

早期诊断NEC无创性生物标志物的研究进展

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摘要

坏死性小肠结肠炎(necrotizing enterocolitis, NEC)是新生儿常见的消化系统疾病, 尤其多见于早产儿和低出生体重儿。NEC起病隐匿, 进展快, 可迅速发展为爆发性NEC, 其死亡率高达50%, 且存活患儿容易出现各种与之相关的严重后遗症, 严重影响患儿的生存质量。因此, 早期诊断NEC显得尤为必要。本文就目前关于无创性生物标志物在NEC早期诊断中的研究进展作一综述。

关键词

新生儿坏死性小肠结肠炎, 早期诊断, 无创性生物标志物

Advances in Non-Invasive Biomarkers for Early Diagnosis of NEC

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Abstract

Necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) is a common digestive disease in newborns, especially in premature and low birth weight infants. NEC has a hidden onset, rapid progression, and can rapidly develop into explosive NEC, with a mortality rate of up to 50%. Surviving children are prone to a variety of related serious sequelae, seriously affecting their quality of life. Therefore, early diagnosis

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of NEC is particularly necessary. This article reviews the progress of non-invasive biomarkers in the early diagnosis of NEC.

Keywords

Neonatal Necrotizing Enterocolitis, Early Diagnosis, Non-Invasive Biomarker

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1. 引言

坏死性小肠结肠炎(necrotizing enterocolitis, NEC)是新生儿常见的严重胃肠道疾病,影响2%~13%的早产儿,死亡率高达50%,且存活患儿容易出现肠狭窄、短肠综合征及神经系统发育迟缓等并发症[1][2]。NEC病初症状隐匿,但可迅速发展为爆发性NEC,甚至出现肠穿孔等急腹症,因此早诊断、早治疗对降低患儿病死率及预后不良发生率有极其重要的意义[3][4]。目前NEC的诊断主要基于改良的Bell分期标准,根据临床表现、实验室检查、放射学或超声检查进行诊断[5]。但血清生化检查通常在NEC发作后才出现异常,且为侵入性操作,腹部X片提示门静脉积气或肠壁积气时疾病往往已处于严重阶段,不利于早期诊断和治疗。因此需要寻找可以早期识别NEC并监测疾病进展的生物标志物。本文对无创性生物标志物在NEC早期诊断中的研究进展进行讨论。

2. 早期诊断 NEC 无创性生物标志物

2.1. 粪便钙卫蛋白

钙卫蛋白(fecal calprotectin, FC)是一种胞质蛋白,与钙锌具有良好的亲和性,由中性粒细胞、巨噬细胞等炎细胞表达,当肠道炎症激活时释放,且容易在粪便中检测[6]。一项纳入10项研究的Meta分析发现FC在诊断NEC时的敏感性、特异性、诊断优势比及AUC分别为0.86(95%CI: 0.80~0.91)、0.79(95%CI: 0.75~0.83)、34.78(95%CI: 15.30~79.07)和0.92,证实了FC是一种很有前途的NEC早期预测标志物,在新生儿中具有很高的诊断价值[7]。Mac等以疑似NEC但腹部平片未见异常的患儿为研究对象,按是否发展为NEC进行分组后发现,NEC组患儿粪便FC水平明显高于非NEC组[8]。Pergialiotis等同样发现NEC患儿粪便FC水平明显升高,但其认为FC作为NEC诊断标志物的临界值尚需进一步研究[9]。同时,有研究认为早产儿在出生后1周内粪便FC在个体间和个体内差异很大,这限制了通过连续监测粪便FC水平来早期识别诊断NEC[10]。有研究认为226 ug/g及247 ug/g两个临界值阳性预测值均较低(<0.6)[11]。Hong等研究认为,新生儿FC水平差异很大,NEC患儿在发病前及发病时均出现FC水平升高,且显著高于脓毒症患者,FC辅助NEC诊断时临界值为1086 ug/g,特异性75%,敏感性93.3%;区分NEC患儿与脓毒症患者时临界值为238 ug/g,特异性83%[12]。这些研究提示FC在早期诊断NEC方面有一定价值,但由于FC个体间水平差异很大,仍需进一步研究其与NEC的关系。

2.2. 脂肪酸结合蛋白

肠脂肪酸结合蛋白(Intestinal fatty acid-binding protein, I-FABP)是参与脂肪酸代谢的特异性胞质蛋白,在肠壁缺血时肠细胞膜完整性破坏, I-FABP被释放入血,并从尿液中排放[13]。Coufal等发现,与健康

