

视网膜静脉阻塞继发黄斑水肿的 OCT 影像指标研究进展

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摘要

视网膜静脉阻塞(RVO)是仅次于糖尿病视网膜病变的第二大致盲性视网膜血管疾病,其并发症黄斑水肿(ME)是视力下降的重要原因。目前玻璃体腔注射抗血管内皮生长因子药物是RVO-ME的一线治疗方式,可改善视网膜形态,提高患者视力。光学相干断层扫描成像(OCT)能对视网膜结构进行清晰的成像,通过OCT所发现的一些特定的影像学特征成为评估RVO患者预后的生物标志物。对近年来发现的中央视网膜厚度、脉络膜厚度、视网膜内层结构紊乱、高反射点、外界膜及椭圆体带的完整性、黄斑体积、中界膜征、急性黄斑旁中心中层视网膜病变及高反射垂直线等生物标志物进行综述,为选择RVO的最佳治疗提供参考。

关键词:视网膜静脉阻塞;黄斑水肿;光学相干断层扫描;生物标志物

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Research progress on optical coherence tomography imaging indicators of macular edema secondary to retinal vein occlusion

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Abstract

• Retinal vein occlusion (RVO) is the second most common cause of visual loss classified under retinal vascular disorders after diabetic retinopathy, and its complication, macular edema (ME), is the leading cause of vision loss. Currently, the first-line treatment for RVO-ME is the intravitreal injection of anti-vascular endothelial growth factor drugs, which can improve retinal morphology and patients' vision. Optical coherence tomography (OCT) can clearly image retinal structures, and some specific imaging features found by OCT have become biomarkers for evaluating the prognosis of RVO patients. The recent findings of biomarkers are reviewed, such as central retinal thickness, choroidal thickness, disorganization of retinal inner layers, hyperreflective foci, integrity of external limiting membrane and ellipsoid zone, central macular volume, prominent middle limiting membrane, paracentral acute middle maculopathy, highly reflective line, to provide references for selecting the best treatment for RVO.

• **KEYWORDS:** retinal vein occlusion; macular edema; optical coherence tomography; biomarkers

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0 引言

视网膜静脉阻塞(retinal vein occlusion, RVO)分为视网膜中央静脉阻塞(central retinal vein occlusion, CRVO)和视网膜分支静脉阻塞(branch retinal vein occlusion, BRVO),是仅次于糖尿病视网膜病变的第二大致盲性视网膜血管疾病,最新流行病学统计得出,全球30岁以上人群RVO发病率为0.77%,总计2806万人,5a累计发病率为0.86%,10a累计发病率为1.63%^[1]。既往研究表明^[2],高龄、高血压及其它血管疾病均为RVO发病的高危因素。近年来随着人口老龄化速度加快及心血管疾病发病率的增高,RVO的发病率也随之增加,给患者及社会的负担也将愈发加重^[3-4]。光学相干断层成像(optical coherence tomography, OCT)技术是一种新型生物学成像技术,可非侵入、无创伤、高灵敏度地进行视网膜断层成像^[5]。目前,

OCT已经成为RVO早期诊断及观察治疗前后视网膜黄斑区形态的有效手段^[6]。近年来,通过OCT所发现的一些特定的影像学特征成为评估RVO预后等方面的生物标志物,因此本文就国内外学者对OCT下RVO预后的相关预测指标研究进行综述,以期对RVO寻找更精准的治疗方案提供指导。

1 中央视网膜厚度

RVO导致视网膜循环障碍,视网膜缺血缺氧、血管内皮损伤使血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)、白介素-6等多种细胞因子上调,造成血-视网膜屏障损伤,液体和小分子物质可穿过血管壁渗漏到视网膜组织中,形成黄斑水肿(macular edema, ME)^[7-8],中央视网膜厚度(central retinal thickness, CRT)是OCT检查下反映黄斑水肿程度的一个重要指标。Moon等^[9]对107例接受贝伐单抗治疗的RVO-ME患者进行回顾性分析,发现初始治疗3mo后,较厚的CRT代表ME转变为难治性的可能更高,此外,3mo时的CRT与2a后的视力显著相关,3mo时CRT越厚,2a后的视力越差。Lin等^[10]对34例接受地塞米松玻璃体植入物治疗的患者进行回顾,得出年龄超过55岁且初始CRT超过400 μm 的患者ME易反复发作的风险更高;Hoeh等^[11]研究发现,65例接受贝伐单抗治疗的RVO-ME患者中,CRVO患者基线CRT与最终视力有显著相关性,BRVO患者基线CRT与最终视力的相关性弱于CRVO患者。

