

肝癌筛查研究进展

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摘要:肝癌是我国常见的恶性肿瘤之一,严重威胁居民健康,全球近一半的新发和死亡病例发生在中国。危险因素的复杂多样为推行肝癌一级预防带来了一定困难。在高危人群中进行筛查和早诊早治是降低肝癌负担的有效措施。确定肝癌高危人群和选择合适的筛查方法是肝癌筛查的重点和难点。肝癌发病风险预测模型是识别和浓缩肝癌高危人群的有力工具。融合基因、临床指标、分子标志物和肝癌独立危险因素已成为构建和优化肝癌发病风险预测模型的新趋势。目前研究已证实筛查可以显著提高筛查人群生存率,但能否降低肝癌死亡率尚无定论。精准定位高危人群,优化筛查流程,提高早期检出率是下一步研究的重点。同时还应加强人群健康教育,普及防治知识以提高居民对癌症筛查的认识和参与度。

关键词:肝癌;筛查

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Research Progress of Liver Cancer Screening

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Abstract: Liver cancer is one of the most common cancers, nearly half cases and deaths globally occur in China, posing a great threat to human health and lives. The complexity and diversity of risk factors make it difficult to implement primary prevention of liver cancer. The early detection and treatment through screening high-risk population is an effective measure to reduce liver cancer burden. To identify high-risk population and to use appropriate screening methods are the key issues for liver cancer screening. Risk prediction model for liver cancer is a useful tool to identify high-risk population of liver cancer, which can be optimized by the combination of gene detection, clinical indicator, biomarker and risk factor assessment. Accurate identifying high-risk individuals, optimizing screening procedures, and improving early detection rate should be focused for further researches. The healthy education and knowledge popularization on cancer prevention and control are necessary for improving the awareness and increasing participation rates for liver cancer screening among residents.

Key words: liver cancer; screening

肝癌是全球常见的恶性肿瘤之一。GloboCan2018显示,全球肝癌新发病例数为84.1万例,死亡病例数为78.1万例,居恶性肿瘤发病第6位、死亡第4位。中国肝癌发病和死亡人数分别占全球的46.6%和47.1%^[1]。我国最新肿瘤登记数据显示,2015年全国肝癌新发病例数约37.0万例,因肝癌死亡人数约32.6万例^[2],严重危害居民健康。

肝癌危险因素复杂多样,常见的危险因素包括

乙型肝炎病毒感染(hepatitis B virus, HBV)、丙肝病毒感染(hepatitis C virus, HCV)、黄曲霉毒素以及各种原因导致的肝硬化等^[3-5]。由于我国人口基数较大且肝癌病因繁杂,针对病因的一级预防存在不完善、收效滞后等问题。肝癌预后与肝癌诊断时肝功能状态密切相关。早期肝癌通过手术治疗生存率可接近70%,而晚期肝癌平均生存时间小于1年^[6]。我国肝癌5年相对生存率仅12.1%^[7],多数肝癌患者就诊时已处于晚期阶段。日本于2002年开始对40岁以上的HBV和HCV感染者进行肝癌筛查^[8],肝癌5年相对生存率显著大于中国^[9]。因此,肝癌早诊早治对

