

· 老年人认知功能障碍专栏 ·

认知障碍患者认知功能与泪液分泌的相关性

梁骊^{1,2}, 杨华^{1,2}, 范雪怡², 钱海蓉^{1,2*}

(¹安徽医科大学第五临床医学院海军临床学院, 合肥 230032; ²解放军总医院第六医学中心神经内科, 北京 100048)

【摘要】 **目的** 探讨认知障碍患者认知功能与泪液分泌的相关性。**方法** 选择2021年6月至2022年6月解放军总医院第六医学中心神经内科收治的213例患者为研究对象,其中阿尔茨海默病(AD)组71例、轻度认知功能障碍(MCI)组75例、对照组67例。应用简易智能状态检查量表(MMSE)与蒙特利尔认知评估量表(MoCA)评估认知功能, Schirmer试验检测泪液分泌情况。采用SPSS 25.0统计软件进行数据分析。根据数据类型,分别采用单因素方差分析、Kruskal-Wallis秩和检验或 χ^2 检验进行组间比较。应用Pearson相关和Spearman秩相关分析Schirmer试验结果与MMSE和MoCA评分的相关性。构建受试者工作特征(ROC)曲线,评价Schirmer试验结果对认知障碍的预测价值。**结果** AD组与MCI组患者泪液分泌水平均低于对照组,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.01$); AD组与MCI组泪液分泌差异无统计学意义($P > 0.05$)。相关分析显示, Schirmer试验结果与MMSE评分、MoCA评分呈正相关($r = 0.304, 0.391; P < 0.001$),并与MoCA的各分项得分呈正相关($P < 0.05$)。Schirmer试验诊断AD及MCI的ROC曲线下面积(AUC)分别为0.818($P < 0.001$)和0.753($P < 0.001$)。**结论** 认知障碍患者泪液分泌减少,其认知功能与泪液分泌具有相关性。

【关键词】 阿尔茨海默病; 轻度认知障碍; Schirmer试验; 泪液

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Correlation between cognitive function and tear secretion in patients with cognitive impairment

LIANG Li^{1,2}, YANG Hua^{1,2}, FAN Xue-Yi², QIAN Hai-Rong^{1,2*}

(¹Navy Clinical College, Fifth School of Clinical Medicine, Anhui Medical University, Hefei 230032, China; ²Department of Neurology, Sixth Medical Center, Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing 100048, China)

【Abstract】 **Objective** To investigate the correlation between cognitive function and tear secretion in patients with cognitive impairment. **Methods** A total of 213 inpatients were recruited in this study in the Department of Neurology at the Sixth Medical Center of Chinese PLA General Hospital from June 2021 to June 2022, including 71 with Alzheimer's disease (AD), 75 with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and 67 with normal cognition as controls. The cognitive function was assessed using the mini-mental state examination (MMSE) and Montreal cognitive assessment (MoCA). Schirmer test was used to measure tear secretion. SPSS statistics 25.0 was used for data analysis. Depending on data type, comparison between groups was performed using the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), Kruskal-Wallis test or χ^2 test. The correlation of cognitive function with tear secretion was analyzed using Pearson correlation analysis and Spearman's rank correlation analysis. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was drawn to evaluate the predictive value of the results in tear Schirmer test for cognitive impairment. **Results** Tear secretion in AD and MCI groups were both lower than control group ($P < 0.01$), the difference being statistically significant. There was no significant difference between the AD and MCI groups ($P > 0.05$). Analysis showed that results in Schirmer test had positive correlations with MMSE and MoCA scores ($r = 0.304, 0.391; P < 0.001$ for both), and with each score of MoCA ($P < 0.05$). The area under curve (AUC) of the Schirmer test for diagnosing AD and MCI was 0.818 ($P < 0.001$) and 0.753 ($P < 0.001$). **Conclusion** Patients with cognitive impairment have reduced tear secretion, and cognition correlates with tear secretion.

