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斑点追踪超声在儿科心血管疾病应用的研究进展*

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[摘要] 斑点追踪超声是近十年来出现的一种新的超声心动图技术,其利用超声信号对心脏内壁进行斑点标记来直接评估心脏收缩功能,目前在成人疾病领域已展开广泛的研究,结果显示在评估亚临床心肌功能障碍时其较传统的超声心动图具有明显的优势,但斑点追踪超声在儿科领域目前研究较少,该文就斑点追踪超声在儿科心血管疾病目前的应用进行综述。

[关键词] 儿科学;斑点追踪超声;诊断;心血管疾病;应变;综述

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Research progress in application of speckle tracking echocardiography in pediatric cardiovascular disease*

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[Abstract] Speckle tracking echocardiography is a new type of echocardiographic technology that has emerged in the past decade. It uses ultrasound signals to speckle-mark the inner wall of the heart to directly assess the cardiac systolic function. At present, the extensive researches have been carried out in the field of adult diseases. The results show that it has obvious advantages over traditional echocardiography in subclinical myocardial dysfunction, but the speckle tracking echocardiography has little research in the field of pediatrics. This article reviews the current application of speckle tracking echocardiography in pediatrics cardiovascular disease.

[Key words] pediatric; speckle tracking echocardiography; diagnosis; cardiovascular disease; strain; review

自从 1954 年超声首次应用于临床后,随着超声技术的快速发展,超声心动图以其无电离辐射、实时性、多平面成像能力、出色的分辨率及便携性等特性,成为临床实践中极具价值的检查方法。斑点追踪超声用于评估心功能在成人疾病领域已经有了快速的发展,提示其在多种心血管系统疾病中可早期发现患者的心肌损害及提供额外的诊断信息^[1],但其在儿科方面应用稍显滞后。本文就斑点追踪超声在儿科心血管疾病目前的应用进行综述。

1 斑点追踪超声及应变的基本概念

尽管常规超声心动图被认为是评估室壁运动和局部心肌功能的可靠方法,但常规超声心动图的评估

高度依赖于操作者,且存在较高的观察者间差异及观察者内差异,无法评估心肌本身的缩短。常规超声心动图测量心功能最主要的指标为射血分数,其高度依赖于心脏前后负荷及心率,作为收缩功能的衡量标准已显示出不足,临床上需要更好的工具来评估心肌功能^[2]。近年来,速度成像、位移成像和应变成像已成为更全面、更可靠的超声心动图心肌功能评估的重要工具。

应变表示的是物体在受力下较初始尺寸的变形程度,以百分比表示。根据方向,加长或加厚变形为正值,而缩短或变薄变形为负值。斑点追踪技术则是最主要的一种应变成像方法之一,其通过跟踪斑点

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(超声束于心肌纤维相互作用产生的标记)在心动周期中的位移以测量应变值。在此之前,仅有心脏磁共振能够准确评估心脏应变,斑点追踪超声测量的结果分为如下 3 种,(1)纵向应变:心肌从心底向心尖方向的变形(变长或变短);(2)径向应变:心肌朝向心室腔中心的变形(变厚或变薄);(3)圆周应变:短轴切面上沿圆周的心肌变形。同时目前斑点追踪超声可用于评估心室的扭转及解扭转(心尖部相对于心底部沿左心室长轴的扭转)。此外,斑点追踪超声是一种半自动测量技术,保证了观察者间及观察者内较低的差异。

2 斑点追踪超声在儿科的应用

2.1 川崎病

川崎病是儿童期最常见的血管炎之一,其并发症主要由心血管系统受累引起,包括冠状动脉瘤、心肌收缩能力下降、心力衰竭、心肌梗死等。目前川崎病预后主要取决于冠状动脉受累情况。有研究显示,1/4~1/2 的急性期川崎病患者存在轻至中度心室功能不全,极少数会出现心室功能严重降低。有研究纳入川崎病患者并对其进行斑点追踪超声评估,结果显示川崎病患者急性期左心室纵向及圆周应变较对照组明显减低,亚急性期迅速恢复,恢复期进一步升高,而中期随访时与对照组相比仍偏低^[3-4],提示川崎病患者左心室收缩功能减低是心肌炎症反应的结果。研究同时显示川崎病患者中,冠状动脉正常组与冠状动脉扩张组比较,红细胞沉降率、C 反应蛋白、丙氨酸氨基转移酶及门冬氨酸氨基转移酶水平有差异,但两组左心室 3 种应变未发现明显差异,提示冠状动脉扩张可能不是川崎病患者急性期左心室心肌功能受损加重的危险因素。YANG 等^[5]将斑点追踪应用于测量川崎病患者颈动脉的圆周应变,提示川崎病较正常对照及其他发热患儿的颈动脉弹性有所下降。而 HU 等^[6]通过斑点追踪超声识别到无冠状动脉损害的川崎病患者的急性期左心室心肌全层收缩功能仍有不同程度下降,随着病程延长,心肌功能逐渐恢复,但心内膜下心肌仍有损伤。

