

· 综述 ·

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肝癌靶向联合免疫治疗耐药后的二线治疗方案研究进展

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摘要: 近年来, 靶向和免疫单药及联合治疗晚期肝癌的临床研究为一线用药方案选择提供了丰富的疗效与安全性证据。然而, 对于肝癌二线治疗方案的选择, 目前各项临床指南尚无统一意见, 原因在于现有循证医学证据局限于索拉非尼失败后的选择, 而对于新的一线方案, 如靶向免疫联合治疗肝癌耐药后的二线治疗方案, 依然缺乏高证据等级的临床试验结论。本文回顾了目前临床试验研究结果, 根据药物作用的不同机制, 对靶向免疫一线治疗耐药后肝癌二线治疗方案的研究进行了归纳, 并系统总结近年研究进展。对于一线靶免联合治疗耐药的肝癌患者, 靶向联合治疗、免疫双抗治疗均有望提高疗效、改善生存, 未来还需更多前瞻性临床研究数据, 为靶免联合治疗耐药的肝癌患者提供有效、安全的治疗方案。

关键词: 癌, 肝细胞; 药物疗法; 抗药性, 肿瘤

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Research advances in second-line therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma after resistance to targeted therapy combined with immunotherapy

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Abstract: In recent years, clinical studies on targeted therapy and immunotherapy for advanced hepatocellular carcinoma used alone or in combination have provided abundant evidence on efficacy and safety for the selection of first-line therapies. However, no consensus has been reached on the selection of second-line therapies in various clinical guidelines for hepatocellular carcinoma, which is caused by the fact that existing evidence is limited to the options after failure of sorafenib and that there is still a lack of high-level evidence for new first-line therapies such as second-line therapies after resistance to targeted therapy and immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma. This article reviews the results of current clinical trials and summarizes the studies on second-line therapies for hepatocellular carcinoma after resistance to first-line targeted therapy and immunotherapy for hepatocellular carcinoma based on the different mechanisms of action of drugs, as well as the research advances in recent years. For hepatocellular carcinoma patients with resistance to first-line targeted therapy and immunotherapy, targeted combination therapy and dual-immune therapy are expected to improve treatment outcome and survival, and more prospective clinical studies are needed in the future to provide effective and safe treatment regimens for hepatocellular carcinoma patients with resistance to targeted therapy and immunotherapy.

Key words: Carcinoma, Hepatocellular; Drug Therapy; Drug Resistance, Neoplasm

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原发性肝癌是全球常见的消化系统恶性肿瘤,每年约有90.6万新发病例,约83.0万死亡病例。我国每年约有41万新发病例,39.1万死亡病例^[1-2]。在原发性肝癌中,肝细胞癌(HCC)是主要的病理类型,占75%~85%。亚临床期肝癌患者往往无症状或症状不明显,待确诊时,多数患者已进展至巨大肿瘤或伴有肝内血管侵犯等局部晚期状态,甚至发生远处转移,自然存活时间仅3~4个月。对于早期肝癌患者,治疗首选外科手术,然而仅不足30%的患者适合手术切除^[3-4]。对于初诊晚期或治疗后复发转移缺乏手术指征的肝癌患者,2022年版BCLC肝癌分期指南按照治疗分期迁移(treatment stage migration, TSM)原则,推荐选择系统治疗^[5]。

1 肝癌系统治疗一线用药方案

近年来,随着酪氨酸激酶抑制剂(TKI)和免疫检查点抑制剂(ICI)的研究和临床应用的进展,晚期肝癌患者的预后明显改善。基于Sharp和Oriental两项研究^[6-7],索拉非尼成功开辟晚期HCC靶向治疗范式,但是中位生存时间(mOS)仅有10.7个月。REFLECT研究^[8]显示仑伐替尼的疗效非劣效于索拉非尼(mOS: 13.6个月 vs 12.3个月),奠定了仑伐替尼晚期HCC一线治疗地位。此后,ZGDH3研究^[9]证明多纳非尼较索拉非尼显著延长晚期HCC患者的生存时间,获得优效性结局(mOS: 12.0个月 vs 10.1个月)。除了靶向药物以外,RATIONALE 301试验^[10-11]证明单药替雷利珠单抗在总生存上非劣效于索拉非尼(mOS: 15.9个月 vs 14.1个月),而且中位缓解持续时间显著长于索拉非尼(36.1个月 vs 11.0个月)。尽管单用靶向或免疫治疗已有一定疗效,但只有不足20%的晚期肝癌患者可以从单药治疗中获益,两者联合治疗的作用已被证明比单药治疗显示出更好的预后益处。IMbrave150研究^[12-13]首次证明血管内皮生长因子抑制剂贝伐珠单抗联合PD-L1抑制剂阿替利珠单抗用于初治不可切除HCC患者的mOS长达22个月,死亡风险下降42%,药物不良反应耐受较好。ORIENT-32研究^[14]证明贝伐珠单抗类似物联合信迪利单抗(PD-1抑制剂)一线治疗晚期HCC的mOS和中位无进展生存时间(mPFS)均显著长于对照组索拉非尼。SHR-1210-III-310研究结果也表明阿帕替尼(TKI)联合卡瑞利珠单抗(PD-1抑制剂)治疗不可切除肝癌对比索拉非尼可以显著延长患者的PFS和OS^[15]。因此,靶向和免疫联合方案已被各项指南推荐为晚期肝癌的一线治疗。

