

·综述·

肠道微生物在心血管疾病中的作用及机制

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摘要:心血管疾病是当前对人体健康造成严重危害的主要疾病,受到了国内外的普遍重视。目前已有的机制研究不足以满足越来越高发的心血管疾病的治疗现状。肠道作为人体最大的微生态系统,和人体之间的相互作用与多种疾病的发病机制有关。近几年,心血管疾病和肠道微生物之间的关系,已被越来越多的人所了解。肠道菌群及其代谢产物水平的改变是促使疾病发生发展的主要因素,对肠道菌群失调进行纠正可能为治疗心血管疾病提供新策略。因此,本文就肠道微生物及其代谢产物在心血管疾病中的应用进行综述,旨在为未来相关研究提供参考。

关键词:肠道微生物;肠道菌群;心血管疾病;肠道通透性;作用机制;治疗

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Role of Gut Microbiota in Cardiovascular Diseases and its Mechanism

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Abstract: Cardiovascular diseases are now the leading cause of serious harms to human health, have drawn widespread attention both domestically and internationally. But the current research on mechanism of cardiovascular diseases is not keeping up with the current status of their treatment. The microbiota in the gut, the largest microecological system in the human body and its interaction with the human host have been implicated in a variety of diseases. The relationship between gut microbiota and cardiovascular diseases has been increasingly understood in recent years. The changes of gut microbiota and its metabolites are the major contributing factor for the occurrence and development of cardiovascular diseases, therefore, correction of gut microbiota dysbiosis may provide a novel therapeutic alternative for cardiovascular diseases. This article reviews the role of gut microbiota and its metabolites in cardiovascular diseases, aiming to provide reference for future related studies.

Key words: gut microbiota; metabolit intestinal flora; cardiovascular diseases; intestinal permeability; role and mechanism; treatment

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在世界范围内,心血管疾病的患病率和致死率都很高,我国心血管疾病的患病率也呈逐年上升趋势

势^[1],尽管目前全球已经进行了大量与心血管疾病相关的基础研究以及临床药物的开发,并取得了一

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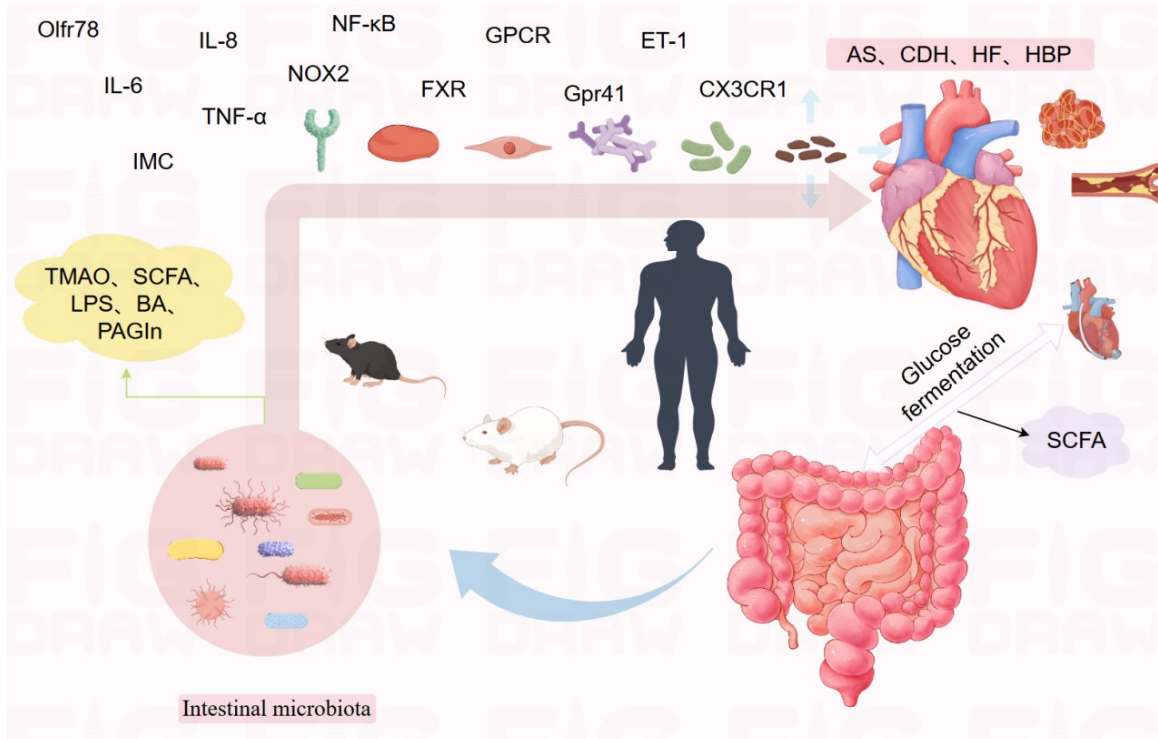
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定的临床疗效^[2],但由于其自身不良反应和个体差异,导致一些病人的治疗效果不理想,因此需要探求治疗心血管疾病的新角度^[3]。部分研究结果显示遗传和环境的交互作用是导致心血管病发生的主要原因^[4],其中基因变异在心血管病的发生中所占比例很小(20%)^[5],因此,在心血管疾病的发病机制中环境因素起着重要作用^[6]。人类肠道作为一个巨大而活跃的细菌群落的自然栖息地,含有数目庞大的微生物,它们共同组成了胃肠道这个复杂的生态系统^[7],胃肠道的健康很大程度上取决于肠道菌群的平衡,这些菌群不但可以协助机体保持肠黏膜屏障的完整,阻止致病菌侵害人体^[8],而且能够对机体免疫功能进行调节^[9],增强人体免疫力。通过肠道微生物代谢产生的部分活性物质进入体循环后,也会对人体的生理功能造成一定影响^[10]。近年来,大量研究显示肠道菌群及其代谢产物能够通过多条途径对心血管疾病的发生发展起到推动作用^[11],当肠道微生态失衡时会引起糖脂代谢紊乱、体循环炎症水平增高,最终导致机体出现动脉粥样

硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)、冠心病(coronary atherosclerotic heart disease, CHD)、心力衰竭(heart failure, HF)等心血管疾病^[12],现对肠道菌群及其代谢产物与心血管疾病之间相关性(图1)的研究现状进行概述。

1 肠道菌群与冠心病

冠状动脉粥样硬化性心脏病作为严重影响机体功能的一种疾病^[13],近年来发病率逐年增高且有继续升高的趋势^[14],冠状动脉粥样硬化性斑块的形成是其发生的主要病理基础,斑块破裂进一步发展会引发急性心肌梗死,这也是导致冠心病患者死亡的主要原因^[15],因此如果只是对目前已知的导致冠心病发病率升高的危险因素进行控制,对于冠心病的预防和治疗是远远不够的,有研究结果显示,肠道菌群失调和代谢产物的异常是引起动脉硬化的主要环境因素^[16]。



Intestinal microorganisms and their metabolites (e.g. TMAO, SCFA, LPS, etc.) affect the occurrence and development of cardiovascular diseases (e.g. atherosclerosis, coronary heart disease, heart failure, etc.) through various pathway. Some cardiovascular diseases (such as heart failure) can produce short chain fatty acids through glucose fermentation and interact with gut microbiota.

图1 肠道菌群与心血管疾病

Fig. 1 Intestinal microbiota and cardiovascular disease

1.1 肠道菌群对冠心病的影响

近年很多研究都证实了肠道菌群的失调参与了炎症性疾病的发生和发展。动脉粥样硬化是一种慢性代谢性炎症性病理过程^[17],是各种心血管疾病的重要病因,其发病与发展既受到遗传和环境因素影响,又与许多危险因子相关,有研究显示,经肺炎衣原体等病原体感染的血管内皮细胞及单核细胞能够促进包括IL-6、IL-8、TNF- α 在内的部分促炎因子的生成,而这些促炎因子和动脉粥样硬化性心脏病的发病密切相关^[10],但部分研究结论显示经抗生素治疗的一些冠状动脉疾病患者症状的改善并不明显。因此,肠道菌群在动脉粥样硬化性心脏病中的作用仍然需要大量的临床试验来进行验证。近年来,随着基因测序技术和生物信息学技术的不断进步,关于人类肠道菌群的组成与其所携带基因组方面的研究得到了新的技术支撑^[18],有研究人员用全基因测序的方法来探究肠道菌群结构的变化和动脉粥样硬化性心脏病之间的关联,通过宏基因组学方法对肠道菌群的分析,发现患有动脉粥样硬化人群肠道菌群的成分和健康人群的有显著差异^[19],分析结果显示冠心病病人体内的柯林斯菌较多,而健康人体内所含的益生菌较多,例如罗氏杆菌与真杆菌属。同样有研究表明改变小鼠肠道微生物组可延缓动脉粥样硬化斑块的进展^[20]。通过对不同肠道菌群代谢状况的分析,我们对肠道菌群与冠心病之间关系有了进一步了解。

