

斑秃免疫学机制研究进展

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摘要

斑秃是一种突发的炎症性、非瘢痕性的脱发性疾病, 临床表现为斑片状脱发、全部头发脱落、全身毛发的脱落。本病具有自限性, 但易复发, 当前治疗效果的数据有限。目前斑秃的发病机制尚未完全了解, 但越来越多的证据证明斑秃是一种免疫介导的疾病。近年来, 随着不断的深入研究及靶向精准治疗的发展, 参与斑秃的免疫学机制也随之进展。本文就斑秃免疫学机制及研究进展进行综述。

关键词

斑秃, 自身免疫, 免疫学, 发病机制

Advances in the Research of the Immunological Mechanisms of Alopecia Areata

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Abstract

Alopecia areata is a sudden-onset, inflammatory, non-scarring hair loss disease, clinically manifested as patchy hair loss, complete loss of hair on the scalp, and loss of body hair. The disease is self-limiting but prone to recurrence, and data on the current treatment efficacy are limited. The

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pathogenesis of alopecia areata is not fully understood, but increasing evidence suggests that it is an immune-mediated disease. In recent years, with continuous in-depth research and the development of targeted precision therapy, the understanding of the immunological mechanisms involved in alopecia areata has progressed. This article provides a comprehensive review of the immunological mechanisms and research progress in alopecia areata.

Keywords

Alopecia Areata, Autoimmunity, Immunology, Pathogenesis

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1. 简介

斑秃(Alopecia areata, AA)是一种炎症性、非瘢痕性脱发,影响任何有毛发的区域,约占全国人口的2% [1],而终生患病风险约为1.7%~2.1% [2]。其发病机制尚未完全清楚,但免疫系统被认为在其中扮演着关键角色,大多数学者支持AA是一种由触发因素和遗传易感性介导的自身免疫性疾病,同时也有非自身免疫因素参与[3]。随着研究的深入,对斑秃的认识和治疗方法也在不断更新。

2. 斑秃相关免疫学

2.1. 毛囊免疫豁免

斑秃的发生与毛囊免疫豁免的破坏密切相关[4] [5]。免疫豁免(Immune privilege, IP)是指某些组织或器官受到宿主免疫系统的保护而不受攻击的现象,如角膜组织、睾丸、胎盘等[4] [6]。类似于其他组织器官,HF被认为是皮肤的免疫豁免部位,但该状态仅局限于生长期毛囊的近端上皮[7],在毛发周期中,毛囊上皮有节律的维持一个相对免疫豁免区域,从而保持毛发的正常生长[8]。

与经典的免疫豁免部位相似,目前已知的维持HF-IP的机制主要如下:1)正常生长期毛囊中主要组织相容性复合体(Major histocompatibility complex, MHC)I类表达减少或缺失,近端毛囊抗原呈递细胞少且不表达MHCII类分子,有效隔离自身或外来抗原;2)毛囊内及局部产生的免疫抑制分子可诱导MHCI类和II类分子表达下调,如转化生长因子 β (Transforming growth factor β , TGF- β)、 α -黑素细胞雌激素(α -Melanocyte stimulating hormone, α -MSH)、促肾上腺皮质激素、IL-10等);3) β 2微球蛋白下调或缺失减少MHCI分子的稳定性;4)毛囊上皮缺乏淋巴管以及细胞外基质的构建限制免疫细胞的招募;5)HF可能通过Fas-FasL途径阻断淋巴细胞活性;6)血管活性肠肽及免疫抑制相关肽作为免疫保护分子可帮助毛囊免疫豁免的维持[4] [6] [9]。上述机制的触发条件、作用强弱及时间均有待进一步确定。

斑秃的发生可以归纳为两种主要反应模式:一是某些触发因素(如皮肤微创伤、压力、遗传易感性、感染)引起毛囊局部炎症损伤,导致 γ -干扰素(Interferon γ , IFN- γ)或P物质的释放;二是毛囊自身抗原的异位表达,引起自身反应性CD8⁺T细胞的自身免疫反应,产生IFN- γ ;这两种途径产生的IFN- γ 和/或P物质会破坏毛囊的免疫豁免,导致一系列炎症反应,最终导致脱发[7] [10] [11]。该过程涉及众多免疫细胞及免疫因子参与,其如何诱导斑秃发病将在下文阐述。