【Key words】 Alzheimer's disease; mild cognitive impairment; Schirmer test; tear

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Corresponding author: QIAN Hai-Rong, E-mail: bjqr@hotmail.com

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通信作者: 钱海蓉, E-mail: bjqr@hotmail.com

阿尔茨海默病(Alzheimer's disease, AD)是最常见的痴呆类型,严重影响患者的日常生活、工作和社会交往能力,占有痴呆的50%~70%^[1]。轻度认知功能障碍(mild cognitive impairment, MCI)是介于认知正常和AD的中间阶段,患者有记忆力或其他认知功能减退,但不影响日常生活能力,具有向AD转归的高可能性。中国≥60岁人群痴呆患病率约为6.0%,MCI患病率约为15.5%^[2],早期诊断和干预对痴呆的防治至关重要。包括AD在内的神经退行性疾病患者存在泪液分泌功能障碍^[3],提示泪液分泌减少有助于早期识别认知障碍。本研究通过对泪液分泌及认知功能的评估,探讨两者的相关性,以期为临床诊断提供依据。

1 对象与方法

1.1 研究对象

选择2021年6月至2022年6月于解放军总医院第六医学中心神经内科收治的213例患者为研究对象,其中AD组71例、MCI组75例、对照组67例。纳入标准:(1)年龄≥45岁;(2)AD及MCI临床诊断根据美国国立神经病、语言交流障碍和卒中研究所-老年性痴呆及相关疾病学会(National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke-Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, NINCDS-ADRDA)标准^[4]及国际工作组(International Working Group, IWG)IWG-MCI标准^[5];(3)对照组认知功能正常,无神经系统疾病史。排除标准:(1)有眼科疾病或眼科手术史;(2)长期使用抗细菌、抗病毒、抗炎(激素或非甾体抗炎药)、降眼压、人工泪液等滴眼液;(3)1年内隐形眼镜佩戴史;(4)双眼Schirmer试验结果相差>5mm;(5)其他可能影响认知功能及泪液分泌的疾病如糖尿病、甲状腺疾病、风湿免疫系统疾病、精神障碍,除AD、MCI外其他神经系统疾病等。本研究获得医学伦理委员会批准,患者及家属对研究内容知情同意并签署知情同意书。

1.2 认知功能评估

应用简易智能状态检查量表(mini-mental state examination, MMSE)及蒙特利尔认知评估量表(Montreal cognitive assessment, MoCA)评估认知功能。

1.3 泪液分泌检测(Schirmer 试验)

使用泪液分泌检测滤纸,在反折线处将滤纸反折后,置于被检者下穹隆中外1/3交界处,闭眼5min后取出,记录滤纸湿润长度,取两眼的平均值。正常值为10~15mm/5min,<10mm/5min为低分泌。

1.4 统计学处理

采用SPSS 25.0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,组间比较采用单因素方差分析,两两比较采用SNK-*q*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秩和检验。计数资料用例数(百分率)表示,采用 χ^2 检验。应用Pearson相关和Spearman秩相关分析Schirmer试验结果与MMSE和MoCA评分的相关性。应用受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线分析Schirmer试验对AD及MCI的诊断价值。 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 3组患者一般资料与认知评定情况比较

共纳入213例患者。AD组:男性32例,女性39例;年龄57~85(68.58±6.76)岁;MCI组:男性38例,女性37例;年龄50~88(67.31±9.05)岁;对照组:男性31例,女性36例;年龄49~83(65.63±7.78)岁。3组患者一般资料比较,差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$);MMSE评分及MoCA评分比较,差异有统计学意义($P<0.01$;表1)。

2.2 3组患者泪液分泌结果比较

AD组、MCI组与对照组Schirmer试验结果比较,差异均有统计学意义[(7.34±5.03)和(16.56±8.06)mm、(9.36±6.70)和(16.56±8.06)mm; $P<0.01$];AD组与MCI组比较,差异无统计学意义($P=0.076$)。

2.3 Schirmer 试验与认知量表的相关性分析

Pearson线性相关分析结果显示,Schirmer试验与MMSE评分呈正相关($r=0.304, P<0.001$);Spearman秩相关分析结果显示,Schirmer试验与MoCA评分呈正相关($r=0.391, P<0.001$)。Schirmer试验与MoCA评分中的视空间与执行功能($r=0.313, P<0.001$)、命名($r=0.304, P<0.001$)、注意($r=0.209, P=0.003$)、语言($r=0.225, P=0.001$)、抽象($r=0.224, P=0.001$)、延迟记忆($r=0.341, P<0.001$)及定向($r=0.309, P<0.001$)均呈正相关。

