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· 论 著 ·

## 2型糖尿病患者血清sTWEAK水平与动脉粥样硬化斑块的关系

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**[摘要]** **目的** 探讨可溶性肿瘤坏死因子样凋亡弱诱导剂(sTWEAK)与2型糖尿病(T2DM)患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的关系。**方法** 选择2017年6—12月于海军军医大学(第二军医大学)第一附属医院内分泌科住院治疗的T2DM患者73例为研究对象。根据有无颈动脉和/或下肢动脉斑块将患者分为有斑块组(46例)和无斑块组(27例),比较两组患者的一般资料、血生物化学指标及血清sTWEAK水平。采用Spearman相关性分析评估血清sTWEAK水平与各临床参数的相关性。采用logistic回归分析评估动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的影响因素。**结果** 有斑块组患者的年龄和血清sTWEAK水平均高于无斑块组[(55.87±10.65)岁 vs (44.04±11.96)岁,  $P=0.001$ ; 79.53(26.87, 113.03) pg/mL vs 47.70(18.62, 78.15) pg/mL,  $P=0.018$ ]。Spearman相关性分析显示,血清sTWEAK水平与患者年龄( $r=0.247$ ,  $P=0.035$ )、斑块数量( $r=0.270$ ,  $P=0.021$ )呈正相关。logistic回归分析显示,年龄是T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的独立危险因素( $OR=1.091$ , 95%  $CI$  1.036~1.148,  $P=0.001$ ),而血清sTWEAK水平并非独立危险因素( $OR=1.012$ , 95%  $CI$  0.999~1.025,  $P=0.063$ )。**结论** 伴有动脉粥样硬化斑块的T2DM患者有更高的血清sTWEAK水平,其血清sTWEAK水平的升高可能与年龄相关。

**[关键词]** 可溶性肿瘤坏死因子样凋亡弱诱导剂; 2型糖尿病; 动脉粥样硬化斑块; 危险因素

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### Relationship between serum sTWEAK levels and atherosclerotic plaque in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus

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**[Abstract]** **Objective** To investigate the relationship between soluble tumor necrosis factor-like weak inducer of apoptosis (sTWEAK) and atherosclerotic plaque formation in patients with type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM). **Methods** A total of 73 T2DM patients hospitalized in Department of Endocrinology of The First Affiliated Hospital of Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University) from Jun. to Dec. 2017 were enrolled, and were divided into plaque group (46 cases) and non-plaque group (27 cases). General data, blood biochemical indexes and serum sTWEAK levels of the 2 groups were compared. The correlation between sTWEAK and each clinical index was evaluated using Spearman correlation analysis. Influencing factors of atherosclerotic plaque formation were evaluated using logistic regression analysis. **Results** Compared with non-plaque group, the age and serum sTWEAK level were significantly higher in the plaque group ([55.87±10.65] years old vs [44.04±11.96] years old,  $P=0.001$ ; 79.53 [26.87, 113.03] pg/mL vs 47.70 [18.62, 78.15] pg/mL,  $P=0.018$ ). Spearman correlation analysis showed that serum sTWEAK level was positively correlated with age ( $r=0.247$ ,  $P=0.035$ ) and number of plaques ( $r=0.270$ ,  $P=0.021$ ). Logistic regression analysis showed that age was an independent risk factor of atherosclerotic plaque formation in T2DM patients (odds ratio [ $OR$ ] =1.091, 95% confidence interval [ $CI$ ] 1.036-1.148,  $P=0.001$ ), while serum sTWEAK was not an independent risk factor ( $OR=1.012$ , 95%  $CI$  0.999-1.025,  $P=0.063$ ). **Conclusion** T2DM patients with atherosclerotic plaques have higher serum sTWEAK levels, and

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the increase of serum sTWEAK levels may be related to age.

