

· 综述 ·

老年衰弱发病机制的研究进展^{*}

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[摘要] 老年衰弱是老年人面临的一种复杂综合征,其特征是机体多器官系统生理储备降低和失调使机体自稳能力下降,导致日常活动能力的减弱和生活质量的下降。随着人口老龄化,衰弱正逐渐成为威胁老年人群健康的公共卫生问题,严重影响老年人的生活质量和临床结局。老年衰弱的发病机制是一个复杂过程,包括炎症反应、细胞衰老、肠道菌群紊乱、胰岛素抵抗、神经内分泌失调等多方面的影响。该文对老年衰弱发病机制进行了综述,为识别衰弱危险因素、制定相应预防和干预策略、延缓老年衰弱、改善老年人生活质量提供线索和依据。

[关键词] 老年衰弱; 细胞衰老; 肠道菌群; 胰岛素抵抗; 神经内分泌激素; 综述

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Research progress on the pathogenesis of geriatric frailty^{*}

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[Abstract] Geriatric frailty is a complex syndrome faced by the elderly, which is characterized by the decrease of physiological reserve and imbalance of multiple organ systems, which leads to the decrease of self-stability ability, the weakening of daily activity ability and the decline of quality of life. With the aging of the population, frailty is gradually becoming a public health problem that threatens the health of the elderly, seriously affecting the quality of life and clinical outcomes of the elderly. The pathogenesis of geriatric frailty is a complex process, including inflammatory response, cell senescence, intestinal flora disorder, insulin resistance, neuroendocrine disorders and other effects. This article reviews the pathogenesis of frailty in the elderly, and provides clues and basis for identifying risk factors for frailty, formulating corresponding prevention and intervention strategies, delaying frailty in the elderly, and improving the quality of life of the elderly.

[Key words] Geriatric frailty; Cell senescence; Intestinal flora; Insulin resistance; Neuroendocrine hormones; Review

随着社会的快速发展和医疗卫生水平的提高,全球老年人口呈快速增长趋势,随之而来的是老年健康问题日益凸显。老年衰弱成为重要的公共卫生问题,给医疗卫生系统带来极大的负担。据统计,2020 年全球 60 岁以上人群衰弱及早期衰弱流行率分别为 16%、45%,影响全球近 6 亿人,影响我国约 1.2 亿人^[1-2]。衰弱患者功能残疾发病率可增加 12 倍,死亡风险增加 5 倍,对老年人健康状态及预期寿命构成重大威胁^[3-4]。然而流行病学研究的衰弱患病率也表明,不是所有老人都会发生衰弱,表明老年衰弱并不是老龄化的必然结果。衰弱是可被逆转的,并且被认为比残疾具有更大的可逆性。现将老年衰弱的发病机制综述如下,对降低老年人不良健康结局具有重要的公共卫生意义,并有助于开发靶向干预和治疗老

年衰弱的新方法。

1 细胞衰老和炎症加剧

细胞衰老是一种细胞周期阻滞的不可逆状态。随年龄增长衰老细胞会异常积聚,并分泌大量高度活跃的可溶因子到微环境中,即衰老相关分泌表型(SASP),包括多种细胞因子、趋化因子、基质金属蛋白酶等,引起慢性炎症的发生^[5-7]。细胞衰老和炎症加剧与年龄相关疾病显著相关,是心血管疾病、肌少症、衰弱的危险因素^[8],也解释了老年衰弱患者体内炎症水平的增加。

