

益生菌治疗非酒精性脂肪性肝病的相关进展研究

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摘要

非酒精性脂肪肝(NAFLD)是一种代谢相关性,以肝细胞脂肪变性为主要特征的疾病。随着近几十年来人民生活水平的提高,在我国NAFLD的患病率达到了6%~27%,已取代慢性乙型肝炎成为我国第一大慢性肝病,且目前正朝着低龄化和迅速上升的态势发展,严重威胁人类健康。至今为止,除了控制血糖和血脂以及减肥等针对原发病和危险因素的治疗方式外,暂无明确的药物治疗方法。而近年来由于对肠-肝轴的认识越来越深,以及对肠道菌群在NAFLD发生机理中的作用了解越来越多,益生菌防治NAFLD的研究也随之增多。本综述重点对肠道益生菌的新疗法在NAFLD治疗中的研究进展进行总结。

关键词

非酒精性脂肪性肝病, 益生菌, 抗生素

Research Progress of Probiotics in the Treatment of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

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Abstract

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is a metabolic related disease characterized by hepato-
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cyte steatosis. With the improvement of people's living standards in recent decades, the prevalence of NAFLD in China has reached 6%~27%, which has replaced chronic hepatitis B and become the largest chronic liver disease in China. At present, it is developing towards younger age and rising rapidly, which has seriously threatened human health. So far, there is no clear drug treatment except for the treatment of primary disease and risk factors such as blood glucose and blood lipid control and weight loss. In recent years, due to the deeper understanding of the gut liver axis and the role of intestinal flora in the pathogenesis of NAFLD, the research on the prevention and treatment of NAFLD by probiotics has also increased. This review focuses on the research progress of new therapies of intestinal probiotics in the treatment of NAFLD.

Keywords

Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, Probiotics, Antibiotic

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1. 引言

非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)是指除外过量摄入酒精(男性少于 30 g/天、女性少于 20 g/天)、病毒感染、自身免疫或药物性肝病病史的情况下,肝活检组织中脂肪浸润 > 5% [1] [2], 包括非酒精性脂肪肝(non-alcoholic fatty liver, NAFL)、脂肪性肝炎(non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH), 以及脂肪性肝纤维化、肝硬化甚至最终演变为肝癌[3], 现已成为我国第一大慢性肝病[4]。目前能够被学术界接受的“多重打击”学说可以解释 NAFLD 部分发病机制, 这些打击涉及遗传、代谢和环境等因素[5]。在这些危险因素中, 除了胰岛素抵抗、代谢应激和炎症外, 肠道菌群对 NAFLD 的病情发展也起着重要作用[6]。本文主要阐述了肠道菌群影响疾病的机制, 并对肠道益生菌在 NAFLD 治疗中的研究进展进行总结。

2. 肠道菌群

肠道微生物群是由定居在人体肠道中的细菌、古细菌、原生生物、真菌和病毒组成的生态系统, 是人体不可或缺的一部分[7]。其组成和功能会受多种因素的影响, 包括宿主和环境因素, 如饮食、身体活动、药物、昼夜节律活动等。在胃肠道的不同部位, 菌群的数量和组成也各不相同[8], 胃部主要定居的为嗜酸菌, 十二指肠主要菌群为乳杆菌、链球菌和拟杆菌, 在回肠和结肠中类杆菌属、双歧杆菌属和梭状芽胞杆菌属等厌氧菌为绝对优势菌[9]。在健康条件下人体是和肠道菌群相互受益的。相反, 由于不同的病理状态可能会导致患者肠道菌群组成和功能的紊乱, 而相关证据显示肠道菌群失调与炎症性和代谢性疾病之间可能存在直接联系, 包括心血管疾病[10]、肥胖[11]、糖尿病[12]、代谢综合征[13]和 NAFLD 等肝脏疾病[14] [15]。

3. 肠道菌群与肠 - 肝轴

肠道菌群能够影响肝脏的解剖学基础源于胃肠道和肝脏之间密切的联系, 通过胆道和门静脉紧密相连, 即“肠 - 肝轴”。门静脉供应了肝脏约 70% 血液, 门静脉血除了向肝脏输送营养成分外还有一些其他物质, 这些物质通过门静脉从肠道进入血液, 因此肝脏成为最容易接触肠道菌群及其代谢产物的器官之一[16], 所以肠 - 肝轴的影响在非酒精性脂肪肝的发病机制中起重要作用。