[ **Key words** ] soluble tumor necrosis factor-like weak inducer of apoptosis; type 2 diabetes mellitus; atherosclerotic plaque; risk factors

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在全球范围内,心血管疾病影响着22.2%的2型糖尿病(type 2 diabetes mellitus, T2DM)患者,是糖尿病患者死亡和残疾的主要原因<sup>[1]</sup>。动脉粥样硬化是心血管疾病的主要原因,与糖尿病患者空腹血糖升高密切相关<sup>[2]</sup>。T2DM患者体内的代谢异常通过氧化应激和低度炎症等一系列不良事件损害血管壁,最终导致动脉粥样硬化<sup>[3]</sup>。研究表明,动脉粥样硬化的组织病理学特征和临床表现因其所累及的血管区域不同而存在差异<sup>[4]</sup>。探索糖尿病患者动脉斑块发生、发展中不同炎症介质的作用,将有助于明确动脉粥样硬化病变的确切发病机制,然而对导致这些并发症的危险因素和机制的研究目前仍有不足。

肿瘤坏死因子样凋亡弱诱导剂(tumor necrosis factor-like weak inducer of apoptosis, TWEAK)是TNF超家族的成员,其通过与人成纤维细胞生长因子诱导14受体结合发挥作用<sup>[5]</sup>。TWEAK具有多种生物学活性,包括刺激细胞生长和血管生成、诱导炎症细胞因子激活及在某些实验条件下刺激细胞凋亡等。已有研究证实TWEAK能够促进人血管平滑肌细胞钙化参与心血管疾病中动脉粥样硬化斑块的形成<sup>[6-7]</sup>。而T2DM患者的颈动脉粥样硬化与血清TWEAK的可溶性变体,即可溶性TWEAK(soluble TWEAK, sTWEAK)的水平亦有关联<sup>[8]</sup>。目前尚不清楚T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块进展过程中血清sTWEAK的水平及其与受斑块影响的血管区域的关系。本研究探讨了T2DM患者的血清sTWEAK水平及其与动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的相关性。

## 1 资料和方法

1.1 研究对象 本研究为单中心观察性横断面研究,选择2017年6—12月于海军军医大学(第二军医大学)第一附属医院内分泌科住院治疗的73例T2DM患者,根据有无颈动脉和/或下肢动脉斑块分为有斑块组(46例)和无斑块组(27例)。糖尿病的诊断基于WHO(1999年)诊断标准<sup>[9]</sup>。排除标准:(1)其他类型糖尿病患者;(2)有糖尿病的急性并发症(如酮症酸中毒和高渗状态);(3)有肝和/或肾功能衰竭、肝硬化、急性或慢

性炎症、恶性肿瘤、甲状腺功能异常或自身免疫系统疾病;(4)妊娠或哺乳期患者。本研究通过海军军医大学(第二军医大学)第一附属医院伦理委员会审批,所有研究对象均签署知情同意书。

1.2 研究方法 根据标准规程收集所有患者的基本人体测量值,包括身高、体重、腰围、臀围。采用Sysmex XN-9000型血细胞分析仪(日本Sysmex公司)进行血细胞分析,采用7600-120型(日本Hitachi公司)和E 601型(瑞士Roche公司)电化学发光免疫分析仪测量血生物化学指标。收集患者晨起空腹静脉血,静置离心后收集血清,存储在-80℃。使用人TWEAK单因子试剂盒(美国ThermoFisher Scientific公司)测量血清sTWEAK水平。采用iE33型超声系统(荷兰Philips公司)检查颈动脉(颈内、颈总动脉)和下肢动脉(股、腘动脉)。斑块定义为内膜中层厚度 $\geq 1.5$  mm,和/或有管腔局灶性突出物且其厚度比相邻的内膜中层复合物厚至少50%。斑块数量为颈动脉和下肢动脉斑块数量之和。

1.3 统计学处理 应用SPSS 26.0软件进行统计分析。样本量计算满足统计功效分析 $1-\beta=0.80$ ,  $\alpha=0.05$ 。呈正态分布的计量资料以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示,两组间比较采用独立样本 $t$ 检验;呈偏态分布的计量资料以中位数(下四分位数,上四分位数)表示,两组间比较采用Mann-Whitney  $U$ 检验;计数资料以例数和百分数表示,两组间比较采用 $\chi^2$ 检验。采用Spearman相关性分析评估血清sTWEAK水平与其他变量之间的关系。采用logistic回归分析评估T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的影响因素。检验水准( $\alpha$ )为0.05。

