

# 中国居民甲基汞暴露的来源和健康风险

李平<sup>1\*</sup>, 陈敏<sup>2</sup>, 王波<sup>1,3</sup>

1. 中国科学院 地球化学研究所, 环境地球化学国家重点实验室, 贵阳 550081;
2. 贵州医科大学 公共卫生学院, 贵阳 550025; 3. 中国科学院大学, 北京 100049

**摘要:**汞是一种全球性污染物,也是毒性最强的重金属污染物之一,《关于汞的水俣公约》已于2017年8月16日生效。中国是全球最大的汞生产、使用和排放国,环境汞污染形势十分严峻,而我国居民汞(特别是甲基汞)暴露可能导致的健康风险仍不清楚。针对上述问题,笔者结合近年来的研究工作综述了我国居民甲基汞暴露的来源和健康风险。一般认为食用鱼肉和其他水产品是人体甲基汞暴露的主要途径,近年来研究发现食用大米也可以是特定人群暴露甲基汞的主要途径;汞同位素数据也证实食用大米对万山和长顺居民的贡献高达95%和96%。尽管我国环境汞污染十分严重,但是我国一般居民甲基汞暴露的风险较低;今后应该加强对汞污染场地的修复、减少水稻甲基汞的富集以降低汞暴露的健康风险。

**关键词:**甲基汞; 毒性; 暴露来源; 健康风险

中图分类号:P595 文章编号:1007-2802(2019)04-0725-04 doi:10.19658/j.issn.1007-2802.2019.38.067

## Sources and Health Risks of Methylmercury Exposure in Chinese Residents

LI Ping<sup>1\*</sup>, CHEN Min<sup>2</sup>, WANG Bo<sup>1,3</sup>

1. State Key Laboratory of Environmental Geochemistry, Institute of Geochemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Guiyang 550081, China;
2. School of Public Health, Guizhou Medical University, Guiyang 550025, China;
3. University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China

**Abstract:** Mercury (Hg) is considered as a global pollutant and is one of the most toxic heavy metal pollutants. The Minamata Convention on Mercury entered into force on 16 August 2017. China is the largest producer, user and emitter of Hg in the world with very serious situation of Hg pollution in environment. However, health risks of the Hg (especially for the methylmercury (MeHg) exposure to residents in China are still unclear. In this context, we have systematically reviewed researches on environmental health risks of the Hg exposure to residents in China based on recent research progresses. Generally, it is believed that the consumption of fish and other aquatic products is a main pathway of the MeHg exposure, but the rice consumption can be a main pathway of the MeHg exposure for specific population. The results of stable Hg isotope also showed that the relative contributions of the MeHg exposure from the consumed rice are as high as 95% and 96% to residents in the Wanshan and Changshun areas, respectively. Although the environmental Hg pollution in China is very serious, the overall health risks of MeHg exposure in general residents of China are relatively low. Therefore, we should strengthen the remediation of Hg contaminated sites in order to reduce the concentration of MeHg accumulated in rice and human health risks of Hg exposure.

**Key words:** methylmercury; toxicity; exposure source; health risk

汞在大气中主要以气态单质形式存在,可长时间在大气中滞留(半衰期0.5~2 a),并通过大气循环进行长距离跨国界传输,因此被认为是一种全球

性污染物(Schroeder and Munthe, 1998)。汞是毒性最强的重金属污染物之一。上世纪发生在日本的水俣病就是甲基汞中毒事件,是世界上迄今为止最

严重的环境公害事件。2013年10月10日,联合国环境规划署表决通过旨在控制和减少全球汞排放的《关于汞的水俣公约》,我国于2016年4月批准汞公约,公约已于2017年8月16日生效。

我国是全球最大的汞生产、使用和排放国,每年汞的生产量和消费量分别占世界总量的70%和50%(菅小东等,2009),我国2010年人为活动大气汞排放量为538 t,约占全球人为源汞排放量的30%(Zhang et al.,2015)。我国的汞污染形势十分严峻(冯新斌等,2013),土壤汞的点位超标率为1.6%,土壤汞含量呈现从西北地区到东南地区、从东北地区到西南地区逐渐升高的趋势(环境保护部和国土资源部,2014)。然而,我国汞(特别是甲基汞)暴露可能导致的健康风险仍不清楚,前人仅开展一些零星的鱼汞、发汞等研究工作。针对上述问题,笔者近年来系统开展了我国典型地区汞的环境健康风险研究,从汞的毒性效应、人体甲基汞的暴露来源和我国居民甲基汞暴露的健康风险3个方面进行概述,为我国的环境管理、汞污染修复和健康风险控制提供重要的科学依据。

