



· 专题论著 ·



王永胜，二级教授、博士研究生导师，山东省肿瘤医院乳腺病中心主任，中国抗癌协会乳腺癌专业委员会副主任委员，中国抗癌协会国际医疗交流分会副主任委员；中国临床肿瘤学会乳腺癌专家委员会常委，中国医师协会肿瘤分会乳腺癌学组副组长，中华医学会肿瘤学分会乳腺癌学组委员，国家卫健委乳腺癌诊疗规范专家组成员，全球乳腺癌大会国际指导专家委员会成员，山东省抗癌协会靶向治疗分会主任委员。于国内率先开展乳腺癌保留乳房手术、前哨淋巴结活检替代腋窝淋巴结清扫术、乳腺病变微创诊断等研究，作为组长单位和首席专家，牵头开展了“中国临床早期乳腺癌前哨淋巴结活检替代腋窝清扫术的多中心研究”“乳腺癌内乳区前哨淋巴结活检术的多中心前瞻性临床验证研究”和“新型示踪技术引导乳腺癌内乳前哨淋巴结活检的多中心前瞻性临床研究”，研究成果已达到国际领先水平，并参与多项国际和国内乳腺癌Ⅲ期临床研究。以第一作者/通信作者发表论文100余篇，其中在SCI收录期刊上发表论文30余篇，出版专著（译著等）共4部，授权国家发明专利2项，获奖成果共5项，其中国家级1项、部（省）级4项，作为主要负责人承担国家级项目4项、部（省）级项目3项。

新型光声传感及成像系统探测乳腺癌前哨淋巴结的基础研究

赵家贤^{1, 2}，江道淮^{3, 4, 5}，丛斌斌^{1, 2}，高飞^{3, 4}，王永胜^{1, 2}

1. 山东第一医科大学（山东省医学科学院），山东 济南 250062；
2. 山东省肿瘤防治研究院（山东省肿瘤医院）乳腺病中心，山东 济南 250117；
3. 上海科技大学，信息科学与技术学院，混合成像系统实验室，上海 201210；
4. 中国科学院上海微系统所与信息技术研究所，上海 200050；
5. 中国科学院大学，北京 100049

[摘要] 背景与目的：前哨淋巴结活检（sentinel lymph node biopsy, SLNB）是临床淋巴结（lymph nodes, LN）阴性早期乳腺癌患者的标准分期技术，蓝染法联合核素法作为SLNB的标准方法仍有一定的局限性。应用新型荧光靶向示踪剂吲哚菁绿（indocyanine green, ICG）与利妥昔单抗（rituximab, RIT）偶联物（indocyanine green-rituximab, ICG-RIT），搭建手持式光声信号传感系统（photoacoustic signal sensing system, PASS）及手持式光声成像（photoacoustic imaging, PAI）系统，探索其探测富集ICG-RIT的淋巴组织穿透深度，研究其定位前哨淋巴结的可行性。方法：为探索PASS及PAI的组织穿透能力及定位能力，通过仿体实验将鸡胸组织覆盖于ICG-RIT染色的明胶仿体上模拟体内LN，通过PASS探测不同深度下ICG-RIT仿体的光声信号强度；同时设计人体组织试验—术前于患乳外上象限注射ICG-RIT，取荧光显像的LN于腋窝脂肪下，对比PASS、PAI及超声成像深度区别。通过SD大鼠后肢淋巴引流模型探索该技术作为SLNB的可行性，在SD大鼠后肢足垫皮下注射ICG-RIT，比较SD大鼠腋LN及髂LN的PASS及PAI定位区别。结果：仿体实验结果显示，PASS探测鸡胸组织下ICG-RIT仿体呈现特征性单峰信号，且信号强度与组织深度成反比，最大探测深度平均达52.42 mm。人体组织试验结果显示，PASS探测腋窝脂肪下ICG-RIT染色LN最大探测深度达32.72 mm，对比鸡胸组织下6.25%浓度ICG-RIT染色仿体最大探测深度达39.72 mm；PAI探测腋窝脂肪下ICG-RIT染色LN深度达25 mm。SD大鼠模型结果显示，ICG-RIT停留于SD大鼠腋LN，在PASS中光声信号呈现特征性单峰曲线，PAI呈现特征性“热点”图，而髂LN未见明显光声信号，对比亚甲蓝则同时染色腋LN及髂LN。结论：利用ICG-RIT的光声效应及靶向LN特性，通过手持式PASS及手持式PAI能准确定位SLN，同时

