

抗坏血酸在多种类型疼痛管理中的临床应用进展

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摘 要

疼痛是围手术期及多种疾病患者常见且显著影响生活质量的重要症状。尽管非甾体抗炎药和阿片类药物在临床镇痛中应用广泛,但其不良反应及长期使用风险限制了疼痛管理的进一步优化。抗坏血酸(维生素C, VC)作为人体必需的水溶性维生素,除抗氧化作用外,近年来研究显示其在炎症调控、神经保护及疼痛调节方面具有潜在价值。本文综述了VC在疼痛管理中的镇痛机制及临床应用进展。现有研究表明,VC可通过清除活性氧、调节炎症反应、参与神经递质及肽类激素合成的酶促调控,以及影响神经传递和内源性阿片系统等多种途径发挥镇痛作用。在临床方面,VC在术后疼痛、复杂性区域疼痛综合征、神经病理性疼痛、炎性疼痛及癌性疼痛中显示出一定的镇痛或辅助镇痛效果。总体而言,VC安全性高、耐受性好,作为多模式镇痛的辅助措施具有一定应用前景,但其最佳给药方案仍需进一步研究明确。

关键词

抗坏血酸, 疼痛管理, 多模式镇痛

Progress on Clinical Applications of Ascorbic Acid in the Management of Various Types of Pain

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Abstract

Pain is a common symptom during the perioperative period and in various clinical conditions, significantly affecting patients' quality of life. Although nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and opioids are widely used for analgesia, their adverse effects and long-term safety concerns limit further optimization of pain management. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C, VC), an essential water-soluble vitamin, has traditionally been recognized for its antioxidant properties, while recent studies suggest potential roles in inflammation regulation, neuroprotection, and pain modulation. This review summarizes the analgesic mechanisms of VC and recent progress in its clinical application for pain management. Available evidence indicates that VC may exert analgesic effects through multiple pathways, including reduction of oxidative stress, modulation of inflammatory responses, enzymatic regulation of neurotransmitter and peptide hormone synthesis, and modulation of neurotransmission and endogenous opioid systems. Clinically, VC has shown analgesic or adjunctive analgesic effects in postoperative pain, complex regional pain syndrome, neuropathic pain, inflammatory pain, and cancer-related pain. Overall, VC appears to be a safe and well-tolerated adjunct in multimodal analgesia, although optimal dosing strategies require further investigation.

Keywords

Ascorbic Acid, Pain Management, Multimodal Analgesia

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1. 背景

在目前的临床疼痛管理中, 核心镇痛药物存在一定安全隐患, 如非甾体抗炎药(NSAIDs)可能导致消化道溃疡、出血、心血管事件及肾功能损害; 阿片类药物易引起恶心、呕吐、便秘、呼吸抑制及成瘾风险等[1][2], 这些副作用制约了其长期应用的可行性与安全性, 因此, 新药研发与镇痛策略的改良仍在不断探索中。

抗坏血酸(维生素 C, VC)是人体必需的一种水溶性维生素, 除外其抗氧化等众所周知的功能, 近年来研究发现 VC 也有神经保护和神经调节的作用, 尤其在多种疼痛类型中可以发挥调节作用, 可能成为镇痛疗法的有益辅助及改良方法[3]。本文将从镇痛机制到临床应用, 对 VC 在不同疼痛情景下的应用现状及进展进行综述。

2. 抗坏血酸用于镇痛的可能机制

VC 的镇痛作用并非由单一途径实现, 而是其多种生理生化特性协同作用的结果: (1) 抗氧化: 炎症[4]、外科手术[5]及肿瘤过程[6]可致活性氧(ROS)过度生成并加速抗坏血酸消耗, 引发氧化应激; 氧化应激与疼痛相关, 抗氧化剂可缓解疼痛[7], VC 通过清除 ROS 减少氧化损伤; (2) 炎症调节: VC 可通过抑制 NF- κ B 信号通路活性, 降低 IL-1、IL-6、TNF- α 、CRP 及组胺等促炎介质水平, 并上调 IL-10、IL-4 与 Nrf2 等抗炎因子, 从而减轻炎症驱动的疼痛的外周及中枢敏化[8][9]。此外 VC 还从炎症微环境层面缓解炎症或退行性改变相关的疼痛[10]; (3) 参与神经递质及肽类激素合成的酶促调控作用: VC 参与血清素、多巴胺、去甲肾上腺素等神经递质及酰胺化阿片肽等肽类激素的合成, 增强内源性镇痛递质供给[10]; (4)

