

CT在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张中的研究进展

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摘 要

目的: 总结CT在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张中的研究进展。方法: 查阅国内外与肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张有关的CT研究文献, 分析总结CT在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张等方面的研究现状与进展。结果: CT诊断高危食管静脉曲张与内镜结果之间有良好的相关性, 能获得门脉侧枝血管、肝脾体积等内镜所不能得到的信息, 在一定程度上辅助内镜检查, 更好地在临床中管理肝硬化高危食管静脉曲张的患者。结论: CT在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张方面有重要价值, 若能更好地排除混杂因素, 将有利于我们更好地诊治和管理该类患者。

关键词

计算机断层扫描, 高危食管静脉曲张, 食管静脉曲张, 肝硬化

Liver Cirrhosis with High-Risk Esophageal Varices: Status and Advancement in CT Evaluation

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Abstract

Objective: To summarize the research progress of CT in the evaluation of cirrhosis with high-risk esophageal varices. **Methods:** The relevant literatures of CT evaluating cirrhosis with high-risk

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esophageal varices were reviewed and the current status and progress of CT in the evaluation of cirrhosis with high-risk esophageal varices were analyzed and summarized. Results: There was a close correlation between CT diagnosis of high-risk esophageal varices and endoscopic results. CT could obtain information such as portal collateral vessels, liver and spleen volume that cannot be obtained by endoscopy. To a certain extent, CT could assist endoscopic examination to better manage high-risk esophageal varices of cirrhosis in clinical practice. Conclusion: CT was important in evaluating cirrhosis with high-risk esophageal varices. If the confounding factors can be excluded better, it will be conducive to the diagnosis, treatment and management of these patients.

Keywords

Computed Tomography, High-Risk Esophageal Varices, Esophageal Varices, Liver Cirrhosis

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1. 引言

肝硬化是由多种病因导致的一种终末期肝病。长期的肝脏慢性炎症, 肝纤维化逐渐发展为肝硬化, 最终出现门静脉高压[1], 食管静脉曲张是门静脉高压的表现之一[2], 食管静脉曲张破裂出血是肝硬化凶险的并发症。据统计, 大约 40%~95% 的肝硬化患者中会出现食管静脉曲张, 15%~20% 的患者会在诊断后的 1~3 年内发生食管静脉曲张破裂出血[3]。然而, 对于目前肝硬化并发静脉曲张破裂出血的患者, 即使经过积极的一线治疗(药物和内镜), 其死亡率仍约为 20% [4]。因此, 为了更好地管理肝硬化并发食管静脉曲张的患者, 我们需要在其有出血隐患时进行早干预、早治疗, 因此早期识别具有食管静脉曲张出血高风险的人群至关重要。

迄今为止, 诊断食管静脉曲张和预测食管静脉曲张出血风险的最佳方式是内镜检查[5]。内镜可以直观地评估食管静脉曲张的程度。我国根据食管静脉曲张的形态、是否存在红色征等特点, 将内镜下食管静脉曲张划分为 3 个等级(表 1) [6]。

Table 1. Endoscopic grading criteria for esophageal varices

表 1. 食管静脉曲张的内镜分级标准

分级	食管静脉曲张形态	食管静脉曲张红色征
轻度	食管静脉曲张呈直线形或略有迂曲	无
中度	食管静脉曲张呈直线形或略有迂曲	有
	食管静脉曲张呈蛇形迂曲隆起	无
重度	食管静脉曲张呈蛇形迂曲隆起	有
	食管静脉曲张呈串珠状、结节状或瘤状	有或无

根据专家指南, 中度和重度的食管静脉曲张通常被认为是高危食管静脉曲张(High-risk esophageal varices, HRV) [7] [8]。对于高危食管静脉曲张(HRV), 需要行干预治疗(非选择性 β 受体阻滞剂、内镜下套扎、内镜下硬化)以预防出血[9]。

