

DOI: 10.16781/j.CN31-2187/R.20220504

· 论 著 ·

## 高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者血清白细胞介素6的临床意义及与合并基础疾病的相关性

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**[摘要]** **目的** 探究血清IL-6在高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者中的临床意义, 以及合并基础疾病与血清IL-6水平的相关性。**方法** 纳入2022年4—6月入住海军军医大学(第二军医大学)第一附属医院感染科、严重急性呼吸综合征冠状病毒2 RNA检测呈阳性的高龄(>80岁)奥密克戎变异株感染患者22例, 采用流式细胞学检测法测定血清IL-6水平, 采用免疫比浊法测定CRP水平。根据影像学检查有无肺炎表现将患者分为肺炎组(16例)和无肺炎组(6例), 根据病情分为重症组(重型和危重型, 5例)和非重症组(轻型和普通型, 17例), 采用二分类logistic回归模型和ROC曲线分析血清IL-6、CRP水平与病情严重程度和是否进展为肺炎的相关性, 同时探究合并基础疾病与血清IL-6水平的关系。**结果** 22例患者中轻型6例、普通型11例、重型3例、危重型2例。肺炎组基线血清IL-6水平高于无肺炎组[(20.16±12.36) pg/mL vs (5.42±1.57) pg/mL,  $P=0.009$ ], 肺炎组和无肺炎组基线血清CRP水平差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ ); 重症组和非重症组基线血清IL-6和CRP水平差异均无统计学意义( $P$ 均 $>0.05$ )。logistic回归分析显示, 基线血清IL-6、CRP水平可能与感染奥密克戎变异株后进展为肺炎有关, 但均无统计学意义( $OR=2.407$ , 95%  $CI$  0.915~6.328;  $OR=1.030$ , 95%  $CI$  0.952~1.114); ROC曲线分析显示, 基线血清IL-6、CRP预测患者进展为肺炎的AUC值分别为0.969(95%  $CI$  0.900~1.000)、0.656(95%  $CI$  0.380~0.932), 两者AUC值差异有统计学意义( $Z=2.154$ ,  $P=0.030$ )。有无高血压病、糖尿病、冠心病、慢性肾脏病、慢性阻塞性肺疾病的患者基线血清IL-6水平、重症患者占比、肺炎患者占比差异均无统计学意义( $P$ 均 $>0.05$ )。合并1种、2种、3种及以上基础疾病的高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者基线血清IL-6水平分别为12.50(9.15, 21.75)、23.55(9.63, 50.10)、10.90(5.20, 18.88) pg/mL, 差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ )。**结论** 在奥密克戎变异株感染患者中, 有肺炎表现者血清IL-6水平明显增高且与病情进展有关, 对高龄新型冠状病毒肺炎患者病情判断、疗效及预后评估有重要的指导意义。

**[关键词]** 80岁以上老年人; 新型冠状病毒肺炎; 奥密克戎变异株; 严重急性呼吸综合征冠状病毒2; 白细胞介素6; 基础疾病

**[中图分类号]** R 511

**[文献标志码]** A

**[文章编号]** 2097-1338(2022)09-1037-07

### Clinical significance of serum interleukin 6 in elderly patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 omicron variant and its correlation with underlying diseases

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**[Abstract]** **Objective** To investigate the clinical significance of serum interleukin 6 (IL-6) in elderly patients infected with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) omicron variant and its correlation with underlying diseases. **Methods** A total of 22 elderly patients (>80 years old) infected with omicron variant, who were admitted to Department of Infectious Diseases, The First Affiliated Hospital of Naval Medical University (Second Military Medical University) from Apr. to Jun. 2022 and tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 RNA, were included. The level of serum IL-6

**[收稿日期]** 2022-06-15

**[接受日期]** 2022-08-15

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was measured by flow cytometry, and the level of serum C reactive protein (CRP) was measured by immunonephelometry. Patients were divided into pneumonia group (16 cases) and non-pneumonia group (6 cases) according to the imaging examination results, and were divided into severe group (severe and critical type, 5 cases) and non-severe group (mild and normal type, 17 cases) according to the condition. Binary logistic regression model and receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve were used to analyze the correlation between serum IL-6 and CRP levels and the severity of the disease and whether it would progress to pneumonia. Meanwhile, the relationships between underlying diseases and serum IL-6 level were explored.

