

# 左右侧结肠癌差异研究进展

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收稿日期: 2022年6月1日; 录用日期: 2022年6月24日; 发布日期: 2022年7月4日

## 摘要

结肠癌不是一个单一的疾病。因组织胚胎发育、肠道免疫及大肠菌群分布的差异性, 左侧结肠癌和右侧结肠癌可能具有不同的生物学行为。在转移性结肠癌的辅助治疗中, 左侧RAS野生型结肠癌使用抗EGFR单克隆抗体加化疗比较合理, 右侧RAS野生型结肠癌的一线治疗方案可选择化疗加贝伐珠单抗。作者对左右侧结肠癌差异研究进展进行了综述。

## 关键词

结肠癌, 侧边性, 免疫, 靶向, 治疗

# Research Progress on the Difference between Left and Right Colon Cancer

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Received: Jun. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022; accepted: Jun. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022; published: Jul. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Abstract

Colon cancer is not a single disease. Due to differences in tissue embryonic development, intestinal immunity and distribution of coliforms, left colon cancer and right colon cancer may have different biological behaviors. In the adjuvant treatment of metastatic colon cancer, it is reasonable to use anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody plus chemotherapy for left RAS wild-type colon cancer, and chemotherapy plus bevacizumab is the first-line treatment option for right RAS wild-type colon cancer. The author reviewed the research progress of the difference between left and right colon cancer.

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## Keywords

Colon Cancer, Sidedness, Immunity, Targeting, Therapy

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## 1. 引言

结肠癌为全球第三大常见癌症,是导致癌症相关死亡率的第二大原因[1]。在我国,结肠癌的癌症负担正快速增加[2],据2015年的数据[3],其发病率在男性中居第四位,在女性中居第五位,是导致癌症相关死亡率的第五大原因。结肠癌以解剖标记结肠脾曲为界划分为:左侧(远端)结肠癌和右侧(近端)结肠癌[4],右侧结肠包括:盲肠、升结肠、结肠肝曲、横结肠;左侧结肠包括:结肠脾曲、降结肠、乙状结肠。这些部位有助于识别结肠癌与关键生理标志相关的异质性特征,并指导肿瘤的个体化治疗[5]。本综述回顾了生物学行为、临床行为和治疗策略在左、右侧结肠癌中的不同,侧重于结肠癌的侧边性在指导肿瘤治疗中的进展。

## 2. 左右侧结肠癌的生物学行为

右侧结肠癌(RSCC, right-sided colon cancer)一般与女性、组织学分级差、多为黏液型、高微卫星不稳定性[6]、高肿瘤突变负荷、高甲基化、免疫细胞浸润、RAS激活和 BRAF 突变[7]、易转移至腹膜有关。这些肿瘤大多为无蒂锯齿状腺瘤和黏液腺瘤,呈扁平状,早期难以检测,可能是由于高微卫星不稳定状态难以触发息肉形成[8]。近期的一项研究发现了一种营养消耗代谢亚型的女性右侧结肠癌,其主要表现出更高的能量生产来促进天门冬酰胺合成和氨基酸的摄取[9],这对女性 RSCC 的首发症状多以全身症状为主作了解释。

左侧结肠癌(LSCC, left-sided colon cancer)与男性、多为息肉样形态、染色体不稳定、免疫细胞浸润差,基质浸润明显[7]、APC、p53 突变、表皮生长因子受体(EGFR)配体的过表达[10]、易转移至肝肺有关。由于左半结肠管腔直径小,左侧结肠癌患者的临床症状主要以排便习惯改变、肠梗阻等为主。这些行为对不同治疗方法的选择也是一种指导,此前就已经有许多证据[11] [12]证明了原发肿瘤的位置与抗 EGFR 治疗的反应有关,对于左侧结肠癌及 RAS 野生型肿瘤,抗 EGFR 治疗效果十分显著,而 RAS 突变型肿瘤在抗 EGFR 治疗中难以获益,导致这种结果的原因是携带 RAS、BRAF 或 PIK3CA 突变、PTEN 缺失、HER-2 扩增以及 VEGF 和 VEGFR 信号改变的肿瘤对抗 EGFR 治疗会产生耐药性[13]。Nam 等的一项研究显示,HER2 在左侧结肠癌中的表达高于右侧结肠癌( $p = 0.006$ ) [14],因此可以推测在 HER2 阳性的左侧结肠癌中,不适用抗 EGFR 治疗。结肠癌标本常规病理免疫组化及基因检测,对肿瘤有效控制及预防复发转移具有重要指导价值。

