

· 综述 ·

老年人内在能力和慢性低度炎症的研究现状

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【摘要】 内在能力是指个体全部体力和脑力的总和, 包括运动、活力、认知、心理和感觉 5 个关键维度。内在能力对健康老龄化有重要的意义, 在对内在能力改变的机制进行研究时发现, 伴随在衰老过程中的慢性低度炎症可能通过作用于内在能力的各个维度在内在能力的下降中发挥重要的作用。因此, 本文对慢性低度炎症和内在能力的关系进行综述。

【关键词】 老年人; 内在能力; 慢性低度炎症

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Research status of chronic low-grade inflammation and intrinsic capacity in the elderly

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【Abstract】 Intrinsic capacity refers to the combination of one's physical and mental abilities, and its framework comprises mobility, vitality, cognition, psychological, and sensory domains. Intrinsic capacity plays an important role in healthy aging. Studies on the mechanism of intrinsic capacity show that chronic low-grade inflammation accompanying aging process may play an important role in its decline by acting on all the domains. In this article, we reviewed the relationship between chronic low-grade inflammation and intrinsic capacity.

【Key words】 aged; intrinsic capacity; chronic low-grade inflammation

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为应对世界人口老龄化, WHO 在 2015 年《世界老龄化与健康报告》中提出了健康老龄化这一新的概念, 即发展和维持老年人获得幸福的功能能力的过程, 功能能力由内在能力 (intrinsic capacity, IC)、环境因素和两者间的相互作用决定^[1]。内在能力是指个体生理和心理能力的总和, 包括运动、活力、认知、心理和感觉 5 个维度^[2]。内在能力下降在老年人中的发生率很高, 对老年人不良健康结局有重要预测作用^[3]。研究发现, 慢性低度炎症可能通过在内在能力各个维度中发挥作用来促进内在能力的下降。因此, 本文对慢性低度炎症与内在能力的关系进行综述。

1 内在能力

内在能力是指个体生理和心理能力的总和, 其与环境因素及两者间的相互作用是健康老龄化的重要决定因素^[1]。运动、活力、认知、心理和感觉是老年人内

在能力的 5 个关键维度^[2]。基于这 5 个维度, 世界卫生组织 (World Health Organization, WHO) 在 2019 年提出了一套快速简便的内在能力筛查工具, 在对这一筛查工具的有效性进行验证时发现, 超过一半 (69.1%) 50 岁及以上的参与者在一个或多个内在能力维度上出现下降, 其中运动、认知、活力、听力、视力和心理维度下降的百分率分别为 25.3%、46.8%、16.2%、15.4%、11.7% 和 12.0%^[4], 由此可见内在能力下降在人群中发生率很高。内在能力下降对老年人失能、护理依赖、死亡等不良健康结局有重要的预测作用^[3]。监测老年人内在能力、研究内在能力下降的机制及干预的靶点对维护老年人健康有重要的意义。

2 慢性低度炎症

衰老过程中常伴有一种慢性低度炎症状态, 被描述为炎性衰老^[5], 和明显的炎症感染状态不同,

慢性低度炎症主要表现为体内具有代表性的炎症因子C反应蛋白(C-reactive protein, CRP)、白细胞介素6(interleukin-6, IL-6)等长期轻度升高。急性、短暂性的炎症在对抗创伤性组织损伤或病原体入侵时发挥作用,而慢性低度炎症通常可导致组织损伤或变性^[6]。炎性衰老可能来源于内源性大分子或细胞碎片的积累、衰老细胞及衰老相关分泌表型的增加、免疫功能的下降(免疫衰老)、体内微生物及其代谢物的改变、凝血系统活性的增强^[7]。此外,慢性低度炎症已被证实与心血管疾病、2型糖尿病、阿尔兹海默症、肌少症等年龄相关疾病的发病和死亡风险升高相关^[6,8]。

3 内在能力整体和慢性低度炎症的相关性

目前只有4项观察性研究调查了炎症相关生物标志物和内在能力的关系。在社会环境和衰老生物标志物研究(social environment and biomarkers of aging study, SEBAS)中,与高、中内在能力组相比,低内在能力组基线IL-6、超敏C反应蛋白(high-sensitivity C reactive protein, hs-CRP)水平较高^[9]。在另一项研究中,肿瘤坏死因子受体-1(tumor necrosis factor receptor-1, TNFR-1)与内在能力下降独立相关($OR=1.013; P=0.038$),但在内在能力下降和正常组中并没有观察到IL-6的差异^[10]。其他两项利用多领域阿尔兹海默症预防实验(Multidomain Alzheimer Preventive Trial, MAPT)数据的研究显示,较高水平的IL-6、CRP、TNFR-1、生长分化因子15(growth differentiation factor-15, GDF-15)与较低的基线内在能力有关,而TNFR-1、GDF-15、单核细胞趋化蛋白1(monocyte chemoattractant protein-1, MCP-1)与4年内更快的内在能力下降速度有关(TNFR-1、GDF-15、MCP-1水平增加10倍速,老年人内在能力每年平均下降增加1.3%~1.4%)^[11];在5年随访中,随着时间的推移,无炎症组和慢性低度炎症组内在能力评分均下降,但慢性低度炎症组下降更显著^[12]。这种异质性可能是因为不同的研究对内在能力的测定方法、纳入的炎症生物标志物以及样本量不同所致。