衰弱老年人表现出持续性炎症,特征是血液中促炎细胞因子水平升高。白细胞介素-6(IL-6)、C 反应蛋白(CRP)和肿瘤坏死因子- α 是目前研究最多且与

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衰弱高度密切相关的 SASP 炎症因子^[9]。在对来自波兰的 4 979 名老年人的研究表明,IL-6、CRP 与衰弱呈正相关^[10]。与健康的年轻人比较,衰弱老年人血液中肿瘤坏死因子- α 、IL-1 β 、IL-6 水平增加了 2~4 倍^[11]。正常炎症反应可清除病原体,促使机体恢复生理稳态,而炎症反应过激或失调会导致不受控制的损伤增加,最终加速推动衰弱发展。有研究发现,使用 D+Q 策略[达沙替尼(D)联合槲皮素(Q)]清除衰老细胞或两面神激酶抑制剂靶向 SASP 疗法均可减轻老年小鼠衰弱症状,表明干预衰老细胞及相关 SASP 因子可延缓衰弱相关疾病症状,增加健康寿命^[12-13],提示了细胞衰老和炎症反应在老年衰弱发病机制中的重要性。

2 肠道菌群紊乱

随年龄增长肠道菌群构成的改变往往影响了宿主的健康和寿命。肠道菌群通过“肠-肌轴”“肠-脑轴”“肠-心轴”等与肌少症、神经退行性疾病、心血管疾病密切相关^[14-16]。最近研究也表明,肠道菌群参与了衰弱的病理生理过程。与健康老年人比较,衰弱老年患者肠道菌群 α 或 β 生物多样性失衡,如普拉梭菌(*F. prausnitzii*)减少^[17]。*F. prausnitzii* 被认为是健康肠道的指标,因 *F. prausnitzii* 产生的代谢物,如短链脂肪酸(SCFAs)具有抗炎特性^[18]。随年龄增长肠道菌群代谢物——SCFAs 产生减少,可能导致腺苷三磷酸合成减少,线粒体脂肪酸氧化减少,肌肉内脂肪酸沉积增加,从而导致肌肉力量和质量下降,其是导致衰弱的关键因素^[19]。一项对 728 名女性双胞胎进行横断面分析也发现,高衰弱指数与 SCFAs 水平降低有关^[17]。低度的、无症状的、慢性的炎症状态及免疫失调被认为是导致衰弱的重要因素,可能是 SCFAs 失衡的结果。

SCFAs 代谢物——丁酸盐和丙酸盐可通过诱导 IL-10、转化生长因子- β 刺激调节性 T 淋巴细胞的分化,从而发挥抗炎作用^[20]。因而失衡的 SCFAs 影响炎症调节和免疫反应,进而影响衰弱发生、发展^[21-22]。此外 SCFAs 失衡还可能破坏肠黏膜上皮屏障,促使病原微生物及其产物穿过黏膜屏障,促进全身免疫激活和炎症,引发衰弱的发生^[23]。因此,随年龄增长肠道有益细菌减少,有害细菌增加,并伴有抗炎 SCFAs 分泌减少,引发或加重衰弱的发生、发展。

3 胰岛素抵抗

胰岛素抵抗在衰弱发展过程中的作用,以及作为预防衰弱的目标已被广泛研究^[24]。一项前瞻性队列研究对 1 499 名 60 岁以上的参与者进行了为期 3.5 年的随访,显示了胰岛素抵抗与衰弱之间的关联^[25]。另一项针对 3 141 名 69~74 岁社区居民的研究也证实了胰岛素抵抗与衰弱呈正相关(危害比 = 1.15, 95% 可信区间: 1.02~1.31)^[26]。炎症加剧、活性氧生成增加和抗氧化防御系统减弱是导致胰岛素抵抗的重要原因^[27-28],而这些也均是衰弱患者常见的诱因。

胰岛素抵抗对脂质代谢和蛋白质合成产生影响。

较低的胰岛素敏感性易导致肌肉质量密度、相对握力和身体活动水平下降,引起肌少症发生,从而导致衰弱^[29]。此外肠道菌群紊乱也可通过调节骨骼肌中的胰岛素分泌和反应影响宿主体内的蛋白质合成和代谢,通过“肠-肌轴”对肌肉质量起到抑制作用。并且肠道菌群代谢物——SCFAs 异常也会诱发胰岛素抵抗和炎症,进而导致肌肉质量和力量的加速损失^[30-32],加速衰弱的发生。

