

· 综述 ·

癌性恶病质肌肉减少的病理生理机制和治疗方法

汪立鑫 周岩冰

【摘要】肌肉减少是处于恶病质期癌症患者的主要临床特征之一。癌性恶病质下肌肉减少的主要病理生理机制是在慢性炎症介导下出现的肌肉合成代谢和分解代谢通路异常。目前针对癌性恶病质肌肉减少的治疗主要包括激素治疗、营养支持、运动疗法和其他药物，但目前仍无法实际有效地阻止肌肉丢失和增强肌肉功能。增进了解癌性恶病质下肌肉减少的发病机制有助于寻找多靶点治疗方法。

【关键词】癌性恶病质；肌肉减少；病理生理机制；治疗方法

基金项目：国家自然科学基金(81270449)；青岛市民生科技计划项目(14-2-3-5-nsh)

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[Abstract] Sarcopenia is a major clinical characteristic of cancer cachexia. The main pathophysiologic mechanism of sarcopenia related to cancer cachexia is abnormality between anabolic and catabolic pathways of muscle mediated by chronic inflammation. The major treatments for sarcopenia in cancer cachexia currently include hormone therapy, nutrition support, exercise therapy, and other medications, which could not effectively prevent muscle loss or enhance muscle function. Better understanding of the pathogenetic processes of cancer cachexia-related sarcopenia may help in finding targets for an effective therapy.

[Key words] Cancer cachexia; Sarcopenia; Pathophysiologic mechanisms; Therapeutic methods

Fund program: the National Natural Science Foundation of China(81270449); Qingdao Minsheng Science and Technology Foundation(14-2-3-5-nsh)

不自主的体质量下降是恶性肿瘤的特点之一，加重到一定程度时即为恶病质状态，但几十年来人群体质量逐渐增加，使得癌症患者的体质量减轻不明显，使传统的依据体质量变化判断恶病质增添了复杂性^[1]。目前国际共识认为，癌性恶病质是一种以骨骼肌进行性减少为特征的临床综合征。它受多种因素影响，不能为传统的营养支持完全逆转，可以伴或不伴脂肪组织的减少，但必然存在因肌肉减少导致进行性的功能损害^[2]。80%的进展期癌症患者会出现癌性恶病质，这类患者的脂肪含量变化不定，但一定会出现肌肉减少^[2-3]。肌肉减少是癌性恶病质的一个主要的临床特征^[4]，是癌性恶病质许多临床表现的主要原因之一^[5]。

有关肌肉减少的定义可能是人体组成学研究中争论最多、一致意见最少的话题之一^[6]，迄今为止国内外对这一

临床综合征尚无统一的称谓。很早人们即发现，人体的肌肉量会随着年龄增长逐渐减少，1989年，Rosenberg^[7]首次用术语“sarcopenia”来描述这一表现。2010年，欧洲老年人肌肉减少症工作组更新了肌肉减少症(sarcopenia)的定义并获得广泛认可，其具体含义为：肌肉减少症是以进行性广泛出现的骨骼肌量减少和肌肉强度下降为特征的一组临床综合征，可增加机体功能障碍、生活质量下降、死亡等不良结局的发生风险^[8]。依病因可分为原发性和继发性肌肉减少症：原发性肌肉减少症指单纯因年龄增长而无其他原因所致的肌肉减少；继发性肌肉减少指年龄增长以外的其他原因（如肿瘤）导致的肌肉减少^[8]。健康人群的肌肉减少症发生率随着年龄增长而升高^[9]，而癌症患者由于原发部位的不同所致肌肉减少症的发生率也各有不同，甚至在同种疾病的不同研究中，肌肉减少症的发生率差别也比较大^[10-15]。这种巨大差别的产生既有疾病本身的影响，也有因各项研究涉及不同种族、不同年龄、采用不同诊断方法和界值标准等因素。

