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# 垂体神经内分泌肿瘤侵袭性相关生物标志物的研究进展\*

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**[摘要]** 可靠的生物标志物对侵袭性垂体神经内分泌肿瘤(PitNETs)的早期诊断、有效治疗和预后评估非常重要。随着研究的积累,临床对于 PitNETs 的发生和发展过程已经有了更深入的了解,许多能够参与 PitNETs 侵袭性生长的生物分子已被报道。但由于 PitNETs 各亚型间异质性较大,涉及多维度高复杂性的调控网络,目前能够应用于临床诊疗的生物标志物仍十分稀少。该文对 PitNETs 侵袭性相关的生物标志物展开综述,进一步阐述 PitNETs 侵袭性背后的机制,为寻找 PitNETs 诊断、治疗及预后评估的靶点提供了思路。

**[关键词]** 垂体神经内分泌肿瘤;侵袭性;生物标志物;亚型;综述

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## Research progress on biomarkers related to aggressiveness in pituitary neuroendocrine tumors\*

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**[Abstract]** Reliable biomarkers are very important for early diagnosis, effective treatment and prognostic assessment of aggressive pituitary neuroendocrine tumors (PitNETs). With the accumulation of researches, the occurrence and development of PitNETs have been better understood, and many biomolecules that can participate in the aggressive growth of PitNETs have been reported. However, due to the large heterogeneity among the subtypes of PitNETs and the involvement of multi-dimensional and highly complex regulatory networks, there are still very few biomarkers that can be applied to clinical diagnosis and treatment. This article reviews the biomarkers related to the invasiveness of PitNETs, further elaborates the mechanism behind the invasiveness of PitNETs, and provides the ideas for finding the target spots for the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis evaluation of PitNETs.

**[Key words]** pituitary neuroendocrine tumors; invasive; biomarkers; subtype; review

2022 年,最新版的世界卫生组织采用了垂体神经内分泌肿瘤(pituitary neuroendocrine tumors, PitNETs)取代垂体腺瘤(pituitary adenomas, PAs)的命名,以反映其异常激素分泌、侵袭性生长甚至转移的临床特点<sup>[1]</sup>。PitNETs 是在腺垂体细胞起源的蝶鞍区最常见的肿瘤,占全部颅内肿瘤的 10%~15%<sup>[2]</sup>。在最新版分类中,PitNETs 被分为 PIT1 谱系、TPIT 谱系、SF1 谱系和无明确细胞谱系。其中,泌乳素细胞瘤、生长激素细胞瘤、促肾上腺皮质激素细胞瘤又细分为致密颗粒型和稀疏颗粒型的亚型,而促甲状腺激素细胞瘤和促性腺激素细胞瘤没有亚型。临幊上,根据是否具有过量的激素分泌,PitNETs 可分为功能性和无功能性两大类。功能性 PitNETs 又根据分泌激素类型分为泌乳素型、生长激素型、促甲状腺激素

型、促肾上腺皮质激素型及促性腺激素型等<sup>[3]</sup>。无功能性 PitNETs 患者临幊主要表现为占位效应症状,包括头痛、视野缺损和垂体功能减退等<sup>[4]</sup>;功能性 PitNETs 除了肿瘤占位效应症状外,还包括激素分泌异常引起的一系列症状。虽然大多数 PitNETs 被认为是良性的,经蝶垂体手术、药物治疗和放射治疗等常规治疗可以取得良好的治疗效果。但某些 PitNETs 出现异常快速的生长,侵袭周围结构,对常规治疗方式产生抵抗和多次复发,使得 PitNETs 的治疗具有挑战性<sup>[5]</sup>。因此,对 PitNETs 侵袭性生长相关的研究也日益增多。

### 1 PitNETs 常见异常的基因和蛋白

垂体瘤转化基因(pituitary tumor transforming gene, PTTG)对 PitNETs 的发生和发展具有重要作

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用,可参与调控细胞周期、激活细胞内转录、维持染色体稳定性、表达血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)<sup>[6]</sup>。研究发现,PTTG 仅在 PitNETs 中表达,并且与 PitNETs 的侵袭性密切相关,在侵袭性 PitNETs 中高表达<sup>[7]</sup>。而且 PTTG 的表达水平与 Ki-67 指数、PitNETs 新生血管密度及肿瘤体积呈正相关<sup>[8]</sup>。

芳香烃受体相互作用蛋白(aryl hydrocarbon receptor interacting protein, AIP)突变是家族性孤立性垂体瘤最常见的遗传学病因<sup>[9]</sup>。BARRY 等<sup>[10]</sup>发现,在 AIP 阳性 PitNETs 中基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinases, MMP)-2 和 MMP-9 的表达明显上调,同时存在大量肿瘤相关巨噬细胞浸润,并诱导肿瘤细胞发生上皮间质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)以增强细胞迁移和侵袭能力。

