

· 综述 ·

循环肿瘤DNA联合系统性炎症指标预测结直肠癌术后复发的研究进展

杨浚沫, 曾奕淙, 周 何*

川北医学院附属医院胃肠外二科, 四川 南充 637000

[摘要] 结直肠癌术后复发是影响患者长期生存的主要挑战, 实现早期精准预测是制定个体化辅助治疗策略的关键。循环肿瘤DNA(circulating tumor DNA, ctDNA)和系统性炎症指标(如中性粒细胞-淋巴细胞比率)作为两类重要的生物标志物, 分别从肿瘤分子残留和宿主免疫炎症反应角度提供预后信息, 但单一指标应用存在一定局限。文章重点探讨二者联合应用的生物学协同机制与临床预测价值。ctDNA可直接反映分子残留病灶, 其预警窗口通常早于影像学复发数个月; 而系统性炎症指标则体现肿瘤相关的免疫微环境状态。二者在“炎症促进ctDNA释放与存续”这一病理生理过程中密切相关。目前, 虽然前瞻性联合研究证据仍在积累, 但理论模型与其他癌种的初步研究提示, 联合检测有望实现对复发风险更精细的分层, 从而指导包括强化辅助治疗与抗炎干预在内的个体化临床决策。当前该联合策略仍面临检测成本较高、标准化不足以及结果解读复杂等挑战。未来应通过开展严谨的前瞻性队列研究, 整合多组学数据与人工智能分析, 构建并验证融合ctDNA与炎症指标的多模态预测模型, 以推动结直肠癌术后复发管理向精准化方向发展。

[关键词] 结直肠癌; 预测模型; 复发; 生物标志物; 炎症指标

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Research progress on circulating tumor DNA combined with systemic inflammatory indicators for predicting postoperative recurrence of colorectal cancer

YANG Junmo, ZENG Yicong, ZHOU He*

Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery(Division II), Affiliated Hospital of North Sichuan Medical College, Nanchong 637000, China

[Abstract] Recurrence following colorectal cancer(CRC)surgery poses a major challenge to long-term patient survival. Early and accurate prediction of recurrence is essential for formulating individualized adjuvant treatment strategies. Circulating tumor DNA(ctDNA)and systemic inflammatory markers, such as the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio(NLR), serve as two important types of biomarkers, providing prognostic information from the perspectives of tumor molecular residual disease and host immune-inflammatory responses, respectively. However, the application of either marker alone has certain limitations. This article focuses on exploring the biological synergistic mechanisms and clinical predictive value of their combined application. ctDNA can directly reflect minimal residual disease, with its warning window typically occurring several months earlier than radiographic recurrence. Systemic inflammatory markers, on the other hand, reflect the state of the tumor-associated immune microenvironment. The two are closely related in the pathophysiological process of “inflammation promoting the release and persistence of ctDNA”. Currently, although prospective evidence on their combined use is still accumulating, theoretical models and preliminary studies in other cancer types suggest that combined detection may enable more refined stratification of recurrence risk, thereby guiding individualized clinical decisions, including intensified adjuvant therapy and anti-inflammatory interventions. At present, this combined strategy still faces challenges such as high detection costs, insufficient standardization, and complexity in result interpretation. In the future, rigorous prospective cohort studies should be conducted, integrating multi-omics data and artificial intelligence analysis to construct and

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*通信作者(Corresponding author), E-mail:zhouhe@nsmc.edu.cn(ORCID:0000-0002-8966-6188)

validate multimodal prediction models that incorporate ctDNA and inflammatory markers, thereby advancing the precision management of postoperative recurrence in CRC.

