

• 综述 •

肺肉瘤样癌免疫治疗新进展

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[摘要] 肺肉瘤样癌(pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma, PSC)是非小细胞肺癌的一种罕见类型,具有高度侵袭性和异质性,对传统放疗不敏感,预后极差。免疫治疗作为肺癌治疗领域的里程碑式进展,为驱动基因阴性的PSC患者提供治疗新方向,有望改善患者临床预后。基于此,文章对国内外有关PSC免疫治疗的最新研究进展进行综述。

[关键词] 肺肉瘤样癌;免疫治疗;上皮-间充质转化;外泌体;PD-L1

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New advances in immunotherapy for pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma

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[Abstract] Pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma (PSC) is a rare type of non-small cell lung cancer, characterized by high invasiveness and heterogeneity. It is insensitive to traditional radiotherapy and chemotherapy, resulting in an extremely poor prognosis. Immunotherapy, as a landmark advancement in lung cancer treatment, provides a new direction for the treatment of PSC patients with driver gene negativity, offering hope for improving clinical outcomes. Based on this, this article provides a comprehensive review of the latest research progress on immunotherapy for PSC, encompassing both domestic and international studies.

[Key words] pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma; immunotherapy; epithelial-mesenchymal transition; exosome; PD-L1

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肺肉瘤样癌(pulmonary sarcomatoid carcinoma, PSC)是指含有肉瘤或肉瘤样成分的低分化肿瘤,约占非小细胞肺癌(non-small cell lung cancer, NSCLC)的0.5%^[1],具有高度侵袭性,易侵犯血管并发生远处转移,5年总生存率约20%,中位生存期3.5~7.0个月^[2-3]。世界卫生组织(World Health Organization, WHO)将PSC归属于肺恶性上皮细胞肿瘤范畴,包括5个亚型:多形性癌、梭形细胞癌、巨细胞癌、癌肉瘤和肺母细胞瘤^[4]。2021年最新发表的第5版《WHO肺部肿瘤分类》将PSC的组织学类型修订为多形性癌、肺母细胞瘤和癌肉瘤3个亚型,其中多形

性癌包括巨细胞癌及梭形细胞癌^[5]。由于PSC具有多重分化倾向且细胞形态不典型,多数患者术前诊断、术中冷冻病理与最终确诊结果并不一致,误诊率较高,因此需要较大的组织样本进行免疫组化和分子检测以精确诊断^[6]。目前尚无PSC的独立诊疗指南或专家共识,治疗原则多参照NSCLC诊疗指南,手术是其首选治疗方法,但术后复发率高达51.6%,术后辅助治疗是否带来生存获益尚存争议^[7]。传统放疗并未明显改善PSC临床预后,多数患者确诊时已处于肿瘤晚期阶段,失去手术机会,PSC治疗一度进入瓶颈期。21世纪针对分子和基因等方向的精准治疗手段百花齐放,免疫治疗的问世打开NSCLC治疗新局面,多种免疫治疗模式为驱动基因阴性的PSC患者带来治疗新希望。

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目前认为,肉瘤样癌起源于单克隆上皮组织,经过上皮-间充质转化(epithelial-mesenchymal transition, EMT)形成肉瘤或/和肉瘤样分化,兼具上皮组织和间叶组织的肿瘤特征,具有高度瘤内异质性和瘤间异质性^[8]。肿瘤内异质性是癌症进展、治疗耐药和复发的重要驱动因素。多组学分析揭示PSC具有细胞程序性死亡受体-配体1(programmed cell death 1 ligand 1, PD-L1)高表达、高肿瘤突变负荷(tumor mutational burden, TMB)和T细胞炎症肿瘤微环境的特点,因此免疫治疗在PSC中具有巨大潜力^[9]。本文就EMT在PSC发生发展中的作用机制及PSC免疫治疗最新进展进行综述。

