

^{99m}Tc 标记PSMA小分子抑制剂靶向 前列腺癌分子影像初步临床研究

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[摘要] 背景与目的: 前列腺特异性膜抗原(prostate-specific membrane antigen, PSMA)在前列腺癌细胞表面特异性高表达, 是前列腺癌诊断和治疗的极具有吸引力的靶点。放射性核素标记的PSMA小分子抑制剂能够高效、特异性探测前列腺癌病灶并进行分期。本研究初步探讨 ^{99m}Tc 标记PSMA小分子抑制剂(HYNIC-Glu-Urea-A, 简称 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA)SPECT/CT显像诊断前列腺原发灶和转移灶的价值。方法: 24例前列腺癌和1例前列腺增生患者静脉注射 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA 2 h后行全身平面扫描和腹部SPECT/CT断层显像, 采用感兴趣区技术计算肿瘤和肌肉摄取 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA比值(T/N)进行半定量分析, 评价全身平面显像结合断层显像检测前列腺原发灶和(或)转移灶的灵敏度和特异度, 分析 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性率与前列腺癌特异性抗原(prostate-specific antigen, PSA)水平和Gleason评分的关系。结果: 以患者为单位, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT对前列腺癌原发灶或转移灶检测的灵敏度为72.7%(16/22)、特异度为100%(3/3)。 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性患者, (中位数17.31 ng/mL, 范围2.26~3 239.00 ng/mL)水平明显高于 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阴性患者PSA(中位数0.49 ng/mL, 范围0.07~9.28 ng/mL)($Z=-3.51$, $P<0.001$); 在初诊和PSA大于2 ng/mL的复发患者中, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性率明显提高, 灵敏度达94.1%(16/17); ^{99m}Tc -PSMA的阳性率与Gleason评分高低无关($Z=-0.69$, $P=0.52$)。结论: ^{99m}Tc -PSMA全身平面显像结合局部SPECT/CT断层显像对前列腺癌原发灶和转移灶的探测有较高应用价值, 灵敏度及特异度均较高。

[关键词] 前列腺癌; 前列腺特异性膜抗原; 前列腺特异性抗原; Gleason评分; ^{99m}Tc -PSMA显像

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[**Abstract**] **Background and purpose:** Prostate-specific membrane antigen (PSMA), a cell surface protein with high expression in prostate carcinoma (PC) cells, is an attractive target for PC imaging and therapy. Small-molecule radiopharmaceuticals targeting PSMA can detect the location and extent of disease with high sensitivity and specificity. The aim of this study was to evaluate the value of technetium-99m-labelled small molecule against PSMA (HYNIC-Glu-Urea-A, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA) for the detection of primary and metastatic prostate cancers. **Methods:** Twenty-four prostate cancer patients and 1 patient with benign prostate hyperplasia received whole-body scan followed by abdominopelvic SPECT/CT 2 h after intravenous injection of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA. Tumor to muscle uptake ratio of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA was calculated using region of interest (ROI) technology. The sensitivity and specificity of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA were evaluated. The relationships between positive ^{99m}Tc -PSMA and prostate specific antigen (PSA) level and Gleason Score were analyzed. **Results:** Based on per patient, the sensitivity and specificity of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA were 72.7% (16/22) and 100% (3/3), respectively. The level of PSA in patients with positive ^{99m}Tc -PSMA imaging was significantly higher than that in patients with negative ^{99m}Tc -PSMA imaging [(PSA median 17.31 ng/mL, range: 2.26-3 239.0 ng/mL) vs (PSA median 0.49 ng/mL, range: 0.07-9.28 ng/mL)] ($Z=-3.51$, $P<0.001$). Among newly diagnosed patients and recurrent patients with PSA more than 2.0 nm/mL, it was apparent that ^{99m}Tc -PSMA imaging was able to detect lesions with improved sensitivity of 94.1% (16/17). Gleason Scores between positive ^{99m}Tc -PSMA patients and negative ^{99m}Tc -PSMA patients were not significantly different ($Z=-0.69$, $P=0.52$). **Conclusion:** With the combination of whole-body scan and tomography, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT can be an excellent and specific molecular imaging strategy to detect prostate cancer and its metastases.

