

综述

肺腺癌气腔播散影像学
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【摘要】2015年,世界卫生组织明确指出气腔播散(STAS)是肺癌的一种新型的播散方式。大量研究结果显示肿瘤实性成分越多,直径越大意味着出现STAS机率越大。本文拟从STAS发生机制、病理诊断及影像学表现等方面作一综述。

【关键词】肺癌;气腔播散;放射学;诊断

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Advances in Radiological Research of
Spreading through Air Spaces in Lung
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ABSTRACT

In 2015, the concept of spread through air spaces(STAS) is regarded as a new pattern of invasion of lung cancer proposed by the World Health Organization. Most studies have shown that the tumor with more solid components and larger diameter will be more likely to have STAS. This review is structured around the pathogenic mechanism, pathologic diagnosis and imaging characteristics of STAS.

Keywords: Lung Cancer; Spread through Air Spaces; Radiology; Diagnosis

肺癌是一个全球性健康问题^[1], 据统计2018年全世界肺癌新增病例多达210万, 约180万人死于肺癌, 接近癌症相关死亡人数的五分之一(18.4%), 发病率和死亡率在所有的恶性肿瘤中居于首位^[2]。近年来, 随着肺腺癌患者发病率日益增高, 腺癌已经超越了鳞癌成为肺癌最常见的病理类型^[3]。尽管手术治疗已经成为早期肺癌患者首选的治疗方式^[4], 由于肿瘤术后复发和转移, 肺癌患者术后5年生存率仍不理想。对于早期非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC), 如I期或II期, 5年生存率也只在30%-60%之间, 即使是经手术完全切除的I期NSCLC患者, 仍至少会有30%的患者出现肿瘤的复发^[5]。气腔播散(tumor spread through air spaces, STAS)被认为是肺癌除血液和淋巴管侵袭、胸膜侵袭和直接侵袭外的一种新的侵袭模式^[6], 大量研究已经证实了STAS在肺癌发展阶段的关键作用^[7], 因此STAS的早期诊断对改善患者的预后尤为重要。STAS是肺腺癌一种新的病理形态学^[8], 目前只能依靠有创的病理活检方式加以证实, 寻找一种高效、无创性的方法以辅助或替代程序性的病理活检来诊断STAS, 帮助临床工者制定更合适的治疗决策, 具有重要的意义。影像学作为一种无创检查手段广泛应用于肺癌异质性评估中^[9], 本文结合近期肺癌有关的STAS影像学研究类的文章作一综述。

1 气腔播散发生机制

目前, 关于STAS机制研究并不多, STAS具体发生原理尚无明确定论。Yu等研究^[10]显示表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR)、TP53、间变性淋巴瘤激酶(anaplastic lymphoma kinase, ALK)及原癌基因ROS1突变等是STAS阳性的肺腺癌中最常见的5种改变。部分学者持相反的看法, 认为STAS阳性更倾向于发生在EGFR野生型肺癌患者^[11]。然而, 也有的研究认为肺癌STAS与EGFR等状态无关^[12]。最近一项研究显示^[13], 高密度的CD68+TAMs是STAS阳性率增加的独立预测因子, 提示STAS可能与肿瘤免疫微环境有关。STAS被证实与转移相关基因1(metastasis associated gene1, MTA1)相关, MTA1是一种与肿瘤侵袭性行为密切相关的基因^[14], 其中一个重要机制是MTA1可以强烈诱导肿瘤的上皮-间充质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)的发生。Jia等^[15]研究发现肺腺癌中的E-钙黏蛋白低表达和波形蛋白表达增加与STAS发生显著相关, 而E-钙黏蛋白低表达和波形蛋白高表达是上EMT的标志^[16-17]。总而言之, MTA1触发EMT, EMT通过调节E-钙黏蛋白与波形蛋白的表达, 从而调控了STAS发生发展。从以上研究可知, STAS可能与某些基因突变、肿瘤微环境及EMT启动相关。STAS发生的机制有待进一步研究。

2 气腔播散诊断及鉴别诊断

早在2013年, Onozato等人^[18]提出了肺癌的肿瘤岛现象, 并将其形象描述为肺泡腔内存在的孤立的、大量的肿瘤细胞集合, 呈模糊的微乳头状结构。Kadota等^[19]首次报道了肺肿瘤STAS的病理现象, STAS被定义为肺肿瘤细胞通过空气间隙扩散到肿瘤附近的肺实质, 根据细胞形态学结果分为三类: (1)单细胞, 定义为肺泡腔中只有一个漂浮的肿瘤细胞; (2)小肿瘤细胞簇, 定义为少数肿瘤细胞漂浮; (3)肿瘤巢, 是由充满肺泡腔的实性成团的肿瘤细胞形成的^[20]。尽管STAS病理学上的形态学分类很明确, 在实际病理诊断中仍存在许多需要鉴别的假阳性征象。人工假象是一种易于与STAS混淆的形态学表现, 是人工切割肿瘤时造成的伪影, 这个过程被描述为“通过刀表面的传播”^[21]。Blaauwgeers等^[22]认为肺泡内松散组织碎片与外科医生的组织处理或病理科医生切割标本的刀污染有关。临床实践中精准分辨STAS和人工伪影尤其重要, STAS往往表现为肺泡腔内肿瘤细胞连续分布, 偶尔也会见零散分布的细胞^[23]; 而显微镜下呈现的缺乏连续

