

运动负荷诱导愈合跟腱中基因表达的研究进展

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摘要: 跟腱是小腿三头肌(腓肠肌和比目鱼肌)的肌腱, 是人体中最大、最强的肌腱, 常需要承受较大负荷, 在进行高强度蹬伸等活动时易发生跟腱断裂等相关损伤。运动负荷对跟腱损伤的愈合十分关键, 对跟腱损伤区域的炎症调节、胶原合成、蛋白聚糖水平等相关基因的表达产生重要影响。然而, 目前对运动促进跟腱损伤的具体机制研究探讨仍在初步阶段, 尚未有清晰定论。因此, 本文通过查阅近年来有关运动促进跟腱损伤修复的相关研究, 总结运动负荷对愈合跟腱中基因表达的影响, 为科学合理地应用运动促进跟腱损伤的愈合提供理论依据。

关键词: 运动; 跟腱损伤; 损伤修复

Mechanism of exercise-induced repair of Achilles tendon injury

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Abstract: The Achilles tendon is the tendon of the calf triceps (gastnemius and soleus), which is the largest and strongest tendon in human. It often needs to bear a large load, and it is easy to cause Achilles tendon rupture and other related injuries when carrying out high-strength kicking and stretching activities. Recent studies have found that exercise load is critical to the healing of Achilles tendon injury, and has an important impact on the expression of genes related to inflammation regulation, collagen synthesis and proteoglycan level in the Achilles tendon injury area. However, at present, the specific mechanism of exercise-induced Achilles tendon injury is still in the preliminary stage and no clear conclusion has been reached. Therefore, this paper summarizes the influence of exercise load on gene expression in healing Achilles tendon by referring to the relevant studies on exercise promoting the repair of Achilles tendon injury in recent years, so as to provide theoretical basis for scientific and reasonable application of exercise promoting the healing of Achilles tendon injury.

Key Words: exercise; Achilles tendon injury; injury repair

跟腱是小腿三头肌(腓肠肌和比目鱼肌)的肌腱, 是人体中最大、最强的肌腱, 主要成分是成纤维细胞(或腱细胞)和细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)^[1]。跟腱损伤主要包括跟腱断裂和跟

腱病变^[2]。在跟腱损伤区域, 出现大量的胶原纤维丢失、蛋白酶活性增加等改变, 因此成纤维细胞的增殖、蛋白质及ECM的合成对跟腱损伤的愈合十分重要^[3,4]。目前跟腱损伤的治疗包括手术和非

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手术两种方式^[5]。手术治疗跟腱断裂损伤的成功率最高^[6],术后常需进行早期活动或负重等功能性运动治疗^[7];非手术治疗方法主要包括运动疗法、PRP注射、非甾体类抗炎药物治疗以及理疗等^[8,9]。其中,运动疗法对跟腱愈合的有效性已被广泛证实,主要形式包括有氧训练、阻力训练、柔韧性训练等,大部分运动处方中运动负荷常在跟腱损伤中后期渐进式介入,是促进跟腱损伤愈合的较好方式^[5,8,10]。先前的研究显示,机械负荷可诱导愈合跟腱中基因表达的变化,促进跟腱周围的间质压力、流体转移和血流的改变,进而影响损伤组织的合成和降解^[11-14]。运动对跟腱中胶原浓度、基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinase, MMP)的含量以及ECM重构的影响是跟腱重塑和修复的关键因素^[15,16]。

研究显示,大鼠损伤跟腱在经历负荷加载3 h后,150个基因被调控,包括炎症、细胞凋亡、细胞增殖、细胞分化和ECM重塑的基因^[17]。越来越多的研究显示,运动负荷诱导愈合跟腱中的基因表达,进而调节损伤组织的愈合过程,促进其生理稳态的恢复以及力学特性的重建^[14,18,19]。但在不同的愈合阶段,运动促进跟腱损伤修复的机制不同,由于目前运动促进跟腱愈合的生物学作用机制尚未阐述清晰,本文通过查阅近几年运动促进跟腱损伤修复的相关研究,对运动负荷诱导愈合跟腱中基因表达的研究现状进行总结,为跟腱损伤修复的进一步研究提供理论基础,为未来对跟腱损伤修复的研究提供新的方向和思路。