4. NAFLD 患者肠道菌群特征

健康人群的胃肠道通常有多种微生物定居，两者处于动态平衡中。肠道菌群若因某些疾病导致受到影响，此种平衡就会被打破，与疾病相关的细菌含量或其代谢功能的变化，或肠道内分布的变化，都被描述为肠道菌群失调[17]。相较于健康人群，NAFLD 患者的肠道菌群丰度及多样性都会降低，但其具体比例在不同条件下存在着差异。首先，肥胖和年龄可能导致 NAFLD 患者肠道细菌的不同特征[18]，如在肥胖患者体内发现拟杆菌门数量减少，而厚壁菌门数量增多；高龄长寿老人与年轻成人相比，存在肠道菌群多样性的显著减低。其次，不同发展程度的 NAFLD 肠道菌群特征也不同，其中厚壁菌在轻、中度 NAFLD 中更为常见，而变形菌在晚期肝纤维化中更为常见[19]。然而，微生物群在 NAFLD 中的作用所涉及的潜在机制仍存在争议，有必要再进一步研究中明确上述细菌对 NAFLD 的具体机制和治疗作用。

5. 肠道菌群与 NAFLD 发病机制的关系

越来越多的研究结果表明通过肠道菌群与 NAFLD 密切相关，如通过对肠道屏障功能的影响、对肠道吸收能力的影响、对脂肪吸收的影响、对胆碱和胆汁酸代谢信号通路的影响、发酵食物产生乙醇等机制影响疾病的进展。

5.1. 肠道通透性的改变

肠道通透性的改变是影响 NAFLD 的重要原因之一，这可能与肠道微生物密切相关[20]。肠道屏障功能主要通过包括粘液层、抗菌肽和紧密连接(TJ)蛋白在内的多种因素共同作用来维持的，而肠道通透性的改变可能与 TJ 蛋白的表达有关。因为发现一种属于 TJ 蛋白的闭锁小带蛋白 1 (ZO-1)在 NAFLD 患者的肠粘膜中的表达量下降，并且肠道通透性的改变也许会导致促炎因子的通过，这可能会导致肝损伤甚至全身炎症[21]。

5.2. 能量吸收的提高

肠道菌群是肠道从食物中获取能量的关键调节剂，并且可以通过多种途径导致脂肪沉积，如改变小肠绒毛的密度并通过产生与 G 蛋白偶联受体(GPCRs)相互作用的 SCFAs 来影响肠道生理和运动[22]。相关动物实验也表明，通过粪菌移植，将野生型小鼠的肠道菌群移植给无菌小鼠后，无菌小鼠在 14 天内的增加了 60%的体脂含量和胰岛素抵抗增加 60%。通过本实验可得知肠道菌群通过提高机体从食物中吸收能量的能力来影响 NAFLD [23]。

5.3. 短链脂肪酸(Short-Chain Fatty Acids, SCFA)合成途径的改变

短链脂肪酸(SCFA)主要包括：乙酸、丙酸及丁酸，主要由肠道微生物发酵产生。大部分 SCFAs 可在肠道中被利用，但小部分可以转运到血液中，并通过门静脉到达肝脏，进入三羧酸循环并成为能量来源。另外 SCFAs 也是 G 蛋白进行偶联因子受体 GPR41、GPR43 的配体。SCFAs 通过激活 GPR43 调节胰岛素敏感性，抑制脂肪的分解和脂肪细胞分化，从而导致脂肪堆积[24]。

5.4. 改变胆汁酸代谢信号通路

在肝细胞中，以胆固醇作为原料直接合成而来的称为初级胆汁酸，储存在胆囊并随胆汁进入肠道，后经肠道微生物将其代谢为次级胆汁酸，然后经门静脉被重新吸收进入肝脏再循环。初级胆汁酸在体内的主要作用包括促进脂质溶解、消化和吸收、维持肠道屏障，防止细菌易位[25] [26]；通过与不同受体相结合如 TGR5 和 FXR 等充当信号分子，从而调控人体糖脂代谢以及能量消耗[27]。

5.5. 改变胆碱代谢过程

人体大概 70%的胆碱是由日常饮食中提供的,而剩余部分则在体内合成。在肝脏中,胆碱通过促进脂质运输防止脂质的异常沉积[28]。胆碱量的多少是由日常饮食中的含量以及通过肠道菌群的代谢产生的量,缺乏胆碱的饮食会降低极低密度脂蛋白(VLDL)和 β -氧化水平,从而导致脂肪酸和胆固醇的沉积、氧化应激以及肝脏的轻微炎症和纤维化。另外,胆碱在肠道中可经菌群作用转化为三甲胺氧化物,这会导致体内胆碱缺乏,进而影响 NAFLD [10]。

5.6. 产生内源性乙醇

NAFLD 的诊断标准需除外过量酒精的摄入,但在了一项临床实验中发现,NASH 患者在没有摄入酒精及含酒精的食物和饮料时,其血清中酒精浓度升高并且相关菌群丰度(如大肠杆菌)也有显著增加,这表明内源性乙醇的生成可能会加剧肝脏的氧化应激和炎症的发生[29]。而且乙醇在肝脏中会经乙醇脱氢酶作用代谢为乙醛,导致肝细胞结构和功能丧失。另外大剂量的酒精会通过诱发肠道炎症,导致肠道通透性受损,进一步导致肝损伤[30]。