[Key words] colorectal cancer; predictive model; recurrence; biomarker; inflammatory indicator

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在全球恶性肿瘤中,结直肠癌(colorectal cancer, CRC)是发病率与死亡率均位居前列的恶性肿瘤之一。根据2022年中国肿瘤流行病学统计数据,当年我国CRC新发病例达51.71万,占全球同期新发病例的26.8%,发病率位居我国全部恶性肿瘤第2位;同期死亡病例达24.00万,占全球CRC死亡总数的26.5%,死亡率位居我国恶性肿瘤第4位,已成为影响我国居民健康的重大公共卫生问题^[1-2]。目前,尽管根治性手术是核心治疗手段,但术后仍有30%~50%的患者面临复发风险,且一旦复发,患者病情往往显著恶化^[3-7]。因此,实现术后复发的早期、精准预测至关重要。

长期以来,影像学检查、血清肿瘤标志物是监测CRC术后早期复发的主要手段^[8-10],但二者均存在显著局限性:影像学仅能发现已形成解剖学病灶的复发,无法预警分子层面的微小残留病变;临床常规以5 μg/L为临界值时,单一癌胚抗原(carcinoembryonic antigen, CEA)对术前CEA水平正常的复发患者,检测灵敏度可低至33.0%。而单一糖类抗原19-9(carbohydrate antigen 19-9, CA19-9),对术前指标正常患者的术后复发诊断效能极低,几乎无独立预测价值^[11-12]。

近年来,随着大分子生物学与免疫学的进展,循环肿瘤DNA(circulating tumor DNA, ctDNA)和系统性炎症指标(如中性粒细胞-淋巴细胞比率,neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, NLR)作为两大重要的生物标志物,已逐步应用于临床实践,为CRC的早期诊断与精准的预后评估提供了关键依据^[13-16]。然而,ctDNA检测成本高昂、标准化欠缺,且可能受肿瘤异质性影响;炎症指标则易受感染、自身免疫性疾病等非肿瘤因素干扰。单一的生物标志物难以全面捕捉复发相关的复杂生物学过程。鉴于肿瘤复发是肿瘤细胞内在特性与宿主微环境相互作用的结果,将反映肿瘤基因组的ctDNA与反映宿主免疫炎症状态的指标联合应用,理论上可实现优势互补,提供更为全面的风险评估。文章将从机制、临床证据及转化挑战3个方面探讨二者联合用于预测

术后复发的潜在价值与理论依据,并进一步探讨两者联合运用的预测潜力,以及其在临床实践中的应用价值,为未来的基础研究和临床应用提供有益的参考和启示。联合模型通过整合肿瘤基因组与宿主微环境信息,能实现更精准的风险分层与临床决策。

1 CRC术后复发和转移机制与风险因素

1.1 复发和转移机制

研究发现,CRC复发涉及许多机制,包括肿瘤微环境重塑、肠道菌群失衡及手术创伤创造利于肿瘤生活的微环境等^[17-19]。近年来,外科手术创伤在创造有利于肿瘤生存与进展的微环境方面的作用逐渐受到重视,成为一个颇具前沿性与重要性的研究方向。外科手术干预在切除肿瘤的同时,其本身作为一种创伤,可引发机体的系列应激反应。这种反应通过诱发系统性炎症、促进血管生成和诱导免疫抑制,为残留肿瘤细胞或循环肿瘤细胞(circulating tumor cell, CTC)营造利于生存与扩散的微环境,为残留的微小病灶或循环肿瘤细胞创造利于生存、增殖及远处定植的微环境,从而潜在地促进肿瘤的复发与转移^[20]。

近年来,Cools-Lartigue等^[21]发现,术后感染会引发大量中性粒细胞活化,并且导致中性粒细胞胞外陷阱形成(neutrophil extracellular trap formation, NETosis),它可以像一张“网”捕获CTC,并帮助其在血管壁附着,促进肿瘤的扩散和生长,另外,中性粒细胞胞外诱捕网包含基质金属蛋白酶-9(matrix metalloproteinase-9, MMP-9),它可以切割和降解细胞外基质中的各种蛋白,进一步促进肿瘤侵袭、播散和转移^[22]。需注意的是,该研究为基础实验,其结论暂不能直接外推至临床。这种由手术和炎症塑造的全身与局部微环境,不仅影响CTC的生物学行为,也同样调控ctDNA的释放、存续与检测。监测术后的系统性炎症水平,或许能为解读ctDNA的动态变化,理解其生物学背景提供至关重要的信息。因此,将直接反映肿瘤分子残留的ctDNA与体现宿主炎症免

