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新路线方法在全氟和多氟烷基类化合物 (PFAS) 研究中的应用

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摘要: 随着众多化学品的面世, 21 世纪以前利用动物实验评估化合物毒性的方法已无法匹配各种化学品的更迭速度。新世纪诞生了很多毒性测试的新路线方法, 更好地匹配了新世纪的毒理学研究需求并有效提高测试结果与人类的相关性。本文对部分传统与现代的毒性测试与风险评估手段进行概述, 并在此基础上以全氟和多氟烷基类化合物(per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS)为例阐述了部分新路线方法的具体使用。最后总结了新路线方法仍需改进之处, 以期对之后的毒性测试发展有所帮助。

关键词: 新路线方法; 计算毒理学; 风险评估; 高内涵筛选; 全氟和多氟烷基类化合物

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Application of New Approach Methodologies in Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

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Abstract: Before the 21st Century, plenty of laboratory animals were applied to assess the toxicity and potential health risks of compounds. However, with the growing production and application of huge number of new chemicals, these expensive and lengthy *in vivo* testing showed their limitations. To address this challenge, new approach methodologies have arisen in the 21st Century. Many of these new strategies depend on *in silico* evaluation or *in vitro* toxicity pathway in human cells. The results from new strategies were expected to be more closely related to humans and more cost-effective to use. In this paper, we introduce these modern toxicity-testing strategies and their applications in the toxicological studies of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Finally, we summarize the deficiencies of new methods, and hope that improvements in these methods will lead to a promising application in the future.

Keywords: new approach methodologies; computational toxicology; risk assessment; high-content screening; per-

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and polyfluoroalkyl substances

20 世纪,现代毒理学作为新兴学科开始创立和发展。毒理学研究的核心内容是服务于化合物危害的识别、控制和消除^[1]。随着多种化学品的生成和在各行业中的广泛使用,社会对毒理学的需求与日俱增。例如,杀虫剂在保障农业增产丰收的同时,其环境危害和在食品中残留的问题也凸显出来。1965 年国际毒理学会(International Society of Toxicology, IST)的成立有力地推动了毒理学界的学术交流,在这一时期化学分析也逐渐实现了超微量水平检测,细胞生物学等各种基础学科的进步促进了毒理学从整体动物实验研究向体外细胞实验研究和模型预测发展,从简单的效应评价向作用机制研究发展^[2]。21 世纪以前,主要使用不同种属的动物开展毒理学试验研究,与暴露人群观测获取的流行病学数据相结合,并纳入各种混杂因素才能综合评估化学品对暴露者可能带来的影响。上述前提条件有任何一项未能满足,都会导致获得不准确的研究结果^[3]。就毒理学研究而言,如果要获得严谨可靠的结果,至少需要解决如下重要的问题:如何将动物身上获得的实验数据和结果外推到人类,因为在很多情况下,传统的动物实验和毒性测试手段只能提供真实情况的近似值,我们不清楚动物模型能在多大程度上体现人类的反应。上述种种缺陷都让研究者意识到当前基于动物模型的研究数据具有较大局限性,不够完整、准确,所获结果指导后续推导过程有较高发生假阳性和错误的可能,因此毒性测试方式需要进行一场大变革^[4-5]。

1 21 世纪新路线方法(New approach methodologies in the 21st Century)

传统毒性测试手段极为依赖动物实验,然而这些测试手段不但昂贵、耗时,也给实验动物造成了很大的伤害,与此同时动物实验数据与人类建立联系的过程又具有很大的缺陷。因此随着科技发展,对毒理学研究中的动物实验进行优化甚至将其替代成为趋势。1959 年, Russell 和 Burch 发表了《人道主义实验技术原理》(*The Principles of Human Experimental Technique*)一书,提出生物医学研究中动物实验的 3R 理论,即减少(reduce)、优化(refine)和代替(replace),以维护实验动物的基本权益和福利^[2-4]。为了实现该需求,美国国家科学院于 2007 年发布 *Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and A*