6. 肠道菌群作为治疗靶点在 NAFLD 中的作用

目前大量实验研究通过使用肠道菌群来治疗 NAFLD,包括通过使用抗生素、益生元、益生菌、合生元和粪菌移植进行治疗,这些治疗手段通过抑制或清除入侵细菌及其代谢产物,减少从食物中吸收能量,改善肠道屏障功能,减少内源性乙醇的产生,调节胆汁酸和胆碱代谢来影响 NAFLD 的易感性[31] [32]。

6.1. 抗生素

相关研究评估了使用抗生素治疗 NAFLD 的效果,在给患者交替使用诺氟沙星和新霉素治疗半年后,改善了肝硬化患者的肝功和肠道细菌过度生长的情况[33]。在动物实验中,给予 NAFLD 小鼠长期口服抗生素治疗后可明显抑制肠道菌群生长并减轻肝脏炎症和纤维化[34]。虽然通过使用抗生素治疗 NAFLD 引起的肠道微生物群的变化可能会减少肝病的进展,但是抗生素耐药性的风险限制了其使用,所以,抗生素的治疗方案还需要进一步的探索和讨论。

6.2. 益生元与合生元

益生元和合生元两者都属于微生态制剂,益生元是一种膳食补充剂,不被宿主消化吸收却能够选择性地促进体内有益菌的代谢和增殖,从而改善宿主健康的有机物质。合生元则是益生菌和益生元的混合制剂。菌群可在益生元刺激下产生短链脂肪酸,这对肠道内的有益菌群(如双歧杆菌、乳酸杆菌)的生长有益并通过降低管腔 pH 值,从而防止病原菌的生长[35]。还可通过刺激胰高血糖素样肽-2 (GLP-2)增加上皮紧密连接蛋白(TJ 蛋白)的表达和改善肠道屏障功能来控制内毒素移位[36]。相关研究表明,通过益生元与合生元的补充以及生活方式的改变更有益于 NAFLD 治疗,此外还观察到合生元可减少炎症反应并使腰臀比以及 BMI 下降[37]。总之,上述研究表明益生元和合生元在治疗 NAFLD 中的有益作用,主要机制之一就是改善了肠道屏障功能。

6.3. 益生菌

益生菌是指活的微生物,在足量使用时有利于宿主。目前常用的益生菌主要包括:双歧杆菌属和乳酸杆菌属。虽然目前其发挥作用的机制还未完全被揭示,但大量的动物实验以及临床试验表明,服用益生菌后 NAFLD 得到了改善。研究发现与安慰剂组相比,NAFLD 儿童患者在使用益生菌治疗 12 周后,患儿的肝酶、甘油三酯和胆固醇都有了显著降低[38]。在给 NAFLD 小鼠使用干酪乳杆菌菌株(LcS)治疗

后可以发现小鼠的血清脂肪酶(LPS)浓度明显下降,从而抑制了 NASH 发展[39]。因此,使用 LcS 可以调节肠道微生物群,从而改善肝脏炎症。此外降低炎症反应对减缓 NAFLD 病情进展具有重要意义。一种基于约氏杆菌 BS15 的益生菌制剂已经被证明可以通过下调肝脏炎症因子(如 TNF- α),减少肝脏脂肪变性和肝细胞凋亡的风险[40]。SCFA 中的丁酸被认为具有抗肥胖作用,乳酸菌和双歧杆菌的联合使用可提高丁酸的水平,从而减少肥胖和炎症反应,借此改善 NAFLD [41] [42]。综上研究都证实了相关益生菌可以对 NAFLD 产生有益的影响。

6.4. 粪菌移植

粪菌移植(FMT)是指将含有肠道细菌的粪便从健康供体转移到患者体内,以重新建立平衡的肠道菌群组成。粪菌移植目前已被证明可有效治愈艰难梭菌感染,并在包括代谢功能紊乱在内的非胃肠道疾病中有着广泛应用。有研究表明,经过 FMT 治疗后的 HFD 小鼠,可发现其肝内的脂质堆积及血清转氨酶的水平都有了明显的下降,并且肝细胞的炎症反应也有显著的降低。此实验说明通过 FMT 治疗对 HFD 导致的代谢功能紊乱有着显著的改善作用[43]。但是还未有与 NAFLD 相关的 FMT 治疗的临床试验,因此 FMT 在治疗 NAFLD 中潜力还有待验证。

7. 总结与展望

随着近些年来 NAFLD 发病率的快速增长,严重影响着我国国民经济与人民生活水平,所以迫切需要针对 NAFLD 有效的预防和治疗方案。大量动物试验以及临床试验研究表明益生菌可通过调节脂质代谢、维持肠道屏障功能、减少肝细胞内脂质异常堆积以及减缓炎症反应来改善 NAFLD 的病情进展。将来应在肠道菌群方面研发新的治疗方案,以改善 NAFLD 的管理。

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