

激光间质热疗在脑部疾病治疗中的应用现状

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激光间质热疗(laser interstitial thermotherapy, LITT)是一种使用激光的热效应破坏靶组织的治疗方式^[1]。近年来,LITT在神经外科的应用愈加广泛,使用立体定向技术,可以将纤细的激光光纤直接植入颅内病灶的核心,并使用激光破坏病灶,达到类似于手术切除的效果。对于很多传统需要开颅手术的神外科疾病,如胶质瘤、转移瘤、放射性脑坏死、药物难治性癫痫等,LITT有一定的优势^[2-4],创伤小,治疗效率高,对病灶周围的皮层破坏小,精准度高。本文就LITT在脑部疾病治疗中的应用现状进行综述。

1 LITT简介

LITT是一种利用激光热消融靶组织的技术,靶点精准,消融过程中出血控制好,很早就应用于全身多种脏器(如肺、肝、前列腺等)疾病的治疗^[1,5]。1965年,Fine等^[6]报道红宝石激光对动物脑组织有破坏作用。此后,激光逐渐被应用于治疗脑部疾病,但由于激光吸收和散射等问题,使其消融范围并不完全可控,因此没有得到进一步的推广^[7]。经过不断摸索,1990年,Sugiyama等^[8]在CT引导下使用钇铝石榴石激光消融治疗脑肿瘤5例。随后,Jolesz等^[9]报道MRI引导的颅内肿瘤激光热疗,但还无法做到实时监控温度变化和范围。近年来,基于立体定向技术和MRI技术的进步,可以将激光光纤植入脑内指定部位,并在MRI监测下消融,用以监测温度和消融的范围,并开发出成熟的治疗系统^[10]。目前,国际上常用的LITT系统有两种,分别使用波长为1 064 nm和

980 nm的激光,脑组织穿透范围在2~10 mm^[11]。在激光照射靶区时,局部温度升高(周边一般不超过60 ℃),通过蛋白变性,导致靶区细胞的变性和坏死^[12]。在治疗前,需要通过MRI制定置入路径,并在麻醉后将激光光纤套筒(有冷却和散射功能,直径约3 mm的圆柱体)使用立体定向技术植入靶区的核心区域。冷却器可以减少激光导致的碳化,延长激光作用的时间,增加组织的热吸收范围^[13]。散射器则可以使靶组织得到均匀照射,实现组织内能量均匀和对称的分布^[14]。尖端的温度感受器,可以设置指定温度作为安全点,一旦超过该温度便触发系统关闭,防止不必要的碳化和重要临近血管、神经等结构的损伤^[15]。颅内病变的LITT需要在术中MRI指导下进行。术中MRI快速破坏梯度回波序列^[16],成像约8 s,并在烧蚀过程中重复运行,以形成实时热图,监测手术过程维持足够的热凝时间和估计组织坏死范围^[12]。当估计的不可逆损伤扩展到包括整个需要的消融区域时,便可终止手术。相比于其他颅内病变的微创治疗方式(如立体定向放射治疗、聚焦超声、射频热凝毁损等),磁共振引导的LITT具有更大和更精确可靠的消融范围,同时减少并发症^[17]。

2 LITT在脑部疾病治疗中的应用

2.1 脑胶质瘤 胶质瘤是最常见的脑肿瘤。体积较小的脑胶质瘤(直径小于3 cm)可尝试LITT。特别是对于复发的高级别胶质瘤,全身状态较差,难以接受开颅手术的当然,LITT更有优势^[18]。2012年,Carpentier等^[15]报道4例复发性胶质母细胞瘤接受LITT后均复发,平均总生存期为10.5个月。2015年,Banerjee等^[19]报道WHO分级Ⅲ/Ⅳ级复发胶质瘤LITT治疗后总生存时间平均增加20.9个月,优于化疗和开颅手术。2016年,Patel等^[20]报道102例LITT的脑肿瘤,其中约90%为复发病,当经过一定的学习曲线后,治疗的并发症发生率很低,治疗后1~4 d即可

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出院(平均住院 3.6 d),很少出现神经功能缺损。目前,对于胶质瘤而言,LITT 并不是首选治疗方式^[21],但对于复发性胶质瘤,LITT 具有更好的前景^[22]。荟萃分析认为,对于复发的高级别胶质瘤,LITT 的治疗效率优于开颅手术,而并发症发生率则显著低于开颅手术^[23],但这可能和病人选择偏倚相关。因此,仍然需要更多高级别临床研究证实 LITT 治疗脑胶质瘤的安全性和有效性。

