

·综述·

小胶质细胞异质性及其在多发性硬化症中的研究进展

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摘 要: 多发性硬化症(MS)为中枢神经系统慢性免疫性脱髓鞘疾病,小胶质细胞作为中枢固有免疫细胞,在疾病进程中兼具损伤与修复双重调控作用。多项研究证实小胶质细胞在发育、衰老和病理状态下存在显著异质性,并已识别出增殖区相关小胶质细胞、疾病相关小胶质细胞、干扰素反应性小胶质细胞及MS炎症性小胶质细胞等多种细胞亚群。本文综述了小胶质细胞异质性及其在MS中的研究现状,着重论述其调控神经炎症与髓鞘再生的作用机制,为靶向小胶质细胞亚群的精准治疗提供理论参考,也为MS临床治疗提供新思路。

关键词: 多发性硬化症;小胶质细胞;异质性;神经炎症;髓鞘再生

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Research Progress on Microglia Heterogeneity and Their Role in Multiple Sclerosis

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Abstract: Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic immune-mediated demyelinating disease of the central nervous system. As the resident innate immune cells of the CNS, microglia exert dual regulatory effects throughout the disease course, encompassing both detrimental and reparative functions. Numerous studies have confirmed that microglia exhibit significant heterogeneity across development, aging, and pathological states, and multiple subpopulations have been identified, including proliferative region-associated microglia, disease-associated microglia, interferon-responsive microglia, and microglia inflamed in MS. This review summarizes the current state of microglial heterogeneity research and its implications in MS, with a particular focus on the mechanisms underlying their regulation of neuroinflammation and remyelination. It provides a theoretical reference for precision therapies targeting microglial subpopulations and offers novel insights for the clinical management of MS.

Key words: multiple sclerosis; microglia; heterogeneity; neuroinflammation; remyelination

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多发性硬化症(multiple sclerosis, MS)是一种中枢神经系统(central nervous system, CNS)自身免疫性疾病,以炎症脱髓鞘、轴突损伤和神经退行性改变并存为主要特征,全球影响超过 200 万人^[1]。

尽管疾病修正疗法可降低炎症活动和复发风险,但对进展型MS的神经退行性过程疗效有限^[2]。持续性神经炎症是推动MS病程恶化的重要因素^[3],传统观点强调外周免疫细胞浸润CNS介导的急性炎

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症^[4-5],但越来越多证据表明,CNS固有免疫反应尤其是小胶质细胞介导的局部炎症维持、髓鞘碎片处理和组织修复失败,同样决定MS病灶慢性化及功能结局^[6-7]。小胶质细胞作为CNS常驻免疫细胞和主要吞噬细胞,在MS中并非单一的促炎或修复性群体。单细胞/单核RNA测序和空间转录组研究揭示,小胶质细胞在发育、衰老和疾病状态下呈现高度异质性,可形成多种功能状态^[8-9]。现有综述多聚焦于外周免疫异常、小胶质细胞经典活化或髓鞘再生障碍,缺乏对小胶质细胞异质性及其在神经炎症和修复中双重作用的系统梳理。因此,本文整合了近年来不同生理和病理条件下小胶质细胞主要异质性亚群,如MIMS-foamy、MIMS-iron、IRM、DAM等,并围绕其神经炎症损伤与髓鞘再生修复作用进行归纳,探讨小胶质细胞作为MS治疗靶点的转化潜力,为理解MS慢性进展及开发小胶质细胞靶向治疗策略提供参考。

1 小胶质细胞及其异质性

小胶质细胞起源于卵黄囊髓系祖细胞,胚胎早期迁入脑实质,成年后主要依赖局部自我更新维持群体稳定。生理状态下,小胶质细胞通过分支突起持续监测微环境,参与突触修剪、髓鞘形成和再生、神经元活动调控等过程^[10]。病理刺激条件下可诱导其向促炎或修复表型转变,传统M1/M2型小胶质细胞分别强调炎症因子释放、吞噬清除和组织修复等功能^[11]。但M1/M2二分法主要来自外周巨噬细胞和体外单一刺激实验,难以概括脑内病灶中多样的小胶质细胞状态。因此,本节从发育、衰老、疾病及MS病灶这4个层面概述其异质性。