基金项目：国家自然科学基金（81672638）；山东省自然科学基金（ZR2021QH164）。

通信作者：高飞 E-mail: gaofei@shanghaitech.edu.cn 王永胜 E-mail: wangyish2008@aliyun.com

有良好的组织穿透深度,具备良好的应用前景,但仍需进一步临床试验数据证实。

[关键词] 乳腺癌; 光声成像; 前哨淋巴结活检; 新型荧光靶向示踪剂

DOI: 10.19401/j.cnki.1007-3639.2022.02.002

中图分类号: R737.9 文献标志码: A 文章编号: 1007-3639(2022)02-0106-12

Basic research on photoacoustic sensing and imaging system for detecting sentinel lymph node in breast cancer ZHAO Jiaxian^{1,2}, JIANG Daohuai^{3,4,5}, CONG Binbin^{1,2}, GAO Fei^{3,4}, WANG Yongsheng^{1,2} (1. Shandong First Medical University and Shandong Academy of Medical Sciences, Jinan 250062, Shandong Province, China; 2. Breast Cancer Center, Shandong Cancer Hospital and Institute, Jinan 250117, Shandong Province, China; 3. Hybrid Imaging System Laboratory, School of Information Science and Technology, Shanghai Tech University, Shanghai 201210, China; 4. Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai Institute of Microsystem and Information Technology, Shanghai 200050, China; 5. University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, China)

Correspondence to: GAO Fei E-mail: gaofei@shanghaitech.edu.cn

WANG Yongsheng E-mail: wangysh2008@aliyun.com

[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Sentinel lymph node biopsy (SLNB) is a standard staging technique for patients with clinical lymph nodes (LNs) negative early breast cancer. Blue staining combined with radionuclide method as the standard method of SLNB still has certain limitations. In this study, a new fluorescent targeted tracer indocyanine green-rituximab (ICG-RIT) was applied, and a handheld photoacoustic signal sensing (PASS) system and a handheld photoacoustic imaging (PAI) system were built to explore the tissue penetration depth of LNs enriched with ICG-RIT, and to study the feasibility of the new system locating LNs.

Methods: In order to study the tissue penetration ability of ICG-RIT and localization ability of PASS and PAI, three experiments were designed. For the phantom experiment, the PASS was used to detect the ICG-RIT dyed gelatin phantom which was covered with chicken breast tissue to simulate LNs *in vivo*. For the human tissue experiment, after ICG-RIT was injected into the breast before operation, the LNs enriched with ICG-RIT were excised during the surgery and detected by the fluorescence imaging system and gamma probe detection system. The axillary LNs were covered with the axillary fat and detected by PASS, PAI and ultrasound imaging in sequence to compare the performance. For the rat lymph drainage model experiment, ICG-RIT was subcutaneously injected into the hind paw pad of SD rats to compare the PASS and PAI detection differences between popliteal LNs and iliac LNs.

Results: The results of phantom experiment showed that ICG-RIT phantom under PASS detection showed the characteristic single-peak signal, and the signal amplitude was inversely proportional to the tissue depth, and the maximum detection depth was 52.42 mm on average. The human tissue experiment results showed that the maximum detection depth of ICG-RIT stained LNs under axillary fat detected by PASS was 32.72 mm, and the maximum detection depth of ICG-RIT stained phantom under 6.25% concentration of chicken breast tissue was 39.72 mm. The PAI detected ICG-RIT stained LNs in axillary fat up to 25 mm in depth. The results of SD rat model showed that ICG-RIT was collected by the popliteal LNs of SD rats, showing a monopolar curve on the PASS and a characteristic 'hot spot' on the PAI, and no obvious photoacoustic signal was found in iliac LNs. On the contrary, the methylene blue simultaneously stained popliteal LNs and iliac LNs. **Conclusion:** Taking advantage of the photoacoustic effect and targeting LNs characteristics of ICG-RIT, SLN can be accurately located by handheld PASS and handheld PAI with good penetration depth in tissue, showing potentials in clinical application. However, further clinical trial data are still needed to validate its clinical values.

