

外周血 Th17 细胞在卵巢子宫内膜异位患者中的作用

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摘要 **目的** 探讨外周血 Th17 细胞在卵巢子宫内膜异位患者中的作用。**方法** 选取 2014 年 1 月 ~ 2018 年 9 月到笔者医院就诊的经腹腔镜术后病理确诊为卵巢子宫内膜异位的患者 185 例为观察组,同时选取住院手术经病理检查为卵巢囊肿的非子宫内膜异位患者 60 例,另选取同期在笔者医院行健康体检的健康女性为对照组(60 例)。根据观察组患者病情严重程度进行分期,将其分为 I 期(41 例)、II 期(46 例)、III 期(48 例)及 IV 期(50 例)。检测各组外周血 Th17 细胞、白介素 - 17(IL - 17)及 C 反应蛋白(CRP)水平,同时 qRT - PCR 检测观察组在位、异位和卵巢囊肿组在位内膜 Th17 特异性转录因子 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 水平;采用受试者工作特征曲线(ROC)评估外周血 Th17 细胞对卵巢子宫内膜异位病情分期的评估效能。**结果** 观察组患者外周血 Th17 细胞和 IL - 17 水平显著高于卵巢囊肿组及健康对照组($P < 0.05$)。在不同期别组间外周血 Th17 细胞和 IL - 17 比较,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$),其中,IV 期组外周血 Th17 细胞和 IL - 17 水平最高,III 期、II 期及 I 期组逐渐降低。与卵巢囊肿组比较,卵巢子宫内膜异位患者在位、异位内膜组织 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达水平明显升高,同时异位内膜组织 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达水平显著高于在位内膜,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$)。外周血 Th17 细胞 $> 6.9\%$ 为评估卵巢子宫内膜异位病情分期界限时,其曲线下面积(AUC)为 0.843(95% CI:0.752 ~ 0.908),敏感度和特异性分别 83.4% 和 79.0%。**结论** 外周血 Th17 细胞及其相关细胞因子在卵巢子宫内膜异位患者中明显升高,其可能与卵巢子宫内膜异位的发生、发展过程密切相关。

关键词 子宫内膜异位症 辅助性 T 细胞 1 白介素 - 17 卵巢

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Role of Peripheral Blood Th17 Cells in Patients with Ovarian Endometriosis. Yang Fuqun, Sun Guirong. Department of Gynecology, Pengzhou People's Hospital, Sichuan 611930, China

Abstract **Objective** To investigate the role of peripheral blood Th17 cells in patients with ovarian endometriosis. **Methods** Totally 185 patients who were diagnosed as ovarian endometriosis after laparoscopic surgery from January 2014 to September 2018 were enrolled as observation group, and 60 patients who were diagnosed as ovarian cyst by pathological examination were enrolled, 60 healthy women who received healthy physical examination in our hospital as the control group. According to the severity of the patients in the observation group, who were divided into stage I (41 cases), stage II (46 cases), stage III (48 cases) and stage IV (50 cases). The levels of Th17 cells, interleukin - 17(IL - 17) and C - reactive protein(CRP) in peripheral blood of each group were detected, and the level of Th17 - specific transcription factor ROR γ - γ t mRNA was detected by qRT - PCR. The efficacy of peripheral blood Th17 cells in staging of ovarian endometriosis was evaluated by receiver operating characteristic curve(ROC). **Results** The Th17 cells and IL - 17 levels in peripheral blood were significantly higher in the observation group than those in the ovarian cyst group and the healthy control group ($P < 0.05$). The Th17 cells and IL - 17 levels in peripheral blood in different stage groups were different, and the difference was significant($P < 0.05$), among them, the Th17 cells and IL - 17 levels in peripheral blood in stage IV were highest, and which were gradually reduced in stage III, II and I. Compared with the ovarian cyst group, the mRNA levels of ROR γ - γ t was significant increased in the eutopic and ectopic endometrium of ovarian endometriosis, and the expression level of ROR γ - γ t mRNA in ectopic endometrium was significantly higher than that in eutopic endometrium, the difference was statistically significant($P < 0.05$). When peripheral blood Th17 cells $> 6.9\%$ were used to assess the stage of endometriosis of ovary, the AUC was 0.843(95% CI:0.752 - 0.908), and the sensitivity and specificity were 83.4% and 79.0%, respectively. **Conclusion** The Th17 cells and related cytokines in peripheral blood were significant increased in patients with ovarian endometriosis, which may be closely related to the occurrence and development of ovarian endometriosis.

