

阈值下微脉冲激光在中心性浆液性脉络膜视网膜病变中的作用机制

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摘要

中心性浆液性脉络膜视网膜病变(CSC)是发生在中青年患者中常见的黄斑病变,该病具有一定自限性,但治疗不及时也可致病情迁延、反复发作,进展为慢性CSC、继发性视网膜色素上皮(RPE)萎缩、脉络膜新生血管等,最终导致中心视力不可逆性损害。阈值下微脉冲激光(SMLP)是一种短促重复的脉冲激光,它不同于具有损伤性治疗作用的传统激光,在达到有效治疗效果的基础上,不会对RPE细胞和光感受器造成损伤和热损伤。在光动力治疗(PDT)缺乏维替泊芬的情况下,因其有效性、安全性和可重复性,SMLP现已广泛应用于临床上CSC的治疗。本综述旨在阐述SMLP治疗CSC过程中涉及的效应细胞、细胞因子及作用机制,以期SMLP在临床的推广和合理化应用提供更多理论依据。

关键词: 中心性浆液性脉络膜视网膜病变; 阈值下微脉冲激光; 视网膜色素上皮; 脉络膜毛细血管内皮细胞; 作用机制

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Research progress on the mechanism of subthreshold micropulse laser photocoagulation in central serous chorioretinopathy

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Abstract

• Central serous chorioretinopathy (CSC) is a common macular degeneration that primarily affects young patients. While the disease may resolve on its own to some extent, delayed or inadequate treatment can result in recurrence and progression to chronic CSC. This can lead to complications such as retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) atrophy and choroidal neovascularization, ultimately causing irreversible damage to central vision. Subthreshold micropulse laser photocoagulation (SMLP) is a type of laser therapy that differs from traditional lasers in that it does not cause damage or thermal injury to RPE cells and photoreceptors. SMLP has become widely used in clinical treatment of CSC due to its effectiveness, safety, and reproducibility, particularly in cases where verteporfin is not available in photodynamic therapy (PDT). The purpose of this review is to explain the mechanism of SMLP in CSC and summarize the effector cells, cytokines, and mechanisms of action involved in its treatment. This will provide a theoretical basis for promoting and rationalizing the use of SMLP in clinical practice.

• **KEYWORDS:** central serous chorioretinopathy; subthreshold micropulse laser photocoagulation; retinal pigment epithelium; endothelial cells of the choroidal capillaries; mechanism

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0 引言

中心性浆液性脉络膜视网膜病变(central serous chorioretinopathy, CSC)是好发于青壮年男性、以黄斑区神经上皮浆液性脱离为特征的眼底疾病,可导致患者中心视力下降、视物变形、变暗,该病容易复发和慢性化,从而导致继发性视网膜色素上皮(retinal pigment epithelium, RPE)萎缩、脉络膜新生血管等并发症,是具有代表性的肥厚型脉络膜谱系疾病之一。CSC目前临床上的主要治疗手段有视网膜激光光凝、光动力治疗(photodynamic therapy, PDT)、药物治疗、微脉冲激光等。阈值下微脉冲激光(subthreshold micropulse laser photocoagulation, SMLP)是一种以长间歇为特征的短促高频的重复脉冲激光,不同于传统激光光凝是通过破坏失代偿RPE细胞来达到治疗CSC的作用,其是选择性作用于RPE细胞且不损伤周围正常

细胞,具有可重复治疗、安全性高的优点^[1-4]。国内外多项临床研究指出,SMLP治疗CSC疗效肯定,其临床疗效与其他治疗方式相同、远期疗效无显著差异且无明显副作用^[5-6]。但其作用机制尚不完全明确,推测可能是通过调节视网膜细胞代谢活性的变化,从而引起基因和蛋白表达的改变达到治疗目的^[4,7-8]。现就SMLP治疗CSC机制中可能的效应细胞、细胞因子及作用机制进行综述,以期探索更多微脉冲激光治疗CSC的病理生理机制,丰富微脉冲激光治疗CSC的理论基础。

