

· 肝脏肿瘤 ·

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HBV 相关早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌的临床特征比较

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摘要: **目的** 比较HBV相关早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者临床特征,评估患者病情严重程度,为肝癌的早期诊断和治疗提供理论依据。**方法** 回顾性纳入2019年1月—2023年8月于广州医科大学附属市八医院首次诊断为HBV感染相关肝癌患者695例,其中早发性肝癌93例(女性年龄<50岁、男性年龄<40岁),迟发性肝癌602例(女性年龄≥50岁、男性年龄≥40岁)。收集患者临床资料,包括人口统计学资料、首诊临床症状、合并疾病、吸烟史、饮酒史、家族史、血常规、肝生化指标、血清AFP、病毒学指标、凝血功能及影像学表现。计算炎症指标NLR(中性粒细胞与淋巴细胞比值)、PLR(血小板与淋巴细胞比值)和LMR(淋巴细胞与单核细胞比值),计算FIB-4指数、APRI、S指数、MELD、CTP评分、AIBL及巴塞罗那临床肝癌分期。符合正态分布的计量资料两组间比较采用成组 t 检验,非正态分布的计量资料两组间比较采用Wilcoxon秩和检验。计数资料两组间比较采用 χ^2 检验或Fisher精确检验。**结果** 2组间男性占比以及糖尿病、高血压、脂肪肝发生率比较,差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为6.357、15.230、11.467、14.204, P 值均<0.05);早发性肝癌组在无肝硬化基础上进展为肝癌占比显著高于迟发性肝癌组($\chi^2=24.657, P<0.001$);早发性肝癌组BCLC分期为晚期的占比高于迟发性肝癌组($\chi^2=6.172, P=0.046$)。总人群肝癌患者最常见的临床症状为腹胀、腹痛、纳差、乏力、体质量下降、双下肢水肿、黄疸、尿黄、恶心等,有55例(7.9%)患者确诊时无明显症状,是通过常规复查或体检发现AFP水平升高或影像学提示肝占位而进一步检查发现肝癌,其中早发性肝癌组更容易出现腹胀、腹痛、黄疸等症状(P 值均<0.05)。早发性肝癌组肿瘤直径明显大于迟发性肝癌组($Z=2.845, P=0.034$);与迟发性肝癌组相比,早发性肝癌组肿瘤多发,且更易发生肝内、肝周及远处转移(χ^2 值分别为5.889、4.079, P 值均<0.05);2组肿瘤位置分布及肿瘤大小分型比较,差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为3.948、11.317, P 值均<0.05)。早发性肝癌组的FIB-4指数、HBsAg≤1 500 IU/mL患者占比、LMR和Cr水平均低于迟发性肝癌组(P 值均<0.05),HBeAg阳性率、 \log_{10} HBV DNA及AFP、WBC、Hb、PLT、NLR、PLR、TBil、ALT、Alb、TC水平均明显高于迟发性肝癌组(P 值均<0.05)。**结论** 与迟发性肝癌相比,早发性肝癌患者多是在没有肝硬化基础上发展为肝癌,多发肿瘤灶,临床症状明显,BCLC分期晚,预示预后不佳。

关键词: 乙型肝炎病毒; 肝肿瘤; 疾病特征**基金项目:** 广州市科技计划(2024A03J0860, 2023A03J0786); 区域联合基金-青年基金项目(22201910240001437)

Clinical features of hepatitis B virus-related early-onset and late-onset liver cancer: A comparative analysis