## 1 汞的毒性效应

汞的化学形态划分为无机汞(元素汞、二价汞等)和有机汞(甲基汞等)。汞的化学形态不同,其毒性差异较大,其中甲基汞是毒性最强的汞化合物,其与含巯基的酶和蛋白具有高的亲和性,可以通过血-脑屏障和胎盘屏障,从而对人体健康造成严重影响(Mergler et al.,2007)。甲基汞的毒性主要为神经毒性,大脑和神经系统被视为发生甲基汞中毒的靶器官,典型症状为末梢感觉错乱、视野收缩、运动性共济失调、构音障碍、听觉错乱以及震颤(Clarkson et al.,2003;Carocci et al.,2014)。肾脏毒性(Li et al.,2010)、心血管毒性(Hu et al.,2018)、生殖毒性(Itai et al.,2004)和免疫系统毒性(Gardner et al.,2010)也被报道和发现。世界卫生组织(WHO,1990)估计甲基汞中毒的临界血汞浓度为200 μg/L(相应发汞浓度约为50 μg/g)。近年来的研究显示,孕妇低剂量长期甲基汞暴露会严重影响胎儿智力发育,母体发汞含量每增加1 μg/g,胎儿智商(IQ)平均下降约0.18(Trasande et al.,2005),由此造成重大的社会和经济损失。JECFA(2003)的甲基汞最大允许摄入量为0.23 μg/(kg·d)(相当于发汞含量为2.3 μg/g),USEPA(1997)的推荐值为0.1 μg/(kg·d)(相当于发汞含量为1.0 μg/g)。

## 2 人体甲基汞的暴露来源

甲基汞有生物富集和食物链放大作用。水生食物链顶端的鱼类甲基汞含量比水体高10<sup>6</sup>~10<sup>7</sup>倍,食用高甲基汞含量的鱼肉和其他水产品是人体甲基汞暴露的主要途径(Mergler et al.,2007)。我国鱼和水产品的汞含量整体较低(闫海鱼等,2008;Cheng et al.,2009;姚珩等,2010;Li et al.,2013),远低于我国食用水产品甲基汞安全限值(肉食性1.0 μg/g;其他0.5 μg/g)。这与我国野生鱼类资源较少,大部分鱼类是人工养殖的,其食物丰富且食物链简单,鱼体生长速度快,甲基汞难以在鱼体内生物富集有关(Cheng and Hu,2012)。

一般而言,粮食中的汞含量低于20 ng/g,且以无机汞的形式为主(WHO,1991)。Horvat等(2003)首次报道贵州万山汞矿区大米含有高含量的甲基汞,最大值达到144 ng/g。近期大量的研究工作证实汞矿区大米的甲基汞含量与背景区相比显著升高,变化范围为1.9~174 ng/g(Qiu et al.,2008)。通过对万山汞矿区居民的甲基汞暴露途径的调查,发现其甲基汞暴露量的94%~98%来源于大米的摄入,并且居民食用大米甲基汞的日摄入量与头发甲基汞含量之间存在极显著的正相关关系,这证实了贵州汞矿区当地居民暴露甲基汞的主要途径是食用甲基汞污染的大米(Feng et al.,2008),这一结果打破了长期以来学术界认为人体甲基汞的暴露途径是食用鱼和水产品(Mergler et al.,2007)的传统认识。贵州省万山汞矿区、威宁土法炼锌区、清镇燃煤电厂区、雷公山对照区居民食用大米、蔬菜、肉类对其总汞暴露都有贡献,但是大米摄入是其甲基汞暴露的主要途径(贡献大于90%;Zhang et al.,2010)。

汞同位素示踪技术是近年来快速发展的学科领域。汞在自然界中存在7种稳定同位素(<sup>196</sup>Hg,<sup>198</sup>Hg,<sup>199</sup>Hg,<sup>200</sup>Hg,<sup>201</sup>Hg,<sup>202</sup>Hg,<sup>204</sup>Hg),其质量差可达4%。许多物理、化学和生物过程Hg会发生质量分馏(Mass dependent fraction, MDF,以δ<sup>202</sup>Hg表示),如蒸发过程、Hg<sup>II</sup>乙基化、人体新陈代谢和微生物(脱)甲基化等过程;光化学反应,如Hg<sup>II</sup>还原反应及MeHg降解反应均能发生非质量分馏(Mass independent fraction, MIF,以Δ<sup>199</sup>Hg表示)(Blum et al.,2014)。因而汞同位素是示踪来源信息的强有力工具,耦合汞的MDF-MIF可以提供汞暴露来源多维信息(Bergquist and Blum,2007)。

