

颈脊髓损伤神经源性肠道功能障碍与肠道菌群的关系研究进展

王贵芳 么改琦

北京大学第三医院危重医学科,北京 100191

通信作者:么改琦,Email:yaogaiqi@sina.com

【摘要】 颈脊髓损伤除了造成严重的躯体运动、感觉障碍外,也可导致影响患者生命安全与生活质量的严重并发症。肠道菌群作为人体内最大的微生态系统,在维持宿主稳态和多种疾病发生发展中占十分重要的地位。近年来,脊髓损伤后肠道菌群的相关研究受到越来越多的关注,使得肠道菌群用于脊髓损伤治疗的临床价值受到越来越多的肯定。肠道菌群不仅与脊髓损伤程度有关,还可以为脊髓损伤后神经源性肠道功能障碍提供治疗靶点。现从肠道菌群在脊髓损伤后迷走神经、下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴及代谢产物 3 个方面探讨其作用机制,分析神经源性肠道功能障碍发生发展与肠道菌群变化的关系,有助于疾病的诊断与治疗。

【关键词】 肠道菌群; 颈脊髓损伤; 神经源性肠道功能障碍; 脑肠轴

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Research progress on the relationship between neurogenic bowel dysfunction and intestinal flora in cervical spinal cord injury

Wang Guifang, Yao Gaiqi

Department of Intensive Care Unit, Peking University Third Hospital, Beijing 100191, China

Corresponding author: Yao Gaiqi, Email: yaogaiqi@sina.com

【Abstract】 Cervical spinal cord injury can not only cause serious physical movement and sensory disorders but also lead to serious complications affecting the life safety and quality of life of patients. As the largest microecosystem in the human body, intestinal flora plays a very important role in maintaining host homeostasis and the occurrence and development of many diseases. In recent years, there has been increasing focus on the study of intestinal flora after spinal cord injury, leading to a growing recognition of the clinical value of intestinal flora in the treatment of spinal cord injury. Intestinal flora is not only related to the degree of spinal cord injury but also can provide therapeutic targets for neurogenic intestinal dysfunction after spinal cord injury. This paper discusses the mechanism of intestinal flora in the vagus nerve, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, and metabolites after spinal cord injury. It explores the relationship between the occurrence and development of neurogenic intestinal dysfunction and changes in intestinal flora, offering valuable insights for the diagnosis and treatment of related diseases.

【Key words】 Intestinal flora; Cervical spinal cord injury; Neurogenic bowel dysfunctions; Brain-gut axis

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脊髓损伤是由于创伤、疾病或退行性改变所引起的破坏性神经病理状态,可造成不同程度的感觉、运动和自主神经功能障碍^[1],给患者及其家庭带来严重的身体、心理负担和经济压力^[2-3]。研究显示,脊髓损伤多由创伤(约 90%)造成,创伤性脊髓损伤通常影响颈椎水平(50%),其中第 5 颈椎是最常见的损伤节段,其次是胸椎(35%)和腰椎(11%),与后两者相比,创伤性颈脊髓损伤的致死率和致残率极高,对机体的影响也最为严重^[4-6]:损伤即刻或短期内出现呼吸循环系统功能障碍可影响生命安全,肺部感染和压疮等也可造成严重后果,神经源性膀胱和神经源性肠道功能障碍(neurogenic bowel dysfunctions, NBD)等并发症亦是医学上亟待解决的重大难题,严重影响患者的生活质量和心理健康^[7]。其中 NBD 作为脊髓损伤后的一个主要并发症,不仅在颈脊髓损伤患者中更加常见,相对其他节段脊髓损伤来说症状也更为严重,被认为是影响脊髓损伤患者身心健康的重要因

素,其处理已成为直接影响患者生活质量的重要问题^[8]。近年来,随着脊髓损伤一系列研究的开展,肠道菌群在脊髓损伤中的作用机制愈发受到关注,研究显示,脊髓损伤造成的肠道菌群失调会加剧脊髓损伤并不利于其功能恢复^[9-11],但同时也可作为脊髓损伤严重程度的生物标志物和某些并发症的治疗靶点^[12-13]。目前研究多集中在脊髓损伤后肠道菌群变化方面,对于病理生理机制尚未完全解释清楚。故本综述以颈脊髓损伤伴 NBD 为切入点,探讨颈脊髓损伤后肠道菌群可能作用途径及机制,有助于了解创伤性颈脊髓损伤患者 NBD 与肠道菌群的关系,并针对性地诊断和治疗 NBD,实现病情早期干预、促进功能早期恢复、改善远期预后。

