

· 脂肪性肝病 ·

DOI: 10.12449/JCH260211

内脏脂肪面积对非酒精性脂肪性肝病患者发生显著肝纤维化的影响及预测模型构建

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摘要: 目的 本研究基于临床数据,探讨内脏脂肪面积(VFA)是否为非酒精性脂肪性肝病(NAFLD)患者发生显著肝纤维化的独立危险因素,并据此构建一个有效的诊断模型。方法 纳入2021年1月—2025年4月于广东省中医院肝病科就诊的222例NAFLD患者,根据肝硬度值是否 ≥ 8 kPa,分为显著肝纤维化组和无显著肝纤维化组,并应用倾向性评分匹配(PSM)进行1:1配对以平衡2组基线资料。计量资料两组比较采用成组 t 检验或Mann-Whitney U 检验。计数资料组间比较采用 χ^2 检验。通过Spearman相关性分析明确VFA及其他指标与显著肝纤维化的相关性;进一步采用单因素和多因素Logistic回归分析明确VFA是否是NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的独立影响因素,并绘制受试者操作特征曲线(ROC曲线)评估相关指标的预测效能。结果 共纳入显著肝纤维化45例,无显著肝纤维化177例,经PSM后最终纳入90例(45对)患者。与无显著肝纤维化组相比,显著肝纤维化组的体重指数(BMI)、空腹血糖(FBG)、糖化血红蛋白(HbA1c)、尿酸(UA)、丙氨酸氨基转移酶(ALT)、天冬氨酸氨基转移酶(AST)、 γ -谷氨酰转氨酶(GGT)、受控衰减指数(CAP)、VFA水平更高,内脏脂肪型肥胖、合并3种及以上的代谢危险因素比例更高(P 值均 < 0.05)。VFA、BMI、AST、HbA1c与显著肝纤维化呈强相关(r 值均 > 0.5 , P 值均 < 0.05),ALT、GGT、UA、FBG、CAP、内脏型肥胖亦与显著肝纤维化显著正相关($r=0.3 \sim 0.5$, P 值均 < 0.05)。VFA($OR=1.040$, $95\%CI: 1.018 \sim 1.062$)、FBG($OR=2.372$, $95\%CI: 1.199 \sim 4.691$)、AST($OR=1.032$, $95\%CI: 1.003 \sim 1.058$)是NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的独立危险因素(P 值均 < 0.05)。由VFA、FBG、AST构建的新型诊断模型对NAFLD显著肝纤维化的预测效能($AUC=0.907$)优于天冬氨酸氨基转移酶/血小板比值指数($AUC=0.834$)、纤维化-4指数($AUC=0.660$)、甘油三酯-葡萄糖指数($AUC=0.656$)、NAFLD纤维化评分($AUC=0.768$),差异均具有统计学意义(P 值均 < 0.05)。结论 VFA是NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的独立影响因素,基于VFA、FBG及AST构建的无创诊断模型能有效预测NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化。

关键词: 非酒精性脂肪性肝病; 肝纤维化; 内脏脂肪面积

基金项目: 池晓玲国家中医药管理局名老中医药专家传承工作室项目(国中医药人教函[2022]75号); 广东省中医院院内专项(YN2022QN05, YN10101903, YN2022DB04); 广东省中医院优势病种专项(中医二院[2017]86号、中医二院[2020]37号); 广东省基础与应用基础研究基金项目(2022A1515110825, 2022A1515220188, 2023A1515011092); 广东省科技计划项目(2023B1212060063); 广东省中医药防治难治性慢病重点实验室资助课题(YN2023MB04); 中医药广东省实验室(横琴实验室)科技研发培植项目(HQL2024PZ033)

Impact of visceral fat area on significant liver fibrosis in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and establishment of a predictive model

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Abstract: Objective To investigate whether visceral fat area (VFA) is an independent risk factor for significant liver fibrosis in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) based on clinical data, and to establish an effective diagnostic model.

