

癫痫患者血清瓜氨酸水平升高临床意义

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【摘要】 目的 探讨癫痫患者血清瓜氨酸水平升高的临床意义,为临床提高抗癫痫药物疗效提供参考思路。**方法** 采用液相色谱-串联质谱法筛查无脑结构性损伤的儿童或青少年隐源性癫痫患者血清瓜氨酸水平,部分患者行瓜氨酸代谢相关基因 *SLC25A13* 和 *ASS1* 基因检测,以明确癫痫病因诊断。**结果** 共 159 例隐源性癫痫病例,18 例血清瓜氨酸水平高于正常参考值上限 1.53~3.61 倍,其中 6 例行 *SLC25A13* 和 *ASS1* 基因检测,均未发现致病性突变或新突变。经抗癫痫药物治疗至少 1 年,发作完全控制率为 7/18、发作频率减少 >75% 者占 3/18、减少 50%~75% 者占 3/18、减少 <50% 者占 5/18,抗癫痫药物疗效较血清瓜氨酸水平正常患者降低 ($Z=1.759, P=0.039$)。**结论** 儿童或青少年隐源性癫痫患者血清瓜氨酸水平升高至正常参考值上限 1.53~3.61 倍时,其抗癫痫药物疗效可能降低。

【关键词】 癫痫; 瓜氨酸血症; 抗惊厥药; 质谱分析法

Clinical significance of elevated serum citrulline levels in patients with epilepsy

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【Abstract】 Objective To discuss the clinical significance of elevated serum citrulline levels in patients with epilepsy, and to provide new idea for improving the curative effect of antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). **Methods** Select 159 child and adolescent patients with cryptogenic epilepsy but without brain structural damage, screen serum concentration of citrulline in these patients by liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), and perform citrulline metabolism-related gene testing, including *SLC25A13* gene and *ASS1* gene, in part of those patients with a higher citrulline level, in order to identify the etiology of epilepsy. **Results** Among 159 patients, the citrulline levels of 18 cases were searched for 1.53-3.61 times higher than normal, and no causative mutation or novel mutation of *SLC25A13* gene and *ASS1* gene was found in 6 cases who were performed gene testing. AEDs were given to those 18 patients for at least one year. Seven cases (7/18) were free of clinical seizures, and 3 cases (3/18) had at least 75% reduction in seizure frequency, 3 cases (3/18) 50%-75% reduction in seizure frequency, 5 cases (5/18) seizure reduction below 50%. Compared with 30 cases with normal citrulline level (control group), the efficacy of AEDs in those 18 cases were significantly lower ($Z=1.759, P=0.039$). There was no significant difference between these 2 groups in basic features including sex, onset age, duration of seizure, seizure type, seizure frequency and kind of AEDs. **Conclusions** Higher citrulline level (1.53-3.61 times) may lead to a negative effect on the efficacy of AEDs of child and adolescent patients with cryptogenic epilepsy in this study.

【Key words】 Epilepsy; Citrullinemia; Anticonvulsants; Mass spectrometry

癫痫是中枢神经系统常见疾病,病因包括炎症、中枢神经系统肿瘤、颅脑创伤、脑血管病、中毒、代谢异常等,其中病因不明者称为隐源性癫痫。目前,随着质谱分析技术的临床应用,对癫痫患者的代谢

筛查已在为数不多的医疗中心开展。为探讨遗传代谢性疾病与癫痫之间的关系,第四军医大学西京医院神经内科自 2013 年开始采用液相色谱-串联质谱法 (LC-MS/MS) 对隐源性癫痫患者进行代谢筛查。癫痫既可是单独的中枢神经系统疾病,也可是其他疾病的临床表现之一,而且作为一种慢性疾病同时也可合并多种其他临床症状。瓜氨酸血症是临床罕见的常染色体隐性遗传性疾病,以血清瓜氨

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酸、血氨水平显著升高为特征,可伴癫痫发作或以癫痫发作为首发症状^[1-2]。目前对癫痫的治疗仍以控制发作为目的,虽然不断有新型抗癫痫药物(AEDs)问世,但能够获得完全控制的患者比例仅为60%~70%,并无突破性提高。究其原因,可能与目前临床所用的抗癫痫药物尚未达到对因治疗有关。因此,更好地控制发作、探索病因和其他伴随疾病或共患病,在对症治疗的同时对因治疗,方有可能获得事半功倍之效果。

