

· 临床研究 ·

急性缺血性脑卒中患者低密度脂蛋白胆固醇/淋巴细胞比值与颈动脉斑块稳定性及狭窄程度的相关性

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【摘要】目的 探讨急性缺血性脑卒中(AIS)患者低密度脂蛋白胆固醇/淋巴细胞(LDL-C/LYM)与颈动脉斑块稳定性及狭窄程度的相关性。**方法** 选取2021年4月至2022年4月就诊于青海省人民医院神经内科的336例AIS患者为研究对象, 根据超声结果将患者分为无斑块组(42例)、稳定斑块组(63例)和易损斑块组(231例);根据狭窄度将患者分为无狭窄组(42例)、轻度狭窄组(177例)、中度狭窄组(67例)和重度狭窄组(50例), 比较各组之间一般资料、低密度脂蛋白胆固醇、淋巴细胞计数、LDL-C/LYM等差异。采用SPSS 23.0统计软件进行数据分析。根据数据类型, 分别采用t检验、Kruskal-Wallis H检验或 χ^2 检验进行组间比较。采用Spearman相关分析LDL-C/LYM值与颈动脉狭窄程度的相关性。采用多因素logistic回归分析颈动脉斑块易损性的危险因素。**结果** 稳定斑块组和易损斑块组年龄、高血压病与糖尿病史、D-二聚体和LDL-C/LYM值均高于无斑块组(均P<0.05)。易损斑块组糖尿病史、总胆固醇、低密度脂蛋白胆固醇和LDL-C/LYM值的水平高于稳定斑块组, 而淋巴细胞水平降低(均P<0.001)。多因素logistic回归分析显示, 糖尿病史与LDL-C/LYM值是颈动脉斑块易损性的独立危险因素($OR=1.948, 95\%CI 1.01 \sim 3.77, P=0.048$; $OR=4.543, 95\%CI 1.10 \sim 18.69, P=0.036$)。受试者工作特征(ROC)曲线分析显示, LDL-C/LYM值对诊断斑块稳定性的曲线下面积(AUC)为0.676(95%CI 0.605~0.748; P<0.001), 最佳临界值为1.54, 灵敏度为61.5%, 特异度为69.8%。Spearman相关性分析显示, LDL-C/LYM值与斑块的狭窄程度呈正相关($r=0.654, P<0.001$)。**结论** LDL-C/LYM值增高是AIS患者颈动脉斑块易损性的独立危险因素, 与颈动脉斑块狭窄程度呈正相关。

【关键词】 缺血性脑卒中; 低密度脂蛋白胆固醇/淋巴细胞比值; 颈动脉斑块; 动脉粥样硬化

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Correlation of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol/lymphocyte ratio with carotid plaque stability and stenosis in patients with acute ischemic stroke

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【Abstract】 Objective To investigate the correlation of low-density lipoprotein cholesterol/lymphocyte (LDL-C/LYM) ratio with carotid plaque stability and stenosis in patients with acute ischemic stroke (AIS). **Methods** The study was conducted on 336 AIS patients treated in the Department of Neurology of Qinghai Provincial People's Hospital from April 2021 to April 2022. According to the results of ultrasound examination, they were divided into non-plaque group ($n=42$), stable plaque group ($n=63$), and vulnerable plaque group ($n=231$). Based on the severity of stenosis, they were also assigned into non-stenosis group ($n=42$), mild ($n=177$), moderate ($n=67$) and severe stenosis group ($n=50$). The general data, LDL-C level, lymphocyte count, and LDL-C/LYM ratio were compared among different groups. SPSS statistics 23.0 was used for data analysis. Student's *t* test, Kruskal-Wallis *H* test or Chi-square test was employed for intergroup comparison depending on different data type. Spearman correlation analysis was adopted to analyze the correlation between LDL-C/LYM ratio and severity of carotid stenosis, and multivariate logistic regression analysis was performed for risk factors of plaque vulnerability. **Results** Older age, larger proportions of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, and higher D-dimer and LDL-C/LYM ratio were observed in the stable and vulnerable plaque groups than the non-plaque group (all $P<0.05$). The vulnerable plaque group had larger proportion of diabetes mellitus, higher total cholesterol and LDL-C levels, and increased LDL-C/LYM ratio, but lower lymphocyte count when compared with the stable plaque group (all $P<0.001$). Multivariate

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logistic regression analysis showed that diabetes mellitus and LDL-C/LYM ratio were independent risk factors for carotid plaque vulnerability ($OR=1.948$, 95%CI 1.01–3.77, $P=0.048$; $OR=4.543$, 95%CI 1.10–18.69, $P=0.036$). Receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve analysis indicated that the area under the curve (AUC) of LDL-C/LYM ratio for diagnosing plaque stability was 0.676 (95%CI 0.605–0.748; $P<0.001$), the optimal critical value was 1.54, the sensitivity was 61.5%, and the specificity was 69.8%. Spearman correlation analysis suggested that LDL-C/LYM ratio was positively correlated with the severity of carotid stenosis ($r=0.654$; $P<0.001$).

