

精神分裂症患者肠道菌群与认知功能的关系研究进展

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摘要

精神分裂症(Schizophrenia, SCZ)是临床常见的精神疾病, 认知缺陷是造成SCZ患者社会功能受损的重要因素。探索SCZ认知缺陷的发病原因及其病理机制, 对改善患者认知功能, 提高患者患病后的社会功能具有重要意义。近年来, “脑-肠轴”的发现表明肠道微生物与大脑存在双向调节的作用。肠道微生物的紊乱在SCZ的发病过程中发挥了重要的作用, 且与SCZ患者的认知损害密切相关。肠道微生物或可成为干预SCZ认知缺陷的潜在治疗靶点。本文将对SCZ患者肠道微生物与认知功能关系的研究进行综述, 详细介绍肠道微生物的特点, “脑-肠轴”的概念及作用, 总结肠道微生物在SCZ的发病过程中发挥的作用, 重点介绍SCZ患者肠道微生物与认知功能相关性的研究进展, 为防治SCZ和改善SCZ患者认知功能提供新的思路。

关键词

精神分裂症, 肠道菌群, 认知功能

Research Progress on the Relationship between Intestinal Flora and Cognitive Function in Patients with Schizophrenia

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Abstract

Schizophrenia (SCZ) is a common clinical mental illness, and cognitive deficits are important factors in impaired social functioning in SCZ patients. Exploring the pathogenesis and pathological mechanism of SCZ cognitive deficit is of great significance to improve patients' cognitive function and improve their social function after illness. In recent years, the discovery of the "brain-gut axis" has shown that there is a two-way regulation between the gut microbiome and the brain. Disturbances of the Intestinal flora play an important role in the pathogenesis of SCZ and are closely related to cognitive impairment in SCZ patients. The gut microbiome may be a potential therapeutic target for SCZ cognitive deficits. This article will review the research on the relationship between Intestinal flora and cognitive function in SCZ patients, introduce in detail the characteristics of intestinal microbes, the concept and role of "brain-gut axis", summarize the role of intestinal microbes in the pathogenesis of SCZ, focus on the research progress of the correlation between intestinal microbes and cognitive function in SCZ patients, and provide new ideas for preventing SCZ and improving cognitive function in SCZ patients.

Keywords

Schizophrenia, Intestinal Flora, Cognitive Function

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1. 引言

精神分裂症(Schizophrenia, SCZ)是一种重性精神疾病,病程往往迁延不愈。认知功能的损害作为独立的核心症状,纵贯整个病程。研究显示至少 85% 的 SCZ 患者在感知、记忆、思维方面体现出认知损害,并且在疾病的早期就已经很明显,预示了首发患者的复发风险[1]。因此,改善 SCZ 患者的认知功能十分重要。然而,典型抗精神病药会降低患者的警觉性,影响患者的注意、记忆功能和信息整合功能,为缓解锥体外系不良反应而合用的抗胆碱药物也会加剧认知功能的损害,尤其是学习、记忆能力的损害。非典型抗精神病药能减轻因过度阻断多巴胺活性引起的锥体外系反应,减少抗胆碱药物的合用,但非典型抗精神病药的镇静、泌乳素升高和代谢不良反应也可导致患者认知功能恶化[2]; 尽管研究发现二氢噻啉(DAR-0100)、N-甲基-D-天门冬氨酸受体(N-methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor, NMDA)药物、谷氨酸受体调控剂等药物及经颅磁刺激治疗、电休克治疗等治疗手段对 SCZ 患者认知功能有改善作用,但效果也并不理想。近年来“脑-肠轴”的发现使越来越多的研究开始关注肠道菌群对脑功能的影响[3],人们发现肠道微生物不仅与 SCZ 有关,与认知功能也同样密切相关[4]。有学者提出肠道菌群或可成为治疗 SCZ 患者认知损害的潜在靶点。本文将从肠道菌群的角度出发,通过检索文献,系统介绍肠道菌群的特点及肠道菌群在 SCZ 中发挥的作用;重点总结肠道菌群与认知功能的研究进展,为改善 SCZ 患者的认知损害的研究提供参考。