神经传递系统调节: VC 可调节 NMDA 受体氧化还原状态, 影响谷氨酸与多巴胺能传递, 并促进多巴胺向去甲肾上腺素转化, 同时参与胆碱能与 GABA 能传递调控, 从而共同发挥镇痛作用[11]; (5) 内源性阿片系统与神经内分泌调控: VC 可通过上调腺苷酸环化酶-环磷酸腺苷信号通路, 促进下丘脑神经元 β -内啡肽的分泌, 增强内源性阿片介导的中枢镇痛效应, 从而参与疼痛调控[12]。

3. 抗坏血酸在不同类型疼痛管理中的疗效

3.1. 创伤性疼痛

3.1.1. 术后疼痛

术后疼痛是手术患者最常见的并发症之一, 超过一半的患者对术后疼痛控制感到不满意[13]。术后疼痛不仅显著损害患者的生活质量, 如影响睡眠和活动水平[14], 还会促进慢性术后疼痛的发生[15]。近年来, 指南推荐多模式镇痛, 联合使用不同药物及非药物干预手段, 以最大程度提高镇痛效果并减少副作用[16]。

在此背景下, VC 作为一种安全的辅助镇痛药物展现出应用潜力。多项研究表明, 围手术期静脉或胃肠外补充 VC 能够显著减轻术后疼痛, 并减少阿片类药物的使用量。在一项随机对照试验中, 腹腔镜结肠切除术患者术前接受 50 mg/kg VC 静脉注射后, 其术后 2 小时吗啡消耗显著减少, 术后 24 小时静息疼痛评分也更低[17]。不过, 由于 VC 半衰期较短, 单次给药并不能维持长期高水平血浆浓度, 因此术后 6 小时和 24 小时两组间吗啡消耗差异不显著[17], 这提示临床上可能需要更高剂量或延长给药时间。在腹腔镜胆囊切除术中, 围术期补充 VC 显示出一定的镇痛及镇痛药物节省效应, 其中 Kanazi 等人[18]在一项双盲随机对照试验中证实, 术前单次口服 2 g VC 可显著降低术后吗啡用量(16.2 g vs 22.8 g)。另一项在扁桃体切除术后剧痛患者中进行的研究显示, 静脉注射 3 g VC 能显著延迟首次哌替啶需求时间、减少总需求量, 并持续降低各时间点的疼痛评分[19]。此外, VC 在骨科手术中也表现出积极作用。Sivro 等人[20]报道, 老年髌骨骨折患者围手术期静脉补充 VC, 不仅显著减轻疼痛评分, 还减少镇痛药需求, 提示其可作为骨折手术镇痛的辅助药物。Han 等人[21]同样发现, 在全髌关节置换术中, VC 组患者术后疼痛及吗啡用量均显著减少。一项系统综述进一步总结了证据水平: (1) 中等水平证据支持单次术前 2 g VC 可减少术后阿片使用; (2) 高水平证据支持四肢手术后每日 1 g VC、持续 50 天, 可显著预防复杂性区域疼痛综合征(CRPS)的发生[22]。荟萃分析发现, 静脉注射 VC 可显著降低术后即刻(1~2 h)和 24 小时的疼痛评分及阿片需求, 但口服制剂则未见显著效果[11]。

现有证据表明 VC 在多种术式(腹腔镜手术、耳鼻喉科手术、骨科手术等)的术后镇痛中具有积极作用, 表现为减轻急性术后疼痛、减少阿片类药物用量, 并在部分研究中降低 CRPS 的发生率。由于术后疼痛与患者早期活动能力及远期功能恢复密切相关[23], VC 的镇痛作用有望促进术后康复。尽管部分研究结果不完全一致, 且最佳剂量与给药途径仍待明确, 但由于 VC 安全性高、毒性低, 其作为多模式镇痛的潜在辅助药物值得进一步研究和推广应用[24]。

3.1.2. 复杂性区域疼痛综合征

复杂性区域疼痛综合征(CRPS)是一种创伤或手术后常见的神经炎性疾病, 表现为自发性疼痛、感觉过敏和交感神经功能紊乱[25], 严重影响患者生活质量, 寻找有效的预防措施具有重要临床意义。

