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雌激素在肺组织中的作用机制概述*

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摘要: 在妇女中,哮喘、慢性阻塞性肺病(COPD)、囊肿性纤维化(CF)等肺部疾病发病率不断增加。大量实验研究表明,女性肺部、气管疾病患者的病情随着女性生理周期存在波动,因此,在体内雌激素和孕激素含量变化可能与肺部疾病的病情轻重存在一定的关系。雌激素包括三类:雌三醇、雌二醇、雌酮,性激素主要与他们的特异性受体结合发挥作用:雌激素受体(ER α 、ER β),孕激素受体(PR-A、PR-B),和雄激素受体(AR)。雄激素受体只有哺乳动物生殖腺中有表达;雌激素受体和孕激素受体不仅在哺乳动物雌性、雄性生殖腺中有表达,在乳腺、骨、心肌、肺和脑等组织器官中均有表达。临床实验数据已经表明,男女肺部疾病发病率存在明显差异,本文主要对雌激素与肺组织之间关系作一简要综述。

关键词: 肺部疾病;生理周期;雌激素

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The Role of Estrogen in Lung*

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ABSTRACT: The prevalence, morbidity, and mortality of inflammatory lung diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and cystic fibrosis (CF) are increasing in women. Some large epidemiologic studies suggest that lung function fluctuates during the menstrual cycle in female patients with airways disease but not in women without disease, suggesting that circulating estradiol and progesterone may be involved in this process. There are three major naturally occurring estrogens in women: 1) estrone, 2) estradiol, and 3) estrone; Sex steroid hormones act via their own unique receptors: estrogen receptor (ER α or ER β), progesterone receptor (PR-A or PR-B), and an androgen receptor (AR). Androgen receptor is expressed primarily in mammalian reproductive tissues, ER α , ER β , PR-A and PR-B expression have been noted not only in the mammalian female and male reproductive tracts, but also in the female mammary glands, bone, cardiovascular tissues, lung, and the brain. Taken together, clinical and in vivo data have demonstrated a sex related difference that females may be more susceptible to the pathogenesis of lung diseases. In this paper, we review the relationship between estrogen and lung.

Key words: Lung disease; Physiological cycle; Estrogen

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前言

哮喘、慢性阻塞性肺病(COPD)、囊肿性纤维化(CF)等肺部疾病存在性别差异。例如,在美国哮喘病人的60%是妇女^[1]。虽然COPD患病率男性多于女性,但是随着吸烟的女性不断增加,女性患COPD的比率不断增加,2000年,在美国女性COPD致死率首次高于男性。调查COPD病人与吸烟关系时发现,女性患病与吸烟关系小于男性^[2]。尽管CF是一种遗传病,但是,女性病人存活的时间远小于男性。总之,雌性肺部疾病的炎症反应明显高于雄性。因此,性激素与COPD、CF等肺部疾病的发病具有密切关系。因此本文主要对雌激素和孕激素对肺

部疾病发病机理作一简要综述。

1 雌激素和孕激素

固醇类激素主要在性腺、前列腺中合成。胆固醇是所有固醇激素的前体。固醇首先在P450侧链裂开酶作用下转化为孕烯醇酮,继而生成雄激素和雌激素。雄激素在芳香化酶作用下转化为雌激素^[3]。雌激素包括三类:雌三醇、雌二醇、雌酮。雌三醇主要在妊娠期发挥作用;雌二醇主要在雌性非妊娠期到绝经期前这段时间发挥作用;雌酮为雌性绝经期后起主要作用的雌激素。性激素主要与他们的特异性受体结合发挥作用:雌激素受体(ER α 、ER β),孕激素受体(PR-A、PR-B),和雄激素受体

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(AR)。雌激素较雌三醇和雌酮更容易与雌激素受体结合。性激素受体在肺组织中均有表达^[4]。

2 雌激素和月经周期

雌激素、黄体酮、促黄体激素、促卵泡激素均有周期性变化。大多数情况下,女性月经周期为 28 天,分为卵泡期(1-13 天)和黄体期(14-28 天)两个时期。排卵期是月经周期的第 14 天。黄体期后期血清中含有低水平雌激素($\approx 0.15\text{nM}$)和高水平孕酮($\approx 9.54\text{-}31.81$);排卵期含有高水平雌激素($\approx 0.37\text{-}1.47$)和低水平的孕酮 ($\approx 0.95\text{-}9.54\text{nM}$)。黄体期雌激素变化范围为 $0.15\text{-}0.92\text{nM}$,孕酮的变化范围为 $9.54\text{-}31.81\text{nM}$ ^[5]。但是,更年期血清中雌激素和孕酮水平都下降至月经周期的最低水平。