**Results** Among the 22 patients, 6 were mild, 11 were normal, 3 were severe, and 2 were critical. The baseline serum IL-6 level in the pneumonia group was significantly higher than that in the non-pneumonia group ( $[20.16 \pm 12.36]$  pg/mL vs  $[5.42 \pm 1.57]$  pg/mL,  $P=0.009$ ), and there was no significant difference in baseline serum CRP level between the 2 groups ( $P>0.05$ ). There were no significant differences in baseline serum IL-6 or CRP levels between the severe group and the non-severe group (both  $P>0.05$ ). Logistic regression analysis showed that the baseline serum IL-6 and CRP might be related to pneumonia after infection with omicron variant (odds ratio  $[OR]=2.407$ , 95% confidence interval  $[CI] 0.915-6.328$ ;  $OR=1.030$ , 95%  $CI 0.952-1.114$ ). ROC curve analysis showed that the area under curve values of serum IL-6 and CRP in predicting the progression to pneumonia were 0.969 (95%  $CI 0.900-1.000$ ) and 0.656 (95%  $CI 0.380-0.932$ ), respectively, with statistical significance ( $Z=2.154$ ,  $P=0.030$ ). There were no significant differences in the baseline serum IL-6 level or proportions of severe patients or pneumonia patients among patients with or without hypertension, diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease, chronic kidney disease or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (all  $P>0.05$ ). The baseline serum IL-6 levels of the omicron variant infected elderly patients with 1, 2, and 3 or more underlying diseases were 12.50 (9.15, 21.75), 23.55 (9.63, 50.10), and 10.90 (5.20, 18.88) pg/mL, respectively, with no statistical significance ( $P>0.05$ ).

**Conclusion** For omicron variant infected patients, serum IL-6 level is significantly increased in patients with pneumonia manifestations and is correlated with disease progression. Serum IL-6 level is of great guiding significance to judge disease progression and evaluate efficacy and prognosis of elderly coronavirus disease 2019 patients.

**[Key words]** aged 80 years over; coronavirus disease 2019; omicron variant; severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; interleukin 6; underlying diseases

[Acad J Naval Med Univ, 2022, 43(9): 1037-1043]

新型冠状病毒肺炎 (coronavirus disease 2019, COVID-19) 是由严重急性呼吸综合征冠状病毒 2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, SARS-CoV-2) 感染导致的肺部炎症, 自 2019 年 12 月暴发以来已成为国际公共卫生紧急事件<sup>[1]</sup>。COVID-19 患者随着病情进展可出现致死性肺部炎症和肺外表现, 如血栓栓塞、心肌损伤、肾功能衰竭等<sup>[2]</sup>。当前 COVID-19 疫情仍在世界范围内持续流行, 奥密克戎 (omicron) 变异株已成为近期全球 COVID-19 疫情的主要流行株。我国 COVID-19 临床分型分为轻型、普通型、重型和危重型, 病程中往往依据血清学、影像学及临床症状等判断病情和预后, 其中血清学监测指标主要包括白细胞计数、淋巴细胞计数、CRP、红细胞沉降率等<sup>[3]</sup>。

IL-6 作为一种关键促炎介质, 可导致炎症反应迅速加重并诱导 CRP 和降钙素原合成。一项回顾性研究结果显示 IL-6 水平升高与 COVID-19 病情严重程度有关, 高龄、合并糖尿病或 IL-6 水平明显增高的 COVID-19 患者更易进展为重型<sup>[4]</sup>。高龄人群由于免疫力下降, 营养状态相对较差, 往往伴有多种基础疾病, 在感染 SARS-CoV-2 后进展为

肺炎甚至重型、危重型的概率较高<sup>[5]</sup>, 关注高龄 COVID-19 患者、尽早预测疾病的严重程度将对治疗决策和患者预后产生积极影响。本研究探讨高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者入院后基线血清 IL-6 水平、病情变化后 IL-6 的变化趋势、IL-6 异常高表达与病情严重程度的相关性, 并分析合并基础疾病对 IL-6 水平的影响。