多项研究提示 VC 在预防 CRPS 方面具有潜在优势。高质量系统评价与荟萃分析(1a 级证据)表明, 围手术期补充 VC (≥ 500 mg/天, 口服至少 6 周)是预防腕、踝关节术后 CRPS 的有效措施, 可显著降低其发生率[22]。此外, 随机对照试验表明, 长期口服 VC 可显著降低创伤或手术后 CRPS 的风险[26] [27], 循证指南也提出 II 级证据支持腕关节损伤后每日补充 0.5 g VC 用于 CRPS 的预防[28]。除了口服补充外,

局部或胃肠外应用 VC 也展现了积极效果。一项前瞻、双盲、随机对照试验(n = 68)显示,在接受桡骨远端骨折手术的患者中,除常规口服 6 周外,于术中静脉区域麻醉时局部注射 500 mg VC 可进一步降低 CRPS 的发生率[29]。

从剂量和途径角度来看,现有证据表明口服 VC 能够在没有胃肠外补充的情况下维持较高的血清水平,从而在急性损伤期发挥保护作用[29]。然而,由于术后炎症反应和氧化爆发可能持续存在,胃肠外高剂量补充(100~200 mg/kg,甚至 0.2~0.5 g/kg)或在静脉区域麻醉中联合应用可能更有助于维持足够的组织抗坏血酸浓度[17]。因此,未来需要更多高质量的随机对照试验,以进一步明确最佳剂量和给药途径。总体来看,VC 在创伤性疼痛相关的 CRPS 预防中已具备较高等级的循证证据。考虑到 CRPS 缺乏有效的治疗手段,VC 作为一种安全、经济、且耐受性良好的预防措施,值得在临床实践中推广应用。

3.2. 神经病理性疼痛

带状疱疹后神经痛(postherpetic neuralgia, PHN)是最具代表性的周围神经病理性疼痛综合征之一,约有 9%至 13%的带状疱疹患者发展为 PHN,尤其在 50 岁及以上人群中风险更高,其临床表现复杂、机制多样,PHN 的管理仍具挑战性[30]。

研究发现,PHN 患者血浆 VC 水平显著低于健康人群,提示缺乏状态可能是疾病的持续因素[31]。VC 的降低可能与炎症过程中机体为清除 ROS 而增加消耗有关[32]。因此,有学者提出在病毒感染尤其是早期阶段,VC 的补充剂量应远高于推荐日摄入量[33]。在临床实践中,在急性带状疱疹期应用 VC 可减少 PHN 的发生。临床研究表明,1 周内静脉注射 3 次 2.5 g VC 可有效减少 PHN 的发生率[31]。一项 RCT 研究显示,每周 3 次、每次 5 g 静脉输注 VC,能够显著降低 PHN 发生率[34]。另一项多中心前瞻性队列研究则显示,每周 2~3 次、每次 7.5~15 g、持续 2 周的静脉输注 VC 显著减轻急性期疼痛,并降低后期 PHN 风险[32]。大剂量静脉注射 VC 能够有效缓解 PHN 患者的自发性疼痛,这一结果表明其镇痛效果并非单纯的安慰剂作用。值得注意的是,不同研究间在剂量与疗程上的差异可能解释了部分结果的不一致性。

除 PHN 外,VC 在更广泛的神经病理性疼痛模型中也显示出作用。在大鼠模型中,ROS 清除剂能缓解神经病理性疼痛,而 VC 恰是脑脊液中主要的 ROS 清除剂[35]。临床前研究提示,VC 与维生素 E 联用可能产生协同镇痛效应。在周围神经损伤的小鼠模型中,单独使用 VC 或维生素 E 均未显著抑制疼痛行为,但两者联合给药则能有效缓解神经病理性疼痛,表明其抗氧化作用可能存在协同增效关系[36]。这为联合抗氧化剂治疗难治性神经病理性疼痛提供了新的思路,但需临床研究进一步验证。在动物模型中,VC 展现出显著的镇痛潜力。在小鼠模型中,单次注射 VC 不仅能缓解福尔马林所致的急慢性疼痛,还能广泛抑制由多种神经递质(谷氨酸、P 物质等)介导的疼痛反应[37]。

