

甲状腺乳头状癌淋巴结转移率 和远处转移的关系

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[摘要] 背景与目的: 颈部淋巴结转移在甲状腺乳头状癌(papillary thyroid carcinoma, PTC)中多见。该研究旨在探讨PTC淋巴结转移率(the rate of involved lymph nodes, LR)与远处转移(distant metastasis, DM)的关系, 及其对DM的预测价值。方法: 随访162例PTC患者, 将其分为DM组(M₁组)41例和非DM组(M₀组)121例, 采用 t 检验、 χ^2 检验分别比较两组患者的基本病理特征。采用多因素分析评估LR在预测DM的意义。利用受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic curve, ROC)曲线及最佳诊断界值点评估LR及淋巴结转移数目(the number of involved lymph nodes, LNs)对DM的预测价值, 进一步采用Kaplan-Meier曲线评估LR及LNs发生DM的累积风险, 使用Log-rank法对差异进行统计学分析。结果: 两组患者在年龄及多灶性方面差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$), 在男性($\chi^2=13.039$, $P=0.000$)、腺外侵犯($\chi^2=2.941$, $P=0.000$)、病灶大小($t=-4.485$, $P=0.000$)方面存在显著差异。LR可以作为预测DM的独立因素($OR=1.133$, $P=0.000$)。随着LR的增高, LNs大于等于15组患者的DM风险显著高于LNs小于15组($P=0.0002$)。结论: LR可作为DM的独立预测指标, 其与LNs结合可以更好地预测DM的发生风险。

[关键词] 甲状腺乳头状癌; 淋巴结转移率; 淋巴结转移数目; 远处转移

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The relationship between the rate of involved lymph nodes and distant metastasis in papillary thyroid carcinoma GAO Wen^{1,2}, LIANG Jun³, LI Xiaoyi⁴, ZHAO Teng², WANG Chen¹, LIN Yansong¹ (1. Department of Nuclear Medicine, PUMC Hospital, CAMS and PUMC, Beijing 100730, China; 2. Department of Oncology, the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao 266003, Shandong Province, China; 3. Department of Oncology, Peking University International Hospital, Beijing 102206, China; 4. Department of General Surgery, PUMC Hospital, CAMS and PUMC, Beijing 100730, China)

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[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Lymph node metastasis commonly occurs in papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC). The object of this study was to investigate the relationship between the rate of involved lymph nodes (LR) and distant metastasis (DM) in PTC, and its potential value in predicting the risk of DM. **Methods:** PTC patients were divided into two groups as M₀ (121 cases) and M₁ (41 cases) according to the presence of distant metastases or not. The t -test and χ^2 test were used to evaluate the statistical differences in basic clinicopathological features between the two groups. Multivariate analysis was used to quantify LR as an independent factor of DM. The receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curve was employed to evaluate the clinical value of LR and the number of involved lymph node (LNs) for predicting DM and optimal cut-off point respectively. The cumulative risk of distant metastasis curves according to the LR and LNs status were constructed with the Kaplan-Meier method, and the Log-rank test was used to compare these curves. **Results:** There were no statistical differences in age and multifocality between two groups ($P>0.05$), while

significant differences in gender, extrathyroidal invasion and tumor size were observed. LR is an independent indicator for predicting DM (OR=1.133, $P=0.000$). An increase in LR was significantly associated with DM. Patients with more than 15 involved LNs had the steepest increasing pattern in the cumulative risk of DM compared with those who had less than 15 involved LN ($P=0.002$). **Conclusion:** LR may be an independent predictive marker for distant metastases in PTC, and its combination with LNs might better predict the risk of DM.

[**Key words**] Papillary thyroid carcinoma; The rate of involved lymph nodes; The number of involved lymph nodes; Distant metastasis

甲状腺乳头状癌(papillary thyroid carcinoma, PTC)是一种预后较好的恶性肿瘤, 患者的10年生存率高达90%以上^[1], 但仍有6%~24%的患者出现远处转移(distant metastasis, DM)^[2-4], 严重影响患者的生活质量及生存时间^[5]。颈部淋巴结转移是PTC肿瘤侵袭性的重要临床病理特征, 淋巴结转移率(the rate of involved lymph nodes, LR), 即淋巴结受累数目/清扫总数, 和淋巴结转移数目(the number of involved lymph nodes, LNs)是反映淋巴结受累程度的两个重要指标, 现有的研究显示, LNs与DM相关^[6], 在反映淋巴结受累程度的淋巴结转移率的研究方面, 目前主要侧重于LR与疾病复发之间的关系, 提示LR较高患者的复发风险显著增高^[7-8]。但有关于LR与DM的关系, 目前国内鲜有报道。因此, 本研究旨在从LR角度探讨颈部淋巴结侵犯与PTC患者DM之间的关系。

