

先天性心脏病遗传机制探索任重道远



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先天性心脏病(先心病)是最常见的出生缺陷,发病率在活产新生儿中高达 1%^[1],是我国新生儿致残致死的主要原因之一,其发病与环境及遗传因素相关^[2]。近几十年来,随着对先心病发病机制研究的不断深入,尤其是分子生物学、遗传学的快速发展,对先心病致病的遗传因素有了更深入的认识。但即便如此,大部分先心病患者,尤其是散发患者的遗传发病原因尚不清楚。因此,揭示先心病发病机制任重而道远。

1 先心病的遗传发病机制特点

先心病的遗传缺陷主要包括单基因遗传缺陷、多基因遗传缺陷、染色体畸变。在所有先心病患者中,约有 1/3 可以发现遗传缺陷^[3],其中单基因遗传病在部分先心病家系中遗传模式符合孟德尔遗传规律,通过家系研究发现心脏发育相关转录因子如 GATA4、Nkx2.5、Tbx1、Tbx5、MEF2 等存在突变。目前已经有超过 50 种具有心血管畸形表现的综合征明确了遗传学病因。如 Alagille 综合征,大于 90% 的患者是由于 Notch 配体 Jag1 基因缺陷引起^[4-5]。少数患者虽然 Jag1 基因正常,但是 Notch2 基因突变^[6],推测 Alagille 综合征发病与 Notch 信号活性降低相关。染色体非整倍体者先心病发病率较正常人高。约 50% 唐氏综合征患儿合并先心病,以房间隔缺损(ASD)和室间隔缺损(VSD)最常

见^[7]。Turner 综合征患儿约有 33% 合并心脏畸形,主要为左心系统病变^[8]。多数学者认为是剂量效应导致唐氏综合征相关先心病,但候选基因众多。研究显示,位于 21 号染色体的 DSCAM 和 COL6A 可能是唐氏综合征相关先心病的主效基因^[9],二者同时过表达的小鼠心脏畸形,其中之一过表达则小鼠表型正常^[10]。

随着微阵列技术及二代测序的开展,发现 10%~15% 先心病的发病与拷贝数变异相关^[11],其中以 22q11.2 微缺失综合征(22q11.2DS)最为常见。22q11.2DS 导致的先心病以法洛四联症(TOF)及 TOF 合并肺动脉狭窄最为常见,是已知最常见的 TOF 病因。该区域 Tbx1 的单倍剂量不足是主要致病原因^[12-15],其分子发病机制涉及 Tbx1 单倍剂量不足导致的组蛋白 H3K4me1 水平下降,提示染色质修饰是先心病发病的重要遗传学机制^[16]。新近发现其他与先心病相关的区域拷贝数变异包括 1q21.1、3p25.1、16p13.11、15q11.2 和 2p13.3 等^[3]。

2 先心病发病机制的复杂性

流行病学研究显示,绝大多数的先心病由遗传与环境因素相互作用造成,但遗传缺陷与先心病发病机制复杂。部分先心病家系中,同一基因突变在不同患者中表型不同,呈现遗传异质性,如 Nkx2.5 突变可以表现为 ASD、VSD、TOF、右室双出口等多种先心病。即使同一家系成员的 Nkx2.5 突变类型一致,表型也可不同,部分患者为 ASD,部分患者为

房室传导阻滞,部分患者二者皆有^[17]。遗传异质性可能与患者的基因背景有关,也可能与母孕期环境因素相关,这无疑增加了分析基因型-表型的难度。遗传背景、体细胞嵌合突变、复合杂合突变、非编码区突变均有可能对先心病发病起一定作用。另外,环境及母体因素也对先心病发生具有影响。如母亲 MTHFR C677T 多态性是先心病的风险因子^[18];母孕期糖尿病可增加子代先心病风险^[19],这些影响可能通过表观遗传学的改变实现。