PHN 患者存在血浆 VC 缺乏,静脉补充 VC 可有效缓解自发性疼痛,并在急性带状疱疹期应用时有助于预防 PHN 的发生。尽管现有研究结果支持其潜在价值,但剂量、给药方式及治疗时机尚需进一步的高质量 RCT 加以验证。

3.3. 炎性疼痛

炎性疼痛是临床常见的病症,涉及多种疾病,如骨关节炎(OA)、类风湿关节炎(RA)等,目前常用的非甾体抗炎药、阿片类药物及激素治疗在长期应用中存在安全性与疗效局限[38][39]。

一项多中心随机交叉试验显示,每日口服 1 g 抗坏血酸钙,持续数周,可显著减轻髌、膝骨关节炎疼痛,其镇痛效果约为 NSAIDs 的一半[40]。此外,充足的 VC 摄入可能降低软骨损伤[41]、关节炎症[42]的发生风险。RA 的核心病理特征为慢性滑膜炎及系统性氧化应激。研究显示,RA 患者血清及关节液中

抗坏血酸水平显著降低,这可能与其慢性氧化应激状态有关[43]。临床研究报道,含 VC 的抗氧化治疗可显著降低 RA 疾病活动指数(RADAI) [44]。RADAI 是经过验证的患者自评疾病活动工具,与压痛关节数及医生总体评估等临床指标呈中等强度正相关[45],提示 VC 可能通过降低疾病活动度而间接改善炎性疼痛。在慢性胰腺炎中,氧化应激被认为是腹痛持续的重要机制。一项双盲随机安慰剂对照试验显示,口服抗氧化剂组合(包括 VC)治疗 6 个月,可显著减少慢性胰腺炎患者每月疼痛天数,并改善硫代巴比妥酸反应物和血浆铁还原能力等氧化应激指标[19] [46]。VC 在多种炎性疼痛中具有潜在镇痛或辅助镇痛作用。但现有研究在设计、样本量、剂量方案及结局指标方面差异较大,证据强度有限,仍需高质量随机对照试验以明确其适用人群、最佳剂量。

3.4. 癌性疼痛

癌痛是晚期肿瘤患者的常见症状,常表现为伤害性、神经性与炎性疼痛的混合状态,严重影响患者生活质量[47]。癌症患者普遍存在 VC 缺乏状态[48]。抗癌治疗(如化疗、免疫治疗)可能进一步加剧 VC 缺乏[49]。药代动力学研究表明,静脉输注 VC 可达到远高于口服的血浆浓度(提升几十至几百倍) [50]。高剂量静脉维生素 C (high-dose intravenous vitamin C, IVC)指通过静脉输注 VC,使血浆抗坏血酸浓度达到毫摩尔级别(通常 ≥ 15 mmol/L),从而产生药理学效应的给药方式[51],被视为癌痛管理的潜在辅助策略。

减少阿片类药物需求是癌痛管理的重要目标。多项研究观察到 IVC 的阿片类药物节省潜力。有报告指出,VC 治疗可降低晚期癌症患者的阿片类药物需求[52]。在接受每日 30 g VC 输注的姑息治疗患者中,出现了吗啡需求量减少的情况[53]。采用标准化生活质量量表(如欧洲癌症研究与治疗组织生活质量核心量表 EORTC QLQ-C30)的研究提供了更客观的证据。一项针对乳腺癌患者的回顾性研究发现,与对照组相比,接受每周 7.5 g 静脉 VC 辅助治疗的患者,其疼痛评分降低了 30% [54]。两项前瞻性研究进一步证实了其效果:一项临床研究对 39 名晚期患者进行短期 IVC 治疗,发现 EORTC QLQ-C30 评估的疼痛减少了三分之一[55];另一项研究[19]对 60 名晚期患者进行为期 4 周的 IVC 治疗(每周两次,25~100 g/次),报告疼痛评分降低了 44% [56]。

尽管当前证据尚不足以得出确定性结论,但多项临床观察一致表明,IVC 可能显著减轻晚期癌症患者,并有助于减少阿片类镇痛药的用量。考虑到癌症患者 VC 消耗大,未来的研究需在精心设计的随机对照试验中,进一步明确 IVC 在癌痛管理中的最佳剂量、方案、确切疗效及其在综合镇痛策略中的定位。