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Abstract: Objective To compare the clinical features of patients with hepatitis B virus (HBV)-related early-onset liver cancer and those with late-onset liver cancer, to assess the severity of the disease, and to provide a theoretical basis for the early diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer. **Methods** A retrospective analysis was performed for 695 patients who were diagnosed with HBV-related liver cancer for the first time in Guangzhou Eighth People's Hospital, Guangzhou Medical University, from January 2019 to August 2023, among whom 93 had early-onset liver cancer (defined as an age of <50 years for female patients and <40 years for male patients) and 602 had late-onset liver cancer (defined as an age of ≥50 years for female patients and ≥40 years for male

patients). Related clinical data were collected, including demographic data, clinical symptoms at initial diagnosis, comorbidities, smoking history, drinking history, family history, routine blood test results, biochemical parameters of liver function, serum alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), virological indicators, coagulation function, and imaging findings. The pan-inflammatory indices neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR), platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR), and lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio (LMR) were calculated, as well as FIB-4 index, aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index (APRI), S index, Model for End-Stage Liver Disease (MELD) score, Child-Turcotte-Pugh (CTP) score, albumin-bilirubin (AIBL) grade, and Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer (BCLC) stage. The independent-samples *t* test was used for comparison of normally distributed continuous data between two groups, and the Wilcoxon rank-sum test was used for comparison of non-normally distributed continuous data between two groups; the chi-square test or Fisher's exact test were used for comparison of categorical data between two groups. **Results** There were significant differences between the two groups in the proportion of male patients and the incidence rates of diabetes, hypertension, and fatty liver disease ($\chi^2=6.357, 15.230, 11.467, \text{ and } 14.204$, all $P<0.05$), and compared with the late-onset liver cancer group, the early-onset liver cancer group had a significantly higher proportion of patients progressing to liver cancer without underlying cirrhosis ($\chi^2=24.657, P<0.001$) and a significantly higher proportion of patients with advanced BCLC stage ($\chi^2=6.172, P=0.046$). For the overall population, the most common clinical symptoms included abdominal distension, abdominal pain, poor appetite, weakness, a reduction in body weight, edema of both lower limbs, jaundice, yellow urine, and nausea, and 55 patients (7.9%) had no obvious symptoms at the time of diagnosis and were found to have liver cancer by routine reexamination, physical examination suggesting an increase in AFP, or radiological examination indicating hepatic space-occupying lesion; compared with the late-onset liver cancer group, the patients in the early-onset liver cancer group were more likely to have the symptoms of abdominal distension, abdominal pain, and jaundice (all $P<0.05$). Compared with the late-onset liver cancer group, the early-onset liver cancer group had a significantly larger tumor diameter ($Z=2.845, P=0.034$), with higher prevalence rates of multiple tumors and intrahepatic, perihepatic, or distant metastasis ($\chi^2=5.889 \text{ and } 4.079$, both $P<0.05$), and there were significant differences between the two groups in tumor location and size ($\chi^2=3.948 \text{ and } 11.317$, both $P<0.05$). Compared with the late-onset liver cancer group, the early-onset liver cancer group had significantly lower FIB-4 index, proportion of patients with HBsAg $\leq 1\ 500$ IU/mL, and levels of LMR and Cr (all $P<0.05$), as well as significantly higher positive rate of HBeAg and levels of \log_{10} HBV DNA, AFP, WBC, Hb, PLT, NLR, PLR, TBil, ALT, Alb, and TC (all $P<0.05$). **Conclusion** Compared with late-onset liver cancer, patients with early-onset liver cancer tend to develop liver cancer without liver cirrhosis and have multiple tumors, obvious clinical symptoms, and advanced BCLC stage, which indicates a poor prognosis.

Key words: Hepatitis B Virus; Liver Neoplasms; Disease Attributes

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肝癌是最常见的癌症之一,据世界卫生组织2022年发布的最新全球癌症负担年报显示,其发病率和死亡率上升至全球恶性肿瘤的第6位和第3位,全球新发肝癌90.6万例,有83万人死亡。原发性肝癌是目前我国第5位常见恶性肿瘤及第2位肿瘤致死病因^[1-2],其5年生存率仅为11.7%~14.1%^[3]。HBV感染是导致肝细胞癌(HCC)发生和发展的最主要危险因素^[4]。由于HBV疫苗接种计划的广泛实施,抗病毒药物的应用,以及诊断工具和治疗模式有所进展,我国HBV感染已降至中流行地区,但我国肝癌5年生存率低于全球平均水平^[3]。2023年,美国肝病学会(AASLD)制定的HCC诊断、分期和管理实践指南建议,亚洲慢性HBV感染者中男性和女性分别在