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于降低我国肝癌疾病负担尤为重要。

1 肝癌筛查的目标人群

1.1 肝癌高危人群

肝癌发生基于一定的疾病风险,在一般人群中实行肝癌筛查可能不具有成本效益。因而,如何有效、准确地选择筛查对象是提高筛查效率的关键点。2019年中华人民共和国国家卫生健康委员会医政医管局发布的《原发性肝癌诊疗规范(2019年版)》的筛查和诊断部分指出,肝癌高危人群主要包括具有HBV和(或)HCV感染、过度饮酒、非酒精性脂肪性肝炎、长期食用被黄曲霉毒素污染的食物、各种其他原因引起的肝硬化以及有肝癌家族史等人群,尤其是年龄>40岁的男性风险更大^[10]。然而,不同地区对肝癌高危人群定义不完全相同。韩国肝脏研究协会认为HBV/HCV感染者或各种原因导致的肝硬化患者为肝癌高危人群。美国肝病研究协会对人群年龄加以限定,认为亚洲男性40岁、女性50岁以上以及非洲或美国20岁以上HBV/HCV感染者和肝硬化患者为肝癌高危人群^[11]。非酒精性脂肪性肝病是如今肝癌、肝硬化发生的较为常见的危险因素,但当其未发展至肝硬化时,肝癌发生风险较小^[12]。2018年美国肝脏研究协会认为HCV感染/非酒精性脂肪性肝病但未发展至肝硬化患者,不属于肝癌筛查的目标人群^[13]。

1.2 肝癌高危风险评估模型

是否进行肝癌筛查取决于人群肝癌发生风险。具备不同危险因素时,肝癌发生风险不同。例如,曾经吸烟者发生肝癌风险是不吸烟者的1.12倍,而HBV感染者发生肝癌风险是非感染者的15~20倍^[3,14]。在肝癌高危人群中实行肝癌筛查可以最大化发现潜在肝癌患者,而改善肝癌筛查效果。但如何有效在人群中发现肝癌高危个体仍存在不确定性。

通过结合人群流行病学特征和相关生物学标志物,构建肝癌发病风险预测模型是识别和浓缩肝癌高危人群的有力工具。GAG-HCC是较早的用于预测肝癌发病风险的预测模型,该评分体系包括年龄、性别、HBV DNA、核心启动子突变以及肝硬化状态^[15]。并将评分大于等于101作为高危人群的临界值。但并未确定可用于筛查项目的高危人群判定的最佳临界值。Wong等^[16]在1005例乙肝表面抗原阳性人群

中构建了包含年龄、白蛋白、胆红素、HBV DNA和肝硬化状态5个因素在内的总分为0~44.5分的CU-HCC评分系统。目标人群均经过长期随访、且模型经过验证,可靠性较高。但大部分人群的肝硬化是依据腹部超声予以诊断,因而可能发生漏诊,如发生分类错误则会降低肝癌风险预测的准确度。基于CU-HCC评分系统,Wong等^[17]构建了包含肝脏硬度(liver stiffness measurements,LSM)、年龄、白蛋白和HBV DNA水平4个指标的LSM-HCC预测模型,为肝癌发病风险预测提供了有用工具,且提高了CU-HCC的预测能力。NOMO得分系统较为复杂,其来自于REVEAL-HBV队列^[18]。该模型包括年龄、性别、肝癌家族史、饮酒、血清丙氨酸转氨酶浓度(amino-transferase,ALT)、HBeAg状态、HBV DNA水平和HBV的基因型,模型实用性较差。Yang等^[19]在3584例非肝硬化慢性HBV感染者中进行优化,并在韩国和香港的1505例慢性HBV感染者中进行外部验证。最终构建包含年龄、性别、ALT、HBeAg状态以及HBV DNA水平,总评分0~17分的REACH-B模型。PAGE-B是首个基于白种人建立的肝癌风险预测模型,包括年龄、性别和血小板计数。该模型简单易行,后在亚洲人群中进行优化。改良的PAGE-B(mPAG-B)^[20]在原始模型基础上增加了白蛋白水平,以8分、13分将人群分为低风险、中风险和高风险,模型预测效能更好,且更适合亚洲慢性乙肝患者的管理(Table 1)。

目前肝癌风险评分体系较多,且多基于亚洲人群构建,模型推广性较差,仍需加强模型的外部验证。建立不同种族、不同地域的人群肝癌风险预测模型对于明确肝癌高危人群至关重要。此外,基因组学和蛋白组学的发展为肝癌风险精准预测提供了新思路。研究表明基因表达与肝癌发生风险密切相关^[21]。2019年中国学者基于13个与肝癌预后显著相关的信号通路构建肝癌风险预测模型,表现了基于信号通路水平特征的模型在预测肝癌风险的优势^[22]。融合基因、临床指标、分子标志物和肝癌独立危险因素成为未来构建和优化肝癌发病风险预测模型的新趋势。