1.1 发育和衰老过程中小胶质细胞亚群

发育期小胶质细胞具有短暂而特化的功能状态。增殖区相关小胶质细胞(proliferative-region-associated microglia, PAM)主要分布于发育期白质和增殖活跃区域,表达吞噬及脂质处理相关基因,参与新生少突胶质细胞吞噬和白质重塑^[12];轴突束相关小胶质细胞(axon tract-associated microglia, ATM)位于轴突束和白质区域,具有发育支持、吞噬及髓鞘环境调控特征,可能参与轴突成熟和髓鞘形成^[13];CD11c⁺发育型小胶质细胞聚集于胼胝体和小脑白质,高表达胰岛素样生长因子-1(insulin-like growth factor 1, IGF-1)并支持髓鞘生成^[14];Hoxb8⁺

亚群则与焦虑和病理性过度梳理行为相关^[15]。衰老过程中,脂滴积聚小胶质细胞(lipid droplet-accumulating microglia, LDAM)表现为脂滴积聚、活性氧升高、促炎分泌增强和吞噬受损^[16-17]。白质相关小胶质细胞(white matter-associated microglia, WAM)聚集于白质及髓鞘退化区域,依赖髓样细胞触发受体2(triggering receptor expressed on myeloid cells 2, TREM2)信号并高表达吞噬、溶酶体和脂质代谢相关基因,可清除退变髓鞘及髓鞘碎片^[18]。尽管上述亚群主要见于生理性发育或衰老进程,但其功能特征为理解MS病理提供了重要参照。

1.2 疾病相关小胶质细胞亚群

疾病状态下,疾病相关小胶质细胞(disease-associated microglia, DAM)、活化应答小胶质细胞(activated response microglia, ARM)和神经退行性小胶质细胞(microglial neurodegenerative phenotype, MGnD)均表现为稳态基因下调,以及脂质代谢、吞噬和炎症相关程序激活,并多聚集于A β 斑块周围,但其究竟偏向神经保护还是介导损伤仍有争议^[19-22]。干扰素反应性小胶质细胞(interferon-responsive microglia, IRM)以I型干扰素刺激基因高表达为特征,在健康成年人脑中占比极低,在衰老、阿尔茨海默病(Alzheimer's disease, AD)和MS等条件下增加,急性应答中发挥保护作用,持续激活则促进慢性神经炎症、突触丢失和认知障碍^[23]。暗小胶质细胞、杆状小胶质细胞和卫星小胶质细胞分别以超微结构、细长形态和贴近神经元胞体为主要特征,见于慢性应激、衰老、AD、缺血、外伤性脑损伤等背景,与病理性突触重塑、兴奋性调节和神经元功能改变相关^[24-26]。DAM、IRM等亚群最初在MS以外的神经退行性或应激性疾病中被描述,但其部分转录特征与MS病灶内的小胶质细胞状态高度重叠。特别是DAM/MGnD亚群富集的脂质代谢和吞噬相关程序,在MS活动性病灶中同样被异常激活。

1.3 多发硬化中小胶质细胞异质性

MS病灶中的小胶质细胞异质性还受脑区和病灶阶段影响。van der Poel等^[27]对MS患者正常表现的白质与灰质中小胶质细胞进行转录谱分析,发现白质小胶质细胞高表达脂质代谢相关基因,灰质小胶质细胞则表现为糖酵解和铁稳态相关基因表达上调。Absinta等^[28]在慢性活动性MS病灶边缘鉴定出MIMS-foamy和MIMS-iron这2种炎症性小胶

质细胞(microglia inflamed in MS, MIMS)亚群,前者富集脂质储存、脂蛋白反应和溶酶体相关基因,可能参与髓鞘碎片吞噬清除;后者高表达Ⅱ类主要组织相容性复合体(major histocompatibility complex class Ⅱ, MHC Ⅱ)、铁蛋白复合体、Fc- γ 受体及补体C1复合体等炎症相关基因,且在病灶边缘聚集,可能参与病灶边缘的炎症扩展。van den Bosch等^[29]通过空间转录组学发现,MS皮层下白质病灶中含泡沫状小胶质细胞的病灶免疫激活增强、补体活性升高及铁失调,与脱髓鞘加剧及髓鞘再生失败相关;含分支状小胶质细胞的病灶则高表达髓鞘稳定性和神经轴突保护相关基因,营造有利于修复的微环境。Belien等^[30]在活动性MS病灶中鉴定出一类表达几丁质酶1(chitinase 1, CHIT1)的小胶质细胞亚群,该亚群富集脂质代谢通路,且CHIT1水平可预测残疾进展。此外,人类小胶质细胞图谱进一步识别稳态亚群及Inflam.DAM、Ribo.DAM、Lipo.DAM等疾病相关状态,其中跨膜糖蛋白NMB(transmembrane glycoprotein NMB, GPNMB)高表达的Lipo.DAM亚群在MS中显著扩增,该亚群具有与DAM表型相结合的脂质代谢特征,可能参与脂质相关病理过程^[31]。