40岁和50岁以上开始接受HCC的筛查^[5];我国《原发性肝癌诊疗指南(2024年版)》^[6]推荐高危人群进行肝癌筛查,其中包括40岁以上的男性。低于上述指南推荐筛查年龄的HBV感染相关患者仍有发生肝癌的风险,对于此类人群发生的肝癌,相关研究称之为早发性肝癌^[7-14],且发病率呈上升趋势^[15]。2022年最新的肝癌流行病学数据显示,在全球范围内,早发性肝癌大约占肝癌病例总数的6.2%^[16-17],而我国早发性肝癌的病例约占所有肝癌病例17.8%^[16]。虽然目前肝癌早筛途径、诊断方法和治疗方案取得了长足的进步,但全球肝癌5年生存率仍然很低,且逐步趋向年轻化^[18],预后尚不清楚。本研究通过比较早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌的临床特征差异,评估患者病

情严重程度,为肝癌的早期诊断和治疗提供理论依据,从而有效延缓疾病进展,改善患者预后,提升肝癌患者的总体生存率。

1 资料与方法

1.1 研究对象 回顾性纳入2019年1月—2023年8月在本院首次就诊的HBV感染相关肝癌患者。参考2023年AASLD《肝细胞癌的诊断、分期和管理实践指南》^[5]及我国《原发性肝癌诊疗指南(2024年版)》^[6],女性年龄<50岁、男性年龄<40岁为早发性肝癌;女性年龄≥50岁、男性年龄≥40岁为迟发性肝癌。纳入标准:(1)年龄≥18岁;(2)所有HBV感染者诊断符合《慢性乙型肝炎防治指南(2022年版)》^[19],HBsAg阳性,或HBsAg阴性、抗-HBc阳性且有明确的慢性HBV感染史(既往HBsAg阳性>6个月);(3)肝癌诊断符合《原发性肝癌诊疗指南(2024年版)》^[6],且为首次诊断肝癌。排除标准:(1)就诊前已接受过抗肿瘤治疗;(2)伴有其他恶性肿瘤;(3)临床资料不完整;(4)人类免疫缺陷病毒感染患者。

1.2 观察指标 研究变量通过查阅本院电子病历获取,包括人口统计学资料,包括性别、年龄等;临床资料,包括BMI、首诊临床症状(主诉中记录患者首诊时出现的症状)、合并疾病(HCV/HDV感染)、吸烟史(每天超过3支,持续3个月以上)、饮酒史(每个月间歇非大量饮酒2次以上,连续3个月以上被视为阳性)、家族史(家族中近三代是否有乙型肝炎或肝癌病史)、血常规、肝生化指标、血清AFP、病毒学指标、凝血功能,以及影像学表现(超声、CT、MRI等,肝硬化、脂肪肝,肿瘤表现包括肿瘤的大小、门静脉侵犯情况、肝叶位置以及是否有远处器官转移)。计算泛炎症指标NLR(中性粒细胞与淋巴细胞比值)、PLR(血小板与淋巴细胞比值)和LMR(淋巴细胞与单核细胞比值),并进行肝脏纤维化评分,包括FIB-4指数、APRI、S指数。肝功能状态分级、使用巴塞罗那临床肝癌(Barcelona clinic liver cancer, BCLC)分期。

1.3 肝癌诊断标准^[6] (1)组织学证实;(2)血清AFP水平升高≥400 ng/mL,并通过1种放射影像学检查发现肿瘤;(3)当血清AFP水平<400 ng/mL时,通过2种或2种以上放射影像学检查发现肿瘤。大体分型参考中国肝癌病理研究协作组于1979年制定的“五大型六亚型”分类^[20]:瘤体最大直径相加≤1.0 cm为微小癌,1.1~3.0 cm为小肝癌,3.1~5.0 cm为中肝癌,5.1~10.0 cm为大肝癌,>10.0 cm为巨块型肝癌,全肝散在分布小癌灶(类似肝硬化结节)为弥漫型肝癌。