4 下丘脑-垂体-靶腺轴激素分泌异常

大脑通过下丘脑-垂体-靶腺轴的激素调节,协调控制着代谢、生长和应激等多个生理过程,其分泌异常与老年衰弱发病密切相关^[33]。

4.1 下丘脑-垂体-生长激素(GH)轴异常 下丘脑-垂体-GH 轴控制 GH 的分泌,而 GH 可直接刺激肝脏,产生和调控胰岛素样生长因子 1(IGF-1),在维持肌肉质量和力量方面发挥积极作用^[34]。有研究发现,老年衰弱患者 GH、IGF-1 水平显著降低^[35-36],并且 IGF-1 缺乏的老年人更容易发生衰弱^[37]。一项为期 7 年的纵向研究评估了 3 447 名 70~89 岁的社区男性结果显示,IGF-1 水平较低者更易衰弱^[38]。IGF-1 参与了骨骼肌主要合成代谢信号通路,IGF-1 低水平易导致肌肉力量减弱^[39],过表达 IGF-1 可减轻小鼠年龄相关肌少症^[40]。此外 IGF-1 会负调节 IL-1 β 、IL-6 水平,减弱炎性衰弱过程^[41],这些均是衰弱发生、发展的重要原因。

4.2 下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(HPA)轴异常 HPA 轴活动会随年龄增长而变化,通常表现为皮质醇水平的昼夜节律变化^[42]。与衰弱相关的皮质醇和促肾上腺皮质激素反应的改变支持 HPA 轴在老年衰弱中的作用。越来越多的证据表明,衰弱患者皮质醇昼夜模式不同。一项对 214 名 80~90 岁参与者的分析发现,衰弱负担与较高的夜间皮质醇、较高的 24 h 平均皮质醇、较小的日皮质醇振幅相关^[43]。在长期住院的老年人群中衰弱指数与唾液皮质醇水平呈正相关^[44]。持续高浓度的皮质醇增加骨骼肌分解代谢,并通过促进肌原纤维降解和抑制蛋白质合成导致肌肉质量减少,甚至肌无力和肌肉萎缩^[45-46],提示持续升高的皮质醇与衰弱发病密切相关。

4.3 下丘脑-垂体-甲状腺轴异常 甲状腺激素异常会引起身体组成、肌肉力量和认知改变,增加心血管事件、痴呆、肌少症等风险^[47]。有研究发现,促甲状腺激素(TSH)水平升高、游离三碘甲状腺原氨酸水平降低,以及游离三碘甲状腺原氨酸/游离甲状腺素比率下降均与社区居住的老年人衰弱程度相关^[48]。此外澳大利亚学者进行的一项纳入 3 943 例 70~89 岁男性的横断面研究结果显示,血清游离甲状腺素水平升高与衰弱发生率呈正相关(优势比 = 1.36, 95% 可信区间: 1.04~1.79)^[49]。有研究还观察到 TSH 与 CRP 呈正相关,而亚临床甲状腺功能减退患者 CRP 水平较高,增加了衰弱的可能性^[50-51]。此外 TSH 水平高的受试者常发现神经、肌肉异常,以及运动容忍

度低，并且甲状腺功能异常会引起整体代谢的下降，以及疲劳、抑郁等症状，这些均是衰弱的典型特征^[52]。

5 小结与展望

目前，关于老年衰弱的发病机制尚未完全明确。未来将更注重老年衰弱的基础研究，通过代谢组学、蛋白质组学、转录组学等方法探寻老年衰弱的发病机制，寻找新的治疗靶点和开发更精准的干预手段。此外随着人工智能和机器学习的发展，老年衰弱研究将更多地利用新技术和创新方法，实现对衰弱早期诊断、动态监测和个体化干预，将有助于延缓老年衰弱进展。

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