

肥胖与乳腺癌发病相关性的研究进展

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摘要:肥胖通过多种分子机制影响乳腺癌的发生,包括胰岛素及胰岛素样生长因子、炎症细胞因子、瘦素及脂联素和雌激素的生理改变,但其影响因女性绝经状态不同而有所区别。大部分研究支持肥胖与绝经前乳腺癌风险呈负相关;而对于绝经后女性,肥胖会增加其罹患乳腺癌的风险。

主题词:肥胖;乳腺肿瘤;发病率;体质指数

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Research Progress on the Correlation Between Obesity and Breast Cancer

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Abstract: There are multiple molecular mechanisms linking obesity to the development of breast cancer, including systemic physiological changes of insulin, insulin-like growth factor, inflammatory cytokines, leptin, adiponectin and estrogen, and the influence vary with the menstrual state. Most studies support that obesity is negatively associated with premenopausal breast cancer risk, while for postmenopausal women, obesity increases the risk of breast cancer.

Subject words: obesity; breast cancer; incidence rate; body mass index

乳腺癌是全世界女性发病率第一位的癌症,在癌症导致的死亡中排第二位。在中国,癌症的健康负担逐年增长,每年超过160万人诊断为癌症,120万人因癌症而死亡。每年中国乳腺癌新发病例和死亡病例分别占全世界的12.2%和9.6%^[1]。家族史、初潮年龄、绝经年龄、胎次、初次妊娠年龄以及生活方式是众所周知的乳腺癌的危险因素。依据人表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, Her-2)、雌激素受体(estrogen receptor, ER)、孕激素受体(progesterone receptor, PR)表达状态,乳腺癌可分为:Luminal A型、Luminal B型、Her-2阳性型和三阴性型,其中前三者较常见^[2-3]。

近年来,在经济增长、社会技术变革和营养转型的推动下,肥胖流行率快速上升,在世界许多地区达到了流行的程度^[4]。世界卫生组织(WHO)将超重定义为体质指数(body mass index, BMI)大于25 kg/m²,将肥胖定义为BMI大于30 kg/m²(30~35 kg/m²,一级;

35~40 kg/m²,二级;≥40 kg/m²,三级)。根据WHO最新的报道,全世界有超过19亿成年人和6亿人分别被归类为超重或肥胖,并且该比例预计会在未来几十年将以更快的速度增长^[5]。《中国居民营养与慢性病状况报告(2020年)》表明,我国成年居民超重率和肥胖率分别为34.3%和16.4%^[6],预计到2030年,中国成人超重肥胖率将达到65.3%,人数可能达到78 995万^[7]。肥胖与许多疾病包括癌症的发生有关,44%的糖尿病负担、23%的缺血性心脏病负担以及7%~41%的某些癌症负担可归因于超重和肥胖^[8]。目前许多研究对肥胖在乳腺癌中的作用进行了探索,但结果并不一致。本文将综合已有的研究,从肥胖影响乳腺癌发生的机制及对不同绝经状态乳腺癌女性的影响等方面进行阐述。

1 肥胖导致乳腺癌发病的机制

1.1 胰岛素及胰岛素样生长因子

脂肪组织是一个活跃的内分泌和代谢器官,释放游离脂肪酸和激素,如瘦素、脂联素和肿瘤坏死因

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子 α (TNF- α)。肥胖患者的高水平TNF- α 和白细胞介素6(interleukin 6,IL-6)会抑制胰岛素受体 β 亚基的激活和减少葡萄糖运输和脂肪酸代谢^[9],介导胰岛素抵抗以及上调胰岛素和胰岛素样生长因子1(insulin like growth factor 1,IGF-1)水平。因为IGF-1的活动是受乳腺癌中过表达的IGF-1受体(IGF-1R)调控,且IGF-1是一种有效的乳腺癌有丝分裂原,有人提出,肥胖患者中循环胰岛素和IGF-1水平升高对乳腺癌的患病风险和死亡率增加有重要作用^[10]。在一项大型绝经后妇女前瞻性队列研究中,胰岛素水平与乳腺癌风险增加显著相关^[11]。对17项前瞻性研究的汇总数据分析也显示,无论绝经状况如何,高IGF-1水平与乳腺癌风险之间存在正相关^[12]。

1.2 炎症细胞因子

肥胖的特征是脂肪细胞肥大,肥胖组织重构过快,因此导致低氧状态,同时引起促炎反应导致巨噬细胞的激活,炎症细胞因子表达进而上调^[13],如肿瘤坏死因子(TNF)、IL-6和IL-1 β 以及ROS,从而导致局部和全身炎症。上述大多数因子在肥胖患者中处于高水平,并且与乳腺癌患者的不良预后相关^[14]。同时这些炎症因子为乳腺癌的发生提供微环境,与异生物质诱导的DNA氧化损伤通路相互作用或改变某些抑癌基因的甲基化状态^[15]。