婴儿相比, I-LABP 在 NEC 早期就出现显著升高, 提示即使在 NEC 出现明显症状之前就可以检测到肠道粘膜损伤和强烈的炎症反应[14]。Ahmed 等进一步发现尿 I-FABP 可以鉴别 Bell's 分期[15]。其他研究表明 NEC 发病 7 天内的尿 I-FABP 浓度均高于非 NEC 患儿(I-FABP > 13.3 ng/mL, 预测 NEC 的敏感性 60%, 特异性 78%), 且在 NEC 诊断 3 天内具有更强的预测性(I-FABP > 13.9 ng/mL, 预测 NEC 的敏感性为 65%, 特异性 84%) [16]。同时研究发现血浆 I-FABP 辅助诊断 NEC 具有很高的特异性, 但灵敏度中等; 而尿 I-FABP 在 NEC 早期诊断中价值有限, 联合其他分子标志物或检测(粪便 FC 或腹部 X 片等)可能具有更大的应用价值[17]。Saran 等发现尿 I-FABP 与肌酸的比值在 3.6 pg/mmol 时诊断 2 期及 3 期 NEC 时敏感性 & 特异性分别为 96% 和 99.5%, 优于单独尿 I-FABP (临界值 1800 pg/ml, 诊断 2 期及 3 期 NEC 敏感性 88%、特异性 82%) [18]。以上研究提示多种生物标志物联合应用于 NEC 诊断可能更有价值。

2.3. 三叶因子-3

三叶因子-3 (Trefol factors-3, TFF-3)在肠道中表达, 与维持粘膜屏障完整性、促进粘膜屏障修复及肠道炎症有关[19]。由于 NEC 存在肠道粘膜屏障的明显破坏, 其病理特征包括炎症细胞浸润肠粘膜以及全身脓毒症等,TFF-3 是 NEC 早期诊断的一种较有前景的生物标志物[20]。Coulal 等发现 NEC 患儿尿 TFF-3 升高, 其水平与肠道损伤程度相关, 且 TFF-3 联合肠脂肪酸结合蛋白和血清淀粉样蛋白可以预测肠壁积气[14]。目前关于 TFF-3 早期诊断 NEC 的相关实验较少, 仍需进一步研究证实其相关性。

2.4. 紧密连接蛋白

紧密连接蛋白(Claudins)在小肠中大量表达, 由于 NEC 肠壁完整性的丧失, 故其具有潜在的生物标志物效用[21]。Goldstein 等发现 NEC 早产儿 Claudin-2 在肠道组织中表达降低, 而尿液中含量增加[22]。Thuijls 等对 35 名疑似 NEC 的婴儿进行研究, 发现诊断为 NEC 的患儿尿 claudin-3 水平显著升高, 当其临界值为 801 INT 时, 诊断 NEC 的敏感性为 71%, 特异性为 81% [23]。目前相关研究样本量较小, 需要更多研究来确定 Claudins 在 NEC 中的诊断价值。

2.5. 血清淀粉样蛋白

血清淀粉样蛋白(Serum amyloid-A protein, SAA)是一种急性期蛋白, 在刺激性细胞因子诱导下由干细胞、内皮细胞等分泌, 与免疫介导的炎症过程息息相关[24]。Reisinger 等对 62 名可疑 NEC 患儿进行尿 I-FABP、尿 SAA 及粪便钙卫蛋白测定, 其中 29 名患儿最终确诊 NEC, 结果显示, 尿 SAA 联合尿 I-FABP 不能提高 NEC 诊断的准确性[25]。随后他们再次对 29 名确诊 NEC 的患儿进行对比分析, 发现重度 NEC (手术性 NEC、致死性 NEC 或 Bell's III 期 NEC)患儿尿 SAA 水平较轻度 NEC (内科 NEC、Bell' I 期或 II 期 NEC)患儿显著升高, 其临界值为 34.4 ng/mL, 敏感性为 83%, 特异性为 83%, 同时发现尿 SAA 与血清血小板计数联合使用时可以提高分辨轻重度 NEC 的准确性[26]。Stepan 等认为 NEC 患儿尿液中 SAA 水平明显高于对照组, 且能区分 NEC 严重程度, SAA 与 I-FABP、L-FABP 联合可以预测门脉积气的发生或住院时长[14]。以上结果提示 SAA 可能不仅在早期无创性诊断中有一定价值, 并且在随后的 NEC 管理中同样有用。

2.6. 粪便中肠道菌群谱

肠道微生物生态失调被认为与 NEC 发病密切相关[27]。研究认为 NEC 患儿的肠道微生物多样性降低[28]。然而, Feng 等发现 NEC 组与对照组粪便中微生物群多样性无显著差异, 这可能与样本量较小有关, 同时他们发现 NEC 患儿粪便中丙酸杆菌较对照组更丰富, 而乳酸杆菌相对丰度较低[29]。因此 NEC 患儿或许不仅微生物多样性发生变化, 且菌群组成也可能有所差异。健康婴儿的肠道菌群主要由双歧杆菌组成

[30], 而 NEC 患儿中双歧杆菌和乳酸杆菌的相对丰度降低[31], 大肠杆菌和克雷伯菌的相对丰度增加[32]。研究发现 NEC 发作前肠道菌群也有类似变化[33] [34]。Pammi 等同样发现 NEC 患儿粪便微生物组在发病前变形菌门丰度增加, 厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门丰度降低[35]。现有的研究发现 NEC 患儿在发病前肠道微生物出现变化, 但由于肠道不同区域之间菌群组成存在差异, 故其能否用于临床诊断尚需进一步研究分析。

