

# 糖尿病性黄斑水肿视网膜微结构 SD-OCT 改变研究进展

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## Research progress in applying spectral-domain OCT to explore retinal microstructure changes of diabetic macular edema

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### Abstract

• Diabetic macular edema (DME) is a major cause of visual impairment in patients with diabetes mellitus, the central retinal thickness (CRT) is correlated with the visual impairment and the changes of visual function before and after treatment. Furthermore, CRT is related to the changes of macular microstructure. The subtle changes of retinal microstructure can be qualitative and quantitative analyzed by spectral-domain OCT (SD-OCT). In this study, the changes of retinal microstructure in patients with DME are reviewed, what is of great meaning to explore mechanism, observe disease progress, guide clinical treatment and prospect prognosis of DME.

• **KEYWORDS:** diabetic macular edema; optical coherence tomography; central retinal thickness; ganglion cell complex

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### 摘要

糖尿病性黄斑水肿(diabetic macular edema, DME)是糖尿病患者视功能损害的主要原因,中央视网膜厚度(central retinal thickness, CRT)与DME患者视功能损害及治疗前后视功能变化密切相关,而黄斑部视网膜微结构改变与CRT变化有关。频域OCT(spectral-domain OCT, SD-OCT)可以定性、定量的分析黄斑各组织层次的细微结构。我们对DME患者黄斑部视网膜微结构SD-OCT改变的相关研究进展进行综述,对进一步探讨DME的发病机制、观察病情进展、指导临床治疗及判断预后情况有重要意义。

**关键词:** 糖尿病黄斑水肿; 光学相干断层扫描; 中央视网膜厚度; 神经节细胞复合体

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### 0 引言

糖尿病性视网膜病变(diabetic retinopathy, DR)是全球有工作能力的成年人主要致盲眼病<sup>[1]</sup>。糖尿病性黄斑水肿(diabetic macular edema, DME)是糖尿病视网膜病变之一,可发生于DR发生发展的任何阶段,导致患者视力显著下降。2012年Yau等<sup>[2]</sup>研究认为DR并发DME的患病率为7%,且逐年上升,DME已成为糖尿病患者视力下降的主要原因<sup>[3,4]</sup>。

DME的发生主要是由于血-视网膜屏障(blood-retinal barrier, BRB)破坏引起细胞外水肿,引起BRB破坏的机制复杂<sup>[5]</sup>;持续高血糖导致毛细血管通透性增加、细胞因子激活、血流量改变、缺氧、炎症等多因素级联效应。眼底荧光血管造影(fundus fluorescein angiography, FFA)证实病理生理机制包括局部缺血和血管通透性增高<sup>[6-9]</sup>。有关分子机制的基础研究<sup>[10-19]</sup>已证实血管内皮生长因子在DME中发挥重要作用。活体组织检查发现DME具有微血管病变和视网膜神经感觉层增厚,对于神经胶质细胞变化有待进一步研究。电镜显示在DME发生中除了细胞外液积聚,神经胶质细胞主要是Müller细胞肿胀、坏死,形成细胞内水肿,可能是DME发生的另一种机制<sup>[20]</sup>。

光学相干断层扫描(optical coherence tomography, OCT)是一种快速、非侵入性检查,其第四代频域OCT(spectral-domain OCT, SD-OCT)具有4~7μm高分辨率和低背景噪声特性,可以清晰显示黄斑部视网膜10层结构(图1)及细小的形态变化,定量的检测出黄斑区视网膜厚度的改变,并可以发现即使是极少量的视网膜下积液。同时它可以通过其极高的分辨率及其极强的可重复性来追踪视网膜的厚度的变化及积液的吸收情况。目前在对DME的诊疗过程中SD-OCT已成为一种不可替代的敏感