2 脉络膜厚度

BRVO发生时,眼内VEGF水平升高。既往研究表明,脉络膜对VEGF高度敏感,眼内VEGF升高可增加脉络膜血管通透性,导致脉络膜增厚^[12]。Rayess等^[13]发现,对抗VEGF治疗有反应的RVO眼的基线脉络膜厚度高于其对侧眼。相反,无反应者的基线脉络膜厚度与对侧眼相似。另外,脉络膜参与维持视网膜外层的灌注,是黄斑中心凹代谢交换的唯一来源,较厚的脉络膜可能反映RVO发生时视网膜外层灌注保存较好。在使用抗VEGF治疗减轻水肿后,有可能获得更大的视觉收益。An等^[14]观察28例接受玻璃体腔内注射治疗(雷珠单抗、贝伐单抗或地塞米松植入物)的BRVO-ME患者的房水细胞因子及脉络膜厚度,发现VEGF、白介素-8等因子与基线脉络膜厚度正相关,基线时脉络膜较对侧眼厚的患者,接受球内注射2~6mo时,黄斑视网膜厚度降低幅度更大。这表明,脉络膜厚度可能是RVO黄斑水肿患者球内注射治疗反应的预测指标。

3 视网膜内层结构紊乱

视网膜内层结构紊乱(disorganization of retinal inner layers, DRIL)是在OCT下以 μm 为单位的水平范围内,神经节细胞-内丛状层复合体、内核层和外丛状层任意两层之间的分界线无法识别的状态^[15-16]。视网膜内层主要由视网膜循环来滋养^[17],因此,在视网膜内层的血管源性损伤可能会导致可观察到的视网膜结构变化。当BRVO引起视网膜缺血缺氧时,VEGF、氧自由基和炎症因子的释放均增加,同时细胞坏死和萎缩。由于视网膜内层为终末血管供血,一旦阻塞,缺血将更为严重,最终导致视网膜内层各层次之间的界限无法区分,即在OCT上可表现为DRIL的存在。Sun等^[18]推测DRIL的存在代表了视网膜内层

组织结构或相应细胞的损害,提示光感受器细胞与神经节细胞之间的视觉信息传递路径遭到破坏。Berry等^[19]分析RVO患眼,发现DRIL与基线缺血性指数和基线黄斑中心凹无血管区面积(foveal avascular zone, FAZ)大小有很强的相关性。Balaratnasingam等^[20]研究表明,FAZ与DRIL长度呈正相关,FAZ越大,DRIL越长。Mimouni等^[21]在一组136只RVO眼的队列研究中发现,基线时的DRIL程度与基线视力相关,DRIL的改变可预测视力的改善^[22]。Costa等^[23]的研究表明,DRIL与RVO患者2、3a时ME的存在相关,DRIL可能是ME复发的重要危险因素。

4 高反射点

高反射点(hyperreflective foci, HF)被定义为在OCT图像中可见到的一些直径约20~40 μm 的离散、边界清楚的局限性点状病灶,其反射率等于或大于视网膜色素上皮层^[24]。HF的确切起源尚不清楚,研究表明HF可能是炎症环境下被激活的小胶质细胞、硬性渗出的前体、脂蛋白溢出、充满脂质的巨噬细胞或者退化的光感受器细胞^[25-26]。HF在糖尿病黄斑水肿、RVO、视网膜色素变性等疾病中被发现,此类疾病中HF更倾向于炎症来源。此外,在没有糖尿病视网膜病变的糖尿病患者眼中也发现HF,这进一步印证了其炎症起源的概念^[27]。目前大量研究表明HF来源于活化的小胶质细胞。Vujosevic等^[28]报道,HF最初出现在小胶质细胞所在的视网膜内层,随着视网膜病变的进展,在包括VEGF在内的炎症介质的影响下,炎症过程扩散至整个视网膜,HF向外迁移至视网膜外层,这与小胶质细胞的迁移路径一致。视网膜包含3种胶质细胞,星形胶质细胞、小胶质细胞位于视网膜内层,Müller细胞则围绕在视网膜血管周围、贯穿视网膜全层。RVO发生后,视网膜缺血缺氧,改变及损伤了微环境,继而视网膜胶质细胞被激活,大量的细胞因子产生,促进了炎症反应^[29]。除了小胶质细胞,Müller细胞在应激状态下也合成和释放VEGF等多种增加通透性的细胞因子。Chatziralli等^[30]报道,HF的数量是与BRVO-ME患者最终最佳矫正视力(best corrected visual acuity, BCVA)相关的独立因素,是最终视力结果不佳的潜在生物标志物。Mo等^[31]研究表明,BRVO患者基线时视网膜外层HF数量和BCVA相关,非缺血型CRVO和BRVO经抗VEGF治疗后,视网膜外层HF的数量明显减少。

5 外界膜及椭圆体带的完整性

外界膜(external limiting membrane, ELM)是存在于视细胞和Müller细胞中的由视细胞内节起始端细胞膜和Müller细胞基底膜之间桥粒样连接形成的膜样结构^[32]。椭圆体带(ellipsoid zone, EZ)是由视细胞内节的顶端、视细胞外节基底交界面及视细胞内节、外节的连接绒毛组成^[33]。所以ELM和EZ是光感受器完整性的一个重要标志^[34],对维持正常视力至关重要。光感受器细胞容易受缺血缺氧及炎症作用的影响而凋亡,所以在RVO-ME患者OCT下可见ELM或EZ的断裂或消失。Liu等^[35]回顾性分析了31例RVO-ME患者,证实ELM的完整性是预测BCVA的独立因素,尤其是黄斑中心凹下方的ELM完整性对治疗后BCVA起着重要作用。Fujihara-Mino等^[36]发现,基线时ELM及EZ的完整性与6mo及最终BCVA密切相关。Sen等^[37]对267例RVO-ME患者的OCT形态学特

