

^{68}Ga -FAPI在乳腺癌诊断中的研究进展

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摘要

乳腺癌(Breast cancer, BC)是女性最常见的恶性肿瘤, 又称为“粉红杀手”, 在癌症相关妇女死亡原因中排第二。成纤维细胞活化蛋白(fibroblast activation protein, FAP), 高度表达于肿瘤相关成纤维细胞中, 近年来, 基于喹啉设计的小分子FAP抑制剂(FAP inhibitor, FAPI)显示出优秀的FAP亲和力, 在乳腺癌中摄取量较高。随着技术的发展, ^{68}Ga 标记的FAPI在乳腺癌的诊断中得到了进一步的发展。本文就近年来 ^{68}Ga -FAPI在乳腺癌中的临床研究和应用进展做简要综述, 以提高其临床应用效益。

关键词

成纤维细胞活化蛋白抑制剂, 乳腺癌, 正电子发射计算机断层显像

Research Progress of ^{68}Ga -FAPI in the Diagnosis of Breast Cancer

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Abstract

Breast cancer (BC) is the most common malignancy in women, also known as the “Pink Killer”. BC

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is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in women. Fibroblast activation protein (FAP) is highly expressed in tumor-associated fibroblasts. Recently, small molecule FAP inhibitor (FAPI) based on quinoline design has shown an excellent affinity for FAP, high intake in breast cancer. With the development of technology, ^{68}Ga -labeled FAPI (^{68}Ga -FAPI) has been further developed in the diagnosis of breast cancer. In this review, the clinical research and application of ^{68}Ga -FAPI in breast cancer were reviewed to improve the clinical benefit.

Keywords

Fibroblast Activating Protein Inhibitor, Breast Cancer, PET/CT

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1. 引言

乳腺癌是我国女性最常见的恶性肿瘤，其发病率和死亡率在我国女性恶性肿瘤中分别占据第一位和第四位，成为危害女性身体健康的首要因素[1] [2] [3]。近年来，随着科技、医疗、生活水平的提高，乳腺癌的发病率和确诊率逐渐上升，2020年，全球报道了230万乳腺癌新发病例和68.5万乳腺癌死亡病例[4]。乳腺癌患者多为无意间发现乳房肿块，通常无疼痛，并无不适，患者常常容易忽视，耽误最佳治疗时期[5]。传统的乳腺癌成像技术包括X线、钼靶、乳腺超声、乳腺核磁共振。 ^{18}F -FDG是目前最常用的PET/CT显像剂，在肿瘤的发现、诊断、鉴别等方面发挥了重要的作用[6]。成纤维细胞活化蛋白(FAP)是肿瘤相关成纤维细胞分泌的能够促进肿瘤生长和转移的蛋白质，高度表达于许多上皮性肿瘤相关成纤维细胞(cancer-associated fibroblasts, CFA)，如乳腺癌、肝癌、直肠癌等[7] [8]。放射性核素 ^{68}Ga 标记的FAPI (^{68}Ga -FAPI)是一种新型且具有应用前景的PET/CT显像剂，正常组织细胞或良性肿瘤中不表达或者低表达FAP，利用FAP抑制剂特异性的结合CFA表面的FAP，在PET/CT下进行显像，能够观察到肿瘤的位置、大小，广泛的应用于各种实体肿瘤的诊断[9]。 ^{68}Ga -FAPI对乳腺癌肿瘤显像具有摄取率高、清除率快、灵敏度高、最大标准摄取值(SUV_{max})及健康组织辐射暴露时间少等优点，使得其在乳腺癌显像、诊断中更具优势[10] [11] [12]。本文就 ^{68}Ga -FAPI在原发性乳腺癌(primary breast cancer, PBC)和转移性乳腺癌(metastatic breast cancer, MBC)中的临床应用做一综述。

2. FAPI 的定义

成纤维细胞活化蛋白(fibroblast activation protein, FAP)作为一种II型跨膜丝氨酸蛋白水解酶，在许多代谢中发挥着至关重要的作用[13]。有研究发现，FAP作为一种特异性的标记物，在肿瘤相关成纤维细胞中表达丰富，能够对肿瘤的生长、侵袭、转移起到重要的提示作用[14]。FAPI能够在正电子发射计算机断层显像(PET/CT)下对FAP进行显像，近年来，鉴于FAP在肿瘤探查方面的作用，FAP抑制剂(fibroblast activation protein inhibitor, FAPI)逐渐走上了临床，越来越多的肿瘤能够进行FAPI显像，并且能够弥补 ^{18}F -FDG的不足，放射性核素标记的FAPI作为一种肿瘤靶向制剂，展现出了很强的临床应用潜能[15]。但是， ^{68}Ga 标记的FAPI半衰期很短(半衰期_{t_{1/2}}为68 min)，不能长时间的保存，一定程度上限制了 ^{68}Ga -FAPI得到广泛的使用[16] [17]。