1 EMT在PSC发生中的作用机制

1.1 EMT概述

EMT是一种进化保守的发育过程,在胚胎形成、器官发育、组织修复和癌症转移中发挥重要作用,与肺癌治疗耐药性的产生密切相关^[10-11]。EMT是上皮细胞失去上皮表型并获得间充质表型的过程,具有动态性和可逆性。从形态学上看,极化的上皮细胞失去细胞间黏附转变为间充质细胞,获得运动特性;从分子水平看,E-钙黏蛋白、闭合蛋白等上皮表型标志物表达缺失,而N-钙黏蛋白、波形蛋白和纤连蛋白等间充质表型标志物表达上调,与侵袭性表型相关的基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinase, MMP)-2、MMP-3和MMP-9活性增强^[12-13]。多项研究表明,E-钙黏蛋白表达缺失,波形蛋白、缺氧诱导因子1 α 以及EMT激动剂Twist和Snail的表达与肺癌预后不良相关^[14-15]。

目前认为EMT有3种类型:1型EMT与胚胎植入、胎盘形成和器官发育过程相关,此过程不涉及病理事件;2型EMT与伤口愈合、组织修复和器官纤维化相关,此过程中炎症细胞产生EMT诱导因子,包括转化生长因子(transforming growth factor, TGF)- β 、血小板源性生长因子、表皮生长因子和成纤维细胞生长因子等,这些因子在正常上皮细胞中诱导EMT的发生,导致器官广泛纤维化;3型EMT与癌症进展和转移密切相关,EMT过程激活被认为是上皮细胞获得恶性表型的关键机制^[11]。

原发性EMT发生后,间充质细胞还可通过间充质-上皮转化(mesenchymal-epithelial transition, MET)过程逆转回上皮表型,MET与肿瘤细胞远处转移和定植密切相关^[16]。EMT和MET过程共同赋予了肿瘤细胞侵袭性、转移性、治疗耐药性及癌症

干细胞(cancer stem cell, CSC)表型。

1.2 EMT与PSC中PD-L1表达及免疫逃逸

外泌体是由不同类型细胞通过动态内吞过程形成的具有生物活性的双层脂质纳米囊泡,直径为30~120 nm。外泌体作为细胞间重要的通讯媒介,可以传递多种信号分子,参与肺癌细胞EMT、诱导血管生成、形成转移前生态位以及免疫逃逸等多个过程,是肺癌治疗的重要靶点之一^[17]。

最新研究显示,PSC患者中PD-L1表达率高达82.1%^[18]。虽然PD-L1在PSC中表达较高的原因尚未明确,众多研究推测可能与EMT有关,表达PD-L1的肿瘤源性外泌体可能是肿瘤免疫逃逸的重要介质^[19-20],相关机制如下:①EMT过程中,AKT、ERK和TAK1通路通过介导信号转导及转录激活因子3和核因子 κ B(nuclear factor kappa-B, NF- κ B)的p65亚基转运,调节PD-L1表达^[21];②EMT诱导因子TGF- β 1诱导PD-L1启动子去甲基化,肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)诱导NF- κ B并促进PD-L1启动子去甲基化,共同调节PD-L1表达^[22];③EMT通过EMT/ β -连环蛋白/内质网相关的N-糖基转移酶STT3/PD-L1信号转导轴调节PD-L1表达^[23];④miR-200/ZEB1通路调控PD-L1表达,在PD-L1上存在miR-200结合位点,锌指E盒结合同源蛋白1作为EMT激活剂和miR-200的转录抑制剂,可以减弱miR-200对PD-L1的抑制作用^[24]。综上所述,EMT信号通路的激活是PD-L1表达上调的核心机制,但具体机制仍需进一步研究。

程序性死亡受体1(PD-1)/PD-L1通路在维持机体免疫耐受性和自身免疫平衡方面起着重要作用,同时也是肿瘤细胞逃避宿主免疫系统攻击的重要方式。正常情况下,活化的T淋巴细胞可以识别并直接应答肿瘤细胞,而肿瘤细胞过表达的PD-L1与活化的T细胞上的PD-1结合,抑制机体抗肿瘤免疫应答功能,促进肿瘤进展。

EMT与肿瘤免疫逃逸之间有着动态而复杂的串扰关系,通过上调肿瘤细胞表达PD-L1,促进PD-L1介导的免疫抑制,实现肿瘤免疫逃逸,与肿瘤预后和免疫治疗反应密切相关^[25-27]。此外,PSC患者肿瘤微环境中高度免疫细胞浸润在EMT过程也发挥重要作用^[28]。

