

相干光断层扫描影像学特征在视网膜静脉阻塞中的研究进展

朱贞燕, 余 萍

青海大学附属医院眼科, 青海 西宁

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摘 要

视网膜血管疾病的第二大常见原因是视网膜血管阻塞(RVO), RVO增加了毛细血管和静脉的血管内压力, 引发血管屏障塌陷, 随后的血液或血浆成分渗漏到组织中引起的黄斑水肿(ME)可导致严重的视力损害。光学相干断层扫描成像(OCT)能对视网膜结构进行微结构和邻近组织成像, 极大地改变了视网膜疾病的治疗方法。它允许定量和定性分析成像生物标志物, 是RVO常见的检查方法。通过光谱域OCT (SD-OCT) 评估的其他生物标志物有: 视网膜内液(IRF)和视网膜下液(SRF)的存在和位置、内层视网膜结构紊乱(DRIL)的存在、超反射焦点(HRF)的存在(数量和位置); 中心凹下视网膜厚度(CRT)、椭球带(EZ)的改变和外界膜(ELM)特征、突出中界膜(p-MLM)征和中央旁急性中间黄斑病变(PAMM)等, 有证据表明OCT生物标志物可能有助于预测治疗的临床结果。通过对上述影像学生物标志物的研究, 会进一步认识视网膜血管疾病, 对帮助解决RVO患者的治疗预期是非常有用和重要的。

关键词

视网膜静脉阻塞, 光学相干断层扫描, 生物标志物

Research Progress of Imaging Features of Optical Coherence Tomography in Retinal Vein Occlusion

Zhenyan Zhu, Ping Yu

Ophthalmology Department, Affiliated Hospital of Qinghai University, Xining Qinghai

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Abstract

Retinal vascular occlusion (RVO) is the second most common cause of retinal vascular disease, RVO increased capillary and venous pressure within the blood vessels, cause the failure of vascular barrier, then blood or plasma composition macular edema (ME) caused by leakage into tissue can lead to severe visual impairment. Optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging to micro-structure and neighboring retinal structure group woven like, greatly changed the treatment of diseases of the retina. It allows the quantitative and qualitative analysis of imaging biomarkers, is RVO common inspection method. By spectral domain OCT (SD-OCT) evaluation of other biomarkers are: The intra retinal fluid (IRF) and subretinal fluid (SRF) of existence and the existence of the position, the existence of the disorganization of the inner retinal layers (DRIL), hyperreflective foci (HRF) (the number and location); Under the central retinal thickness (CRT), ellipsoid zone (EZ) and changes of the external limiting membrane (ELM) characteristics, prominent middle limiting membrane (p-MLM) and the central near among paracentral acute middle maculopathy (PAMM) and so on, there is evidence that OCT biomarkers could help predict the clinical outcome of treatment. Through the study of the imaging biomarkers, will further understanding of retinal vascular disease, to help solve the treatment of patients with RVO expectations are very useful and important.

Keywords

Retinal Vein Occlusion, Optical Coherence Tomography, Biomarker

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1. 前言

视网膜静脉阻塞(retinal vein occlusion, RVO)是第二常见的损伤视力的视网膜血管疾病, 约 0.5% 的患者发病年龄在 31 岁至 101 岁之间, RVO 是在静脉血管内形成血栓, 导致血液从视网膜流出紊乱[1]。RVO 根据阻塞的解剖位置, 可大致分为分支型 RVO (branch retinal vein occlusion, BRVO)和中央型 RVO (central retinal vein occlusion, CRVO), BRVO 和 CRVO 的常见并发症包括黄斑水肿、黄斑缺血, 这些并发症是持续性的且难以治疗。BRVO 比 CRVO 更常见, 预后更好[1] [2]。2010 年 Rogers S 和同事首次估计了全球 RVO 的患病率(2010 年全球 RVO 研究), 据统计, 30 岁及以上人群中患 RVO 的患者约有 1640 万人, 其中 1390 万人患有 BRVO, 250 万人患有 CRVO [3]。2015 年, 全球 30~89 岁人群中 RVO、BRVO 和 CRVO 的患病率分别为 0.77%、0.64%和 0.13%, 相当于总患病人口有 2806 万, 其中 BRVO 患病人口有 2338 万和 CRVO 患病人口有 2338 万, 从以上数据可见 RVO 对全球人口影响极大。2019 年, Song P 等通过对 RVO 发病率、患病率及危险因素的 meta 分析发现, 高血压是引起 RVO 发病的最强独立危险因素, 高龄、高胆固醇是引起 RVO 发病的重要危险因素[4]。随着全球人口老龄化的趋势和心血管疾病的负担不断增加, 预计未来, RVO 可能会给社会带来巨大的负担, 所以对 RVO 患者及时正确的诊断, 对减轻社会经济负担和 RVO 疾病的治疗非常重要[3] [4]。

