

肿瘤相关性肌少症的机制、诊治与未来展望

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摘要: 肌少症是一种以骨骼肌质量和功能下降为特征的代谢综合征, 在恶性肿瘤患者中高发。近年来研究表明, 其并非仅源于营养不良或活动减少, 更是肿瘤-宿主相互作用的结果。肿瘤可通过炎症因子释放、蛋白质降解通路激活及激素代谢紊乱等多途径促进肌肉丢失; 而肌肉减少又进一步削弱患者免疫功能与治疗耐受性, 形成“肿瘤-肌少症”恶性循环。本文系统综述癌性肌少症的流行病学特征、病理机制、临床意义及最新干预策略, 并探讨多学科综合管理的未来方向。

关键词: 肌少症; 恶性肿瘤; 代谢紊乱; 临床管理; 预后

一、引言

骨骼肌不仅承担运动功能, 还在能量代谢、免疫调节及蛋白储存中发挥核心作用^[1]。肌少症(sarcopenia)最早被视为与衰老相关的生理退变, 但近年来研究发现, 其在慢性疾病, 尤其与恶性肿瘤密切相关^[2]。癌性肌少症不同于单纯的老年性肌少症, 其发生机制更为复杂。肿瘤通过释放促炎细胞因子(如 IL-6、TNF- α)和激活蛋白降解系统, 以及干扰激素代谢过程, 导致骨骼肌持续分解^[3]。而肌肉减少与免疫细胞存在密切关联, 降低抗肿瘤治疗的耐受性甚至中断治疗, 进而影响肿瘤的治疗效果^[4-6]。这种肿瘤促进肌少症、肌少症反过来加重肿瘤进展的双向反馈, 构成典型的“恶性循环”。因此, 癌性肌少症是影响癌症预后的不利影响因素^[7-9]。

二、流行病学与诊断

流行病学研究显示, 肌少症在肿瘤中的发生率约 35%, 在多种类型肿瘤中均有报道, 且在姑息治疗中患者中的比例远高于根治性患者^[10, 11]。即使在早期肿瘤患者人群中, 同样存在肌少症的现象, 在肿瘤患者化疗早期即可出现骨骼肌萎缩和丢失, 这些证据提示肌少症可能贯穿癌症发生的全过程^[12-14]。传统体重或 BMI 无法准确反映肌肉变化。越来越多的研究推荐通过 CT 影像在第三腰椎水平测定骨骼肌横截面积计算骨骼肌指数(SMI), 作为诊断“金标准”^[15]。此外, 肌少症的诊断还应结合功能指标, 如握力测试和步行测试, 以综合评估肌肉质量与功能状态^[16, 17]。近年来提出的“肌少性肥胖”虽没有明确的定义, 但主要强调肌肉减少与脂肪过多并存, 与肿瘤预后密切相关, 具有重要临床参考价值, 更加凸显了身体成分分析在肿瘤管理中的价值^[18]。

三、病理机制

3.1 全身性炎症反应

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慢性炎症被认为是驱动癌性肌少症的关键驱动力。促炎细胞因子是促进肌肉分解的主要因素。肿瘤微环境释放的 IL-6、TNF- α 、IL-1 β 等炎性细胞因子水平升高会导致肌肉蛋白质降解并损害肌肉再生,从而加剧肌肉萎缩^[19]。炎症因子如 IL-6、TNF- α 、IFN- γ 等介导 JAK-STAT 和 NF- κ B 通路及转录调节调控下游路径的激活,导致肌肉组织分解代谢增加^[20]。另有研究表明,TNF- α 和 IL-1 β 等促炎细胞因子还可通过介导 IGF-I 抵抗,从而削弱 IGF-I 诱导的骨骼肌成肌细胞蛋白合成能力^[21]。由此可见,慢性炎症因子作为肿瘤发生发展进程中的关键调控介质,不仅在肿瘤微环境重塑、细胞恶性转化及侵袭转移中发挥核心作用,其介导的全身性炎症反应同时也是驱动癌性肌少症发生的核心病理机制。这种“双重效应”揭示了炎症因子在癌症与肌少症共病机制中的关键连接作用,为理解两者的病理生理关联提供了重要桥梁。

3.2 肿瘤衍生因子

某些肿瘤可分泌特异性分子,如蛋白水解诱导因子(PIF)和肌肉生长抑制素(GDF-8),直接抑制肌细胞分化和合成。研究表明,研究表明 GDF-8 是肌肉量的关键负调节因子,阻断 GDF-8 和 Activin A 可防止肌肉损失,增加脂肪分解^[22]。另有研究表明二十碳五烯酸(EPA)具有抗炎、降低蛋白水解诱导因子(PIF)产生,阻止骨骼肌分解的作用,间接说明了蛋白水解诱导因子(PIF)可促进骨骼肌的分解^[23]。由此可见,PIF 和 GDF-8 在肿瘤相关的肌肉代谢异常中起着负面调节作用,未来在防止肌肉损失和促进脂肪分解方面可进行深入研究,为骨骼肌的丢失的相关治疗提供了新的潜在靶点。