1 颈脊髓损伤伴 NBD

NBD 是指中枢神经系统疾病造成的正常感觉和(或)运动功能或二者丧失而导致的胃肠道功能障碍,尽管上消化道和下消化道功能障碍的症状都有可能出现,但下消化道功

能障碍更为常见,病理变化主要涉及肠蠕动频率和幅度及排便次数的改变等,表现为便秘、大便失禁、腹痛腹胀等^[14]。脊髓损伤后发生胃肠道问题的概率非常高,便秘和大便失禁的概率可高达 56%~80% 和 42%~75%^[15],症状不仅可以出现在脊髓损伤当时,也可持续几小时至几天不等,甚至持续存在,需要长期进行肠道管理,严重降低了患者的远期生活质量,相比其他脊髓损伤节段,便秘在颈脊髓损伤中更常见^[15]。同时,胃肠道功能障碍可使肠道菌群改变,后者可影响患者全身状况,导致多种疾病,严重影响患者远期预后。

脊髓损伤多是由于交通事故、高处坠落等造成的创伤性损伤,流行病学调查结果显示,创伤性脊髓损伤的全球发病率在 0.195%,约 50% 为创伤性颈脊髓损伤^[2,4,16]。脊髓损伤后,人体正常感觉、运动和自主神经功能改变与否,主要取决于脊髓损伤的部位和严重程度,其中颈脊髓无论损伤部位高低都有可能引起肠道功能改变^[5]。早在 2010 年, Liu 等^[17]就已发现,颈脊髓损伤发生严重 NBD 的比例(48.2%)高于胸段脊髓损伤(40.0%)和腰段脊髓损伤(14.3%)患者,并且 NBD 的严重程度与脊髓损伤的程度密切相关,分析可能是因为胸交感神经和骶副交感神经的损伤会导致更严重的 NBD。颈脊髓损伤作为脊髓损伤中致残率和病死率最高的类型,合并截瘫或四肢瘫时,相比胸腰段脊髓损伤来说,胃肠道并发症表现也更为严重,持续时间相对更长,对其临床诊断和治疗也极具困难和挑战^[18]。所以了解脊髓损伤、肠道菌群失调及并发症之间关系的机制,有助于开发新的治疗策略,提高脊髓损伤患者的生活质量。

2 颈脊髓损伤后肠道菌群变化

肠道菌群是人体肠道内包含细菌、噬菌体、真菌等在内的最大微生态系统,在门水平主要由厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)、拟杆菌门(*Bacteroidetes*)、变形菌门(*Proteobacteria*)和放线菌门(*Actinobacteria*)组成;短链脂肪酸(short chain fatty acid, SCFA)是其在肠道内经发酵产生的代谢产物,二者在维持宿主稳态和影响多种疾病发生发展中起重要作用^[19-20]。近年来,肠道菌群的相关研究越来越多,涉及的相关疾病和可能机制也越来越广泛,目前最为广泛接受的是脑肠轴,即由中枢、肠道、自主神经系统和下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴(hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, HPA 轴)组成的双向沟通通路,其中迷走神经、免疫系统、神经内分泌系统及肠道菌群均在脑肠轴双向交流的机制中发挥重要作用,并成为目前研究的热点方向^[21]。但肠道菌群并非一成不变,除个体差异,自出生后经历婴幼儿阶段的发展期、过渡期、稳定期 3 个时期后逐渐处于一个相对稳定的动态平衡之中,性别、年龄、种族、饮食结构差异、胃肠道疾病与抗菌药物等的使用都可能影响甚至打破该平衡^[22-25]。

脊髓损伤是临床上常见的神经系统损伤,目前关于脊髓损伤后肠道菌群研究所纳入的对象多为胸椎损伤模型,肠道菌群变化虽与颈脊髓损伤模型有相似之处,但仍有较大差异。研究显示,相比于健康对照者,脊髓损伤患者肠道菌群中均有厚壁菌门丰度减少^[26],并可能对脂质代谢有负性影

响。Gungor 等^[11]和张洁等^[27]的临床研究虽然在患者脊髓损伤节段上存在差异,但均证明脊髓损伤患者肠道菌群中产生 SCFA 的菌群明显减少。另外 Gungor 等^[11]研究显示,脊髓损伤患者中上运动神经元性 NBD 组肠道菌群中马文氏菌菌群丰度明显低于下运动神经元性 NBD 组,对此,认为可能是上运动神经元性 NBD 患者自主神经系统功能障碍的影响。