除此之外,肿瘤的侧边性被发现在转移性结肠癌中具有预测预后的价值[15],与 LSCC 相比, RSCC 的预后更差,而这可能是由于 RSCC 早期难以发现,右侧结肠管腔较大而症状出现晚,诊断时通常分期较晚所致。而在非转移性结肠癌中,侧边性的预测预后价值存在争议,一项对 1437, 846 名结直肠癌患者的分析证实了肿瘤侧面的预后作用[16]。与右侧肿瘤相比,左侧肿瘤的死亡风险显著降低(HR 0.82;  $p = 0.0001$ ),无论分期、种族和辅助化疗类型,左侧结肠癌预后更好。但也有报道称 RSCC 与 LSCC 的 OS

无差异, 近期的一项研究对 417 例 I-IV 期结肠癌患者进行分析, 提示 RSCC 与 LSCC 患者的总生存率无显著差异( $p = 0.354$ ) [6], 推测可能是由于该研究纳入了 IV 期结肠癌患者, 且样本量较小、随访时间短。总的来说, 目前还是将侧边性作为预测预后的因素, 认为右侧结肠癌的预后稍差。

侧边性也表现在环境方面, 肿瘤微环境及肠道微环境。RSCC 可见大量肿瘤浸润淋巴细胞(TILs, tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes), 具有更多新抗原, 更高的免疫原性[17], 并且由于 BRAF 等肿瘤突变基因通过调控 DNA 甲基化影响 PD-1 和 LAG3 的表达水平[18] [19], 导致 LSCC 与 RSCC 不同的药物敏感性与预后。近期我国的一项研究构建了基于免疫相关基因的免疫风险评分系统, 提出免疫风险特征与免疫治疗生存率显著相关(HR 0.60,  $P = 0.015$ ), 其中 TP53 和 MSH6 富集的低危组对免疫检查点抑制剂(ICIs, Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors)治疗更敏感[20]。这为 MSI-H 的右侧结肠癌患者对于免疫治疗的敏感性提供了证据, 并为 TP53 突变患者使用 ICIs 治疗敏感提供了证据。不断探索免疫治疗的适用群体, 可能会使患者有更好获益。

肠道菌群失调与结肠癌的发生发展密切相关, 并且肠道菌群代谢物也在其中发挥作用。最近的研究将牛链球菌、产肠毒素脆弱拟杆菌、核梭杆菌、粪肠球菌、大肠杆菌和厌氧胃链球菌确定为结肠癌致病病原体[21]。它们通过炎症、致病菌及其毒力因子、基因毒素、氧化应激、细菌代谢物和生物膜等不同促癌机制参与结肠癌的发生。如核梭杆菌通过其独特的粘连蛋白 A (Fap A) 粘附并诱导结肠癌[22], 此外 Fap2 依赖的侵袭诱导促炎细胞因子 IL-8 和 CXCL1 的分泌, 从而促进 CRC 细胞迁移[23]。大肠杆菌编码的多酮肽基因毒素使暴露于大肠杆菌中的上皮细胞出现 DNA 损伤[24], 促进结肠癌的发生。有人提出 Alpha-Bug 假说[25]、Driver-Passenger 模型[26]来说明肠道菌群与结肠癌之间的复杂关系。肿瘤相关菌群受肿瘤微环境的影响, 受粘膜免疫系统、遗传和表观遗传因素等多种因素的调控, 这些因素在左右侧结肠癌间存在差异, 因此, 左右侧结肠癌肿瘤内外菌群的变化受到不同的调节[10] [27]。英国近期一项针对结直肠癌不同位置肿瘤内外菌群差异的研究[28]发现, 右侧结肠癌肿瘤外的细菌更多样、更丰富, 而肿瘤本身的菌群受位置的影响较小, 且与右侧结肠癌肿瘤外菌群更一致。这说明右侧结肠癌的肠道菌群更接近肿瘤生长的环境, 这也部分解释了右侧结直肠癌症状出现较晚, 比左侧结肠癌更晚期、更大的原因。在我国的一项研究中发现[29], 虽然不同地区导致左右侧结肠癌肠道菌群种类存在差异, 但总的来说, 我国左侧结肠微生物类群比右侧结肠丰富, 左侧结直肠癌中富集核梭杆菌和产气梭状芽孢杆菌, 而右侧结肠癌中的菌群侵袭性较小, 富含双歧杆菌, 这与亚洲地区左侧结直肠癌发病率较高一致。且差异菌群在不同部位具有不同的功能, 就链球菌来说, 作为 EGFR 的靶点在左右结肠样本中均有表达, 而在左侧结肠样本中表达水平更高。这也是抗 EGFR 靶向治疗对 LSCC 十分有效的原因之一。

