

类风湿性关节炎相关间质性肺疾病的药物治疗新进展

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摘 要

类风湿性关节炎(RA)是一种全身性炎症性疾病, RA最常见的关节外表现是肺部受累。间质性肺疾病(ILD)是类风湿性关节炎的常见并发症, 发病率和死亡率都很高。目前, 国际上对RA-ILD的最佳治疗方法尚未明确。对于RA-ILD患者, 目标应该是缓解RA和阻止ILD的进展。因此, 了解RA-ILD的治疗方案的最新进展, 这对改善患者预后至关重要。RA治疗包括常规合成的改善病情的抗风湿药物(DMARDs), 生物合成DMARDs, 以及靶向合成DMARDs, 而这些药物也被常规用于对RA-ILD的治疗评估。本篇综述中不仅总结了上述药物用于RA-ILD最新进展, 还评价了抗纤维化药物用于治疗RA-ILD的新进展。本文通过对这些药物的最新进展进行总结, 为临床指导RA-ILD用药提供参考依据。

关键词

类风湿性关节炎, 间质性肺疾病, 抗纤维化药物, 免疫抑制剂

New Advances in the Pharmacological Management of Rheumatoid Arthritis-Related Interstitial Lung Disease

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Abstract

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic inflammatory disease and the most common extra-articular manifestation of RA is pulmonary involvement. Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a common complication of rheumatoid arthritis with high morbidity and mortality. Currently, the optimal treatment for RA-ILD is not well defined internationally. For patients with RA-ILD, the goal should be to alleviate RA and halt the progression of ILD. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the latest advances in treatment options for RA-ILD, which are essential for improving patient prognosis. RA treatments include conventional synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), biosynthetic DMARDs, and targeted synthetic DMARDs, which are also routinely used for therapeutic evaluation of RA-ILD. In this review, we not only summarise the latest advances in the use of the above drugs for RA-ILD, but also evaluate the new advances in the use of antifibrotic drugs for the treatment of RA-ILD. By summarising the latest advances of these drugs, this article provides a reference basis for clinical guidance on the use of drugs for RA-ILD.

Keywords

Rheumatoid Arthritis, Interstitial Lung Disease, Antifibrotic Drugs, Immunosuppressants

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1. 引言

类风湿关节炎是以关节炎症和肿胀为主要特征的全身炎症反应性自身免疫性疾病，它的全球患病率 < 1%，其发病机制可能与其自身免疫性疾病有关。它的免疫系统过度活跃，通常会导致关节外表现[1][2]。根据相关研究，关节外表现的患病率大约为 40%，如心血管和呼吸功能障碍。其中肺部受累频繁，对气道、浆膜、实质组织都有潜在影响[3][4]。尽管在 RA 的各种肺部表现中可能发生支气管扩张、细支气管炎、环杓关节炎、结节和胸膜炎，但 RA 相关 ILD 是最常见的肺部表现，与死亡率增加最相关[5]-[7]。类风湿性关节炎(Rheumatoid Arthritis, RA)相关性间质性肺疾病(Interstitial Lung Disease, ILD)占 RA 患者总死亡人数的 13%，RA-ILD 患者的 5 年生存率显著较低，为 35%~39% [8]。总体而言，RA-ILD 患者的死亡风险是不伴 ILD 的 RA 患者的 3 倍[9]。

虽然国际上已经发表了关于指导 RA-ILD 患者管理的建议[10][11]，但目前国际科学学会没有专门针对 RA-ILD 患者开始或升级治疗的指南。RA-ILD 的治疗应根据患者的需要进行个体化治疗，基于多学科评估其 ILD 的严重程度和进展、关节疾病和 RA 的其他表现以及并发症[7]。如上所述，FVC 和 DLCO 较低或降低，纤维化广泛或恶化的患者，包括 HRCT 显示为 UIP (Usual Interstitial Pneumonia, UIP)型的患者，可能从早期治疗中受益。本文将从以下几个方面来总结关于 RA-ILD 药物治疗的最新进展。

