

· 病毒性肝炎 ·

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ALT持续低水平慢性HBV感染者中ALT不治疗阈值或正常值上限与肝脏病理损伤的关系

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摘要: 目的 分析不同血清ALT不治疗阈值或正常值上限(ULN)判断慢性HBV感染者显著肝组织病理损伤的意义, 以期临床诊治提供指导。方法 选取2015年1月—2023年12月于宁波市第二医院住院接受肝穿刺活检及组织病理学检查、ALT持续 ≤ 40 U/L, 且HBV DNA阳性(>30 IU/mL)的慢性HBV感染者733例, 根据ALT的治疗阈值或ULN分为一组(男性 ≤ 35 U/L、女性 ≤ 25 U/L)575例、二组(男性 ≤ 30 U/L、女性 ≤ 19 U/L)430例、三组(男性 ≤ 27 U/L、女性 ≤ 24 U/L)443例、四组(≤ 25 U/L)446例、五组(男性 >35 U/L、女性 >25 U/L)158例、六组(男性 $>30 \sim \leq 35$ U/L、女性 $>19 \sim \leq 25$ U/L)145例。通过比较二、五、六组, 分析不同ALT水平与肝脏病理损伤的严重程度及显著肝脏病理损伤构成比的关系; 通过比较一、二、三、四组, 探究不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值对肝脏炎症活动度分级(G)和肝纤维化分期(S)以及治疗指征的判断价值。正态分布的计量资料两组间比较采用成组 t 检验; 多组间比较采用单因素方差分析, 进一步两两比较采用LSD- t 检验或Tambane's检验。非正态分布的计量资料两组间比较采用Mann-Whitney U 检验; 多组间比较及进一步两两比较均采用Kruskal-Wallis H 检验。计数资料组间比较采用 χ^2 检验或Fisher精确概率法; 等级资料采用Ridit分析。以肝脏病理是否符合治疗指征($\geq G2$ 和/或 $\geq S2$)为因变量, 以可能影响因变量且有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)的相关因素为自变量, 行多因素Logistic回归分析(向前步进法)。绘制受试者操作特征曲线(ROC曲线), 应用ROC曲线下面积(AUC)并结合敏感度、特异度、阳性预测值、阴性预测值、阳性似然比和阴性似然比评价不同ALT不治疗阈值的诊断价值。结果 733例患者中, $\geq G2$ 者占35.33%(259例), $\geq S2$ 者占28.79%(211例), 有治疗指征者($\geq G2$ 和/或 $\geq S2$)占41.75%(306例)。二组、五组、六组患者炎症活动度分级($G0 \sim G4$)比较, 差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=22.869, P < 0.001$); 3组间 $\geq G2$ 和 $\geq G3$ 构成比比较, 差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为21.742、14.921, P 值分别为 <0.001 、 0.001)。二组、五组、六组患者肝纤维化分期($S0 \sim S4$)比较, 差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=16.565, P < 0.001$); 3组间 $\geq S2$ 、 $\geq S3$ 和 $S4$ 构成比比较, 差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为13.264、13.050、6.260, P 值分别为0.001、0.001、0.044)。二组、五组、六组无治疗指征和有治疗指征构成比比较, 差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=20.728, P < 0.001$)。二组、五组、六组间男性构成比($\chi^2=24.836$)、年龄($F=5.710$)、ALT水平($F=473.193$)、AST水平($F=107.774$)、ALT/AST($F=40.167$)、GGT水平($H=15.463$)、APRI(AST/PLT比率指数)($H=63.024$)和LIF-5(肝脏炎症和肝纤维化5项指数)($H=46.397$)比较, 差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)。一组~四组有治疗指征患者的HBeAg阳性构成比、PLT和HBV DNA水平均低于无治疗指征患者, 而年龄、ALT、AST、GGT、APRI、FIB-4(肝纤维化4因子指数)及LIF-5均高于无治疗指征患者, 差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)。Logistic回归分析结果显示, 一组患者治疗指征的影响因素为年龄($OR=1.044, 95\%CI: 1.025 \sim 1.063, P < 0.001$)、GGT($OR=1.022, 95\%CI: 1.007 \sim 1.038, P=0.003$)和HBV DNA($OR=0.839, 95\%CI: 0.765 \sim 0.919, P < 0.001$); 二组为HBeAg($OR=1.978, 95\%CI: 1.269 \sim 3.082, P=0.003$)、年龄($OR=1.048, 95\%CI: 1.025 \sim 1.071, P < 0.001$)、GGT($OR=1.016, 95\%CI: 1.001 \sim 1.031, P=0.041$)和PLT($OR=0.995, 95\%CI: 0.991 \sim 1.000, P=0.049$); 三组为年龄($OR=1.040, 95\%CI: 1.014 \sim 1.066, P=0.002$)、ALT($OR=1.047, 95\%CI: 1.005 \sim 1.092, P=0.029$)、HBV DNA($OR=0.817, 95\%CI: 0.736 \sim 0.907, P < 0.001$)和LIF-5($OR=7.382, 95\%CI: 1.151 \sim 47.330, P=0.035$); 四组为年龄($OR=1.054, 95\%CI: 1.031 \sim 1.077, P < 0.001$)、ALT($OR=1.061, 95\%CI: 1.016 \sim 1.107, P=0.008$)和HBV DNA($OR=0.825, 95\%CI: 0.743 \sim 0.917, P < 0.001$)。一组~四组判断肝组织 $\geq G2$ 、 $\geq S2$ 、治疗指征的