对象与方法

一、病例选择

选择2013年1-8月我院癫痫专科门诊明确诊断的无脑结构性损伤的儿童或青少年隐源性癫痫患者共159例,采用液相色谱-串联质谱法(LC-MS/MS)进行氨基酸和酰基肉碱谱分析。其中18例血清瓜氨酸水平不同程度升高,男性13例、女性5例,年龄为3~22岁、平均13.45岁,均为汉族,6例行瓜氨酸代谢相关基因*SLC25A13*和*ASS1*基因检测^[3]。所有患者均接受至少1年的抗癫痫药物治疗。

二、基因检测方法

采集患者外周静脉血,提取全血基因组DNA,通过聚合酶链反应(PCR)分别扩增*SLC25A13*基因的16个和*ASS1*基因的14个编码外显子和侧翼序列,扩增产物以Sanger测序法直接测序。测序结果分别与参考序列NG_012247.1、NM_001160210.1和NG_011542.1、NM_00050.4进行比对分析,以发现截至2013年中国汉族人群已知致病性突变位点。

三、统计分析方法

采用SPSS 19.0统计软件进行数据处理与分析。计量资料以均数±标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,行两独立样本的*t*检验;计数资料以相对数构成比(%)或率(%)表示,行 χ^2 检验;等级资料采用Wilcoxon秩和检验。以 $P \leq 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

结 果

共18例瓜氨酸血症患者,男性13例,女性5例;发病年龄6个月至17岁,平均(8.47±5.47)岁;病程1~15年,平均(5.00±3.91)年;血清瓜氨酸水平45.79~108.17 μmol/L(正常参考值:4~30 μmol/L),高出正常参考值上限1.53~3.61倍;服用抗癫痫药物1~3种(表1)。其余141例血清瓜氨酸水平正常

的隐源性癫痫患者,根据简单随机抽样法随机选择30例作为对照组,男性22例,女性8例;发病年龄为6个月至7岁,平均(6.95±5.00)岁;病程1~15年,平均(5.13±3.69)年。对两组患者性别、发病年龄、病程、初始发作频率、发作类型、服用抗癫痫药物种类等临床特征进行比较,差异无统计学意义(均 $P > 0.05$,表2),而抗癫痫药物疗效差异有统计学意义($P = 0.039$,表3)。本组18例瓜氨酸血症患者中5例经抗癫痫药物和左卡尼丁治疗,2例头痛、头晕症状完全消失,2例记忆力有所改善、理解力改善,1例生活自理能力明显提高。

本组行*SLC25A13*和*ASS1*基因检测的6例患者均未发现明确的致病性突变,亦未发现新的突变,仅1例*SLC25A13*基因第12号外显子显示出1个已报道的突变位点,但未引起编码氨基酸改变,为非致病性突变。

讨 论

目前对瓜氨酸血症的诊断主要依靠临床表现与实验室检查结果的综合分析,最终以基因检测结果明确诊断。导致瓜氨酸代谢异常的基因主要有*SLC25A13*和*ASS1*基因,其突变可引起4种不同表型的瓜氨酸血症^[3](表4)。本组有6例患者行基因检测,对*SLC25A13*基因的16个和*ASS1*基因的14个编码外显子进行测序,未发现明确的致病性突变,亦未发现新的突变类型。*ASS1*基因编码精氨酸琥珀酸合成酶(ASS),其突变可导致I型瓜氨酸血症(CTLN1),表现为血氨和血清瓜氨酸水平显著升高、血清精氨酸水平正常或降低^[4-5]。*SLC25A13*基因突变可导致II型瓜氨酸血症(CTLN2)和新生儿肝内胆淤积症(NICCD),呈多种类型的代谢紊乱,如血氨、血清瓜氨酸、血清精氨酸水平升高,血清苏氨酸/丝氨酸比值增高,以及半乳糖血症、低蛋白血症、脂肪肝^[6-7]。上述两种表型均为国际公认的*SLC25A13*基因突变所致瓜氨酸血症临床表型,此外还有一种介于二者之间的表型尚未获得公认,即Citritin蛋白缺陷引起的生长发育迟缓和血脂异常(FTTDCD),是一种II型瓜氨酸血症发病之前的短暂性稳定状态^[8]。本组患者虽然血清瓜氨酸水平升高仅为正常参考值上限的1.53~3.61倍,且实验室检测结果与上述文献报道不尽一致,基因检测结果亦不支持瓜氨酸血症,但是由于Citritin蛋白缺陷引起的生长发

