

·综述 General review·

免疫检查点抑制剂联合 TACE 在肝癌治疗中的研究进展

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【摘要】 近年来,免疫检查点抑制剂(ICI)是肝细胞癌(HCC)系统治疗的研究热点,ICI是指针对免疫系统中抑制性的信号通路和受体的阻断剂。经动脉导管化疗栓塞术(TACE)和ICI的疗效及适应证有一定差异,部分临床试验发现TACE联合ICI有协同抗肿瘤作用,能提高肿瘤应答率。这些临床试验主要是评估联合治疗的长期生存率和安全性。本文就ICI联合TACE在治疗HCC中的协同抗肿瘤机制和疗效进行简要综述。

【关键词】 肝细胞癌;免疫检查点抑制剂;经动脉导管化疗栓塞术

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【Abstract】 In recent years, immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI), which is a blocker targeting inhibitory signaling pathways and receptors in the immune system, are the research hotspot of systemic treatment for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). There are some differences in the efficacy and indications between transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE) and ICI. Some clinical trials have found that combination use of TACE and ICI carries a synergistic antitumor effect and can improve the tumor response rate. These clinical trials have mainly been designed to evaluate the long-term survival and safety of the combination therapy. This paper aims to make a brief review concerning the synergistic antitumor mechanism and efficacy of ICI together with TACE in treating HCC.

【Key words】 hepatocellular carcinoma; immune checkpoint inhibitor; transcatheter arterial chemoembolization

肝细胞癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)患者病情隐匿、进展快,多数患者在发现时已失去最佳手术时机^[1-2]。经动脉导管化疗栓塞术(transarterial chemoembolization, TACE)是HCC中期患者常用的姑息治疗方式,其优点是可保持病灶内较高药物浓度而全身化疗药物浓度较低^[3]。但单独使用TACE近期疗效较好,长期疗效有限,肿瘤复发率高,超过50%的确诊患者会接受系统治疗^[4]。HCC可分为免疫活跃型、中间型、衰竭型和排斥型4种,其中活跃型富含CD8⁺和CD4⁺T淋巴细胞,对免疫抑制剂敏感,而排斥型则对免疫抑制剂耐受^[5-6]。免疫检查点是指免疫系统中抑制性的信号通路和受体,其中程

序性细胞死亡受体1(programmed cell death receptor-1, PD-1)和细胞毒性T细胞抗原4(cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated-4, CTLA-4)正在改变肝癌的治疗前景,在Ⅲ期临床试验中显示出良好的抗肿瘤效果和安全性^[7]。因此,研究TACE联合免疫检查点抑制剂(immune checkpoint inhibitors, ICI)治疗HCC的机制与疗效有重要意义。

1 TACE的应用现状

肝脏具有双重供血系统,正常肝组织主要由门静脉回流供血,而肝癌时肝动脉供血可达90%^[8]。TACE通过碘油或者微球栓塞肿瘤血管,造成肿瘤

缺血缺氧的微环境,导致肿瘤细胞大量裂解坏死,同时缓慢释放化疗药,提高局部药物浓度和作用时间,增强抗肿瘤效应^[9]。目前,各机构在TACE化疗药和栓塞剂的选择方面尚无统一标准^[10]。虽然超选择技术和材料学不断发展,但是肝癌的5年复发率并没有明显减少^[11]。早期认为HCC坏死时,释放大 量肿瘤抗原,激活特异性免疫反应;但是后续研究发现,TACE术后外周CD4⁺T淋巴细胞数量减少、抑制性的细胞因子和细胞数量增加等^[12-13]。Ma等^[14]报道TACE术后第1天和第3天血清中可溶性的PD-L1数量明显高于TACE术前,这意味着ICI联合TACE可能为HCC患者提供希望。

2 ICI的作用机制

2.1 PD-1/PD-L1通路

PD-1是CD28超家族中的一员,表达于多种免疫细胞,其配体有PD-L1和PD-L2两种^[15]。PD-1/PD-L1通路是免疫系统的正常组成部分,主要传递抑制性信号,抑制T细胞的活化与增殖^[16]。肿瘤细胞表达的PD-L1/PD-L2可与T细胞表面的PD-1结合,从而减弱T细胞对肿瘤细胞的特异性免疫反应。有学者认为HCC患者CD8⁺T淋巴细胞表面PD-1表达量明显增加,PD-1/PD-L1通路参与了肝细胞癌的免疫逃逸过程,这是PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂治疗肝癌的理论基础^[17-18]。Calderaro等^[19]发现肿瘤的侵袭性与HCC细胞表面的PD-L1高表达呈正相关。目前,纳武利尤单抗(nivolumab)、帕博利珠单抗(pembrolizumab)和纳武利尤单抗联合伊匹木单抗(ipilimumab)已经被FDA批准用于索拉非尼治疗进展的肝癌患者。

2.2 CTLA-4通路

CTLA-4是活性T细胞表达的一种抑制性受体,CTLA-4与B7结合产生抑制性信号,从而抑制T细胞活化^[20]。CTLA-4抑制剂主要包括伊匹木单抗和曲美木单抗(tremelimumab)。

3 免疫抑制剂联合TACE

卡瑞利珠单抗(camrelizumab)是由恒瑞制药研发并最早在国内获批治疗晚期肝癌的PD-1抑制剂。黄健翔等^[21]将行根治术后的HCC患者分为TAEC组及卡瑞利珠单抗联合TACE组,其中联合治疗组促血管生成的生长因子Egf17、VEGF和骨桥蛋白(OPN)明显低于TACE组,CD3⁺、CD4⁺、CD4⁺/CD8⁺T淋巴细胞数目显著高于TACE组,但两组患者的复