AUC均 <0.7 ;一组判断治疗指征的敏感度最低(28.76%),特异度、阳性预测值、阳性似然比、阴性似然比均最高;二组的敏感度及阴性预测值最高,阴性似然比最低;三组与四组各项指标均较为接近。结论 ALT持续低水平慢性HBV感染者肝脏病理损伤的严重程度及显著肝脏病理损伤的构成比随ALT水平的降低而降低,较高的ALT不治疗阈值或ULN有利于诊断需治疗人群(特异度较高),较低的ALT不治疗阈值或ULN有利于诊断不治疗人群(敏感度较高)。

关键词:乙型肝炎,慢性;丙氨酸转氨酶; 阈值

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Association between the non-treatment threshold or upper limit of normal of alanine aminotransferase and liver pathological injury in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus infection and a persistently low level of alanine aminotransferase

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Abstract: Objective To investigate the significance of different non-treatment thresholds or upper limits of normal (ULN) of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) in evaluating significant liver pathological injury in patients with chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, and to provide guidance for clinical diagnosis and treatment. **Methods** This study was conducted among 733 patients with chronic HBV infection who were hospitalized in Ningbo No. 2 Hospital from January 2015 to December 2023 and underwent liver biopsy and histopathological examination, and all patients had a persistent ALT level of ≤ 40 U/L and positive HBV DNA (>30 IU/mL). According to the treatment threshold or ULN of ALT, the patients were divided into group 1 with 575 patients (≤ 35 U/L for male patients, ≤ 25 U/L for female patients), group 2 with 430 patients (≤ 30 U/L for male patients, ≤ 19 U/L for female patients), group 3 with 443 patients (≤ 27 U/L for male patients, ≤ 24 U/L for female patients), group 4 with 446 patients (≤ 25 U/L), group 5 with 158 patients (>35 U/L for male patients, >25 U/L for female patients), and group 6 with 145 patients (>30 — ≤ 35 U/L for male patients, >19 — ≤ 25 U/L for female patients). Groups 2, 5, and 6 were compared to analyze the severity of liver pathological injury in patients with different ALT levels and the constituent ratio of patients with significant liver pathological injury, and groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 were compared to investigate the value of different ULN or non-treatment thresholds of ALT in determining liver inflammation grade (G), liver fibrosis stage (S), and the treatment indication based on liver pathology. The independent-samples *t* test was used for comparison of normally distributed continuous data between two groups; a one-way analysis of variance was used for comparison between multiple groups, and the least significant difference *t*-test or the Tamhane's test was used for further comparison between two groups; the Mann-Whitney *U* test was used for comparison of non-normally distributed continuous data between two groups, and the Kruskal-Wallis *H* test was used for comparison between multiple groups and further comparison between two groups; the chi-square test or the Fisher's exact test was used for comparison of categorical data between groups; a Ridit analysis was used for comparison of ranked data. A multivariate Logistic regression analysis (forward stepwise) was performed with whether liver pathology met the treatment indication ($\geq G2$ and/or $\geq S2$) as the dependent variable and related factors with a significant impact on the dependent variable ($P < 0.05$) as the independent variable. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was plotted, and the area under the ROC curve (AUC), as well as sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value, negative predictive value, positive likelihood ratio, and negative likelihood ratio, was used to assess the diagnostic value of different non-treatment thresholds of ALT. **Results** Among the 733 patients, 259 (35.33%) had $\geq G2$ liver inflammation, 211 (28.79%) had $\geq S2$ liver fibrosis, and 306 (41.75%) had treatment indication ($\geq G2$ and/or $\geq S2$). There was a significant difference in liver inflammation grade (G0—G4) between groups 2, 5, and 6

($\chi^2=22.869$, $P<0.001$), and there were also significant differences in the constituent ratios of patients with $\geq G2$ or $\geq G3$ liver inflammation between the three groups ($\chi^2=21.742$ and 14.921 , $P<0.001$ and $P=0.001$). There was a significant difference in liver fibrosis stage (S0—S4) between groups 2, 5, and 6 ($\chi^2=16.565$, $P<0.001$), and there were also significant differences in the constituent ratios of patients with $\geq S2$, $\geq S3$ or S4 liver fibrosis between the three groups ($\chi^2=13.264$, 13.050 , and 6.260 , $P=0.001$, 0.001 , and 0.044). There were significant differences between groups 2, 5, and 6 in the constituent ratios of patients with or without treatment indication based on liver pathology ($\chi^2=20.728$, $P<0.001$). There were significant differences between groups 2, 5, and 6 in the constituent ratio of male patients ($\chi^2=24.836$, $P<0.05$), age ($F=5.710$, $P<0.05$), ALT ($F=473.193$, $P<0.05$), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) ($F=107.774$, $P<0.05$), ALT/AST ratio ($F=40.167$, $P<0.05$), γ -glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT) ($H=15.463$, $P<0.05$), aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index (APRI) ($H=63.024$, $P<0.05$), and LIF-5 (5 indicators for liver inflammation and fibrosis) ($H=46.397$, $P<0.05$). In groups 1—4, compared with the patients without treatment indication, the patients with treatment indication had a significantly lower constituent ratio of patients with positive HBeAg, significantly lower levels of platelet count (PLT) and HBV DNA, and significantly higher age, ALT, AST, GGT, APRI, FIB-4, and LIF-5 (all $P<0.05$). The Logistic regression analysis showed that age (odds ratio [OR]=1.044, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.025—1.063, $P<0.001$), GGT (OR=1.022, 95%CI: 1.007—1.038, $P=0.003$), and HBV DNA (OR=0.839, 95%CI: 0.765—0.919, $P<0.001$) were influencing factors for treatment indication based on liver pathology in group 1; HBeAg (OR=1.978, 95%CI: 1.269—3.082, $P=0.003$), age (OR=1.048, 95%CI: 1.025—1.071, $P<0.001$), GGT (OR=1.016, 95%CI: 1.001—1.031, $P=0.041$), and PLT (OR=0.995, 95%CI: 0.991—1.000, $P=0.049$) were influencing factors in group 2; age (OR=1.040, 95%CI: 1.014—1.066, $P=0.002$), ALT (OR=1.047, 95%CI: 1.005—1.092, $P=0.029$), HBV DNA (OR=0.817, 95%CI: 0.736—0.907, $P<0.001$), and LIF-5 (OR=7.382, 95%CI: 1.151—47.330, $P=0.035$) were influencing factors in group 3; age (OR=1.054, 95%CI: 1.031—1.077, $P<0.001$), ALT (OR=1.061, 95%CI: 1.016—1.107, $P=0.008$), and HBV DNA (OR=0.825, 95%CI: 0.743—0.917, $P<0.001$) were influencing factors in group 4. The diagnostic performance for identifying $\geq G2$ liver inflammation, $\geq S2$ liver fibrosis, and treatment indication in groups 1—4 had an AUC of >0.7 ; group 1 showed the lowest sensitivity (28.76%) and the highest specificity, positive predictive value, positive likelihood ratio, and negative likelihood ratio in judging treatment indication; group 2 had the highest sensitivity and negative predictive value and the lowest negative likelihood ratio; groups 3 and 4 had similar diagnostic indicators. **Conclusion** In patients with chronic HBV infection and a persistently low ALT level, the severity of liver histopathological injury and the constituent ratio of significant liver histopathological injury decrease with the reduction in ALT level. A higher non-treatment threshold or ULN of ALT can help to identify the patients requiring treatment (with a higher specificity), while a lower non-treatment threshold or ULN of ALT can help to identify the patients who do not require treatment (with a higher sensitivity).

