

NLR对晚期胰腺癌患者预后的预测价值

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摘要

目的: 胰腺癌(Pancreatic Cancer)是最常见及最致命的恶性肿瘤之一, 炎症参与了肿瘤的浸润、进展、转移, 本研究的目的是探讨中性粒细胞、淋巴细胞数比值(neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio, NLR)对晚期胰腺癌患者预后的预测价值。方法: 回顾性分析2000年1月至2019年12月在青岛大学附属医院住院并于确诊后5年随访的晚期胰腺癌患者。收集临床资料和实验室检查指标, 计算NLR值, 并使用中位数作为截断值。采用Cox比例风险模型进行单因素及多因素分析, 评价NLR对于晚期胰腺癌患者预后的预测价值。并使用Kaplan-Meier (K-M)绘制生存曲线, 曲线之间的差异通过Log-Rank检验进行分析。结果: 共有220名患者(中位年龄61.00岁; 139 [63.2%]男性)符合纳入标准。根据中位数, 将患者分为高NLR组和低NLR组, 最佳截断值为2.54。通过Cox比例风险回归模型对患者总生存期进行单因素及多因素分析, 多因素分析结果示, 高NLR为晚期胰腺癌患者总生存期短的独立危险因素(HR = 1.537, 95%置信区间为1.177~2.008; P = 0.002)。结论: 高水平的NLR是晚期胰腺癌患者无病生存期短的独立危险因素。

关键词

胰腺癌, 中性粒细胞和淋巴细胞数比值, NLR, 炎症反应

Prognostic Value of NLR in Patients with Advanced Pancreatic Cancer

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Abstract

Objectives: Pancreatic cancer is one of the most common and fatal malignant tumors in the world. Inflammation is involved in tumor progression and metastasis. The purpose of this study is to explore the prognostic value of neutrophil and lymphocyte ratio (NLR) in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer. **Methods:** The patients with advanced pancreatic cancer who were admitted to the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University from January 2000 to December 2019 and were followed up for 5 years were retrospectively analyzed. Collect clinical data and laboratory indexes, calculate NLR value, and use the median as the cut-off value. Cox proportional hazards model was used to analyze the prognostic value of NLR in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer by univariate and multivariate analysis. Kaplan Meier (K-M) was used to draw the survival curve, and the differences between the curves were analyzed by log rank test. **Results:** A total of 220 patients (median age 61.00 years; 139 [63.2%] men) met the inclusion criteria. According to the median, the patients were divided into high NLR group and low NLR group, and the optimal cutoff value was 2.54. Univariate and multivariate analyses of overall survival were performed by Cox proportional hazards regression model. Multivariate analysis showed that high NLR was an independent risk factor for short overall survival in patients with advanced pancreatic cancer (HR = 1.537, 95% confidence interval 1.177~2.008; P = 0.002). **Conclusion:** High level of NLR is an independent risk factor for the short-term overall survival of patients with advanced pancreatic cancer.

Keywords

Pancreatic Cancer, Inflammatory, Neutrophil and Lymphocyte Ratio, NLR, Inflammatory Response

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1. 前言

胰腺癌(Pancreatic Cancer)预后差,特别是胰腺导管腺癌(Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma, PDAC),是西方世界第四大癌症死亡原因[1],相关研究预测曲线显示,在2030年左右,它将成为仅次于肺癌的第二大最常见原因[2]。胰腺癌五年生存率极低,不到6% [3],且缺乏典型的早期症状,甚至在进展前几乎完全没有症状,进展期通常表现为常见的消化道症状,如上腹部不适、疼痛等[4]。因此难以早期发现,约占80%的病人发现时已不能进行根治性手术切除治疗[5],因此也增加了患者的痛苦。在评估晚期胰腺癌患者的预后及治疗中缺乏有效的预测因子。

全身及局部的慢性炎症与多种恶性肿瘤的浸润、转移密切相关[6]。几乎所有的癌症都有炎症反应。炎症是一个复杂和高度协调的细胞及生化过程,其目的是解决组织损伤和保护宿主。然而,当这个“伤口愈合”过程变成慢性的,正常的细胞机制出现紊乱,并且组织损伤和肿瘤会接踵而至。因此,慢性炎症是癌症的一个特征[7]。因此,研究肿瘤驱动的炎症成分具有重要意义,而炎症反应的靶向途径可能成为肿瘤治疗的基石。慢性炎症在胰腺癌发展、转移过程中的作用也被证实,目前发现了多种炎症标志物与胰腺癌总生存期和/或无进展生存期相关[8] [9],包括中性粒细胞和淋巴细胞比值(neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio, NLR),但对于晚期胰腺癌患者中的预后价值仍存在争议[10] [11] [12]。NLR是以中性粒细胞和淋巴细胞计数的比值。肿瘤细胞产生髓系生长因子,从而增加中性粒细胞的产生。肿瘤中性粒细胞

