

HE4及Vimentin在子宫内膜癌中的研究进展

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摘 要

子宫内膜癌(Endometrial Cancer, EC)是常见的妇科恶性肿瘤之一, 其发病率随着时间的推移而增加, 严重威胁妇女的健康与生存。大多数女性以绝经后阴道不规则出血为主要症状。以往, 在临床实践中, 有症状的妇女通过包括经阴道镜、子宫内膜活检和宫腔镜在内的检查进行诊断。近年来, 多项研究证明血清肿瘤标志物以及组织免疫组化标记物在协助EC诊断及监测预后等方面都有重要临床意义。经国内外多项研究证明, 血清肿瘤标志物血清人附睾蛋白4 (HE4)水平升高及组织免疫组化标记物波形蛋白(Vimentin, Vim)阳性表达率升高与子宫内膜癌诊断及预后有关。本文旨在讨论术前血清肿瘤标志物HE4联合术后组织免疫组化标记物Vim与子宫内膜癌的分期和病理特征(组织学类型、组织学分级、手术病理分期、肌层浸润深度、淋巴结转移及预后)的相关性, 致力于形成可靠的诊疗和预后判断, 让妇科医生更好地适应手术分期和辅助治疗, 改善子宫内膜癌患者的预后或生活质量。

关键词

子宫内膜癌, 人附睾蛋白4, 波形蛋白

Research Progress of HE4 and Vimentin in Endometrial Carcinoma

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Abstract

Endometrial Cancer (EC) is one of the common gynecological malignancies. Its incidence increases with time, which seriously threatens women's health and survival. In most women, irregular vaginal bleeding after menopause is the main symptom. Historically, in clinical practice, sympto-

matic women were diagnosed by tests including transcolposcopy, endometrial biopsy, and hysteroscopy. In recent years, a number of studies have demonstrated that serum tumor markers and tissue immunohistochemical markers have important clinical significance in assisting EC diagnosis and monitoring prognosis. A number of studies at home and abroad have proved that the increased level of serum tumor marker human epididymal protein 4 (HE4) and the increased positive expression rate of tissue immunohistochemical marker Vimentin (Vim) are associated with the diagnosis and prognosis of endometrial cancer. This paper aims to discuss the correlation between preoperative serum tumor marker HE4 combined with postoperative tissue immunohistochemical marker Vim and the staging and pathological features of endometrial cancer (histological type, histological grade, surgical pathological stage, depth of muscular infiltration, lymph node metastasis and prognosis), so as to form reliable diagnosis, treatment and prognosis, to better adapt gynecologists to surgical staging and adjuvant therapy, improve the prognosis or quality of life of patients with endometrial cancer.

Keywords

Endometrial Carcinoma, Human Epididymal Protein 4, Vimentin

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1. 引言

子宫内膜癌(Endometrial Cancer, EC)为发生在子宫内膜的一组上皮性恶性肿瘤,是女性生殖道三大恶性肿瘤之一,其发病率逐渐升高,但总生存率高。80%的子宫内膜癌患者诊断时为早期,其5年生存率大于95% [1]。如有局部扩散或远处转移,则5年生存率分别降至68%或17% [2]。在临床工作中,普通人群或高危女性中都没有基于证据的子宫内膜癌筛查选择[3]。近年来,研究发现血清肿瘤标志物血清人附睾蛋白4 (HE4)的水平升高有助于辅助诊断子宫内膜癌且预后评估方面也具有一定的意义[4]。其中HE4已被常规用于诊断许多恶性肿瘤,尤其是卵巢癌[5]。随着传统指标的深入研究及新指标的不断发现,免疫组化标记物在子宫内膜癌的病理诊断及预后分析中发挥着越来越重要的作用。其中Vim是间叶细胞的标志蛋白,其出现提示细胞分化不成熟。Alkushi [6]等认为子宫内膜癌细胞的Vim阳性与肿瘤分化低级别相关,是一个有用的预后指标。本文旨在研究血清HE4结合免疫组化标记物Vim,分析其与子宫内膜癌临床病理特征(组织学类型、组织学分级、手术病理分期、肌层浸润深度、淋巴结转移及预后)的关系作一篇综述。

2. HE4 的研究现状

2.1. HE4 概述

人附睾蛋白4 (HE4)也称为WAP四硫化物核心结构域蛋白2,是人类由WFDC2基因编码的蛋白质。该基因编码作为WFDC结构域家族成员的蛋白质。WFDC结构域或WAP签名基序在许多家族成员中起了蛋白酶抑制剂的作用。编码的蛋白质是一种小的分泌蛋白质。最初是在1991年Kirchhoff [7]等人研究发现其位于附睾远端的上皮。HE4基因表达已被发现在正常人气管和唾液腺中最高,在肺,前列腺,垂体腺,甲状腺和肾中弱表达。在女性生殖道和乳腺,附睾和输精管,呼吸上皮,远端肾小管,结肠粘膜和唾液腺的正常腺上皮中也发现HE4表达。但在卵巢浅表组织中不表达[8]。最近的研究表明,血清HE4

