

· 综述 ·

老年人衰弱综合征与慢性系统性炎症:思考与展望

马丽娜

(首都医科大学宣武医院老年医学科,国家老年疾病临床研究中心,北京 100053)

【摘要】 老年人衰弱综合征与生理储备减少有关,是老年人不良事件的重要预测因素。目前越来越多的研究提示应对老年衰弱综合征进行及时诊断和尽早干预,但其发病机制仍未被完全阐明。慢性炎症作为一种病理生理机制,与躯体功能降低有关,可增加疾病风险。多项研究表明,低度慢性系统性炎症可能是导致衰弱的重要原因。本文对近年来在老年人衰弱综合征和慢性系统性炎症方面的研究进展进行综述。

【关键词】 衰弱;慢性炎症;生物学;衰老

【中图分类号】 R592

【文献标志码】 A

【DOI】 10.11915/j.issn.1671-5403.2021.02.030

Frailty and chronic systematic inflammation in the elderly: current understanding and future perspectives

MA Li-Na

(Department of Geriatrics, Xuanwu Hospital, Capital Medical University, National Clinical Research Center for Geriatric Diseases, Beijing 100053, China)

【Abstract】 Frailty is associated with decreased physiological reserve, and is considered as an important indicator of adverse events in the elderly population. Therefore, increasing evidence shows that the syndrome should be diagnosed, and interventions should be carried out as early as possible, but its pathogenetic mechanism remains unclear. Chronic inflammation, as a pathophysiological mechanism, is related to the decline of physical functions, and consequently, can increase risk of diseases. Many studies suggest that chronic low-grade systemic inflammation may probably be an important cause of frailty. In the present paper, we review the research progress concerning syndrome and chronic systemic inflammation.

【Key words】 frailty; chronic inflammation; biology; aging

This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (81600927), Beijing Natural Science Foundation (7202059) and the Scientific Research Cultivation Program of Beijing Municipal Administration of Hospitals (PX2020036).

Corresponding author: MA Li-Na, E-mail: malina0883@126.com

全球人口的快速老龄化对卫生保健系统产生了重大影响,慢性病如心血管疾病和糖尿病导致躯体脆弱性增加。老年衰弱综合征(简称衰弱,frailty)常被定义为一种随增龄而发生的生理性衰退综合征,其特征在于功能储备减少和脆弱性增加,衰弱老年人对急性疾病或创伤等应激因素的适应能力更差^[1]。老年人衰弱的全球患病率为13.6%,年发病率为4.34%^[2]。衰弱与健康不良结局如失能、跌倒、住院、再入院及死亡等密切相关^[3]。虽然衰弱的诊断尚无金标准,但目前已开发出多种衰弱评估工具^[4],大多简单易行,可在临床实践中用于识别不同

临床情况下预后较差的人群,在临床中可作为复杂治疗决定的重要预后标准。因此,近年来人们对衰弱的早期诊断和预防的研究与日俱增^[5]。慢性低度系统性炎症(chronic low-grade systemic inflammation, CLGSI)是指老年人普遍存在的无症状、持续性、非特异性和全身性的轻度炎症状态,表现为体内非特异性炎症因子水平轻度升高,其与老年疾病的关系已成为老年医学的热点之一。近年来发现CLGSI与衰弱有关,炎症标志物水平早在出现细胞异常和系统功能障碍时已发生改变^[6]。研究老年衰弱综合征与慢性系统性炎症的关系以及寻找慢性炎症标志物

对于老年人衰弱综合征的早期识别和干预至关重要。

1 衰弱的定义和评估

过去几十年中,衰弱评估领域的研究取得了重大进展,但是直到现在仍缺乏独特、标准化和被普遍认可的衰弱的可操作定义。最常用的衰弱标准是美国 Fried 教授基于心血管健康研究 (Cardiovascular Health Study, CHS) 中的 5 个条目(体质量降低、疲乏、步速下降、肌力下降及低体能)进行的定义,又为 Fried 衰弱表型或 CHS 指数,可用于预测老年人的不良预后^[7],在临床中应用最为广泛。衰弱指数 (frailty index, FI) 是第二个广泛使用的定义,由加拿大 Rockwood 教授开发,又称 Rockwood 指数或累积缺陷指数^[8],但是条目较多且操作复杂。以上两种方法均在中国老年人群中经过良好的验证。另外,我们前期通过北京老龄化多维纵向研究开发了针对中国老年人群的衰弱快速评估问卷 (frailty screening questionnaire, FSQ),并且提出了衰弱评估两步法模型,可在临床实践中用于衰弱的评估和干预流程^[4,9,10]。大样本的流行病学调查如中国健康与养老追踪调查和中国老年健康综合评估研究等显示,采用衰弱表型和 FI 进行评估,我国社区老年人衰弱的患病率均为 7%~9.9%^[11-13],因此,对其早期生物学标志物的研究具有重要意义。