1.4 统计学方法 采用SPSS 26.0统计软件进行数据分析。计数资料两组间比较采用 χ^2 检验或Fisher精确检验。符合正态分布的计量资料以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示,两组间比较采用成组 t 检验;非正态分布计量资料以 $M(P_{25}\sim P_{75})$ 表示,两组间比较采用Wilcoxon秩和检验。 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 一般资料 共纳入HBV感染相关肝癌患者695例,其中早发性肝癌93例、迟发性肝癌602例;男性占比90.1%(626/695)。2组间男性占比以及糖尿病、高血压、脂肪肝发生率比较,差异均有统计学意义(P 值均<0.05);早发性肝癌组患者在无肝硬化基础上进展为肝癌的占比显著高于迟发性肝癌组($P<0.001$);BCLC分期分析结果显示,早发性肝癌组晚期占比高于迟发性肝癌组($P=0.046$)(表1)。

2.2 临床症状 总人群肝癌患者最常见的临床症状为腹胀、腹痛、纳差、乏力、体质量下降、双下肢水肿、黄疸、尿黄、恶心等,有55例(7.9%)患者确诊时无明显症状,通过常规复查或体检发现AFP水平升高或影像学提示肝占位而进一步检查发现肝癌,其中早发性肝癌组更容易出现腹胀、腹痛、黄疸等症状(P 值均<0.05)(图1)。

2.3 临床影像学特征 早发性肝癌组肿瘤直径明显大于迟发性肝癌组($P=0.034$);与迟发性肝癌组相比,早发性肝癌组肿瘤多发,且更易发生肝内、肝周及远处转移(P 值均<0.05);2组间肿瘤位置分布及肿瘤大小分型比较,差异均有统计学意义(P 值均<0.05)(表2)。

2.4 血常规、肝肾功能及凝血功能分析 早发性肝癌组的FIB-4指数、HBsAg≤1 500 IU/mL患者占比、LMR和Cr水平均低于迟发性肝癌组(P 值均<0.05),HBeAg阳性率、 \log_{10} HBV DNA及AFP、WBC、Hb、PLT、NLR、PLR、TBil、ALT、Alb、TC水平均明显高于迟发性肝癌组(P 值均<0.05)(表3)。

3 讨论

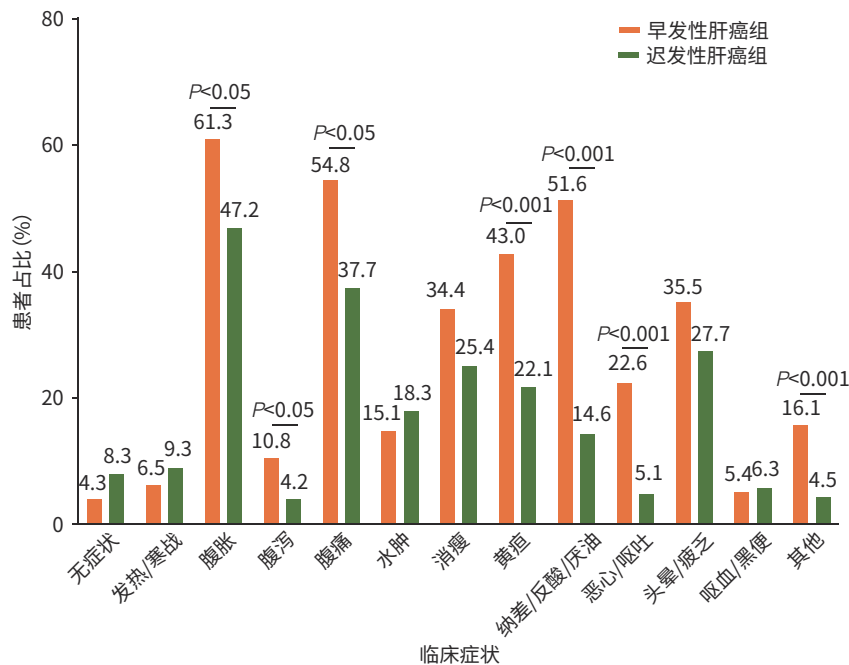
随着肝癌研究的不断深入,早发性肝癌逐渐受到更多关注。然而,当前研究大多集中在肝癌的整体层面,对于年龄分层比较早发性与迟发性肝癌在肿瘤特征及风险因素差异方面的研究相对较少。大多数肝癌都是由肝硬化进展而来,男性患者居多,男女比例约为2:1^[6]。本研究结果显示,约91.1%(633/695)的HCC通常发生在有肝硬化基础的患者,男性发病人数高于女性,约9:1,与