对玻利维亚、法罗群岛、墨西哥湾等鱼类和食

鱼人群头发汞同位素特征研究,发现头发与鱼类之间汞同位素发生固定质量分馏(约 2‰),并没有发生非质量分馏(Laffont *et al.*, 2009; Sherman *et al.*, 2013; Li *et al.*, 2014),这可能是人体新陈代谢过程造成(Kwon *et al.*, 2014)。如果人体主要汞暴露来源为食用鱼肉,可根据头发  $\delta^{202}\text{Hg}$  值的 2‰偏差,计算饮食的平均  $\delta^{202}\text{Hg}$  值,以确定主要的暴露鱼类(Laffont *et al.*, 2009, 2011)。

同时食物摄取过程不发生 MIF,可以根据头发 MIF 值计算摄入饮食平均  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  值,以及根据多元混合模型评估各个端元暴露比例(Sherman *et al.*, 2013)。法属圭亚那和欧洲居民头发的  $\Delta^{201}\text{Hg}$  值存在显著差异,表明其食用鱼肉来源的差异(Laffont *et al.*, 2009, 2011)。利用头发  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  值可以计算食物来源的比例,例如近岸鱼肉  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  值较低而远洋鱼肉  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  值较高(Li *et al.*, 2014)。食用大米汞暴露为主的万山汞矿区和长顺背景区,居民头发汞  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  接近于零,而贵阳市居民头发  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  为  $0.42\% \pm 0.42\%$ ;而贵阳市鱼肉样品也表现出较正的  $\Delta^{199}\text{Hg}$  值,均值为  $0.96\% \pm 1.30\%$ (Du *et al.*, 2018)。非质量分馏的二元混合模型计算显示,食用大米对万山和长顺居民头发汞的贡献高达 95% 和 96%,而对贵阳市居民头发汞的贡献为 59%。该结果与摄入量估算结果基本一致,说明汞同位素能够直接准确地示踪人体汞暴露的来源(Du *et al.*, 2018)。

### 3 我国居民甲基汞暴露的健康风险

我国鱼和水产品的汞含量整体较低,因此我国一般人群食用鱼肉甲基汞暴露的风险较低。但是在一些沿海地区,例如浙江舟山群岛渔民头发甲基汞含量高达  $9.5\text{ mg/kg}$ (Gao *et al.*, 2007),部分大量食鱼人群可能存在甲基汞暴露的健康风险。

水稻是世界第二大农作物,我国是最大的水稻生产国。我国南方是主要的水稻产地,大米作为我国南方居民的主食,南方 7 省市区大米总汞的平均含量为  $10.1\text{ ng/g}$ ,其中 12.7% 的样品超过  $20\text{ ng/g}$  的国家标准;而甲基汞含量总体较低,平均含量为  $2.47\text{ ng/g}$ (Li *et al.*, 2012)。我国南方城市和农村居民食用鱼肉和大米甲基汞摄入量仅为 0.020 和  $0.028\text{ }\mu\text{g}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{d})$ ,远低于相关国际限值 [ $0.23\text{ }\mu\text{g}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{d})$ ] (JECFA, 2003)。尽管我国人为活动向环境排放大量汞,南方一般居民甲基汞暴露的总体风险较低(Li *et al.*, 2012)。

但在一些汞污染地区,例如汞矿地区的居民仍然存在一定风险。汞矿区居民食用大米甲基汞暴露的

估算表明,日摄入量最高可达  $1.74\text{ }\mu\text{g}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{d})$ (Feng *et al.*, 2008),远超过美国环保局(USEPA)的标准  $0.1\text{ }\mu\text{g}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{d})$ (USEPA, 1997)和联合国粮农组织和世界卫生组织食品添加剂联合专家委员会(JECFA)的标准  $0.23\text{ }\mu\text{g}/(\text{kg} \cdot \text{d})$ (JECFA, 2003)。贵州万山汞矿区居民头发甲基汞含量甚至高达  $11\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$ (Feng *et al.*, 2008),当地人群头发甲基汞平均含量为  $2.07\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$ (Li *et al.*, 2015),远远超过美国环保局建议的孕妇头发汞含量限值( $1.0\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$ ),这表明我国某些人群确实存在甲基汞暴露的健康风险。以万山汞矿区为例,头发甲基汞含量超过  $1\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$  的适龄妇女(15~44岁)达 5600 人(占总人口 8.2%),头发甲基汞含量超过  $2.3\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$  的适龄妇女(15~44岁)达 1400 人(占总人口 2.1%);全国所有的汞矿区,头发甲基汞含量超过  $1\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$  的适龄妇女(15~44岁)达 26240 人,头发甲基汞含量超过  $2.3\text{ }\mu\text{g/g}$  的适龄妇女(15~44岁)达 6720 人(总人口 2.1%)(Li *et al.*, 2015)。