目前关于描述颈脊髓损伤患者肠道菌群变化的相关研究较少, Zhang 等^[28]的研究共纳入 43 例创伤性脊髓损伤男性患者(20 例四肢瘫痪, 23 例截瘫)和 23 例健康成年男性,收集参与者的新鲜粪便标本并调研了脊髓损伤患者的 NBD 患病及肠道管理情况。在此研究中,大多数脊髓损伤患者(60.5%)每周需 2 次以上的排便护理,颈脊髓损伤较胸腰段脊髓损伤患者排便时间更长,排便次数更少, NBD 评分更高,也需要更多次数的肠道护理。同时对其粪便标本进行检测发现,四肢瘫痪组、截瘫组与健康对照组 3 者肠道菌群组成在 OUT、门和属水平上差异有统计学意义。与健康男性对照组相比,四肢瘫痪组即颈脊髓损伤组男性患者 *Bacteroides*、布劳特菌属(*Blautia*)、副杆菌属(*Parabacteroides*)、考拉杆菌属(*Phascolarctobacterium*)的丰度明显高于健康男性组,而 *Firmicutes*、粪杆菌属(*Faecalibacterium*)、普氏菌属_9(*Prevotella_9*)、真菌属(*Eubacterium*)的丰度明显降低。另外,截瘫组和四肢瘫痪组在肠道菌群丰度上差异亦有统计学意义。提示不同脊髓损伤水平可能会对肠道菌群造成不同影响,也可能是不同脊髓损伤水平患者 NBD 症状和程度有所差异的原因之一。另外该项研究分析了某些肠道细菌改变与血糖、高密度脂蛋白(high density lipoprotein, HDL)、低密度脂蛋白(low density lipoprotein, LDL)、尿酸、三酰甘油(triacylglycerol, TG)、总胆固醇(total cholesterol, TC)等血清标志物水平的关系,如脊髓损伤患者肠道中小杆菌减少,引起 TG 和 LDL 升高,不仅会使血脂升高^[28],还可能与 NBD 症状加重有关,亦与血糖、血脂代谢紊乱^[25]和心脑血管损伤等远期并发症密切相关。

综上所述,脊髓损伤特别是颈脊髓损伤作为一种神经破坏性病理状态,可引起肠道菌群失调,菌群失调也与其继发性损伤及并发症的发生有一定相关性,特别是 NBD、焦虑抑郁情绪、心脑血管损伤等,严重影响患者远期预后。因此,认识并了解肠道菌群在颈脊髓损伤疾病进展中的作用对于治疗或预防其并发症至关重要。

3 颈脊髓损伤 NBD 和肠道菌群的关系研究进展

脊髓损伤后胃肠道功能障碍、机械屏障受损,加之严重创伤导致营养摄入和吸收发生改变等,都可导致机体出现严重肠道菌群紊乱,即脊髓损伤可引发严重肠道菌群失调,而肠道菌群失调经过以下一系列反应影响胃肠道功能,导致 NBD 加重并持续存在,进而影响患者预后。

3.1 迷走神经:机体对胃肠道功能的调节作用主要是通过迷走神经实现的^[29-30]。越来越多的研究表明,脊髓损伤不仅会引起迷走神经受损,亦会引起迷走神经传入信号损伤^[31]。迷走神经能感知肠道菌群,并将肠道信息传递给中枢神经

系统的某个区域进行整合,使得消化道的病理状态持续存在^[32]。肠内分泌细胞在肠道化学感应界面与迷走神经传入纤维进行信息传递,调节胃肠道功能^[33]。肠内分泌细胞可以检测肠道菌群信号:通过 Toll 样受体(Toll-like receptor, TLR)识别细菌产物,如脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)及其他产物^[34];或者可以识别肠道菌群代谢产物的受体,如 SCFA 受体^[35];继而通过释放 5-羟色胺(5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT)激活迷走传入纤维上的 5-HT₃受体^[30, 36-37]或释放肠道激素(如胆囊收缩素、胰高血糖素样肽-1)^[38]直接与迷走传入纤维进行信息传递,进而靶向大脑,调节胃肠道运动、分泌和食物摄入^[39]。另外肠腔内压力升高也可以刺激肠内分泌细胞向肠腔内释放 5-HT^[40]。脊髓损伤特别是高位脊髓损伤通常伴有自主神经功能的广泛丧失,胃肠道平滑肌松弛,肠腔内压力降低,加之肠道菌群失调,代谢产物产生和迷走神经传入信号减少,均可引起胃肠道功能障碍^[41]。