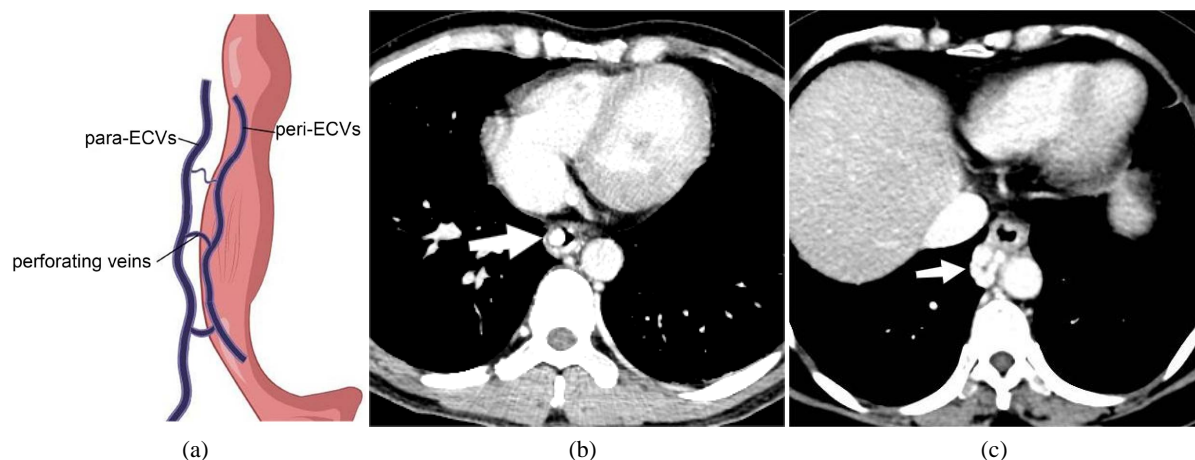
本文拟对 CT 在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张方面的应用进行综述, 以期能更好地辅助临床及内镜下评估, 为诊治和管理该类患者提供科学依据。

2. CT 成像的特点

多排计算机断层扫描成像(multidetector computer tomography, MDCT)具有扫描速度快, 纵向分辨率高的成像特点[10]。其中, 多排计算机断层扫描门静脉造影(multidetector computer tomography portal venography, MDCTPV)已作为一种成熟的技术, 用于检查食管和胃静脉曲张[11]。同时, 多平面重建技术能更加清晰地显示门体侧枝血管, 描绘门体侧枝血管(如胃左静脉、胃短静脉、食管和食管旁静脉曲张、脾肾和胃分流、脐旁和腹壁静脉)的位置和范围[11] [12]。在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张方面发挥了重要作用。

3. CT 评估食管静脉曲张

食管静脉曲张根据与食管壁的关系, 分为食管周围静脉(periesophageal collateral veins, peri-ECVs)、食管旁静脉(paraesophageal collateral veins, para-ECVs)及食管穿支静脉(perforating veins) [13]。一般来说, 食管周围静脉(图 1(a)、图 1(b))存在于食管壁或粘膜下, 食管旁静脉(图 1(a)、图 1(c))存在于食管外, 而穿支静脉(图 1(a))是连通食管周围静脉和食管旁静脉的通信分支[11] [14] [15]。



(a) peri-ECVs = 食管周围静脉, para-ECVs = 食管旁静脉, perforating veins = 穿支静脉。(b) 食管周围静脉存在于食管壁或粘膜下(白色箭头)。(c) 食管旁静脉存在于食管外(白色箭头)。穿支静脉难以在 CT 图像上显示。

Figure 1. Relationship between esophageal vein and esophageal wall

图 1. 食管静脉曲张与食管壁的关系

3.1. 食管周围静脉曲张

内镜是诊断食管静脉曲张的金标准[16], 通常内镜能直接观察到的是食管周围静脉曲张。CT 对食管周围静脉曲张具有较好的分辨能力, 也能诊断和评估高危食管静脉曲张。

3.1.1. CT 诊断食管周围静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张的能力

MDCT 对食管周围静脉曲张及高危食管静脉曲张的诊断能力较好, 两者的 ROC 曲线下面积分别为 0.8735 和 0.9664 [17]。Manchec 等[18]的单中心回顾性研究发现, CT 提示的大型食管静脉曲张与内镜下高危食管静脉曲张明显相关($P < 0.001$), 同时 CT 提示的大型食管静脉曲张, 在评估内镜下高危食管静脉曲张的敏感性为 80%, 特异性为 87%。在一项前瞻性的队列研究中, Kim 等[19]的研究纳入了 90 例肝硬化

化患者进行内镜检查(37例0级、23例1级、18例2级、12例3级)及CT增强检查,期间内镜医生和放射科医生各自通过内镜和CT增强对食管静脉曲张进行分级,最终发现内镜和CT在食管静脉曲张分级的结果几乎完全一致,存在密切的相关性($P < 0.001$)。同时该研究也发现,放射科医生利用CT评估高危食管静脉曲张的能力较好(ROC曲线下面积为0.931~0.958) [19]。

3.1.2. CT测量食管周围静脉曲张直径

食管静脉曲张的破裂与血管壁的张力有关。而血管壁上的张力是由血管的直径和血管壁内外的压力梯度(即曲张静脉内和食管的压力差)所决定的[20]。张力导致食管静脉曲张直径扩张的同时,直径的增加也会反过来加重食管静脉曲张的张力,这种恶性循环将导致食管静脉曲张破裂[3] [20] [21]。CT作为一种密度成像的检查方法,无法测量食管周围静脉的压力及张力,但能测量其直径。