### 4 结论及展望

我国环境汞污染十分严重,但是我国居民甲基汞暴露的总体风险较低。我国环境汞污染的健康风险,不仅仅是国际上传统认识的由食用汞污染的鱼和水产品引起,而且食用汞污染的水稻也可能对特定地区居民的健康产生风险。我国应该加强对汞污染场地的环境修复,减少水稻甲基汞的富集,以降低我国人群甲基汞暴露的健康风险。

### 参考文献(References):

- Bergquist B A, Blum J D. 2007. Mass-dependent and -independent fractionation of hg isotopes by photoreduction in aquatic systems. *Science*, 318 (5849): 417–420
- Blum J D, Sherman L S, Johnson M W. 2014. Mercury isotopes in earth and environmental sciences. *Annual Review of Earth and Planetary Sciences*, 42: 249–269
- Carocci A, Rovito N, Sinicropi M S, Genchi G. 2014. Mercury toxicity and neurodegenerative effects. In: Whitacre D M, ed. *Reviews of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. Cham: Springer, 229: 1–18
- Cheng H F, Hu Y N. 2012. Understanding the paradox of mercury pollution in china: High concentrations in environmental matrix yet low levels in fish on the market. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 46(9): 4695–4696
- Cheng J P, Gao L L, Zhao W C, Liu X J, Sakamoto M, Wang W H. 2009. Mercury levels in fisherman and their household members in Zhoushan, China: Impact of public health. *Science of the Total Environment*, 407(8): 2625–2630
- Clarkson T W, Magos L, Myers G J. 2003. The toxicology of mercury—current exposures and clinical manifestations. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 348(16): 1735–1747

