

# 无乳链球菌疫苗研发进展与临床应用前景

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## 摘要

B族链球菌(*Streptococcus agalactiae*, GBS)是导致新生儿重症感染(败血症、脑膜炎等)的重要病原, 全球疾病负担重。妊娠期妇女接种疫苗, 通过母源抗体经胎盘转运为新生儿提供被动免疫, 是重要防控方向。GBS疫苗研发分三类: 基于荚膜多糖的多价结合疫苗、基于保守蛋白的广谱亚单位疫苗, 基于新型抗原呈递系统的创新疫苗。辉瑞GBS6与我国6vGBS六价结合疫苗覆盖约98%致病血清型, 均已进入临床研究阶段; 保守蛋白疫苗可应对血清型替换; 病毒样颗粒疫苗诱导的IgG抗体可经胎盘转运, 为研发单剂次疫苗提供了新方向。目前面临保护性抗体阈值未明、免疫窗口待验证、临床试验困难等挑战。未来需聚焦广谱抗原筛选、技术优化及标准化评价, 加速临床转化。

## 关键词

B族链球菌, 疫苗, 母体免疫, 新生儿感染

# Group B *Streptococcus* Vaccines: Progress and Clinical Application Prospects

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## Abstract

Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS) is a leading cause of severe neonatal infections, including sepsis and

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meningitis, imposing a substantial global burden. Maternal immunization, which provides passive immunity to neonates through transplacental transfer of vaccine-induced antibodies, represents a key strategy for GBS prevention. Current GBS vaccine development encompasses three main approaches: multivalent conjugate vaccines based on capsular polysaccharides, broad-spectrum sub-unit vaccines targeting conserved proteins, and innovative vaccines utilizing novel antigen delivery systems. Pfizer's GBS6 and China's domestically developed 6vGBS hexavalent conjugate vaccines, covering approximately 98% of disease-causing serotypes, have both advanced into clinical trials. Conserved protein vaccines offer a strategy to address potential serotype replacement, while virus-like particle vaccines induce IgG antibodies capable of placental transfer, providing a new direction for the development of single-dose vaccines. Key challenges include undefined protective antibody thresholds, the need to determine optimal immunization timing, and difficulties in conducting large-scale efficacy trials. Future efforts should focus on identifying broadly protective antigens, optimizing vaccine technologies, and establishing standardized immunobridging frameworks to accelerate clinical translation.

## Keywords

Group B *Streptococcus*, Vaccine, Maternal Immunization, Neonatal Infection

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## 1. 引言：GBS 感染的疾病负担与现有防控策略的局限性

B 族链球菌(*Streptococcus agalactiae*, GBS)为革兰阳性机会致病菌,可定植于 10%~30%妊娠期妇女的生殖道,也是导致新生儿败血症、肺炎及脑膜炎等重症侵袭性感染的首要病原体,全球疾病负担沉重[1]-[4]。新生儿 GBS 感染依据发病时间分为早发型感染(early-onset disease, EOD, 出生后 7 d 内)和晚发型感染(late-onset disease, LOD, 出生后 7~90 d) [5]。EOD 主要由围产期母婴垂直传播引起,起病急骤,进展迅速,易出现呼吸衰竭、惊厥发作等严重并发症,延长住院时间,且存活者易遗留智力障碍、精神运动发育迟缓、听力障碍等严重神经系统后遗症;LOD 则多与出生后水平传播相关,临床表现更为多样且隐匿,易导致诊断延迟。在 GBS 相关感染中,脑膜炎预后最差,在感染后 18 个月,约 32%的存活患儿可出现神经发育障碍,其中近半数为中重度损伤,给患儿家庭及社会造成沉重的负担[6]。

流行病学数据显示,2000~2017 年全球新生儿侵袭性 GBS 病发生率约为 0.49‰,病死率高达 8.4% [7]-[9]。此外,GBS 感染还可导致早产、死产及产褥期败血症等不良妊娠结局[10]。