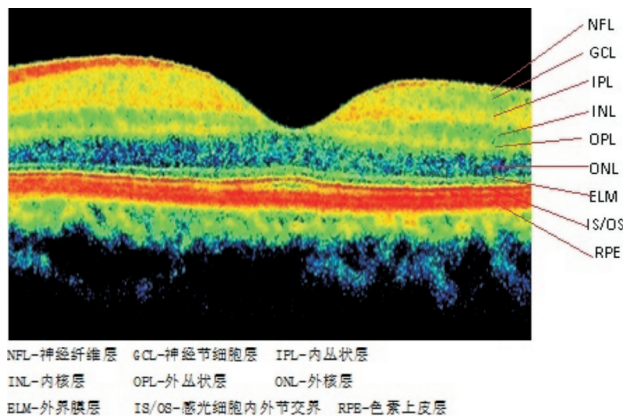


图1 SD-OCT 显示的黄斑部正常视网膜图像。

的检查方法,通过系列的SD-OCT的静态视网膜图像可以描述DME动态的病理过程<sup>[21]</sup>。因此我们就DME患者视网膜微结构SD-OCT改变的相关研究进行综述。

### 1 视网膜厚度变化

DME是指黄斑中心两个视盘直径范围内的视网膜增厚,美国ETDRS定义的临床显著的黄斑水肿( clinically significant diabetic macular edema, CSDME)<sup>[22]</sup>需具备以下一项或一项以上:(1)视网膜水肿增厚在距黄斑中心500 $\mu\text{m}$ 区域,或小于500 $\mu\text{m}$ ;(2)硬性渗出位于距黄斑中心500 $\mu\text{m}$ 区域,或小于500 $\mu\text{m}$ ,并伴有邻近视网膜增厚;(3)视网膜增厚至少有1个视盘直径(disk diameter, DD)范围,其任何部位病变均距黄斑中心1DD范围之内。CSDME是临床上需要积极干预的阶段。1985年美国DRCRnet将中央视网膜厚度(central retinal thickness, CRT)平均增加1mm及以上定义为涉及中心凹的DME,并作为临床接受治疗和评估治疗效果的标准<sup>[23]</sup>。目前有关DME治疗的研究均以CRT变化及视力作为一项重要评估指标<sup>[23,24]</sup>,而客观检查发现DME通常涉及中心凹旁或黄斑旁区域。1987年DRCRnet依据视网膜增厚有无涉及黄斑中心凹将CSDME分为3级<sup>[25]</sup>。2008年Gangnon等<sup>[26]</sup>将该分级进一步细化并对3711例DME患者双眼进行研究,以评估视网膜增厚的范围、位置与最佳矫正视力的关系,研究认为最佳矫正视力与视网膜增厚位置、范围有关,涉及中心凹的水肿视力预后最差。这一结果提示我们对于DME的研究不能局限于黄斑中心凹局部的厚度变化。另据国外文献报道DME经治疗后CRT正常,虽视力恢复很好,但中心凹旁水肿存在,极易造成视力再次损害<sup>[22,27]</sup>。因为评价黄斑部的视功能不能仅依据最佳矫正视力<sup>[28]</sup>,视力仅反映中心小凹的空间分辨率,不能完整的反映黄斑部视功能变化,需要借助对比敏感度、视野等评价视功能。对于中心凹旁或黄斑旁视网膜结构变化与视功能关系有必要进行进一步的研究。

临床研究报道OCT测量的中央视网膜厚度与CSDME患者的视力有显著相关性<sup>[23,24]</sup>。但亦有报道两者间并不平行,即黄斑水肿恢复视力却下降,或黄斑厚度增加视力却提高<sup>[24]</sup>。Murakami等<sup>[29]</sup>利用SD-OCT的高分辨率和低背景噪声特性,将视网膜各组织层次分割,并进行定性、定量分析单个组织层次的变化,研究表明玻璃体切割治疗DME术后内层视网膜厚度与视力预后呈正相关,而外层视网膜厚度与视力预后呈负相关。这表明外层视网膜变薄与感光细胞变性或萎缩有关,同时可能是导致视力障碍

