

重视对早发性结直肠癌的认识

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【摘要】 50岁以下人群中早发性结直肠癌(EOCRC)的发病率和死亡率呈上升趋势。尽管传统流行病学研究已经做了较为深入的研究,筛选出与EOCRC相关的环境因素,但对其病因、机制及治疗的认识还远远不够。因此,本文总结了EOCRC的当前研究进展,特别关注流行病学、筛查现状、临床症状和预后情况,为包括精准筛查在内的二级预防提供新依据,为改善EOCRC治疗提供诊疗新思路。

【关键词】 结直肠肿瘤,早发性; 流行病学; 筛查; 临床特征

基金项目:国家重点研发计划(2017YFC0908200);浙江省重点研发计划项目“领雁”计划(2023C03049)

Emphasis on awareness of early-onset colorectal cancer

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【Abstract】 The incidence and mortality rates of early-onset colorectal cancer (EOCRC) among people under 50 years old are showing an upward trend. Although traditional epidemiological studies have conducted relatively deep research and screened out environmental factors related to EOCRC, our understanding of the causes, mechanisms, and treatment of this disease is still far from sufficient. In this review, we clarify the current progress of EOCRC, with a particular focus on epidemiology, screening status, clinical symptoms, and prognosis. This provides new evidence for secondary prevention, including precision screening, and offers new ideas for improving the diagnosis and treatment of EOCRC.

【Key words】 Colorectal neoplasms, early-onset; Epidemiology; Screening; Clinical characteristics

Fund programs: National Key Research and Development Program of China (2017YFC0908200); Key Research and Development Program of Zhejiang (2023C03049)

结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是消化系统最常见的恶性肿瘤之一,每年新增病例180万,发病率全球第3,死亡率排名第2位,2018年全球有超过88万人死亡^[1]。根据国家癌症中心统计显示,我

国CRC发病率高居第2位,死亡率第4位^[2]。根据诊断年龄,50岁之前诊断的CRC称为早发性结直肠癌(early-onset colorectal cancer, EOCRC),超过50岁诊断的CRC称为晚发性结直肠癌(late-onset

DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.cn441530-20240305-00086

收稿日期 2024-03-05 本文编辑 王静

引用本文:胡烨婷,肖乾,丁克峰,等.重视对早发性结直肠癌的认识[J].中华胃肠外科杂志,2024,27(5):430-435. DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.cn441530-20240305-00086.



colorectal cancer, LOCRC)。EOCRC 是美国 50 岁以下人群中第二大常见癌症,也是导致癌症死亡的第三大原因^[3]。全球范围内 EOCRC 的发病率和死亡率呈上升趋势,预计到 2030 年将增加 140% 以上,发病率与年龄呈负相关^[4-9]。尽管缺乏完整的证据和严格的研究,但癌症相关的诱发因素已被证实与 EOCRC 有关(例如不良饮食、习惯久坐、吸烟和饮酒等)^[3,7]。此外,EOCRC 被认为在流行病学、筛查特点、临床特征和诊疗情况方面与 LOCRC 具有显著不同的特征^[10]。本文根据 EOCRC 流行病学特征、筛查及其临床特征以及诊治等情况进行评述,以期帮助大家更好地了解 EOCRC 的特征,进而促进有效的预防、早期发现和诊治策略的改进。

一、EOCRC 癌的流行病学特征

近几十年来,许多国家的男性和女性 EOCRC 发病率均呈上升趋势^[7,11]。2008—2012 年间,新西兰 EOCRC 发病率的平均年变化百分比为 4.0%,加拿大和澳大利亚为 2.8%,美国为 2.2%^[7]。在美国,EOCRC 发病率自 20 世纪 90 年代中期以来持续增加,每 10 万人中,EOCRC 发病率在 2000 年为 5.9 例,而 2017 年为 8.4 例^[12]。1990—2016 年间,20~29 岁人群中 EOCRC 发病率(每 10 万人)从 0.8 例增加到 2.3 例,2006—2016 年间,30~39 岁人群中,从 2.8 例增加到 6.4 例,2016 年,每 10 万人中,从 15.5 例增加到 19.2 例。2004—2016 年间,20~29 岁人群中 EOCRC 发病率的年平均百分比变化为 7.9%,30~39 岁人群中为 4.9%,40~49 岁人群中为 1.6%^[8]。综上,现在 EOCRC 对年轻人而言,是一个重大的癌症负担。