1 肌腱结构及损伤愈合过程

肌腱是一种致密、纤维状、几乎不可扩展的结缔组织,主要功能是通过机械应力的传递来移动或稳定关节^[20]。肌腱由少量的腱细胞及其周围的ECM构成,ECM包括胶原、蛋白聚糖(proteoglycans, PGs)、糖蛋白和水^[21]。其干质量由86%的胶原蛋白、1%~5%的PGs和0.2%的无机成分组成^[21]。胶原纤维由腱细胞产生的胶原分子聚集形成,在正常肌腱中,90%的胶原是I型胶原(collagen type I, Col I),其次是III型胶原(collagen type III, Col III),Col I是肌腱结构的主要成分,纤维呈密集、平行排列,主要作用是传

递机械应力,其比例或结构的改变可导致肌腱的适应或损伤,对肌腱的功能至关重要^[21,22]。

肌腱损伤的愈合是一个恢复其正常生理特性的复杂病理过程,可分为三个连续阶段:炎症阶段、增殖阶段和重塑阶段^[20,23]。炎症阶段在损伤后立即发生并持续24 h,损伤后血肿形成,血管活性物质沉积并释放趋化因子,血管通透性增加,促使红细胞、血小板、炎症细胞(嗜中性粒细胞、巨噬细胞等)进入,成纤维细胞增殖并合成ECM的各种成分^[24]。血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)被释放,促进形成血管网络^[23]。增殖阶段一般持续数周,新生血管形成,成纤维细胞继续增殖并合成ECM,新合成的ECM内主要是Col III^[20]。增殖阶段结束时,修复组织内的大量成纤维细胞和ECM沉积在损伤处,构成瘢痕组织^[23]。重塑阶段在受伤后6~8周开始,这一阶段Col III、血管分布、细胞数量、含水量和糖胺聚糖(glycosaminoglycan, GAGs)相应减少,而ECM中抗拉强度更大的Col I合成比例增高^[20]。纤维组织由胶原纤维和修复组织等形成,在生长因子、MMPs等调节因子的相互协调下,共同调控成纤维细胞黏附、增殖、迁移及蛋白质、ECM合成,随着肌腱强度的不断增加,其正常力学特性逐渐恢复。

2 运动促进跟腱正常力学特性的恢复

正常跟腱的结构是通过外力保持的,如果由于石膏或肢体瘫痪而使跟腱长期处在较低水平的负荷时,其成分和结构可能发生改变,影响其正常力学特性^[25]。跟腱力学特性可通过其弹性、强度等性质来反映,运动可对其产生积极的影响^[26,27]。在大鼠12周的定期跑台训练研究中发现,训练后跟腱近端和远端区域的纤维卷曲的顶角宽度显著降低,而中央区域显著增加,且卷曲更大、更扁平;PGs含量显著增加,组织与水的结合能力增强^[28],表明运动可通过改善纤维卷曲形态以及含水量增强跟腱弹性反冲^[29]。有研究证明,运动能够通过提高弹性蛋白腱蛋白-c的表达,促进胶原纤维的正确排列^[14,30],并增加损伤跟腱的弹性模量^[31,32],促进跟腱组织弹性的恢复;而应力保护可导致相反的结果,使跟腱的弹性降低^[25]。除对

跟腱弹性的改善外, 运动还能够降低大鼠损伤跟腱中ColⅢ的含量^[14], 提高Col I 比例^[29], 促进跟腱强度的恢复。研究显示, 离心训练^[33,34]能够使大鼠跟腱横截面积、血管数量增加, 提高赖氨酸氧化酶(lysyl oxidase, LOX)表达, 促进胶原蛋白交联增加, 提高跟腱抗阻能力, 利于损伤修复; 适度的水中负荷运动^[32]及跑台有氧训练^[31]使大鼠跟腱最大张力、最大应力以及能量/面积值增加; 间歇性负荷加载^[35]能够改善跟腱组织的峰值应力。这些研究结果表明, 阻力及适度的负荷运动能够促进跟腱强度的恢复, 提高其抗负荷能力。此外, 研究显示, 跟腱病的特征是胶原纤维的破坏和富含GAGs软骨样基质的积累^[36], 这直接导致了跟腱力学性能的丧失^[37], 而控制运动可以逆转软骨形成过程中的软骨特异性基因*Acan*、*Colla1*、*Col2a1*、*Col3a1*和*MMP3*的过表达, 从本质上消除软骨样积累, 改善跟腱的力学特性^[38]。