## 1 资料和方法

1.1 病例资料 采用回顾性研究设计, 选择 2022 年 4—6 月入住海军军医大学 (第二军医大学) 第一附属医院感染科且 SARS-CoV-2 RNA 检测呈阳性的高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者 26 例。纳入标准: (1) 年龄  $>80$  岁; (2) COVID-19 的诊断符合《新型冠状病毒肺炎诊疗方案 (试行第九版)》<sup>[3]</sup>, 口咽拭子和鼻咽拭子 SARS-CoV-2 RNA 检测阳性, 且基因测序结果提示病毒为奥密克戎变异株; (3) 合并至少 1 种基础疾病, 包括高血压病、2 型糖尿病、冠心病、慢性肾脏病和慢性阻塞性肺疾病。排除标准: (1) COVID-19 复阳患者; (2) 免疫功能缺陷 (如长期使用糖皮质激素或其他免疫

抑制剂导致免疫功能减退)患者;(3)入院时 SARS-CoV-2 RNA 检出阳性超过 3 d,无法取得感染后基线值(感染至入院 3 d 内首次检测结果)。排除无基础疾病患者 1 例、长期口服免疫抑制剂患者 1 例、入院时 SARS-CoV-2 RNA 检出阳性 1 周患者 2 例,共 22 例患者纳入研究。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(CHEC2022-111)。

1.2 研究方法 根据病情需要,入院后次日晨起及之后每 3 d 采集患者肘正中静脉血 5 mL,根据病情变化必要时增加采血频率,送检验科常温 3 000 r/min(离心半径为 15.7 cm,湖南湘仪实验室仪器开发有限公司 L-1550 型离心机)离心 10 min 取血清,利用美国 BD 公司 FACSCanto II 分析型流式细胞仪通过流式细胞学检测法测定 IL-6 水平,检测过程严格按照细胞因子联合检测试剂盒(货号 6971711320005,规格 100 人份/盒,美国 BD 公司)说明书进行,IL-6 正常参考值为 0~10 pg/mL。利用美国 BECKMAN COULTER 有限公司 AU5800 型全自动生化分析仪,通过免疫比浊法测定 CRP 水平,试剂、校准品均由美国 BECKMAN COULTER 有限公司提供,CRP 正常参考值为 0~10 mg/L。所有检测操作均由专业人员严格按照防护标准进行,避免感染。

1.3 统计学处理 应用 SPSS 23.0 软件进行统计学分析。对计量资料进行正态性检验(Kolmogorov-Smirnov 检验、P-P 图)和方差齐性检验( $F$  检验),若呈正态分布以  $\bar{x} \pm s$  表示,两组间比较采用独立样本  $t$  检验;若呈偏态分布则以中位数(下四分位数,上四分位数)表示,两组间比较采用 Mann-Whitney  $U$  检验,多个样本间比较采用 Kruskal-Wallis  $H$  检验。计数资料以例数和百分数表示,两组间比较采用  $\chi^2$  检验或 Fisher 确切概率法。采用二分类 logistic 回归模型分析基线血清 IL-6、CRP 水平与奥密克戎变异株感染患者病情严重程度或是否进展至肺炎的相关性,绘制 ROC 曲线分析单一指标及联合指标对高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者重症化的预测价值,采用  $Z$  检验比较 2 种指标的 AUC 值。检验水准( $\alpha$ )为 0.05。

## 2 结果

2.1 基本情况 22 例高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者中男 10 例、女 12 例,年龄为 83~95 岁,轻型 6 例、普通型 11 例、重型 3 例、危重型 2 例。根据病程中影像学检查有无肺炎表现分为肺炎组和无肺炎组,其中肺炎组 16 例(普通型 11 例、重型 3 例、

危重型 2 例),男 6 例、女 10 例,年龄为 83~95 岁,平均年龄为(89.5±3.7)岁;无肺炎组 6 例(均为轻型),男 4 例、女 2 例,年龄为 86~95 岁,平均年龄为(90.2±3.3)岁。肺炎组与无肺炎组患者的年龄、性别构成差异均无统计学意义( $P$ 均>0.05)。

根据病情分为重症(重型及危重型)组和非重症(轻型及普通型)组,其中重症组 5 例,男 3 例、女 2 例,年龄为 87~95 岁,平均年龄为(90.8±3.0)岁;非重症组 17 例,男 7 例、女 10 例,年龄为 83~95 岁,平均年龄为(89.4±3.7)岁。重症组与非重症组患者的年龄、性别构成差异均无统计学意义( $P$ 均>0.05)。