美国 EOCRC 发病率增加最初主要为直肠癌^[12]。1980—2013 年间,20~39 岁人群直肠癌发病率为 3.2%;1991—2013 年间,40~49 岁人群的直肠癌发病率为 2.3%;而 1983 年,20~29 岁人群结肠癌发病率为 2.4%;1988—2013 年期间,30~39 岁年龄段结肠癌为 1.0%;1996—2013 年期间,40~49 岁年龄段结肠癌为 1.3%^[8]。然而,自 2012 年以来,结肠和直肠的 EOCRC 发病率也出现了类似的增长,年百分比变化为 1.8%^[1]。在欧洲,结肠癌 EOCRC 发病率的上升似乎比直肠癌更为突出^[8]。

研究 EOCRC 潜在危险因素流行病学调查大部分为病例对照研究^[13-15]。病例对照研究中显示的潜在 EOCRC 危险因素包括男性^[14]、种族(黑人和亚洲人种)^[14]、CRC 家族史^[14-15]、酒精^[15]、体质量减

轻 ≥ 5 kg(5 年内)^[13]、加工肉类摄入量^[15]和炎症肠病^[14]。相反,服用阿司匹林^[13]以及摄入更多的蔬菜^[15]、柑橘类水果^[15]、鱼和部分维生素^[15]与降低 EOCRC 风险相关。在少数两项已发表的前瞻性研究中,久坐的生活方式(以看电视时间衡量)^[16]和肥胖^[17]与 EOCRC 的较高发病率有关。然而,肥胖与 EOCRC 之间虽然部分研究显示有正相关关系,但目前研究仍然未给出定论^[17-18]。2021 年,利用 IBM MarketScan Commercial 数据库进行的另一项研究发现,代谢综合征与近端早发性结肠癌有关(aOR=1.37,95%CI:1.04~1.81),但与早发性远端结肠癌或直肠癌无关^[19]。根据护士健康研究 II 的最新研究表明,西方饮食与早发高危腺瘤的风险增加相关(aOR=1.67,95%CI:1.18~2.37),在远端结肠和直肠表现更为显著^[20]。

二、EOCRC 的筛查进展

美国结直肠癌多社会工作组(US Multi-Society Task Force, USMSTF)建议,有 CRC 家族史、且一级亲属在 60 岁之前被诊断出的人群,从 40 岁开始或在亲属被诊断年龄前 10 年开始,每 5 年接受一次结肠镜检查^[21]。2018 年,美国癌症协会(American Cancer Society, ACS)建议,从 45 岁开始对平均风险人群进行筛查,这是基于疾病负担、微观模拟模型的结果,以及对 45~49 岁成年人的筛查效果与老年人相似的合理预期做出的建议^[22]。在 45~49 岁个体的全国代表性样本中,CRC 筛查率在 2018 年从 4.8%上升至 12.0%,与 ACS 指南发布一致^[23]。2021 年,美国预防服务工作组(US Preventive Services Task Force, USPSTF)指南在筛查起止年龄推荐中,也新增了对 45~49 岁人群进行筛查的 B 类建议^[22]。以上建议主要基于 EOCRC 发病率和死亡率上升的模型研究,该研究预测,早期开始筛查将避免每 1 000 名在 45 岁(而不是 50 岁)开始定期筛查的人中额外增加 1 例 CRC 死亡^[24]。

尽管基于粪便隐血的检测和结肠镜检查的筛查可能对 EOCRC 的二级预防有用,但筛查方法以及对平均风险或高风险人群开始筛查的建议年龄尚未达成广泛共识^[25-27]。粪便免疫化学检测阳性人群若不进行后续结肠镜检查,其远端肠癌的发病和死亡风险会显著增加,50 岁以下人群风险增加更为显著^[28]。最近一项基于 19 295 例患者的系统综述表明,早发性腺瘤的总体患病率为 11.0%(95%CI:8.5%~14.0%)^[29]。一级亲属患有进展期腺

