

Research Progress of Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor in Alzheimer's Disease

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Abstract

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is one of the most common causes of dementia in the elderly. It is characterized by the accumulation of A β plaques and neurofibrillary tangles, which are accompanied by widespread neuronal and synaptic loss, causing progressive loss of memory and cognitive function. Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is the most widely distributed NTs in adult brain and is a key molecule in the maintenance of synaptic plasticity and synaptogenesis, which is the cellular biological basis of memory acquisition and consolidation. BDNF may play a potential role in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. The review provides the role and therapeutic strategy of brain-derived neurotrophic factor in Alzheimer's disease in major.

Keywords

Alzheimer's Disease, Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor, Pathogenesis, Therapeutic Strategy

脑源性神经营养因子在阿尔茨海默症中作用研究进展

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摘要

阿尔茨海默症(AD)是引起老年痴呆的主要原因,其病理特征包括淀粉样斑块和神经纤维缠结。AD广泛的
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神经元和突触丢失引起记忆和认知功能进行性减退。脑源性神经营养因子(BDNF)是成人大脑内分布最广泛的神经营养因子。BDNF在记忆获得和巩固的细胞生物学基础突触发生及突触可塑性中发挥关键作用。研究表明, BDNF可能成为AD的生物标记和治疗靶标。本文主要对BDNF在AD中发挥的作用及其治疗策略进行综述。

关键词

阿尔茨海默症, 脑源性神经营养因子, 发病机制, 治疗策略

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1. 引言

阿尔茨海默症(AD)是痴呆中最常见的类型, 在所有痴呆患者中占到 50%至 75%, 超过 1/3 的老年人受其所累[1]。并且, 随着年龄的增长, 每 5 年患病风险增加一倍。阿尔茨海默病协会把 AD 定义为一种引起记忆、认知和行为障碍的不可逆的进行性致命脑病。随着人类寿命的延长, 预测未来 25 年罹患阿尔茨海默症的人数将增加 40%左右, 同时伴随增长的还有用于 AD 治疗和护理的费用[2]。AD 的病理特征包括 β -淀粉样蛋白(A β)沉积和 tau 蛋白高度磷酸化的神经纤维缠结, 伴随广泛的神经元和突触丢失, 突触发生和突触可塑性障碍。脑源性神经营养因子(BDNF)是神经营养因子家族(NTs)成员, 在哺乳动物脑内分布最为广泛。BDNF 水平及其表达在 AD 患者血液和中枢神经系统持续下降。BDNF 通过激活高亲和力受体 TrkB 和低亲和力受体 p75NTR 调节神经元存活、分化和可塑性[3]。研究表明, 通过 TrkB 减少 BDNF 信号可导致空间记忆受损[4], 而 TrkB 表达适度增加可增强记忆[5]。BDNF 可能在 AD 发病机制和治疗中发挥潜在作用。

2. BDNF 与 AD 发病机制的关系

2.1. BDNF 与 A β 、tau

β -淀粉样蛋白(A β)、tau 蛋白高度磷酸化的神经纤维缠结(NTF)是诱发 AD 的主要原因。AD 患者 A β 、NTF 沉积的部位在皮层、海马、基底前脑和杏仁核等脑区[6]。BDNF 对学习记忆具有重要作用, 在海马、皮层和基底前脑等脑区较为活跃[7]。BDNF 与 A β 、p-tau 具有相似的分布区域, 提示 BDNF 在 AD 的两大病理进程中发挥保护作用。

A β 的异常沉积引起 BDNF 水平降低, 随之诱发 A β 相关的 AD 神经毒性[8], 而 BDNF 水平的降低不会诱发 A β 沉积[9]。A β 作用于 Ras-MAPK/ERK 通道和 PI3K-Akt 信号通路, 减少活化调节细胞骨架相关蛋白(Arc)的表达[10], 抑制转录因子 CREB 结合到 BDNF 的启动区域, 最终导致神经元 BDNF 转录抑制[11]。A β 作用于 BDNF 高亲和力受体 TrkB, 降低 BDNF/TrkB 水平, 损伤 TrkB 相关信号通路, 导致 AD 脑内神经元存活减少[12]。A β 损伤神经元轴突, 诱导微观结构变化, 导致细胞内 BDNF 运输障碍[13]。BDNF 增加 APP 启动子转录, 通过 APP 的 α -分泌酶剪切途径, 形成可溶性 APP 和 AICD [14]。BDNF 修复 A β 诱导的神经毒性, 显著增加突触可塑性。

Tau 蛋白高度磷酸化形成 NTF, 导致神经毒性。Tau 蛋白过度磷酸化与催化 tau 蛋白磷酸化的激酶和催化 tau 蛋白去磷酸化的蛋白磷酸酶有关。BDNF 作用于最重要的 tau 蛋白激酶 GSK-3 β , 抑制 GSK-3 β

