

进展期胃癌转移现状及相关分子机制研究进展

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收稿日期: 2022年2月23日; 录用日期: 2022年3月15日; 发布日期: 2022年3月28日

摘 要

胃癌是常见的消化道恶性肿瘤之一, 同时也是因肿瘤致死亡的主要原因之一, 死亡率位居第二。因胃癌早期患者症状多为隐匿, 无明显临床表现, 大多数患者对该疾病的认识不清, 故临床上诊断胃癌时多为进展期, 且多伴有其他重要脏器(肝、骨、脑等)及血管的转移, 从而导致胃癌的手术难度明显加大, 术后效果欠佳, 预后差、病死率高、生存率低。然而目前, 胃癌多脏器转移的相关文献较少, 且涉及的相关机制尚不明确, 故本文通过搜集相关文献对进展期胃癌发生多脏器(肝、骨、脑)及血管转移及涉及相关机制进行归纳, 旨在为临床上诊治进展期胃癌提供参考。

关键词

胃癌, 脏器转移, 血管转移, 预后

Current Status of Multiple Metastases in Advanced Gastric Cancer and Research Progress of Related Molecular Mechanisms

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Received: Feb. 23rd, 2022; accepted: Mar. 15th, 2022; published: Mar. 28th, 2022

Abstract

Gastric cancer is one of the common malignant tumors of the digestive tract, and it is also one of the main causes of death due to tumors. The death rate of gastric cancer ranks second. Because the symptoms of early gastric cancer patients are insidious mostly, and there is no obvious clinical

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appearance, most patients have unclear understanding of the disease. Therefore, the clinical diagnosis of gastric cancer is advanced mostly, and it is often accompanied by other important organs (liver, bone, brain, etc.), resulting in significantly increased difficulty in gastric cancer surgery, poor postoperative results, poor prognosis, high mortality, and low survival rate. However, at present, there are few related literatures on multi-organ metastasis of gastric cancer, and the related mechanisms are not clear. Therefore, this article collects related literatures on the occurrence of multi-organ (liver, bone, brain) metastasis and related mechanisms in advanced gastric cancer. In summary, it aims to provide a reference for the clinical diagnosis and treatment of advanced gastric cancer.

Keywords

Gastric Carcinoma, Organ Metastasis, Vascular Metastasis, Prognosis

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1. 引言

胃癌是常见的实体癌之一, 据 GLOBOCAN 通过统计数据表明, 2018 年胃癌发病率居于全球恶性肿瘤第 5 位, 且因胃癌多起病隐匿, 诊断时多为进展期, 手术治疗效果差, 导致其预后较差, 死亡率较其他癌症高, 其病死率居于第 2 位[1]。相关文献表明, 胃癌的 5 年生存率为 30%, 而进展期胃癌的 5 年生存率仅为 10%, 进展期胃癌发生多脏器转移导致其较差的预后[2] [3]。此外, 部分学者指出胃癌预后与淋巴结转移有关, 早期胃癌发生淋巴结转移几率较进展期低, 且进展期胃癌多发生远处转移, 从而导致进展期胃癌预后明显较早期胃癌差, 这也是导致进展期胃癌死亡率高的主要原因[4] [5]。然而目前, 关于进展期胃癌多脏器转移危险因素及涉及相关机制研究较少, 本文通过归纳近几年相关文献就进展期胃癌多脏器(肝、骨、脑)及血管转移及涉及相关机制, 旨在为进展期胃癌的诊治提供思路。

2. 胃癌肝转移机制

肝脏是胃癌最常见的转移部位, 据统计约 6%~13% 的胃癌患者发生肝转移, 且经积极治疗后仍存在 13.5%~30% 的患者发生肝转移[4] [6]。Xiao 等[7]指出胃癌行根治性手术的患者术后发生肝转移的时间约为 14 个月。陈万青[2]也表明胃癌肝转移患者生存率较低, 仅为 20%~30%。王兴国[8]等通过分析 378 例胃癌根治术后肝转移的患者临床资料发现, 术后化疗是胃癌肝转移患者预后的独立危险因素。侯松林[4]通过临床研究也进一步表明, 患者化疗、肿瘤 TNM 分期、肿瘤位置、病灶数目等是影响胃癌肝转移的独立危险因素。尽管如此, 胃癌肝转移涉及的相关机制目前尚不明确, 因此, 探索胃癌肝转移涉及的相关机制至关重要。