1 SMLP调节RPE细胞的代谢活性

CSC的发生是由于脉络膜血管高通透性和高灌注所致,最终以RPE层及脉络膜功能异常表现为特征^[9-10]。RPE层的异常通常表现为局灶性或弥漫性功能障碍、RPE斑块状萎缩、RPE局部渗漏及视网膜下积液(subretinal fluid,SRF)的发生,SRF导致RPE浆液性脱离^[11]。RPE细胞的一个关键功能是通过主动运输将视网膜下液体泵送到脉络膜来防止液体积聚,RPE细胞作为血-视网膜屏障的一部分,同时负责回收感光细胞产生的视觉色素及代谢产物等,具有维持光感受器完整性的功能,RPE层功能障碍及屏障功能的破坏是导致CSC发生的直接原因^[12-13]。SMLP刺激RPE细胞被认为是引起视网膜液体吸收的关键因素之一,但该过程的分子机制尚不清楚,其可能的机制如下。

1.1 刺激RPE细胞增殖和迁移 目前常用微脉冲激光波长有810、577 nm两种^[14],微脉冲激光不会对目标靶组织造成损伤,不会造成可见的视网膜瘢痕、激光相关暗点以及视网膜敏感性降低,因此在各种脉络膜视网膜疾病中实现有效和安全的治疗反应^[15-18]。已有研究证实SMLP治疗CSC、糖尿病性黄斑水肿(diabetic macular edema,DME)以及视网膜静脉阻塞黄斑水肿治疗反应良好^[16,19-20]。SMLP能选择性作用于受损的RPE细胞,具有刺激、诱导RPE细胞的完整性和生理功能恢复的生物学效应,并最终促进视网膜神经上皮浆液吸收^[1,3]。Inagaki等^[7]利用SMLP照射RPE细胞24 h,发现激光照射区域内的所有细胞均处于存活状态,但细胞较未照射区域稀疏,因此推断微脉冲激光可能刺激了照射区域RPE细胞甚至邻近的细胞,使其发生增殖和迁移。Colome等^[21]研究发现使用810 nm SMLP照射RPE细胞后,在与有丝分裂活动相关的治疗区域内出现了RPE细胞增殖,故认为810 nm SMLP能诱导RPE细胞的有丝分裂,且不会对相邻组织造成损伤。但RPE层的完整性和生理功能的恢复是否与有丝分裂后的RPE细胞增殖、迁移并覆盖在受损RPE细胞处有关目前还不清楚。

1.2 促进RPE细胞屏障功能修复 Luttrull等^[22]研究发现在SMLP刺激位点细胞间空间有稀疏的细胞群存在,从而推测这些细胞间空间的产生可能是由于RPE层中细胞间黏附的丧失所致,这可能导致血-视网膜屏障功能失调,直接增加了视网膜和脉络膜组织之间的液体和分子运动。目前已发现与RPE细胞黏附和紧密连接相关的蛋白质有occludin、claudin和zonula occludens-1(ZO-1)。Ji Cho等^[23]研究发现,在糖尿病视网膜病变(DR)中炎症因子的刺激下,RPE屏障完整性的破坏并不是由于细胞死亡,而是由于ZO-1磷酸化导致IV型胶原蛋白表达上调引起。

SMLP是否会直接促进ZO-1修复或重塑以达到恢复CSC患者RPE细胞屏障的作用,目前较为确切的证据是在DME中,血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor,VEGF)使ZO-1磷酸化而失去正常功能,SMLP能通过下调VEGF的表达减少ZO-1的耗竭,从而恢复RPE细胞屏障功能^[24]。