目前,产时抗生素预防(intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis, IAP)是临床预防 EOD 的重要措施,保护效力约 80%。自 2002 年起,国际指南推荐对妊娠 35~37 周妊娠期妇女开展 GBS 筛查,并对直肠阴道定植妊娠期妇女实施 IAP。该策略显著降低了 EOD 的发病率,但保护效果已接近上限,难以进一步提升[11]。同时,IAP 存在许多难以克服的局限性:保护范围有限,无法预防 LOD、早产及死产。筛查存在窗口期感染与假阴性风险,临床可靠性不足。对 LOD 及脑膜炎等关键不良结局改善效果有限。广泛应用还可能诱导细菌耐药[12] [13]。

综上所述,仅仅依赖于 IAP 的 GBS 预防模式已进入瓶颈期,很难满足围产期的全方位防控需求,构建全面持久的主动免疫防控策略成为我们的首要目标。因此,研发安全有效的 GBS 疫苗,成为弥补 IAP 不足、实现新生儿 GBS 全方面防控的关键突破口与重点研究方向。

## 2. GBS 疫苗研发靶点与主要技术策略

为突破 IAP 局限, 孕产妇接种 GBS 疫苗、通过胎盘传递保护性 IgG 抗体, 已被 WHO 列为最具前景的防控方案, 可同时预防 EOD 与 LOD, 从根本上弥补现有干预短板。全球新生儿侵袭性 GBS 以 Ia、III 型为主, 占 66%~80%, 其他致病血清型包括 Ib、II、IV、V 型[14]。早期 GBS 疫苗以荚膜多糖(CPS)为靶点, 但纯化多糖免疫原性弱; 将 CPS 与破伤风类毒素(TT)或 CRM197 等载体蛋白偶联构建多糖-蛋白结合疫苗, 成为经典技术路径[15]。目前 GBS 疫苗主要形成三大研发方向。

### 2.1. 基于荚膜多糖的多价结合疫苗

基于荚膜多糖的多价蛋白结合疫苗是当前 GBS 疫苗研发的主流方向, 具有靶点明确、血清型覆盖率高、保护效果可预期等优势。自 20 世纪 80 年代以来, Carol Baker、Dennis Kasper 等团队开展了开创性研究, 完成了首批荚膜多糖(CPS)疫苗的临床试验, 证实针对 Ia、Ib、II、III 和 V 血清型的单价 GBS CPS 结合疫苗具有良好的免疫原性, 且能够诱导母体抗体经胎盘转运至胎儿体内[16] [17]。早期开展的单价、二价荚膜多糖-破伤风类毒素结合疫苗临床试验亦证实其安全性与耐受性良好[18]。此后, 葛兰素史克(GSK)进一步推进了包含 Ia、Ib、III 血清型的三价试验性疫苗 II 期临床研究, 结果表明该疫苗在非妊娠及妊娠女性中均具有可靠的安全性、耐受性与免疫原性, 可有效介导 GBS 特异性抗体由母体向婴儿转运。针对妊娠期妇女开展的 CRM197 载体三价结合疫苗 I/II 期临床试验同样显示, 新生儿体内可产生高水平的血清型特异性抗体, 且未出现明显安全性问题[19]-[22]。但受血清型覆盖范围有限等因素制约, 上述单价、二价结合疫苗(TT-CPS, CRM197-CPS)及三价 CRM197-CPS 疫苗均已终止后续研发[18] [23]。