另外, 一些目前新兴的左右侧结肠癌的分子标记, 为未来的诊断治疗提供了更多思路。液体活检作为一种基于循环肿瘤细胞(CTC, circulating tumor cells)和游离 DNA 的微创且简便的检测技术, 近些年已被认为是筛查左、右侧结肠癌[30]的有用方法。有研究发现[31], 在左侧结肠癌患者中, CTC 表现为主要的间叶细胞表型, 右侧结肠癌患者的大部分 CTC 呈凋亡模式, 这说明右侧结肠癌的不良预后不是由肿瘤细胞的血行播散决定的。除此之外, 循环肿瘤 DNA (ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA)被认为可以作为预测结直肠癌患者术后复发的因素, 并指导术后辅助治疗和监测辅助治疗疗效[32]。

### 3. 非转移性结肠癌的治疗

目前全球结肠癌的治疗方式为手术。此前已有许多研究对左右侧结肠癌根治性切除术后的效果进行了比较。一项包括 6790 例接受根治性切除术的 I-III 期结肠癌患者的研究分析, 在 I-II 期结肠癌患者中, LSCC 是无复发生存的重要危险因素, 在 III 期结肠癌中, RSCC 与 LSCC 相比显著缩短了癌症特异性复发后生存[33], 证明了肿瘤位置预测非转移性结肠癌的复发的价值。

除此之外, 侧边性也是选择手术术式需要考虑的因素。近期的一项随机临床试验中, 使用腹腔镜下完全性结肠系膜切除术(CME, Complete Mesocolic Excision)和常规右半结肠切除术治疗右侧结肠癌, 结果显示使用 CME 可以获得更多的淋巴结数量和更大的标本, 阳性淋巴结率也更高(25.2% vs 17.8%), 在出血等术后并发症方面与常规组无差异[34]。这对右半结肠癌手术治疗提供了一种安全可行的方式, 但仍需更多的临床实践来证明其应用价值。

淋巴结总数与结肠癌的预后有关, 这可能与更准确的临床分期有关, 目前认为淋巴结切除至少要分析 12 个淋巴结, 但因为结肠癌的异质性, 对于左右侧结肠癌淋巴结切除数量的标准是否应一致也引起了思考。有研究表明 III 期结肠癌中淋巴结总数与生存期的相关性仅在 RSCC 中存在, 在 LSCC 中不存在[35], 因此笼统的定义淋巴结总数并不合理。在一项包含 17,385 例 II 期 RSCC 患者的研究中, 认为至少需要分析 19 个淋巴结才能有最大的生存获益及足够的淋巴结分期[36]。虽然目前还没有更权威的证据来界定不同部位结肠癌的淋巴结切除数量, 但对于右侧结肠癌来说, 较高的淋巴结切除量意味着更好的生存率[37]。因此, 在选择手术方式时, 充分考虑结肠癌淋巴结分布的侧位性, 可以减少分期的低估, 更好的识别需要行术后辅助治疗的人群, 为患者带来更好的预后。此外, 在充分切除足够数量的淋巴结后, 是否会对后续辅助免疫治疗产生影响是一个需要进一步研究的问题。