- Journal of Medicine, 349: 1731–1737
- Du B Y, Feng X B, Li P, Yin R S, Yu B, Sonke J E, Guinot B, Anderson C W N, Maurice L. 2018. Use of mercury isotopes to quantify mercury exposure sources in inland populations, China. Environmental Science & Technology, 52(9): 5407–5416
- Feng X B, Li P, Qiu G L, Wang S F, Li G H, Shang L H, Meng B, Jiang H M, Bai W Y, Li Z G, Fu X W. 2008. Human exposure to methylmercury through rice intake in mercury mining areas, Guizhou province, China. Environmental Science & Technology, 42(1): 326–332
- Gao Y, Yan C H, Tian Y, Wang Y, Xie H F, Zhou X, Yu X D, Yu X G, Tong S L, Zhou Q X, Shen X M. 2007. Prenatal exposure to mercury and neurobehavioral development of neonates in Zhoushan City, China. Environmental Research, 105(3): 390–399
- Gardner R M, Nyland J F, Silbergeld E K. 2010. Differential immunotoxic effects of inorganic and organic mercury species *in vitro*. Toxicology Letters, 198(2): 182–190
- Horvat M, Nolde N, Fajon V, Jereb V, Logar M, Lojen S, Jacimovic R, Falnoga I, Qu L, Faganeli J, Drobne D. 2003. Total mercury, methylmercury and selenium in mercury polluted areas in the province Guizhou, China. Science of the Total Environment, 304(1–3): 231–256
- Hu X F, Singh K, Chan H M. 2018. Mercury exposure, blood pressure, and hypertension: A systematic review and dose-response meta-analysis. Environmental Health Perspectives, 126(7): 076002
- Itai Y, Fujino T, Ueno K, Motomatsu Y. 2004. An epidemiological study of the incidence of abnormal pregnancy in areas heavily contaminated with methylmercury. Environmental Science, 11(2): 83–97
- JECFA (Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives). 2003. Summary and conclusions of the sixty-first meeting of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. Roma: JECFA
- Kwon S Y, Blum J D, Chen C Y, Meattey D E, Mason R P. 2014. Mercury isotope study of sources and exposure pathways of methylmercury in estuarine food webs in the northeastern U.S. Environmental Science & Technology, 48(17): 10089–10097
- Laffont L, Sonke J E, Maurice L, Hintelmann H, Pouilly M, Sánchez Bacarreza Y, Perez T, Behra P. 2009. Anomalous mercury isotopic compositions of fish and human hair in the Bolivian Amazon. Environmental Science & Technology, 43(23): 8985–8990
- Laffont L, Sonke J E, Maurice L, Monroy S L, Chincheros J, Amouroux D, Behra P. 2011. Hg speciation and stable isotope signatures in human hair as a tracer for dietary and occupational exposure to mercury. Environmental Science & Technology, 45(23): 9910–9916
- Li M L, Sherman L S, Blum J D, Grandjean P, Mikkelsen B, Weihe P, Sunderland E M, Shine J P. 2014. Assessing sources of human methylmercury exposure using stable mercury isotopes. Environmental Science & Technology, 48(15): 8800–8806
- Li P, Feng X B, Chan H M, Zhang X F, Du B Y. 2015. Human body burden and dietary methylmercury intake: The relationship in a rice-consuming population. Environmental Science & Technology, 49(16): 9682–9689
- Li P, Feng X B, Liang P, Man Chan H, Yan H Y, Chen L G. 2013. Mercury in the seafood and human exposure in coastal area of Guangdong province, South China. Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, 32(3): 541–547
- Li P, Feng X B, Qiu G L. 2010. Methylmercury exposure and health effects from rice and fish consumption: A review. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 7(6): 2666–2691
- Li P, Feng X B, Yuan X B, Chan H M, Qiu G L, Sun G X, Zhu Y G. 2012. Rice consumption contributes to low level methylmercury exposure in southern China. Environment International, 49: 18–23
- Mergler D, Anderson H A, Chan L H M, Mahaffey K R, Murray M, Sakamoto M, Stern A H. 2007. Methylmercury exposure and health effects in humans: A worldwide concern. Ambio: A Journal of the Human Environment, 36(1): 3–11
- Qiu G L, Feng X B, Li P, Wang S F, Li G H, Shang L H, Fu X W. 2008. Methylmercury accumulation in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) grown at abandoned mercury mines in Guizhou, China. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry, 56(7): 2465–2468
- Schroeder W H, Munthe J. 1998. Atmospheric mercury—An overview. Atmospheric Environment, 32(5): 809–822
- Sherman L S, Blum J D, Franzblau A, Basu N. 2013. New insight into biomarkers of human mercury exposure using naturally occurring mercury stable isotopes. Environmental Science & Technology, 47(7): 3403–3409
- Trasande L, Landrigan P J, Schechter C. 2005. Public health and economic consequences of methyl mercury toxicity to the developing brain. Environmental Health Perspectives, 113(5): 590–596
- USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency). 1997. Health effects of mercury and mercury compounds. In: Mercury Study Report to the Congress Volume V. Washington, USA: USEPA
- WHO (World Health Organization). 1990. Environmental health criteria 101: Methyl mercury. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO
- WHO (World Health Organization). 1991. Environmental health criteria 118: Inorganic mercury. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO
- Zhang H, Feng X B, Larssen T, Qiu G L, Vogt R D. 2010. In inland China, rice, rather than fish, is the major pathway for methylmercury exposure. Environmental Health Perspectives, 118(9): 1183–1188
- Zhang L, Wang S X, Wang L, Wu Y, Duan L, Wu Q R, Wang F Y, Yang M, Yang H, Hao J M, Liu X. 2015. Updated emission inventories for speciated atmospheric mercury from anthropogenic sources in China. Environmental Science & Technology, 49(5): 3185–3194
- 冯新斌, 陈玖斌, 付学吾, 胡海燕, 李平, 仇广乐, 吴海鱼, 尹润生, 张华, 朱伟. 2013. 梅的环境地球化学研究进展. 矿物岩石地球化学通报, 32(5): 503–530
- 环境保护部, 国土资源部. (2014-04-17). 全国土壤污染状况调查公报. [http://www.mee.gov.cn/gkml/sthjbgw/qt/201404/t20140417\\_270670.htm](http://www.mee.gov.cn/gkml/sthjbgw/qt/201404/t20140417_270670.htm)
- 菅小东, 沈英华, 姚薇, 王玉晶, 张鑫. 2009. 我国汞供需现状分析及削减对策. 环境科学研究, 22(7): 788–792
- 吴海鱼, 冯新斌, 刘霆, 商立海, 李仲根, 李广辉. 2008. 贵州百花湖鱼体汞污染现状. 生态学杂志, 27(8): 1357–1361
- 姚珩, 冯新斌, 吴海鱼, 仇广乐, 商立海, 徐文芳. 2010. 乌江洪家渡水库鱼体汞含量. 生态学杂志, 29(6): 1155–1160