3 肺组织中雌激素通过 SHBG 与雌激素受体结合

性激素结合球蛋白(SHBG)是人类细胞质中重要的固醇结合蛋白。SHBG 首先在肝细胞中合成 SHBG 的糖基化形式^[6]。在生物体中,SHBG 与雄激素和雌激素结合。正常的男性和女性体内睾丸素的 40-65%和雌激素的 20-40%与 SHBG 结合。SHBG 通过与性激素结合调节肺组织中性激素的浓度^[7]。但是,一旦性激素从 SHBG 中游离出来,性激素将进入血浆中与细胞内的雌激素或者雄激素受体结合,调节细胞内基因表达^[8]。因此,只有游离的性激素是生物激活剂^[9]。由于睾丸素较雌激素优先与 SHBG 结合从而更多的雌激素处于游离状态,因此 SHBG 被看做雌激素功效的放大器。

4 雌激素受体和肺生理

众所周知,雌激素和孕酮受体在性发展过程中具有重要作用,但是目前它们超出生殖系统外的作用备受关注。雌激素受体包括 ER α 和 ER β 两种类型^[10];孕激素受体包括 PR-A 和 PR-B 两种类型,且这 4 种性激素受体在大鼠、小鼠、人肺组织中均有表达^[11]。雄激素受体只有哺乳动物生殖腺中有表达;雌激素受体和孕激素受体不仅在哺乳动物雌性、雄性生殖腺中有表达,在乳腺、骨、心肌、肺和脑等组织器官中均有表达^[12]。肺组织中 ER β 表达量较 ER α 高两倍。ER α 和 ER β 属于核受体成员,配体与受体结合后激活启动子调节基因转录。雌激素受体包含一个 N-端 DNA 结合域和 C-端配体结合域^[13]。在小鼠中敲除 ER α 或 ER β 发现,两种雌激素受体对于雌鼠肺泡形成是必须的。ER α 参与肺泡分化,保证肺在单位体积内肺泡数量。ER β 调节细胞外物质的发生,保证肺正常弹性收缩。更重要的是,ER α 抵抗角叉菜引起的小鼠肺炎症反应,但是,ER β 却不起作用。ER α 抑制 NF κ B 表达从而抑制炎症相关基因表达^[14]。

5 雌激素受体在肺组织中激活机制

雌激素调节细胞信号通路的确切机制目前仍没有完全清楚,主要因为性激素可以通过多条细胞信号转导通路调节基因转录和翻译^[15]。自由激素假说认为,雌激素通过自由扩散的方式通过细胞膜进入细胞。雌激素与雌激素受体的配体结合域结合后引起受体构象发生改变,导致雌激素受体二聚化后进入细

胞核^[16]。雌激素受体/雌激素与 DNA 特意启动子序列(雌激素受体反应元件)结合,招募细胞核中其它因子从而促进雌激素受体反应元件下游基因转录^[17]。另一种假说认为,雌激素与 SHBG 结合是代谢激活。现如今人们已经发现雌激素能与细胞膜上与 SHBG 结合的雌激素受体结合。雌激素与 SHBG 结合激活 cAMP 依赖的信号通路继而上调腺苷酸环化酶和其它下游信号分子^[18]。这些现象已经通过分离肺上皮细胞得到验证。

6 小结与展望

雌激素不仅在人类及动物的生殖系统中发挥重要作用,而且参与消化系统、呼吸系统、神经系统等功能发挥。雌激素需与其受体(ER α 、ER β)结合发挥作用。研究发现,雌激素受体不同类型在肺中均有表达^[19]。

哮喘、CF、COPD 等慢性疾病妇女发病率明显高于男性,但其具体机制目前尚不清楚。有研究表明,哮喘发生过程中,雌激素通过促进 TH2 反应、孕激素通过促进 TH1 反应而发挥重要作用^[20]。CF 发生过程中,雌激素抑制 Cl⁻分泌,促进粘液的产生而发挥作用。香烟烟雾的体内消除需要两阶段酶起作用^[21]。研究发现,雌激素显著上调第一阶段酶的活性导致有毒物质的沉积,促使 COPD 的发生^[22]。随着女性肺部疾病发病率不断增加,了解雌激素在肺部炎症反应过程中的作用具有重要的意义。探讨雌激素在肺部生理作用及作用机制为慢性肺病的治疗提供新的理论依据。

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