2 衰弱与炎性衰老之间的交互作用

与衰老相关的衰老细胞的累积会激活固有免疫系统,引起促炎细胞因子如白介素-6 (interleukin-6, IL-6) 和肿瘤坏死因子 (tumor necrosis factor, TNF) 等升高,这种现象称为炎性衰老 (inflammaging)。因此,炎性衰老是固有免疫系统介导的慢性生理刺激长期作用的结果,在衰老过程中可能会造成损害^[14,15]。低度慢性炎症是衰老过程的标志,老年人低度慢性炎症的发生率较中青年高 2~3 倍^[16],表明炎症反应可能是衰弱和炎性衰老的分子机制。此外,炎症反应、细胞凋亡、线粒体功能障碍、氧化应激和自噬作用之间存在复杂的相互作用,许多重要的细胞分子信号通路,如磷酸肌醇 3-激酶/蛋白激酶 B/雷帕霉素的哺乳动物靶蛋白通路和过氧化物酶体增殖物激活的受体-γ 辅激活物-1α 均参与其中,而炎症可能是导致衰弱的最重要因素。此外,外周血游离线粒体 DNA (circulating cell-free mitochondrial DNA, ccf-mtDNA) 可能参与炎症相关疾病的发病机制^[17,18],已成为近年来研究的热点。我们前期研究

发现 ccf-mtDNA 和血清炎性标志物与衰弱相关,并且炎性因子与血清沉默信息调节因子 2 相关酶 1 和脂肪细胞因子均相关^[19-21]。

衰老的特征在于促炎细胞因子的增加和抗炎细胞因子的减少^[22,23]。研究发现,无论在衰弱人群还是在非衰弱人群中,促炎性细胞因子水平的升高与并发症和死亡的风险增加均相关^[24]。已发现一些衰弱相关的基因包括 IL-18 rs360722、IL-12 rs9852519、IL-12 rs4679868、SELP rs6131 和 TNF rs1800629A 参与了炎症反应的信号转导通路^[25]。IL-6 和 C 反应蛋白 (C-reactive protein, CRP) 可以预测握力降低^[26],而握力在很大程度上能够反映健康状况。识别具有良好诊断和预后能力的衰弱生物标志物有助于临床医师发现衰弱风险、监测衰弱干预措施的效果、延缓衰弱的进展以及预防失能的发生。

3 衰弱的慢性全身性炎症生物标志物

过去 10 年中,衰弱生物标志物的研究取得了巨大进展,但是最具临床应用潜力的炎症标志物仍需要进一步研究。炎性衰老的标志物可能包括免疫细胞标志物、血清细胞因子标志物和微小核糖核酸 (microRNA)。目前炎症衰老的评估主要基于 IL-6、IL-1 和 TNF-α 及其受体和 CRP^[16]。因此,血清促炎细胞因子如 IL-6、TNF-α 和 CRP 水平升高,表明促炎状态水平上升,其被认为可能是炎性衰老的血清标志物^[27]。

3.1 不同定义的衰弱的炎症标志物

由于缺乏统一的衰弱评定标准以及衰弱本身的潜在病理生理机制的复杂性,生物标志物的开发极具挑战性。根据 Fried 标准和简易躯体能力测试 (short physical performance battery, SPPB) 评估,接受肺移植的衰弱患者的 TNF-受体 1 (TNF receptor-1, TNFR1) 水平往往更高^[28]。对肥胖患者进行的研究发现,无论采用衰弱指数还是衰弱表型评估,许多生物标志物均与衰弱相关,如可溶性 IL-6 受体与可溶性糖蛋白 130 的复合物可能参与了衰弱的形成和进展,而可溶性白介素-2 受体 α (soluble interleukin-2 receptor α, sIL-2Rα) 是根据衰弱表型定义的衰弱的独立危险因素^[29]。在慢性透析患者中进行的研究发现,FRAIL 量表评分与血清白蛋白水平显著相关^[30]。但是,以上研究的样本量均相对较小,有待进一步开展大规模研究进行验证。无论采用衰弱表型还是衰弱指数评定,衰弱的生物标志物通常是一致的。