表1 早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者的人口学特征比较

Table 1 Comparison of demographic characteristics of patients with early-onset and late-onset liver cancer

项目	合计(n=695)	早发性肝癌组(n=93)	迟发性肝癌组(n=602)	统计值	P值
男[例(%)]	626(90.1)	77(82.8)	549(91.2)	$\chi^2=6.357$	0.012
BMI(kg/m ²)	22.6±3.2	22.4±3.3	22.7±3.2	$t=0.632$	0.528
吸烟史[例(%)]	333(47.9)	40(43.0)	293(48.7)	$\chi^2=1.034$	0.309
饮酒史[例(%)]	242(34.8)	32(34.4)	210(34.9)	$\chi^2=0.008$	0.929
肝癌家族史[例(%)]	53(7.6)	9(9.7)	44(7.3)	$\chi^2=0.641$	0.423
HBV感染家族史[例(%)]	189(27.2)	33(35.5)	156(25.9)	$\chi^2=3.726$	0.054
肝癌破裂出血[例(%)]	52(7.5)	9(9.7)	43(7.1)	$\chi^2=0.748$	0.387
糖尿病[例(%)]	122(17.5)	3(3.2)	119(19.8)	$\chi^2=15.230$	<0.001
高血压[例(%)]	114(16.4)	4(4.3)	110(18.3)	$\chi^2=11.467$	0.001
冠心病[例(%)]	15(2.1)	0(0.0)	15(2.5)	$\chi^2=1.335$	0.248
肝衰竭[例(%)]	51(7.3)	8(8.6)	43(7.1)	$\chi^2=0.252$	0.615
合并HCV/HDV感染[例(%)]	31(4.5)	8(8.6)	23(3.8)	$\chi^2=4.748$	0.093
酒精性肝病[例(%)]	68(9.8)	4(4.3)	64(10.6)	$\chi^2=3.657$	0.560
脂肪肝[例(%)]	17(2.4)	8(8.6)	9(1.5)	$\chi^2=14.204$	<0.001
无肝硬化[例(%)]	62(8.9)	21(22.6)	41(6.8)	$\chi^2=24.657$	<0.001
BCLC分期 ¹⁾ [例(%)]				$\chi^2=6.172$	0.046
早期(0~A)	62(8.9)	2(2.2)	60(10.0)		
中期(B)	176(25.3)	24(25.8)	152(25.2)		
晚期(C~D)	457(65.8)	67(72.0)	390(64.8)		

注:1)BCLC分期分为0期、A期、B期、C期和D期。



注:其他包括失眠、意识障碍、肺部症状等。

图1 早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者的临床症状比较

Figure 1 Comparison of clinical symptoms in patients with early-onset and late-onset liver cancer

