

· 综述 ·

精神分裂症中的毒蕈碱受体表达研究进展

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【摘要】 精神分裂症是一种常见的重性精神疾病, 临床表现包括阳性症状、阴性症状、情感障碍和认知功能障碍。乙酰胆碱能毒蕈碱受体在精神分裂症病理生理学中发挥重要作用。现就精神分裂症中毒蕈碱受体的作用进行综述。

【关键词】 精神分裂症; 毒蕈碱受体; 综述

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【Abstract】 Schizophrenia is a common severe mental disease, including positive symptoms, negative symptoms, emotional disorders and cognitive deficits. The muscarinic acetylcholine receptors play an important role in the pathophysiology of schizophrenia. This article reviews the role of muscarinic receptors in schizophrenia.

【Key words】 Schizophrenia; Muscarinic acetylcholine receptors; Review

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精神分裂症是一种常见的重性精神疾病,临床表现包括阳性症状、阴性症状、情感障碍和认知功能障碍等症状领域。近年来,认知功能障碍越来越被认为是一个核心组成部分,且通常早于其他症状出现。尽早对精神分裂症患者进行有效的认知干预可以改善功能预后,从而最终降低致残率^[1]。尽管典型和非典型抗精神病药物均能有效改善精神病性症状,但其对认知的影响尚存在争议。

开发有效干预认知缺损的治疗手段需要进一步研究认知功能的相关机制,目前认为,神经递质的失衡与精神分裂症的病理生理学有关,包括多巴胺能、谷氨酰胺能、 γ -氨基丁酸(γ -aminobutyric acid, GABA)能和胆碱能系统结构和功能的异常。近年来,来自尸检、神经影像学 and 神经药理学研究的证据显示,乙酰胆碱能毒蕈碱受体(muscarinic acetylcholine receptors, mAChRs)在精神分裂症发病过程中起重要作用^[2]。目前,临床中常用抗胆碱能药物治疗锥体外系反应,然而这类药物也可导致认知障碍恶化,加重阳性症状,高剂量毒蕈碱拮抗剂还可在非精神病患者中诱发短暂的类精神分裂症症状^[3]。研究发现^[4],在精神分裂症患者中,有26%的患者大脑皮质的mAChRs M1亚型受体减少,与健康对照组相比,平均减少74%。M1亚型受体表达显著减少可能代表了精神分裂症综合征的一个亚型,与非M1受体减少患者相比,这类患者表现出更为明显的认知缺陷,被称为“毒蕈碱受体缺陷型精神分裂症”(muscarinic receptor-deficit schizophrenia, MRDS)^[4]。

除了对认知功能的影响, mAChRs还与纹状体多巴胺神经传递之间存在功能方面的相互联系。多巴胺能神经元表达毒蕈碱受体,胆碱能中间神经元表达多巴胺受体^[5]。胆碱能中间神经元具有广泛的轴突投射,因此可以通过调节棘状神经元介导纹状体的输出活动从而调节多巴胺的释放^[6]。本文就精神分裂症中的毒蕈碱受体异常和作用进行综述。

一、乙酰胆碱毒蕈碱受体系统

乙酰胆碱能受体包括两大类,分别为离子型烟碱受体和代谢型毒蕈碱受体。毒蕈碱受体属于G蛋白耦联受体大家族,包括五种不同的亚型,分别为M1、M2、M3、M4和M5。其中, M1、M3和M5受体位于突触后,与Gq/g11耦联,激活磷脂酶C,形成磷酸肌醇和其他第二信使,能够促进多种神经元群体钾(K⁺)通道的关闭,从而促进细胞的兴奋性; M2和M4受体位于突触前后,与Gi/Go耦合,能够抑制腺苷酸

环化酶及电压门控钙(Ca²⁺)通道,减少环磷酸腺苷,从而降低细胞兴奋性^[7]。

mAChRs在中枢神经系统广泛表达。M1作为主要亚型,位于皮质、海马、纹状体和丘脑,在突触后定位于海马锥体神经元和齿状颗粒细胞,能同时调节细胞兴奋性和胆碱能传递^[3]。M2受体主要位于脑干和丘脑、皮层、海马体和纹状体,可以控制乙酰胆碱释放。M3受体主要位于皮层和边缘结构,在基于海马的学习和记忆中发挥作用。M4受体主要位于皮质、海马、纹状体中,在控制多巴胺释放和运动活动中起重要作用。M5受体定位于多巴胺能神经元丰富的黑质和腹侧被盖区,并调节这些区域的多巴胺释放,脑血管上也有分布,能够调节血管张力^[8]。

