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免疫联合局部治疗在肺癌肝转移中应用的研究进展*

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[摘要] 肺癌是我国发病率和死亡率排名第一的恶性肿瘤,大部分患者就诊时已为晚期。以程序性死亡蛋白-1(PD-1)及程序性死亡受体配体 1(PD-L1)抑制剂为代表的免疫治疗的应用改善了晚期肺癌患者的预后,但对伴肝转移患者获益有限。近年来,免疫联合放疗、消融、介入等局部治疗在肺癌肝转移患者中的应用逐渐增加。该文就肺癌肝转移患者免疫联合局部治疗的背景及研究进展进行综述,以期对肺癌肝转移患者治疗方案选择提供参考依据。

[关键词] 肝转移;肺癌;免疫;局部治疗;综述

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Research progress on the application of immunotherapy combined with local therapy in liver metastasis of lung cancer*

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[Abstract] Lung cancer exhibits the highest morbidity and mortality rates among malignant tumors in my country, with a significant number of cases being diagnosed at an advanced stage. The utilization of immunotherapy, specifically the use of programmed death protein-1 (PD-1) and programmed death receptor ligand 1 (PD-L1) inhibitors, has demonstrated enhanced prognostic outcomes for individuals diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. However, the efficacy of these treatments for patients with liver metastases remains constrained. In recent years, there has been a gradual increase in the utilization of immunotherapy in conjunction with radiotherapy, ablation, intervention, and other local treatments for patients with liver metastases originating from lung cancer. This article aims to provide a comprehensive review of the background and current research advancements in the field of immunotherapy combined with local therapy for patients diagnosed with liver metastases from lung cancer. The objective is to offer valuable insights and guidance for healthcare professionals in selecting appropriate treatment options for patients with liver metastases from lung cancer.

[Key words] liver metastasis; lung cancer; immunity; local therapy; review

国家癌症中心数据显示,我国肺癌的发病率及病死率居恶性肿瘤首位^[1],大多患者就诊时已为晚期。肺癌常见转移部位为肺、脑、骨、肝脏,其中合并肝转移者预后最差^[2]。放疗、消融、介入等局部治疗在肝脏原发或转移性肿瘤中的有效性及安全性已被证实,但免疫治疗是否可获得更佳的疗效尚待探索。本文对免疫联合肝脏局部治疗在肺癌肝转移中的作用机制及其应用现状进行综述。

1 联合治疗的理论背景

1.1 肺癌肝转移治疗现状

肝脏单器官转移在肺癌中最为少见,但不论是肝脏单脏器或包含有肝脏的多脏器转移均有着最差的

预后^[2]。对表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)突变的晚期非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC)患者,一线应用 EGFR-TKI 疗效优于传统化疗,但肝转移者无进展生存(progression-free survival, PFS)仍明显缩短(4.1 个月 vs. 16.0 个月, $P < 0.001$)^[3]。抗血管内皮生长因子药物贝伐珠单抗联合化疗在晚期非鳞 NSCLC 患者中,总生存(overall survival, OS)得以延长(24.3 个月 vs. 17.7 个月, $P = 0.015$),但仍未改变肝转移患者预后较差的现状^[4]。2013 年免疫检查点抑制剂(immune checkpoint inhibitors, ICIs)治疗问世,提高了肺癌患者 OS^[5],将免疫与化疗相结合,可以起到延缓

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免疫耐药及增强疗效的作用^[6-8]。但多项研究表明,伴肝转移者缺乏针对肝转移的特殊治疗手段,从免疫治疗中仍获益欠佳^[5,9-11],其原因多为肝脏特殊的免疫抑制微环境。

1.2 肝脏免疫微环境

肝脏是各种恶性肿瘤最常见的转移部位之一,大多研究认为与其独特的双重血供及免疫抑制微环境相关,然而其具体机制在很大程度上仍然未知^[3,12]。

肿瘤微环境(tumor microenvironment, TME)指肿瘤细胞存在的细胞环境,由免疫细胞、基质细胞等多种细胞及细胞外基质构成^[13]。不同肿瘤具有不同的 TME,这成为影响治疗反应的关键因素,也是同一肿瘤不同转移部位对治疗反应不同的原因^[14-15]。肝脏特有的肝窦内皮细胞(liver sinusoidal endothelial cell, LSEC)及肝巨噬细胞等,构成了肝脏特殊的免疫抑制性微环境。