2.2 不同分组患者的基线血清 IL-6 及 CRP 水平比较 肺炎组患者的基线血清 IL-6 水平为(20.16±12.36) pg/mL,无肺炎组为(5.42±1.57) pg/mL,差异有统计学意义( $t=2.302$ ,  $P=0.009$ )。重症组患者的基线血清 IL-6 水平为 17.60(10.90, 51.45) pg/mL,非重症组为 12.50(5.90, 23.55) pg/mL,差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ )。肺炎组患者基线血清 CRP 水平为 9.65(3.78, 21.98) mg/L,无肺炎组为 4.85(1.43, 14.03) mg/L,差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ )。重症组患者基线血清 CRP 水平为 15.3(2.75, 64.25) mg/L,非重症组为 6.20(2.75, 16.65) mg/L,差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ )。

2.3 重症组患者血清 IL-6 水平随病情进展进行性升高 重症组 5 例患者中,3 例于入院后第 3 天出现气促、乏力,之后随访胸部 CT 平扫未见明显间质性改变,无胸腔积液;1 例于入院后第 6 天出现乏力症状,第 9 天出现少量胸腔积液,并于第 12 天出现血氧饱和度进行性下降,胸部 CT 平扫提示肺部间质性改变、炎性渗出明显增多;1 例于入院第 9 天出现气促、呼吸困难,监测血氧饱和度下降。该 5 例患者 IL-6 水平均呈进行性升高。典型病例随病情进展的影像学表现及 IL-6 指标变化见图 1。

2.4 IL-6、CRP 单一及联合检测与高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者肺部炎症和病情严重程度的相关性

2.4.1 IL-6、CRP 与肺部炎症的相关性 以奥密克戎变异株感染患者肺部炎症程度为因变量(肺炎赋值为 1,无肺炎赋值为 0),以基线血清 IL-6、CRP 水平为自变量进行二分类 logistic 回归拟合, Hosmer-Lemeshow 检验结果提示回归模型和真实数据拟合良好( $P>0.05$ ); logistic 回归分析结果显示,基线血清 IL-6、CRP 可能是感染奥密克戎变异株后进展为肺炎的潜在预测因素,但均无统计学意义( $OR=$

2.407, 95% CI 0.915~6.328,  $P=0.075$ ;  $OR=1.030$ , 95% CI 0.952~1.114,  $P=0.462$ )。ROC 曲线分析结果(图2)显示,基线血清IL-6、CRP水平预测患者进展为肺炎的AUC值分别为0.969(95% CI

0.900~1.000)、0.656(95% CI 0.380~0.932),基线血清IL-6预测患者入院后进展为肺炎的效果优于基线血清CRP( $Z=2.154$ ,  $P=0.030$ )。