瘤会使终生患 CRC 的风险增加 4 倍^[30-31]。因此指南建议,这些高危人群在 40 岁开始进行 CRC 筛查^[21]。但是年轻人对这一建议的依从性很低^[32]。提高进展期腺瘤及 CRC 家族史的年轻高危人群的风险意识,是改善这类高危人群筛查依从性并遏制 EOCRC 发病率上升的有效手段^[33]。尽管理想情况下应根据每个人自身的风险量身定制筛查,但 CRC 筛查尚未采用个性化风险评估。对遗传基因多态性、生命早期暴露及其环境相互作用的评估,可能会提高早发 CRC 的筛查和早期检测的效率。另外一方面,尽管年轻人群的 CRC 发病率在增长,但年轻人群的肠癌发病率绝对值还是远低于老年人群的,那么目前的筛查方法是否适用于年轻人群,目前的证据还非常有限;对于年轻人群的筛查,采用风险评分进行高危人群的识别,可以减轻肠镜检查的负担,是比较推崇的一种筛查方式,但现有的肠癌风险预测模型还需进一步的优化,且需要本土数据的验证和完善,才能更好地转化应用。

三、EOCRC 的临床特征

由于年轻患者肿瘤更具侵袭性以及患者和临床医生对症状的忽视,大多数 EOCRC 是由于体征和症状的出现而就诊的,并不是偶然或在筛查过程中发现的^[34];与 LOCRC 患者相比,EOCRC 患者在就诊时分期更晚,Ⅲ~Ⅳ期比例高^[35-37];且 EOCRC 患者的诊断时间和症状持续时间显著长于 LOCRC^[37-39]。腹痛(46%)和直肠出血(47%)是 EOCRC 最常见症状,体质量减轻症状出现频率较低(8%)^[40-42];就诊时的其他常见症状包括腹胀、排便习惯改变和疲劳^[41]。近期研究发现,直肠出血和缺铁性贫血可使 EOCRC 发生风险增加 10 倍^[43]。EOCRC 最常发生在直肠(35%~37%),其次是远端结肠(25%~26%)和近端结肠(22%~23%)^[44-45];有 29%、27% 和 29% 的 LOCRC 分别发生在直肠、远端结肠和近端结肠^[45]。部分与 LOCRC 相关的危险因素及其影响大小与解剖部位有一定相关性^[46]。例如,与直肠癌相比,体质指数和腰围与结肠癌的关联性更强,而身高和缺乏体力活动的关联却仅限于结肠癌;与结肠癌相比,吸烟与直肠癌的关联性更强^[46]。然而,目前尚不清楚 EOCRC 是否存在这些差异,考虑到早发性直肠癌与早发性结肠癌发病率相比急剧上升,未来应按 CRC 亚部位进行分层分析^[46]。

EOCRC 在病理特征方面有一定独特性,肿瘤分化不良和印戒细胞癌比较多见^[47]。研究表明,

印戒细胞癌(定义为印戒细胞成分超过 50% 癌细胞)占 <30 岁的 EOCRC 的 6.1%~6.4%,而 30~39 岁 EOCRC 患者人群中这一比例为 2.3%~2.4%;40~49 岁 EOCRC 患者人群中占 1.0%^[34,48];但 LOCRC 中印戒细胞癌仅占 1.0%~1.6%^[34,49];这提示了 EOCRC 的潜在分子特征与 LOCRC 截然不同。