3 先心病遗传因素参与的生物学机制

3.1 心脏发育关键转录因子

心脏发育的核心转录因子包括 Nkx2.5、GATA4、Hand2、T-box 家族和 MEF2 等,这些转录因子在时空上有序表达,互相调控形成复杂网络,使心脏发育为精细的四腔结构^[20]。其中,Nkx2.5 与 GATA4 是第一心域发育的重要转录因子。Nkx2.5 通过限制 BMP 信号,维持心脏前体细胞增殖与分化平衡,并调控心肌细胞分化^[21]。GATA4^{-/-}小鼠形成双心管^[22],人类 GATA4 突变多表现为间隔缺损。Hand2 主要表达在第二心域,参与右心室扩张,其突变表现为右心发育不良^[23]。Tbx5 为心房及左心室生长分化所必需,通过激活心腔特异性基因如 nppa 的表达,与 Nkx2.5 相互作用,Tbx5 突变导致心手综合征^[24]。

3.2 染色质修饰因子

测序结果显示约有 3% 先心病源于染色质修饰基因突变,这些基因参与了组蛋白 H3K4、H3K9、H3K27、H3K20 甲基化和 H2BK120 泛素化^[25]。染色质修饰基因 Baf60c 在心脏发育中与 GATA4 相互作用^[26]。组蛋白甲基转移酶 PRDM6 与非综合征动脉导管未闭(PDA)相关^[27]。Blimp-1/PRDM 能够募集组蛋白修饰酶使 H3K4 发生二甲基化,使 H3K27 三甲基化水平升高,导致相关基因沉默。Blimp-1/PRDM1 缺失的胚胎心脏畸形,包括 VSD 和永存动脉干(PTA)^[28]。DPF3 通过其锌指结构域与 H3K4me1/2 相互作用,使染色质结构发生重构,其突变表现为 VSD^[29]。这些染色质修饰因子突变在一定程度上可以解释先心病发病中的剂量依赖效应。

3.3 原生纤毛

纤毛(cilia)是位于细胞表面的毛发样结构,具有传导信号、引导细胞外液流动和调控细胞周期作用,对心脏发育具有重要作用。根据纤毛结构及运

动特性分为运动纤毛和感觉纤毛。运动纤毛由 9 组外周微管及 1 组中央微管组成,感觉纤毛缺乏中央微管。在心脏发育中,运动纤毛主要参与左右不对称发育,决定心脏环化方向。原发性纤毛运动障碍(PCD)患者中有 3.5%~6% 合并心血管畸形^[30-31]。感觉纤毛则主要分布于心内膜内皮细胞、心内膜及心外膜的间充质细胞,多与瓣膜发育相关。小鼠研究发现感觉纤毛存在于主动脉瓣间质细胞,并随着细胞分化为成纤维细胞而消失。敲除纤毛重要基因 Ift88 可使细胞外基质纤维增多,导致二叶式主动脉瓣畸形^[32]。

4 深入开展先心病发病机制研究及遗传咨询的相关问题

基于先心病发病机制的复杂性,可以开展多中心先心病研究:(1)随着测序技术不断发展,测序替代基因芯片是大势所趋^[33-34]。全基因组测序(whole-genome sequencing, WGS)可以全面了解遗传信息,但其价格昂贵,数据分析量大,非编码区变异致病性分析困难^[35]。而全外显子测序(whole-exome sequencing, WES)的费用已降至万元左右,使临床检测成为可能。基因编码区及其侧翼虽然只占人类全基因组 1%,但绝大部分疾病由编码区突变引起,对大量散发病例广泛开展 WES 有助于发现先心病相关遗传缺陷,尤其是新生突变(de novo mutation),预测 10 000 个父母及患儿样本的 WES 可以发现 80% 的先心病致病基因^[36]。(2)在获得相对主效基因的基础上,部分开展 WGS 及动物模型验证,以寻找“辅助”基因突变及变异,在模式动物水平验证。(3)开展环境及母体因素的流行病学调查,基于调查结果进行前瞻性干预实验。

对先心病发病机制的研究有助于开展遗传咨询工作,鉴于先心病发病率高、绝大部分可以治愈及再发风险相对较低,绝大多数先心病无需进行基因检测。我们建议仅在以下情况对先心病患者及家属进行遗传学评估及遗传咨询:(1)先心病家族史阳性;(2)累及多系统的先天病变;(3)特殊面容或伴有其他畸形;(4)神经认知发育迟滞。

总之,对先心病潜在致病基因的深入研究将有助于遗传咨询,提高患儿的存活率和生存质量,并有可能在不久的将来将基因治疗引入到先心病的防治中。

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