

重视神经影像学在阿尔茨海默病中的应用

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【关键词】 阿尔茨海默病； 磁共振成像； 正电子发射断层显像术； 综述

【Key words】 Alzheimer disease; Magnetic resonance imaging; Positron-emission tomography; Review

Pay attention to the application of neuroimaging in the research of Alzheimer's disease

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伴随人口老龄化,全世界阿尔茨海默病患者已逾3500万例,我国患病人数也已超过700万例并以30万例/年的速度递增。目前阿尔茨海默病病因和发病机制尚未阐明,发病后亦无有效治疗手段,给社会和家庭带来沉重的经济和心理负担。根据2003年流行病学调查数据显示,每年仅美国即可造成约610亿美元的经济损失,其中365亿美元用于护理^[1]。鉴于此,各国学者均认为基于早期诊断的临床干预措施可以减轻患者症状、延缓病情,进而改善预后,故早期预警和早期诊断的关键技术即为阿尔茨海默病之研究重点。

2011年,美国阿尔茨海默病学会(Alzheimer's Association)在线发布了新的阿尔茨海默病临床诊断标准,首次增补了生物学标志,并对如何应用之以提高轻度认知损害(MCI)和阿尔茨海默病临床诊断的可靠性进行了说明^[2-4]。在这些生物学标志中,一类是分子生物学指标,主要为脑脊液 β -淀粉样蛋白42($A\beta_{42}$)和tau蛋白(包括总tau蛋白和磷酸化tau蛋白);另一类是神经影像学指标,包括MRI所示颞叶内侧结构体积、PET所示脑组织 $A\beta$ 沉积和葡萄糖代谢水平^[5]。众所周知,阿尔茨海默病病理诊断较

难实施,通过生物学标志物可以显著提高其诊断特异性。然而,腰椎穿刺脑脊液检查为有创性方法,难以在临床推广,而非创伤性神经影像学检查则可在早期诊断中发挥更大作用。

在2011年美国阿尔茨海默病学会公布的诊断指南中,颞叶内侧结构为MRI测量指标之一,其原因是:(1)颞叶内侧结构包括海马、内嗅皮质(EC)等阿尔茨海默病易感部位^[6],测量海马和内嗅皮质体积既可发现阿尔茨海默病早期病理改变,又对正常老龄化、轻度认知损害向阿尔茨海默病转化具有预测意义^[7-8]。(2)MRI结构像对颞叶内侧结构改变的诊断具有客观性强、重复性良好之优点,且与阿尔茨海默病病理进程高度一致^[9]。(3)MRI可清晰显示脑组织结构整体情况,有助于排除其他疾病。随着计算机辅助技术的普及,MRI结构像的自动化程度和准确性逐步提高。例如,欧美科学家和临床医师联合进行的海马体积计算机建模和测量技术研究(EADC-ADNI),制定了海马分割的标准化方案,并已用于阿尔茨海默病的临床诊断和临床试验^[10],具有极佳的前瞻性。

另一项神经影像学指标,是通过特殊显像剂进行在体PET检查以显示阿尔茨海默病的病理变化,是目前最具临床应用前景的新型诊断技术。其中,¹⁸F-FDG PET显像可以显示脑葡萄糖代谢率(CMRGlu),主要反映脑组织神经元突触活性。阿尔茨海默病代谢异常主要表现为颞顶叶联合皮质、楔前叶等部位脑葡萄糖代谢率降低^[11],且代谢降低