Methods A total of 222 NAFLD patients who attended Department of Hepatology, Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, from January 2021 to April 2025 were enrolled, and according to liver stiffness measurement (≥ 8 kPa or not), they were divided into significant fibrosis group and non-significant fibrosis group. Propensity score matching (PSM) was performed at a ratio of 1:1 to balance the baseline data between the two groups. The independent-samples *t* test or the Mann-Whitney *U* test was used for comparison of continuous data between two groups; the chi-square test was used for comparison of categorical data between groups. A Spearman correlation analysis was used to determine the correlation of VFA and other indicators with significant liver fibrosis; univariate and multivariate logistic regression analyses were used to identify whether VFA was an independent risk factor for significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients, and the receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was plotted to assess the predictive performance of related indicators. **Results** A total of 45 patients with significant liver fibrosis and 177 patients without significant liver fibrosis were enrolled, and after PSM, 90 patients (45 pairs) were finally included in analysis. Compared with the non-significant fibrosis group, the significant fibrosis group had significantly higher levels of body mass index (BMI), fasting blood glucose (FBG), glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c), uric acid (UA), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), aspartate aminotransferase (AST), gamma-glutamyl transpeptidase (GGT), controlled attenuation parameter (CAP), and VFA, as well as a significantly higher proportion of patients with visceral fat obesity or three or more metabolic risk factors (all $P < 0.05$). VFA, BMI, AST, and HbA1c were strongly correlated with significant liver fibrosis (all $r > 0.5$, all $P < 0.05$), and ALT, GGT, UA, FBG, and CAP were significantly positively correlated with significant liver fibrosis ($r = 0.3 - 0.5$, all $P < 0.05$). VFA (odds ratio [OR]=1.040, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.018—1.062, $P < 0.05$), FBG (OR=2.372, 95%CI: 1.199—4.691, $P < 0.05$), and AST (OR=1.032, 95%CI: 1.003—1.058, $P < 0.05$) were independent risk factors for significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients. The new diagnostic model based on VFA, FBG, and AST (with an area under the ROC curve [AUC] of 0.907) had a significantly better performance than aspartate aminotransferase-to-platelet ratio index (AUC=0.834), fibrosis-4 (AUC=0.660), triglyceride-glucose index (AUC=0.656), and NAFLD fibrosis score (AUC=0.768) in predicting significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients (all $P < 0.05$). **Conclusion** VFA is an independent risk factor for significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients, and the noninvasive diagnostic model based on VFA, FBG, and AST can effectively predict the onset of significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients.

Key words: Non-alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease; Hepatic Fibrosis; Visceral Fat Area

Research funding: Chi Xiaoling National Famous Traditional Chinese Medicine Expert Inheritance Studio (Teaching Letter from State Traditional Chinese Medicine Office (2022-75)); The Specific Research Fund for TCM Science and Technology of Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine (YN2022QN05, YN10101903, YN2022DB04); Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine Specialized Programs for Key Diseases (the Second Hospital of Chinese Medicine (2017)86, the Second Hospital of Chinese Medicine (2020)37); Guangdong Provincial Basic and Applied Basic Research Fund Project (2022A1515110825, 2022A1515220188, 2023A1515011092); Guangdong Provincial Science and Technology Program Projects (2023B1212060063); Key Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine for Prevention and Treatment of Refractory Chronic Diseases, Guangdong Province Funded Project (YN2023MB04); Science and Technology R & D Incubation Project of Guangdong Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Hengqin Laboratory) (HQL2024PZ033)