1 资料和方法

1.1 一般资料

回顾性分析2012年5月—2013年12月就诊于北京协和医院行术后¹³¹I治疗的162例PTC患者的临床资料。纳入标准: ①术式为双侧甲状腺全切或次全切术; ②病理诊断为淋巴结转移癌, 依据文献^[9]将术中淋巴结清扫数目限制在5个及以上。其中男性29例, 女性133例, 平均年龄(37.28±12.72)岁。中位随访时间为32个月。

1.2 分组及方法

根据患者的影像学检查(CT、¹³¹I诊断全身显像、¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT、全身骨显像)和血清学检查(促甲状腺激素、甲状腺球蛋白、甲状腺球蛋白抗体)结果综合判断是否存在远处转移, 将

其分为DM组(M₁组, $n=41$ 例)和非DM组(M₀组, $n=121$ 例)。比较分析2组患者在年龄、性别、LR、LNs及肿瘤侵袭特征等方面差异有无统计学意义, 评估LR是否可以作为预测DM的独立因素, 运用受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic curve, ROC)曲线评估LR及LNs在预测DM方面的应用价值并获得最佳界值点, 结合LNs及LR对DM风险进行预测。

1.3 统计学处理

应用SPSS 20.0进行统计学分析。首先采用 t 检验、 χ^2 检验分别比较两组患者在年龄、性别、病灶大小、病灶数目、LR、LNs、腺外侵犯方面的差异。通过对年龄、性别、病灶大小、病灶数目、LR及腺外侵犯进行多因素分析, 评估LR是否可以作为预测DM的独立因素。利用ROC曲线及最佳诊断界值点评估LR及LNs对DM的预测价值, 分析其预测DM的灵敏度及特异度。进一步分析并建立LNs与DM关系的ROC曲线并获得最佳界值点, 采用Kaplan-Meier模型评估LR及LNs与DM累积风险之间的关系, 使用Log-rank法对差异进行统计学分析。 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 远处转移的相关因素

在162例PTC患者中, M₀组患者121例(74.7%), M₁组患者41例(25.3%)。在两组患者中, 男性($\chi^2=13.039$, $P=0.000$)、腺外侵犯($\chi^2=2.941$, $P=0.000$)在M₁组的比例显著高于M₀组, 并且M₁组病灶显著大于M₀组($t=-4.485$, $P=0.000$)。患者在年龄($t=0.299$, $P=0.766$)及多灶性($\chi^2=2.942$, $P=0.086$)方面的差异均无统计学意义(表1)。

表 1 两组患者的临床病理特征与远处转移的关系

Tab. 1 Association between clinicopathologic features and DM in two groups

Clinicopathologic features	M ₀ group (n=121)	M ₁ group (n=41)	P value
Gender [n(%)]			0.000 ($\chi^2=13.039$)
Male	14(48.3)	15(51.7)	
Female	107(80.5)	26(19.5)	
Age ($\bar{x}\pm s$)/year	37±11	37±17	0.766 (t=0.299)
Multifocality [n(%)]			0.086 ($\chi^2=2.942$)
1	60(81.1)	14(18.9)	
>1	61(69.3)	27(30.7)	
Tumor size l/cm	1.3±1	2.4±1.4	0.000(t=-4.485)
Extrathyroidal invasion [n(%)]			0.000($\chi^2=2.941$)
Yes	34(54.8)	28(45.2)	
No	87(87.0)	13(13.0)	
LR/%	26.83±19.89	37.82±18.35	0.002(t=-3.117)
LN _s	7±7	26±26	0.000(t=-4.644)