2.4 ROC 曲线分析 Schirmer 试验对 AD、MCI 的诊断价值

AD组:ROC曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC)为0.818($P<0.001$),灵敏度为77.46%,特异度为70.15%,约登指数为0.4761,截断值8mm(图1A)。

MCI组:AUC为0.753($P<0.001$),灵敏度为83.10%,特异度为59.40%,约登指数为0.4252,截断值13mm(图1B)。

表 1 3组患者一般资料与认知评定情况比较

Table 1 Comparison of clinical data and cognitive assessment status among three groups

Item	All patients	AD group (n=71)	MCI group (n=75)	Normal group (n=67)	P value
Age (years, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	66.81±8.47	68.58±6.76	67.31±9.05	65.63±7.78	0.382
Gender [n(%)]					0.775
Male	101 (47.42)	32 (45.07)	38 (50.67)	31 (46.27)	
Female	112 (52.58)	39 (54.93)	37 (49.33)	36 (53.73)	
Smoking [n(%)]	84 (39.44)	28 (39.44)	32 (42.67)	24 (35.82)	0.707
Alcohol drinking [n(%)]	63 (29.58)	21 (29.58)	24 (32.00)	18 (26.87)	0.799
Hypertension [n(%)]	135 (63.38)	46 (64.78)	47 (62.67)	42 (62.67)	0.956
Body mass index (kg/m^2 , $\bar{x}\pm s$)	25.09±2.90	24.78±3.35	25.36±2.84	25.08±2.37	0.675
Triglyceride (mmol/L, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	1.30±0.57	1.24±0.58	1.37±0.60	1.28±0.54	0.575
Cholesterol (mmol/L, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	4.06±1.03	4.04±1.03	4.06±0.97	4.08±1.14	0.987
High-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mmol/L, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	1.12±0.30	1.15±0.34	1.11±0.27	1.10±0.28	0.727
Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (mmol/L, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	2.16±0.73	2.14±0.75	2.19±0.67	2.17±0.799	0.955
MMSE (points, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	25.77±3.95	21.29±4.27	26.74±1.73	28.76±1.14	<0.001
MoCA (points, $\bar{x}\pm s$)	23 (18, 25)	16 (13, 19)	23 (22, 24)	26 (25, 28)	<0.001

AD: Alzheimer's disease; MCI: mild cognitive impairment; MMSE: mini-mental state examination; MoCA: Montreal cognitive assessment.

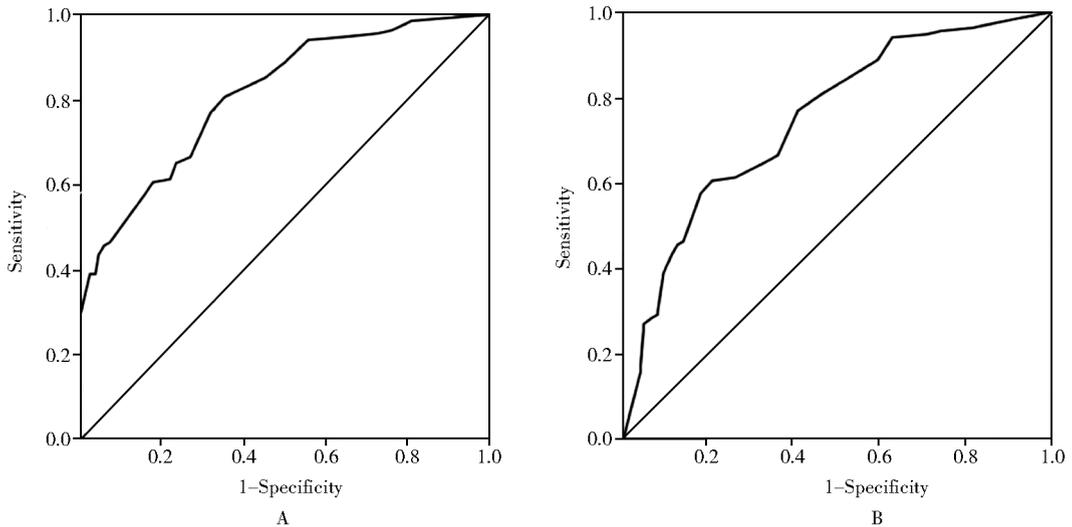


图 1 Schirmer 试验在 AD 和 MCI 诊断中的 ROC 曲线分析

Figure 1 ROC curves of Schirmer test in diagnosis of AD and MCI

A: AD; B: MCI. AD: Alzheimer's disease; MCI: mild cognitive impairment; ROC: receiver operating characteristic.

