

多发肺结节的鉴别策略研究进展

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摘要:肺癌多结节病灶的检出日益增加,准确鉴别多结节病灶是多原发肺癌(multiple primary lung cancer, MPLC)或肺内转移(intrapulmonary metastasis, IPM)对患者治疗方案的选择及预后至关重要。在临床工作中,经典的鉴别方法主要依靠形态组织学表现,对组织学类型相似或缺乏转移特征的患者,诊断仍存在较大困难。分子生物和基因学技术的兴起,为同时性多结节病灶的性质判断提供更客观全面的信息。全文主要从临床影像学特点、组织形态学差异和分子遗传学研究等方面对肺癌多发结节的鉴别诊断策略进行综述。

主题词:肺癌;多发肺结节;肺内转移;鉴别诊断

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Research Progress on Differential Strategies of Multiple Lung Nodules

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Abstract: The incidence of lung carcinoma patients presenting with multiple nodules has been increasing. Differentiation between multiple primary tumors and intrapulmonary metastases in patients with multiple lung nodules will help to predict disease outcome and guide treatment, but it can be a challenge. Classically, the differentiation relies on histopathological features of the lesion. However, the development of molecular biology and genomics technology provides objective and comprehensive information for such differentiation. This article reviews the differential diagnosis strategies for multiple lung cancer nodules from the imaging characteristics, histopathological features and molecular genetic markers.

Subject words: lung cancer; multiple lung nodules; intrapulmonary metastatic; differential diagnosis

随着影像学技术的进步、癌症筛查项目的广泛普及以及对肿瘤患者的严密随访,以磨玻璃样多结节为表现的肺癌检出率日益增加^[1-2],女性、不吸烟人群尤为明显^[3-4]。肺癌患者多结节的发生率约为0.2%~20%^[5-6],多原发肺癌、肺内转移癌或肺癌复发均可以表现为多发肺结节。独立多原发肺癌与肺内转移癌的治疗方案和远期预后差异明显,准确判断肺内多结节的性质对肿瘤分期和疾病的后续管理尤

为重要。传统的 Martini-Melamed 标准^[7]沿用至今,但多发肺结节的鉴别和诊断仍缺乏权威的指南,是困扰临床的难题。

1 临床鉴别标准和分期

多原发肺癌(multiple primary lung cancer, MPLC)是指同一患者肺内同时或先后发现两个或以上的原发性恶性肿瘤。随后,Martini 和 Melamed 首次提出 MPLC 的诊断标准^[7]:①病灶间组织学类型不同;②当组织学类型相同时,需满足无共同淋巴结引流区域或远处转移、病灶解剖位置独立(不同肺段、

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叶)、起源于不同的原位癌等条件。该标准主要依据肿瘤细胞的形态学、病灶位置分布、有无淋巴结及肺外转移等特征在临床广泛应用。美国胸科医师协会(American college of chest physicians, ACCP)多次更新 Martini-Melamed 标准。2013 年,ACCP 指南^[8]推荐使用肺癌组织学亚型和特异的分子遗传标记或基因突变位点作为多结节不同分子起源的客观证据,但遗憾的是并未给出具体可行的分子标志物。此外,指南还描述了卫星结节(病灶位于同一肺叶内,组织学类型相同,无远处转移)和肺内转移灶(组织学类型相同,伴纵隔淋巴结或远处转移、或发病间隔时间<2 年)这两种疾病类型。

既往多结节病灶常按肺癌肺内转移灶处理,无统一分期标准。第七版肺癌分期系统中,位于同侧单肺叶的多发结节为 T3 期,同侧不同肺叶的多发结节为 T4 期,双侧多叶结节则为 M1a 期^[9]。2017 年,美国癌症联合委员会(American joint committee on cancer, AJCC)第八版分期手册^[10]将多灶肺癌首次描述为 4 种不同的疾病类型:第二原发肿瘤、多灶磨玻璃/附壁样成分(GG/L)肺腺癌、肺炎型肺癌、实体肺癌伴卫星结节。第二原发肿瘤和 GG/L 肺腺癌归类为 MPLC,要求对第二原发肿瘤的每个肿瘤单独进行 TNM 分期,GG/L 肺腺癌则采用最大病灶的 T 分期,用 m 表示多发结节的数目。

2 多结节影像学特征

低剂量计算机断层扫描多发肺结节是指肺内存有两个或两个以上的直径均≤3cm 类圆形或不规则形病灶^[11]。根据肿瘤实性成分比值(consolidation tumor ratio, CTR)将其分为 3 类^[12]:磨玻璃结节(glassy nodules, GGNs), $0 \leq CTR < 0.5$; 部分实性结节(part-solid nodules), $0.5 \leq CTR < 1.0$; 纯实性结节(solid nodule), $CTR = 1.0$ 。结节实性成分最多或当 CTR 值相等时实际体积最大者视为主要肿瘤(dominant tumor, DT),手术切除的肺腺癌多发结节中,DT 实性成分与肿瘤的恶性程度相关,部分实性或实性结节患者预后较磨玻璃结节更差^[13]。

