

颈动脉易损斑块生物标记物与急性缺血性脑卒中研究进展

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【摘要】 近些年来颈动脉粥样硬化及相关循环生物标记物与急性缺血性脑卒中的关系得到越来越多的重视及深入的了解,20%的脑卒中是由动脉粥样硬化病变引起,其中颈动脉斑块不稳定因素是导致缺血性脑卒中的主要病因。大量研究表明,颈动脉粥样硬化斑块可转变为易损斑块,易损斑块破裂后可激活凝血机制,进而形成血栓,这是引起急性缺血性脑卒中的重要病因。临床上探究颈动脉斑块的稳定性对于降低急性缺血性脑卒中发病率具有非常重要的意义和价值。斑块的稳定性可由某些生物标记物预测,为缺血性脑卒中的预防、治疗提供了新的思路。

【关键词】 颈动脉粥样硬化;易损斑块;骨桥蛋白;正五聚蛋白3;基质金属蛋白酶9;视黄醇结合蛋白4;急性缺血性脑卒中

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Progress of carotid vulnerable plaque and related biomarkers and acute ischemic stroke

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【Abstract】 In recent years, the relationship between carotid atherosclerosis and related circulating biomarkers and acute ischemic stroke has been paid more and more attention and deeply understood. 20% of strokes are caused by atherosclerotic lesions, among which the carotid plaque instability factor is the main cause of ischemic stroke. A large number of studies have shown that the carotid atherosclerotic plaque can transform into a vulnerable plaque, and the vulnerable plaque rupture can activate the coagulation mechanism, and then form thrombosis, which is an important cause of acute ischemic stroke. It is of great significance and value to explore the stability of carotid artery plaque clinically to reduce the incidence of acute ischemic stroke. The stability of plaque can be predicted by some biomarkers, which provides a new diagnosis and treatment idea for the prevention and treatment of ischemic stroke.

【Key words】 Carotid artery atherosclerosis; Vulnerable plaque; Osteopontin; Pentraxin-3; Matrix metalloproteinase-9; Retinol-binding protein; Acute ischemic stroke

脑卒中是位居中国首位、全球第二的致死性疾病,其预后差、致残率高,给全球带来严重的经济负担。因此,了解缺血性脑卒中的病因及其危险因素,

对早期识别缺血性脑卒中、预防其发生至关重要^[1-3]。

脑动脉缺血引起的卒中发病率最高,大样本数据统计可达80%左右,而斑块破裂、脱落引起的卒中仅占

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脑卒中发生率的 20%^[4]。颈动脉作为机体表浅大动脉,其粥样硬化程度可反映全身动脉血管整体硬化的情况,因此可作为全身动脉血管粥样硬化程度的观察窗口。颈动脉内不稳定斑块可引起缺血性脑卒中或短暂性脑缺血发作^[5-6],是急性缺血性脑卒中的独立危险因素之一。研究表明,炎症反应是动脉粥样硬化形成、易损斑块破裂、斑块脱落的关键点^[7]。部分研究提出,缺血性脑卒中的发生与颈动脉易损斑块的组成成分相关,而不仅仅指斑块大小及颈动脉的狭窄程度^[8-9],因此,尽早识别导致斑块不稳定的相关因素,针对性采取相应的干预措施,对降低缺血性脑卒中的发生具有深远意义。

1 概述

1.1 易损斑块的定义 关于颈动脉斑块,其形态学、组织学研究提出“易损斑块”的概念,它代表不稳定和易破裂的斑块。易损斑块也被描述为非同源性或者异质性斑块,也可指表面不规则、溃疡的斑块^[10]。

1.2 易损斑块的特点 易损斑块的免疫组织学和病理学的特征主要包括以下几点^[11-12]:(1)薄壁粥样斑块;(2)斑块内大脂质核心;(3)斑块被大量炎症细胞浸润(4)斑块内新生血管的情况;(5)斑块内出血;(6)斑块内炎症标志物的增加。

2 生物标记物与颈动脉易损斑块的关系

2.1 骨桥蛋白(osteopontin, OPN) 骨桥蛋白是一种酸性磷酸蛋白酶,带有负电荷,具有细胞黏附、迁移和免疫调节等多种功能,可参与中枢神经系统神经炎症调节^[13]。OPN 是一种炎症细胞因子,高度表达时可加速动脉粥样硬化斑块进展、导致斑块破裂,干预其表达时可减轻颈动脉内膜的增厚^[14]。OPN 与 CD44 蛋白表面受体结合后能够刺激 T 淋巴细胞趋化、黏附,进一步抑制巨噬细胞释放白细胞介素-10(IL-10)^[15]。OPN 在体内快速升高时,有加速缺血后新生血管的生成,减轻血管钙化的作用,而缓慢升高则与心血管不良预后相关^[16]。血小板源性生长因子、白介素-1 a 可诱导 OPN 的表达,引起巨噬细胞趋化、血管平滑肌细胞黏附、迁移,加速动脉粥样硬化的进展,引起血栓形成,这都与缺血性脑卒中的发生及发展有密切关联^[17]。临床研究表明,缺血性脑卒中患者 7 d 后 OPN 水平的升高与脑梗死体积及美国国立卫生研究院卒中量表(NIHSS)评分呈正相关^[18]。因此,血清 OPN 可作为颈动脉易损斑块的生物标记物,对于预防缺血性脑卒中的发生具有重要意义。

