

# 干扰素- $\alpha$ 预防及治疗乙肝相关性肝癌的研究进展

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## 摘要

乙型肝炎病毒(HBV)感染引起的慢性乙型肝炎(CHB), 是导致肝细胞癌(HCC)发生的主要病因。干扰素- $\alpha$ 对慢性乙型肝炎患者有降低肝细胞癌发生风险的作用, 对于已经发生肝细胞癌的患者仍有明显的益处, 如使肿瘤复发减少或推迟, 生存期延长等。本文就干扰素- $\alpha$ 预防及治疗肝细胞癌(HCC)方面的内容进行展开综述。

## 关键词

乙型肝炎, 肝细胞癌, 干扰素, 聚乙二醇干扰素

# Interferon- $\alpha$ Research Progress in Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis B Related Liver Cancer

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## Abstract

Chronic hepatitis B (CHB), caused by hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, is the largest cause of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Interferon- $\alpha$  has the effect of reducing the risk of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients with chronic hepatitis B, and still has obvious benefits for patients who have

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**already had hepatocellular carcinoma, such as reducing or delaying tumor recurrence, prolonging survival, etc. This article focuses on interferon- $\alpha$  prevention and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).**

## Keywords

**Hepatitis B, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Interferon, Pegylated Interferon**

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## 1. 简介

肝细胞癌(Hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)是世界上第三大癌症死亡原因[1]，每年约有 60 万人因此而死亡。乙型肝炎病毒(Hepatitis B virus, HBV)感染是 HCC 的一个重要病因，全世界约有 2.5 亿人感染，尤其是非洲和东亚地区[2]。在我国，原发性肝癌是常见恶性肿瘤的第 4 位和肿瘤致死病因的第 2 位[3]，而我国患者发生肝细胞癌的最主要原因是乙肝病毒(HBV)感染，肝细胞癌发病的 80% 以上与 HBV 有关。

干扰素- $\alpha$  (interferon- $\alpha$ , IFN- $\alpha$ )是一种具有抗病毒、抗肿瘤、抑制细胞增殖、调节免疫等功效的可溶性糖蛋白，由感染细胞和转化细胞分泌而成[4]。干扰素聚乙二醇化(Pegylated, PEG)后的产物聚乙二醇干扰素(Pegylated interferon, PEG-IFN)，添加了大量的分支聚乙二醇分子，增加了干扰素的分子量，减少了药物的排泄，屏蔽了干扰素分子表面的抗原决定簇，降低了免疫原性，降低了体内干扰素的清除率，半衰期可延长至 40 小时[5]。自 1957 年干扰素被发现是“干扰”病毒复制的因子以来，干扰素- $\alpha$  被证明可以治疗包括流感、慢性乙肝、慢性丙肝、慢性丁肝、人乳头瘤病毒(Human papillomavirus, HPV)感染、人类免疫缺陷病毒(human immunodeficiency virus, HIV)感染及新型冠状病毒(COVID-19)感染等广泛的感染性疾病，并在膀胱癌、慢性粒细胞白血病、淋巴瘤、恶性黑色素瘤、肾细胞癌、乳腺癌、多发性骨髓瘤及肝细胞癌等恶性肿瘤的治疗中取得了一定疗效[6]。本文就干扰素在预防及治疗肝细胞癌的应用综述如下。

## 2. 干扰素- $\alpha$ 减少乙型肝炎患者肝细胞癌的发生

干扰素- $\alpha$  治疗与口服核苷(酸)类药物或不治疗相比，对慢性乙肝、肝硬化代偿期患者有明显降低 HCC 风险的作用。我国一项中位随访时间达 10.05 年的队列研究结果显示，使用干扰素治疗组的患者 HCC 年发生率为 2.7/1000 人/年，NAs 治疗组为 6.76/1000 人/年，未治疗的对照组为 13.02/1000 人年[7]。其他研究结果也得到了类似结论[8] [9] [10]，这可能是由于干扰素治疗不仅能达到较高的临床治愈率(又称功能性治愈：停止治疗后仍保持 HBsAg 阴性，伴或不伴抗-HBs 出现、HBV-DNA 检测不到、肝脏生物化学指标正常、肝脏组织病变改善[11])，新加坡的一场随机对照试验发现，对口服核苷类药物的慢性乙型病毒性肝炎患者给予添加或切换为聚乙二醇干扰素  $\alpha$ -2b 治疗 48 周，对照组、添加组和切换组的临床治愈率分别为 0%、10.1% 和 7.8%，使用聚乙二醇干扰素治疗的患者临床治愈率明显高于单纯口服核苷类药物的患者[12]；同时又可导致 HBV 感染肝细胞中 cccDNA 降解，并诱导多种细胞蛋白协同抑制 cccDNA 转录[13]。Ren 等[14]以四种肝癌风险模型(The Chinese University HCC score, CU-HCC; The Guide with Age, Gender, HBV DNA, Core Promoter Mutations and Cirrhosis HCC score, GAG-HCC; Risk estimation for hepatocellular carcinoma in chronic hepatitis B, REACH-B; platelet age gender-B, PAGE-B)评估高风险及低风险