2 肝癌筛查方法

2.1 影像学技术

最佳的筛查技术需要具备高灵敏度、低成本和

可及性等特征。超声因价格低廉,没有侵略性和辐射而成为多个肝病研究组织推荐的影像学技术^[11]。Meta 分析显示超声筛查的灵敏度和特异性分别为 51%~87%和 80%~100%^[31],发现早期肝癌(Milan Criteria 标准)的灵敏度是 33%~61%^[32]。但腹部超声容易受患者特征(肥胖、患病位置)、临床医生的操作能力和临床经验所影响。适当地结合生物标志物如血清甲胎蛋白(alpha-feta protein, AFP)可能会增加筛查的准确度^[33]。为评价不同肝癌筛查技术的准确性,严永锋等^[34]通过系统综述方法对 54 篇研究进行整合,共包含 47 728 例患者,结果显示 AFP 联合腹部超声检查可大幅提高诊断灵敏度,适合于高危人群筛查。当腹部超声筛查的灵敏度为 92.0%时,联合 AFP 进行筛查时其灵敏度增加至 99.2%^[35]。

CT 和 MRI 通常能发现更多肝癌患者,灵敏度分别为 63%~76%和 77%~90%^[31]。但因高成本、高假阳性率以及辐射暴露等原因而不适合大规模、长期人群筛查。研究表明一次腹部 CT 平扫(240mAs)含有至少 20mGy 的辐射量^[36]。MRI 虽然能准确显示其他检查手段(如 CT 等)无法显示的病变。但价格更昂贵且费时^[37]。对<1cm 的肝癌病灶和肝硬化并发肝癌的显示效果不理想^[38](Table 2)。相比于腹部超声,CT 与 MRI 则更注重临床诊断价值,腹部超声仍是目前最常使用和推荐的影像学方法。

2.2 血清学标志物

AFP 是目前应用较为广泛的血清学生物标志物。它是胚胎内胚层合成的一种糖蛋白^[39],在正常成人血循环中含量极微(<20μg/L)。但怀孕和某些良性病变包括急性慢性肝炎、肝硬化患者以及某些生殖胚胎性肿瘤(如睾丸癌)均可使得 AFP 含量升高,从而造成假阳性。AFP 灵敏度较差,约为 40%~65%。当病变<3cm,其灵敏度更低,约为 25%^[40]。通过提高 AFP 正常值的上限(20μg/L),可以更好指导现场应用。目前,多以 AFP 血清含量>400μg/L 作为肝癌诊断阈值。

甲胎蛋白异质体(AFP-L3)是肝癌细胞所特有的一种物质,对于肝癌的早发现、早诊断有着重要的意义。一项前瞻性多中心研究表明 AFP-L3 具有较高的特异性(92%),但灵敏度较低(37%)而不适合用于人群筛查^[41]。GP73(golgi protein 73,GP73)是高尔基体 2 型跨膜蛋白,当肝细胞受到病毒感染时可引起 GP73 高表达,而在健康人体内含量极微^[42],与肝硬化患者相比,其鉴别肝癌的灵敏度和特异性分别为 69%和 75%^[43],且其含量与肿瘤大小、病理分期无关,是一种具有应用前景的肿瘤标志物^[44]。