2.2 正五聚蛋白 3(pentraxin-3, PTX3) PTX3 属于 pentraxine 家族,是由 381 个氨基酸组成的一种炎症因子,主要由巨噬细胞、活化的内皮细胞、成纤维细胞分泌生成^[19-20]。PTX3 可参与机体炎症反应和免疫表达,是一种新型中枢神经系统疾病风险预测的生物标记物之一。PTX3 在脑血管疾病中能准确反映急性卒中患者的动脉粥样斑块负荷情况,并与卒中患者病情的严重程度相关^[21]。PTX3 通过抑制粗纤维生长因子生成,削弱斑块纤维帽结构的完整性,介导内皮细胞因子的生成,参与血栓的发生和发展^[22]。PTX3 有氧化低密度脂蛋白的功能,加速炎症反应,加快动脉粥样斑块的病理进程^[23-24]。研究发现,易损斑块组 PTX3 浓度较稳定斑块组明显增高,提出 PTX3 可反映动脉粥样硬化斑块的稳定性^[25]。还有研究^[26]表明,PTX3 可能是斑块急性破裂的一种新型炎症生物标记物,可以识别动脉内易损斑块、预测预后,也可用于急性冠脉综合征患者病情的评估。缺血性脑卒中发生时体内 PTX3 升高明显,循环中高表达的 PTX3 具有促凝血功能活性,从而加重了缺血性脑卒中的发生、发展^[27]。还有研究指出,PTX3 水平与 NIHSS 评分呈正相关,提出 PTX3 水平可反映脑神经功能缺损程度,可用于临床预测急性脑梗死患者神经功能缺损情况^[28]。

2.3 基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9) MMP-9 主要是由血管内皮细胞、单核细胞、中性粒细胞分泌的一种基质金属蛋白酶,又称明胶 B,其对多种明胶底物具有分解作用^[29]。生理条件下, MMP-9 在外周血单核细胞表达水平很低,而在病理条件下,许多促炎因子和细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)上调时, MMP-9 表达水平增加。当机体发生炎症时炎症细胞释放大量 MMP-9 到组织中,然后降解细胞外基质,引起斑块纤维帽变薄,导致斑块不稳定^[30]。缺血性脑卒中发生后促炎因子致 MMP-9 表达增多, MMP-9 生成增加可加速降解脑血管基膜中 IV 型明胶蛋白,使血-脑屏障通透性增加,进一步诱导脑水肿、脑出血的发生,而过度降解的细胞外基质可导致动脉粥样硬化斑块中纤维帽变薄,导致粥样斑块向易损斑块转化,使斑块破裂、血栓生成,引起动脉闭塞或狭窄^[31-32]。血浆中 MMP-9 活性增加还可加速脑神经元凋亡,造成脑功能的缺失。多项研究表明,血浆中 MMP-9 活性与脑梗死的严重程度、梗死体积、不良预后和出血后转化相关^[33-34]。

2.4 视黄醇结合蛋白 4(retinol-binding protein, RBP4) RBP4 主要是由肝细胞和脂肪细胞分泌的

一种新型脂肪因子,是有“脂蛋白折叠”的三级结构,这种结构有利于与脂性小分子结合。RBP4 可将维生素 A(视黄醇)从肝脏输送到靶组织来调节视黄醇的循环水平,是目前已知仅有的特异性转运蛋白。RBP4 还在糖类物质代谢和胰岛素敏感性中起决定性作用^[35-37]。部分流行病学研究^[38]发现,RBP4 水平与缺血性脑卒中的发生呈正相关,原因是血浆中 RBP4 水平升高,可直接引起线粒体功能障碍和血管内皮氧化损伤,引起血管内皮早期功能障碍。RBP4 还可参与血管壁慢性炎症反应,诱导内皮下泡沫细胞形成,促进动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)斑块形成。另外有不少学者提出,RBP4 可致动脉斑块不稳定^[39-40]。SASAKI 等^[41]提出 RBP4 可作为预测 AS 患者发生脑梗死的重要生物标志物,在急性缺血性脑卒中患者中 RBP4 水平显著升高,并且与病情严重程度明显相关^[42]。外周血中升高的 RBP4 还可促进血管收缩加重脑缺血,这是大动脉粥样硬化型脑梗死急性期病情进展的重要预测指标^[43-44]。

3 总结与展望

急性缺血性脑卒中发病机制十分复杂,大多数研究认为是由动脉血管粥样硬化所致,忽略了易损斑块与缺血性脑卒中的关系。颈动脉粥样硬化易损斑块可导致管腔狭窄、斑块破裂、脱落及血流动力学改变,是颈动脉易损斑块引起缺血性脑卒中的重要发病机制^[45-50]。生物标记物可预测颈动脉斑块的稳定性,对缺血性脑卒中的严重性评估及预后发挥重要的作用。缺血性脑卒中作为世界范围内的重大致死、致残性疾病,是中国首要致死病因,且其长期生存率低,因此,尽早识别缺血性脑卒中的病因及危险因素对于预防缺血性脑卒中的发生至关重要,可减轻家庭和社会的经济负担。

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