2. 肠道菌群

肠道微生物,是指消化道中庞大复杂的微生态系统,由 5000 多种微生物和 1000 多种微生物群组成

[5], 其中 99% 为细菌, 因此肠道微生物也称肠道菌群。人体肠道内细菌数量约 10^{14} 个, 其编码的基因数量之多更是高达人类基因的 150 倍, 因此肠道菌群也被称为是“人体第二基因组” [6]。生理状态下, 肠道菌群保持着动态平衡, 而当机体环境发生变化时, 敏感菌被抑制, 未被抑制的肠菌过度繁殖, 便会引起菌群失调, 进而导致临床症状。2008 年, Romijn [7] 等人提出了“脑-肠轴”的概念, 认为中枢神经系统能直接调控肠道功能, 而肠道菌群的分布可通过神经网络、神经内分泌、免疫、细菌的代谢以及屏障通路等方式参与神经系统的发育和调控, 对中枢神经系统造成影响。

3. 肠道菌群与 SCZ 密切相关

3.1. 参与 SCZ 的发病机制

肠道菌群在 SCZ 的发病机制中发挥着重要的作用。目前已知中枢多巴胺(Dopamine, DA)、5-羟色胺(5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT)功能亢进、谷氨酸、 γ -氨基丁酸(γ -aminobutyric acid, GABA)功能不足与 SCZ 的发病机制有关。肠道菌群参与肠道嗜铬细胞 90% 的 5-HT 的生物合成, 间接参与 SCZ 的发病 [8]。肠道菌群失调引起的低度炎症被认为是诱发 SCZ 的重要因素 [9]。肠道菌群通过免疫反应激活多种免疫细胞, 进而产生的促炎细胞因子穿过血脑屏障进入大脑, 作用于脑内神经元或胶质细胞的受体后激活 SCZ 相关的信号通路, 诱导了 SCZ 的发生 [9]。

3.2. 与 SCZ 症状密切相关

大量的研究表明 SCZ 患者肠道菌群的特征与健康人群的肠道菌群存在差异。部分菌属与 SCZ 的不同的症状类型及症状严重程度存在相关性。有研究发现链球菌属、乳杆菌属水平与精神症状及症状的严重程度有关 [10]。拟杆菌属与首发精神病患者简明精神量表得分 [11] 及患者的抑郁症状 [12] 呈正相关, 毛螺菌属、瘤胃菌属和拟杆菌属的丰度与 SCZ 的阴性症状和认知缺陷高度相关。也有研究发现普氏菌属的相对丰度与 PANSS 评分呈负相关, 通过调节普氏菌属的相对丰度可能使患者症状改善 [13]。