Key words: Hepatitis B, Chronic; Alanine Transaminase; Threshold Limit Values

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慢性HBV感染是一个严重的公共卫生问题^[1-3]。国家“十三五”传染病重大专项“中国慢性病毒性肝炎流行现状研究”成果报告显示,2020年我国1~69岁人群HBsAg流行率为5.86%,估算我国现存HBV感染者约7500万^[4]。积极抗病毒治疗对延缓和减轻HBV相关肝脏疾病进展、改善预后有着关键性作用。因此,慢性HBV感染的抗病毒治疗适应证逐步放宽、简化已成为趋势^[1,5]。

血清ALT仍为反映肝脏炎症最直接、经济和重要的指标。当前,ALT的正常值上限(upper limits of normal,

ULN)或治疗阈值的判断标准尚不一致。世界卫生组织“乙型肝炎防治指南”建议ALT的ULN为男性30 U/L、女性19 U/L^[6],美国“慢性HBV感染管理治疗流程:2021年修订”建议ALT的ULN为男性35 U/L、女性25 U/L^[7],欧洲肝病学会“HBV感染管理的临床实践指南”则建议ALT的ULN为40 U/L^[8]。笔者团队前期单中心研究显示,判断显著肝组织病理损伤的ALT阈值(诊断临界值)为25 U/L(无论男性或女性)^[9];多中心研究显示,判断慢性HBV感染“灰区”人群显著肝组织学改变的ALT阈

值为男性27 U/L、女性24 U/L^[10]。但正如我国《慢性乙型肝炎防治指南(2022年版)》指出,这些ALT阈值是否适合我国慢性HBV感染者,仍需更多的研究不断验证^[1]。为此,本研究通过对ALT持续低水平(≤ 40 U/L)、HBV DNA阳性,且未接受抗病毒治疗的慢性HBV感染者肝穿刺组织病理特征及临床特征进行分析,验证不同ALT不治疗阈值的判断价值,以期临床诊治提供指导。

1 资料与方法

1.1 研究对象

回顾性选取2015年1月—2023年12月在宁波市第二医院住院接受肝穿刺活检的慢性HBV感染者。纳入标准:(1)HBsAg阳性6个月以上;(2)HBV DNA阳性(>30 IU/mL);(3)血清ALT及AST均 ≤ 40 U/L(1年内连续随访3次,每次至少间隔3个月);(4)未接受抗病毒治疗;(5)基本临床资料完整,已完善血常规、凝血功能、血液生化、肝炎病毒相关血清学标志物、自身免疫抗体、铜蓝蛋白、免疫球蛋白、影像学检查等;(6)同意肝穿刺活检并签署知情同意书。排除标准:(1)合并人类免疫缺陷病毒及其他嗜肝病毒感染;(2)合并自身免疫性肝病、酒精性肝病、药物性肝病及遗传代谢性肝病等其他慢性肝病;(3)严重精神心理疾病患者,或重要脏器如心、脑、肺、肾等器官功能不全患者,有明显出血倾向或近期使用抗PLT和抗凝药物患者,合并原发性肝癌或其他恶性肿瘤。进一步剔除:(1)肝活检样本不合格,无法满足病理诊断;(2)前期多中心研究纳入的2020—2022年患者;(3)HBV感染合并肝细胞脂肪变性。

1.2 指标检测

术前1周内检测血常规、凝血功能、血液生化、HBV血清学标志物、HBV DNA等实验室数据。血液生化采用Olympus全自动生化分析仪检测;HBV血清学标志物采用Abbott化学发光分析仪检测;HBV DNA采用ABI 7500荧光定量PCR仪检测,检测下限为30 IU/mL。依据公式计算诊断模型APRI(AST和PLT比率指数)^[1]、FIB-4(肝纤维化4因子指数)^[1]及LIF-5(肝脏炎症和肝纤维化5项指数)^[11]。

