

氢干预糖尿病的研究进展

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摘要

糖尿病是一组因遗传和环境因素共同作用导致的代谢性疾病, 是目前全世界最常见的慢性疾病之一, 严重威胁着人们的健康。氢医学处于蓬勃发展阶段, 氢具有抗炎、抗氧化、抗凋亡以及调节信号通路的作用, 近年来已被证实预防和治疗包括糖尿病在内的多种疾病中发挥着作用。本文主要就氢医学的发展、氢分子的作用及其在糖尿病方面的基础研究和临床研究四个方面进行概述, 以期寻找更为有效的糖尿病辅助治疗方法提供新思路。

关键词

氢医学, 糖尿病, 综述

Advances in Hydrogen Medicine Intervention in Diabetes Mellitus

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Abstract

Diabetes is a group of metabolic diseases caused by the joint action of heredity and environment.

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It is one of the most common chronic diseases in the world, and it is a serious threat to people's health. Hydrogen medicine is in a vigorous development stage. Hydrogen has the effects of anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidation, anti apoptosis and regulating signal pathways. In recent years, hydrogen has been proved to play a role in the prevention and treatment of many diseases including diabetes. At present, hydrogen medicine is in a vigorous development stage. This article mainly summarizes four aspects of the development of hydrogen medicine, the role of hydrogen molecules and their basic research and clinical research in diabetes, so as to provide new ideas for further research on hydrogen in the prevention and treatment of diabetes.

Keywords

Hydrogen Medicine, Diabetes, Review

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1. 引言

糖尿病是一组因遗传和环境因素共同作用引起的以高血糖为特征的代谢性疾病。随着人们生活的改善,该疾病已成为世界上最常见的慢性疾病之一,在疾病的发展中会出现系列临床症状及并发症,显著降低患者的预期寿命[1]。据国际糖尿病联盟 2021 年统计,全世界在 20 岁至 70 岁人群中共有糖尿病患者人口 5.37 亿,占世界总人口十分之一以上,预计到 2045 年该人口上升至 7.83 亿,其中中国糖尿病患者人口总数达 1.41 亿,已成为世界上糖尿病患者人数最多的国家[2]。值得注意的是目前糖尿病具有几个明显特征[3]:以 2 型糖尿病为主、经济发达地区糖尿病患者人口明显高于不发达地区且未诊断糖尿病患者比例高。糖尿病及其并发症严重影响人们的健康,成为世界卫生体系的沉重负担,并且当前尚没有糖尿病的特效治疗手段,因此寻求新的有效的治疗方法目前刻不容缓。近年来,氢医学蓬勃发展,氢分子因其抗炎、抗氧化、抗凋亡、调节信号通路的作用,以及其安全无毒的特征已应用于多种疾病的治疗中,并且已被证实在预防和治疗糖尿病中发挥着重要作用[4]-[16]。本文主要就氢医学的发展、氢分子的作用以及氢在糖尿病方面的基础研究和临床研究四个方面进行概述,以期寻找更为有效的糖尿病辅助治疗方法提供新思路。

2. 氢医学概述

氢(H₂)是自然界中最基础的中性分子,以单质形式的形式存在于自然界中。以往认为,氢分子是一种无色、无味且很难与生物体内的物质发生化学反应的惰性气体。直至 1975 年, Dole [17]等研究发现高压氢可治疗小鼠皮肤鳞状细胞癌,这是科学界首次将氢应用于医学的报道,但由于高压氢操作难度大、安全性低,并未引起重视。2007 年,日本学者太田成男[18]等研究发现氢具有抗氧化作用,并将该发现发表于《Science Medicine》。在这项研究中采用细胞实验的方式,发现氢可以选择性地减少羟基自由基这一种最具细胞毒性的活性氧,进而有效地保护细胞。并且在动物实验中发现吸入浓度为 2%的氢气可以通过缓解氧化应激的影响,显著改善缺血再灌注损伤引起的脑损伤。因此认为,氢可以作为一种有效的抗氧化物质迅速扩散到细胞膜上,到达细胞毒性自由基并与之反应,从而降低氧化损伤。这一发现引起医学界广泛关注,至此氢医学正式拉开序幕。并在之后十几年间被证实氢具有抗炎、抗氧化、抗凋亡以及调节信号通路的作用,并且由于其穿透性强、选择性高以及生物安全性好的特性,在急性心血管疾病[19]、非酒精性脂肪性肝炎[20]、听力障碍[21]、阿尔兹海默症[22]、代谢综合征[23]、皮肤病[24]、眼部

