

• 综述 •

阴茎海绵体平滑肌细胞在勃起功能障碍中关键作用的研究进展

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[摘要] 近年来,勃起功能障碍的发病率呈上升趋势,已成为泌尿系统的常见疾病。阴茎海绵体平滑肌细胞(corpus cavernosum smooth muscle cell,CCSMC)作为阴茎勃起结构的重要组成部分,其完整的舒张-收缩机制是阴茎勃起的重要基础,勃起功能障碍患者 CCSMC 表现出多种病理变化,如凋亡增加、焦亡及铁死亡水平升高、自噬水平下降、氧化应激水平升高和表型转化等。本文旨在汇总聚焦于 CCSMC 的勃起功能障碍研究进展,阐明 CCSMC 在勃起功能障碍中的关键致病作用及其可能的治疗靶点。

[关键词] 勃起功能障碍;海绵体平滑肌细胞;病理变化

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Research progress in the key role of corpus cavernosum smooth muscle cell in erectile dysfunction

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Abstract In recent years, the incidence rate of erectile dysfunction(ED) has been on the rise and has become a common disease of the urinary system. The corpus cavernosum smooth muscle cell(CCSMC), as an important component of the penile erection structure, has a complete relaxation-contraction mechanism that is an important foundation for penile erection. Patients with ED exhibit various pathological changes in CCSMC, such as increased apoptosis, upregulated pyroptosis and ferroptosis, decreased autophagy, increased oxidative stress levels, and phenotypic transformation. This article aims to summarize the research progress in ED focusing on CCSMC, and elucidate the key pathogenic role of CCSMC in ED and its potential therapeutics.

Key words erectile dysfunction; corpus cavernosum smooth muscle cell; pathological change

勃起功能障碍(erectile dysfunction,ED)是指阴茎不能持续达到或者维持足够的勃起以达到满意的性生活,病程3个月以上,是泌尿系统的常见疾病,对患者生活质量、家庭和谐有极大影响。40~70岁男性有52%会受到不同程度ED的困扰^[1]。

阴茎海绵体平滑肌细胞(corpus cavernosum smooth muscle cell,CCSMC)完整的结构与舒张功能是正常勃起的重要基础。阴茎松弛状态下,交感神经发挥主导作用,其原因是去甲肾上腺素等神经递质释放所致 CCSMC 收缩。在视觉、听觉、触觉等性刺激作用下,副交感神经活动增加,NO 等神经递质释放增多,CCSMC 松弛。动脉血液汇入阴

茎海绵窦,其内充满了血液,使得阴茎达到勃起状态。CCSMC 通过接收收缩和(或)舒张相关信号来响应各种体液、神经和机械刺激,从而影响海绵窦血流,进而影响勃起状态。

CCSMC 位于海绵体内皮下间隙,覆盖海绵体动脉和阴茎背动脉的内皮层,并作为阴茎勃起组织的重要组成部分,其体积密度约占50%^[2-3],3D 免疫荧光显示糖尿病性勃起功能障碍(diabetes mellitus erectile dysfunction,DMED)患者的 CCSMC 体积明显减少^[4]。当 CCSMC 减少大约15%时,海绵窦无法保证足够充盈,也无法阻止血液从海绵窦回流到静脉^[5]。CCSMC 的病变与糖尿病(diabetes mellitus,DM)、高血压、高胆固醇血症、饮酒等多种 ED 风险因素均相关。CCSMC 病变发生在 ED 的各个时期,与 ED 的病情进展显著相关,主要表现

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为凋亡增加、焦亡及铁死亡水平升高、自噬水平下降、氧化应激水平升高和表型转化等。本研究综述了CCSMC在ED中的常见病变及相应的治疗策略。

1 ED与CCSMC病理变化

1.1 CCSMC凋亡增加

前列腺癌根治术后患者的CCSMC凋亡增多,是ED进展的重要病理生理因素^[6]。CCSMC凋亡与caspase-3通路和Shh蛋白的表达等因素有关。海绵体神经损伤(cavernous nerve injury,CNI)和DMED大鼠的阴茎CCSMC中,Shh蛋白表达显著降低,大量CCSMC凋亡,是ED进展的主要因素^[6]。DMED大鼠中,CCSMC的凋亡与caspase-3的上调及ERK1/2的磷酸化相关,津力达可以抑制ERK1/2的磷酸化,逆转高糖诱导的CCSMC凋亡^[7]。亦有研究者认为,CNI大鼠阴茎海绵体c-Jun的磷酸化水平增加导致CCSMC凋亡,JNK通路抑制剂可以减轻CCSMC凋亡来改善勃起功能^[8]。雄激素水平的下降通过增加CCSMC凋亡减弱了老年大鼠的勃起功能^[9]。