Note: *, HCV-No SVR, HCV-SVR, Steatohepatitis, Autoimmune and other

Year	Models	Etiology	Regions	Race	N	Variables
2009	GAG-HCC ^[15]	HBV	Hong Kong	Asian	820 training, internal validation	Age, sex, HBV DNA, core promoter mutations, cirrhosis
2010	CU-HCC ^[16]	HBV	Hong Kong	Asian	1005 training, 424 validation	Age, albumin, bilirubin, HBV DNA, cirrhosis
2010	NOMO ^[18]	HBV	Taiwan	Asian	2435 training, 1218 validation	Age, sex, HCC family history, alcohol, ALT, HBeAg, HBV DNA, HBV genotype
2011	REACH-B ^[19]	HBV	Taiwan	Asian	3584 training, 1505 validation	Age, sex, ALT, HBeAg, HBV DNA
2014	LSM-HCC ^[17]	HBV	Hong Kong	Asian	1035 training, 520 validation	LSM, age, albumin, HBV DNA
2015	Hung et al ^[23]	HBV	Taiwan	Asian	8252 training, 4125 validation	Age, sex, ALT, previous chronic liver disease, family history of HCC, smoking
2015	FLB-4 ^[24]	HBV	Korea	Asian	986 training, without validation	AST, ALT, age
2016	PAGE-B ^[25]	HBV	Caucasia	European	1325 training, 490 validation	Age, sex, platelet
2017	Sohn et al ^[26]	HBV	Korea	Asian	990 training, 1071 validation	Age, sex, cirrhosis
2017	THRI ^[27]	HBV and others*	Toronto	North American	2079 training, 1144 validation	Age, sex, etiology, platelet
2018	mPAGE-B ^[28]	HBV	Korea	Asian	1896 training, 948 validation	Age, sex, platelet, albumin
2018	CAMD ^[29]	HBV	Taiwan	Asian	23851 training, 19321 validation	Cirrhosis, age, sex, diabetes
2019	AGED ^[30]	HBV	Qidong	Asian	1388 training, 1663 validation	Age, sex, HBeAg, HBV DNA

Table 2 Imaging modalities for the screening of liver cancer

Index	Ultrasound	CT	MRI
Sensitivity	51%~87%	63%~76%	77%~90%
Specificity	80%~100%	87%~98%	84%~97%
Advantages	Easy-to-operation, real-time, no ionizing radiation, less expensive	High specificity	No ionizing radiation, high specificity
Disadvantages	Limited in obese patients and highly dependent on the expertise of its operator	Ionizing radiation exposure, high cost	Less sensitive for small lesions (<1cm) and liver cancer combined with cirrhosis, more time-consuming, high cost

维生素K 缺乏或拮抗剂-Ⅱ诱导产生的蛋白(protein induced by vitamin K absence or antagonist-Ⅱ, PIVKA-Ⅱ)又称异常凝血酶原,它是肝脏合成的无凝血活性的异常凝血酶原。在 AFP<20μg/L 的人群中,其鉴别肝癌的灵敏度和特异性分别为 57.9%和 95.9%。当和 AFP-L3 联合使用时,灵敏度和特异性分别为 92.1%和 79.7%^[45]。PIVKA-Ⅱ具有良好的预测能力,可用于肝癌的常规筛查^[46]。目前,亚太肝病学会^[47]、日本肝病学会^[48]、《2019 年原发性肝癌诊疗规范》中的筛查与诊断部分^[10]均已将 PIVKA-Ⅱ写入指南中,可以作为肝癌筛查和辅助诊断的重要指标。

2.3 表观遗传学标志物

MicroRNA(miRNAs)及 DNA 的甲基化在肿瘤的发生发展起着重要作用。研究表明 miRNA 在肝癌组织与正常组织的表达谱存在显著差异,因而可能成为肝癌诊断的新型特异性生物学标志物^[49]。Zhou 等^[50]发现 microRNA 组(miR-122、miR-192、miR-21、miR-223、miR-26a、miR-27a 和 miR-801)可以较好的区分肝癌与正常人(AUC=0.941)以及肝硬化患者(AUC=0.884)。中国学者从血浆中筛选的 7 个血清 miRNA 组成的分类器检测肝癌的灵敏度(70.4%~85.7%)远高于血清 AFP(40.7%~69.4%),尤其是检测小肝癌(肿瘤大小≤3cm)和早期肝癌(BCLC 0 期及 A 期)的优势更加明显^[51]。越来越多研究证实,异常 DNA 甲基化是肿瘤发生的早期事件。Hao 等^[52]发现 DNA 甲基化可以有效区分正常组织和肿瘤组织,并有潜力成为恶性肿瘤诊断和监测的新型标志物。Xu 等^[53]在 715 例肝癌患者和 560 名健康对照的血浆样本中,从 401 个甲基化位点中筛选出了肝癌患者外周血中 ctDNA 的 10 个特异性甲基化位点可有效地将肝癌患者与正常人群加以区分,灵敏度和特异性分别为 85.7%和 94.3%,效果优于传统 AFP 检测。这些新型肿瘤学标志物的不断发现,为未来有效识别肝癌奠定了重要基础。