Conclusion Increased LDL-C/LYM ratio is an independent risk factor for carotid plaque instability, and is positively correlated with the severity of carotid stenosis in AIS patients.

【Key words】 ischemic stroke; low-density lipoprotein cholesterol/lymphocyte ratio; carotid plaque; atherosclerosis

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卒中是目前导致成人死亡及致残的主要原因之一,卒中的疾病负担从1990年的第5位上升至2019年的第3位,给患者、家庭与社会带来了极大的负担^[1]。颈动脉斑块参与了急性缺血性脑卒中(acute ischemic stroke, AIS)的疾病进程,斑块不稳定产生破裂和脱落会增加临床脑血管疾病事件的发生概率,是导致AIS的重要危险因素^[2]。炎症反应和脂质代谢紊乱被认为是动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)最重要和被广泛认可的致病原因^[3]。多项无可辩驳的证据已经证明低密度脂蛋白胆固醇(low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, LDL-C)在AS中的致病作用^[4],并且高LDL-C水平与AIS患者的神经功能恶化相关^[5]。作为动脉粥样硬化的亚临床表现,动脉粥样硬化斑块被发现含有多种炎症细胞,如活化的淋巴细胞、巨噬细胞和肥大细胞^[6]。因此,本研究首次探讨低密度脂蛋白胆固醇/淋巴细胞(low-density lipoprotein cholesterol/lymphocyte ratio, LDL-C/LYM)比值与颈动脉稳定性及狭窄程度的相关性,以期为AIS的防治提供参考。

1 对象与方法

1.1 研究对象

选择2021年4月至2022年4月在青海省人民医院神经内科就诊的336例AIS患者为研究对象,患者均在卒中发病3d内接受了颈动脉超声检查。纳入标准:(1)符合《中国急性缺血性脑卒中诊治指南2018》^[7]诊断标准;(2)头颅CT/MRI确诊;(3)年龄≥18岁。排除标准:(1)有严重感染、恶性肿瘤或自身免疫性疾病;(2)既往有血液系统疾病及肝肾功能障碍;(3)出血性脑卒中,脑卒中的病因学进行TOAST(Trial of org 10172 in acute stroke treatment, TOAST)分型中的心源性卒中及其他原因脑卒中;(4)临床病史信息及相关影像学资料不全者。根据超声结果将AIS患者分为无斑块组、稳定性斑块组和易损斑块组。同时根据狭窄程度将患者分为无狭窄组、轻度狭窄组、中度狭窄组和重度狭窄

组。本研究经青海省人民医院医学伦理委员会审批通过。

1.2 数据采集

入院后3h之内对所有患者进行病史采集及人口资料学记录,包括年龄、性别、身高、体质量、高血压史、糖尿病史、冠心病史、吸烟和饮酒史等。所有入组患者均在入院次日清晨空腹状态下采集肘静脉血,由青海省人民医院检验科使用相关检测仪器测定。收集总胆固醇(total cholesterol, TC)、甘油三酯(triglyceride, TG)、高密度脂蛋白胆固醇(high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C)、LDL-C、中性粒细胞(neutrophil, NEU)和LYM等指标,并计算LDL-C/LYM值。 $LDL-C/LYM = \text{低密度脂蛋白胆固醇}/\text{淋巴细胞计数}$ 。

1.3 颈动脉超声

入院3d内,使用飞利浦7C彩色多普勒超声进行颈动脉斑块的评估。患者平卧,充分暴露颈部,沿血管方向扫描双侧颈总动脉、分叉处及颈内外动脉,记录颈动脉内膜中层厚度(intima media thickness, IMT)及斑块形态、性质等。根据《头颈部血管超声若干问题的专家共识(颈动脉部分)^[8]》,确定IMT<1.0mm为正常,1.0mm≤IMT<1.5mm为内膜增厚,IMT≥1.5mm为斑块。根据斑块的形态和声学特征,斑块可分为低回声、中等回声、强回声及混合回声斑块,其中内膜增厚或正常为无斑块,强回声斑块为稳定斑块,低回声斑块、中等回声斑块和混合回声斑块统称为易损斑块。狭窄程度的判定参照2003年美国放射学年会超声学专家共识^[9]:狭窄率<50%为轻度狭窄,狭窄率50%~69%为中度狭窄,狭窄率≥70%为重度狭窄。