3.2 HPA 轴:HPA 轴是由下丘脑、垂体、肾上腺 3 者共同组成的复杂内分泌轴,是应激反应的重要组成部分,应激状态下可以激活一系列“级联反应”,使得肾上腺皮质释放最终产物皮质醇,从而引起交感神经系统的各种反应,并可在应激消失后,通过负反馈反应终止“级联反应”^[42]。肠道菌群与 HPA 轴之间的关系可以用多种机制来解释。首先,肠道菌群失调可能有助于细胞因子的释放和生物活性分子的合成^[43-44]。肠道菌群失调引起肠道通透性增加,白细胞介素(interleukins, IL-1 β 、IL-6)和肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)等细胞因子入血增多并通过血脑屏障^[45],从而激活 HPA 轴。肠道菌群紊乱不仅可导致肠机械屏障受损,通透性增加,SCFA 减少也可引起血脑屏障通透性增加,虽然目前研究尚未揭示肠道菌群调节血脑屏障功能的确切信号机制,细胞因子穿过血脑屏障也可引起 HPA 轴过度激活^[43, 46];也有证据表明,乳酸菌等益生菌能通过降低肠道通透性来减弱 HPA 轴反应^[47];另外与神经递质产生、运输、利用相关的微生物丰度改变也会相应地改变 HPA 轴与中枢神经系统之间的联系^[48]。其次,研究表明,HPA 轴也可被某些细菌成分所激活,如革兰阴性菌细胞外壁组成成分 LPS 和绝大多数细菌胞壁成分肽聚糖。研究表明,LPS 对人类肾上腺皮质细胞的皮质醇分泌有直接刺激作用,但对醛固酮的分泌无影响,TLR4 作为其主要受体,在肾上腺细胞上的表达为 LPS 的刺激作用提供靶点^[49]。而来源于肠道菌群的肽聚糖也可以通过识别核苷酸结合寡聚结构域蛋白 1(nucleotide binding oligomeric domain protein 1, NOD1)增强非特异性免疫,特别是可以进入骨髓,增强骨髓来源的中性粒细胞对肺炎链球菌和金黄色葡萄球菌的杀伤作用。这意味着肠道菌群遭到破坏,可导致非特异性免疫活性下降,更易受到感染,从而对宿主个体产生影响^[50]。另外,大肠杆菌可产生一种叫作酪蛋白水解酶(the caseinolytic protease, Clp)B 的蛋白,这种蛋白可以模拟 α -促黑激素的作用,刺激促肾上腺皮质激素底物前促黑激素释放,从而激活 HPA 轴^[51]。脊髓损伤后肠道菌群失调,HPA 轴相互影响,刺激肾上腺皮

质激素释放,进而影响肠道稳态以应对各种刺激因素^[52]。

3.3 肠道菌群代谢产物:肠道菌群作为人体内最大的共生菌群,通过微生物自身及代谢产物的变化参与人体代谢、营养、生理和免疫过程并发挥重要作用。SCFA 作为肠道菌群的主要代谢产物,其生理作用已经被充分证实,包括减少促炎因子^[53],增强肠屏障功能^[54-56],抑制氧化应激^[57]等,乙酸、丁酸和丙酸作为 SCFA 中的主要物质,在其中发挥了重要作用。丁酸盐和丙酸盐作为组蛋白脱乙酰酶的抑制剂,可下调不同细胞类型中活化 B 细胞核转录因子- κ B 轻链增强子的活化通路,调节炎症因子,减少参与中枢神经系统炎症介质的产生,调节炎症过程,发挥神经保护作用,特别是在结肠上皮细胞当中,丁酸盐的调节作用被认为是十分重要的^[58-60]。脊髓损伤可能引发小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞活化,增加炎症因子如 IL-1 β 和 TNF- α 的产生和释放,最终导致永久性神经损伤^[61];而研究表明,在丙酸钠处理后的脊髓损伤小鼠中,星形胶质细胞、小胶质细胞和相关细胞因子的活化明显减弱,进一步发挥神经保护作用^[58]。在创伤性脊髓损伤小鼠模型中,脊髓损伤可诱发菌群移位和持续性肠道菌群失调,进而激活肠相关淋巴组织中的黏膜免疫细胞,导致脊髓炎症和全身炎症发生,加剧损伤的严重程度和炎症程度,损伤神经功能;同时研究表明,这种影响有时间依赖性,并可通过使用益生菌后改善,在此过程中益生菌不仅可调节肠道菌群稳态,还可激活肠相关淋巴组织中的调节性 T 细胞(regulatory T cell, Treg),减轻中枢神经系统内外炎症反应,对神经保护和神经功能恢复起到有益作用^[10]。