随着全球 GBS 血清型流行病学特征的不断明确, 覆盖 Ia、Ib、II、III、IV、V 六型的多价荚膜多糖结合疫苗成为新一代研发重点。辉瑞公司研制的六价 GBS 结合疫苗(GBS6)采用 CRM197 作为载体蛋白, 可覆盖全球 97%~98%的致病血清型[24]。非妊娠期妇女 I/II 期临床试验(NCT03170609)评估了不同剂量(5、10、20  $\mu\text{g}$ /血清型)及有无佐剂(磷酸铝)配方的安全性与免疫原性。结果显示, GBS6 在所有剂量水平均表现出良好的耐受性, 疫苗接种后 1 个月, 各血清型特异性 IgG 几何平均浓度(GMC)较基线显著升高, 且免疫应答可持续至接种后 6 个月。安全性方面, 最常见的不良反应为轻至中度的注射部位疼痛, 发生率约 60%~70%, 全身性反应(如头痛、疲劳)发生率约为 50%~60%, 未观察到与疫苗相关的严重不良事件。[25]。妊娠期妇女中开展的 II 期临床试验(NCT03765073)进一步证实了其安全性与免疫原性。该研究纳入 360 名健康妊娠期妇女, 分别接种 5、10、20  $\mu\text{g}$ /血清型 GBS6 或安慰剂。结果显示, 疫苗组诱导了针对所有 6 种血清型的强效抗体应答, 其中 20  $\mu\text{g}$  剂量组诱导的抗体水平最高。母体抗体可高效经胎盘转运至胎儿, 母胎抗体转运比(脐带血/母血抗体浓度)约为 0.4~1.3, 不同血清型间存在差异。安全性方面, 疫苗组与安慰剂组不良事件总体发生率相当(45%~70% vs. 61%), 最常见的不良反应为轻中度注射部位反应, 疫苗组发热发生率为 2%~8% (安慰剂组 5%), 未发现与疫苗相关的严重不良事件[26]。

此外, GBS6 与破伤风-白喉-百日咳疫苗(Tdap)联合接种的 IIb 期研究显示, 两种疫苗同时接种具有良好的安全性与耐受性, 破伤风和白喉抗体达标率( $\geq 0.1$  IU/mL)在联合接种组与 Tdap 单独接种组均为 100%, GBS6 各血清型免疫应答未受 Tdap 联合接种的显著影响[27]。2023 年, GBS6 已启动 III 期临床试验(BEATRIX 试验, NCT06023456), 旨在进一步验证其在妊娠期妇女及婴儿中的保护效力与安全性[28]。同时, 我国自主研发的 6vGBS 六价结合疫苗已进入 I 期临床研究阶段, 同样采取 CRM197 作为载体蛋白, 可覆盖我国约 98%的临床致病菌株[29] [30]。

### 2.2. 基于保守蛋白的广谱亚单位疫苗

荚膜多糖多价结合疫苗虽然是目前 GBS 疫苗的研发主流, 但血清型覆盖局限, 且随着流行病学的变

迁, 很难实现长期广谱保护。为了突破血清型依赖、不受型别变迁影响, 针对 GBS 保守蛋白广谱亚单位疫苗近年来成为核心突破方向[18]。研究表明,  $\alpha$  样表面蛋白家族(Alpha-like protein, Alp)是最成熟、临床转化最明确的广谱抗原。疫苗可以 B 族链球菌神经氨酸酶蛋白(GBS-NN)的 N 端保守结构域为核心靶点, Minervax 公司的 GBS-NN 疫苗已完成 I 期临床试验, 显示出良好的安全性与免疫原性[18]。该疫苗诱导的 IgG 可有效经胎盘转运, 介导同型及异型菌株的调理吞噬杀伤能力。并且, 可阻断细菌对上皮细胞的黏附侵袭, 具有不依赖血清型的保护潜力[31]。同时, 还可诱导黏膜 IgA 应答, 有利于减少生殖道的定植[32]。