Deng等[16]研究者发现,当CT所测得的食管周围静脉曲张的直径 > 3.9 mm时,诊断高危食管静脉曲张的灵敏度和特异度分别为89.74%和69.23%。但该研究的患者样本量较小(52例),其结果有待进一步验证。Manhec等[18]通过对97例肝硬化患者的CT增强结果进行回顾性分析,并与内镜结果进行比较,发现CT测得的直径 > 4 mm的食管静脉曲张是内镜所见的高危食管静脉曲张,其敏感性为80%,特异性为87%,推荐此类患者接受内镜检查。另有研究发现,CT测得的食管周围静脉曲张直径 > 5.2 mm时,诊断高危食管静脉曲张(以内镜结果为参考)的灵敏度、特异性分别为80%、75% [22]。

3.2. 食管旁静脉曲张

食管旁静脉曲张存在于食管外,内镜无法对其进行检查。而CT能对其成像,为我们提供内镜所不能获取的信息。

Kodama等测量了首次肝硬化食管静脉曲张出血患者的食管旁静脉曲张的直径,发现在此类患者中,MDCT对食管旁静脉曲张的检出率为80%,食管旁静脉曲张的平均直径为3.4 mm [10]。

目前针对食管旁静脉曲张与高危食管静脉曲张的相关性研究较少。大多研究表明肝硬化食管静脉曲张患者若存在大型的食管旁静脉曲张,会有相对较好的内镜治疗效果[10] [23],可能的原因是食管旁静脉曲张和食管周围静脉曲张同时接受门脉侧枝的供血,较大的食管旁静脉曲张会减少门脉侧枝对食管周围静脉曲张的血供。

3.3. 食管静脉曲张体积

Wan等[22]认为相比直径,食管静脉曲张的体积能更准确、全面地提供食管各静脉的情况,因此CT图像计算出食管静脉曲张的体积(利用3D Slicer软件选取能观察到的所有曲张静脉的体积)更有价值。其研究[22]发现CT所提示的食管静脉曲张体积 > 654.0 mm³时,评估高危食管静脉曲张的灵敏度和特异性分别为96%和50%。但研究者并未详细阐述其研究的“体积”系食管周围静脉曲张还是食管旁静脉曲张,需要后续进一步的研究。

4. 胃左静脉

胃左静脉位于胃与肝左叶之间,是门体侧枝循环的重要一支,也是供应食管曲张静脉的主要来源,直接影响到食管静脉曲张的发生、发展及出血[11] [12] [24]。一般来说,胃左静脉在多普勒超声或CT检查直径大于5~6 mm被认为是异常,是门静脉高压的指标[12]。Li等[25]对我国健康成人的MDCT增强检查结果进行分析,发现胃左静脉的最大直径为 4.74 ± 0.84 mm,胃左静脉多起源于门静脉(46.15%),起源于脾静脉的占30.77%,起源于门静脉与脾静脉夹角的占14.53%,起源于门静脉左支的占3.85%,不同起源的胃左静脉的最大直径无明显统计学差异($P = 0.35$)。

多项研究表明, 胃左静脉的直径在评估食管静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张方面具有很高的价值[26] [27] [28]。然而, 这些研究多通过磁共振和超声检查检测胃左静脉直径, 对此 CT 相关的研究较少。目前 CT 多通过检测胃左静脉的直径的变异程度来评估食管静脉曲张的预后。

Kodama 等[23]在肝硬化患者接受内镜硬化治疗的前后进行 CT 检查, 发现胃左静脉是肝硬化患者食管静脉曲张的主要供血血管, 胃左静脉直径在内镜硬化治疗前后的变异程度越大(分为根除组、变窄组、无变化组), 食管静脉曲张无复发的时间便越长(复发定义为出现轻度及轻度以上的食管静脉曲张), 内镜硬化治疗的效果越好($P < 0.05$)。在一项针对肝硬化人群的研究中, 研究者利用多平面重建的多排计算机断层扫描成像(MDCT-MPR)对肝硬化食管静脉曲张患者的胃左静脉进行统计和测量, 发现胃左静脉是食管曲张静脉的主要供血血管, CT 对胃左静脉的检出率是 100%, 直径平均为 5.8 mm [10]。同时也发现, 若 CT 所测量的肝硬化患者的内镜治疗前后的胃左静脉直径变异程度 $> 20\%$, 那此类患者的预后相对较好, 但两者无明显统计学差异($P = 0.068$), 可能的原因是研究纳入的样本量较少[10]。

