

PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂治疗错配修复蛋白缺失/微卫星高度不稳定型结直肠癌的研究现状与进展

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摘 要

结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是常见恶性肿瘤之一, 近年来以程序性死亡受体1 (programmed cell death-1, PD-1)/程序性死亡受体配体1 (programmed cell death ligand-1, PD-L1)抑制剂为代表的免疫治疗药物应用于结直肠癌的治疗中, 但对该种治疗有积极反应的患者为DNA错配修复蛋白缺失(dMMR)微卫星高度不稳定(MSI-H)患者, 相关临床试验已在该类患者中取得了一定成功, 但仍有部分患者出现耐药情况, 导致疾病进展。本文将对PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂治疗dMMR/MSI-H结直肠癌及耐药研究现状及进展进行综述。

关键词

结直肠癌, 错配修复蛋白缺失/微卫星高度不稳定, PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂, 耐药

Research Status and Progress of PD-1/PD-L1 Inhibitors in the Treatment of Mismatch Repair Deficient/Microsatellite Instability-High Colorectal Cancer

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Abstract

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is one of the common malignant tumors. In recent years, immunotherapeutic drugs represented by programmed cell death-1 (PD-1)/programmed cell death ligand-1 (PD-L1) inhibitors have been applied to the treatment of colorectal cancer. However, the patients who have a positive response to this therapy mainly are those with mismatch repair deficient (dMMR) and microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H). Related clinical trials have achieved certain success in such patients, but drug resistance occurs in some patients and leads to disease progress. This article reviews the current status and progress of PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors in the treatment of dMMR/MSI-H colorectal cancer and drug resistance.

Keywords

Colorectal Cancer, Mismatch Repair Deficient/Microsatellite Instability-High, PD-1/PD-L1 Inhibitors, Drug Resistance

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1. 引言

结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是全球第三大常见恶性肿瘤,也是第二大癌症相关死亡原因[1]。CRC治疗主要以手术为主,放化疗为辅的综合治疗,但约25%的CRC患者在诊断时已处于晚期[2],而在早期患者中,约25%~50%的CRC患者会发生转移,即使在肿瘤切除和系统治疗后,患者的5年生存率仍较低,预后较差[3]。目前化疗、靶向治疗为患者带来的益处已处于一个平台期,基于免疫检查点抑制剂的免疫疗法逐渐开展起来,但对于CRC,主要获益的为dMMR/MSI-H患者,本文就PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂应用在dMMR/MSI-H CRC治疗中的试验进展以及耐药情况作一综述。

2. PD-1/PD-L1与dMMR/MSI-H、pMMR/MSI-L

PD-1主要表达于活化的T细胞、B细胞、NK细胞等多种免疫细胞上,在肿瘤微环境中,PD-1也表达在肿瘤浸润性淋巴细胞(TIL)中,并参与宿主抗肿瘤免疫反应的调节[4],其配体PD-L1主要表达于肿瘤细胞以及抗原提呈细胞[5]。肿瘤细胞表达的PD-L1与T细胞表达的PD-1相结合,抑制T细胞增殖以及分泌细胞因子(如肿瘤坏死因子- α 、干扰素- γ),失去杀伤肿瘤细胞的能力,改变肿瘤免疫微环境从而形成免疫逃逸[6]。而PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂通过阻断PD-1和PD-L1结合,使耗竭T细胞重新恢复活性,从而发挥免疫杀伤作用。