[Key words] Breast cancer; Photoacoustic imaging; Sentinel lymph node biopsy; New fluorescent targeted tracer

乳腺癌前哨淋巴结 (sentinel lymph node, SLN) 的状态反映腋窝区域淋巴结 (lymph nodes, LN) 转移情况。前哨淋巴结活检术 (sentinel lymph node biopsy, SLNB) 已经取代腋窝淋巴结清扫术成为诊治早期乳腺癌区域LN转移患者的首要方案。目前国内及国际指南^[1-2]推荐蓝染法联合核素法作为SLN的定位方法。然而蓝染料颗粒直径较小,不具有靶向性,易将

次级LN染色,存在较高的假阴性率。核素存在放射性污染的问题,其制备过程复杂且需严格质控,限制了放射性核素示踪剂在临床中的推广^[3-5]。为此我们研制了新型荧光靶向示踪剂,将吲哚菁绿 (indocyanine green, ICG) 与利妥昔单抗 (rituximab, RIT) 偶联形成ICG-RIT,其以ICG产生荧光效应,以RIT产生靶向定位效应。该示踪剂具有靶向SLN的性能,且无放射性污染,

但目前以荧光脉管系统成像仪探测, ICG发出的荧光穿透组织厚度低, 较难发现位置深的SLN, 且易切断淋巴管使荧光示踪剂泄露导致周围组织荧光污染, 不易识别并定位SLN^[6-7]。

光声成像(photoacoustic imaging, PAI)是近年新兴的成像技术, 其结合了光学成像高对比度和超声成像高穿透力的优势, 具有良好的应用前景。ICG是常用的小分子近红外光声造影剂, 它是一种获得中国国家食品药品监督管理局批准的低毒染料, 具有较高的摩尔吸光系数 $[(2.3 \times 10^5 / (\text{mol} \cdot \text{cm}))]$ 。在水溶液中, ICG的光吸收峰在波长为780 nm处, 此波长下可获得在荧光染料中较低的荧光量子产率(0.027)。ICG能迅速与血浆蛋白结合, 结合后光吸收峰为805 nm, 所以临床上常利用其光声效应用作血流造影剂^[8]。

本研究利用ICG-RIT的光声效应, 以其作为光声造影剂, 搭建手持式光声信号传感系统(photoacoustic signal sensing system, PASS)及手持式光声成像(photoacoustic imaging, PAI)系统, 探索其探测富集ICG-RIT淋巴结的最佳探测深度, 研究其定位SLN的准确性。

1 材料和方法

1.1 实验材料及仪器

RIT 100 mg/10 mL, 购自上海罗氏制药有限公司; ICG 25 mg, 购自丹东医创药业有限责任

公司; 亚甲蓝(methylene blue, MB) 20 mg/2 mL, 购自济川药业集团有限公司; 明胶500 g, 购自济南槐荫蓝鲸实验设备销售经营部; PASS及PAI系统, 由上海科技大学混合成像系统实验室提供; MDM-I型荧光脉管系统成像仪, 购自廊坊明德生物医药技术有限公司; SD大鼠, 体重为200~300 g, 雌性, 无菌级, 购自浙江维通利华实验动物技术有限公司; 鸡胸组织自备; 其他试剂为国产AR级。

1.2 搭建手持式PASS及手持式PAI

根据PAI原理搭建手持式PASS及手持式PAI。实验采用能量为80~100 mJ的波长可调脉冲激光器(Phocus Mobile, OPOTEK, Carlsbad, CA), 激发光源波长选择本次实验所测ICG-RIT光吸收峰780 nm(图1), 脉冲重复频率为10 Hz, 脉冲持续时间为10 ns。激光通过光纤围绕在频率2.5 MHz, 带宽80%的单点超声换能器(仿体实验使用的超声换能器厂商为日本奥林巴斯公司, 人体组织试验超声换能器厂商为广州多浦乐电子科技股份有限公司), 与皮肤的距离不同产生直径3~5 cm照射范围, 激光能量小于最大允许曝光量(20 mJ/cm²), 信号通过示波器收集(图2)。PAI采用同款激光器, 激光通过光纤由两侧贴合于频率7.5 MHz, 带宽80%的128通道线性阵列超声换能器(广州多浦乐电子科技股份有限公司), 示意图见图3。