2 PSC免疫治疗新进展

NSCLC治疗已进入以免疫检查点抑制剂(immune checkpoint inhibitor, ICI)为代表的新型免疫治疗时

代,多种免疫治疗模式在晚期NSCLC患者中显示良好的生存益处,改善患者临床预后^[29-30]。美国国立综合癌症网络指南建议,在PD-L1表达 $\geq 50\%$,且EGFR、ALK、BRAF和ROS1基因检测结果为阴性的情况下,推荐帕博利珠单抗作为转移性NSCLC的一线治疗方案^[31]。与传统NSCLC相比,PSC具有PD-L1高表达、高TMB和高度免疫细胞浸润的特点,这为PSC免疫治疗提供强有力的理论依据^[32-33]。因此,对于驱动基因阴性的晚期PSC患者,多种免疫治疗模式有望改善患者临床预后,带来生存获益(表1)。

ICI通过调节T细胞活性,阻断肿瘤细胞免疫逃逸,实现抗肿瘤作用。已上市12种针对NSCLC的PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂,国产药物有信迪利单抗、卡瑞利珠单抗、替雷利珠单抗、特瑞普利单抗、斯鲁力单

抗及舒格利单抗;进口药物有帕博利珠单抗、阿替利珠单抗、度伐利尤单抗、纳武利尤单抗、曲美木单抗及西米普利单抗。

2.1 免疫单药治疗

研究表明,在PD-L1阳性的NSCLC患者中,免疫治疗表现出临床获益,且PD-L1高表达者免疫治疗疗效更佳^[34]。一项使用PD-1抑制剂一线治疗PSC的多中心、II期临床试验中,22例PSC患者接受帕博利珠单抗单药治疗,结果显示客观缓解率(objective response rate, ORR)为68.2%,中位无进展生存期(progress free survival, PFS)为15.2个月^[35]。一项免疫单药治疗肺多形性癌的队列研究显示,ORR为49.0%,中位PFS为7.2个月,中位生存期为22.2个月,PD-L1的表达情况与总生存期(overall

表1 肺肉瘤样癌多种免疫治疗模式汇总
Table 1 Summary of various immunotherapy patterns for PSC

Therapy	Immunotherapy treatment pattern	Median PFS (months) or the efficacy evaluation	Reference
ICI monotherapy	Pembrolizumab	15.2	[35]
	Pembrolizumab/Nivolumab/Atezolizumab	4.6-7.2	[36-38]
	Camrelizumab	Underway(ChiCTR2000031478)	
	Case reports	PR or CR	[40-41]
Dual immunotherapy	Durvalumab and Tremelimumab	5.9	[47]
Combined immunotherapy with chemotherapy	Pembrolizumab/Camrelizumab/Sintilimab/	10.3	[32]
	Penpulimab combined with platinum-containing chemotherapy		
	Case reports	PR or CR	[49-53]
Combined immunotherapy with anti-angiogenesis	Pembrolizumab/Tislelizumab/Camrelizumab/Sintilimab+Anlotinib	9.4	[33]
	Camrelizumab+Famitinib	Underway(NCT04888429)	
	Case reports	PR	[55-56]
Combined immunotherapy with radiotherapy	Case reports	PR	[59-60]
Combined immunotherapy with anti-angiogenesis+chemotherapy	Toripalimab+Bevacizumab+Carboplatin+Nab-paclitaxel	Underway(NCT04725448)	
	A case report	PR	[64]
Combined immunotherapy with anti-angiogenesis+radiotherapy	A case report	PR	[65]
Combined immunotherapy with transbronchial cryoablation	A case report	PR	[66]

ICI: immune checkpoint inhibitor; PFS: progress free survival; PR: partial response; CR: complete response.