1.2 肠道菌群代谢产物对冠心病的影响

人体在患病期间,肠道菌群发生了明显改变,其中最重要的是有害菌数量的增加和有益菌数量的减少。益生菌对疾病的预防、免疫力的提高和抗病能力的增强等方面都起着十分重要的作用,而中性菌和有害菌,则会通过在人体肠道内进行代谢的方式生成大量的内毒素和有害气体,从而打破肠道的内稳态,同时也会改变肠内皮屏障的通透性,最终导致细菌进入体循环造成系统炎症进而对机体产生影响^[21],而肠道菌群的失调又会进一步加重疾病,由此形成了恶性循环。

1.2.1 氧化三甲胺 氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine oxide, TMAO)是近年来受到人们普遍关注的一种肠道菌群代谢产物^[22],通过肠道菌群代谢摄入食物中的胆碱、L-肉毒碱等营养物质后生成三甲胺(trimethylamine, TMA),TMA又进一步由肝肠循环进入肝脏,后在短时间内被氧化生成TMAO而进入

体循环,最终经肾脏排出^[23]。给无菌小鼠喂食肉碱后TMAO浓度没有明显增加,但在肠道细菌定植后,TMAO浓度随着饮食的增加而增加^[24],这说明肠道代谢产物在导致动脉粥样硬化形成过程中起了重要的作用^[25]。研究发现,TMAO通过造成内皮细胞功能紊乱影响早期动脉粥样硬化^[26]。同时对肠道微生物移植结果的研究发现,TMAO的生成和血栓形成之间的相关性是可传递的,这也进一步证实了在进行了肠道微生物移植的供受者之间,动脉粥样硬化的易感性可以通过TMAO的生成来传递^[27]。此外,TMAO水平的升高可以通过增加血小板的活性使其聚集、黏附,从而使凝血速度加快并促进血栓形成^[24],从而增加血栓形成的风险,因此可以明确的是,TMAO水平的升高会增加患心血管疾病的风险并且加重疾病的严重程度^[28]。随着对TMAO研究的不断推进,研究人员发现,TMAO在心血管疾病的研究与治疗中起到重要作用。

1.2.2 短链脂肪酸 短链脂肪酸(short chain fatty acids, SCFA),是肠道内产生的具有免疫调节活性的小分子化合物^[29],人体胃肠道每天约产生50 ~ 100 mmol/L的SCFAs,主要包括醋酸盐、丁酸盐和丙酸盐^[30],不仅和肠上皮细胞的能量供应有关,而且影响肠黏膜屏障的通透性,同时起到抗炎作用。SCFAs可对组蛋白去乙酰化酶进行抑制,对基因表达进行调控,同时使核转录因子NF- κ B被抑制,从而降低促炎因子基因的表达,起到抑制肠道炎症反应的作用^[31]。有丙酸盐治疗小鼠心肌梗死的研究结论显示,丙酸盐能够促进心肌梗死后小鼠心肌细胞增殖和心脏再生^[32]。有心血管疾病的研究发现,丁酸盐对动脉粥样硬化有一定的保护作用,它不仅可以降低炎症因子,起到抗炎的作用,而且还能通过降低TNF- α 型血管细胞的黏附分子,以及降低巨噬细胞与内皮细胞的粘附力,进而抑制泡沫细胞的生成^[33],使动脉粥样斑块的进展得到抑制,从而降低患心血管疾病的可能。对患有动脉粥样硬化人群及小鼠的肠道菌群进行研究,结果显示产丁酸盐的真杆菌属和罗斯菌属的数量均显著降低^[19]。上述研究结果都表明了针对SCFA的研究是肠道菌群代谢产物对心血管疾病预防与治疗的关键。然而目前仍需要进行更多的临床研究来验证并提供数据支撑。