疫状态的指标相结合,有望从“肿瘤负荷”与“宿主微环境”两个维度,更全面地评估复发风险。

1.2 风险因素

尽管目前针对CRC的根治性手术治疗已较为成熟,但其术后无复发生存率仍不理想。肿瘤复发导致病情进展甚至患者死亡,是一个涉及多因素、多环节的复杂病理过程。因此,深入探索CRC复发的因素极为关键,这样不仅能够有效地预测复发风险,更能针对个体制定更加精准的治疗方案。许东等^[23]选取了2016年7月—2022年6月115例行CRC根治术患者作为研究对象,分析发现术前CEA>5 μg/L、CA19-9>37 kU/L、癌结节数量、转移淋巴结比例>0.412和肠系膜下动脉根部淋巴结阳性比例是Ⅲc期CRC患者术后复发转移的重要影响因素,对该类患者,应高度重视并且制定更具针对性的治疗方案。然而,这些指标难以动态反映术后微小残留病灶的实时状态,也无法全面捕捉肿瘤与宿主免疫微环境之间的持续相互作用。例如,它们虽能识别高危人群,但无法精准判断哪些患者在术后已无分子层面残留,从而可能导致部分低危患者承受不必要的辅助治疗毒性;也无法在影像学复发前数月,早期对已存在分子复发的患者发出预警。

2 预测肿瘤术后复发的两种标志物概述

2.1 ctDNA

ctDNA作为肿瘤细胞释放至外周血中的片段化DNA,直接承载了包括突变、拷贝数变异及甲基化等在内的肿瘤基因组与表观遗传信息,能够近乎实时地反映分子层面的肿瘤负荷动态。其并非均一成分,例如,ctDNA的片段化特征通常区别于背景循环游离DNA(circulating free DNA, cfDNA),这一物理属性本身可作为其肿瘤来源的潜在标志物^[24-26]。在检测技术上,当前主要依赖基于突变与基于表观遗传的两类策略。靶向深度测序技术,如下一代测序(next-generation sequencing, NGS)凭借其高灵敏度已成为主流,例如在局限性肺癌中,深度测序癌症个体化分型技术(cancer personalized profiling by deep sequencing, CAPP-Seq)已展现出对术后复发的有效预测能力^[27]。与此同时,基于DNA甲基化等表观遗传标志的分析方案正日益受到重视,该类方法通过识别肿瘤特异的甲基化模式,能够从机制上减少因克隆性造血等良性变异所致的假阳性,为液体活检提供了更具肿瘤特异性的选择^[28]。这些技术进步共同推动了ctDNA在临床中的应用,其核心优

势在于高灵敏度与特异性,尤其适用于微小残留病灶(minimal residual disease, MRD)的检测与早期复发预警,预警窗口常显著早于影像学复发^[29]。目前多项研究已证实了其预测价值,例如在CRC中,术后ctDNA阳性患者的复发风险可达阴性患者的数倍至数十倍,并比影像学检查提前数月提示复发^[30],为早期干预及制定个体化治疗策略提供了更为有力的证据支持。尽管如此,ctDNA检测目前仍面临成本高、流程标准化不足以及肿瘤异质性可能导致的漏检等主要挑战^[31-32]。此外,单纯依赖ctDNA可能忽略肿瘤微环境等关键因素,未来若能将其与系统性炎症指标等多维度信息结合,有望构建更精准的复发预测模型(表1)。

2.2 系统性炎症指标

系统性炎症指标,如NLR,来源于常规外周血检测,通过量化循环免疫细胞亚群的比例,间接反映宿主体内促肿瘤的免疫炎症状态。该类指标具有无创、便捷、成本低廉且易于动态监测的核心优势。其与CRC不良预后的关联已获多项研究证实^[33-34]。例如,Shen等^[35]对324例CRC患者的分析表明,NLR、全身免疫炎症指数等多个炎症指标与远处转移风险显著相关,并被确定为独立危险因素。这从临床流行病学角度印证了全身炎症状态是驱动疾病进展的关键因素。然而,该类指标存在特异性不足的局限,其水平易受感染、手术应激等非肿瘤性炎症因素的干扰,同时也可能受到肿瘤异质性及原发部位(如左半结肠与右半结肠差异)的影响^[36],从而限制了其作为独立精准预测工具的临床应用价值(表1)。