survival, OS)呈正相关^[36]。另一项多中心回顾性研究中,37例PSC患者接受免疫单药治疗作为二线及以上治疗,ORR为40.5%,中位PFS为4.9个月,中位OS为12.7个月^[37]。一项晚期PSC接受免疫单药治疗的多中心研究显示,ORR为38.5%,中位PFS为4.6个月,中位OS为20.0个月^[38]。Babacan等^[39]汇总分析2015—2019年发表的PSC患者接受免疫治疗的相关研究及莫菲特癌症中心的电子病历,共90例PSC患者接受免疫单药治疗,ORR为54.5%,中位PFS为7.0个月,PSC患者PD-L1表达情况与免疫治疗疗效密切相关。以上研究表明,PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂在PSC患者中显示出良好的抗肿瘤活性,与单纯化疗相比表现出明显的临床获益。目前PSC免疫单药治疗仍缺少大型临床研究,文献多为个案报道^[40-41]。国内已经启动一项单臂II期临床试验(ChiCTR2000031478),旨在研究卡瑞利珠单抗治疗一线化疗后进展的晚期PSC的临床疗效。

2.2 双免联合治疗

目前,双免联合治疗(PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂联合CTLA-4抑制剂)在晚期NSCLC治疗中显示出良好的抗肿瘤作用^[42-43]。研究显示,PD-1抑制剂与CTLA-4抑制剂联合使用,其协同作用优于二者单独应用时效应之和^[44]。一项针对晚期NSCLC双免联合治疗的Meta分析结果显示,相较于免疫单药治疗,双免联合治疗具有一定优势,能够改善PD-L1表达<25%患者的PFS,但3级及以上不良反应的发生率显著提高^[45]。一项探究ICI治疗肺癌的安全性及有效性的多中心、回顾性研究显示,免疫相关不良事件的发生可能与更好的疾病控制率和无进展生存期相关^[46]。Kim等^[47]在一项非随机II期临床研究中,使用度伐利尤单抗和曲美木单抗联合治疗复发或转移的PSC患者,结果显示与单纯化疗相比,双免联合治疗延长患者OS及PFS,且不良反应可控,这也是首个有关PSC双免联合治疗并获得阳性研究结果的前瞻性临床研究。对于PD-L1阴性表达的患者,联合CTLA-4抑制剂有望弥补患者的癌症免疫周期缺陷,带来生存获益,双免联合治疗在PD-L1阳性的PSC患者中具有广阔的应用前景。

2.3 免疫联合化疗

目前认为,无论PD-L1表达情况如何,免疫治疗联合以铂类为基础的化疗是驱动基因阴性的晚期NSCLC一线治疗方案。相关Meta分析结果同样支持晚期NSCLC一线免疫联合化疗疗效优于免疫单药治疗^[48]。由于大多数PSC患者为PD-L1高表达,

因此免疫联合化疗对PSC意义非凡。在一项多中心回顾性研究中,34例PSC初治患者接受一线免疫联合化疗治疗,结果显示ORR为70.6%,中位PFS为10.3个月,2年生存率为57.8%,说明免疫联合化疗作为局部晚期或转移性PSC患者的一线治疗疗效较好^[32]。1例携带MET外显子14突变的转移性PSC患者在获得克唑替尼耐药后,接受纳武利尤单抗联合化疗治疗并实现部分缓解(partial response, PR)^[49]。另1例IV期PSC患者在接受纳武利尤单抗联合化疗治疗后实现完全缓解(complete response, CR)^[50]。国内也有免疫治疗联合低剂量化疗有效控制PSC的个案报道,患者高龄且具有多重基础疾病,接受治疗后未出现不可耐受的不良反应^[51]。除此之外,还有数个PSC接受免疫治疗联合化疗的个案报道,结果同样显示临床获益^[52-53]。

2.4 免疫联合抗血管生成治疗

PSC具有高度侵袭性,极易侵犯血管,45.2%~61.9%的患者在确诊时已有远处转移。常见的转移部位是骨、肺、脑和肝脏,还有转移至舌部的个案报道^[54]。免疫联合抗血管生成治疗可上调PD-L1表达及细胞毒性T细胞的浸润,抑制肿瘤生长。在一项多中心回顾性研究中,14例晚期PSC接受一线免疫联合抗血管生成治疗,中位PFS为9.4个月,中位OS为22.8个月^[33]。1例PD-L1高表达的PSC患者术后辅助化疗期间出现快速复发,在接受纳武利尤单抗联合安罗替尼治疗8周后评估疗效为PR^[55]。1例晚期PSC伴肾上腺转移患者基因检测显示KRAS和TP53突变,接受信迪利单抗联合安罗替尼治疗后评估疗效为PR^[56]。血管侵犯是PSC预后不良的危险因素,T分期、N分期及组织学亚型为巨细胞癌和梭形细胞癌是PSC发生远处转移的危险因素^[57]。因此,应充分利用免疫治疗联合抗血管生成治疗的协同作用,致力于改善PSC临床预后,有关免疫治疗联合抗血管生成治疗的一项临床试验正在进行中(NCT04888429)。