Strategy;同年美国环境保护局(US EPA)推出旨在快速评估化学品不良影响的 ToxCast 数据库;2016 年,为降低危险化学品对人类健康造成的危害,美国 *Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (LCSA)* 对化学品的危害评级提出了更高的要求,确定需要优先评估的化学品,协助降低人类接触的可能^[6];欧盟 REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals)也要求增加化学品信息的透明度,确保化学品的安全性,同时减少动物实验^[7];欧盟在 2017 年又提出毒理测试中积极推行非动物方法(non-animal approach)的倡议^[8]。简而言之,这些提议或法案都呼吁通过新路线方法(new approach methodologies, NAM)提高化学品毒性测试效率,实现毒性测试手段从漫长且昂贵的体内定性测试到定量、高通量测试的转变,更加有效地将化学品信息与其毒性评估联系起来。

NAM 可以看做是基于先进技术而建立的毒性测试新策略和技术的统称,主要包括:通过定量构效关系(quantitative structure-activity relationship, QSAR)推测化合物潜在毒性,加快制定需优先化学品(priority chemicals)清单,便于进而利用人体细胞或细胞系进行体外毒性测试^[9];利用计算机软件建立剂量-反应模型,模型建立的过程能够协助确定影响途径的因素;利用规定暴露条件下化合物在体内的吸收、分布、代谢、排泄和毒性(ADMET)性质构建毒代动力学模型,探讨化合物毒性的体内动力学规律,为进行其他毒性实验提供依据;体外到体内外推(*in vitro* to *in vivo* extrapolation, IVIVE)模型用于体外实验结果推体内暴露实验情况,例如,可将体外实验所获毒性剂量转化为人体等效剂量(the human equivalent doses, HEDs),结合毒代动力学数据进一步外推出参考剂量(RfDs)。计算毒理学方法(*in silico*)利用数学模型对毒理学数据开展工作,例如包含数千种化学品生物靶点的 ToxCast 数据库能够增加对化学品危害的认识,配合高通量筛选(high-throughput screening, HTS)协助研究人员有效开发并改进模型的预测能力,对化学品测试和管控进行排序,该类毒性评估模式还具有识别环境化学品的毒性机制的能力^[10]。有研究者提出有害结局路径(adverse outcome pathways, AOPs)这一个全新的概念框架,利用计算毒理学等手段评估化学品信息,由分子起始事

件(molecular initiating event, MIE)开始,梳理、规范从靶点到细胞、从个体到群体每个阶段可能发生的一系列毒性事件,协助确定事件间的前后关系与相互联系,展示 MIE 与“有害结局”(adverse outcome, AO)之间的关联^[11-13];另外,框架中的一条关键事件(key event, KE)可连接多条 AOP,基于这种共享性质探索新的 AOP,建立起复杂的 AOP 网络^[14]。针对细胞系和原代细胞作为体外暴露常用细胞来源存在的各种缺陷,研究人员开发了多种新型细胞模型,例如可再生并提供具有明确生理特性的诱导性多能干细胞(iPSC)、3D 细胞模型、类器官微流体技术促进发展的器官芯片模型和微生理系统(MPS)等,这些新技术有望进一步弥补体外体内模型间的差异^[15]。转录组学、蛋白质组学和代谢组学等组学(omics)研究也有力推动了毒性效应和机制研究的步伐,正推动产生一种建立在系统生物学基础上的,更全面的毒性测试手段^[16]。总之,这些 NAM 不但规避了实验动物的供应短缺或是伦理等问题,而且获取的数据能够提供化学物质作用模式(mode of action, MOA)信息,增强测试结果与人类的相关性^[17]。当前,许多 NAM 已处于成熟或趋于成熟的阶段,能够为新愿景的实现提供良好的技术支持,更好地匹配新世纪的毒理学研究需求。

2 新路线方法在全氟和多氟烷基类化合物研究中的应用 (Application of new approach methodologies in per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)

2.1 全氟和多氟化合物及传统毒性测试方法的不足

全氟和多氟烷基类化合物(per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS)是以烷基链为骨架,碳骨架上的全部或部分氢原子被氟原子取代的合成有机化合物^[18]。该类化合物在生产和使用过程中会释出进入环境,最终导致多种环境介质(水、气、土壤等)中普遍可以检出 PFAS^[19-21]。长链 PFAS 还具有较强的生物累积性和生物毒性,已严重威胁生态环境和人体健康,在世界范围内引起广泛关注^[22-23]。由于 PFAS 的潜在健康危害较大,国际社会于 2001 年共同签署的旨在管控持久性有机污染物的国际公约《斯德哥尔摩公约》,陆续将全氟辛烷磺酸(PFOS)和全氟辛酸(PFOA)及其前体等多种传统 PFAS 加入公约的管控清单。为了探明 PFAS 的毒性效应,利用实验动物进行不同类型的研究,判断其主要毒性靶器官并了解 PFAS 在体内产生的毒性作用^[24-25]。比如小鼠暴露于含有 PFAS 混合物的饮水中,与对照