## 2 结果

2.1 患者基本资料 73例T2DM患者的平均年龄为(51.5 $\pm$ 12.5)岁,其中男52例、女21例,男性和女性患者的血清sTWEAK水平差异无统计学意义[61.56(22.73, 98.73) pg/mL vs 72.64(21.36, 87.78) pg/mL,  $P=0.860$ ]。有斑块组患者的年龄、降脂药使用率、血清sTWEAK水平均高于无

斑块组 ( $P$ 均 $<0.05$ , 表1)。在男性患者中,有斑块组(33例)的血清sTWEAK水平高于无斑块组(19例)[83.66(25.49, 119.13) pg/mL vs 36.57(14.56, 75.40) pg/mL,  $P=0.023$ ];而在女性患

者中,有斑块组(13例)和无斑块组(8例)的血清sTWEAK水平差异无统计学意义[72.64(35.23, 105.52) pg/mL vs 67.80(19.65, 86.06) pg/mL,  $P=0.538$ ]。

表1 两组T2DM患者的一般资料及血生物化学指标比较

Tab 1 Comparison of general data and blood biochemical indexes of T2DM patients between 2 groups

Index	Non-plaque group $N=27$	Plaque group $N=46$	Statistic	$P$ value
Age/year, $\bar{x}\pm s$	44.04 $\pm$ 11.96	55.87 $\pm$ 10.65	$t=-4.377$	0.001
Male, $n$ (%)	19 (70.37)	33 (71.74)	$\chi^2=0.016$	0.901
Using lipid-lowering drugs, $n$ (%)	3 (11.11)	19 (41.30)	$\chi^2=6.002$	0.014
Duration of disease/year, $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	4.00 (0.10, 7.00)	3.00 (0.48, 7.00)	$Z=-0.710$	0.477
Body mass index/( $\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^{-2}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	26.89 (25.23, 29.45)	27.38 (25.48, 29.90)	$Z=-0.331$	0.740
Waist-to-hip ratio, $\bar{x}\pm s$	0.97 $\pm$ 0.07	0.96 $\pm$ 0.06	$t=0.439$	0.662
White blood cell/( $\text{L}^{-1}, \times 10^9$ ), $\bar{x}\pm s$	6.71 $\pm$ 1.70	6.68 $\pm$ 1.57	$t=0.083$	0.934
Platelet/( $\text{L}^{-1}, \times 10^9$ ), $\bar{x}\pm s$	201.59 $\pm$ 60.27	203.33 $\pm$ 53.73	$t=-0.127$	0.899
Alanine aminotransferase/( $\text{U}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	36.00 (22.75, 57.25)	23.50 (15.75, 44.25)	$Z=-1.572$	0.116
Aspartate aminotransferase/( $\text{U}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	21.00 (17.75, 27.00)	21.00 (13.75, 29.00)	$Z=-0.943$	0.345
$\gamma$ -glutamyl transpeptidase/( $\text{U}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	39.50 (22.75, 62.50)	37.50 (25.50, 51.00)	$Z=-0.086$	0.932
Total cholesterol/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	5.11 (4.13, 6.40)	4.82 (3.95, 5.78)	$Z=-0.846$	0.398
Triglyceride/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	1.77 (1.25, 3.26)	1.72 (1.32, 3.34)	$Z=-0.309$	0.758
LDL-C/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $\bar{x}\pm s$	3.04 $\pm$ 1.21	2.82 $\pm$ 1.07	$t=0.800$	0.427
HDL-C/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	0.98 (0.85, 1.24)	0.97 (0.87, 1.11)	$Z=-0.629$	0.530
Serum uric acid/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	0.34 (0.28, 0.45)	0.36 (0.29, 0.42)	$Z=-0.080$	0.936
Serum creatinine/( $\mu\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	70.50 (58.75, 80.50)	71.50 (63.00, 90.00)	$Z=-0.560$	0.575
Ccr/( $\text{mL}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$ ), $\bar{x}\pm s$	105.67 $\pm$ 24.81	96.47 $\pm$ 25.44	$t=1.505$	0.137
Glycosylated hemoglobin/%, $\bar{x}\pm s$	9.98 $\pm$ 2.77	9.58 $\pm$ 1.88	$t=0.732$	0.510
Fasting plasma glucose/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	8.70 (6.35, 10.38)	9.65 (7.28, 11.05)	$Z=-1.086$	0.278
2 h postprandial plasma glucose/( $\text{mmol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $\bar{x}\pm s$	18.40 $\pm$ 4.94	17.91 $\pm$ 4.25	$t=0.449$	0.655
Fasting C-peptide/( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	2.52 (1.11, 3.20)	2.50 (1.94, 3.17)	$Z=-0.537$	0.591
2 h postprandial C-peptide/( $\mu\text{g}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	5.06 (2.23, 6.55)	5.11 (3.81, 7.42)	$Z=-0.983$	0.326
Fasting insulin/( $\text{mIU}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	11.40 (4.00, 15.40)	10.60 (6.65, 17.33)	$Z=-0.760$	0.447
2 h postprandial insulin/( $\text{mIU}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	29.10 (11.10, 50.40)	29.10 (15.03, 59.18)	$Z=-1.074$	0.283
HOMA-IR index, $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	3.28 (1.23, 7.02)	4.49 (2.88, 6.62)	$Z=-1.228$	0.219
sTWEAK/( $\text{pg}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1}$ ), $M(Q_L, Q_U)$	47.70 (18.62, 78.15)	79.53 (26.87, 113.03)	$Z=-2.367$	0.018