二、精神分裂症的毒蕈碱受体异常及原因

单光子发射计算机断层扫描(single-photon emission computed tomography, SPECT)研究发现^[9],与健康对照组相比,精神分裂症患者的皮质和基底神经节的毒蕈碱受体占用率下降20%~35%。但SPECT成像并不能提供何种mAChRs亚型减少的信息。对精神分裂症患者的大脑标本研究显示,皮质区域的[³H]哌仑西平(M1/M4受体的放射性配体)结合降低,提示M1/M4或两种受体都降低^[10-11]。皮质[³H]AF-DX384与M2和M4的结合无变化,提示精神分裂症患者皮质[³H]哌仑西平结合减少是由于M1受体降低所致^[12]。另外,选择性放射性配体结合实验证实,精神分裂症患者大脑皮质中的M2、M3受体水平无改变^[13],表明精神分裂症患者的mAChRs水平降低可能是亚型特异性。

在额叶皮质、背外侧额叶皮质、前扣带回皮质、颞上皮层、海马体、纹状体(尾状壳核)中,均存在[³H]哌仑西平结合密度降低,其中前额叶皮质(prefrontal cortex, PFC)主要表现在布罗德曼分区(Brodmann area, BA)的BA6、BA9、BA24、BA10、BA44、BA46的[³H]哌仑西平结合降低^[10, 14-15]。进一步研究显示^[16],精神分裂症患者皮质BA9中M1受体的降低,同时伴有mRNA和蛋白质水平降低,但M4、M2或M3受体无mRNA和蛋白质水平降低。在海马体中,[³H]哌仑西平结合密度的降低伴随着M4 mRNA的减少,而BA40中M1和M4两种受体的mRNA降低并没有伴随着受体蛋白或[³H]哌仑西平结合的降低^[17]。受体密度方面,mRNA和蛋白水平结果不一致的原因仍有待确定。在双相情感障碍或抑郁症患者中,未观察到毒蕈碱受体的降低^[18]。由此可见,在精神分裂症患者中, mAChR水平的降

低可能是疾病特异性和区域特异性。

对毒蕈碱受体与 $[^3\text{H}]$ 哌仑西平结合的研究中发现,测量结果与抗精神病药物剂量之间无相关,抗胆碱能药物未在接近死亡的情况下使用,可见此类药物对结果影响不明显^[19]。然而,不能排除人脑中受体水平情况较大鼠更复杂。背外侧前额叶皮层中较低水平的M1受体与较差的语言学习和记忆能力有关,mAChRs水平与阳性症状、阴性症状严重程度呈负相关^[9, 12, 20]。海马M1受体可用性降低与言语记忆延迟识别能力差有关^[21]。

精神分裂症患者大脑的毒蕈碱受体降低可能有多种原因。首先,皮层M1基因表达水平的降低导致表达M1受体的第Ⅲ层和第Ⅴ层中锥体细胞显著减少,从而皮质中M1受体减少^[22-23];另一支持基因表达减少的研究发现,微小RNA(microRNAs, miR)-107(M1受体靶向miR)的水平仅在MRDS患者中增加。miR-107的增加会降低M1受体的表达和(或)翻译,推测M1受体水平的显著降低是由于基因表达减少的累积效应^[24]。其次,有研究认为,精神分裂症患者中脑边缘多巴胺能传递的增加可能会导致皮质胆碱能输入活动的增加,从而反馈性下调突触后M1和M4受体水平^[25]。此外,部分精神分裂症患者存在毒蕈碱受体自身抗体,据报告^[26],这部分患者比例(约25%)与MRDS的比例(26%)相似。由于抗体介导的受体内化或是细胞杀伤作用,导致表达这些受体的胶质细胞数量减少。但目前还鲜有研究比较有无自身抗体患者的脑容量和神经元或胶质细胞,以证实这个假设^[26-27]。