胃癌肝转移临床上多考虑通过血道途径发生转移, 因肝血窦缺乏基底膜和肝内血管壁通透性较大, 同时肝脏由肝动脉和门静脉双重血管供应营养物质, 为肿瘤细胞生长提供有力的条件; 另外, 胃癌细胞在侵袭脉管种植到肝脏过程中涉及多种分子机制的变化和细胞间的相互作用[9]。① Lee 和 MimoriK [10] [11]等人认为钙网蛋白(CRT)和血管内皮生长因子(VEGF-A)在胃癌血管生成中扮演着重要角色, CRT 与 VEGF-A 在胃癌中都处于高表达的水平, 考虑涉及 CRT-VEGF-A 调控轴的可能, 且二者的高表达与胃癌患者较差的预后成显著相关; 其中 CRT 的高表达通过激活一氧化氮信号通路促进血管生成, 增加肿瘤细

胞通过血道转移机会, 而 VEGF 通过调控血管的生成促进转移机制。相关研究表明通过抑制 VEGF 的表达可诱导肿瘤细胞发生凋亡, 在一定程度上可减少肿瘤的大小, 进一步证明 VEGF 的表达水平与患者预后呈负相关[12] [13] [14]。② Yuan 等[15]人发现胃癌组织中 miR-551b-3p 的表达水平与胃癌患者的预后存在相关性, 胃癌组织中 miR-551b-3p 的表达水平较临近癌旁组织低, 且 miR-551b-3p 高表达在一定程度上可抑制胃癌细胞的增殖、迁移和侵袭。而 LncRNA SMARCC2 可通过与胃癌细胞中 miR-551b-3p 的基因反应元件结合来从而抑制 MiR-551 b-3p 的高表达, 从而来促进胃癌细胞的增殖和转移[16]。③ Chen 等[17]人通过免疫组化发现胃癌组织中 α B-晶体蛋白(Alpha B-crystallin, CRYAB)的表达水平与胃癌 pTNM 分期、T 分期以及淋巴结转移有关($P < 0.05$), 提示 CRYAB 高表达与胃癌患者不良预后密切相关, 考虑高表达的 CRYAB 可增加胃癌细胞的侵袭性; 其中涉及的机制为 CRYAB 的表达降低在一定程度上可显著降低肿瘤细胞中 p-NF- κ B p65 的表达, 从而导致抑制 NF- κ B 信号通路, 而 CRYAB 的表达上调可激活 NF- κ B 信号通路, 从而诱导肿瘤细胞的转移和侵袭[18]。④ 肿瘤细胞分泌的外泌体中携带的蛋白质、长链非编码 RNA (lncRNA)在细胞间信号传递发挥重要的作用, 在调控细胞的同时, 外泌体通过上皮-间质细胞转化(epithelial to mesenchymal transition, EMT), 使上皮细胞失去原有的极性特征从而获得浸润性及游走迁徙能力的间质特征, 促进癌细胞的转移[19]。⑤ Chen [20]等研究发现, 胃癌组织中 microRNA-10b 表达水平明显高于癌旁正常组织, 且与 TNM 分期呈正相关, 进一步研究发现, microRNA-10b 的表达水平与晚期胃癌转移有关, 考虑 microRNA-10b 通过调控上皮-间质细胞转化(EMT)途径来促进胃癌细胞的迁移和侵袭, 从而导致胃癌细胞向远处脏器转移。

3. 胃癌骨转移机制

进展期胃癌发生骨转移几率较肝转移低, 仅为 0.9%~2.1%, 患者多表现为骨痛、病理性骨折等症状[21]。尽管胃癌骨转移患者患病率低, 一旦患者发生骨转移意味着肿瘤恶性程度更高, 患者常出现多器官功能衰竭(multiple organs failure MOF), 增加治疗难度, 极大的降低治疗疗效, 使患者的预后较差[22]。龙敏[23]等人通过分析胃癌骨转移相关危险因素发现, 肿瘤分化程度与胃癌骨转移显著相关, 骨转移多发生于进展期胃癌, 而进展期胃癌 TNM 分期多处于较高值且分化程度较早期低, 这些均是导致胃癌骨转移的主要原因。Lee [24]通过临床研究表明, 胃癌骨转移患者平均生存时间为 4.0 个月, 考虑进展期胃癌手术难度大且胃癌骨转移可引发弥散性血管内凝血(DIC)导致患者出现凝血功能障碍等可能原因。因此, 了解胃癌骨转移并制定针对性个体化治疗方案对进展期胃癌骨转移具有极大的临床意义。

