

# 中性粒与淋巴细胞比在糖尿病视网膜病变中的应用价值

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收稿日期: 2022年4月9日; 录用日期: 2022年5月3日; 发布日期: 2022年5月11日

## 摘要

21世纪以来, 随着糖尿病(Diabetes Mellitus, DM)患病人数的骤增, 糖尿病视网膜病变(Diabetic Retinopathy, DR)发生率也大幅度增加。糖尿病视网膜病变作为糖尿病严重的微血管并发症之一, 是一种涉及多个机制的复杂疾病。近年来, 视网膜炎在DR的发病机制中起着关键作用。其中中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值(Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio, NLR)作为一种廉价且易于测量的实验室指标, 用于指示全身炎症已被大量研究, 故本文就NLR与糖尿病视网膜病变之间研究作一综述。

## 关键词

糖尿病, 糖尿病视网膜病变, 中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值

# Application Value of Neutrophil to Lymphocyte Ratio in Diabetic Retinopathy

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Received: Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022; accepted: May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022; published: May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Abstract

Since twenty-first century, with the rapid increase of Diabetes Mellitus (DM) prevalence, the incidence of Diabetic Retinopathy (DR) has also increased significantly. Diabetic retinopathy is one of

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the serious microvascular complications of diabetes. It is a complex disease involving multiple mechanisms. In recent years, retinal inflammation plays a key role in the pathogenesis of DR. Among them, Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio (NLR) is a cheap and easily measured laboratory indicator, indicating that systemic inflammation has been studied extensively. In this paper, the research on NLR and diabetic retinopathy is reviewed.

## Keywords

Diabetes Mellitus, Diabetic Retinopathy, Neutrophil-Lymphocyte Ratio

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## 1. 引言

现如今, 2型糖尿病(Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, T2DM)患病人数相较于20世纪发生了大幅度增加, 其已成为全球人类健康的严重威胁性疾病。随着糖尿病病程的延长, 由此引起的多种血管并发症, 包括大血管并发症(例如, 心脑血管疾病(Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Disease, CVD)) and 微血管并发症(例如, 糖尿病肾病(Diabetic Kidney Disease, DKD)、糖尿病视网膜病变(DR)及糖尿病周围血管病变(Peripheral Artery Disease, PAD)), 均与患病人群残疾的增加以及预期寿命的缩短紧密相关[1]。近年来, 在对全球28个国家进行的一项调查研究中发现, 糖尿病进展过程中约有半数的患者出现微血管并发症, 27%的患者出现大血管并发症[2]。同时, 大多数发展中国家的糖尿病患者在与发达国家的糖尿病患者比较中发现, 其发生慢性肾脏并发症和中风的风险更高[3]。因此, 对于糖尿病并发症的早期诊断和有效监测受到了广泛关注。

## 2. 糖尿病视网膜病变概述

糖尿病视网膜病变(DR)作为糖尿病的一种特殊神经血管并发症, 是世界范围内工作年龄成人视力损害和获得性失明的主要原因[4]。世界卫生组织(World Health Organization)公布的数据表明, 全球视力障碍人数超过1.61亿, DR所致盲的病例占全球失明总人数的4.8%。同时, 国外有研究者也回顾了1980~2018年全球各地区对于DR的流行病学研究, 研究中提到DR的发病率从2.2%升至12.7%, DR病情的进展率也从3.4%升至12.3% [5]。除此之外, 近期的一项关于我国内地超过万名的糖尿病患者的横断面流行病学调查数据显示, DR的总体患病率为34.08%, 其中威胁视力的DR患病率为13.13% [6]。由以上数据可以看出, DR的发病率及致残率高, 它所带来的危害不容小觑。DR的发病机制复杂, 涉及多种因素。根据大量研究表明, DR公认的危险因素包括家族史、糖尿病和高血糖的持续时间及血脂、血压的异常增高、糖尿病肾病、血糖波动、肥胖和妊娠等, 尤其是遗传和一些不可改变的因素, 如基因多态性, 与DR的发生和进展密切相关[7]。同时, 糖尿病家族遗传史被视为DR患病风险因素的直接或间接解释, 有助于临床医生评估DR的发生风险。此外, 研究表明, 高血压家族史也有助于更高的DR发病率[8]。然而, 在临床实践中, 尽管存在复杂的遗传因素, 但仍有大量无明显家族史的糖尿病患者占DR患者的大部分。探索这些人的风险因素对于临床诊断及治疗非常重要。

## 3. 炎症与糖尿病视网膜病变

早在20世纪中旬, Powell等人便发现, 水杨酸盐等一些抗炎药可以预防DR的发生, 这表明炎症可

能在 DR 的发病机制中发挥作用[9]。随后大量文献研究再次表明, 视网膜炎症在 DR 的发病机制中起着关键作用, 并存在于 DR 的不同阶段[10] [11]。