研究显示无论实际体质量如何变化，癌症患者非自主的肌肉减少都是导致不良结局的一个重要的风险因素^[16]。

DOI: 10.3760/cma.j.issn.1674-635X.2016.03.012

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肌肉减少可导致癌性恶病质患者不良预后和功能减退，如进行性的体质量下降、体力状态下降、身体机能减退、生活质量下降、对抗肿瘤治疗的耐受程度下降、发生化疗毒性风险明显增加、生存期缩短^[17-20]，所以早期发现、评估、阻止和治疗肌肉减少可以有效改善预后^[18]。本文将主要综述癌性恶病质下肌肉减少的病理生理学机制、临床表现和潜在有效的治疗方法。

1 文献检索与筛查

文献检索与筛查过程详见图 1。

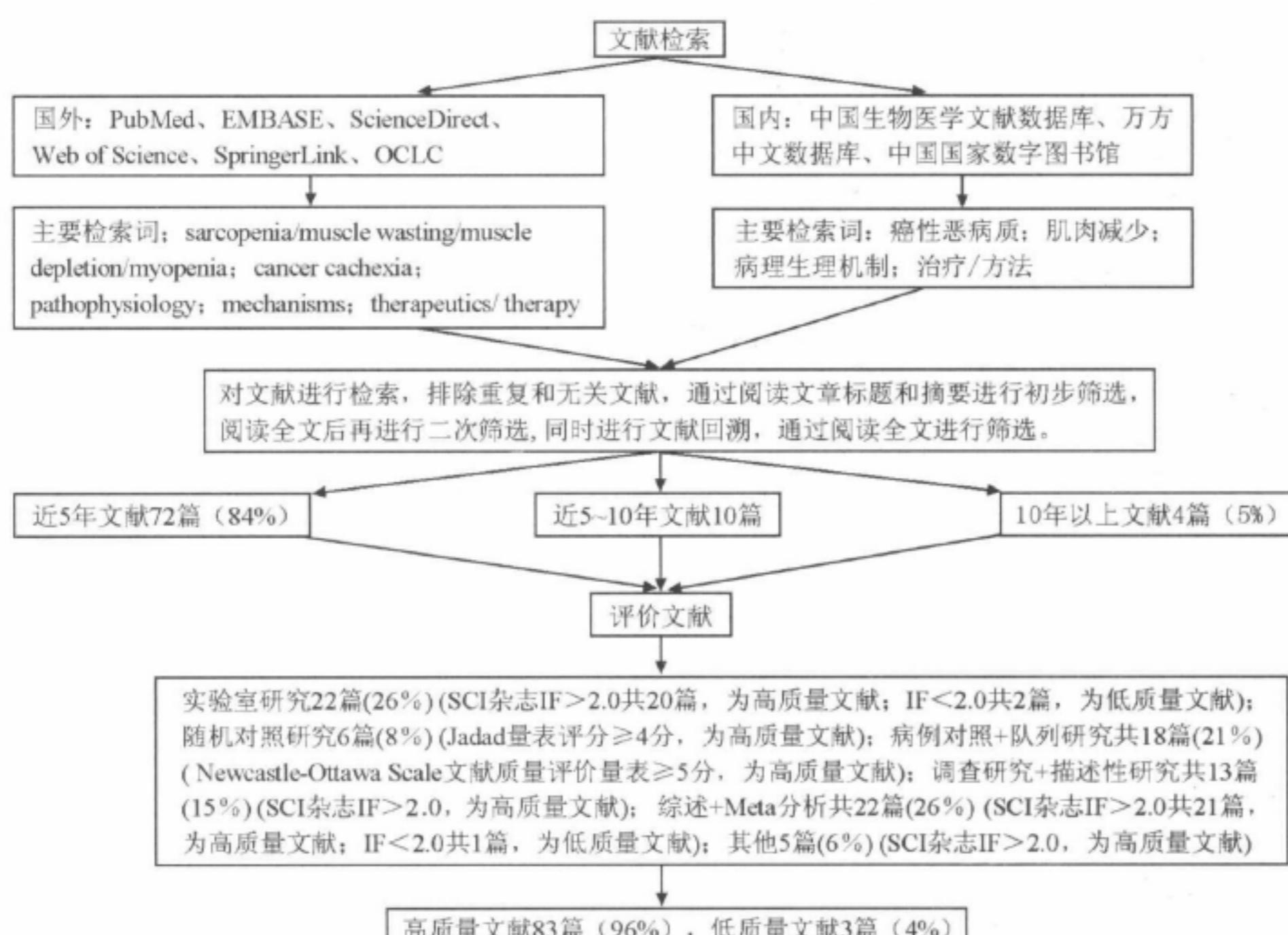
2 癌性恶病质下肌肉减少的病理生理学机制

癌症状态下，机体会出现能量应激，导致葡萄糖的有效利用能力下降^[21]，患者的肌肉合成代谢能力下降^[22]。为了适应癌细胞的增殖，机体会重新调整能量代谢^[23]。癌性恶病质时，骨骼肌摄取葡萄糖减少，为满足能量需求，肌肉内的非必需氨基酸氧化增加，使得蛋白降解加快，导致肌肉组织进一步减少^[24]。在癌症发展过程中，肌肉的代谢受到许多病理生理上的调控，磷脂酰肌醇-3-激酶/蛋白激酶 B/哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白 (phosphatidyl inositol 3-kinase/protein kinase B/ mammalian target of rapamycin, PI3K/Akt/mTOR) 信号通路、AMP 依赖蛋白激酶 [adenosine 5'-monophosphate (AMP)-activated protein kinase, AMPK] 和炎性细胞因子信号通路发生改变，使肌肉蛋白合成减少、降解增加，最终出现肌肉减少。

