

硝化应激与心血管疾病的研究进展

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摘要: 硝化应激可引起蛋白质发生硝基化修饰, 对细胞产生毒性作用, 导致细胞损伤及凋亡。另外, 硝化应激在线粒体损伤以及炎症因子产生等病理生理过程中发挥重要作用。硝化应激在动脉粥样硬化、心肌缺血再灌注损伤、高血压、心力衰竭及糖尿病心肌病等心血管疾病的发生发展中起着关键作用。本文介绍了硝化应激的生物特性及其引起细胞损伤的作用机制, 进而分析硝化应激在多种心血管疾病发生发展中的作用, 以期对心血管疾病的防治提供新的思路和方法。

关键词: 硝化应激; 过氧亚硝基阴离子; 3-硝基酪氨酸; 心血管疾病

Research progress on nitrative stress and cardiovascular diseases

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Abstract: Nitrative stress contributes to protein nitration leading to cytotoxicity, cell damage and apoptosis. In addition, it plays the most crucial role in the pathophysiological processes, including mitochondrial damage and production of inflammatory factors. Recently, mounting evidence supports that nitrative stress plays vital part in the occurrence and development of cardiovascular diseases, such as atherosclerosis, myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury, hypertension, heart failure and diabetic cardiomyopathy. This paper introduces the biological properties of nitrative stress and mechanism of nitrative stress on cell damage, and analyzes the role of nitrative stress in the occurrence and development of a variety of cardiovascular diseases, with the aim of providing new ideas and methods for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Key Words: nitrative stress; peroxynitrite anion; 3-nitrotyrosine; cardiovascular disease

心血管疾病是严重威胁全球人类健康的疾病之一, 其具有高患病率、高住院率、高致残率及高病死率等特点。在中国, 心血管疾病的死亡人数呈逐年上升趋势, 占全国死亡总人口的40%^[1]。因此, 探索心血管疾病的病理生理机制及治疗靶点, 具有重要的临床意义。近年来大量研究证实, 硝化应激参与了多种心血管疾病的病理生理过程, 但其具体作用机制仍需进一步研究阐明。

本文对硝化应激在动脉粥样硬化、心肌缺血再灌注损伤、高血压、糖尿病心肌病及心力衰竭等心血管疾病的发生发展中的作用进行综述与展望, 为未来临床更深入的研究提供理论依据。

1 硝化应激

1.1 硝化应激的概述

硝化应激是由一氧化氮(nitric oxide, NO)或由

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NO衍生的活性氮族(reactive nitrogen species, RNS)与活性氧族(reactive oxygen species, ROS)联合发生的生物化学反应,迅速生成大量过氧亚硝基阴离子(peroxynitrite anion, ONOO^-),进而硝化蛋白质、脂质与DNA等生物大分子,形成3-硝基酪氨酸(3-nitrotyrosine, 3-NT)^[2]。目前,3-NT被认为是体内 ONOO^- 形成的生物标志物。NO由一氧化氮合酶(nitric oxide synthase, NOS)合成,NOS具有三种不同的亚型:内皮型NOS(endothelial NOS, eNOS)、神经元型NOS(neuronal NOS, nNOS)和诱导型NOS(inducible NOS, iNOS)^[3]。eNOS主要分布于血管内皮细胞和心肌细胞,其通过氧化L-精氨酸的末端胍基氮原子生成NO,参与心血管系统的调节。eNOS具有维持基础血管张力、调节血管舒张、抑制血管平滑肌收缩、抑制白细胞黏附及血小板聚集等作用,在心血管疾病的发生发展中发挥重要的保护作用。nNOS主要在中枢和外周神经元以及其他一些细胞类型中表达,其功能包括血压的中枢调节及平滑肌松弛等。iNOS在细胞中通常不表达,但可被细菌脂多糖、细胞因子等诱导表达^[4]。在病理条件下,机体细胞iNOS表达增加^[5],其产生的过量NO与超氧化物结合形成大量 ONOO^- ,后者诱发蛋白质酪氨酸硝化形成3-NT,产生细胞毒性作用,最终导致细胞损伤或凋亡级联反应^[6]。