2.2. 斑秃相关免疫细胞

2.2.1. CD8⁺ T 细胞(细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞)

CD8⁺ T 细胞是斑秃患者皮肤内最先浸润的、主要的真皮浸润细胞[12]。早期研究发现, 注射 CD8⁺ 细胞的斑秃小鼠模型发生局部脱发, 表明活化的 CD8⁺ T 细胞可能是斑秃发病的主要媒介[13]。NKG2D 是一种激活性受体, 广泛表达在 NK 细胞、 $\delta\gamma$ T 细胞和 CD8⁺ T 细胞上, 能够活化这些细胞并引起靶细胞的溶解。其配体包括 MICA/B 和 ULBP/RAET1L, 作为应激诱导的分子, 向免疫细胞发出危险信号[14]。研究发现, 人类斑秃患者毛囊周围存在 CD8⁺ NKG2D⁺T 细胞, 伴随 ULBP 和 MICA 的上调表达, 这些配体在斑秃发病机制中的重要性也被基因组关联研究提出[15]。进一步的免疫组化证实, AA 患者的真皮鞘和真皮乳头中 ULBP3⁺细胞显著增加, 并且大多数 NKG2D⁺细胞为 CD8⁺ T 细胞[15]。其他研究也发现, 在斑秃小鼠和患者的病变部位以及外周血中, CD8⁺NKG2D⁺ T 细胞数量增加, 尤其在慢性期病变中, 这暗示其可能促进毛囊攻击和持续性脱发[16] [17]。这些发现支持了 CD8⁺ T 细胞在斑秃免疫中的关键作用, 但对其具体机制仍需更深入的研究。

2.2.2. CD4⁺ T 细胞

滤泡周围 CD4⁺ T 细胞浸润也是 AA 病理特征之一。CD4⁺ T 细胞通常在免疫系统中充当“辅助”角色, 通过分泌细胞因子和表达特定受体, 参与感染源的免疫应答, 其中 TH1、TH2、TH17 和 Treg 细胞与斑秃的发病相关。

斑秃与 Th1 细胞密切相关, 它们产生多种细胞因子, 如 IL-2、IFN- γ 、IL-12 和肿瘤坏死因子(Tumor necrosis factor, TNF)等, 这些细胞因子正反馈作用促进 Th1 细胞进一步分化, 可影响毛囊的生长和发育, 导致毛发脱落[18]。研究发现, Th1 型细胞因子在 AA 病情发展中起着重要作用, 如 IFN- γ 和 IL-2 在 AA 患者中升高, 与疾病进展和脱发斑数量相关, 推测其在疾病进展中发挥关键作用[19]。此外, TNF 主要诱导细胞凋亡, 参与免疫反应和炎症反应, IL-12 可诱导 IFN- γ 的产生, AA 患者血清中 TNF、IL-12 水平平均增加, 且与病情严重程度及疾病的持续时间呈正相关[20] [21]。IL-18 作为诱导剂可促进 NK 细胞和 CD4⁺ Th1 淋巴细胞产生 IFN- γ 还能调节多品种免疫细胞的活性[22]。另外, 细胞因子不平衡和促炎 Th1 细胞因子过量已被认为是斑秃持续存在的原因[23]。

早期的报道认为 Th2 细胞因子在斑秃发病中增加[24]。遗传关联研究揭示了 IL-13 易感位点与 AA 的关联[15]。最近的研究表明, 斑秃患者伴随着皮肤和全身 Th2/Tc2 活化, 与疾病的严重程度密切相关[25]。荟萃分析显示, 患有斑秃尤其是全秃或普秃的患者更容易患有特应性皮炎, 提示斑秃与特应性皮炎可能有相似的免疫致病机制[26]。一例特应性皮炎合并严重 AA 的患儿, 在使用度普利尤单抗治疗后表现出双重疗效, 支持上述假设[27]。临床试验证实了靶向 TH2 轴可能在斑秃治疗中的作用[28], 但一些报道提示, 治疗过程中抑制 TH2 型炎症可能导致免疫反应向 TH1 型偏移, 诱发斑秃[29]。这些证据支持靶向 TH2 轴对治疗 AA 的意义, 但应考虑 AD 的共病性。