3. 原发性乳腺癌诊断的研究进展

3.1. 原发性乳腺癌传统诊断方式

乳腺癌是临床上比较常见的女性恶性肿瘤，2020 年新发病例达 42 万，居女性恶性肿瘤发病率之首，乳腺 X 线检查、乳腺超声及乳腺 MRI 等是乳腺的传统影像学检查，通常加上乳腺活检能够确诊乳腺癌[5] [18]。但是，传统的影像学检查存在一些不足，比如乳腺 X 线，对于腺体丰富的女性，可能出现病变部位重叠[19]；超声对乳腺癌的诊断，其结果容易受到医生年资、技术等的影响[20]；乳腺 MRI 易出现假阳性[21] [22]等。随着科技的发展，PET/CT 逐渐应用在了乳腺癌的诊断中。

3.2. PET/CT 诊断原发性乳腺癌

3.2.1. ¹⁸F-FDG 在原发性乳腺癌诊断中的应用

¹⁸F-FDG 是目前临床上 PET/CT 最常用的放射性核素显像剂，¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT 能够通过乳腺组织对放射性核素标记葡萄糖的摄取多少，对乳腺肿块的良恶性进行判断，目前，临床对于 ¹⁸F-FDG 用于乳腺癌的检测还存在一定的争议[23] [24]。有研究发现，对于一些直径低于 1 cm 的乳腺癌肿瘤以及某些类型的乳腺恶性肿瘤(如原位导管癌、小叶癌等)，¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT 的敏感性较低，甚至 ¹⁸F-FDG 检测结果会低于病理评估，因此，¹⁸F-FDG 并不常规用于乳腺癌的早期检查[25]。

3.2.2. ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 在原发性乳腺癌诊断中的应用

Table 1. Comparative study of ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI and ¹⁸F-FDG in different publications

表 1. 不同论著中 ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 及 ¹⁸F-FDG 的对比研究

Author	Type	Number	Age range	⁶⁸ Ga-FAPI dose	¹⁸ F-FDG dose	Two-scan interval	FAPI SUVmax	FDG SUVmax	Conclusion (FAPI · VS · FDG)
Siwen Qiu	Case report	1	-	-	-	1 day	8.4	2.5	FAPI > FDG
Halil Kömek	Case report	1	-	-	-	-	5.3	N	FAPI > FDG
Halil Kömek	Clinical research	20	32~65	2 MBq/kg	3.5~5.5 MBq/kg	1 week	-	-	1. Insensitivity (100% vs 78.2%) 2. Higher SUVmax、Higher TBR 3. Low physiological uptake of liver, brain and bone
Umut Elboga	Clinical research	48	53.3 ± 11.7	2 MBq/kg	3.5~5.5 MBq/kg	1 week	10.0 (median 2.6-17.0)	3.1 (median 1.1-13.2)	1. FAPI detected more lesions in the breast 2. PBC has a higher FAPI SUVmax value
Katharina Dendl	Clinical research	14	59.5 (median)	52~325 MBq	251~300 MBq	12.5 day (median)	7.1 (Lymph node) 10.1 (Bone metastases)	6.3 (Lymph node) 7.4 (Bone metastases)	1. PBC has stronger FAPI uptake than MBC 2. In metastatic lesions, FAPI has a significant advantage

Note: SUVmax: maximum standard uptake value; TBR: tumor background ratio; N: Not reported in the case report.

注: SUVmax: 最大标准摄取值; TBR: 肿瘤背景比; N: 文献未报导。

⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 作为 PET/CT 显像中新兴的恶性肿瘤显像剂，在乳腺癌诊断中能够提供高分辨率的生物标志物显像，使早期诊断更加准确，在 PET/CT 显像中发挥着越来越重要的作用[26] [27]。在国内外对于 ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 在乳腺癌应用的多项研究中，在注射显像剂 30~60 分钟后，利用 PET/CT 进行现象，通常能够观察到较高的 ⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 摄取[28]。Kömek, H、Elboga, U 等人的研究中，⁶⁸Ga-FAPI 相比于 ¹⁸F-FDG 能够

在乳腺中发现更多的病灶,同时 FAPI 显像也能得到更高的 SUVmax 和靶本比(Target Background Ratio, TBR) [29] [30] [31]。除了对于常见的乳腺肿瘤更敏感外,在 Siwen Qiu 的一则病例报道中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 发现了 ^{18}F -FDG 没能发现的双侧乳腺血管肉瘤[32]。关于肿瘤分期方面, Dendl 的研究发现,相比于低级别的肿瘤,高级别肿瘤 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 摄取更强[33],但是在妇科肿瘤的混合人群(BC = 14),并没有得到统计学意义。BRCA1/2 是乳腺癌发病的相关基因, Dendl 在妇科肿瘤的混合研究中发现, BRCA1/2 阳性患者(n = 6)的 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 吸收率高于该基因阴性患者[33],但是受限于样本量,该统计学差异并不显著。 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 和 ^{18}F -FDG 在乳腺癌诊疗性能的对比研究(见表 1),许多文献报道了 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 在 SUVmax 值上的显著优势。从乳腺癌的诊断学来看, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 能够成为原发性乳腺癌的诊断试剂[34],在乳腺癌的 PET/CT 成像中是一种很有前途的放射性试剂。但是,一些非肿瘤性的病变,也有可能导致 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 的摄取量增加, Xutingting 等人发现,一位左侧乳腺癌的患者,其右侧副乳摄取量增加,但是最终的组织病理学显示副乳没有肿瘤恶性成分[35]。