4 内在能力各个维度和慢性低度炎症的相关性

4.1 认知功能下降和慢性低度炎症

在一项对老龄小鼠(15月龄)和幼龄小鼠(2月龄)肠道微生物组成、认知功能及脑-肠轴生理和病理状况的研究中发现,脑-肠轴功能紊乱导致认知能力下降由慢性低度炎症介导^[13]。而在基于人群的研究中,和非认知障碍的老年人相比,认知障碍老年人血清中慢性低度炎症生物标志物CRP水平较高^[14,15];在认知

障碍患者中,认知功能和血清CRP水平呈负相关^[14]。从动物实验到基于人群的研究都提示慢性低度炎症可能介导老年人病理性认知功能下降。

4.2 抑郁和慢性低度炎症

在马斯特里赫特(Maastricht Study)研究中,慢性低度炎症和内皮功能障碍均与抑郁的发生和病程有关,而内皮损伤对抑郁的作用60%可以归因于慢性低度炎症^[16],可见慢性低度炎症在抑郁症的发生发展中起着重要作用。在遗传背景方面,对全基因组关联研究的荟萃分析显示,rs2794520(一种与CRP功能相关的单核苷酸多态性)与双向情感障碍的因果优势比(odds ratio, OR)为1.33,提示CRP功能的增加可提高双向情感障碍发生的风险^[17];在环境因素方面,高饮食炎症指数已被证实与重度抑郁、精神分裂等严重精神障碍有关^[18]。

4.3 行动障碍和慢性低度炎症

IL-6作为慢性低度炎症的代表性指标,已被证实与步速、下肢机能、肌肉力量有关^[19-21]。循环中较高的IL-6水平与老年人失能的发生有关,可以用来预测非残疾老年人未来残疾的风险^[22],较高的IL-6水平与行动障碍之间的关系可能由肌肉力量下降来介导^[23]。此外,有研究显示,hs-CRP、肿瘤坏死因子α(tumor necrosis factor α, TNF-α)等炎症因子与躯体功能负相关^[20],hs-CRP、白细胞与步速负相关^[24]。

4.4 活力下降和慢性低度炎症

目前对活力的评估主要包括握力和营养状态两个方面。在握力方面,研究显示,与握力正常的老年人相比,握力下降的老年人hs-CRP、TNF-α的水平更高^[20]。握力作为肌肉力量的可靠指标,慢性低度炎症对它的影响可能通过改变肌肉健康状况来实现^[23]。在营养方面,一项对癌症患者营养状态和感染情况进行的研究发现,营养不良(主要指营养不足)患者感染的发生率比营养良好者高,有效的营养支持可以减少癌症患者感染的发生风险^[25]。营养过剩时,多余的营养物质会转化并储存在脂肪组织中,脂肪组织中的免疫细胞和非免疫细胞可以分泌TNF-α、IL-6等促炎细胞因子^[26]。脂肪组织还可以分泌瘦素,后者可以影响TNF-α、IL-6的产生^[27]。

4.5 感觉障碍与慢性低度炎症

在视觉方面,年龄相关性黄斑变性是导致老年人不可逆视力损害和失明的主要原因。一项对251例年龄相关性黄斑变性患者的前瞻性研究显示,在平均4.6年的随访中,血清IL-6和CRP水平升高与年龄相关性黄斑变性进展相关^[28]。在听觉方面,英国老龄化纵向研究显示,在调整年龄和性别后,IL-6和白细胞与听力损害呈正相关^[29]。

5 小结

在健康老龄化的背景下,识别与内在能力下降有关的生物标志物,监测老年人内在能力对维护老年人功能能力具有重要意义。慢性低度炎症与内在能力各维度都有相关性,提示慢性低度炎症可能在内在能力下降中发挥作用,慢性低度炎症生物标志物有望成为监测内在能力下降的生物标志物。到目前为止,炎症相关生物标志物和内在能力关系的研究相对较少,未来期待更多的研究对慢性低度炎症生物标志物和内在能力的关系进行探索。

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