1.3 瘦素及脂联素

在脂肪组织中,前脂肪细胞向脂肪细胞的成熟转化减少,因此产生更多的前脂肪细胞,分泌高水平的瘦素^[16]。肥胖导致脂联素与瘦素的比值降低,脂联素对乳腺癌具有保护因素,瘦素具有上调雌激素和胰岛素信号通路的作用,促进肿瘤细胞增殖^[17]。对23项研究的荟萃分析表明,瘦素水平与乳腺癌发生风险呈正相关^[18]。许多临床研究表明,低脂联素浓度与乳腺癌发生风险增加相关($OR=3.63^{[19]}$, $OR=0.84^{[20]}$),并且这种相互作用也已报道与绝经状态相关(绝经后妇女 $RR=0.73$,绝经前妇女 $RR=1.30^{[21]}$)。

1.4 雌激素

绝经后雌激素的生物合成主要发生在脂肪组织中,通过芳香化酶将雄激素转化为雌激素。在肥胖患者中,核因子 κ B(NF- κ B)信号通路的激活导致乳腺脂肪细胞中芳香化酶表达的增加^[22];一些在脂肪组织中上调的细胞因子,如TNF- α 和IL-6,刺激芳香化酶活性^[23];在肥胖者的乳腺脂肪组织中,显微镜下

观察到被巨噬细胞包围的濒死脂肪细胞,称为冠状结构,也表现出增加的芳香化酶活性^[24]。此外,肥胖导致的高胰岛素血症导致肝脏性激素结合球蛋白合成减少,这些都导致血清雌激素水平升高,促进激素依赖性乳腺癌的发生发展^[25]。

2 肥胖与绝经前乳腺癌发病的关系

目前,关于绝经前肥胖妇女的研究仍无统一结论^[26]。世界癌症研究基金会(WCRF)和美国癌症研究所(AICR)的报告基于截至2017年的流行病学调查结果,强调了超重或肥胖可以降低绝经前乳腺癌风险的有力证据。在对20个随访8~26年,共包含36 297例侵袭性乳腺癌病例的前瞻性队列的荟萃分析中发现,绝经前女性的乳腺癌风险随基线BMI的增加而下降,对比 $BMI \geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 和 $BMI < 21 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性,绝经前乳腺癌的 RR 为 $0.78(95\% \text{ CI}: 0.64 \sim 0.93)^{[27]}$ 。一项包含22 362名亚洲绝经前女性的meta分析结果显示,绝经前乳腺癌与肥胖显著相关($OR=1.36, 95\% \text{ CI}: 1.26 \sim 1.47, P < 0.001^{[28]}$)。一项包含7 930例绝经前患者的荟萃分析显示,BMI每增加 5 kg/m^2 ,乳腺癌风险降低约8%^[8]。

但也有研究发现,BMI与绝经前乳腺癌风险之间无显著性相关^[29],或肥胖与发病风险存在中度正相关^[30~31]。这些矛盾的结果可能是由于种族或激素受体状态的差异^[32~33]。Sister Study研究对413例绝经前乳腺癌患者进行了队列研究,发现 $BMI \geq 35 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性与 $BMI 18.5 \sim 24.9 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性相比,较少诊断为ER/PR阳性乳腺癌($HR=0.35, 95\% \text{ CI}: 0.17 \sim 0.74^{[34]}$)。Fagherazzi等^[35]也报道了类似的结果:在对277例绝经前乳腺癌病例的队列研究中发现,与 $BMI < 20 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性相比, $BMI > 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性患ER/PR阳性乳腺癌的风险降低($HR=0.40, 95\% \text{ CI}: 0.16 \sim 1.00$)。土耳其的一项研究显示,在绝经前女性中, $BMI < 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 与 $BMI \geq 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性相比,ER阳性乳腺癌显著增多,而 $BMI \geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 与 $BMI < 25 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的患者相比,ER/PR阴性乳腺癌显著增多^[36]。

3 肥胖与绝经后乳腺癌发病的关系

目前观点认为肥胖增加绝经后女性患乳腺癌的

风险。van den Brandt 等^[37]的 meta 分析纳入了 7 项前瞻性队列研究共 337 819 名女性, 分析发现绝经后女性乳腺癌发病风险与 BMI 呈显著正相关 ($P=0.001$), $BMI>33.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 与 $BMI<21.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$ 的女性相比, 发病风险增加 27% (RR=1.27, 95%CI:1.03~1.55)。妇女健康协会一项研究对 67 142 名 50~79 岁的绝经后妇女进行了中位 13 年的随访, 结果显示肥胖的绝经后女性与正常体重女性相比患乳腺癌的风险更大, 尤其是 2 级和 3 级肥胖的女性($BMI>35.0 \text{ kg/m}^2$)^[38]。2 级和 3 级肥胖也与更晚期的疾病相关, 如更大的肿瘤体积、淋巴结阳性以及确诊后的分期^[38]。一项针对 524 万名英国成年人的基于人群的队列研究也证实了肥胖者绝经后乳腺癌发病风险大幅增加^[39]。一项对前瞻性研究的 meta 分析报告显示, BMI 增加与绝经后乳腺癌风险呈正相关, 且与北美、欧洲和澳大利亚的研究相比, 亚太地区研究中的相关性更强 ($P=0.06$)^[8]。这种关联似乎仅限于 ER 和 PR 阳性的乳腺癌^[34,40], 而 ER 阴性和三阴性乳腺癌与绝经后的肥胖轻微或负相关^[33,40]。van de Brandt 等^[27]的荟萃分析表明, 对于绝经后女性, 无论是否接受过激素替代疗法, BMI 与乳腺癌风险均呈正相关, 但与使用激素替代疗法的妇女相比, 从未使用激素替代疗法的绝经后妇女的 BMI 增加与乳腺癌的风险更密切相关^[41]。这也支持了肥胖通过雌激素作用增加乳腺癌发病风险的假设。在未曾接受过激素替代疗法的绝经后女性中, BMI 增加也与低侵袭性肿瘤亚型的乳腺癌发病风险呈正相关^[42]。

