

· 综述 ·

乳腺癌相关淋巴水肿的治疗进展

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【摘要】 上肢淋巴水肿是乳腺癌手术治疗后常见的淋巴系统并发症,引起患肢功能障碍、外形改变,给患者的身心健康带来负面影响。有效评估并合理治疗乳腺癌相关淋巴水肿能改善患者术后生活质量,缓解疾病进展。目前,上肢淋巴水肿主要的治疗方式为保守治疗和手术治疗,笔者就近年来乳腺癌相关淋巴水肿的治疗进行简要综述。

【关键词】 乳腺肿瘤; 淋巴水肿; 修复外科手术

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乳腺癌相关淋巴水肿(breast cancer-related lymphedema, BCRL)已成为临床诊疗关注的热点和治疗的难点。上肢淋巴水肿发生率在前哨淋巴结活组织检查后约为5.6%,而在腋窝淋巴结清扫(axillary lymph node dissection, ALND)术后约为20%^[1]。不同的乳腺癌治疗方法,淋巴水肿发生率亦不同,波动在10%~60%^[2]。BCRL临床表现为患侧手臂、手掌或肩部不同程度的肿胀、活动受限,伴疼痛、沉重感或麻木感,患者出现焦虑、悲伤或愤怒等负面情绪^[3]。若不加干预,可引起上肢或肩部蜂窝组织炎、丹毒、患肢功能障碍、肢体变形等并发症,严重影响患者的生活质量^[4-5]。笔者就BCRL的治疗进展作一综述。

一、BCRL概述

(一) BCRL病因和发病机制

BCRL发生率在乳腺癌术后24个月开始上升,多发生于术后2~5年,约15%患者发生在术后5年后甚至更久^[1]。接受了乳腺癌手术或乳腺区域淋巴结放射治疗的患者终生有BCRL发生风险^[6]。BCRL发生机制尚不明确,可能原因有:(1)肿瘤治疗,手术导致淋巴管机械性损伤,淋巴液经残留淋巴管回流入血的速度减慢^[7],且术后使用紫杉类药物能抑制新生淋巴管形成,使BCRL发生风险增高^[8];(2)炎症刺激,淋巴液瘀滞状态下皮下脂肪沉积,纤维化及单核细胞/巨噬细胞数量明显增加,同时募集T辅助细胞、产生CD4⁺细胞炎症反应^[9],能改善淋巴水肿、炎症、纤维化和脂肪沉积,增加淋巴管生成^[10],但再生的淋巴管结构、功能缺陷,表现为原有的毛细淋巴管过度增生和淋巴管增生、扭曲变形,导致淋巴引流减少、组织液淤积增加,形成恶性循环^[11];(3)淋巴系统发育异常,乳腺癌伴原发性淋巴水肿的患者。已有研究表明,血管内皮生长因子受体(vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, VEGFR)3或GATA2基因突变可导致淋巴管

发育过程中出现结构和/或功能异常,引起原发性淋巴水肿^[12-13]。

(二) BCRL诊断与分期

BCRL诊断标准尚无统一,既往文献报道将患侧术后与术前或对侧手臂的对应处比较,将手臂周长增加>2.0 cm、体积增大>200 ml或周长、体积增加>3%~10%定义为BCRL^[14-15]。目前,研究者认为,用相对体积改变(relative volume change, RVC)表示更适宜,即RVC=(A2/U2)/(A1/U1)-1。其中A1(U1)、A2(U2)分别是患侧(对侧)手臂体积的基线值和测量时的值^[16]。根据RVC值将水肿分为:(1)RVC为≥3%且<5%,需密切监测,1~2个月内重复测量手臂体积;(2)RVC为≥5%且<10%,为轻度水肿;(3)RVC≥10%,诊断为淋巴水肿,采取加压治疗或其他合理治疗^[17]。国际淋巴学会(International Society of Lymphology, ISL)根据临床表现将淋巴水肿分期如下:(1)0/I_A期,亚临床期,淋巴系统受损,但水肿不明显;(2)I期,凹陷性水肿,肢体抬高后水肿可消退;(3)II期,多为凹陷性水肿,II期晚期纤维化形成后呈非凹陷性水肿,肢体抬高难以使水肿消退;(4)III期,象皮肿,非凹陷性水肿,伴皮肤营养状态改变,如棘皮症、脂肪堆积、疣状增生。其中,非凹陷性水肿为水肿晚期表现,提示出现严重纤维化和脂肪组织肥大^[18]。