2.1 癌症状态下肌肉减少的代谢通路和影响因素：在肌肉合成代谢通路中，PI3K/Akt/mTOR 系统作为重要的信号调节通路，参与调节细胞代谢、能量平衡和细胞增殖^[25]。PI3K 通路在细胞周期和合成代谢过程中发挥关键作用，Akt 是其下游的一个重要的效应器，它能通过 mTOR 激活 mRNA 翻译系统，还通过激活核转录因子- κ B 调控多种存活基因的转录^[26]。mTOR 有两个复合体，其中 mTORC1 在蛋白合成过程中发挥重要作用。它可以通过负反馈作用抑制 PI3K，还可以通过下游产物对 Akt 进行负反馈调节^[27]。进展期癌症出现肌肉减少的恶病质患者常表现出 Akt 活性的损害和 mTOR 信号受抑制^[28]。目前为止，在癌症发展过程中出现的因蛋白合成减少所致的肌肉减少，mTOR 信号被抑制是主要的发病机制之一^[4]。

AMPK 是重要的能量感受器和信号传感器，可以被多种代谢因素影响^[29]。研究显示 AMPK 抑制所有的促进细胞生长合成通路，如脂肪酸、磷脂、蛋白和核糖体 RNA 的合成通路^[30]。肌肉内 AMPK 的活性可随着恶病质进展而升高^[31]。当能量缺乏时，AMPK 激活并抑制 mTORC1；在能量耗尽时，AMPK 还可以直接抑制 mTORC1 进而抑制肌肉合成^[32-33]。而且，AMPK 还能诱导骨骼肌内萎缩基因的表达^[34]。

2.2 慢性炎症与肌肉减少的关系：癌症演变过程中发生明显的慢性系统性炎症^[35]，严重的炎症状态可导致体力状态



注：SCI：科学引文索引；IF：影响因子

图 1 文献收集及质量评估

Fig 1 Literature collection and quality evaluation

下降甚至死亡^[17]。炎性细胞因子可增加蛋白降解使瘦体组织量下降^[24]，这一过程主要通过信号转导子和转录激活子 3/核因子-κB 信号及其下游的泛素蛋白酶体系统介导蛋白水解，诱导发生肌肉减少症^[36]。有研究显示，肺癌患者的系统性炎症与骨骼肌内的炎症反应水平显著相关，而骨骼肌内的炎症是由核因子-κB 活性升高所介导^[28]。信号转导子和转录激活子 3 抑制剂可以抑制蛋白降解，因此能够对抗恶病质荷瘤小鼠出现的肌肉减少^[37]。