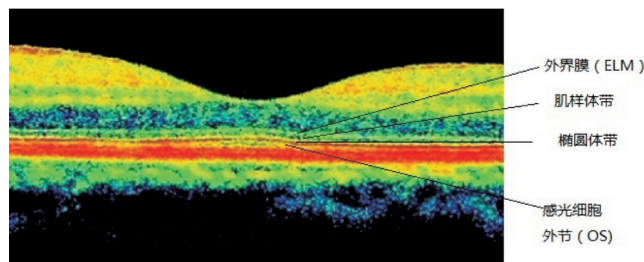


图2 感光细胞SD-OCT图像。

的原因,支持DRCRnet报道的经治疗后反常视力变化<sup>[29]</sup>。进一步的分析视网膜各层厚度变化将有利于对DME临床表现和发病机制间关系的研究。

众所周知,CRT变化可以分为绝对变化及相对变化,其中相对变化即下降程度,包括相对于治疗前CRT下降程度和相对于治疗前增厚的CRT下降程度。目前有关CRT相对变化研究较少。Santos等<sup>[30]</sup>研究认为相对于治疗前CRT下降程度与视力预后有关,CRT下降程度越大,预示BCVA有较大提高;Chan等<sup>[31]</sup>认为涉及治疗黄斑水肿的所有研究应采用增厚的视网膜厚度的相对变化(standardized change in macular thickening, SCMT)进行分析;Browning等<sup>[32]</sup>认为利用SCMT分析治疗前CRT严重增厚的DME或许是首选。以上研究均采用回顾性研究设计,今后进一步大样本前瞻性队列研究很有必要。

### 2 病理形态学

有关OCT显示的DME病理形态学研究有很多,1999年Otani等<sup>[33]</sup>提出DME分三种类型:海绵样视网膜水肿(sponge-like retinal swelling)、囊样黄斑水肿(cystoid macular edema, CME)、浆液性视网膜脱离(serous retinal detachment, SRD)。2006年Kim等<sup>[34]</sup>根据后极部玻璃体牵拉(posterior hyaloid traction, PHT)程度分为PHT伴牵拉性视网膜脱离(tractional retinal detachment, TRD)、PHT,将Otani分型扩展为5型,并认为这些形态可能和其他影响因素一起共同影响着视功能。SD-OCT断层图像可以明确划定视网膜各组织层次边界,其显示CME的囊样病变主要存在于内核层(INL)和外丛状层(OPL),SRD的细胞外液主要蓄积在感光细胞外节段(outer segments, OS)和视网膜色素上皮(retinal pigment epithelium, RPE)之间,海绵样水肿主要发生在OPL,与相关研究<sup>[35-37]</sup>一致。

OCT能够清晰显示CME结构,主要由于CME囊腔内液流比周围组织光散射性低。基于OCT评估CME典型方法涉及到黄斑中心凹厚度的测量,该值与视力呈负相关<sup>[33,38,39]</sup>。然而最近Jun等<sup>[40]</sup>通过对几种有CME表现无黄斑增厚的几种视网膜疾病研究认为CME并不总是与黄斑增厚有关。在视网膜下液存在的情况下黄斑厚度测量更容易出错<sup>[41,42]</sup>。结构上CME囊腔由连续液体填充并有组织柱间隔,FFA显示黄斑中心凹蜂窝状改变,OCT观察时可能会错误的显示为分隔的囊肿<sup>[43]</sup>。最近的研究结果表明对于CME患者分析视网膜组织容积变化比CRT改变更好的评估视力预后<sup>[43]</sup>。基于这一发现我们预计利用SD-OCT针对囊样空间的容积分析可能是评估CME视力预后的一个有用指标,Wilkins等<sup>[44]</sup>研究初步证明这一方法是有效的;Reznicek等<sup>[45]</sup>研究发现CSDME患者雷珠单抗治疗前后位于ONL的囊肿发生率及大小与BCVA和微视野显著相关。今后有关囊样空间的大小与DME患者视功能的相关性仍需进一步研究。