2.2 心肌炎

心肌炎被定义为病变范围主要限于心肌的炎症性疾病,由多种病原体、过敏或自身免疫疾病等引起,其中最常见的是病毒性心肌炎。而目前儿童心肌炎的诊断主要依靠心脏磁共振、心电图、心肌标志物及非特异性的临床症状等。除心脏磁共振以外,其余诊断依据均缺乏较高的特异性,而心内膜心肌活检作为病理确诊,在临床上难以广泛应用。CHINALI 等^[7]纳入 33 例经过心脏磁共振证实的因局灶性心肌炎入院的患儿,经多普勒超声心动图检查均未发现射血分数及室壁运动异常,但通过斑点追踪超声检查,58% 的患儿存在纵向应变受损,同时纵向应变降低也与心脏磁共振提示的心肌水肿百分比呈中度相关,同时 6 例患儿随访过程中仍观察到持续的纵向应变受损,与随访心脏磁共振时表现出的残留的局灶性心脏

纤维化相符合。PRUITT 等^[8]研究显示,急性心肌炎的患儿中,纵向应变 $<-11.0\%$ 是急性心肌炎情况下发生心律失常的强预测因子,纵向应变 $<-7.6\%$ 的急性心肌炎患儿与心力衰竭有关。

2.3 糖尿病

儿童糖尿病以 1 型糖尿病为主要类型,是儿童期最常见的慢性疾病之一。尽管儿童糖尿病患者在儿童期很少会合并临床症状明显的心血管疾病,但与健康儿童相比,糖尿病儿童更常见动脉粥样硬化和血管僵硬等表现,既往部分研究显示,1 型糖尿病患者已存在动脉粥样硬化的过程。MOTAMEDI 等^[9]纳入了 53 例 1 型糖尿病患者,与 25 例正常儿童比较,1 型糖尿病患者纵向应变明显降低,左心室所有节段均受累。但另一项研究则显示,无症状的 1 型糖尿病患者早期有左心室高动力收缩的迹象^[10],表现为应变率高于正常儿童,考虑可能是糖尿病非缺血性心肌病早期阶段的一种短暂效应,仍需进行纵向研究以阐明糖尿病心肌病在整个儿童期至成年期的心功能变化。除了儿童糖尿病外,通过斑点追踪超声更是发现妊娠期糖尿病患者的胎儿出现了右心室收缩功能受损^[11]。

2.4 化疗药物心脏毒性

蒽环类药物是目前治疗儿童多种恶性肿瘤的一线化疗药物,其毒副作用包括脱发、骨髓抑制及心脏毒性等。其中心脏毒性是蒽环类药物较为重要的毒副作用,表现为心内传导紊乱、心律失常、左心室功能障碍及心力衰竭等。数十年的研究已证实蒽环类药物导致的心脏毒性往往呈不可逆性和进展性,且与累计剂量相关,蒽环类药物剂量越高,治疗后时间越长,心肌功能越低^[12],但不同患儿由于体内代谢蒽环类药物相关基因的差异性导致其对药物的易感性不同。所以密切监测药物的心脏毒性尤为重要。

目前对化疗药物心脏毒性的定义主要集中于左心室射血分数的降低及充血性心力衰竭相关的症状如第三心音奔马律、心动过速等。临床上主要依靠常规超声心动图及心电图进行监测。既往研究提示在左心室射血分数不降低的情况下,也可发生明显的心脏毒性^[13]。ÇETIN 等^[14]纳入了 45 例接受蒽环类药物治疗且无心脏症状的癌症患儿与 38 例健康对照者,结果提示:与健康对照者比较,癌症患儿的纵向应变明显降低,而其他常规超声心动图参数及脑钠肽等无差异($P<0.05$)。TORO-SALAZAR 等^[15]更是将纵向应变 $<17.5\%$ 作为识别癌症治疗相关心功能不全的敏感指标之一。但目前癌症治疗幸存者中异常纵向应变的预后意义仍然尚不明确。同时,SABATINO 等^[16]在基础研究中使用多柔比星化疗时联合应用降血糖药恩格列静,这可以减少多柔比星的心脏毒性,此结果同样经过斑点追踪超声得到验证。