2. 抗纤维化治疗

RA-ILD 是一种严重的关节外表现，据报道，大约一半的患者会出现 ILD 进展，一旦出现临床症状，它与死亡率增加有关，估计比无 ILD 的 RA 高 2 至 10 倍[12]-[16]。在 10%~30%的 RA 患者中可观察到 ILD，与其他系统性自身免疫性风湿性疾病相关的 ILD 相比，RA-ILD 的特征是纤维化 ILD 亚型的频率较高，其中 UIP 和非特异性间质性肺炎(Nonspecific Interstitial Pneumonia, NSIP)是 RA-ILD 最常见的组织病

理学亚型[4] [17]。在 RA-ILD 中观察到的 UIP 模式与特发性肺纤维化(Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, IPF)非常相似, 两者都与进行性肺纤维化(Progressive Pulmonary Fibrosis, PPF)的高风险和短期死亡率增加有关。此外, 一些 RA 患者合并 NSIP 型 ILD 也可能发展为进行性纤维化模式[7]。肺功能下降, HRCT 显示纤维化增加, 以及无其他原因的呼吸道症状恶化通常被认为是 PPF 的证据[18] [19]。鉴于 PPF 预后不良, 并且认识到进行性纤维化导致的任何肺功能丧失都是不可逆的, 因此治疗 PPF 是有充分理由[20]-[22]。

IPF 与其他 ILDs 在发病机制和病程上的相似性促使研究对 IPF 有效的药物作为其他纤维化 ILDs 的潜在治疗方法[7]。早期识别和开始抗纤维化治疗已被证明对 IPF [23]和其他纤维化 ILD [24]有效, 最近对 RA-ILD 的研究表明其效果相似。并且也有文献报道在对 IPF 和 RA-ILD 的研究中, 发现 RA-ILD 和 IPF 在常见的环境风险因素、UIP 模式的高患病率、疾病进展风险和生存期差这几方面拥有相同特征[25]。其中在 INBUILD 研究的亚组分析和 TRAIL1 研究的次要结果都表明抗纤维化药物对 RA-ILD 患者 FVC 下降有显著影响, 但预计还会有更多数据证实这些结果[26]-[28]。

迄今为止, 最广泛用于治疗 RA-ILD 的药物是吡非尼酮和尼达尼布, 这两种药物最初是由美国食品和药物管理局(FDA)开发并批准用于治疗 IPF [29]。在 Juge PA 等人开展的一项关于在 RA-ILD 患者中使用抗纤维化药物治疗的回顾性队列研究中, 他们发现抗纤维化治疗开始后, FVC_{pp} 的下降有显著改善(开始后每年-0.3%, 而抗纤维化开始前每年-6.2%, $p = 0.03$)。尼达尼布和吡非尼酮具有相似的 FVC_{pp} 轨迹, 证实了抗纤维化起始与 FVC_{pp} 的适度改善轨迹相关, 这表明了可能对肺功能下降有潜在的积极作用[30]。有研究提到, 将 RA-ILD 患者分为 UIP 和非 UIP 疾病模式是决定治疗过程的重要因素[10]。其次 RA-UIP 和 IPF 中的 UIP 的发病机制十分相似, 所以也有相关研究将抗纤维药物治疗应用于 RA-UIP 模式的病人。在 Solomon 等人发表的关于吡非尼酮治疗 RA-ILD 的随机实验中, 发现与安慰剂相比, 接受吡非尼酮治疗的 UIP 型的 RA-ILD 患者中 FVC 年下降率为-0.2%, 而不使用吡非尼酮的 UIP 患者的 FVC 年下降率为-3.81%。这表明了, 患有 UIP 型疾病的 RA-ILD 患者可以从吡非尼酮中获益最多[6] [31]。但这篇研究对 DLCO 下降的影响未能进行充分评估, 且安慰剂组不仅病情明显加重, 基线 DLCO 更低, 基线纤维化程度更大, 而且 UIP 模式也更丰富(78%对 54%)。总的来说, 这些因素可能导致这个研究中吡非尼酮的益处被夸大。与此同时, 在 Matteson 等人发表的关于尼达尼布治疗进行性纤维化 ILD 的 INBUILD 临床试验数据中, 由于 INBUILD 试验丰富了 ILD 的 UIP 模式, 因此试验中 86.5%的 RA-ILD 患者具有 UIP 样疾病模式。总共评估了 89 例 RA-ILD 患者(42 例使用尼达尼布, 47 例使用安慰剂)的数据, 发现尼达尼布可减缓 FVC 下降的速度(尼达尼布组为-82.6 mL/年, 安慰剂组为-199.3 mL/年, $p = 0.037$) [32]。虽然 RA-ILD 中的 UIP 模式与 IPF 相似更容易发生急性加重发作, 但在 RA-ILD 的患者中也有约三分之一的 NSIP 患者, 并且与 UIP 相比, NSIP 与关节表现持续时间更长、疾病进展风险更低和治疗反应更好相关。但从生存期出发, 相关研究提到与 RA-ILD 的非 UIP 模式相比, 在 RA 患者中观察到的 UIP 模式预测的生存期更差[17] [33] [34]。

