

# 异位脂质沉积的影像学检测方法概述

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## 摘要

异位脂质沉积是代谢综合征、2型糖尿病及代谢相关脂肪性肝病等疾病的关键病理特征, 其精准无创评估对早期诊疗具有重要意义。本文系统综述了异位脂质沉积的超声、CT及MRI等影像学技术的可视化表达以及影像学技术在肝脏、骨骼肌、心肌、胰腺及肾窦等部位脂质沉积检测中的应用、特点及进展。超声尤其定量参数CAP与UDFF适合大范围筛查; CT因辐射限制主要用于机会性中重度脂肪变检测; MRI-PDF与<sup>1</sup>H-MRS凭借高准确性与可重复性, 成为当前优选的无创定量手段。不同方法在准确性、成本、可及性及适用场景上各有优劣, 临床及科研中需综合选择。未来, 人工智能辅助评估有望进一步提升异位脂质沉积的影像学诊断效能。

## 关键词

异位脂质沉积, 超声心动图, 计算机断层扫描, 磁共振成像

# Overview of Imaging Methods for Ectopic Lipid Deposition

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## Abstract

Ectopic lipid deposition is a key pathological feature of metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and metabolic dysfunction-associated fatty liver disease. Accurate and non-invasive assessment of ectopic lipid deposition is of great significance for early diagnosis and treatment. This article systematically reviews the visualization of ultrasound, CT, and MRI, as well as the application,

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characteristics, and advances of these techniques in detecting lipid deposition in the liver, skeletal muscle, myocardium, pancreas, and renal sinus. Ultrasound, particularly with quantitative parameters such as CAP and UDF, is suitable for large-scale screening. Due to radiation exposure, CT is mainly used for opportunistic detection of moderate-to-severe steatosis. MRI-PDFF and  $^1\text{H}$ -MRS, with their high accuracy and reproducibility, have become the current preferred non-invasive quantitative methods. Different techniques have their own advantages and limitations in terms of accuracy, cost, accessibility, and clinical applicability, requiring comprehensive selection in clinical practice. In the future, artificial intelligence-assisted assessment is expected to further enhance the imaging diagnostic performance for ectopic lipid deposition.

## Keywords

Ectopic Lipid Deposition, Echocardiography, Computed Tomography, Magnetic Resonance Imaging

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## 1. 前言

随着全球肥胖和代谢综合征患病率的持续攀升, 异位脂质沉积(ectopic lipid deposition)已成为代谢性疾病研究领域的核心议题。异位脂质沉积是指甘油三酯(triglycerides, TG)在非脂肪组织中的异常蓄积, 主要累及肝脏、骨骼肌、心脏、胰腺及肾脏等实质器官[1]。这种病理现象打破了传统脂肪组织的储存功能边界, 导致脂质代谢紊乱, 进而诱发胰岛素抵抗、2型糖尿病、代谢性脂肪性肝病(MAFLD)及心血管疾病等一系列代谢并发症[1][2]。

鉴于异位脂质沉积在代谢性疾病中的关键作用, 其准确检测与定量评估对于疾病早期诊断、风险分层及治疗监测具有重要意义。传统的组织学分析虽然是评估脂肪变性程度金标准[3], 但因其侵入性、取样误差及并发症风险, 难以作为常规筛查手段。近年来, 影像学技术的飞速发展, 特别是磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)、计算机断层扫描(computed tomography, CT)及超声心动图技术的进步, 为异位脂质沉积的无创检测提供了可能[4]。这些技术不仅能够实现脂质沉积的可视化, 还能进行精确定量, 为临床决策提供客观依据。

然而, 不同检测方法在原理、准确性、可重复性及临床应用方面存在显著差异。因此, 系统梳理异位脂质沉积的多种可视化表达方式, 并科学评估不同检测技术的临床效能, 对于指导临床实践和推动相关研究具有重要的现实意义。本文将从异位脂质沉积的三个维度的可视化表达以及不同部位异位脂质沉积的影像学检测特点两个方面总结其研究进展。