2 小胶质细胞介导多发性硬化神经炎症与损伤

小胶质细胞在生理条件下承担免疫监视、突触修剪等保护性功能,但在MS中兼具神经保护与致病损伤的双重作用。本章从固有免疫异常激活、适应性免疫应答放大以及慢性退行性病变与髓鞘再生障碍层面,阐述小胶质细胞介导MS神经炎症与损伤的病理机制。

2.1 固有免疫激活与促炎极化

MS病灶内髓鞘碎片、损伤相关分子模式及外周免疫细胞浸润等信号刺激下,稳态小胶质细胞迅速向活化状态转变。在代谢层面,小胶质细胞通过激活HIF-1 α 通路发生糖酵解重编程,维持促炎状态^[32]。活化的小胶质细胞通过NADPH氧化酶2和诱导型一氧化氮合酶产生活性氧和一氧化氮,导致神经元轴突断裂和少突胶质细胞线粒体损伤,同时释放过量谷氨酸引发少突胶质前体细胞(oligodendrocyte precursor cell, OPC)和神经元兴奋

性毒性死亡^[33-34]。小胶质细胞分泌的白细胞介素-1 α (interleukin-1 α , IL-1 α)、肿瘤坏死因子(tumor necrosis factor, TNF)和补体C1q还协同诱导星形胶质细胞获得A1神经毒性表型,使其丧失髓鞘支持功能,放大脱髓鞘与神经损伤^[35]。此外,核苷酸结合寡聚化结构域样受体蛋白3(NOD-like receptor protein 3, NLRP3)炎症小体作为中枢危险信号感受器,组装后激活半胱天冬酶-1,剪切pro-IL-1 β 和pro-IL-18为成熟形式并大量释放,不仅促进小胶质细胞向促炎表型转换,还会损害其吞噬清除能力,导致髓鞘碎片等危险信号堆积^[36]。未被清除的髓鞘碎片又可作为激活信号,进一步诱导NLRP3炎症小体组装,形成恶性循环。在疾病早期,小胶质细胞可通过自噬途径降解NLRP3组分进行代偿,但随着病程进展,NLRP3的持续激活与吞噬功能障碍相互促进,共同推动脱髓鞘与神经损伤的恶性进程^[37]。

2.2 适应性免疫应答与炎症放大

在连接适应性免疫方面,小胶质细胞显著上调MHC I/Ⅱ及分化簇(cluster of differentiation 80, CD80)、CD86等共刺激分子,将髓鞘碱性蛋白、髓鞘少突胶质细胞糖蛋白等髓鞘抗原呈递给CD4⁺T细胞,促使其向Th1和Th17极化,产生干扰素- γ 和IL-17等炎症因子^[38],还通过交叉呈递激活CD8⁺T细胞的细胞毒功能,靶向攻击少突胶质细胞和轴突^[39]。此外,活化小胶质细胞表达CCL2(C-C motif chemokine ligand 2, CCL2)、CCL3、CCL4、CCL5、CXC趋化因子配体10(C-X-C motif chemokine ligand 10, CXCL10)及CXCL13等多种趋化因子,促进单核细胞、T淋巴细胞等外周免疫细胞向CNS募集和局部炎症放大^[40]。其中,CCL2/CCR2轴参与炎症性髓系细胞浸润^[41],CXCL10/CXCR3轴促进CXCR3⁺T细胞迁移^[42],而CXCL13通过结合CXCR5参与B细胞趋化及脑膜异位淋巴样结构形成^[43]。同时,小胶质细胞分泌的B细胞激活因子和增殖诱导配体促进B细胞存活、成熟及向浆细胞分化^[44],B细胞来源的自身抗体通过补体激活和Fc受体介导吞噬作用,引起少突胶质细胞损伤和髓鞘破坏^[45]。

