

ASL-MRI对局部晚期鼻咽癌诱导化疗反应 及近期疗效的早期预测价值

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摘要 目的:通过动脉自旋标记磁共振成像(ASL-MRI)监测局部晚期鼻咽癌(LA-NPC)诱导化疗前、后的肿瘤血流量(TBF), 探讨ASL-MRI早期预测LA-NPC诱导化疗反应及近期疗效的价值。**方法:**收集38例初诊LA-NPC患者, 于诱导化疗前、后行ASL-MRI, 以获得诱导化疗前TBF(Pre-TBF)和诱导化疗后TBF(Post-TBF), 并计算诱导化疗前、后的TBF变化值(Δ TBF)及变化率(Δ TBF%)。在诱导化疗后, 将完全缓解(CR)和部分缓解(PR)归为反应组, 疾病稳定(SD)及疾病进展(PD)归为非反应组。在放疗后3个月评估近期疗效, 分为CR组和非CR组(PR、SD及PD)。采用单因素及多因素二分类logistic回归分析TBF参数对诱导化疗效果及近期疗效的影响。采用受试者工作特性(ROC)曲线确定诊断效能。**结果:**38例患者中诱导化疗反应组23例(60.5%), 非反应组15例(39.5%)。放疗后3个月CR组22例(57.9%), 非CR组16例(42.1%)。诱导化疗反应组在放疗后3个月的CR率显著高于非反应组(73.9% vs. 33.3%, $P=0.02$)。38例患者Pre-TBF显著高于Post-TBF($Z=4.227$, $P<0.001$)。诱导化疗反应组Pre-TBF、 Δ TBF及 Δ TBF%显著高于非反应组(均 $P<0.05$); 放疗后3个月CR组的Pre-TBF、 Δ TBF及 Δ TBF%显著高于非CR组(均 $P<0.05$)。多因素二分类logistic回归结果显示, Pre-TBF是诱导化疗效果的独立影响因素($P=0.027$), ROC曲线下面积为0.745($P=0.012$); T分期及 Δ TBF%是近期疗效的独立影响因素(均 $P<0.05$), Δ TBF%的ROC曲线下面积为0.807($P=0.001$)。**结论:**治疗前LA-NPC肿瘤血流高灌注提示更好的疗效, Pre-TBF可以预测LA-NPC诱导化疗效果, Δ TBF%可以预测LA-NPC近期疗效。

关键词 局部晚期鼻咽癌; 动脉自旋标记磁共振成像; 诱导化疗; 疗效评价

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Early prediction value of ASL-MRI for induced chemotherapy response and short-term efficacy of locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma

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Abstract Objective: To monitor tumor blood flow (TBF) before and after induction chemotherapy in locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma (LA-NPC) by arterial spin labeling magnetic resonance imaging (ASL-MRI), and to investigate the value of ASL-MRI in early predicting response of induction chemotherapy and short-term efficacy in LA-NPC. **Methods:** Thirty-eight newly diagnosed LA-NPC patients were enrolled. ASL-MRI were performed both before and after induction chemotherapy to obtain Pre-TBF and Post-TBF. The TBF change value (Δ TBF) and the change rate (Δ TBF%) before and after induction chemotherapy were calculated. After induction chemotherapy, complete response (CR) and partial response (PR) were classified as response group (RG), and stable disease (SD) as well as progressive disease (PD) were classified as non-response group (NRG). The short-term efficacy was evaluated at 3 months after radiotherapy and divided into CR group and non-CR group (PR, SD and PD). Univariate and multivariate binary logistic regression analysis was used to evaluate the effects of TBF parameters on the response of induction chemotherapy and short-term efficacy. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was used to evaluate the diagnostic efficacy. **Results:** Of the 38 patients, 23 (60.5%) were in the RG and 15 (39.5%) in the NRG. There were 22 cases (57.9%) in the CR group and 16 cases (42.1%) in the non-CR group at 3 months after radiotherapy. The CR rate at 3 months after radiotherapy was significantly higher in the RG than that in the NRG (73.9% vs. 33.3%, $P=0.02$). Pre-TBF was significantly higher than Post-TBF in 38 patients ($Z=4.227$, $P<0.001$). Pre-TBF, Δ TBF and Δ TBF% in the RG were significantly higher than that in the NRG (all $P<0.05$); Pre-TBF, Δ TBF, and Δ TBF% were significantly higher in the CR group than that in the non-CR group at 3 months after radiotherapy (all $P<0.05$). Multivariate binary logistic regression showed that Pre-TBF was an independent risk factor of the efficacy of induction chemotherapy ($P=0.027$), with the area under ROC curve (AUC) value of 0.745 ($P=0.012$). T stage and Δ TBF% were independent risk factors of short-term efficacy (all $P<0.05$), and the AUC value of Δ TBF% was 0.807 ($P=0.001$). **Conclusion:** Pre-treatment TBF hyperperfusion in LA-NPC suggests better outcomes. Pre-TBF and Δ TBF% can predict the efficacy of induction chemotherapy and short-term efficacy of LA-NPC, respectively.

