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脂质与阿尔茨海默病的研究进展

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【摘要】 阿尔茨海默病(AD)是最常见的痴呆类型,其病因和发病机制复杂,治疗难度大,目前尚无治愈的方法。许多神经疾病与脂质的功能改变和代谢异常相关。本文介绍了脂质与AD的关系,他汀类药物对AD患者认知功能的影响,以期AD的诊断及治疗提供新思路。

【关键词】 阿尔茨海默病; 脂质; 综述

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Research Progress of Lipids and Alzheimer's Disease

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【Abstract】 Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, with complex etiology and pathogenesis. It is difficult to treat, and there is no cure. Many neurological disorders are associated with functional alterations and metabolic abnormalities of lipids. This article introduced the relationship between lipids and AD, as well as the impact of statins on cognition function in AD patients, in order to provide new ideas for the diagnosis and treatment of AD.

【Key words】 Alzheimer disease; Lipids; Review

阿尔茨海默病(Alzheimer's disease, AD)是最常见的痴呆类型,是以进行性记忆力减退、认知障碍和行为改变为特征的神经退行性疾病^[1]。AD的主要神经病理学标志是神经炎症斑、神经原纤维缠结^[2-3]。AD的病因和发病机制复杂,治疗难度大,目前尚无治愈的方法。脂质又称脂类,是脂肪和类脂的总称,是大脑结构和功能的关键组成部分^[4]。脂质是神经元细胞膜的基本结构组分,可分为脂肪酸类、甘油酯类、甘油磷脂类、鞘脂类、甾醇脂类等。许多神经精神疾病与脂质的功能改变和代谢异常相关^[5]。近年来随着代谢组学的发展,AD与脂质关系的研究逐渐增多^[6]。本文对脂质与AD作一综述,以期AD的诊治提供新思路。

1 不同脂质与AD的关系

1.1 脂肪酸类

脂肪酸可影响细胞膜的稳定性、信号转导、离子通道等^[7]。脂肪酸的类别主要包括饱和脂肪酸、反式脂肪酸、单

不饱和脂肪酸和多不饱和脂肪酸。

1.1.1 二十二碳六烯酸(docosahexaenoic acid, DHA)和二十碳五烯酸(eicosapentaenoic acid, EPA)

DHA和EPA是常见的 ω -3多不饱和脂肪酸。AD患者脑组织中DHA表达降低与认知功能下降相关^[8]。研究发现,摄入DHA可降低AD的患病风险,DHA的摄入量与AD患病风险呈负相关^[9]。THOMAS等^[10]研究对1 279名老年人进行了17年的随访,结果显示,EPA+DHA水平较高的老年人发生痴呆的风险更低,且随着EPA+DHA水平升高老年人认知功能下降逐渐减慢。但部分补充DHA的临床试验结果显示,摄入DHA后受试者血液及脑脊液中DHA水平升高,但其认知功能并没有得到明显改善^[11]。补充EPA+DHA的研究结果显示,摄入EPA+DHA可改善AD患者的认知功能^[12]。这可能是由于DHA对认知功能的影响受同型半胱氨酸、维生素B₆、载脂蛋白E基因多态性等因素的影响^[13],此外DHA的摄入量、DHA的摄入时间、疾病状态、研究对象的年龄等因素也可能对结果造成不同的影响,DHA与EPA的摄入比例也会对结果产生影响。

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DHA缓解AD的机制可能包括减少 β 淀粉样蛋白沉积、抑制tau蛋白磷酸化、抗炎作用及抗氧化作用等，DHA还可通过影响核受体而影响神经功能^[14]。有研究发现，EPA的抗炎能力与DHA相当^[15]。总之，DHA及EPA对AD起到改善作用，但目前相关临床研究未得出一致结论，尚需进一步探索。