2.3 慢性退行性病变与髓鞘再生障碍

在慢性活动性病灶中,小胶质细胞持续吞噬髓鞘碎片可导致大量脂质和胆固醇在胞内积累,诱导脂质代谢重编程和GPNMB⁺泡沫样小胶质细胞形

成,单细胞转录组研究显示,该类细胞具有脂质处理相关基因表达特征,但长期髓鞘碎片负荷会引起溶酶体压力、胆固醇外排障碍及炎症持续激活^[46]。TREM2作为小胶质细胞脂质感知受体,在髓鞘碎片吞噬及脂质稳态维持中发挥重要作用。然而,在慢性脱髓鞘环境中,持续的脂质摄入可能超过小胶质细胞代谢处理能力,导致TREM2-载脂蛋白E相关脂质稳态失衡,促进脂质积累和泡沫样表型维持^[20]。此外,小胶质细胞吞噬富含铁的髓鞘碎片后,铁过载诱导其向促炎表型极化并损害吞噬功能,而炎症产物又加剧脱髓鞘与铁释放,最终导致慢性炎症状态并阻断髓鞘再生^[47]。未被处理的碎片持续激活核因子 κ B(nuclear factor kappa-B, NF- κ B)通路^[48],而溶酶体内过度堆积的胆固醇发生相变形成胆固醇结晶,破坏溶酶体完整性并激活NLRP3,促使IL-1 β 等炎症因子持续释放,推动慢性活动性病灶边缘持续扩大^[49]。

3 小胶质细胞在多发硬化髓鞘再生中的功能

与前述损伤性作用相对,小胶质细胞在MS病灶中也存在修复神经组织的功能。本章将从髓鞘修复微环境的重塑、OPC分化成熟的调控以及维护轴突完整性层面,阐述小胶质细胞如何通过吞噬清除碎片、代谢重编程、分泌营养因子等机制,促进脱髓鞘区域的髓鞘再生。

3.1 重塑髓鞘修复微环境

脱髓鞘后堆积的富含脂质髓鞘碎片既物理阻碍OPC迁移,又抑制其分化成熟,及时清除碎片是启动髓鞘再生的先决条件。TREM2与MER原癌基因酪氨酸激酶(MER proto-oncogene tyrosine kinase, MerTK)作为关键吞噬受体介导小胶质细胞对髓鞘碎片摄取,研究发现抗体激活TREM2可增强小胶质细胞对碎片的吞噬降解效率,增加病灶区OPC密度和分化成熟^[50],而MerTK缺失则显著削弱小胶质细胞吞噬能力并导致髓鞘变薄和OPC分化受损^[51]。除了上述膜受体外,磷脂酶D家族成员4(phospholipase D family member 4, PLD4)与芳香烃受体(aryl hydrocarbon receptor, AhR)也在髓鞘碎片清除中发挥重要作用,PLD4在铜胺(cuprizone, CPZ)诱导的脱髓鞘模型中上调,并通过TrkA/AKT

信号通路调控小胶质细胞的吞噬活性^[52],转录因子AhR则通过调节脾酪氨酸激酶的表达来增强小胶质细胞的吞噬功能,促进髓鞘碎片的清除^[53]。在清除碎片的基础上,吞噬后的代谢重编程是决定微环境性质转变的核心环节,小胶质细胞特异性下调24-脱氢胆固醇还原酶使代谢流阻滞于链甾醇,该中间产物作为内源性配体激活肝X受体信号通路,不仅调控促炎/抗炎因子平衡以重塑免疫微环境,还通过转录上调ATP结合盒转运体A1/G1将回收胆固醇外排,为OPC分化提供关键脂质原料^[54]。在小胶质细胞表型转化上,促炎性小胶质细胞通过RIPK3/MLKL通路介导坏死性凋亡以终止炎症活化状态,向促再生Arg-1⁺表型转换,阻断该通路不会影响到髓鞘碎片清除,但仍引起髓鞘再生受损^[55]。Qin等^[56]研究表明,代谢重编程与TREM2信号同样深度参与了脱髓鞘过程中的表型转换。其中,糖酵解向氧化磷酸化的转变为促吞噬(phagocytosis-enhanced microglia, PEMs)向促髓鞘形成(myelination-associated microglia, MAMs)表型转换提供了能量支持;而TREM2缺失时,PEMs虽然仍能形成,但由于吞噬不足和脂质代谢障碍导致脂滴异常积累,可能阻碍了MAMs转换,最终导致髓鞘再生受损。此外,小胶质细胞还通过分泌基质金属蛋白酶降解抑制性的硫酸软骨素蛋白聚糖,并分泌转谷氨酰胺酶2交联层粘连蛋白,激活OPC表面G蛋白偶联受体56来调节细胞外基质物理与生化特性,为OPC迁移清除障碍并营造促分化的微环境^[57]。