高分辨计算机断层扫描(high-resolution computed tomography, HRCT)有助于观察结节内部及周围细节,是术前鉴别结节性质的最佳方法。多项研究结

果提示^[14-15],多结节病变部位好发于同侧、周围型分布,形态孤立的、密度混杂的类圆形结节影伴毛刺分叶,支气管空泡征,胸膜牵拉或血管束集等特点,应考虑为 MPLC 的典型影像学征象。一项包括 486 例同时性多结节肺腺癌患者的研究报道,多发磨玻璃结节或混合性磨玻璃结节的预后较好,可按 MPLC 进行分期^[16]。同样,Hattori 等^[17]也发现多灶肺腺癌患者的 GGNs 组总生存率明显高于非 GGNs 组(97.2% vs 68.5%, $P < 0.01$),淋巴结阴性的多发 GGNs 考虑 MPLC 诊断,其预后与独立早期肺腺癌相似。

18F-氟-D-葡萄糖正电子发射断层扫描/计算机断层扫描(18F-fluoro-D-glucose positron emission tomography/computed tomography, 18F-FDG PET/CT)的最大标准摄取值(maximum standardized uptake values,SUVmax)反映肿瘤代谢活性,是否常规使用 PET-CT 鉴别肺癌多结节存在争议。LIU 等^[18]对比不同患者两个肿瘤病灶的 SUV max 比值,使用接受者操作特征曲线来评估诊断性能,提示不同肿瘤 SUVmax 比值差异可能代表多病灶间不同的克隆起源。Li 等^[3]对 73 例手术治疗病理证实为多灶 GGNs 肺腺癌患者行全身 PET-CT 扫描或颅脑增强核磁共振成像,均未发现淋巴结或远处转移病灶,不建议此类患者常规 PET-CT 检查。一项综合临床和影像学特征变量的多步骤评估算法提示,HRCT 表现为纯磨玻璃结节、磨玻璃阴影为主结节或 PET/CT 扫描病灶间 SUVmax 差值大于 2 倍以上者应考虑为 MPLC^[19]。此外,基于人工智能影像学诊断系统,检测肺结节三维直径和体积、恶性结节的可能性及病理模式可准确识别 53 例同步和异时多发性肺结节队列中的浸润前和浸润性病变,操作一致性和可重复性均超越传统阅片方式^[20]。

3 多结节形态学特征

肺癌多结节最常见的组织学类型为腺癌,具有组织形态异质性^[1,21],包括不典型腺瘤样增生(atypical adenomatous hyperplasia, AAH)、原位腺癌(adenocarcinoma in situ, AIS)、微浸润腺癌(microinvasive lung adenocarcinoma, MIA) 和浸润性腺癌(invasive adenocarcinoma, IA)等多个疾病发展阶段。AIS、MIA 和附壁型成分为主的浸润性腺癌拥有较好的临床预

后,代表独立的原发肿瘤;侵袭性黏液腺癌有肺内转移的趋势,通常被认为是转移性病灶^[22-24]。

依赖于形态学特征的 Martini-Melamed 标准在诊断组织学类型(腺癌或鳞癌)相同的 MPLC 患者时存在困难。2015 年,世界卫生组织肺肿瘤分类标准^[22]将肺腺癌描述为 5 种形态不同的主要亚型:腺泡型、乳头型、微乳头型、实体型和贴壁型;鳞状细胞癌异质性较小,分为角化、非角化和基底样三种亚型。不同组织亚型中细胞生长结构模式的百分比更精确地比较多个肿瘤病灶间进行形态学差异。综合组织学分析(comprehensive histologic analysis,CHA)是区分 MPLC 和 IPM 最实用的形态学方法,包括确定组织学类型、评估主要和次要组织学亚型模式、细胞学特征(腺泡形成、核和核仁特征、细胞质和黏蛋白数量)、肿瘤间质和甲状腺转录因子 1 的表达情况^[25-27]。由于对诊断标准的理解及肺腺癌亚型的认识不同,单纯基于病理形态学的鉴别不可避免地受限于病理医师主观因素影响^[14]。因此,在综合组织学形态细节评估的基础上,对于存在争议的亚型,应加强对不典型结构的理解,结合影像信息和分子信息助于准确判断。