1.2.3 脂多糖 脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)是肠道中的革兰氏阴性菌膜的一种成分,由含糖脂

的碳水化合物和脂质A部分组成^[34],可转移到体循环中引起非脓毒性低度内毒素血症。LPS位于动脉粥样硬化斑块内,具有由NOX2的活化介导的促氧化特性^[34],与活化的巨噬细胞和冠状动脉血栓密切相关,能够促进动脉粥样硬化与血栓形成。有研究分析了接受动脉内膜切除术患者的颈动脉粥样硬化斑块,发现LPS与TLR4水平高的斑块巨噬细胞相邻,而同一患者的无动脉粥样硬化甲状腺动脉中未检测到LPS^[35],支持了LPS在动脉粥样硬化中的假定作用。动物每日由静脉或腹膜内输注LPS能够加速主动脉粥样硬化,同时增加了促炎因子的产生^[36]。低级别内毒素血症和动脉粥样硬化的共存,为进一步了解动脉粥样硬化的潜在炎症过程提供了新的研究思路。

1.3 胆汁酸对冠心病的影响

胆汁酸(bile acid, BA)是一类对机体健康产生明显影响的代谢物,在脂肪代谢中发挥着非常关键的作用,其两种主要成分包括初级胆汁酸和次级胆汁酸^[37],初级胆汁酸由肝脏中的胆固醇生成,在肠道细菌胆汁酸分解酶的作用下,会被转化为次级胆汁酸^[38],次级胆汁酸是一种可溶于水的物质,通过肠道排出,降低体内胆固醇的积累^[39]。研究指出,心血管疾病患者血清中BA含量显著增高,而一些动物实验表明,经过FXR受体激活之后的BA能起到延缓动脉粥样硬化发展速度且改善脂质结构的作用,同时对血管张力产生影响^[40]。上述实验均能证明肠道菌群可以通过调节BA的代谢,从而对动脉粥样硬化的发生和发展产生影响。

1.4 苯乙酰谷氨酰胺对冠心病的影响

苯乙酰谷氨酰胺(phenylacetylglutamine, PAgln)是通过膳食苯丙氨酸的初始肠道微生物转化为苯乙酸(phenylacetic acid, PAA)形成的一种肠道菌群依赖性代谢物,与动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病相关^[41],能够通过G蛋白偶联受体促进体内血栓形成^[42]。

2 肠道菌群与高血压

高血压是一种危害性极高的慢性心血管疾病^[43],也是冠心病最常见的危险因素,其发病率逐年上升且患病年龄越来越小,因而高血压的治疗已经成为我们不可忽视的问题^[44]。高血压可以造成多器官损伤,而且还会产生严重的并发症,因此要

预防和治疗心血管疾病必须对血压水平进行有效的控制。高血压是由多种因素共同作用导致的,但它的发病机制目前尚未完全明确,这给高血压的预防和治疗带来了很大的挑战,因此对高血压发病机制及治疗的研究一直是目前研究的热点内容。近年,大量研究结果指出,肠道菌群及其代谢产物可通过对机体的代谢和免疫等方面的影响,在高血压的发生发展过程中起到关键作用^[45]。因此对肠道菌群及其代谢产物的研究或许能够为高血压的治疗提供新的潜在方法。

2.1 肠道菌群失衡对高血压的影响

肠道菌群失衡激发肠道炎症状态,引起交感神经和肠道机能紊乱,从而形成高血压^[46]。有研究显示,高血压患者与健康对照人群之间肠道菌群的种类及相对丰度都存在明显差别^[47],在动物实验中,通过粪便细菌移植的方法使无菌小鼠体内拥有高血压患者的肠道菌群,结果显示此种小鼠血压有明显上升^[47]。在自发性高血压大鼠(spontaneous hypertensive rats, SHR)和长期注射血管紧张素II(angiotensin ii, Ang II)的大鼠中,肠道菌群的丰富度和多样性均显著降低,厚壁菌门/拟杆菌门(firmicutes/Bacteroidetes, F/B)的比例增加,证明了高血压动物肠道菌群的失衡^[48]。对SHR或长期注射Ang II大鼠粪便样本进行分析,结果显示两组小鼠肠道菌群存在相似的生态失调,即F/B比值增加,肠道菌群丰富度、多样性降低,产醋酸盐和丁酸盐菌的丰度也显著降低^[46]。上述研究均证明了菌群在血压调控中发挥着十分关键的作用,因此对肠道菌群的调节可以为控制血压进展提供新的方法和途径。