[**Key words**] Prostate cancer; Prostate-specific membrane antigen; Prostate-specific antigen; Gleason Score; ^{99m}Tc -PSMA imaging

近年来,随着人口老龄化的加剧和饮食习惯的西化,国内前列腺癌患病率呈显著升高趋势,前列腺癌的早期诊断和复发病灶探测成为目前临床上关注的焦点。前列腺特异性膜抗原(prostate-specific membrane antigen, PSMA)在前列腺癌细胞表面特异性高表达^[1-2],使其在前列腺癌分子影像学及靶向治疗领域具有极为重要的研究价值^[3],特别是核素标记PSMA小分子抑制剂已在前列腺癌分子影像学诊断方面显示出较好的临床应用前景^[4-6]。本科临床前研究显示^[7], ^{99m}Tc 标记HYNIC修饰的谷胺脲类PSMA小分子抑制剂(HYNIC-Glu-Urea-A,简称 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA)miroSPECT/CT能清楚显示PSMA表达阳性的前列腺肿瘤,该显像剂在体内主要通过肾脏排泄。本课题组进一步将 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA用于临床研究,以初步评价 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT探测前列腺癌原发灶和转移灶的价值,为前列腺癌,特别是为复发转移、去势抵抗性前列腺癌(castration resistant prostate cancer, CRPC)患者的进一步治疗提供决策依据。

1 资料和方法

1.1 临床资料

2015年9—12月,25例经前列腺穿刺或根治性切除术后病理学证实的患者接受了 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检查,其中前列腺癌患者24例(初诊、未治患者8例,根治术后随访2例,生化复发5例,临床复发9例,后者转移灶经临床其他影像证实:包括CT、MRI、 ^{99m}Tc -MDP常规骨扫描和/或断层显像等),前列腺增生患者1例(2次前列腺穿刺均未见恶性证据),中位年龄68岁(43~81岁),平均(66.2±8.6)岁。

1.2 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA显像

1.2.1 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA标记

^{99m}Tc -PSMA标记方法和质量控制详见参考文献[7]。简述如下,10 μg HYNIC-Glu-Urea-A溶解于0.5 mL EDDA与0.5 mL Tricine的混合液中,加入25 μg SnCl₂溶液、30~120 mCi Na $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4$,100 ℃反应10 min。标记率大于99%,无需纯化,反应液按国家“锝 [^{99m}Tc]放射性药品质量控制指导原则”质检,经0.22

μm 的Millipore针式过滤器除菌, 内毒素检验和追溯性细菌培养均阴性。

1.2.2 药物注射

患者无需禁食等特殊准备, 静脉注射 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA (20 ± 2) mCi 2 h后进行SPCET/CT, 等待期间患者自由进食、多饮水和排尿。

1.2.3 图像采集

(1) 全身平面显像。仪器, 双探头单光子发射计算机层摄影仪(Discovery NM/CT 670, 美国GE公司), 配低能高分辨平行孔准直器。患者上机前排尿, 去除体外金属物品, 检查取仰卧位, 双上肢自然下垂, 贴近躯干, 全身放松, 平稳呼吸, 保持体位不动。参数: 能峰140 keV, 窗宽20%; 采集矩阵 256×1024 , 采集床速15 cm/min, 行全身前位和后位同时扫描。

(2) SPECT/CT断层显像。同上设备, 全身扫描结束后, 患者仰卧位, 双上肢抱头, 探头尽量贴近躯体, 进行腹盆部SPECT/CT显像。参数: 先常规低剂量CT采集, 然后SPECT断层采集, 矩阵 128×128 , 放大倍数为1, 探头旋转 360° , 30 s/帧, 共60帧。经迭代重建后, 用专用软件eNTEGRA(GE Medical Systems)处理。

