

• 综述 •

免疫检查点抑制剂相关肺炎的治疗进展

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[摘要] 免疫检查点抑制剂已广泛应用于肿瘤治疗, 尽管其耐受性通常优于化疗, 但可引起免疫相关不良反应。其中免疫检查点抑制剂相关肺炎(immune checkpoint inhibitor-related pneumonitis, CIP)具有较高的病死率, 循证医学证据不多, 且诊治经验有限。文章结合国内外指南、专家共识和研究, 对CIP尤其是激素难治性CIP的治疗进展作一综述。

[关键词] 免疫检查点抑制剂; 免疫检查点抑制剂相关肺炎; 免疫相关不良反应

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Advances in the treatment of immune checkpoint inhibitor-related pneumonitis

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[Abstract] Immune checkpoint inhibitors have been widely used in cancer treatment. Although they are generally better tolerated than chemotherapy, they can cause immune-related adverse events. Among these, immune checkpoint inhibitor-related pneumonitis (CIP) has a relatively high mortality rate, with limited evidence from evidence-based medicine and limited experience in diagnosis and treatment. This article reviews the therapeutic advancements in CIP based on domestic and international guidelines, expert consensus, and relevant studies, with particular focus on the treatment progress of steroid-refractory CIP.

[Key words] immune checkpoint inhibitor; immune checkpoint inhibitor-related pneumonitis; immune-related adverse event

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免疫检查点抑制剂(immune checkpoint inhibitor, ICI)在肿瘤治疗策略中占据了重要地位, 显著改善了多种肿瘤患者的预后。目前应用于临床的ICI包括程序性死亡蛋白1(programmed death protein 1, PD-1)抑制剂、程序性死亡蛋白配体1(programmed death-ligand 1, PD-L1)抑制剂、细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关抗原4(cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen-4, CTLA-4)抑制剂以及双特异性抗体如卡度尼单抗(PD-1/CTLA-4抑制剂)和依沃西单抗(PD-1/血管内皮生长因子抑制剂)等。ICI通过阻断T细胞负性

共刺激信号通路, 重新激活机体的抗肿瘤免疫应答, 但同时也可能引发免疫相关不良反应(immune-related adverse event, irAE)^[1]。其中, 免疫检查点抑制剂相关肺炎(immune checkpoint inhibitor-related pneumonitis, CIP)是一种潜在致命的irAE。根据临床试验数据, CIP的发生率为3%~5%^[2-4]。然而, CIP在真实世界中的发病率和病死率分别为5%~19%和12%~27%^[5-9]。为提高对CIP的认识和管理, 文章对CIP的治疗进展作一综述, 并特别关注激素难治性CIP的治疗进展。

1 临床特征及诊断

1.1 危险因素

CIP的危险因素多样, 主要包括男性、高龄(>70岁)、

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吸烟史、肿瘤病理学类型(如肺鳞癌高于肺腺癌)、胸部放疗史、ICI的种类(如PD-1抑制剂高于PD-L1抑制剂、PD-1或PD-L1抑制剂高于CTLA-4抑制剂)、免疫联合治疗(如双免疫治疗、免疫联合靶向治疗、免疫联合化疗)以及合并肺部基础疾病(如肺纤维化、慢性阻塞性肺疾病、支气管哮喘、肺部感染、气胸和胸腔积液)等^[10]。具有这些危险因素的患者需警惕CIP的发生。

1.2 临床表现

约1/3的患者在发病时无症状^[6]。CIP最常见的症状是呼吸困难和咳嗽,其他症状包括发热和咳痰,罕见的症状有胸痛和咯血,部分患者还可合并其他irAE^[5-7,11]。CIP的中位发病时间为ICI治疗后的2.0~3.5个月,发病时间范围较广,从9 d到32个月不等^[5-9]。

1.3 影像学表现

参照美国胸科学会/欧洲呼吸学会发布的特发性间质性肺炎国际多学科共识分类标准^[12],有报道CIP的影像学表现可分为机化性肺炎(organizing pneumonia, OP)型、非特异性间质性肺炎(nonspecific interstitial pneumonia, NSIP)型、过敏性肺炎(hypersensitivity pneumonitis, HP)型、急性间质性肺炎(acute interstitial pneumonia, AIP)/急性呼吸窘迫综合征(acute respiratory distress syndrome, ARDS)型或弥漫性肺泡损伤(diffuse alveolar damage, DAD)型、细支气管炎型等^[13-14]。其中,OP型是CIP最常见的影像学表现,其次是NSIP型和HP型,而AIP/ARDS型最为少见^[7,11,13]。不同的影像学分型与疾病的严重程度、激素敏感性及相关预后^[7]。AIP/ARDS型的不良反应分级最高,其次是OP型,NSIP和HP型分级较低^[13]。HP和OP型的患者在激素治疗后通常预后良好,而DAD型的患者病情进展迅速,对激素敏感性差,预后差^[7]。