2.2 肠道菌群代谢产物对高血压的影响

2.2.1 短链脂肪酸 SCFA中的乙酸、丙酸和丁酸都能扩张血管^[49],且乙酸还使心脏输出量增大,并与缺氧有关^[50],肠道细菌将碳水化合物转化为短链脂肪酸,并通过肠道菌群发酵调节血压,是高血压进展的危险因素^[51]。外源性补充肠道菌群代谢物丙酸盐可降低Ang II输注诱导的高血压小鼠的血压^[52]。除此之外,丙酸盐在对血管进行扩张的同时还通过激活肾脏与血管平滑肌中的G蛋白偶联受体41(g protein coupled receptor 41, Gpr41)达到降低血压水平的目的^[53],SCFAs可通过G-蛋白偶联受体通路激活嗅觉受体78(olfactory receptor 78, Olfr78)、Gpr41等介导肾素释放和血管阻力的变

化^[54],进而使机体的血压水平发生改变^[55],在没有Gpr41的情况下服用丙酸盐会导致血压升高,而在敲除Olfcr78受体小鼠中会导致血压显著下降^[56],表明这两种受体在SCFA依赖性血压调节中起不同作用。有研究显示,正常水平的SCFA可使机体维持在低脂肪积累且有利于血压的状态^[20]。而对超重孕妇的研究发现其体内含有丁酸丰度较高的紫单胞菌科,有利于对血压的调节^[57]。

2.2.2 氧化三甲胺 TMAO进入体循环,通过改变脂质代谢、血小板活性、肥胖状态和动脉粥样硬化的发展影响高血压^[58],TMAO还可以通过诱导血管内皮功能障碍来增加血压,这是通过促进氧化应激和血管内皮细胞中炎症介质的生成,以及抑制一氧化氮合酶诱导一氧化氮生成来实现的^[59]。然而,TMAO升高血压的具体机制还需要进一步研究。

2.3 胆汁酸对高血压的影响

BA能够调节脂质代谢,加速能量消耗^[60],在肠道菌群失衡的情况下,各种病理因素都会影响BA的体内平衡,从而导致包括高血压在内的多种疾病的发生和发展^[48]。作为内源性血管扩张剂,BA促进一氧化氮的生成并抑制内皮素-1(endothelin-1, ET-1)的释放,从而调节血管运动和血压^[61],在血管平滑肌中,BA可以直接刺激钙激活的钾通道来调节血管张力和血压^[62]。此外,BA代谢与TMAO途径也密切相关,BA激活FXR受体调节脂质代谢^[63],FXR受体调节FMO3的活性^[16],TMA通过门脉循环进入肝脏后,被肝脏FMO3氧化成TMAO,之后进入体循环,通过改变脂质代谢、血小板活性和AS的血管促进高血压^[58]。

由于高血压病因复杂,肠道菌群结构多样,目前对肠道菌群与高血压关系的研究方法还不够成熟。这些SCFA和血压之间关系^[64]的研究结果都证明,肠道菌群或许能够成为未来高血压治疗的一个重要突破点。

3 肠道菌群与心力衰竭

心力衰竭作为心肌梗死的终末期,这一阶段中心脏的结构和功能都会受到很大的损伤,尽管目前外科手术和药物的应用对其发展有一定的控制,但依然是全球高发病率和死亡的重要原因^[65]。

3.1 心力衰竭患者肠道菌群特点

近年来,肠道菌群在心力衰竭中所起的作用逐

渐被发现^[38]。致病菌在患有慢性心力衰竭病人的肠道中可能会过量生长^[66],其中以放线菌属和链球菌属为主,而巨单胞菌属和普拉梭菌数量较少。和健康对照人群相比,大部分心力衰竭患者都表现出肠道通透性增加,进而产生相关炎症反应,这与心力衰竭出现后心输出量降低和全身充血有关,研究结果显示,肠道微生物可以引起肠上皮功能紊乱,进而加速心脏衰竭的发生^[67]。通过对肠道菌群的分析发现亚精胺拮抗剂不仅降低了F/B的比例,而且改变了菌群落的丰富度和多样性,亚精胺广泛分布在生物体内,可以由肠道菌群合成,不仅可以防止心脏肥大,而且能够延缓心力衰竭的进展,进而可以得出亚精胺可以改善心力衰竭患者心功能的结论,肠道菌群和心脏纤维化的调节可能是亚精胺改善心功能的因素。