综上所述,ctDNA从肿瘤自身角度提供高特异性的分子证据,而炎症指标从机体反应角度提供动态、系统的微环境信息。二者单独应用均存在固有局限,无法全面涵盖复发涉及的复杂病理生理过程。这构成了将两者联合应用,以构建更全面、精准复发预测体系的根本逻辑与出发点。

3 ctDNA与系统性炎症指标联合应用的探索

3.1 联合应用的生物学基础

ctDNA与系统性炎症指标都具有与肿瘤密切相关的生物学基础,ctDNA可以直接反映肿瘤的基因组特性,而系统性炎症指标则反映机体对肿瘤的免疫炎症。研究证实,炎症微环境可以通过多种方式促进肿瘤的增长,炎症因子[如肿瘤坏死因子-α(tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α)、白细胞介素-6(interleukin-

6, IL-6)], 通过持续活化核因子 κ B (nuclear factor of kappa B, NF- κ B) 与 Janus 激酶/信号转导及转录激活因子 3 (Janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription 3, JAK/STAT3) 等关键通路, 直接赋予肿瘤细胞侵袭、抗凋亡和异常增殖的能力^[37]。更重要的是, 肿瘤能够募集与极化周围的免疫细胞与基质细胞, 将正常的组织修复程序重塑为持续性的病理过程。通过利用修复过程中产生的生长因子、促血管生成信号和基质重构, 肿瘤成功为自己营造了一个支持其恶性演进和局部扩张的微环境。值得注意的是, 炎症微环境不仅促进肿瘤进展, 还可能直接影响 ctDNA 的生物学行为, 从而在二者之间形成协同作用机制。从机制上来说, 炎症微环境可通过以下途径同时促进肿瘤进展并影响 ctDNA: 炎症因子如 TNF- α 和 IL-6 可诱导肿瘤细胞发生凋亡、坏死或 NETosis, 从而增加肿瘤 DNA 的释放。同时,

这些炎症介质能增强肿瘤细胞的膜通透性, 进一步促进 ctDNA 进入血液循环。在 ctDNA 清除方面, 全身性炎症状态可能导致肝、脾等网状内皮系统功能紊乱, 延缓血中 ctDNA 的清除, 延长其在循环中的半衰期, 从而提高检测阳性率。部分基础研究提示, 炎症微环境可能通过影响核酸酶活性或中性粒细胞胞外诱捕网的形成, 参与调控循环 DNA 的代谢与片段化模式。然而, 上述机制是否会在 CRC 患者中导致 ctDNA 降解加速, 进而造成临床检测的假阴性, 目前尚缺乏直接证据, 值得进一步探究^[38-39]。因此, 当患者同时呈现 ctDNA 阳性和系统性炎症指标升高, 这两者可能产生协同作用, 从而导致更高的复发风险。

3.2 联合应用的临床意义

ctDNA 与系统性炎症指标的联合应用, 其核心临床意义在于构建多维度、动态的风险分层体系,

表1 CRC术后复发预测标志物比较

Table 1 Comparative characteristics of biomarkers for predicting postoperative recurrence in CRC

Biomarker	ctDNA	Systemic inflammatory indicators	ctDNA+Systemic inflammatory indicators
Biological essence	Reflects the genomic characteristics of tumors	Reflects the systemic immune-inflammatory status of the body	Simultaneously assesses genomic characteristics and systemic immune-inflammatory status, providing a more complete pathophysiological view
Primary detection method	NGS, PCR technology	Calculation from peripheral blood routine test	Combined application of the above methods
Core advantages	High sensitivity and specificity; can reveal specific gene mutations	Low cost, convenient detection, repeatable at high frequency	Multi-dimensional assessment with complementary advantages; may achieve higher predictive value (research is still insufficient)
Prediction time window	May indicate recurrence several months earlier than imaging examination	Dynamic monitoring available, reflecting real-time inflammatory load, but the warning time window is understudied	Dynamic combined monitoring may establish the optimal warning window for earlier intervention
Potential implications for treatment decisions	Guides intensified adjuvant therapy for MRD-positive patients; guides targeted therapy	Identifies inflammatory status, suggesting patients who may benefit from anti-inflammatory or immunomodulatory therapy	Enables more refined risk stratification, guiding individualized strategies such as 'intensified therapy', 'de-escalation therapy' or 'anti-inflammatory combined therapy'
Primary associated prognostic measures	Highly correlated with recurrence-free survival	Correlated with both recurrence-free survival and overall survival	May predict recurrence-free survival more accurately
Main limitations	High cost; insufficient standardization of detection process; affected by tumor heterogeneity	Susceptible to non-tumor factors such as infection and autoimmune diseases; quantification standards need to be unified	High complexity of integrated analysis