1.3 图像分析

所有图像由2名资深核医学医师分析: ①放射性分布, 用感兴趣区(region of interest, ROI)技术获得各主要器官和组织正常区域包括脑、腮腺、甲状腺、肺、心、肝脏、脾脏、肾脏、小肠、骨骼和肌肉的单位像素平均放射性计数。②病灶分析, 综合全身平面显像和腹盆部SPECT/CT结果, 同时分析核医学和同机CT图像。PSMA阳性灶判断标准: 核医学图像表现为放射性摄取高于正常组织者, 且排除生理性摄取或分布者, 不管同机CT有无解剖形态异常, 均将其视为病灶; 同机CT表现异常但相应部位未见放射性异常摄取, 均视为PSMA阴性病灶或非前列腺癌来源病灶。病灶半定量分析, 在放射性浓度最高的横断位图像上勾画病灶ROI, 以同层面肌肉组织为本底, 行半定量分析, 计算肿瘤靶/非靶放射性计数比值(target/non-target, T/NT), 同一患者有多发转移病灶

时, 选取放射性浓度最高的病灶进行分析。

1.4 统计学处理

利用SPSS 18.0软件进行统计分析。根据 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA结果分为阳性组和阴性组, 组间前列腺癌特异性抗原(prostate-specific antigen, PSA)、Gleason评分的比较采用Mann-Whitney U 秩和检验。 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA体内分布

除1例患者全身广泛骨转移而表现类似于 ^{99m}Tc -MDP骨显像的“超级扫描”外, 其余24例患者 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA体内正常分布图像大致相仿: 全身各器官放射性分布从高到低分别为膀胱、肾、涎腺、肝、脾、小肠、心、肺、甲状腺、肌肉、骨骼和脑(图1), 提示显像剂主要通过泌尿系统排泄, 肝肠为次要途径, 唾液腺、泪腺有较多生理性放射性分布。平面图像上, 肿瘤/肌肉靶本比为 10.6 ± 8.7 ($n=6$)。由于 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA通过肾脏快速排泄到膀胱, 受膀胱内尿液放射性干扰, 如果不排尽尿液, 平面显像难以显示前列腺病灶和部分盆腔转移淋巴结。

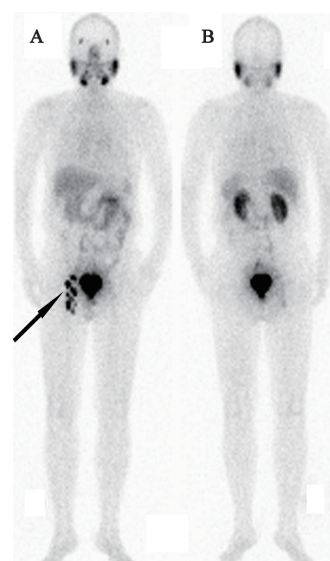


图1 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA静脉注射后2 h全身平面显像

Fig. 1 Whole body plain imaging 2 h after injection of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA

^{99m}Tc -PSMA distributed mainly in bladder, kidney, salivary gland and lymph node metastases, the arrow pointed to the metastatic lymph node at right groin area. A: Anterior view; B: Posterior view

2.2 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA前列腺癌病灶检出率

24例前列腺癌、1例前列腺增生患者临床资料和 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA结果见表1。前列腺癌初诊患者8例， ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检出前列腺癌原发病灶5例，其余3例前列腺阴性(1例因膀胱尿液放射性干扰而无法评价前列腺病变)，但其中2例发现骨转移。14例前列腺癌复发(前列腺癌生化复发欧洲标准：PSA大于0.2 ng/mL)^[8] 或

内分泌治疗抵抗患者，其中9例患者至少发现1个病灶。2例前列腺癌根治术后患者PSA小于0.2 ng/mL，1例前列腺增生患者，前列腺(窝)和全身其余部位均未见阳性病灶，为真阴性。综合初诊和前列腺癌复发转移患者，以患者为单位， ^{99m}Tc -PSMA灵敏度为72.7% (16/22)，特异度为100% (3/3)。