发率无明显差异。联合治疗较单独使用TACE能达到更好的调节促血管生成因子、改善细胞免疫功能的效果。杨秋雨等^[22]报道,卡瑞利珠单抗联合TACE治疗中晚期HCC的1、3、6个月的客观缓解率(objective response rate, ORR)分别为45.2%、43.4%和39.6%,平均无进展生存期(progression-free survival, PFS)为6个月,表明该治疗方案短期疗效明确,且该研究提示反应性皮肤毛细血管增生症(RCCEP)和甲状腺功能异常可能是PFS的独立预测因子。李伍好^[23]发现,联合组1、3、5、7个月ORR和疾病控制率(disease control rate, DCR)均高于TACE组,联合组中位PFS明显高于TACE组(8.1个月比5.0个月)。替雷利珠单抗(tislelizumab)也是一种人源化IgG4型单克隆抗体,在国内最先用于治疗尿路上皮癌,2021年国家药品监督管理局批准替雷利珠单抗用于治疗至少经过一种全身治疗的HCC患者。Chao等^[24]报道了1例使用TACE联合替雷利珠单抗治疗初始不可切除的HCC患者,3个疗程后肿瘤达到可切除标准,术后半年无肿瘤复发。替雷利珠单抗联合TACE能有效降低肿瘤分期。

目前,有关CTLA-4治疗HCC的研究较少。Duffy等^[25]纳入了接受射频消融或TACE的患者,发现局部治疗后病灶中CD4⁺和CD8⁺T淋巴细胞增加,而且在局部治疗外的区域也发生了客观的肿瘤反应,中位肿瘤进展时间(time to tumor progression, TTP)为7.4个月,有1例患者在接受曲美木单抗联合TACE治疗后21个月时实现了疾病控制。目前有NCT03572582、NCT03143270等研究探讨TACE联合纳武利尤单抗治疗中期HCC的有效性与安全性。一项临床试验(NCT03397654)观察了帕博利珠单抗联合TACE治疗HCC的疗效、耐受性等。

4 三联治疗

TACE术后肝癌微环境的变化主要有两种:一是缺血会刺激多种生长因子表达,其中最具代表性的是上皮生长因子(EGF)和血管内皮生长因子(VEGF);二是外周辅助T细胞数量减少、缺氧诱导肿瘤细胞表达PD-L1^[12,26]。然而,免疫活跃型的肝癌仅占20%,ICI单药的有效率不超过30%^[27]。分子靶向药联合ICI可以提高肿瘤应答率,起到协同抗肿瘤作用。

4.1 TACE-免疫抑制剂-分子靶向治疗

索拉非尼是HCC系统治疗的一线药物,但索拉非尼联合TACE对临床无任何益处^[28]。Zheng等^[29]

将患者分为TACE+索拉非尼+ICI三联组和TACE+索拉非尼二联组,结果显示三联组DCR、PFS和OS均显著高于二联组(DCR为81.82%比55.17%;mPFS为16.26个月比7.30个月;mOS为23.3个月比13.8个月)。Yang等^[30]联合使用TACE、卡瑞利珠单抗和索拉非尼,ORR为52.8%,DCR为81.1%,TTP和PFS分别为8个月和8.5个月,该研究发现三联治疗不仅能激活细胞免疫,还能影响体液免疫。黄剑等^[31]在联合TACE和卡瑞利珠单抗的基础上叠加使用阿帕替尼,DCR达87.5%,mPFS和mOS分别为9个月和12个月。刘金等^[32]联合卡瑞利珠单抗和阿帕替尼治疗TACE术后进展型中晚期HCC,治疗后1.3个月的ORR和DCR分别为47.8%和60.9%、73.9%和78.3%,mPFS为126 d,同TACE联合阿帕替尼比较,ORR和DCR明显提高^[33]。以上研究表明TACE-ICI-分子靶向方案疗效确切,显著优于单药和二联治疗,安全性高。在Wu等^[34]的试验中接受三联治疗的HCC患者可切除转换率高达53.2%。

4.2 TACE-联合免疫

PD-1/PD-L1和CTLA-4途径在免疫抑制中发挥着独特的作用,PD-1主要减弱CD8⁺T淋巴细胞的特异性免疫效应,而CTLA-4可导致调节性T细胞增多和肿瘤提呈细胞减少,因此双免疫疗法可能会产生协同作用^[35]。几项PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂联合CTLA-4的临床试验已经完成,如临床试验CheckMate-040中的A组方案已被FDA批准用于进展期肝癌的二线治疗,Ⅱ期临床试验(NCT02519348)中曲美木单抗联合度伐利尤单抗效果最好的T300+D组ORR为24%,mOS达18.73个月。Ⅲ期试验(NCT03778957)研究TACE联合贝伐珠单抗和度伐利尤单抗治疗晚期HCC的疗效,正在进行中。

5 小结

综上所述,ICI联合TACE为HCC患者提供了新的选择。在TACE和免疫治疗单独使用疗效有限的情况下,免疫治疗联合分子靶向药具有良好的协同效应,能提高肿瘤应答率。未来的研究应考虑以下3个问题:①在临床中,TACE的治疗目标和操作细节存在巨大差异,导致HCC患者疗效差异大;②TACE和ICI均会影响肝功能,在治疗周期中如何安排两种治疗手段以降低不良反应的发生率与级别;③新辅助治疗中如何取长补短、制定个体化的治疗方案,以达到最佳治疗效果。

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