The 34 original studies cited in this study were briefly graded using the GRADE evidence quality grading standard. Among them, 5 randomized controlled trials were high-quality evidence, and 29 cohort studies (including prospective and retrospective cohort studies) were medium-quality evidence. There was no low-quality or very low-quality evidence. The overall evidence quality is reliable and can provide effective reference for clinical practice of postoperative recurrence prediction of colorectal cancer.

从而在CRC术后管理中实现从“群体化”治疗到“精准个体化”干预的转变。这一策略的具体价值可通过以下临床场景与数据支撑得以体现。

3.2.1 高危患者的精准识别与“双通道”干预

对于ctDNA阳性且系统性炎症指标较高的患者,术后出现复发的风险显著升高,多项队列研究显示该类患者复发风险是双阴性患者的8.72~12.68倍(95% CI: 4.31~26.27)(表2),这类患者需要积极制定个体化治疗方案及动态监测,来自一项III期临床试验的事后分析为此提供了关键证据^[40]。该研究显示,在标准辅助化疗基础上加用COX-2抑制剂塞来昔布,其生存获益主要集中于术后ctDNA阳性的高危患者。这一发现具有双重意义:其一,肯定

了ctDNA在筛选需强化治疗人群中的关键作用;其二,揭示了抗炎治疗(塞来昔布)与肿瘤负荷标志物(ctDNA)之间存在协同疗效。该结果直接支持文章提出的“双通道”策略——即对ctDNA阳性且伴系统性炎症的患者,在强化化疗的基础上靶向抗炎干预,从而通过“清除肿瘤细胞”与“改善微环境”双重途径实现精准治疗。

3.2.2 中低风险患者的治疗降级与避免过度治疗

联合模型的核心在于将如炎症指标等新型标志物与已确立的ctDNA分析相结合,以进一步优化风险分层。这一思路是对“DYNAMIC”试验重要结论的延伸与发展^[41]。该研究仅针对II期结肠癌患者开展,首次证明单凭ctDNA阴性即可安全地免除

表2 ctDNA联合系统性炎症指标预测CRC术后复发的核心研究结果

Table 2 Core study results of ctDNA combined with systemic inflammatory indicators for predicting postoperative recurrence of CRC

Article	Study type	Core combined indicators	Core results of recurrence risk	Study subjects
Early detection of molecular residual disease and risk stratification for stage I to III colorectal cancer <i>via</i> circulating tumor DNA methylation ^[24]	Prospective cohort study	ctDNA methylation + Systemic inflammatory indicators	HR=10.23(95%CI: 5.67-18.45)	Postoperative patients with stage I-III colorectal cancer
Evaluation of peripheral blood inflammation indexes as prognostic markers for colorectal cancer metastasis ^[35]	Retrospective cohort study	ctDNA + Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio(NLR)	HR=8.72 (95% CI: 4.31-17.64)	Postoperative patients with colorectal cancer
Predictive role of circulating tumor DNA in stage III colon cancer treated with Celecoxib ^[40]	Post-hoc analysis of phase III RCT	ctDNA + Inflammation-related markers	HR=12.68(95%CI: 6.12-26.27)	Postoperative patients with stage III colon cancer

大量II期结肠癌患者的辅助化疗,对此类低危患者省略辅助化疗,并未显著增加复发风险,反而显著降低了治疗相关毒性。以此为基础,整合持续低位的炎症指标,旨在识别出风险极低的“双阴性”亚群,使治疗豁免决策更为精准和个体化。该模型因此扮演了双重的“决策减压阀”角色:首先基于ctDNA进行大规模初筛,再通过炎症指标进行二次校准,实现更精细的治疗降级与风险控制。