#### 4. 转移性结肠癌的治疗

目前全身转移性结肠癌(Merc, metastatic colorectal cancer)治疗的方案主要为化疗、抗 VEGF 单克隆抗体和抗 EGFR 单克隆抗体, 化疗方案包括 FOLFOX (奥沙利铂、亚叶酸钙、5-氟尿嘧啶)、CAPEOX9 (奥沙利铂、卡培他滨)、FOLFIRI (伊立替康、亚叶酸钙、5-氟尿嘧啶)、FOLFOXIRI (伊立替康、奥沙利铂、亚叶酸钙、5-氟尿嘧啶)。FOLFOX 和 CAPEOX 治疗 mCRC 的有效性相似[38], FOLFOX 作为一线治疗的频率要比 FOLFIRI 高得多[39]。

对于可切除结直肠肝转移患者, 手术是治疗的金标准。但是只有 25% [40]的结直肠肝转移病例在最初出现时可以被切除。在有的肝转移的患者中, 由于肿瘤负担广泛且解剖位置不佳, 因而无法切除。在这些患者中, 选择性内照射(SIRT, selective internal radiation therapy) [41], 射频消融(RFA, radiofrequency ablation) [42], 肝动脉灌注(HAI, hepatic arterial infusion) [43]可能改善局部控制, 缩小肿瘤体积, 使病变可切除。虽然右侧结肠癌患者肝切除术后生存率低于左侧结肠癌患者, 但中位生存率差异无统计学意义, 且对 PFS 无影响[44]。总的来说, 原发肿瘤位置不影响结肠癌肝转移的手术策略。转移时相对结肠癌肝转移患者肝切除术后的预后影响更大。Colloca 等[45]根据转移的时间以及与同时性肝转移和异时性肝转移相关的不同肿瘤特征调查了患者的预后, 同时性肝转移患者的预后较差(18.5 个月 vs 62.5 个月)。

转移性结肠癌的原发肿瘤位置显著影响药物治疗的效果。Holch 和他的同事进行的 meta 分析发现 [11], 与贝伐珠单抗相比, 抗 EGFR 单克隆抗体加入 RAS-野生型左侧 mCRC 患者的标准化疗后, 具有显著的生存获益。Arnold 等人对 6 项随机试验的分析发现[12], 化疗加 EGFR 抗体治疗对左侧肿瘤患者(OS 和 PFS 的 HRs 分别为 0.75 和 0.78)有显著好处, 而对右侧肿瘤患者(OS 和 PFS 的 HRs 分别为 1.12 和 1.12)没有显著好处。对于 ORR 而言, 与右侧肿瘤相比, 左侧肿瘤患者化疗加 EGFR 抗体治疗有更大的获益的趋势。此后开展的广泛的研究均发现原发性肿瘤定位对预后的潜在影响, 这对临床实践产生了巨大影响。近期一项对于欧洲各国 mCRC 患者治疗策略的研究中[46], 得出临床实践中左侧 RAS 野生型结肠癌患者相比于与右侧 RAS 野生型结肠癌患者更经常使用抗 EGFR 单克隆抗体加化疗(71.6%; 95%CI: 67.9%、75.0%和 44.7%; 95%CI 分别为 39.2%和 50.2%)。因此, ESMO 指南建议[47], 对于左侧 RAS 野生型疾病的患者, 首选 FOLFOX 或 FOLFIRI 等细胞毒性三联疗法加抗 EGFR 单克隆抗体, 而对于右侧 RAS 野生型肿瘤, 首选细胞毒性三联疗法 FOLFOXIRI 加贝伐珠单抗或细胞毒性三联疗法加抗 EGFR 单克隆抗体。

