

白介素-6在抑郁症发病及临床治疗中的研究进展

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【摘要】 抑郁症是一种情感障碍,其发病原因涉及多种因素,炎症可能是抑郁症的病理生理学机制之一。目前的研究显示,抑郁症患者体内的IL-6水平发生改变。本文对IL-6与抑郁发病机制及其在不同临床治疗方法中的作用进行总结,探讨IL-6在抑郁症发生和预后中的作用,为进一步阐明IL-6在抑郁症发病过程中的活动规律和作用机制提供参考。

【关键词】 抑郁症; 白细胞介素-6; 信号传导; 综述

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Research progress of interleukin-6 in the pathogenesis and clinical treatment of depression Yao Lixia, Jia Haozhi, Tian Feng

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【Abstract】 Depressive disorder is a kind of affective disorder, and its pathogenesis involves multiple factors. Inflammation may be one of the pathophysiological mechanisms underlying depressive disorder. Currently, studies have shown changes in interleukin-6 (IL-6) in patients with depressive disorder. This paper summarizes the pathogenesis of IL-6 and depressive disorder, as well as the role of IL-6 in different clinical treatment methods, and explores the role of IL-6 in the occurrence and prognosis of depression, providing reference for further elucidating the activity patterns and mechanisms of IL-6 in the pathogenesis of depressive disorder.

【Key words】 Depressive disorder; Interleukin-6; Signal transduction; Review

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抑郁症是由多种原因引起的、以显著和持久的抑郁症状群为主要临床特征的一类心境障碍。WHO的数据表明,全球约有5%的人口患有抑郁症,预计到2030年底,抑郁症将成为全球精神卫生相关疾病负担的主要原因^[1]。促炎细胞因子家族包括IL-6、TNF- α 和IL-1等,其产生与炎症反应的启动有关。Ting等^[2]指出,活化的巨噬细胞分泌的促炎细胞因子可能与抑郁症发病有关。动物和临床研究均表明,促炎细胞因子IL-6可能在抑郁症的发病机制及治疗中有特殊作用^[3-4]。因此,本文综合分析了IL-6在抑郁症中的作用机制,以及通过IL-6作为抑郁症治疗靶点的潜在可能性,为未来抑郁症治疗提供思路和方向。

一、IL-6概述

1. IL-6的基本特性和生物合成: 编码人类IL-6的基因于1986年被克隆并报道^[5], 该基因由4个内含子和5个外显子组成, 定位于7p15-21染色体^[3]。IL-6的相对分子量为21 000, 是一种通常以单体形式存在的糖蛋白, 由184个氨基酸形成4个 α 螺旋结构, 等电点为5.0。Hirano^[6]发现IL-6能够促进T细胞增殖和激活, 诱导B细胞分化, 以及调节急性期反应。目前, 研究者们逐渐认识到IL-6具有广泛的类激素调节属性, 能够影响个体的神经、内分泌系统以及神经心理行为^[7]。几乎所有的基质细胞和免疫系统细胞都会产生IL-6。IL-1 β 和TNF是IL-6表达的主要激活因子, 其他途径如Toll样受体、前列

腺素、脂肪因子、应激反应以及其他细胞因子也可促进IL-6的合成^[8]。

2. IL-6的信号转导途径: IL-6与IL-6受体(interleukin-6 receptor, IL-6R)共同构成了复杂的信号传导系统。IL-6R主要分为膜连接受体(mIL-6R)和可溶性受体(sIL-6R)。IL-6R复合体由一个80 kD的 α 受体IL-6R(也称为CD126)和一个130 kD的 β 受体糖蛋白130(gp130,也称为CD130)组成^[9]。Skiniotis等^[10]的研究表明,发挥作用的IL-6R是一个二聚体结构的IL-6-IL-6R-gp130复合体。