综上, 有控制的、适度的阻力负荷及有氧运动能够诱导腱蛋白-c等相关基因表达, 改善跟腱纤维卷曲形态, 增大其横截面积, 促进跟腱弹性、强度等能力的恢复, 其中离心负荷及水中负荷运动效果较显著。此外, 运动负荷还可以逆转跟腱病中软骨特异性基因的表达, 从而改善其力学特性。

3 运动调节炎症反应促进跟腱损伤修复

跟腱损伤后炎症反应一般持续24 h, 时间过长或过短对组织愈合均有不利影响, 而运动可对炎症反应时间进行调节从而影响损伤跟腱的愈合^[13,35,39]。大鼠跟腱断裂后进行悬吊保护, 三天后进行一次短时跑台负荷加载, 发现其对炎症期影响明显, 基因分析显示, 负荷加载显著上调了转录因子EGR1(early growth response 1)和7个炎症相关基因的表达, 包括趋化因子配体20(chemokine ligand 20, CCL20)、CCL7、白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6, IL-6)、核因子白细胞介素3(nuclear factor interleukin 3, NFIL3)、中心蛋白相关基因3(pentraxin 3, PTX3)、细胞因子信号传导的抑制因子1(suppressor of cytokine signaling 1, SOCS1)和Toll样受体2(Toll-like receptor 2, TLR2)^[13]。上调基因中*CCL7*、*CCL20*和*PTX3*主要参与白细胞招

募^[13,40], 而EGR1参与巨噬细胞的分化并调节炎症介质IL-6、CCL7、IL-1 β 和TNF的表达^[41]。这些结果表明, 运动可通过影响巨噬细胞和T细胞等炎症细胞的招募促进炎症反应。虽然目前关于巨噬细胞等炎症细胞的存在对损伤跟腱的修复是否有益尚不明确^[39], 但已有研究通过非甾体抗炎药^[42]和特异性抑制巨噬细胞的实验^[43,44]进行探究, 证明了巨噬细胞在早期炎症中发挥着积极作用。巨噬细胞中M1型释放促炎因子, 主要在跟腱损伤早期炎症反应中发挥促炎作用; 而M2型释放抗炎因子、Treg细胞重点参与损伤后期组织的愈合及腱细胞对跟腱的重塑, 并具有抗炎和维持稳态作用^[45,46](图1)。有研究将48只大鼠行跟腱横断术, 对照组大鼠术后小腿肌肉中注射肉毒杆菌素进行应力保护, 干预组大鼠不做任何保护或限制, 可在笼内自由活动, 称为全负荷组。结果显示, 应力保护组炎症在第5~10天内消退, 全负荷组炎症反应第10天消退, 两者均延长了炎症反应时间, 但全负荷组延迟了损伤跟腱组织从以M1巨噬细胞为主的炎症类型向以M2巨噬细胞和Treg细胞为主的炎症类型的转变^[47]。虽然运动带来的这种变化对跟腱力学性能的改善尚不确切^[48], 但相较于应力保护组, 全负荷组大鼠跟腱的大小和强度均有增加^[47]。而在Eliasson等^[35]对跟腱断裂的大鼠进行早期短期间歇性跑台负荷加载实验中, 运动组跟腱峰值应力显著增加, 跟腱强度等力学特性改善明显。该研究认为, 这可能与机械负荷使炎症相关基因*IL-1 β* 和*TNF- α* 在愈合的早期阶段降低有关, 也证明了短负荷期之间的休息期对调节炎症、促进损伤跟腱修复具有重要作用^[14]。

