

双相情感障碍炎症机制及辅助抗炎治疗的研究进展

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【摘要】 炎症为双相情感障碍重要的病理生理机制之一。炎症因子不仅参与了该病的病因学过程, 还为新疗法的开发提供了方向。目前, 炎症因子作为预测标志物及抗炎药物(如非甾体抗炎药、N-乙酰半胱氨酸、肿瘤坏死因子拮抗剂)的辅助治疗潜力已在临床研究中得到探索。研究表明, 免疫信号异常贯穿双相情感障碍各病程阶段, 提示炎症作为潜在治疗靶点的重要性。本文对双相情感障碍相关的炎症因子改变、炎症机制及辅助抗炎治疗的研究进展进行综述, 以为临床诊疗提供参考。

【关键词】 双相情感障碍; 炎症因子改变; 炎症机制; 抗炎治疗; 综述

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Research progress on inflammatory mechanism and adjuvant anti-inflammatory therapy in bipolar disorder

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【Abstract】 Low-grade inflammation is recognized as one of the important pathophysiological mechanisms of bipolar disorder. Inflammatory factors are not only involved in the etiologic process of the disease, but also provide direction for the development of new therapies. The potential of inflammatory factors as predictive markers and adjunctive therapy with anti-inflammatory drugs (such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, N-acetylcysteine, and tumor necrosis factor antagonists) has been explored in clinical studies. Studies have shown that abnormal immune signaling occurs throughout all stages of bipolar disorder, suggesting the importance of inflammation as a potential therapeutic target. This article reviews the inflammatory factor alterations, inflammatory mechanisms, and adjunctive anti-inflammatory therapies associated with bipolar disorder, with the aim of providing a reference for clinical diagnosis and treatment.

【Key words】 Bipolar disorder; Inflammatory factor alteration; Inflammatory mechanism; Anti-inflammatory therapy; Review

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双相情感障碍(bipolar disorder, BD)是以躁狂发作或轻躁狂发作与抑郁发作交替为特征的慢性、发作性严重精神疾病,影响着世界上超过1%的人口^[1-2]。在情绪波动期间, BD患者的残留症状及认知功能损伤会很大程度地影响其社会功能^[3]。BD具有约80%的遗传率,在基因与环境的影响下, BD患者寿命较健康人减少10~15年^[4]。目前,临床中BD常用的治疗方法效果有限,且在治疗过程中患者的不依从、无反应和高不良反应发生率很高^[5]。

既往研究发现,免疫系统的变化会导致各种精神疾病的发生,越来越多的证据表明,免疫功能障碍是BD病理生理和治疗的关键机制^[6]。过去几年中,大量的研究致力于深入了解BD的病因,明确BD的炎症和免疫机制,进而实现令人满意的治疗效果与良好的预后。目前,临床工作中多以患者自我报告、临床医生观察、标准化量表评估的方式对BD进行临床诊断、评估病情发展、衡量快感缺失程度以及评价临床疗效。因此,寻找具有特异性且可靠的生物学指标尤为重要。

一、BD与炎症的关系

炎性细胞因子是指参与炎性反应的各种因子,是一组多肽类细胞调节物质的总称,按照功能可分为抗炎细胞因子和促炎细胞因子^[7]。炎性细胞因子有两方面作用,一方面是大脑及身体的正常发育和功能需要炎性因子的调节,如急性感染期时,机体产生免疫应答,分泌大量炎性因子,进而产生适应性行为,能够对抗感染或促进创面的修复;另一方面,躯体长时间处于炎性因子升高的情况下会诱发免疫力下降、躯体系统多方面不适以及神经递质的改变^[8]。免疫失调可能导致炎性因子水平的改变,引起剧烈的促炎反应或抑制抗炎反应,最终免疫反应失去稳态,这种变化可能与抑郁症、BD、精神分裂症等精神疾病的发生相关^[9]。