与转移性黑色素瘤和肺癌患者的低生存率相关[13] [14]。另一方面,相关研究显示,癌细胞通过产生免疫细胞因子(如 IL-10 和转化生长因子 β)而降低淋巴细胞功能[15]。与其他胃肠道肿瘤相比,胰腺腺癌被认为与最显著的淋巴细胞减少有关[14]。NLR 可能代表癌症患者中同时存在的两种相反的炎症和免疫途径。因此,本研究的目的是分析晚期胰腺癌患者的 NLR 对于总生存期(overall survival, OS)的影响。

2. 材料和方法

2.1. 病人选择

对 2000 年 1 月至 2019 年 12 月在青岛大学附属医院病理证实的晚期胰腺癌患者进行回顾性分析。排除标准包括: 1) 失访; 2) 合并有其他急性炎症性疾病; 3) 合并血液系统疾病; 4) 合并或曾患其他部位恶性肿瘤。所有临床基线资料及检验结果均从青岛大学附属医院电子病历中提取。本研究已获得患者知情同意并通过青岛大学附属医院伦理委员会批准。

2.2. 数据收集

收集入院时患者的临床资料,包括人口统计学数据、全血细胞计数、肿瘤位置、大小、分期、CA19-9 水平、总胆红素(TBIL)、丙氨酸转氨酶(ALT)、天冬氨酸转氨酶(AST)、白蛋白(Alb),所有实验室参数在胰腺癌诊断干预前的常规检查中进行分析。NLR 计算公式为中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞计数。主要研究指标是总生存期(Overall Survival, OS),其定义为胰腺癌确诊至死亡或最后一次随访之间的时间。

2.3. 统计分析

NLR 的最佳截断值定义为其中位数。临床基线资料的单变量分析采用 t 检验和卡方检验。Cox 比例风险回归模型用于单变量和多变量分析确定与 OS 相关的预后因素。Kaplan-Meier 法(K-M 法)用于计算累积生存率, logrank test 用于评估组间差异。单因素分析有统计学意义的变量纳入多变量分析。因胰腺癌以外原因导致的死亡和观察期结束前的存活被视为截尾观察。用危险比(HR)和 95%置信区间(CI)来描述相对效应区间。当 P 值 < 0.05 时,差异有统计学意义。使用 SPSS (24.0)分析数据。

3. 结果

表 1 为患者临床基线资料。如表 1 所示,共有 220 名晚期胰腺癌的患者符合纳入标准。患者的平均年龄为 61.00 岁(标准差 10.353),其中男性 139 (63.2%)人。本文中,黄疸为症状性表现,定义为患者有皮肤和/或巩膜黄染,伴或不伴有大小便改变。通过对 NLR 分析,采用 2.54 中位数作为最佳截断值,分为高组(>2.54)及低组(\leq 2.54)。患者的临床基线资料如表 1 所示。高 NLR 组和低 NLR 组在黄疸(P = 0.014)、CA19-9 水平(P = 0.049)及白蛋白水平(P = 0.010)方面存在显著差异。

Table 1. Baseline clinical data of the patients

表 1. 患者临床基线资料

| 因素 | N | NLR | | P |
|--------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| | | 低值 | 高值 | |
| 患者总数 | 220 | 110 | 110 | |
| 年龄(SD) | 61.00 (\pm 10.353) | | | 0.567 |
| 性别 | | | | |
| 男性 | 139 (63.2%) | 69 | 70 | 0.889 |
| 女性 | 86 (36.8%) | 41 | 40 | |