既往研究表明,IL-6通过经典信号传导、反式信号传导和反式呈递3种机制介导生物效应^[11-12]。在经典信号传导通路中,IL-6R信号转导通过mIL-6R介导,并且仅与 α 亚基IL-6R与 β 亚基gp130共表达的细胞相关,IL-6与mIL-6R结合后,与细胞膜上的gp130结合,启动细胞内的信号传导,从而触发下游信号转导和基因表达。在反式信号传导通路中,IL-6与sIL-6R结合形成复合物, α 亚基IL-6R(-) β 亚基gp130(+)细胞通过接受此复合物的刺激,参与细胞内的信号转导^[13]。反式呈递信号通路主要发生在提供IL-6信号的树突细胞和接受IL-6信号的T细胞之间的抗原特异性作用^[14-15]:IL-6与树突细胞内的IL-6R结合后,被运输到质膜,识别T细胞并响应gp130,使T细胞中的STAT3磷酸化,启动信号传导过程。IL-6与大脑之间的相互作用主要通过反式信号传导实现^[16],已有研究通过抑郁症动物模型证实了其于神经炎症和抑郁样行为呈正相关^[16-17]。除了反式信号传导通路,IL-6的经典信号传导通路也对大脑产生影响,其中包括改变小胶质细胞(具有膜结合受体)的活性以及影响免疫调节或其他细胞因子的作用^[18]。经典信号传导及反式信号传导通路通过不同的机制与大脑相互作用并有导致抑郁症的风险。但目前关于IL-6反式呈递通路与大相互作用的研究较少,该通路于抑郁症的关系尚不明确,亟待进一步研究。

二、IL-6与抑郁症的关系

有关IL-6与抑郁症状的动物模型研究表明,束缚应激、注射脂多糖和直接注射IL-6导致的IL-6水平升高^[3, 19],均会使啮齿动物产生抑郁样行为,而氯胺酮通过诱导脑IL-6水平降低抗抑郁作用^[20]。此外,IL-6基因缺陷小鼠表现出对应激诱导的抑郁样行为的抵抗力,以及在动物模型中阻断IL-6R可以产生持续和快速的抗抑郁作用,进一步验证了IL-6在抑郁症分子机制中的产生重要作用^[21]。

临床不同类型的抑郁症患者均存在IL-6水平的

异常。DSM-5中提出忧郁型抑郁症是抑郁症的一个特殊类型^[22-23]。相关的研究表明,忧郁型抑郁症患者的IL-6活性高于健康对照、轻度抑郁症或非抑郁症患者^[22]。产后抑郁症是一种与分娩相关的抑郁症亚型,在对分娩妇女的研究中,发现产后抑郁症患者血清IL-6水平高于对照组^[23],老年抑郁症患者的IL-6水平也高于对照组^[23-24],表明产后及老年抑郁的发病与其IL-6水平相关联。

抑郁症患者体内IL-6水平与抑郁症严重程度及发作状态存在关联。Fan等^[25]的研究表明,IL-6水平与重度抑郁患者的HAMD-17评分呈正相关。在另一项研究中,抑郁症急性发作组血清IL-6的水平高于对照组,而在症状缓解期,抑郁症患者与对照组的IL-6水平比较,差异无统计学意义^[26]。

三、IL-6在抑郁发病过程中的作用

1. IL-6对神经递质的影响:包括IL-6在内的促炎因子会降低中枢神经递质的水平及生物利用度^[27],这些递质水平的降低被认为是抑郁症的主要致病因素。IL-6可以通过诱导丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)信号通路、消耗辅因子四氢生物蝶呤(tetrahydrobiopterin, BH4)以及激活吲哚胺2,3双加氧酶(indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase,IDO)来减少单胺类神经递质的可用性。MAPK的激活增强了5-HT、去甲肾上腺素和多巴胺的再摄取泵的表达,从而减少了突触间隙单胺类神经递质的获取^[28]。BH4是限速色氨酸羟化酶和酪氨酸羟化酶的辅因子,这2种酶参与了5-HT和多巴胺的合成,IL-6增加对BH4的消耗利用,导致5-HT和多巴胺的合成减少^[29]。此外,色氨酸有2条主要代谢途径,约5%的游离色氨酸参与5-HT途径,约95%以上的游离色氨酸是色氨酸-犬尿氨酸代谢途径的降解底物,而IDO经IL-6激活后增加了犬尿氨酸途径的活性,催化更多的色氨酸转化为犬尿氨酸,从而使5-HT的合成下降^[30],引起了抑郁症等与神经毒性相关的精神疾病。