表 1 18 例瓜氨酸血症患者的临床资料

Table 1. Clinical data of 18 patients with citrullinemia

Case	Sex	Onset age (year)	Citrulline (μmol/L)	Duration of seizure (year)	Seizure type	Kind of AEDs
1	Male	17	108.17	5	GTCS	1
2	Male	5	76.57	1	SPS	1
3	Male	8	72.46	4	CPS	1
4	Female	12	68.41	4	CPS	1
5	Male	2	64.22	1	Absence	1
6	Female	9	62.10	6	GTCS	2
7	Female	15	60.88	6	GTCS	2
8	Male	3	60.61	1	CPS	3
9	Male	7	60.34	4	SPS	1
10	Male	4	57.25	15	CPS	3
11	Female	14	56.11	3	CPS	2
12	Male	8	51.77	13	Absence	2
13	Male	0.50	51.00	9	GTCS	1
14	Male	16	50.06	1	CPS	1
15	Male	4	48.99	4	NCSE	1
16	Male	8	46.20	4	CPS	2
17	Female	3	45.82	6	CPS	1
18	Male	17	45.79	3	GTCS	1

GTCS, generalized tonic-clonic seizure, 全面性强直-阵挛发作; SPS, simple partial seizure, 单纯部分性发作; CPS, complex partial seizure, 复杂部分性发作; NCSE, non-convulsive status epilepticus, 非惊厥性癫痫持续状态; AEDs, antiepileptic drugs, 抗癫痫药物

表 3 瓜氨酸血症组与对照组患者癫痫发作频率减少程度的比较* 例(%)

Table 3. Comparison of reduction degree in seizure frequency between patients of citrullinemia group and control group* case (%)

Decrease of seizure frequency	Control (N = 30)	Citrullinemia (N = 18)
Seizure free	18 (60.00)	7 (7/18)
Seizure reduction > 75%	5 (16.67)	3 (3/18)
Seizure reduction 50%-75%	5 (16.67)	3 (3/18)
Seizure reduction < 50%	2 (6.67)	5 (5/18)

*Z = 1.759, P = 0.039

表 2 瓜氨酸血症组与对照组患者临床特征的比较*

Table 2. Comparison of clinical data between patients of citrullinemia group and control group*

Item	Control (N = 30)	Citrullinemia (N = 18)	χ ² or t value	P value
Sex case (%)				0.000
Male	22 (73.33)	13 (13/18)		
Female	8 (26.67)	5 (5/18)		
Onset age (x̄ ± s, year)	6.95 ± 5.00	8.47 ± 5.47	-0.986	0.525
Duration of seizure (x̄ ± s, year)	5.13 ± 3.69	5.00 ± 3.91	-0.118	0.906
Seizure frequency (x̄ ± s, times/month)	5.67 ± 6.64	9.78 ± 13.05	1.243	0.227
Seizure type case (%)				0.351
GTCS	8 (26.67)	5 (5/18)		
CPS	14 (46.67)	8 (8/18)		
SPS	2 (6.67)	2 (2/18)		
Absence	4 (13.33)	2 (2/18)		
NCSE	2 (6.67)	1 (1/18)		
Kind of AEDs case (%)				0.156
1	20 (66.67)	11 (11/18)		
2	7 (23.33)	5 (5/18)		
3	3 (10.00)	2 (2/18)		

*χ² test for comparison of sex, seizure type, kind of AEDs, and t test for comparison of others. GTCS, generalized tonic-clonic seizure, 全面性强直-阵挛发作; SPS, simple partial seizure, 单纯部分性发作; CPS, complex partial seizure, 复杂部分性发作; NCSE, non-convulsive status epilepticus, 非惊厥性癫痫持续状态; AEDs, antiepileptic drugs, 抗癫痫药物