既往研究结果相似。男性肝癌发病人数较多,可能与男性群体中吸烟、饮酒等生活习惯较为普遍,以及雄激素水平较高等因素有关^[8,21-22]。本研究进一步发现,早发性

肝癌与迟发性肝癌组间性别占比有所差异,早发性肝癌组女性占比高于迟发性肝癌组,合并非酒精性肝病较多。近年来,代谢相关疾病如酒精性肝病、肥胖和糖尿

表2 早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者的影像学特征的比较
Table 2 Comparison of imaging characteristics in patients with early-onset and late-onset liver cancer

项目	总计(n=695)	早发性肝癌组(n=93)	迟发性肝癌组(n=602)	统计值	P值
肿瘤大小(mm)	63(32~103)	85(33~121)	60(32~100)	Z=2.845	0.034
多发[例(%)]	445(64.0)	70(75.3)	375(62.3)	$\chi^2=5.889$	0.015
门静脉血管侵犯[例(%)]	346(49.8)	55(59.1)	291(49.3)	$\chi^2=3.759$	0.053
转移 ¹⁾ [例(%)]	256(36.8)	43(46.2)	213(35.4)	$\chi^2=4.079$	0.043
远处转移[例(%)]	101(14.5)	18(19.4)	83(13.8)	$\chi^2=2.010$	0.156
肿瘤位置分布[例(%)]				$\chi^2=3.948$	0.047
左肝叶	111(16.0)	15(16.1)	96(15.9)		
右肝叶	376(54.1)	42(45.2)	334(55.5)		
双叶	208(29.9)	36(38.7)	172(28.6)		
肿瘤大小分型[例(%)]				$\chi^2=11.198$	0.048
微小癌	14(2.0)	2(2.2)	12(2.0)		
小肝癌	131(18.8)	12(12.9)	119(19.8)		
中肝癌	117(16.8)	12(12.9)	105(17.4)		
大肝癌	198(28.5)	22(23.7)	176(29.2)		
巨块型肝癌	171(24.6)	31(33.3)	140(23.3)		
弥漫型肝癌	64(9.2)	14(15.1)	50(8.3)		

注:1)包括肝内、肝周及远处转移。

表3 早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者的肝脏评分、实验室检查、泛炎症因子比较
Table 3 Comparison of liver scores, laboratory test results, and pan-inflammatory markers between early-onset and late-onset liver cancer

项目	总计(n=695)	早发性肝癌组(n=93)	迟发性肝癌组(n=602)	统计值	P值
AFP($\mu\text{g/L}$)	277(13~16 183)	3 445(54~60 500)	218(12~11 060)	Z=3.261	0.001
FIB-4 指数	5.3(2.5~9.2)	2.8(1.4~5.7)	5.6(2.8~9.4)	Z=5.054	<0.001
HBeAg 阳性[例(%)]	120(17.3)	25(26.9)	95(15.8)	$\chi^2=6.949$	0.008
HBsAg \leq 1 500 IU/mL[例(%)]	466(67.1)	54(58.1)	412(68.4)	$\chi^2=3.924$	0.048
log ₁₀ HBV DNA	3.3(2.0~4.9)	4.2(2.6~5.4)	3.2(2.0~4.8)	Z=3.568	<0.001
WBC($\times 10^9/\text{L}$)	6.2(4.4~9.0)	7.6(5.5~10.2)	6.1(4.3~8.7)	Z=3.505	<0.001
Hb(g/L)	115(95~134)	121(101~140)	115(94~134)	Z=2.104	0.035
PLT($\times 10^9/\text{L}$)	143(83~215)	186(113~274)	134(81~202)	Z=3.831	<0.001
NLR	4.4(2.7~6.7)	5.1(3.5~7.8)	4.3(2.7~6.5)	Z=2.848	0.004
PLR	133.4(85.4~202.0)	175.4(117.5~264.8)	125.9(83.7~193.5)	Z=3.829	<0.001
LMR	2.0(1.3~3.1)	1.6(1.2~2.6)	2.1(1.4~3.1)	Z=2.445	0.014
TBil($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	31.1(15.7~80.7)	40.9(15.4~166.7)	30.4(15.7~71.9)	Z=2.054	0.040
ALT(U/L)	43.3(25.0~78.3)	54.6(32.2~93.9)	41.0(23.9~74.8)	Z=2.964	0.003
Alb(g/L)	33.7 \pm 5.9	35.2 \pm 5.6	33.5 \pm 6.0	t=2.529	0.012
Cr($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	78.0(65.2~93.0)	69.0(56.3~84.3)	78.6(66.6~94.0)	Z=4.283	<0.001
TC(mmol/L)	3.8(3.0~4.8)	4.2(3.2~4.9)	3.8(2.9~4.7)	Z=2.139	0.032
PT(s)	15.4(14.3~17.3)	15.4(14.0~17.4)	15.4(14.3~17.3)	Z=0.454	0.650
INR	1.2(1.1~1.4)	1.2(1.0~1.4)	1.2(1.1~1.4)	Z=0.635	0.525