Key words Endometriosis; Th17; Interleukin - 17; Ovary

子宫内膜异位是一种临床常见的妇科疾病,其主

要类型多见于卵巢子宫内膜异位,高发于育龄期妇女,相关研究显示,其发生率在 10% ~ 15%^[1]。关于子宫内膜异位的发病机制,假说众多,其中炎性反应在其中具有重要作用^[2]。子宫内膜细胞经输卵管进

入盆腔,黏附于卵巢,形成一个微小的异位病灶,引起炎症细胞向该部位聚集^[3]。有研究显示,子宫内异症患者子宫在位、异位内膜组织及腹腔液中炎症因子水平明显升高,主要表现为肿瘤坏死因子 α (TNF- α)和白介素-1 β 等^[4,5]。机体免疫应答是调控炎症反应,在促进炎症细胞分泌炎症因子过程中,发挥重要作用^[6]。辅助性T细胞17(Th17)是一类重要的淋巴细胞亚群,其通过特异性分泌IL-17,参与机体免疫及炎症反应^[7]。相关研究显示,在脓毒症及自身免疫性疾病等患者中,其外周血Th17细胞及IL-17水平明显升高,参与了疾病的发生、发展过程,同时对于疾病的诊断及预后评估,具有重要的临床价值^[8,9]。Th17细胞是否参与了卵巢子宫内膜异位的发生、发展,目前尚不清楚。因此,本研究以卵巢子宫内膜异位患者为研究对象,检测其外周血Th17细胞及IL-17水平,探讨Th17细胞在卵巢子宫内膜异位发病中的作用,为该疾病的临床诊治提供依据和线索。

资料与方法

1. 临床资料:选取四川省彭州市人民医院妇产科在2014年1月~2018年9月收治住院,经手术并病理检查证实为卵巢子宫内膜异位症患者185例为观察组,取其异位内膜组织,其中该组患者年龄25~49岁,中位年龄35.1岁。纳入标准:月经周期规律的育龄期妇女;术前3个月内未接受性激素类药物治疗的患者;无严重感染、子宫腺肌病、子宫肌瘤、自身免疫疾病及恶性肿瘤等疾病的患者;所有患者均签署知情同意。子宫内膜异位症根据美国生育学会分期标准,进行分期,分为I期(41例)、II期(46例)、III期(48例)、IV期(50例)^[10]。选取在笔者医院住院手术经病理检查为卵巢囊肿的非子宫内膜异位患者60例,取其位在内膜组织,其中该组患者年龄21~50岁,中位年龄34.7岁。同时另取11例经手术并病理检查证实为卵巢子宫内膜异位症患者在位内膜组织,该组患者年龄22~48岁,中位年龄33.5岁。选取同期在笔者医院行健康体检的健康女性为对照组(60例),其中年龄21~50岁,中位年龄35.3岁。各组间在年龄、体重指数等方面比较,差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。四川省彭州市人民医院伦理学委员会审核并批准了本实验研究,同时研究对象签署了书面知情同意。

2. 流式细胞术检测外周血Th17细胞水平:首先制备样本,分别于月经干净后3天,抽取卵巢异位、卵

巢囊肿患者及健康对照组清晨空腹静脉血5ml,充分肝素抗凝后,提取单核细胞。在无菌操作台中,将上述单核细胞接种于培养板,培养板中含RPMI-1640培养基,同时加入抗菌素(佛波酯,剂量30 μ l,浓度1 μ g/ml),培养箱中孵育5h。收集上述细胞,加入抗人CD4单克隆抗体10 μ l,震荡混匀,室温避光孵育30min后,加入2ml破膜液,静置离心后(1000 $\times g$, 5min,室温),吸去上清,加入IL-17单克隆抗体10 μ l,震荡混匀后,加入多聚甲醛固定,待上机检测。