1.2.1 肝细胞

肝细胞为肝脏中最主要的细胞,在肝脏肿瘤的发生、发展中起到促进作用。一项关于胰腺癌肝转移的动物研究发现,非肿瘤肝细胞分泌 IL-6 激活肝细胞中的促炎 STAT3 信号传导,产生血清淀粉样蛋白(serum amyloid A, SAA)A1 和 A2,以诱导髓系细胞聚集并改变肝脏中的纤维化微环境,促进肿瘤细胞在肝脏中的定植^[16]。此外,肝细胞释放的多种因子,如胰岛素样生长因子 1(insulin-like growth factor 1, IGF-1)、肝细胞生长因子样蛋白(hepatocyte growth factor-like protein, HGFL)和肝细胞来源的调节蛋白(hepatocyte-derived heregulin, HRG),可通过不同机制诱导肿瘤细胞生长、侵袭和转移^[17-18]。

1.2.2 LSEC

LSEC 在肝脏非实质细胞中占比约 70%,具有重要的生理和免疫功能^[19]。LSEC 表达 C 型凝集素受体,与病毒摄取直接相关,介导先天性免疫^[20]。LSEC 还表达主要组织相容性复合体 I 类蛋白(major histocompatibility complex I, MHC I)、主要组织相容性复合体 II 类蛋白(major histocompatibility complex II, MHC II),分别将抗原呈递到 CD8 细胞毒性 T 细胞(CD8 cytotoxic T cells, CD8⁺T)和 CD4 细胞毒性 T 细胞(CD4 cytotoxic T cells, CD4⁺T),从而调节适应性免疫应答^[21]。针对小鼠模型的临床前研究发现,被 LSEC 激活的 CD8⁺T 不能分泌白细胞介素-2(interleukin-2, IL-2)来解除 T 细胞的免疫耐受,而将抗原呈递给 CD4⁺T 可诱导其分化为调节性 T 细胞(regulatory T cell, Treg),这些可能是肝脏免疫抑制微环境形成的机制之一^[22-23]。

1.2.3 肝巨噬细胞

肝巨噬细胞由常驻巨噬细胞、库普弗细胞(Kupffer cells, KC)和单核细胞衍生巨噬细胞(monocyte-derived macrophages, MoMφs)组成,在维持肝

脏稳态的潜在机制方面起着关键作用^[24]。在肝细胞癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)中, KC 被认为可驱动肿瘤的发展和转移,其通过程序性死亡受体配体 1(programmed death-ligand 1, PD-L1)和半乳糖凝集素-9(galectin-9, GAL9)的表达增强,分别与程序性死亡蛋白-1(programmed death-1, PD-1)和 TIM3 相互作用,从而抑制免疫原性 T 细胞活化^[25]; KC 上髓系细胞表面受体(triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells-1, TREM1)上调,导致 Treg 的募集从而抑制细胞毒性 T 细胞反应^[26]; KC 通过透明质酸(hyaluron, HA)受体 CD44 结合招募血小板,这是 HCC 发生的重要步骤^[27],而在 HCC 后期,主要通过由 MoMφ 介导的自然杀伤(natural killer, NK)细胞功能抑制来促进肿瘤发展^[28]。研究表明,肺癌的肝转移的免疫治疗反应与 HCC 更相似而非肺癌^[29-30]。针对 KC 表面受体的进一步研究也许可以找到潜在的治疗靶点,为肝转移瘤提供新的治疗思路。

1.2.4 肝星状细胞(hepatic stellate cell, HSC)

HSC 位于窦间隙内,在正常肝脏中处于静止状态,活化的 HSC 诱导单核细胞内源性 p38 MAPK 通路激活,促进髓系抑制细胞分化和免疫抑制,而髓系抑制细胞在肝纤维化中的累积与细胞毒性 T 细胞减少和 HCC 进展有关^[31]。此外,还有一些研究表明活化的 HSC 与募集肿瘤相关巨噬细胞、促进肿瘤细胞的黏附、促血管生存等相关^[32-33]。