表 1 患者临床资料和 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA检查结果Table 1 Characteristics of patients and results of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA

Patient	Age/year	Diagnosis	Gleason score	Duration	Treatment	PSA $\rho_{\text{B}}/(\text{ng}\cdot\text{mL}^{-1})$	Lesion by ^{99m}Tc -PSMA		
							Location	T/N ¹	T/N ²
1	63	Prostate cancer	3+4=7	Newly diagnosed	-	3.99	Prostate	-	5.5
2	53	Prostate cancer	3+3=6	Newly diagnosed	-	5.11	0	-	-
3	60	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	Newly diagnosed	-	7.56	Prostate	-	8.7
4	76	Prostate cancer	3+3=6	Newly diagnosed	-	8.31	Prostate	-	25.5
5	64	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	Newly diagnosed	-	18.30	Prostate	-	28.0
6	62	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	Newly diagnosed	-	58.80	Prostate, lymph node	- 200.1	20.0, 355.9
7	74	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	Newly diagnosed	-	66.45	Bone	9.3	8.2
8	71	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	Newly diagnosed	-	>100.00	Bone	8.3	10.9
9	54	Prostate cancer	3+3=6	5 months	RP+ADT	0.07	0	-	-
10	58	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	5 years	RP+ADT	0.09	0	-	-
11	58	Prostate cancer	5+4=9	10 months	ADT	0.40	0	-	-
12	73	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	8 years	RP+ADT	0.42	0	-	-
13	72	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	9 years	RP+ADT	0.55	0	-	-
14	70	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	3.5 years	ADT	0.68	0	-	-
15	77	Prostate cancer	UN	9 years	RP+ADT	9.28	0	-	-
16	67	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	2 months	RP	2.26	Bone	4.3	14.7
17	43	Prostate cancer	5+5=10	1.5 years	RP+ADT	3.41	Lymph node	59.6	78.2
18	64	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	2 months	ADT	7.46	Bone, lymph node	17.5, 2.2	25.3, 11.1
19	68	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	7 years	ADT+sRP	7.67	Lymph node, bone	5.0, 2.8	6.5, 7.0
20	66	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	5.5 years	RP+ADT	16.31	Lymph node	36.1	157.0
21	68	Prostate cancer	4+4=8	2 years	RP+ADT	110.30	Bone	24.1	148.2
22	69	Prostate cancer	Unknown	8.5 years	ADT	118.80	Prostate, lymph node	-, 5.5	55.9, 15.5
23	73	Prostate cancer	4+3=7	1.5 years	ADT+ chemotherapy	599.00	Bone, lymph node	9.8, -	17.3, 9.8
24	81	Prostate cancer	Unknown	8 years	ADT	3 239.00	Prostate, bone	-, 14.2	11.3, 16.6
25	70	Benign prostatic hyperplasia	-	2 years	-	8.49	0	-	-

ADT: Androgen deprivation therapy; RP: Radical prostatectomy; sRP: Salvage radical prostatectomy; T/N¹: T/N ratio calculated from plain imaging; T/N²: T/N ratio calculated from tomography; -: None; 0: No lesion detected by ^{99m}Tc -PSMA

2.3 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检测病灶分布

16例 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT阳性患者病灶器官分布分别为前列腺7例(图2); 淋巴结7例, 检出最小淋巴结直径为0.8 cm, 放射性摄取的靶本比为5.1, 其中2例MRI显示盆腔临界大小而难以明确诊断(图3A和B); 骨骼8例, 其中骨扫描假阳2例和假阴性1例(图3 A和C)。在SPECT/CT断层图像上, 前列腺病灶靶本比为 22.1 ± 17.1 (中位数20.0), 转移淋巴结靶本比为 90.6 ± 129.4 (中位数15.5), 骨转移灶靶本比为 31.0 ± 47.7 (中位数15.7), 与平面显像相比, 肿瘤靶本比明显增高, 肿瘤显示更好, 盆腔病灶检出更多。