综上, 运动刺激早期愈合阶段炎症反应相关基因的表达, 通过影响巨噬细胞和T细胞等炎症细胞的招募等来调节炎症反应, 利于跟腱损伤的愈合。损伤早期的应力保护对跟腱愈合无益处, 虽然无任何应力保护措施条件下的自主运动对损伤愈合的改善效应尚存在争议, 但是早期间歇性负荷运动显示出明显益处。因此, 早期运动负荷是否利于损伤愈合的争议主要是由于运动强度及方式不同造成的, 而早期适度、间歇性的短时负荷能够调节相关炎症基因, 降低有害的炎症反应, 促进损伤的愈合(图2)。

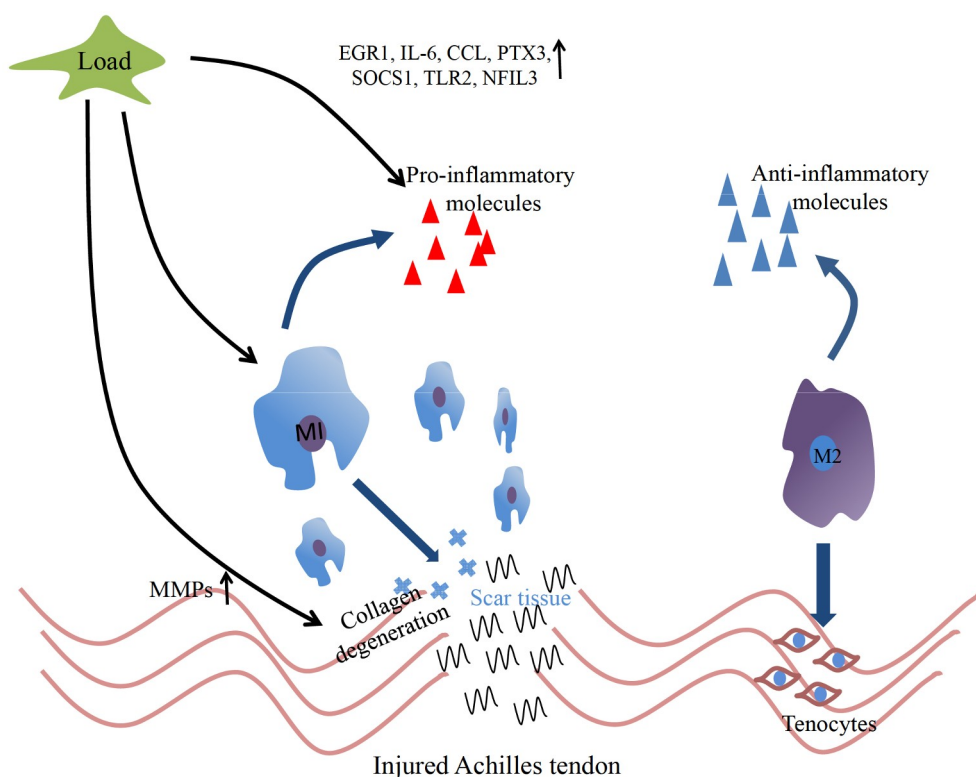


图1 运动对跟腱损伤早期阶段的影响

4 运动增加胶原蛋白合成促进跟腱损伤修复

跟腱胶原蛋白与组织的机械强度相关,尤其是Col I^[23],其含量减少会导致跟腱拉伸性能受损,易发生跟腱病变,导致跟腱破裂和再破裂^[49],因此,胶原蛋白的合成是跟腱损伤修复的关键因素。在跟腱损伤愈合过程中,腱细胞分泌MMPs和金属蛋白酶组织抑制剂(tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases, TIMPs),两者平衡可促进胶原合成,而失衡则可能导致胶原蛋白的降解^[50,51],延缓跟腱愈合。Xu等^[52]研究发现,在跑台训练8周后,相较于高强度以及对照组,中等强度训练组大鼠跟腱组织中MMP-13和TIMP-1表达平衡,Col I含量显著升高。他们的研究结果表明强度适度的运动可调节蛋白酶的表达,促进大鼠跟腱中胶原蛋白的合成。有研究发现,胶原蛋白的转换速率降低会导致晚期糖基化终末产物(advanced glycation end-products, AGEs)的产生,而AGEs交联的增加又反过来影响胶原蛋白的转换^[53,54],不利于跟腱损伤的愈合^[55]。运动可通过降低大鼠跟腱中AGEs合成和交联水平^[56]以及刺激胰岛素样生长