尽管吡非尼酮和尼达尼布有抗纤维化治疗作用, 但它们无法逆转现有纤维化、促进肺修复或降低死亡率。因此, 迫切需要其他有效的治疗方法。所以除了上述的两种抗纤维化药物, 还有其他潜在的抗纤维化治疗也可能在未来用于治疗 RA-ILD 上, 如磷酸二酯酶 4 (Pan-phosphodiesterase 4, PDE 4)抑制剂、外泌体、干细胞治疗法。其中 PDE 4 抑制剂与抗炎和抗纤维化作用相关, 并且具有减少肺部疾病中的炎症和纤维化重塑的潜力。最新研究显示, 在 IPF 患者中开展的一项 II 期临床研究中, 优先使用 PDE4B 抑制剂 BI 1015550 在 12 周内预防了肺功能下降[35]。目前正在开展的随机化 III 期试验中评价 BI 1015550 与安慰剂相比至少 52 周的疗效, 发现与安慰剂相比, BI 1015550 治疗组患者的 FVC 显著改善[36]。除此之外, PDE 4 抑制剂还被靶向用于各种炎性病症, 包括哮喘、慢性阻塞性肺病、牛皮癣、特应性皮炎、炎性

肠病、风湿性关节炎、狼疮和神经炎症[35][36]。有关类风湿关节炎机制研究中提到 PDE4 可以调控人类 RA 滑膜炎性细胞因子和趋化因子释放[37]。所以基于 PDE4 抑制剂不仅拥有抗纤维化作用而且可以调控关节炎的炎症, 未来将它用于治疗 RA-ILD 也是有潜在可能的。干细胞具有自我更新和多向分化成不同细胞类型的能力, 由于其多能性、低免疫原性和旁分泌作用, 它已被广泛用于治疗多种疾病, 包括急性和慢性肺损伤, 其中间充质干细胞(Mesenchymal Stem Cell, MSC)被常用于纤维化研究中[38]-[40]。多个研究报道中提到, 通过干细胞移植可以减少炎症细胞浸润和胶原沉积, 促进受损肺的修复。在临床中大多数 ILD 患者都已经存在不同程度的肺纤维化。因此, 修复受损的肺组织和逆转肺功能丧失的能力是治疗肺纤维化的关键目标。细胞外囊泡(Extracellular Vesicle, EV)是由细胞释放的膜结合囊泡, 通过旁分泌或内分泌效应调节各种信号通路, 在细胞间通讯中发挥关键作用, 外泌体是 EV 的一种关键类型[41]-[44]。研究报道外泌体可能通过影响肺纤维化中的细胞外基质沉积、巨噬细胞表型转化、调节肺纤维化相关细胞因子等因素发挥抗纤维化作用[45]-[48]。EV 衍生的组合物是肺部疾病的新兴治疗选择, 研究表明, 肺球状细胞衍生 EV 可以减少博来霉素或二氧化硅诱导的肺纤维化中的胶原沉积, 并且抑制肌成纤维细胞的增殖[49], MSC 衍生的 EV 可以逆转与慢性肺部疾病相关的炎症[50]。所以除了两种被 FDA 允许治疗肺纤维化的药物, 其他潜在的抗纤维化也可能在未来为治疗 RA-ILD 提供治疗方向。