研究显示白细胞介素-6 (interleukin-6, IL-6) 可介导下游多条信号通路导致癌性恶病质时出现肌肉减少^[38]，IL-6 受体抗体可以通过抑制肌肉蛋白降解阻碍恶病质的进展^[31]。研究发现，IL-6 转基因小鼠比正常小鼠体质量下降明显，骨骼肌减少的比例更高，给转基因小鼠使用 IL-6 抗体后肌肉减少有所改善，表明 IL-6 在肌肉减少和体质量下降的发生过程发挥重要作用^[37]。多项研究显示癌性恶病质状态下患者血清的 IL-6 水平相比对照组均升高^[39-40]。不过 IL-6 对肌肉组织的影响有剂量和时间依赖性，短期和低水平使用 IL-6 均无促炎作用，而持续的全身性 IL-6 浓度升高才有促分解代谢和导致肌肉减少的作用^[41]。

3 临床表现

癌性恶病质所致肌肉减少的主要症状是肌肉强度下降和乏力。有研究显示，相比健康对照组，出现肌肉减少的癌性恶病质患者股四头肌强度下降 33% ~ 40%，这对患者的运动能力、自主性和生活质量产生严重不良影响^[42]。肌肉减少表现出的症状对生活质量的影响甚至超过肿瘤部位、患病时间、疾病分期等因素。肌肉减少导致身体机能下降和自主生活能力下降，这些因素又导致机体处于较差的体力状态，并影响到抗肿瘤治疗的有效性和安全性，最终影响生存时间和治疗结局^[20, 43]。

此外，肌肉减少与癌症相关性乏力也有相关性。癌症相关性乏力发生率较高，影响因素较多。其定义为：与癌症或癌症治疗相关、可影响日常生活的一种持续的主观疲劳感觉^[44]。癌症相关性乏力的发病机制尚不明确，已有研究显示，癌症相关性乏力与骨骼肌指数相关，且上肢肌力和下肢肌力下降均可预测乏力的发生^[45]。肌肉减少及所致的乏力从多方面影响身体、心理、社会和认知能力，可使患者疲劳、衰弱、缺乏活力、消极、衰竭、呼吸困难、缺乏积极性、焦虑、悲伤、忧郁、注意力不集中、记忆力减退、决断力差^[46]。

4 治疗方法

目前尚无有效治疗癌性恶病质肌肉减少的方法。从其病理生理特点考虑，药物治疗可定位在上游通路（如对抗系统性炎症中关键介质的作用）或下游通路（如抑制分解和促进合成）。阻断上游通路信号可能获得多重的益处，同时改善恶病质综合征的多种表现。针对下游通路的治疗则能够改善或改变肌肉的能量代谢途径，从而使肌细胞能更合理地代谢。

4.1 激素治疗：甲地孕酮是唯一获得美国食品和药品管理局授权治疗恶病质的药物，它可以抑制促炎细胞因子 IL-1、IL-6、肿瘤坏死因子 α，并促进下丘脑分泌神经肽 Y^[47-48]，进而有效改善神经性厌食、增加体质量并改善生活质量^[49]。但目前认为甲地孕酮所致的体质量增加主要源于液体潴留和脂肪组织量增加，而对瘦体组织影响不大^[47, 50]。一项研究分析了雌激素和雄激素对健康男性人体组成的影响，结果显示雌激素水平与脂肪量相关，而瘦体组织量和肌肉强度只与雄激素水平有关^[51]。