1.4 统计学处理

采用SPSS 23.0统计软件进行数据分析。正态分布的计量资料以均数±标准差($\bar{x}\pm s$)表示,组间比较采用t检验;不符合正态分布的计量资料使用中位数(四分位数间距)[$M(Q_1, Q_3)$]表示,组间比较采用Kruskal-Wallis H检验。计数资料以例数(百分率)表示,组间比较采用 χ^2 检验。采用受试者工作

特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线分析 LDL-C/LYM 值对颈动脉斑块不稳定性的预测能力。采用 Spearman 相关分析 LDL-C/LYM 值与颈动脉狭窄程度的相关性。采用多因素 logistic 回归分析颈动脉斑块易损性的危险因素。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 3组患者一般资料比较

336例AIS患者中,男性209例,女性127例;无斑块组42(12.50%)例,稳定性斑块组63(18.75%)例,易损斑块组231(68.75%)例。与无斑块组比较,稳定斑块组和易损斑块组在年龄、高血压病与糖

尿病史、D-二聚体(D-Dimer, D-D)和LDL-C/LYM值方面,差异均有统计学意义(均 $P < 0.05$)。与稳定斑块组比较,易损斑块组糖尿病史、TC、LDL-C和LDL-C/LYM值水平增高,而LYM水平降低,差异均有统计学意义(均 $P < 0.001$)。3组患者一般资料比较详见表1。

2.2 多因素 logistic 回归分析颈动脉斑块易损性的危险因素

以 $P < 0.05$ 的变量(糖尿病、TC、LDL-C、LYM和LDL-C/LYM值)作为自变量,斑块是否稳定作为因变量,进行多变量 logistic 回归分析,结果显示糖尿病史和LDL-C/LYM值是颈动脉斑块易损性的独立危险因素(表2)。

表1 3组患者一般资料比较

Table 1 Comparison of baseline data among three groups

Item	Non-plaque group (n=42)	Stable plaque group (n=63)	Vulnerable plaque group (n=231)	F/ χ^2/H	P value
Age(years, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	56.05±13.65	69.21±9.35 *	69.92±10.64 *	29.558	<0.001
Male[n (%)]	24(57.14)	39(61.90)	146(63.20)	0.606	0.753
Hypertension[n (%)]	19(45.24)	44(69.84) *	171(74.03) *	12.990	0.001
Diabetes mellitus[n (%)]	2(4.76)	15(25.40) *	86(37.23) *#	22.411	<0.001
CHD[n (%)]	3(7.14)	4(6.35)	24(10.39)	0.916	0.673
Smoking[n (%)]	6(14.29)	14(22.22)	76(32.90) *	7.624	0.022
Alcohol drinking[n (%)]	6(14.29)	10(15.87)	44(19.05)	0.602	0.759
TC[mmol/L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	3.55(3.02, 4.19)	3.75(3.30, 4.51)	4.15(3.56, 4.92) *#	21.478	<0.001
TG[mmol/L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	1.01(0.84, 1.82)	1.08(0.77, 1.74)	1.25(0.91, 1.93)	2.336	0.311
HDL-C[mmol/L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	1.03(0.85, 1.16)	1.05(0.86, 1.18)	0.99(0.84, 1.14)	5.407	0.067
LDL-C[mmol/L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	1.79(1.28, 2.21)	2.12(1.64, 2.62)	2.38(1.91, 2.98) *#	24.845	<0.001
WBC[×10 ⁹ /L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	6.48(5.29, 8.35)	6.67(5.13, 7.58)	6.13(5.22, 7.33)	1.676	0.433
NEU[×10 ⁹ /L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	4.07(2.83, 5.16)	4.16(3.09, 5.38)	4.10(3.23, 5.10)	0.056	0.973
LYM[×10 ⁹ /L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	1.77(1.41, 2.39)	1.60(1.16, 1.89)	1.36(1.07, 1.80) *#	18.248	<0.001
RBC[×10 ¹² /L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	4.90(4.52, 5.41)	4.97(4.39, 5.27)	4.85(4.38, 5.29)	0.964	0.617
Hb(g/L, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	158.00±30.41	150.00±20.47	148.50±27.69	2.131	0.120
PLT[×10 ⁹ /L, $\bar{x}\pm s$]	198.48±60.34	173.27±61.13	186.15±60.41	1.933	0.146
MPV[fl, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	10.80(10.00, 11.20)	11.30(10.50, 12.38)	11.00(10.30, 11.83)	5.553	0.062
D-D[μg/ml, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	0.92(0.76, 1.04)	1.04(0.90, 1.29) *	1.02(0.87, 1.53) *	13.646	0.001
FIB[μg/ml, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	2.47(2.19, 2.93)	2.64(2.21, 3.24)	2.82(2.30, 3.83) *	11.327	0.003
Cys-C[mg/L, M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	0.97(0.86, 1.19)	1.09(0.90, 1.25)	1.12(0.96, 1.27) *	11.789	0.003
LDL-C/LYM[M(Q ₁ , Q ₃)]	0.95(0.66, 1.20)	1.30(1.04, 1.65) *	1.67(1.27, 2.39) *#	50.662	<0.001

