

脊髓损伤治疗中的细胞移植策略及预处理研究进展*

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摘要 急性脊髓损伤是骨科常见的严重疾患,伤后神经功能恢复及重建是近年来研究的热点,其中细胞移植的研究得到广泛的关注并取得较大的研究进展。本文介绍了细胞移植治疗脊髓损伤治疗的研究现状,其中对移植细胞的来源、移植的时机、移植的途径以及细胞移植存活的问题及应对策略做了重点阐述。同时对增加移植细胞存活率的预处理方法做了简要综述。

关键词 细胞移植;脊髓损伤;神经干细胞;预处理

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The Research Progress of Cell Transplantation for Treatment of Spinal Cord injury and Preconditioning of Stem Cells*

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ABSTRACT: Acute spinal cord injury (ASCI) is a serious and common disease of the orthopedics, After injury neurological recovery and reconstruction is the hot spot of the research in recent years, and the research of cell transplantation get wide attention and make great progress. This paper introduces the present research status of the cell transplantation for the treatment of spinal cord injury. Among them, the source of the cell transplantation, the timing of the cell transplantation, the approach of the cell transplantation, the problem of survival after cell transplantation and the coping strategy are made a detailed description. At the same time we make a simple review for the preconditioning method which increase the survival rate of the cell transplantation. Many new therapeutic measures are still in the experimental stage at present, but the transform from the successful empirical study of neuroprotection and neurotization to clinical application by some new skills will come soon.

Key words: Cell transplanting; Spinal cord injury; Neural stem cells; Preconditioning

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前言

脊髓损伤(spinal cord injury, SCI)是骨科常见严重疾患。据统计全世界 SCI 每年发生率是 15~40 例/百万,仅美国每年就有超过 10000 例新发病例^[1],这还未包括在送往医院前就已死亡的病例(占总病例的 16%~30%)^[2]。患者大多数是健康青壮年,带来沉重社会负担,研究 SCI 已成为全球共同关注的重大课题。SCI 分为原发性损伤和继发性损伤两个阶段,原发性损伤造成受损处传导束中断及大批神经细胞死亡,同时血-脊髓屏障破坏引起脊髓内环境失衡,如细胞内外离子浓度改变等。继发性损伤包括缺血再灌注损伤、兴奋性氨基酸神经递质异常增高等进一步级联反应,损害了邻近完整的神经纤维及神经细胞,导致细胞凋亡、轴突变性或脱髓鞘,加剧了原发损伤的范围和程度。常规的治疗方法如外科手术减压或固定以及糖皮质激素、神经节苷脂、钙离子拮抗剂、自由基清除剂等药物治疗,均是通过各种途径减轻继发性损伤对残留神经功能的进一步损害来达到治疗目的,已经丧失的神经功能尚无有效手段恢复。随着细胞移植研究的不断进展,细胞移植治疗脊髓损伤成为了近年来研究的热点和方向。

1 移植细胞的来源

用于治疗脊髓损伤的移植细胞可以分为两大类:非神经组织细胞和神经组织细胞。已经被用于 SCI 移植的非神经组织细胞有成纤维细胞^[3,4]、骨髓基质细胞^[5]和巨噬细胞^[6,7]。这些细胞都能从宿主体内分离得到,所以进行自体移植而不需要免疫抑制,可以在体外增殖并可以进行基因修饰并能表达治疗产物,能提供轴突再生的桥梁。其中骨髓基质细胞已作为基因治疗的载体被批准进入临床一期实验,并进行了自体同源移植^[8]。同时这些细胞本身也可以表达支持神经元和轴突的细胞外基质如纤维连接素等,有容易培养和转染基因的优点。但由于它们是非神经系统来源,因此既不能作为再生轴突的靶细胞,也不能形成再生轴突的髓鞘。

用于移植的神经组织细胞可进一步分为非神经元性神经系统细胞和神经元性神经系统细胞。常见的非神经元性神经系统细胞有雪旺细胞、星形胶质细胞、嗅鞘细胞。雪旺细胞移植后,能提供轴突再生所需要的支持微环境,在脊髓中形成髓鞘,雪旺细胞移植后脊髓的传导速度加快^[9],引导轴突通过移植细胞并且长入远端脊髓中。Lankford^[10]用形态学定量技术同样证

