

抑郁症伴慢性疼痛炎性机制的研究进展

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【摘要】 治疗抑郁症伴慢性疼痛症状问题一直是临床的中心问题, 科学家对该病的病因和发病机制进行探索研究发现, 促炎因素和抗炎因素之间的复杂的交互作用是导致抑郁症伴慢性疼痛发生、发展和预后的关键所在。现综述归纳和总结炎症因素在抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的机制, 并对药物治疗在这类疾病中未来研究的发展方向进行展望。

【关键词】 抑郁症; 慢性疼痛; 促炎因子; 抗炎因子

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【Abstract】 The treatment of major depressive disorder(MDD)comorbid with chronic pain has always been a central issue in clinical practice. Scientists have explored its etiology and pathogenesis and found that the complex interaction between pro-inflammatory factors and anti-inflammatory factors is considered to be the key to the occurrence, development and prognosis of MDD comorbid with chronic pain. This review summarizes the mechanism of inflammatory factors in MDD with chronic pain, and prospects the development direction of drug treatment in this kind of disease in the future.

【Key words】 Depression; Chronic pain; Pro-inflammatory factors; Anti-inflammatory factors

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抑郁症(major depressive disorder)是一种慢性情绪和思维障碍, 同时伴有躯体及自主神经功能紊乱的临床症状。2019年最新国内精神病流行病学调查结果显示, 中国的抑郁症终身患病率为7.4%, 而英美等发达国家抑郁终身患病率约为18%^[1]。无论发达国家还是发展中国家, 抑郁症在所有精神疾病的负

担中排名第一^[2-3]。研究显示, 抑郁症患者不仅存在思维、情绪及应对方式障碍, 还常常伴发感知觉障碍, 长期抑郁发作的患者会出现模糊的、无法分类的慢性疼痛^[4-5]。抑郁症患者中, 超过80%会出现慢性疼痛, 持续超过6个月疼痛的患者也会引发抑郁症症状, 与单独出现这两种疾病相比, 抑郁伴

慢性疼痛的患者病程更长,治疗效果更差,更容易造成残疾,并且医疗负担更重^[6-8]。

尽管近十年来有多种抗抑郁药物陆续投放市场,但仅有1/3的抑郁症患者接受药物治疗,接受药物治疗的抑郁症患者中有一半疗效欠佳,抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的患者效果更差^[9]。因此,探索和发现该病的病因和机制对于有效预防和治疗抑郁症具有重要意义^[10]。越来越多的研究数据表明,炎性因子在抑郁症伴慢性疼痛发生、发展和转归中扮演着举足轻重的角色^[11-12],直接影响治疗效果和预后。因此,研究炎性因子和抑郁伴慢性疼痛的交互作用对临床治疗具有非常重要的意义。本综述主要阐述炎性因子在抑郁症伴慢性疼痛中的机制,并对药物治疗在这类共病中未来研究的发展方向进行展望。

一、促炎因子与抑郁症伴慢性疼痛

1991年Smith提出的巨噬细胞抑郁症理论认为,应激状态下会引发促炎因子网络mRNA水平上调,肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor, TNF- α)、白介素-1 β (interleukin, IL-1 β)、IL-6和IL-23等促炎因子通过内皮细胞转运体主动转运、激活小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞,并通过迷走神经传入信号进而激活脑血管周围的巨噬细胞和内皮细胞等方式进入中枢神经系统,促进中枢神经系统细胞因子的合成,导致神经元微损伤,同时伴发神经营养因子减少、神经元再生和神经炎性活性增强,最终出现抑郁症症状^[13]。Yoshimura等^[14]的研究发现,抑郁症患者血浆IL-6水平明显高于健康对照组,抗抑郁药治疗能显著降低血浆IL-6水平,且IL-6活性与抑郁症的复发相关。Alesci等^[15]采用多个视觉模拟量表进行评估后发现,抑郁症患者中IL-6严重分泌失调,且IL-6水平升高与内疚、低自尊、悲伤和自杀意念等负面情绪显著相关。因此,IL-6水平的升高可能是维持抑郁症状严重程度的关键因素。研究发现,机体在应激状态下,IL-1 β 和C反应蛋白(C-reactive protein, CRP)升高涉及多种精神疾病尤其是抑郁症^[16],血浆中的CRP浓度增加多由炎性细胞因子如IL-6释放所致,均显示机体有炎症的存在。IL-1 β 与抑郁症患者的疲劳、社交障碍和记忆缺陷密切相关^[17]。