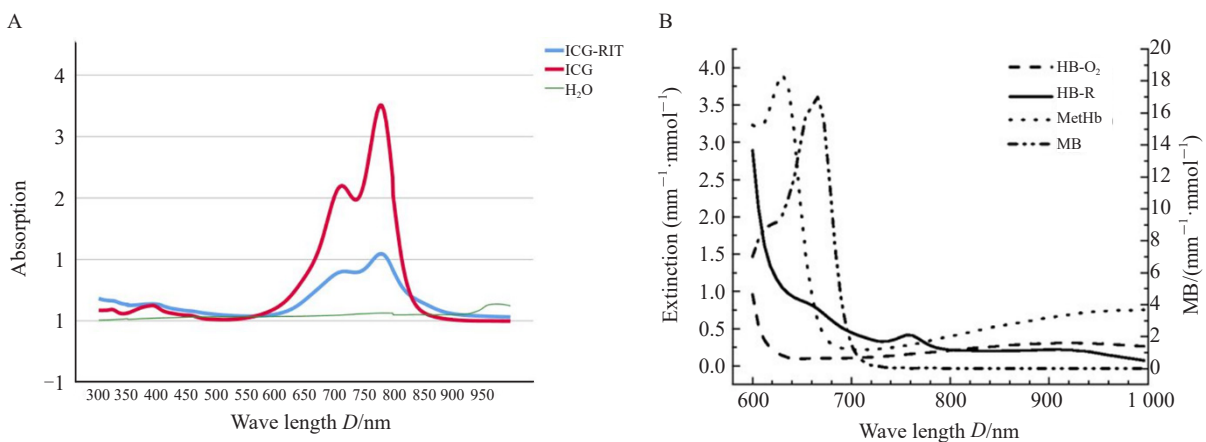


图1 光声造影剂光吸收谱对比

Fig. 1 Comparison of optical absorption spectra of different photoacoustic agents

A: The absorption peaks of ICG and ICG-RIT were 780-800 nm; B: The light absorption peaks of methylene blue, methemoglobin, oxyhemoglobin and deoxyhemoglobin were located at 660-680 nm, 620-640 nm and below 600 nm, respectively.

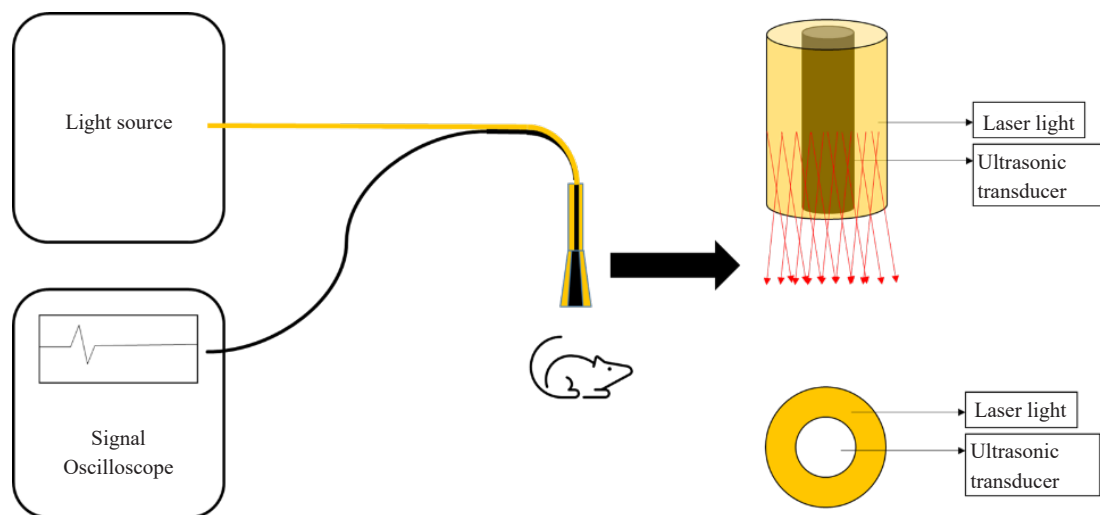


图2 手持式PASS结构示意图

Fig.2 The diagram of the structure of hand-held photoacoustic signal sensing system