非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)全球患病率约为32.4%^[1],患者除肝脏病变外,其心血管、肾脏、代谢相关疾病及非肝脏恶性肿瘤的患病风险亦随之增加,且全因死亡率随肝纤维化进展逐渐增高。研究发现,无论是否合并非酒精性脂肪性肝炎,肝纤维化的存在与严重程度均决定着NAFLD患者的长期预后,与长期总死亡率、肝移植及肝脏相关事件独立相关^[2]。荟萃分析也证实,肝纤维化分期越高,NAFLD患者的肝脏相关死亡风险也显著升高^[3]。国外研究发现,内脏脂肪面积(visceral fat area, VFA)与NAFLD的发生发展呈正相关^[4],并与非酒精性脂肪性肝炎及显著肝纤维化的发生具有一定关联^[5]。然而,国内关于VFA的研究仍然较少。因此,本研究旨在探讨VFA与NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的关系,并在此基础上构建NAFLD显著肝纤维化的诊断模型,为进一步防治NAFLD显著肝纤维化提供客观依据。

1 资料与方法

1.1 研究对象 收集2021年1月—2025年4月期间于广东省中医院肝病科就诊的NAFLD患者临床资料。纳入标准:(1)18~70岁;(2)符合《非酒精性脂肪性肝病防治指南(2018年更新版)》中NAFLD的诊断标准^[6];(3)接受FibroScan和VFA检查的患者。排除标准:(1)合并其他肝病及肝脏手术史者;(2)合并感染性疾病、急性器官损伤性疾病、血液系统疾病、慢性肾脏病、风湿免疫性疾病及恶性肿瘤者;(3)孕妇、哺乳期及近期备孕者;(4)重要数据缺失者。

1.2 一般资料收集 收集患者的一般资料,包括性别、年龄、体重指数(body mass index, BMI)、烟酒史、基础疾病等;临床数据包括肝功指标[丙氨酸氨基转移酶(alanine aminotransferase, ALT)、天冬氨酸氨基转移酶(aspartate transaminase, AST)、 γ -谷氨酰转氨酶(γ -glutamyltransferase, GGT)]、尿酸(uric acid, UA)、糖代谢指标[空腹血糖(fasting blood glucose, FBG)、糖化血红蛋白(glycosylated hemoglobin, HbA1c)]、脂代谢指标[甘油三酯(triglyceride, TG)、总胆固醇(total cholesterol, TC)、高密度脂蛋白胆固醇(high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, HDL-C)、低密度脂蛋白胆固醇(low-density lipoprotein cholesterol, LDL-C)]、腹部彩超、FibroScan及VFA数据等。

1.3 FibroScan数据收集 采用法国Echosens公司生产的FibroScan肝功能剪切波量化超声诊断仪,所有受试者均由1名经专业培训的操作人员完成检测。每次测量保证有效激发次数均 ≥ 10 次,成功率 $\geq 60\%$ 且四分位距与中

位数比值 ≤ 0.30 ;根据《代谢相关(非酒精性)脂肪性肝病防治指南(2024年版)》^[1],将肝硬度值(liver stiffness measurement, LSM) ≥ 8 kPa归为显著肝纤维化组($n=45$),LSM < 8 kPa归为无显著肝纤维化组($n=177$)。

1.4 VFA数据收集及定义 VFA采用日本欧姆龙HDS-2000内脏脂肪测量装置,通过生物阻抗技术行腹部脂肪面积检查,将扫描数据上传至脂肪面积测量分子软件工作站,测量脐水平层面腹部VFA。该检测方法较计算机断层扫描、磁共振成像更具经济性、安全性(无辐射)及简便性,根据《超重或肥胖人群体重管理流程的专家共识(2021年)》^[7],将VFA ≥ 100 cm²定义为内脏型肥胖。

1.5 代谢危险因素的定义 代谢危险因素的判定依据参考2024年发布的《代谢相关(非酒精性)脂肪性肝病防治指南》^[1],包括:(1)BMI ≥ 24.0 kg/m²,或者腰围(男性 ≥ 90 cm,女性 ≥ 85 cm)或者体脂肪含量和体脂百分比超标;(2)FBG ≥ 6.1 mmol/L,或者餐后2 h血糖 ≥ 7.8 mmol/L或HbA1c $\geq 5.7\%$,或者2型糖尿病史,或者胰岛素计算稳态模型胰岛素抵抗指数 ≥ 2.5 ;(3)空腹血清TG ≥ 1.70 mmol/L,或者正在接受降脂药物治疗;(4)血清HDL-C ≤ 1.0 mmol/L(男性),和 ≤ 1.3 mmol/L(女性),或者正在接受降脂药物治疗;(5)血压 $\geq 130/85$ mmHg,或者正在接受降血压药物治疗。