4 多结节分子遗传学特征

肺腺癌具有高度肿瘤组织异质性,相同的遗传背景和环境暴露条件下,个体多病灶间可能具有不同的基因组改变,包括体细胞点突变、拷贝数畸变、染色体结构变异等。组织学特征结合遗传学改变是诊断 MPLC 和 IPM 的有效方法,特异性分子标志物或基因突变检测用于更好地鉴别多结节之间的克隆性关系^[8,28]。杂合性缺失是由遗传不稳定导致的等位基因丢失,研究者对比肿瘤组织与正常组织 DNA 中单核苷酸多态性或微卫星基因型,发现 IPM 病灶遗传学改变一致性达 77%,不同微卫星位点在 MPLC 存在差异^[29]。阵列比较基因组杂交(array-based comparative genomic hybridization,aCGH) 主要鉴定基因组的拷贝数变化,是全面基因组水平研究的可靠方法。Girard 等^[25]发现在病理诊断不确定的患者,aCGH 评估可以提高临床病理判断 MPLC 的准确性。采用免疫组织化学的方法,多灶性肺癌组织中程序性死亡配体 1(programmed death ligand 1,PD-L1) 在 16 例 IPM 中呈现一致性表达^[30]。

肺癌发生早期阶段的典型驱动基因,在疾病的进展过程中始终保持同质性,对探究肿瘤起源的克隆性关系极为重要。肿瘤组织多区域外显子测序发现表皮生长因子受体(epidermal growth factor receptor,EGFR),酪氨酸激酶受体 2(Erb-b2 receptor tyrosine kinase 2 gene,ERBB2),神经母细胞瘤 RAS 病毒致癌基因(neuroblastoma RAS viral oncogene, NRAS),鼠类肉瘤病毒癌基因同源物 B1(v-raf murine sarcoma viral oncogene homolog B1,BRAF)突变是肺腺癌过程中的早期克隆基因组事件,肿瘤内异质性较小^[31]。作为最常见的肺癌“标记基因”,EGFR 突变代表 AIS 到 IAC 发展方向的驱动程序改变,对于病理诊断考虑 IPM 的病灶,EGFR 呈现同步的突变状态^[32]。国内学者研究发现,多发磨玻璃结节肿瘤组织的 EGFR 基因(18~21 外显子)突变状态不一致率高达 85.2%,提示多发 GGNs 病灶为独立事件^[33]。

下一代测序技术(next generation sequence, NGS)通过基因组遗传表征,如目标区域的靶向测序、基因突变分析、拷贝数变化和染色体重排等,有助于分类组织形态相似或重叠的多结节病灶^[34-35]。原发性肺腺癌和匹配转移灶之间的分子异质性较小,使用 NGS 法检测 22 个基因的热点突变,病理诊断为 IPM 的肺多结节的突变一致性为 100%,多个原发肿瘤仅为 23.1%^[36]。一项(120 例多灶性肺腺癌患者的 240 个结节病变)的研究,使用 22 个不同基因的 500 多个热点突变进行 NGS 测序分析,联合组织形态-分子检测的方案可将分类不确定率降至 9%,为标准组织评估相冲突的病例确定准确的分子鉴别依据^[37]。相比之下,另一项研究(50 例多灶肺腺癌患者的 111 个结节病变)使用常规形态学、免疫组织化学特征和 50 个基因小组靶向测序来区分 MPLC 和 IPM,附加分子信息可将不确定分类患者降到 2%^[38]。此外,Murphy 等^[39-40]认为利用染色体重排的高度独特性和普遍性可实现肺癌多病灶间的谱系鉴别。他们的近期研究分析了 76 个不同的新鲜冷冻肿瘤样本,根据病理标准仍有 17% 不确定患者,而通过配对 NGS 的染色体重排分析均得出确定的分类结果。因此,分子遗传学方法在组织病理学相似的患者更具优势,但因实验操作耗时,价格昂贵,样本不易获得等因素的影响,其在临床实际应用仍受到一定限制。

5 结语

随着影像诊断技术的提高和筛查的普及，未来临床工作中多发肺结节患者将不断增加，鉴别独立原发肿瘤或肺内转移瘤仍是肿瘤分期和制定疾病治疗方案的关键。多发侵袭性结节病变发生于独立的位置、具有不同的生长方式和细胞学特征、不同的分子生物标志物和缺乏淋巴结或远处转移的证据有利于独立肿瘤的诊断；相似的组织病理学特征、匹配的分子生物标志物或存在共同淋巴结引流区域的转移则倾向于肺内转移瘤。面对临床实践中的疑难病例，组织多学科小组进行讨论，在组织病理学的基础上，综合分子遗传学检测有助于提高肺多结节鉴别的准确性。

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