

综 述

磁共振成像技术在重度抑郁症疗效评估中的研究进展*

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【摘要】重度抑郁症(major depressive disorder, MDD)是最早被广泛认识的精神障碍类疾病,也是全球疾病负担的主要原因之一。目前临床诊断和疗效评估主要依靠临床经验和量表评估,这种方式由于存在医师与患者双方的主观差异,往往导致在诊断和疗效评估方面存在一定的误差,因此目前临床迫切寻求一些客观的指标和方法来进行量化评估。随着磁共振技术的发展,大量新的成像技术被应用于临床工作中,这也使得收集MDD患者的客观影像数据成为现实。本文对磁共振的几种常用成像技术在MDD患者治疗前后评估改善疗效中的应用进行综述,旨在寻找可评估抗抑郁疗效特异的神经影像学标志物,为MDD患者的个体化准确评估提供依据。

【关键词】重度抑郁症; 磁共振成像技术; 疗效评估;

【中图分类号】R4

【文献标识码】A

【基金项目】国家重点研发计划项目

(2022YFC2406906);

国家自然科学基金(82371934)

DOI:10.3969/j.issn.1672-5131.2025.05.056

Research Progress of Magnetic Resonance Imaging in Evaluating the Efficacy of Major Depressive Disorder*

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ABSTRACT

Major depressive disorder (MDD) is the first widely recognized mental disorder and one of the major causes of the global disease burden. At present, clinical diagnosis and efficacy evaluation mainly rely on clinical experience and scale evaluation. Due to the subjective differences between physicians and patients, this method often leads to certain errors in diagnosis and efficacy evaluation. Therefore, some objective indicators and methods are urgently sought for quantitative evaluation. With the development of magnetic resonance technology, a large number of new imaging techniques have been applied in clinical work, which also makes it a reality to collect objective image data of MDD patients. This paper reviews the application of several commonly used imaging techniques of magnetic resonance in evaluating the improved efficacy of MDD patients before and after treatment, aiming to find specific neuroimaging markers that can evaluate the efficacy of antidepressants, and provide a basis for individualized and accurate evaluation of MDD patients.

Keywords: Major Depression; Magnetic Resonance Imaging; Efficacy Evaluation

重度抑郁症(major depressive disorder, MDD)作为一种严重的精神障碍性疾病,是全球负担的主要疾病之一^[1]。其主要症状包括持续的抑郁情绪、丧失兴趣、精力不足、注意力不集中、自我负罪感、睡眠障碍和食欲改变等^[2]。重度抑郁症会对患者的日常工作、生活和人际交往造成严重影响,甚至可能导致自杀风险增加^[3]。目前MDD的发病机制尚不完全明确,有研究者认为可能与以下几点有关:(1)神经递质的失衡,尤其是与情绪调节密切相关的血清素、多巴胺和去甲肾上腺素等激素的异常改变有关^[4];(2)神经可塑性的异常,有研究表明MDD患者存在脑源性神经营养因子(BDNF)等之类的神经营养因子水平的下降,从而导致神经元存活受损、突触可塑性下降,进而影响神经可塑性^[5];(3)大脑功能连接的异常,通过对MDD患者大脑功能连接的分析,发现MDD患者在不同脑区之间和脑区内的功能连接强度较正常人有所差异^[6]。目前,MDD的主要治疗方法有认知行为疗法(cognitive behavior therapy, CBT)、抗抑郁药物治疗、经颅磁刺激(transcranial magnetic stimulation, TMS)疗法和电痉挛疗法(electroconvulsive therapy, ECT),大部分MDD患者可在临床干预或治疗下缓解或痊愈,但是仍有20%-30%的患者转变为难治性抑郁(TRD)^[7]。

目前MDD的疗效评估通常是采用标准化的抑郁症评估量表,如蒙哥马利抑郁量表(montgomery depression scale, MADRS)、汉密尔顿抑郁量表(hamilton depression rating scale, HAMD)和症状自评量表(patient health questionnaire-9, PHQ-9)等^[8-11]。但是,这种方式存在可塑性和主观性,评估结果可能受到患者主观体验、医生主观判断等因素的影响,因此往往会存在一定的误差。近年来,越来越多的临床研究将MRI应用在MDD的疗效评估中,研究人员通过对结构磁共振成像(structural magnetic resonance imaging, sMRI)及功能磁共振成像(functional magnetic resonance imaging, fMRI)的应用,不仅可以评估大脑灰白质体积及分布情况的变化,更可以将大脑分为不同的脑区及网络结构进而从功能连接层面进行分析^[12],从而得到更客观、准确的结果,这对于评估MDD治疗前后大脑结构及功能的改变提供了客观依据^[13-14]。本文就MRI主要几种不同技术方法在MDD疗效评估中的研究进行综述,以进一步提高对该疾病的认识。