2 免疫联合放疗

2.1 作用机制

放射治疗是多种恶性肿瘤的标准治疗,通过直接或间接损伤细胞 DNA 来诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡,也可以通过激活局部和/或全身免疫反应来消除肿瘤,特别是当其 ICI 联合使用时^[34-35]。放疗被认为可通过以下机制在分子层面对免疫微环境进行重塑:放疗引起 DNA 损伤应答(DNA-damage response, DDR)发挥免疫监视作用;释放损伤相关的分子模式(damage associated molecular patterns, DAMPs),促进树突状细胞(dendritic cells, DC)的吞噬和交叉提呈;放疗导致肿瘤细胞表面 MHC-I 分子、细胞间黏附分子 1(intercellular cell adhesion molecule-1, ICAM1)分子及 RAE-1 γ 表达上调,促进了肿瘤与 T 细胞之间的相互作用^[36]。

缺氧可通过多种机制直接或间接诱发放疗抵抗^[37],近期研究表明 PD-1 抑制剂可通过增加 CD8⁺T 数量和 γ -干扰素(interferon-gamma, IFN- γ)的产生来增加反应性肿瘤的血管灌注,使肿瘤血管正常化来调节肿瘤缺氧微环境而发挥放疗增敏作用^[38-40]。而放疗可以通过增加 T 细胞浸润,减少髓源性抑制细胞(myeloid-derived suppressor cells, MDSC)与 CD8⁺T 的比例等重塑肝脏微环境,增加 ICI 的全身疗效^[41]。

2.2 研究进展

多项临床研究表明,在转移性 NSCLC 中,放疗联合 PD-1 抑制剂免疫治疗可提高疗效且不增加严重副反应^[42-46]。在 PEMBRO-RT 研究^[45]中,随机对照了单独使用帕博利珠单抗组与立体定向放疗(Stereotactic body radiotherapy, SBRT)联合帕博利珠单抗组疾病控制率(disease control rate, DCR)、PFS、OS 及不良反应。该研究试验组中照射部位主要为肺及肺部或纵隔淋巴结(16/36, 44.4%),试验组显示客观缓解率(objective response rate, ORR)、12 周时的 DCR 及中位 PFS 和 OS 增加,但无明显差异,不良反应没有增加。另一项随机对照研究 MDACC 试验中^[46],帕博利珠单抗联合放疗组较帕博利珠单抗组 ORR、OS 无明显差异,但联合 SBRT 组较联合传统放疗组远隔 ORR 增加(38% vs. 10%),其中肝脏放疗病例 4 例。两项研究均未发现免疫联合放疗有明显生存获益,仍需更大样本量的随机对照临床研究来证实免疫联合放疗在 NSCLC 肝转移中的疗效及安全性。

3 免疫联合消融

3.1 作用机制

现有的微创消融技术包括射频消融(radiofrequency ablation, RFA)、微波消融(microwave ablation, MWA)、高强度聚焦超声(high-intensity focused ultrasound, HIFU)及冷冻消融等,已有研究证实 RFA 和冷冻消融可诱发较强的免疫反应^[47]。RFA 是通过射频探针产生电阻热,导致局部温度超过 50 °C 而破坏肿瘤组织,已被应用于包括肝转移瘤在内的多种实体恶性肿瘤的治疗^[48]。RFA 及冷冻消融后的细胞坏死释放各种免疫原性细胞内底物,包括 RNA、DNA、热休克蛋白(heat shock protein, HSP)、尿酸和高迁移率族蛋白 B1(high mobility group protein B1, HMGB1),激活先天性免疫并可能导致获得性免疫反应^[49-50]。此外,RFA 可上调肝转移肿瘤细胞 PD-L1 的表达,和抗 PD-1 抗体的联合治疗明显增强了 T 细胞的免疫反应,从而增强了抗肿瘤免疫力并延长了生存期^[50]。

3.2 研究进展

一项探讨 RFA 治疗肺癌肝转移的临床回顾性研究显示,RFA 技术成功率为 96.3%,RFA 后 1、2、3 和 5 年的 OS 率分别为 55.2%、26.0%、22.0% 和 14.4%,中位 OS 为 20 个月,没有患者出现与 RFA 相关的死亡,证实 RFA 是肺癌肝转移患者一项安全有效的治疗选择^[51]。另一项关于 RFA 联合 PD-1 抑制剂治疗复发性 HCC 的回顾性研究显示,PD-1 抑制剂联合 RFA 组和单 RFA 组的中位无复发生存期(re-lapse-free survival, RFS)为 39.1、19.3 周($P=0.002$),OS 分别为 51.0、47.6 周($P=0.008$),提示抗 PD-1 联合 RFA 治疗在提高复发性 HCC 患者的生存率方面优于单独使用 RFA^[52]。