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程度与病情严重程度相一致,可以较好地反映痴呆程度。最早的淀粉样蛋白显像剂是¹¹C-匹兹堡复合物B(¹¹C-PIB),¹¹C-PIB PET显像可以在体显示Aβ沉积,但因半衰期过短(约20分钟)使其临床应用受到限制。作为美国食品与药品管理局(FDA)唯一批准的分子学诊断药物,¹⁸F-Florbetapir对诊断阿尔茨海默病具有较高的敏感性和特异性^[12]。淀粉样蛋白PET显像存在假阳性或假阴性现象,有研究显示,若其与¹⁸F-FDG PET显像联合应用,有助于提高阿尔茨海默病诊断的准确性^[13]。除Aβ沉积,神经原纤维缠结(NFTs)与阿尔茨海默病患者情节记忆损害亦高度相关,tau蛋白与痴呆严重程度相关^[14],因此tau蛋白PET显像也是当前神经影像学研究的热点,并已取得一定进展^[15]。但值得指出的是,我国在淀粉样蛋白和tau蛋白PET显像的基础与临床研究方面与国外尚存较大差距。

除上述结构像,MRI还可进行灌注成像(PWI)、扩散加权成像(DWI)和扩散张量成像(DTI)、血氧水平依赖(BOLD)等广义上的fMRI检查,适用于阿尔茨海默病发病机制、诊断与鉴别诊断研究。(1)PWI:无论是动态磁敏感加权成像(SWI)还是动脉自旋标记(ASL)均可显示阿尔茨海默病颞顶叶联合皮质血流灌注降低表现^[16-17]。虽然近年来PWI检查的空间分辨率有所提高,能够显示轻度认知损害的脑组织灌注异常,但对阿尔茨海默病的早期诊断敏感性较低。(2)DWI和DTI:DWI可以在一定程度上反映Aβ沉积、神经炎症性改变和细胞骨架不稳定等影响水分子扩散的阿尔茨海默病早期病理改变,但其敏感性较差^[18]。而建立在DWI基础上的DTI则能够定量反映脑组织结构异常,有助于明确阿尔茨海默病胼胝体^[19]、扣带、穿通通路^[20]、穹窿柱^[21]等白质纤维束损害发病机制和诊断。但是这些改变的病理学基础尚不十分清楚,而且DTI异常与阿尔茨海默病病理改变的一致性欠佳。(3)BOLD-fMRI:单纯指血氧水平依赖成像,通过氧合/脱氧血红蛋白比值变化,间接反映神经元激活程度。由于阿尔茨海默病累及大脑高级认知功能,包括情节记忆、注意力和执行控制能力等,因此将行为学测验的神经心理学量表设计成fMRI任务,可用于阿尔茨海默病认知功能改变发生机制的研究^[22]。其中情节记忆损害是阿尔茨海默病最具特征性的临床表现,甚至可出现在载脂蛋白E ϵ 4(ApoE ϵ 4)基因携带者^[23-24]。记忆任务的fMRI研究表明,携带突变的早老素-1(PS-1)基

因的年轻患者可于阿尔茨海默病发病前约30年即出现代偿性脑激活增强,提示fMRI所显示的神经功能异常在临床症状出现前数十年即可筛查出阿尔茨海默病^[25],这种代偿性脑激活增强符合阿尔茨海默病病理学进展之特征^[26]。由于注意力是人类高级认知功能的基础^[27],因此阿尔茨海默病注意力损害亦颇受关注^[28]。自1995年Biswal等^[29]报告静息态运动网络以来,虽然关于静息态fMRI有过激烈的争论,但是越来越多的研究证实其生理学基础^[30]。由于阿尔茨海默病患者难以完成任务,因此静息态fMRI更适用于临床研究。基于种子点的功能连接分析和独立成分分析的大范围脑网络研究,使我们从全脑角度认识脑活性,及其相对应的神经病理改变^[31],发现阿尔茨海默病患者右侧海马与后扣带回连接减弱,符合此类疾病“失连接假说”^[32]。而脑默认网络(DMN)是静息态fMRI研究的标识之一^[33],不仅能够解释任务态fMRI的负激活区,而且为静息态研究提供良好的分析平台,根据脑默认网络活性诊断阿尔茨海默病的敏感度约为85%、特异度为77%^[34]。有研究表明,轻度认知损害患者脑默认网络存在代偿^[35],符合其异质性特征;而ApoE ϵ 4易感基因携带者脑默认网络后扣带回连接减弱、前扣带回连接增强^[36]。此外,阿尔茨海默病患者脑注意网络亦存在活性异常^[37-38]。虽然,fMRI对阿尔茨海默病发病机制、早期诊断与鉴别诊断具有较高的敏感性,但上述研究均为组分析结果,尚无针对具体病例的fMRI临床研究,可能也是新的阿尔茨海默病诊断指南中未纳入fMRI的原因之一。