## 2. 异位脂质沉积的影像学可视化表达

### 2.1. 定性方法

超声成像是检测脂肪肝的一线影像学方法[5]。然而, 常规超声的定性评估存在明显局限性, 且无法提供确切的数值。Hernaiz 等[5]的荟萃分析显示, 超声诊断中重度脂肪肝的总体敏感性为 84.8%, 特异性为 93.6%, 但对轻度脂肪变(<20%)的敏感性仅为 64.8%。此外, 超声虽存在操作者依赖性局限, 但因低成本、无辐射、易获取的优势, 成为临床和人群脂肪肝筛查的首选影像学技术, 同时指出当前研究存在异质性、报告质量不足等问题, 需进一步优化超声诊断方案并开展更多对比研究。CT 和 MRI 是通

过密度、信号差异定性诊断异位脂质沉积的方法, 其中, 基于磁共振的方法是目下定性肝脏、骨骼肌异位脂质沉积的优选无创标准[6]。

## 2.2. 定量成像: 原理与技术

定量超声(QUS)通过分析原始射频信号或特定算法, 提供客观的脂肪定量参数。主要技术包括: 1) 受控衰减参数(CAP): CAP 通过测量超声波在肝组织中的衰减参数来评估脂肪含量。其优势在于 CAP 是 3.5 MHz 下超声衰减的有效估计值, 不受肝纤维化的影响, 具有无创、及时、客观、可重复的特点, 且操作者依赖度低, 实现了脂肪肝的一站式无创检测, 弥补了传统无创手段的不足, 尤其对 MAFLD 的筛查和随访具有重要价值[7]。然而, CAP 受多种因素影响, 包括 BMI、糖尿病、病因的影响, 且缺乏一致性标准[8]。有研究认为 CAP 目前仅适用于 BMI  $\leq 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$  的患者[8]。2) 超声脂肪分数(Ultrasound-derived Fat Fraction, UDFF): UDFF 是整合衰减系数(AC)和背向散射系数(BSC)的新型超声量化指标, 与 MRI 质子密度脂肪分数(PDFF)相关性高[9]。Nakamura 等[10]的研究显示, UDFF 对  $\geq \text{S2}$  级脂肪变的敏感性为 90%, 特异性为 91%, 其不受肝纤维化、炎症活动度影响, 可独立评估肝脂肪变性, 有望成为无创定量工具。

CT 是一种广泛使用的成像方法, 能够客观评估脂肪含量。甘油三酯的 X 线吸收率低于正常肝脏[11], 这导致随着脂肪含量的增加, 衰减降低[12]。在平扫 CT 中, 经活检证实无脂肪的肝脏平均衰减值为 64 HU, 而中度脂肪变性对应的平均衰减值为 42 HU [13]。一般来说, 在预测经组织病理学检查确定的病理性肝脏脂肪含量方面, 平扫 CT 优于增强 CT [13]。含碘造影剂会增加肝脏的衰减, 这会干扰且常导致无法准确量化肝脏脂肪含量[13]。目前, 在没有静脉注射造影剂的情况下, 双能 CT 与单纯的衰减(亨斯菲尔德单位)测量相比并无明显优势。双能 CT 材料分解技术能够分离高能和低能光子的衰减贡献[14]。重要的是, 水和脂肪的能量-衰减曲线(即“基函数”)非常相似, 这使得利用不同的 X 射线能量从根本上难以分离水和脂肪的衰减。因此, 双能 CT 最可能的作用是分离重叠的碘或铁过载[14]-[16], 这些物质在单能 CT 上可能会掩盖脂肪变性的存在。已有研究报道了使用增强双能 CT 进行肝脂肪定量结果参差不齐[16] [17]。然而, 双能 CT 的辐射剂量较高, 且对轻度脂肪变的检测阈值仍有待优化。

MRI 是一种拥有丰富对比机制的成像方法, 能够通过直接测量水和脂肪中的质子信号来实现脂肪含量的检测和量化[18]。

其中, Dixon 技术及其衍生序列通过采集多个回波时间(TE)的数据, 分离水和脂肪信号。Cao 等[19]采用六回波 Dixon MRI 同时定量肝脏和胰腺脂肪含量, 结果显示与胰岛素敏感性及  $\beta$  细胞功能显著相关, 六回波 Dixon MRI 可无创定量肝胰脂肪, 并用于 T2DM 早期风险评估与疗效监测。