研究显示,可溶性白细胞介素-2受体(soluble interleukin-2 receptor, sIL-2R)不仅与抑郁症状呈正相关,并且是抑郁症最显著的预测因子^[18]。有学者还发现,抑郁症患者血清中具有诱导活化中性粒细胞作用的Th-17细胞以及其产生的特征性细胞因子IL-17A升高^[19-20],且抑郁症样小鼠大脑中的Th17

细胞含量增加,如特异性抑制Th17细胞能降低小鼠抑郁样行为的易感性,提示抗抑郁作用可以通过靶向调节Th17细胞获得^[21]。在IL-23因子调控Th17细胞迁移机制的研究中发现,在Janus激酶2(Janus kinase 2, JAK2)和Rho相关蛋白激酶(Rho-associated protein kinase, ROCK)的催化下,IL-23促进Th17和IL-17产生的 $\gamma\delta$ T17细胞中肌动球蛋白收缩性标志物调节轻链的磷酸化,从而触发疾病特征,在炎性抑郁的发生和发展中起关键作用^[22]。

在针对抑郁症和慢性疼痛共病的研究中发现,中脑多巴胺奖赏环路中的中脑腹侧被盖区(ventral tegmental area, VTA)及其投射区伏隔核(nucleus accumbens, NAc)和前额叶皮层(prefrontal cortex, PFC)是抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的关键脑区,IL-1 β 和IL-6等促炎因子可能通过这些部位参与了引发疼痛的过程^[23],部分抗抑郁药物可以通过抑制这些促炎因子及其下游,例如色氨酸、犬尿氨酸和单胺信号通路的水平,直接或间接增加了抗抑郁药物的治疗反应,最终改善抑郁情绪和疼痛^[24-25]。由此可见,促炎因子在抑郁症伴慢性疼痛发生、发展及治疗过程中起到关键的作用。既往的研究证据表明,神经-免疫相互作用是慢性疼痛引发人类抑郁症的重要机制^[26-27],IL-1 β 、IL-6和(或)TNF- α 的基因编码在炎性抑郁症动物模型中负责处理情绪和疼痛的脑区表达增强^[28-29],其中TNF- α 可诱导下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, HPA)轴激活,其水平的升高作为强效内源性抗炎激素的糖皮质激素,降低了糖皮质激素的反应性,促进糖皮质激素介导的抑制促炎因子的产生,升高的促炎因子又可导致糖皮质激素增加,形成恶性循环^[30]。以上的研究证据均提示促炎因子是神经元分化、存活和神经再生的重要因素,被认为是抑郁症伴疼痛研究中一个有意义的靶点^[31-32],在抑郁及慢性疼痛的级联反应机制中发挥重要作用。

二、抗炎因子与抑郁症伴慢性疼痛

在抑郁伴慢性疼痛发生及发展过程中,除了TNF- α 、IL-2、IL-6、IL-17、IL-23等促炎因子起关键作用外,抗炎因子IL-4、IL-10、IL-13、IL-22及转化生长因子 β (transforming growth factor β , TGF- β)等也起到重要的作用。但目前与IL-6等促炎因子相比,研究者对IL-10等抗炎/免疫调节因子在抑郁症中潜在作用的关注相对较少^[33]。Schmidt等^[34]的研究结果显示,抗炎因子水平的降低与抑郁症状的严重程度存在相关性。多项研究^[33, 35]均发现没