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性且随机漂浮在肺泡腔内的单个肿瘤细胞、呈线性的细胞带或锯齿状细胞团簇则要考虑人工假象的可能性大^[24]。人工肺泡腔内单个肿瘤细胞应与巨噬细胞进行区分,前者的核质比高,核异型性大,而后者表现为小核和泡状胞质,有时含有微弱的色素^[23]。如前所述,由于STAS可能是肿瘤其他形态特征的混杂因素,导致STAS的诊断在临床工作中存在一定的阻碍,因此,需要不断地挖掘新的、有效的途径去更好诊断STAS。

3 影像学在肺癌气腔播散预测中的研究进展

3.1 肿瘤形态学特征 CT具有分辨率高、成像速度快等优点,可以很好显示肺部病灶位置、大小、内部结构及边缘征象等,是肺癌首选成像方式^[25],也是评估肺癌STAS的重要途径。Toyokawa等^[26]纳入327例经手术切除的肺腺癌患者,并分析了STAS状态与影像特征的关系,研究证实了肿瘤切迹和非纯磨玻璃结节是STAS阳性的独立危险因素。De Margerie-Mellon等^[27]通过分析表现为亚实性结节的肺腺癌患者CT形态学特征与STAS相关性,研究显示STAS阳性组的平均直径明显大于STAS阴性组($P=0.024$),STAS阳性结节的实性成分平均直径($P=0.001$)、最大长径($P=0.003$)均明显大于STAS阴性结节。Kim等^[28]通过评估948例肺腺癌患者的实性成分占比、实性成分最大径、肿瘤密度、位置等特征在STAS阳性和阴性患者之间的差异,单因素分析显示实性、肿瘤中央存在低密度影、瘤周存在磨玻璃影及实性成分占比较大的病灶STAS发生几率相对阴性组高,多因素结果显示病灶实性成分占比与肺癌STAS发生显著相关。Yin等^[29]研究同样表示肺结节实性成分占比大于50%是肺癌STAS重要的预测因子。Qi等^[30]研究了直径 ≤ 2 cm的肺腺癌CT特征和STAS的关系,研究显示病灶实性成分比、磨玻璃带、胸膜凹陷征、瘤灶囊腔阴性与STAS紧密相关,其中病灶实性成分比预测价值最大。总而言之,当病灶具有直径较大、实性成分比较高、肿瘤切迹阳性等征象,临床工作者则需要高度警惕STAS出现的可能。

3.2 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT的价值 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT是一种基于活体细胞葡萄糖摄取值分析各种肿瘤的功能成像方式。不少研究已经证实 ^{18}F -FDG摄取程度与肿瘤浸润性相关^[31]。2020年,Wang等^[32]首次探讨了 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT代谢参数与STAS现象的关系,此外,研究进一步使用逻辑回归分析建立了STAS的风险预测模型。研究证实了STAS与 $\text{SUV}_{\max}$ ($P=0.000$)、 SUV_{mean} ($P=0.000$)、 SUV_{peak} ($P=0.000$)、 TLG ($P=0.001$)及直径($P=0.044$)显著相关,构建的STAS风险预测模型AUC达到0.759,特异度和准确度分别为88.6%和71.1%,Wang等研究证实了 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT在STAS预测中的潜在价值。Falay等^[33]关注了63例肺腺癌患者 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT的半定量参数、MTV/CTV与STAS的相关性,结果显示MTV/CTV > 1 可以很好作为STAS的预测因子,为肺癌患者治疗方式的选择提供了重要参考依据。最近一项关于 ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT在肺腺癌STAS应用的研究表明, $\text{SUV}_{\max}$ 在STAS阳性组和阴性组存在显著统计学差异($P=0.004$),构建的预测模型AUC值为0.74(95%CI: 0.61-0.87),敏感性为89.5%,特异性为52.8%,截断值为2.48, $\text{SUV}_{\max}$ 至越大,STAS阳性可能性越大。然而,研究并未显示MTV、TLG与STAS有任何关系,这与Wang等研究结果存在一定差异^[34]。