3.3 代谢紊乱

在癌细胞增殖过程中,即使在有氧条件下,肿瘤细胞也会优先摄取葡萄糖进行糖酵解,同时,肌肉线粒体改变在肿瘤恶病质导致的骨骼肌萎缩机制中起着重要作用,造成肌肉能量供应不足^[24, 25]。此外,乳酸积累会进一步损害线粒体功能,诱导氧化应激,从而加速肌肉消耗^[26]。除了影响糖代谢以外,肿瘤引起激素代谢紊乱,在肌少症的形成中也发挥着重要作用。肿瘤分泌蛋白通过促进胰高血糖素释放引发全身性消耗包括肌肉萎缩^[27]。此外,恶病质癌症患者的肠道菌群组成常常发生改变,而肠-肌轴揭示了肠道菌群和骨骼肌之间复杂的相互调节作用,尤其是年龄相关的肠道菌群失调导致的代谢产物改变可通过多种途径最终促进肌肉衰减症的发生发展^[28, 29]。

四、临床意义

肌少症已成为多种恶性肿瘤患者预后评估中的关键生物学因素。如在胰腺癌与肝细胞癌患者群体中,合并肌少症者的总生存期显著缩短^[30, 31]。除预后价值外,肌肉量减少还与肿瘤治疗相关不良事件风险升高密切相关,具体表现为化疗药物毒性反应增强、术后并发症发生率上升,同时患者生活质量亦显著降低^[32]。值得注意的是,肌少症对临床治疗决策的制定具有重要影响:在接受经导管动脉化疗栓塞术的肝细胞癌患者中,术前肌少症状态与治疗后肿瘤复发风险呈显著正相关;而在肺癌及乳腺癌患者中,合并肌少症者的化疗中断率明显高于无肌少症人群^[33-36]。由此可见,恶性肿瘤患者发生肌少症的几率较高,其与肿瘤治疗效果及患者预后的密切关联提示,该指标在肿瘤临床管理中具有重要的应用价值,可作为优化治疗策略与预后评估的潜在参考依据。

五、干预与管理

5.1 运动康复

运动干预肌少症具有明确生理机制支撑,是首选干预方式。已有研究证实,规律性运动干预可有效改善癌症患者的肌肉质量与躯体功能状态。其中,有氧运动通过调节机体炎症因子水平及改善胰岛素敏感性,为肌肉代谢微环境的优化提供支持^[37]。而不同强度的加压抗阻训练则能通过激活肌肉合成相关信号通路,改善线粒体的功能,从而在癌症患者肌肉功能维护中发挥重要作用^[38, 39]。

5.2 营养支持

高蛋白饮食及亮氨酸、 β -羟基- β -甲基丁酸(HMB)补充能增强肌肉合成信号。亮氨酸等支链氨基酸可通过增加蛋白质合成速率和降低蛋白质降解速率;HMB 可以减轻恶病质小鼠骨骼肌蛋白质合成抑制途径且 HMB 补充剂可以通过 mTOR 通路刺激大鼠骨骼肌肥大,增加肌肉质量^[40-42]。针对“肌少性肥胖”患者,还需兼顾能量控制与脂肪代谢改善,研究表明极低热量生酮饮食在减轻体重方面是有效的,尤其在减少脂肪量方面有重要作用,但在实施极低热量生酮饮食与间歇训练联合方案时,需遵循严格的实施规范与专业指导^[43]。

5.3 药物治疗

尚有一些研究表明一些药物可预防或治疗肌肉减少,它们发挥的途径可能是增加骨骼肌的蛋白质合成率,或者提升肌力等,但对于癌症相关的肌少症的有效性并无直接证据。如肌生长抑制素抑制方法在预防人类肌肉减少症方面有较好的前景;补充生长素释放肽也是对抗肌肉减少症和恶病质的备选方法^[44]。Anamorelin(一种胃饥饿素受体激动剂)在 III 期临床试验中可改善体重和食欲,但对肌力提升效果有限^[45]。补充雄激素可以增加肌肉蛋白质组的合成速率^[46]。但这些药物的权衡利弊有待进一步验证。

六、展望

肌少症已成为肿瘤患者预后和生活质量的重要影响因素。未来应形成以运动、营养与药物的联合干预治疗模式。建立以肿瘤科医师、营养师、康复治疗师为核心的多学科团队,并将肌少症筛查纳入常规肿瘤诊疗流程,显示协同效应^[47, 48]。在筛查方面,建议遵循影像和生物标志物的联合筛查模式;在治疗方面,发展个体化干预策略,结合炎症型、代谢型等不同表型制定精准方案;在管理方面,在肿瘤治疗过程中,应重点关注肌少症的管理方式,实现标准化与规范化。

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Cancer-Related Sarcopenia: Mechanisms, Management, and Future Directions

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Abstract: The deterioration of skeletal muscle mass and function, termed sarcopenia, is a common metabolic comorbidity in oncology. Contemporary understanding frames its etiology as a multifaceted process driven by tumor-host interactions, extending beyond traditional causes like malnutrition or sedentariness. Malignancies facilitate muscle depletion through the systemic release of inflammatory mediators, dysregulation of protein turnover, and alterations in endocrine function. The resultant sarcopenia subsequently diminishes host immunity and increases the therapeutic burden, creating a challenging clinical feedback loop. This systematic review aims to delineate the epidemiology, pathophysiological mechanisms, and clinical relevance of cancer-related sarcopenia, while also summarizing current and potential future management strategies within a multidisciplinary paradigm.

Keywords: Sarcopenia; Malignancy; Metabolic dysregulation; Clinical management; Prognosis