有服用药物的抑郁症患者的血清IL-10水平较低, IL-6/IL-10比值增高, 且IL-10水平较低与抑郁评分呈负相关。Hiles等^[36]发现, IL-10水平在患有和未患抑郁症的人群中给出了相互矛盾的信号, IL-10部分是由刺激IL-6等因素产生的, 在急性免疫应答期也可以升高, 并且这种水平的升高和抑郁症相关, 但是在针对IL-10亚群分析或Meta回归分析中提示其水平的变化与抑郁症无相关^[37]。在一项评估抗抑郁药物对周围炎症标志物影响的Meta分析中提示, 经过5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂(selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, SSRI)类药物抗抑郁治疗后, IL-6和IL-10水平明显升高^[38-39]。IL-22是IL-22R1和IL-10R2亚单位组成的IL-10家族一员, 由Th-17、ILC3、肥大细胞、真皮 $\gamma\delta$ T细胞及Tc-17细胞产生, 具有抗菌、抗真菌、抗病毒、抗炎等作用, 在黏膜和屏障器官的稳态中发挥重要作用。IL-22与IL-22R复合物结合后, 信号转导与转录激活因子(signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, STAT3)磷酸化和细胞外信号调节激酶1/2(extracellular signal-regulated kinase 1/2, ERK1/2)信号传递通路激活, 参与中性粒细胞趋化因子、抗原膜蛋白、基质金属蛋白酶产生。TGF- β 是一种参与维持免疫稳态的多能生长因子, 具有TGF- β 1、TGF- β 2和TGF- β 3三种异构体, 其分别与受体TGF- β R I、TGF- β R II和TGF- β R III结合, 发挥抑制巨噬细胞和中性粒细胞的活性, 促进血管生成和成纤维细胞的增殖, 调节T细胞亚群功能。由于IL-22和TGF- β 在免疫相关疾病的发病机制中作用广泛, 可能是抑郁伴慢性疼痛治疗的一个潜在靶点^[40]。

Uceyler等^[41]发现, 慢性广泛性疼痛患者抗炎因子IL-4和IL-10的相对基因表达和蛋白水平显著降低, 促炎细胞因子IL-2、IL-8、TNF和抗炎因子TGF-1的mRNA水平在患者和对照组之间差异无统计学意义。IL-4是由巨噬细胞、T细胞(尤其是Th2细胞)、肥大细胞、嗜酸粒细胞和嗜碱粒细胞产生的重要的免疫调节因子, 在T细胞增殖、B细胞活化、巨噬细胞活化、慢性炎症、创伤修复等过程中发挥着多种作用。实验证实, IL-4具有减少疼痛相关的促炎介质产生作用, 例如IL-4抑制NLR蛋白3(NLR protein 3, NLRP3)依赖的半胱氨酸蛋白酶-1的活化和巨噬细胞分泌IL-1 β 。NLRP3作为一种传感器蛋白, 能够启动细胞内炎症体蛋白复合物的组装, 导致半胱天冬酶-1活化, 并随后将前IL-1 β 转化为具有生物活性的IL-1 β 。IL-4还可增加内源性IL-1受

体拮抗剂(endogenous IL-1 receptor antagonist, IL-1ra) mRNA和蛋白的表达, 减弱IL-1 β 的促炎作用。此外, IL-4直接抑制一氧化氮合酶(nitric oxide synthase, NOS)和环氧合酶2(cyclooxygenase 2, COX-2)的诱导, 分别减少一氧化氮(nitric oxide, NO)和前列腺素E2(prostaglandin E2, PGE2)的产生, 从而减轻机体的炎症反应。与IL-10相比, IL-4具有一些促炎作用特征, 其能诱导血管内皮细胞中趋化因子CCL2和IL-6的表达, 同时能协同增加脂多糖刺激血管内皮细胞中的IL-1 β 、TNF- α 和血管细胞黏附蛋白1水平。尽管IL-4可以作为促炎因子表达的催化剂, 但由于其广泛的抗炎作用, 仍被认为是治疗病理性疼痛的一个有潜力的候选者。

三、促炎因子与抗炎因子机制失衡与抑郁症伴慢性疼痛

越来越多的文献支持免疫细胞、胶质细胞和神经细胞之间的促炎因子和抗炎因子之间的信号传导失衡是抑郁伴慢性疼痛发生、发展的一个组成部分。Song等^[42]的研究表明, 未经治疗的抑郁症患者与健康对照组比较, 促炎因子IL-1 β 明显升高, γ -干扰素(γ -interferon, IFN- γ)和TNF- α 降低, 而抗炎因子IL-4升高, IL-10降低, 提示抑郁症患者的促炎性和抗炎性因子(IL-1和IL-10)之间以及IFN- γ 和IL-4存在失衡状态。研究还发现, 巨噬细胞可以通过阻断促炎因子的基因转录, 加速促炎因子的mRNA降解, 从而达到阻断这些促炎因子受体的基因转录。同时巨噬细胞可通过释放抗炎介质, 例如TGF- β 1抑制巨噬细胞对单核细胞趋化因子1(monocyte chemoattractant protein, MCP-1)的反应, 而MCP-1在慢性神经病理性疼痛的发生和维持中起着关键作用, 其通过激活脊髓小胶质细胞为入侵的血小板、角质形成细胞、巨噬细胞、淋巴细胞和成纤维细胞提供趋化性诱导一种有效的促炎环境^[43]。动物试验表明, TGF- β 1^{-/-}小鼠表现出疼痛相关产物诱导型一氧化氮合酶(inducible nitric oxide synthase, iNOS)和NO自发性地升高, 然而, 在野生型大鼠髓鞘内输注重组中, TGF- β 1可阻止神经损伤后感觉神经元超敏反应和神经病理性疼痛的发生, 并可逆转热痛觉过敏和机械性痛觉超敏反应。这些结果表明, 通过长期给予TGF- β 1或给予TGF- β 1抗体阻断巨噬细胞的趋化性, 可以减轻炎症和疼痛。通过诱导IL-1 β 和TNF- α 诱导白血病抑制因子(leukemia inhibitory factor, LIF)的产生, 也可获得类似的结果^[44]。这些结果都提示, 将巨噬细

