

# 脂蛋白a在心血管疾病中的研究进展

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## 摘要

脂蛋白a [Lipoprotein a, Lp(a)]的结构与低密度脂蛋白类似, 但其除了含载脂蛋白B-100以外, 还含有一种糖蛋白载脂蛋白a与载脂蛋白B-100相连。流行病学、基因组学研究发现脂蛋白a升高与动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病(atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, ASCVD)和主动脉瓣钙化发生具有因果关系。强化降脂治疗下, 动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病事件风险得到明显减低, 但近年研究发现脂蛋白a升高已成为动脉粥样硬化性心血管事件的残余风险。因此现就脂蛋白a结构和其在心血管疾病发展中作用机制以及相关降低脂蛋白a治疗方法研究进展进行综述。

## 关键词

脂蛋白a, 动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病, 主动脉瓣狭窄, 机制, 治疗

# Research Progress of Lipoprotein a in Cardiovascular Disease

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## Abstract

The structure of Lipoprotein a [Lp(a)] is similar to LDL, although it contains a kind of glycoprotein apolipoprotein a, which is attached to the apolipoprotein B-100, despite of apolipoprotein B-100. Epidemiological, genetic data indicate that Lp(a) is the cause for atherosclerotic cardiovascular diseases as well as calcification of the aortic valves. Though the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovas-

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cular disease (ASCVD) risk has been reduced as the result of intensive lipid-lowering therapy, the high level of Lp(a) has been the residual risk of ASCVD. Thus this review aims to outline the structure of Lp(a), its mechanism of the development of cardiovascular disease and the progress of therapies of lowering Lp(a).

## Keywords

Lipoprotein a, Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease, Aortic Value Stenosis, Mechanism, Therapy

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## 1. 引言

心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)患病率和死亡率在全球居于首位, 其中冠状动脉粥样硬化引起心肌缺血已成为全球死亡的主要原因[1]。孟德尔随机队列研究和大型队列研究表明, 低密度脂蛋白长期处于高水平已被证实与动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病(ASCVD)和主动脉瓣钙化发生发展相关, 主动脉瓣钙化进一步会引起钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄。然而, 研究表明, 尽管进行最佳降脂治疗, 仍然存在心血管风险[2]。一项包括七项关于他汀的随机对照试验的结果的荟萃分析显示, 尽管低密度脂蛋白胆固醇(LDL-C)通过他汀治疗达标, 但确诊为ASCVD合并Lp(a)升高(>50 mg/dl)的患者患心血管疾病的风险增加31%, ASCVD事件发生率为41.5% [2]。另一项涉及8525名研究对象的大型前瞻性队列研究结果显示在调整了传统的心血管危险因素后, 脂蛋白a仍然与全因死亡和心血管疾病相关的死亡密切相关[3]。Lp(a)携带的氧化磷脂不仅可使动脉壁炎症活动增加, 还可诱导单核细胞向动脉壁迁移, 促使单核细胞吞噬氧化的LDL后形成泡沫细胞, 从而促进动脉粥样硬化发生发展[4]。此外, Lp(a)和其携带的氧化磷脂可通过对瓣膜间质细胞的促成骨作用从而导致瓣膜钙化发生发展[5] [6]。新的遗传学、机制及成像的方面的研究表明主动脉瓣狭窄的治疗潜力, 目前主动脉瓣狭窄可以说是最后一种缺乏药物治疗来减缓疾病的进展的主要的心血管疾病[7] [8]。Lp(a)升高带来的心血管事件的残余风险及主动脉瓣钙化发生发展风险促使降低Lp(a)的药物临床研究发展, 但仍缺乏特定降低Lp(a)有效药物的研究证据。本文在阐述Lp(a)结构及其在心血管疾病中的作用机制同时讨论了相关降低Lp(a)方法研究进展。