2. IL-6对下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal, HPA)轴的影响:慢性压力、炎症和抑郁之间联系的机制可以通过HPA轴的失调和免疫反应的激活来解释^[31]。抑郁症患者出现的HPA轴失调主要通过IL-6等促炎因子引起的负反馈回路的失调,升高的IL-6抑制了HPA轴的负反馈,引起HPA轴过度活跃。一方面,IL-6可能通过直接作用于下丘脑,促使下丘脑释放促肾上腺皮质激素释放激素,进而刺激垂体分泌促肾上腺皮质激素,最终导致皮质醇的产生增加,另一方面,IL-6可能通

过增加垂体细胞对促肾上腺皮质激素释放激素的敏感性,从而增加皮质醇的产生^[32]。在正常情况下,皮质醇可以减少炎症,然而持续的压力会过度刺激HPA轴,导致皮质醇过度释放。研究表明,皮质醇长期过度释放引起的糖皮质激素受体抵抗导致了IL-6等促炎细胞因子释放,从而发生糖皮质激素负反馈回路的失调^[31],有报道称,重度抑郁症患者过度分泌的皮质醇干扰脑内的神经递质系统,导致情绪和认知功能的异常,从而加重抑郁症状^[33]。

3. IL-6对神经元的影响:神经可塑性在抑郁症的病理生理学中发挥关键作用,而促炎因子的过度产生损害了神经可塑性。谷氨酸突触的可塑性是神经可塑性的一种重要类型,谷氨酸是中枢神经系统中最丰富的兴奋性神经递质之一,较低浓度的谷氨酸可以发挥神经保护作用,而早期发育阶段IL-6的升高会激活谷氨酸能突触,谷氨酸能突触的长时间激活导致了神经元细胞死亡^[34]。Tannous等^[35]发现,较小的海马体体积是抑郁症的特征,海马体是一种与记忆和认知密切相关的皮质下结构,而有研究发现IL-6血浆浓度增加与海马体体积较小相关^[36],表明IL-6血浆浓度增加损害了海马体的神经元可塑性,通过影响海马突触传递,最终影响了抑郁症患者情绪调节和记忆等功能。

四、IL-6与抑郁症治疗的关系

1. IL-6水平与药物治疗的关系:抗抑郁药物治疗直接或间接导致了患者体内IL-6水平的改变。多项研究显示,抗抑郁药物可降低抑郁症患者的IL-6、TNF- α 和IL-18水平,且这些炎症细胞因子水平的降低值与抑郁症状改善程度呈正相关^[4, 37-39]。但也有与此不一致的研究结果,如抗抑郁药物未改变或增加了抑郁症患者的炎症细胞因子水平^[40],这可能与患者使用的干预药物不同及基线IL-6水平相关。不同的抗抑郁药物对患者体内IL-6水平会产生不同的影响, Maes等^[38]的研究发现三环类抗抑郁药对抑郁症患者血清IL-6水平无影响,但有研究发现患者入组时的IL-6基线水平与三环类抗抑郁药治疗的反应性有关^[39],入组时IL-6水平较高的患者患难治性抑郁症的概率较高(即可能对抗抑郁药物出现低反应性),而入组时IL-6水平较低的患者对抗抑郁药物有更高的反应性。Mosiolek等^[41]表明SSRI治疗可降低患者血浆中的IL-6水平。Gedek等^[42]的研究表明,联合使用塞来昔布比单一使用抗抑郁药对于改善抑郁症状疗效更佳,其研究了塞来昔布等抗炎药物的抗抑郁作用,发现塞来昔布的抗抑郁作用可能与其降低IL-6的能力有关,抑郁严重程度降低

