效手段。近年来,有学者制备纳米复合物来增加肿瘤的氧供应,比如混合半导体有机硅基纳米节氧剂pHPFON-NO/O₂。首先,这种纳米材料与酸性肿瘤微环境相互作用,释放NO以保护内源性O₂;其次,它同时释放O₂从而实现外源性O₂输注^[21]。通过氧基微泡(oxygen microbubbles, O₂-MBs)及超声技术向肿瘤部位输送氧气也被证实能克服放疗前肿瘤部位的乏氧^[22],通过静脉或局部注射一种由脂质壳包裹氧气和全氟丙烷的O₂-MBs,结合超声靶向破坏微泡技术,能显著增强放疗的效果^[23-24]。有临床研究证明高压氧舱可提供高压氧环境,直接增加肿瘤组织的含氧量,对改善肿瘤乏氧微环境有效^[25]。ARCON(放疗、混合氧、尼克酰胺)临床试验证实了结合尼克酰胺(针对急性乏氧)与慢性乏氧改良剂(如卡泊金,一种O₂和CO₂气体的混合物)的治疗方法可明显改善肿瘤组织的急慢性乏氧环境,增强放疗的效果^[26]。氧的供应依靠红细胞中的血红蛋白,因此提高血液中氧的运输能力也被看做是改善肿瘤乏氧微环境的一种方法^[27]。然而,根治性放疗期间,输血对改善头颈肿瘤乏氧状态没有作用^[28]。使用人造血液替代品来提高血液氧分压也被视为一种可能有效的方法^[29]。还有研究提出了降糖药二甲双胍可以抑制细胞内的氧消耗,增加氧扩散距离,可能和糖尿病患者某些肿瘤发病率较低有关^[30-31]。高度亲电子的

硝基芳香族化合物可以使低氧细胞放射增敏。其中,在丹麦头颈癌(DAHANCA2)的放疗增敏研究中证实米索硝唑具有放疗增敏作用^[32],尼莫拉唑也已被纳入丹麦标准放疗的指南中,用于头颈部癌放疗^[33]。

改变乏氧微环境导致的肿瘤细胞内部信号传递及分子表达情况也是实现放疗增敏的一种有前景的手段。在乳腺癌的细胞实验中发现,饱和乳铁蛋白(holo-lactoferrin, Holo-Lf)可改善乏氧微环境,促进乏氧细胞和肿瘤中HIF-1 α 的降解,Holo-Lf诱导活性氧增加,影响HIF-1 α 表达和ROS生成,提高了体内肿瘤的放射敏感性^[34]。有研究者开发了D-精氨酸负载金属有机骨架纳米颗粒,用于增强骨肉瘤的放射敏感性,纳米颗粒上的D-精氨酸可产生一氧化氮并下调HIF-1 α ,以减轻肿瘤细胞的乏氧;此外,金属有机骨架还可以产生自由基来杀伤肿瘤细胞^[35]。也有团队以HIF-1 α 为靶基因,通过导入siRNA或反义寡核苷酸从而抑制HIF-1 α 的活性,达到削弱肿瘤细胞侵袭转移及逆转肿瘤细胞放化疗抵抗的目的^[36]。表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)在多数头颈肿瘤中高表达,EGFR抑制剂可通过减少HIF-1 α 的表达,来降低血管内皮生长因子的表达和抑制肿瘤血管生成,从而改善乏氧微环境,实现放疗增敏^[37-38]。有研究表明,EGFR单抗与放疗联合使用,可以增强放疗敏感性,从而提高疗效^[39-40]。西妥昔单抗已成为第一个被美国食品药品监督管理局(FDA)批准常规用于HNSCC的靶向药物^[41]。但是一项III期随机对照研究比较了放疗联合顺铂和西妥昔单抗治疗局部晚期头颈部鳞癌(III、IV期)的效果,在局部晚期头颈部鳞癌患者中,放疗联合西妥昔单抗的肿瘤控制能力不如放疗联合顺铂^[42]。

5 对HNSCC治疗的展望

放疗抵抗和肿瘤的乏氧微环境密切相关,目前已有许多基础研究证实通过改变肿瘤的乏氧微环境,增加对肿瘤干细胞的损伤,可以达到放疗增敏的目的^[43]。随着材料科学的发展,在改善肿瘤乏氧微环境中纳米材料将得到更多应用。乏氧肿瘤细胞中多种DNA损伤信号通路可引起辐射抗性,联合抑制细胞周期检查点和DNA修复靶点,也对改善放疗抵抗有所帮助。深度学习技术及卷积神经网络模型也有望提升放射治疗的水平,保护头颈器官功能的

同时减少肿瘤乏氧区的产生^[44]。随着人们对于生存率及生活质量的期望的提高,手术方式将更加倾向于选择保留头颈器官功能的术式,这也就意味着个体化的放疗、靶向治疗和生物治疗需要更进一步的研究。

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