3. 免疫抑制剂治疗

免疫抑制剂是用于治疗类风湿性关节炎患者的早期药物, 它可以通过减少导致肺纤维化的自身免疫反应来阻碍 RA 向 RA-ILD 的进展。尽管目前还没有 FDA 批准的免疫抑制剂用于改善 RA-ILD 患者的肺功能, 但一些已经显示对类似或相关疾病有效的药物正在测试中, 比如 JAK 抑制剂(Janus Kinase inhibitors, JAKi)、肿瘤坏死因子抑制剂、白介素-6 受体拮抗剂等。因此, 应考虑免疫抑制剂作为 RA-ILD 的合理治疗方法[51]。

关于 JAKi 在 RA-ILD 中使用的现有数据有限, 并且该人群的安全性尚未得到很好的确定。相关文献报道, 在托法替尼(JAK1 & 3 抑制剂)治疗 RA 患者中 ILD 的发病率为 0.18/100[52], 而在 RA 患者中 ILD 的总发病率 0.21/100 [53], 这两组数据差距较小, 且在多个临床研究中也都建议 RA-ILD 患者谨慎使用 JAKi [53]-[56]。但也有证据表明, JAKi 可以稳定或改善 RA-ILD 患者的肺功能[53] [57], 但尚未进行安慰剂对照试验。在一项对 28 例接受 JAKi 治疗的 RA-ILD 患者的回顾性分析中, 在中位随访期间, 89% 的患者 FVC %预测保持稳定(变化 $\leq 20\%$)或改善[54]。在另一项回顾性队列分析中发现与阿达木单抗相比, 接受托法替尼治疗的患者 ILD 的发生率更低[58]。关于 JAKi 治疗 RA-ILD 患者的有效性及安全性, 在一项系统评价和 meta 分析中提到, 文献检索了 7 项评估 JAKi 治疗 RA-ILD 的安全性和疗效的观察性研究, 以及 3 项分析 JAKi 治疗 RA 患者中新发 ILD 风险的研究中, 发现接受 JAKi 治疗的患者发生原发性 ILD 的风险较低, 发生率为 0.20/1000 人(95% CI: 0.14~0.25), 与阿巴西普和利妥昔单抗比较表明安全性和疗效特征相似[59]。Komai 研究团队通过报道 JAKi 巴瑞替尼联合强化免疫抑制成功治疗 RA-ILD 恶化的一项病例报告, 提出巴瑞替尼可稳定 RA-ILD 急性加重, 并表明这种治疗可以降低 RA-ILD 的致死性结局的风险[60]。

除了 JAK 抑制剂, 其他免疫调节剂也被评估用于治疗 RA-ILD。例如, 一项 263 例患者的多中心回顾性研究表明, 在中位随访 12~18 个月期间, 阿巴西普单独或与其他疗法联合治疗 RA-ILD 的患者中, 80% 的患者 FVC 和 DLCO 稳定或改善[61]。与此同时, Mena 等人在 116 例 RA-ILD 患者的多中心前瞻性观察性研究中发现, 阿巴西普、利妥昔单抗或托珠单抗与 ILD 进展/死亡风险降低相关[62]。而在另一项接受霉酚酸盐、硫唑嘌呤或利妥昔单抗治疗的 RA-ILD 患者的多中心回顾性研究中, 利妥昔单抗似乎对限制 DLCO 下降具有最强的影响, 尽管该组因 UIP 疾病而丰富[63]。值得注意的是, 在免疫抑制的反应

中, FVC 和 DLCO 的轨迹在 UIP 型疾病患者中与非 UIP 型疾病患者中一样显著正向移动, 这表明无论影像学模式如何, RA-ILD 患者都应考虑免疫抑制剂治疗。无独有偶, 在一项对非常规的 DMARDs 药物疗效进行系统评价和 Meta 分析中, 其中非常规的 DMARDs 药物包括阿巴西普、利妥昔单抗、托珠单抗、肿瘤坏死因子和 JAK 抑制剂, 文献提出使用非常规的 DMARDs 药物可能稳定 FVC、FEV1 和 DLCO 值 [64]。