3.3. 与 SCZ 患者认知损害相关

认知损害作为 SCZ 独立的核心症状, 对 SCZ 患者的预后具有重要的影响。研究发现肠道菌群与认知功能也有着千丝万缕的联系。脑源性神经营养因子(Brain-derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)和 NMDA 受体被公认为是参与 SCZ 患者认知缺陷的主要机制 [14] [15]。在动物实验中, 去除肠道菌群的小鼠的大脑皮层和海马中, NMDA 受体的表达水平显著性地降低 [16]。NMDA 受体拮抗剂可诱导小鼠产生 SCZ 的行为表型, 并同时伴有认知缺陷。而当 NMDA 受体的功能提高时, 小鼠的认知功能也可获得改善 [14]。BDNF 主要在中枢神经系统内表达, 其中海马和皮质的含量最高。它可以促进 5-HT 和 DA 能神经元的发育分化与生长再生, 还可以促进海马神经发生, 通过增加突触的可塑性使长时程增强, 进而影响学习和记忆的过程。在动物模型中, GF 小鼠的 BDNF 水平更高, 并且可能有类似焦虑的行为 [17]。给大鼠长期服用抗生素会导致 BDNF 表达的增加和认知功能缺陷 [18]。也有研究发现 GF 小鼠大脑皮层和海马中 BDNF 和 c-fos 蛋白的表达降低, 并伴有非空间及工作记忆损伤 [19]。与正常个体相比, SCZ 患者的背外侧前额叶皮层中 BDNF mRNA 和蛋白质显著降低 [20]。近年来研究表明研究证实肠道菌群能通过改变大脑中 BDNF 和 NMDA 受体的表达水平, 间接参与对 SCZ 的调控 [21]。一项关于重度抑郁症的临床研究发现粪便拟杆菌、变形菌、放线菌以及粪便粪杆菌与血清中 BDNF 水平有关。梭状芽胞杆菌 XIVb 的流行与血液 BDNF 水平呈负相关 [22]。然而, 微生物菌群如何调节 BDNF 在很大程度上仍然未知, 有学者认为可能与下丘脑垂体肾上腺轴有关 [23]。尽管研究的结果不完全一致, 但都表明肠道菌群能通过改变大脑中 NMDA 受体和 BDNF 的表达水平, 从而间接地对 SCZ 患者的认知功能产生影响。

4. 肠道菌群影响认知功能的机制

4.1. 通过 4 种途径影响认知功能

4.1.1. 迷走神经途径

海马神经在学习和记忆巩固的过程中发挥了重要作用, 肠道菌群参与海马神经的发生由迷走神经介导, 进而对认知功能产生影响。肠道产生的脂多糖(Lipopolysaccharide, LPS)、3-羟基犬尿氨酸等有毒物质以及 BDNF, 5-HT, GABA 等神经递质也由迷走神经上传到大脑[24]。研究表明某些微生物只有在迷走神经完好无损的情况下才能在中枢发挥作用, 而在迷走神经切断术之后作用消失[25]。例如: 给予小鼠长期服用益生菌鼠李糖乳杆菌可以减少 GABA 受体以影响认知功能。然而经过迷走神经切断术的小鼠再经过鼠李糖乳杆菌治疗后并不能观察到神经化学或行为的改变[26]。长双歧杆菌 NCC3001 对患有化学性结肠炎的小鼠抗焦虑的作用在迷走神经切断术后也同样消失[27]。早期的研究认为肠道菌群的紊乱激活迷走神经由免疫反应介导[28], 新的研究表明肠道微生物组可以在引起任何免疫反应之前直接激活迷走神经。空肠弯曲菌给药后的小鼠中 c-Fos (迷走神经 4 经感觉神经节和孤立神经元的神经活动指标) 的表达随时间增加, 神经活动在短时间内增加, 而促炎细胞因子没有随之增加[29]。此外, 研究发现迷走神经刺激术可以通过改善脑线粒体功能障碍、减弱胰岛素敏感性、增加树突棘密度和减少细胞凋亡来降低认知功能[30]。

4.1.2. 神经递质途径

肠道某些菌株能够分泌 DA、5-HT、去甲肾上腺素(Norepinephrine, NE)、乙酰胆碱(Acetylcholine, ACh)等多种神经递质对认知功能产生影响[31]。5-HT 是脑-肠轴的关键信号分子[32], 中枢 5-HT 在认知功能处理过程中发生了重要作用[33]。5-HT 可调节早期神经元的发育和分化[34]。肠道菌群参与肠道嗜铬细胞 95% 的 5-HT 的生物合成[35], 从而影响循环中 5-HT 的水平, 对认知功能产生影响。此外, 色氨酸是外周和大脑产生 5-HT 的唯一前体, 犬尿氨酸途径是色氨酸代谢的关键途径[36], 同样受到肠道菌群产生的炎症介质和代谢酶的严格调节[37]。链球菌属、念珠菌属、肠球菌属和大肠埃希氏菌属可以通过调节犬尿氨酸途径代谢直接或间接影响色氨酸代谢和随后的 5-HT 合成, 从而进一步影响中枢区域的认知功能[38]。此外, 研究表明短乳杆菌和齿双歧杆菌产生 GABA [39], 大肠杆菌、芽孢杆菌产生 DA, 这些神经递质均对认知功能存在正面或负面的影响。结肠和盲肠部位的梭菌和普氏菌产生的短链脂肪酸(Short-chain fatty acids, SCFAs)参与了 DA 和 NE 合成, 对血清素能神经传递和体内较低水平的 GABA, 血清胺和 DA 具有调节作用。