3.3 影像组学的应用 影像组学是一种通过海量提取肉眼无法看到的影像特征来量化肿瘤等重大疾病的新兴技术,可以有效解决肿瘤异质性难以定量评估的问题^[35],同样,影像组学在肺癌生物学行为评估中也体现出了巨大的优势^[25]。近年来越来越多研究开始关注影像组学对肺癌STAS预测的价值。Jiang等^[36]研究共纳入了462例肺腺癌患者,其中包括90例STAS阳性患者,372例STAS阴性患者,利用随机森林分类器构建STAS预测模型,然而,模型的预测效能表现在中等水平,仅达到0.754,特异度较低,仅为0.588,这是研究者第一次影像组学应用到肺癌STAS预测中,证实了影像组学在STAS预测中有着一定的优势。同期的研究也表示影像组学模型在预测STAS方面具有一定的价值,但是模型的预测效能都不甚理想^[37]。以上研究共同点都是只关注肿瘤内部的影像组学特征的作用,而忽略了瘤周细微变化对肿瘤生物学行为产生的影响。STAS作为一个瘤周的病理改变,与瘤周肺组织改变密不

可分,因此,只关注瘤内特征,无法全面评估肿瘤的异质性。最近,瘤周影像组学成为了研究的热点,已经广泛地应用于肺癌的异质性评估中,并表现出了巨大的优势。Wang等^[38]回顾性分析366例T1期的肺腺癌患者,证明了将瘤周影像组学特征纳入模型构建后能将模型诊断效能从0.82提升至0.84。Tang等^[39]研究结果同样验证了通过纳入瘤周影像组学特征能进一步提高模型的诊断效能。同样,研究者开始尝试利用瘤周影像组学特征构建肺癌STAS预测模型以期提高模型的诊断效能。Zhao等^[40]通过结合肿瘤周围的形态学和放射学特征来预测STAS。采用点定位和肿瘤区域生长的方法提取距离肿瘤表面5、10、15mm的区域特征用于放射组学模型的构建,模型取得了很好的预测效能,训练组和测试组AUC均达到0.9以上。但对于靠近胸壁和纵隔的肿瘤,该方法在分割瘤周感兴趣区(region of interest, ROI)时无法避免肺组织以外的组织,例如,邻近的胸膜、肋骨、纵隔大血管等。对于不规则生长的肺腺癌,简单的球形扩张会导致肿瘤周围的提取区不均匀,影响结果的准确性。Qi等^[41]对肿瘤ROI分割方法进行改进,使得肿瘤周围区域可以达到均匀分割且能排除肺外组织的目的,研究分别从瘤周2、4、8、10及20mm区域提取特征构建模型,尽管模型预测效能(训练组为0.843,测试组为0.835)不及Zhao等模型效能,但是新方法误差小,结果更可靠。尽管Zhao等人证实瘤周影像组学特征预测STAS的价值,但与包括实体成分最大直径和纵隔淋巴结转移的临床模型相比,STAS的预测性能并没有明显改善。Takehana等^[42]认为由于CT分辨率有限的原因,来源于肿瘤轮廓外的ROI可能无法真实代表与STAS相关的肿瘤边缘特征。所以,Takehana等人重新定义了瘤周区域,即瘤周ROI应该同时包含肿瘤边缘内外区域,这样可以弥补Zhao等研究的不足。研究分别从肿瘤表面向内5mm,向外5mm作为瘤周ROI,不包括周围组织,如胸壁或纵隔,结果显示,与使用肿瘤实性成分最大径与肿瘤最大径比值(C/T)的传统模型相比,使用从瘤周ROI中提取的放射组学特征的模型可以显著提高STAS的预测性能。尽管大多数研究将STAS定义为微乳头状簇、固体巢或主体周围的单个细胞,其与肿瘤主体的距离尚未明确界定^[43]。许多研究使用距离肿瘤边缘外的第一个肺泡的距离,或距离肿瘤主体有几个肺泡腔,或距离肿瘤主体边缘至少0.5mm来定义STAS。Dai等^[44]认为STAS阳性的肺腺癌中肿瘤岛与肿瘤主体边缘之间的最大距离为1.35cm。至于瘤周区域应该包括多大的距离才能达到最佳的预测效能,目前尚无定论,研究者正在尝试着不同的瘤周分割距离及不同的分割方法,从而探索最佳的组合,以期构建最有效的预测模型。

4 小结与展望

综上所述,影像学无疑是术前评估肺癌STAS一种无创且具有巨大潜力的生物学标志物。尽管目前关于影像学与肺癌STAS研究日益增多,然而大多数均以回顾性、单中心和小样本研究为主,研究结果可靠性、可重复性及可推广性不足,未来需要更多前瞻性、多中心联合及大数据研究,进一步佐证相关影像特征与STAS确切关系,从而利用影像组学技术构建更加精准诊断模型,以期最大化实现影像学技术在术前诊断肺癌STAS方面的临床实用价值。

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