低与第6周血清IL-6水平的降低有相关性,这也为临床抑郁症的诊断及治疗方案提供了思路。

2. IL-6水平与电休克治疗(electroconvulsive therapy, ECT)的关系:在抑郁症的治疗中,ECT疗法占有重要的地位。ECT的治疗有效率为60%~80%,通常比常用抗抑郁药物治疗达到临床反应的时间更短^[43]。越来越多的证据表明,ECT的抗抑郁作用与免疫系统调节之间具有双向联系。一方面,单次ECT疗法会导致IL-6的短暂快速增加, Yrondi等^[44]指出,由于急性应激反应,抑郁症患者ECT后短期内会立即出现血浆IL-6、皮质醇和IL-1水平升高,然而从长期来看,治疗疗程结束时ECT会导致血浆IL-6、皮质醇和TNF- α 水平下降。另一方面,有研究根据疗效将抑郁症患者分组后分析发现,在病情缓解患者或对ECT有反应的患者血液中发现IL-6水平下降,而治疗前后无反应患者的IL-6水平变化无统计学意义,表明ECT疗法对抑郁症状的改善与IL-6水平变化有一定联系^[45-46]。Belge等^[45]发现,除了改善情绪症状外,ECT后IL-6水平的降低与精神运动迟滞的减少呈正相关,证明抑郁症ECT后精神运动迟缓的改善与免疫调节特性有关。目前,关于IL-6下降与抑郁改善之间的相关性研究结果并不明确,进一步的研究应该关注ECT后随访时间,观察更长时间的IL-6趋势如何变化。

3. IL-6水平与rTMS治疗的关系:rTMS是一种非侵入性脑神经调节的治疗方法,可以通过特定的频率刺激特定的大脑部位,以调节神经兴奋的程度和皮质功能。研究表明,低频rTMS可以通过抑制与抑郁相关的促炎因子的产生来保护神经细胞^[47]。Pan等^[48]发现低频(≤ 1 Hz)rTMS联合抗抑郁药可降低卒中后抑郁患者的抑郁状态和IL-6、TNF- α 水平,增强患者的认知功能。因此,rTMS联合抗抑郁药物治疗抑郁症可能比单纯药物治疗更有效。

4. IL-6水平与心理治疗的关系:心理干预可以深刻地改变患者的信念、思维方式、情感状态和行为模式。多数研究通过药物干预来探讨炎症因子水平和抑郁之间的关系,报道心理治疗干预后两者关系的文献较少。Walsh等^[49]的研究发现,在对患有抑郁症的年轻女性进行个体正念训练后,患者唾液中IL-6水平下降。此外,为了弥补关于心理动力学治疗在抑郁症领域的空白, Del Grande da Silva等^[50]评估了认知行为治疗和支持表达动态心理治疗的有效性,结果显示两种类型的心理干预均能够改善患者的临床症状,有效降低IL-6水平。

五、总结和展望

IL-6与抑郁症的研究还存在着一些局限性:目前,抑郁症临床研究的对象多为女性群体,这可能与女性在抑郁症患者群体中占比高以及男性配合治疗的意愿较低相关。此外,多数对IL-6与抑郁症关系的研究引入了抑郁症类型这一混杂因素,但没有根据抑郁症的类型对结果进行分层,这可能与样本量小、展开大规模临床干预困难有一定关联。

在之后的研究中,需尽量控制患者性别、年龄和抑郁症类型等可能影响IL-6水平的相关混杂因素,深入阐明抑郁症患者治疗前后IL-6水平变化背后的大脑机制和潜在变化,进一步研究可能存在的病理生理机制,通过推进针对IL-6信号转导系统的治疗方法的研究,为寻找抗抑郁治疗的新靶点及提高抗抑郁治疗的有效性提供科学根据。

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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