

放疗与免疫治疗相结合治疗IV期非小细胞肺癌的现状和治疗前景

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摘要

免疫疗法使转移性非小细胞肺癌(NSCLC)的治疗发生了革命性变化。与广泛性转移性疾病相比, 少转移性肿瘤预后更好, 可通过放射治疗治愈。放射治疗(RT)可激发免疫原性抗肿瘤活性, 当与免疫检查点抑制剂(ICIS)等免疫治疗相结合时, 这种活性可进一步增强。因此, 它与免疫疗法的结合被认为是一种有希望的治疗选择, 特别是在转移的环境中。然而, RT与免疫治疗相结合的最优方法仍然存在争议, 早期临床证据正在出现。在这里, 我们回顾了目前支持RT联合免疫疗法治疗转移性非小细胞肺癌的临床证据。此外, 我们还讨论了当前的争议和与该治疗策略相关的进一步探索的领域。

关键词

非小细胞肺癌, 免疫检查点抑制剂, 放射治疗, 综述

Current Status and Therapeutic Prospects of Combining Radiotherapy and Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Stage IV Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

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Abstract

Immunotherapy has revolutionised the treatment of metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Less metastatic tumours have a better prognosis than extensive metastatic disease and can be cured by radiotherapy. Radiation therapy (RT) stimulates immunogenic anti-tumour activity, which can be further enhanced when combined with immunotherapy such as immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIS). Therefore, its combination with immunotherapy is considered a promising therapeutic option, especially in the setting of metastasis. However, the optimal approach to combining RT with immunotherapy remains controversial and early clinical evidence is emerging. Here, we review the current clinical evidence supporting the combination of RT with immunotherapy for metastatic non-small cell lung cancer. In addition, we discuss current controversies and areas for further exploration related to this treatment strategy.

Keywords

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors, Radiotherapy, Review

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1. 前言

非小细胞肺癌(NSCLC)是癌症最常见的类型, 约占所有肺癌的 84% [1]。免疫治疗, 特别是免疫检查点抑制剂(ICIs), 提高了转移性 NSCLC 患者的生存率。然而, 对 ICIs 的反应率仍然不理想[2]。立体定向放疗(SBRT)是一种精确的放射治疗形式, 可向肿瘤靶点提供高剂量的辐射, 副作用最小, 并据报道可诱导免疫原性细胞死亡[3]。将 ICIs 与 SBRT 等局部疗法相结合, 有望提高照射区域外局部和远处的治疗效果[4]。这种远距离效应被称为潜逃效应。SBRT 和 ICIs 之间的这种协同作用, 尤其是联合治疗方法潜逃反应的频率值得在大型随机对照试验中进一步探索和验证[5]。Abdulhaleem [6]等人发表了一系列关于转移性晚期非小细胞肺癌患者的研究, 如果他们接受 ICIs 和立体定向放射术(SRS)治疗, 他们的中位生存期为 40 个月, 而如果他们只接受 SRS 治疗, 他们的中位生存期为 8 个月。因此, 放射治疗(RT)联合 ICIs 可能为非小细胞肺癌患者提供有利的治疗方案, 在此, 我们概述了放疗与免疫疗法联合治疗 IV 期 NSCLC 的最新进展和挑战。

2. 免疫检查点抑制剂提高 IV 期非小细胞肺癌患者的存活率

近年来, ICIs 显著改变了转移性非小细胞肺癌的治疗方法。单抗针对特定的抑制性免疫检查点, 如细胞毒性 T 淋巴细胞抗原-4 (CTLA-4)、程序性死亡 1 (PD1)或程序性死亡配体 1 (PD-L1), 并可改善多个大规模 III 期随机对照试验中转移性非小细胞肺癌患者的总生存率(OS)和无进展生存率(PFS), 特别是在 PD-L1 肿瘤比例评分 \geq 50%的患者。CheckMate-017 和 CheckMate-057 评估 Nivolumab 作为晚期非小细胞肺癌的二线治疗, 与多西紫杉醇[7] [8]相比, PFS 和 OS 有所改善。2021 年, 更新的数据显示, Nivolumab 的 5 年 OS 率增加了 5 倍以上(13.4%比 2.6%) [9]。CHECKMate-078 进一步证实了 Nivolumab 在中国患者中的有效性[10]。Checkmate-9LA 和 Checkmate-227 显示在 PD-L1 中使用一线 Nivolumab 加 Ipilimumab 对 NSCLC 阳性患者有好处[11] [12]。