错配修复(mismatch repair, MMR)在维持DNA保真度方面起着关键作用[7]。通过免疫组化染色对MMR蛋白MLH1、MSH2、MSH6或PMS2进行定量,结直肠癌可分为错配修复完整缺陷(mismatch-repair-deficient, dMMR)或错配修复完整(mismatch-repair-proficient, pMMR) CRC [2]。MMR状态的变化可能导致微卫星长度的变化,称为微卫星不稳定性(microsatellite instability, MSI),这可以通过聚合酶链式反应(polymerase chain reaction, PCR)或下一代测序准确地检测到。一般而言,一般而言,dMMR相当于微卫星高度不稳定(microsatellite instability-high, MSI-H),pMMR相当于微卫星低度不稳定 MSI-L (microsatel-

low instability-low, MSI-L)或微卫星稳定(microsatellite stability, MSS)。

相关研究表明, dMMR/MSI-H 肿瘤细胞较 pMMR/MSI-L 细胞有更多的肿瘤浸润淋巴细胞(tumor infiltrating lymphocyte, TIL)和 PD-L1 阳性细胞[8], TIL 的密度增加可能有助于 dMMR/MSI-H CRCs 对抗 PD-1/PD-L1 单抗治疗的改善[9], 但 PD-1/PD-L1 的表达表现出对 TIL 的抑制作用。使用抗 PD-1 单抗可阻断肿瘤细胞和 TIL 上 PD-1 的表达, 解除这种抑制, 恢复其功能[10][11], 而且进一步激活其他类型的免疫细胞, 最终增强 dMMR/MSI-H 结直肠癌患者的宿主抗肿瘤免疫应答。pMMR/MSI-L 结直肠癌患者比 dMMR/MSI-H 结直肠癌患者有更多的叉头样转录因子 3 (transcription factor forkhead box P3, Foxp3)阳性调节性 T 细胞(Regulatory cells, Tregs) [12], Tregs 可能会抑制干扰素- γ 的分泌和 CD8 阳性 T 细胞的细胞毒作用[13], 抑制结直肠癌患者对免疫检查点阻断(抗 PD-1 单抗)的反应。dMMR/MSI-H CRC 患者由于 MMR 缺陷导致的移码突变而具有较高的肿瘤突变负荷(tumor mutation burden, TMB)。DNA 序列的这些主要变化导致新抗原的形成, 使 MSI-H/dMMR CRC 比 MSS CRC 更具免疫原性, 但 pMMR/MSI-L 肿瘤对免疫治疗反应相对较差的机制复杂, 本文不详细阐述。而约 15% 的结直肠癌患者存在 dMMR/MSI-H, 越来越多的证据表明, MSI-H-dMMR 肿瘤对传统化疗的反应较差[14][15], 故基于免疫检查点抑制剂的免疫疗法越来越多地用于该类肿瘤治疗中。

3. PD-1/PD-L1 抑制剂的应用

3.1. 应用在辅助治疗中

帕博利珠单抗(Pembrolizumab)是一种抗 PD-1 IgG4 的单抗, 纳武利尤单抗(nivolumab)是一种完全人 IgG4 PD-1 单克隆抗体, 两者于 2017 年被 FDA 批准为治疗氟嘧啶、奥沙利铂和伊立替康治疗后失败的 dMMR/MSI-H 的 CRC 患者, II 期试验 KEYNOTE-016 [16]使用了帕博利珠单抗治疗难治性 dMMR/pMMR 的 mCRC 患者。dMMR 组的总有效率和疾病控制率(disease control rate, DCR)分别为 50%和 89%, 而 pMMR 组分别为 0%和 16%。

II 期 KEYNOTE-164 试验[17]对比了帕博利珠单抗治疗既往接受 2 种及以上标准治疗方案(队列 A)或 ≥ 1 种及以上治疗方案(队列 B)的 dMMR/MSI-H 的 mCRC 患者的疗效, 主要观察终点为客观缓解率(objective response rate, ORR), 队列 A 和队列 B 的中位随访时间分别为 31.2 个月和 24.2 个月, ORR 分别为 33%和 33%, 中位总生存期(overall)为 31.4 个月和未达到。队列 A 中 10 例(16%)和队列 B 中 8 例(13%)发生了 3~4 级治疗相关不良事件(treatment-related adverse events, TRAE)。