躁狂期、抑郁期的BD患者都伴随着炎症通路的激活,如急性期CRP或促炎因子水平的升高^[3]。Lee等^[10]和Khanra等^[11]的研究发现,促炎因子含量水平的改变会导致BD患者的抑郁样行为,如情绪低落、快感缺失、焦虑、无法集中注意力等。动物模型中也有类似发现,将TNF- α 注射到健康动物体内能诱发类似于人类抑郁发作患者的症状,如情绪低落、动作减少、快感缺失、认知缺陷及疲劳等,而使用抗TNF靶向药物(例如英夫利昔单抗)可以改善上述症状^[12-13]。另有研究表明,将TNF拮抗剂(如英夫利昔单抗、阿达木单抗、依那西普等)注射到无情感障碍的人群体内会引起躁狂或者轻躁狂发作^[14]。

自身免疫过程与精神疾病表达增加之间存在显著的相关性^[15]。Kisler和Zlokovic^[12]发现,与健康人群相比,患有免疫系统疾病的人群存在更高的BD患病风险,证明自身免疫过程与BD之间存在着交互关系。此外,慢性感染如弓形虫感染、巨噬细胞病毒感染等也与BD患病风险相关^[12]。因此,研究者们推断炎性因子可能与BD的发生、发展有关。

二、BD的相关炎性因子改变

单相抑郁的早期识别存在一定困难,而炎性因子在诊断方面存在研究价值。研究发现,与单相抑郁患者相比,双相患者血液中的IL-6、可溶性肿瘤坏死因子受体(soluble tumor necrosis factor receptor, sTNFR)1的水平更高,提示BD患者的炎性水平较单相抑郁高^[16]。Brunoni等^[17]研究发现,单相抑郁患者中的IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、sTNFR1、IL-12、IL-10水平显著高于BD患者;而BD患者中的IL-6、sTNFR2、IL-18、IL-33水平显著高于单相抑郁患者。

Solmi等^[18]在了一项荟萃分析中表明,躁狂发作期和抑郁发作期BD患者血液中的CRP、TNF- α 水平平均升高,在缓解期则未升高,但无论处于任何阶段,IL-6都保持升高。因此认为CRP和TNF- α 可能是状态标志物,而IL-6似乎是BD的特征标志物。同样,研究发现BD患者(处于躁狂或者抑郁时期)炎性因子IL-6、IL-8含量较健康组水平高,且在治疗6周后,患者症状缓解程度与IL-6降低有显著相关性^[19-20]。一项研究显示,双相I型患者的TNF- α 趋势水平呈显著上升,并且与认知、处理速度和工作记忆呈负相关,但该研究并未发现IL-6、IL-4、IL-10在两组间差异有统计学意义^[21]。Ghafouri-Fard等^[22]发现,BD患者的男女性炎性因子表达也存在区别,男性患者中的IL-1 β 、IL-10、TNF- α 水平高于健康组,但在女性受试者中差异无统计学意义。

Tsai^[23]研究发现,在BD疾病病程中,外周血IL-8水平较健康组增高。Misiak等^[24]基于对BD疾病发展与IL-8之间的关系研究显示,IL-8水平升高可能是双相抑郁的特有标志物。Jesudas等^[25]研究发现,在BD躁狂患者中,IL-10水平显著升高,且与疾病的严重程度相关。研究表明,BD躁狂患者在基线期、治疗2周末、4周末后的IL-17水平均显著高于健康对照组,IL-17水平与基线时的杨氏躁狂评定量表(Yang Mania Rating Scale, YMRS)评分呈正相关^[21]。但另一项研究显示,BD患者缓解期体内的IL-17水平较健康组降低^[26]。

国内相关研究发现,BD患者的IL-6、IL-4、IL-1 β 水平高于健康组,躁狂状态、抑郁状态的IL-6、IL-4、IL-1 β 水平高于混合状态,但躁狂状态和抑郁状态的炎性因子水平差异无统计学意义^[27]。双相抑郁复发患者与炎性因子的关系分析中,BD组患者的IL-6、IL-1 β 水平高于健康组;治疗8周后,BD组患者症状减轻,IL-6、IL-1 β 水平降低^[28-29]。