的 CHB 患者,结果表明,对于低风险的患者(CU-HCC < 5, GAG-HCC < 82, REACH-B < 8, PAGE-B < 10),以 IFN- $\alpha$  为基础的治疗组和 NAs 组的总累积 HCC 发病率没有显著差异,而对于高风险的患者(CU-HCC  $\geq$  5, GAG-HCC  $\geq$  82, REACH-B  $\geq$  8, PAGE-B  $\geq$  10), IFN- $\alpha$  组 HCC 发病率显著低于 NAs 组。

### 3. 高水平的 HBsAg、HBV-DNA 及乙肝病毒 e 抗原(HBeAg)阳性增加了肝细胞癌复发的风险

与肿瘤多中心发生或术前可能已有微小播散灶有关,肝细胞癌切除术后 5 年肿瘤复发或转移发生率高达 40%~70% [15]。多将早期复发定义为术后 2 年内的复发,远期复发定义为术后 2 年之后的复发[16]。而高水平的 HBsAg、HBV-DNA 以及 HBeAg 阳性增加了肝细胞癌术后复发的风险,对于低病毒载量的 HBeAg 阴性患者,高水平的 HBsAg 同样预示着较高的复发风险[17]。我国的两项临床研究均表明,术前 HBsAg 较低(<1000 IU/mL)患者肝癌患者术后 1 年、3 年和 5 年总生存率(Overall survival rate, OS)及 5 年无复发生存率(Relapse free survival, RFS)均明显高于 HBsAg 较高( $\geq$ 1000 IU/mL)的 HCC 患者[18] [19]。韩国一项观察 HCC 术后远期复发的队列研究也发现,样本量为 2520 例,平均随访 6.9 年后,术后未 HBsAg 血清清除的患者比 HBsAg 血清清除的患者更快地出现为 HCC 复发,该研究共纳入 HBV 相关 HCC 治疗性肝切除的患者 2520 名,术后未获得 HBsAg 清除的患者肝细胞癌复发率为 36.4% (855/2348),平均复发时间为 5.1 年,获得 HBsAg 清除的患者复发率为 20.9% (36/172),平均复发时间为 8.4 年,两组差异具有统计学意义( $P < 0.05$ ) [20]。

### 4. 干扰素可减少肝细胞癌手术或介入治疗后的转移和复发

大量临床研究及荟萃分析均表明,无论对于肝细胞癌根治性治疗(包括手术切除及射频消融术)或非根治性治疗(介入治疗等),术后加用干扰素或聚乙二醇干扰素对减少复发或转移,延长生存,改善生活质量均有一定效果。

#### 4.1. 抑制术后复发

早在聚乙二醇干扰素被广泛用于治疗 HBV 感染前,就有大量研究表明 IFN- $\alpha$  治疗对 HCC 切除术有一定益处。Sun 等[21]发现,肝癌切除术后的患者给予干扰素每周三次皮下注射,中位生存期为 63.8 个月,而对照组为 38.8 个月。其他研究也发现,干扰素治疗 HCC 切除术后的患者可减少术后两年复发率,增加两年生存率[22],对于 TNM I/II 期肿瘤患者的 5 年生存率可能没有任何益处,但可提高 III/IV 期患者的 5 年生存期[23]。而另一项随机对照研究得出了相反的答案,Chen 等[24]发现,给予 IFN- $\alpha$ -2b 治疗 53 周,106 例实验组和 109 例对照组的 OS(总生存期)与 RFS(无复发生存期)并无显著差异,IFN- $\alpha$ -2b 不能降低 HBV 相关 HCC 的术后复发。