1 sMRI在MDD疗效评估中的研究进展

sMRI作为常用的磁共振成像技术之一,常用的技术方法有用于评估区域灰质体积的常规sMRI和反映白质微观结构的弥散张量成像(diffusion tensor imaging, DTI)等^[15],原理是利用不同组织的核磁共振信号,清晰的显示组织(脑体积、白质、灰质等)的形态和分布情况^[16]。sMRI的测量方法主要包括感兴趣区(regions of interest, ROI)方法、基于体素的形态学(voxel-based morphometry, VBM)方法、基于表面形态学测量方法(surface-based morphometry, SBM)等。已有相关研究表明,MDD患者经过抗抑郁治疗后,患者的左侧额叶、楔前叶、缘上回灰质体积增大^[17-19]。Xiao Li等^[20]对30例青少年

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MDD合并SI患者在ECT前后分别进行sMRI检查,然后采用VBM方法检测全脑灰质体积(gmv),结果表明,患者进行ECT后,右侧额上回和颞上回gmV增加。Zhongheng Wang等^[21]对26例首次发作、未服药的MDD患者进行连续15天,刺激靶点位于左背外侧前额皮质F3点的rTMS治疗。结果表明MDD患者经过rTMS治疗后双侧丘脑灰质体积显著增加。另一项sMRI研究发现,抑郁患者经过12周抗抑郁药物治疗后,患者症状的改善与眶额上回灰质体积的增加呈线性关系^[22]。除灰质体积改变之外,一项基于T1 MRI扫描分析的研究表明,TRD患者经过高频(HF)rTMS (20 Hz)治疗后,患者的左额上区和尾侧额中区平均体积与患者症状的改善密切相关^[23]。这表明抑郁患者症状的改善很可能与灰质体积的增加和大脑体积的改变有关。但是,另外一项研究表明,治疗的第一周,所有区域的皮质厚度都增加了,特别是前扣带皮层吻侧部(rACC)的变化最大,但是这些改变与治疗的临床反应并不存在显著相关性,造成这一结果的原因可能是这个小时窗口内药物活性发生了改变^[24],Harmer等也支持了这个观点^[25],也有可能和治疗方式的不同有关。由于目前还没有临床生物标志物可以整体评估MDD的治疗效果,并且考虑到MDD的异质性,因此未来的研究重点可以放在不同亚型的MDD的生物标志物上面。此外,一项基于三维T1加权成像(3D-T1WI)和弥散张量成像(DTI)的研究发现,基于脑多尺度sMRI的影像组学分析能够有效预测青少年MDD患者抗抑郁的疗效。这提供了另外一种思路,即通过提取基于SBM和VBM的灰质常规成像指标和影像组学特征以及白质扩散特性来研究临床治疗效果^[26]。

未来的研究还可以将sMRI与其他磁共振技术结合起来,这对MDD个体评估疗效提供了新思路。从sMRI图像上手动识别MDD的脑部微观结构既费时又耗力,因此,有研究者开发了多个自动诊断与评估MDD的模型与框架。Jialin Hong等^[27]开发了一种MDD自动识别框架(3D FRN-ResNet),该框架充分利用了3D sMRI数据中的层间结构信息,可以在不过度拟合模型的情况下保留特征映射的信息和细节。随后,Guowei Zheng等^[28]又发明了一种sMRI融合静息状态MRI(rs-fMRI)数据的新颖深度学习模型,通过捕获不同模式提取的深度特征之间的相互作用用于MDD的诊断与评估。这两项研究结果使得sMRI可以更便捷、准确、客观的评估MDD疗效成为可能。