三、炎性因子导致BD的假说

为了更好地了解BD的病理机制,研究者提出了几种假说,但是关于BD的病因、疾病发展、疗效、预后的机制仍不清楚^[30]。锂盐可以稳定BD患者的情绪,免疫细胞调节可能参与锂盐的临床作用,因此免疫因子作为BD的关键机制也被提出^[31]。

1. 能量代谢与氧化应激:线粒体不仅在能量产生中起关键作用,也可以通过凋亡信号和NLRP3炎性小体产生氧化应激反应并激活炎性细胞^[32]。在BD患者体内,线粒体的结构或功能发生改变会导致能量生产效率降低以及抗氧化能力下降^[33],这种

改变会使体内线粒体复合物的浓度、活性和mRNA表达呈降低趋势,因此BD患者可能出现可塑性缺陷和神经认知能力下降的现象^[34]。与健康人群相比,BD患者有更高的氧化应激外周标志物,这种标志物与发病年龄早、持续时间长和疾病发作频率增加有关;且证明了抗氧化酶的增加发生在疾病的早期(尤其是在抑郁发作期间)^[35-36]。此外,线粒体功能障碍与NLRP3炎性小体的激活之间存在着密切联系。部分NLRP3的诱导剂与线粒体膜电位的丧失有关,而线粒体复合物抑制剂可以降低NLRP3依赖的IL-1 β 分泌,表明线粒体功能障碍通过NLRP3炎性小体的激活进一步加剧了BD的炎性反应^[37]。

2. 钙离子(Ca²⁺): BD与内质网应激反应、钙信号改变密切相关,钙似乎是一种有效的NLRP3的激活剂。Ca²⁺可调节神经元的兴奋性、神经递质合成与分泌、突触的可塑性,其微小的变化可以引发神经元功能下降和凋亡^[38]。BD患者的CACNAC1基因(电压门控钙通道基因的一种)表达较健康人群增加与钙信号通路增强有关,锂盐可以扭转这种过度兴奋表型^[39]。线粒体与内质网通过线粒体相关膜(mitochondria-associated membranes, MAMs)连接,维持着Ca²⁺平衡,并组装NLRP3复合体,一旦形成MAMs-NLRP3复合物将导致促炎因子的释放。与BD相关的DISC1蛋白和SIGMAR-1蛋白等MAMs蛋白参与钙信号、线粒体运输、神经发育与炎性反应^[40-41]。

3. 炎症小体激活: NLRP3炎性小体在BD的发病机制中占据核心地位,不仅将细胞应激和免疫激活联系在一起,而且在炎症信号传导中起很大作用^[42]。NLRP3炎性小体的激活涉及多种信号的识别与响应,这些信号被称为病原体相关分子模式(pathogen-associated molecular patterns, PAMPs)或危险相关分子模式(damage associated molecular patterns, DAMPs),能够改变NLRP3蛋白构象,进而促进激活和聚集。当NLRP3小体被激活后,会进一步激活其他蛋白,如ASC蛋白和CASPASE-1蛋白,这一系列反应最终导致炎性因子如IL-1 β 、IL-18的释放。这些炎性因子的成熟与释放可能与BD的发展有关系。目前,部分药物已经显示出对NLRP3的抑制作用,如抗抑郁药、心境稳定剂和抗精神病药等,但这些药物在改善BD症状的同时,可能会带来不良反应,如代谢综合征等^[43-44]。除此之外,嘌呤代谢、激素和昼夜节律以及犬尿氨酸途径等都参与BD的疾病过程。ATP等嘌呤物质可调控免疫

活性,其代谢产物尿酸水平与躁狂症状严重程度相关,而具有抗炎作用的腺苷在BD患者中含量降低。慢性应激可能通过P2X7(嘌呤受体)引起炎症的方式参与BD的发展^[45-46]。皮质醇与褪黑素呈相反昼夜节律,其中褪黑素具有抗氧化、抗炎等作用。BD患者褪黑素分泌减少,皮质醇水平反而较高,这与炎性应激有关。色氨酸通过犬尿氨酸途径在BD中参与炎性反应,在BD中色氨酸向犬尿氨酸的转化增加,这种转化在中枢神经系统内尤为明显。研究发现,通过干预犬尿氨酸途径,可能有助于治疗BD及其相关疾病^[47-48]。