TH17 细胞是 CD4⁺ T 细胞的一个亚群, 通过分泌多种细胞因子参与固有免疫和某些炎症的发生, 免疫病理损伤, 特别是自身免疫性疾病中发挥关键作用[30]。它们可促进 TH17 细胞分化和限制 Treg 细胞分化加剧免疫应答, 还促进毛囊上皮细胞表达炎症介质, 刺激毛囊上皮细胞增殖和分化, 促进毛发生长。然而, 过度的 TH17 细胞反应可能导致毛囊损伤, 加剧斑秃发展。一些研究发现, 在斑秃患者中 TH17 相关因子显著升高, 但抑制 IL-17A 并没有改善所有患者的情况, 甚至可能引起脱发恶化[31]。此外, IL-12/23 抑制剂治疗银屑病患者也有引发 AA 的报道[32]。

Treg 细胞是免疫系统的重要调节因子, 通过抑制其他细胞的免疫反应和分泌抑制性因子如 TGF- β 、IL-10 等来调节自身免疫性疾病。在 AA 中, CTLA4、GARP、IL-2/IL-21 等基因的变化提示 Treg 细胞可

能发挥作用[15], 其中 CTLA4 的高表达被认为是抑制其活性的主要因素[33]。Treg 细胞数量和功能的缺陷在自身免疫性疾病中起关键作用, 而在 AA 中 Treg 细胞含量明显降低[34]。Foxp3 对 Treg 细胞的发育和活性至关重要[35]。有研究发现, Treg 细胞因子 TGF- β 水平显著升高, 并与疾病严重程度相关[36]。TGF- β 可协同 IL-2 诱导 foxp3 阳性调节性 T 细胞, 与 IL-6 一同诱导致病性 IL-17 产生 Th17 细胞[37]。一些研究表明, 病程短的 AA 患者外周血中 Treg 细胞比例较高, 而随着病程的延长, 其比例下降[38]。最近的研究还发现, 位于毛囊干细胞生态位的 Treg 细胞可以促进毛囊再生, 显示了以 Treg 细胞为基础的治疗 AA 的潜力[39]。

2.2.3. NK 细胞

NK 细胞是天然免疫系统中的关键细胞, 具有无 MHC 限制的强大杀伤和免疫调节功能。在 AA 中, 编码 NKG2D 的基因与该疾病有关联, 提示 NK 细胞可能参与其发病机制[15]。正常情况下, 在健康人类毛囊周围很少发现 NK 细胞, 而在 AA 患者中, CD56⁺ NKG2D⁺ NK 细胞浸润毛囊周围, 并且 MICA 表达增加, 巨噬细胞迁移抑制因子(Macrophage migration inhibitory factor, MIF)表达下调[40]。MIF 主要通过阻止 NK 细胞释放穿孔素颗粒来抑制 NK 介导的细胞溶解, 在免疫豁免中起重要作用。然而, 当免疫豁免崩溃时, 这种情况不再被阻止。此外, NK 细胞可溶解 T 细胞并分泌免疫抑制因子, 可能有助于控制免疫反应[41], 但其在 AA 发展中具体作用尚不清楚, 需进一步研究。

2.2.4. 树突状细胞

树突状细胞(Dendritic cell, DC)是功能最强的抗原提呈细胞之一, 在免疫应答中发挥关键作用。这包括髓样树突状细胞和浆细胞样树突状细胞(Plasmacytoid dendritic cell, PDC)。研究表明 PDC 在所有 AA 患者球周浸润, 表明参与 AA 发病[42]。小鼠模型研究显示, PDC 不仅在毛囊球周浸润, 而且在病灶附近分布, 特别是在非脱发的皮肤中, 表现出高度的 AA 发展潜力[43]。该研究还显示, PDC 通过产生 IFN- α 启动 AA, 诱导细胞凋亡和增加 Th1/Tc1 趋化因子的产生, 导致对毛囊的自身免疫反应。PDC 在正常皮肤中不存在, 但在损伤或病理时可浸润, 它们被激活后, 产生 IFN- α/β , 通过调控髓系 DCs、T、B 等细胞的功能对毛囊产生反应[44]。此外, 在病毒感染的情况下, PDC 分泌大量 IFN- α , 通过 TLR7/9 通路调节免疫反应, 有效控制病毒感染和预防自身免疫反应的发生[44]。尽管 PDC 在毛囊中招募的机制尚不明确, 但它们可能是先天性和适应性免疫反应之间的桥梁, 最终导致斑秃脱发的发生。