5. 肝脾体积

肝脏体积和脾脏体积已被证实与肝硬化的严重程度和食管静脉曲张的存在密切相关[29] [30] [31]。

Patel 等[32]的回顾性队列研究对比了肝硬化患者和健康人群的肝脾大小和肝脾体积比, 发现肝硬化患者的肝脏体积显著减小(1639.8 cm^3 vs 1789.5 cm^3 , $P < 0.02$), 肝硬化患者的脾脏明显较大(796.2 cm^3 vs 218.3 cm^3 , $P < 0.0001$), 肝脾体积比显著降低(3.15 vs 9.98 , $P < 0.0001$)。同时发现脾脏大小与食管静脉曲张的存在负相关, 但并未进一步研究脾脏大小与高危食管静脉曲张的关系[32]。Wan 等[33]研究表明, 肝脏的尾状体积/总体积的比值是高危食管静脉曲张独立的预测因素, 再结合腹水而建立的用于评估高危食管静脉曲张的预测模型具有较为满意的性能(ROC 曲线下面积为 0.853, 95% CI 0.797~0.905)。

6. 小结与展望

门静脉高压是导致侧枝循环开放和食管静脉曲张的原因[3]。门静脉高压所导致的食管静脉曲张和破裂出血是肝硬化最常见和最严重的并发症。如何评估肝硬化患者是否存在高危食管静脉曲张是肝硬化诊治和管理重点之一。目前诊断食管静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张的“金标准”是内镜检查[5], 而影像学检查能对门静脉侧枝或食管清晰成像, 因此在评估肝硬化并发高危食管静脉曲张方面发挥了重大作用, 其非侵入性的检查具有可重复性及更高的接受度。

除 CT 外, 目前可用于评估高危食管静脉曲张的影像学检查方法有超声、瞬时弹性成像、MRI 等检查。

CT 能对门静脉及其侧枝循环清晰成像[34], 而超声却不能清楚显示静脉曲张和引流血管[25]。另外, Li 等[35]的前瞻性队列研究表明超声用于评估食管静脉曲张出血风险的能力有限, 他们探究了超声测得的门脉血流动力学指标(门静脉和胃左静脉的直径、流速等)与内镜结果的关系, 发现出血组与非出血组的门静脉直径和流速均无明显统计学差异, 同时胃左静脉直径也不能评估食管静脉曲张有无出血风险。

瞬时弹性成像是测量肝脏硬度的方法, 目前已越来越多地用作肝脏纤维化评估的无创工具[36]。近期基于观察性研究的 meta 分析[5]表明, CT 与瞬时弹性成像相比能更好地评估肝硬化并发食管静脉曲张, 两者在诊断食管静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张的 ROC 曲线下面积分别为 0.91、0.86 和 0.94、0.85。另外, Baveno VII 标准建议满足条件(肝硬度测量 $\geq 20 \text{ Kpa}$ 或血小板计数 $\leq 150 \times 10^9/\text{L}$)的肝硬化患者需要接受内镜检查[37]。但 Baveno VII 标准给出的模型并不适用于肝硬化失代偿期的患者, 用于指导内镜检查时仍有部分局限性。

增强 CT 和 MRI 都可清晰显示门静脉系统及其侧支循环[34] [38]。通过 MRI 测量的胃左静脉直径也

能评估肝硬化患者是否存在食管静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张[26]。但目前的 meta 分析[5]表明 CT 在检测食管静脉曲张和评估高危食管静脉曲张方面优于 MRI (ROC 曲线下面积分别为 0.91、0.86 和 0.94、0.83)。

因此, CT 检查是评估肝硬化患者食管静脉曲张和高危食管静脉曲张的最佳选择。

肝静脉压力梯度(HVPG)是评估肝硬化并发食管静脉曲张程度和预后的可靠方法[39] [40] [41]。考虑到 HVPG 费用高, 同时具有侵入性, 难以广泛开展[37]。因此, 目前有多项研究利用 CT 来评估高危食管静脉曲张, 究其本质是想寻找一种非侵入性的方法来评估门静脉压力, 以此评估高危食管静脉曲张。然而, 迄今为止尚无新方法可以替代 HVPG。可能的原因是, 相比 HVPG, 通过 CT 数据所建立的诊断和评估方法存在较多的混杂因素, 如腹腔内压力、BMI、肝硬化病因等。BMI 和肝硬化病因的干扰可以通过细致地临床工作以降低, 但腹腔内压力却难以在实际的临床工作中测量。若能消除或降低腹腔内压力等因素的干扰, 将有利于我们更好地诊治和管理该类患者。

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