未来, 广谱亚单位疫苗需组合 Alp1、Alp2/3、Rib 等多种 Alp 家族抗原, 实现对流行菌株的全覆盖, 以弥补单一抗原覆盖不足的缺陷[31]。除了诱导杀菌抗体外, 以阻断毒力通路为目的的疫苗具有同等重要的价值。丝氨酸富集重复序列蛋白(Srr1, Srr2)通过“对接-锁定-锁扣”机制结合纤维蛋白原, 是 GBS 阴道定植与中枢侵袭的关键分子, 针对其保守结构域的疫苗, 可以有效阻断黏附侵袭过程[33][34]。C5a 肽酶是 GBS 逃逸天然免疫的重要毒力因子, 作为疫苗靶点可以中和免疫抑制作用。采用乳酸-乙醇酸共聚物微球呈递的 C5a 肽酶疫苗, 可以同时激发全身与黏膜免疫, 在动物模型中实现跨血清型的广谱保护[35][36]。上述的保守蛋白靶点的保护效率, 已经在多项动物实验中得到了验证。

另外, 菌毛蛋白作为 GBS 黏附定植的重要表面结构, 也被用于疫苗研究, 但菌毛蛋白亚基序列多样性高, 很难实现单一抗原的广谱覆盖, 未来需要通过保守表位筛选, 或者多亚基组合等方式来克服[37]。

### 2.3. 基于新型抗原呈递系统的创新疫苗技术

为了进一步突破传统疫苗免疫原性不足、接种剂次较多等缺点, 基于新型抗原呈递系统的 GBS 疫苗也在快速发展中。其中, 蛋白质纳米颗粒(NPs)、病毒样颗粒(VLPs)具备粒径适宜、结构稳定、抗原展示密度高等优势, 可以高效进行靶向抗原呈递细胞, 增强体液与细胞免疫应答[38]。2023 年 Carboni 等构建的 GBS II 型荚膜多糖(CPS-II)偶联自组装病毒样颗粒疫苗, 只需要单次免疫就可以在小鼠的体内诱导高强度、持久的特异性抗体应答, 其效率明显高于传统的 CPS-II-CRM197 结合疫苗。因此, 为研发单剂次、高效能的 GBS 疫苗提供了新方向[39]。此外, mRNA 疫苗、重组病毒载体疫苗等技术也在 GBS 预防领域开展了初步探索, 有高效表达、易于量产等优点, 希望进一步优化疫苗的免疫效果, 提高保障能力。

## 3. GBS 疫苗免疫保护机制与评价体系

GBS 疫苗的核心免疫保护机制为调理吞噬作用, 疫苗诱导的特异性 IgG 结合细菌表面抗原后, 可介导吞噬细胞清除 GBS。母体产生的特异性 IgG 可通过胎盘主动转运, 为新生儿提供出生后的被动免疫保护[40]。

在免疫原性评价中, 调理吞噬杀菌活性是评价免疫保护功能的金标准, 其抗体滴度与活性共同决定了疫苗的保护效力, 可以直接反映疫苗对目标菌株的清除能力[41]。多项母婴队列与临床试验数据显示, 新生儿血清 GBS 特异性 IgG 滴度具有保护性的临界阈值为 $\geq 0.25 \sim 1 \mu\text{g/mL}$ , 该水平可明显降低侵袭性 GBS 病的感染风险[42][43]。一项早期的 II 期临床试验表明, 分别在孕 22、26、30 周接种三价 GBS 结合疫苗, 可使脐带血抗体  $\geq 1 \mu\text{g/mL}$  的比例达到 89% [44]。

此外, 有研究表明, 对于非妊娠期妇女, 三价结合疫苗初免后 4~6 年加强免疫, 可快速激发强烈应答, 体内抗体水平可升高数百倍, 提示妊娠阶段可能需要加强免疫[45]。然而, 六价结合疫苗的最佳接种时间、剂次, 以及妊娠期窗口仍需大量的临床试验进一步明确。

基于调理吞噬 IgG 水平与动物保护效力的相关性、抗体可经胎盘有效转运等特点, 多项临床试验采用免疫桥接替代传统终点临床试验, 大幅缩短研究周期[46]。但该策略的科学性仍需更多的临床数据支持,