2 肝癌系统治疗二线用药方案研究进展

由于肝癌异质性强,在一线治疗之后通常发生肿瘤进展,尽管目前有多项研究成果被指南推荐为二线治疗方案,但多是基于索拉非尼一线治疗耐药后的二线治疗推荐。对于以靶免联合治疗晚期肝癌耐药后的二线治疗方案,依然缺乏循证医学证据。究竟是更换靶向药物,还是更换ICI,或是两种药物同时更换,甚至联合局部治疗,这些尚无定论的问题都成为目前研究的热点。

晚期肝癌经靶向联合免疫治疗耐药后的二线治疗方案选择,需要医生结合以下因素确定,包括患者/疾病特征、一线治疗药物、一线治疗效果、现有临床试验结论、患者偏好、生活质量和医生的经验;此外,还应考虑治疗的安全性、成本和药物可及性,以更优化地选择晚期肝癌二线治疗药物。笔者根据药物作用的不同机制以及现有的临床试验研究结果,将经靶免治疗耐药后晚期肝癌的二线用药归纳为两类,一类是基于靶向治疗的单药或联合方案;另一类是不含靶向治疗的单免或双免方案。

2.1 基于靶向治疗的单药或联合方案 既往的晚期肝癌二线研究均是针对一线使用以索拉非尼为主的TKI类药物设计的。已有多个药物在索拉非尼治疗失败后取得相对于安慰剂的阳性结果并被纳入指南,包括经RESORCE研究证实的瑞戈非尼^[16],经REACH-2研究证实用于基线AFP $\geq$ 400 ng/mL晚期HCC的雷莫芦单抗^[17],经CELESTIAL研究证实的卡博替尼^[18],以及经AHELP研究证实的阿帕替尼^[19]。然而,由于肝癌的高度异质性和多激酶靶点药物的易耐药性,探索靶向药物耐药机制以及潜在的联合治疗新靶点至关重要。翟博教授团队^[20]发现,对于表皮生长因子受体(EGFR)表达阳性的肝癌患者一线仑伐替尼无效后,联合应用EGFR抑制剂吉非替尼有潜力逆转肿瘤耐药,有效抑制肝癌进展,客观缓解率(ORR)高达33.3%。除了寻找新靶点逆转耐药外,靶向联合ICI在二线治疗中也有诸多探索。朱康顺教授团队^[21]回顾分析瑞戈非尼联合PD-1单抗对比瑞戈非尼单药(58例 vs 55例)二线治疗索拉非尼或仑伐替尼耐药的患者,结果显示联合组的ORR(mRECIST: 36.2% vs 16.4%; RECIST 1.1: 24.1% vs 9.1%)和mOS(13.4个月 vs 9.9个月)显著优于单药组。

