

· 综述 ·

年龄相关性黄斑变性与阿尔茨海默病相关性的研究进展

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【摘要】 年龄相关性黄斑变性(AMD)是一种与年龄相关的致盲性退行性眼底病变,其发病率随着年龄的增长而升高。近年来,对AMD与阿尔茨海默病(AD)相关性的研究成为热点。现对两者的临床特征及流行病学、两者的相关性及其机制等方面进行阐述,提高对AMD及AD的认识。

【关键词】 黄斑变性; 阿尔茨海默病; 年龄; 综述

Research progress on the correlation between age-related macular degeneration and Alzheimer disease

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【Abstract】 Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a kind of age-related blinding degenerative fundus lesions, the prevalence rate of which increases with age. In recent years, the correlation between AMD and Alzheimer disease (AD) has become a hot spot. This paper states the clinical features and epidemiology, the correlation and mechanism, so as to improve the awareness of AMD and AD.

【Key words】 Macular degeneration; Alzheimer disease; Age; Review

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年龄相关性黄斑变性(age-related macular degeneration, AMD)是老年人失明、特别是不可逆转视力丧失的主要原因。认知功能是大脑高级皮层的重要内容,由记忆力、注意力、计算力、定向力、执行能力等多方面组成,阿尔茨海默病(AD)是认知功能障碍最常见的疾病类型。AMD、认知功能障碍的患病率均随着年龄增长而增加,给人们的生活、学习、工作意义造成重大影响。作为常见的神经系统变性疾病,AMD与AD可能共存,并有着共同的组织病理学特征。现就AMD与AD的相关性研究进展作一综述。

一、AMD、AD的概述

1. AMD的流行病学及临床特征: AMD是美国和其他工业化国家失明的主要原因。随着人口的老齡化,患病人数及患病率逐渐增加,预计到2020年AMD患者人数为1.96亿,2040年将增加到2.88亿^[1]。在亚洲发展中国家,40岁以上人群AMD的患病率约为7%^[2]。该病症的主要特征是黄斑中出现玻璃疣,其次是地域性萎缩或脉络膜新生血管形成^[3]。已经确定AMD有两种形式:(1)“干性”或萎缩性AMD,占85%~90%,呈现视网膜色素上皮的萎缩,以后逐渐出现视力丧失;(2)“湿性”或新生血管性AMD,占10%~15%,其特征是从脉络膜到布氏膜新生血管的形成,随后出现渗漏和渗血^[4]。在临床特征方面,干性AMD是一种慢性疾病,通常会导致一定程度的视力损害,有时会导致严重失明;湿性AMD如果未经治疗,会迅速进入失明状态^[5]。

2. AD的流行病学及临床特征: 认知功能障碍是指大脑高级智能活动加工过程出现异常,导致大脑摄取、储存、重整和处理信息的基本功能的异常。认知障碍是一组疾病,从轻度认知障碍(AD的早期阶段)到确定的AD^[6]。AD是晚年的主要疾病之一,是认知功能障碍最常见的类型,约占痴呆的70%,全世界估计有4 600万例^[7],预计到2050年将达到1.31亿,而且这些增长预计在低收入和中等收入国家更为明显^[8]。如此高的发病率对家庭及社会造成非常大的诊疗与护理负担,2010年痴呆症的总费用约为8 180亿美元,预计到2018年全球将达到1万亿美元,未来20年这个数字还会增加^[9]。

所以有效地识别AMD,改善AD患者的认知功能至关重要。

二、AMD与AD的相关研究

目前国内外报道的文献大部分证明AMD与AD之间存在相关性。以往的研究大多是整体性介绍

AMD与AD的相关性,Seden等^[10]发现AMD组的简易智能精神状态检查量表(MMSE)评分低于年龄、性别、受教育年限等匹配的无AMD对照组,且与对照组相比较AMD患者的AD患病率较高(40.7%比20.4%, $P=0.03$)。随着对AMD分型的研究进展,最近几年大多数学者重在研究讨论AMD的不同分型与认知功能障碍的差异。比如一项探讨AMD患者认知功能改变的Meta分析显示AMD患者的认知功能评分较低,尤其是MMSE和简易认知功能测验(Mini-cog);亚组分析显示,与湿性AMD患者相比,干性AMD患者认知功能减退更明显^[11]。Tsai等^[12]研究者在基于台湾人群的大型病例对照的前瞻性队列研究发现,新诊断的干性与湿性AMD组与完全无AMD且年龄、性别、入组时间相匹配的对照组相比,更易患AD或老年痴呆($P=0.044$);与湿性AMD患者相比,干性AMD患者与AD的关系更明显。也有对AMD与认知功能分项目的研究,在一项纳入了51例晚期AMD与24名无眼科疾病的对照组的研究,发现AMD组的MMSE、蒙特利尔认知评估(MoCA)评分均低于对照组,尤其在执行功能、记忆力方面^[13]。不过也有研究证明AMD与AD存在相关性,但AMD不同分型之间的Mini-cog测验无明显差异^[14]。

反之亦然,AD群体中AMD的患病率亦高。例如,一项关于AD的黄斑变性的探索性研究,共纳入36例中度AD患者和33名具有相同年龄范围的对照者,发现AD患者AMD的发病率高^[15]。同样,也有少数研究认为两群体之间无相关性,Keenan等^[16]对AD、AMD及对照组人群的大型前瞻性研究发现,AD人群的AMD患病率、AMD人群的AD患病率与对照组无明显差异。