3. 外周血IL-17和CRP的水平检测:抽取卵巢异位、卵巢囊肿患者及健康对照组清晨空腹静脉血5ml,离心后收集血清,采用酶联免疫吸附法(ELISA)试剂盒(南京建成生物技术公司)测定上述各组间外周血IL-17水平;采用快速免疫比浊法检测各组间CRP水平。

4. qRT-PCR检测特异性转录因子ROR γ - γ t mRNA水平:采用qRT-PCR方法检测卵巢子宫内膜在位、异位内膜组织和卵巢囊肿组在位内膜组织特异性转录因子ROR γ - γ t mRNA表达水平。先用TRIzol法提取组织中mRNA,在核酸分析仪上测定提取的RNA浓度,按照TaKaRa试剂盒操作说明进行反转录,然后进行qRT-PCR反应,设计ROR γ - γ t及GAPDH引物:ROR γ - γ t:上游引物:5'-GCAAG-GAAGTATTTGGGCAC-3',下游引物:3'-AATAC-CCTAAADDDACACCC-5';GAPDH:上游引物:5'-AGACAGCCGCATCTTCTTGT-3',下游引物:3'-CT-TGCCGTGGGTAGAGTCAT-5'。设qRT-PCR反应条件:95 $^{\circ}$ C预变性30s,95 $^{\circ}$ C变性10s,60 $^{\circ}$ C退火30s,进行39个循环。以GAPDH作为内参,计算ROR γ - γ t mRNA相对表达量。

5. 统计学方法:所有数据均采用SPSS 18.0统计学软件进行统计分析,计量资料以均数 $\pm$ 标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示,两组间比较采用 t 检验,而多组间比较运用单因素方差分析。绘制受试者特征操作曲线(ROC),计算外周血Th17细胞的ROC曲线下面积(AUC)、敏感度和特异性,以 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

结 果

1. 不同组间外周血Th17细胞及相关临床指标的比较:与卵巢囊肿组及健康对照组比较,观察组外周血Th17细胞、IL-17及CRP均明显升高,但在卵巢囊肿组和健康对照组间比较,差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$)。详见表1、图1。

表 1 不同组间外周血 Th17 细胞及相关临床指标比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s$)

组别	n	Th17(%)	IL-17 (ng/L)	CRP(mg/L)
健康对照组	60	1.2±0.3	18.7±3.9	9.6±2.1
卵巢囊肿组	60	1.4±0.4	19.2±4.2	10.2±2.9
观察组	185	7.9±1.4 ^{*#}	38.1±7.8 ^{*#}	19.4±3.2 ^{*#}

与健康对照组比较, * $P<0.05$;与卵巢囊肿组比较, # $P<0.05$

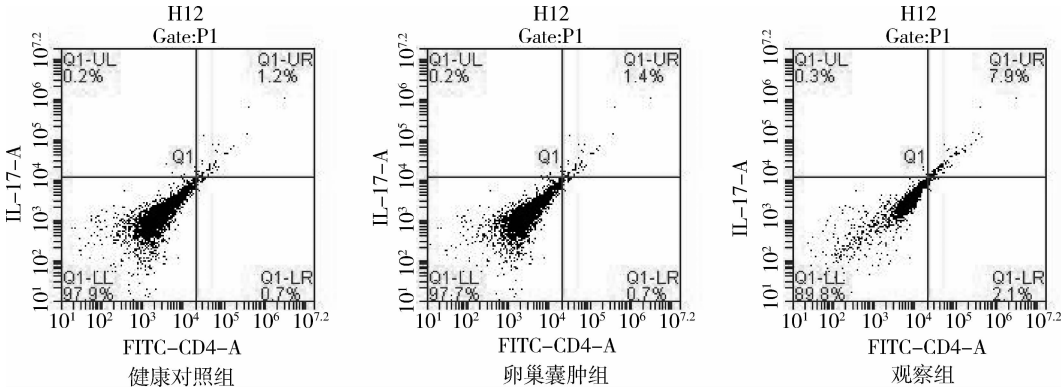


图 1 不同组间外周血 Th17 细胞水平

期别组间 CRP 水平比较, 差异无统计学意义 ($P>0.05$), 详见表 2。

表 2 不同期别组间外周血 Th17 细胞及相关临床指标比较 ($\bar{x} \pm s$)