因子-1(insulin-like growth factor-1, IGF-1)、组织连接生长因子(connective tissue growth factor, CTGF)、转化生长因子-1(transforming growth factor-1, TGF-1)等基因的表达^[12,57],促进胶原沉积和转换,提高胶原含量。此外,有研究证明,向心和离心运动能够刺激Col I、Col III信使RNA(mRNA)^[34]以及LOX的表达^[33],促进胶原合成^[58]和胶原分子之间的相互作用^[33,34],利于跟腱功能恢复。在大鼠体外细胞培养实验^[59]和跑台实验^[60]中,均证明机械负荷可增加跟腱成纤维细胞和干/祖细胞的增殖和分化速率,增加胶原蛋白的产生,修复损伤跟腱。此外,研究显示,3 d的耐力训练^[61]以及大鼠跟腱重复拉伸运动(10次,每周3~5次,共21 d)^[62]能够诱导跟腱细胞数量和胶原蛋白显著增加。而研究显示,早期锻炼者比未锻炼者胶原蛋白含量能够更快地恢复到可控值^[39]。

综上,适度强度的上坡跑台有氧训练以及阻力、耐力训练等运动负荷可通过诱导胶原水解酶的平衡表达,促进LOX表达、生长因子释放以及腱细胞和跟腱干/祖细胞增殖分化,抑制AGEs表达进而加速胶原沉积和转换,促进胶原蛋白合成增

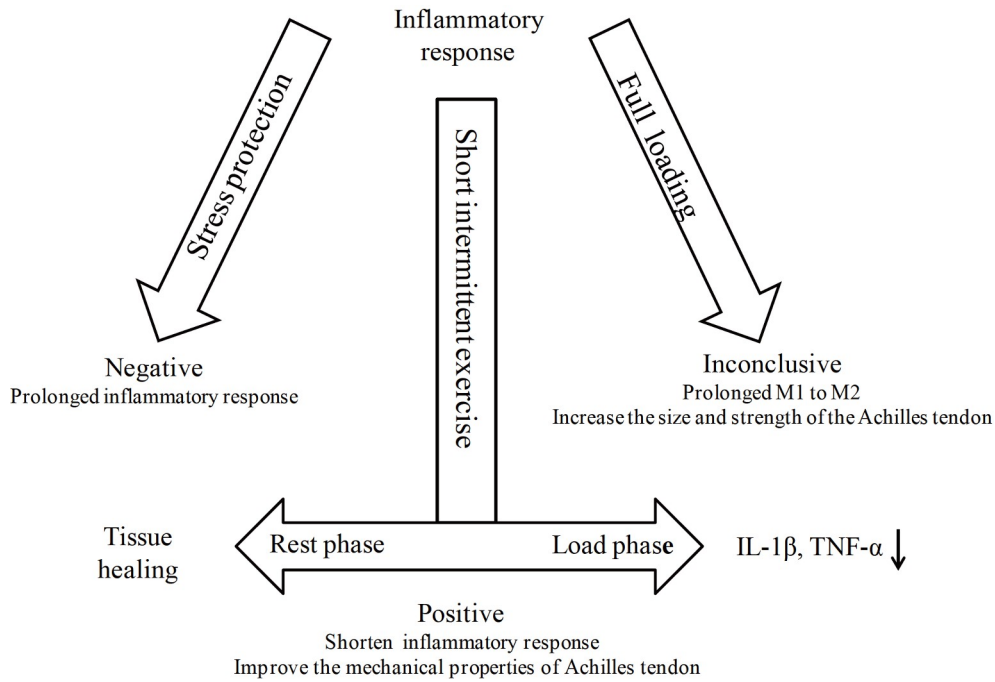


图2 不同运动对跟腱炎症反应的影响

加, 加速损伤跟腱的愈合(图3)。

5 运动影响PGs水平促进跟腱损伤修复

跟腱PGs主要包括核心蛋白聚糖(decorin, DCN)、双糖链蛋白多糖(biglycan, Bgn)、纤维调节素(fibromodulin, Fmod)和聚集蛋白聚糖