光学相干断层扫描成像(optical coherence tomography, OCT)是诊断和评价 RVO 的常用的检查方法, 其通过断层扫描成像为患者及医生提供视网膜的深入横断面信息, 因此广泛应用于 RVO 诊断和评估[5]。

随着光学成像技术的不断精进,OCT 提供了一种更好、更准确的检测技术,尤其是谱域 OCT (spectral-OCT) 的出现使视网膜层图像能以更高的速度和分辨率获取,从而更容易识别视网膜内细微层之间的边界以及各种视网膜病变相关的视网膜微结构变化的细节,以客观和标准化的方式[6] [7]评估所有个体视网膜层的病变,包括位置、扩展、模式和其他特征。本综述的主要目的是通过目前国内外研究者对 OCT 下 RVO 患者预后的预测相关指标的研究进行综述,进一步探讨 OCT 在 RVO 患者治疗中的意义。

2. 中央视网膜厚度(CRT)

中央视网膜厚度(central retinal thickness, CRT)为黄斑中心厚度,是指测量黄斑中心 1 mm 区域其内外边界之间视网膜的平均厚度,是诊断视网膜血管疾病最常用的指标之一[8]。ME 是 RVO 视力恶化的主要原因,其特征是视网膜黄斑区液体聚集[9] [10]。病理机制是由于血-视网膜屏障(BRB)遭到损害,可引起细胞内和细胞外水肿,造成黄斑水肿[10]。CRT 是 OCT 检查下反映黄斑水肿程度的一个重要指标[11],黄斑区液体增加可致 CRT 变厚[12]。CRT 可反映 RVO 合并 ME 的程度,CRT 越厚表示 ME 程度越重,RVO 患者经治疗 CRT 降低后视力也会相应得到改善,原因可能是 CRT 增厚对光感受器细胞及 ELM 完整性的破坏在一定范围和程度内可逆。有部分学者认为 CRT 可判断 RVO 的治疗效果,但与视力预后无明显相关[13]。有研究指出,视网膜内囊肿(intraretinal cysts, IRC)的高度与抗 VEGF 药物治疗过程中黄斑功能和解剖的改善相关,比中央视网膜厚度更有预测价值。当视网膜内囊肿(IRC)的水平直径 $\geq 600 \mu\text{m}$,可视为黄斑囊样变性,与黄斑囊样水肿(CME)不同,黄斑囊样变性是一种严重的慢性 ME,提示视敏度更差,CRT 更厚[14]。Reznicek 等[15]也得出相似结论,同时提出 IRC 的位置和大小与抗 VEGF 药物的疗效相关。CRT 是一个强有力的变量,因为 RVO 是一种急性发作的疾病,并且可能不会像慢性视网膜疾病那样显示出许多长期变化。光感受器状态在疾病急性发作时对视力没有直接影响,但对治疗后视力预后起重要作用。

3. 视网膜内液(IRF)、视网膜下液(SRF)

视网膜内液(intra retinal fluid, IRF)、视网膜下液(subretinal fluid, SRF)是 RVO-ME 存在的形态指征[16]。有研究将 IRF、SRF 的持续存在作为治疗效果不佳的指标[17]。RVO 引起的视网膜缺血、缺氧,损害视网膜色素上皮细胞(RPE)并改变其链接复合物,致使视网膜外屏障(oBRB)损伤,造成液体异常积聚,形成 SRF、IRF [13]。IRF 是位于神经纤维层的无反射区域,SRF 是介于视网膜神经纤维层与 RPE 之间的圆形或椭圆形的无反射区域,其存在与 CRT 密切相关[4]。IRF 是最为常见的积液类型[18],与普遍认为导致视力预后更差来的 IRF 不同,SRF 是否需要彻底消除存在争议。HARBOR 等研究发现,在 12 mo 和 24 mo,有 SRF 残余的患眼视力提升更多[19]。CATT 等研究发现,在抗 VEGF 治疗期间,持续的 SRF 不会对视力结果产生不利影响[20]。并且两项研究均发现 SRF 是预防黄斑萎缩的保护因子[19] [20]。EXCITE 等研究分析发现,反复复发的 SRF 可能导致视力预后更差[21]。FLUID 等的最新研究提出残存的 SRF 会随着时间的延长而进一步增加,且与视力下降显著相关[22]。