1.6 相关指标的计算公式 (1)天冬氨酸氨基转移酶/血小板比值指数(aspartate aminotransferase to platelet ratio index, APRI)=AST/正常值上限/PLT;(2)纤维化-4指数(fibrosis-4 index, FIB-4指数)=PLT \times ALT/年龄 \times AST;(3)甘油三酯-葡萄糖指数(triglyceride-glucose index, TyG指数)= $\ln(\text{FBG} \times \text{TG})/2$;(4)NAFLD纤维化评分(NAFLD fibrosis score, NFS)=-1.675+0.037 \times 年龄+0.094 \times BMI+1.13 \times 空腹血糖受损/糖尿病(是=1,否=0)+0.99 \times (AST/PLT)-0.013 \times PLT-0.66 \times 白蛋白。

1.7 统计学方法 为校正两组患者的基线水平,使用R4.2.1软件进行倾向性评分匹配(propensity score matching, PSM)。以性别、年龄作为协变量,设置卡钳值为0.04,按1:1进行PSM,以尽可能减少混杂干扰,降低选择偏倚。PSM前后的数据使用SPSS 27.0、R 4.2.1软件进行统计分析。计数资料组间比较采用 χ^2 检验。计量资料先采用Kolmogorov-Smirnov方法进行正态性检验,若满足正态分布,以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,两组比较采用成组 t 检验;若不满足正态分布,以 $M(P_{25} \sim P_{75})$ 表示,两组比较采用Mann-Whitney U 检验。相关性分析采用Spearman秩相关性分析计算相关系数,并进行单因素及多因素Logistic回归分析NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的影响因素。采用受试者操作特征曲线(receiver operator characteristic curve, ROC曲线)分析独立危险因素构成

的无创模型对NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的预测价值。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 一般资料 共222例NAFLD患者被纳入研究,其中无显著肝纤维化组177例,显著肝纤维化组45例,采用PSM方法最终匹配90例(45对)患者。经PSM后,显著肝纤维化组的BMI、FBG、HbA1c、UA、ALT、AST、GGT、受控衰减参数(controlled attenuation parameter, CAP)、VFA水平、内脏型肥胖以及代谢危险因素 ≥ 3 的比例均显著高于无显著肝纤维化组(P 值均 < 0.05)(表1)。

2.2 NAFLD显著肝纤维化与VFA及其他相关临床指标

的相关性分析 Spearman相关性分析显示,VFA与NAFLD显著肝纤维化存在强正相关($r=0.53, P < 0.001$);其他多项代谢指标(BMI、FBG、HbA1c、UA)、肝功能(ALT、AST、GGT)、CAP亦与NAFLD显著肝纤维化呈显著正相关(P 值均 < 0.05),其中BMI的相关性最强($r=0.577$);脂代谢指标(TG、TC、HDL-C、LDL-C)与NAFLD显著肝纤维化无显著相关性(P 值均 > 0.05)(表2)。

2.3 VFA影响NAFLD患者显著肝纤维化的单因素、多因素 Logistic 回归分析 单因素 Logistic 回归分析筛选出VFA、CAP、ALT、AST、FBG、UA、HbA1c、合并代谢危险因素 ≥ 3 和BMI 9个因素与NAFLD显著肝纤维化相关(P 值均 < 0.05)。进一步多因素 Logistic 回归分析结果显示,

表1 PSM前后NAFLD显著肝纤维化与无显著肝纤维化的基线及生化指标比较

Table 1 Comparison of baseline and biochemical indicators between NAFLD patients with and without significant liver fibrosis before and after PSM