组相比,会出现肝脏损伤并伴有炎症,证明肝脏是 PFAS 及其替代品的主要毒性靶点之一^[26]。除肝脏毒性外,传统毒性测试方法还证明 PFOA 和 PFOS 会导致生育能力降低、甲状腺疾病的风险增加和对疫苗的抗体反应下降等毒性影响^[27-28]。

动物实验可获得大量关于 PFAS 的基础毒理学信息,但此类评估方法耗时过长。而 PFAS 相关工业发展迅速,传统 PFAS 的生产和使用受到限制后,与其结构相似的替代品大量涌现,如何更加细致、科学地管控 PFAS 替代品是一个严峻的考验。这些替代品的环境和生态安全性尚不明确,其自身是否具有 PBT (persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic)特性或者是否能够经过降解或代谢转化为有 PBT 特性的 PFAS 仍需具体研究^[29]。例如,有些新发现的 PFAS 前体,本身无法与生物体内蛋白质等生物大分子结合,其代谢转化产物却可能与生物分子发生作用,产生较大的毒性^[30]。因此,当前亟需新兴的测试和评估手段来应对 PFAS 毒性研究面临的新问题。下文主要对部分新路线方法在 PFAS 毒性研究中的应用进行简要举例介绍。

2.2 新路线方法在 PFAS 研究中的应用

2.2.1 计算毒理学、高通量和高内涵筛选在 PFAS 风险评估中的应用

PFAS 的研发更新速度快,前体化合物和新型替代品复杂多样,当前环境中新污染物类型、机体负荷和化合物毒理学的信息均十分匮乏^[31-32]。当前,非靶向分析技术丰富了谱库中 PFAS 及其替代品的数据信息,协助了 HTS 框架的建立^[33-35]。基于 Tox-Cast/Tox21 数据库而开发的新型计算毒理学方法能够进行 HTS 获得 PFAS 的暴露浓度与生物响应关系等毒性数据,用于药代动力学等模型(physiologically based pharmacokinetic models, PBPK)的建立,这类计算模型具有机器学习(machine learning)能力,能够提高预测的精确性^[36]。综上所述,非靶向分析、*in silico* 和体外 HTS 的有机组合大幅度丰富了 PFAS 的基础毒性数据,为进一步的危害评估打下基础。

高内涵筛选(high-content screening, HCS)可获得大量细胞信息,如细胞的衰老、分化、迁移等,通过化合物暴露引起的细胞变化(细胞形态、细胞活动等),可确定化合物的生物活性和潜在毒性^[37]。在一项对 PFAS 混合物的协同效应分析的研究中,利用 HCS 进行细胞全景绘制(cell painting),发现细胞核随着暴露剂量的增加而变小^[38];而通过测定细胞氧

化应激标志物和 DNA/RNA 损伤水平,发现较高浓度的 PFOS 与 PFOA 混合物协同作用会诱导氧化应激、DNA/RNA 损伤和脂质过氧化,甚至导致细胞死亡^[39]。这些结果很好地解析了 PFAS 混合物所产生的毒性效应类型,有利于指导化合物复合污染的风险评估。