Keywords locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma; arterial spin labeling magnetic resonance imaging; induction chemotherapy; efficacy evaluation

鼻咽癌高发于中国南方及东南亚^[1],超70%的患者首诊即为局部晚期鼻咽癌(locally advanced nasopharyngeal carcinoma, LA-NPC),治疗失败率达20%~30%^[2-3]。诱导化学治疗(化疗)可提高LA-NPC局部控制率并降低远处转移率^[4-5]。但对于不敏感者,诱导化疗无法抑制肿瘤的进展,并可能因放射治疗(放疗)延迟而导致不良预后^[6]。因此,早期预测LA-NPC对诱导化疗的反应及放疗后近期疗效可优化治疗方案。目前临床上仍缺乏LA-NPC疗效评估的有效指标。TNM分期可以指导治疗和预后,但缺乏生物学特征。EBV-DNA可用于疗效评估和风险分层,但因不同中心检验技术和设备差异,其临床应用受限^[7-8]。因此,寻找有效预测指标对指导LA-NPC个体化治疗具有重要意义。肿瘤生长及转移与血供密切相关^[9-10],良好灌注能促进抗肿

瘤药物向肿瘤组织输送,并改善局部缺氧,提高放疗敏感性^[11]。此外,血流灌注变化早于形态变化,为预测早期疗效提供了理论基础^[12]。

动脉自旋标记磁共振成像(arterial spin labeling magnetic resonance imaging, ASL-MRI)通过翻转血液中氢质子的磁化矢量来实现内源性标记,从而无创地获取组织血流灌注量^[13]。目前,ASL-MRI在颅脑肿瘤疗效预测及早期鼻咽癌诊断和分期方面已有相关报道^[14-17]。ASL-MRI对LA-NPC患者诱导化疗反应及近期疗效的预测价值研究鲜少报道。本研究旨在通过ASL-MRI监测LA-NPC患者诱导化疗前、后的肿瘤血流量(tumor blood flow, TBF),以探讨ASL-MRI早期预测LA-NPC诱导化疗反应和近期疗效的潜在价值。

1 材料与方法

1.1 研究对象

选择2021年6月至2022年10月广西医科大学第一附属医院收治的首诊鼻咽癌38例,病例纳入标准:(1)经病理组织学诊断为未分化型鼻咽癌;(2)年龄18~70岁;(3)KPS评分 ≥ 80 分;(4)Ⅲ~Ⅳa期(AJCC/UICC 8th分期标准);(5)既往未行放疗、化疗及其它抗肿瘤治疗;(6)无磁共振检查禁忌。排除标准:(1)非首诊鼻咽癌;(2)合并远处转移;(3)合并其它恶性肿瘤;(4)无法配合ASL-MRI检查。本研究已通过广西医科大学第一附属医院伦理委员会伦理审查(伦理号:2023-E092-01)。所有受试者均已签署知情同意书。

1.2 治疗方案

所有患者均接受诱导化疗及调强放疗,诱导化疗方案包括吉西他滨+顺铂方案(GP)及多西他赛+顺铂(TP)方案,共2~3个周期,间隔21 d。调强放疗处方剂量GTV:70~72 Gy/33f,放疗期间进行以铂类为基础的同期化疗2~3个周期,间隔21 d。

1.3 ASL-MRI扫描及TBF评估

ASL-MRI扫描采用3.0T磁共振扫描仪(Magnetom Skyra,西门子,德国),并配有20通道头颈线圈,扫描范围由颅顶至胸骨切迹下2 cm。所有受试者于诱导化疗前、后接受ASL-MRI扫描以获得诱导化疗前TBF(Pre-TBF)和诱导化疗后TBF(Post-TBF),并计算诱导化疗前、后的TBF变化值(Δ TBF)及变化率(Δ TBF%),所有TBF参数由2位观察者独立评估,并由其中1位观察者在2周后重复评估。