2.3. 关键细胞分子

IFN- γ 被认为是 AA 发病机制中的关键细胞因子之一。多项研究表明, AA 患者血清中 IFN- γ 水平升高[45] [46], 与疾病活动性及严重程度显著相关[47] [48], 并在病变组织中表达增加。高水平的 IFN- γ 可导致自身免疫反应性 CD4⁺和 CD8⁺ T 细胞/NKG2D⁺细胞的大量积累, 并促进毛囊营养不良和毛囊内皮细胞崩溃, 加速疾病进展[9] [49]。IFN- γ 和 γ 链细胞因子通过多种途径作用于斑秃, 包括促进 NKG2D⁺CD8⁺ T 细胞的激活与存活, 诱导趋化因子 CXCL9/10/11 及其受体 CXCR3 的上调, 介导 JAK/STAT 通路, 增强 CD8⁺ T 细胞分泌 IFN- γ 的放大效应[12] [50]。除了 CD8⁺ T 细胞外, IFN- γ 的其他来源还包括 1 型先天淋巴样细胞、NK 细胞、 $\gamma\delta$ T 细胞等[51], 这些发现进一步挑战了斑秃一直被认为是 CD8⁺ T 细胞驱动的自身免疫性疾病的传统观点。

IL-15 近年来被发现是 AA 的生物标志物之一, 在记忆性 CD8⁺ T 细胞、NK 细胞的发育、维持和增殖中具有重要作用。AA 患者中 IL-15 水平升高, 且与疾病活动度呈正相关[52]。其可能通过以下机制引起 AA: 抑制自身耐受性促进 CD8⁺ T 细胞的维持, 并诱导部分免疫细胞分子的产生[53]; 限制 Treg 细胞的作用, 促进 NKG2D 表达[54]; 参与 JAK1/JAK3 通路。阻断 IL-15 受体 β 可阻止小鼠 AA 的进展[12],

已有靶向 IL-15/IL-15R β 的单克隆抗体药物用于治疗自身免疫性疾病的临床试验[55]。但有关研究仍然缺乏, IL-15 在 AA 中的具体作用机制及靶向该因子的治疗研究有待进一步深入。

2.4. JAK/STAT 通路

JAK/STAT 通路通过调节基因转录在免疫反应和生理功能中发挥重要作用。在皮肤炎症性疾病中, JAK/STAT 信号通路起关键作用[56]。AA 中上调的 IFN- γ 作用于滤泡上皮细胞上的 JAK1/2 受体, 刺激 IL-2 和 IL-15 的产生; IL-15 等 γ c 细胞因子结合 NKG2D CD8⁺ T 细胞表面的 JAK1/3 受体, 促进 NKG2D8⁺ T 细胞的激活, 进一步释放 IFN- γ 、IL-15, 这种正反馈回路导致 AA 疾病的发生及进展[12] [57]。其他细胞因子如 IL-2、IL-7 也参与 JAK1/JAK3 信号传导, 有助于 AA 的发展[18]。这些观点和 AA 患者的 GWAS 研究的证实为 AA 中开发 JAK 抑制剂提供了理论基础。针对 JAK 通路的抑制剂, 如托法替布[58]、鲁索替尼[59]、巴瑞替尼[60]等, 被用于治疗 AA, 主要通过阻断免疫信号传导、抑制 T 细胞产生、刺激毛囊干细胞来恢复毛囊生长[61]。巴瑞替尼由于其有效性, 是目前唯一被美国 FDA 批准用于治疗 AA 的 JAK 抑制剂, 分别用 2 mg 或 4 mg 巴瑞替尼治疗严重 AA, 实现 SALT 评分 ≤ 20 的患者分别为 19.4%~22.8%、35.9%~38.8%, 其疗效有限, 且伴有一些副作用如感染、痤疮[60] [62]。因此, 尽管 JAK 抑制剂目前在 AA 的治疗中存在一定地位, 但副作用及不完全的疗效仍存在一定挑战。

3. 总结与展望

近年来, 对于斑秃(AA)的免疫学研究取得了显著进展, 表明其与机体免疫异常密切相关。免疫细胞和因子的异常表达是斑秃发生的重要因素。目前, 免疫疗法是最常用的治疗方法之一, 通过调节免疫细胞活性, 抑制异常免疫反应从而达到治疗目的。尽管已有一些方法取得了良好效果, 但个体差异和治疗副作用仍是挑战。因此, 未来的研究需要在免疫疗法的有针对性、有效性、安全性和持久性等方面进行更深入的探索, 以确定下一个治疗靶点, 开发更精确、更有效的治疗方法, 改善患者的生活质量。

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