(aggrecan, AGC)等, 在跟腱损伤愈合过程中, DCN、Bgn、Fmod的主要作用是调节胶原纤维的组装以及参与构成完整跟腱, 而AGC可以增加组织的含水量, 强化其抗压缩能力^[28]。损伤跟腱组织中PGs水平异常, 调节愈合组织中PGs含量达到合适的水平对于跟腱损伤的愈合十分关键^[21,63]。有

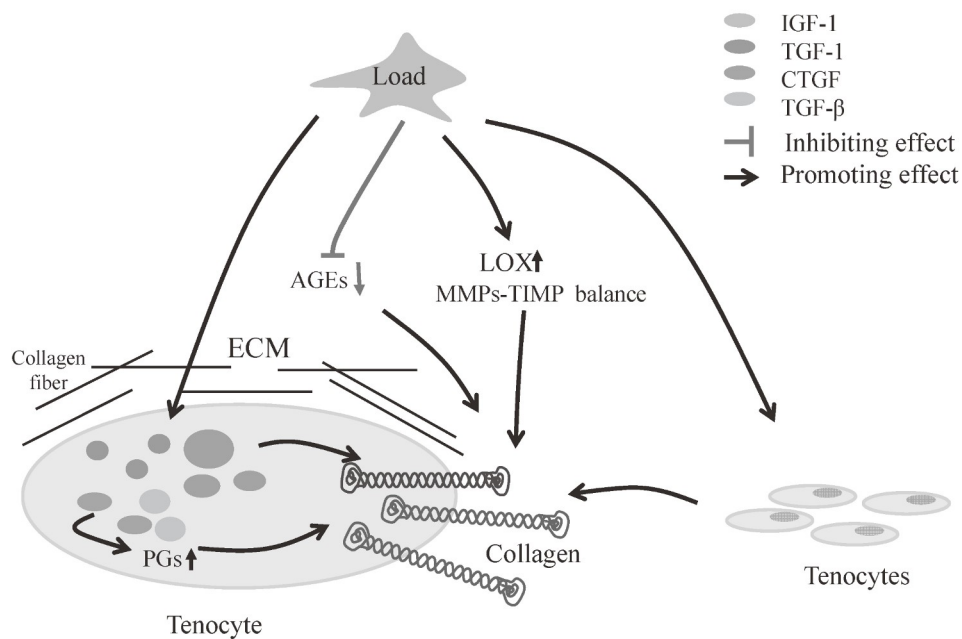


图3 运动促进跟腱胶原蛋白合成的相关机制

研究显示,机械负荷可以上调老年大鼠跟腱组织TGF- β 、CTGF和IGF-I等生长因子基因的表达^[57],促进DCN、Bgn、Fmod等多种PGs含量的增加^[12],利于损伤处胶原合成修复损伤组织(图3)。Franchi等^[29]研究证明,大鼠经过12周的适度跑台运动后,与对照组相比,大鼠跟腱ECM产物中硫酸化GAGs和AGC明显更高,能够促进纤维间自由水的保留,形成水合的纤维间空间,进而减少相邻胶原纤维之间的摩擦并有利于纤维间的相对滑动,对于跟腱产生适应性变化以及跟腱损伤组织的修复均有益处^[29]。Xu等^[52]研究显示,与高强度跑台运动相比,中等强度运动可促进大鼠跟腱中的DCN表达,形成大而规则的胶原纤维,促进ECM合成以及跟腱愈合。而在高强度训练组中,AGC的表达量相对较高,聚集体位于相邻的胶原纤维束之间,会导致跟腱水合和纤维分离^[64],对跟腱组织愈合不利。此外,在跟腱病中,Fmod和Bgn mRNA水平是升高的^[65,66],而大鼠经过坡度10°跑台运动12周后两者水平下降^[67]。以上结果表明,运动负荷可降低损伤跟腱中异常升高的PGs水平,改善跟腱损伤病理进程。