目前进展期胃癌发生骨转移主要考虑以下原因: ① 目前多考虑淋巴及血道转移, 且以血道转移为主, 考虑癌细胞经血流入肝随之进入右心从而参与体循环, 而淋巴道转移多考虑通过胸导管进入体循环从而诱导其发生远处转移[25]; Chen 等[26]人发现 LNMAT1 可以通过将 hnRNPL 招募到 CCL2 的启动子区域来激活 CCL2, 并通过巨噬细胞刺激 VEGF-C 的分泌来促进淋巴转移, 考虑胃癌可通过该途径发生淋巴转移。② 胃癌细胞中转录因子 Snail 通过抑制 miR-128 的表达, 激活 PI3K/AKP 通路诱导 Bim-1 高表达, 从而促进肿瘤 EMT 过程, 协助肿瘤细胞发生转移[27]。③ lncRNA SPRY4-IT1 启动子片段中存在的 CpG 岛通过抑制 DNA 甲基转移酶 1 (DNMT1)的活性来诱导 SPRY4-IT1 的表达, 从而促进肿瘤的转移, 考虑胃癌可能通过此途径发生骨转移[28]。④ 肥大细胞蛋白酶抗体(MCPT)可刺激肿瘤血管的生成, 从而为胃癌发生骨转移提供营养支持[29]。Lee 等[24]人研究通过研究影响胃癌患者预后相关危险因素中发现, 胃癌骨转移是影响胃癌患者预后的独立危险因素。此外, Saito 和 Zhao 先后也证实了肿瘤分化程度、肿瘤 TNM 分期与胃癌患者预后相关, 可作为胃癌患者预后的独立预测因素[30] [31]。肿瘤大小与胃癌预后相关性目前仍存在争议, Kooby [32]通过研究发现肿瘤大小与胃癌患者预后相关, 是影响胃癌患者预后的独立危险因素, 而 Huang 和 Liu [33] [34]等人认为肿瘤受到诸多因素影响, 如术者的操作技能、肿瘤侵袭深

度和淋巴结转移情况等, 不能作为预测胃癌患者预后的因素。

4. 胃癌脑转移机制

进展期胃癌易发生多脏器转移, 其中包括脑转移, 进展期胃癌发生脑转移的几率较低, 仅占 0.62%~0.7% [35] [36]。SY 等[37]人报道胃癌脑转移多为软脑膜癌, 且因取脑转移癌病理组织困难, 进一步明确诊断较为困难, 这也可能是研究报道发病率低的原因之一。Kasakura [38]等人报道胃癌脑转移一般发生在胃癌根治术后 9-9.6 个月发生。Luo H [39]指出无论是术前行辅助化疗及术后进展期完全缓解的胃癌脑转移患者生存率都不超过 3 个月。Minn 等[40]认为目前胃癌脑转移的发病率较低, 但随着治疗的不断改善和肿瘤生存期的延长, 其胃癌发生脑转移的几率可能会增加。充分了解进展期胃癌脑转移的原理在进展期胃癌的诊疗中发挥重要的作用。

因胃癌脑转移临床研究相对较少, 且病例数相对较低, 多为临床病例报道文章, 缺乏足够的样本量。目前胃癌脑转移的机制尚不明确, 主要考虑以下几点: ① Sakurai [41]等人认为胃癌脑转移血行性转移的可能性大, 原发病灶癌细胞侵入血管, 经门脉系统回流至右心, 与此同时患者血脑屏障受损有利于肿瘤细胞的转移。② Minn [40]等人通过研究 8 例原发性胃腺癌和脑转移性胃癌的 microRNA 发现, hsa-miR-141-3p 和 hsa-miR-200b-3p 属于 miR-200 家族, 且 hsa-miR141-3p 和 hsa-miR-200b-3p 的首选靶基因为 ZEB2, miRNA-200 家族成员和 ZEB2 在胃腺癌的脑转移有关, 考虑 hsa-miR-141-3p 和 hsa-miR-200b-3p 的上调通过上皮-间质细胞转化从而导致胃癌脑转移。③ Gregory 等[42]人通过研究表明, miR-200 家族中 ZEB2 与 E-cadherin 启动子结合并抑制该细胞-细胞粘附分子的表达, 从而促进了癌症进展过程中的迁移和侵袭。随后 Cong 进一步证实了上述结果[43] [44]。④ Jun 等[45]人在 22 例进展期胃癌研究中发现胃癌的脑转移与血管内皮生长因子(VEGF)表达有关, 在脑转移的血管生成与血管通透性中血管内皮生长因子充当着重要介质。⑤ Cavanna [46]指出约 16%的胃癌过度表达 HER-2, 且研究认为 HER-2 阳性表达率与胃癌患者性别、肿瘤部位、TNM 分期、远处转移、淋巴结转移、Laurens 分级、分化程度有关。因此可以认为 HER-2 是胃癌预后相关的因素之一。Yang 等[47]人在个案中描述了一例 HER-2 阳性的胃癌根治术患者, 该患者术后 8 个月出现孤立性脑转移; Cinar [48]在 3 例 HER-2 阳性的胃食管交接处癌中发现, 大约 67%的概率出现脑转移。而 Choy 认为 HER-2 和原肌球蛋白相关激酶 B (TrkB)受体的异源二聚化使 HER-2 乳腺癌细胞在脑内具有生存优势[49]。因此笔者高度怀疑胃癌 HER-2 阳性可能与乳腺癌 HER-2 阳性脑转移机制一致是胃癌脑转移的潜在因素。尽管没有直接证据证明胃癌 HER-2 阳性一定与脑转移有关, 但是也为研究胃癌脑转移的机制提供了新方向。