在此之上, 基于 Dixon 技术的质子密度脂肪分数(PDFF)已成为肝脏脂肪定量的标准参数。早期研究证实, 在 3.0 T 场强下采用多回波 Dixon 技术结合 T2\*校正与多频脂肪信号建模, 能够准确测量肝脏 PDFF, 结果与磁共振波谱(MRS)测得数值高度吻合, 且可生成全肝脂肪分数图, 克服局灶性脂肪沉积带来的采样误差, 重复性优于传统单、双回波化学位移法[20]。Tang 等[21]的研究显示, MRI-PDF 与肝组织学脂肪变性等级呈显著正相关, 对区分有无脂肪变性具有极高诊断效能, 特异度达 100%, 且不受肝脏炎症、肝细胞气球样变及纤维化等混杂因素影响, 具备良好的稳定性与临床适用性。

磁共振波谱(Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy, MRS),  $^1\text{H}$  (脂质)-MRS 是异位脂质沉积定量的方法之一, 可直接检测组织内脂质分子的化学位移信号[22] [23]。在骨骼肌 MRS 中, 可区分肌细胞内脂质(IMCL, 位于肌纤维内, 化学位移约 1.28 ppm)和肌细胞外脂质(EMCL, 位于肌纤维间, 化学位移约 1.5 ppm) [23] [24]。其核心原理在于质子所处化学环境不同, 共振频率存在差异, 即化学位移; 肌纤维与主磁场平行时, 体积磁化率效应使 IMCL 与 EMCL 峰分离最大化[24]。Torriani 等[22]的研究显示, 1.5 T 设备的  $^1\text{H}$ -MRS 以 jMRUI 软件(AMARES 算法)拟合, 即可稳定、可重复地定量胫骨前肌 IMCL, 适用于运动、饮食、药

物干预的纵向肌肉代谢研究。

### 2.3. 新兴技术：人工智能(AI)

近年来, 人工智能(AI)技术, 尤其是深度学习, 对 CT 和 MRI 对异位脂质沉积的定量评估方法起到了改进作用。传统影像的手动分割耗时且可重复性差, 而 AI 驱动的全自动分割算法(如 DeepMedic、3D U-Net 等)能快速、精准地勾画内脏脂肪(VAT)及肝脏、肌肉等区域的异位脂肪, 显著提升影像学诊断的效能与一致性[25] [26]。一项纳入 9223 名无症状成人的大型回顾性研究证实[27], 基于 AI 的全自动 CT 脂肪定量指标在预测死亡率及心血管事件风险方面远优于传统 BMI, 其中肌肉衰减值、内脏与皮下脂肪比的 5 年预测死亡率的 AUC 分别为 0.721 与 0.661 (BMI 的 5 年预测 AUC 为 0.499), 且可发现常规指标无法反映的风险趋势。AI 技术可挖掘图像中人眼无法识别的纹理特征, 结合多模态数据整合, 为构建精准的风险预测模型和个体化评估提供了新工具[25]。

## 3. 不同部位异位脂质沉积的影像学检测特点

### 3.1. 异位脂质沉积的定义与分类

异位脂质沉积的病理学本质是指中性脂肪(主要为甘油三酯)在非脂肪组织细胞内的异常蓄积。根据沉积部位的不同, 可将其分为以下几类: 1) 肝脏脂肪变性(hepatic steatosis); 2) 肌细胞内脂质沉积(intramyocellular lipid, IMCL); 3) 心肌脂肪浸润(myocardial steatosis); 4) 胰腺脂肪浸润(pancreatic steatosis); 5) 肾窦脂肪沉积(renal sinus fat)等[1] [28]。

### 3.2. 肝脏脂肪变性

肝脏是异位脂质沉积最常见的部位, 肝活检为检测肝脏异位脂质沉积的金标准, 但其采样误差大; 影像学方面, CT 适合机会性筛查中重度脂肪变, 而质子密度脂肪分数(PDFF)是最精准、可重复的无创肝脂肪定量方法[4]。Kromrey 等[29]的研究显示, 以 MRI-PDFF 为标准, 超声诊断肝脂肪变的总体灵敏度 74.5%、特异度 86.6%; 灵敏度随脂肪含量升高显著提升, 轻度 65.1%、中度 95%、重度 96%, 特异度始终稳定在 86.6%。一项多中心的前瞻性纵向研究指出[30], MRI-PDFF 可精确量化全肝平均脂肪含量, 与 NASH 肝脂肪变病理等级高度一致, PDFF 变化值可准确判断脂肪变改善或加重, 且在 1.5 T/3.0 T、多厂商设备间表现稳定, 支持其作为 NASH 多中心试验无创脂肪定量标志物。另一项荟萃研究也提到[31], MRI 与 <sup>1</sup>H-MRS 诊断肝脂肪变的整体准确性显著优于超声与 CT, 为首选技术。