3 讨论

AD 是一种不可逆的神经退行性疾病,起病隐匿,但在症状出现前 20 年,大脑已开始发生变化^[6]。AD 的发病机制尚未明确,临床诊断主要依赖病史、神经心理学评估、实验室检查和头颅影像学检查。2018 年 1 月,新提出了 AD 生物学标记诊断框架 ATN,包括:A:β-淀粉样蛋白(amyloid β-protein, Aβ);T:病理性 Tau;N:神经变性^[7]。正电子发射计算机断层显像及腰穿检查在临床难以普及,需探寻更简单易行的检测方法^[8]。与其他体液相比,泪液更易获取。Schirmer 试验常用于干眼病的标准临床评估,还可用于收集泪液以提供角膜和结膜上皮细胞的信息,操作简单易行^[9,10]。

本研究中,对照组 Schirmer 试验结果显著高于 AD 组及 MCI 组,提示认知障碍患者泪液分泌减少。

既往研究发现,眼表炎症及眼表神经感觉异常均可导致泪液减少^[11]。干眼症患者的泪液和结膜上皮细胞中白细胞介素-1(interleukin-1, IL-1)、IL-6、肿瘤坏死因子 α(tumor necrosis factor, TNF-α)等细胞因子水平显著升高,并与疾病严重程度相关^[12-14]。IL-1β 驱动 β-淀粉样前体蛋白的合成,导致大脑中 Aβ 产生和沉积,并参与 tau 磷酸化^[15,16]。IL-6 与受体结合后可激活下游信号通路,将导致包括 AD 在内的各种病理情况^[17]。在 AD 患者中, TNF-α 血清含量也明显升高^[18]。另有研究发现包括 AD 在内的神经系统退行性疾病患者角膜敏感性减退,瞬目频率减少^[3]。AD 患者缺乏神经生长因子和乙酰胆碱,神经生长因子是中枢神经系统和角膜神经细胞发育、存活和完整性所必需的神经营养因子^[19],乙酰胆碱对角膜上皮的维持和发育有重要贡献^[20]。角膜神经和上皮的改变可能与 AD 的脑萎缩及胆碱能缺

乏同时发生^[21]。眼表神经的损害则会导致角膜知觉减退和瞬目频率下降,进而导致泪液减少^[11]。

虽然本研究结果中 AD 组与 MCI 组泪液分泌无明显差异,但 ROC 曲线截断值 AD 组小于 MCI 组, Schirmer 试验结果与 MMSE 评分、MoCA 评分及具体的认知领域如视空间与执行功能、命名、注意、语言、抽象、延迟记忆、定向均呈正相关,可推测随着认知障碍的发展,泪液分泌会进一步减少。ROC 曲线下 AUC 分别为 0.818 和 0.753,提示该试验有一定诊断价值,但灵敏度、特异度稍差,需与其他指标联用以提高诊断准确率。目前在眼前部的视网膜及眼后部的晶状体中均发现 A β 沉积,初级房水中也检测出 A β 1-40,且晶状体中 A β 1-42 和 A β 1-40 的浓度及初级房水中的 A β 1-40 浓度与老年人大脑皮层和脑脊液中的浓度相当^[10,21]。泪液中也发现了 A β (A β 38、A β 40、A β 42)、总 Tau 蛋白和磷酸化 Tau 蛋白^[22]。Kalló 等^[23]发现,与对照组相比,AD 患者载脂蛋白-1、乳铁蛋白,溶菌酶-C 的水平显著降低,而真皮杀菌素的水平显著升高,提示眼表存在潜在的炎症风险,以上泪液蛋白联用可作为 AD 的潜在生物标志物。将 Schirmer 试验与泪液中其他成分检测结合可进一步提高诊断的准确性。

综上所述,泪液分泌减少与认知障碍相关,泪液可能是诊断认知障碍的潜在生物标记物。但本研究为单中心、小样本研究,研究结果可能存在一定偏倚。此外,研究未能将 Schirmer 试验与其他泪液成分检测或其他 AD 或 MCI 的生物标记物联用,有待进一步扩大样本量、开展多中心深入研究,以利于认知障碍的早期诊断。

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