4. 外界膜(ELM)、椭圆体带(EZ)的完整性

外界膜(external limiting membrane, ELM)将视杆细胞层和视锥细胞层与上覆的外核层分开,并且是 Muller 细胞和光感受器之间的连接复合物的线性汇合[23] [24]。它作为对大分子的屏障[25]。光感受器的亚细胞区室包括吸收光并将其转化为电信号的外段和具有产生能量和蛋白质的代谢功能的内段。ELM 和 EZ 的完整性对于维持视力至关重要。ELM 及 EZ 的完整性可作为判断 RVO-ME 患者预后视力的重要指标[23],初诊视力也是 RVO-ME 患者水肿消退后预后视力的影响因素。EZ 对应光感受器内节,视锥细胞

线粒体富集位置, 具有能量代谢的作用。这使得光感受器的能量消耗水平更高。ELM 和 EZ 的形态正常代表光感受器完整[24], 其形态的完整对维持正常视力非常必要。光感受细胞容易受缺血缺氧及炎症作用的影响而凋亡, SD-OCT 上 EZ 的局灶性或全局缺失对应于 EZ 的反射率降低或解剖学缺失。中央凹光感受器中线粒体的功能障碍导致 DME 中 VA 降低[25]。所以在 RVO-ME 患者 OCT 下可见 ELM 或 EZ 的断裂或消失。当发生 RVO 时, Müller 细胞和神经胶质细胞变性失活可导致外界膜层破坏。Gerendas 等[26]认为, 外丛状层的囊样变化可能造成光感受器细胞和椭圆体带(EZ)连续性的破坏并对中枢视觉产生不可逆的影响。

5. 内层视网膜结构紊乱(DRIL)

内层视网膜结构紊乱(Disorganization of the inner retinal layers, DRIL)是指黄斑中心凹 1 mm 区域内的内层视网膜(即神经节细胞-内丛状层复合体、内核层和外丛状层)层次结构紊乱, 导致 OCT 上任意两者之间的界线无法辨别[27] [28]。DRIL 为近年来新发现的一种 OCT 影像学标志物, 它并不是 DME 所特有的, 而在多种视网膜疾病所致的视网膜应激状态中均可见。Sun 等[29]提出, DRIL 可能反映了双极轴突从黄斑水肿中提取时断裂的现象。当位于内层的细胞被破坏时, 信号转导能力下降, 导致视觉功能下降。RVO 可发生在视网膜的中央静脉或其中一个分支, 随着血管通透性增加, 继发性视网膜内液通常积聚在外丛状层, 视网膜下液通常积聚在视网膜下, 并且可导致椭圆体带结构紊乱。先前研究指出, DRIL 与糖尿病性黄斑水肿的视力显著相关。DRIL 是视网膜循环不良的信号[30], DR 研究发现 DRIL 的存在代表黄斑部毛细血管发生无灌注, 但不是所有的无灌注都会发生 DRIL [31]。根据《我国糖尿病视网膜病变临床诊疗指南(2022 年)》所述, DRIL 在检测黄斑缺血的灵敏度和特异性分别可达 84.4%和 100.0%, 其出现与 DME 患者视力预后差相关, DRIL 是 DME 黄斑缺血状态评估及判断视力预后的关键标志物。综上所述, DRIL 的存在与视力较差相关。

6. 超反射焦点(HRF)