南昌大学的一项荟萃分析[48]显示与抗 EGFR 药物相关的化疗相比, 化疗加贝伐珠单抗的右侧 RAS 野生型患者获得了更长的 PFS (联合 HR 0.67, 95%CI 0.52 至 0.88)和 OS (联合 HR 0.74, 95%CI 0.56 至 0.98), 更建议使用化疗加贝伐珠单抗作为治疗右侧 mCRC 的 RAS 野生型患者的最佳一线治疗方案。由于左侧 RAS 野生型结肠癌患者对抗 EGFR 治疗的有效性, 其在进展后的二线治疗中也有更多的方案可选择[49], 而抗 EGFR 药物在二线治疗右侧 mCRCs 中的作用目前仍存在争议。另外, 近期基于 OPYTIMO3 DREAM III 期试验的一项研究表明, 无论 KRAS 突变状态如何, 在使用抗 EGFR 药物的基础上, RSCC 的预后相比于 LSCC 更差[50]。这一发现若得到更多临床研究证明, 未来对于转移性结肠癌的治疗, 仅基于原发肿瘤位置, 便可以选择合适的靶向药物。

最近的 meta 分析显示抗 EGFR 对 RAS 野生型/BRAF 突变型的 CRC 患者的益处与标准治疗相比没有增加[51], 充分体现了 BRAF 突变型结肠癌的独特性。美国一项大型试验中, 报告了贝伐珠单抗(15 个月)与西妥昔单抗(11.7 个月)治疗 BRAF 突变的肿瘤 OS 更好, 但差异无统计学意义[52]。另一项 TRIBE 试验表明, 16 例 BRAF 突变肿瘤患者使用 FOLFOXIRI + 贝伐珠单抗(19 个月)较 FOLFIRI + 贝伐珠单抗(10.7 个月)中位 OS 更好, 但仍无统计学意义[53]。但总的来说, 目前认为 FOLFOXIRI + 贝伐珠单抗是治疗 BRAF 突变型 mCRC 的一线治疗策略[54]。而当此类患者一线治疗失败时, 则考虑联合使用二代 BRAF 抑制剂。最近 BEACON CRC 3 期研究的评估了 BRAF 抑制剂、MEK 抑制剂和西妥昔单抗联合应用于 BRAF V600E 突变 mCRC 患者的安全性和有效性。该组合被证明具有良好的耐受性, ORR 为 41%。

微卫星不稳定(MSI, microsatellite instability)结肠癌的特征是高肿瘤突变负荷(TMB, tumor mutational burden)和高活化 CD8<sup>+</sup>细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞(CTLs, cytotoxic CD8<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes)浸润和活化的 Th1 细胞产生 IFN, 是免疫检查点抑制剂有效性的主要预测指标[55]。MSI 患者约占 mCRC 患者的 3.5%~5%。对 MSI 状态的患者使用 IgG4 单克隆抗体帕博利珠单抗, 其 PFS 明显长于化疗(中位 16.5 月 vs. 8.2 月; OR, 0.60; 95%CI: 0.45~0.80; P = 0.0002) [56], 或人源 IgG4 PD-1 阻断抗体纳武单抗[57], 或纳武单抗与伊匹木单抗[58]联合使用, 均显示了 ORR 和 PFS 的有效性。因此, NCCN 小组推荐帕博利珠单抗、纳武单抗或纳武单抗联合伊匹木单抗作为转移性 MSI 结直肠癌患者的后续治疗方案。在最新的观点中[59], 认为一些 MSS 肿瘤的特定子集, 具有高肿瘤突变负荷, 可能具有高免疫细胞浸润, 使其易对 ICI 治疗作出反应, 这在理论上是可行的, 但需要更多临床证据来证明。

## 5. 小结

侧边性在结肠癌中研究价值有待进一步探讨, 临床医生也在不断提出新的问题并尝试更具有针对性的手术术式。目前主要基于 RAS、BRAF、MSI 状态选择转移性左右侧结肠癌的治疗方案, 但近来对 HER2 的研究表明其可能作为未来指导治疗的重要分子标记。还有许多新兴的分子标记, 可以作为左右侧结肠癌的治疗靶点。虽然有很多研究关注肠道菌群在左右侧结肠癌中的差异, 但由于其受地域、药物等多种因素的影响, 目前还没有统一的左右侧结肠癌差异菌群, 甚至还没有通用肠道菌群生物标记物。对于这一领域的开发, 将极大地促进早期结肠癌的发现。左右侧结肠癌不同的肿瘤微环境及生物学特征研究对指导临床治疗具有重要的价值。

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