阿尔茨海默病临床研究尚存在许多不确定性,如合并白质改变、代谢性疾病(如高血压、糖尿病等)所致脑组织结构改变、阿尔茨海默病与其他类型痴呆的鉴别诊断或多种痴呆并发症等,均有待今后的研究和实践中加以重视。

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· 小词典 ·

中英文对照名词词汇(一)

阿尔茨海默病 Alzheimer's disease(AD)

阿尔茨海默病评价量表-认知分量表

Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale-Cognitive Subscale
(ADAS-Cog)

阿尔茨海默病神经影像学计划

Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative(ADNI)

癌胚抗原 carcinoembryonic antigen(CEA)

半高全宽 full width half maximum(FWHM)

表观扩散系数 apparent diffusion coefficient(ADC)

部分各向异性 fractional anisotropy(FA)

超氧化物歧化酶 superoxide dismutase(SOD)

痴呆残疾评价量表

Disability Assessment for Dementia(DAD)

磁敏感加权成像 susceptibility-weighted imaging(SWI)

单胺氧化酶-B monoamine oxidase B(MAO-B)

单认知域非遗忘型轻度认知损害

non-amnestic mild cognitive impairment-single domain
(naMCI-s)

单认知域遗忘型轻度认知损害

amnestic mild cognitive impairment-single domain(aMCI-s)

低频振荡振幅

amplitude of low-frequency fluctuation(ALFF)

β-淀粉样蛋白 amyloid-β protein(Aβ)

淀粉样蛋白相关显像异常

amyloid-related imaging abnormalities(ARIA)

淀粉样脑血管病 cerebral amyloid angiopathy(CAA)

β-淀粉样前体蛋白 amyloid β-protein precursor(APP)

动-静脉畸形 arteriovenous malformation(AVM)

动脉自旋标记 arterial spin labeling(ASL)

独立成分分析 independent component analysis(ICA)

多认知域非遗忘型轻度认知损害

non-amnestic mild cognitive impairment-multiple domain
(naMCI-m)

多认知域遗忘型轻度认知损害

amnestic mild cognitive impairment-multiple domain
(aMCI-m)

多系统萎缩 multiple system atrophy(MSA)

额颞叶变性 frontotemporal lobar degeneration(FTLD)

额颞叶痴呆 frontotemporal dementia(FTD)

二氨基联苯胺 diaminobenzidine(DAB)

二辛可宁酸 bicinchoninic acid(BCA)

泛素蛋白酶体系统 ubiquitin proteasome system(UPS)

Brodmann分区 Brodmann's area(BA)

风险规避模式 Risk-Avoidance Scale(RAS)

改良神经功能缺损评分

Modified Neurological Severity Score(mNSS)

灌注成像 perfusion-weighted imaging(PWI)

国际疾病分类法-10

International Classification of Disease-10(ICD-10)

过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体

peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor(PPAR)

海绵状血管瘤 cavernous malformation(CM)

后部-前部老龄化转换

posterior-anterior shift in aging(PASA)

回波平面成像 echo planar imaging(EPI)

肌萎缩侧索硬化症 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis(ALS)

肌阵挛性癫痫伴肌肉蓬毛样红纤维

myoclonus epilepsy with ragged-red-fiber(MERRF)

基于体素的分析 voxel-based analysis(VBA)

基于体素的功能同伦

voxel-mirrored homotopic connectivity(VMHC)

基于体素的形态学分析 voxel-based morphometry(VBM)

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N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸 N-methyl-D-aspartate(NMDA)

甲胎蛋白 alpha-fetoprotein(AFP)