CHD: coronary heart disease; TC: total cholesterol; TG: triglyceride; HDL-C: high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDL-C: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; WBC: white blood cell; NEU: neutrophil; LYM: lymphocyte; RBC: red blood cell; PLT: platelet; MPV: mean platelet volume; D-D: D-Dimer; FIB: fibrinogen; Cys-C: cystatin-C. Compared with non-plaque group, * $P < 0.05$; compared with stable plaque group, # $P < 0.05$.

表2 多因素 logistic 回归分析颈动脉斑块易损性的危险因素

Table 2 Multivariate logistic regression analysis on risk factors of carotid plaque vulnerability

Factor	OR	B	SE	Wald χ^2	95%CI	P value
Diabete mellitus	1.948	0.667	0.337	3.910	1.01~3.77	0.048
TC	1.190	0.174	0.387	0.201	0.56~2.54	0.654
LDL-C	0.569	-0.564	0.671	0.706	0.15~2.12	0.401
LYM	2.184	0.781	0.737	1.124	0.51~9.24	0.289
LDL-C/LYM	4.543	1.514	0.722	4.399	1.10~18.69	0.036

TC: total cholesterol; LDL-C: low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LYM: lymphocyte.

2.3 LDL-C/LYM 值对颈动脉斑块不稳定性预测价值

对 LDL-C、LYM 和 LDL-C/LYM 进行 ROC 曲线分析,其对诊断斑块稳定性的曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC)分别为 0.618(95%CI 0.538~0.698)、0.399(95%CI 0.326~0.473) 和 0.676(95%CI 0.605~0.748)。LDL-C 最佳临界值为 2.30, 灵敏度为 58.0%, 特异度为 68.3%; LYM 最佳临界值为 1.44, 灵敏度为 42.9%, 特异度为 34.9%; LDL-C/LYM 最佳临界值为 1.54, 灵敏度为 61.5%, 特异度为 69.8%(图 1)。