从以上内容可以看出, 大部分研究支持肥胖与乳腺癌发病风险呈负相关, 而肥胖作为绝经后乳腺癌危险因素的观点得到广泛认可。目前肥胖对绝经前后女性乳腺癌影响的差异考虑可能是由于肥胖对雌激素的影响因绝经状态而不同, 而雌激素暴露是乳腺癌最根本的致病危险因素^[43]。绝经前女性的雌激素主要来源于卵巢, 肥胖女性的月经周期不规律或无排卵的发生率较高, 导致排卵周期中雌二醇和孕酮暴露减少^[44]。另外, 脂肪中大量摄取雌二醇, 而雌激素的肝脏清除率较高, 导致肥胖的绝经前女性雌激素水平下降^[45]。而在绝经后女性中, 脂肪组织是雌激素产生的主要来源, 绝经后大部分循环雌激素来源于肾上腺雄激素通过脂肪芳香化酶转化而来, 脂肪组织中芳香化酶活性增加, 雄激素前体转化为

雌二醇的比例增加; 另外由于肥胖, 性激素结合球蛋白的产生减少^[46], 因此, 脂肪越多的女性体内循环雌激素水平越高, 从而刺激对雌激素更敏感的乳房组织。此外, 脂肪组织产生各种细胞因子、生长因子和炎症因子, 这些因子也可能触发激素芳香化^[47], 从而诱导绝经后女性乳腺癌的发生发展。

4 肥胖与乳腺癌发病的其他研究

有报道称, 无论绝经状态和 ER 表达如何, BMI 与炎性乳腺癌的风险呈正相关^[48~49]。超重也增加了乳腺癌幸存者罹患第二原发恶性肿瘤的风险, 最可能的原因是肥胖是一般人群罹患不同原发癌症的一个风险因素。一项包含 13 个前瞻性、5 个队列研究和 8 个巢式病例对照研究的 meta 分析显示, 高 BMI 水平与既往诊断乳腺癌的女性罹患对侧乳腺癌 (RR=1.37, 95%CI:1.20~1.57)、子宫内膜癌 (RR=1.96, 95%CI:1.43~2.70) 和结直肠癌 (RR=1.89, 95%CI:1.28~2.79) 的相对风险升高相关^[50]。

BMI 不能区分脂肪和瘦体重, 也不能反映人体内的脂肪分布, 因而存在一定的局限性。因此, 一些研究已经应用了定义肥胖程度的替代指标, 包括腰围、臀围、腰臀比、腰高比和体型指数等。Gaudet 等^[51]的一项队列研究结果显示, 较大的腰围与绝经后乳腺癌风险升高有关(腰围每增加 10 cm, HR=1.13)。腰围和腰臀比升高也与绝经后 ER/PR 阳性乳腺癌和绝经前三阴性乳腺癌风险增加有关^[33~34,52~53]。此外, 有研究直接对体脂进行测量, 如 Arther 等^[54]运用双能 X 线吸收法, 结果发现全身脂肪量及躯干脂肪量的最高组与最低组相比, 浸润性乳腺癌风险均增加了 1 倍 (HR=2.17、2.20), 但目前该方面研究相对较少, 尚无统一定论, 仍待进一步研究。

5 小 结

肥胖通过胰岛素及胰岛素样生长因子、炎症细胞因子、瘦素脂联素及雌激素等作用影响乳腺癌的发生, 对于绝经前女性, 大部分研究支持肥胖与乳腺癌风险呈负相关, 但也有研究认为与种族及 ER 表达有关; 而肥胖增加绝经后乳腺癌发病风险的观点得到广泛认可。本文通过总结近年来有关肥胖及乳

腺癌发生的研究结果，充分认识近年来发生率不断升高的肥胖对乳腺癌发病率的影响，建议可将减肥干预作为绝经后女性降低乳腺癌风险的常规建议。通过改善膳食结构、提倡适当锻炼和改变生活方式，保持健康的体重，控制肥胖，从而达到减少乳腺癌发生的目的。同时随着更加个性化的肿瘤学治疗的发展，针对肥胖作用于乳腺癌的机制，新的治疗策略也有望提出。

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