磷酸化, 从而抑制 tau 蛋白磷酸化[15]。BDNF/TrkB 通路激活可引起 tau 蛋白去磷酸化, 反之 TrkB 失活则 tau 蛋白去磷酸化减少。研究表明, BDNF 可通过 TrkB 受体激活 PI3K-Akt 通路, 作用于 tau 蛋白去磷酸化位点 AT8, 引起 tau 蛋白去磷酸化[15]。

2.2. BDNF 与突触修复

突触丢失和突触功能障碍与神经退行性疾病的恶化密切相关。在 AD 大脑中, 特别是海马、额叶皮层、顶叶皮层和内嗅皮层等脑区, 突触进行性丢失[16]。Selkoe 认为, AD 是突触障碍[17]。在 AD 的病理进程中, A β 诱导的轻微突触退化要早于神经元退化[17]。在突触相关的所有生物分子中, BDNF 是目前研究最深入, 并且是唯一得到论证与人类突触功能调节密切相关的分子[18]。在成人大脑中, BDNF 的主要功能是突触修复, 包括增加突触传递、易化突触可塑性和促进突触生长。体内外实验表明, 应用外源性 BDNF 或增加内源性 BDNF 水平可以反转 A β 诱导的 LTP 和突触传递障碍[19]。BDNF 诱导 NMDA 受体和 AMPA 受体的自磷酸化, 增强 CaMKII 的功能, 起到突触保护作用[20]。

3. BDNF 相关 AD 治疗

BDNF 本身由于血浆半衰期短、血脑屏障(BBB)渗透性差等药动学特点没有合适的给药途径。针对 BDNF 的 AD 治疗策略主要包括增加内源性 BDNF 及其受体 TrkB 的表达、靶向 BDNF 治疗和非特异性治疗。

经典抗 AD 药物, 胆碱酯酶抑制剂多奈哌齐、加兰他敏可增加 CREB 和 Akt 磷酸化, 活化受到 AD 抑制的下游通路 Akt/CREB/BDNF-TrkB, 增加 BDNF 及其受体的表达[21]。NMDA 受体拮抗剂美金刚在临床上用于治疗重度 AD, 已证实可通过活化 Akt/CREB/BDNF-TrkB 通路增加 BDNF 表达[22]。正在进行新药临床试验的新型次黄嘌呤衍生物 Neotrofin(AIT082)可增加 BDNF 的表达。Neotrofin 刺激轴突生长、增加 BDNF 合成、增强记忆。在临床前和临床试验中, Neotrofin 具有口服给药稳定性好、剂量范围宽和 BBB 渗透性强等优势[23]。天然药物姜黄素可通过 PI3K/Akt/GSK-3 β 信号通路, 上调 BDNF 水平缓解 A β 诱导的认知损伤[24]。

BDNF 慢病毒基因导入内嗅皮层可增加 APP 转基因小鼠海马 BDNF 水平, 增加皮层神经元数目, 提高突触小泡蛋白免疫反应性, 改善海马相关记忆[25]。小分子 BDNF 拟肽具有更适宜的药动学特点。BDNF 拟肽 7,8-二羟基黄酮水合物(7,8-DHF)是 TrkB 的高特异性激动剂, 与 BDNF 具有相似的效应, 可缓解 A β 诱导的神经毒性和突触功能障碍[26]。向 APP/PS1/tau 转基因小鼠海马中移植神经干细胞可增加其空间学习能力, 而植入 BDNF 表达失活的神经干细胞没有这种作用, 说明其增加空间学习能力的作用与 BDNF 相关[27]。BDNF 调节肽, 腹腔注射三肽 Neuropep-1 可增加 APP/PS1/tau 转基因小鼠脑内 BDNF 水平, 增加其空间学习记忆能力, 减少脑内淀粉样斑块的负荷[28]。

社交活动可增加 APP/PS1 双转小鼠海马 BDNF 水平, 增强海马神经发生, 改善空间记忆[29]。体育锻炼可增加实验动物循环系统 BDNF 水平。有氧运动增加 AD 患者血清 BDNF 水平, 血清 BDNF 水平与海马体积和空间记忆能力密切相关[30]。

4. 展望

关于 BDNF 的研究近十年有了很大进展。BDNF 不仅对外周和中枢神经系统神经元的生长、分化、成熟、存活有重要作用, 而且与成年中枢神经系统突触可塑性、神经传递、受体敏感性调节密切相关, 参与神经退行性疾病 AD 的发病和病理生理过程, 可能成为 AD 的生物标记和治疗靶标。BDNF 扩散速率小、体内半衰期短和血脑屏障渗透性低的药动学特点, 限制其在 AD 治疗中的应用。今后人们关注 BDNF

在 AD 中的作用, 尝试干细胞移植、BDNF 基因传递、拟态 BDNF、发现新型小分子物质等方法, 改善 BDNF 及其受体的表达, 为 AD 患者提供新的治疗策略。

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