3.2 是否有最佳的衰弱炎症标志物

TNF-α 及其可溶性受体水平的升高与肌肉质量

和强度的降低相关,但未观察到 IL-6 或 CRP 水平具有这种相关性,表明 TNF- α 及其可溶性受体可能是衰弱的最佳炎症标志物^[31]。此外,在患有轻度认知功能障碍和轻中度阿尔茨海默病的患者中,促炎因子 TNF- α (并非 IL-6)会导致生理衰弱的风险增加^[32]。英国老龄化纵向研究显示,TNF- α 基因多效性与衰弱表型相关^[33]。TNF- α 水平升高与衰弱和功能依赖性增加有关^[34],这可能是因为具有多效性的 TNF- α 可促进肌肉分解代谢^[35]。衰弱状态较年龄更能解释炎症标志物的变化。此外,Aguirre 等^[36]通过多元回归分析对 IL-6、高敏 CRP 和可溶性 TNFR1 进行了比较,发现可溶性 TNFR1 是衰弱和肥胖老年人躯体功能的唯一独立预测因子。

IL-6 是最早发现的肌肉因子之一,与失能和死亡相关。IL-6 同时具有促炎和抗炎作用,这种矛盾的作用很可能与环境和 TNF- α 水平相关。一项大型人群研究表明,IL-6 是老年人失能的可靠标志^[27],并且多项研究已证实 IL-6 对衰弱以及躯体功能和活动能力的降低具有预测作用^[24,37,38]。Soysal 等^[39]进行的一项荟萃分析发现,横断面研究观察到了衰弱和衰弱前期均与 IL-6 水平升高相关,但是纵向研究未观察到这种相关性。CRP 可能是诊断肌肉减少症的潜在参数^[40]。造成这种差异的原因很多,诸如 IL-6 和 TNF- α 检测受限、受试者样本量较少、衰弱的定义不统一等。

总之,根据我们对上述生物学标志物的理解,其中可用的候选炎症标志物对衰弱的预测作用不确定或较弱。因此,单项生物标志物并不能可靠地追踪衰弱的变化。因此,美国约翰霍普金斯大学开发了一种简单的生物学指标,即炎症指数评分(inflammatory index score, IIS),指标包括 IL-6 和 TNFR1。研究结果表明,IIS 是测量的所有 15 种生物标志物中对老年患者 10 年全因死亡率的预测效果最佳的预测指标^[41],而且进一步研究发现,与年龄相比,衰弱与 IIS 的关联性更强^[37],但需在样本量更大的人群中进一步确认 IIS 对衰弱的预测作用并将其应用于临床实践。

4 未来展望

衰弱的诊断和治疗对于实现社会健康老龄化具有重要意义,然而衰弱炎症标志物的研究仍处于起步阶段,该领域中仍有许多尚未解决的问题。尽管许多研究已经确定炎症标志物可预测躯体功能降低和预后不良,但对于其临界点尚未达成共识。衰弱是一个动态过程,会随着年龄的增长而进展,但目前

大多数衰弱生物标志物仅能捕获较为复杂的衰弱状况的单个方面。有研究针对一组生物标志物开发的多元模型虽然具有良好的预测作用,但参数较多且需要进行综合计算,这限制了其在临床中的应用。在衰弱前期通过干预可以逆转衰弱,目前针对老年衰弱患者慢性低度全身性炎症开发的干预药物(如 IL-6 和 TNF- α 抑制剂等)需要进行设计严谨的临床试验,以确认炎症标志物的作用并进一步开发相关的治疗靶标。