2 功能磁共振技术在MDD疗效评估中的研究进展

2.1 静息态fMRI 静息态fMRI(resting-state functional MRI, rs-fMRI)是一种在没有认知及感官刺激的静息状态研究自发脑活动的成像方法。rs-fMRI采用非任务驱动的数据处理方法,获取多参数图像,研究静息状态下大脑的功能机制。主要有两种分析方法:(1)局部脑活动分析,包括局部一致性(regional homogeneity, ReHo)、低频振幅(amplitude of low frequency fluctuations, ALFF)和低频振幅分数(fractional amplitude of low frequency fluctuations, fALFF)等^[29]; (2)脑功能整合,包括脑功能连接(functional connectivity, FC)、独立成分分析(independent component analysis, ICA)等^[30]。一项基于fALFF的rs-fMRI研究表明:MDD患者经过两周的ECT治疗后,右侧额上内侧回(SFGmed)、背外侧额上回(SFGdor)、前扣带和副扣带回(ACG)、中扣带和副扣带回(DCG)和左侧额中回(MFG)的fALFF值均显著升高,而MDD患者的HAMDD评分显著减低,结果表明HAMDD评分与fALFF呈明显负相关^[31],然而,另外一项使用ECT治疗MDD患者的研究指出,健康对照组和治疗后的抑郁患者在小脑前叶、梭形回和海马旁回中的fALFF均显著低于治疗前的抑郁患者^[32]。这可能表明不同的脑区可能在MDD的发病机制中起着相反的作用。另一项基于ICA的rs-fMRI研究发现治疗后MDD患者的小脑和显著性网络(SN)之间的FC显著降低^[33]。Le Li等^[34]对41

例MDD患者给予抗抑郁药物治疗8周,然后比较治疗前后的静息状态功能连接,结果表明治疗后DMN内FC、DMN与视交叉上核(suprachiasmatic nucleus, SCN)间FC均有所下降。但是Yajing Pang等^[35]研究发现MDD患者经过ECT治疗后,DMN内及DMN与CEN之间的FC均增强。出现不同的结果可能与患者治疗前的个体差异性有关。上述相关研究结果表明,rs-fMRI作为一种无创研究技术,在评估MDD患者的治疗效果方面具有很高的价值,但不同研究之间仍存在差异,今后可以在增加样本量的基础上加强研究,并进行重复研究,为评估患者疗效提供更有价值的信息。

2.2 任务态fMRI 任务态功能磁共振成像(task functional MRI, task-fMRI)作为功能磁共振中一种重要的方法,在task-fMRI中,被试者在进行特定任务或某种刺激时被要求在磁共振成像扫描仪中进行脑部扫描^[36]。它不仅可以作为一种诊断工具,同时也可以作为评估MDD抗抑郁疗效的方法。一项 task-fMRI 研究发现,抑郁症患者经过12周的文拉法辛治疗后,治疗反应较好的患者右侧颞中回中与情感处理相关的神经活动下降^[37]。但是,Godlewska等^[38]对MDD患者进行8周的抗抑郁药物治疗的研究中,治疗后患者中央前回、左顶叶和双侧岛叶的神经激活增加。这可能归因于治疗时间,方式的不同及患者年龄的差异。目前,有关task-fMRI在MDD患者治疗方面的研究较少并且样本量较小,所以未来的研究应该扩大样本量进行个体化研究。由于不同个体的大脑结构和功能存在差异,因此在task-fMRI研究中需要考虑个体差异对成像结果的影响。此外,task-fMRI的重测信度往往很低,这使得task-fMRI在MDD疗效评估方面的研究面临着严峻的挑战^[39]。

3 磁共振波谱技术在MDD疗效评估中的研究进展

磁共振波谱技术(magnetic resonance spectroscopy, MRS)是一种利用核磁共振技术研究生物体内代谢物含量和代谢通路的成像技术。MRS的分析方法主要有两种:(1)代谢物定量分析:通过测定大脑中特定代谢物的信号强度,计算其浓度,揭示大脑代谢异常与神经系统疾病的关系^[40-41]; (2)代谢物谱图分析:对不同代谢物的谱图进行分析,识别并定量各种代谢物的峰值,从而研究神经系统疾病的代谢特征^[42]。谷氨酸(Glu)和γ-氨基丁酸(GABA)都是重要的氨基酸,在成熟中枢神经系统的兴奋性传递中发挥着重要作用^[43]。越来越多的研究表明,谷氨酸能系统在MDD的发病机制中扮演者重要角色,对疾病的发展和症状表现具有重要影响^[44]。Narayan等^[45]通过代谢物定量分析¹H-MRS的方法检测MDD患者使用艾司西酞普兰治疗8周前后Glu+谷氨酸-谷氨酰胺复合物(Glx)和GABA的含量,结果表明,治疗前后Glx、GABA和Glx/GABA的百分比没有显著差异。另一项研究也发现,MDD患者短期使用艾司西酞普兰治疗后,大脑前部区域Glx和Glu没有明显变化^[46]。但是有其他研究发现,MDD患者经过CBT治疗后Glx下降^[47]。MDD患者通过瑜伽干预后,GABA水平增加^[48]。Bhattacharyya等^[49]对6例MDD患者进行为期6周,刺激靶点位于左背外侧前额叶皮层(IDLPFC)的rTMS治疗,通过分析治疗前后的MRS数据,观察到rTMS后Glx水平显著升高。但是Levitt等^[50]进行的一项类似的研究观察到rTMS后GABA增加,而Glx没有显著差异。造成这些研究结果差异的原因可能与实验方法不同、样本量小、治疗方式的不同、检测不同的大脑区域等有关,减少这种差异可以从纵向检查治疗前后受试者体内代谢物的变化、扩大样本量和控制变量等方面入手。