2.7. 挥发性有机物

粪便挥发性有机物(volatile organic compounds, VOCs)是一种碳基气态化合物, 来源于肠道细菌的营养物质发酵, 被认为可以反映肠道微生物的组成、代谢活动以及微生物群与宿主之间的相互作用[36]。Hosfied 等发现 NEC 小鼠模型粪便中 VOCs 与对照组有显著差别[32]。Catherine 等认为 NEC 患儿在确诊 NEC 之前几天内粪便中 VOCs 较对照组数量减少, 且样本中特异性酯种类减少[37]。De Meij 等发现, 在临床症状出现前 2~3 d, NEC 患儿的粪便 VOCs 谱就与对照组有显著差别, 早期诊断 NEC 的敏感性为 83%, 特异性 75% [38]。多中心前瞻性研究表明 NEC 患儿粪便中 VOCs 在临床诊断最早 4 天前会发生改变[39]。然而, 有研究发现粪便 VOCs 会因喂养方式及婴儿性别等不同而有所差别[40]。因此, 可能需要更多研究来进一步评估 VOCs 与 NEC 的关系。

2.8. 肠碱性磷酸酶

肠碱性磷酸酶(intestinal Alkaline Phosphatase, IAP)是一种同型二聚体, 主要在肠细胞顶膜上表达, 具有抗炎和稳态作用[41]。作为肠道内表达的内源性蛋白质, IAP 是无创性检测的理想选择。Richard 等发现 IAP 过表达可能预示着 NEC 的发生风险增加, 但并不显著($P = 0.12$) [42]。Heath 等发现粪便中大量的 IAP 蛋白和低 IAP 酶活性与 NEC 诊断相关, 可作为 NEC 的有效生物标志物, 且 IAP 可以区分 NEC 和脓毒血症[43]。目前相关研究较少, 需要更多试验来进一步确定 IAP 在诊断 NEC 中的价值。

2.9. S100A12

S100A2 是一种胞质钙结合蛋白, 在肠道炎症时由吞噬细胞激活释放, 可能在先天免疫中有重要作用[44]。Dabritz 等发现 NEC 患儿粪便中 S100A12 的含量较对照组显著升高, 检测 NEC 的敏感性为 70%, 特异性 68%, 阳性和阴性预测值分别为 37%和 89% [45]。这说明 S100A2 是一种有前途的诊断 NEC 生物标志物, 需要更多研究来进一步验证其与 NEC 的关系。

2.10. 心率变异性

心率变异性(heart rate variability, HRV)是一种无创性检测自主神经调节水平的方法, 可以根据心电图计算, 通过心跳间隔值的快速傅里叶变换进行时域和频域分析[3] [46]。心率变异性的高频谱(high frequency spectrum of heart rate variability, HF-HRV)可以反映迷走神经张力, 已被证实为胎儿和新生儿是否健康的标志物[46] [47] [48]。动物试验表明, 迷走神经障碍会加重 NEC 小鼠肠上皮绒毛坏死, 而 NEC 小鼠发病早期出现 HF-HRV 降低[49]。Tareq 等发现, HRV 在临床 NEC 诊断前 2 天出现下降, 在诊断 2 天后恢复到正常水平, 且 HRV 变化情况与临床严重程度显著相关[47]。临床发现 Bell's II 期以上的 NEC 患儿在临床症状出现前 4.5~7.5 天即发生 HF-HRV 的降低, HF-HRV 被认为是 NEC 进展的重要预测因子[48]。HF-HRV 的主要优点包括其在 NEC 发病前非侵入性预测 NEC、相对较低的成本以及使用现有软件易于分析, 因此有潜力成为预测 NEC 的生物标志物。

2.11. 代谢组学

代谢组学是对小分子代谢物的分析, 能反映机体对各种刺激的直接结果[12]。目前已有研究证实代谢

组学在 NEC 诊断中的价值[50] [51]。研究表明 NEC Bell's II~III 期患儿较 I 期患儿粪便中鞘磷脂显著升高, 神经酰胺显著降低[50]。Thomaidou 等研究发现 NEC 患儿尿液中有多种代谢物与对照组均有显著差异, 且 ROC 曲线分析提示酪氨酸、精氨酸及核黄素在 NEC 诊断方面具有一定价值(AUC = 0.963, 95% CI [0.812~1.00]) [51]。以上均提示代谢组学可以作为 NEC 早期诊断的生物标志物, 但目前研究样本量较少, 需要更多更大规模试验来验证代谢组学与 NEC 的关系。

除上述无创性生物标志物外, 粪便脂质运载蛋白-2 [52]、尿前列腺素 E2 [53]等也已被证实为预测 NEC 发展的很有前景的生物标志物。

3. 小结

近年关于 NEC 早期诊断的无创性生物标志物已有大量研究, 这些研究对促进 NEC 临床治疗发展和发病机制的理解具有巨大作用, 寻找可以早期诊断 NEC 的敏感和特异的生物标志物将会大幅降低 NEC 相关死亡率、提高 NEC 的预后。但目前尚未明确这些生物标志物的临界值, 且其敏感性及特异性仍需进一步评估, 因此未来需要更多中心、前瞻性研究来分析这些生物标志物的可重复性及有效性。

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