1.4 疗效评价

采用国际实体瘤疗效评价标准(RECIST, Version 1.1),疗效评估分为完全缓解(complete response, CR)、部分缓解(partial response, PR)、疾病稳定(stable disease, SD)及疾病进展(progressive disease, PD)。在诱导化疗后,将CR和PR归为反应组,SD和PD归为非反应组。在放疗结束后3个月评估近期疗效,分为CR组和非CR组(PR、SD及PD)。

1.5 统计学方法

使用SPSS 26.0进行统计学分析。符合正态分布的计量资料以均数 $\pm$ 标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,组间比较采用独立样本 t 检验。非正态分布的计量资料以中位数(四分位数间距)($M(P_{25} \sim P_{75})$)表示,组间比

较采用Wilcoxon秩和检验。计数资料以频数(百分率)表示,组间比较采用Fisher精确概率法。采用双向随机内相关系数(intraclass correlation coefficient, ICC)分析TBF测量一致性。采用单因素及多因素二分类logistic回归分析诱导化疗效果及近期疗效的影响因素。采用受试者工作特性(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线确定诊断阈值,根据曲线下面积(area under curve, AUC)确定诊断效能。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 临床基线资料

共纳入38例LA-NPC患者,其中男24例(63.2%),女14例(36.8%);年龄24~51岁;临床分期中Ⅲ期3例(7.9%),Ⅳa期35例(92.1%);T2期1例(2.6%),T3期12例(31.6%),T4期25例(65.8%);N0期1例(2.6%),N1期10例(23.6%),N2期9例(23.7%),N3期18例(47.7%);初治EBV-DNA阴性8例(< 400 拷贝/mL,21.1%),阳性30例(≥ 400 拷贝/mL,78.9%)。

2.2 疗效评价

诱导结束时反应组23例(60.5%;2例CR,21例PR),非反应组15例(39.5%;14例SD,1例PD)。放疗结束3个月评估近期疗效,CR组22例(57.9%,22例CR),非CR组16例(42.1%,16例PR),无SD及PD病例。诱导化疗反应组在放疗后3个月的CR率为73.9%,非反应组的CR率为33.3%,差异具有统计学意义($P = 0.02$),见表1。

表1 诱导化疗反应组和非反应组的近期疗效比较

组别	总计	CR, $n(\%)$	非CR, $n(\%)$	P
反应组	23	17(73.9)	6(26.1)	0.02
非反应组	15	5(33.3)	10(66.7)	

2.3 观察者一致性检验

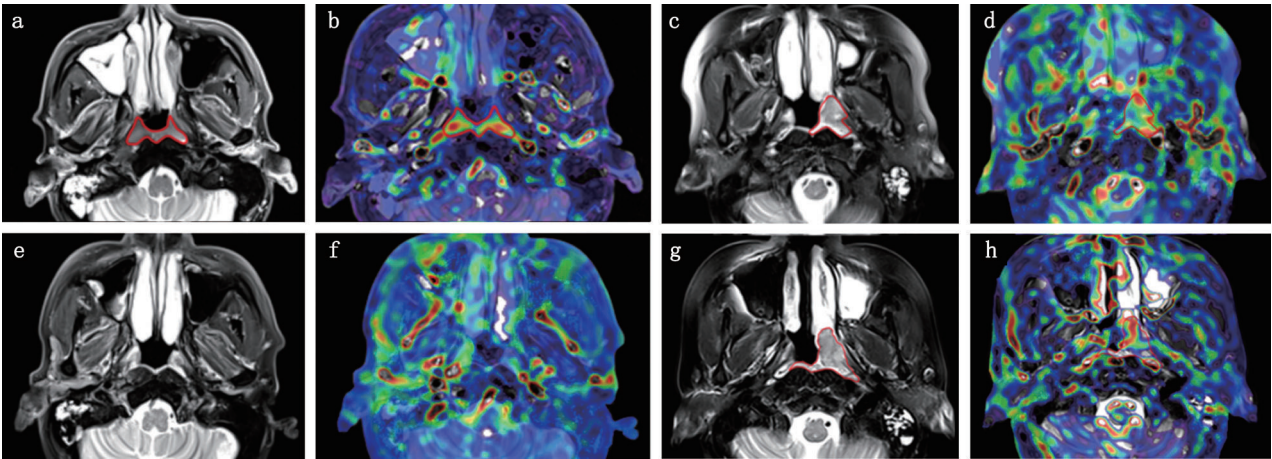
各TBF参数的组内相关系数和组间相关系数均良好(ICC为0.739~0.998,均 $P < 0.001$),见表2。