2.5 系统性硬化症

系统性硬化症是一种罕见的全身性自身免疫性疾病,其特征是皮肤、关节和内脏器官弥漫性纤维化

和血管异常。心脏是该疾病主要受累器官之一,表现为反复冠状动脉缺血和心肌炎症导致的弥漫性心肌纤维化及心脏传导异常等。而心脏、肺、肾脏的受累是造成死亡的主要原因。CIVIERI 等^[17]纳入了 18 例系统性硬化症患儿,其中 3 例纵向应变提示异常,且都有皮肤受累表现,但其中仅有 1 例患儿同时存在射血分数降低及心脏受累表现,另外 2 例从未出现过心脏症状。9 例患儿在第 36 个月时再次接受评估,结果同样提示纵向应变下降较射血分数更为明显。值得注意的是,该研究中,纵向应变异常的患儿均未接受过钙通道阻滞剂的治疗,而所有服用钙通道阻滞剂的患儿纵向应变均正常,且评价系统性硬化症病情严重程度(J4S 评分)与纵向应变之间存在明显相关性。

2.6 儿童多系统炎症综合征(multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children,MIS-C)

MIS-C 是新型冠状病毒感染患儿相对罕见的并发症,目前认为新型冠状病毒感染会引发以细胞因子风暴为特征的先天性及适应性免疫应答,主要累及心血管及胃肠道系统,其具有与川崎病、心肌炎及中毒性休克综合征重叠的临床表现^[18]。与重症新型冠状病毒感染患儿相比,MIS-C 患儿心肺系统受累更加明显^[19]。LEAL 等^[20]应用斑点追踪超声及正电子发射计算机断层显像(positron emission tomography,PET-CT)观察了 6 例 MIS-C 患儿,所有患儿均无心血管系统症状且左心室射血分数未见明显异常,但斑点追踪超声及 PET-CT 均提示患儿存在心肌亚临床损害,且两者具有良好相关性。而 SUN 等^[21]发现使用双心室纵向应变联合高敏肌钙蛋白为预测新型冠状病毒感染患者的死亡率提供了更高的准确性。

2.7 高帧率血流斑点追踪

除了用于测量心功能之外,新的应用也在逐渐开展,高帧率血流斑点追踪技术通过直接追踪血流运动,可精准量化血流运动及模式^[22],增强了对异常血流轨迹的可视化,并实现了常规超声难以进行的涡流成像^[23],提供了传统彩色多普勒血流显像无法提供的额外信息,而先天性心脏病患儿的血流模式紊乱更为普遍^[24],已有研究确定了健康儿童主动脉根部及升主动脉的涡流模式^[25]。随着研究进展,血流斑点追踪将为先天性心脏病^[26]、心肌病^[27]及其他心血管疾病的临床诊疗及研究提供全新的方向。

2.8 其他

除了以上介绍的相关儿科常见疾病外,对儿科其他罕见病及既往对心功能未予重视的儿科疾病,如遗传性心肌病^[28]、肾移植患儿心功能评估^[29]、囊性纤维化^[30]、桥本甲状腺炎^[31]、起搏器诱导性心肌病(风险预测)^[32]、预激综合征(旁路的非侵入性定位)^[33]等,斑点追踪超声心动图能更早发现亚临床心功能障碍。但也有部分疾病未发现亚临床心功能障碍,如室性早搏^[34]等。在儿外科领域,如球囊主动脉瓣成型术后心

功能随访^[35]、大动脉调转及冠状动脉再植术后心功能随访^[36]、心脏移植后双心室功能随访^[37]、新生儿完全性大动脉错位在出生后是否需要紧急球囊房间隔造口术的评估^[38]等,斑点追踪超声较常规超声心动图更加精确,在循环衰竭胎儿的长期监测中^[39],斑点追踪超声也表现出不易受到胎儿和母体运动影响等优势。

3 局限及前景

目前斑点追踪超声在儿科疾病的心功能评估研究已有所开展,但作为一种半自动测量技术,要求测试者采集包括完整心内膜的图像,因此其在先天性心脏病等心脏结构畸形及心律失常患儿中的应用仍需进一步研究。此外,儿童心肌应变值的参考值范围尚未确定,目前虽有部分研究给出参考值范围^[40],但仍需大量的研究以提供可应用的参考值范围。此外,其对超声心动图图像质量和帧速率的依赖使其并不适用于所有患者。

虽然斑点追踪超声在儿童多个疾病领域已显示出其检测亚临床心功能障碍的价值,但这是否能预测患儿成年期及老年期发生心力衰竭的风险,以及斑点追踪超声能否指导在患儿早期心功能异常时进行临床干预等,仍需进一步的研究。相信随着斑点追踪超声在儿科方面研究的深入,将来或许可成为一项新的常规心功能测量指标,并为临床诊治提供进一步的帮助。

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