3.2 肠道菌群代谢产物对心力衰竭的影响

3.2.1 氧化三甲胺 与相同年龄段同性别的正常人相比,心力衰竭病人TMAO浓度显著升高^[68]。有相关研究表明:无论是通过补充胆碱来提高循环TMAO水平,还是直接给心力衰竭小鼠喂食TMAO,都会导致小鼠全身TMAO水平升高,进而导致心肌纤维化加剧^[69]。慢性心力衰竭患者的肠黏膜屏障受损,通透性增加,使得TMAO更容易通过肠黏膜屏障进入血流,导致TMAO水平升高^[70]。TMAO通过改变刺激依赖性钙信号传导增强血小板反应性,并直接影响心肌收缩力和钙流量的增加^[71-72],而高水平的TMAO主要与心血管不良事件的相对风险增加相关^[73],能够增加动脉粥样硬化概率和血栓形成^[74],这两种疾病在上游病因中相互交织,有助于缺血性或非缺血性心衰的发生。

3.2.2 短链脂肪酸 SCFA发挥着肠道屏障保护作用,可以通过诱导近梗死区CX3CR1单核细胞浸润促进梗死后心脏修复,具有心脏保护作用^[75-76]。丁酸促进肠黏膜表面T细胞成熟,参与慢性免疫激活,有利于抑制心室重塑(ventricular remodeling, VR)^[77],丙酸盐也被证明通过调节T细胞活化来维持免疫稳态,从而减轻压力诱导的心肌肥大和纤维化^[78]。研究表明心力衰竭患者与正常人相比,SCFA产生菌明显减少^[79]。

3.2.3 脂多糖 内毒素具有促炎特性,是低级别全身炎症发生发展的关键促成因素^[80],心率降低会使全身充血增加,进而导致肠黏膜缺血和水肿,此时细菌易位可能会增强,使内毒素进入血液并导致心

力衰竭患者的炎症加剧^[51]。有研究对心力衰竭患者粪便中的细菌和真菌进行了比较,结果显示,与对照人群相比,心力衰竭患者发生危险细菌生长的风险更大^[81]。

3.3 胆汁酸对心力衰竭的影响

除了在脂肪吸收、胆固醇、脂质和葡萄糖代谢中的作用外,BA还对心脏功能和血管张力有直接影响^[82],已成为代谢稳态的重要介质,并被认为在调节心血管生理和肠道失调诱导的心力衰竭中发挥直接作用^[83]。

肠道菌群代谢产物和心力衰竭的发生发展关系密切,以上这些发现强调了肠道菌群及其代谢物在心力衰竭发生发展中的作用。TMAO、SCFA、BA、LPS可以通过多种机制抑制炎症,有望改善心力衰竭的发生发展,但是,肠道菌群和代谢产物如何影响心力衰竭,如何利用肠道菌群和代谢产物来预防心力衰竭仍需进一步的研究。

4 肠道菌群的潜在靶点作用

4.1 饮食干预心血管疾病的可行性

饮食在心血管疾病的发展中起着重要作用,长期以来,不健康的饮食被认为是心血管疾病发病的主要因素^[84-85],其潜在机制可能部分涉及炎症的调节^[86],减少高炎症饮食的策略在心血管疾病预防方面有重要价值^[87]。肠道菌群是受环境和营养行为影响的动态实体^[88],饮食模式和环境因素对肠道菌群的实时形成有着深远的影响^[89],其中饮食和饮食成分的改变对肠道菌群组成的影响更为显著,是导致肠道菌群发生变化的最重要因素之一^[90]。人类的饮食习惯复杂多样,在对每种主要微量营养素单独研究时,可以发现它们都能够改变肠道菌群^[91]。一项小鼠研究结果显示,喂食慢性高蛋白饮食会增加肠道通透性从而导致肠道渗漏,并进一步影响小鼠肠道菌群的结构^[92]。低密度脂蛋白胆固醇是动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病的主要危险因素^[93],通过对高脂饮食组和低脂饮食组肠道菌群组成的对比发现高脂肪饮食可以增加耐胆汁微生物的数量^[94],并且提高了F/B的比例^[95],同时高脂饮食会提高LPS的水平,长期高脂肪饮食会使肠道微生物失衡^[96]。高盐饮食显著降低肠道乳酸菌,并通过调节肠道菌群增加血压,而补充乳酸菌可以降低盐敏感高血压小鼠的血压,表明乳酸菌与高盐饮食引起的