2.4 诱导化疗前后TBF值变化

38例鼻咽癌的Pre-TBF为57.97 mL/100 g $\cdot$ min⁻¹,显著高于Post-TBF的35.81 mL/100 g $\cdot$ min⁻¹($Z = 4.227, P < 0.001$)。2例患者诱导化疗前、后灌注图像见图1。

表2 TBF参数的观测者一致性检验

参数	观测者内 ICC(95%CI)	P	观察者间 ICC(95%CI)	P
Pre-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.997(0.994~0.998)	<0.001	0.972(0.948~0.986)	<0.001
Post-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.994(0.989~0.997)	<0.001	0.739(0.551~0.856)	<0.001
ΔTBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.998(0.996~0.999)	<0.001	0.881(0.782~0.936)	<0.001
ΔTBF%/%	0.998(0.995~0.999)	<0.001	0.805(0.605~0.993)	<0.001



图a~d为诱导化疗后达到CR患者,男性,45岁,T3N1M0Ⅲ期;病理:(鼻咽肿瘤)未分化型非角化性癌,患者为诱导化疗反应组;a:诱导化疗前T2WI序列,肿物侵犯鼻咽腔,双侧咽隐窝消失,b:诱导化疗前TBF伪彩图,显示较周围正常肌肉为高灌注信号;c:3周期TP方案诱导化疗后肿物明显消退;d:诱导化疗后TBF伪彩图,鼻咽部无明显肿物残留,灌注信号明显降低;图e~h为诱导化疗后疾病稳定患者,女性,37岁,T3N1M0Ⅲ期;病理:(鼻咽肿瘤)未分化型非角化性癌,患者为诱导化疗非反应组;e:诱导化疗前T2WI序列,肿物侵犯左侧鼻咽部为主;f:诱导化疗前TBF伪彩图,显示较周围正常肌肉为高灌注信号;g:2周期TP方案诱导化疗后,肿物较治疗前无明显消退;h:诱导化疗后TBF伪彩图,未消退肿物仍显示高灌注信号。

图1 2例患者诱导化疗前、后灌注图像

2.5 诱导化疗反应组和非反应组 TBF 参数比较

诱导化疗反应组 Pre-TBF、ΔTBF 及 ΔTBF% 均显著高于非反应组 (均 $P<0.05$); 两组 Post-TBF 比较, 差异无统计学意义 ($P=0.085$), 见表 3。

2.6 放疗后 3 个月 CR 组和非 CR 组 TBF 参数比较

放疗后 3 个月 CR 组 Pre-TBF、ΔTBF 及 ΔTBF% 均显著高于非 CR 组 (均 $P<0.05$); 两组 Post-TBF 比较, 差异无统计学意义 ($P=0.114$), 见表 4。

2.7 诱导疗效及近期疗效的二分类 logistic 回归结果与 ROC 曲线

定义 T2~T3 期为低 T 分期、T4 期为高 T 分期、N0~N1 期为低 N 分期及 N2~N3 期为高 N 分期。分别以对诱导化疗是否反应及放疗后 3 个月是否 CR 作为因变量 (0=否, 1=是)。由于 Post-TBF、ΔTBF 及 ΔTBF% 在诱导化疗结束才可评估, 无法用于预测诱导化疗疗效, 因此不纳入诱导化疗疗效的二分类 lo-

gistic 回归分析。单因素二分类 logistic 回归结果显示, Pre-TBF 与诱导化疗应答相关 ($P=0.017$); 年龄、Pre-TBF、ΔTBF 和 ΔTBF% 与放疗后 3 个月是否 CR 相关 (均 $P<0.05$)。由于 ΔTBF、ΔTBF% 均表示诱导化疗前、后 TBF 变化情况, 且 TBF% 是标准化的率并具有更好的诊断效能, 后续将 ΔTBF% 纳入近期疗效多因素分析。基于 T 分期和 N 分期在临床中对鼻咽癌预后的确切影响, T 分期、N 分期均纳入诱导疗效及近期疗效的多因素分析。多因素分析结果显示, Pre-TBF 是诱导化疗效果的独立影响因素, 提示 Pre-TBF 越大越可能对诱导化疗产生应答, 见表 5; T 分期和 ΔTBF% 是放疗后 3 个月近期疗效的独立影响因素, 提示低 T 分期及 ΔTBF% 更大的患者在放疗后 3 个月更容易达到 CR, 见表 6。绘制诱导疗效和近期疗效的 ROC 曲线确定 TBF 参数诊断效能, 见图 2。