2.4 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检测结果与Gleason评分和PSA水平关系

根据 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT结果, 将前列腺癌患者分为阳性组和阴性组, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT阳性组($n=16$) PSA水平(中位数

17.31 ng/mL, 范围2.26~3 239.00 ng/mL)明显高于阴性组($n=8$) PSA水平(中位数0.49 ng/mL, 范围0.07~9.28 ng/mL)(Mann-Whiney U 检验, $Z=-3.51$, $P<0.001$)。 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性组患者中, 最低PSA水平为2.26 ng/mL, 阴性组患者中, 最高PSA水平为9.28 ng/mL。在所有PSA小于1.0 ng/mL的生化复发患者中, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA均不能发现病灶, 同期MRI和骨扫描亦未见前列腺癌复发或转移病灶。在前列腺初诊患者和PSA大于2.0 ng/mL的生化复发或临床复发患者中, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性率非常高, 去除1例尿液干扰, PSMA显像阳性率为94.1%(16/17)。

在有前列腺癌Gleason评分资料的19例患者中, 12例 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT阳性患者和7例 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT阴性患者的Gleason评分差异无统计学意义(Mann-Whiney U 检验, $Z=-0.69$, $P=0.52$)。

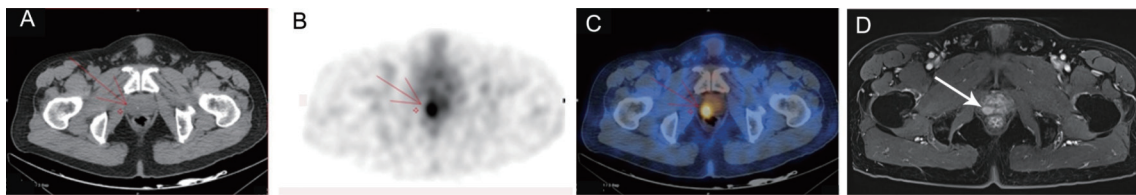


图2 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT和MRI前列腺癌检查

Fig. 2 The SPECT/CT of ^{99m}Tc -PSMA and MRI diagnosis for prostate cancer

The newly diagnosed prostate cancer patient aged 76 year-old, Gleason score 3+3=6 and PSA 8.31 ng/mL PSMA positive lesion in right peripheral zone of prostate was detected by SPECT/CT (A, B and C), which was confirmed by MRI with enhanced nodule at same location (arrows).

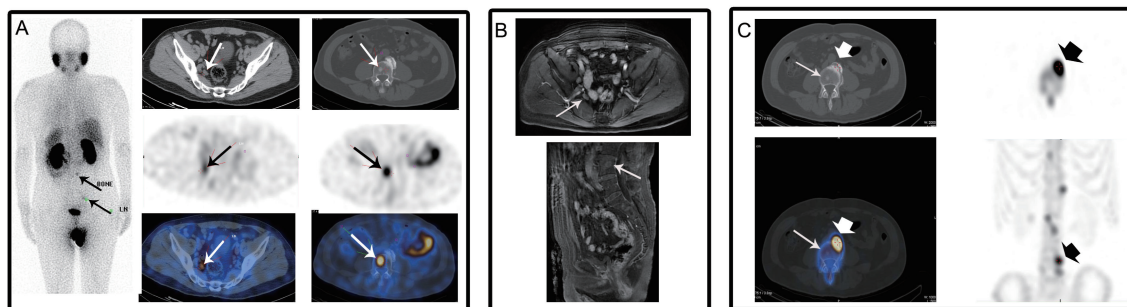


图3 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT、MRI和 ^{99m}Tc -MDP SPECT/CT对前列腺癌转移灶的检测

Fig. 3 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT, MRI and ^{99m}Tc -MDP SPECT/CT diagnosis for the metastatic prostate cancer

A 64-year-old patient received hormone therapy with GS 4+4=8, PSA 7.46 ng/mL. A: ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT showed the right parailiac lymph node and lumbar 4 metastasis (arrows); B: MRI confirmed the presence of lymph nodal with critical size (top image) and lumbar 4 (bottom image) involvement (arrows); C: ^{99m}Tc -MDP SPECT/CT for lower spine showed false negativity for L4 metastasis (thin arrow), but with false positivity in multiple vertebral bodies due to bone hyperplasia (stubby arrow)