SD-OCT 图像揭示海绵样视网膜水肿常伴随玻璃体视网膜界面疾病,其中心凹 OPL 增厚。Lewis 等<sup>[46]</sup>报道对玻璃体视网膜界面异常患者剥除黄斑前膜后视力及黄斑厚度明显改善,Kaiser 等<sup>[47]</sup>研究认为 DME 患者玻璃体视网膜界面疾病可引起 SRD。SD-OCT 发现玻璃体黄斑牵拉可伴有黄斑前膜、部分或无玻璃体后脱离、玻璃体后皮质残留等异常。这些提示术中解除玻璃体黄斑界面病理改变有利于 DME 恢复。

DME 患者 SRD 发生机制仍不明确,Wakabayashi 等<sup>[48]</sup>认为 SRD 的发生依赖于眼内流体渗透压改变,DME 患者血管通透性增高或许增加流体渗透压,从而导致 SRD。Ota 等<sup>[49]</sup>根据 OCT 观察到位于 OPL 的囊样病变与 SRD 区域相沟通,认为可能由于血液成分直接渗漏引起 SRD。至于视功能,Urakami 等<sup>[50]</sup>研究认为在黄斑中心凹 SRD 眼与中心凹厚度无明显相关。今后有关 SRD 病理机制及其与视功能的关系需要进一步研究。

### 3 外界膜反射带

外界膜(external limiting membrane, ELM)在 SD-OCT 图像显示为中或中高反射带,电镜下的 ELM 是由感光细胞内节起始端细胞膜和 Müller 细胞基底细胞膜之间桥粒样连接形成的带有多孔的膜样结构。ELM 上面的每一个孔都是一个内节通过的地方,具有隔离、孤立每个感光细胞内节的作用。ELM 使其外侧的感光细胞内节和外节保持完整,内节间彼此不能接触,外节排列有序规律和定向性。外界膜不是真正的膜,Soliman 等<sup>[51]</sup>推测 ELM 具有维持 IS 和 ONL 间蛋白平衡的作用。近期的研究表明 SD-OCT 显示 ELM 反射带中断的 CSDME 患者视力预后差<sup>[48]</sup>,推测其在维持感光细胞功能和结构完整性方面发挥关键作用<sup>[52-54]</sup>。ELM 带是感光细胞完整性的标志之一,ELM 破坏可能使血液成分渗漏到外层视网膜,加剧感光细胞损伤,其破坏机制有待研究。

目前有关 ELM 的研究主要涉及完整性与否的定性研究方面,Chhablani 等<sup>[55]</sup>研究发现玻璃体切割术后 16% 的 DME 患者视力提高与术前 ELM 完整性有关,依据术前 ELM 评估视力预后较 IS/OS、CRT 更准确。Ito 等<sup>[56]</sup>研究认为 DME 患者 ELM 状态与视力显著相关( $r=0.699$ ,  $P<0.01$ ),接近 IS/OS( $r=0.716$ ,  $P<0.01$ )。然而针对 ELM 破坏区域长度或面积的定量研究较少,Chen 等<sup>[57]</sup>初步研究认为 CSDME 患者 ELM 存在大面积破坏,但其与视功能的关系有待进一步研究。

### 4 IS/OS 高反射带

OCT 图像上看到 IS/OS 线是否真正对应于组织学上的 IS/OS 交界线一直存在争议。既往一致认为 OCT 图像上看到 IS/OS 线是由感光细胞内节顶端、外节基底的交界面以及连接感光细胞内、外节的连接绒毛复合体组成了这条高反射带,可能还有视细胞内节顶端伸出的绒毛细胞浆突围绕着外节底部共同参与并构成了 IS/OS 高反射带。近年来 Spaide 等<sup>[58]</sup>根据 SD-OCT 图像与病理结果间关系推测这一高反射带位于 IS 的椭圆体带, Lu 等<sup>[59]</sup>使用 OCT 线性扫描豹蛙的离体视网膜组织的研究结果与其一致;Staurengi 等<sup>[60]</sup>研究进一步证明这一观点并加以推广(图 2)。随着 OCT 技术发展,相关研究仍需进一步开展。