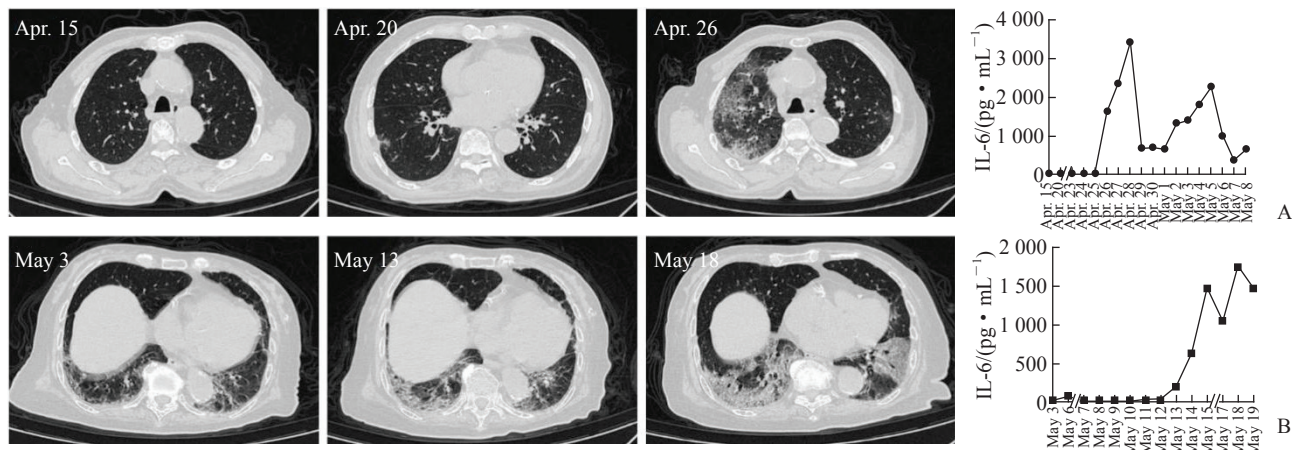


图1 2例高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者的影像学表现及血清IL-6水平变化

Fig 1 Imaging and changes of serum IL-6 levels in 2 elderly patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant

A: A patient (male, 91-year-old) was admitted to the hospital on Apr. 14, 2022, without complaints of fever, sore throat, dyspnea, or other discomfort. On Apr. 15, chest CT plain scan showed clear lung texture, and the serum IL-6 level was 11.2 pg/mL. On Apr. 20, the patient developed fatigue, chest CT plain scan showed a little patchy new inflammation near the pleura of both lungs, and the serum IL-6 level was 22.1 pg/mL. On Apr. 26, the patient developed dyspnea with decreased oxygen saturation (83%), chest CT plain scan showed significantly aggravated pulmonary inflammation, so the clinical classification was critical type, and the serum IL-6 level was 1 618.4 pg/mL. The patient received tocilizumab, an IL-6 inhibitor, for 3 d (from Apr. 26 to Apr. 28), and the serum IL-6 level significantly decreased on Apr. 29. B: A patient (female, 88-year-old), who was bedridden due to liver cirrhosis and Alzheimer disease, was admitted on May 2, 2022, without respiratory symptoms. On May 13, the patient developed short breath and dyspnea, and the oxygen saturation fluctuated between 88%-92% (without oxygen inhalation); chest CT plain scan showed multiple grid-like density in both lungs, especially in the lower lobe; and the serum IL-6 level was 185.4 pg/mL. On May 18, chest CT plain scan showed obvious aggravation of inflammation, so the patient was classified as critical type; and the serum IL-6 level was 1 740.7 pg/mL. IL-6: Interleukin 6; SARS-CoV-2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; CT: Computed tomography.

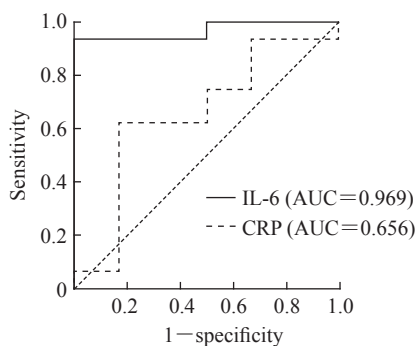


图2 基线血清IL-6、CRP预测高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者进展为肺炎的ROC曲线

Fig 2 ROC curve of baseline serum IL-6 and CRP in predicting pulmonary inflammation in elderly patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant

IL-6: Interleukin 6; CRP: C reactive protein; ROC: Receiver operating characteristic; SARS-CoV-2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; AUC: Area under curve.

2.4.2 IL-6、CRP与病情严重程度的相关性 以高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者病情严重程度为因变量(重症赋值为1,非重症赋值为0),以基线血清IL-6、CRP水平为自变量进行二分类logistic回归拟合,Hosmer-Lemeshow检验结果提示回归模型和真实数据拟合良好( $P>0.05$ );logistic回归分析结果显示,基线血清IL-6、CRP水平在预测病情严重程度方面均无统计学意义( $OR=1.033$ , 95% CI 0.981~1.087,  $P=0.222$ ;  $OR=1.033$ , 95% CI 0.983~1.084,  $P=0.196$ )。

2.5 基础疾病与基线血清IL-6水平的相关性 根据患者有无高血压病、糖尿病、冠心病、慢性肾脏病、慢性阻塞性肺疾病各分为两组,因分组后病例数较少不能进行正态性检验,IL-6水平均使用中位数(下四分位数,上四分位数)描述,有、无上述

5种疾病的患者血清IL-6水平、重症患者占比、肺炎患者占比差异均无统计学意义( $P$ 均 $>0.05$ ,表1)。合并1种、2种、3种及以上基础疾病的高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者分别有6、8、8例,