目前,对于一线靶向联合免疫治疗耐药后的二线方案研究还较少。Guan等^[22]分析了晚期肝癌经一线多种靶向联合免疫方案治疗后,二线换用不同种靶向或免疫治

疗的安全性和疗效分析,结果显示换单药组的 ORR (16.3% vs 3.8%, $P=0.0392$) 和 mPFS (5.47 个月 vs 3.8 个月, $P=0.0176$) 显著高于换双药组,但 mOS 差异无统计学意义。由于该研究换单药组病例中 79.6% (39/49) 的患者更换为仑伐替尼,因此推荐仑伐替尼作为靶免联合耐药后的二线方案选择,但该结论还需进一步前瞻性临床研究证实。在阿替利珠单抗联合贝伐珠单抗治疗不可切除 HCC 的 I 期 G030140 研究^[23]的 F 队列 (119 例) 中, 50% (26/52) 阿替利珠单抗单药组患者在疾病进展后转到阿替利珠单抗联合贝伐珠单抗组。该研究结果显示,在 26 例患者中,1 例疾病缓解,13 例疾病稳定,提示对阿替利珠单抗单药治疗耐药的患者,联合贝伐珠单抗还有再度获益的可能。此外,瑞戈非尼作为靶点丰富的 TKI 类药物,其 VEGFR、TIE-2、CSF-1R 靶点对于改善肿瘤微环境具有重要作用,对于靶向联合免疫治疗后耐药,有望带来积极作用。一项真实世界 REFINE 研究^[24]纳入既往接受过免疫治疗的 91 例 (9%) 肝癌患者,经瑞戈非尼二线治疗后, mOS 达 10.2 个月,提示了瑞戈非尼在一线免疫联合治疗方案耐药后依然可能获益。此外,换用不同的靶向联合免疫也是解决一线靶向联合免疫耐药的可选方案。已有临床试验探索仑伐替尼联合 Pembrolizumab 针对阿替利珠单抗+贝伐珠单抗治疗后耐药的不可切除肝癌 (NCT05101629) 的疗效与安全性^[25], 还有瑞戈非尼联合 Pembrolizumab 治疗 PD-1/L1 经治的晚期 HCC (NCT04696055) 的前瞻性 II 期研究也在进行之中^[26], 期待研究结果为目前的治疗现状提供更多证据。

2.2 不含靶向治疗的单免或双免方案 近年来,以 ICI 为主的免疫治疗应用于晚期肝癌二线治疗的探索如火如荼。CheckMate040 研究开启了 Nivolumab 单药治疗一线索拉非尼耐药 HCC 患者的先河, ORR 为 21%, mOS 为 15.6 个月, 疗效较好^[27-28]。KEYNOTE-224 研究^[29]结果显示 Pembrolizumab 用于索拉非尼耐药 HCC 患者二线治疗的 ORR 为 17%。尽管后续 KEYNOTE-240 研究并未取得阳性结果^[30], 但在我国开展的 KEYNOTE-394 研究^[31], 在索拉非尼或含奥沙利铂方案系统化疗耐药后接受 Pembrolizumab 联合支持治疗可以较安慰剂组显著延长患者的 mOS (14.6 个月 vs 13.0 个月, $P=0.018$)。卡瑞利珠单抗用于既往系统治疗失败的晚期 HCC II 期的研究结果显示, ORR 为 14.7%, mOS 为 13.8 个月^[32]。替雷利珠单抗在包含 44.6% 接受过二线及以上治疗的肝癌患者后线治疗中, mPFS 仍达 2.7 个月, mOS 达 13.2 个月, 体现出满意的生存获益^[33]。ICI 除了 PD-1/L1, 还包括 CTLA-4、淋巴细胞激活基因 3 (LAG-3)、TIGIT、TIM3 等抑

制剂。近年来,双免联合也为晚期肝癌二线治疗增加了新选择。CheckMate 040 研究^[34]显示,对于索拉非尼耐药的晚期 HCC 患者, Ipilimumab (CTLA-4 抑制剂, 3 mg/kg, 1 次/3 周) 联合 Nivolumab (1 mg/kg) 治疗, mOS 可达 22.8 个月。值得注意的是,以上不含靶向治疗的单免或双免方案仍是基于一线索拉非尼,对于一线靶向联合免疫耐药后的作用仍需要进一步临床试验提供证据。

然而,众多的 ICI 并非都可以通过两两联合取得优于单药的疗效。TACTI-002 研究^[35-36]采用 Eftilagimod alpha (LAG-3 抑制剂) 联合 Pembrolizumab 治疗, 纳入人群包括 A 组: 晚期一线未经 PD-1/L1 抑制剂治疗的非小细胞肺癌; B 组: 经 PD-1/L1 抑制剂治疗复发非小细胞肺癌; C 组: 晚期二线未经 PD-1/L1 抑制剂治疗头颈部鳞状细胞癌。这 3 组的结果大相径庭, A 组 ORR 达 41.7%, mPFS 为 8.2 个月; C 组 ORR 达 29.7%, mPFS 为 2.1 个月, mOS 为 12.6 个月; 而 B 组 ORR 仅为 5.6%, 提示 LAG-3 和 PD-1 联合用于逆转 PD-1/L1 的耐药并未显示出明确的疗效。分析原因可能是 LAG-3 和 PD-1 均作用于 T 淋巴细胞的效应阶段, 联用或序贯互换并不能改变 T 淋巴细胞活化的状态, 因此难以表现出有意义的临床疗效。

