

HER-2低表达乳腺癌的研究进展与未来展望

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摘要

近年来对HER-2低表达乳腺的关注, 在全球范围日益增加, 随着新型靶向药物的研发及检测技术的发展, HER-2低表达乳腺癌与其他类型乳腺癌表现出不同的病理学及临床特征。对于HER-2低表达乳腺癌患者的预后, 众多学者持有不同的观点尚无统一论据。本文阐述了近年来HER-2低表达乳腺癌的最新研究进展, 重点介绍了HER-2低表达乳腺癌的生物学特性、目前病理实践中免疫组化判定HER-2低表达乳腺癌所遇到的问题, 以及对这一新型领域未来的发展做一概述。

关键词

乳腺癌, 人表皮生长因子2, HER低表达, 免疫组化, ADC

Research Progress and Future Prospect of HER-2 Low Expression Breast Cancer

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Abstract

In recent years, HER-2 low expression breast cancer has received increasing attention. With the development of new HER-2 targeted drugs and detection methods, HER-2 low breast cancer exhibit pathological and clinical features that differ from other types of breast cancer. For the prognosis of HER-2-low expression breast cancer, many scholars hold different views, and there is no uni-

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field evidence. In this paper, the latest research progress in breast cancer with low HER-2 expression in recent years is reviewed, focusing on the biological characteristics of HER-2 low breast cancer, and the problems encountered in the immunohistochemical detection of HER-2 low expression breast cancer in current pathological practice, and the future development of this new field is summarized.

Keywords

Breast Cancer, Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2, HER-2 Low Expression, Immunohistochemistry, ADC

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1. 引言

乳腺癌是女性发病率在全球范围居于首位的恶性肿瘤,且在女性常见恶性肿瘤中死亡率为第二位[1]。人表皮生长因子 2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER-2)从评定乳腺癌预后的生物标志物到肿瘤患者靶向药物的应用发挥着重要作用。HER-2 是一种跨膜酪氨酸激酶受体蛋白,由位于 17 号染色体长臂上的 ERBB2 基因编码。正常乳腺上皮细胞在每条 17 号染色体上有一个 HER-2 基因拷贝,每个细胞表达约 20,000 个 HER-2 受体[2]。当 HER-2 基因扩增时,肿瘤细胞表面的 HER-2 受体分子显著增加,约为 200 万个,扩增的 HER-2 会在二聚化时刺激其内在激酶活性,导致细胞内信号级联的激活,最终引起细胞增殖、血管生成、侵袭和转移。根据癌组织中 HER-2 表达水平、激素受体水平(hormone receptor, HR)及 Ki-67 表达水平乳腺癌分为以下四种不同的分子分型:HER-2 阳性型、三阴性(triple negative breast cancer, TNBC)、Luminal A 型和 Luminal B 型。临床上,随着 HER-2 靶向药物的发展,从单克隆抗体曲妥珠单抗开始,随后是帕妥珠单抗、酪氨酸激酶抑制剂(如:拉帕替尼、纳拉替尼和图卡替尼),以及最近的抗体药物偶联物 ADC (antibody-drug conjugate, ADC),使 HER-2 阳性乳腺癌患者从中获益[3]。随着检测技术与药物的开发,研究者就 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者能否从抗 HER-2 治疗上获益而展开了相关试验[4] [5]。下面将以近年来 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的诊断、临床病理特征、治疗以及这一新兴乳腺癌的未来发展方向作一综述。

2. HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的诊断方式

正确检测人类表皮生长因子受体 2 (HER-2)在乳腺肿瘤组织中的表达水平和基因扩增状态,对判断乳腺癌患者预后及评定临床疗效有重要影响。目前检测乳腺恶性肿瘤中 HER-2 表达水平的方法有两种:检测 HER-2 蛋白表达水平用免疫组化法(immunohistochemistry, IHC),检测 HER-2 基因扩增水平应用原位杂交法(*in situ* hybridization, ISH)。ISH 包括荧光原位杂交(fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, FISH)和亮视野原位杂交。常用的亮视野原位杂交方法有显色原位杂交(chromogenic *in situ* hybridization, CISH) [6] [7]和银增强原位杂交(silver-enhanced *in situ* hybridization, SISH) [8] [9]。2018 年版美国临床肿瘤学会(American Society of Clinical Oncology, ASCO)和美国病理学家学会(College of American Pathologists, CAP) HER-2 检测指南(ASCO/CAP 指南) [10],将 IHC 结果为 HER-2 强阳性(3+)或中阳性(2+)伴有 FISH 结果提示基因过度扩增(+),认为是 HER-2 阳性乳腺癌。IHC 检测结果为(0)、(1+)或(2+)并伴 FISH 基因无扩增,认为 HER-2