二、BCRL治疗概况

(一) 保守治疗

手法淋巴引流(manual lymphatic drainage, MLD)是对淋巴结区域皮肤轻微按摩,包括不同力度的画圈、抽压和排液,每天30 min,每周5次,持续4周。第1周由有资质的淋巴水肿治疗师指导操作,第2~4周由患者操作^[19]。MLD作用有:(1)通过模拟淋巴管“泵”的功能,促进多余的组织液排出,增加淋巴液及其他组织液转运,促进局部血液循环;(2)减少局部炎性介质,缓解炎性产物所致的水肿、疼痛;(3)软化局部纤维性硬结,有利于肢体伸展运动^[20-21]。有研究显示,MLD与腧穴按压联合治疗能缓解轻、中度BCRL患者症状,轻度水肿组和中度水肿组之间存在明显疗效差异($P=0.029$),提示此方法更适宜轻度BCRL患者^[22]。

物理治疗(physical therapy, PT)包括开始的10 min热身

和伸展运动和随后的手法治疗。手法治疗由熟练的理疗师按照下列顺序进行,用全掌或两指轻柔地对胸壁及腋窝进行圆形按摩,肩关节外展,肘关节伸直,腕关节旋后,肩胛带活动和被动活动度训练。研究显示,单纯PT和PT联合MLD治疗都能改善生活质量、临床症状、数字评定量表(numeric rating scale, NRS)评分和手臂、肩、手掌的功能障碍($P < 0.05$);与PT组比较,联合组NRS评分和手臂体积更低($P < 0.05$),提示PT联合MLD治疗能有效缓解淋巴水肿、改善症状^[19]。

综合性消肿治疗(comprehensive decongestive therapy, CDT)包括MLD、压力治疗、个体化训练和皮肤护理。CDT具体方法为每天1 h手法淋巴引流,余23 h压力治疗,每周5 d,持续4周;再加上皮肤护理和个体化肢体训练^[23]。压力治疗包括弹性加压穿戴和短牵拉绷带包扎。弹性加压穿戴为压力30~40 mmHg(1 mmHg=0.133 kPa)的袖套和手套,每天在清醒状态戴12 h。短牵拉压力绷带由物理师沿手掌到靠近肩关节包扎手臂,预防淋巴液再蓄积。研究显示,CDT组治疗后手臂体积减少的绝对值(250 ml)显著大于单纯压力治疗组(143 ml)($P=0.03$),但2组体积减少的百分比、生活质量、手臂功能改善并无差别^[24]。由此推测CDT可能更适宜晚期BCRL患者。

药物治疗方面,苯并毗喃酮/香豆素类药物通过增强巨噬细胞的蛋白水解作用,降低胶体渗透压,改善蛋白质淤积导致的淋巴水肿^[25]。但此类药物具有肝毒性,不建议长期使用^[26]。但也有研究结果显示此类药物并无减轻淋巴水肿的治疗效果^[27]。瘀滞的淋巴液中存在大量氧自由基,加重炎症和淋巴液淤积,微量元素硒可能通过活化谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶发挥抗氧化作用缓解淋巴水肿,口服4~6周的亚硒酸钠治疗继发性淋巴水肿有一定疗效^[28]。老鼠尾巴急性淋巴水肿模型注射透明质酸发现水肿体积缩小,可能与透明质酸减轻炎症反应和组织纤维化,刺激新生淋巴管形成有关^[29]。学者们不推荐使用利尿剂和糖皮质激素,前者使组织液中蛋白质浓度迅速升高,促进纤维化,加重淋巴水肿;后者起效快但持续时间短,受累肢体易发生感染^[30~31]。目前,尚无公认的有效治疗BCRL的药物,已有的临床研究多局限于小样本的随机对照试验,具有一定的异质性,需优化临床试验进一步探索有效治疗BCRL的药物。