3 讨 论

PSMA是由前列腺上皮细胞分泌的一种相对分子质量为 100×10^3 的II型跨膜糖蛋白,具有叶酸水解酶和N-乙酰基化 α -连接的酸性二肽酶(NAALADase)活性,也被称作叶酸水解酶I或谷氨酸羧肽酶II。PSMA几乎在所有的前列腺癌细胞表面过度表达,且在低分化、转移性和雄激素非依赖型前列腺癌细胞中的表达进一步增加^[9],比在正常或增生前列腺、肾脏、肠道等正常组织中的表达水平要高1 000倍以上。因此,PSMA是前列腺癌诊断和治疗的理想靶点,在前列腺癌诊治及研究中有重大意义^[10]。

谷氨脲及其类似物(Glu-urea-R)是叶酸水解酶I小分子抑制剂,同时竞争性抑制PSMA的NAALADase,能够高效、特异性与前列腺癌细胞表面的PSMA相结合^[11-12]。作为PSMA靶向性的小分子物质的核心基团,Glu-urea-R具有便于合成及纯化、易于连接其他物质、易溶于水、能够稳定储存等特点,与PSMA的单克隆抗体相比,Glu-urea-R生物学活性稳定,体内循环半衰期短,组织渗透性好,因此Glu-urea-R在前列腺癌分子影像学方面具有极高的应用价值,国外已有多种放射性核素标记的谷氨脲类分子探针应用临床检测前列腺癌的复发和转移灶^[4-5, 13-15]。

本课题组前期用双功能螯合剂6-胍基烟酸修饰谷氨脲核心,合成了一种^{99m}Tc标记的新型PSMA小分子抑制剂谷氨脲类似物^{99m}Tc-PSMA,前列腺癌小鼠模型进行microSPECT/CT显像研究显示,PSMA表达阳性肿瘤高度摄取该新型放射性核素显像剂,1、2和4 h时肿瘤/肌肉比值分别为17.3、20.4和18.1,而阻断试验和PSMA表达阴性的肿瘤未见明显放射性摄取^[7]。在对患者进行多时相全身显像发现,^{99m}Tc-PSMA静脉注射后10 min平面显像就能清楚显示前列腺癌转移瘤,并且肿瘤放射性摄取随时间增高,于3 h达到峰值,膀胱、肾和涎腺大量放射性持续分布,而其他正常器官和组织

放射性分布较少且随时间逐渐洗脱。根据多时相显像结果,综合检查的便利性,本临床研究在^{99m}Tc-PSMA注射后多饮水排尿,2 h后进行SPECT/CT全身扫描和腹盆腔断层显像,根据平面显像结果必要时加做胸部断层显像,取得了较好的显像检查结果。

本研究25例患者中,2例前列腺癌根治术后痊愈,1例为前列腺增生,其余22例复发或转移的前列腺癌患者^{99m}Tc-PSMA SPECT/CT结果显示,16例至少探测到1处病灶,15例患者在全身平面显像时即可发现淋巴结和骨转移病灶,但由于膀胱尿液中放射性的干扰,前列腺病灶无法观察,通过SPECT/CT融合显像,既能对病灶准确定位,又较平面显像检出更多病灶,明显提高诊断准确率。以患者为单位,^{99m}Tc-PSMA阳性率为72.7%(16/22),特异度为100%(3/3)。如果患者前列腺肥大每次残留尿较多时,膀胱潴留尿中的放射性对盆腔病灶检测干扰较大,应与患者沟通导尿后再做盆腔断层显像。