睾酮增加肌肉量和肌肉强度的作用受剂量依赖，常规治疗使用睾酮可能增加男性前列腺癌的发病风险和导致女性男性化^[52]。一项小型前瞻性研究给伴有性功能减退的癌症患者补充睾酮，在观察期内两组间人体组成并无明显变化^[53]。这种睾酮与瘦体组织间关联的阴性结果可能与干预时间短或使用剂量小有关。最近有研究显示，选择性雄激素受体调节剂 enobosarm 有促进骨骼肌合成的作用^[54]。一个Ⅱ级临床试验显示，口服 enobosarm 可使一组不同癌症患者瘦体组织量增加^[55]。一项随机双盲对照Ⅲ期临床试验显示，为Ⅲ ~ Ⅳ期非小细胞肺癌患者使用 enobosarm 后，患者的瘦体组织量和体力状态均较对照组明显增加^[56]。这种药物对前列腺和精囊腺等其他雄激素敏感组织的影响很小，对老年男性和绝经后妇女几乎无不良反应^[56]。其临床应用的有效性和安全性尚需要进一步判定。

4.2 营养支持：针对合并肌肉减少症癌症患者的营养支持应包括饮食建议、营养补充、肠内营养等方面的一系列干预措施。推荐患者小量摄入自己喜欢的、利于吞咽、无刺激性气味的食物，根据患者的需要适当增加热量和蛋白的摄入，同时补充一些富含 ω-3 脂肪酸的产品。对于不能吞咽或有严重吞咽困难的患者，需行全肠内营养。如果骨骼肌减少的原因部分由于营养物质摄入不足所致，那么营养补充和肠内营养都是十分有效的方法^[57]。

目前认为，如果进食量不足以维持能量平衡，肌肉蛋白合成速率将下降约 20%^[58]。在肌肉废用期间（如住院、卧床等）保持能量平衡尤为关键，避免营养不足可防止肌肉的快速丢失^[59]。蛋白摄入减少是肌肉减少加快的关键。当每日的蛋白摄入小于 0.8 g/kg 体质量时，机体将很难维持肌肉量。此时，有效地办法是调整饮食成分，在控制能量摄入的同时增加蛋白摄入。保证充分促进餐后肌肉蛋白合成是保持肌肉量的关键因素，通过改善蛋白来源、改变蛋白摄入时间和增加蛋白摄入量，饮食疗法能有效减少肌肉废用性萎缩^[60]。

摄入蛋白质的类型可以影响肌肉蛋白合成。餐后血液循环中必需氨基酸尤其是亮氨酸浓度升高，可以明显促进肌肉蛋白合成、抑制蛋白降解^[61]。有研究显示，增加补充亮氨酸可以明显促进肌肉蛋白合成反应^[62]，同时结合适度的运动对蛋白合成有更好地促进作用^[63]。蛋白质的摄入时间点和摄入量也是肌肉蛋白合成的重要影响因素。考虑到

肌肉蛋白合成的高峰期在餐后 2~3 h 且可持续至餐后 5 h, 每日 3~5 次补充 30 g 高质量饮食蛋白(包括大约 15 g 必需氨基酸和 3 g 亮氨酸), 可以极大地减少肌肉量丢失^[60]。

有研究显示, 老年人饮食中补充 ω -3 脂肪酸可增加肌肉蛋白的合成^[64], 为癌症患者在营养支持过程中补充 ω -3 脂肪酸可能缓解肌肉减少。有研究给 40 例行化疗的肺癌患者补充鱼油后评估显示, 鱼油组患者肌肉量较对照组明显增加^[65]。也有研究显示, 为头颈部癌症患者补充富含 ω -3 脂肪酸的营养素可以使肌肉量较前增加^[66]。一项 Meta 分析显示, 为不可切除胰腺癌患者增加 ω -3 脂肪酸补充可明显增加体质量和瘦体组织量^[67]。但也有研究认为癌症患者使用 ω -3 脂肪酸后对瘦体组织的影响不明显^[68]。总之, ω -3 脂肪酸对肌肉代谢的作用尚有待验证。