多种治疗方案可以通过减轻CCSMC凋亡来恢复勃起功能。通过肽两亲纳米纤维水凝胶等方式补充Shh蛋白可以抑制CCSMC凋亡并促进勃起功能的恢复^[10]。外源性H₂S可增加CNI大鼠CCSMC抗凋亡蛋白Bcl-2的表达,下调caspase-3表达,减少CCSMC凋亡,从而改善CNI大鼠的勃起功能^[11]。沙格列汀可以下调高糖导致的CCSMC凋亡,与SDF-1和PI3K/AKT通路激活有关^[12]。动脉内注射平滑肌祖细胞显著减少了CNI大鼠CCSMC的凋亡^[13]。局部应用透明质酸人尿源性干细胞,可以抑制CCSMC凋亡,从而恢复勃起功能,间隔多次给药效果更加明显^[14]。注射间充质干细胞的外泌体亦可下调caspase-3的表达,抑制CCSMC的凋亡,改善勃起功能^[15]。

1.2 CCSMC焦亡、铁死亡水平升高

细胞焦亡是一种近期发现的炎症诱导的程序性细胞死亡。铁死亡是一种铁依赖性的细胞死亡,以脂质过氧化为主要特征。越来越多的证据表明,细胞焦亡和铁死亡的失调在糖尿病并发症等疾病进展中发挥重要作用。低雄激素状态提高了去势大鼠CCSMC中NLRP3、GSDMD表达,通过促进CCSMC焦亡来抑制大鼠勃起功能^[16]。Wang等^[17]通过生信分析,发现LOX和SREBF1是DM大鼠的潜在生物标志物,并发现其与铁死亡显著相关。DMED大鼠GPX4、SLC7A11和ACSL4的表达失调,ACSL4-LPCAT3-LOX通路上调,CCSMC铁过载,增加了铁死亡水平,可以通过铁死亡抑制剂Fer-1恢复勃起功能^[18-19]。恢复GPX4表达,可以下调DMED大鼠CCSMC中铁死亡水平,改善勃起功能^[19]。人脐带间充质干细胞可以通过提高铁死亡抑制蛋白SLC7A11和GPX4的表

达,降低ACSL4、LPCAT3和ALOX15的表达,抑制CCSMC的铁死亡,有效治疗DMED^[20]。

1.3 CCSMC自噬水平下调

自噬是CCSMC的自我保护机制,在高糖环境下自噬水平下降,细胞凋亡增多,而恢复自噬可以保护CCSMC,促进勃起功能恢复。葡萄糖浓度在一定范围内(<10 mmol/L)升高可促进CCSMC自噬,从而对细胞起到保护作用,但更高的葡萄糖浓度(>20 mmol/L)会降低自噬水平,促进CCSMC凋亡^[21]。

辛伐他汀通过激活AMPK-SKP2-CARM1通路,促进DMED大鼠CCSMC保护性自噬的增强,从而改善勃起功能^[22]。二甲双胍和中药成分淫羊藿次苷II可以改善勃起功能,通过PI3K-AKT-mTOR通路,减少CCSMC过度的线粒体自噬^[23]。长期服用5 α 还原酶抑制剂可明显减弱老年大鼠的勃起功能。低雄激素状态会导致CCSMC自噬水平降低,线粒体损伤加重,CCSMC凋亡增加^[9]。利拉鲁肽治疗促进CCSMC自噬,降低氧化应激水平,恢复勃起功能^[24]。衰老ED大鼠CCSMC自噬水平减少,过表达端锚聚合酶1可以通过调节mTOR信号通路,上调LC3-I/II和Beclin 1表达,增强自噬水平,促进勃起功能恢复^[25]。雷帕霉素通过提高LC3和Beclin1的表达,增强自噬水平,抑制高浓度葡萄糖导致的CCSMC细胞凋亡^[21]。