表3 诱导化疗反应组和非反应组TBF参数比较

参数	反应组(<i>n</i> =23)	非反应组(<i>n</i> =15)	$\bar{x} \pm s$	
			<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
Pre-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	78.61±35.49	50.70±15.59	3.313	0.002
Post-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	35.24±17.97	46.23±19.86	1.768	0.085
ΔTBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)*	43.13±33.64	4.47±17.73	4.644	<0.001
ΔTBF%/(%) [#]	50.87±25.67	5.16±38.28	4.417	<0.001

*ΔTBF数值范围,反应组:−13.58~131.21;非反应组:−27.16~29.18。[#]ΔTBF%数值范围,反应组:−18.32~86.71;非反应组:−82.70~53.38。

表4 放疗后3个月CR组和非CR组TBF参数比较

参数	CR组(<i>n</i> =22)	非CR组(<i>n</i> =16)	$\bar{x} \pm s$	
			<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
Pre-TBF(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	77.15±35.48	54.46±21.57	2.267	0.029
Post-TBF(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	35.36±17.96	45.39±20.01	1.620	0.114
ΔTBF(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)*	41.78±34.40	9.07±23.45	3.284	0.002
ΔTBF%/(%) [#]	49.26±27.05	10.23±40.42	3.569	0.001

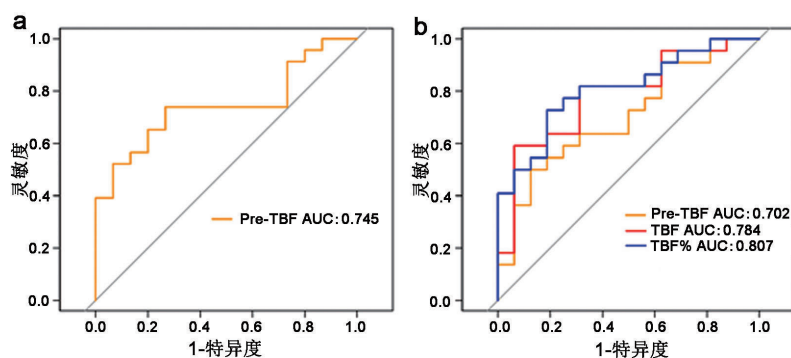
*ΔTBF数值范围,CR组:−13.58~131.21;非CR组:−27.16~68.87。[#]ΔTBF%数值范围,CR组:−18.32~86.71;非CR组:−82.70~62.17。

表5 诱导化疗效果的二分类logistic回归分析结果

影响因素	单因素分析				多因素分析			
	β	<i>Wald</i>	<i>OR</i> (95% <i>CI</i>)	<i>P</i>	β	<i>Wald</i>	<i>OR</i> (95% <i>CI</i>)	<i>P</i>
性别(以女性为参照)	−0.251	0.131	0.778(0.199~3.035)	0.718				
年龄	0.017	0.326	1.018(0.960~1.079)	0.560				
T分期(以低T分期为参照)	0.134	0.035	1.143(0.284~4.604)	0.851	−0.167	0.039	0.846(0.163~4.401)	0.843
N分期(以低N分期为参照)	0.875	1.437	2.400(0.574~10.042)	0.231	−0.993	1.309	2.699(0.492~14.805)	0.253
EBV-DNA(以阴性为参照)	0.547	0.464	1.727(0.359~8.322)	0.496				
Pre-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.048	5.667	1.049(1.008~1.091)	0.017	0.047	4.914	1.048(1.005~1.092)	0.027

表6 放疗后3个月近期疗效的二分类logistics回归分析结果

影响因素	单因素分析				多因素分析			
	β	<i>Wald</i>	<i>OR</i> (95% <i>CI</i>)	<i>P</i>	β	<i>Wald</i>	<i>OR</i> (95% <i>CI</i>)	<i>P</i>
性别(以女性为参照)	−0.421	0.370	0.657(0.169~2.549)	0.543				
年龄	−0.077	4.264	0.926(0.860~0.996)	0.040	0.095	2.670	0.990(0.810~1.019)	0.101
T分期(以低T分期为参照)	−1.099	2.017	0.333(0.073~1.518)	0.156	−3.022	4.241	0.048(0.003~0.851)	0.038
N分期(以低N分期为参照)	−0.336	0.209	0.714(0.169~3.027)	0.648	−1.973	1.495	0.138(0.006~3.318)	0.222
EBV-DNA(以阴性为参照)	−0.243	0.088	1.007(0.848~1.196)	0.938				
Pre-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.031	3.994	1.032(1.001~1.064)	0.046	0.044	2.074	1.045(0.985~1.109)	0.146
Post-TBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	−0.029	2.376	0.971(0.936~1.008)	0.123				
ΔTBF/(mL/100 g·min ⁻¹)	0.045	6.640	1.046(1.011~1.082)	0.010				
ΔTBF%/(%)	0.036	7.198	1.037(1.010~1.068)	0.007	0.058	4.117	1.060(1.002~1.122)	0.043