2.2 淋巴结转移率与远处转移的关系

在单因素分析中, M₁组的LR($t=-3.117$, $P=0.002$)及淋巴结转移数目($t=-4.644$, $P=0.000$)均显著高于M₀组。各种临床病理因素对DM的多因素分析结果见表2, 显示LR可以作为预测DM的独立因素(OR=1.133, $P=0.000$)。LR与DM关系的ROC曲线见图1, 曲线下面积为0.701(95%CI: 0.620~0.782)。根据ROC曲线所得结果, 可得约登指数最大值为0.408, 该点所对应的LR为26.43%, 该点对应的灵敏度、特异度分别为78%和62.8%。以LR=26.43%为界值点, LR小于26.43%及LR大于等于26.43%的患者中DM所占比例分别为9.52%及41.56%。

表 2 PTC患者淋巴结转移率及临床病理因素在预测远处转移中的多因素分析

Tab. 2 Multivariate analysis of distant metastasis according to LR and clinicopathologic features

Clinicopathologic features	Multivariate analysis	
	OR(95%CI)	P value
Gender (Male/female)	0.405(0.142-1.152)	0.009
Extra thyroidal invasion (Yes/no)	3.414(1.359-8.577)	0.009
Tumor size	1.692(1.165-2.459)	0.006
Age	1.002(0.968-1.037)	0.901
Multifocality (>1/1 lesion)	2.319(0.956-5.629)	0.063
LR	1.026(1.005-1.049)	0.016

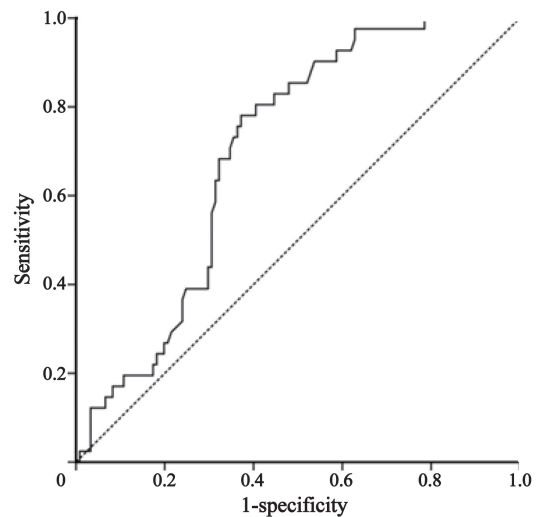


图 1 PTC患者淋巴结转移率与远处转移关系的ROC曲线

Fig. 1 The ROC curves of LR in predicting DM on PTC patients

2.3 淋巴结转移率联合淋巴结数目预测DM风险

LN_s与DM关系的ROC曲线见图2, 曲线下面积为0.861(95%CI: 0.794~0.928)。根据ROC曲线所得结果, 可得约登指数最大值为0.608, 该点所对应LN_s为15, 对应的灵敏度、特异度分别为70.0%和90.1%。根据LR及LN_s预测的DM累积风险见图3, 显示与LN_s小于15的患者相比, LN_s大于等于15者DM发生的风险随着LR

增加而显著增长($P=0.0002$)。而在同一LR时, LNs大于等于15组患者的DM风险显著高于LNs小于15组, 在LNs小于15或LNs大于等于15组中, DM的发生风险随着LR增大而增高。