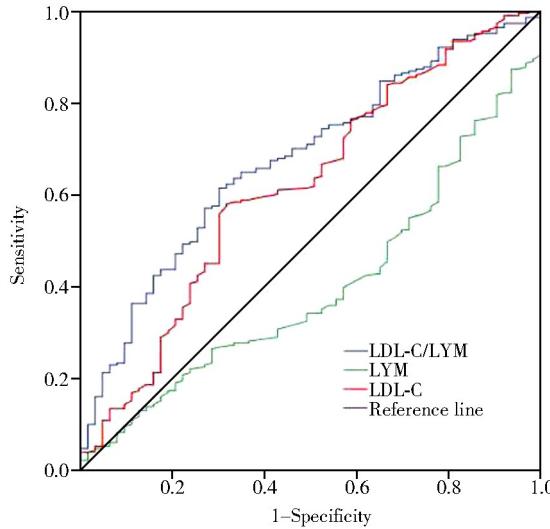


图 1 LDL-C/LYM 值对颈动脉斑块稳定性的预测价值

Figure 1 Predictive value of LDL-C/LYM on carotid plaque stability

2.4 LDL-C/LYM 值与颈动脉狭窄程度的 Spearman 相关性分析

Spearman 相关性分析显示,急性缺血性脑卒中患者入院时 LDL-C/LYM 值与颈动脉斑块的狭窄程度呈正相关($r=0.654; P<0.001$)。

2.5 不同颈动脉狭窄组血清 LDL-C/LYM 值比较

AIS 患者无斑块组(42 例)、轻度(177 例)、中度(67 例)及重度狭窄组(50 例)的 LDL-C/LYM 水平分别为 (1.16 ± 0.55) , (1.41 ± 0.51) , (2.20 ± 0.90) 和 (3.12 ± 1.39) 。随斑块狭窄程度加重,4 组患者 LDL-C/LYM 水平明显增高,且各组间差异均有统计学意义(均 $P<0.05$)。

3 讨 论

动脉粥样硬化是导致 AIS 发病的重要危险因素,随着斑块的发生与发展,不稳定斑块会发生斑块内破裂、出血等,破裂的碎片随血流进入脑血管,导

致脑组织缺氧从而引起脑梗死^[2]。越来越多的证据表明,颈动脉斑块不稳定性破裂或脱落比斑块引起的管腔狭窄更容易引起 AIS 的发生^[10]。因此,在动脉粥样硬化早期找到快速、有效的标志物对斑块稳定性及狭窄程度进行预测,对 AIS 的预防具有重要意义。

动脉粥样硬化的发病机制涉及炎症反应、脂质代谢失调及氧化应激等多种病理生理机制。其中,LDL-C 经氧化修饰后形成氧化型低密度脂蛋白(oxidized low density lipoprotein, ox LDL),被认为是 AS 发生的关键启动因素。研究表明,ox LDL 通过巨噬细胞表面的清道夫受体被无限制摄取,在胞浆内蓄积形成泡沫细胞^[11]。大量泡沫细胞停留在血管壁内,使动脉粥样硬化斑块得以形成^[12]。另一方面,脑卒中患者处于应激状态,内源性糖皮质激素在应激状态下过度分泌,从而导致了免疫抑制及 LYM 凋亡^[13,14]。也有研究显示,在斑块形成过程中,多种趋化因子可调节 LYM 向斑块内迁徙,导致循环血肿 LYM 减少^[15]。本研究中,AIS 患者易损斑块组的 LDL-C 较稳定斑块组水平增高,而 LYM 水平降低,这也与既往相关研究结果一致^[16,17]。鉴于 LDL-C 和 LYM 的不平衡,我们有理由相信 LDL-C/LYM 值与斑块易损性及狭窄程度密切相关。

2020 年 Güneş 等^[18]首次报道了 LDL-C/LYM 比值,并提出 LDL-C/LYM 值是 AIS 患者院内死亡率的新预测指标。衣晓娜^[19]研究发现,在 AIS 患者中 LDL-C/LYM 值与入院时美国国立卫生研究院卒中量表(National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale, NIHSS)评分呈正相关,推测 LDL-C/LYM 值可以反映 AIS 患者的神经功能缺损情况。目前尚未见 LDL-C/LYM 值与动脉斑块的相关研究。本研究结果显示,易损斑块组糖尿病史、TC、LDL-C 和 LDL-C/LYM 值水平高于稳定组,LYM 水平低于稳定斑块组,进一步多因素 logistic 回归分析提示糖尿病史和 LDL-C/LYM 值仍为颈动脉斑块稳定性的独立危险因素。ROC 曲线结果表明 LDL-C/LYM 值对 AIS 患者斑块稳定性具有一定预测价值,且大于 LDL-C 和 LYM 的曲线下面积,提示 LDL-C/LYM 比值较 LDL-C 和 LYM 单独指标而言具有更高的准确性。此外,Spearman 相关性分析还提示,LDL-C/LYM 值与颈动脉斑块的狭窄程度呈正相关,即随着颈动脉斑块狭窄程度的增加,LDL-C/LYM 值也随之升高。

本研究首次评价了 LDL-C/LYM 值与颈动脉斑块的相关性,并推测 AIS 患者颈动脉易损斑块与狭窄程度和 LDL-C/LYM 水平关系密切,且较 LDL-C

和 LYM 单独指标而言具有更高的准确性,这为细化和管理患者提供了有力的参考依据。本研究尚存在一定的局限性:(1)研究对象来源于单中心且样本量少,具有一定的局限性;(2)斑块稳定性虽然可通过超声技术检测,但缺乏量化标准,其结果易受到主观因素的干扰。因此,尚需多中心、大样本量研究来进一步证实。

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