可能是小细胞肺癌、非小细胞肺癌以及乳腺癌、卵巢癌和子宫内膜癌的潜在诊断标志物[9]-[14]。

2.2. HE4 与子宫内膜癌

HE4 是卵巢浆液性癌和胰腺癌常用的肿瘤标志物，其在卵巢癌的诊断、治疗评价及监测复发等方面具有重要意义。目前，子宫内膜癌尚无特异性的肿瘤标志物。Moore 等人[15]于 2008 年第一次把血清 HE4 应用于对子宫内膜癌的诊断当中。近年来，血清 HE4 应用于辅助诊断子宫内膜癌成为研究热点。旨在阐述子宫内膜癌术前血清 HE4 水平与手术病理分期、组织分化、肌层浸润深度、淋巴结转移、脉管癌栓等诸预后因素的相关性。

2.2.1. HE4 与子宫内膜癌肿瘤组织分化及病理分期

国内众多学者在该方面做了深入研究。Manon Degez 等人[16]发现血清 HE4 随疾病严重程度而变化，其值随肿瘤分期而增加。多项研究比较了 HE4 水平与 FIGO 分期的变化，13 例报道 HE4 值随分级严重程度成比例增加。HE4 值越高，FIGO 分级越高[14] [17]。国内学者闫跃的研究结果也显示血清 HE4 与子宫内膜癌分期及转移程度具有一定关系，具有评估子宫内膜癌临床病理特征的能力[18]。因此，推测血清 HE4 在 EC 患者中的高表达随临床分期升高而升高，随分化程度降低而升高。

2.2.2. HE4 与子宫内膜癌肌层浸润、淋巴结转移、脉管癌栓

Kaloger 等人[19]研究发现在子宫肌层侵犯超过 50%的女性和肿瘤大于 2 厘米的女性中，HE4 值显著升高(分别 $P < 0.001$ 和 $P = 0.002$)。Brennan 等人[20]还报道，在他们的队列中，对于 70 pmol/L 的阈值，HE4 对于显示超过 50%的肌层侵犯的敏感性为 83%，特异性为 53% (NPV 为 92%)。后来的研究也描述了 HE4 值与肌层浸润深度的增加显著相关[21] [22] [23]。Gasiorowska 等人[24]发现需要行淋巴结切除术的 EC 患者血清 HE4 明显高于无淋巴结切除术适应症的患者(即 IA 期，G1-2)。Sharon A. O'Toole 等人[25]采用 ELISA 法测定术前血清 HE4，HE4 高于 81 pmol/L 预测 LNM 的敏感性为 78.6%，特异性为 53.4%。国内，王锦等人[26]亦发现血清 HE4 过表达，与子宫内膜癌淋巴结转移密切相关。李金平等人[27]发现当 HE4 在子宫内膜癌细胞中过表达时，能够促进细胞增殖、粘附和侵袭，并可能在肿瘤发病机制和进展中发挥积极作用。

2.2.3. HE4 与子宫内膜癌预后

Cymbaluk-Pesoska 等[28]在一项纳入 349 例晚期或复发性子宫内膜癌患者的前瞻性研究中评估了血清 HE4 作为预后的标志物。发现，HE4 的临界值为 70 pmol/L。HE4 水平低于 70 pmol/L 的临界值与患者有更好的总生存率和无病生存率相关。此外，HE4 值低于 186 pmol/L 可预测在单次复发情况下获得最佳减细胞手术的可能性[28]。Brennan 等人[29]研究结果显示，初次治疗后 HE4 水平下降($P = 0.001$)，复发时再次升高($P = 0.002$)，推测血清 HE4 高水平的 EC 患者提示预后不理想。

3. Vimentin 的研究现状

3.1. Vimentin 概述

波形蛋白(Vimentin, Vim)是存在于间质细胞中的一种重要标志蛋白，细胞骨架网络由波形蛋白、微管、微丝共同构成，作为主要的中间纤维蛋白(细胞角蛋白、波形蛋白、结蛋白、神经丝蛋白、胶质纤维酸性蛋白)，它在维持细胞结构完整性方面起到重要作用[30] [31] [32]。它是分布最广泛的中间丝，表达于所有间充质细胞，并在许多上皮细胞和肿瘤中(肺、涎腺、肝：肝细胞和胆管、甲状腺、肾小管、性腺、子宫内膜、肾上腺皮质)与角蛋白共表达。Vim 过表达与肺癌[33]、乳腺癌等多种癌症的预后不良显著相关[34]。Vim 被认为是中胚层起源[35]的标记物。除了在间充质细胞中表达外，Vim 在上皮-间充质转化