阴性乳腺癌。其中,约 10%~20%的肿瘤为 HER-2 阳性,80%~90%为 HER-2 阴性[11]。随着检测技术的进步以及抗 HER-2 靶向药物的应用,使全球众多学者的注意力转移到 HER-2 低表达这新型亚型乳腺癌上。2021 年版《乳腺癌诊疗指南》第一次细化 HER-2 阴性乳腺癌临床亚型。把 IHC 结果为(2+)且 FISH 结果显示基因未扩增,或 IHC 结果为(1+)的乳腺癌划分为 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌。这一新型乳腺癌占有所有乳腺癌患者的 45%~55% [12]。传统的根据 HER-2 表达水平的二分类概念(即阳性与阴性)到现在提出的三分类概念,给 HER-2 表达水平的检测及免疫组化结果鉴定的准确性及可靠性带来新的挑战。其中提高病理医师判读检测结果的一致性成为主要的问题之一[13]。根据我国 2019 版《乳腺癌 HER-2 检测指南》[14],无着色或≤10%的浸润癌细胞呈现不完整的、微弱的细胞膜染色为 IHC(0), >10%的浸润癌细胞呈现不完整的、微弱的细胞膜染色为 IHC(1+)。在病理学家判读过程中,对比 IHC(0)与 IHC(1+)两组,一些研究发现有不一致的情况[15] [16] [33]。

Schettini 等人对 5 名乳腺癌专科病理学家判读 100 例样本进行了 HER-2 染色的病理间一致性分析。该研究结果显示,100 例患者中有 35 例 IHC 评分不一致[17]。另外一项研究提示,18 名病理学家在不知道研究目的的情况下,阅读了一组选定的乳腺癌组织切片,最后结果中,HER-2 (0)和 HER-2 (1+)之间只有 26.0%的一致性,而 HER (2+)和 HER-2 (3+)之间的一致性为 58.0% [16]。以上研究结果表明,判读免疫组化过程中,病理学家之间判读染色结果的一致性面临着挑战。

尽管有标准化的 HER-2 免疫组化检测指南,但结果可能受到其他因素的影响,这其中包括肿瘤细胞 HER-2 表达随时间的变化。韩国一项回顾性研究结果显示,新辅助化疗前后免疫组化结果有统计学差异。10.3%的 HR 阳性并且 HER2 阴性的乳腺癌倾向于转化为三阴性(TNBC)乳腺癌,而三阴性(TNBC)乳腺癌转化为 HR 阳性且 HER2 阴性的肿瘤的百分比为 34.6% [18]。分子亚型改变,表明肿瘤预后也将发生改变。其他影响因素还包括肿瘤异质性或个体实验室和读者之间的一致性等。

3. HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的临床及病理特征

临床上,通常 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌包含在 Luminal 型或三阴性(TNBC)乳腺癌当中。与 HER-2 阴性乳腺癌相比,HER-2 低表达乳腺癌是否代表了乳腺癌中一个独特的生物学亚型,目前仍存在争议[17] [20] [21] [22] [23]。当然也有学者发现 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌表现出不一样的病理及临床特征[17] [19]。HER-2 低表达乳腺癌中,高达 65%~83%为 HR 阳性乳腺癌,其余为 HR 阴性肿瘤,并且 HR 阳性的 HER-2 低表达患者以 Luminal 型为主,HR 阳性的 HER-2 阴性乳腺癌则以 TNBC 为主[25] [26]。因此在学者们看来,研究 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的生物学行为时,HR 表达状态是重要影响因素[20]。研究显示,HR 阳性的 HER-2 低表达和 HER-2 阴性乳腺癌患者的生存结局相似[17] [26] [27]。但也有学者荟萃分析结果提示,在早期乳腺癌中,无论 HR 状态如何,与 HER-2 阴性乳腺癌相比,HER-2 低表达乳腺癌有着更好的 DFS 和 OS [28]。但 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌原发肿瘤大小更大,淋巴结受累更多并且发病年龄较高;Ki67 增殖指数与组织病理学分级往往较高[15] [25] [29];中枢神经系统和内脏并发症少[30]。除此之外,几项研究表明,与 HER-2(0)乳腺癌相比,HER-2 低表达乳腺癌在超重(即体重指数大于或等于 25 kg/m²)的患者中更常见,且腋窝淋巴结转移率增加,有较高的 IV 肿瘤发病率和更高的组织学分级[17] [24] [57]。Pinhel 等人发现 HER-2 表达水平则与雌激素受体(estrogen receptor)表达水平呈正相关[31]。基因表达方面,在 HR 阳性的 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌病例中,ERBB2 表达最高。增殖相关基因(如 CCNE1、MKI67 和 EXO1)表达相对较低,管腔相关基因(ESR1、AR 和 BCL2)表达较高[15]。HER 低表达乳腺癌的 PIK3CA (磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶催化亚单位 phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha, (PIK3CA))信号通路相关基因往往比 HER-2 阴性肿瘤(24.8% vs 16.3%)的突变率高;TP53 突变发生率低(33.4%对 44.0%) [17] [32]。Agostinetti 等人对 804 例患者的回顾性分析中发现,即使与 HR 状态配对,HER-2 低表达乳

腺癌患者之间的 DFS 和 OS 也没有显著差异[26]。Horisawa 等人也报道, 在 4918 例患者中, 无论 HR 状态如何, HER-2 低表达和 HER-2 阴性患者的预后无统计学差异[33]。另有研究显示, 因靶向药物的应用, HER-2 阳性乳腺癌患者 DFS 优于 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者。并且在低表达患者中, HER-2 ICH(2+)/FISH 无扩增的患者的 DFS 较高[29]。基于这些相互矛盾的结果, 目前还不能得出关于 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌预后的明确结论, 这可能是由于患者群体、研究设计或随访时间的差异。如果没有包括 HR 状态和治疗方案的前瞻性研究, 关于 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者预后的结果, 可能将难以定论。

4. HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的治疗进展与预后

以往的抗 HER-2 治疗主要针对 HER-2 过表达乳腺癌。但在 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌细胞膜上存在 50 万~100 万个 HER-2 受体分子[17], 因此学者们考虑到抗 HER-2 治疗能否让 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者从中获益。自 1997 年 FDA 批准曲妥珠单抗是第一个抗 HER-2 靶向治疗的药物以来, 我们踏入了分子靶向治疗的时代[34]。曲妥珠单抗与帕妥珠单抗是 HER-2 单克隆抗体, 其中前者曲妥珠单抗在体内和体外对乳腺肿瘤均有活性, 且与化疗联合使用具有协同作用[34], 是 HER-2 阳性转移性乳腺癌(MBC)的一线药物。曲妥珠单抗除了阻断 HER-2 生长信号通路外, 还会引起抗体依赖性细胞毒性(ADCC), 在微转移瘤发挥更大的作用。III 期 NSA-B47 试验显示, 早期 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌行单独化疗与联合应用曲妥珠单抗, 3270 例患者侵袭性无病生存期、远处无复发生存期无明显差异。该试验结果表明低水平的 HER-2 表达可能不足以诱导曲妥珠单抗产生免疫反应[27]。

帕妥珠单抗与曲妥珠单抗相比, 即使在没有 HER-2 过表达的情况下, 也能够抑制异种移植模型的肿瘤生长[35]。尽管如此, 在一项 II 期临床试验中, 对 HER-2 阴性或低表达的乳腺肿瘤患者单独给予帕妥珠单抗后的疗效令研究者有所失望[36]。