在 30%~40% 的促肾上腺皮质激素细胞瘤中都能够检测出泛素特异性肽酶 8(ubiquitin specific peptidase8, USP8)突变,并且其与促肾上腺皮质激素细胞瘤临床特征密切相关<sup>[11]</sup>。USP8 突变型肿瘤体积更小,手术全切除率更高,激素分泌能力更强,对药物治疗的反应性更好;USP8 野生型则更具侵袭性,肿瘤体积更大,手术全切率低,激素分泌能力较弱,对药物治疗的反应性较差<sup>[12]</sup>。

Ki-67 是世界卫生组织推荐的评估 PitNETs 增殖能力的蛋白指标。通常认为 Ki-67 指数>3% 的 PitNETs 具有更强的增殖能力和更高的侵袭风险<sup>[13]</sup>。此外,研究发现细胞周期调控蛋白与 PitNETs 的侵袭性也密切相关。LI 等<sup>[14]</sup>发现,细胞周期蛋白 B1(cyclin B1, CCNB1)在侵袭性 PitNETs 中高表达,并且敲低大鼠垂体瘤细胞(GH3, GT1-1)中 CCNB1 的表达,使神经钙黏蛋白(N-cadherin)表达降低,上皮细胞钙黏蛋白(E-cadherin)表达增加,导致细胞的迁移和侵袭能力降低。在 PitNETs 中 CCND1 上调也被证明与细胞周期异常、血管生成和侵袭性生长有关<sup>[15]</sup>。另外,研究表明表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)与 PitNETs 激素分泌、肿瘤大小、海绵窦侵袭及复发风险也密切相关<sup>[16]</sup>。

## 2 血管生成与 PitNETs

血管生成增加对肿瘤发生侵袭和扩散非常重要,相对于非侵袭性 PitNETs,侵袭性 PitNETs 中存在更明显的新生血管生成<sup>[17]</sup>。研究发现,VEGF 能够通过丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)信号通路、黏附斑激酶(focal adhesion kinase, FAK)通路、磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶(phosphoinositide 3-kinase, PI3K)/蛋白激酶 B(protein kinase B, Akt)通路及 p38 MAPK 通路等多条信号通路促进血管生成<sup>[18]</sup>。另外,VEGF-A 也被证明是侵袭性 PitNETs 血管生成的关键因素<sup>[19]</sup>。研究发现,肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF)- $\alpha$  和低氧诱

导因子(hypoxia-inducible factor, HIF)-1 $\alpha$  可以上调 VEGF 表达<sup>[20]</sup>。与 VEGF 类似成纤维细胞生长因子(fibroblast growth factor, FGF)-2 能促进 PitNETs 血管内皮细胞的增殖和分化<sup>[21]</sup>。

## 3 EMT 与侵袭性 PitNETs

EMT 是指上皮细胞通过特定程序失去其上皮表型转化为具有间质表型的生物学过程,是肿瘤迁移和侵袭能力增强的一个过程,在分子生物学水平上表现为 E-cadherin 表达下降,而 N-cadherin、波形蛋白、蜗牛家族转录抑制因子 1(SNAI1)和扭曲家族 bHLH 转录因子 1(TWIST1)等表达增加<sup>[22]</sup>。在正常垂体细胞发育过程中 EMT 也扮演着重要角色,研究发现,对生长激素细胞发育至关重要的 PIT1 转录因子可促进垂体干细胞发生 EMT<sup>[23]</sup>,而 EMT 也与 PitNETs 密切相关。

一项针对泌乳素细胞瘤的研究发现,细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶 5 能够在 Thr9 位点磷酸化 PBK 以诱导 EMT,从而促进泌乳素细胞瘤侵袭性生长<sup>[24]</sup>。ZHANG 等<sup>[25]</sup>通过定量蛋白质组学分析侵袭性 PitNETs 与非侵袭性 PitNETs 间的蛋白表达差异,发现葡萄糖易化扩散转运蛋白成员 1(SLC2A1)在侵袭性 PitNETs 中明显上调,SLC2A1 和相关蛋白富集的功能和通路与 EMT 密切相关。另外,低水平的 E-cadherin 表达预示着肿瘤更具侵袭性,其在预测 PitNETs 侵袭性方面具有较高的可靠性,甚至优于 Ki-67<sup>[26]</sup>。E-cadherin 的丢失可能与 PitNETs 的颗粒模式有关<sup>[27]</sup>,而 PitNETs 的颗粒模式则与侵袭性和生长抑素受体配体类似物治疗反应性有关<sup>[28]</sup>。多种非编码 RNA 参与了 PitNETs 中 EMT 的调控,如微小 RNA(microRNA, miR)-133、miR-15a、miR-16 和 miR-132 等<sup>[29]</sup>。

## 4 肿瘤微环境与侵袭性 PitNETs

肿瘤微环境(tumor microenvironment, TME)是指肿瘤细胞存在的周围微环境,包括多种细胞类型和细胞外成分,对肿瘤的发生和发展至关重要。MMP 家族是一组锌和钙依赖性的蛋白水解酶,能够降解细胞外基质,其中 MMP-9 和 MMP-2 可以特异性降解 IV 型胶原蛋白<sup>[30]</sup>。研究表明,垂体囊、海绵窦内壁和垂体网状纤维就主要由 IV 型胶原组成<sup>[31]</sup>。此外,研究发现 MMP-2、MMP-9 和 MMP-14 在侵袭性 PitNETs 中高表达,并且与肿瘤的侵袭性生长相关<sup>[32]</sup>。