三、毒蕈碱受体在精神分裂症病理生理中的作用

1. M1: M1受体在记忆和注意机制中起重要作用,其中涉及短期记忆和注意力的任务,是由前额叶皮层回路固有的神经机制所支持,从Meynert基底核到PFC的胆碱能输入功能障碍,可能导致PFC的异常激活,导致认知障碍的出现^[28]。由于M1受体在胆碱能投射到PFC的突触后定位以及与海马中N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体(N-methyl-D-aspartate receptor, NMDAR)共定位,长期以来一直是精神分裂症认知缺陷治疗的靶点^[29]。研究表明,M1基因敲除(knock out, KO)小鼠中,乙酰胆碱驱动的海马网络活动和长时程增强(long-term potentiation, LTP)减弱,工作记忆和巩固功能受损,在需要海马体和皮层相互作用的行为任务中存在缺陷^[30-32]。M1受体激活可能通过以下机制增强认知功能。首先,M1受体激活显著增加了内侧前额叶皮层(medial

prefrontal cortex, mPFC)锥体细胞的突触兴奋,并增强海马锥体细胞的放电,从而增强mPFC和海马介导的认知功能,包括学习、记忆和注意力方面等^[33]。其次,M1受体激活可诱导皮层下区域(包括腹侧海马和基底外侧杏仁核)的谷氨酸能输入的长时程抑制,增加GABA能中间神经元的兴奋性,也可以提高大脑皮层伽玛振荡的同步性^[21]。再次,M1受体激活还能增强谷氨酸能系统的NMDAR传递电流,有助于使精神分裂症相关神经回路的不平衡正常化,从而改善阴性和认知症状^[34]。最后,M1受体激活可以增强海马-PFC突触的长时程抑制,改善PFC的过度激活,从而缓解认知缺陷和阴性症状^[35]。此外,M1受体还调节多巴胺信号。M1-KO小鼠纹状体的基线多巴胺水平升高,安非他明诱导后纹状体胞外多巴胺增加2倍,且运动活性增强,表明M1受体对皮层下多巴胺能传递具有抑制作用^[36]。PFC的多巴胺功能减退可能导致认知障碍和阴性症状^[37],因此增强多巴胺在中脑皮质通路中的传递的药物可能具有抗精神病的疗效。M1受体对多巴胺释放的确切生理作用仍有待阐明。

2. M2和M3: M2受体在突触前表达于整个大脑的胆碱能终末,作为自身受体抑制乙酰胆碱释放;也定位于非胆碱能神经元的轴突终端,参与调节其他神经递质的释放。M2-KO小鼠表现出在行为灵活性、工作记忆、被动回避学习和海马短期和长期增强方面的缺陷,推测因为M2受体对胆碱能和非胆碱能神经末梢的阻断可能会破坏整体认知功能^[38]。因此,选择性M2拮抗剂可能对认知改善有益,但到目前为止尚不明确。M3受体在整个中枢神经系统低水平表达,M3-KO小鼠体型瘦长,血清瘦素水平下降,这可能与下丘脑相关,而不是由唾液流减少或胃肠蠕动减少造成^[39]。研究发现,M3-KO小鼠表现出恐惧条件反射、学习和记忆方面的缺陷^[40]。选择性M3受体激活剂可能对认知改善有益,但尚不明确。

3. M4: 在M4-KO小鼠中,伏隔核多巴胺的基础水平和安非他明诱发的多巴胺释放量显著增加。研究发现,M4受体可以通过直接和间接两种途径调节多巴胺能张力。M4受体激活背侧纹状体中多巴胺D1受体表达的棘状投射神经元(D1 receptor-positive spiny projection neurons, D1-SPNs),内源性大麻素2-花生四烯醇甘油导致,进而激活多巴胺能终末上的内源性大麻素受体2,局部减少多巴胺释放^[41-42]。可见,M4受体通过直接途径在空间方面限制边缘前脑多巴胺信号。海马过度活跃可增加纹状体中多巴

胺的时相释放, M4受体激活通过抑制谷氨酸释放降低海马兴奋性突触的活性, 从而间接抑制多巴胺释放^[43-44]。此外, D1-SPNs上M4受体的激活通过多突触机制导致神经末梢GABA释放减少^[45]。以上被认为是选择性M4激活剂具有抗精神病作用的基础。除了抗精神病作用外, M4受体变构激活剂可以逆转兴奋剂诱导的学习和记忆缺陷, 具有认知增强作用^[46]。研究发现, 突触前M4受体的激活能降低海马兴奋性终末和皮质纹状体终末的谷氨酸释放, 抑制这些脑区的兴奋性传递, 使皮质纹状体末端过度兴奋的功能正常化, 逆转相关的认知缺陷^[47]。然而, 还需要更多的研究证实M4受体在调节认知功能中的作用。