## 2. Lp(a)的结构与代谢

Lp(a)是一种核心结构与低密度脂蛋白类似的球形复合体, 由甘油三酯和胆固醇组成, 外膜由磷脂和游离胆固醇构成, 其蛋白质部分是由载脂蛋白B-100与一个单独的载脂蛋白a通过二硫键相连[9] [10]。载脂蛋白a是几乎完全由肝脏合成和分泌的一种颗粒大于载脂蛋白B-100的多态性程度很高的糖蛋白, 由1个非活性蛋白酶区、类似纤溶酶原的Kringles IV扩展的十个亚基形成的结构域和1个类似纤溶酶原的Kringles V结构组成。Lp(a)的合成是由LPA基因决定, 该基因编码载脂蛋白a。LPA基因有2个Kringle结构域(Kringles IV-V [KIV-KV]), 且KIV能扩展为10个亚型(KIV<sub>1</sub>-KIV<sub>10</sub>) [9], 而KV与KIV<sub>10</sub>和一个失活的蛋白酶结构域相连。KIV<sub>2</sub>的扩展导致可变的基因内拷贝数变异, 导致1到40多个相同重复的拷贝, 这导致载脂蛋白a异构体大小不一。载脂蛋白a的蛋白质大小具有异质性, 从而引起组装成的Lp(a)大小不一, 正是因为KIV亚基的类型和拷贝数的差异[9]。在大多人群中, Lp(a)浓度与载脂蛋白a亚型大小呈

负相关。Lp(a)组装发生在肝细胞表面或 Disse 间隙, 主要通过肝脏代谢, 但是还有少部分通过肾脏代谢[11]。Lp(a)在肝脏的分解代谢途径尚不完全清楚。目前研究发现, LDL-C 受体相关蛋白、极低密度脂蛋白胆固醇受体、B 族 I 型清道夫受体等可能参与介导 Lp(a)代谢及清除[12], 但是它们各自在体内的详细机制仍不清楚[12]。LDL-C 通过与肝细胞表面的 LDL 受体结合后被肝细胞以胞吞的形式摄入细胞中, 然后受体与 LDL-C 分离, 重新回到细胞膜, 而 LDL-C 在溶酶体的作用下被分解为游离胆固醇[13]。由于 Lp(a)与 LDL 结构类似, LDL 受体被认为可能参与 Lp(a)清除的重要受体而获得关注。但 LDL 受体与 Lp(a)的结合和摄取中的作用却是备受争议, 尽管一些体外细胞模型已经证明 LDR 受体在 Lp(a)摄取中的作用[14] [15] [16], 但部分研究又得出相反结果[17] [18], 并且人体内研究结果也是好坏参半。在部分或全部丧失 LDL 受体功能的家族性高胆固醇血症患者经常观察到脂蛋白(a)水平升高[19], 并且在一项针对 69 名同源家族性高胆固醇血症患者的临床试验中发现 PCSK9 抑制剂能够将血浆中的 Lp(a)降低 28.4% [20]。但专门用于探究 PCSK9 抑制剂降低 Lp(a)水平的机制的研究产生了相互矛盾的结果。在某些情况下, PCSK9 抑制剂对 Lp(a)水平的影响可归因于 Lp(a)产生率的降低[21]。然而, 最近在一个培养的细胞模型中证明, PCSK9 刺激载脂蛋白 a 的分泌是其促进载脂蛋白 B 分泌的结果[22]。然而, 有趣的是, 对引起 Lp(a)浓度升高的他汀类药物治疗的患者进行的动力学研究发现, PCSK9 抑制剂增加了载脂蛋白 a 的分解代谢率, 但对载脂蛋白 a 的生成率没有影响[23]。因此, 尽管直接及间接研究证据表明 LDL 受体在 Lp(a)代谢中的作用, 但是具体作用机制在未来还需进一步研究探索。B 族 I 型清道夫受体参与 Lp(a)分解代谢, 与高密度脂蛋白和低密度脂蛋白的情况一致, 即从 Lp(a)颗粒中选择性地吸收胆固醇[24]。此外, Lp(a)的载脂蛋白 a 和载脂蛋白 B-100 组分可被 B 族 I 型清道夫受体内化[24]。去唾液酸糖蛋白受体、Megalin 受体等也参与 Lp(a)的代谢, 且近来发表的研究数据表明, 与 Lp(a)相关的其他蛋白质(ApoH、ApoCIII、ApoE)也可能在 Lp(a)颗粒的清除中发挥作用[25] [26] [27], 但它们在 Lp(a)代谢过程中的具体机制仍需进一步研究明确。此外, 慢性肾脏病人群的 Lp(a)水平比健康人群高, 提示肾脏在脂蛋白 a 清除过程中可能起重要作用[28]。