1.4 病理学表现

目前关于CIP的病理学研究较少。Naidoo等^[6]报道,CIP的组织病理学表现包括细胞性间质性肺炎(4/11)、OP(3/11)、DAD(1/11)以及无异常(3/11),其他表现包括形成不良的肉芽肿和嗜酸性粒细胞浸润。Larsen等^[15]评价了9例CIP患者的肺组织病理,7例表现为OP,这些患者病情较轻且预后较好;相反,1例表现为急性纤维素性肺炎以及另1例表现为DAD的患者则病情急性发作,且很快死亡。CIP的组织病理学表现是非特异性的,其他肺毒性药物或原因也可引起类似的组织学特征^[15]。

1.5 CIP的诊断

CIP是一种排除性诊断。根据ICI用药史、新出现的肺部阴影,并排除肺部感染、肿瘤进展、其他可能引起肺间质性疾病的因素(如自身免疫性疾病、其他药物或放疗)、肺血管炎、肺栓塞、肺水肿、癌性淋巴管炎和心脏疾病等,综合诊断CIP^[16-17]。在实际临床工作中,观察到很多患者是在原有间质性肺病(interstitial lung disease, ILD)、肺间质异常(interstitial lung abnormalities, ILA)或进展性肺纤维化(progressive pulmonary fibrosis, PPF)等基础上发生进展。因此认为,只要是出现新的肺部阴影(包括结节、实变、磨玻璃影、纤维条索影、牵拉性支气管扩张及蜂窝肺等),并排除前述肺部感染、肿瘤进展等因素^[16-17],无论既往是否患有ILD、ILA或PPF等,均认为是CIP。

2 CIP的糖皮质激素治疗

近年来,美国国立综合癌症网络(National Comprehensive Cancer Network, NCCN)^[18]、美国临床肿瘤协会(American Society of Clinical Oncology, ASCO)^[19-20]、肿瘤免疫治疗协会(Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer, SITC)^[21-22]、欧洲肿瘤内科学会(European Society for Medical Oncology, ESMO)^[23-24]、中国临床肿瘤协会(Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology, CSCO)^[25]发布了irAE的管理指南,我国还发布了《免疫检查点抑制剂相关肺炎诊治专家共识》^[17],以规范irAE的管理。

上述指南/共识对CIP的分级管理主要基于临床表现和影像学的严重程度。1级CIP(轻度CIP)定义为无症状,病灶局限于单个肺叶或<25%的肺实质;2级CIP(中度CIP)定义为出现新症状或症状加重;3级CIP(重度CIP)定义为出现严重症状,累及所有肺叶或>50%肺实质,生活自理能力受限,需吸氧;4级CIP(重度CIP)则为出现危及生命的呼吸功能损害^[18]。糖皮质激素(激素)是中度和重度CIP的主要治疗药物,上述指南/共识推荐的激素治疗方案见表1,其中推荐的激素起始剂量、如何减量及疗程等,不一致较多。NCCN指南建议激素减量应缓慢进行,减量疗程至少4周(有时可达6~8周或更长),以预防ICI的长半衰期和持续应答导致的CIP复发^[18]。

虽然指南/共识推荐了CIP的激素治疗策略,但上述推荐主要基于回顾性研究、临床经验和共识意见,而缺乏前瞻性随机对照研究。如一项单臂II期临床试验^[26]评估了口服泼尼松龙1 mg/(kg·d)并在

表1 各指南及中国专家共识推荐的激素起始剂量及疗程

Table 1 The initial dose and tapering duration of corticosteroids recommended by various guidelines and Chinese expert consensus

Guideline	Grade 2 CIP		Grade 3-4 CIP	
	Initial dose	Tapering duration	Initial dose	Tapering duration
NCCN(2024) ^[18]	Prednisone or IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	4-6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	≥6 weeks
ASCO(2021) ^[20]	Prednisone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	4-6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	4-6 weeks
SITC(2021) ^[22]	Prednisone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)(or equivalent)	4-6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)(or equivalent)	4-6 weeks
ESMO(2022) ^[24]	Oral prednisolone 1 mg/(kg·d)(or equivalent)	4-6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)(or equivalent)	≥6-8 weeks
CSCO(2023) ^[25]	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	4-6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 2 mg/(kg·d)	4-6 weeks
Chinese expert consensus(2019) ^[17] (or equivalent)	IV methylprednisolone 1-2 mg/(kg·d)	>6 weeks	IV methylprednisolone 2-4 mg/(kg·d)(or equivalent)	>8 weeks