保守治疗作为淋巴水肿的主要治疗方式,能有效改善症状,延缓疾病进程。Marco等^[32]推荐I期淋巴水肿,采取抬高肢体、物理治疗和加压治疗方法,II、III期淋巴水肿采取CDT。但是,保守治疗后仍然可能复发或病情加重。

(二)外科治疗

BCRL外科治疗始于19世纪,分淋巴水肿减负和淋巴系统重建两大类。减负手术如近年来常用的Brorson吸脂术(liposuction)^[33~34],能有效减少中、晚期BCRL患者淤积的淋巴液、肥厚的脂肪组织和纤维组织;重建手术包括自体淋巴结移植(autologous vascularized lymph node transfer, ALNT)^[35]、淋巴静脉吻合(lymphaticovenous anastomosis, LVA)^[36]和淋

巴管移植(lympholymphatic bypass, LLB)^[37],旨在恢复受损淋巴系统的结构与功能。

1. 吸脂术或脂肪切除术(lipectomy)

吸脂术能清除皮下多余的脂肪和淋巴液,减轻局部负荷,降低炎症发生率,改善肿胀肢体外观,恢复受累肢体功能^[38~39]。特制的直径3~4 mm、长度15.0~25.0 cm的导管经小切口从手腕到肩部方向沿肢体长轴圆周移动,吸出脂肪组织,切口放置引流管,术后必须戴上加压袖套手套预防术后出血及水肿复发^[40]。吸脂术与加压治疗联合,水肿体积可减少23%^[41]。另外,加压穿戴需个体化定制,随着手臂体积变化而调整,每2天更换一次,需每天佩戴,持续至少2周,要求患者有良好的依从性^[42]。

2. ALNT

ALNT是将血管化的淋巴结及周围脂肪组织从腹股沟区转移至病变处。可通过以下几个方面重建淋巴组织生理功能:(1)移植的淋巴结、淋巴管在瘢痕组织中建立淋巴通路,或经皮瓣内淋巴静脉网,直接引流多余的淋巴液;(2)移植的淋巴结及周围脂肪组织产生血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)等细胞因子,促进新生淋巴血管生成;(3)淋巴结具有重要的免疫功能,同时参与淋巴液、血液循环,有利于患肢抵御感染^[43~44]。

ALNT的适应证:(1)医源性淋巴水肿是自体淋巴结移植的绝对适应证。因淋巴结切除或损伤,阻断淋巴引流通路,自体淋巴结移植可以代替失去的淋巴结发挥功能。术前需行吲哚菁绿(indocyanine green, ICG)淋巴造影、放射性核素^{99m}Tc淋巴显像(lymphoscintigraphy, LS)或磁共振淋巴造影(MR lymphography, MRL)T2加权像明确淋巴结状况。(2)淋巴水肿患者保守治疗失败、肢体疼痛或臂丛神经发生病变和患肢慢性感染的患者,在放射性LS或MRL证实进行性淋巴引流障碍后,也可行自体淋巴结移植重建受损或缺失的淋巴组织^[45~46]。

