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· 综述 ·

## 难治性抑郁症相关炎症机制的研究进展

胡 婷, 李佳美, 蒋春雷\*

海军军医大学(第二军医大学)心理系应激医学教研室, 上海 200433

**[摘要]** 抑郁症是一种危害全球人类生活质量的精神疾病, 具有高患病率、高疾病负担、高致残率等特点。目前有多种针对单胺类神经递质的抗抑郁药物可供使用, 然而, 约 1/3 的患者在接受基于多种单胺类药物充分治疗后仍然不能治愈, 此类抑郁症在临床上被称为难治性抑郁症。难治性抑郁症的具体病理生理机制尚未明确, 但随着抑郁症的炎症机制不断被大众认可, 难治性抑郁症的神经炎症也备受关注。本文从炎症的角度对难治性抑郁症的发病机制进行综述, 为深入研究其诊断和治疗方法提供思路与方向。

**[关键词]** 难治性抑郁症; 炎症; 细胞因子; 小胶质细胞; 糖皮质激素

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### Inflammatory mechanism of treatment-resistant depression: research progress

HU Ting, LI Jia-mei, JIANG Chun-lei\*

Department of Stress Medicine, Faculty of Psychology, Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University), Shanghai 200433, China

**[Abstract]** Depression is a kind of mental illness that endangers the quality of life among human beings all over the world. It has the characteristics of high morbidity, high disease burden, and high disability rate. Despite the availability of several antidepressants targeting monoamine transmitters, nearly a third of patients fail to respond to treatment after adequate treatment based on multiple monoamine therapies. The condition is clinically known as treatment-resistant depression. At present, the specific pathophysiological mechanism of the disease is not clear, but with the increasing recognition of the inflammatory mechanism of depression, the neuroinflammation of treatment-resistant depression has attracted much attention. This paper reviews the pathogenesis of treatment-resistant depression from the perspective of inflammation, so as to provide ideas and directions for further research.

**[Key words]** treatment-resistant depression; inflammation; cytokines; microglia; glucocorticoids

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抑郁症是一种危害全球人类生活质量的精神疾病, 具有高患病率、高疾病负担、高致残率等特点<sup>[1-2]</sup>。WHO 统计数据显示, 全球约 3.22 亿人口受抑郁症困扰, 患病率高达 4.4%, 我国抑郁症患病率约为 4.2%<sup>[3]</sup>。尽管目前已经有多种治疗抑郁症的药物, 但仍有将近 1/3 的患者对抗抑郁药物或心理治疗无效<sup>[2]</sup>, 此类抑郁症被称为难治性抑郁症 (treatment-resistant depression, TRD)<sup>[4]</sup>。随着炎症与抑郁症之间关联研究的深入, TRD 的神经炎症机制备受学者们的关注<sup>[5]</sup>。本文对 TRD 发病机制的最新研究进展进行综述, 重点阐述炎症在 TRD

发生机制中的作用, 以期 TRD 的诊断及治疗提供新思路。

### 1 TRD 概述

在抑郁症的治疗中, 研究者们一致认为需要多种药物或治疗方法才能见效, 并且患者在出院后需要继续干预<sup>[2]</sup>。如果患者在接受至少 2 个推荐的足疗程抗抑郁治疗后病情仍未缓解, 即被诊断为 TRD<sup>[6-7]</sup>。慢性、反复病程导致 TRD 患者常伴有其他躯体疾病, 极大地降低了患者的生活质量, 并带来高额疾病经济负担<sup>[8]</sup>。目前, 临床上对于

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**[作者简介]** 胡 婷, 硕士生. E-mail: tinghumini@foxmail.com

\*通信作者 (Corresponding author). Tel: 021-81871135, E-mail: cljiang@vip.163.com

抑郁症状“缓解”尚无明确定义, TRD 的诊断标准仍存在争议<sup>[9]</sup>。一篇系统综述回顾了 155 项 TRD 研究的临床诊断标准, 其中一半的研究将其定义为 2 种及以上抗抑郁药物治疗无效, 但是各研究在用药类别、治疗时程和病程方面存在较大差异<sup>[10]</sup>。多项临床研究显示, 抑郁症患者中 TRD 占 30%~40%<sup>[11-12]</sup>, 如此高比例的耐药性可能是抑郁症患者内在生物学特性与环境异质性造成的结果<sup>[13]</sup>。导致 TRD 的生物学因素主要有神经递质紊乱、神经营养因子不足<sup>[14]</sup>和炎症失调<sup>[5]</sup>等。在心理社会学方面, 共病焦虑障碍和惊恐障碍、抑郁特征、C 型人格障碍、早期创伤等是 TRD 的危险因素<sup>[14-15]</sup>。