指标	匹配前				匹配后			
	无显著肝纤维化组 (n=177)	显著肝纤维化组 (n=45)	统计值	P值	无显著肝纤维化组 (n=45)	显著肝纤维化组 (n=45)	统计值	P值
年龄(岁)	48.00(40.00 ~ 54.50)	38.00(29.00 ~ 52.50)	Z=-3.115	0.002	39.00(31.50 ~ 49.50)	38.00(29.00 ~ 52.50)	Z=-0.166	0.868
男[例(%)]	116(65.54)	33(73.33)	$\chi^2=0.988$	0.320	30(66.67)	33(73.33)	$\chi^2=0.479$	0.490
BMI(kg/m ²)	25.47(23.64 ~ 27.61)	30.70(27.43 ~ 32.64)	Z=-6.267	<0.001	24.67(22.43 ~ 26.88)	30.70(27.43 ~ 32.64)	Z=-5.447	<0.001
TC(mmol/L)	5.14 ± 1.02	5.47 ± 1.15	t=-1.601	0.109	5.36 ± 0.95	5.47 ± 1.15	t=-0.456	0.650
TG(mmol/L)	1.57(1.13 ~ 2.52)	2.20(1.57 ~ 3.13)	Z=-2.975	0.003	1.87(1.36 ~ 2.62)	2.2(1.57 ~ 3.13)	Z=-1.477	0.140
HDL-C (mmol/L)	1.11(0.96 ~ 1.28)	1.06(0.88 ~ 1.26)	Z=-1.597	0.110	1.09(0.98 ~ 1.30)	1.06(0.88 ~ 1.27)	Z=-1.497	0.134
LDL-C (mmol/L)	3.23(2.73 ~ 3.84)	3.44(2.89 ~ 4.08)	Z=-1.532	0.125	3.38 ± 0.91	3.50 ± 0.84	t=-0.673	0.503
FBG(mmol/L)	5.11(4.68 ~ 5.55)	5.64(5.05 ~ 7.36)	Z=-4.064	<0.001	4.99(4.62 ~ 5.37)	5.64(5.05 ~ 7.36)	Z=-3.866	<0.001
HbA1c(%)	5.70(5.40 ~ 6.10)	6.20(5.85 ~ 6.90)	Z=-5.776	<0.001	5.60(5.40 ~ 6.00)	6.20(5.85 ~ 6.90)	Z=-5.041	<0.001
UA(μmol/L)	396.56 ± 100.19	482.16 ± 113.60	t=-4.977	<0.001	407.31 ± 103.91	482.16 ± 113.60	t=-3.261	0.002
ALT(U/L)	26.00 (18.00 ~ 55.50)	97.00 (46.50 ~ 113.00)	Z=-5.900	<0.001	27.00 (20.00 ~ 65.00)	97.00 (46.50 ~ 113.00)	Z=-4.193	<0.001
AST(U/L)	22.00(17.50 ~ 31.00)	51.00(34.50 ~ 74.50)	Z=-7.110	<0.001	23.00 (19.00 ~ 35.00)	51.00 (34.50 ~ 74.50)	Z=-5.022	<0.001
GGT(U/L)	42.00 (25.00 ~ 71.00)	82.00 (54.50 ~ 131.50)	Z=-4.679	<0.001	47.00 (24.00 ~ 82.50)	82.00 (54.50 ~ 131.50)	Z=-3.301	0.001
CAP(dB/m)	279.97 ± 46.09	319.67 ± 39.65	t=-5.298	<0.001	270.80 ± 47.66	319.67 ± 39.65	t=-5.287	<0.001
VFA(cm ²)	91.00 (72.00 ~ 116.50)	122.00 (105.50 ~ 163.00)	Z=-5.391	<0.001	81.00 (59.00 ~ 112.50)	122.00 (105.50 ~ 163.00)	Z=-5.000	<0.001
内脏型肥胖 [例(%)]	72(40.68)	36(80.00)	$\chi^2=22.207$	<0.001	17(37.78)	36(80.00)	$\chi^2=16.568$	<0.001
高血压[例 (%)]	78(44.07)	21(46.67)	$\chi^2=0.098$	0.754	17(37.78)	21(46.67)	$\chi^2=0.729$	0.393
代谢风险因 素 ≥ 3 [例(%)]	88(49.72)	39(86.67)	$\chi^2=20.009$	<0.001	23(51.11)	39(86.67)	$\chi^2=13.272$	<0.001