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实,雪旺细胞移植可以促进髓鞘再生,但再生髓鞘的密度低于正常组织。随着各种细胞移植技术的日臻完善,单独的雪旺细胞移植已不常见,学者们多将其与神经干细胞^[11]、嗅鞘细胞^[12,13]联合移植以获得更好的结果,雪旺细胞可以为其他细胞提供更加适宜的微环境。雪旺细胞的缺点是由于它是周围来源的,不容易整合到CNS环境里。另外它和星形胶质细胞的相互作用阻碍了其在脊髓损伤修复中的作用。星形胶质细胞可以分泌20余种细胞因子,如神经生长因子、碱性成纤维细胞生长因子、层粘连蛋白、纤维粘连蛋白及其它细胞外基质成分,它还能分泌前列腺素及几种白细胞介素等,对维持神经元的生存、发育、再生和分化均有重要作用^[14,15]。星形胶质细胞能否支持轴突生长还有赖于它们的分化阶段。在发育阶段,未成熟的星形胶质细胞呈放射状排列,允许轴突的伸长。然而在成年阶段,CNS损伤后反应性星形胶质细胞增生形式致密的胶质瘢痕妨碍轴突的伸长^[16]。现在观点认为以星形胶质细胞为主形成的胶质瘢痕对于再生轴突重建具有阻碍轴突穿越和分泌神经营养因子促轴突再生的双重作用^[17]。嗅鞘细胞是近年来研究的热点。之所以被如此重视,是因为人们发现,哺乳动物的嗅觉系统终生具有更新正常细胞或修复损伤的能力^[18],而普遍认为嗅鞘细胞在这种独特的再生功能中起着重要的作用。1997年Li在Science上发表文章认为嗅鞘细胞移植是一个促进SCI后轴突再生的有效手段,并且可以促进功能的恢复^[19]。他们随后的报道也清楚地说明与嗅鞘细胞相伴随的再生轴突显著向远处延伸,另外,Li等认为嗅鞘细胞还能抑制SCI后胶质瘢痕的形成^[20]。当然,这些非神经元性神经系统细胞也有缺陷:它们不能够提供轴突再生的靶目标,与再生轴突形成突触或替换损伤死亡的神经元。

神经元或可分化为神经元的细胞移植具有明显的优势在于这些细胞不仅能递送治疗基因和形成促进轴突再生的环境,而且具有细胞替代作用,可以替换死亡的神经元。神经元性细胞能作为再生轴突的靶目标,相互之间可以连接成新的传导环路,然后整合入CNS传导通路内。干细胞是最重要的神经元性细胞,主要包括胚胎干细胞和神经干细胞。胚胎干细胞属于全能干细胞,其衍生的神经前体细胞经适宜的冷冻、解冻后不丧失其生长增殖等特性,并可分化为有功能的神经元^[21]。Liu等^[22]将经4-/4+方案培养的ROS A26或D3小鼠ES细胞衍生物移植到脱髓鞘大鼠的脊髓中,1周后观察到在脱髓鞘部位大量的ES细胞衍生物存活。McDonald等^[23]将ES细胞移植到挫伤的大鼠胸段脊髓后,发现这些细胞可以存活5周以上,并向头、尾两侧迁移达8mm,分化为神经元、少突胶质细胞和星形胶质细胞,同时大鼠后肢功能得以部份恢复。神经系统内是否存在干细胞,直到近几年才有定论。1992年Reynolds和Weiss在Science上第一次报告了成年小鼠中枢神经系统神经干细胞的分离和培养^[24]。神经干细胞属于多能干细胞,由于其显而易见的细胞替代功能及其他一些特性,神经干细胞在修复脊髓损伤中的作用受到了日益广泛的关注^[11,25,26]。Steve SW^[27]等认为,经过基因修饰的神经干细胞的移植可以潜在性地替代脊髓损伤中失去的细胞,重新构建神经环路,提供防止细胞死亡和促进再生的治疗因素。因此基因和神经干细胞联合治疗脊髓损伤具