表 4 4 种瓜氨酸血症表型的血氨和瓜氨酸水平(μmol/L)

Table 4. Concentrations of ammonia and citrulline in 4 phenotypes of citrullinemia (μmol/L)

Phenotype (age)	Plasma or serum concentration of ammonia	Plasma or serum concentration of citrulline
Control	18-47	17-43
CTLN1	1000-3000	>1000
NICCD (0-6 months)	60	300
FTTDCD (1-11 years)	Normal or slightly elevated	Normal or slightly elevated
CTLN2 (11-79 years)	152	418

CTLN1, citrullinemia type I, I 型瓜氨酸血症; NICCD, neonatal intrahepatic cholestasis caused by Citrin deficiency, 新生儿肝内胆汁淤积症; FTTDCD, failure to thrive and dyslipidemia caused by Citrin deficiency, Citrin 蛋白缺陷引起的生长发育迟缓和血脂异常; CTLN2, citrullinemia type II, II 型瓜氨酸血症

育迟缓和血脂异常这种稳定状态的存在,目前并不能完全排除瓜氨酸血症的可能。因此,本组 18 例癫痫患者是否诊断为瓜氨酸血症待进一步随访观察。

本组患者肝功能试验无一例异常,亦未出现其他肝功能损害临床表现,故不考虑抗癫痫药物性肝功能损害所致瓜氨酸水平升高。其血清瓜氨酸水

平升高(正常参考值上限 1.53 ~ 3.61 倍)的可能原因是:(1)进食富含瓜氨酸的食物如西瓜等引起的误差。(2)其他代谢途径出现异常,引起血清瓜氨酸水平升高。(3)正常人血清瓜氨酸参考值设置不严谨,未考虑到不同年龄阶段人群之间的差异而采用同一参考值。

以往观点认为,瓜氨酸血症对中枢神经系统的影响主要源于血氨水平的升高,使大量氨离子透过血-脑屏障进入脑组织,与 α -酮戊二酸结合生成谷氨酸,导致三羧酸循环底物 α -酮戊二酸减少,使 ATP 合成不足^[9]。谷氨酸为中枢神经系统主要兴奋性神经递质,可提高大脑兴奋性,同时可对星形胶质细胞造成兴奋性毒性损伤,提高神经元和神经胶质细胞对缺氧损伤的敏感性^[10]。血氨水平升高造成的脑组织损害可使患者出现头晕、头痛、呕吐、记忆力减退、精神错乱、意识障碍、嗜睡、肌张力增高、痉挛、踝阵挛、癫痫发作等神经精神症状^[11];而鲜有专注于瓜氨酸对中枢神经系统影响的研究报道。本研究结果提示,儿童或青少年隐性癫痫患者血清瓜氨酸水平升高至正常参考值上限 1.53 ~ 3.61 倍时,所服用的抗癫痫药物疗效即显著降低。但动物实验结果显示,瓜氨酸对于丙戊酸诱发的高氨血症所致小鼠脑组织损害是有益的^[12],与本研究结果不符。因此,关于瓜氨酸对癫痫发作和抗癫痫药物的影响和作用机制,尚待更多的研究结果加以验证。本研究所纳入的病例中有 5 例服用抗癫痫药物同时予左卡尼丁,其中 2 例头痛、头晕症状完全消失,2 例记忆力有所改善、理解能力改善,1 例生活自理能力明显提高。反复癫痫发作和长期服用抗癫痫药物对大脑有一定损伤作用,引起头晕、头痛、记忆力下降等神经功能损害表现,而左卡尼丁为乙酰左旋肉碱类药物,具有维持细胞膜稳定、修复突触功能、恢复大脑能量水平等作用,对阿尔茨海默病和缺血性脑组织损伤的恢复有明显疗效^[13-14]。因此,可以考虑左卡尼丁作为癫痫的辅助治疗药物,以缓解癫痫发作和抗癫痫药物产生的脑组织损害症状,进而改善患者的一般状况。

综上所述,瓜氨酸血症为临床罕见的常染色体隐性遗传性疾病,本研究样本量较小,所得结果可能存在一定偏倚,尚待大样本临床研究加以证实。

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