1.2 硝化应激引起细胞损伤的作用机制

人体内同时存在氧自由基及抗氧化物质,二者在生理状态下处于动态平衡。在病理状态下,氧自由基生成增多或抗氧化机制减弱会引起硝化应激的发生,进而导致细胞受损,诱发相关疾病。硝化应激导致细胞损伤的机制主要包括^[7,8]:(1) ONOO^- 使细胞内蛋白质酪氨酸残基硝基化,激活或抑制其功能,改变酶活性及细胞骨架蛋白,最终引起蛋白质变性;(2) ONOO^- 通过影响线粒体膜电位或线粒体呼吸链等途径介导线粒体依赖的凋亡级联反应;(3) ONOO^- 作用于DNA,引起碱基修饰和DNA链断裂,最终导致细胞死亡;(4) ONOO^- 穿过生物膜后与细胞内脂质发生反应,从而影响细胞的生理功能。综上所述,硝化应激可促进蛋白质酪氨酸硝基化,并导致脂质过氧化、DNA链断裂、细胞膜损伤及功能酶失活,从而激

活细胞死亡的级联信号反应,在众多疾病的发生发展中发挥重要作用。

2 硝化应激与心血管疾病

2.1 硝化应激与动脉粥样硬化

动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)被认为是冠心病、脑血管疾病、外周血管疾病等血管疾病的病理基础。Parastatidis等^[9]及Gong等^[10]在AS小鼠的主动脉窦中发现过量的 ONOO^- 和3-NT表达。Cai等^[11]在ApoE^{-/-}小鼠模型中同样发现,颈动脉斑块中的iNOS和 ONOO^- 含量显著增加。而抑制iNOS表达后,颈动脉斑块中 ONOO^- 的形成减少,并观察到斑块大小及面积显著减少,逆转了AS的进展。因此推测,iNOS及其产生的 ONOO^- 引起的硝化应激促进了AS的发生发展。而硝化应激如何促进AS的进展,目前研究证实其主要通过促进内皮细胞功能紊乱、脂质代谢异常、细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)重塑等方面发挥作用。

首先,硝化应激可以通过促进体内蛋白质酪氨酸硝化而损害内皮功能^[12]。据报道,人冠状动脉内皮细胞在 ONOO^- 修饰的纤维连接蛋白上的黏附和细胞扩展减少^[13]。此外,硝化应激减弱了内皮依赖性血管扩张剂乙酰胆碱的血管松弛反应^[14]。另有研究报道,硝化应激通过干扰NO-环磷酸鸟苷途径,损害内皮依赖性血管松弛,而给予较低剂量的伐地那非(磷酸二酯酶-5抑制剂)预处理可以抑制硝化应激发生,进而改善内皮细胞功能^[15]。此外,硝化应激还可直接诱导血管细胞损伤,增加内皮细胞 Ca^{2+} 过载及微血管通透性^[16]。因此,硝化应激通过减弱内皮细胞之间的黏附及扩展、损害血管松弛反应及增加血管通透性,进而诱导内皮细胞功能障碍,最终促进AS发生。

其次,研究发现,硝化应激可促使低密度脂蛋白(low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, LDL)氧化为氧化低密度脂蛋白(oxidized low density lipoprotein, ox-LDL)^[17]。ox-LDL有助于血管壁中的泡沫细胞发育,增加黏附分子表达和促进血小板活化^[18],促进AS发生。另有研究显示,硝化应激使载脂蛋白A-I硝化,导致高密度脂蛋白的功能失调,从而激活血管内皮细胞产生促炎和促黏附分子,促进内皮细胞迁移和增殖^[19]。此外,载脂

蛋白A-I硝化还可降低巨噬细胞中ATP结合盒转运蛋白A1的胆固醇外排能力,导致胆固醇在血管壁上蓄积^[20],加重AS形成。因此,硝化应激对特定脂蛋白的硝化促进了AS的进展。目前对于AS病变中硝化脂蛋白的研究较少,今后仍需更多研究进一步探讨。