6周内逐步减量对于治疗≥2级CIP患者的有效性和安全性,结果显示,6周和12周时CIP的控制率分别为91.1%和57.1%,观察期间17.9%的患者发生3~4级不良事件(大多数与激素相关),表明泼尼松龙6周疗程是一种较为安全有效的治疗方法。而Naidoo等^[27]报道了6例慢性CIP病例,定义为停用ICI后,在激素减量过程中肺炎持续存在或恶化,且需要≥12周的免疫抑制治疗。肺炎复发时,这些患者需要重新开始激素治疗,激素总疗程的中位数为37周,远超指南推荐的4~6周。部分患者由于持续应用激素,还需联合免疫抑制剂。因此,激素的疗程应根据患者的治疗反应进行个体化调整。值得注意的是,这些慢性CIP患者的病理表现均为OP,但病理表现能否用于预测慢性CIP和指导激素减量时间,仍需进一步研究^[27]。另有学者指出,CIP的慢性期常进入纤维化阶段,根据特发性肺纤维化的管理经验,激素不再是治疗纤维化改变的必要手段,同时考虑到长期使用激素的不良反应,激素在CIP慢性期的相对利弊需要进一步研究,而抗纤维化治疗可能有助于预防或减缓纤维化进程,但循证医学证据不足^[28]。因此,CIP的最佳激素治疗疗程尚需进一步研究。目前一项前瞻性随机临床试验(NCT04036721)正在进行,目的是比较长疗程(12~24周)和短疗程(6~12周)激素治疗的CIP复发率、缓解率和病死率。

需要注意的是,CIP患者接受激素治疗期间,需密切监测和预防感染并发症。一项回顾性研究报道,14.3%的CIP患者在激素治疗期间发生了感染性肺炎,病原体包括耶氏肺孢子菌、巨细胞病毒、细菌

和不明病原体,其中一半患者发生了死亡^[11]。机会性感染通常发生在激素治疗3周后,但在激素冲击治疗的情况下可能会更早发生^[29]。对于预计使用泼尼松>20 mg/d(或等效剂量)且疗程超过4周的患者,建议使用复方新诺明(480 mg bid,每周3次)预防肺孢子菌肺炎^[18,24]。其他真菌感染较为罕见,目前尚不明确预防措施的有效性^[18]。

总之,激素的使用需在疗效与不良反应之间取得平衡。激素剂量或疗程不足可能导致治疗失败或复发;相反,过高剂量或长期使用激素则可能增加不良反应风险,并延误后续肿瘤治疗。指南中的激素推荐剂量和疗程主要基于临床症状和影像学受累范围,在临床实践中,还应结合发病缓急、治疗反应、病理类型、基础疾病、免疫功能以及激素耐受性等因素,制定个体化治疗策略。

3 激素难治性CIP的治疗

在使用激素的48~72 h内,需要评估患者的治疗反应,如呼吸困难、咳嗽等症状是否缓解,需氧量是否下降,也可通过动脉血气分析和胸部CT等客观检查进行评估^[30]。如果在高剂量激素治疗48~72 h后呼吸系统症状未见改善,则可诊断为激素难治性CIP^[24]。根据Balaji等^[31]的一项回顾性研究,18.5%的CIP病例为激素难治性,其最常见的影像学表现为DAD,75%的激素难治性CIP患者死于CIP或感染并发症。CIP的分级为3~4级和较高的中性粒细胞绝对计数是发生激素难治性CIP的独立危险因素^[32]。对于激素难治性CIP,指南建议在高剂量激素治疗的基础上,联合1种免疫抑制药物。各指南

推荐的免疫抑制药物详见表2。然而,由于缺乏前瞻性临床研究,目前尚无标准的首选治疗方案。

ESMO指南建议,如果症状危及生命,尽快使用托珠单抗或英夫利昔单抗作为一线治疗^[24]。

表2 各指南及中国专家共识推荐的治疗激素难治性CIP的免疫抑制药物

Table 2 The immunosuppressive agents recommended by various guidelines and Chinese expert consensus for the treatment of steroid-refractory CIP

Medication	Dosage	NCCN (2024) ^[18]	ASCO (2021) ^[20]	SITC (2021) ^[22]	ESMO (2022) ^[24]	CSCO (2023) ^[25]	Chinese expert consensus (2019) ^[17]
Infliximab	IV 5 mg/kg, biweekly if needed ^[18]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
Mycophenolate mofetil	1.0-1.5 g bid ^[18]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
IVIG	2 g/kg over 2-5 days ^[18]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cyclophosphamide	IV 1-2 mg/(kg·d) ^[20]	-	✓	✓	✓	-	*
Tocilizumab	IV 8 mg/kg, biweekly if needed ^[24]	-	-	✓	✓	✓	*

✓: recommended medication; *: the Chinese expert consensus recommends immunosuppressants but does not specify a particular medication; -: not mentioned.