1.3 促进脉络膜毛细血管内皮细胞的修复 Pollack等^[25]研究发现,激光光凝后受损的RPE和脉络膜毛细血管修复,同时观察到再生RPE细胞的特定表型与新生血管形成之间存在一定的关联,由此推断再生的RPE细胞可能具有刺激受损脉络膜血管内皮细胞增殖的功能。微脉冲激光亦具有相同作用,这已经得到了证实^[26-27]。研究发现,使用阈值上激光照射体外培养的RPE细胞30 min,并在照射后第2、4、6、8 d分别取出培养基进行分析,结果发现激光能重建RPE细胞产生的基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinases,MMPs)和金属蛋白酶抑制剂(tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases,TIMPs)之间的平衡,从而达到抑制新生血管生成的启动和维持程序^[28]。Luttrull等^[29]使用SMLP治疗高危型年龄相关性黄斑变性发现脉络膜新生血管的发生率降低,提示微脉冲激光也具有一定的抑制脉络膜新生血管形成的作用,而此作用的产生是否和激光刺激后MMPs与TIMPs之间的平衡重塑有关,还需要进一步验证。由于MMPs在血管生成过程中作用机制复杂,可能涉及视网膜脉络膜血管内皮细胞的增殖和迁移以及毛细血管的形成。据此推测,微脉冲激光也具有促进脉络膜血管修复的作用。

1.4 上调热休克蛋白70的表达 SMLP能上调RPE细胞中热休克蛋白70(heat shock protein 70,HSP70)的表达,HSP70能帮助变性的蛋白质复性,抑制蛋白质的错误聚集,具有抗炎和抗凋亡作用。研究表明,当组织内释放出略高于20%的终点管理(endpoint management,EpM)能量时,HSP70开始表达^[30-31],SMLP就可以实现HSP70最大限度的释放。视网膜组织的这种应激相关反应能诱导细胞功能的免疫调节,阻断导致细胞损伤的凋亡和炎症途径,同时触发修复过程,使某些细胞因子的表达正常化,从而减少存在于视网膜中的慢性炎症^[32-34]。Inagaki等^[7]首次观察到应用SMLP照射体外培养的人RPE(ARPE-19)细胞后HSP70表达上调,并提出HSP70的表达依赖于微脉冲的数量,但该观点有待更多实验验证。SMLP上调HSP70表达,不仅对光感受器具有保护作用,也有助于改善RPE功能和减轻黄斑水肿^[35-36]。Hirabayashi等^[37]研究发现SMLP照射小鼠RPE 24 h后,实验组水通道蛋白-3(aquaporin3,AQP3)较对照组升高6倍。Mahalka等^[38]进一步研究发现HSP70能激活磷脂酶A2。Hollborn等^[39]研究证实人RPE细胞的渗透压变化和缺氧均会增加AQP3的表达,而磷脂酶A2抑制剂则会抑制AQP3的表达。SMLP能上调HSP70的表达,从而激活磷脂酶A2,进而提高AQP3的表达和视网膜下液的排出。因此推测,SMLP可能通过增加AQP3的表达促进视网膜下液的排出,减轻视网膜水肿^[37]。

2 促进脉络膜血管内皮细胞间紧密连接恢复

Schubert等^[40]研究发现钙黏着蛋白-5(cadherin 5,CDH5)与CSC的发生显著相关,CDH5的遗传变异是男性

占 CSC 人群中相当大比例的基础。CDH5 存在于内皮细胞连接处,包括人脉络膜血管内皮细胞,是脉络膜血管内皮细胞内聚和细胞间连接组织的重要蛋白,对维持内皮细胞-细胞间连接很重要,其表达异常与 CSC 中所见的脉络膜高通透性相关^[40]。该结论进一步证实了 CSC 的发生与脉络膜血管通透性增加有关。有学者推测该基因通过促进脉络膜血管内皮细胞之间的连接从而达到修复脉络膜高通透性的作用。而微脉冲激光是否会直接促进 CDH5 的表达从而修复或重塑脉络膜血管内皮细胞间紧密连接还需要进一步验证,目前较为确定的证据是,类固醇激素可抑制 CDH5 的表达,从而使脉络膜血管内皮细胞间紧密连接减少,增加脉络膜血管系统的通透性,导致视网膜下液体渗漏。研究发现,接受皮质类固醇治疗的患者发生 CSC 的风险更高,这与类固醇激素抑制 CDH5 的表达,从而导致 CSC 发生的观点相一致^[41-42]。