2.2 脑转移瘤和放射性脑坏死 部分脑转移瘤病人因为原发肿瘤或多发转移,全身状态较差,难以接受开颅手术,LITT 便成为一种很好的替代疗法^[24,25]。目前,已有文献报道,肺癌、乳腺癌、结肠癌等恶性肿瘤脑转移的 LITT 治疗,并发症发生率较低^[26]。但与开颅手术、立体定向放射治疗和全脑放疗相比,其手术有效性还需要进一步研究。

放射性脑坏死是放疗的一种并发症,是在放疗后产生的不可逆的脑坏死,持续数月数年,进行性加重^[27]。放射性坏死的发生率在 3%~24%^[28]。由于放射性坏死与肿瘤复发难以区分,文献可能不能反映实际的放射性坏死发生率。另外,放射性脑坏死和脑肿瘤复发鉴别困难,通常并不会采取开颅手术治疗,而 LITT 则可以消融这部分病灶,但其预后仍与消融范围有关^[29]。

2.3 药物难治性癫痫

2.3.1 颞叶内侧癫痫 颞叶癫痫是成人最常见的药物难治性癫痫类型,其中海马硬化导致的内侧颞叶癫痫最常见。对于这种类型癫痫,治疗的金标准为前颞叶切除术(anterior temporal lobectomy, ATL)。由于颞叶新皮层具有语言整合、情绪、认知、视觉传导等功能,因此,人们也在不断探索新的治疗方式以取代 ATL。LITT 可以将激光探头植入海马,并在 MRI 监控下进行,是一种治疗海马硬化导致内侧型颞叶癫痫的新方式。Drane 等^[30]比较 LITT(21 例)和标准 ATL(39 例)治疗后的癫痫发作情况,6 个月随访显示,LITT 治疗的 21 例者中,11 个无发作;标准 ATL 治疗 39 例中,24 例无发作。Willie 等^[31]报道接受 LITT 治疗的 13 例内侧颞叶癫痫中,7 例无癫痫发作,3 例改善(随访 5~26 个月);既没有发现消融的容积或长度与癫痫预后之间的相关性,也没有发现海马硬化对癫痫预后的影响。荟萃分析指出,LITT 治疗颞叶癫痫的无发作率为 59%,伴有海马硬化者可达 66%^[18,32]。另有篇荟萃分析指出,LITT 治疗颞叶癫痫的无发作率为 59%,优于 SEEG 引导的射频毁损治疗^[17]。

2.3.2 痴笑样癫痫 痴笑样癫痫是下丘脑错构瘤的主

要表现,开颅手术创伤大,对发作控制不理想。射频热凝毁损对于较大体积的错构瘤效果不理想。LITT 因其精准毁损因而近年被用于下丘脑错构瘤的治疗。Wilfong 和 Curry^[33]报道 LITT 治疗下丘脑错构瘤 14 例,术后随访 9 个月,86% 的病人无发作。目前,LITT 治疗下丘脑错构瘤最大宗病例报道纳入 71 例,93% 的病人术后 1 年无发作,23% 的病人接受二次 LITT,1 例出现记忆减退,1 例出现血糖增高^[34]。

2.3.3 其他类型的药物难治性癫痫 其他致痫灶相对局限的药物难治性癫痫也可以尝试 LITT。Esquenazi 等^[35]报道 2 例脑室旁结节性灰质异位经过 LITT 治疗后,癫痫缓解。另有关于结节性硬化症^[36]、局灶皮层发育不良^[37]、海绵状血管瘤^[38]等 LITT 治疗的报道,因为报道病例数量有限,其安全性和有效性尚无法证实。

3 LITT 的安全性

因为立体定向植入的精准性和激光消融范围和出血的良好控制,与开放手术相比,LITT 并发症发生率更低。文献报道的 LITT 的并发症包括血管损伤引起的颅内出血、脑水肿、颅内其他结构的意外损伤、永久性神经功能缺损、一过性局灶性神经功能缺损、癫痫发作和脑脊液漏等,总发生率在 3%~24%^[39,40]。值得注意的是,Patel 等^[20]报道 3 例 LITT 治疗后死亡的病例(共 103 例),1 例死因为顽固性脑水肿,另 2 例为原发疾病的快速进展而死亡。降低风险的措施包括:设计更加安全合理的通道、对于较大病灶采取多通道消融、术前激素使用等方法^[41]。

综上所述,对于符合 LITT 适应证的脑部疾病,与开颅手术相比,LITT 更加微创、操作更加便捷、并发症发生率更低。整体而言,LITT 的治疗效果相比开颅手术稍差,但在某些疾病中则优于开颅手术,例如下丘脑错构瘤引起的药物难治性癫痫。未来需要进行更多前瞻性随机对照临床试验,以确定病人的结局和评估该治疗方式的长期有效性。

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