1.3 肝穿刺活检及病理学检查

术前需排除肝穿刺活检禁忌证^[12]。彩色超声确定穿刺部位并在超声引导下以一次性肝穿刺活检针穿刺(16G)。肝组织长度 >1.5 cm、汇管区的数量 ≥ 6 个,并以4%中性甲醛固定,石蜡包埋,连续切片。分别进行苏木精-伊红染色、网状纤维染色、Masson染色、苦味酸-天狼星红染色,以我国慢性肝炎分级/分期系统^[1]判断肝脏炎症活动度分级(G0~G4)和肝纤维化分期(S0~S4);采用免疫组织化学法检测HBsAg和HBcAg

等。由广州金域医学检验中心的两位病理科医生统一阅片。

1.4 研究方法

根据ALT的ULN或治疗阈值分为一组(男性 ≤ 35 U/L、女性 ≤ 25 U/L)^[7]、二组(男性 ≤ 30 U/L、女性 ≤ 19 U/L)^[6]、三组(男性 ≤ 27 U/L、女性 ≤ 24 U/L)^[10]、四组(≤ 25 U/L)^[9];ALT ULN以外的人群为五组(即男性 >35 U/L、女性 >25 U/L)、六组(男性 $>30 \sim \leq 35$ U/L、女性 $>19 \sim \leq 25$ U/L)。根据患者肝组织病理学改变分为 $<G2$ 和 $\geq G2$ (中度炎症)、 $<G3$ 和 $\geq G3$ (重度炎症)、 $<G4$ 和 $\geq G4$ (严重炎症); $<S2$ 和 $\geq S2$ (显著肝纤维化)、 $<S3$ 和 $\geq S3$ (进展期肝纤维化)、 $<S4$ 和 $\geq S4$ (肝硬化);无治疗指征($<G2$ 和 $<S2$)和有治疗指征($\geq G2$ 和/或 $\geq S2$)。通过比较二、五、六组,分析不同ALT水平肝脏病理损伤的严重程度及显著肝脏病理损伤的构成比;通过比较一、二、三、四组,探究不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值对肝脏炎症活动度分级和肝纤维化分期以及肝组织病理治疗指征的判断价值。

1.5 统计学方法

应用SPSS 27.0.1软件进行统计学处理。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;多组间比较采用单因素方差分析,进一步两两比较采用LSD- t 检验或Tamhane's检验。非正态分布的计量资料以 $M(P_{25} \sim P_{75})$ 表示,两组间比较采用Mann-Whitney U 检验;多组间比较及进一步两两比较均采用Kruskal-Wallis H 检验。计数资料组间比较采用 χ^2 检验或Fisher精确概率法;等级资料采用Ridit分析^[13]。以肝脏病理是否符合治疗指征($\geq G2$ 和/或 $\geq S2$)为因变量,以可能影响因变量且有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)的相关因素为自变量,行多因素Logistic回归分析(向前步进法)。绘制受试者操作特征曲线(ROC曲线),应用ROC曲线下面积(AUC)并结合敏感度、特异度、阳性预测值(PPV)、阴性预测值(NPV)、阳性似然比和阴性似然比评价不同ALT不治疗阈值的诊断价值。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 入组患者的肝组织病理学改变

共选取1 036例慢性HBV感染者,剔除2020—2022年的患者199例和HBV感染合并肝细胞脂肪变性104例,最终纳入733例,其中男373例,女360例,年龄13~73岁,平均(36.82 \pm 10.82)岁。733例患者中,一组575例、二组430例、三组443例、四组446例、五组158例、六组145例。所有入组患者肝脏炎症活动度分级G0、G1、G2、G3、G4分别有101例(13.78%)、373例(50.89%)、212例(28.92%)、45例(6.14%)和2例(0.27%), $\geq G2$ 患者259例(35.33%);肝纤维化分期S0、S1、

S2、S3、S4分别有147例(20.05%)、375例(51.16%)、121例(16.51%)、56例(7.64%)和34例(4.64%)，≥S2患者211例(28.79%)；无治疗指征患者427例(58.25%)，有治疗指征患者306例(41.75%)。

二组、五组及六组患者炎症活动度分级差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=22.869, P<0.001$)；3组Ridit值分别为0.462、0.586、0.518，其中二组的Ridit值最低，五组最高，两组Ridit值比较，差异有统计学意义($F=11.082, P<0.001$)。3组间≥G2和≥G3构成比比较，差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为21.742、14.921， P 值分别为 <0.001 、 0.001)；其中二组≥G2和≥G3构成比均最低，与其他两组≥G2和≥G3构成比相比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05) (表1、2)。

二组、五组、六组患者肝纤维化分期差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=16.565, P<0.001$)；3组Ridit值分别为0.465、0.564、0.533，其中二组的Ridit值最低，五组最高，二组与五组、六组Ridit值比较，差异均有统计学意义(F 值分别为7.054、3.103， P 值分别为0.001、0.045)。3组间≥S2、≥S3和S4构成比比较，差异均有统计学意义(χ^2 值分别为13.264、13.050、6.260， P 值分别为0.001、0.001、0.044)。二组≥S2、≥S3

和S4构成比均最低，与其他两组≥S2、≥S3构成比比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)；二组与六组S4构成比比较，差异亦有统计学意义($P<0.05$) (表1、2)。

二组、五组、六组患者无治疗指征和有治疗指征构成比比较，差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=20.728, P<0.001$)，其中五组有治疗指征的构成比最高，二组最低；二组与其他两组有治疗指征构成比比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05) (表2)。