肿瘤相关巨噬细胞(tumor-associated macrophages, TAMs)在 PitNETs 中可通过多种途径促进肿瘤侵袭性生长<sup>[33]</sup>。研究发现,CD68 $^{+}$  TAMs 在更具侵袭性的稀疏颗粒型生长激素细胞瘤中浸润程度更高<sup>[34]</sup>。在肿瘤中,TAMs 可极化为 M1-TAMs 和 M2-TAMs 亚群,M2-TAMs 与 PitNETs 侵袭性生长更具相关性<sup>[35]</sup>。

肿瘤相关成纤维细胞(cancer-associated fibro-

blasts, CAFs)能够分泌多种生长因子和趋化因子,是TME中的重要细胞成分<sup>[36]</sup>。研究表明,CAFs可产生多种与PitNETs侵袭相关的细胞因子或趋化因子,如CC趋化因子配体(CC chemokine ligand,CCL)11、CCL1、CCL22、白细胞介素(interleukin,IL)-8、IL-6、FGF-2、VEGF、VEGF-A和α-平滑肌肌动蛋白等<sup>[37]</sup>。

## 5 非编码 RNA 与侵袭性 PitNETs

非编码 RNA 包括 miRNA、长链非编码 RNA (long non-coding RNA,lncRNA) 和环状 RNA(circular RNA,circRNA),能够调节多种细胞过程。研究表明,非编码 RNA 的失调,特别是 lncRNA 和 circRNA 与 miRNA 之间的相互作用,与 PitNETs 的发生和发展密切相关<sup>[38]</sup>。miRNA 能与信使 RNA(mRNA)互补配对,影响 mRNA 翻译的单链非编码 RNA 小分子。HE 等<sup>[39]</sup>通过 miRNA 测序发现不同类型的 PitNETs 都具有其独特的 miRNA 表达。在泌乳素型 PitNETs 中,miR-34c-3p、miR-34b-5p、miR-378 和 miR-338-5p 均明显下调;在生长激素型 PitNETs 中,miR-184 明显上调;在无功能性 PitNETs 中,miR-493-5p 下调,而 miR-181b-5p 明显上调。BEYLERLI 等<sup>[40]</sup>发现,miR-200a 和 lncRNA ANRIL 在侵袭性 PitNETs 患者组织样本中表达水平较非侵袭性患者上调,两者可以作为反映 PitNETs 侵袭性潜在标志物。

lncRNA 是指长度在 200 核苷酸以上且不编码蛋白质的 RNA 分子。在 PitNETs 中发现多种 lncRNA 表达异常,并且与 PitNETs 侵袭性生长密切相关,如 lncRNA MEG3、lncRNA MYMLR、lncRNA TUG1 和 lncRNA BBOX 1-AS1 等<sup>[41]</sup>。PENG 等<sup>[42]</sup>通过微阵列分析比较侵袭性 PitNETs 与非侵袭性 PitNETs 间 lncRNA 的表达差异,发现相对于非侵袭性 PitNETs,侵袭性 PitNETs 中有 81 个上调的 lncRNA 和 165 个下调的 lncRNA,并验证了 FAM182B 和 LOC105375785 这两种 lncRNA 与 PitNETs 侵袭性生长密切相关。

大多数 circRNA 是一种单链、内源性非编码 RNA,由前体 mRNA 的外显子反向剪接产生<sup>[43]</sup>。GUO 等<sup>[44]</sup>研究发现,无功能 PitNETs 能够通过 hsa\_circ\_0000066 和 hsa\_circ\_0069707 这两种 circRNA 预测肿瘤复发。DU 等<sup>[45]</sup>研究发现,hsa\_circ\_0001368 在生长激素型 PitNETs 中明显上调,并且其表达水平与垂体特异性转录因子 PIT-1 水平呈正相关,敲低 hsa\_circ\_0001368 能够抑制细胞增殖、侵袭及血清生长激素水平。

## 6 小结与展望

可靠的生物标志物对侵袭性 PitNETs 的诊断、治疗和预后评估具有重大意义。随着研究的积累,临床对于 PitNETs 的发生和发展过程已经有了更深入的了解,许多能够参与 PitNETs 侵袭性生长的生物分子

被熟知,例如 PTTG、AIP 和 USP 等基因突变,Ki-67、EGFR 和细胞周期调控蛋白等增殖相关标志物,VEGF、TNF-α、HIF-1α 和 FGF-2 等血管生成相关标志物,TAMs 和 CAFs 等肿瘤微环境指标,EMT 和非编码 RNA 相关标志物。但大部分生物标志物仍处于研究阶段,尚未应用于常规的临床诊疗。相信随着研究的不断深入,PitNETs 侵袭性背后的机制将逐渐被揭示,研究人员也能筛选出灵敏度和特异度更高的生物标志物,实现 PitNETs 的精确诊断、有效治疗及预后评估。

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