基线血清IL-6水平分别为12.50(9.15, 21.75)、23.55(9.63, 50.10)、10.90(5.20, 18.88) pg/mL,差异无统计学意义( $P>0.05$ )。

表1 高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者基础疾病患病情况与基线血清IL-6水平的关系

Tab 1 Relationship between prevalence of underlying diseases and baseline serum IL-6 levels in elderly patients infected with SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant

Group	Hypertension	T2DM	CHD	CKD	COPD
With underlying diseases					
<i>N</i>	18	6	10	5	3
Critically ill, <i>n</i>	5	1	3	3	2
Pneumonia, <i>n</i>	14	3	7	4	3
IL-6/(pg·mL <sup>-1</sup> ), <i>M</i> ( <i>Q<sub>L</sub></i> , <i>Q<sub>U</sub></i> )	15.60 (9.63, 24.98)	6.40 (4.70, 30.70)	10.90 (5.38, 19.88)	17.60 (8.90, 52.90)	19.30 <sup>a</sup>
Without underlying diseases					
<i>N</i>	4	16	12	17	19
Critically ill, <i>n</i>	0	4	2	2	3
Pneumonia, <i>n</i>	2	13	9	12	13
IL-6/(pg·mL <sup>-1</sup> ), <i>M</i> ( <i>Q<sub>L</sub></i> , <i>Q<sub>U</sub></i> )	6.40 (3.65, 18.75)	15.60 (10.75, 24.03)	15.96 (8.43, 28.50)	12.50 (5.90, 22.10)	12.50 (6.20, 24.50)

<sup>a</sup>: Quartiles could not be calculated in 3 cases, so only the median is presented. IL-6: Interleukin 6; SARS-CoV-2: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2; T2DM: Type 2 diabetes mellitus; CHD: Coronary heart disease; CKD: Chronic kidney disease; COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; *M* (*Q<sub>L</sub>*, *Q<sub>U</sub>*): Median (lower quartile, upper quartile).

### 3 讨论

IL-6是T淋巴细胞、内皮细胞和单核细胞等合成的促炎症细胞因子。炎症初期IL-6在局部病变部位合成后通过血流进入肝脏,随后迅速诱导生成大量急性期蛋白,如CRP、血清淀粉样蛋白A、纤维蛋白原等,还可以诱导分化并促进造血干细胞和肝细胞增殖<sup>[6]</sup>。感染SARS-CoV-2后患者疾病的发生、发展及重症化与体内淋巴细胞亚群紊乱、细胞因子风暴产生等免疫失衡有关,其中细胞免疫发挥了至关重要的作用<sup>[7]</sup>。SARS-CoV-2感染后T细胞被迅速激活而产生粒细胞-巨噬细胞集落刺激因子和IL-6等细胞因子,粒细胞-巨噬细胞集落刺激因子会进一步激活炎症性单核细胞,产生更多的IL-6和其他炎症因子,形成炎症风暴,导致严重的免疫损伤<sup>[8]</sup>。研究发现SARS-CoV-2感染者的IL-6水平相对较高,是患者生存预后的独立预测因素<sup>[9-10]</sup>。

本研究结果显示,对于高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者,肺炎组基线血清IL-6水平高于无肺炎组,而根据是否进展至重型甚至危重型分组的患者基线血清IL-6水平差异无统计学意义,可见无论后续病情是否会进展,入院后基线血清IL-6水平不会因患者有无重症化倾向而存在差异。虽然后续发生

重症化的高龄患者入院后基线IL-6水平与非重症组相比差异无统计学意义,但IL-6水平与临床症状的严重程度相关,重症组患者随着病情进展(即逐渐出现气促、乏力等临床症状,血氧饱和度进行性下降,影像学检查提示肺间质性改变、炎性渗出明显增多等)IL-6水平持续升高。IL-6作为针对SARS-CoV-2感染后全身性过度炎症反应的免疫调节治疗靶点,本研究中有患者在连续3d使用IL-6抑制剂托珠单抗治疗后检测血清IL-6水平即发现其明显降低。这与既往文献报道的应用IL-6抑制剂对重症COVID-19患者有利并可能降低其死亡率<sup>[11]</sup>相吻合。以上结果表明IL-6升高的程度与病情严重程度一致,一旦病情控制IL-6即会迅速下降,如果经过治疗后IL-6未明显下降可能提示患者预后不佳。