2.2.2 QSAR 与 MD 模型在 PFAS 新兴替代品开发中的联合应用

QSAR 模型通过研究化合物的结构特征来建立与毒性的关联,预测生物活性,甚至能够在合成化合物之前评估其潜在毒性^[40]。QSAR 模型多基于“*in chemico*”原理而建立,化合物在生物体内产生效应经常由化合物和生物大分子之间的相互作用引起,深入理解化合物与生物大分子间相互作用的化学机制,能够预测对生物大分子的影响及其潜在毒性效应,避免或减少实验动物的使用。由于传统 QSAR 模型在化合物对人类的毒性评估应用中存在缺陷,已有研究人员通过定量结构体外-体内关系(QSIR)来优化 QSAR 模型,构建更为准确新颖的建模方案^[41]。分子动力学(molecular dynamics, MD)模型能够探索蛋白质与配体对接复合物的结合稳定性,与 QSAR 联合使用能预测化合物发挥生物效应的初始结合位点,并且协助判断目标化合物与生物大分子的结合亲和力^[42-43],通过适当的结构修饰与虚拟筛选降低新兴替代品毒性或提高其活性^[44]。比如 PFAS 能与肝脂肪酸结合蛋白(L-FABP)结合引起 PFAS 在肝内蓄积,开发 PFAS 新兴替代品的一个关键点就在于如何减少其在肝脏中的生物蓄积并降低潜在肝毒性,因此 L-FABP 结合能力在 PFAS 毒理学评估中发挥重要作用^[45]。首先收集前期研究中不同类型 PFAS 与 L-FABP 的结合亲和力数据,挑选合适的 PFAS 对大鼠进行灌胃暴露,评估大鼠体内的化合物浓度,预测影响化合物累积的可能因素。同时测量 L-FABP 结合 PFAS 的解离常数(K_d),利用 K_d 协助构建 QSAR 模型并生成数据集^[46]。将该数据集分为训练集与验证集,分别用于 QSAR 模型的开发与模型预测能力的评估,保证模型的准确性。该模型能够使研究者对 PFAS 结构与肝蓄积间的联系有更多的理解,协助开发更为安全的替代品^[45, 47]。另外,对于缺少毒性数据的 PFAS 同系物可以进行交叉参照法(read-across)进行外推,从而避免对每种物质进行测试,节约数据成本^[48]。

2.2.3 “组学”研究及其在 PFAS 效应评估中的应用

基于新一代的测序技术进行的全基因组测序,

可以获得完整的基因组信息,准确检测出每个样本基因组中的变异集合(差异 DNA 序列)。与基因组学对应,研究基因组遗传信息编码生成的全部转录本和蛋白质的学科即为转录组学和蛋白组学。与基因组学不同,蛋白质的组成会随着时间和生物个体的变化而变化,且其生物功能的实施依赖于复杂、多样的修饰形式和相互作用^[49]。转录组能够连接基因组和生物功能的主体执行群体——蛋白质组,协助分析基因转录表达与调控机制^[50-53]。而代谢组学用于毒理学研究时,能将扰动状态下生物体的内源性代谢物水平差异反映到特定的代谢途径中,指示毒性化合物对特定代谢途径的损伤与响应^[54-55]。当前,对全基因组基础上包含的多种“组学”数据进行梳理可建立起具有整体关联性的关键分子网络,该分子网络受到某些毒性影响会产生连锁反应,通过其信号的扰动情况进行不良反应的预测,还能有所获化合物的 MOA 提供宝贵的信息,增强 MOA 的识别和用于风险评估的潜力^[56-61]。另外,分子网络作为发现指示化合物暴露的生物标志物和预示不良效应的生物指示物的重要手段之一,利用这类标志物和指示物可以将高暴露水平下测量的影响结果向低暴露水平推导,并为减少或替代动物试验提供更多的机会^[62]。而剂量效应能够将有限数量的实验动物研究与体外毒性途径分析结合起来建立定量关系,从而利用体外分析数据实现风险评估^[61]。例如,检测和分析不同剂量 PFAS 处理的实验动物肝脏基因表达谱,挑选变化明显的基因进行信号途径的富集分析,发现高剂量 PFAS 通过影响脂质代谢相关的通路导致肝脏脂肪积累,从而将基因信号途径与肝肿大这一不良结局间建立起关联^[63-64]。在一项探究 PFOA 潜在靶蛋白的研究中,根据 PFOA 羧基端亲和含半胱氨酸蛋白质的特性,通过用荧光染料标记的靶向探针封闭未结合 PFOA 的含半胱氨酸位点,在凝胶电泳上差异展现 PFOA 特异结合的蛋白条带,配合 LC-MS/MS 对相应条带进行蛋白质组学研究,确定因此靶向代谢组学检测出的异常脂肪酸代谢能够验证寻找出的靶蛋白,结果发现乙酰辅酶 A 羧化酶的 2 种同工酶 *Acaca* 和 *Acacb* 为潜在的 PFOA 靶蛋白^[65];脂质代谢组学方法多次证明脂肪酸代谢异常是 PFOA 肝脏毒性的重要特征,该蛋白质组学方法所获 PFOA 靶向结合 *Acaca* 和 *Acacb* 与代谢组学检测出的异常脂肪酸相互印证,为 PFOA 干扰脂肪酸代谢的分子机制提供了新视角^[66]。