4.1.3. 免疫途径

首先, 肠道菌群可以影响大脑中免疫细胞的数量和功能, 进而影响大脑功能[31]。其次, 肠道菌群相关的分子, 如 LPS、细菌脂蛋白、鞭毛蛋白和 CpG DNA 等, 可激活多种免疫细胞(如: 巨噬细胞、嗜中性粒细胞和树突状细胞等), 产生多种促炎细胞因子, 如 IL-1 α 、IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6。这些细胞因子通过扩散和转运蛋白穿过血脑屏障(Blood-brain barrier, BBB)进入大脑, 作用于与神经系统疾病相关的信号通路, 在 SCZ 慢性低度炎症和免疫反应的病理机制中发挥重要作用。高水平的 IL-6 参与海马神经变性和结构重塑, 对学习和记忆产生影响[40], 还可以提高 CRP 和 TNF- α 的水平[41]。研究表明 IL-6 水平升高与瘤胃球菌和普雷沃氏菌的丰度降低有关[42], 也有研究发现循环 IL-6 水平与大肠杆菌等、嗜血杆菌、假单胞菌、肺炎克雷伯菌等、耶尔森氏菌等、沙雷氏菌和弧菌等变形菌门的细菌丰度存在正相关, 而与霍氏真杆菌、直肠真杆菌、凸腹真杆菌、梭状芽孢杆菌和梭菌簇 XIVa 存在负相关[43]。TNF- α 可以调节和干扰能量代谢, 尤其是脂质稳态[44], 并引起 SCZ 患者代谢异常和炎症反应[45], 进而导致认知功能的损害。与没有代谢综合征(Metabolic syndrome, MetS)的患者相比, 患有 MetS 的 SCZ 患者 TNF- α 水平更高,

但 BDNF 水平更低[46], 这表明 BDNF 受 TNF- α 的负调控, 进一步证实了 TNF- α 对认知功能的影响。现有的研究发现 TNF- α 与内脂杆菌、嗜胆菌和青春双歧杆菌的丰度呈负相关[47], 而与厚壁菌门丰度正相关[48]。服用植物乳杆菌 P8 治疗的患者 TNF- α 减少, 记忆力和认知功能(例如社会情感认知和语言学习和记忆力)也得到改善[49]。CRP 是目前研究肠道菌群引起低度炎症的标志物[50], 且与认知功能有关。研究发现认知能力水平低下的人群同时也存在 CRP 水平的改变[51]。CRP 水平和颤杆菌属的丰度呈负相关, 而与拟杆菌属的丰度呈正相关[42]。LPS 是一种特异性促炎剂, 不仅可以通过脑血屏障转运系统直接影响大脑结构和功能, 能够改变边缘系统的神经元活动(它增加杏仁核的活动)并激活迷走神经传入神经元[52], 还可以降低 BDNF 的海马表达并对认知功能产生负面影响[53]。临床研究表明低剂量 LPS 影响长期记忆表现, 而不影响工作记忆表现, 并以剂量依赖性方式增加其他血浆细胞因子 IL-6、TNF- α 、IL-10 [54]。其他炎性细胞因子, 如 IL-1、IL-8 和 IFN- γ , 它们与肠道微生物的关联也有报道, 可能参与肠道菌群失调引起认知功能障碍的机制[43]。最近的证据表明, 嗜神经病毒, 如单纯疱疹病毒弓形虫、以及白色念珠菌和酿酒酵母暴露于 SCZ 患者并引起感染, 导致微生物组的改变和随后的炎症, 从而引起认知缺陷 [55]。