组别	n	Th17(%)	IL-17 (ng/L)	CRP(mg/L)
I 期	41	5.8±0.4	31.1±2.3	18.3±2.9
II 期	46	6.5±0.3	35.2±2.5	19.2±2.2
III 期	48	8.1±0.6	39.2±2.9	19.0±3.1
IV 期	50	9.6±0.7	45.9±3.0	20.9±3.2
t_1		4.127	4.483	0.741
P_1		0.032	0.027	0.913
t_2		6.142	5.019	0.415
P_2		0.001	0.011	1.240
t_3		5.183	5.378	0.895
P_3		0.010	0.007	0.737

t_1, P_1 . I 期和 II 期比较; t_2, P_2 . II 期和 III 期比较; t_3, P_3 . III 期和 IV 期比较

3. 卵巢子宫内膜异位与卵巢囊肿组内膜组织 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达水平比较: 与卵巢囊肿组比较, 卵巢子宫内膜在位和异位内膜组织 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达水平明显升高, 同时异位内膜 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达明显高于在位内膜, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$), 详见图 2。

4. ROC 曲线分析外周血 Th17 细胞对卵巢子宫内膜异位分期中的诊断价值: 通过以外周血 Th17 细胞水平来评估卵巢子宫内膜异位病情严重程度, 绘制 ROC 曲线, 计算曲线下面积 (AUC), 其结果为 0.843 (95% CI: 0.752~0.908), 同时临界值即最佳工作点

2. 不同期别观察组间外周血 Th17 细胞及相关临床指标的比较: 检测观察组不同期别间外周血 Th17 细胞和相关细胞因子 IL-17 比较, 差异有统计学意义 ($P<0.05$)。其中, IV 期组外周血 Th17 细胞和 IL-17 水平最高, III 期、II 期及 I 期组逐渐降低。各

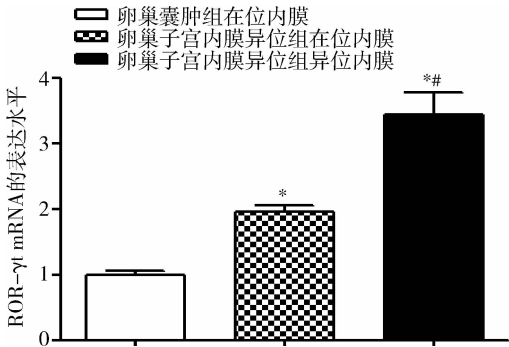


图 2 各组内膜组织 ROR γ - γ t mRNA 表达水平比较
与卵巢囊肿组比较, * $P<0.05$;与卵巢子宫内膜异位组在位内膜比较, # $P<0.05$

(OOP) 为 6.9%, 按此临界值对卵巢子宫内膜异位分期严重程度进行评估, 其敏感度和特异性分别为 83.4% 和 79.0% (图 3)。

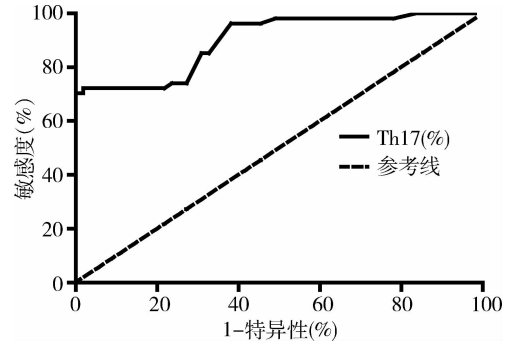


图 3 外周血 Th17 细胞对卵巢子宫内膜异位分期的 ROC 曲线

讨 论

子宫内膜异位是一种常见的妇科疾病,与机体炎症反应密切相关^[2]。在正常女性体内,子宫内膜细胞若逆流逸入盆腔,机体可通过自身免疫细胞识别,将其清除,而子宫内膜异位患者往往体内免疫功能异常,导致逸入盆腔的子宫内膜细胞清除障碍。目前,对于子宫内膜异位特别是卵巢子宫内膜异位的发病机制及诊断仍缺乏敏感度和特异性的指标。传统炎症标志物如C反应蛋白、中性粒细胞比例,对于卵巢子宫内膜异位的诊断特异性较差,同时并不能有效的反映卵巢子宫内膜异位的分期即病情严重程度^[11,12]。因此,寻找一种能准确诊断并预测卵巢子宫内膜异位病情严重程度的有效指标,具有重要的临床意义。