高血压密切相关^[55,97]。大量摄入纤维会增加产醋酸盐细菌,这些物质的存在可以改善肠道失衡^[98],对减少心脏病起到保护作用^[99]。而低纤维、高蛋白、低盐和高脂肪饮食能够通过改变调节炎症的细菌种群,增加肠道炎症和通透性^[100],上述结论都表明健康的饮食可以为预防心血管疾病提供有效的策略,在降低心血管疾病风险方面同样有益处^[101]。肠道菌群落间的相互作用能够产生与人类健康相关的代谢物,对机体健康有显著影响^[102],因此建议改变生活方式^[103],减少饮食中蛋白质和脂肪摄入,增加饮食中的纤维含量以期对肠道菌群产生有益的影响^[104],进而减少患与肠道菌群失衡相关疾病的可能,以预防心血管疾病。

4.2 益生菌和益生元干预心血管疾病的可行性

益生菌是一系列有益微生物的统称,益生元是不易消化的食物成分,可以改变微生物的组成和功能,并选择性地刺激消化道中有益菌的生长并增强其活性^[105-106],半个世纪以来,益生菌和益生元一直被用于治疗各种疾病^[107],它们不仅能够改善宿主健康,同时也是肠道菌群的强大调节因子^[108],因此,研究人员对于用益生菌和益生元对肠道菌群进行调节有了更加浓厚的兴趣^[109]。肠道的内稳态在很大程度上取决于肠道屏障的完整,肠道屏障能够将宿主与有害的肠道微生物和化合物分隔开^[110]。益生菌作为对人类健康有益的活微生物,可通过其表面分子和代谢产物调节宿主的肠道上皮屏障功能来塑造肠道菌群,从而有可能控制多种肠道疾病的发生发展并促进整体健康^[111-113],除直接作用于肠道,益生菌和益生元还可以肠道为媒介发挥作用^[114],例如植物乳杆菌能改善心血管疾病患者的血管内皮功能并减轻系统炎症^[115]。益生菌还被证明在体内外都具有显著的抗氧化能力^[116],而氧化应激在心血管疾病发生发展过程中起重要作用^[117],研究表明,益生菌可以通过降低胆固醇水平、减轻氧化应激、平衡肠道菌群的功能和结构变化以及改善免疫反应来预防心血管疾病^[118]。但益生菌的过量使用会对机体的免疫系统产生一定影响,从而增加患其他感染性疾病的风险,而益生菌使用的局限性间接推动了对益生元的研究,益生元能够直接影响肠道菌群的组成,并刺激共生体的生长^[110],且由于益生元不含活微生物,因此摄入益生元对机体产生影响的风险能够降至最低^[108]。尽管目前益生元和益生菌在改变肠道菌群进而治疗心

血管疾病方面的作用机制尚未明确阐明,但通过使用益生元和益生菌补充细菌,从而在调节肠道菌群结构和代谢组成方面发挥积极作用,可以被视为一种潜在的治疗心血管疾病的策略^[119]。