征进行评估,所有患者均接受抗 VEGF 治疗并随访至第 100wk,发现中心凹下 EZ 的完整度是第 100wk 时 BCVA 评分大于 70 个字母的预测因子。

6 黄斑体积

RVO 发生时,视网膜血管通透性增加,渗漏的液体积聚至黄斑部,导致黄斑体积 (central macular volume, CMV) 增加。Lloyd Clark 等^[38]对 SHORE 研究^[39]中纳入的 171 例接受球内注射雷珠单抗治疗的 RVO-ME 患者的数据进行事后分析,发现基线时 CMV 大于 9.99mm³的患者在大概 36d 内达到 20/40 或更好的视力,而基线时 CMV 小于或等于 9.99mm³的患者则需要 66d;Garay-Aramburu 等^[40]纳入 111 例接受球内注射地塞米松治疗的患者,观察其视功能与解剖结构变化的相关性,发现基线 CMV $\geq 12\text{mm}^3$ 是与 BCVA 相关的解剖预测因子。以上两项研究得出的 CMV 不同可能是患者人群特征差异,也可能与治疗用药不同有关,但总的说明,CMV 是治疗开始后早期视力改善的预测标志。

7 中界膜征和急性黄斑旁中心中层视网膜病变

中界膜征 (prominent middle limiting membrane, p-MLM) 和急性黄斑旁中心中层视网膜病变 (paracentral acute middle maculopathy, PAMM) 是视网膜缺血的特征^[41]。p-MLM 定义为 OCT 下外丛状层内部的高反射线,被认为是视网膜低灌注时,整个外丛状层内部突触部分的组织缺血水肿所致^[42]。Ko 等^[43]研究发现,出现 p-MLM 的患者接受抗 VEGF 治疗的疗程更长,p-MLM 对 RVO 患者的视觉预后具有预测作用。PAMM 表现为 OCT 下内核层的强反射带,随着病程发展表现为内核层永久性变薄和外丛状层升高^[44]。研究表明,PAMM 是由视网膜毛细血管系统灌注受损,导致深部血管复合体的灌注不足或缺血所致^[45]。Rahimy 等^[46]对 484 例 RVO 患者的临床病史及 OCT 图像进行评估,发现 PAMM 与持续的眼前黑影相关。

8 高反射垂直线

高反射垂直线是指存在于黄斑水肿患者 OCT 图像中囊样间隙下呈高度反射的垂直线^[47]。Hasegawa 等^[48]把高反射垂直线又称轨迹线,认为其可能是含有大分子的视网膜内液体流入视网膜外层的通道。他们回顾性分析了 59 只 BRVO-ME 患眼,观察到 21 眼的中央凹存在轨迹线,且此 21 眼中有 19 眼初诊时发现中央凹下 ELM 中断。因此,高反射垂直线可能是 BRVO-ME 患眼光感受器损伤的标志物。

9 小结

ME 是 RVO 患者视力下降最常见的原因,反复的 ME 可造成视网膜光感受器不可逆的损伤,重则致盲。玻璃体内注射抗 VEGF 药物作为 RVO 的一线治疗,玻璃体内注射激素类药物作为特殊条件下的一线治疗,在临床中被广泛使用^[6]。然而因 ME 常反复发作,两种药物均需多次注射,昂贵的价格给患者带来经济负担,且激素类药物易并发白内障及高血压^[49]。所以,这就需要临床医生选择更精准的治疗方式,为患者更好地改善预后及减轻负担。中央视网膜增厚、脉络膜增厚、黄斑体积增大、视网膜内层结构紊乱、高反射点、外界膜及椭圆体带中断或消失、中界膜征和急性黄斑旁中心中层视网膜病变、高反射垂直线是 RVO-ME 患者 OCT 下与视力相关的参数,均是视网膜缺

血缺氧的产物,与患者病程长短及最终视力密切相关。在治疗过程中,可对此类指标多加关注,如出现脉络膜增厚,可准确选择抗 VEGF 药物治疗;出现中央视网膜增厚、黄斑体积增大、高反射点等时,可首先采取玻璃体腔注射抗 VEGF 药物,如不应答则及时转换为激素类药物;也可采取早期干预措施,如在玻璃体内注射药物的基础上加用活血化瘀、改善循环的药物,可能会缩短病程、防止视力进一步的受损。所以,以上各项指标的出现提示医生要加强对这类患者的随访并采取及时的治疗,对各项 OCT 指标的了解也可让医生对于患者的临床问询提供更精准的解答。

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