超反射焦点(hyperreflective foci, HRF)在 2009 年由 Bolz 等人首次描述定义[31], Matthias 等人观察到的 HRF 位于视网膜微动脉瘤的血管壁周围, 并散布于视网膜各层结构。HRF 为在频域 OCT 中小于 30 μm 且分散在视网膜各层的边界清楚的圆形或椭圆形高反射颗粒, 其反射率等于或高于 RPE 层[32], 但在眼底照相或检眼镜检查中却无法看到。随着 OCT 设备的不断优化以及眼科学者对视网膜高反射点研究的深入, 关于视网膜高反射点的认识也在持续深入。不少组织学研究发现[33], 向前迁移的视网膜色素上皮细胞在 OCT 上显示为高反射点。另外, Pang 教授等人的研究指出[34], AMD 眼 OCT 扫描上的高反射点可能同时包含了色素上皮细胞以及富含脂质的小胶质细胞, 即视网膜高反射点至少有 2 种细胞来源。先前的研究发现视网膜外层 HRF 是 RVO-ME 患者经抗 VEGF 治疗结果的最佳预测因素[35]。并认为, HRF 可能是小管腔内蛋白或脂质沉积; 现多认为, HRF 是小胶质细胞被激活的炎症反应, 可能是神经退行性过程[36]。视网膜包含 3 种胶质细胞, 星形胶质细胞、小胶质细胞位于视网膜内层, Müller 细胞则围绕在视网膜血管周围、贯穿视网膜全层。RVO 发生后, 视网膜缺血缺氧, 改变及损伤了微环境, 继而视网膜胶质细胞被激活, 大量的细胞因子产生, 促进了炎症反应[37] [38]。目前关于视网膜高反射点的来源仍没有达成共识, HRF 已被视为多种视网膜疾病的生物标志物, 但其对于疾病预后的影响, 不同研究报道的结果不同, 相反, 不少研究发现高反射点与较差的视力预后相关[39] [40] [41] [42]。

7. 突出中界膜(p-MLM)征和中央旁急性中间黄斑病变(PAMM)

突出中界膜的存在征(prominent middle limiting membrane (p-MLM) sign)和中央旁急性中间黄斑病变

(paracentral acute middle maculopathy, PAMM)是视网膜缺血的特征。“突出的中间限制膜征”(p-MLM 征)的概念在 2013 年由 Chu 等人提出[43], 其在光谱域光学相干断层扫描(SD-OCT) B 扫描图像上表现为外丛状层(OPL)的内突触部分处的超反射肿胀线, 作为视网膜动脉阻塞(RAO)中急性缺血性视网膜损伤的指标和区分缺血性与非缺血性视网膜静脉阻塞(RVO)的诊断工具。其中央旁急性中间黄斑病变(PAMM), 在 2013 年, 由 Sarraf 等人首次定义。其特征在于存在跨越内核层(inner nuclear layer, INL)的超反射带, 随后永久性 INL 变薄[44]。由大量的报道报道证实 PAMM 不是一个独特的实体, 而是几种眼部疾病、眼部手术甚至全身性疾病[45]的共同体征。虽然其病理生理学尚未完全了解, 但已证明通过视网膜毛细血管系统的灌注受损, 导致深部血管复合体(DVC)的灌注不足或缺血, 在其中起主要作用[46]。与 PAMM 相关的机制主要是由于中间视网膜组织(主要是 INL 层)的亚致死性缺血缺氧[47]。PAMM 目前已经作为一种标志物用来预测 RVO 视网膜缺血区域的发展, p-MLM 在临床和科研方面的运用也越来越多间接反映视网膜 MCP 及 DCP 的缺血可预测视网膜缺血性疾病的发生发展。

8. 小结

OCT 能够清晰地显示视网膜的细微结构, 评估 RVO 的形态学变化, 其可用于 RVO-ME 的诊断、分期和观察。综上所述, CRT 与视觉功能呈负相关; IRF、SRF 是通常提示有急性黄斑水肿; 完整的 EM、ELM、VA 预后更好; DRIL 提示内外光感受连线的完整性变化, 基线时较高的 DRIL 范围与较差的视力结局相关。HF 数量越多, 光感受器层破裂的可能性就越大, 视力越有恶化的可能, 发现 PAMM、p-MLM 的信号可以预测 RVO 眼缺血区的发展。通过 OCT 检查对视网膜厚度和微结构的细微变化的观察, 可为 RVO 患者诊断及治疗提供进一步指导, 并可预测视力的远期预后。综上所述, RVO-ME 是一种临床常见的视网膜血管疾病, OCT 检查可直观反映视网膜的提供视网膜的深入横断面信息, 对 RVO-ME 病程变化的敏感性高, 为诊断和随访 RVO-ME 严重程度、调整治疗方案、监测治疗效果及判断疾病预后提供了重要的指导作用。

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