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· 综述 ·

脱-γ-羧基凝血酶原对肝细胞癌诊治的临床价值

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原发性肝癌(primary hepatic carcinoma, PHC)是常见恶性肿瘤,死亡率居消化系统肿瘤第3位。临幊上,超过4/5的PHC患者为肝细胞癌(hepatocellular cancer, HCC)。防治HCC的关键在于早诊断、早治疗。虽然影像诊断技术不断发展,但有一定局限性,肿瘤标志物检测依然不可或缺。甲胎蛋白(α -fetoprotein, AFP)是普遍使用的HCC血清诊断标志物,但诊断灵敏度只有40%~60%^[1]。因此,寻找新的肿瘤标志物对HCC的早期诊断有重要意义。脱-γ-羧基凝血酶原(Des- γ -carboxy-prothrombin, DCP)又称维生素K缺乏或拮抗剂Ⅱ诱导的蛋白质(protein induced by vitamin K absence or antagonist-Ⅱ, PIVKA-Ⅱ)已经被证明有较高的临床应用价值。

1 DCP 的形成机制

生理条件下,经维生素K依赖性的羧化酶催化,凝血酶原肽链氨基端的10个谷氨酸残基全部羧化,形成有活性的凝血酶。病理条件下,这10个谷氨酸残基部分羧化,形成异常凝血酶原(即DCP)释放入血。理论上,羧化不全的谷氨酸残基可能是1个或多个,因此DCP具有不同亚结构^[2]。HCC导致DCP产生的原因可能为癌细胞形态变化过程中细胞骨架重排,导致维生素K摄取异常^[3];或癌细胞内维生素K依赖性的羧化酶存在基因缺陷,造成酶的结构异常、活性改变等^[4]。

2 DCP 在 HCC 进展中的作用

体外研究发现,DCP具有细胞生长因子活性,可通过Met-Janus kinase1-STAT3信号转导通路促进肝癌细胞增殖,并且能刺激血管内皮细胞增殖和迁移,说明DCP与肿瘤血管形成密切相关^[5-7]。这些现象表明DCP在HCC形成和进展过程中起重要作用,有望成为HCC治疗的新靶点。

3 DCP 对良、恶性肝病的鉴别诊断价值

DCP对HCC具有很高的诊断灵敏度,研究发现良、恶性肝脏疾病患者血清DCP水平差别显著,当诊断临界值为40 mAU/mL(1 AU相当于1 μg)时,其诊断灵敏度为48%~62%,当诊断临界值为84 mAU/mL时,灵敏度高达87%,高于常用的HCC标志物AFP或扁豆凝集素结合型AFP(Lens culinaris agglutinin-reactive AFP, AFP-L3),但存有争议^[8-12]。DCP诊断特异性高于AFP已得到一致认同,其诊断特异性通常在82%~98%^[13]。重要的是,DCP与AFP诊断HCC时相

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互独立、互相补充。

Marrero 等^[14]以美国人群为研究对象,设立健康组、慢性肝炎组、肝硬化组、HCC组共207例受试者,血清检测结果表明,DCP水平由高到低依次为HCC、肝硬化、肝炎,以40 mAU/mL作为诊断临界值,其诊断灵敏度高达89%、特异性为95%,均高于AFP;在AFP阴性的HCC患者中,约60%呈DCP阳性。Tang等^[15]检测DCP在血清、组织中的表达,发现癌组织中DCP水平高于癌旁组织,且两者均与预后相关,血清与组织DCP均升高的患者生存时间最短。

针对DCP已制备了2种单克隆抗体:MU-3和19B7。其中,MU-3对肝癌细胞诱生的DCP反应性高,而19B7对良性肝病诱生的DCP反应性较高。Murakami等^[16]将DCP比率(DCP比率=用MU-3检测的DCP值/用19B7检测的DCP值)引入临床诊断,提高了对HCC的诊断特异性。

4 DCP 对早期 HCC 的诊断价值

DCP对早期HCC有较高诊断价值,尤其是对病毒性肝病基础上发生的HCC诊断阳性率明显高于AFP,两者联合检测对早期HCC的诊断灵敏度更高^[17-18]。Beale等^[1]验证了多种血清肿瘤标志物,发现DCP、AFP明显优于其他标志物,两者联合检测有助于HCC的早期诊断。鉴于部分HCC患者血清DCP、AFP水平低于诊断界定值,并且影像检查容易漏诊,Lok等^[19]总结认为,监测HCC高危人群的血清DCP、AFP,并联合B超或CT检查是目前最好的HCC早期诊断策略。

5 DCP 与 HCC 的预后

肿瘤的分化程度、血管浸润等都是HCC预后的重要指标,研究发现DCP与以上因素密切相关。Hasegawa等^[20]证实血清DCP水平能够反映HCC分化程度,呈负相关。Nanashima等^[21]研究271例术后HCC患者,发现血清DCP水平是门脉浸润及浸润程度的预测因素。DCP还可作为HCC术后复发的判断标志,Kim等^[22]对HCC手术切除患者的研究发现,血清DCP水平与肿瘤血管浸润相关,即使在小肝癌患者中,血清DCP水平升高仍然常常发生于组织血管浸润之前,监测血清DCP能够早期诊断术后复发。Taketomi等^[23]研究了90例接受活体供体肝移植手术的HCC患者,发现移植前血清DCP水平大于300 mAU/mL是独立的移植后复发相关因素。

6 DCP 与 HCC 的治疗

DCP 还可指导临床治疗。Kobayashi 等^[24]回顾性分析了 328 例小肝癌患者,其中 199 例接受手术切除术,209 例进行射频消融治疗,研究表明血清 DCP 反映 HCC 的进展性和侵袭性,治疗前血清 DCP 高的患者采用手术治疗效果好,建议根据患者血清 DCP 水平选择治疗方案。

综上所述,DCP 作为诊断 HCC 的肿瘤标志物,具有以下优点:诊断灵敏度、特异性均较高,与 AFP 互为补充,可作为 HCC 早期诊断标志物。检测 DCP 可以判断患者的预后,为临床医生选择治疗方案、观察治疗效果提供帮助,具有极高的临床价值。需要指出的是,DCP 作为 HCC 血清标志物也有诊断局限性,与 AFP 联合检测虽然能提高早期诊断率,但总体仍无法令人满意,需要进一步深入研究。

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