1.4 CCSMC氧化应激水平升高

DMED大鼠有较高水平的氧化应激水平,与RAGE积累有关,氧化应激通过活性氧和自由基的形成,损伤平滑肌细胞的舒张功能。丹皮酚可以通过下调HMGB1/RAGE/NF- κ B通路来下调DMED大鼠中CCSMC的炎症水平,改善勃起功能^[26]。前列腺炎大鼠的最大阴茎海绵体内压显著降低,CCSMC中氧化应激水平升高,cGMP含量降低^[27]。乙醇摄入增加了CCSMC的活性氧(reactive oxygen species,ROS)生成和过氧化氢酶活性,以及NOX2、COX-1、iNOS、p65等氧化应激蛋白的表达,进一步诱导CCSMC舒张障碍^[28]。IR-61,一种抗氧化染料,显著改善了DMED大鼠的勃起功能,通过减轻线粒体损伤和ROS的产生,上调SIRT1、SIRT3、Nrf2和HO1表达来降低CCSMC的炎症水平^[29]。利拉鲁肽降低NADPH氧化酶表达和ROS的产生,显著改善勃起功能^[24]。注射脂肪源性间充质干细胞的线粒体可显著改善CNI大鼠CCSMC抗氧化应激能力,降低细胞ROS和线粒体ROS水平,恢复勃起功能^[30]。沙格列汀可以通过增加SDF-1表达,减轻高浓度葡萄糖导致的CCSMC氧化应激水平升高^[12]。

1.5 CCSMC表型转化

平滑肌细胞具有广泛的可塑性,在局部病理因素刺激下会发生表型转化,以适应局部环境变化。

CCSMC 在缺氧、DM、去势、前列腺炎等病理条件下经历表型转化,CCSMC 发生肥大并表现出广泛的粗面内质网形成^[27,31-35]。缺氧条件下,CCSMC 表现出 α -SMA、DES 和 CNN1 等收缩型标志物的表达减少,合成型标志物波形蛋白的表达增加,以及对应的转录因子如 Myocd 的表达减少和 Elk-1、KLF-4 的表达增加。缺氧诱导因子 1 α 敲低可有效逆转缺氧诱导的 CCSMC 表型转化,而其过表达可诱导 CCSMC 去分化表型^[36]。

CNI 大鼠的 CCSMC 收缩型标志物 Myocd、 α -SMA 和 CNN1 表达明显下降,合成型标志物 OPN、波形蛋白表达升高^[32]。Myocd 的过表达维持了 CCSMC 的收缩表型,改善了 CNI 后的 ED 或 DMED^[37-38]。

PDGF 调节 CCSMC 的表型,通过激活 PDGFR/STAT 3 信号通路,促进了向合成表型的转化,同时抑制收缩表型相关蛋白 α -SMA 和 DES 的表达^[32]。去势大鼠中 CCSMC 细胞的收缩表型标志物,如 α -SMA、CNN1 和 MYH11 的表达显著降低,而 OPN 表达显著上调,而补充睾酮逆转了表型的转化^[33]。

2 展望

CCSMC 的数量及正常的收缩-舒张功能是正常勃起的重要基础。最新的研究证实,YAP/TAZ 通路也参与 CCSMC 的松弛机制。机械刺激通过激活 YAP/TAZ-肾上腺髓质素级联反应,改善了 PDE5 抑制剂治疗无效的 ED 大鼠的勃起功能^[39]。目前,ED 的主要治疗方法是口服 PDE5 抑制剂或以药物-机械偶联为靶点的血管活性药物注射,以促进 CCSMC 松弛。然而,CCSMC 在 ED 患者中表现出多种病变,如何明确 CCSMC 病理变化,恢复 CCSMC 的数量及正常功能是未来药物研发及治疗的新靶点。

目前,评估 CCSMC 功能及在 ED 中的病理变化尚缺安全、简便且临床适用的验证方法,已有的检查手段如肌电图,二维弹性超声等在以往疾病认知中并未得到足够的认知,海绵体活检作为有创操作,亦无法判断 CCSMC 整体状态。因此,对 CCSMC 的病理变化的早期诊断及精准治疗十分必要。

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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