【参考文献】

- [1] Dent E, Martin FC, Bergman H, et al. Management of frailty: opportunities, challenges, and future directions [J]. Lancet, 2019, 394 (10206): 1376–1386. DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31785-4.
- [2] Ofori-Asenso R, Chin KL, Mazidi M, et al. Global incidence of frailty and prefrailty among community-dwelling older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis [J]. JAMA Netw Open, 2019, 2(8): e198398. DOI: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen. 2019.8398.
- [3] Cunha AIL, Veronese N, de Melo Borges S, et al. Frailty as a predictor of adverse outcomes in hospitalized older adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis [J]. Ageing Res Rev, 2019, 56: 100960. DOI: 10.1016/j.arr.2019.100960.
- [4] Ma L. Current situation of frailty screening tools for older adults [J]. J Nutr Health Aging, 2019, 23(1): 111–118. DOI: 10.1007/s12603-018-1123-4.
- [5] Hoogendoijk EO, Afilalo J, Ensrud KE, et al. Frailty: implications for clinical practice and public health [J]. Lancet, 2019, 394 (10206): 1365–1375. DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31786-6.
- [6] Wu IC, Lin CC, Hsiung CA. Emerging roles of frailty and inflammation in risk assessment of age-related chronic diseases in older adults: the intersection between aging biology and personalized medicine [J]. Biomedicine, 2015, 5 (1): 1. DOI: 10.7603/s40681-015-0001-1
- [7] Fried LP, Tangen CM, Walston J, et al. Frailty in older adults: evidence for a phenotype [J]. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci, 2001, 56 (3): M146–M157. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/56.3.M146.
- [8] Rockwood K, Mitnitski A. Frailty in relation to the accumulation of deficits [J]. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci, 2007, 62(7): 722–727. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/62.7.722.
- [9] Ma L, Tang Z, Chan P, et al. Novel frailty screening questionnaire (FSQ) predicts 8-year mortality in older adults in China [J]. J Frailty Aging, 2019, 8(1): 33–38. DOI: 10.14283/jfa.2018.38.
- [10] Zhang Y, Zhang Y, Li Y, et al. Reliability and validity of the self-reported frailty screening questionnaire in older adults [J]. Ther Adv Chronic Dis, 2020, 11(1): 1–8. DOI: 10.1177/2040622320904278.
- [11] Ma L, Zhang L, Sun F, et al. Cognitive function in prefrail and frail community-dwelling older adults in China [J]. BMC Geriatr, 2019, 19(1): 53. DOI: 10.1186/s12877-019-1056-8.
- [12] Wu C, Smit E, Xue QL, et al. Prevalence and correlates of frailty among community-dwelling Chinese older adults: the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study [J]. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci, 2017, 73(1): 102–108. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/glx098.