ADC (antibody-drug conjugate, ADC)是一种高度特异性抗癌药物。通过将单克隆抗体与细胞毒性药物结合(称为药物有效载荷)成混合分子。它具备了抗体结合特定靶点的优势和化疗药物的细胞毒性[37], 从而提高选择性和疗效。因这种特殊药物机理, 不仅治疗 HER-2 阳性癌症患者, 更是让不能从常规抗 HER-2 治疗收益的 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者获得了更好的疗效[38]。曲妥珠单抗-德鲁西替康和曲妥珠单抗-杜卡玛嗪的非随机试验结果表明, 在晚期 HER2 低表达的乳腺癌患者中有一定的疗效, 客观缓解率在 32%至 37%之间[4] [5]。目前, 第二代 ADC 药物恩美曲妥珠单抗 T-DM1 (ado-trastuzumab emtansine)已用于临床治疗乳腺癌, 它是由曲妥珠单抗和美坦新组成。T-DM1 与肿瘤细胞表面 HER-2 受体结合后, 一部分受体通过受体内存过程内化, 导致细胞内释放活性形式的 DM1, 导致肿瘤细胞死亡[39]。III 期试验 EMILIA 研究结果显示, 与卡培他滨 + 拉帕替尼相比, T-DM1 显著改善了患者的总生存期(OS)和无进展生存期(PS), 客观反应率(ORR)和中位缓解持续时间(DoR)结果也是让人欣慰, 巩固了 T-DM1 在晚期 HER-2 阳性乳腺癌的二线治疗地位[40]。但对于低表达乳腺癌, 缺少有关 TDM-1 的前瞻性研究。

T-DXd (Trastuzumab Deruxtecan DS-8201a) 是一种与拓扑异构酶 I 抑制剂偶联的 HER-2 靶向单克隆抗体, 与 SYD985 代表了第三代 ADC 药物。T-DXd 具有高效、新颖的有效载荷以及更高的抗体药物比(DAR 为 8:1)。肿瘤选择性可切割连接体, 以及较短的有效载荷半衰期。确保更高浓度细胞毒性药物在肿瘤部位释放, 避免全身暴露。DXd 的高膜透性使其能够进入肿瘤微环境(tumor microenvironment, TME)中的抗原阴性肿瘤细胞[41]。这种直接杀伤靶向抗原阳性细胞, 同时杀伤邻近的抗原阴性肿瘤细胞的现象被称为旁观者杀伤效应[42]。因此在杀死 HER-2 过表达的肿瘤细胞时, 也可以杀伤 HER-2 阴性或低表达的肿瘤细胞。针对 T-DXd 在 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者的人体 Ib 期试验显示, 54 名晚期 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌患者应用推荐剂量的 T-DXd, 总缓解率(ORR)为 37%, 中位无进展生存期(mPFS)为 11.1 个月, 中位总生存期(mOS)为 29.4 个月。值得注意的是其中 3 名患者出现了 T-DXd 诱导的间质性肺疾病(ILD)。但 T-DM1、

曲妥珠单抗和伊立替康的ILD发生率分别为1.2%、0.2%~0.5%和0.9% [4] [43]。因此需要进一步监测ILD发生率,早期发现并确定T-DXd的安全性及对患者的预后的影响。SYD985的有效载荷是duocarmycin,通过可切割连接子(vc-seco-DUBA)与曲妥珠单抗结合。DRA为2.8:1,尽管DRA较低,SYD985与T-DM1相比,在HER-2低乳腺癌患者的异种移植乳腺癌模型的研究中,明显比T-DM1更有效[44]。SYD985其首次人体试验,局部晚期肿瘤或晚期肿瘤患者中,有47例HER-2低表达乳腺癌患者。32例HR阳性患者中有9例(28%,95%CI 13.8~46.8),15例HR阴性患者中有6例(40%,95%CI 16.3~67.6),获得部分缓解[5]。

我国研发的ADC药物——维迪西妥单抗(RC48),在具备旁观者效应的同时,还具备了安全性好,不良反应更少等优点[45]。2021年6月,迪西他单维多汀在中国获得首个生物制剂许可申请(BLA)批准,用于治疗接受过至少两种全身化疗方案的晚期或转移性胃癌(包括胃食管交界处腺癌)。RC48抗体部分为hertuzumab,较曲妥珠单抗对HER-2靶点有更好的亲和力。连接体则是稳定的缬氨酸-瓜氨酸(VC)连接体,只有当RC48被内吞入溶酶体时,才能被组织蛋白酶切割,从而释放有效载荷,即细胞毒性药物甲基澳瑞他汀E(MMAE)杀死目标癌细胞[46]。该药物对HER-2的结合特异性不受与MMAE结合的影响。在ASCO公布的70例HER-2+BC患者和48例HER-2低表达乳腺癌患者的试验结果显示,31.4%的HER-2阳性乳腺癌患者达到了31.4%的ORR,而中位PFS为5.8个月。RC48在HER-2阳性和低表达阳性患者中均能取得良好的疗效[47]。RC48可能是一种很有前景的药物,关于RC48治疗转移性乳腺癌的Ib期和II/III期临床试验正在中国开展中。