4. 常规 DMARDs 药物治疗及其他药物治疗

类风湿关节炎在发作的几周到几个月内开始抗风湿治疗已经被证明对疾病的预后至关重要, 但是 DMARDs 治疗用于 RA-ILD 却是一个巨大的挑战 [65]。因为在 RA 的许多治疗中, 如 DMARDs 和生物制剂都有肺毒性, 尽管这十分罕见, 但也不得不让患者产生担忧, 其中关于甲氨蝶呤 (Methotrexate, MTX) 这种药物对肺损伤的担忧是最明显的。MTX 作为常规 DMARDs 药物被广泛应用于 RA 的临床治疗中, 但它可能导致 RA-ILD。然而也有些研究提出了相反的观点, 他们提出 MTX 不仅与 RA-ILD 的发生无关, 而且可能对 RA-ILD 的治疗是获益的 [66]。相关研究报道 MTX 分为高剂量和低剂量来看待, 高剂量常被用作化疗剂, 剂量超过 500 mg, 而低剂量 MTX 是指每周使用剂量最高达 25~30 mg, 低剂量 MTX 常用于治疗各种非恶性自身免疫性炎症性疾病, 其中包括 RA, 低剂量 MTX 与以前认为的肝和肺纤维化无关 [67]。除此之外其他研究也提出类似的看法。在一项由 22 项随机对照试验组成的大型 meta 分析中, 包括 8584 名 RA 患者, 被均分为接受 MTX 治疗的患者和接受其他 DMARD 治疗的两组患者。虽然 MTX 组肺部感染的风险略有增加, (RR 1.11, 95% CI 1.02~1.21), 但未发现 MTX 与 ILD 相关 [68]。在一项对 125 例 RA-ILD 患者的回顾性分析发现使用甲氨蝶呤与 FVC% 预测值下降相关 [69], 并且在另一项接受甲氨蝶呤治疗的回顾性分析中也提到 FVC 可以获得改善 [70]。除了单用甲氨蝶呤, 也有最新研究提到体外实验中将甲氨蝶呤联合巴瑞替尼可以阻碍上皮-间质转化 (Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition, EMT) 进展 [71], 而 EMT 是肺纤维化的关键事件。因此, 与其担忧抗风湿药物对肺的毒性, 不如将关键点放在 RA 症状本身的控制, 因为相关文献认为在对 RA 的治疗中, 炎症治疗不充分反而是驱动 RA 患者向 ILD 进展的核心关键 [72]。

除了 DMARDs 药物, 在 Albrecht 等人的研究中, 他们通过回顾 2007 年至 2020 年德国 RA-ILD 的药物处方, 评估了常规 DMARDs、糖皮质激素、镇痛药、阿片类药物和抗纤维化药物的使用情况。他们发现免疫抑制剂的使用量在增加, 与此同时抗纤维化药物的使用量也是在增加的, 而糖皮质激素和非甾体抗炎药物的使用情况是有所下降 [73]。在另一项回顾性研究中发现具有 UIP 模式的 RA 患者中, 其中 84 例患者中有一半单独使用糖皮质激素或联合使用其他免疫抑制药物可改善或稳定病情 [28], 但考虑到激素的毒副作用, 包括感染和骨质疏松的风险, 长期使用皮质类固醇治疗是不鼓励的。

5. 总结与展望

RA-ILD 是一种预后不良的疾病, 具有相当高的死亡率, 控制炎症和纤维化具有重要意义。本文综述了目前临床试验中用于治疗 RA-ILD 的药物, 这包括了抗纤维化治疗、免疫抑制剂治疗等其他治疗方法。对于 RA-ILD 患者, 目标应该是缓解 RA 和阻止 ILD 的进展。目前抗纤维化治疗已被证明可以减缓纤维化性 ILD 的进展, 抗纤维化药物尼达尼布、吡非尼酮已被批准用于治疗由 ILD 引起的进行性肺纤维化患者, 但目前也有其他的抗纤维化治疗应用于 ILD 的治疗中, 比如 PDE4 抑制剂、外泌体、干细胞, 这都可能在未来用于 RA-ILD 的治疗。在 IPF 的治疗中暂不推荐患者使用免疫抑制剂, 但在 RA-ILD 患者的治疗方法中包括免疫抑制剂, 因为该疾病源于自身免疫性疾病。此外, 免疫抑制对 RA-ILD 的患者有改善肺功能的潜力。无论是单用抗纤维化药物或免疫抑制剂治疗, 还是两者联合, 这都为 RA-ILD 的治疗

提供了方向。这些趋势表明治疗 RA-ILD 的实践模式正在发生变化, 仍需要多中心临床试验来解决各种治疗方案的有效性和安全性问题。

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