1.1.2 亚油酸和花生四烯酸

亚油酸是不能在生物体内合成的必需脂肪酸，其是花生四烯酸的前体。花生四烯酸是大脑正常生长和发育所必需的脂肪酸，对于大脑生长及细胞分裂和信号传导是不可或缺的^[16]。花生四烯酸可促进炎症因子（IL-6、IL-1、白三烯C4等）的产生，而这些炎症因子是痴呆的风险因素^[17]。此外，花生四烯酸也可能导致氧化应激^[18]。目前亚油酸及花生四烯酸与AD的相关研究结果并不一致。AMICK等^[19]研究发现，AD患者的亚油酸水平升高，且其水平与认知功能呈负相关。荟萃分析结果显示，与健康对照者相比，AD患者血清亚油酸水平降低，花生四烯酸水平升高^[20]。而一项针对老年人的研究显示，亚油酸及花生四烯酸水平与AD的发病风险无相关性^[9]。上述研究结果存在差异的原因可能是虽然亚油酸对人体健康有益，但过量亚油酸可通过增加脂质代谢物而导致氧化应激、组织损伤及线粒体功能障碍，进而增加AD发生风险^[21]。因此，亚油酸对AD的影响与其水平有关。而花生四烯酸对大脑的影响受到载脂蛋白E基因多态性及花生四烯酸与DHA比值的影响。

1.1.3 油酸

油酸是一种存在于各种动、植物脂肪中的脂肪酸，目前其对AD的影响也未得出一致的结论。有研究发现，AD患者额叶皮质和海马中油酸含量降低，而白质中不存在该变化^[22]。研究显示，油酸可抑制经淀粉样前体蛋白695转染的COS-7细胞分泌淀粉样 β 蛋白，但随着油酸水平的升高，其对淀粉样 β 蛋白分泌的抑制作用逐渐减弱，这可能是由于高水平油酸可以改变细胞的pH值，而细胞的pH值可影响 β -分泌酶及其降解酶的活性，进而影响淀粉样 β 蛋白水平^[23]。此外，油酸可诱导星形胶质细胞中脂滴的积累，并参与其脂毒性的衰减，这可能有助于在维持神经脂质水平的前提下促进神经存活^[24]。因此，油酸对AD的影响尚需进一步研究。

1.1.4 短链脂肪酸

短链脂肪酸是肠道微生物群的主要代谢物，其是调节人体内稳态的重要因素，具有重要的生物学功能，如提供能量、抗炎、调节免疫功能和维持肠道完整性等^[25]。乙酸盐、丁酸盐和丙酸盐是人体含量最丰富的短链脂肪酸。与健康者相比，轻度认知障碍患者粪便中的短链脂肪酸水平较低，而AD患者粪便中的短链脂肪酸水平更低^[26-27]。临床研究表明，AD患者的淀粉样 β 蛋白水平与血清乙酸、戊酸水平呈正相关，与丁酸水平呈负相关^[28]。短链脂肪酸可通过神经炎症及影响血脑屏障的通透性而影响AD的病理生理过程^[29]。

1.2 甘油酯类

1.2.1 三酰甘油

三酰甘油是最主要的甘油酯类，目前关于三酰甘油与AD发生风险的研究较少且结论不确定。PALTA等^[30]研究发现，

三酰甘油水平升高可增加中年人罹患AD的风险。但一项针对125 727名受试者的队列研究并未发现三酰甘油水平升高是AD的风险因素^[31]。亦有其他相关研究发现，AD患者与健康者三酰甘油水平比较无统计学差异^[32]。研究显示，富含三酰甘油的脂蛋白水解产物可增加血脑屏障的传递系数，破坏血脑屏障的完整性，诱导星形胶质细胞中脂滴的形成，并促进炎症因子的分泌^[33]。三酰甘油对大脑具有神经毒性，随着时间的推移可诱导脑萎缩^[34]，血清三酰甘油水平升高可导致大脑淀粉样变性^[35]。

1.2.2 单甘油酯和甘油二酯

有研究发现，早期AD患者额叶皮质和血浆中单甘油酯和甘油二酯水平升高^[36-37]。研究显示，单酰基甘油酯酶是催化单甘油酯水解为游离脂肪酸和甘油并在脑中代谢内源性大麻素2-花生四烯酸甘油的主要酶，单酰基甘油酯酶的失活可以减少淀粉样 β 蛋白的产生和积累，并具有抗炎和神经保护作用，从而改善AD模型小鼠的突触功能和认知功能^[38]。因此，单甘油酯及甘油二酯有望成为改善AD的靶点。