2.5 免疫联合放疗

放疗可用于无法手术的NSCLC患者,也可作为辅助治疗降低患者术后局部复发风险。研究表明,与不接受任何治疗相比,放疗可改善I~III期未手术的PSC患者OS^[58]。1例PD-L1过表达伴KRAS突变的晚期PSC患者,予安罗替尼治疗后疾病进展(progressive disease, PD),在接受特瑞普利单抗联合胸部放疗后实现PR^[59]。1例高龄且伴有多种合并症的晚期PSC患者,在接受帕博利珠单抗单药治疗4

个周期后序贯放疗,疾病控制良好且无不良反应发生,放疗结束后13个月随访未见肿瘤进展^[60]。免疫治疗联合放疗通过效应CD4⁺T细胞和CD8⁺T细胞促进抗肿瘤免疫,不同剂量的放射治疗可影响免疫治疗的疗效,辐射剂量>58 Gy EQD2与较好的PFS相关^[61]。立体定向放射治疗(stereotactic body radiotherapy, SBRT)作为一种新型放射治疗方式,可向较小的目标病灶提供更高剂量的放射治疗,疗效优于常规放疗。SBRT可以增加PD-L1的表达,使患者对PD-1/PD-L1抑制剂更敏感,延长生存期,实现临床获益^[62]。免疫联合放疗为局部病变进展的PSC患者带来治疗新选择,具体疗效有待进一步验证。

2.6 其他免疫联合治疗

免疫联合化疗和抗血管生成治疗的三联治疗方案在非鳞状NSCLC中已取得较好结果^[63]。已有PSC患者接受免疫联合化疗及抗血管生成治疗、免疫联合抗血管生成治疗及放疗三联治疗方案的个案报道,均显示临床获益^[64-65]。1例晚期PSC伴阻塞性肺不张的患者,在含铂化疗联合抗血管生成治疗后未见缓解,予卡瑞利珠单抗联合支气管冷冻消融治疗有效,评估疗效为PR^[66]。有关免疫治疗联合化疗及抗血管生成治疗的临床试验正在进行中(NCT04725448)。此外,免疫治疗联合抗体抗偶联药物在晚期转移性NSCLC中显示较好的有效性和安全性^[67],也为PSC未来治疗提供更多选择方向。

2.7 免疫治疗的局限性与挑战

免疫治疗的问世宛如破晓之光,为无驱动基因突变的晚期NSCLC患者带来治疗新希望。但在PD-L1高表达的PSC患者中,仅有部分患者能从免疫治疗中获得长期的生存益处,多数患者在免疫治疗产生应答一段时间后会发生继发性耐药。目前认为,主要组织相容性复合体I类分子下调或抗原呈递诱导不足、TGF- β 信号转导过度活跃、免疫治疗后肿瘤细胞对 γ -干扰素的敏感性丧失以及出现其他免疫检查点的阳性表达与免疫治疗继发性耐药的发生密切相关^[68]。有效解决免疫治疗的耐药性成为亟待满足的临床需求,未来的研究需要以免疫治疗耐药的机制为核心,探寻潜在的生物学标志物,构建全身性免疫耐药风险评估体系,推动个体化免疫治疗模式的发展。

3 展望

PSC是NSCLC中一类恶性程度极高、预后极差的罕见类型。因其高度异质性,传统放化疗治疗效

果不佳。在“精准医学”提出后,分子靶向治疗、免疫治疗和抗血管生成治疗等一系列针对微小分子和基因组信息的新型治疗手段取得突破性进展。PSC中PD-L1高表达、高TMB和TME的特点为免疫治疗提供巨大治疗潜力。随着有关PSC的基础研究和临床试验的不断开展,多种模式的免疫治疗有望改善PSC患者的临床预后。

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