### 3. Lp(a)在心血管疾病中作用机制

研究证明高水平的 Lp(a)与冠状动脉粥样硬化、心肌梗死、中风、钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄发展有关[29] [30] [31] [32] [33]。Lp(a)主要通过促血管炎症、促动脉粥样硬化、促进钙化参与心血管疾病发生发展。Lp(a)通过分子孔进入动脉内膜, 在那里经历氧化, 导致活性氧物的形成, 通过增加内皮通透性、渗出、细胞因子的产生、细胞凋亡和血管壁重塑来诱导炎症。氧化的低密度脂蛋白部分被巨噬细胞摄取, 以产生泡沫细胞并促进动脉粥样硬化斑块的形成[11]。Lp(a)含有的载脂蛋白 B 携带有氧化磷脂(oxidized phospholipids, OxPL), OxPL 通过共价键与载脂蛋白 a 结合[11], 是先天免疫系统识别的内源性危险相关分子模式[34], 能诱发与 ASCVD 和钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄发生发展相关的无菌性炎症和钙化[5] [35] [36]。在体外, Lp(a)通过其 OxPL 成分上调内皮细胞黏附分子和细胞因子的表达, 并促进单核细胞迁移[37]。此外, Lp(a)对单核细胞具有强烈的趋化作用, 并上调单核细胞细胞因子的表达[4]。当 Lp(a)浓度较高时, 氧化的磷脂被输送到受损的血管和主动脉瓣叶, 并导致内皮功能障碍、脂肪堆积、钙化和炎症。尽管炎症是动脉粥样硬化和早期钙化性主动脉瓣疾病的关键特征, 但后者的进展主要依赖于主动脉瓣的矿化和骨化。Lp(a)是否能通过凝血功能增强或纤溶功能受损在人类血栓形成过程中发挥作用尚不确定。载脂蛋白 a 含有与纤溶酶原相似的蛋白酶样结构域, 但没有活性, 提示 Lp(a)可导致受损的纤溶加重。然而, 人体研究未能显示大幅降低 Lp(a)对体外纤溶活性的任何影响[38]。流行病学和遗传学证据也不支持 Lp(a)升高在静脉血栓形成中的作用[39] [40]。但 Lp(a)被认为可附着在纤维蛋白上, 形成阻止纤溶酶原激活的

复合体, 从而促进血栓的形成[9]。因此, Lp(a)可能代表动脉粥样硬化、钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄和血栓形成之间缺失的一环。

#### 4. 降低 Lp(a)相关治疗方法研究进展

Lp(a)升高尽管与 ASCVD 以及钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄之间有强烈的独立的因果关系, 但降低 Lp(a)的方法是有限的, 饮食干预和锻炼最终产生了不一致的结果[41], 并且目前尚未有药物被专门用于降低 Lp(a)治疗[2] [42] [43] [44] [45] [46]。

脂蛋白分离是临床上用于降低 Lp(a)的最有效的方法, 但在单次 3 至 4 小时的治疗过程中, Lp(a)浓度能急剧降低 50% 至 85%, 同时氧化磷脂也相应减少, 除降低 Lp(a)外, 脂蛋白分离还可将低密度脂蛋白浓度降低 60% 至 85% [47] [48]。脂蛋白分离已被证明可以减少接受 Lp(a)升高治疗的个体的心血管事件[49]。在英格兰进行的一项前瞻性随机、假对照、单盲、交叉研究中, 20 名 Lp(a)大于 500 mg/L 的顽固性心绞痛患者接受了脂蛋白分离术, 其结果是心血管磁共振评估的定量心肌灌注储备变化的主要终点以及动脉粥样硬化负荷、运动能力、症状和生活质量的次要终点显著改善[50]。然而, 由于的侵袭性, 缺乏大型随机对照试验, 尽管观察和队列研究数据支持脂蛋白分离在 Lp(a)升高患者的心血管疾病二级预防中的重要作用, 但心血管事件减少的确切程度存在一些不确定性。由于缺乏大型随机对照结果试验, 而且大多数可用的脂蛋白分离方法去除了所有含载脂蛋白 B 的脂蛋白, 包括低密度脂蛋白和 Lp(a), 这使每种脂蛋白的作用变得模糊, 因此, 通过分离降低 Lp(a)以二级预防心血管疾病事件的潜在益处尚不清楚。