4.3 粪菌移植干预心血管疾病的可行性

肠道菌群作为激活肠道免疫的主要因素之一,能够分泌多种代谢物质和细菌素,在保护机体免受病原体侵害和促进肠道炎症反应的形成方面发挥着重要作用,一些细菌还通过表达特定抗原和黏附上皮激活免疫系统,引起肠道和身体其他器官的代谢变化^[120-121],因此改变肠道菌群有望成为治疗肠道失调相关疾病的一种新方法,其中最有效的肠道菌群干预措施是粪菌移植^[122-123]。粪菌移植是指将经过处理的来自健康无关个体的肠道菌群移植给患者^[124],利用粪便中有益菌种的生态占位、定植抗力、免疫调节等作用,降低患者肠腔pH值影响细菌代谢产物的营养进而恢复肠道微生物的多样性^[125]。与益生菌疗法或其他疗法不同,粪菌移植以肠道菌群实体为目标,是一种安全有效的肠道微生态重建方法^[126]。对进行了粪菌移植的患有肠道疾病的小鼠进行检测发现其肠道炎症症状有所减少^[127],证明此种方法对肠道疾病的确有一定疗效,但也并非一劳永逸,一项临床研究结果显示进行了粪菌移植的儿童在腹痛、便秘或腹泻等胃肠道症状上均有明显改善,但在治疗结束后的几周内,其有益效果逐渐消失,这表明需要使用粪菌移植进行长期治疗^[128]。以上结论表明我们可以通过粪菌移植对肠道微环境进行重塑,从而改善区域免疫系统的功能,达到缓解和治疗疾病的目的^[121]。

4.4 微生物TMA裂解酶抑制剂干预心血管疾病的可行性

TMA是一种重要的肠道微生物代谢产物^[129],在肠道菌群的作用下能够代谢生成TMAO,TMAO在宿主体内的积累主要与肠道TMA的形成有关。高水平的TMAO能够增加血小板的高反应性,从而增加血栓形成的风险,进一步促进动脉粥样硬化,而动脉粥样硬化又会导致其他心血管疾病^[130],由此可知TMAO与心血管疾病的发病率高度相关^[131-132]。微生物和宿主的肝酶都是减少TMAO生成的潜在治疗靶点^[133],目前的动物实验尝试用以细菌酶系统为靶点的非致命小分子药物:细菌胆碱

三甲胺裂解酶抑制剂碘甲基胆碱(iodomethylcholine, IMC)对患有心血管疾病的小鼠进行治疗^[134],这种小分子抑制剂能够改变肠道微环境中的微生物宿主串扰,促进粪便中胆固醇的总损失、导致参与胆汁酸代谢的关键基因在肝脏的表达改变,进而影响系统胆固醇和胆汁酸平衡^[131]。IMC还与肠道菌群的改变、葡萄糖耐量的改善和能量消耗的增加有关^[135],能够抑制肠道菌群将胆碱转化为TMA,进而降低宿主血浆中TMAO的水平^[136],显著降低小鼠动脉粥样硬化、血栓形成和不利的VR^[24, 136]。IMC治疗还能导致盲肠菌群落的饮食特异性改变^[137]。尽管目前对TMA裂解酶抑制剂的研究尚处于初级阶段,但已有的研究结果显示,这一研究方向在调节肠道菌群进而对机体产生有利影响的方面具有巨大潜力。

5 总结与展望

本文阐述了肠道菌群和心血管疾病相关性的研究现状,肠道菌群失调是肠道微生物组成的慢性改变,能通过多种途径影响上皮屏障功能及肠道通透性,导致血管收缩、增加炎症反应、损害血管内皮功能,加重动脉粥样硬化和血栓形成,进而影响心血管疾病的发生和发展,心力衰竭通过葡萄糖发酵产生短链脂肪酸^[79],和肠道菌群形成相互作用。但是心血管疾病发病机制复杂,病程长且难以治愈,因此其治疗仍然是世界医学界难题。尽管目前益生元、益生菌和粪菌移植以及IMC等方法均经实验证实有一定疗效,但由于个体差异,在将这些方法作用于不同患者时仍需不断调整,为了最大限度地减轻心血管疾病患者的痛苦,努力提高患者的生活质量,我们不仅要关注疗效,更应该明确其中的风险,虽然已经有很多研究证明了肠道菌群与心血管疾病的相关性,但是仍需对其导致心血管疾病发生发展的机制进行进一步的深入研究,而且目前的研究大部分还停留在动物实验,临床试验较少。找到合适的干预方式,合理地应用于人体并且排除个体肠道菌群的差异和环境因素的影响迫在眉睫,因此仍然需要研究人员在完善现有的相关治疗手段的同时,共同努力探索新的治疗策略,以期为中心血管疾病的治疗提供更为有效的手段。

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