4. 抗坏血酸在疼痛管理中的安全性

作为水溶性维生素,VC 的过量部分可经肾快速排出,总体耐受性良好、安全性高[57]。与传统镇痛药相比,VC 的安全性优势显著[24]。

在其他临床实践中,通常长期、高剂量 VC 用于特定风险人群才会出现不良反应。口服给药长期大剂量可能导致渗透性腹泻、腹部绞痛,并因代谢产物草酸增加而升高肾结石风险[57]。静脉高剂量给药短期安全性证据较多,最常见的不良反应包括输注相关的恶心、呕吐、注射部位疼痛或静脉刺激,发生率通常低于总输液次数的 3%~5%,多为自限性反应,可通过减慢输注速度或对症处理缓解[58]。特殊人群需谨慎使用 VC。在肾功能不全患者中,VC 的代谢终产物草酸盐可能因排泄受限而在肾脏沉积,增加草酸盐肾病及肾衰竭风险,研究强调该人群需谨慎或避免高剂量静脉使用 VC [59]。葡萄糖-6-磷酸脱氢酶缺乏症患者在接受高剂量 VC 后存在发生溶血危象的明确风险,因此被普遍视为 IVC 的禁忌人群[60]。此外,需注意 VC 可干扰某些血糖仪检测,导致糖尿病患者出现假性高血糖读数,因此临床实践中应加强监测并避免误判[61]。

VC 用于镇痛管理时安全性整体良好。两项综述均指出,此类患者群体中未见 VC 导致严重不良事件

风险升高[62] [63]; 一项针对非心脏手术的荟萃分析也未发现 VC 会增加严重并发症[24]。在本综述所纳入的多项疼痛管理相关临床研究中, 现有报告未见提示 VC 治疗与严重不良事件风险增加存在明确关联, 亦缺乏一致证据表明其会显著提高严重不良事件发生率。虽然在特殊人群(如肾功能不全、溶血风险或可能出现假性高血糖的患者)中需谨慎评估, 但在常规镇痛管理场景下, 现有证据支持 VC 具有较高的安全性, 可作为多模式镇痛的合理组成部分加以推荐。

5. 临床应用策略与实践考量

合理应用 VC 需明确给药策略, 并结合药代动力学特征指导使用。口服 VC 吸收存在饱和极限, 单次剂量超过 200 mg 后吸收率下降[64], 适用于一般补充或 VC 状态不足的纠正, 但难以达到与镇痛相关的药理学浓度, 因此慢性疼痛或预防性应用可选择口服, 并可根据血浆水平设定剂量阈值。VC 静脉给药生物利用度远高于口服[65], 能减轻术后疼痛并减少阿片需求, 更适用于围术期、癌痛或中重度疼痛的辅助治疗场景。疗程长度与给药频率应根据急性或慢性疼痛特点、血药浓度达到“天花板效应”的时间窗口, 以及临床经验进行调整。

现有证据普遍支持 VC 作为辅助治疗而非一线镇痛药物的定位。其与 NSAIDs、阿片类药物及区域镇痛技术在机制层面具有互补性, 理论上有助于降低传统镇痛药物的用量及相关不良反应风险, 尤其在多模式镇痛框架下具有一定实践价值。

6. 局限与展望

VC 用于疼痛管理的现有证据的局限性主要包括: (1) 研究异质性高: 样本量普遍偏小、结局指标与随访时间不一致, 难以进行高质量的定量比较; (2) 给药方案缺乏标准化: 剂量、途径差异大; (3) 不同疼痛类型证据强度不均, 部分类型疼痛相关研究高质量证据不足; (4) 许多研究未测量基线及干预后的 VC 浓度, 使得个体差异及反应预测更加困难。

未来研究亟需开展针对特定疼痛的更大规模前瞻性、随机对照试验; 系统研究剂量 - 反应关系及不同给药途径; 常规检测基线及干预后血浆 VC 浓度以识别获益更大的亚组人群; 以及在多模式镇痛框架内评估其协同作用。

VC 在多种疼痛管理中显示出潜在的辅助镇痛价值, 当前证据支持其作为一种安全、低成本的辅助治疗选择, 具有良好的社会经济价值和可行的实践前景。然而, 在获得更高质量的统一证据前, 临床应谨慎推广, 避免替代标准镇痛治疗, 优先考虑用于辅助补充镇痛。

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