病,是全球早发性肝癌增长较快的风险因素^[18],且赵海潮等^[23]在研究中提到,与病毒感染导致的HCC相比,50%的酒精性肝病相关HCC患者在没有肝硬化的基础上发展为肝癌,这可能与早发性肝癌发生有关。尽管脂肪肝和慢性乙型肝炎(CHB)均为肝癌的已知病因,但两者共存是否增加肝癌发生风险尚无定论。部分研究显

示,CHB合并脂肪肝患者的肝癌风险降低,但更多证据支持二者共存会增加肝癌发生风险^[24-27]。脂肪肝与HBV之间存在复杂的相互作用^[28]:一方面,脂肪肝可能通过降低HBV DNA水平和HBsAg清除率来抑制HBV的病毒活性^[29];另一方面,脂肪肝通过代谢紊乱、慢性炎症、内质网应激和免疫微环境失衡等机制,与HBV感染协同作

用,加速肝细胞损伤、纤维化和基因组不稳定性,最终促进肝癌发生^[29-32]。此外,HBV基因组整合、HBV X蛋白的致癌效应以及cccDNA的持续存在进一步加剧了这一过程^[30]。脂肪肝还通过肠道菌群失调和表观遗传学改变为肝癌提供多重致癌压力^[30]。既往一项动物实验发现,在CHB和非酒精性脂肪性肝病小鼠模型中,HBV复制减少,推测其机制可能包括两方面:一方面饱和脂肪酸可能作为Toll样受体(TLR)4的潜在配体,通过髓样分化因子88(MyD88)激活TLR4信号通路,触发肥胖个体的免疫反应;另一方面,在非酒精性脂肪性肝炎阶段,TLR的高表达可进一步增强肝脏的先天免疫反应,并伴随着适应性免疫细胞的浸润和激活增加^[33]。与此不同的是,Tourkochristou等^[32]发现TLR4、MyD88信号通路的激活可引发促炎症细胞因子(如肿瘤坏死因子 α 、白细胞介素6、白细胞介素1 β 、白细胞介素8和转化生长因子 β)的释放,从而加速肝癌进展,激活Kupffer细胞和肝星状细胞,促进肝纤维化和肝硬化的发生。对于正在接受抗病毒药物治疗的CHB合并代谢功能障碍相关脂肪性肝病患者,定期监测ALT和HBV DNA水平,并及时对不良反应进行干预,是改善患者预后的关键措施^[34]。