他汀和依折麦布不仅不能有效减低 Lp(a)浓度, 还会使其浓度增高 30%, 但它们引起的 Lp(a)升高却不增加心血管事件发生[2] [46] [51]。FOURIER 研究分析结果显示, PCSK9 抑制剂——依洛尤单抗在 48 周时能将 Lp(a)中位数百分比比较基线降低 26.9%, 并且 Lp(a)高于中位数(37 mmol/L)的患者较安慰剂组相比 MACE 降低 23% [52], 并且还能延缓钙化性主动脉瓣狭窄进展[53]。ODYSSEY-OUTCOMES 研究的预先指定分析结果显示, PCSK9 抑制剂——阿里尤单抗能在 4 个月后将 Lp(a)降低 23%, 并且 Lp(a)基线水平越高, 使用阿里尤单抗后其减低幅度越大, 并且更多得减少 MACE 发生, 这与 LDC-L 水平完全无关[42]。因此 PCSK9 抑制剂可在未来降低 Lp(a)方面有较好的应用前景。

反义寡核苷酸(ASO)和小干扰 RNA(siRNA)是基于核酸, 以 LPA 基因产物——信使 RNA 为靶点的降低 Lp(a)的药物[54]。Tsimikas 等人关于 ASO 的临床研究结果发现在 47 名健康成年人中连续增加剂量的使用 IONIS-APO(a)Rx 能显著降低 Lp(a)水平, 最高比基线降低 78% [55]。Pelacarsen 是另一种 ASO, 是 IONIS-APO(a)Rx 的类似物, 能呈剂量依赖性的降低 Lp(a), 最高剂量组可使 Lp(a)较基线水平降低 92% [44]。Tsimikas 等人研究发现, 在确诊为 CVD 且基线 Lp(a)水平达到或高 150 nmol/L (60 mg/dL)的患者中, 与安慰剂组相比, pelacarsen 在 6 个月时以剂量依赖的方式显著降低 Lp(a), 降低水平高达 80%, 主要的不良反应为肌肉疼痛(12%)、头疼(11%)及流感样症状(11%) [45]。Horizon 研究是一项正在进行的 3 期随机安慰剂对照临床试验, 旨在评估 ASCVD (既往有心肌梗死、缺血性中风和/或有症状的外周动脉疾病)患者每月皮下注射 80 毫克的 pelacarsen 后的临床疗效和安全性以及对远期心血管事件结局的影响。Olpasiran (AMG890; Amgen)是一种专门针对 LPA mRNA 设计的 siRNA。在 Lp(a)水平为 70 nmol/L 或更高的成人中单次给药能呈剂量依赖性的有效地降低 Lp(a)水平, 并且在第 43 天和第 71 天之间, Lp(a)最大降幅达到 90% 以上[43]。目前关于 Olpasiran 降低 Lp(a)和心血管事件的 OCEAN(a)-DOSE 研究正在进行中。SLN360 也是一种以 LPAmRNA 为靶点的 siRNA。APOLLO 研究将 32 名 Lp(a)水平为 150 nmol/L (60 mg/dL)或更高的受试者分为单剂量组 and 对照组, 研究结果发现随着 SLN360 剂量增加, 与对照组相比, Lp(a)水平显著降低, 并且使用最高剂量时, Lp(a)的最大中位百分比降低超过 95% 并且耐受性良好[56]。其他被研究的用于降低 Lp(a)的药物包括烟酸、抗坏血酸、米泊美生、贝特类及性激素, 因它们的不良反

应和缺乏减少心血管事件的证据支持而需要未来进一步研究。

## 5. 总结与展望

流行病学和遗传学相关研究支持 Lp(a)浓度升高与 ASCVD 风险增加以及主动脉瓣狭窄之间的潜在因果关系, 尽管目前已经强化他汀类药物以及依折麦布治疗降低 LDL-C, 但研究发现 Lp(a)水平升高是心血管事件的残余风险。脂蛋白分离能有效降低 Lp(a)水平, 并且观察研究及队列研究证据表明脂蛋白分离在 Lp(a)升高患者预防心血管事件发生的重要作用, 但仍缺乏大型随机临床试验进一步证实。目前 PCSK9 抑制剂在通过降低 Lp(a)进一步减少心血管事件发生展示出良好的前景, 但尚缺乏更多特定降低 Lp(a)水平的药物。尽管目前靶向作用于 LPA 基因产物的新兴的基因沉默方法, 即 siRNA 和 ASO 疗法, 已经初步证明了能显著降低 Lp(a)水平, 并可能在不久的将来用于临床, 但未来仍需要更多有效降低 Lp(a)的药物的临床研究, 以进一步为降低心血管风险的临床实践提供指导。

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