2.3.4 PBPK、BBDR 与 IVIVE 模型及其在 PFAS 风险评估中的应用

基于生理学的药代动力学(physiologically based pharmacokinetic models, PBPK)模型作为毒理学风险评估的有用工具,关联化学品暴露量与不同时间点下血液和器官中检测出的化学品浓度的同时,还可协助人们评估化学品对健康的潜在影响^[67]。PBPK 模型可以简单分为简便和复杂 2 种类型,前者能够描述体内化学物质的分布特征,而后者除了分布特征外,还能够揭示化学物质在体内的后期转化信息。PBPK 模型可以用于“途径外推”,实现不同暴露方式的 PBPK 模拟转化^[68];而描述动物种属中化学物质的 PBPK 模型改变生理参数即可实现种属间外推,用于人体的过程模拟和预测^[69]。基于生物的剂量反应(biologically based dose-response, BBDR)模型可以将毒性途径中的一个或多个关键事件与组织剂量联系起来,协助建立 PBPK 模型,并将化合物暴露与关键事件/终点事件等作用模式信息关联在一起^[70]。目前针对 PFAS 在人体内体外的毒性效应与潜在健康风险已经进行了大量研究,结果显示多种生理因素(如年龄、体质量和身高等)均影响 PFAS 这类外源性化合物的毒代动力学,大多数老年人、成年男性体内的 PFAS 负担相较其他群体更高^[71-73]。要对不同年龄的人群进行暴露风险评估,建立全生命周期动态 PBPK 模型就变得至关重要^[74-75]。PFAS 的全生命周期动态 PBPK 模型能够支持不同年龄组的暴露评估,对实验猜想进行数据佐证,与此同时可结合药效学和系统生物学以分子机制来解释毒性效应。因 PFOS 成年人模型已经建立并较为完整,以 PFOS 为例简述其全生命周期动态 PBPK 模型的建立过程:在 PFOS 成年人模型的基础上改变模型结构,补充随年龄逐渐变化的人体生理参数(如随年龄而动态变化的器官血流量等)以及体内蓄积 PFOS 的主要代谢途径,用于模拟不同年龄组的 PK 特征;紧接着在模型中纳入理化参数,一般来说血浆分配系数不会随着年龄等发生明显变化,因此可以从早期已建立的模型中获得;最后,由于不同年龄组中多种器官的每日暴露量数据不易获取,而肝脏的相关研究较为完善,因此可以利用肝脏中 PFOS 浓度重建个人每日接触量,据此预测模拟特定年龄下其余器官中的化合物浓度,即可使用有限的实验测量计算不同年龄组的外暴露量^[76-77]。通过该模型可以获知儿童的暴露值与中年人相比较,而老年人的接

触值尽管低于其他组别,体内 PFOS 浓度却相对较高,该现象的产生可能是由于儿童在发育阶段更容易接触到 PFOS,并且日常生活中摄入量较高;而随着年龄增长老年人虽然接触 PFOS 的途径变少,但机体对其清除能力下降,导致体内 PFOS 浓度升高^[78]。