## 2 TRD 与炎症的关系

研究表明, 炎症既能维护机体稳态, 也能对机体组织器官造成严重损伤<sup>[16]</sup>。早期研究显示, 抑郁症患者的白细胞计数高于普通健康人群<sup>[17]</sup>, 现在越来越多的证据表明炎症因子失调可能在抑郁症的病理机制中发挥重要作用。中枢炎症系统的过度激活可干扰抑郁症相关的各种病理生理过程, 如神经营养支持、氧化应激、神经发生和细胞凋亡等<sup>[18]</sup>。研究显示重度抑郁症患者存在炎症因子失调, 主要包括 IL-6、TNF- $\alpha$ 、TNF- $\beta$ 、 $\gamma$ -干扰素和 CRP 等<sup>[19-21]</sup>; 但有研究表明, CRP 与抑郁症的关联可能仅局限于有特定症状的抑郁症人群<sup>[22]</sup>。据此有研究者认为炎症因子激活是抗抑郁药物产生耐药性的机制之一。Carvalho 等<sup>[23]</sup>的临床研究表明, 当炎症系统过度活跃时抑郁症患者服用抗抑郁药后的症状缓解率下降。动物实验研究也表明, 小鼠脑内 IL-6 的过表达导致其对氟西汀产生耐药性<sup>[24]</sup>。同时, 抗炎药物对 TRD 患者具有一定的抗抑郁效果, 如在高敏 CRP 和 TNF- $\alpha$  基线值升高的 TRD 患者中, TNF- $\alpha$  拮抗剂英夫利西单抗可明显缓解患者的症状, 同时降低患者的血清高敏 CRP 水平<sup>[25]</sup>。以上这些结果提示炎症与 TRD 存在一定的联系。高炎症状态对抗抑郁药物应答率的影响已经成为目前研究的方向之一, 有研究者提出炎症细胞因子水平升高可预测 TRD, 可能是 TRD 的预测因子<sup>[26]</sup>, 这表明炎症可能会诱发不受单胺能神经系统调节影响的、单独的情绪通路, 并在 TRD 的发生机制中具有一定作用。

## 3 炎症在 TRD 发病中的作用机制

目前对炎症在 TRD 发病中作用机制的研究有以下几个方向。

**3.1 小胶质细胞** 小胶质细胞的过度激活被认为是在炎症细胞因子水平升高时介导情绪症状的潜在因素<sup>[27]</sup>。TNF- $\beta$  和 IL-1 $\beta$  是先天性免疫系统中一部分小胶质细胞的有效激活剂<sup>[28]</sup>。小胶质细胞的过度激活可能引起神经回路过度修剪、神经可塑性下降, 最终导致神经回路功能下降及认知和情绪调节在功能水平上的受损<sup>[28-30]</sup>。小胶质细胞的激活会导致谷氨酸代谢紊乱, 从而改变谷氨酸水平并激活谷氨酸受体, 这也是 TRD 发生机制的一部分<sup>[31]</sup>。氯胺酮作为新兴的快速抗抑郁药物, 在 TRD 患者中具有良好疗效<sup>[32]</sup>。研究表明, 氯胺酮及其 2 种活性代谢物可以在小胶质细胞中通过信号转导及转录激活因子 3 调控 I 型干扰素信号通路, 这可能是氯胺酮发挥抗抑郁作用的机制之一<sup>[33]</sup>。另外, 氯胺酮通过调节位于谷氨酸受体下游的哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白信号通路改善神经发生和可塑性, 从而在 TRD 治疗中发挥作用<sup>[34]</sup>。其中机制的解释仍然有待深入研究, 阐明 TRD 患者持续性炎症的作用和其介导氯胺酮抗抑郁作用的关键机制将可能促进新治疗策略的发展。