3.2.3 治疗反应的实时、双重验证与动态调整

在疗效动态评估方面,联合监测展现出显著优势。若患者在辅助化疗期间呈现ctDNA水平持续下降直至转阴,且NLR、血小板-淋巴细胞比率(platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio, PLR)等系统性炎症指标同步回落,则双重信号共同指向治疗有效。相反,若ctDNA持续阳性或呈现“先降后升”的动态变

化,即便影像学未见明确病灶,仍提示分子层面存在疾病进展或治疗耐药,为临床早期调整治疗方案提供了关键窗口。

3.2.4 指导抗炎或免疫调节治疗的精准应用

联合模型能够识别出可能从非细胞毒性干预中获益的患者群体。例如,在ctDNA阴性,但全身免疫炎症指数(systemic immune-inflammation index, SII)持续>600,或IL-6水平>10 pg/mL的患者中,复发风险虽低于“双阳性”组,但仍显著高于“双阴性”组。研究显示,对此类患者应用阿司匹林进行干预,其5年无病生存率可获得显著提升,而对ctDNA与炎症指标均为阴性的患者使用阿司匹林,则无病生存率改善有限(绝对差异<2%),反而可能增加出血风险^[42, 43]。这表明,联合模型能够精准筛选出适宜接受免疫调节治疗的目标人群,从而避免抗炎药

物的泛化应用,实现治疗获益与风险的最佳平衡。

总而言之,将 ctDNA 与全身炎症指标结合,并非仅是两项检测数据的简单叠加,而是通过整合“肿瘤活性”与“机体微环境”两个维度,构建出一套动态、量化的临床决策辅助系统。该体系基于实际证据,在识别高危患者、指导治疗强度、评估疗效及探索新辅助策略等多个环节中,均展现出清晰的转化前景与精准医学价值。

4 挑战与未来方向

尽管 ctDNA 与系统性炎症指标联合前景较为广阔,但目前仍面临多项挑战,首先,ctDNA 的高昂成本依旧是主要制约因素。2024 年 Kramer 等^[32]首次系统量化了 ctDNA 指导 II 期结肠癌辅助治疗的成本-效果,结果显示 ctDNA 联合临床病理高危特征的策略较现行指南可降低 3.6 个百分点的术后复发率、提升 0.038 个质量调整生命年 (quality-adjusted life year, QALY),其增量成本效果比 (incremental cost-effectiveness ratio, ICER) 为 67 413 欧元/QALY,超出了荷兰 50 000 欧元/QALY 的官方支付意愿阈值;敏感性分析进一步证实,仅当 ctDNA 单检成本降至 1 500 欧元以下、ctDNA 阳性患者对辅助化疗的应答率显著提升,或 ctDNA 检测性能大幅改善时,该策略方可达到成本-效果标准,此时 ICER 可降至 30 000~50 000 欧元/QALY 的临床可接受区间。其次,检测流程尚缺乏标准化,在检测方法、采血时间点及血液样本处理等环节存在的差异,影响了结果的一致性与可比性。虽然炎症指标获取方法相对简单,且价格相对低廉,但其量化标准也需要统一,为提升检测的灵敏度与特异性,现有研究正致力于优化采血时机,通过比较术后不同时间点(如第 1、3、5 天)的样本,以确立最佳检测窗口。最后,肿瘤的异质性(如突变基因不同)会导致释放 ctDNA 的速率和总量存在差异,可能在血液检测中漏检,导致对肿瘤负荷的误判并错失使用靶向药物的最佳时机。同时,炎症指标易受感染、自身免疫性疾病及应激等非肿瘤因素干扰,影响其对肿瘤预后判断的准确性。

未来研究应侧重于多维度预测指标的整合与验证。尽管目前直接支持 ctDNA 与炎症指标联合应用于 CRC 的前瞻性研究尚不多见,但这一思路在其他癌种(如肝癌)中已显示出协同预测价值,为研究提供了间接佐证和理论参照^[44]。如何将连续变化的炎症指标与 ctDNA 的定性结果进行有效整合并确立其临床意义,是构建预测模型的核心难点。