尤其是免疫功能低下、合并基础疾病的妊娠期妇女, 其抗体转运效率与保护效果需要进一步验证。

确证疫苗效力需传统随机对照试验, 但在 IAP 普遍实施的高收入国家, 设置安慰剂对照难以通过伦理审查。一种解决方案是将试验转向 GBS 负担更重、IAP 覆盖率不齐的中低收入国家[3], 采用“附加设计”, 所有妊娠期妇女均接受当地标准照护, 在此基础上随机接种疫苗或安慰剂, 评估疫苗的额外获益。但不同地区 IAP 实施差异可能影响结果解读, 监管机构对此类数据的接受度尚不确定。另一挑战是成本。新生儿 GBS 发病率约 0.5% [7], 验证疫苗有效性所需样本量庞大, 意味着巨额研发投入和数年跨国协作。因此, 监管机构表示, 若有充分免疫替代终点证据, 可酌情豁免效力试验[46]。这也意味着, 疫苗的真实保护效果需依靠上市后监测体系持续验证。

#### 4. 挑战与未来方向

目前, GBS 疫苗研发已经取得了里程碑式的进展, 但临床转化仍然面临着诸多挑战。不同实验室间抗体检测结果差异大, 跨研究比较困难, 需建立国际公认的质控方案[47]。妊娠期妇女最佳免疫时机尚未明确, 妊娠 27~36 周作为临床常用窗口期, 仍存在许多不确定性, 如抗体峰值、转运效率与保护时长等, 需要大样本数据进行验证[41]。新生儿侵袭性 GBS 病的发病率低, 而传统 III 期临床试验也需要大量妊娠期妇女入组, 研究周期长、成本高、试验完成困难[46]。此外, 特殊人群数据不足, 如早产、胎膜早破、免疫低下的妊娠期妇女, 其免疫应答与安全性数据较少[48]。

将来, 我们需要推进广谱疫苗发展, 用 Alp、Srr、C5a 肽酶等多保守抗原, 组合成不受血清型限制的疫苗[31][33]; 加快新型抗原呈递系统疫苗开发, 利用 VLP、纳米颗粒、mRNA 等提升疫苗的免疫原性, 实现单剂就可以得到长效保护[38][39]; 明确联合接种(Tdap、流感疫苗)的安全性, 完善妊娠期妇女免疫程序[27]。并且, 还需要完善免疫桥接评价体系, 确定标准化的免疫相关性保护指标和检测平台[46][47], 开展散布全球的多中心队列, 填补中低收入国家流行病学与保护效力数据, 使疫苗公平、可及。

#### 5. 结论与临床意义

GBS 是导致新生儿重症感染、不良妊娠结局的重要病原菌。目前, IAP 预防措施存在保护局限性和耐药高风险性。因此, 母体疫苗的研发, 成为实现围产期全面防控的重要手段, 已经形成了三大主流路线: 荚膜多糖多价结合疫苗、保守蛋白广谱亚单位疫苗、新型抗原呈递系统疫苗。辉瑞公司 GBS6 与我国 6vGBS 六价结合疫苗, 均覆盖主流致病血清型, 安全性和胎盘转运效率都已得到验证, 进入临床的关键阶段[24][26][29]。保守蛋白广谱亚单位疫苗突破了对血清型的依赖, 新型抗原呈递系统疫苗明显提升了免疫原性, 成为下一代疫苗的重要方向[31][38][39]。

本文明确地讲述了, GBS 疫苗母源 IgG 转运, 以及调理吞噬杀菌的保护机制, 说明了将免疫桥接作为评价方式的依据, 呈现了国际与国内的研发局面, 为临床及公共卫生的决策提供依据。随着标准化评价体系的完善、广谱疫苗推进, GBS 疫苗有望在将来 3~5 年获批上市, 与 IAP 措施形成互补, 从根本上降低新生儿败血症、脑膜炎及早产、死产的负担, 显著改善母婴健康的结局, 具有重大的公共卫生价值与临床转化前景。

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