目前尚无 RFA 或 MWA 联合免疫治疗肺癌肝转移的临床报道,基于临床前研究及联合治疗在其他癌种的临床数据,认为免疫联合消融在肺癌肝转移为一种可选的有效治疗方式,且并不会增加严重不良反应。

4 免疫联合介入

4.1 作用机制

经动脉化疗栓塞术(transcatheter arterial chemoembolization, TACE)或经动脉栓塞术(transarterial embolization, TAE)是经导管插管至靶血管,联合或不联合化疗药的情况下注入栓塞材料,导致肿瘤动脉阻塞产生缺血坏死的一种治疗方法^[53]。

TACE 增加免疫治疗疗效的机制可能为:肿瘤滋养动脉栓塞后,肿瘤细胞短时间内缺血坏死,释放肿瘤抗原,降低 HCC 患者血液中免疫抑制 Treg 的比例^[54],而 Treg 的耗竭或失活可逆转肝肿瘤相关的全身性免疫抑制,与 PD-1 抑制剂联合可发挥协同作用^[55]。此外,在 HCC 术后标本中发现,接受过 TACE 治疗的患者在肿瘤细胞中的 PD-1 和 PD-L1 表达水平明显高于未接受 TACE 治疗的患者(2.0% vs. 0.4%, $P=0.027$)^[56],提示在某些特定病例中免疫联合 TACE 可提高疗效。

4.2 研究进展

目前尚无免疫联合 TACE/TAE 治疗肺癌肝转移的临床研究,但在肝癌及肝转移瘤中一些临床研究显示出免疫联合 TACE 治疗的有效性及其安全性。一项关于 PD-1 抑制剂联合 TACE 治疗 HCC 的多中心、回顾性研究显示,免疫联合 TACE 治疗组较单免疫治疗组的中位 PFS 明显延长(8.8 个月 vs. 3.7 个月, $P<0.01$),并显示出更长的 OS(35.1 个月 vs. 16.6 个月, $P=0.12$),且在免疫联合 TACE 治疗组中没有因 TACE 发生的 3~4 级不良事件^[57]。SHEN 等^[58]将肝动脉灌注帕博利珠单抗联合肝脏病灶冷冻消融用于治疗 15 例恶性黑色素瘤伴肝转移患者,结果未观察到 3~4 级不良事件,且 1 例患者(6.7%)获得了完全缓解,3 例(20.0%)获得了部分缓解,中位总体 PFS 和中位肝脏 PFS 分别为 4.0 个月(95%CI: 2.5~5.5)和 5.73 个月(95%CI: 1.1~10.4)。从理论上讲,经肝动脉灌注 PD-1 抑制剂可比外周静脉给药途径获得更高的药物浓度,增加肝脏免疫微环境中肿瘤浸润性淋巴细胞(tumor infiltrating lymphocytes, TILs),改善肝脏的免疫耐受情况。本课题组设计了一项经肝动脉灌注帕博利珠单抗并行肝脏转移病灶 TAE 联合全身静脉化疗,治疗驱动基因阴性的初治伴肝转移晚期 NSCLC 患者的临床研究,观察该治疗方案有效性及其安全性,但因入组例数较少,暂无可发表性成果。

5 总 结

肺癌肝转移的不良预后激励众多学者探索更新、

更有效的联合治疗方案,免疫联合局部治疗以改善肝脏免疫微环境成为研究热点。目前的肺癌肝转移肝脏局部治疗相关临床研究较少,但结直肠癌、黑色素瘤肝转移及 HCC 免疫联合肝脏局部治疗的相关研究提供了理论基础及参考方向。如何更好地将免疫与放疗、射频、介入这些局部治疗方案联合成为努力的方向,如局部治疗介入的时机、放疗的剂量、介入栓塞或是灌注化疗等问题需要更多的临床试验来解决。

综上所述,对于晚期肺癌肝转移患者,免疫联合放疗、射频、介入等局部治疗方案值得探讨,相信随着更多临床试验的开展,能为改善此类患者的预后提供一个更好的解决方案。

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