T2DM: Type 2 diabetes mellitus; LDL-C: Low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; HDL-C: High density lipoprotein-cholesterol; Ccr: Endogenous creatinine clearance rate; HOMA-IR: Homeostasis model assessment of insulin resistance; sTWEAK: Soluble tumor necrosis factor-like weak inducer of apoptosis;  $M(Q_L, Q_U)$ : Median (lower quartile, upper quartile).

2.2 血清sTWEAK水平与各临床参数之间的相关性分析 Spearman相关性分析显示,在所有入组T2DM患者中,血清sTWEAK水平与患者年龄( $r=0.247, P=0.035$ )、斑块数量( $r=0.270, P=0.021$ )呈正相关。见表2。

2.3 动脉粥样硬化斑块形成危险因素的logistic回归分析 以有无斑块为因变量,以sTWEAK、年

龄、病程、BMI等为自变量进行logistic回归分析,结果显示年龄是T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的独立危险因素( $OR=1.091, 95\% CI 1.036\sim 1.148, P=0.001$ ),而血清sTWEAK并非独立危险因素( $OR=1.012, 95\% CI 0.999\sim 1.025, P=0.063$ )。

表2 T2DM患者血清sTWEAK水平与各临床参数的Spearman相关性分析

Tab 2 Spearman correlation analysis between serum sTWEAK level and each clinical index in T2DM patients

Index	<i>r</i>	<i>P</i> value
Age	0.247	0.035
Duration of disease	-0.095	0.422
Body mass index	-0.162	0.170
Waist-to-hip ratio	-0.105	0.379
White blood cell	-0.590	0.617
Platelet	0.076	0.521
Alanine aminotransferase	-0.085	0.475
Aspartate aminotransferase	-0.019	0.872
$\gamma$ -glutamyl transpeptidase	0.078	0.511
Fasting plasma glucose	-0.011	0.927
Fasting C-peptide	0.014	0.907
Total cholesterol	-0.082	0.489
Triglyceride	-0.031	0.797
LDL-C	-0.087	0.465
HDL-C	0.049	0.683
Glycosylated hemoglobin	-0.143	0.229
Ccr	-0.120	0.311
Number of plaques	0.270	0.021

T2DM: Type 2 diabetes mellitus; sTWEAK: Soluble tumor necrosis factor-like weak inducer of apoptosis; LDL-C: Low density lipoprotein-cholesterol; HDL-C: High density lipoprotein-cholesterol; Ccr: Endogenous creatinine clearance rate.