- [13] Ma L, Tang Z, Zhang L, et al. Prevalence of frailty and associated factors in the community-dwelling population of China[J]. *J Am Geriatr Soc*, 2018, 66(3): 559–564. DOI: 10.1111/jgs.15214.
- [14] Zhang WQ, Qu J, Liu GH, et al. The ageing epigenome and its rejuvenation[J]. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*, 2020, 21(3): 137–150. DOI: 10.1038/s41580-019-0204-5.
- [15] Franceschi C, Garagnani P, Parini P, et al. Inflammaging: a new immune-metabolic viewpoint for age-related diseases[J]. *Nat Rev Endocrinol*, 2018, 14(10): 576–590. DOI: 10.1038/s41574-018-0059-4.
- [16] Calcada D, Vianello D, Giampieri E, et al. The role of low-grade inflammation and metabolic flexibility in aging and nutritional modulation thereof: a systems biology approach[J]. *Mech Ageing Dev*, 2014, 136–137: 138–147. DOI: 10.1016/j.mad.2014.01.004.
- [17] Bae JH, Jo SI, Kim SJ, et al. Circulating cell-free mtDNA contributes to AIM2 inflammasome-mediated chronic inflammation in patients with type 2 diabetes[J]. *Cells*, 2019, 8(4): 328. DOI: 10.3390/cells8040328.
- [18] Picca A, Lezza A, Leeuwenburgh C, et al. Fueling inflammaging through mitochondrial dysfunction: mechanisms and molecular targets[J]. *Int J Mol Sci*, 2017, 18(5): 933. DOI: 10.3390/ijms18050933.
- [19] Ma L, Niu H, Sha G, et al. Serum SIRT1 is associated with frailty and adipokines in older adults[J]. *J Nutr Health Aging*, 2019, 23(3): 246–250. DOI: 10.1007/s12603-018-1149-7.
- [20] Ma L, Sha G, Zhang Y, et al. Elevated serum IL-6 and adiponectin levels are associated with frailty and physical function in Chinese older adults[J]. *Clin Interv Aging*, 2018, 13: 2013–2020. DOI: 10.2147/CIA.S180934.
- [21] Ma L, Westbrook R, Davalos M, et al. Circulating cell-free apoptotic mitochondrial DNA fragments in frail old adults[J]. *Innov Aging*, 2018, 2(Suppl 1): 61. DOI: 10.1093/geroni/igy023.229.
- [22] El Assar M, Angulo J, Rodríguez-Mañas L. Oxidative stress and vascular inflammation in aging[J]. *Free Radic Biol Med*, 2013, 65: 380–401. DOI: 10.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2013.07.003.
- [23] Franceschi C, Campisi J. Chronic inflammation (inflammaging) and its potential contribution to age-associated diseases[J]. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*, 2014, 69(Suppl 1): S4–S9. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/glu057.
- [24] Michaud M, Balandry L, Moulis G, et al. Proinflammatory cytokines, aging, and age-related diseases[J]. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*, 2013, 14(12): 877–882. DOI: 10.1016/j.jamda.2013.05.009.
- [25] Viña J, Tarazona-Santabalbina FJ, Pérez-Ros P, et al. Biology of frailty: modulation of ageing genes and its importance to prevent age-associated loss of function[J]. *Mol Aspects Med*, 2016, 50: 88–108. DOI: 10.1016/j.mam.2016.04.005.
- [26] Schaap LA, Pluijm SMFF, Deeg DJHH, et al. Inflammatory markers and loss of muscle mass (sarcopenia) and strength[J]. *Am J Med*, 2006, 119(6): e9–e17. DOI: 10.1016/j.amjmed.2005.10.049.
- [27] De Martinis M, Franceschi C, Monti D, et al. Inflammageing and lifelong antigenic load as major determinants of ageing rate and longevity[J]. *FEBS Lett*, 2005, 579(10): 2035–2039. DOI: 10.1016/j.febslet.2005.02.055.
- [28] Singer JP, Diamond JM, Gries CJ, et al. Frailty phenotypes, disability, and outcomes in adult candidates for lung transplantation[J]. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*, 2015, 192(11): 1325–1334. DOI: 10.1164/rccm.201506-1150OC.
- [29] Lu Y, Tze Ying Tan C, Nyunt MSZ, et al. Inflammatory and immune markers associated with physical frailty syndrome: findings from Singapore longitudinal aging studies[J]. *Oncotarget*, 2016, 7(20): 28783–28795. DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.8939.
- [30] Chao C Ter, Hsu YH, Chang PY, et al. Simple self-report FRAIL scale might be more closely associated with dialysis complications than other frailty screening instruments in rural chronic dialysis patients[J]. *Nephrology*, 2015, 20(5): 321–328. DOI: 10.1111/nep.12401.
- [31] Schaap LA, Pluijm SMFF, Deeg DJHH, et al. Higher inflammatory marker levels in older persons: associations with 5-year change in muscle mass and muscle strength[J]. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*, 2009, 64(11): 1183–1189. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/glp097.
- [32] Tay L, Lim WS, Chan M, et al. The independent role of inflammation in physical frailty among older adults with mild cognitive impairment and mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease[J]. *J Nutr Heal Aging*, 2016, 20(3): 288–299.
- [33] Mekli K, Nazroo JY, Marshall AD, et al. Proinflammatory genotype is associated with the frailty phenotype in the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing[J]. *Aging Clin Exp Res*, 2016, 28(3): 413–421. DOI: 10.1007/s40520-015-0419-z.
- [34] Leng SX, Tian X, Matteini A, et al. IL-6-independent association of elevated serum neopterin levels with prevalent frailty in community-dwelling older adults[J]. *Age Ageing*, 2011, 40(4): 475–481. DOI: 10.1093/ageing/afr047.
- [35] Lang CH, Frost RA. Sepsis-induced suppression of skeletal muscle translation initiation mediated by tumor necrosis factor alpha[J]. *Metabolism*, 2007, 56(1): 49–57. DOI: 10.1016/j.metabol.2006.08.025.
- [36] Aguirre LE, Jan IZ, Fowler K, et al. Testosterone and adipokines are determinants of physical performance, strength, and aerobic fitness in frail, obese, older adults[J]. *Int J Endocrinol*, 2014, 2014: 1–6. DOI: 10.1155/2014/507395.
- [37] Epps P Van, Oswald D, Van Epps P, et al. Frailty has a stronger association with inflammation than age in older veterans[J]. *Immun Ageing*, 2016, 13(1): 27. DOI: 10.1186/s12979-016-0082-z.
- [38] Langmann GA, Perera S, Ferchak MA, et al. Inflammatory markers and frailty in long-term care residents[J]. *J Am Geriatr Soc*, 2017, 65(8): 1777–1783. DOI: 10.1111/jgs.14876.
- [39] Soysal P, Stubbs B, Lucato P, et al. Inflammation and frailty in the elderly: a systematic review and meta-analysis[J]. *Ageing Res Rev*, 2016, 31: 1–8. DOI: 10.1016/j.arr.2016.08.006.
- [40] Bano G, Trevisan C, Carraro S, et al. Inflammation and sarcopenia: a systematic review and meta-analysis[J]. *Maturitas*, 2017, 96: 10–15. DOI: 10.1016/j.maturitas.2016.11.006.
- [41] Varadhan R, Yao W, Matteini A, et al. Simple biologically informed inflammatory index of two serum cytokines predicts 10-year all-cause mortality in older adults[J]. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci*, 2014, 69(2): 165–173. DOI: 10.1093/gerona/glt023.

(编辑：兆瑞臻)