再者,有研究报道,ECM在AS的发生发展中起至关重要的作用^[21]。硝化应激能够引起sirtuin-1(烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸依赖性蛋白脱乙酰酶)蛋白失活,进而激活YAP蛋白(Hippo信号通路的核心效应因子),导致异常ECM重塑^[22]。在人类AS病变中发现,硝化应激导致多种ECM蛋白被硝化,如硫酸乙酰肝素蛋白多糖、纤维连接蛋白及层黏连蛋白,这些硝化应激介导的ECM蛋白修饰及其诱发的ECM受损,导致内皮细胞功能障碍,使AS的纤维膜变弱及破裂倾向增加^[13,23-25],易诱发冠心病及中风。此外,硝化应激破坏血管平滑肌细胞(smooth muscle cell, SMC)外ECM蛋白的三维结构,减弱SMC的黏附,促进SMC增殖,并促进了SMC迁移和脂质的吸收效率,同时减少了胆固醇的外流。硝化应激还导致ECM中炎症和氧化应激相关基因的表达显著增加^[26]。因此,硝化应激介导的ECM重塑也参与了AS的发生及发展。

2.2 硝化应激与心肌缺血再灌注损伤

心肌缺血再灌注(myocardial ischemia/reperfusion, MI/R)损伤是指缺血心肌重新恢复血流灌注后,反而加重了心肌细胞损伤的情况。研究证实,MI/R损伤与硝化应激密切相关。在MI/R期间,ROS及RNS含量显著增加,导致过量的ONOO⁻形成,进而诱导3-NT形成,其与脂质、蛋白质和DNA反应,导致心肌细胞损伤并触发凋亡途径,引起MI/R损伤^[27]。Tatarkova等^[28]证实,小鼠缺血心肌中3-NT含量轻微升高,而缺血后再灌注心肌3-NT含量显著增加,导致心肌细胞凋亡,诱发MI/R损伤。而通过抑制ONOO⁻的形成,降低了硝化应激介导的细胞凋亡,有效减轻了小鼠MI/R损伤^[29]。因此,硝化应激介导的细胞凋亡在MI/R损伤中起关键作用。

既往研究证实,Notch1信号通路在MI/R损伤中起着重要的保护作用,能够改善心肌梗死后的心脏功能^[30]。Pei等^[31]在构建的小鼠MI/R模型中发

现,下调Notch1表达可增加心肌组织中iNOS的表达,降低eNOS的表达,进而促进ONOO⁻、3-NT的生成;而Jagged1(Notch1配体)^[31]、肿瘤坏死因子- α 抑制剂^[32]激活Notch1表达可抑制硝化应激,减轻MI/R损伤。此外,褪黑激素受体2(melatonin receptor 2, MT2)可通过上调小鼠MI/R模型中MT2/Notch1/Hes1/ROR1 α 信号通路,减弱硝化应激介导的心肌损伤作用^[33]。因此,激活Notch1信号途径能够抑制硝化应激的发生,进而保护心肌免受MI/R,这为预防和治疗MI/R提供了新的作用靶点。

2.3 硝化应激与高血压

在心血管系统中,NO是血管内皮细胞产生的重要血管扩张剂,对维持正常血压至关重要^[34]。eNOS产生的NO信号可引起血管舒张,进而降低血压^[35]。而iNOS产生的高浓度NO与超氧阴离子反应,从而生成ONOO⁻,促进硝化应激和内皮功能障碍,导致血管外周阻力升高,最终促进高血压的发生^[34,36]。据报道,在原发性高血压患者及高血压动物模型的动脉中发现iNOS表达增加,而抑制iNOS诱发的硝化应激可以改善内皮依赖性血管扩张^[37,38],从而降低血压。Bhatt等^[39]及Randriamboavonjy等^[40]在自发性高血压大鼠(spontaneously hypertensive rats, SHR)中发现,主动脉组织中3-NT含量增加,过量的3-NT可激活颈动脉体化学感受器,促使高血压的发生。ONOO⁻清除剂可阻止大鼠颈动脉体化学感受器兴奋,达到降低高血压的作用^[41]。Li等^[42]研究显示,SHR的血管平滑肌细胞(vascular smooth muscle cells, VSMC)、主动脉及肾脏组织中ONOO⁻、3-NT水平显著升高。另外有临床研究发现,高血压患者血浆ONOO⁻与3-NT水平也显著升高^[43]。这些结果表明,高血压的发生发展中存在硝化应激的增强。多项研究证实,C-ANP₄₋₂₃(利钠肽受体-C激活剂)^[42]、白藜芦醇^[44]、硝普钠^[45]、辣木种子^[40]等多种药物能够通过抑制硝化应激来降低高血压。