III 期试验 KEYNOTE-177 [18]对比了以氟尿嘧啶为基础的化疗(FOLFOX 方案/FOLFIRI 方案 $\pm$ 贝伐珠单抗(bevacizumab)/西妥昔单抗(cetuximab))与帕博利珠单抗一线治疗 dMMR/MSI-H mCRC 患者的疗效, 经过 32.4 个月的中位随访后, 与化疗 $\pm$ 贝伐珠单抗/西妥昔单抗组相比, 帕博利珠单抗组的 ORR 为 43.8% (vs 33.1%), 中位缓解持续时间(duration of response, DOR)未达到(vs 10.6 个月)。在最终分析中(中位随访时间 44.5 个月), 帕博利珠单抗组的总生存期(overall survival, OS)虽未证实有明显优势, 但其中位无进展生存期(progression-free survival, PFS)明显长于化疗组(16.5 个月 vs 8.2 个月), 与之前保持一致, 且患者发生 3 级或以上 TRAE 的比例相对更低(22% vs 66%) [19]。基于以上数据, FDA 于 2020 年批准了帕博利珠单抗用于 dMMR/MSI-H mCRC 的一线治疗。

伊匹单抗(ipilimumab)是一种抗细胞毒 T 淋巴细胞相关抗原 4 (cytotoxic T lymphocyte antigen 4, CTLA-4)抗体, 与活化 T 细胞上的 CTLA-4 结合, 在癌症免疫周期的初始阶段防止淋巴结中的 T 细胞失活, 同时还与调节性 T 细胞上的 CTLA-4 结合, 并通过肿瘤组织中的 ADCC 作用消除它们[20]。II 期试验 CheckMate142 [21]设置了 3 个队列, 其中有 2 队列对比了纳武利尤单抗 $\pm$ 小剂量伊匹单抗二线治疗

dMMR/MSI-H 复发或局部 CRC 患者的疗效。在纳武利尤单抗单药治疗梯队中, 74 名患者中的客观缓解率(objective response rate, ORR)为 31.1%, 68.9%的患者在 12 周后疾病得到控制。经过 4 年(中位随访时间 50.9 个月)的随访后, 在联合小剂量伊匹单抗治疗梯队中, 患者的 ORR 为 65%, 而 DCR 为 12 周或更长时间为 81%。完全缓解率为 13%。52%的患者观察到部分缓解; 中位持续有效时间未达到, 32%的患者观察到 3-4 级 TRAE。在评估纳武利尤单抗 + 小剂量伊匹单抗一线治疗之前未接受治疗的 mCRC 的队列中, 经过 29.0 个月的中位随访后, ORR 和 DCR 分别为 69%和 84%, 完全缓解率为 13%。中位 DOR 未达到, 22%的患者发生 3-4 级 TRAE。此外研究免疫检查点抑制剂治疗 dMMR/MSI-H CRC 的试验如 COMMIT [22] (NCT02997228)、SAMCO (NCT03186326) [23]正在进行。

3.2. 应用在新辅助治疗中

对早期黑色素瘤、肺癌和膀胱癌的研究表明, 新辅助免疫治疗具有较好的病理反应[24] [25] [26]。故新辅助免疫治疗同样可予以应用在 CRC 患者中, 已有一些试验观察到了较好的反应。NICE (NCT03026140)试验[27]探究了纳武利尤单抗 + 伊匹单抗新辅助治疗对 I~III 期结肠癌患者的疗效, 其中包括 21 个 dMMR 肿瘤和 20 个 pMMR 肿瘤(1 例有 dMMR、pMMR 两种成分), 结果显示, 20 例接受手术治疗的 dMMR 患者均有病理缓解, 19 例达到了主要病理缓解(major pathological responses, MPRs), 12 例达到了病理完全反应(pathological complete response, pCR)12 例, 而在 15 例 pMMR 患者术后仅有 4 例有病理反应, 其中 3 例为 MPRs, 1 例为部分缓解(partial response, PR)。