XMT-1522使用HT-19代替曲妥珠单抗,HT-19结合与曲妥珠单抗不同的HER-2表位,通过可生物降解的半胱氨酸连接到另一种抗微管蛋白药物auristatin衍生物。XMT-1522在ADC药物中具有最高的DAR(12:1),引发了可控的旁观者杀伤效应,并且在HER-2阳性和低表达异种移植的癌症模型中表现优于T-DM1 [48]。尽管有初步的临床疗效迹象,但由于商业原因,XMT-1522的开发在I期停止[49]。除上述的抗HER-2药物,还有ARX788、PF-06804103、MM-302、MEDI4276、A166、BAT8001、DHES0815A、ALT-P7、HER-2疫苗(Nelipepimut-S, NP-S)等。部分药物还在进行相应临床试验和探索。ADC药物的完善,将会对乳腺癌患者精准化治疗具有深刻意义。在临床试验数据集中,进一步研究患者对新型ADC的反应与HER-2表达之间的关系,也将非常有助于更好地定义HER-2低水平乳腺癌。在我们看来,相信HER-2低表达乳腺癌的定义将根据新药的开发、未来临床试验的结果、更敏感和可靠的检测方法的发展以及我们对HER-2低表达乳腺癌的理解而继续发展。

5. 展望

上述的众多研究结果与治疗进展表明,HER-2低表达乳腺癌将是一个独特类别,具有新的靶向治疗意义[50] [51]。标准的免疫组化对HER-2低表达的定义至关重要。测定HER-2表达水平的定量方法必定是第一步更是关键一步。未来的HER-2检测很可能将重点放到区分真阴性与HER-2低表达的研究中,甚至是超低表达(HER-2 IHC > 0, <1+)等。由于免疫组化法与荧光原位杂交法在识别低水平HER-2表达方面的潜在局限性,提高准确检测低水平HER-2表达能力,可使患者受益于新的抗HER-2药物。开发可靠和准确的定量实验室方法来确定HER-2低乳腺癌也在积极研究中。美国学者联用免疫亲和与富集与多反应监测-质谱(immunoaffinity-enrichment coupled to multiple reaction monitoring-mass spectrometry immuno-MRM-MS)的方法,定量测量了冷冻和福尔马林固定石蜡包埋(FFPE)的乳腺癌活检组织中的HER-2表达水平。结果表明,该测量方法具有可接受性,即使在低表达水平下也能精确、相对定量地测定HER-2 [52]。实时荧光定量聚合酶链反应(real-time fluorescence quantitative polymerase chain reaction, RTFQ-PCR)也是检测HER-2的方法之一[53]。Xu等人发现免疫组化方法测量HER-2表达的动态范围是相对有限的,特别

是在 HER-2 阴性患者中,而基于 RNA 丰度的表达范围表明,定义 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的分子方法可能更好地满足这一群体的治疗需求[54]。但 RNA 丰度识别 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌和预测治疗反应的有效性需要通过前瞻性临床试验进一步评估。先前报道的其他测定方法还包括链亲和素包被的荧光粉集成点荧光纳米颗粒(pid) [55]、基于免疫荧光的 AQUA(蛋白质表达的定量方法(enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay or AQUA 酶联免疫吸附试验或 AQUA)自动定量分析方法[56]。然而,在批准用于临床之前,任何新的 HER-2 蛋白检测定量方法还需要经过广泛的分析和临床验证,以证明临床效用。

尽管众多学者在 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌的研究上做出了巨大努力,但关于其预后及临床病理特征仍未被阐明。此外,到目前为止,没有确凿的证据支持 HER-2 低表达在乳腺癌中作为一个独立的预后因素和一个独特的亚型。通过更多临床试验数据,进一步深入研究患者对新型 ADC 药物的反应与 HER-2 表达水平之间的关系,也将非常有助于更好地定义 HER-2 低表达乳腺癌。并能帮助更多肿瘤患者获益。

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