Becker等^[35]将血管化的腹股沟淋巴结皮瓣转移至受累腋窝,约41.7%(10/24)的患者淋巴水肿完全消退。具体手术步骤为沿腋窝原有切口进入,若淋巴结区域发生纤维化时适当延长切口,以胸背血管分支作为受区血管。另有学者选择旋肩胛血管为腋窝处的吻合血管^[47]。常用腹股沟淋巴结作为供体,旋髂浅血管蒂的腹壁下表浅组织为游离皮瓣。于腹股沟韧带上方、距离耻骨5 cm、靠近髂棘处作切口,找到旋髂浅血管,从股血管上仔细分离,沿着旋髂浅血管提起筋膜下方的脂肪组织,使脂肪组织从肌肉层上游离,基于旋髂浅血管蒂的游离皮瓣里包含4~5枚淋巴结。将此皮瓣转移至腋窝,在显微镜下用10-0 nylon可吸收缝线吻合,皮瓣沿腋静脉放置,淋巴结置于腋窝顶端^[48]。Gharb等^[49]同时分离旋髂浅血管表浅分支和肌肉穿支,提高移植淋巴结的存活率。

3. LVA

LVA是将淋巴管和静脉吻合,将淋巴液引流入静脉系统,重建生理性淋巴引流通路。在淋巴管阻塞区行LVA后,

淋巴管内压高于静脉压,促进淤积的淋巴液向静脉流动^[47]。早在1977年,O'Brien等^[50]便报道了LVA,取得了满意的疗效。Koshima等^[51]提出吻合皮下微小淋巴管和小静脉需要超显微外科技术(supermicrosurgery),如高倍显微镜、超显微外科特殊仪器和缝线支持。在高倍显微镜下,能将淋巴管能与皮下小静脉(<0.8 mm)吻合,小静脉压力低,能预防静脉血逆流和吻合口血栓^[52]。多位学者建议术前行ICG淋巴造影和/MRL检查确保存在有功能的淋巴管,再在离体表定位约2.0 cm处作皮肤切口,找到有功能的淋巴管,与皮下小静脉行端-端或端-侧吻合^[40,53]。

4. LLB

LLB是将正常淋巴管转移到受损的淋巴引流区,建立淋巴引流旁路。有研究取大腿内侧淋巴管转移到受累肢体皮下,与上肢和颈部淋巴管吻合,恢复了淋巴管功能,是另一种理想的淋巴管重建方法。除了显微技术支持、术前评估受损区残留淋巴管状况外,术者还需对供区淋巴管仔细分离约25.0~30.0 cm,术后将遗留较长的瘢痕,下肢可能出现继发性淋巴水肿,目前临床应用较少^[54-55]。

(三)联合治疗

VA和ALNT都属于显微重建技术,两者联合更能促进淋巴系统再生。Masia等^[56]选择I、II期BCRL患者行LVA(59例),ALNT(7例)和LVA+ALNT(40例)。47例ALNT皮瓣全部存活,99例LVA患者的淋巴管静脉吻合数为1~7条(平均3.4条)。术后臂围减少百分比为12.0%~86.7%(平均39.7%),绝对值为0.9~6.1 cm(平均2.8 cm)。所有患者未出现供区淋巴水肿,仅1例患者在18个月内的随访期中出现了供区淋巴结同侧大腿围较对侧增加2 cm。LVA和ALNT联合治疗能取得了较好的临床疗效,但还需制定统一、合理的患者选择标准,开展前瞻性随机对照试验,明确显微淋巴外科在淋巴水肿治疗中的地位。

针对局部脂肪组织肥厚和纤维化的II期淋巴水肿患者,单纯ALNT难以缩小患侧臂围,临床疗效欠佳,针对这一难题,Nicoli等^[57]在ALNT后1~3个月行激光吸脂术,通过直径1 mm的微管向深部肥厚的脂肪组织、纤维组织传导波长1470 nm的高能二极管脉冲激光,用吸脂导管小心吸取腋窝脂肪,避免损伤移植的淋巴结,术后给予弹性加压治疗。初步结果显示,联合治疗后上肢臂围明显减少,皮肤弹性较前恢复,淋巴造影提示瘀滞的淋巴液有所减少,未发生淋巴结供区畸形,是安全可行的治疗方法,远期疗效还需进一步跟踪随访。