目前临床常用的炎症指标包括IL-6、CRP、降钙素原等。印度一家三级医院ICU开展的一项单中心回顾性研究发现,有氧合缺陷的成人COVID-19患者IL-6和CRP水平较高,而降钙素原变化不显著,入院时检测IL-6和CRP可在病程早期预测疾病的严重程度<sup>[12]</sup>。另一项研究显示,COVID-19死亡患者血清IL-6和CRP水平均高于存活患者,且与疾病的严重程度相关<sup>[13]</sup>。本研究结果显示,

基线血清 IL-6、CRP 水平可能是高龄患者感染奥密克戎变异株后进展为肺炎的潜在预测因素 ( $OR=2.407$ 、 $1.030$ ), 但差异无统计学意义, 考虑为样本量太小使统计结果不稳定、产生较大的误差有关; 同时 ROC 曲线分析显示基线血清 IL-6、CRP 预测患者进展为肺炎的 AUC 值分别为  $0.969$ 、 $0.656$ , 提示 IL-6 在预测高龄奥密克戎变异株感染患者是否进展至肺炎方面优于 CRP, 有更好的预测价值。

本研究数据显示, 合并基础疾病对于高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者是否会进展至肺炎或重症化无明显影响, 且合并不同基础疾病的患者之间血清 IL-6 水平差异均无统计学意义, 这与多数文献分析结果不同。文献报道, 合并高血压病、糖尿病、慢性肾脏病、肺部疾病、肿瘤等基础疾病的高龄人群是 COVID-19 进展至重型乃至危重型的高危人群, 也是死亡率增加的重要原因<sup>[14]</sup>。高血压病已被证明与 COVID-19 患者死亡风险增加、需要重症监护及疾病进展有关<sup>[15]</sup>, SARS-CoV-2 感染后 IL-6 增高可损伤血管内皮细胞, 影响一氧化氮的生成并增加血液黏滞度, 导致机体血压升高。由此可见, COVID-19 本身会引起高血压, 而高龄患者的基础高血压病可能加重肺炎。无论是 1 型还是 2 型糖尿病患者发生 COVID-19 后其病情严重程度和死亡率都显著增加<sup>[16]</sup>, 同时 COVID-19 的存在也对糖尿病的治疗产生一定影响, 可诱发高血糖或促使糖尿病病情进展<sup>[17]</sup>。COVID-19 与心血管疾病也相互影响, 有心血管疾病病史的高龄 COVID-19 患者病死率较高。彭明等<sup>[18]</sup>研究发现, 合并冠心病的 COVID-19 患者较未合并冠心病的 COVID-19 患者血氧饱和度更低、重型比例更高; Lazzerini 等<sup>[19]</sup>证实发生重型 COVID-19 时 IL-6 升高可促进心室电重构, 他汀类药物的使用可下调 IL-6、减轻炎症, 提高 COVID-19 患者的存活率<sup>[20]</sup>。本研究数据未得到与既往研究相同的结果, 考虑与纳入的高龄奥密克戎变异株感染者例数较少及单中心回顾性研究的局限性有关。此外, 本研究纳入的高龄患者均合并至少 1 种基础疾病, 而文献较多探讨的是青年组与老年组<sup>[21]</sup>或老年组与高龄组的比较<sup>[22]</sup>, 对于病例之间是否存在基础疾病相差较大的情况不得而知。由于样本量较小, 无法排除基础疾病影响 COVID-19 重症化对本研究结论造成的干扰。

IL-6 作为早期识别奥密克戎变异株感染后病情严重程度和患者分层的有效指标, 对临床治疗决策有明确意义<sup>[23]</sup>。伴有多种慢性基础疾病的高龄人群是重型或危重型 COVID-19 高危人群, 一旦感染奥密克戎变异株其死亡率、重症率均较高, 早期积极、有效干预对疾病转归有重要意义。在奥密克戎变异株感染者治疗过程中应关注血清 IL-6 的变化情况, 预防重症化并早期干预, 以改善患者预后、降低病死率。

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[本文编辑] 杨亚红