2.2 ALT不同水平患者的基线特征比较 二组、五组、六组患者男性占比比较，差异有统计学意义($P<0.001$)，其中二组男性患者占比最高，与其余两组比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)。3组间年龄、ALT、AST、ALT/AST、GGT、APRI、LIF-5比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)。其中二组的年龄与六组比较，差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$)；二组的ALT、AST、ALT/AST、APRI、LIF-5最低，五组最高，二组与五组、六组的ALT、AST、ALT/AST、APRI、LIF-5比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)；五组与六组的ALT、AST、ALT/AST、APRI、LIF-5比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)；五组的GGT水平最高，与二组、六组比较，差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05) (表3)。

表1 不同ALT分组间的肝组织病理学比较

Table 1 The histopathological changes in the liver associated with different ALT groups

项目	总计($n=733$)	二组($n=430$)	五组($n=158$)	六组($n=145$)	χ^2 值	P 值
炎症活动度分级[例(%)]					22.869	<0.001
G0	101(13.78)	68(15.81)	9(5.70)	24(16.55)		
G1	373(50.89)	238(55.35)	72(45.57)	63(43.45)		
G2	212(28.92)	109(25.35)	61(38.61)	42(28.97)		
G3	45(6.14)	14(3.26)	15(9.49)	16(11.03)		
G4	2(0.27)	1(0.23)	1(0.63)	0(0.00)		
肝纤维化分期[例(%)]					16.565	<0.001
S0	147(20.05)	102(23.72)	21(13.29)	24(16.55)		
S1	375(51.16)	225(52.33)	76(48.10)	74(51.03)		
S2	121(16.51)	66(15.35)	33(20.89)	22(15.17)		
S3	56(7.64)	23(5.35)	20(12.66)	13(8.97)		
S4	34(4.64)	14(3.26)	8(5.06)	12(8.28)		

表2 不同ALT分组间肝组织病理学及治疗指征比较

Table 2 The histopathological changes in the liver and treatment indication associated with different ALT groups

组别	炎症活动度分级[例(%)]			肝纤维化分期[例(%)]			治疗指征[例(%)]	
	≥G2	≥G3	G4	≥S2	≥S3	S4	无治疗指征	有治疗指征
总计($n=733$)	259(35.33)	47(6.41)	2(0.27)	211(28.79)	90(12.28)	34(4.64)	427(58.25)	306(41.75)
二组($n=430$)	124(28.84)	15(3.49)	1(0.23)	103(23.95)	37(8.60)	14(3.26)	278(64.65)	152(35.35)
五组($n=158$)	77(48.73) ¹⁾	16(10.13) ¹⁾	1(0.63)	61(38.61) ¹⁾	28(17.72) ¹⁾	8(5.06)	70(44.30)	88(55.70) ¹⁾
六组($n=145$)	58(40.00) ¹⁾	16(11.03) ¹⁾	0(0.00)	47(32.41) ¹⁾	25(17.24) ¹⁾	12(8.28) ¹⁾	79(54.48)	66(45.52) ¹⁾
χ^2 值	21.742	14.921	1.175	13.264	13.050	6.260	20.728	
P 值	<0.001	0.001	0.556	0.001	0.001	0.044	<0.001	

注：与二组比较，1) $P<0.05$ 。

2.3 根据肝组织病理学分组的临床特征比较 一组~四组有治疗指征患者的HBeAg阳性构成比、PLT和HBV DNA水平均低于无治疗指征患者,而年龄、ALT、AST、GGT、APRI、FIB-4及LIF-5均高于无治疗指征患者,差异均有统计学意义(P 值均 <0.05)(表4)。

2.4 治疗指征的影响因素分析 多因素Logistic回归分析结果显示,一组患者治疗指征的影响因素为年龄、GGT和HBV DNA;二组为HBeAg、年龄、GGT和PLT;三组为年龄、ALT、HBV DNA和LIF-5;四组为年龄、ALT和HBV DNA(P 值均 <0.05)(表5)。

表3 根据ALT的ULN分组的基线特征比较
Table 3 Comparison of baseline characteristics grouped by ALT-ULN levels

项目	总计($n=733$)	二组($n=430$)	五组($n=158$)	六组($n=145$)	统计值	P 值
男[例(%)]	373(50.89)	252(58.60)	64(40.51) ¹⁾	57(39.31) ¹⁾	$\chi^2=24.836$	<0.001
年龄(岁)	36.82±10.82	35.76±10.84	37.63±10.63	39.07±10.62 ¹⁾	$F=5.710$	0.003
HBeAg阳性[例(%)]	423(57.71)	248(57.67)	95(60.13)	80(55.17)	$\chi^2=0.761$	0.684
Alb(g/L)	43.02±4.32	43.12±4.35	42.51±4.41	43.28±4.14	$F=1.464$	0.232
Glb(g/L)	27.52±3.99	27.46±4.08	27.64±4.12	27.56±3.58	$F=0.128$	0.880
AGR	1.60±0.28	1.60±0.28	1.57±0.29	1.60±0.28	$F=0.648$	0.523
ALT(U/L)	23.28±8.69	18.20±6.22	34.13±4.51 ¹⁾	26.48±5.42 ¹⁾²⁾	$F=473.193$	<0.001
AST(U/L)	23.21±6.58	20.80±5.76	28.54±5.81 ¹⁾	24.53±5.82 ¹⁾²⁾	$F=107.774$	<0.001
ALT/AST	0.99±0.42	0.89±0.44	1.22±0.35 ¹⁾	1.05±0.33 ¹⁾²⁾	$F=40.167$	<0.001
ALP(U/L)	66.00(53.00~80.00)	66.00(53.00~80.00)	65.50(56.00~85.25)	65.00(52.00~83.00)	$H=1.375$	0.503
GGT(U/L)	17.00(13.00~24.00)	17.00(12.00~23.00)	20.50(14.75~28.25) ¹⁾	17.00(13.00~24.00) ²⁾	$H=15.463$	<0.001
WBC($\times 10^9/L$)	5.31±1.37	5.28±1.33	5.44±1.48	5.22±1.35	$F=0.988$	0.373
PLT($\times 10^9/L$)	176.19±50.23	175.90±48.75	176.03±53.58	177.24±53.08	$F=0.040$	0.961
HBV DNA(Ig IU/mL)	5.88±2.04	5.83±2.10	5.99±1.90	5.87±2.02	$F=0.324$	0.723
APRI	0.32(0.24~0.44)	0.29(0.22~0.39)	0.38(0.31~0.54) ¹⁾	0.34(0.24~0.47) ¹⁾²⁾	$H=63.024$	<0.001
FIB-4	0.98(0.69~1.40)	0.96(0.68~1.37)	0.99(0.71~1.53)	1.00(0.73~1.52)	$H=1.469$	0.480
LIF-5	0.39(0.30~0.49)	0.37(0.27~0.46)	0.45(0.36~0.57) ¹⁾	0.41(0.31~0.54) ¹⁾²⁾	$H=46.397$	<0.001