3.1 英夫利西单抗

英夫利西单抗是肿瘤坏死因子 α 的单克隆抗体,已被推荐用于治疗激素难治性结肠炎^[18],但对激素难治性CIP的疗效尚不明确。有病例报道成功使用该药治疗重度难治性CIP^[33-35]以及吗替麦考酚酯耐药的CIP^[36]。然而,在Luo等^[37]和Beattie等^[38]的回顾性研究中,英夫利昔单抗治疗激素难治性CIP的成功率仅为25%~33%。Naidoo等^[6]和Balaji等^[31]的回顾性研究表明,所有使用英夫利昔单抗治疗的病例均告失败。由于这些互相矛盾的结果,英夫利昔单抗在激素难治性CIP中的应用受到了质疑^[39]。需要注意的是,英夫利西单抗本身也可能引起ILD^[40]。

3.2 吗替麦考酚酯

吗替麦考酚酯起效较慢,可能无法立即改善激素难治性CIP,但在避免激素依赖方面可能具有益处^[18]。Beattie等^[38]报道,6例接受吗替麦考酚酯作为初始免疫抑制治疗的激素耐药性CIP患者中(激素耐药性CIP定义为最初对激素治疗有反应,但在激素减量过程中且未再次接受ICI治疗的情况下肺炎复发),有5例病情得到持久改善。Shioiri等^[41]报道了2例使用吗替麦考酚酯成功治疗激素耐药性CIP的病例,表明该药可能对激素耐药性CIP有效。由于吗替麦考酚酯对T细胞应答有显著抑制作用,其是否影响抗肿瘤疗效仍需进一步研究^[42]。

3.3 静脉注射免疫球蛋白(intravenous immunoglobulin, IVIG)

IVIG对ILD具有免疫调节作用^[43]。已有其成功用于治疗激素难治性CIP的病例报道^[44]。与其他免疫抑制剂不同,IVIG不会削弱机体对感染的免疫反

应,因此对于临床高度怀疑合并感染的CIP患者是一个不错的选择^[16]。Balaji等^[31]报道了12例激素难治性CIP患者,英夫利西单抗或联合IVIG治疗的病死率为100%,而IVIG单药治疗的患者则改善了氧气需求,且病死率较低(43%)。ECOG-ACRIN正在进行一项前瞻性研究,旨在比较IVIG与英夫利西单抗治疗激素难治性CIP的疗效(NCT04438382)。

3.4 环磷酰胺

基于环磷酰胺在其他免疫介导的肺部疾病中的应用,推测其可能也对激素难治性CIP具有疗效^[22]。Camard等^[45]报道,在4例接受环磷酰胺治疗的激素难治性CIP患者中,2例病情改善,生存期超过5个月。另一项回顾性研究报道了12例接受环磷酰胺治疗的激素难治性CIP患者,其中5例(41.7%)病情改善^[46]。

3.5 托珠单抗

托珠单抗是一种白介素6(interleukin 6, IL-6)受体拮抗剂。一项回顾性研究纳入了34例激素难治性重度irAE患者(其中包括12例CIP患者),结果显示,27例irAE患者(其中包括11例CIP患者)在接受托珠单抗治疗后临床症状得到改善,提示托珠单抗在激素难治性CIP的治疗中具有潜在益处^[47]。由于IL-6具有促肿瘤和促转移活性,理论上托珠单抗可以在不影响免疫治疗疗效的情况下治疗激素难治性CIP^[42, 48]。

除了上述指南推荐的免疫抑制药物,也有病例报道显示激素冲击治疗(500 mg \times 3 d)^[49]、三联疗法(大剂量激素、他克莫司和环磷酰胺)^[50]成功治疗激素难治性CIP。然而,由于回顾性研究的病例数量

较少,且结局受基线的影响较大,尚无法比较各免疫抑制剂的疗效,需要更多研究验证以上药物的安全性和有效性。尼达尼布和吡非尼酮在CIP管理中展现了应用前景,其具有良好的抗纤维化作用,并可增强抗肿瘤药物疗效^[28],对治疗激素难治性CIP可能有益^[51-52],但还需要前瞻性随机对照临床研究以证实其临床疗效。