目前脊髓损伤后 NBD 的发生机制尚未完全阐明,认可度较高的机制主要包括:① 脊髓损伤直接导致中枢神经系统和自主神经系统主要是迷走神经功能障碍,即排便中枢、反射弧、排便反射及迷走神经对胃肠道的控制和调节作用失调,出现腹胀、顽固性便秘、腹泻等胃肠道症状^[62-64];② 脊髓损伤后肠肌间神经丛神经纤维密度和大小降低^[65]及 Cajal 间质细胞减少^[66-70]所导致的结肠功能障碍:平滑肌收缩减弱、蠕动减少、消化液分泌减少等,均可能是脊髓损伤患者 NBD 的主要原因^[70];③ 胃肠道运动障碍,继而微循环障碍,导致机械屏障受损、细菌移位,从而引起肠道菌群失调和内毒素血症,并激活肠黏膜免疫细胞释放炎症介质^[71],最终导致肠道功能进一步受损^[10, 16, 72-75]。

综上所述,颈脊髓损伤后胃肠道运动障碍,可引起胃肠道微循环障碍,进而导致机械屏障受损,使上皮通透性增加、细菌移位,加上大便滞留,各种有害物质在结肠内停留时间延长,可引起肠道菌群失调和内毒素血症;并通过激活肠道黏膜免疫细胞释放炎症介质,介导不同程度的肠道炎性疾病,从而进一步破坏肠黏膜屏障功能,最终导致肠道功能受损^[10, 75]。提示脊髓损伤 NBD 可导致肠道菌群紊乱和细菌移位,造成肠道病理生理状态改变,加重 NBD 的症状;而肠道菌群失调,炎症因子等刺激肠相关淋巴组织中的免疫细胞使其活性改变,从而影响中枢神经系统功能和损伤后修复。与此同时,肠道菌群在脊髓损伤诊治中特殊作用的相关

研究不断深入,其可作为脊髓损伤特别是 NBD 治疗的新靶点也被医学领域不断熟知。Schmidt 等^[12]通过复制大鼠颈脊髓损伤后焦虑模型发现,颈脊髓损伤不仅可引起肠道菌群失调,还可引起焦虑样行为的增加,随后研究人员还发现,粪便移植(fecal microbiota transplantation, FMT)治疗可用于预防这两种疾病的发生发展。Jing 等^[76]将健康小鼠 FMT 给脊髓损伤小鼠后发现, FMT 明显改变了肠道菌群,显著增强了肠黏膜屏障的完整性和胃肠道运动。褪黑素在脊髓损伤模型中的神经保护作用已有报告, Jing 等^[76]通过给胸段脊髓挫伤小鼠腹腔注射褪黑素发现,乳酸杆菌和乳酸菌相对丰度有所增加,而梭状芽孢杆菌相对丰度降低, IL-17、单核细胞趋化蛋白-1(monocyte chemoattractant protein-1, MCP-1)和 γ -干扰素(interferon- γ , IFN- γ)等促炎因子的表达水平也有所下降,表明褪黑素或许也存在调节肠道菌群组成的作用,对于增强肠黏膜屏障完整性和胃肠道运动,减轻肠道炎症反应均有正向作用。这些研究均提示肠道菌群是治疗 NBD 的重要靶点,调节肠道菌群组成有助于增强肠黏膜屏障完整性和胃肠道运动,达到早期预防和治疗 NBD 的目的。

4 小结与展望

目前已有多项研究对脊髓损伤患者的肠道菌群特征进行描述与分析,涉及多种血清标志物和免疫指标^[25, 77]等,虽然研究对象与研究结果有所不同,但总体均提示脊髓损伤后肠道菌群紊乱与 NBD、抑郁焦虑及心血管系统等并发症的发生发展关系密切,严重影响脊髓损伤患者的预后。肠道菌群受多种因素影响,仍需要进一步从脊髓损伤不同节段、损伤不同时期、年龄、性别等方面阐明脊髓损伤后肠道菌群的变化特征与 NBD 发生发展的联系,找到特异肠道菌群,分析其与肠道功能障碍、焦虑抑郁等并发症的相互关系,为脊髓损伤的治疗和 NBD 及其他并发症的预防和治疗开发基于菌群或相应代谢物的个性化菌群靶向治疗和药物。

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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