糖尿病中的慢性持续性高血糖会导致视网膜中出现促炎症的糖尿病环境。这种异常代谢状态反映在血小板生理和功能改变、高凝状态、代谢途径改变、自由基积累、氧化应激和细胞缺氧[12]。持续的高血糖状态可以通过晚期糖基化终产物(AGEs)、多元醇积累、氧化应激和活化蛋白激酶 C (PKC)在内的各种途径刺激影响视网膜细胞和血管区域内的特定细胞或通路, 从而引发一系列炎症反应[13]。例如: 晚期糖基化终产物积累导致的炎症介质水平的升高导致糖尿病视网膜的持续慢性炎症, 从而导致白细胞活化、血管内皮粘附和视网膜组织外渗[14]。同时, 视网膜毛细血管阻塞由微血管血栓引起, 白细胞在其中发挥作用, 被认为是早期 DR 的特征性病理特征[15]。随后的临床研究提到, 在 DR 患者的血清、房水、玻璃体、视网膜和眼泪中, 发现了各种促炎症介质(白细胞介素(IL-1 $\beta$ 、IL-6、IL-8 等)、肿瘤细胞坏死因子- $\alpha$  (TNF- $\alpha$ )、细胞粘附分子(CAM))等在内的一组常见的炎症细胞因子和免疫生物标记物发生上调, 其浓度通常与 DR 的严重程度相关[16] [17]。这些分子的浓度升高会导致白细胞的激活和迁移, 并导致白细胞停滞, 随后出现毛细血管阻塞、视网膜缺氧和内皮细胞损伤。这些活动的结果是血-视网膜屏障(Blood-Retinal Barrier, BRB)破裂, 导致视网膜水肿、出血、渗出和微动脉瘤形成[18] [19]。然而, 在日常临床实践中, TNF- $\alpha$ 、IL-6 等炎症标志物相较于血常规中常见的炎症指标, 其成本相对较高, 同时检测技术相对困难, 导致其在临床实践中的应用与检测血常规中炎症指标相比少见的多。

### 中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值(NLR)概述

NLR 是血常规中一种易于测量且廉价的实验室指标, 通过常规分析白细胞特征计算得出, 它结合了中性粒细胞对内皮损伤的负面影响和淋巴细胞的抗动脉粥样硬化作用[20], 整合了循环血液中不同但互补的免疫途径。因此, NLR 被认为是全身炎症的便捷指标。同时, NLR 作为新型血细胞复合炎症标志物, 与传统炎症指标密切相关, 如 IL-1 $\beta$ 、IL-6 等[21], 它反映了外周血中性粒细胞和淋巴细胞之间的平衡, 与独立的中性粒细胞、淋巴细胞和白细胞总数相比, 即使在白细胞计数的生理、病理和物理因素发生变化时, 它也不受各种生理和病理状态的影响, 同时表现出良好的稳定性, 更是较 IL-1 $\beta$ 、IL-6 等炎症因子简便易得、价格低廉。

研究发现, NLR 水平的上调可作为非小细胞性肺癌、壶腹周围癌、乳腺癌及子宫内膜癌等在内的多种恶性肿瘤的常用生物标志物, 反应其不良预后等[22] [23] [24] [25]。同时, 在一项关于恶性肿瘤预后的荟萃分析中, 高 NLR 与多种肿瘤的不良生存期相关, 如特异性生存期、无进展生存期、无病生存期[26]。另外, NLR 还可用于肌萎缩性侧索硬化症等自身免疫性疾病的预后判断[27]。

## 4. NLR 与糖尿病视网膜病变

最近, 越来越多的研究表明, 常规血液检查可以提供丰富而有效的信息, 帮助疾病的风险分层[28] [29]。同时, 常规分析白细胞特征的测量比许多其他炎症标记物(如 IL 和 CAM 等)更常见。

NLR 是代表两个因素整合的指标, 被认为是全身炎症反应的新的标志物。NLR 升高是中性粒细胞数量增加或淋巴细胞数量减少的表现, 中性粒细胞粘附在内皮细胞上, 导致血管内皮损伤, 进而导致广泛的慢性炎症[28]。其次, 淋巴细胞是人体免疫反应的主要组成部分, 它们具有控制和调节炎症反应的能力[30], 因此, NLR 的升高可能揭示 DR 患者微血管炎症的增强。

然而根据目前的临床研究结果, NLR 水平与 DR 之间的关系仍存在争议。一项基于医院的横断面研究表明, 对 30793 名受试者进行评估后发现 NLR 可被推荐为 DR 的廉价诊断生物标志物[31]。这与 Song 等[32]人和 Ulu 等[33]人的研究结果一致; Song 等人表示与无糖尿病视网膜病变的糖尿病患者相比, 患有

DR 的糖尿病患者的 NLR 更高。此外, Song 等人的结果与 Ulu 等人的结果略有不同, Ulu 等人发现 NLR 和 DR 之间存在相关性, 但 DR 的严重程度与 NLR 的增加无关。然而, 这与 Ciray 等[34]人报告的结果相反, Ciray 等人进行的研究结果表明, 在有或没有 DR 的患者中, NLR 没有显著差异, 即 NLR 和 DR 之间没有独立的关联。Wang 等[35]人持有一致意见。以上存在的不同均可能由于样本量的多少及受试者所处环境的不同而产生相应的差异。

## 5. 展望

NLR 作为全身炎症相关反应标志物, 其测量有简便易得、价格低廉等多种优点, 虽然 NLR 水平与 DR 之间的关系目前仍存在争议, 但未来, 或许其可被应用作为 DR 的生物标志物, 同时, 其联合其他检测指标或影像学等检查或许有助于评估疾病的病程进展。然而, NLR 虽然可用作新的全身性炎症指标, 但其特异性仍有不足, 仍需研究者们加大样本量, 开展前瞻性临床研究以进一步验证。

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