2.4 硝化应激与心力衰竭

心力衰竭是一种具有高发病率及高死亡率的复杂临床综合征,是各种心血管疾病的终末阶段。在心力衰竭小鼠模型的心肌组织中发现了过度表达的iNOS和ONOO⁻。进一步研究发现,iNOS^{-/-}心力衰竭小鼠降低了硝化应激发生,并改善

了心肌纤维化及心肌细胞肥大^[46]。Mihm等^[47]建立心肌梗死后心力衰竭小鼠模型,通过免疫组织化学染色法观察到,小鼠心肌组织中3-NT表达增加。此外,在心力衰竭患者心肌组织中同样发现iNOS、3-NT表达增加,进一步观察到iNOS阳性患者具有左心室容积大及左室射血分数低的特点^[48]。一项研究显示,对射血分数保留性心力衰竭(heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, HFpEF)动物模型及临床HFpEF患者的心肌组织活检发现了增加的iNOS活性和蛋白质硝化;而iNOS敲除小鼠的心肌组织中iNOS表达及整体心肌蛋白硝化明显降低^[49],舒张功能障碍也有所改善。这些结果表明,硝化应激可能是参与心力衰竭发展的重要机制之一。

在心力衰竭中,硝化应激通过激活核因子- κ B (nuclear factor- κ B, NF- κ B)导致心脏纤维化和心肌细胞肥大^[50],并促进结缔组织生长因子水平升高及心脏成纤维细胞增殖,从而加剧心脏肥大^[51]。此外,硝化应激引起心肌线粒体功能障碍和ATP耗竭,导致细胞死亡、心肌细胞肥大及间质纤维化增加,进而诱发心力衰竭^[52];硝化应激还可氧化并消耗四氢生物蝶呤(tetrahydrobiopterin, BH4),导致eNOS解偶联,产生过量的超氧化物,增加氧化应激发生,引起心肌病理性重塑。而给予BH4治疗后逆转了心肌肥大和纤维化,改善了心力衰竭^[53]。另有研究报道,硝化应激能够激活心力衰竭小鼠交感神经兴奋并增加水钠潴留,导致进行性心功能不全,而通过抑制NO和超氧化物的表达能够改善上述变化^[54]。

除了上述机制外,硝化应激还可硝化与心肌收缩力、代谢和抗氧化防御机制相关的关键蛋白质^[55]。据报道,硝化应激硝化肌原纤维肌酸激酶会损害心肌收缩力^[47]。硝化应激还抑制 Ca^{2+} 泵、 Ca^{2+} 激活的K通道及Na-K-ATP酶等多种离子通道泵,最终导致心肌收缩能力下降^[56]。有研究在心力衰竭患者心脏中发现,肌动蛋白和原肌球蛋白硝化显著增加,并与左室射血分数呈负相关,推测肌动蛋白和原肌球蛋白硝化可能导致终末期心力衰竭时的收缩功能障碍^[57]。磷酸蛋白通过调节 Ca^{2+} 的摄取在兴奋-收缩耦合中起关键作用。研究发现,硝化应激导致蛋白质磷酸酶2 α 活化,进而