4. M5: M5受体参与中脑多巴胺释放的胆碱能调节。M5-KO小鼠的纹状体多巴胺释放发生改变, 惊吓反射的脉冲前抑制缺陷, 且可卡因和阿片的运动和奖赏效应敏感性降低^[48], 提示选择性M5受体拮抗剂可能有助于抑制精神分裂症活跃的中脑边缘多巴胺能回路。阻断M5受体可能是治疗药物依赖的潜在途径, M5受体还定位于脑血管系统, 控制脑血管舒张和血流。在M5-KO小鼠中观察到的神经元萎缩和新物体识别障碍可能是由于大脑血管系统的功能障碍, M5张力的丧失导致了大脑动脉的结构收缩^[49]。

四、针对毒蕈碱受体治疗精神分裂症的现状

调节毒蕈碱受体可能是改善精神分裂症症状的有效手段。研究发现, 西诺米林(xanomeline, 一种M1/M4受体偏好激动剂)可以改善精神分裂症患者的阳性、阴性和认知症状, 且在认知功能的语言学习和短期记忆方面均有显著的改善, 并且在服药的第1周就显示出抗精神病作用^[50-51]。西诺米林的治疗作用可能是由于其刺激了新皮质和海马体的M1受体, 促进了这些区域的乙酰胆碱和多巴胺的释放, 减少了M1受体介导的高胆碱能状态^[52-53]。另外, 西诺米林可能对皮层神经元细胞具有保护作用^[54]。这些研究证实, 选择性M1受体激动剂可能有效治疗精神分裂症相关的认知缺陷。但由于西诺米林可同时激动外周M2和M3受体, 使其临床应用受到限制^[37]。

目前, 已开发出mAChRs的高亚型选择性正变构调节剂(positive allosteric modulations, PAMs), 从而避免周围mAChRs的激活。PAMs是一类变构激动剂, 不直接激活受体, 通过与变构位点结合增加受体在正构结合位点对乙酰胆碱的亲合力, 从而增

强受体对乙酰胆碱的反应^[55]。此外, 变构激动剂不会引起受体下调, 可能是因为它与经典激动剂不结合在同一位点, 这一优势可以有效避免经典激动剂容易引起的受体脱敏^[31]。目前, 针对各亚型的PAMs, 尤其是针对M1/M4的PAMs, 在临床前研究中显示出抗精神病和认知改善的潜力^[30, 56-57]。

五、总结与展望

综上所述, 毒蕈碱受体在认知过程和调节多巴胺的释放中发挥重要作用, 异常的中枢毒蕈碱胆碱能系统与精神分裂症的阳性、阴性和认知症状相关。但有关毒蕈碱受体的生理作用, 本文多参阅动物实验结果, 不排除在人体中有不一致的情况。目前还不清楚精神分裂症患者毒蕈碱胆碱能系统的这些变化是原发性还是继发性, 毒蕈碱类药物潜在的治疗精神分裂症作用是由于直接的毒蕈碱效应还是通过对多巴胺能或其他神经递质系统的调节作用介导。因此, 精神分裂症的毒蕈碱系统异常不应独立看待, 应作为对现有理论的补充。

尽管靶向特定亚型的PAMs可能为缓解精神分裂症的认知缺陷提供新的途径。然而, 这类药物也可能将受体耦合到不同的信号系统, 这可能导致替代效应系统的激活而不能产生期望的生理结果。其次, 胆碱能信号可能是特定于症状、区域和任务, PAMs对胆碱能神经传递的增强可能会限制不同症状的改善。此外, 如果患者脑内毒蕈碱受体显著缺失, 意味着外源性刺激不一定能使皮层活动恢复到正常水平。因此, 为了充分发挥PAMs作为治疗药物的潜力, 还需要更多的研究了解调节mAChRs表达的影响因素、激活后的效应以及增加大脑皮层中mAChRs数量和活性的途径。

利益冲突 文章所有作者共同认可文章无相关利益冲突

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