四、BD的辅助抗炎治疗

1. 塞来昔布: 塞来昔布是一种特异性的环氧化酶-2抑制剂,目前已成为BD的抗炎干预治疗^[49]。在情绪稳定剂基础上使用艾司西酞普兰联合塞来昔布或安慰剂治疗双相抑郁的背景下,Murata等^[50]的研究发现联合塞来昔布组在第4周的抑郁症状缓解程度显著高于安慰剂组,且在第1周时焦虑症状明显好转;Halaris等^[51]发现在第8周时,加用塞来昔布组的IL-1 β 显示出下降趋势,安慰剂组治疗前后无显著差异。Bavaresco等^[52]的研究发现,加用塞来昔布组与对照组比较,塞来昔布显著降低了BD躁狂患者的YMRS得分;同样,Arabizadeh等^[53]也有相同发现。

2. N-乙酰半胱氨酸: 谷胱甘肽是大脑中主要的内源性抗氧化剂,而N-乙酰半胱氨酸是谷胱甘肽的前体,具有抗氧化和抗炎作用,可以减少活性氧自由基和增加全身谷胱甘肽水平,进而调节细胞炎症^[54-55]。国外研究表明,N-乙酰半胱氨酸在改善BD抑郁方面优于安慰剂,症状较安慰剂组缓解明显,且具有良好的耐受性^[56-58]。此外,一项随机安慰剂对照试验显示,在双相躁狂患者中加用N-乙酰半胱氨酸治疗,其症状改善程度显著优于安慰剂组^[59]。但是有学者提出了相反的观点,认为使用N-乙酰半胱氨酸并未改善症状^[60]。

3. TNF- α 拮抗剂: TNF- α 在人体内由各类细胞产生,TNF- α 抑制药物英夫利昔单抗作为BD抑郁辅助药物显示出明显的抗抑郁效果。关于英夫利昔单抗联合抗抑郁药治疗BD抑郁的临床研究显示,相较于对照组,联合治疗组患者的抑郁及快感缺失程度在6周时出现明显缓解,进一步亚组分析显示,伴童年创伤及高CRP水平的BD抑郁患者效果更加明显^[61-62]。

4. BD治疗其他选择:除上述药物对BD具有抗炎作用外,其他药物也有调节炎症的作用。二甲四环素是一种具有抗炎和神经保护的四环素类抗生素,当二甲四环素作为抗炎辅助用药时,可以显著减轻BD抑郁状态的症状^[54]。四氢叶酸是胺类神经递质合成的重要辅助因子,已有研究证明缺失血浆四氢叶酸可能导致BD的发病。因此,对于四氢叶酸不足的BD患者,补充四氢叶酸作为辅助治疗显示出良好的效果^[63-64]。除了药物治疗之外,部分生活方式干预措施也有助于BD患者的精神健康,比如健康饮食、避免饮酒和吸烟、瑜伽、正念以及多与自然接触,这些良好的生活方式都与炎症因子水平降低有关^[65-67]。因此,保持上述生活习惯可能会减少BD的临床症状。

五、总结与展望

综上,促炎因子水平的升高存在于BD的各个阶段,其炎症反应可能由能量代谢紊乱诱发的氧化应激、钙离子信号失调及NLRP3炎性小体激活等多重机制共同驱动。因此,免疫系统和抗炎药物治疗被认为是一种有前景的治疗方式,针对BD炎症机制的辅助抗炎药物的也在进一步研究中,不同类别的直接或者间接调节炎症的药物也在BD中进行了临床试验^[68]。

关于BD炎性因子水平变化的研究仍然较少,观察炎性因子随时间纵向变化的分析仍然非常缺乏,对于抗炎辅助治疗的探索仍处于初步阶段。未来的研究应从多角度分析BD与炎性因子及免疫机制的关系,寻找BD的特异性标志物,最终达到使用特异性抗炎药物改善BD预后的目的。

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