注:与二组比较,1) $P<0.05$;与五组比较,2) $P<0.05$ 。Alb,白蛋白;Glb,球蛋白;AGR,白蛋白/球蛋白。

表4 根据肝组织病理学分组的临床特征比较
Table 4 Comparison of clinical characteristics by hepatic histopathological changes

组别	例数	男 [例(%)]	年龄 (岁)	HBeAg阳性 [例(%)]	Alb (g/L)	Glb (g/L)
一组						
无治疗指征	357	186(52.10)	34.12±9.83	235(65.83)	43.34±3.77	27.46±4.14
有治疗指征	218	123(56.42)	40.65±11.28	93(42.66)	42.87±5.03	27.53±3.66
统计值		$\chi^2=1.017$	$t=-7.293$	$\chi^2=29.643$	$t=1.252$	$t=-0.211$
P 值		0.313	<0.001	<0.001	0.211	0.833
二组						
无治疗指征	278	155(55.76)	33.34±9.78	186(66.91)	43.29±3.56	27.30±4.24
有治疗指征	152	97(63.82)	40.18±11.30	62(40.79)	42.81±5.50	27.75±3.77
统计值		$\chi^2=2.632$	$t=-6.554$	$\chi^2=27.459$	$t=1.084$	$t=-1.090$
P 值		0.105	<0.001	<0.001	0.279	0.276
三组						
无治疗指征	281	132(46.98)	33.34±9.65	191(67.97)	43.23±3.65	27.63±4.30
有治疗指征	162	85(52.47)	40.43±11.03	68(41.98)	42.82±5.28	27.68±3.77
统计值		$\chi^2=1.241$	$t=-7.053$	$\chi^2=28.597$	$t=0.961$	$t=-0.130$
P 值		0.265	<0.001	<0.001	0.337	0.896
四组						
无治疗指征	283	112(39.58)	33.78±9.80	193(68.20)	43.23±3.74	27.86±4.24
有治疗指征	163	68(41.72)	40.95±10.58	70(42.94)	42.88±5.25	27.73±3.74
统计值		$\chi^2=0.197$	$t=-7.226$	$\chi^2=27.260$	$t=0.817$	$t=0.335$
P 值		0.657	<0.001	<0.001	0.414	0.738

表4(续)

Table 4 (continued)