3.2 调控少突胶质前体细胞分化成熟

髓鞘再生的实现还依赖于OPC向病灶区域的募集、局部增殖以及向成熟少突胶质细胞的分化。体内实验表明,小胶质细胞耗竭会显著削弱OPC向脱髓鞘区域的定向迁移,而这一趋化效应在急性活动性MS病变中主要归因于小胶质细胞高表达Sema3F,通过形成浓度梯度,引导OPC迁移至受损病灶^[58-59]。当OPC抵达损伤部位后,小胶质细胞通过分泌血小板衍生生长因子(platelet-derived growth factor, PDGF)、血管内皮生长因子及转化生长因子等神经营养因子,为OPC扩增提供微环境支持^[41]。小胶质细胞膜表面表达的神经纤毛蛋白1能够以反式激活方式作用于OPC表面的PDGFR α 受体,增强下游Akt和ERK1/2磷酸化信号,在PDGF-AA配体浓度较低时增强OPC的增殖反应,

为后续分化储备充足的细胞来源^[60]。在 OPC 分化与髓鞘修复阶段,小胶质细胞分泌的半乳糖凝集素-3 蛋白可通过其碳水化合物识别域,直接结合 OPC 细胞表面特有的糖复合物,特异性促进少突胶质细胞的分化^[61]。小胶质细胞释放的细胞外囊泡中携带丰富的内源性大麻素 2-花生四烯酸甘油酯和花生四烯酸乙醇胺,这些脂质信号是促进 OPC 成熟的关键分子^[62]。此外,小胶质细胞分泌的 IGF1 等可溶性因子也协同参与 OPC 的成熟和髓鞘修复^[41]。

4 小胶质细胞对轴突的保护作用

除了为 OPC 分化营造微环境外,小胶质细胞还参与维护轴突结构完整性与功能稳态。一方面,通过吞噬清除异常髓鞘和坏死细胞,小胶质细胞能够解除轴突运输障碍,阻止线粒体在轴突局部堆积,并恢复轴突存活因子烟酰胺单核苷酸腺苷酰转移酶 2 的运输,遏制轴突损伤向不可逆的变性阶段进展^[63]。另一方面,小胶质细胞通过突起物理接触不同轴突节段以调节神经元功能,但这种接触的效应高度依赖于病理模型。在 CPZ 诱导的脱髓鞘模型中,小胶质细胞与轴突起始段接触增强但未诱发结构性损伤,而是参与神经元兴奋性的稳态调节。在实验性自身免疫性脑脊髓炎(experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, EAE)免疫介导模型中,小胶质细胞突起接触郎飞氏结后并不主动剥离髓鞘,而是通过与邻近浸润的巨噬细胞协同作用,清除髓鞘碎片并保护轴突免受炎性损伤^[64]。进一步研究发现,小胶质细胞通过其突起直接接触郎飞氏结,感知神经元活动伴随的 K^+ 外排,并依赖自身 THIK-1 钾通道(tandem pore domain halothane-inhibited K^+ channel 1, THIK-1)读取该信号以获悉神经活动状态,主动向促再生(IGF1⁺)表型转换,促进髓鞘再生,恢复对轴突的营养支持^[65]。