a: 诱导化疗效果ROC;b:放疗后3个月近期疗效ROC。

图2 TBF参数对诱导化疗效果及近期疗效的诊断效能

3 讨论

鼻咽癌高发于我国广东、广西等地,同期放化疗是LA-NPC的标准治疗模式。研究表明,额外的诱导化疗可进一步提高LA-NPC的无病生存期,但也面临更大的治疗毒性^[18]。此外,对诱导化疗不敏感的患者,诱导化疗并不能控制肿瘤的进展,且可能因放疗介入的延迟而影响预后^[19]。因此,早期预测LA-NPC对诱导化疗的反应,对避免非必要的化疗和改善预后具有重要意义。

有研究表明,肿瘤血供是肿瘤生长及转移的关键因素,并与肿瘤治疗效果密切相关^[20]。因此,监测肿瘤血流灌注情况可能可以预测疗效。ASL-MRI是一项可无创、定量评估肿瘤血流灌注的技术,已应用于多种肿瘤的灌注水平和疗效评估^[21-22]。先前的研究表明,ASL可产生良好信噪比和均匀性的图像,能很好地反映鼻咽癌的血流灌注水平,且其参数TBF重复性良好^[17]。在本研究中,TBF参数的观察者间(范围0.739~0.972,均 $P<0.001$)及观察者内ICC(范围0.994~0.998,均 $P<0.001$)均较高,表明TBF测量具有良好的重复性和一致性。

本研究发现,所有患者的Pre-TBF均显著高于Post-TBF。这与Fujima等^[23]使用ASL-MRI评估22例接受非手术治疗的头颈部恶性肿瘤的研究结果一致,治疗前TBF为 (121.4 ± 27.8) mL/100 g·min⁻¹,显著高于治疗后的 (24.9 ± 14.9) mL/100 g·min⁻¹。我们考虑与诱导化疗导致肿瘤细胞损伤及灌注减少有关。此外,本研究发现诱导化疗反应组及放疗后3个月CR组的Pre-TBF、 Δ TBF及 Δ TBF%显著更高,且诱导化疗反应组在放疗后3个月的CR显著高于非反应组。进一步的分析表明,Pre-TBF是诱导化疗反应的独立影响因素,其AUC为0.745,具有在治疗前预测LA-NPC对诱导化疗敏感性的价值; Δ TBF%是近期疗效的独立影响因素,其中 Δ TBF%区分两组的AUC为0.807,提示诱导化疗前、后肿瘤

灌注水平变化率越大,放疗后3个月的CR率越高。这与Lin等^[24]使用ASL-MRI评估55例接受同期放化疗的鼻咽癌疗效的研究结果相似,在该研究中,放疗剂量累积40 Gy时,PR组的Pre-TBF和 Δ TBF值均高于SD组,Pre-TBF区分两组的AUC为0.845;此外,放疗后1个月非残留组的Pre-TBF和 Δ TBF值均高于残留组,Pre-TBF区分两组的AUC为0.831。我们考虑治疗前高灌注水平的肿瘤局部化疗药物浓度更高,对诱导化疗更敏感,诱导化疗所致的血管损伤、萎缩及瘤体消退更明显,肿瘤灌注水平因而显著下降;诱导化疗前、后显著的肿瘤负荷减轻使得放疗后3个月的CR率更高。而治疗前肿瘤低灌注导致局部乏氧和酸中毒,对化疗和放疗产生抵抗,致使诱导化疗应答欠佳和更高的肿瘤残留率。

综上所述,本研究通过ASL-MRI对LA-NPC诱导化疗前、后肿瘤血流灌注进行监测,发现鼻咽癌治疗前肿瘤血流高灌注提示更好的疗效,Pre-TBF和 Δ TBF%可分别作为预测诱导化疗敏感性和近期疗效的指标,为临床优化治疗方案提供一定的参考依据。

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