特瑞普利单抗(toripalimab)是一种靶向 PD-1 的选择性人源化单克隆抗体, 环氧化酶-2 (Cyclooxygenase-2, COX-2)可能通过促进肿瘤血管生成、抑制肿瘤细胞凋亡等机制参与 CRC 的发生, II 期 NCT0392633 试验[28]评估了特瑞普利单抗单独/联用 COX-2 抑制剂塞来昔布(celecoxib)用于新辅助治疗 T3~T4 期或任何 T 型淋巴结阳性的 dMMR/MSI-H 的 CRC 患者的疗效, 主要终点是病理完全缓解的患者比例。34 名患者被随机分为特瑞普利单抗加塞来昔布组(n = 17)或特瑞普利单抗单独治疗组, 所有患者均进行 R0 切除术(>1 mm 切除边缘)。经过 14.9 个月的中位随访期, 特瑞普利单抗加塞来昔布组有 15 例(88%)和特瑞普利单抗单药治疗组有 11 例(65%)出现病理完全缓解。所有患者在总的围手术期持续时间为 6 个月的时间内继续接受辅助特瑞普利单抗治疗, 在数据截止时均存活且无复发。在新辅助治疗期间, 34 例患者中仅有 1 例(联合塞来昔布组)在出现 3 级或更高的 TRAE, 在辅助治疗阶段, 34 例患者中只有 1 例(特瑞普利单抗单药治疗组)出现 3 级或更高的 TRAE, 安全性良好。该研究为 PD-1 抑制剂在新辅助联合用药治疗 dMMR/MSI-H CRC 提高 pCR 方面提供了新的思路。

II 期临床试验 NCT04165772 [29]中, II~III 期 dMMR/MSI-H 直肠腺癌患者进行了持续 6 个月的新辅助免疫治疗, 免疫制剂为人源性抗 PD-1 单克隆抗体多塔利单抗(dostarimab), 该治疗之后将进行标准的放化疗和手术。主要终点是多塔利单抗治疗后 12 个月的持续临床完全反应, 或在有或无化疗的情况下完成多塔利单抗治疗后的病理完全反应, 以及对有或无放疗的新辅助多塔利治疗的总体反应。目前共有 12 名患者完成了多塔利单抗治疗(尚未接受放化疗及手术治疗), 进行了至少 6 个月的随访, 均有临床完全缓解(磁共振成像、内镜评估、直肠指检或活检均无肿瘤证据)。运用新辅助免疫治疗达到临床完全缓解的患者是否可免除手术治疗, 需更多大样本的研究和长期随访进行评估, ATOMIC (NCT02912559) [30]等试验正在进行。

4. PD-1/PD-L1 抑制剂的耐药现状

尽管以 PD-1/PD-L1 为代表的免疫抑制剂具有较高的应答率和持久的临床益处, 然而只有约 30%~50% 的 dMMR/MSI-H 癌症患者对免疫检查点抑制剂阻断有反应, 另有 10%~28%的患者仍主要对免疫治疗无

效[31] [32]。

4.1. 遗传相关原因

免疫检查点抑制剂耐药的机制之一与抗原呈递的失活相关, MHC I 类分子在识别和呈现外来抗原以及癌细胞产生的新抗原方面起着至关重要的作用, β -2 微球蛋白(β 2 microglobulin, B2M)是 MHC I 类抗原呈递的重要组成部分, 有研究通过对接受免疫检查点抑制剂治疗的转移性黑色素瘤患者的肿瘤活检发现, 无应答者的 B2M 杂合性缺失富集了三倍[33]。大约 20% 的 MSI mCRC 中报告了 B2M 突变(相比之下, MSS 结直肠癌中为 1%), 可能代表免疫逃逸机制[34]。有对接收帕博利珠单抗治疗进展的 dMMR/MSI-H CRC 患者的肿瘤和相关免疫微环境的基因组、转录和免疫组化表征进行分析, 结果证实了 B2M 蛋白表达的完全丧失, 此外还显示患者癌症中存在高度自然杀伤(natural killer, NK)细胞和 M2 巨噬细胞浸润。但也有报道[35]即使有 B2M 突变 MSI mCRC 患者对免疫检查点抑制剂产生较好的应答, 表明对抗 PD-1 的反应与 B2M 蛋白的表达状态无关。