组别	AGR	ALT(U/L)	AST(U/L)	ALT/AST	ALP(U/L)	GGT(U/L)
一组						
无治疗指征	1.61±0.27	19.60±7.08	21.00±5.63	0.93±0.44	66.0(52.0~78.0)	16.0(12.0~21.0)
有治疗指征	1.59±0.28	21.43±6.80	22.96±6.38	0.94±0.39	66.0(53.0~84.0)	19.0(14.0~28.0)
统计值	<i>t</i> =1.146	<i>t</i> =-3.059	<i>t</i> =-3.838	<i>t</i> =-0.244	<i>Z</i> =-1.134	<i>Z</i> =-4.853
<i>P</i> 值	0.252	0.002	<0.001	0.807	0.256	<0.001
二组						
无治疗指征	1.62±0.26	17.67±6.31	20.34±5.44	0.88±0.44	66.0(53.0~79.0)	16.0(12.0~22.0)
有治疗指征	1.57±0.29	19.17±5.96	21.66±6.24	0.91±0.42	67.0(53.0~80.0)	17.0(13.0~23.0)
统计值	<i>t</i> =1.784	<i>t</i> =-2.418	<i>t</i> =-2.269	<i>t</i> =-0.715	<i>Z</i> =-0.090	<i>Z</i> =-3.326
<i>P</i> 值	0.075	0.016	0.024	0.475	0.928	0.001
三组						
无治疗指征	1.60±0.27	17.06±5.45	19.88±4.99	0.87±0.43	64.0(51.0~77.0)	15.0(12.0~20.0)
有治疗指征	1.57±0.29	18.70±5.12	21.33±5.98	0.91±0.42	63.5(53.0~80.0)	18.0(12.8~25.0)
统计值	<i>t</i> =0.919	<i>t</i> =-3.115	<i>t</i> =-2.737	<i>t</i> =-0.865	<i>Z</i> =-0.734	<i>Z</i> =-3.706
<i>P</i> 值	0.359	0.002	0.006	0.387	0.463	<0.001
四组						
无治疗指征	1.58±0.26	16.91±5.16	19.93±4.91	0.86±0.42	64.0(51.0~76.0)	15.0(12.0~19.0)
有治疗指征	1.57±0.29	18.44±4.74	21.31±5.93	0.89±0.41	61.0(53.0~79.0)	17.0(12.0~23.0)
统计值	<i>t</i> =0.420	<i>t</i> =-3.097	<i>t</i> =-2.649	<i>t</i> =-0.877	<i>Z</i> =-0.303	<i>Z</i> =-3.565
<i>P</i> 值	0.675	0.002	0.008	0.381	0.762	<0.001
组别	WBC (×10 ⁹ /L)	PLT (×10 ⁹ /L)	HBV DNA (lg IU/mL)	APRI	FIB-4	LIF-5
一组						
无治疗指征	5.29±1.35	183.24±46.22	6.26±2.02	0.27(0.22~0.37)	0.87(0.62~1.20)	0.35(0.26~0.43)
有治疗指征	5.21±1.37	164.76±52.12	5.16±2.00	0.36(0.25~0.47)	1.22(0.88~1.73)	0.44(0.32~0.54)
统计值	<i>t</i> =0.700	<i>t</i> =4.431	<i>t</i> =6.390	<i>Z</i> =-5.374	<i>Z</i> =-7.043	<i>Z</i> =-6.678
<i>P</i> 值	0.484	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
二组						
无治疗指征	5.31±1.32	181.65±45.25	6.23±2.03	0.27(0.22~0.32)	0.89(0.62~1.18)	0.34(0.25~0.42)
有治疗指征	5.23±1.37	165.35±51.29	5.10±2.05	0.34(0.24~0.46)	1.17(0.83~1.71)	0.42(0.32~0.52)
统计值	<i>t</i> =0.626	<i>t</i> =3.405	<i>t</i> =5.473	<i>Z</i> =-3.761	<i>Z</i> =-5.570	<i>Z</i> =-5.732
<i>P</i> 值	0.531	0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
三组						
无治疗指征	5.30±1.32	183.97±46.63	6.33±2.01	0.26(0.22~0.34)	0.86(0.60~1.17)	0.34(0.25~0.42)
有治疗指征	5.20±1.34	168.83±51.06	5.10±2.12	0.32(0.23~0.44)	1.15(0.81~1.63)	0.41(0.31~0.52)
统计值	<i>t</i> =0.781	<i>t</i> =3.176	<i>t</i> =6.071	<i>Z</i> =-3.927	<i>Z</i> =-5.618	<i>Z</i> =-5.558
<i>P</i> 值	0.435	0.002	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
四组						
无治疗指征	5.27±1.32	184.73±46.78	6.35±2.02	0.26(0.22~0.35)	0.86(0.62~1.18)	0.34(0.25~0.42)
有治疗指征	5.11±1.29	172.57±52.11	5.21±2.05	0.31(0.23~0.42)	1.14(0.81~1.64)	0.40(0.32~0.52)
统计值	<i>t</i> =1.214	<i>t</i> =2.533	<i>t</i> =5.672	<i>Z</i> =-3.367	<i>Z</i> =-5.428	<i>Z</i> =-4.904
<i>P</i> 值	0.225	0.012	<0.001	0.001	<0.001	<0.001

2.5 不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值对肝脏炎症活动度分级和肝纤维化分期以及肝组织病理治疗指征的判断价值 一组~四组判断 $\geq G2$ 、 $\geq S2$ 、治疗指征的AUC均 <0.7 (表6)。一组判断治疗指征的敏感度最低(28.76%),特异度、PPV、阳性似然比和阴性似然比均最高;二组的敏感度及NPV最高,阴性似然比最低;三组与四组各项指标均较为接近(表7)。

3 讨论

目前,慢性HBV感染的抗病毒治疗适应证逐渐扩大^[1],已经进入或接近“全员治疗”或“简化治疗”时代^[5]。HBV感染者选择通过肝组织病理来判断治疗与否的比例可能会逐渐降低,但在ALT治疗阈值降低的背景下,肝组织病理学在判断肝脏疾病严重程度(肝脏

表5 不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值分组治疗指征的影响因素分析

Table 5 Analysis of factors influencing treatment indications across different ALT-ULN or ALT no-treatment thresholds-based groups

组别	项目	B值	SE	Wald	P值	OR	95%CI
一组	年龄(岁)	0.043	0.009	20.858	<0.001	1.044	1.025 ~ 1.063
	GGT(U/L)	0.022	0.008	8.655	0.003	1.022	1.007 ~ 1.038
	HBV DNA(Ig IU/mL)	-0.176	0.047	14.199	<0.001	0.839	0.765 ~ 0.919
	常量	-1.883	0.528	12.725	<0.001	0.152	
二组	HBeAg(阴性)	0.682	0.226	9.083	0.003	1.978	1.269 ~ 3.082
	年龄(岁)	0.047	0.011	17.785	<0.001	1.048	1.025 ~ 1.071
	GGT(U/L)	0.015	0.008	4.169	0.041	1.016	1.001 ~ 1.031
	PLT($\times 10^9/L$)	-0.005	0.002	3.830	0.049	0.995	0.991 ~ 1.000
	常量	-2.160	0.616	12.310	<0.001	0.115	
三组	年龄(岁)	0.039	0.013	9.566	0.002	1.040	1.014 ~ 1.066
	ALT(U/L)	0.046	0.021	4.748	0.029	1.047	1.005 ~ 1.092
	HBV DNA(Ig IU/mL)	-0.202	0.053	14.332	<0.001	0.817	0.736 ~ 0.907
	LIF-5	1.999	0.948	4.446	0.035	7.382	1.151 ~ 47.330
	常量	-2.395	0.675	12.601	<0.001	0.091	
四组	年龄(岁)	0.052	0.011	21.932	<0.001	1.054	1.031 ~ 1.077
	ALT(U/L)	0.059	0.022	7.135	0.008	1.061	1.016 ~ 1.107
	HBV DNA(Ig IU/mL)	-0.192	0.054	12.783	<0.001	0.825	0.743 ~ 0.917
	常量	-2.423	0.659	13.523	<0.001	0.089	