减少磷酸蛋白丝氨酸磷酸化,降低心肌肌浆网的 Ca^{2+} 摄取,最终导致心肌收缩功能障碍^[58],进而诱发心力衰竭。综上,硝化应激通过硝化心力衰竭中的特定蛋白质,导致心力衰竭的发生及发展。特定蛋白硝化的发现为治疗心力衰竭提供了新的靶点及途径。

2.5 硝化应激与糖尿病心肌病

糖尿病心肌病是糖尿病的心血管并发症之一,是糖尿病患者在没有冠状动脉粥样硬化所致心肌缺血和高血压的情况下发生的心室功能障碍的临床病症^[59]。研究证实,在糖尿病患者及糖尿病小鼠模型的心肌组织中检测到3-NT水平升高^[60]。Lin等^[61]也发现,在高糖/高脂处理的H9C2细胞及db/db小鼠心肌组织中iNOS、ONOO⁻、3-NT水平升高,并在db/db小鼠中观察到心肌细胞凋亡、心肌纤维化和肥大等不良心脏重塑。而补充鸢尾素通过减少iNOS产生,抑制了硝化应激发生,改善了不良心肌结构重塑。另外,在高葡萄糖培养的心肌细胞中,观察到心肌细胞收缩力降低、松弛时间延长,给予抗氧化剂、ONOO⁻中和剂处理后心肌收缩功能障碍明显改善^[62]。因此,硝化应激在糖尿病心肌病的发生发展中发挥着至关重要的作用^[63]。

研究报道,高血糖会刺激晚期糖基化终产物产生,激活蛋白激酶C,并增强多元醇途径,导致超氧阴离子形成增加,其与NO相互作用,形成ONOO⁻,损伤血管内皮、血管平滑肌及心肌中的生物分子,导致心血管功能障碍^[64]。此外,随着糖尿病的发展, β 氧化不能充分代谢体内的脂肪酸,导致细胞内脂质积累和脂毒性,引起ROS和RNS的产生增加,诱发硝化应激,进而增加氧化应激和内质网应激并抑制自噬^[65],这些结果共同导致心肌细胞死亡、心脏肥大和炎症,以及诱导ECM重塑和心肌纤维化^[66]。此外,硝化应激可导致糖尿病心脏线粒体蛋白硝化,引起线粒体功能紊乱,进而诱导细胞凋亡^[67];硝化应激还可激活NF- κ B信号通路介导的炎症反应,导致心肌肥大、纤维化及心肌功能异常^[68]。炎症因子反过来激活糖尿病心肌细胞的NF- κ B途径^[69],驱动iNOS诱发的硝化应激,进而调节心肌细胞钙信号通路并导致心功能障碍^[70]。目前,虽然对硝化应激与糖尿

病心肌病之间的作用机制有一定的了解,但仍需进一步深入研究。

3 小结及展望

综上,硝化应激在心血管疾病的发生发展中发挥重要作用,它通过蛋白质硝基化修饰,引起机体细胞毒性、DNA链断裂、功能酶失活等多种重要的生物学功能,导致NO生物利用度下降、内皮功能障碍、炎症因子产生、细胞凋亡等多种病理反应,促进了AS、MI/R损伤、高血压、心力衰竭、糖尿病性心肌病等疾病的发生发展,此方面的深入研究可以为心血管疾病的防治提供新的靶点和理论依据。

虽然目前对硝化应激有了一定的认识,但仍有其局限性。由于RNS的高反应性及短半衰期,目前的研究方法还无法准确识别诱导硝化应激的RNS。此外,目前还缺乏定位和量化硝化应激的实用方法,虽然少数抗体可以检测到3-NT,但蛋白质酪氨酸硝化并不能完全反映硝化应激的水平。因此,未来检测硝化应激的生物学方法的突破将促进该领域研究的发展,加深我们对硝化应激的认识。在不同心血管疾病中,硝化应激对特异性靶蛋白酪氨酸硝化的作用不同,因此,进一步深入研究心血管疾病与特定蛋白酪氨酸硝化的关系,对于揭示相关疾病的发病机制具有指导性意义,可以为预防心血管疾病发生和寻找新的药物靶点提供新思路。

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