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综述

中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值在下肢动脉硬化 闭塞症中的研究进展*

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摘要: 动脉循环中的炎症被认为是动脉粥样硬化斑块发展的一个因素。过去几十年中, 通过测量血清生化标志物来量化持续炎症程度的尝试一直在进行。中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值作为下肢动脉硬化闭塞症(ASO)有效的炎症预测因子已得到越来越多学者的关注, 在下肢ASO患者中适当使用生物标志物可能有助于早期诊断, 增强对疾病发展过程的了解, 并改进现有疗法和开发新疗法。

关键词: 动脉硬化; 下肢; 炎症

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Research progress of neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio in lower extremity arteriosclerosis obliterans*

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Abstract: Inflammation in the arterial circulation is considered to be a risk factor for the development of atherosclerotic plaques. In the last several decades, attempts have been made to quantify the degree of ongoing inflammation through measurement of serum biochemical markers. Neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio as an effective inflammatory predictor in lower extremity arteriosclerosis obliterans (ASO) has attracted more and more attention. Appropriate application of biomarkers in patients with ASO may contribute to an early diagnosis, a better understanding of disease progression, as well as to the subsequent improvement of current therapies and development of new ones.

Keywords: arteriosclerosis; lower extremity artery; neutrophils; lymphocytes; inflammation

下肢动脉硬化闭塞症(arteriosclerosis obliterans, ASO)是动脉粥样硬化最常见的表现之一, 严重影响患者的生活质量及身体功能。有研究表明炎症反应在动脉粥样硬化的发生、发展及预后中发挥重要的作用^[1-3]。系统性炎症通过加速动脉粥样硬化、破坏斑块稳定、损害内皮功能或导致动脉过早僵硬, 增加心血管事件的发生率^[4]。另外慢性血

管炎症反应还参与了球囊血管成形术和支架植入术后再狭窄的发展^[5-7]。球囊扩张和血管损伤过程中的剪切应力是血管炎症的触发事件, 它刺激促炎分子的产生和循环单核细胞的活化^[8-9]。近年来, 越来越多的学者尝试通过测量血清生物标志物来量化炎症程度, C反应蛋白、白细胞介素-6、白细胞、肿瘤坏死因子- α 等^[10-11]被认为是有效的预测

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因子,中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值(neutrophil/lymphocyte ratio, NLR)作为心血管疾病分层和预后的有效生物标志物^[12],尤其是下肢ASO,获得了越来越多的关注。中性粒细胞代表亚临床炎症阶段,释放促氧化剂和凝血酶原物质,导致内皮损伤和血小板聚集^[13]。较低的淋巴细胞计数反映了皮质醇产量的增加,这与血管事件引起的生理压力或健康状况不佳有关^[14]。NLR是一种简单的衍生标志物,其相对便宜,比其他标志物更易获得,并且已经证明其是反映炎症细胞失衡和活化中性粒细胞在动脉粥样硬化形成中作用的心血管结果良好的预测因子^[15-16],且其在冠状动脉粥样硬化性心脏病中的应用已经得到广泛证实^[17-19],而关于NLR与下肢ASO的关系的相关研究还不多,本文的主要目的在于总结NLR在下肢动脉硬化闭塞症中的应用进展。

1 NLR与下肢ASO疾病的严重程度

泛大西洋学会联盟(TASC)-II分级以血管造影为基础,根据病变的复杂性和解剖分布将下肢ASO分为4类,在临床实践中具有重要的指导意义。有研究表明^[20]NLR是TASC-II类下肢ASO的独立预测因子。该研究分析了343例下肢ASO患者,结果表明低密度脂蛋白 $[\hat{OR}=1.010(95\% \text{ CI}: 1.003, 1.017), P=0.004]$ 、高密度脂蛋白 $[\hat{OR}=0.940(95\% \text{ CI}: 0.894, 0.987), P=0.013]$ 和NLR $[\hat{OR}=1.910(95\% \text{ CI}: 1.510, 2.410), P=0.001]$ 是预测较高TASC分级的独立影响因素。对于TASC-II C类和D类患者,NLR截点值为3.05,敏感性和特异性分别为75.0%和62.9%。下肢ASO还可根据临床症状使用Fontaine进行分类,然而DEMIRTAS等^[21]的研究中,平均NLR与下肢ASO的Fontaine's分级并差异无统计学意义[平均NLR:I级为 $(3.3 \pm 1.1)\%$,II级为 $(3.1 \pm 1.3)\%$,III级为 $(3.4 \pm 1.1)\%$],因此,NLR与下肢ASO疾病严重程度的关系还需进一步研究。

严重肢体缺血(critical limb ischemia, CLI)是下肢ASO的严重阶段,包括静息痛、溃疡、坏疽等,具有较高的死亡率及截肢率^[22]。尽管在过去的几十年里腔内治疗已经得到迅速发展,但死亡率和截肢率仍然很高^[23]。因此对CLI患者进行分层,以辅助临床决策非常重要。BELAJ等^[24]对1 995例外周

动脉疾病的患者进行分析,研究表明较高的NLR与下肢CLI的发生具有相关性。NLR>2.5时患者发生CLI的风险增大1.6倍。GARY等^[25]分析了2121例下肢ASO的患者,ROC曲线分析NLR的截点值为3.95,CLI在NLR>3.95组的发生率明显高于NLR≤3.95组(分别为48.5%和24.3%),这对于降低CLI患者死亡率具有重要意义。