1.3 甘油磷脂类

甘油磷脂类可以分为不同的亚组，包括棕榈酸、磷脂酰乙醇胺、磷脂酰丝氨酸、磷脂酰胆碱、磷脂酰肌醇、磷脂酰甘油和心磷脂。有研究发现，AD患者大脑中棕榈酸水平升高^[39]。与正常对照者相比，AD患者脑中磷脂酰肌醇、磷脂酰乙醇胺以及磷脂酰胆碱降低^[40]。AD患者脑中突触线粒体膜中心磷脂减少^[41]。但PROITS等^[42]研究发现，与AD密切相关的脂质是磷脂酰胆碱40:4和磷脂酰胆碱36:3，两者在AD患者中的水平明显升高。研究显示，甘油磷脂类降低与神经纤维缠结和淀粉样病变风险增加有关^[43]。此外，多种甘油磷脂类降解产物具有促炎作用，可参与小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞的直接活化，导致炎症因子的分泌，从而促进淀粉样 β 蛋白的形成^[44]。

1.4 鞘脂类

鞘脂类包括鞘磷脂、神经酰胺、神经节苷脂、硫脂苷。研究显示，鞘磷脂升高与AD严重程度和认知障碍发生风险增加相关^[45]。尸检发现，AD患者大脑灰质及白质中神经酰胺升高，且在AD的早期阶段即开始升高^[46]。有研究表明，AD患者血浆神经酰胺（C16:0）、神经酰胺（C18:0）和神经酰胺（C24:1）水平升高^[47]。神经酰胺可以由鞘磷脂水解产生或在内质网中合成，其与炎症、线粒体损伤和神经元凋亡相关^[48]。神经酰胺引起的星形胶质细胞改变可对血脑屏障完整性产生影响，并影响少突胶质细胞的功能^[49]。神经酰胺水平升高亦可导致AD患者淀粉样 β 蛋白水平升高^[48]。

1.5 甾醇脂类

胆固醇是人类和动物中的主要甾醇脂类。目前关于AD患者胆固醇水平研究的结论并不一致。有研究表明，血浆胆固醇水平升高的个体更容易罹患AD，AD患者表现出更高水平的低密度脂蛋白胆固醇和更低水平的高密度脂蛋白胆固醇^[50]。研究显示，中年人血清低密度脂蛋白胆固醇、非高密度脂蛋白胆固醇水平升高及低密度脂蛋白胆固醇/高密度脂蛋白胆固醇比值升高与认知功能下降有关^[51]。ANSTEY等^[52]研究发

现, 中年人胆固醇水平与AD患病率相关, 而老年人胆固醇水平与AD患病率不相关。MIELKE等^[53]研究发现, 胆固醇水平升高可以降低老年人AD的患病风险。而部分研究未发现胆固醇水平与认知功能相关^[54]。上述研究结果的差异可能由研究人群的年龄、抽血时间、种族不同以及选择偏倚造成。胆固醇对AD的影响机制可能是胆固醇可促进tau蛋白磷酸化^[55]、降低海马神经元胆固醇水平、减少淀粉样 β 蛋白寡聚化^[56]。胆固醇还可通过影响动脉粥样硬化或脑血管疾病而影响AD^[52]。

2 他汀类药物与AD

目前他汀类药物对AD的影响存在争议。有研究发现, 他汀类药物可以减缓AD患者认知障碍的进展^[57]。荟萃分析发现, 他汀类药物可以降低AD的发病风险^[58]。他汀类药物可能通过血脑屏障调节脑胆固醇代谢, 直接改变神经传递和突触可塑性^[59]。同时, 他汀类药物可以通过抑制氧化应激和炎症反应、增加内皮一氧化氮合酶、改善内皮功能和血流来改善认知功能^[60]。但也有研究得出了不同的结论, 即他汀类药物与AD患者认知功能无关^[61-62]。目前研究结果不一致可能是研究人群不同、他汀类药物使用时间不同以及载脂蛋白E基因多态性所致, 因而他汀类药物对AD的影响尚需进一步研究。

3 小结

脂质在AD的发病及治疗过程中存在不同程度的变化, 脂质代谢组学有望为AD的诊断和治疗提供新思路。目前脂质与AD的相关研究并没有得出一致结论, 尚需进一步进行临床及临床前研究以明确脂质在AD的诊断及治疗中的作用, 从而为AD的诊治提供新思路。

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