5 小胶质细胞作为多发性硬化治疗靶点的转化潜力

在 MS 中,小胶质细胞不再维持正常的稳态功能,而是呈现出多种病理相关的激活表型,其稳态功能的丧失可能加剧组织损伤并削弱修复能力,从

而推动疾病进展。因此,靶向小胶质细胞,特别是调节其从促炎状态向修复状态的转变,被视为治疗 MS 的关键策略^[66]。

近年来,人源诱导多能干细胞(human-induced pluripotent stem cell, iPSC)体外模型的应用,为小胶质细胞作为治疗靶点的潜力提供了新证据。MS 患者 iPSC 分化而来的小胶质细胞(MS iMGLs)在基线状态下即表现出稳态基因 P2RY12 表达下调,与 MS 尸检脑组织中的观察一致。此外,这些细胞还伴有免疫相关转录本 PIGR、BST1、FPR3 及 XIST 上调,以及吞噬功能增强等特征。上述部分转录改变在脂多糖刺激后依然存在,表明 MS iMGLs 是一种对急性炎症刺激表现出低反应性的细胞自主性免疫激活状态,并强调小胶质细胞是 MS 的潜在治疗靶点^[67]。

其次,多个特异性分子通路已被证实可通过调节小胶质细胞功能缓解 MS 病理。布鲁顿酪氨酸激酶(Bruton's tyrosine kinase, BTK)是目前最具前景的靶点之一,BTK 在 MS 慢性活动病灶的小胶质细胞中表达增高,其抑制剂在 iPSC 小胶质细胞中可抑制促炎反应并增强吞噬能力^[68]。另一研究将 MS 患者 iPSC 来源的神经类器官暴露于来自慢性活动性 MS 患者的脑脊液中,可诱导小胶质细胞衰老样状态,而抗炎药物异丁司特、 α -硫辛酸和 BTK 抑制剂托勒布替尼可显著减少衰老样小胶质细胞,提示干预小胶质细胞衰老可能延缓进展^[69]。此外,调节小胶质细胞脂质代谢也显示修复潜能。在慢性脱髓鞘模型中,恢复神经调节蛋白-1 信号可通过支持小胶质细胞对髓鞘碎片的清除及胆固醇回收与外排,改善髓鞘再生^[70]。

6 总结与展望

小胶质细胞在 MS 病理进程中呈现出双向调控作用。一方面通过促炎态转变、介导适应性免疫应答,推动神经炎症与脱髓鞘进展;另一方面通过重塑修复微环境、调控 OPC 分化成熟,促进髓鞘再生与神经修复。其中, NLRP3 炎症小体、TREM2 受体、脂质代谢重编程及 NF- κ B 等信号通路是调控小胶质细胞损伤与修复功能的关键节点。

单细胞/单核 RNA 测序、空间转录组等技术的应用已揭示小胶质细胞在发育、疾病及衰老中的高度异质性,从 PAM、DAM、IRM 到 MS 病灶中特异的

MIMS-foamy、MIMS-iron、Lipo.DAM 亚群等,为精准靶向治疗提供了理论依据。然而,目前仍存在多个待解决的问题,如多数亚群鉴定基于转录组特征,其动态演变规律尚不清晰;表型转换的关键分子机制尚未完全阐明,限制了诱导修复性小胶质细胞转化的药物研发;缺乏特异性靶向单个亚群的干预手段,难以在体内环境中明确各亚群的因果关系。

小胶质细胞异质性亚群的发现向临床转化也存在多重局限。首先,人类 MS 病灶样本来源有限,单细胞转录组所定义的亚群与其实际功能状态之间尚需功能获得/丧失实验验证;其次,病灶微环境中常驻小胶质细胞与浸润性单核/巨噬细胞存在显著的表型重叠,体内实现细胞亚群特异性干预仍有

难度;再者,治疗窗口的把握尤为关键,需在抑制神经炎症与保留促髓鞘再生等功能之间达到精细平衡。为此,人源 iPSC 来源的 3D 类器官及含血脑屏障模型作为新兴体外平台,在一定程度上突破了上述瓶颈,其能够模拟人脑中小胶质细胞与其他胶质细胞的致病性互作,测试药物穿透能力及对 CNS 靶细胞的直接调节作用,为筛选亚群特异性干预手段及临床试验前药效学评估提供了更有力的依据。

综上,小胶质细胞异质性为 MS 治疗提供了全新视角,靶向特定亚群而非整体性抑制小胶质细胞功能,有望在遏制神经炎症的同时维持并提升其修复能力,从而突破当前疾病修正疗法对 MS 疗效有限的困境。

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