此外,也有研究者研究治疗前后其他代谢物(如n-乙酰天冬氨酸(NAA)、胆碱(Cho)、肌酸(Cr)、谷氨酰胺(Gln)、谷胱甘肽(GSH))的变化。Erbay等^[51]对18例MDD患者在rTMS前后分别进行一次MRS检查,结果表明与rTMS前相比,rTMS后NAA/Cr、GSH/Cr和Gln/Cr的峰值代谢物比率显著升高。Zavorotnyy等^[52]对MDD患者进行刺激靶点位于前扣带皮层(ACC)的iTBS治疗,在

基线和随访时对ACC进行单体素¹H-MRS检查。结果表明抑郁症状的改善与NAA介导的Cho/NAA比值的降低显著相关。Tosun等^[53]发现MDD患者进行ECT后, Cr水平的相对增加。Yiliang Zhang等^[54]为了研究沃替西汀改善 MDD 患者认知表现时发生的神经生化代谢物的变化, 对30例MDD患者用药前后分别进行MCCB 和¹H-MRS 测试, 结果表明, 治疗后患者左侧前额皮层(PFC)的NAA/Cr比值明显下降。以上研究结果表明, MRS在MDD患者的疗效评估方面表现出巨大的潜力。但是仍有少数研究持相反观点, 一项¹H-MRS研究表明, ECT治疗后MDD患者ACC 中的代谢物水平没有任何明显变化^[55], 造成这种结果的差异可能与样本量过少和1.5T的¹H-MRS有关。牛磺酸是一种氨基酸, 在神经元生成、分化和突触连接形成中起着关键作用, 特别是可以增强海马体的增殖和突触连接。一项基于MRS的研究中发现, 与健康者相比, MDD患者海马体中牛磺酸浓度水平较低^[56]。这给了我们一种新的思路, 未来的研究重点可以放在MDD 患者前额叶、丘脑、颞叶及枕叶皮层(occipital cortex,OCC)等其余脑区经过治疗后神经代谢产物的改变。未来的研究还可以探索Gln、Glu或GABA的变化是否与MDD的症状(如快感缺乏、睡眠障碍和冷漠)或症状的严重程度有关^[45,57]。

4 总结与展望

综上所述, 磁共振成像可以检测到MDD患者治疗前后大脑内结构、功能及代谢物质的多种变化, 这些改变是可以作为评估MDD疗效的影像学标志物。尤其是基于fMRI在MDD疗效评估中表现出巨大潜力, 这有利于神经影像学研究成果的临床转化, 但仍有一些问题值得进一步探索与研究: (1)目前的大多数研究样本量相对较小^[20,49], 因此今后的研究可以采用更大的样本量提供比较数据, 评估对MDD患者的疗效。(2)目前多数研究为基线期及短期治疗效果的评估^[21,34], 因此未来可以对MDD患者进行长期随访, 研究治疗对脑功能和结构的长期影响。(3)MDD患者的表现形式复杂多样, 不同个体对治疗的反应也不同, 未来的研究可以多利用磁共振成像技术结合机器学习和人工智能等方法, 发展个体化的评估方法, 对不同的患者提供更精准的治疗方案。(4)目前磁共振成像技术在空间分辨率、时间分辨率和信号噪音等方面仍存在一定的限制, 未来研究可以进一步改进成像技术, 提高成像的准确性和可靠性。

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(收稿日期: 2024-05-23)

(校对编辑: 姚丽娜)