2 NLR与下肢ASO患者的术后疗效相关性

NLR不但可以评估下肢ASO的严重程度,还可以预测下肢ASO患者动脉血运重建的预后情况。GONZALEZ-FAJARDO等^[26]随访了561例接受血管手术治疗(包括腔内治疗及外科手术治疗)的慢性CLI患者,研究结果表明术前NLR>5的患者其5年内的死亡率及截肢率均高于NLR<5的患者。SPARK等^[27]随访了149例接受腔内治疗或外科手术的CLI患者,多因素分析表明术前NLR>5.25是预测CLI患者死亡情况的有效指标 $[\hat{HR}=2.3(95\% \text{ CI}: 1.2, 4.2), P=0.007]$ 。另外,ERTURK等^[28]的研究表明术前NLR>3.0是下肢ASO患者血管手术治疗(包括腔内治疗及外科手术治疗)术后发生心血管事件的独立危险因素 $[\hat{RR}=2.040(95\% \text{ CI}: 1.260, 3.300), P=0.004]$ 。NLR不仅影响着下肢ASO患者血运重建后的情况,还与保守治疗后的截肢率密切相关。LUO等^[29]随访了172例接受保守的CLI患者,结果表明术后NLR是CLI患者发生截肢的独立危险因素,术后NLR≥3.8的CLI患者截肢风险较高。

经腔内血管成形术(percutaneous transluminal angioplasty, PTA)是目前治疗下肢ASO病变的主要手段^[30]。术后再狭窄仍然是当前面临的主要问题,研究表明炎症反应与术后再狭窄的发生密切相关^[31, 31-32]。WELT等^[33]的动物实验表明球囊损伤后的炎症反应是短暂的,主要由中性粒细胞组成。相比之下,支架植入后的炎症反应更长,包括中性粒细胞的早期释放和巨噬细胞的积聚。趋化因子单核细胞趋化蛋白-1(MCP-1)和白细胞介素-8等趋化因子在球囊损伤后短暂表达,而在支架植入后则持续表达。因此支架植入术比普通球囊血管成形术对于组织损伤更加严重,会有更显著的炎症反应。而目前对于NLR与球囊血管成形术预后的关系的研究较少,ZHEN等^[34]随访了106例接

受PTA的股腘动脉硬化闭塞症患者,结果表明NLR是股腘动脉硬化闭塞症患者PTA术后6个月一期通畅率的独立危险因素。CHANG等^[35]回顾性分析了术前NLR与180例股腘动脉慢性完全闭塞患者支架术后再狭窄发生率的关系,多因素分析表明术前NLR>3.62是预测短期支架内再狭窄发生率的独立危险因素[OR=1.703(95% CI: 1.521, 2.163), P=0.002]。CHAN等^[36]回顾性分析了83例接受膝下血管成形术的CLI患者,与NLR较低的患者比较,NLR≥5.25的患者在1年后死亡的风险显著增加[HR=1.970(95% CI: 1.080, 3.620), P=0.030]。淋巴细胞计数<1.5×10⁹/L的患者具有更高的死亡率[HR=1.880(95% CI: 1.020, 3.700), P<0.05]。因此,NLR可能是对接受下肢动脉血管成形术患者进行风险分层的有效工具。

3 NLR与其他炎症因子的联合使用

多种炎症因子参与了动脉粥样硬化的炎症过程,因此,同时测量不同的炎症生物标志物可以为评估患者预后提供更多的信息。TASOGLU等^[37]通过NLR与血小板-淋巴细胞比值(platelet-lymphocyte ratio, PLR)来评估CLI患者的保肢率,研究中随访了104例慢性CLI患者,根据NLR与PLR的ROC曲线截点值(分别为3.2和160)将患者分为高危组(NLR>3.2和PLR>160)、中危组(NLR>3.2或PLR>160)、低危组(NLR<3.2和PLR<160),各组的生存率及保肢率均有差异(P<0.05),多因素分析高危组是中期截肢率的独立危险因素[OR=4.700(95% CI: 1.000, 12.600), P<0.05]。联合使用多种炎症因子评价下肢ASO患者预后情况的研究相对较少,哪些炎症因子联合使用能更好评价预后,还有待进一步研究。

4 NLR的局限性

对于NLR在心血管生物标志物方面的作用已经得到了众多学者的关注。然而NLR作为一种预测因子不可避免的存在一些局限性。首先,不同的研究中使用了不同的截点值。在包括9427例受试者在内的全国健康和营养检查调查的代表性样本中,普通人群的平均NLR为2.15,患有糖尿病、心血管疾病及吸烟者NLR显著高于不患此类疾病

及不吸烟者^[38]。其次,NLR容易受到分子或分母变化的影响,例如风湿免疫性疾病、癌症、糖尿病等都会产生影响^[39-40],因此,容易产生潜在的偏倚,从而导致假阳性关联。另外,炎症反应是一个复杂的过程,有多种炎症因子参与,单一炎症因子的预测效果有限,因此多种炎症生物标志物的组合可能有助于评估下肢ASO疾病的严重程度及预后。

综上所述,NLR这一简单、快速、可广泛获得的生物标志物可以为风险分层提供额外的无创工具,以评估下肢ASO的严重程度、治疗反应和预后。然而对于特定人群的NLR正常值,还应该进行更深层次的研究,以阐明动脉粥样硬化形成的潜在机制,以此来评估抗炎治疗的有效性。

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