3 肝癌筛查间隔

合适的筛查间隔可以最大化肝癌筛查效益,既能较多地发现早期病例,亦可以减少经济损耗。在法国和比利时两个国家 43 个中心开展的一项随机对照试验中共纳入 1278 例肝硬化患者,通过对比 3 个月组和 6 个月组肝癌筛查效果,发现 3 个月组只比 6 个月组多检出局灶性病变,肝癌发病率没有显著性差异^[54]。在中国台湾开展一项随机对照研究中,通过对比 4 个月组与 12 个月组肝癌生存率,结果表明两组生存率亦没有统计学差异^[55]。而 6 个月组与 12 个月组相比,不仅能发现极早期的肝癌病例,且可减少晚期癌的比例^[56]。平均而言,在肝硬化患者中每半年进行腹部超声检查,可以增加 8.6 个月的质量调整寿命年^[57]。目前,多个肝癌管理指南均推荐肝癌高危人群每隔 6 个月进行一次肝癌筛查^[11]。2009 年我国出版的《中国癌症筛查及早诊早治技术方案》中,也认为半年一次是较为合适的筛查间隔^[58]。

4 肝癌筛查效果评价

4.1 死亡率

目前,除国内外肝病研究协会发布的肝癌管理指南外,国际或国内尚无标准化的指南推荐肝癌筛查,且对于肝癌筛查效果仍存在争议^[59]。死亡率是评估筛查是否有效的唯一且最直接的指标。至今,全球只有两项评估肝癌筛查能否降低死亡率的随机对照试验,且均开展于中国。Zhang 等^[60]在上海开展的一项随机对照试验共纳入 35~59 岁且 HBV 感染呈阳性或具有慢性肝炎史的人群 18 816 例。其中 9373 例随机分类为筛查组,9443 例为对照组。每间隔 6 个月对筛查组人群的甲胎蛋白含量进行测定和腹部超声检查。结果显示通过筛查可以使肝癌的死亡率

降低 37%。Chen 等^[61]于 1989 年在中国启东首次开展高危人群随机对照试验。结果表明两组人群死亡率相似且不存在统计学差异。两项随机对照试验均在方法学方面存在较大失误而降低其参考价值^[62]。

中国台湾学者开展的观察性研究认为肝癌筛查可能有效降低肝癌死亡率。Yeh 等^[63]对不同危险级别的人群有针对地行 AFP 检测和腹部超声筛查,结果表明在台湾彰化县,通过筛查可以使肝癌死亡率降低 31%。Chen 等^[64]利用 2 阶段方法(即先确定高危人群,后在高危人群进行腹部超声检查)在 4843 人中进行肝癌筛查,平均随访 7 年后,结果表明肝癌筛查可使肝癌死亡率降低 41%(Table 3)。Ji 等^[65]通过对 17 966 例参与肝癌筛查的社区人群随访 4 年后仍未发现肝癌筛查可有效降低肝癌死亡率。筛查手段、项目实施质量、人群参与率、随访时间以及治疗效果等均能影响肝癌筛查效果。肝癌筛查是否有效降低肝癌死亡率仍需国内外大型前瞻性研究予以支持。