Continued

| | | | | |
|------------|--------------|-----|-----|--------------|
| 黄疸 | | | | 0.014 |
| 有 | 60 (27.3%) | 21 | 59 | |
| 无 | 160 (72.7%) | 55 | 105 | |
| CA19-9 | | | | |
| ≤114 | 52 (23.6%) | 35 | 17 | 0.049 |
| >114 | 112 (50.9%) | 57 | 55 | |
| 白蛋白 | | | | |
| ≥30 | 209 (95.0%) | 108 | 101 | 0.010 |
| <30 | 10 (4.5%) | 1 | 9 | |
| 血小板 | | | | 0.161 |
| <125 | 25 (11.4%) | 8 | 17 | |
| ≥125, ≤350 | 178 (80.9%) | 93 | 85 | |
| >350 | 17 (7.7%) | 9 | 8 | |
| 总胆红素 | | | | |
| 0~35 | 154 (70.0%) | 80 | 74 | 0.377 |
| 35~200 | 37 (16.8%) | 19 | 18 | |
| >200 | 29 (13.2%) | 11 | 18 | |
| 谷草转氨酶 | | | | |
| 0~80 | 168 (76.4%) | 83 | 85 | 0.751 |
| >80 | 52 (23.6%) | 27 | 25 | |
| 胰腺炎 | | | | 0.015 |
| 有 | 23 (10.5%) | 6 | 17 | |
| 无 | 197 (89.5%) | 104 | 93 | |
| 腹痛 | | | | 0.299 |
| 有 | 204 (92.7%) | 104 | 100 | |
| 无 | 16 (7.3%) | 6 | 10 | |
| 糖尿病 | | | | 0.754 |
| 有 | 54 (24.5%) | 28 | 26 | |
| 无 | 166 (75.5%) | 82 | 84 | |
| 肿瘤位置 | | | | 0.559 |
| 头 | 155 (70.54%) | 81 | 155 | |
| 体 | 39 (17.7%) | 18 | 21 | |
| 尾 | 26 (11.8%) | 11 | 15 | |

Continued

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----|----|-------|
| 肿瘤大小 | | | | 0.329 |
| ≤2 cm | 2 (0.09%) | 1 | 1 | |
| >2 cm, ≤4 cm | 32 (14.5%) | 20 | 12 | |
| >4 cm | 186 (84.6%) | 88 | 98 | |
| 化疗 | | | | |
| 有 | 95 (43.2%) | 51 | 44 | 0.594 |
| 无 | 38 (17.3%) | 17 | 21 | |

Table 2. OS, Cox proportional hazard regression model

表 2. 总生存期, Cox 比例风险回归模型

| | 单因素分析 HR (95% CI) | P 值 | 多因素分析 HR (95% CI) | P 值 |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| 性别 | 1.088 (0.826~1.434) | 0.549 | - | |
| 黄疸 有 vs 无 | 0.903 (0.667~1.222) | 0.507 | - | |
| 白蛋白 ≥30 vs <30 | 1.123 (0.594~2.121) | 0.722 | - | |
| 总胆红素 | | | | |
| 0~35 vs 35~200 | 0.925 (0.638~1.340) | 0.679 | - | |
| 0~35 vs >200 | 0.986 (0.663~1.467) | 0.945 | - | |
| 谷草转氨酶 0~80 vs >80 | 0.890 (0.647~1.224) | 0.472 | - | |
| 血小板 | | | | |
| <125 vs ≥125, ≤350 | 1.266 (0.831~1.931) | 0.272 | - | |
| <125 vs >350 | 1.309 (0.705~2.431) | 0.394 | - | |
| 腹痛 有 vs 无 | 1.554 (0.913~2.643) | 0.104 | - | |
| 肿瘤部位 | | | | |
| 头 vs 体 | 1.377 (0.964~1.968) | 0.079 | - | |
| 头 vs 尾 | 1.146 (0.756~1.739) | 0.521 | - | |
| 肿瘤直径 | | | | |
| ≤2 cm vs ≤4 cm and >2 cm | 1.257 (0.114~13.888) | 0.852 | - | |
| ≤2 cm vs >4 cm | 1.883 (0.263~13.470) | 0.528 | - | |
| 糖尿病 有 vs 无 | 1.035 (0.760~1.408) | 0.829 | - | |
| NLR ≤2.54 vs >2.54 | 1.537 (1.177~2.008) | 0.002 | 2.275 (1.585~3.263) | 0.001 |

患者总生存期的 Cox 比例风险回归模型见表 2, 单因素分析可见 NLR (HR = 1.537, 95% 置信区间为 1.177~2.008; P = 0.002) 为影响总生存期的影响因素。经多因素分析后可见, 高 NLR 为总生存期短的独立危险因素 (HR = 2.275, 95% 置信区间为 1.585~3.263; P = 0.001)。