由此可见,AMD与AD存在相关性。不过,目前国内外对于AMD与认知障碍其他类型之间的相关性研究报告较少,比如血管性痴呆及路易体痴呆在AMD方面是否存在差异。笔者正在进行相关的临床研究,希望能为临床更早诊断与延缓认知障碍提供依据。

三、AMD与AD的相关性机制

AMD与AD虽然是不同组织的退行性疾病,由于视网膜是中枢神经系统的组成部分,这两种疾病的病理学及发病机制之间可能存在关联。

1. 病理生理学研究: Glenner和Wong^[17]教授在1984年曾提出AD患者的神经退行性变可能是由A β 在脑组织中沉积所造成,由此提出了“淀粉样蛋白假说”。随后,Wyss-Coray和Rogers^[18]同样发

现AMD与A β 有关。关于AMD与AD病理生理学关联的一系列研究相继展开。一些研究发现AMD和AD不仅在流行病学方面存在共性,而且还有一些分子方面的共同发现^[19]。例如,AD特征性老年斑和AMD的标记物玻璃疣具有共同的活性成分,最重要的是A β ,两种成分均含有A β ₁₋₄₀和A β ₁₋₄₂^[20]。此外,一项研究通过对小鼠施用靶向A β ₄₀和A β ₄₂C末端的抗体,发现视网膜电图缺陷以剂量依赖的方式被消除,视网膜色素上皮沉积物中的A β 水平的降低及视网膜色素上皮结构的保存与抗A β _{40/42}抗体免疫治疗和视觉保护有关。这些观察结果与抗A β 抗体治疗AD小鼠模型中淀粉样蛋白的减少和认知功能的改善一致^[21]。该研究从另一角度为证明淀粉样蛋白参与AMD、AD提供了依据,并可将A β 识别为其治疗的可行靶点。

2. 机制: AMD、AD是复杂的多因素疾病,发病受炎症反应、氧化应激、遗传、环境、饮食等多种因素的影响,其中慢性炎症反应、氧化应激在两种疾病的发生、发展中起重要作用,下面就这两种机制做一阐述。(1)慢性炎症反应:炎症反应是细胞对危险的快速反应,目的是启动免疫应答。从短期来看,炎症反应是有利的,但长期的慢性炎症反应对机体是有害的。长期的炎症与各种慢性疾病的发展有关,如自身免疫性疾病、神经退行性疾病等^[20]。补体激活是AMD和AD病理模型的重要机制,在慢性炎症反应中起重要作用。不过补体激活途径在两者中有所不同,在AD中,经典途径被认为发挥主要作用,在AMD中,替代途径是最多的^[23]。已经提出淀粉样斑块允许炎症因子(巨噬细胞、小神经胶质细胞)侵入组织。在AMD模型的原位杂交研究中,入侵的巨噬细胞表达C3,导致细胞损伤,促使疾病的进展^[24]。淀粉样蛋白和脂褐素在正常眼和脑中随着年龄增加而增多,激活炎症体、补体系统和自噬溶酶体^[25],亦加速了疾病的进展。此外,慢性炎症反应、氧化应激两者可相互作用,McGeer等^[23]发现聚集的A β 既是脑中补体系统的激活剂,也可作为小胶质细胞的激活剂,导致氧化应激的增加。有研究发现小胶质细胞激活也存在于玻璃疣周围和视网膜下腔^[26],对大脑及眼睛均造成损害。以上这些现象既是A β 生成的原因,又是其后果。以这种方式,发生了促炎细胞因子和蛋白酶分泌不可逆的正反馈机制,驱使疾病的进展^[28]。(2)氧化应激:老化是AD和AMD的最重要的危险因素,而老化的根本机制是氧化应激。在大脑及眼中,生理细胞的功能需要氧

化应激,但当其超过某一阈值时,就有了细胞毒性。然而,人体拥有抗氧化系统重建体内平衡:该系统的功能障碍可能有助于AD病理生理学。过量的慢性氧化应激导致严重的神经炎症^[28]。脑中过量的氧化应激可能由线粒体渗漏引起,但最丰富的自由基来源被认为小胶质细胞过度激活导致的^[23]。有研究推测,氧化应激可能是AD的最早特征,并且在AD和轻度认知障碍患者的尸检脑组织中发现氧化应激敏感标记物血红素加氧酶1水平的升高。还有研究发现,在AMD患者眼和AD患者脑中,自噬和溶酶体也参与了氧化应激过程^[29-30]。总之,过量的氧化应激,线粒体和溶酶体功能障碍似乎是AMD和AD发病机制常见的病理生理。

四、展望

随着人口老龄化的加剧,越来越多的人会受到年龄相关疾病的影响,如AMD和AD。AMD正在越来越多地影响到社会和家庭,AD大大降低了老年人的生活质量,这两种疾病给个人和社会均造成了巨大的压力与负担。AMD和AD共同的发病机制假说虽然尚未得到证实,但是研究结果为两者之间的间接关联提供了证据。眼科医生可以发挥重要作用,指导AMD患者进一步筛查认知功能,对早期痴呆进行诊断,进而延缓疾病进展,减轻患者家属及社会的经济负担。

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