IVIVE 模型用于体外数据向体内定量或定性的预测,也即该类模型可以将体外试验中的化学品外部暴露剂量转化为相应的体内浓度水平,以此将计算体外实验预测的结果与人类或动物模型中观察到的结果进行对应,因此也可以被认为是一种 NAM^[79-80]。需要注意的是,IVIVE 的关键在于体外实验的选择,所选的体外实验要与化学品体内暴露的最终靶点建立良好的相关性,才能够提高外推合理性。例如 QIVIVE 在 PFAS 毒性评估中的应用,通过体外方法或计算机方法等得到 PFAS 的体外毒性数据,并将体外暴露的效应剂量转化成相应的外部暴露剂量(口服等效剂量)与体内等效浓度,以此为基础可以对人体缺失的毒性信息进行补充^[81-82]。由于前期实验已证实肝脏是 PFAS 的主要作用靶点,因此将 PFAS 在培养基中稀释,对肝细胞系进行暴露研究,细胞暴露 24 h 后将胞内 PFAS 含量转化为细胞蛋白浓度并对浓度进行测定,利用 RT-qPCR 测量获得 PFAS 对相关基因的影响,建立表达浓度-响应数据,利用此数据推导内部相对效力因子(relative potency factor, RPF),即可用 QIVIVE 的基础;通过结合 PBPK 模型的反向剂量测定方法,将体外浓度-变化基因表达数据转化为 PFAS 的等效经口暴露量,即可将该暴露量与当前人类慢性膳食暴露估计量进行比较^[83-88]。将此类药代动力学模型应用于 PFAS 的风险评估能够提供其体内毒性和毒代动力学数据,协助补充其他结构相似的化合物相关信息。

2.2.5 AOP 网络在评估 PFAS 毒性中的应用

在 AOP 概念提出以前,毒性事件间的关联缺少连贯性与统一性,AOP 框架很好地将碎片化的毒性信息连接成网络,协助确定不同毒性事件间相互影响的同时,极大简化化学品的毒性评估流程并帮助我们更好地理解化合物的 MOA^[89]。比如目前已发现部分 PFAS 会导致啮齿类动物出生体质量降低甚至死亡等有害结局^[90-92],研究人员针对该结局构建出包含 3 种 AOP 的网络:PFAS 活化过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors, PPAR)作为 MIE,进而影响碳水化合物代谢,导致初生个体肝糖原缺乏等 KEs,这构成第 1 个

AOP^[90-91]; PFAS 激活孕烷 X 受体(pregnane X receptor, PXR)与组成型雄烷受体(constitutive androstane receptor, CAR),降低母体甲状腺激素水平,构成第 2 个 AOP^[92-93];最后一个 AOP 为 PFAS 影响 PPAR γ 功能,损害幼鼠肺泡导致呼吸衰竭^[94]。其他类型 PFAS 如果发现也能激活上述网络中的核受体,则此网络也可适用于该类 PFAS。AOP 网络建立后将其作为研究主题进行文献检索,对网络中不同类型的 MIE、KE 进行验证并判断该网络与人类的相关性,发现尽管该 AOP 网络中的 MIE 与 KE 可以与人类产生关联,但因 PPAR 结构功能以及肝肺发育的物种差异,该 AOP 网络并不适用于人类^[95]。

对本节所介绍的部分新兴毒性检测方法在 PFAS 研究中的应用做了汇总,简要列出了新兴毒性检测方法的工作原理、实际应用和所获得的主要结果(表 1)。

3 新路线方法的不足及展望 (Defects and prospects of new approach methodologies)

新世纪以来,毒性测试手段有了全面发展,在弥

补和改善传统测试手段不足的同时,诞生了许多与人体相关性更为紧密的风险评估方法,新方法较旧手段更为精密、高效,有力提高了实验动物研究与人体暴露效应的相关性(物种外推);提升了高剂量动物试验数据对低剂量或不确定的暴露风险评估的可靠性(剂量外推);增强了对敏感人群的风险预测能力。但是目前毒理学评价方法仍然有改进发展的空间^[96]。

第一,实现生物样品多元化以增强暴露评估可靠性。在收集人体分析物样品时,像血液这种非无创收集的分析物,采集时会给志愿者带来痛苦和不便。在分析评估过程中,单一或者少数几个生物样品所能显示出的化合物相关信息是有限的,据此判定机体负荷,会导致分析结果具有不确定性和可变性。通过采集尿液、毛发、唾液或其他体液,丰富无创采样方式,实现生物样品多元化,结合多种样品的信息能增加结果的可靠性。

第二,AOP 框架并不适用于所有化合物。AOP 框架的建立基于化合物与生物大分子的特异性作用,例如将化合物与某种蛋白的相互作用作为分子起

表 1 新路线方法在全氟和多氟烷基类化合物 (PFAS) 研究中的应用

Table 1 Application of New Approach Methodologies in per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