VEGF通过结合内皮细胞表面受体酪氨酸激酶,促进受体二聚化,调节下游血管生成和淋巴管生成^[58]。在淋巴水肿小鼠模型中分别给予不同亚型的VEGF,并联合ALNT,发现ALNT联合VEGF-C治疗的小鼠取得最佳疗效,且疗效与剂量正相关,早期应用疗效更好^[59]。考虑与VEGF-C通过活化VEGFR2和VEGFR3,维持淋巴管功能、诱导新生淋巴管形成、促进淋巴结存活有关^[60],但需行相关临床试验进一步验证。

乳房重建能降低BCRL发生率^[61],ALNT和乳房重建如腹壁下动脉穿支皮瓣或横行腹直肌肌皮瓣(transverse rectus abdominis musculocutaneous, TRAM)同时进行,尤其对放射治疗后延迟重建的患者是很好的选择。联合方式有以下3种:(1)若乳房重建采取半腹部皮瓣,建议保留同侧腹部皮瓣血管蒂和同侧腹股沟淋巴结移植,与胸背血管吻合;(2)若乳房重建采取全腹部皮瓣,并选择对侧腹股沟淋巴结移植,那么保留同侧的腹部皮瓣血管蒂,将皮瓣翻转180°后,血管蒂与内乳血管吻合;(3)若乳房重建采取全腹部皮瓣,并选择同侧腹股沟淋巴结移植,那么保留对侧的腹部皮瓣血管蒂,与内乳血管吻合^[62]。

(四)治疗策略

个体化、规范化的治疗决定BCRL疗效,但目前缺乏统一的标准。Masià等^[40]通过术前评估制定了巴塞罗那外科治疗策略(Barcelona Lymphedema Algorithm for Surgical Treatment, BLAST)。推荐治疗原则如下^[40]:(1)经ICG或MRL检查确定为无功能淋巴管,临床上触诊为非凹陷性水肿,采取吸脂术;(2)经ICG或MRL检查确定为无功能淋巴管,临实际上触诊为凹陷性水肿,采取积极的康复训练后再评估是否行吸脂术;(3)对于经ICG或MRL检查确定为有功能淋巴系统,再分以下3种情况。若腋窝条件好,局部无纤维化,腋窝淋巴管保留较完好,采取LVA;若腋窝有大量的纤维化或放射性皮炎,腋窝淋巴管受损,在纤维组织松解后采用ALNT,然后在受累肢体远端行LVA;若患者要求同时乳房重建,采取ALNT,移植的淋巴结位于腹壁下动脉穿支皮瓣内或腹壁浅动脉皮瓣(superficial inferior epigastric artery, SIEA)内,然后在受累肢体远端行LVA。

三、小结

目前,BCRL的治疗仍是需要临床医师面对的问题和挑战。早期、联合、长期、规律、个体化是BCRL治疗原则。保守治疗如加压治疗、物理治疗,在单独治疗和联合治疗中都具有重要地位,目的在于缓解水肿症状,保护肢体功能,延缓疾病进程,提高生活质量;缺点在于治疗时间较长、不能从病因根治。药物治疗疗效尚不理想,需优化临床试验进一步验证。显微外科治疗开启了淋巴水肿治疗新篇章。对于合适的患者,重建手术能恢复淋巴系统的结构与功能,为根治淋巴水肿提供了方向。但淋巴水肿外科治疗的整体有效率仍有争议,45% ALNT患者在术后1年复查仍无放射性示踪剂摄取,提示淋巴结移植后并不能完全自发性建立淋巴网,考虑与腋窝处淋巴结受压和既往放射治疗、手术后腋窝组织损伤有关^[44,52,63]。现有的研究多为小样本、队列研究,需开展大规模随机对照临床试验进一步明确外科治疗及联合治疗的疗效。制定统一的患者选择标准,各分期的治疗标准及疗效评价标准也是试验设计的重点。另外,淋巴水肿的病因、机制尚不明确,全面认识淋巴水肿的发生机制和病理生理学改变也将有助于从病因上根治。

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