(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)中也起着重要作用,具体作用尚不清楚[36] [37]。EMT在各种癌症的发生中都有重要作用,它使上皮细胞失去极性,减少细胞与细胞之间以及细胞与细胞外基质之间的粘附,增加肿瘤细胞的侵袭性[35]。研究发现,雌激素受体(ER)和孕激素受体(PR)与 P53 具有共同的协同活化因子-锌指蛋白[38],同时也具有转录因子的作用,可诱导抑癌基因 p53 的过表达,可能通过编码翻译转录因子活化 Vim 基因的启动子,使 Vim 的基因表达增加,从而使细胞获得胚胎发育时期的特性,表现为核异型等肿瘤细胞的特征。总的来说, Vim 通过黏附迁移、生长凋亡、细胞信号转导等多个环节发挥作用[39]。

3.2. Vimentin 与子宫内膜癌

Vim 是最近被发现是某些癌症预后的生物标志物。临床常和其他标记物(ER/CEA)等联合用于原发性宫颈内腺癌和子宫内膜腺癌的诊断区分。然而, Vim 在子宫内膜癌(EC)中的作用尚不清楚,既往研究表明,子宫内膜癌相关信号通路包括 Wnt [40]、转化生长因子 TGF- β [41]、Hedgehog [42]和 Notch [43]信号通路。Vim 是 EMT 进展的关键效应因子,控制 TGF- β 1-Slug 信号通路和 EMT 过程[44]。其中 EMT 过程,表现出间充质细胞的特征,获得了活力、侵袭和抗凋亡能力[45]。因此推测 Vim 与子宫内膜癌临床病理特征密切相关。

3.2.1. Vimentin 与子宫内膜癌临床病理特征的关系

Chunhua Liu 等[32]采用免疫组化方法检测人子宫内膜癌(EC)组织中 Vim 的表达,分析波形蛋白表达与患者临床病理特征的相关性,发现 Vim 的阳性表达与肿瘤的 FIGO 分期、组织学分级、肌层浸润深度和淋巴结状态呈正相关。Lei Ye 等人[44]的研究也有同样的结论 Vim 在分化程度高的肿瘤中明显高于分化程度低的肿瘤,且与早期(I/II 期)而非晚期(III/IV 期)病例显著相关(均 $P < 0.001$)。另一方面, Vim 阴性表达与子宫内膜样癌、肌层浸润更深、腹膜冲洗细胞学阳性、宫颈间质浸润、淋巴结转移均有显著相关性。Takai 等人[46]将 341 例接受手术随访的 EC 患者纳入回顾性研究,采用免疫组化方法分析 EC 组织中 Vim 的表达水平,也发现 EC 中 Vim 阴性表达与淋巴结转移、深层肌层侵犯(MI)、淋巴血管间隙侵犯(LVSI)、国际妇产科联合会(FIGO)晚期(III、IV 期)相关。

3.2.2. Vimentin 与子宫内膜癌预后

张雪芳[47]等人发现,与 Vim 阳性组相比, Vim 阴性组主要表现为晚期(III 和 IV 期) (40.60%比 14.44%)、低分化程度(43.75%比 15.63%)、淋巴结累及(25.00%比 8.30%)、淋巴血管间隙侵犯(32.81%比 16.97%)和肌层深度侵犯(46.87%比 28.88%)。Vim 阴性表达与 EC 的肿瘤转移和较差的总生存率相关。Papadopoulos 等人[48]证明 Vim 的表达随着病变向恶性发展而下降,最近 Nesina 等人[49]的研究也发现 EC 中 Vim 的表达下降与肿瘤的侵袭性相关。这表明 Vim 可能是一种很好的预后生物标志物。

4. 小结与展望

综上所述,子宫内膜癌诊断的金标准有赖于对子宫内膜活体组织病理学检查,但血清肿瘤标志物以及组织免疫组化标记物在协助子宫内膜癌诊断及监测预后等方面都有重要临床意义,对于血清肿瘤标志物这些非侵入性诊断生物标志物,虽然不能取代成像和确定性组织病理学,但有助于改善分诊及预测高风险特征,有助于绝经前妇女子宫内膜癌筛查以及结合 MRI 辅助术前临床决策。对于进行免疫组织化学检查,分析组织标记物与子宫内膜癌临床病理特征的关系,对明确病理分型、FIGO 分期、肿瘤分化等方面有十分重要的临床意义,有助于指导临床治疗及评估术后预后情况。血清 HE4 是一种很有前景的非侵入性诊断生物标志物,特别是在不符合通过子宫切除术进行经典手术治疗的妇女中,可能有助于临床诊断。所以,我们需要更大规模的前瞻性研究来获取其与子宫内膜癌的特异性阈值,明确血清 HE4 在子宫

内膜癌诊断途径中的真正临床益处。Vimentin 通过黏附迁移、生长凋亡、细胞信号转导等多个环节发挥作用,与子宫内膜癌临床病理特征密切关系,因此深入解析其在子宫内膜癌发生发展中的作用尤为重要。当然,独立的血清肿瘤标志物或者组织免疫组化标记物都不能全面的评估子宫内膜癌患者的临床病理特点,两者之间存在着潜在的关联性,是相互关联又相互独立的关系,临床上我们需要综合多个指标、多种技术对肿瘤患者进行全面评估,才能形成可靠的诊疗和预后判断。

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