4.1.4. 神经内分泌途径

肠内分泌细胞通过内分泌和旁分泌的方式释放肠肽, 包括生长素释放肽、肽 YY (Peptideyy, PYY)、胰高糖素样肽-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1, GLP-1)和胰高糖素样肽-2 (glucagon-like peptide-1, GLP-2), 可以直接作用于后区(位于血脑屏障之外) [56]。PYY 可以穿过血脑屏障, 然后通过分布在不同的皮层区域、海马和丘脑核的受体 Y1 和 Y2 影响认知功能[57]。与肽相关的病原微生物群包括拟杆菌属、乳酸杆菌、幽门螺杆菌、念珠菌和大肠杆菌[58]。

4.2. 肠道菌群失调影响肠道上皮屏障和血脑屏障的通透性

有研究证实肠道菌群的改变可通过减少细胞-细胞连接, 导致肠道上皮屏障的通透性增加, 造成细菌移位, 进而导致全身炎症, 导致疾病恶化或诱发。SCFAs 可改善肠屏障功能, 当 SCFAs 减少时, 肠屏障功能减弱, 可能引发细菌移位和炎症反应。不仅如此, 肠道菌群失调还可影响 BBB 通透性及紧密连接蛋白的表达。不同菌群状态下 BBB 通透性及 TJ 蛋白的表达水平不同。无菌小鼠 BBB 通透性增高, 脑内皮紧密蛋白表达水平降低, 外源性补充脑丁酸梭菌(CBut), 多形类杆菌(BTeta)及微生物代谢产物丁酸钠(NaBu)显著改善 BBB 通透性及 TJ 蛋白的表达[59]。母体肠道菌群影响胎儿血脑屏障的发育。无菌小鼠母体内胎儿脑内皮紧密蛋白表达水平降低, BBB 通透性增加[60]。

5. 总结与展望

大量的证据表明肠道菌群失调与 SCZ 患者的认知损害相关。研究开发了许多啮齿动物大脑疾病模型, 对肠道菌群引起 SCZ 患者认知缺陷进行了大量的假设和研究。益生菌、益生元、后生元、粪菌移植(Fecal microbiota transplantation, FMT)、潜在活体生物制剂、工程菌移植等肠道微生态治疗在改善精神疾病患者的认知功能方面取得了一定的成果。孤独症谱系障碍儿童补充益生菌混合物对语言和认知的发展具有一定的改善作用[61]; 单一剂量的乳酸菌和双歧杆菌能够更明显提高老年阿尔茨海默病患者简易智能精神状态检查量表评分[62]; 复合益生菌能显著改善抑郁患者的认知功能[63]。补充 β -1,3/1,6 葡聚糖能够改善健康成年人的认知和情感[64]。然而, 目前肠道菌群分离培养技术难以达到菌株的水平[65], 肠道菌群失调影响 SCZ 认知缺陷的具体机制尚不能明确, FMT 也无持续改善疾病症状的报道, 针对微生物组治疗干预的有效性证据仍十分有限[34]。未来的研究应结合多组学联合分析, 逐渐从 16S 到宏基因组方法, 从菌属菌种到菌株分析水平, 从细菌向真菌和病毒组延伸, 从益生菌、益生元, 到工程菌和粪菌移植, 到后

生元,从基础研究到改善 SCZ 认知缺陷的临床应用,揭示肠道菌群与 SCZ 认知缺陷的分子机制,提供有效改善 SCZ 患者认知缺陷的治疗方案。

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