综上所述, ^{18}F -FDG 对于乳腺癌的早期诊断存在着一定的局限性,而 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 作为一种新型的显像剂,能够提高原发性乳腺癌的早期诊断的精准性,可以为 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 检查提供补充性的信息。

4. 转移性乳腺癌的诊断

4.1. 转移性乳腺癌病灶的定位

转移性乳腺癌是指乳腺癌癌细胞从乳腺原发病灶转移到身体的其他部位,乳腺癌常见的有淋巴结转移,血行转移等[36] [37],可转移至骨、肺、脑等部位,骨是其常见的转移部位[38] [39] [40]。虽然常规影像学检查能够应用在转移性乳腺癌的检查中,但是对于一些隐匿性病灶的转移检出率极低[41], Francesca Magnon 等人的文献报道了一例极其罕见的乳腺癌胰腺转移,但是常规影像学的检查并没有提供任何指导性的意见[42]。SPECT/CT 全身骨显像利用特定显像剂,对肿瘤的骨转移能够很好的显像[43],但是,其特异性低,骨折、骨炎等可能会产生误诊,对于软组织转移不能提供很好的诊断。

4.2. ^{68}Ga -FAPI 在转移性乳腺癌诊断中的应用

乳腺癌转移可以随着血液转移至很多靶器官,有研究表明,早期乳腺癌很少能够转移至肝脏,然而在 Qixin Wang 的一则病例报道中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI PET/CT 发现了早期乳腺癌在肝脏中的转移病灶,但是在 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 检查中病灶却没有得到显示[44]。此外,转移性乳腺癌的转移病灶可能会表现出与转移处原发病灶相同的影像学表现,这增加了常规影像学的判断难度[37]。 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 广泛应用在乳腺癌的原发病灶和转移诊断中,但是其原发病灶显像剂摄取水平低,转移病灶也可能由于腹腔脏器的蠕动,常常导致肠壁出现异质性摄取,相反, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 作为新型的 PET/CT 显像剂,则能够降低肠壁蠕动带来的误差[45]。侵袭性导管癌(invasive lobular carcinoma, ILC)是乳腺癌的一种亚分型,是乳腺癌的第二常见亚型[46]。ILC 独特的生物学和浸润性扩展导致常规成像很难评估其实际大小和转移性扩散[47],这就导致了 ILC 转移病灶很难在 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 中显示出来,在一项 34 年包含 56 名转移性 ILC 患者的尸检研究中,很多 ^{68}Ga -FAPI 发现的转移性病灶并没有在 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT、全身骨扫描、CT 等检查中发现[48]。有研究表明,在乳腺癌的转移病灶(如乳腺、淋巴结、肝脏、骨),尤其是在乳腺癌的早期转移病灶中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 的敏感性明显高于 ^{18}F -FDG [47] [49],在 ELBOGA 的一项 ^{18}F -FDG 和 ^{68}Ga -FAPI PET/CT 对比显像研究中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI PET/CT 往往能够获取到比 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 更多的病变[25]。Shan Zheng 等人的对比研究中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 能够发现更多在 ^{18}F -FDG 中没有发现的病灶,并且在两者共同的病灶中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI PET/CT 扫描所得到的 SUVmax 值明显的高于 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 所得到的(Qi: ^{68}Ga -FAPI SUVmax = 48.9, ^{18}F -FDG SUVmax = 4.3) [28] [50]。

综上所述, 在 MBC 的 PET/CT 检查中, ^{68}Ga -FAPI PET/CT 的主要优势在于, 敏感性高, 能够发现更多的潜在病灶, 甚至发现 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT 不能够发现的病灶, 并且能够提供更高的 SUVmax 值, 对于临床诊断具有更好的指导意义。

5. 小结与展望

^{68}Ga -FAPI 作为一种新型的 PET/CT 显像剂, 对于乳腺癌原发病灶和转移病灶的诊断能够提供更有价值的信息, 相较于 ^{18}F -FDG 能够获得更高的 SUVmax 值和 TBR 值, 尤其是能够发现更多的乳腺癌转移病灶。在临床应用中, 能够作为 PET/CT 的补充性检查, 能够发现更多的潜在病灶, 在肿瘤学领域展现了特别强的诊断潜能。然而, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 由于受限于其半衰期时间短, 不能做长距离的运输, 因而并未能能够在临床得到普及。从现有文献数据来看, 未来仍然需要进行大规模的临床研究, 以此来确定 FAPI 的临床诊疗准确性。总之, ^{68}Ga -FAPI 在乳腺癌的应用具有广阔的前景, 未来还需要更多的研究来探索其潜在的应用价值。

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