

生长激素治疗中老年男性骨质疏松的研究进展

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摘要: 骨质疏松是中老年人群中的一种常见病,是中老年人不可避免的一种骨质老化现象。目前全球骨质疏松患者超过1亿人,国内对7省市4.87万人的调查结果显示,60岁以上人群骨质疏松症的患病率为22.6%。骨质疏松可导致骨折,可明显增加老年人病死率和致残率,调查显示,骨质疏松性骨折后1年内男性死亡率(31%)是女性(17%)的2倍。有研究表明中老年骨质疏松与生长激素分泌减少有一定关系,小剂量补充治疗后骨骼密度明显增加。本文就生长激素与中老年男性骨质疏松的关系及其补充治疗的可能作用机制作一综述。

关键词: 生长激素;中老年男性;骨质疏松;补充治疗

Research progress of growth hormone in the treatment of osteoporosis in senile male patients

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Abstract: Osteoporosis is a common disease and an inevitable phenomenon of bone aging in the elderly population. Currently, more than 100 million people suffer from osteoporosis around the world. A survey covering 4.87 million people in 7 provinces in China shows that, the prevalence of osteoporosis is 22.6% in the population over 60 years old. Osteoporosis can lead to fractures, which can increase the mortality and morbidity in the elderly significantly. Surveys have also revealed that the mortality rate of men (31%) with osteoporotic fractures in one year is almost twice compared to the rate in women (17%). Studies have shown that the senile osteoporosis has a certain relationship with the reduced secretion of growth hormone (GH). And low-dose supplementation of GH can significantly increase the bone mineral density. This paper reviews the relationship between GH and osteoporosis in elderly men and the possible mechanism of the complementary treatment.

Key words: Growth hormone; Elderly men; Osteoporosis; Complementary treatment

骨质疏松症是由于骨量降低和骨组织微观结构退化引起的一种以骨强度降低、韧性降低和骨折危险度升高为特征的系统性骨病。患者常有胸背及四肢疼痛,并易发生骨折等,严重影响了老年人的生活,也是中老年人致残致死的主要原因之一^[1]。除了年龄外,钙调节素及性激素分泌异常外,中老年人生长激素分泌减少也是骨质疏松重要原因之一。

1 生长激素与中老年男性骨质疏松的关系

1.1 生长激素生物学特征和功能

生长激素(GH)是腺垂体细胞分泌的蛋白质,

是一种肽类激素。正常情况下,生长激素呈脉冲式分泌,并受下丘脑产生的生长激素释放素(GHRH)的调节,还受性别、年龄和昼夜节律影响。生长激素的主要生理功能是生长激素直接或间接促进生长期的骨骺软骨形成,促进骨和软骨及其他组织生长;促进机体合成代谢和蛋白质合成;促进脂肪分解;对胰岛素有拮抗作用;抑制葡萄糖利用而使血糖升高等作用。生长激素同时可促进增强对钠、钾、钙、磷、硫等重要元素的摄取与利用。GH主要是通过胰岛素样生长因子(IGF-I)发挥其生理作用,IGF-I是IGFs的成员,由70个氨基酸组成,相对分子量为7649D I可在全身各处表达,血液中的IGF-I主要来源于肝脏的生物合成,血IGF-I水平。IGF受多种因素的影响,Abayomi等^[2]认为血液中的IGF-I含量依赖

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于血液中GH的水平。GH对骨骼的影响通过间接刺激肝脏合成IGF-1来发挥作用的。然而随后的研究指出GH也可以直接作用于骨骼。这些作用大部分是通过GH介导骨骼中IGF-1的表达和活动来完成的^[3,4]。IGF-1在骨的形成中起一定作用,它以分泌的方式刺激成骨细胞的复制和骨基质的合成。Walenkamp等^[5]观察到一个IGF-1基因突变的55岁患者,与年龄匹配的正常人相比,股骨颈和腰椎的骨密度减低了4~5个标准差。由此可见,IGF-1对骨代谢有重要调节作用。Tsiridis等^[6]研究也显示二者不仅增加骨形成,同时也激活整个骨转换过程。

1.2 中老年男性生长激素分泌水平变化及调节改变

老年人常有肌无力、虚弱、精力及运动能力减退,血脂异常、腹部脂肪增加、骨骼肌含量减少和骨密度减低等表现,而这些与GH缺乏症的年轻患者的临床表现相似,因此不少学者推测老年人可能存在与增龄相关的GH不足。早年的研究表明与健康年轻人相比,老年人GH的分泌随增龄而有所改变。在青春期上升,青春期后期达高峰,以后逐渐下降。青春期后期、21~30岁、31~60岁及60岁后的24h血GH平均水平分别为青春期前的130%~210%、58%~60%、35%~47%和23%~40%。60岁以上老年人的GH分泌量不到青春期峰值的1/6^[7]。许多因素与老年人GH分泌减少有关,包括老年人性激素(睾酮、雌激素)分泌减少,营养不良,脂肪比例增加,睡眠模式的改变以及活动减少等^[8-10]。Weltman等^[11]研究发现中老年GH分泌减少与下丘脑-GH-IGF-1轴的功能降低有关。正常情况下,IGF-1下降反射性引起垂体GH释放,而IGF-1增高可反馈抑制GH释放,但随着年龄的增加这种反射活动受到破坏。Veldhuis等^[12]的结果显示,与年轻人比较,老年人的IGF-1对GH分泌的负反馈调节减弱,表明衰老削弱IGF-1对GH分泌的负反馈调节。GH负反馈调节可诱发高振幅的GH脉冲分泌,老年人GH负反馈抑制减弱,可能影响GH脉冲的振幅。Kozakowski等^[13]也认为随着年龄增加GH细胞对GHRH的反应性下降或对生长抑素的敏感性增加,或是生长抑素的释放增加,导致GH分泌减少,导致GH作用的相对不足。因此Sherlock等^[14]认为,老龄并非处于GH缺乏的状态而是与年轻人相比GH水平相对较低。