不同于 LAG-3, CTLA-4 抑制剂作为 ICI 药物, 作用于 T 淋巴细胞的初始活化阶段, 早于 PD-1/L1 的效应阶段。在 PD-1 耐药后, 停用原先 PD-1 抑制剂并换用 CTLA-4 抑制剂, 或在原有 PD-1 基础上联合 CTLA-4 抑制剂, 也可作为逆转 PD-1 耐药的策略。2020 年美国肿瘤学会年会报道一项多中心回顾性研究^[37], 共纳入 355 例经 PD-1/L1 治疗耐药的转移性黑色素瘤患者, 分别接受 Ipilimumab 单药治疗和 Ipilimumab 联合 PD-1 抑制剂双免治疗, 结果显示 Ipilimumab 单药和双免疫治疗的客观有效率分别为 13% 和 32%, 疾病控制率 (DCR) 为 27% 和 41%, mOS 分别为 8.8 个月和 20.4 个月。提示在 PD-1 耐药后, 使用 PD-1 联合 CTLA-4 依然可获益。此外, 还有研究^[38]对经 PD-1/L1 抑制剂治疗耐药的 25 例晚期肝癌患者在肿瘤进展后接受 Ipilimumab 联合 Nivolumab/Pembrolizumab, 结果显示, 所有患者的 ORR 为 16%, 其中 3 例患者达到 CR, 中位持续缓解时间为 11.5 个月, 数据截止时, 两例 CR 患者已分别持续反应达 10.6 个月和 30.3 个月; 所有患者的 mOS 为 10.9 个月, 1 年、2 年、3 年总生存率分别为 42.4%、32.3% 和 21.6%。提示 PD-1/L1 和 CTLA-4 两种 ICI 药物可以联合治疗逆转 PD-1 导致的耐药。

PD-1 联合 CTLA-4 双免联合逆转 PD-1 单免耐药有较好的疗效, 但对于靶向联合免疫治疗效果依然值得探索。一项小样本回顾性研究^[39]纳入 10 例既往接受阿替

利珠单抗和贝伐珠单抗(7例)及Nivolumab联合仑伐替尼(3例)治疗后耐药进展的晚期肝癌患者,Ipilimumab和Nivolumab在5例患者中作为二线治疗,在另外5例患者作为后线治疗。在中位随访时间15.3个月时,根据RECIST v1.1和mRECIST评估的ORR为30%,且有1例患者获得完全缓解(mRECIST),2例患者获得部分缓解,1例患者病情稳定,DCR为40%。10例患者mPFS为2.9个月,mOS为7.4个月。该研究表明,既往靶向联合PD-1/L1抑制剂治疗失败后,Ipilimumab和Nivolumab序贯治疗可在未经CTLA-4抑制剂治疗过的患者中产生有意义和持久的反应。

近年来,双免疫联合治疗方案逐渐受到更多关注,双抗药物的研发与临床试验方兴未艾。双抗作用的位点主要集中在PD-1/L1、LAG-3、TIGIT、TGF- β 等。传统PD-1抑制剂与CTLA-4抑制剂的Fc段存在ADCC、ADCP等潜在免疫效应,可能对PD-1靶点所在的效应T淋巴细胞和CTLA-4靶点所在的调节性T淋巴细胞产生消耗和杀伤。而双抗药物将Fc段改造成为结合域,达到Fab和Fc段双特异性结合的效果,有部分药物的设计抹除Fc段的ADCC、ADCP等免疫效应,可为患者提供相较双免疫联合方案更好的疗效与安全性。有研究^[40]报道卡度尼利单抗(PD-1/CTLA-4双特异性抗体)在肝癌一线治疗中取得很好的疗效,卡度尼利单抗联合仑伐替尼一线治疗晚期HCC患者的ORR达到44.4%,DCR达到77.8%,而 ≥ 3 级治疗相关不良反应发生率仅为26.7%,显示出高效低毒的明显优势。

3 小结

综上所述,对于经靶向联合免疫治疗耐药进展的晚期肝癌患者,靶向联合治疗、免疫双抗治疗均有望逆转耐药,延长二线治疗的PFS和OS。目前尚缺乏靶向联合免疫治疗肝癌耐药后的治疗方案推荐,未来还需进一步开展前瞻性临床研究提供相关数据,为肝癌经靶向联合免疫治疗耐药后的患者提供有效、安全的治疗方案。

利益冲突声明: 本文不存在任何利益冲突。

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