方法 Methods	原理 Principles	新路线方法在 PFAS 毒性检测中的应用 Application of New Approach Methodologies in PFAS	结果 Outcomes
非靶向分析技术 Non-targeted analysis	高分辨质谱等技术提供碎片离子等信息推断化合物的分子结构特征 ^[98-100] High-resolution mass spectrometry and other techniques provide information such as fragment ions which can be used to infer chemical structure ^[98-100]	非靶向分析技术检测样品中传统 PFAS 及其替代物并进行半定量分析,其扫描谱图与 PFAS 数据库进行对比,筛选未知的 PFAS ^[33-35] Non-targeted analysis detects conventional PFAS and their alternatives in samples and compares their scanned spectra with the PFAS database to search unknown PFAS ^[33-35]	非靶向分析技术获得 PFAS 化合物的基础数据,为暴露及危害评估提供依据,减轻筛选 PFAS 分析物的工作量。由于该技术进行非偏移性的检测,导致其灵敏度和重复性较差 Non-targeted analysis obtains baseline data on PFAS compounds, which provides a basis for exposure and hazard assessment, and reduces the workload for PFAS analytes. The technique is unbiased, but the sensitivity and reproducibility is not good
有害结局途径网络 Adverse outcome pathways	假定毒性源于外源化学分子与生物大分子的相互作用,激活信号传导的关键事件,在宏观尺度上表现出有害效应 Toxicity arises from the interaction of exogenous chemicals with biological macromolecules, which activates key events and leads to deleterious effects	针对已明确研究的 PFAS 对啮齿类动物的毒性作用,构建包含不同类型的分子起始事件(MIE)与关键事件(KE)的 AOP 网络,判断该网络与人类的相关性 ^[95] To construct an AOP network for the well-studied PFAS. Then assess if the MIE and KE in the AOP network can be extrapolated to humans ^[95]	啮齿类动物与人类的 PPAR 与核受体结构与功能间有明显差异,导致构建出的 AOP 网络不适用于人类。也就是不同物种 AOP 网络间的关联程度不高 ^[95] There are significant differences in PPAR and other nuclear receptors between rodent and human, which result in the failure of extrapolating the AOP networks to humans. This means that association between the AOP networks from different species is not high ^[95]