注:PSM,倾向性评分匹配;NAFLD,非酒精性脂肪性肝病;BMI,体重指数;TC,总胆固醇;TG,甘油三酯;HDL-C,高密度脂蛋白胆固醇;LDL-C,低密度脂蛋白胆固醇;FBG,空腹血糖;HbA1c,糖化血红蛋白;UA,尿酸;ALT,丙氨酸氨基转移酶;AST,天冬氨酸氨基转移酶;GGT, γ -谷氨酰转氨酶;CAP,受控衰减参数;VFA,内脏脂肪面积。

表2 NAFLD显著肝纤维化与临床指标的相关性分析

Table 2 Correlation analysis between significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD and related clinical indicators

指标	r值	P值
VFA	0.530	<0.001
BMI	0.577	<0.001
TC	0.028	0.795
TG	0.157	0.141
HDL-C	-0.159	0.135
LDL-C	0.053	0.622
FBG	0.410	<0.001
HbA1c	0.534	<0.001
UA	0.303	0.004
AST	0.532	0.005
ALT	0.444	0.023
GGT	0.350	0.001
CAP	0.491	<0.001
内脏型肥胖	0.429	<0.001

注:NAFLD,非酒精性脂肪性肝病;VFA,内脏脂肪面积;BMI,体重指数;TC,总胆固醇;TG,甘油三酯;HDL-C,高密度脂蛋白胆固醇;LDL-C,低密度脂蛋白胆固醇;FBG,空腹血糖;HbA1c,糖化血红蛋白;UA,尿酸;AST,天冬氨酸氨基转移酶;ALT,丙氨酸氨基转移酶;GGT, γ -谷氨酰转氨酶;CAP,受控衰减参数。

VFA ($OR=1.040$)、FBG ($OR=2.372$)、AST ($OR=1.033$) 是 NAFLD 显著肝纤维化的独立危险因素 (P 值均 < 0.05) (表3)。

2.4 基于VFA构建的无创模型预测NAFLD显著肝纤维化的ROC曲线分析 基于VFA、FBG及AST构建的新型无创模型可有效预测NAFLD患者的显著肝纤维化,其ROC曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC)为0.907,敏感度与特异度分别为91.1%和84.4%(表4)。新模型的预测效能显著优于APRI(AUC=0.834, $P<0.001$)、FIB-4指数(AUC=0.660, $P<0.005$)、TyG指数(AUC=0.656, $P<0.05$)及NFS(AUC=0.768, $P<0.001$) (图1)。

3 讨论

内脏脂肪不仅是能量储存的被动仓库,也是一种活性内分泌组织,可释放多种调节新陈代谢、炎症和免疫力的肽类和激素,从而参与NAFLD的发病机制^[8-9]。既往研究表明,内脏脂肪堆积与肝纤维化以及NAFLD的预后密切相关^[10],并对脂肪肝变性、非酒精性脂肪性肝炎及肝纤维化具有预测作用^[11-12]。本研究进一步证实,VFA是NAFLD患者发生显著肝纤维化的独立危险因素。

表3 VFA影响NAFLD患者显著肝纤维化的单因素、多因素Logistic回归分析

Table 3 Univariate and multivariate logistic regression analysis of the impact of VFA on significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients

指标	单因素分析		多因素分析	
	OR(95%CI)	P值	OR(95%CI)	P值
ALT	1.019(1.008 ~ 1.030)	0.001		
AST	1.046(1.021 ~ 1.070)	<0.001	1.032(1.003 ~ 1.058)	0.016
FBG	2.515(1.465 ~ 4.319)	0.001	2.372(1.199 ~ 4.691)	0.013
CAP	1.026(1.013 ~ 1.038)	<0.001		
BMI	1.349(1.174 ~ 1.550)	<0.001		
VFA	1.038(1.020 ~ 1.056)	<0.001	1.040(1.018 ~ 1.062)	0.001
UA	1.006(1.002 ~ 1.011)	0.003		
HbA1c	5.215(2.089 ~ 13.018)	<0.001		
代谢危险因素 ≥ 3	7.618(2.878 ~ 20.160)	<0.001		

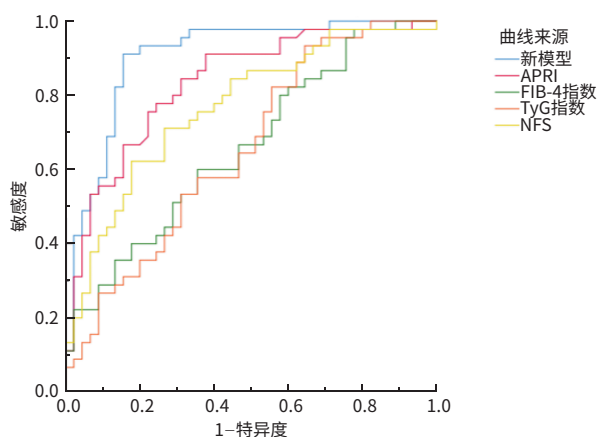
注:VFA,内脏脂肪面积;NAFLD,非酒精性脂肪性肝病;ALT,丙氨酸氨基转移酶;AST,天冬氨酸氨基转移酶;FBG,空腹血糖;CAP,受控衰减指数;BMI,体重指数;UA,尿酸;HbA1c,糖化血红蛋白;OR,比值比;CI,置信区间。

表4 各模型预测NAFLD患者显著肝纤维化的ROC曲线结果

Table 4 ROC curve results for significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients predicted by each model

指标	敏感度(%)	特异度(%)	截断值	AUC(95%CI)	P值
新模型	91.1	84.4	-0.557 4	0.907(0.843 ~ 0.970)	<0.001
APRI	77.8	75.6	0.330 2	0.834(0.750 ~ 0.918)	<0.001
FIB-4指数	60.0	66.4	0.776 4	0.660(0.549 ~ 0.772)	0.009
TyG指数	93.3	35.6	7.052 4	0.656(0.543 ~ 0.768)	0.011
NFS	71.1	73.3	-2.491 0	0.768(0.671 ~ 0.866)	<0.001

注:NAFLD,非酒精性脂肪性肝病;ROC曲线,受试者操作特征曲线;APRI,天冬氨酸氨基转移酶/血小板比值指数;FIB-4指数,纤维化-4指数;TyG指数,甘油三酯-葡萄糖指数;NFS,非酒精性脂肪性肝病纤维化评分;OR,比值比;CI,置信区间。



注:ROC曲线,受试者操作特征曲线;APRI,天冬氨酸氨基转移酶/血小板比值指数;FIB-4指数,纤维化-4指数;TyG指数,甘油三酯-葡萄糖指数;NFS,非酒精性脂肪性肝病纤维化评分。

图1 ROC曲线评估新模型、APRI、FIB-4指数、TyG指数、NFS对NAFLD患者显著肝纤维化的预测价值

Figure 1 ROC curves evaluating the predictive value of new prediction model, APRI, FIB-4, TyG index, and NFS for significant liver fibrosis in NAFLD patients

本研究结果与国外研究结果相似,但亦有一定的区别:国外研究纳入的人群为疑似NAFLD患者^[12],使该结论在NAFLD患者中的普遍适用性存疑;而与另一项同样认为VFA是NAFLD患者伴有显著肝纤维化的独立危险因素的研究相比^[5],本研究采用PSM方法平衡了两组患者的人口学特征,减少了混杂偏倚,提升了结果的可比性与真实性^[13-14]。