5. 胃癌血管转移机制

转化生长因子(Transforming growth factor, TGF)由 de Larco 和 Todaro 等人[50]发现。转化生长因子 β (Transforming growth factor β , TGF- β)作为 TGF 家族中的一员与 ETVI 类似起着双重效应。良性肿瘤中, TGF- β 信号通路抑制肿瘤的生长; 而在恶性肿瘤中, TGF- β 信号通路失去原有特征, 通过免疫调节机制, 肿瘤细胞获得免疫逃逸机制, 诱导肿瘤血管及诱导细胞外基质生成, 促进肿瘤侵袭及转移。Smads 作为 TGF- β 细胞通路中最重要的下游蛋白发生变异或失活, 使 TGF- β -Smad 信号通路运行异常, 诱导细胞凋亡机制丧失, 导致肿瘤发生[51]。Han [52]等人研究发现, 当 Smad3 缺乏时, 使 TGF- β -Smad 信号通路的抑制肿瘤生长功能失效; 恢复 Smad3 后, 其通路转录调节作用恢复, 意味着我们能够通过检测 Smad3 蛋白表达来判断诊断胃癌患者的预后, 同时以 Smad 蛋白作为靶点, 减少或逆转 Smad3 蛋白的变异或失活来抑制细胞繁殖。其次, TGF- β -Smad 信号通路诱导肿瘤细胞的上皮细胞间质转化(epithelial mesenchymal transition, EMT)来促进肿瘤细胞的迁移, TGF- β -Smad 通路通过上调肿瘤细胞中 snail 蛋白的表达, 引起 E-

钙连蛋白(E-Cadherin, E-cad)下降, 使上皮细胞失去了细胞极性, 失去与基底膜的连接等上皮表型, 从而获得间充质细胞表型的转化过程, 获得较高的迁移与侵袭、及抗凋亡等能力, 增加恶性程度[53]。最后, 转移的肿瘤细胞通过间叶上皮转化(mesenchymal-epithelial transition, MET)发生肿瘤的器官定植。

6. 结论与展望

综上所述, 肝、骨、脑等器官及血管转移多发生于胃癌中晚期, 大多数患者经治疗后效果不佳, 这也是导致进展期胃癌患者高死亡率的主要原因[54]。早诊断、早治疗、不断更新的外科技术以及极大拓展的进展期胃癌多脏器转移的手术适应症等在一定程度上可以为临床上根治进展期胃癌带来新的曙光。笔者主要通过从多个角度阐述进展期胃癌发生肝、骨、脑等器官转移及涉及的相关机制, 其中主要包括上皮-间质细胞转化(MET)、PI3K/AKP通路的激活、NF- κ B信号通路的活化等相关机制, 通过充分了解其相关机制, 在一定程度上可为临床上治疗进展期胃癌提供思路。今后也需要进行更多的前瞻性临床研究以提供更多的循证医学依据, 以进一步明确其涉及的相关分子机制, 并针对自身情况制定个体化综合治疗方案, 可提高进展期胃癌多脏器转移的总体生存率, 减缓肿瘤的进展和提高患者的生存质量[55]。

基金项目

医学科学研究基金资助项目(YWJKJHKYJJ-YWKYQ2003)。

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