1.3 生长激素与骨质疏松

生长激素在维持骨骼健康中起着重要作用,它

的分泌不足是引起中老年男性骨质疏松的重要原因之一。Jorgensen等^[15]在生活中发现生长激素分泌不足者有着明显的骨更新和骨密度较正常人较低,而这些改变又与年龄相关。随着年龄的升高,生长激素分泌水平逐渐下降,骨密度也随之降低。成人GH分泌不足患者发生骨折的风险增加,同时临床骨质疏松症的发病明显增高。国外文献资料统计分析约中老年人80%骨折与骨质疏松有关^[16]。国内专家对50岁以上的股骨颈骨折患者进行长期回顾性分析:果显示股骨颈骨折中伴有骨质疏松者高达86.2%^[17]。因此,中老年男性生长激素分泌不足是影响骨质疏松的重要原因。

2 生长激素影响骨代谢的机理

生长激素对人体的作用已早有研究,其可以促进骨转化和骨更新,作用机理可能与以下激素或细胞因子有直接或间接关系,如:PTH、降钙素等。

2.1 生长激素与PTH

甲状旁腺素(PTH)刺激成骨细胞分化和骨矿化,同时又可介导破骨细胞溶解骨钙吸收骨基质。PTH合成和释放过多使骨质溶解加速,骨质普遍性脱钙,长期进展出现骨质疏松表现。Ahmad等^[18]发现加生长激素能够提高PTH对 ca^{2+} 的敏感性,并增加了感受器对PTH的敏感性,从而影响血液中PTH的浓度。Bikle等^[19]在对小鼠实验中发现体内PTH对骨形成的作用也是依赖小鼠体内产生的GH水平。

2.2 生长激素与降钙素

已知降钙素的分泌与流经甲状腺的血液中钙浓度有关,直接抑制破骨细胞对骨的吸收,使骨骼释放钙减少,同时促进骨骼吸收血浆中的钙,使血钙降低。可对抗PTH促进骨吸收的作用并使血磷降低。Alsheklee等^[20]的研究认为GH可以促进降钙素的分泌,增加其在血液中的浓度。

2.3 生长激素与甲状腺激素

正常情况下甲状腺激素主要是促进蛋白质合成,特别是使骨、骨骼肌、肝等蛋白质合成明显增加。最近的研究^[21]显示TH是GH表达的主要调节者,特别是在生长的最佳时期,在TH缺乏的基因小鼠试验中发现血清IGF-1水平降低了50%以上,导致肝脏和骨中IGF-1的表达也降低。中老年人甲状腺功能减退(甲减)可造成垂体及血清GH水平降低,并导致对生长激素释放激素(GHRH)反应异常。相反,也有研究^[22]发现甲亢患者血清GH水平升高,

可能与甲状腺激素增强生长激素基因表达及提高生长激素脉冲释放频率有关。

2.4 生长激素与性激素

雄激素(T)和雌激素(E₂)参与骨代谢,对骨生成、骨量维持起重要作用。这可能是性激素可以刺激IGF-1的分泌和增加GH分泌脉冲释放频率,特别是在青春期表现更为明显^[23]。成骨细胞存在有雄激素受体和雌激素受体,T和E₂可以诱导GH的分泌,这与血清中IGF-1水平有关^[24]。随着增龄,男性睾丸机能下降,研究^[25]显示T和E₂随年龄增长而降低,在老年骨质疏松组,T、E₂明显低于老年非骨质疏松组,且T、E₂与骨密度呈正相关,提示老年男性骨丢失与雄激素和雌激素水平降低有关。

3 生长激素补充治疗中老年骨质疏松

自从1990年Rudman等^[26]首次发表了关于生长激素在>60岁老年人中治疗作用的研究结果,发现GH治疗组IGF-1、瘦组织和腰椎骨密度增加,后者分别比非治疗组增加8.8%和1.6%,总体脂减少14.4%。GH治疗骨质疏松引起广泛重视,如今已能用重组DNA技术合成,从而为的临床应用创造了更有利条件。Elaine等^[27]认为GH直接刺激骨细胞的增殖及分化,影响GH-IGF-1轴,血清IGF-1水平升高,使老年人骨内和骨膜新骨生成增加,从而治疗老年骨质疏松症^[28]。骨质疏松患者血生长激素、IGF-1水平下降。动物模型研究表明,注射生长激素可以加速骨重建,增加骨量和骨强度,促进骨折愈合^[29]。Elbornsson等^[30]研究也表明给予GH缺乏的骨质疏松患者小剂量GH或者IGF-1治疗15年后,受试者总体骨密度明显增加(+2%; $P < 0.001$),腰椎骨密度增加5%($P < 0.001$)。

综上所述,随着社会老龄化的加剧,中老年男性的身心健康问题日趋受到关注。以往对男性骨质疏松症的研究远不及对女性的重视,但80岁以上高龄男性发病率达30%以上,并且骨折后的危害却大于女性。而目前GH被认为是治疗骨质疏松十分有前途的药物。另外,生长激素补充治疗骨质疏松的研究目前虽然已取得许多方面取得了长足的进步,但是仍有很多问题有待探讨:治疗的最佳剂量、是否引发恶性肿瘤及不良反应等。针对骨质疏松症的GH替代治疗存在的问题地深入研究在今后临床治疗骨质疏松症中将具有重要的临床指导意义。

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