综上,PGs可调节胶原纤维的形成过程以及通过改善自由水的储存减少纤维间滑动时的摩擦,常通过中等强度有氧运动等负荷运动诱导损伤后跟腱中的PGs表达水平恢复至正常水平值,促进损伤跟腱修复并减缓其病理进程。

6 运动加速ECM降解和重塑促进跟腱损伤修复

MMPs是跟腱组织中主要的间质胶原酶,主要作用是降解胶原纤维和其他ECM成分。ECM重塑时所需的应力刺激促进了MMPs的激活,使ECM重塑过程始于胶原的分解^[68,69],MMPs成为ECM降解及重塑的关键因素^[50,70],而运动可以通过影响MMPs水平加速这一进程^[11,16]。研究发现,MMP-9在跟腱病以及糖尿病等病理学跟腱中表达增加^[71],MMP-2参与胶原重塑^[72],而运动结合光生物调节的联合治疗能够促进MMP-2和MMP-9的表达,促进损伤组织早期ECM的降解,降低Col III的合成,促进损伤组织从增殖阶段转入重塑阶段^[11]。此外,有研究证明,幼龄大鼠的抗阻训练

增加了MMP-2的表达及活性^[12];同样,在一项12周的大鼠攀爬负荷递增实验中,阻力组大鼠初始负荷为体重的10%,递增负荷至20%和50%;肌肥大和力量训练组初始负荷为体重的25%,以每次增加25%体重的方式递增负荷至100%和150%体重。Mazon等^[16]发现,与对照组相比,阻力训练、肌肥大训练和力量训练组三组大鼠跟腱组织中的MMP-2等非胶原蛋白的总浓度均升高,而肌肥大和阻力训练对跟腱生理性能的重塑效果较好。这表明适度的阻力训练促进了ECM发生降解及重塑,利于跟腱性能的强化及损伤修复^[73]。另外有研究显示,十周的跑台训练后,老年大鼠跟腱中MMP-8 mRNA水平升高,AGE交联降低,Col I合成增多,提示运动可能通过提高MMPs水平促进ECM中的AGE交联降解,进而促进Col I等胶原合成不断增多,加速ECM重塑^[56]。

综上,适度的阻力、耐力训练以及结合其他疗法的有氧运动负荷练习能够提高跟腱组织中MMPs的表达水平,促进损伤区域早期胶原降解,进而促进病理性跟腱ECM重塑,利于损伤跟腱形成瘢痕组织(图1)。

7 小结与展望

在损伤跟腱愈合的炎症阶段,运动负荷能够促进跟腱损伤早期细胞活动和血管的稳定生成,促进VEGF等生长因子释放调节炎症反应,改善愈合过程。增殖和重塑阶段,运动通过促进成纤维细胞增殖、刺激生长因子、PGs和Col I基因的表达来促进基质的合成,诱导MMPs和TIMPs的平衡表达,刺激胶原蛋白合成并保护肌腱免于退化。尽管如正文所述,目前多数研究表明运动能够加快跟腱组织的代谢能力,促进局部细胞增殖、分化或者募集,在促进跟腱损伤的愈合过程中发挥重要作用。但事实上,运动负荷是把双刃剑,如果运动负荷超出跟腱的正常生理能力,比如炎症期进行较强的运动负荷,可导致中性粒细胞的持续存在,细胞活素类和ECM中的蛋白酶被局部释放,诱导胶原蛋白破裂,加重组织的损伤,进而加剧白细胞积累形成恶性循环。因此,合理运动,把握好运动负荷的频率、强度从而发挥其对损伤愈合的促进作用十分关键。损伤后的运动负

荷时应根据损伤愈合阶段渐进式、控制性介入, 中等强度有氧或阻力负荷, 以及愈合早期的短间歇性负荷训练对跟腱损伤的愈合显示出较好的效果。但目前对于不同形式及强度的运动对炎症细胞、MMPs等基因的表达以及ECM的重构机制仍有不同的结论, 未来需进一步探索。此外, 如何合理发挥运动诱导愈合进程中基因表达的作用, 制定合理的运动处方, 促进跟腱恢复原有的力学特性亟待发现, 期待早日出现更加有效的治疗方法。

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