### 3.3. 肌细胞内脂质沉积(IMCL)

IMCL 以脂滴形式储存在肌细胞内, 紧邻线粒体, 是长时间运动的重要能量底物, 与胰岛素抵抗密切相关[32]。<sup>1</sup>H-MRS 是检测 IMCL 的无创优选手段, 通常采集比目鱼肌或胫骨前肌的波谱[24]。<sup>1</sup>H-MRS 检测 IMCL 相对于肌肉活检而言, 具有无创、可重复、高时空分辨率、覆盖多肌肉群、结果客观等优势, 亦可实现长期动态监测[23]。

### 3.4. 心肌脂肪浸润

心肌脂肪浸润包括心肌内脂肪、心外膜脂肪及心包脂肪, 其中心肌内脂肪与心律失常、心源性猝死密切相关[33]。MRI 多回波水脂分离成像是检测心肌内脂肪并明确纤维脂肪浸润的高敏感无创方法[34]。心外膜脂肪在 CT 上呈低密度, 在 MRI T1WI 上呈高信号区域[35]。

### 3.5. 胰腺脂肪浸润

胰腺脂肪浸润在 CT 上表现为胰腺实质密度降低, 在 MRI 上呈 T1WI 信号减低, CT 具有快速、分辨

率高的优势,<sup>1</sup>H-MRS 无创、无辐射,但其重复性较差[36]。目前多回波 Dixon MRI 是胰腺脂肪浸润最精准的定量手段,可重复性强,与病理脂肪含量相关系数较高,优于超声、CT、MRS [36]。一项回顾性研究显示[37],胰腺脂肪浸润的定量测定可作为异位脂肪沉积与胰岛素抵抗的早期筛查指标。Singh 等[38]的荟萃分析指出,健康成人胰腺脂肪百分比的加权均值为 4.48%,并且推荐 6.2%作为胰腺脂肪的正常上限阈值。胰腺脂肪定量对于预测 2 型糖尿病风险和胰腺炎并发症具有潜在价值[36]。

### 3.6. 肾窦脂肪沉积

肾窦脂肪(renal sinus fat, RSF)沉积与高血压和慢性肾病相关[39]。CT 和 MRI 均可定量 RSF 面积或体积。Foster 等[40]证明多功能螺旋 CT 检测肾窦脂肪具有扫描速度快、可行且可重复操作的特点。可采用磁共振 Dixon 技术、IDEAL-IQ (迭代水脂分离)MRI 脂肪分数成像等检测肾窦脂肪面积、体积以及脂肪的灰度值,是目前测量脂肪分数和脂肪体积比较准确的方法[41] [42]。Zhang 等[42]的研究显示,RSF 与内脏脂肪面积及肝脂肪含量显著相关,提示 RSF 是全身异位脂肪沉积的一部分。

## 4. 结论

异位脂质沉积是代谢性疾病的核心病理特征,其准确检测与定量对于疾病管理具有重要意义。从定性表征到精确定量,从单一参数到多维度评估,影像学技术在这一领域取得了长足进步。MRI-PDFF 和<sup>1</sup>H-MRS 以其高度的准确性和可重复性,成为异位脂质沉积定量测定的优选方案;超声技术(特别是 CAP 和 QUS)凭借其便捷性和经济性,适合大规模筛查;CT 技术因辐射限制,应用范围相对局限。异位脂质沉积的定量测定可以帮助临床医生为患者制定个体化的治疗方案。目前影像学对异位脂质沉积的可视化表达更多在肝脏、胰腺、骨骼肌中得以运用,而对心肌和肾窦脂肪沉积的精确定量方法研究较少,现有方法缺少一致性标准。到底应该如何准确、有效地对异位脂质沉积的程度进行定量判断可能成为未来的一个深入研究方向。

不同检测方法各有优劣,临床选择应综合考虑准确性、可及性、成本及患者特征。随着技术的不断革新和标准化进程的推进,异位脂质沉积的无创评估将在代谢性疾病的预防、诊断和治疗中发挥越来越重要的作用。未来的研究可聚焦于人工智能辅助诊断及基于影像学的个体化治疗策略,以进一步改善患者预后。

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