有很大的发展前景^[28]。

2 细胞移植的时机

细胞移植要取得成功,移植时机的选择很关键。因为宿主的微环境对植入细胞的生存和分化有重要影响^[29]。脊髓损伤后髓内微环境发生剧烈变化,髓内许多炎性细胞因子如白介素IL-1 α 、IL-1 β 和IL-6以及肿瘤坏死因子TNF α 等增加,于伤后6~12小时达到高峰并持续升高直到伤后第4天,这些细胞因子具有毒性,不利于细胞的生存,早期(3~5天)的局部水肿、血管破裂和渗出,不适合进行细胞移植,其它病理生理变化如自由基产生、兴奋性氨基酸释放等也在伤后早期最活跃,有实验证实脊髓损伤后24小时植入的干细胞几乎无一存活^[25]。脊髓损伤的慢性期胶质瘢痕增生、空洞形成,也不利于细胞移植。而损伤部位的微血管增生在伤后7~14天最活跃,鉴于以上原因,治疗脊髓损伤时细胞移植的时机应在伤后7~14天,这个时期进行移植有利于植入细胞的存活^[30]。另外,这个时期进行移植有利于减少继发损伤和胶质瘢痕形成,且减少轴突生长抑制物质(髓鞘相关糖蛋白、硫酸软骨素、Nogo等)的产生,因为后者是由胶质瘢痕产生^[31]。

3 细胞移植的途径

细胞的移植方式有多种,包括局部注射法、静脉注射法等。局部直接注射法是指将有或无伴随神经营养因子等的细胞悬液局部注射到损伤部位。此法应用最多,已成为常规移植方法。一般采用微移植法(microtransplantation, Mit),即用数十微米直径的微管作点移植,以尽可能小的量移植尽可能多的细胞,从而使移植本身对宿主带来的损伤尽可能的小。同时,此法可使局部NSCs高密度存在,有利于神经纤维的再生。静脉注射法是指细胞经血液循环系统到达损伤部位,通过损伤部位的血-脊髓屏障进入脊髓组织。此法由Fujiwara首先报道^[32],但该文未提及大鼠脊髓功能恢复的情况。此法能否达到局部直接注射法同样的效果有待进一步研究。近年来,还有学者在动物实验中采用经脑脊液途径进行脊髓的细胞移植^[33,34],但不多见。

4 移植细胞存在的问题及应对策略

细胞移植的提出,为脊髓损伤的治疗增加了一个新的途径和希望。但是,目前细胞移植的应用研究中还存在着诸多尚待问题,其中最为重要的是供体细胞移植后存活率过低,这也是制约各类移植工作成功与否的共性问题。大量的动物实验表明,供体细胞在被移植入损伤区后,其存活、增殖、分化过程同时受到移植区局部环境内各种有害因素的影响^[35],诸如缺氧、缺糖、机械损伤、自由基、兴奋性氨基酸等各种不利因素使得存活的细胞比例过低,细胞密度低于一定水平时,细胞间各种因子、分子的浓度就达不到生长的要求,从而又进一步不利于其生长分化,形成恶性循环,这也正是影响移植效果的重要原因^[36]。因此,提高植入细胞抵御周围伤害性因素影响的能力,提高存活率,是取得移植成功的关键。

"预处理"是提高组织或细胞抵御外周伤害能力的有效手段之一,所谓预处理(preconditioning, PC)是指一次或重复给与机体亚致死性的伤害刺激,使之对随后一段时间内再次经历

的致死性伤害刺激产生内源性的保护作用^[37]。预处理可以提供一种内源性保护机制,目前国内外对组织器官^[38-40]、细胞水平^[41,42]的预处理均进行了大量的研究,这一保护性机制广泛存在于各类组织器官和细胞内。近年来对神经源性干细胞预处理的研究开始增多,Theus 等^[43]发现缺氧预处理可以提高胚胎干细胞移植的细胞存活率以及试验动物神经功能的恢复。目前,预处理被认为是涉及多因素、多机制参与的保护过程^[44,45]。Jaderstad 等^[46]认为缺氧预处理不但可以提高细胞存活率,而且可以增加移植细胞间以及移植细胞和宿主细胞间的间隙连接通讯功能,更有利于移植后神经功能的整合。同时,研究显示,缺氧预处理不仅对缺氧伤害产生内源性保护作用,而且对其他形式的损伤均能产生耐受和抵抗作用^[47]。

目前,缺氧预处理的研究主要集中于机制研究,临床应用仍有一段距离。但由于其保护作用明确,在临床上具有广阔的应用前景。其他资料显示,各种细胞和各种类型的预处理或许通过相同或相似的机制对机体产生保护作用^[48]。因而,进一步明确预处理的分子和信号机制,针对其保护机制进行干预,不仅将为某些疾病的临床防治提供新的思路和方法,还可以为细胞、组织移植提供具有更好自身防御机制的供体,以获得最佳的移植效果。

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