Janus 激酶(Janus kinases, JAKs)是非受体酪氨酸激酶家族的成员, 在促进肿瘤生长和调节免疫应答中发挥关键作用[36]。癌症和肿瘤基因图谱(cancer genome atlas, TCGA)的数据表明, MSI 肿瘤(子宫内膜癌、结直肠癌、胃癌和前列腺癌)在 JAK1 中具有复发性移码突变, 这些肿瘤显示干扰素应答信号的表达减少[37]。一项对 MSI-H/dMMR CRC 患者的突变谱研究表明, JAK1 的纯合缺失可能与抗 PD-1 治疗的耐药性有关[38]。但也有对接受纳武利尤单抗和伊匹单抗治疗的 MSI-H/dMMRCRC 患者的回顾性研究发现 JAK1 功能缺失突变患者, 临床反应似乎并不会受到影响[39]。

WNT/ β -catenin 通路的改变在癌症发生过程中较常见, 在人类乳腺癌和肺癌细胞中, Wnt 途径的抑制导致 NK 细胞配体的下调, 有利于逃避免疫监测[40]。Wnt 途径对免疫逃避的作用可能是通过调节如 CD47 类可进行“自我标记”的分子发挥的[41], 这类分子在肿瘤细胞中过表达, 通过与巨噬细胞等免疫细胞的信号调节蛋白结合进而抑制其吞噬活性[42]。有证据表明 Wnt 通路抑制剂能有效降低癌细胞对化疗药物的耐药性[43], 但在 dMMR/MSI-H 肿瘤中仍需进行更多的研究。

4.2. 非遗传相关原因

调节性 T 细胞(regulatory T cell, Treg)通常起着维持自身耐受和避免免疫反应过度损伤机体的重要作用, 肿瘤免疫逃逸和免疫治疗失败的一个重要因素为肿瘤表达自身抗原进而 Treg 引起的免疫耐受[44]。Foxp3 被认为是调节性 T 细胞(regulatory T cell, Treg)的标志性分子, 在乳腺癌[45]、胰腺癌[46]等肿瘤中, 高比例的 Foxp3 + Treg 常与不良的临床预后存在相关性。有研究发现中, dMMR CRC 患者 Foxp3 + Treg 高表达, 与淋巴结无转移和无肿瘤血管生成存在相关性[47] [48]。

β 转化生长因子(Transforming Growth Factor beta, TGF- β)类细胞因子家族的成员具有控制细胞周期、血管生成以及控制炎症等多种功能[49]。TGF- β 可以通过上调 Foxp3 基因的表达, 诱导幼稚 CD4+辅助 T (thelpercells, Th)细胞转化为 Treg 细胞[50], TGF- β 也可能参与维持 Foxp3 + Treg 细胞的免疫抑制功能。TGF- β 在免疫检查点抑制剂治疗的 MSI-H/dMMR 患者中的确切作用尚不清楚, 需要进一步研究。此外, 巨噬细胞[51]、髓细胞衍生抑制细胞[52]及细胞因子[53]等众多因素也影响着肿瘤免疫抑制微环境, 机制复杂。

5. 小结与展望

随着研究的不断开展, PD-1/PD-L1 抑制剂在 dMMR/MSI-H CRC 的辅助及新辅助治疗中均已取得了一定的成效, 改善了 CRC 患者的预后。免疫治疗过程中同样会出现耐药性问题, 但机制相对复杂, 需更

加深入的研究。希望 PD-1/PD-L1 抑制剂在 dMMR/MSI-H CRC 未来治疗得到个体化, 从而给患者带来最大的生存获益。

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