除了VFA,本研究还发现FBG、AST与NAFLD患者显著肝纤维化密切相关。显著肝纤维化组存在3种及以上的代谢危险因素的比例明显高于无显著肝纤维化组,而血糖异常则是其中一项重要的代谢危险因素。高血糖通过诱发肝脏脂质沉积、加剧炎症与氧化应激,推动肝纤维化的发生与发展^[15]。在NAFLD患者中,ALT通常高于AST,AST/ALT<1是典型表现,但随着疾病进展,肝细胞的损伤会导致细胞质和线粒体中的AST释放,从而导致AST高于ALT^[16-17]。因此AST往往随着NAFLD的进展、肝纤维化的发生与发展而愈发升高。

基于上述发现,本研究基于VFA、FBG及AST构建了新的NAFLD显著肝纤维化的无创诊断模型。其预测效能显著优于APRI、FIB-4指数、TyG指数及NFS。该模型创新性地融入VFA作为其预测因素,更全面地兼顾到VFA是反映肝功能异常与早期肝损伤的敏感指标^[18]。

VFA成为NAFLD显著肝纤维化的重要影响因素及其预测指标,可能与其对肝损害的潜在机制与炎症反应相关。相较皮下脂肪,内脏脂肪的促炎作用更加严重^[19],

而相较肝内脂肪,内脏脂肪与多种关键的炎症循环生物标志物更为相关^[20]。VFA与NAFLD及NAFLD肝纤维化存在显著相关性,还可能与其代谢和脂解活性较高相关。内脏脂肪的过度堆积会加剧异位脂肪沉积,使游离脂肪酸得以直接进入门静脉循环,进而影响肝脏及外周组织,诱发这些非脂肪组织中的TG蓄积^[21],当大量脂肪类物质蓄积于肝细胞,就会导致肝细胞发生脂肪变性、肝细胞损伤、炎症反应及肝纤维化^[22]。

VFA与NAFLD及其显著肝纤维化之间的密切关系凸显了针对性治疗策略的必要性与重要性。研究表明,肥胖者减重5%可使内脏脂肪减少21.3%,显著改善代谢健康^[23]。近期研究已证明,钠-葡萄糖共转运蛋白2抑制剂、胰高血糖素样肽-1受体激动剂等降糖药物可显著改善异位脂肪沉积并延缓NAFLD进展为肝硬化的风险^[24-25]。运动则是优化身体脂肪分布和改善脂肪组织功能的关键策略^[21],并有研究显示减少VFA有助于改善认知及瞬时记忆^[26]。

最后,本研究亦存不足之处:其为单中心、回顾性设计,仅能证实VFA与NAFLD显著肝纤维化的关系,无法明确因果关系,且未通过外部数据验证,PSM后每组仅包含45例患者,可能影响结果稳定性。未来需开展多中心、大样本前瞻性研究,进一步验证VFA对NAFLD显著肝纤维化的影响并探索其他危险因素,深入解析VFA参与NAFLD肝纤维化的分子机制,同时基于机制研发多靶点调脂药物以提供新的治疗方案。

伦理学声明:本研究方案于2025年1月21日经由广东省中医院伦理委员会审批,批号:YE2025-037-01,本研究已通过免除知情同意申请。

利益冲突声明:本文不存在任何利益冲突。

作者贡献声明:袁靖凯、施梅姐、池晓玲负责课题设计,拟定写作思路,资料统计学分析、绘制图表、撰写论文;赵凤鸣、林煌琦、萧焕明、谢玉宝参与收集并核对数据,修改论文;池晓玲指导撰写文章并最后定稿。

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收稿日期: 2025-09-20; 录用日期: 2025-11-24

本文编辑: 林姣

引证本文: YUAN JK, ZHAO FM, LIN HQ, et al. Impact of visceral fat area on significant liver fibrosis in patients with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and establishment of a predictive model[J]. *J Clin Hepatol*, 2026, 42(2): 312-318.
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