Atezolizumab, 是 FDA 批准的第一个 PD-L1 单抗, 有望用于晚期非小细胞肺癌。在 Oak 试验中, 与以前治疗的非小细胞肺癌化疗相比, 它改善了 OS (中位数 OS: 13.8 个月比 9.6 个月, $p = 0.0003$) [13]。在晚期非小细胞肺癌的一线治疗中, Impower 110 试验表明, 在 PD-L1 高表达的患者中, Atezolizumab 单一疗法比化疗有显著的益处, 提供了另一种“免除化疗”的治疗选择[14]。IMPower130 评估了 Atezolizumab 联合化疗对患有野生型 EGFR/ALK 的非鳞状 NSCLC 患者的一线治疗效果。PD-L1 表达与较好的 PFS 相关 [15]。Impower 150 将 Atezolizumab 添加到化疗和 Bevacizumab 中, 显著延长了转移性非鳞状 NSCLC 患者的 PFS 和 OS, 无论 PD-L1 表达或 EGFR/ALK 状态如何[16]。总体而言, Atezolizumab 对转移性 NSCLC 患者是有希望的, 特别是那些 PD-L1 高表达的患者。其他几种 PD-1/PD-L1 抑制剂也已安全地应用于晚期 NSCLC [17] [18]的一线 and 二线治疗。尽管 ICIs 的临床适应很快, 但大多数患者对含 ICI 的方案反应很差。尽管探索了 40 多个预测肿瘤对 ICIs 反应的潜在生物标志物, 但在患者选择方面尚未达成共识[19] [20]。

3. RT 联合免疫疗法治疗转移性 NSCLC 的临床疗效

放射治疗促进肿瘤相关抗原的释放和免疫细胞向肿瘤的渗透, 这可能导致未经放射治疗的肿瘤的异常反应[21]。与常规分割放射治疗(CFRT)相比, SBRT 具有较少的淋巴细胞减少和较好的临床疗效[22] [23] [24]。因此, SBRT 与免疫治疗相结合, 有望成为一种新兴的肿瘤治疗方法。放射免疫联合治疗的疗效受多种因素的影响, 包括放射剂量、分割计划、治疗量和 ICI 的给药顺序。最大限度地激活免疫的最佳剂量分级方案尚未确定。

尽管各种试验中的放射治疗方案各不相同, 但 $8\text{Gy} \times 3$ 组分已非常常用[25] [26] [27]。一些研究发现, 疗效的差异与不同的剂量有关, 分割方案 and 不同部位的治疗[28]。威尔士等人。发现 SBRT (50Gy4F)联合免疫治疗可获得 38% 的异常应答率(ARR), 而放疗疗程较长(45Gy15F) [29]的 ARR 仅为 10%。需要进行大规模的临床研究, 以探索与免疫治疗相结合的最佳 SBRT 剂量和分级方案。在 SBRT 治疗期间暴露在低剂量照射下的皮损中的肿瘤消退也有报道, 这表明在接受 SBRT 和免疫治疗的患者中, 将低剂量放射治疗(LDRT)添加到选定的转移灶中具有额外的好处[30] [31]。研究如何最好地将 LDRT、SBRT 和免疫疗法结合起来的临床试验是必要的。肿瘤内的异质性可能是联合免疫治疗和 SBRT 疗效不一致的部分原因[32]。

将放射治疗与免疫疗法相结合的可能顺序包括在放射治疗之前、同时或之后给药。在临床前研究中, 同时使用抗 PD-L1 药物和放疗产生了最有效的抗肿瘤免疫反应[33]。值得注意的是, 上述发现主要基于传统的分级放疗, 但对于 SBRT, 在免疫治疗的任何阶段进行干预都可能带来生存益处。Bestvina 等人首次对同时与连续双检查点阻断和 SBRT 进行了随机比较。他们表明, 并发和继发性 PFS 的中位数没有统计学上的显著差异。

考虑到 ICIs 和辐射诱导的毒性作用机制的冗余性, 辐射肿瘤学家通常避免同时进行 SBRT 和 ICIs, 因为担心毒性增加[34]。然而, 目前的证据仅表明, 在免疫治疗期间接受 SBRT 的患者发生某些毒性反应的风险略有升高[35]。多系统 irAEs 的发展也可能与 ICIs [36]治疗的晚期 NSCLC 患者的生存改善有关。需要前瞻性试验来研究放射治疗和 ICI 相结合的最优顺序, 以提高患者的存活率, 同时保持较低的治疗相关毒性发生率。同样重要的是, 进一步探索如何最好地为联合治疗方案选择患者。例如, 一些研究表明, SBRT 和免疫治疗的结合可能更适合 PD-L1 低表达的患者, 因为在 PD-L1 高表达的患者中, 单独使用免疫治疗效果更好。因此, 根据特定生物标志物的存在和/或水平来选择患者可能有助于克服当前临床试验中难以满足的研究终点的障碍。有必要对这一领域进行进一步调查。

4. 如何使放射治疗联合免疫治疗更有效

从迄今为止进行的临床试验中吸取的经验教训, 以及对致电离辐射(IR)、肿瘤微环境和肿瘤内 T 细

胞之间相互作用的临床前研究, 应指导设计更有效的放射免疫疗法组合。在这里, 我们提出了实现这一目标的一些具体方法:

1) 对所有站点进行辐射

基于上面讨论的观察和其他证据, 我们最近提出, 免疫治疗和放射治疗之间的潜在协同作用需要治疗所有或大部分转移疾病[37]。这一结论得到了该领域其他人的认同[38], 并基于最近的技术进步, 这些技术进步允许以高精度和低毒性提供高剂量 IR。此外, 在我们最近结合了 pembrolizumab 和 SBRT 的临床试验中, 来自探索性子集分析的观察也支持了这一方法, 该分析表明, 与完全照射相比, 必须进行部分照射(由于技术限制)的肿瘤显示出类似的肿瘤控制。这表明, 即使在可能不可能对所有部位进行照射的情况下, 对所有病变进行部分照射也可能足够。反对这种方法的一个论点是, T 细胞可能对辐射敏感, 在这种情况下, 放射治疗可能是免疫抑制的, 这一点我们在下面讨论。

2) 应用肿瘤生物学方面的知识

最近, Pitroda 和 Weichselbaum 实验室对切除后的结直肠癌肝转移进行了整合转录分析(mRNA + miRNA) [39], 目的是区分结直肠癌转移的不同分子亚型及其与临床结果的关系。我们发现, 与原发结直肠癌不同临床结果相关的分子特征在切除肝转移的患者中未能做到这一点。然而, 综合转录分析确定了与不同总存活率相关的 3 种结直肠癌转移的分子亚型。亚型 1, 因其增加了细胞增殖的表达, 改变了细胞周期和 DNA 修复途径, 在 33% 的样本中存在, 并与较差的存活率相关, 被称为“典型”。该亚型免疫标志物低表达。相反, 亚型 2, 或“免疫”(28%), 有高表达的 T 细胞激活, 抗原呈递和干扰素信号基因, 并与最有利的总体生存相关。最后, 亚型 3 或“间质”(39%)的特征是一些免疫标志物的表达以及强烈的上皮-间充质转化、血管生成和 293 个细胞外基质重塑途径的激活。间质亚型存活率低。这三个亚型使人想起对接受检查点抑制剂治疗的患者所描述的“免疫沙漠/炎症/排斥”表型[40] [41]。先前的研究表明, 在人类肺癌肿瘤周围的致密细胞外基质沉积中, 产生 CXCL12 的活化成纤维细胞“隔离”了 T 细胞[42] [43]。与 TGF 激活成纤维细胞的观点一致 β 通过将 T 细胞保留在肿瘤周围基质区域, 用抗 TGF 治疗小鼠肿瘤, 有助于将 T 细胞从肿瘤床中排除 β 提高了抗 PD-L1 阻断的治疗效果, 可能是通过对抗成纤维细胞的“屏障”, 这导致肿瘤内 T 细胞浸润增加。决定“基质”/“排除”肿瘤类型的遗传/环境因素尚未完全阐明; 然而, 由于肿瘤成纤维细胞主要来源于局部可用的[44]正常成纤维细胞, 一种可能性是将转移细胞接种到解剖位置存在于该分子亚型的肿瘤中可能使其更容易接受放大放疗诱导的 DNA 损伤的药物, 如 PARP 抑制剂。

3) 在个体肿瘤放射治疗中考虑肿瘤内 T 细胞

对于表型被排除的肿瘤, 经常有人提出辐射可以吸引 T 细胞到肿瘤上, 将对免疫治疗无效的“冷”肿瘤变成可以用免疫治疗治疗的“热”肿瘤, 但这还没有得到确凿的证明。临床前研究令人信服地表明, 辐射可以增加 T 细胞对肿瘤的渗透。根据临床证据的缺乏, 在 T 细胞水平较低但可检测到的肿瘤中, 辐射可能会吸引更多的 T 细胞, 而在完全缺乏 T 细胞的肿瘤中, 辐射可能不会产生同样的效果。我们发现, 如果肿瘤是在次给药之前建立的, 用 S1P1 抑制剂 337-FTY720 阻断 T 细胞的渗透不会影响放射反应, 但如果在植入时开始给药, 多次照射无效。这表明, 预先存在的 T 细胞在某些条件下足以介导放射治疗的局部细胞毒性效应, 而不像一些免疫疗法那样, 需要新的渗透的 T 细胞。

5. 结论

放疗联合免疫治疗是治疗转移性非小细胞肺癌患者的一种很有前途的治疗方案。尽管出现了早期的临床证据, 但放疗和免疫治疗相结合的最佳策略仍有待进一步研究, 以确定最有效的策略。本文就免疫检查点抑制剂提高 IV 期非小细胞肺癌患者的存活率、放疗联合免疫疗法治疗转移性 NSCLC 的临床疗效、

如何使放疗联合免疫治疗更有效等方面进行了综述。它进一步将持久的局部控制定义为在 2 年内至少 85%, 同时认识到在放疗结合系统治疗提供下床后可接受局部控制的可能性。正如欧洲和欧洲/美国的共识建议所暗示的那样, 更多的努力应该针对如何有效地结合放疗和免疫治疗进行高质量的临床研究, 这将提供见解并最终改善晚期非小细胞肺癌患者的护理。

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