### 3 讨论

TWEAK作为TNF超家族的细胞因子,可触发细胞从增殖到凋亡的一系列活动<sup>[10]</sup>。TWEAK以膜结合方式和sTWEAK的形式存在,后者由弗林蛋白酶水解形成。2种形式都具有生物学活性,通过与成纤维细胞生长因子诱导14受体结合而介导一系列生理病理过程<sup>[5]</sup>。TWEAK在血管中广泛表达,可能参与炎症、血栓形成等动脉粥样硬化发展的不同过程<sup>[11]</sup>。目前,已有学者提出sTWEAK可作为心血管疾病的潜在生物学标志物<sup>[8]</sup>。

在代谢疾病中,关于TWEAK的许多研究仍有较多争议,Acharya等<sup>[12]</sup>研究发现,与健康对照相比,T2DM患者的sTWEAK水平较低;而其他学者则认为,升高的mTWEAK水平可促进内脏脂肪累积、胰岛素抵抗及代谢功能障碍<sup>[11]</sup>。脂肪堆积和持续性慢性低度炎症是导致动脉粥样硬化形成的关键病理生理事件<sup>[13]</sup>。本研究结果显示,有斑块组T2DM患者的血清sTWEAK水平高于无斑块组患者,并且

Spearman相关性分析结果表明血清sTWEAK水平与斑块数量呈正相关,这与既往研究报道sTWEAK可促进动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的观点<sup>[14-15]</sup>一致。在T2DM患者中,年龄是预测动脉粥样硬化斑块的重要独立因素<sup>[16]</sup>。本研究中,Spearman相关性分析显示在T2DM患者中,血清sTWEAK水平与年龄和斑块数量呈正相关。logistic回归分析结果提示,年龄是T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的独立危险因素,而血清sTWEAK并非独立危险因素,但其水平升高可能与年龄相关。因此推测,伴随年龄的增长,血清sTWEAK水平升高,从而引起动脉粥样硬化斑块形成。在本研究中,有斑块组和无斑块组患者的BMI、腰臀比、糖尿病病程、糖化血红蛋白、稳态模型的胰岛素抵抗指数差异均无统计学意义;并且可能由于有斑块组患者降脂药物使用率更高,有斑块组和无斑块组患者的血脂水平差异也无统计学意义,这有效地减少了本研究中代谢相关危险因素对血清sTWEAK水平的干扰。因此,血清sTWEAK可能是随着年龄增长而升高的T2DM患者心血管并发症的风险因子。目前关于性别在动脉粥样硬化斑块形成中的作用尚无定论<sup>[17]</sup>。在本研究中,男性和女性患者的血清sTWEAK水平差异无统计学意义。在男性患者中,有斑块组血清sTWEAK水平高于无斑块组,而在女性患者中两组差异无统计学意义。因此,血清sTWEAK水平是否受性激素的影响值得进一步探讨。

TWEAK不仅是心血管疾病的潜在临床标志物,而且在调节血管内炎症和动脉粥样硬化形成中起着重要作用。一方面,TWEAK/成纤维细胞生长因子诱导14受体通过激活NF- $\kappa$ B途径促进无机磷酸盐诱导的人平滑肌细胞钙化,并以还原型辅酶II氧化酶2依赖性方式刺激活性氧生成而调节血管损伤<sup>[6]</sup>。此外,在高血糖条件下,TWEAK可通过激活信号转导及转录激活因子1和趋化因子配体5、 $\gamma$ -干扰素诱导蛋白10、细胞间黏附分子1等促炎靶基因的表达,发挥对血管平滑肌细胞的致动脉粥样硬化作用<sup>[15]</sup>。而TWEAK阻断剂可延迟糖尿病动脉粥样硬化小鼠的斑块形成并改变斑块内容物组成<sup>[15]</sup>,非受体酪氨酸激酶/信号转导及转录激活因子炎症信号通路可促进糖尿病及相关并发症的发生和发展<sup>[18]</sup>。患有糖尿病时,信号转导及转录激活因子反应性炎症基因表达上调,导致细胞因子、

趋化因子和血管活性蛋白等增多<sup>[19-20]</sup>。因此,抑制TWEAK表达或拮抗其生物学作用有可能为防治糖尿病性血管并发症提供一种新的治疗策略。在本研究中,logistic回归分析结果显示血清sTWEAK对T2DM患者动脉粥样硬化斑块形成的影响差异无统计学意义,但本研究样本量较小,尚需大样本量的研究进一步证实。

综上所述,在伴有动脉粥样硬化斑块的T2DM患者中血清sTWEAK水平升高,且其水平升高可能与年龄相关。

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