4.2 生存率

目前尚没有高质量 RCT 表明肝癌筛查能降低肝癌死亡率,但已明确肝癌筛查可以明显改善人群生存率。Singal 等^[66]对 47 篇肝癌筛查效果的队列研究和病例对照研究进行系统综述,纳入人群共 15 158 人,其中 6284 例(41.4%)被诊断为肝癌,表明肝癌监测可以明显改善筛查人群生存率 (OR=1.90,95%CI:1.67~2.17)。Mcmahon 等^[67]对 1487 例慢性 HBV 携带者进行长期随访,历时 16 年发现肝癌筛查可以有效发现早期病变。此外,澳大利亚^[68]和日本学者^[69]分别于 2005 年和 2006 年证实肝癌筛查可以明显改善人群肝癌生存率。陈建国等人通过对比每年参加 2 次的筛查和不能连续参加定期筛查的 268 例肝癌患者的生存率,结果表明前者 1、3、5、8 年生存率分别为 77.16%、49.04%、38.53%和 24.25%,后者 1、3、5、8 年生存率分别为 36.25%、21.21%、21.21%和 0%,差异均有统计学意义 (P 均 <0.05)^[59]。这表明定期筛查更有可能发现早期肝癌,从而改善生存率。

总之,通过构建肝癌高危风险评估模型是浓缩肝癌在肝癌高危人群的有效方式。虽然高特异性和灵敏度的新型肿瘤学标志物不断发现,AFP 对肝癌筛查和辅助诊断仍有价值。目前认为每半年进行腹部超声联合 AFP 检查可能是肝癌筛查的最佳方法。有充分证据提示肝癌筛查可以显著改善筛查人群生存率,但能否降低人群肝癌死亡率仍需大型前瞻性队列研究予以

Table 3 Evaluation of the effectiveness of screening for liver cancer

Index	Author/Year	Country	Recruitment time	Study design	N	Modality	Conclusion
Mortality	J-G Chen/2003 ^[61]	China	1989—1995	RCT	5581 (3712 vs 1869)	AFP+ALT	The mortality rate was not significant in the screening and control group(RR=0.83, 95%CI: 0.68~1.03)
	Bo-Heng Zhang/2004 ^[70]	China	1993—1995	RCT	18816 (9373 vs 9443)	US+AFP	Screening reduced HCC mortality by 37% (RR=0.63, 95%CI: 0.41~0.98)
	Yen-Po Yeh/2014 ^[63]	China	2008—2010	Community-based trial	41219 (11114 vs 30105)	US	Screening reduced HCC mortality by 31% (RR=0.69, 95%CI: 0.56~0.84)
	Hashem B El-Serag/2011 ^[71]	USA	1998—2007	A retrospective cohort study	1480 (1148 vs 332)	US+AFP	Screening is rather modest in reducing HCC-related mortality (HR=0.97,95%CI: 0.83~1.15)
	Mingfang Ji/2018 ^[65]	China	2012	Community-based trial	68510 (17966 vs 50544)	US+AFP	Screening does not show a reduction in liver cancer mortality (RR=1.04, 95%CI:0.68~1.58)
Survival	Brian J. McMahon/2000 ^[67]	Alaska	1982—1987	A population-based prospective cohort	1487 vs historical controls	US+AFP	Screening prolonged survival rates significantly ($P<0.001$)
	Kemp/2005 ^[68]	Australia	1994—2002	Hospital-based prospective cohort	No Report	US/AFP	Screening improves patient survival (3 year: 38% vs 19%, $P<0.001$)
	Hironori Tanaka/2006 ^[69]	Japan	1991—2003	A retrospective cohort study	384 (182 vs 202)	US+AFP	Screening improves patient survival (5 year: 46% vs 32%, $P<0.001$)

支持。此外,我国肝癌筛查目前仍面临人群参与率不足、高危人群定位不明确等问题。如何有效、最大化推动肝癌筛查,仍需要各级政府和大众的理解与支持,我国肝癌筛查任重而道远。

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