既往研究关于早发性肝癌患者的长期预后尚存在争议,这可能与患者个体差异以及接受的治疗方式不同密切相关,如患者的肿瘤分期、肝储备功能等因素均可能对其预后产生影响。然而,由于本研究随访年限的限制以及部分资料的缺失,未能进一步对早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌进行预后生存比较,但对与肝癌预后相关的资料进行了深入分析。本研究发现,7.9%患者确诊时无明显症状,其中早发性肝癌组比迟发性肝癌组更容易出现腹胀、腹痛、黄疸等症状,且肝功能指标TBil、ALT水平高于迟发性肝癌组。既往有研究发现,因偶然检查被发现的无症状或无明确肝癌症状者占29.9%^[35],出现症状表现的肝癌患者往往已进展至疾病晚期,肝功能较差。此外,有液体潴留或黄疸症状的肝癌患者其生存期显著短于偶然发现或通过检查发现的肝癌患者^[36]。本研究发现,早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌患者在无肝硬化基础上进展为肝癌的比例分别为22.6%和6.8%,其中,早发性肝癌组BCLC分期较晚,肿瘤表现为多发,瘤体较大,更易出现门脉癌栓形成,多发转移,以巨块型肝癌、大肝癌为主,弥漫型肝癌比例更高,且其泛炎症指标PLR、NLR指标高,LMR指标低。并非所有肝癌患者均有肝硬化基础,有研究显示,早发性肝癌具有较低潜在肝硬化发生率,提示年轻肝癌患者可能未经过肝硬化直接进展为肝

癌,起病更隐匿,危害更大,这表明早发性肝癌可能具有不同生物学行为^[10,37-38]。BCLC分期是目前常用的肝癌分期系统之一,能够较好提示患者的预后,BCLC 0~A期、B期、C期和D期HCC患者的预期中位生存期分别为>5年、2.5年、2年和3个月^[39],BCLC分期越晚,其生存预后越差。泛炎症指标如NLR、PLR和LMR,是近年来研究较多的炎症标志物,这些指标能够反映机体的系统性炎症状态,与肝癌的发生、进展和预后密切相关,高水平的NLR、PLR和低水平的LMR通常与更差的预后相关^[40-41]。既往研究报道,早发性肝癌患者肿瘤特性、肝功能状态可能偏向晚期表现,在没有肝硬化的基础上发生^[9,13,42-43]。早发性肝癌携带的病毒时间较短,其发生与某些风险因素密切相关,研究发现,早发性肝癌与乙型肝炎或肝癌家族史、吸烟史、HBV基因型、HBV DNA水平有关^[8,42,44]。出生国家与种族为早发性肝癌危险因素,可能与当地医疗条件较差、乙型肝炎疫苗接种率低、肝炎病毒早期暴露和饮食问题(如黄曲霉素暴露)有关^[45]。基于早发性肝癌不同临床特征表现及预后,映射着其发生机制可能与迟发性肝癌不同。一项研究发现,早发性肝癌患者多为HBV B2基因型,且其8q24区域的c-Myc与浆细胞瘤变异易位基因1基因断裂点出现频率高于迟发性肝癌患者(12.4% vs 1.4%),因此,该研究推测HBV整合该位点可能促使c-Myc、浆细胞瘤变异易位基因1及微小RNA-1204过表达,从而潜在推动早发性肝癌的发展^[46]。Yang等^[47]研究发现,早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌在基因突变谱上存在显著差异,特别是在Hippo信号通路变异和DNA损伤修复通路基因方面,Hippo信号通路变异在早发性肝癌中更为常见,而DNA损伤修复通路基因在早发性和迟发性肝癌患者中的分布模式也显著不同,这些基因及通路的改变可能与肝癌的发生发展相关。但关于早发性肝癌的发病机制目前仍有许多未知之处,仍需进一步研究。

本研究为单中心回顾性研究,存在一定的局限性:仅对早发性肝癌与迟发性肝癌临床特点及症状表现作分析,对于早发性肝癌的风险因素及预测因子未进一步探索,缺乏长期随访资料,对于基因、分子、细胞等层面无法进一步研究。因此,本研究的结论需在更大样本量、前瞻性长期队列随访预后的研究中进行验证,同时增加家族因素、生活方式、孕期不良因素暴露和遗传(如宿主或病毒基因)等风险因素分析,获取更多的肿瘤生物学特征,并挖掘出肝癌早筛新型分子标志物,更早地进入筛查阶段、改进监测和治疗策略,有助于肝癌的早期发现和治疗。

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