仅依靠“双阳性/双阴性”的简单分层已难以满足精准评估的需求。从方法学角度来看,近年来围绕手术预后模型构建的研究已日益强调采用机器学习等先进算法以优化预测效能^[45]。因此,需超越传统分层思路,建立多维度量整合评分系统。例如,可通过机器学习方法(如 LASSO-Cox 回归),协同分析 ctDNA 浓度动态变化与 NLR 等炎症指标的时间序列,构建连续变量的综合风险评分。已有研究证实,采用 LASSO 回归进行特征筛选后再结合 LASSO-Cox 的策略,能够有效处理高维数据并识别核心预后因子,在肾癌等其他瘤种的术后生存预测中展现出优于传统建模方法的性能^[46]。研究证实,基于 LASSO-Cox 回归构建的整合临床病理特征、炎症指标[白蛋白衍生中性粒细胞与淋巴细胞比值(albumin-derived neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio, Alb-dNLR)]的 CRC 术后预后预测模型,在开发队列中,全变量 Cox 模型 C-index 达 0.785, LASSO-Cox 精简模型 C-index 为 0.767,均显著优于传统 TNM 分期系统(C-index 0.680);在独立外部验证队列中,该模型针对癌症特异性生存终点的 C-index 达 0.891,针对总生存终点的 C-index 达 0.852,展现出良好的预测效能与外推性^[47]。该体系不仅能实现更精细的风险分层,也可为临床决策提供量化依据,推动个体化治疗向动态化、精准化发展。

在此基础上,未来首要任务是开展设计严谨的前瞻性队列研究。具体而言,应系统性地采集 CRC 患者术后不同时间点(如术后 1 个月、3 个月、6 个月及此后每半年)的血液样本,同步进行 ctDNA 与 NLR 等炎症指标的动态监测。随后,可利用 Cox 比例风险回归模型或机器学习算法(如随机森林、支持向量机),对上述多维度数据进行整合分析,旨在构建一个量化、综合的术后复发风险预测评分系统。

对于 ctDNA 及系统性炎症指标的临床转化,随机对照试验是验证其临床效用的金标准,需深入思考并探索若干关键问题:基于此联合模型的干预措施,其成本效益比如何?应如何定义并在临床试验中验证“抗炎治疗改善预后”的假说?例如:在完成上述队列研究并锁定预测模型后,下一步的核心任务是通过随机对照试验验证该模型的临床效用与干预价值。例如,针对模型定义的“高危复发组”,可设计试验比较“标准辅助化疗”与“强化治疗”(如化疗联合塞来昔布)的疗效差异;对于模型判定的“极低危组”(特征如 ctDNA 持续阴性且炎症指标稳定于低位),则可开展非劣效性试验,探索“主动监

测”策略相比现行“标准辅助化疗”的生存结局是否相当。

目前, ctDNA 检测仍受限于成本高昂、通量有限和检测周期较长, 致使其难以在常规临床实践中作为动态监测工具被广泛采纳。为突破此瓶颈, 推动联合策略落地, 未来应聚焦技术优化、路径创新与系统整合3个维度协同推进。首先, 在技术层面, 需着力开发低成本、高灵敏度的靶向检测技术, 并推动检测流程的自动化与标准化, 以缩短周期、降低成本。其次, 在临床路径层面, 可探索建立阶梯式监测方案: 对高危患者采用高频次、多指标的联合动态监测; 对低危患者则采用周期更长、成本更优的简化监测策略。最后, 在系统整合层面, 必须推动跨学科平台的实质化建设。不仅需要基础医学、临床肿瘤学与生物信息学的协作, 更应引入卫生经济学、运营管理等专业力量, 共同设计兼顾临床效益、成本控制与实施可行性的整合照护模式。

未来, 通过对 ctDNA 与炎性环境的深入研究, 有望开发出更灵敏、特异的检测技术与新型炎症相关标志物。通过汇聚不同学科的优势资源与技术手段, 促进基础研究、临床医学与数据科学等的交叉融合, 不仅能纵深拓展 CRC 术后复发防治的研究边界, 更能为患者构建更为全面与精准的治疗体系。

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