4.3 运动疗法: 运动疗法可以促进肌肉蛋白合成、减少恶病质的分解代谢作用, 并可改善体内的炎症状况和胰岛素抵抗, 从而保护肌肉量和肌肉功能, 改善身体机能^[69-70]。多项包括有氧运动和抗阻运动的运动治疗项目通过改善健康状态、肌肉量和肌肉强度, 最终都使乏力的状态有所好转^[69, 71-72]。已有学者推荐联合使用有氧运动和抗阻运动治疗恶病质^[73], 但具体运动训练计划的执行标准仍需大量临床试验论证。

尽管运动可以明显改善肌肉量和肌肉强度, 但由于乏力、合并其他疾病等因素, 导致患者的运动耐受较差, 仍有很多患者难以遵从运动指导而保持久坐的习惯^[74]。因此, 如何保证患者依从性和调动其积极性也是实际需要面对的问题。

4.4 促合成药物: 胃促生长素是一种生长激素促分泌素, 它有刺激生长激素释放、调节代谢、影响能量平衡、促进食欲、抗炎等多种生理功能^[75]。胃促生长素可以通过改善进食、下调炎症反应而防止肌肉减少, 且可通过调节多种信号通路(如 PI3K/Akt/mTOR 通路)而部分直接作用于肌细胞, 进而增加肌肉量与肌肉强度^[76-78]。胃促生长素受体激动剂阿拉莫林可以使癌性恶病质患者增进食欲、增加体质量和瘦体组织量、促进蛋白质合成代谢、减轻能量消耗和炎症状态^[79-80]。它是一种潜在有效的药物, 仍需进一步的临床试验验证其有效性和安全性。

4.5 非甾体抗炎药: 有研究尝试使用改善慢性炎症的抗炎药物治疗肌肉减少。相关研究提示非甾体抗炎药可以改善进展期癌患者的生活质量、体力状态、炎性标记物、体质量和生存时间^[81]。但由于缺乏大型随机对照试验的证据, 目前已有证据不足以推荐在临床针对性使用非甾体抗炎药^[5]。

4.6 其他疗法: 针对细胞因子的治疗药物同样值得期待, 其中 IL-6 作为治疗肌肉减少的研究重点, 有研究为出现化疗抵抗的肺癌恶病质患者和小鼠使用 IL-6 抑制剂妥珠单抗后, 肌肉减少、厌食等恶病质症状明显好转^[82]。由于在 IL-6 介导的肌肉减少过程中, 信号传导及转录激活因子 3

通路发挥中介作用, 因此一些信号传导及转录激活因子 3 抑制剂(如鲁索利替尼)对肌肉量的影响也需进一步研讨^[83]。

此外, 有研究显示一些传统草药可有效改善因癌性恶病质所致的肌肉减少。有研究显示, 草药 rikkunshito 可以通过刺激胃促生长素信号通路、改善机体炎症状态、提升葡萄糖酸浓度而发挥抗恶病质作用^[84]。另有学者发现, 联合使用知母和黄柏可以抑制肌肉减少的相关基因, 增加胰岛素样生长因子-1/Akt 通路和自噬通路活性, 从而使炎性因子水平下降、缓解体质量下降^[85]。

模仿运动治疗可使不能遵从体能锻炼建议的患者受益。但一些运动模仿的药物有明显副作用, 仍需进一步探讨在保证其有效性基础上减少其不良作用^[74]。

综上, 癌性恶病质状态下肌肉减少是多因素作用的结果。在一些恶病质模型中出现的骨骼肌合成抵抗的经验提示, 治疗的首要目的是防止肌肉丢失, 而不是尝试把丢失的补回来^[5]。由于肌肉减少可以明显降低患者的生活质量, 因此所有可能的干预措施应尽早开始, 最理想的治疗方法是兼有促进肌肉合成和防止肌肉过多降解的作用, 但目前尚无明确有效的治疗方法。针对癌性恶病质相关的合成、分解代谢异常的新疗法应基于新的药物靶点的确认^[86], 这需要对肌肉减少的发生机制进行进一步的研究, 以期获得更好的治疗策略。

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