疾病[25]、呼吸系统疾病[26]、肿瘤[27] [28] [29]以及新冠肺炎[30] [31]等多种疾病的预防和治疗中发挥着重要作用。

3. 氢分子的作用机制

3.1. 氢分子的抗炎和抗氧化作用

氢已作为一种抗氧化剂在多种疾病中应用。既往研究结果显示氢分子可显著降低 IL-1 β 、IL-6、IL-10、TNF- α 、ICAM-1 和 CCL2 等促炎细胞因子和趋化因子[32]，证明氢具有抗炎作用，这是氢分子最为人知、最显著的生物学效应之一。氢分子可以通过选择性地减少细胞毒性氧自由基发挥其抗氧化作用。长期给予环孢菌素 A 诱导的氧化应激是慢性肾毒性的主要原因，研究证明氢可以通过降低活性氧 ROS 和脂质过氧化物 MDA 的水平，增加谷胱甘肽和抗氧化酶 SOD 的活性改善肾功能[33]。近期的研究表明，氢还可以缓解心脏缺血再灌注损伤[34]和非酒精性脂肪肝[35]中的炎症和氧化应激。此外氢可通过增强内源性抗氧化酶的表达[36]、上调 Nrf2 抗氧化途径[37]以及调节 miRNA 的表达[38]发挥其抗炎抗氧化作用。

3.2. 氢分子的抗凋亡作用

近年来氢分子的抗凋亡作用也在多种动物疾病模型中得到了证明。氢的抗凋亡作用机制尚不明确，其作用可能与下述途径相关。首先氢可以通过升高 Bcl-2/Bax 比率(抗凋亡/促凋亡蛋白)，降低 caspase-8、caspase-9 和 caspase-3 表达，改善外源性和内源性途径的原位凋亡[39]；其次氢可减弱 TNF 受体 1 的作用，减少 TNF- α 导致其激活死亡结构域，进而减轻外源性细胞凋亡；氢也可以通过对线粒体的保护作用发挥其抗凋亡作用[40]。

3.3. 氢分子的调节信号通路作用

近年来，越来越多的研究一直在探索氢分子对信号转导途径的调节作用。一些已发表的研究结果显示氢分子具有调节信号通路的功能，对信号转导发挥多重作用。在这些研究中给予氢干预后发现其结果中发生改变的基因 46.5%属于参与信号通路的基因，表明氢可能通过改变丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(MAPK)、磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶(PI3K)、蛋白激酶(Akt)等信号通路基因发挥其生物学效应[41] [42] [43] [44]。

4. 氢干预糖尿病的基础研究

目前有关氢分子对糖尿病的基础研究有很多。这些研究发现，氢在糖尿病的血糖控制及其并发症的治疗中显示出较好的干预效果。王琦金[4]等研究发现，对大鼠糖尿病模型注射饱和氢生理盐水后，可降低 MDA 水平，提高抗氧化物 SOD 和 GSH 水平，其胰岛素敏感性、血糖和血脂水平改善效果显著；并且其治疗效果优于吡格列酮。2018 年，张晓龙[5]等通过对 2 型糖尿病模型小鼠皮下注射氢气这一新型给药途径发现干预后小鼠血清葡萄糖、胰岛素、低密度脂蛋白和甘油三酯水平显著降低，高密度脂蛋白胆固醇水平显著升高，葡萄糖耐量和胰岛素敏感性均得到改善。Shirahata [6]等给与 2 型糖尿病小鼠饮用含有大量氢分子的电解还原水发现给氢干预后葡萄糖摄取信号转导通路激活，并刺激葡萄糖摄取进入 L6 肌管，2 型糖尿病模型小鼠的血糖水平和糖耐量受损显著改善。

糖尿病并发症包括急性并发症、慢性并发症、感染以及低血糖症。目前已发表的关于氢干预糖尿病并发症的文献主要集中于对慢性并发症的干预，其中糖尿病微血管病变主要包括糖尿病肾病和糖尿病视网膜病变等，是糖尿病的特异性并发症，糖尿病视网膜病变是糖尿病人群失明的主要原因。张晓龙[5]等研究发现，对 2 型糖尿病肾病小鼠皮下注射氢气，其尿量、尿蛋白和 β 2-微球蛋白和肾纤维化显