续表1

方法 Methods	原理 Principles	新路线方法在 PFAS 毒性检测中的应用 Application of New Approach Methodologies in PFAS	结果 Outcomes
基于生理学的药代动力学(PBPK)模型 Physiologically based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) models	连接化学品暴露量与不同时间点的化学品浓度,展示化学物质的分布特征与体内转化信息 ^[67] Connecting of the exposures with chemical concentrations at different time points to show the distribution and transformation information of chemicals <i>in vivo</i> ^[67]	纳入变化的人体生理参数,更改原有模型的结构;补充全氟辛烷磺酸(PFOS)理化参数;利用已有的研究数据重建个体每日接触量,以此建立PFAS的全生命周期动态PBPK模型 ^[76] Including physiological parameters in human and modifying the original model; supplying with PFOS physicochemical parameters; building a dynamic life-span PBPK model of PFAS ^[76]	该模型协助计算不同年龄组的PFAS外部暴露量,对实验猜想进行数据佐证,与其他学科联系以分子机制来解释毒性效应。但PBPK模型建立需要大量毒性相关参数,当数据缺乏时结果仅能作为推测引导 The model helps to calculate external PFAS exposure in different age groups, facilitating to explore the molecular mechanisms. However, PBPK modelling requires much toxicity-related parameters, and can only be used as a speculation without these parameters
定量体外到体内外推 Quantitative <i>in vitro</i> to <i>in vivo</i> extrapolation	体外实验获得化学品外部暴露剂量转化为相应的体内浓度水平,与动物或人类模型中观测的结果进行对比 ^[72] External exposure doses obtained from <i>in vitro</i> experiments are converted to equivalent <i>in vivo</i> concentrations, which then compare with results observed in animal or human models ^[72]	PFAS暴露肝细胞24 h,将胞内化合物浓度与变化基因的响应数据相关联,推导内部相对效力因子(RPF),建立QIVIVE模型。将浓度-响应数据转化为PFAS等效经口暴露量,与已知的人类慢性膳食暴露估计量进行比较 The hepatocytes were exposed to PFAS for 24 h. Intracellular concentrations were correlated with the change in genes to calculate RPFs and build QIVIVE model. Concentration-response data were converted to PFAS equivalent oral exposures and compared to the estimates of chronic dietary exposure	尽管可补充人体缺失的PFAS毒性信息,将其体外暴露效应剂量转化为相应的口服等效剂量与体内等效浓度 ^[81-82] 。但体外实验无法更准确地模拟体内暴露环境,如何保证推测过程的合理性,仍是需要解决的问题 The missing toxicity data of PFAS in human can be supplemented by converting the <i>in vitro</i> exposure effect dose to the corresponding oral equivalent dose or <i>in vivo</i> equivalent concentration ^[81-82] . However, <i>in vitro</i> experiments cannot more accurately simulate the <i>in vivo</i> environment; this issue still needs to be addressed
分子动力学与定量构效关系模型 Molecular dynamics and quantitative structure-activity relationship	QSAR模型建立化合物的结构特征与毒性的关联,评估其潜在毒性。MD模型探究蛋白质与化合物的结合稳定性 ^[42-43] The correlation between structural features and toxicity were modelled with QSAR to assess the potential toxicity of chemicals. MD simulations investigate the binding stability of protein and chemical complex ^[42-43]	选择合适的PFAS对大鼠进行经口灌胃,测定组织内的化合物浓度。利用与肝脂肪酸结合蛋白(L-FABP)结合的PFAS解离常数(K_d)构建QSAR模型,评估优化其预测能力 ^[45, 47] PFAS concentrations in tissues were determined after oral gavage. QSAR models were developed using PFAS dissociation constants (K_d) binding to L-FABP ^[45, 47]	QSAR与MD模型协助判断PFAS与L-FABP的结合亲和力,通过结构修饰等方法降低化合物毒性,开发更为安全的PFAS替代品 ^[44] 。对于该方法来说,分子描述符的选择对构建结果至关重要 QSAR and MD modelling not only help to determine the binding affinity of PFAS to L-FABP, but reduce the toxicity by structural modifications, and are very helpful in developing safer PFAS alternatives ^[44] . In addition, molecular descriptors are critical
高内涵筛选(HCS) High-content screening (HCS)	HCS在保持细胞结构和功能完整性的同时检测化合物对细胞形态、生长和代谢途径等环节影响 HCS detects the effects of compounds on aspects of cell morphology, growth and metabolic pathways while maintaining the structural and functional integrity of the cell	利用细胞涂色测定标记细胞不同成分进行HCS,细胞成像系统快速获取细胞图像并进行自动分析,将其转化为数值数据 Cell painting mark different components of cells for HCS, the cell imaging system rapidly acquires cell images and automatically analyses them into numerical data	低剂量PFAS暴露下仍会影响细胞形态和生长。该方法能够显示出化合物对多种靶点的影响 Low-dose PFAS exposure still affects cell morphology and growth. The method was able to show the effects of the compounds on multiple targets

始事件,进而启动后续的信号途径,但有些毒性化合物并不具有明确的分子靶点,没有特异性的分子起始事件。比如某些强腐蚀性物质(强酸强碱等),直接对生物组织构成严重损伤,这类“有害结局”与特异性生物分子并无密切关联。这种情况下的 AOP 框架就无法围绕关键毒性通路应用于风险评估,因此这类特殊化合物的危害评估就需要独立出来。单一实验工具在 AOP 框架信息评估过程中所能发挥的作用是有限的,为了解决单一工具的局限性,还需要组合使用或配合不同的工具和方法。

第三,简化的体外评估系统无法很好地模拟出复杂的体内环境。体外实验所用的细胞或细胞系,缺乏体内神经、体液、内分泌等高级、复杂的反馈和互作系统,部分效应无法实现有效模拟,会导致外推过程不准确甚至发生错误。另外,研究表明 IVIVE 在预测人体肝清除率时,肝细胞系和肝组织来源的微粒体之间的研究数据存在差别,例如绝大多数的 CYP3A4 底物在肝组织微粒体中测出的清除率相比体外的肝细胞系更加准确^[97]。尽管 PBPK/TK 模型作为一种有用工具,能够整合 QIVIVE 所需要的各种体内数据,但化合物的 PBPK/TK 模型具有专属性,难以在其他化学品中套用。这些缺陷都需要进一步改进以便增强外推方法的可靠性。

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