关于子宫内膜异位发病机制的假说众多,其中,机体自身免疫功能异常,越来越得到重视^[13]。有研究显示,在子宫内膜异位患者体内,外周血及子宫异位局部组织T细胞和B细胞功能异常,同时数量显著增多,继而引起抗子宫内膜抗体滴度显著升高,从而提示机体自身免疫功能的异常参与了子宫内膜异位的发生、发展过程^[14]。在免疫反应的调控中,CD4⁺T淋巴细胞具有重要作用,而Th17细胞作为一种由CD4⁺T淋巴细胞转化而来的辅助性T细胞亚群,可以特异性的分泌致炎因子IL-17,促进炎症级联反应^[15]。相关研究显示,Th17细胞参与了多种疾病如自身免疫性疾病、恶性肿瘤等的发生、发展过程^[16,17]。子宫内膜异位作为一种炎症性疾病,其发病机制是否与Th17细胞有关,其体内Th17细胞及IL-17表达水平如何,目前尚未阐明。本研究结果显示,卵巢子宫内膜异位患者外周血Th17细胞及其分泌的细胞因子(IL-17)水平显著较卵巢囊肿组和对照组升高,同时卵巢子宫内膜异位组患者异位内膜ROR γ t mRNA表达水平较卵巢囊肿组明显升高。ROR γ t作为Th17细胞特异性转录因子,有研究显示,其升高水平与Th17细胞的活性呈正相关^[18];同时有研究显示,在子宫内膜异位患者异位内膜ROR γ t mRNA显著较子宫卵巢囊肿组升高,说明子宫内膜异位患者体内Th17细胞呈高度活化状态^[19]。因此,本研究结果表明,卵巢子宫内膜异位患者体内免疫功能存在异常,机体呈现一种炎症状态,Th17细胞可能参与并促进了该疾病的发生过程。通过对卵巢子宫内膜异位按疾病严重程度进行分期,进一步研究结果显示,患者外周血Th17细胞和IL-17水平与临床分

期密切相关,其病情越重,外周血Th17细胞和IL-17水平越高。有研究显示,子宫内膜异位患者机体活化的巨噬细胞数量明显增多同时伴有功能的异常,主要表现为多种细胞因子及趋化因子表达及活性的改变,包括巨噬细胞迁移抑制因子、TNF- α 等水平明显升高,并且与疾病分期呈正相关。

本研究通过进一步ROC曲线分析,结果显示以外周血Th17细胞诊断截点为6.9%时,其评估卵巢子宫内膜异位患者病情严重程度的敏感度为83.4%和特异性为79.0%。已有研究表明,通过有效的抑制肿瘤或自身免疫性疾病患者体内Th17细胞的活性,可以显著降低体内炎症细胞因子水平,从而降低炎症反应。针对卵巢子宫内膜异位患者,外周血Th17细胞水平,其与患者发病及病情分期有关,但是否可作为治疗卵巢子宫内膜异位的有效靶标,还有待进一步研究。同时本研究子宫内膜异位患者在位内膜病例数偏少,下一步需加大样本量,证实Th17细胞特异性转录因子是否在子宫内膜异位患者在位内膜与异位及正常人群在位内膜间存在差异。

综上所述,本研究结果显示,外周血Th17细胞水平在卵巢子宫内膜异位患者中明显升高,其可能调控下游炎症细胞因子水平,促进卵巢子宫内膜异位的发生和发展。但如何引起外周血Th17细胞水平升高的免疫调节机制还有待于进一步研究。

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