如图 1 可见, 高的 NLR 与更短的总体生存期相关 (logranktest < 0.001)。高低两组的总体生存期分别为 11.01 月及 7.39 月, 差异有统计学意义。

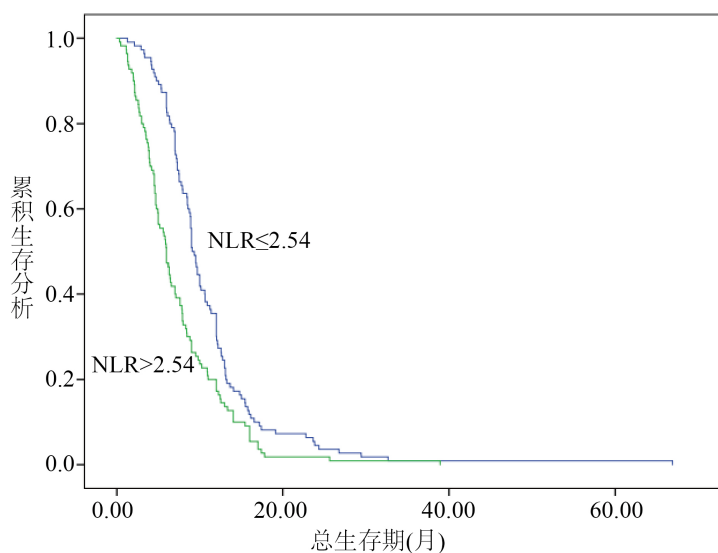


Figure 1. Overall survival of Kaplan-Meier Plot (K-M Plot) between high NLR group and low NLR group

图 1. Kaplan-Meier 生存曲线(K-M 生存曲线)在高 NLR 组及低 NLR 组别的总生存期的差异

4. 讨论

炎症是癌症的标志。对于胰腺导管腺癌(Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma, PDAC)来说, 恶性细胞是在肿瘤发生的最初阶段, 伴随着由密集纤维化所包围的活跃的炎症细胞浸润而产生的。这种炎症和纤维化的环境支持癌细胞逃避免疫清除, 并促进恶性进展和转移到遥远的器官。针对 PDAC 中的这种炎症反应, 通过抑制或耗尽促肿瘤因子, 并利用炎症细胞获得抗肿瘤活性的潜力, 已经引起了强烈的研究和临床兴趣 [6]。胰腺癌的预后非常差, 其原因主要是发病率增加, 恶性程度高, 发展迅速, 侵袭性强 [16]。慢性炎症可能增加 PDAC 的风险, 肿瘤微环境中 PDAC 相关的炎症浸润进一步促进肿瘤生长和转移 [3]。有研究数据表明全身炎症标志物, 尤其是 NLR, 与多种癌症的生存率相关, 也与肿瘤的临床病理特征相关 [17]。作为成人外周血中数量最多的白细胞 (高达 70%), 中性粒细胞的半衰期较短; 然而, 它们的丰度表明它们是 PDAC 肿瘤微环境中的一种重要细胞类型 [18]。PDAC 中的肿瘤微环境本质上是炎症性的, 因此肿瘤细胞分泌促炎症因子, 如 TNF- α 和 IL-12, 这些促炎症因子招募中性粒细胞流入肿瘤部位。反过来, 中性粒细胞分泌大量趋化因子, 如 CCL2 (MCP-1)、CCL3 (MIP-1 α)、CCL19 和 CCL20, 以吸引单核细胞和树突状细胞进入肿瘤微环境 [19]。由于中性粒细胞通过解决炎症来确保宿主的生存, 它们在炎症驱动的肿瘤发生中的作用是毋庸置疑的 [20]。因此高中性粒细胞计数与患者预后不良相关。

我们的结果显示, 高 NLR 是晚期胰腺癌患者预后不良的独立因素 (HR = 2.275, 95% 置信区间为 1.585~3.263; P = 0.001)。两组别生存期也有显著差异, 分别为 11.01 月及 7.39 月。早期发现及诊断胰腺癌是目前的研究热点, 而限制胰腺癌远处转移也尤为重要, 主要的治疗措施有化疗、放疗和手术。未来

的研究可以包括研究 NLR 与不同治疗方式的远处转移反应的相关性。如果 NLR 被确认为对现有和未来新治疗的远处转移反应的预测标志物，晚期胰腺癌的治疗将取得重大进展。

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