目前,国外靶向PSMA前列腺癌分子影像方法应用最为广泛的是⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT检查^[5,16-19],从2011年至今临床应用结果表明,以患者为单位,⁶⁸Ga-PSMA PET/CT对前列腺原发灶和转移灶检测的灵敏度超过80.0%,特别是对PSA低水平增高的患者病灶较其他检查更有优势^[20],尤其是同机PET/MRI检查仪器的应用,更能提高前列腺癌原发灶和复发转移灶的检测率^[21]。PET/CT分辨率无疑要高于SPECT/CT,本研究中^{99m}Tc-PSMA SPECT/CT检出转移淋巴结最小直径为0.8 cm,更小的病灶多数要漏诊,而理论上PET/CT的分辨率可到达0.4 cm。PET/CT设备昂贵,单光子核素^{99m}Tc因其物理性能优良(半衰期和射线能量适中)、容易获得、价廉物美、临床应用方便,是核医学最常用的显像核素,用来成像的设备SPECT/CT价格和日常维护费用较PET/CT低得多,国内各中小城市医疗机构基本已经普及应用,虽然检查准确性不如PET/CT,但性价比高,^{99m}Tc-PSMA SPECT/CT在广大的经济欠发达地区有着更为广阔的应用前景。

前列腺癌容易发生骨转移, 核素骨显像是骨转移的首选筛查方法。但核素骨显像只是针对肿瘤骨转移后造成骨盐代谢异常的一种间接探测肿瘤的影像检查方法, 其敏感性高, 但特异性低, 骨质增生、骨骼退行性改变、轻微骨骼外伤等常易引起假阳性。在本研究中, 有3例患者同期进行了骨显像, 结果1例骨显像假阳性, 1例患者同时存在假阴性和假阳性。Vallabhajosula等^[4]用类似的谷氨脲类分子探针 ^{99m}Tc -MIP-1404和 ^{99m}Tc -MIP-1405对6例前列腺癌患者研究表明, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA能较骨显像提前3个月检查骨转移, 且 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA检出的病灶多于常规骨显像。因此, 当常规骨显像阴性或结果模棱两可时, 而骨病变的结果对临床治疗决策有重大影响时, 可进一步采用 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检查确诊或排除骨转移。

另外, 本研究发现 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA对肿瘤的检出率与PSA水平呈正相关, 而与Gleason评分无关, 这与其他分子探针研究结果相类似^[16, 22]。本组研究中, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性的前列腺癌患者最低PSA水平为2.26 ng/mL, 如果以PSA大于2 ng/mL作为生化或临床复发患者筛选检查条件, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA阳性率增加至94.1%(16/17)。由于本研究的样本量较小, 尚无法得到推荐 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检查的最低PSA水平。在本组PSA小于1.0 ng/mL的生化复发患者中, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA检查均阴性, 可能肿瘤太小, 或肿瘤活性尚处部分控制中, 导致其假阴性, 另1例PSA为9.28 ng/mL的根治术后复发患者 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA检查阴性, 可能是因为本例前列腺癌病灶PSMA不表达或低表达所致。为了避免一些无效检查, 后续研究将加大PSA低水平增高的前列腺癌生化复发患者样本量, 以期得到 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT检查的PSA水平指征。

本研究存在以下局限性: 样本量较小; 除有前列腺癌原发灶病理诊断外, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA检出的转移病均只是临床诊断, 尚需进一步随访、以除外假阳性; 本研究只有2例前列腺根治后痊愈患者和1例前列腺增生患者, 需要进一步扩大前列腺增生患者的样本量以评价 ^{99m}Tc -

PSMA对前列腺癌诊断的特异性。因此, 本研究中心拟将开展大样本的前瞻性临床对比研究, 以进一步确定 ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT在前列腺癌的早期诊断、生化复发和转移、疗效评价等方面的价值。

综上所述, ^{99m}Tc -PSMA SPECT/CT是一种新型的前列腺癌分子影像检查方法, 对前列腺癌原发灶和转移灶检查的特异性高, 具有较高的灵敏度, 临床应用方便, 便于推广, 特别是在无法配置PET/CT的中小城市医疗机构中具有广阔的应用前景, 为前列腺癌的精准确诊和个体化治疗带来了新的契机。

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