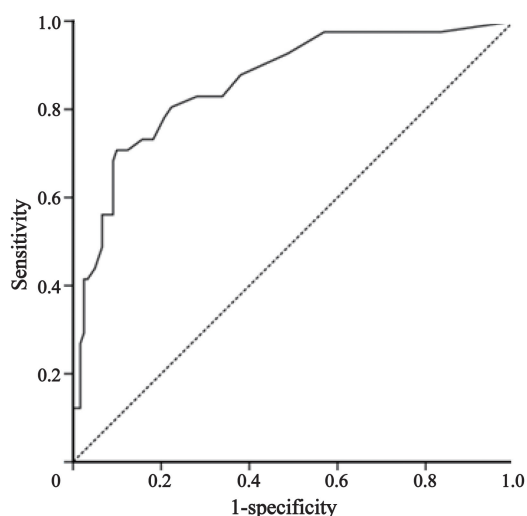


图2 PTC患者淋巴结转移数目与远处转移关系的ROC曲线

Fig. 2 The ROC curves of LNs in predicting DM on PTC patients

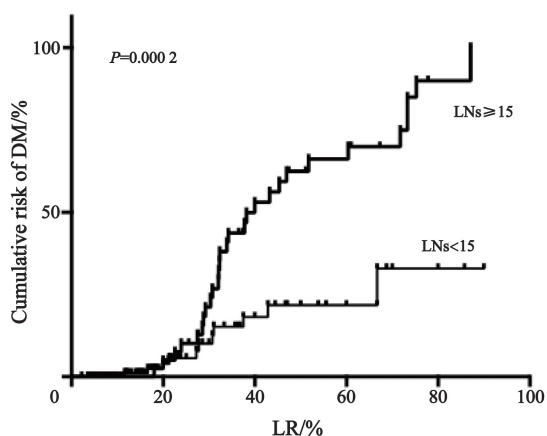


图3 根据淋巴结转移数目及淋巴结转移率预测的远处转移的累积风险

Fig. 3 Cumulative risks of distant metastasis according to LNs and LR

3 讨论

远处转移是PTC最常见的致死原因^[10-11], 这部分患者的5年生存率降至54.1%^[12]。目前研究已发现多种导致DM的危险因素, 如肿瘤直径^[13-14]、腺外侵犯^[15]、TERT基因突变^[16]; Jeon等^[6]对1700例患者8.5年的随

访研究发现, 淋巴结转移区域如颈侧区转移可作为预测DM的独立危险因素($OR=27.01$)。而Machens等^[17]的研究发现颈部LNs与患者DM发生风险相关, 如LNs大于20的复发风险明显增高($OR=25$)。上述LNs与DM的研究主要侧重于淋巴结转移的部位及数目。目前国内有关PTC淋巴结的清扫术式尚有待统一, 这使得仅从部位及数目角度判断淋巴结受累情况均显不足, 那么淋巴结受累率, 即LR, 能否更为客观地反映淋巴结转移情况呢? 本课题组前期研究显示, LR可以作为预测患者¹³¹I清甲治疗后最佳治疗反应的独立因素($OR=10.011$)^[18]。Park等^[8]通过纳入212例颈侧区淋巴结转移患者进行研究, 尚未发现LR与DM明确的相关关系, 但该研究仅纳入局限于颈侧区淋巴结转移者, 本研究不对淋巴结转移部位进行限制, 进一步探讨LR与DM之间的关系, 并联合LNs对DM的发生风险进行评估。

本文通过多因素分析显示, LR可以作为预测DM的独立危险因素($OR=1.026$, $P=0.016$)。分析LR与DM关系的ROC曲线发现, 将26.43%作为LR预测DM的最佳界值点时, 其灵敏度、特异度分别为78%和62.8%。在LR小于26.43%的患者中, 发生远处转移的比例不足10%, 而LR大于等于26.43%者中DM则达40%以上。这一结果表明, 26.43%可作为LR预测DM的界值, 对于LR大于这一界值的患者, 更应在治疗及随访过程中密切关注并警惕发生DM的可能。本研究亦同时纳入LNs这一指标, 通过分析LNs在预测DM的ROC曲线提示, LNs预测DM的界值点为15, 其对应的灵敏度、特异度分别为70.0%和90.1%。这一结果似乎优于LR对DM的预测, 目前有关PTC颈部淋巴结最佳清扫数目尚无明确界定, 但从本研究结果显示: 在纳入的PTC患者的清扫淋巴结总数大于等于5时, LNs已可反映出淋巴结受累的程度。

进一步对LNs和LR对DM发生的累积风险进行分析发现, 随着LR的增高, LNs大于等于15组患者的DM风险显著高于LNs小于15组

($P=0.0002$)。这一结果提示:在有效的综合LNs及LR这两个指标时,可以更为全面地反映淋巴结受累程度,有效地规避了单一指标预测DM的局限性。

除淋巴结的因素之外,本研究提示, M_1 组中男性显著多于 M_0 组,提示相较于女性,男性患者更容易发生DM,病灶较大的患者侵袭性较强,亦更易发生DM。本研究亦发现腺外侵犯可以作为预测DM的独立因素($OR=3.414$, $P=0.009$),这与Yamashita等^[15]的研究是一致的。因此,在 ^{131}I 治疗前评估中,男性、腺外侵犯、较大的病灶是远处转移风险评估中应予重视的因素。

综上,本研究显示,LR是影响预后的重要因素,以26.43%作为界值点时LR对预测DM有其临床价值,其与LNs结合可以更好地预测DM的发生风险。

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