4 ICI治疗再挑战

ICI治疗再挑战包括停用ICI后病情进展的重启治疗以及CIP恢复后的ICI再治疗,这里主要探讨后者。一项回顾性队列研究显示,ICI再挑战后相同irAE的复发率为28.8%,而CIP的复发率更高,达到34.0%^[53]。另一项回顾性研究显示,在接受再挑战的CIP患者中,20.0%的患者发生了CIP复发,24.4%的患者出现了新的irAE,且复发的CIP比初发CIP更加严重^[54]。在进行ICI再挑战之前需考虑以下因素:①CIP分级。指南建议1级CIP患者在影像学改善后可重启ICI治疗;2级CIP患者改善至≤1级且泼尼松剂量降至≤10 mg/d,评估后可重启ICI治疗;4级CIP患者应永久停止ICI治疗^[18];对于3级CIP患者,尤其是存在肺部疾病的患者,有学者建议再挑战应谨慎^[54]。如果3级CIP患者在激素治疗后恢复良好,且预期获益大于潜在风险,也可考虑再挑战^[30]。②对ICI治疗的反应。对于初次ICI治疗已达到客观反应(完全或部分缓解)的患者,可能无需重启ICI治疗,因为重启后的毒性风险可能超过收益^[18];对于尚未出现反应或反应不足的患者,在irAE控制后可考虑重启ICI治疗^[20];对于ICI治疗后病情进展的患者,则不建议重启ICI治疗^[30]。③其他因素。如ICI治疗的持续时间、irAE缓解的时间、替代疗法的可行性以及患者的身体状况等^[20]。

关于再挑战的用药策略,有以下3种情况^[24]:①从PD-(L)1抑制剂转换为CTLA-4抑制剂,或反之;②在irAE缓解的情况下,选择同类或同分子ICI;③在免疫抑制治疗的同时重启ICI治疗,对于这种情况数据非常有限。对于初始接受两种ICI联合治疗[如PD-(L)1抑制剂与CTLA-4抑制剂联合使用]的患者,再挑战时可以考虑PD-(L)1抑制剂单药治疗^[18]。对于初始接受单药ICI治疗的患者,再挑战应选择之前相同的ICI,还是PD-(L)1抑制剂和CTLA-4抑制剂类别切换,亦或是PD-1抑制剂转换为PD-L1抑制剂,目前尚无确切结论,且缺乏随机对照研究数据^[55]。一项荟萃分析显示,对于初始接受

PD-(L)1抑制剂治疗的患者,CTLA-4抑制剂再挑战的irAE发生率高于PD-(L)1抑制剂;而对于初始接受CTLA-4抑制剂治疗的患者,CTLA-4抑制剂与PD-(L)1抑制剂再挑战之间的irAE发生率差异无统计学意义^[56]。另一项研究表明,再挑战使用与初始治疗相同的ICI或ICI组合与较低的irAE复发率相关^[57]。目前尚无研究直接比较PD-1抑制剂与PD-L1抑制剂再挑战后的irAE发生率,相比PD-1抑制剂,由于PD-L1抑制剂不阻断PD-1/PD-L2通路,且irAE的发生率较低,理论上使用PD-L1抑制剂再挑战更为安全,但需要更多研究数据支持。此外,对于双特异性抗体的再挑战也无循证医学证据。在重启ICI治疗后,需监测症状体征,并定期进行胸部CT检查,以监测CIP的复发。如果再挑战后CIP复发或出现其他irAE,建议永久停用这类免疫治疗^[18]。

5 总结及展望

CIP是一种潜在致命的irAE,需要临床医生高度重视。大多数CIP病例在暂停免疫治疗并给予适当的激素治疗后可得到改善。对于激素难治性CIP,应尽早联合免疫抑制剂进行治疗。关于CIP的诊治,仍存在一些关键问题亟待解决。首先,CIP属于药物性间质性肺病范畴,CIP之所以存在临床表现、影像学特征、病理学特征以及治疗反应的异质性,其根本原因是存在不同的发病机制及病理生理改变,加强发病机制的研究才能更好地诊治本病,仅根据临床症状及CIP病灶累及的肺体积来推荐治疗方案,显然不够精准。其次,CIP的最佳激素治疗方案、激素难治性CIP的首选免疫抑制治疗方案,以及免疫治疗再挑战的获益人群选择及具体治疗方案等尚不明确,需要更多前瞻性多中心临床研究的数据支持。展望未来,期待CIP的管理方案得到进一步优化,从而改善患者预后,造福更多患者。

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