著降低,说明氢可显著改善糖尿病肾病的相关预后。在糖尿病视网膜膜病变的治疗中氢可因其抗炎抗氧化作用发挥着作用。研究发现,氢可以抑制蛋白酶的活性,减少视网膜凋亡,降低血管通透性,也能显著减弱糖尿病视网膜膜病变引起的视网膜实质增厚[7];另一方面氢可以抑制氧化应激,增加抗氧化酶活性进而治疗糖尿病大鼠视网膜膜病变[8]。并且细胞实验也证明 miRNA 参与调节炎症反应,miRNA-9、miRNA-21、miRNA-146 和 miRNA-155 等与 TLR4 炎症信号通路有关,氢可以下调 miRNA-9 和 miRNA-21,减少 TLR4 炎症信号通路中的 Myd88 和 IKK β 蛋白的表达实现对糖尿病视网膜膜病变的治疗[9]。同时,氢对糖尿病的其他并发症,如视糖尿病神经病变[10][11]、勃起功能障碍[12]、心功能受损[13]、骨丢失[14]等有较好的改善作用。

5. 氢医学干预糖尿病的临床研究

目前,氢干预糖尿病的临床研究较少,且干预对象主要集中于 2 型糖尿病患者。2008 年, Kajiyama [15] 等招募 30 名 2 型糖尿病患者和 6 名糖尿病受损患者进行了一项随机对照试验,通过饮用富氢水的干预方式分析氢对 2 型糖尿病患者糖脂代谢的影响,这是首个公开发表的氢干预糖尿病的临床试验。结果显示为 8 周的富氢水干预可有效降低血清氧化低密度脂蛋白和游离脂肪酸浓度,提高血浆脂联素和细胞外超氧化物歧化酶水平,并且在 6 名 IGT 患者中,4 名患者在摄入富氢水后口服葡萄糖耐量试验结果趋于正常。综上所述,富氢水在防治 2 型糖尿病和糖耐量受损方面发挥作用。2021 年,日本仙台东北大学的 Ogawa [16] 等联合日本 Trim 株式会社开展了一项多中心前瞻性双盲随机对照试验。这项研究招募未接受胰岛素治疗的 2 型糖尿病患者 50 人,将其随机化分组为饮用电解氢水组和对照组,要求每日饮水 1500~2000 ml,共干预 3 个月。结果表明,胰岛素抵抗的变化虽有下降趋势但结果没有统计学意义。与对照组相比干预组乳酸水平显著降低,乳酸水平与空腹血糖和胰岛素抵抗水平呈正相关。在对患者进行分组后发现在 HOMA-IR > 1.73 的干预组中,其血清乳酸水平及胰岛素分泌减少,胰岛素抵抗指数显著改善且未观察到电解氢水的不良反应。虽然该结果未显示富氢水对胰岛素抵抗较轻患者的治疗作用,但对胰岛素抵抗较严重的 2 型糖尿病患者作用显著。其原因可能为选择的干预对象样本量较少且病情较轻,本研究选择的为胰岛素抵抗的患者,即所谓的糖尿病前期患者,病情较轻且指标变化幅度小,因此该研究结果中显著变化的指标主要见于胰岛素抵抗更为严重的患者。综上所述,氢对糖尿病的干预主要集中于动物实验中,人群试验尚少且与动物实验研究结果相比人群试验间结果存在争议,因此下一步需开展多中心高质量大样本的临床试验以验证氢对糖尿病的干预效果。

6. 小结

近十几年来,氢医学正在蓬勃发展并逐渐成为一个相对热门的研究领域。以往研究显示氢具有抗炎、抗氧化、抗凋亡、调节信号通路的作用,并且凭借着其扩散性强、选择性高以及生物安全性好的特征,已应用于糖尿病的相关研究中,并取得了一定的研究成果。但这些研究仅局限于对糖尿病预防和治疗效果的观察层面,尚未发现氢分子的具体作用机制。另外这些研究大多为基础研究,缺乏高质量的临床研究,因此我们需开展高质量大样本的临床研究以期对氢的生物学作用有更深入的认识,并为氢分子在糖尿病治疗方面的进一步研究提供可靠证据。

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