表6 不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值对肝脏炎症活动度分级和肝纤维化分期以及治疗指征的ROC曲线分析

Table 6 The ROC analysis of different ALT-ULN or ALT non-treatment thresholds for hepatic histological grade (G), stage (S), and treatment indication

组别	$\geq G2$		$\geq S2$		治疗指征	
	AUC	95%CI	AUC	95%CI	AUC	95%CI
一组	0.560	0.510 ~ 0.609	0.599	0.547 ~ 0.651	0.575	0.527 ~ 0.622
二组	0.550	0.491 ~ 0.609	0.600	0.537 ~ 0.664	0.572	0.516 ~ 0.628
三组	0.574	0.517 ~ 0.631	0.608	0.546 ~ 0.670	0.588	0.533 ~ 0.642
四组	0.581	0.524 ~ 0.637	0.595	0.532 ~ 0.658	0.586	0.531 ~ 0.640

表7 不同ALT的ULN或不治疗阈值对治疗指征的诊断效能比较

Table 7 Comparison of diagnostic performance of different ALT-ULN or ALT non-treatment thresholds in determining treatment indications

组别	敏感度(%)	特异度(%)	PPV(%)	NPV(%)	阳性似然比	阴性似然比
一组	28.76	83.61	55.70	62.09	1.75	0.85
二组	50.33	65.10	50.82	64.65	1.44	0.76
三组	47.06	65.81	49.65	63.43	1.38	0.80
四组	46.73	66.28	49.83	63.45	1.39	0.80

炎症活动度和肝纤维化程度)方面仍起着十分重要的作用。

作为判断肝脏疾病进展风险和启动HBV感染抗病毒治疗的关键替代指标之一,在慢性HBV感染者中,血清ALT水平与疾病进展及预后具有明确的相关性^[14-15]。ALT持续低水平(≤ 40 U/L)的慢性HBV感染者,随着ALT水平升高,肝组织病理损伤程度加重^[16]。本研究中,733例慢性HBV感染人群 $\geq G2$ 患者占35.33%, $\geq S2$ 患者占28.79%,有治疗指征者占41.75%。肝脏炎症活动度分级的Ridit值, $\geq G2$ 的构成比五组最高,六组次之,二组最低; $\geq G3$ 的构成比六组最高,五组次之,二组最低。肝纤维化分期的Ridit值, $\geq S2$ 、 $\geq S3$ 的构成比五组最高,六组次之,二组最低; $S4$ 的构成比六组最高,五组次之,二组最低。有治疗指征的构成比五组最高,六组次之,二组最低。因此,临床上确有必要降低判断明显肝组织病理损伤的ALT阈值^[17-18]。

然而,国内外对于ALT治疗阈值或ULN的标准不同。本研究发现,即使ALT低水平(≤ 40 U/L)的慢性HBV感染者,随着ALT水平的升高,肝组织病理损伤程度加重相关的其他替代指标或诊断模型(AST、ALT/AST、GGT、APRI、LIF-5)也相应升高,与其他研究结果一致^[11,19-21]。在一组~四组判断肝组织 $\geq G2$ 、 $\geq S2$ 、治疗指征的AUC均 < 0.7 的情况下,二组ALT的ULN可能更有利于扩大慢性HBV感染抗病毒治疗适应证。

ALT水平受多种因素影响,例如人口学特征、疾病状态、生化学指标和检测方法等。因此,肝脏病理损伤严重程度还需结合GGT水平、诊断模型(如APRI、LIF-5)、患者年龄、HBeAg、PLT、HBV DNA等因素综合评估,尤其是ALT低水平(≤ 40 U/L)的慢性HBV感染者。年龄增长、低水平PLT为反映肝脏疾病严重程度的指标,已获得一致认同^[1,17]。与HBeAg阳性患者相比较,HBeAg阴性患者的HBV DNA平均水平通常较低^[22],对于ALT低水平(≤ 40 U/L)的慢性HBV感染者,若HBeAg阴性且HBV DNA阳性,或HBV DNA低中水平复制($\leq 10^7$ IU/mL),则其肝脏病理损伤可能更为严重^[22-23]。

本研究剔除了HBV感染合并肝细胞脂肪变性患者,旨在避免两种疾病状态共存以及相应的糖脂代谢异常对肝脏病理诊断和ALT阈值诊断效能的影响。本研究尚有一些不足之处:(1)本研究为单中心回顾性横断面研究,基于已知变量进行分析,难以确定潜在的影响因素及其因果关系,可能导致结论出现偏差;(2)部分患者未进行肝脏硬度检测,以致该结果未纳入分析,笔者团

队将在后续的随访队列研究中给予完善;(3)本研究的样本量偏小,后续验证需进一步扩大样本量并开展多中心研究。

本研究为验证不同ALT不治疗阈值判断肝脏病理损伤严重程度的价值提供了一定的参考。一组判断治疗指征的特异度较高,但敏感度较低;二组判断治疗指征的敏感度较高,但特异度较低。虽然一组~四组ALT不治疗阈值判断肝脏病理损伤严重程度的AUC均 < 0.7 ,但四组判断肝组织 $\geq G2$ 的AUC相对较高,三组判断肝组织 $\geq S2$ 及治疗指征的AUC相对较高,且三组、四组各项诊断效能的指标均较为接近。因此,对于ALT持续低水平(≤ 40 U/L)的慢性HBV感染者,三组、四组的不治疗阈值可能更为合理。

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