大约 30% 的 EOCRC 患者有至少一名一级亲属有 CRC 家族史^[50-52]。一项针对Ⅳ期 CRC 病例(2 583 例)的研究报告发现,与 LOCRC 相比,EOCRC 的 *BRAF*c.1799T>A(p.V600E)突变较少,微卫星高度不稳定型(microsatellite instability high, MSI-H)肿瘤较多。另一项样本量为 18 218 例晚期 CRC 相关的临床研究表明,在非 MSI-H 肿瘤中,与 LOCRC 相比,年龄<40 岁的 EOCRC 患者的 *APC* 突变(66% 比 80%)和 *KRAS* 突变(46% 比 52%)比例均较低;而 MSI-H 的 CRC 中,较 LOCRC 患者,40 岁以下 EOCRC 患者的 *BRAF* 突变率较低(5.2% 比 49%),而 *APC* 突变率较高(70% 比 34%),*KRAS* 突变率也较 LOCRC 高(49% 比 24%)^[53]。此外,EOCRC 的另一个公认特征是全基因组低甲基化,这可能与染色体不稳定和不良预后相关^[54-55]。进一步研究表明,EOCRC 中携带基因突变的发生率为 16%,其中一半为 Lynch 综合征病例^[50,52];另一半包含其他突变,包括腺瘤性结肠息肉病(*APC* 突变)、单等位基因和双等位基因 *MUTYH* 以及 *BRCA1/BRCA2*^[51];重要的是,阴性家族史也不能完全排除癌症遗传可能^[56]。依赖家族史和肿瘤表型进行遗传胚系检测的临床策略经常会错过致病性变异的携带者,因此,建议所有 EOCRC 患者均应考虑安排多基因胚系检测^[50]。

四、EOCRC 的诊治预后情况

由于 EOCRC 治疗和预后的相关研究证据还很少,故在治疗方面还是与 LOCRC 基本一致^[57]。EOCRC 与 LOCRC 相比预后关联是复杂的。有学者通过分析 SEER 数据库,发现 EOCRC 与 LOCRC 的 5 年相对生存率分别为 67% 和 61% ($P<0.001$);而 Linköping 癌症数据库中的这一比例为 75% 和 63% ($P=0.25$)^[58]。分析原因可能:有远处转移的 CRC 患者在较年轻的患者中更有可能接受原发肿瘤的手术治疗(调整后比率:72% 比 63%, $P<0.001$),而在年轻的 CRC 患者中接受放射治疗比率也更高(调整后比率:53% 比 48%, $P<0.001$)^[59]。同时,老年患者较年轻患者存在更多合并症,也是导致总体生存率下降的原因之一。然而与中年 CRC 患者相比,年轻

CRC 患者的死亡风险增加 19%(95%CI:7%~33%), 疾病进展风险增加 22%(95%CI:10%~35%)。而年龄效应并不因转移部位、入组年份、接受的治疗类型或生物标志物突变状态有所不同^[60]。综上,部分研究认为,EOCRC 患者的生存率较差^[60-61];另一部分研究认为,EOCRC 患者与 LOCRC 生存率相似,甚至更好^[58,62-63]。同时,在治疗过程中,EOCRC 患者面对治疗更为积极^[59,64-65]。在中国一项单中心回顾性研究中,对 34 067 例 CRC 病例的对比研究发现,从 2000 年到 2021 年,EOCRC 和 LOCRC 病例数均明显增加。与 LOCRC 相比,EOCRC 更具侵袭性,TNM 分期更晚,接受更积极的手术治疗和围手术期治疗比例更高,但两组的无病生存和总生存相似^[66]。另外一项基于军事卫生系统数据的研究发现,EOCRC 患者接受术后全身化疗疗程比 LOCRC 患者人数(年龄 65~75 岁)多 2~8 倍^[67]。但是,目前对于 EOCRC 积极治疗是否可以提高生存率尚未有一致结论^[64,67-68]。EOCRC 特定治疗方案的预后特征、临床管理方案和预测预后生物标志物仍有待进一步研究确定。

五、展望与未来

近年来,我们在对 EOCRC 的认识以及降低 EOCRC 发病率和死亡率的干预措施方面,不断取得进展。对临床医生和患者进行有关 EOCRC 潜在危险体征和症状的教育,以及针对 50 岁以下人群进行基于指南的筛查,是可能降低 EOCRC 死亡率的关键重点领域。环境因素和 EOCRC 风险的结论大多来自横断面队列研究,只能体现相关性,而不能推断因果关系。为更好地了解潜在机制并确定环境因素与 EOCRC 之间的关系,我们呼吁进行长期前瞻性队列研究。我们还必须借此确定 EOCRC 的驱动因素和预测特征,为包括精准筛查在内的二级预防提供新依据,以改善 EOCRC 治疗疗效提供诊疗新思路。

利益冲突 所有作者声明无利益冲突

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