**3.2 糖皮质激素** 炎症细胞因子可刺激活化下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺 (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal, HPA) 轴和抑制负反馈回路, 从而导致高糖皮质激素血症。皮质醇水平的升高 (内源性或外源性) 已经被反复证明会引起情绪症状, 被认为是炎症和重性抑郁症另一个潜在的联系<sup>[35]</sup>。临床研究显示, TRD 患者的血清糖皮质激素水平高于同期重性抑郁症患者, 提示 TRD 患者的 HPA 轴功能紊乱程度更甚<sup>[36]</sup>。为了进一步探讨糖皮质激素及高炎症激活水平在 TRD 危险因素方面的介导作用, 有学者重点关注童年创伤和 TRD 之间的机制<sup>[15]</sup>, 并发现白天皮质醇水平增高的糖皮质激素抵抗患者儿童期经历的创伤严重程度与抗抑郁药物治疗抵抗相关<sup>[37]</sup>。此外, HPA 轴的激活可导致色氨酸双加氧酶活性增高, 从而降解色氨酸和减少 5-羟色胺的生成<sup>[38]</sup>。TRD 可能并不是简单的 5-羟色胺缺失状态, 但是某些因素如 5-羟色胺转运体基因缺失、早期的逆境生活和共病双相情感障碍等都与选择

性5-羟色胺再摄取抑制剂治疗的耐药性有关<sup>[39]</sup>,相关介导机制可能来源于应激反应导致神经内分泌系统激活后HPA轴功能的紊乱。

**3.3 细胞因子** 细胞因子主要由单核细胞、巨噬细胞及淋巴细胞等免疫细胞合成并分泌,目前已证实中枢神经系统的小胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞等也能释放细胞因子<sup>[40]</sup>。大量研究结果显示,抗抑郁治疗出现耐药性与血浆细胞因子水平升高相关。Strawbridge等<sup>[5]</sup>对36例TRD患者在接受专科住院治疗前后进行了纵向调查,比较了TRD患者和非抑郁对照组血浆中的27个炎症因子水平,发现TRD患者的27个炎症因子水平均高于非抑郁对照组,而与未产生耐药性的重性抑郁症患者相比,TRD患者血浆中的IL-6、IL-8、TNF、CRP水平升高且与较差的治疗结果相关,这些细胞因子水平的升高一定程度上与HPA轴激活有关。在基于习得性无助建立的TRD模型小鼠中,TNF- $\alpha$ 能够减少血脑屏障连接蛋白的表达,从而在一定程度上降低了血脑屏障的通透性<sup>[41]</sup>。一篇纳入10项临床研究的系统综述显示,IL-6与CRP/高敏CRP是目前较为公认的与TRD相关的细胞因子<sup>[26]</sup>。针对快速抗抑郁药氯胺酮的研究支持这一结果,IL-6基线水平可以有效预测TRD对氯胺酮治疗的反应,并且在治疗后IL-6水平也降低<sup>[42]</sup>。相比重性抑郁症患者,TRD患者外周静脉血CRP水平的升高更显著,与CRP升高相关的其他表型包括童年逆境、特定的抑郁和焦虑症状<sup>[43]</sup>,这一结果与TRD发生的危险因素相匹配<sup>[15,44]</sup>。以上这些证据都提示,细胞因子与抑郁症存在着深层的内在联系,但仍需要临床前实验进一步阐明相关机制。

#### 4 小结

TRD越来越受到研究者的重视,但是由于抑郁症治疗“缓解”定义的不明确,TRD的诊断与治疗在各研究体系中存在较大异质性。由于尚无公认可靠的动物模型,TRD发生机制的深入研究存在较大挑战。单胺类药物治疗TRD的有限性也让研究者们开始关注其他的通路。基于大量的临床试验,TRD与炎症之间的关联逐渐受到重视,但是目前研究关注的重心多集中于IL-6、IL-8、TNF、CRP等炎症因子在TRD病理条件下的水平变化,炎症因子的来源、高炎症反应与耐药性

之间的介导机制尚未完全阐明。了解炎症在TRD发生中的作用机制将有助于抑郁症治疗药物的研发。

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