胞从促炎表型转化为抗炎表型有助于减轻炎症和疼痛,促炎因子和抗炎因子两者之间的相互促进和制约的动态变化决定了疾病的发展和结局。

四、抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的药物治疗

抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的确切病理生理机制尚未明确,这对抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的治疗提出了巨大的挑战^[45]。研究显示,30%~50%的抑郁症患者对现有批准的抗抑郁药物没有反应,而现有的抗抑郁药物方法只能减轻抑郁症患者50%~60%的症状。开发替代疗法和多靶点疗法一直是目前治疗抑郁伴慢性疼痛的关键,旨在能更快和更有效地减轻症状^[35,46],其中针对炎性机制的靶点治疗是重点探索方向。新的研究证据显示,NLRP3炎性小体诱导的炎症在抑郁症的发病机制中起着至关重要的作用^[47]。在NLR家族中,NLRP3炎性小体是研究最广泛、理解最透彻的成员^[48]。Alcocer-Gomez等^[49]发现,NLRP3炎性小体能被多种刺激物激活,激活的NLRP3炎性小体引发机体神经细胞受损和神经细胞的炎性反应,这在抑郁样行为的发展以及与抑郁相关的细胞和分子改变中起着关键作用。基础实验也证实,NLRP3抑制剂VX-765能有效改善小鼠抑郁症症状,这些结果都提示NLRP3炎性小体与抑郁症的病理生理密切相关,这也使其成为和抑郁症临床症状最重要的炎性小体,为治疗抑郁症提供了新的治疗靶点^[50-51]。

此外,Lostrich等^[52]提出,以促炎因子及其信号通路为靶点可能是治疗抑郁症和相关疾病(如不稳定的愤怒、易怒和疲劳)的一个独特的治疗机会。近年来,关于治疗慢性疼痛的阿片类药物在抗抑郁治疗中的作用的研究不断出现,人们越来越关注阿片受体在抗抑郁治疗中的作用^[45]。其在 δ 受体敲除的小鼠中表现出增强的抑郁样行为,低剂量的丁丙诺啡可以显著降低难治性抑郁症的严重程度,提示 δ 受体可能成为一个潜在的抗抑郁药物目标^[53]。Bassett等^[54]发现,经过慢性应激3周后,抑郁样小鼠背侧和腹侧海马不同区域活化的小胶质细胞数量增加,体外实验也证实用脂多糖对原代小胶质细胞的激活可导致细胞凋亡和ERK1/2活化,诱导型NOS表达增加,吞噬活性增强,细胞形态发生改变,而米诺环素可以有效逆转这些炎性改变,提示第二代四环素具有强大的抗炎和神经保护作用,是治疗抑郁症的潜在药物。以上的研究均提示,通过针对炎性信号通路的靶点治疗策略为潜在的抑郁伴慢性疼痛症状改善提供了可能,多靶点的联合治疗可以有效降低疾病复发风险。

五、小结

抑郁症伴慢性疼痛症状问题一直是临床的中心问题,但是目前可用而有效的治疗方法有限,患者临床症状缓解不充分,复发风险较高。为了解决这些问题,必须发现新的治疗方法,而更好地理解各种抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的病理生理机制是关键。越来越多的研究显示,免疫细胞、胶质细胞和神经细胞之间的促炎因子和抗炎因子之间的信号传导失衡是抑郁伴慢性疼痛发生、发展的一个重要组成部分,这为开发新型抑郁症伴慢性疼痛的治疗提供了潜在的靶点,为未来的探索研究提供了依据,可能会让更多的患者获益。

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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