PEG-IFN 被广泛用于乙型肝炎治疗后,关于 PEG-IFN 治疗肝细胞癌的研究也逐步展开。同样是在中国进行的大规模随机对照实验,对肝切除术或消融术后 HBV-DNA 阳性的 HCC 患者进行抗病毒治疗,分为早期联合(恩替卡韦加 Peg-IFN $\alpha$ -2a,第 1 年联合用药),晚期联合(恩替卡韦治疗 1 年后加入 Peg-IFN- $\alpha$ -2a),恩替卡韦单药治疗和非抗病毒治疗,共纳入 447 例患者,结果表明早期联合治疗组的 2 年和 8 年无复发生存率、8 年总生存率明显高于其他两组抗病毒治疗组,且 HBsAg 平均水平明显低于其余三组[25],证明 HCC 术后不仅应添加 IFN 治疗,而且应尽早,在开始抗病毒时就联合 NA 和 IFN 治疗。

#### 4.2. 无法手术切除的患者

Lin 等[26]的研究发现,肝细胞癌患者经肝动脉化疗栓塞(Hepatic artery chemoembolization, TACE)治疗后,应用 IFN 治疗与对照组的 1 年复发率分别为 25%、40%,4 年复发率分别为 47%、90%; Li 等[27]

也证明，干扰素联合 TACE 治疗的 RFS、OS 及 2 年总生存率均高于单纯 TACE 患者。提示 TACE 治疗后的 HCC 患者接受干扰素治疗，早期和晚期复发率会明显降低，生存期也会延长。

### 4.3. 与其他药物联合治疗

干扰素与其他药物联合方案也被广泛应用于肿瘤的治疗，如与 5-氟尿嘧啶联合治疗肺癌、肾癌及消化道肿瘤，与卡培他滨联合治疗转移性肾细胞癌，与阿扎胞苷联合治疗黑色素瘤等[6]。同样，干扰素的联合方案在肝癌的治疗中也占据着重要地位。我国一项回顾性研究发现[28]，对于肝癌复发的患者，射频消融术(Radiofrequency ablation, RFA)联合索拉非尼和干扰素治疗，相比于不添加干扰素的对照组，虽不能延长患者无复发生存期(RFS)，但可提高生活质量，延长总体生存期。Hu 等[29]研究发现，对于不可切除的肝细胞癌，干扰素联合 PD-1 治疗可显著提高肿瘤控制率。该研究纳入了 15 例以 PD-1 为基础的免疫疗法联合 IFN- $\alpha$  治疗的不可切除的肝细胞癌患者，发现其疾病控制率(Disease control rate, DCR)可达 80% (15 例中的 12 例)。研究其机理发现，在小鼠模型中，干扰素联合 PD-1 会减少葡萄糖在肿瘤细胞中的摄取和糖酵解，并增强肿瘤浸润细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞(Cytotoxic T lymphocytes, CTL)的糖酵解。由此可见，PD-1 联合干扰素对肝细胞癌的治疗可能是一个大有可为的策略。日本曾就干扰素- $\alpha$  联合 S-1 治疗肝癌肝外转移进行临床研究[30]，结果显示 S-1 联合 IFN- $\alpha$  和 S-1 单药治疗两组药物之间的有效率，总生存率，和无进展生存率均无显著差异，但安全性良好。其他如 6-羟基-3-O-甲基山奈酚 6-O-吡喃葡萄糖昔[31]、槲皮素[32]等，虽然有增强干扰素活性，加强其抗肿瘤、抗增殖作用的可能，但还有待更多临床试验进一步验证。

## 5. 结语

目前，PEG-IFN- $\alpha$  已在乙肝的治疗中得到广泛应用，并获得良好的疗效，被证明能获得较高的临床治愈率，减少肝细胞癌在肝炎、代偿期肝硬化患者中的发生。干扰素用于治疗肝细胞癌安全性良好，对于减少复发和转移，延长生存有一定疗效，但仍存在争议。对于肝细胞癌患者在肝切除术、消融术或介入治疗后单独或联合应用干扰素进行治疗，需要更多合理设计、大样本、多中心的随机对照研究，才能验证效果。

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