尽管 IS/OS 高反射带组织起源有争议,但该反射带与了感光细胞的结构与功能有关,一旦 IS/OS 带有间断、不连续或者缺失,则提示视细胞有损伤性病变。研究表明 IS/OS 反射带完整性与 DME 患者视功能相关<sup>[61,62]</sup>。IS/OS

线消失或中断的横向长度与视觉损害有关<sup>[63,64]</sup>。如图 2 所示,ELM、肌样体带、椭圆体带、OS 这四层结构代表了光感受器细胞的完整性<sup>[60]</sup>,目前对于肌样体带、OS 层无相关研究,今后定性、定量综合分析这四层结构改变有助于我们理解 DME 患者感光细胞的损害。

### 5 神经节细胞复合体

神经节细胞复合体(ganglion cell complex, GCC)目前是青光眼研究的焦点<sup>[65]</sup>,组织学上包括视网膜内界膜(internal limiting membrane, ILM)、神经纤维层(nerve fiber layer, NFL)、神经节细胞层(ganglion cell layer, GCL)、内丛状层(inner plexiform layer, IPL)。在 SD-OCT 图像上 ILM、NFL 呈现中高反射带,GCL 呈低反射带。

ILM 是 Müller 细胞的基底膜和玻璃体胶原纤维紧密联系,有研究认为玻璃体切割术联合 ILM 剥除解除了玻璃体胶原纤维对黄斑部的机械性牵拉、去除了作为 Müller 细胞基底膜的内界膜,可能会导致视网膜原生质构架的改变,进而加快弥漫性黄斑水肿的吸收,从解剖学上和视觉上对慢性 DME 患者有益<sup>[66,67]</sup>。相反另有研究者却认为长期弥漫性黄斑水肿患者撕除内界膜可能会使已经损伤的感光细胞受到进一步损伤<sup>[68]</sup>。有关 ILM 与 DME 发病机制有待进一步研究。

NFL 是由神经节细胞的轴突构成。基础研究证实 DR 眼存在神经节细胞凋亡和 NFL 损伤<sup>[69]</sup>。最近研究表明 DR 患者视网膜 NFL 改变可以发生在临床出现微血管损害之前<sup>[70]</sup>,引起视网膜功能变化主要包括对比敏感度下降、色觉障碍等<sup>[71]</sup>。Biallostowski 等<sup>[72]</sup>在 53 例中度 NPDR 患眼中发现旁中心凹视网膜厚度显著降低, Van Dijk 等<sup>[73,74]</sup>通过 SD-OCT 描述了中度 DR 眼黄斑部内层视网膜厚度降低,他们认为这一现象或许首先由于旁中心凹 GC 丢失导致黄斑旁 NFL 厚度变薄有关。

关于 DME 患者 GCL、IPL 改变的研究临床无报道。由于单独分析中心凹旁或黄斑旁 GC 轴突减少很困难,而定量分析 GCC 厚度变化是可行的,相关研究发现并发黄斑水肿的缺血性黄斑病变眼 GCC 变薄,今后利用 SD-OCT 定量分析 DME 患者 GCC 厚度变化或许是我们研究方向,将有利于理解 DME 病理机制<sup>[75]</sup>。

### 6 结论

DME 是糖尿病患者视力损害的主要原因之一,目前对 DME 的研究均以 CRT 变化及视力作为评估指标,对 ELM、IS/OS 高反射线完整性的定性研究认为二者与 BCVA 显著相关<sup>[23,24,76]</sup>,IS/OS 层的完整性是视力的独立危险因素<sup>[76]</sup>。SD-OCT 可以揭示 DME 发病的形态学因素,OCT 主要参数和 CRT 与视力有关,病理形态和光感受器损伤也可引起视觉障碍。

总之,视网膜各层厚度的评估和检测对 DME 的诊断、治疗及预后的监测至关重要,定量、定性的研究分割的黄斑部视网膜微结构改变是今后我们研究的方向,将有利于更好的理解 DME 复杂的发病机制、观察病情进展、指导临床治疗及判断预后。

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