3 影响细胞因子的表达

促血管生成因子和抗血管生成因子之间的动态平衡在维持视网膜脉络膜内皮细胞的正常生理功能方面起着关键作用^[27]。应用 810 nm SMLP 照射小鼠 RPE 细胞后可改变 RPE 细胞的代谢活性,调节血管生成和通透性的生长因子和细胞因子的表达,上调色素上皮衍生因子 (pigment epithelium - derived factor, PEDF) 表达,下调 VEGF 等通透性因子的表达^[43]。Hattenbach 等^[44] 研究也发现接受视网膜激光光凝后人 RPE 细胞中 PEDF 表达增加。Matsumoto 等^[45] 研究表明视网膜激光光凝后 RPE 细胞内转化生长因子- $\beta 2$ (transforming growth factor $\beta 2$, TGF- $\beta 2$) 表达增加,通过对这些因子的上调或下调恢复生理失衡。相反,平衡破坏会导致 PEDF 减少和 VEGF 增加,这些均可促使脉络膜新生血管 (choroidal neovascularization, CNV) 的病理状态^[45]。同时,研究表明 SMLP 能抑制促脉络膜新生血管因子的表达,并上调血管生成抑制剂 PEDF 的表达,但仍然需要进一步研究以了解其机制^[26]。上述研究结果表明,微脉冲激光可能通过调节血管生成调节因子的平衡来逆转或减少 CNV 的发生。

4 减轻视网膜炎症反应

CSC 与全身炎症之间的联系尚未明确,但鉴于脉络膜高通透性和渗漏的基本病理机制,有学者对这一病理过程中的炎症标志进行研究发现,单核细胞与高密度脂蛋白 (high-density lipoprotein, HDL) 的比率 (monocyte to HDL ratio, MHR) 以及中性粒细胞与淋巴细胞的比率 (neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, NLR) 可以作为急性 CSC 全身炎症的观察指标,且 MHR 是急性 CSC 的独立预测因子^[46]。同时,也有研究显示,纤维蛋白原/白蛋白比值可作为监测急性 CSC 患者治疗和随访期间全身炎症状态的生物标志物^[47]。Matet 等^[48] 研究显示,与健康对照组相比,急性和慢性 CSC 患者血清脂钙蛋白 2 (一种具有抗炎和促炎作用的急性时相反应物) 明显下降。尽管 CSC 与视网膜炎症的关系目前尚未阐明,但较为确定的是视网膜胶质细胞 (retinal ganglion cells, RGC) 是视网膜炎症过程中的重要参与者^[49-50]。RGC 的稳态是调节视网膜血流、水平衡和维持屏障功能的前提条件^[51]。既往认为 RGC 是主要的结构性细胞,而最近研究发现其对维持视网膜环境的稳态至关重要^[52]。另有研究证实,微脉冲激光治疗后 RGC (如

Müller 细胞) 的形态功能得到恢复,与之相关的炎症病理生物标志物显著降低^[8]。这提示微脉冲激光可能通过减弱 RGC 的异常活化,减轻视网膜的炎症反应和神经细胞的损伤等途径从而减轻黄斑区液体的产生,以达到治疗目的。

5 小结

综上所述,SMLP 作为一种完全不同于传统视网膜激光的新的治疗方式,RPE 细胞是其作用的主要靶标细胞,其以低于细胞死亡阈值能量水平刺激 RPE 细胞、促进 RPE 细胞增殖和迁移及屏障功能修复、上调 HSP70 的表达,促进视网膜下液排出、改善脉络膜血管内皮细胞间紧密连接,影响其分泌细胞因子,并能减轻视网膜炎症反应,从而达到修复血-视网膜屏障、消除视网膜下液、降低脉络膜通透性及促使脉络膜功能恢复的作用,有望在临床上得到更广泛的应用。

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