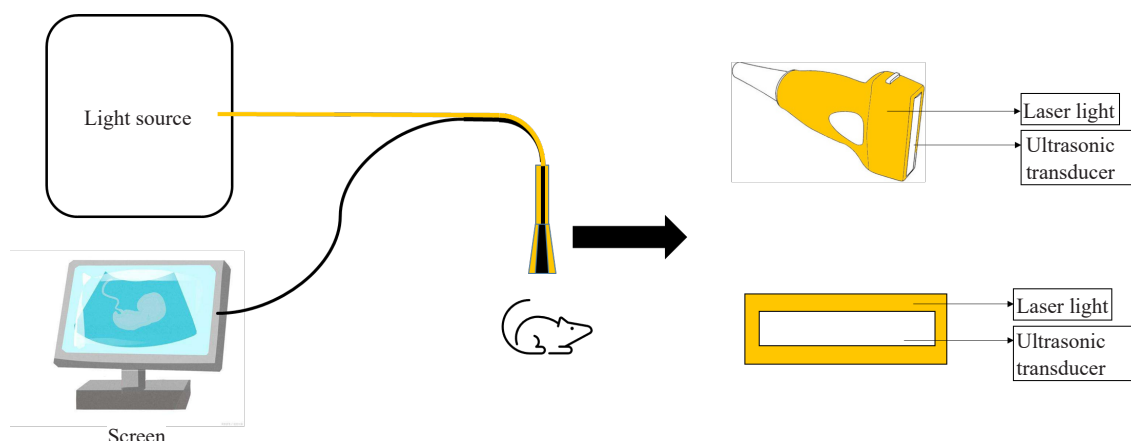


图3 手持式PAI结构示意图

Fig. 3 The structure of hand-held photoacoustic imaging system

1.3 制备新型示踪剂及模拟腋窝环境

根据我们团队的研究^[6-7]，以RIT与ICG最佳质量比4:1配制新型示踪剂1 mL，含ICG 1.25 mg (1.613 mmol/L)，RIT 5 mg (34.756 μmol/L)。ICG与RIT偶联后其光吸收峰位于780 nm附近，与ICG光吸收峰780 nm近似，对比MB光吸收峰位于664 nm，血红蛋白光吸收峰位于600 nm以下^[9-10] (图1)。偶联的ICG-RIT保持抗体分子的完整性和免疫活性，且无菌、无致热原，也无急性毒性。

仿体实验以ICG-RIT染色明胶模仿体外LN，取5份1 mL ICG-RIT分别用无菌注射用

水稀释至100.00%、50.00%、25.00%、12.50%和6.25%备用；取10 g明胶，加入30 mL无菌注射用水隔水加热溶解，在冷却至室温时加入不同浓度ICG-RIT染色，置于4 °C冰箱静置凝固，成型后分割成直径0.5 cm，厚度0.3 cm的圆柱形仿体。有研究^[11-12]显示，鸡胸组织光散射系数与人体乳腺组织相似，故本实验采用鸡胸组织模拟人体乳腺组织，将鸡胸组织切割成长约7.0 cm，宽约3.0 cm，厚度约1.0 cm薄片。鸡胸组织的确切厚度将通过PASS测量。

人体组织试验在拟行SLNB患者术前3~18 h

于6、12点位腺体内注射 ^{99m}Tc -硫胶体(各0.6 mL 0.5 mCi, $1\text{ mCi}=3.7\times 10^7\text{Bq}$), 同时患乳外上象限乳晕旁单点皮下注射ICG-RIT 1.0 mL, 术中应用核素法及荧光显像法遵循 SLNB 操作规范行 SLNB, 术中取荧光显像的SLN以明确ICG-RIT引流至SLN。收集乳房标本中远离瘤床及LN的腋窝脂肪层, 切割成长约5.0 cm, 宽约3.0 cm, 厚度约1.0 cm薄片以之模拟腋窝环境, 其确切厚度通过PASS测量。

1.4 实验设计

1.4.1 光声穿透组织深度实验

1.4.1.1 仿体实验

取不同浓度的ICG-RIT仿体, 放置于不同层数鸡胸组织下, 用手持式PASS探测光声信号。同时测量MB明胶仿体光声信号作为对照。每组重复3次取平均值。实验共采集30组数据(表1)。

1.4.1.2 人体组织试验

取红外荧光显像的SLN, 放置于不同层数腋窝脂肪下, 用手持式PASS探测光声信号, 用手持式PAI与超声成像对比其成像效果及穿透深度。试验共采集10例原发性乳腺癌患者数据。患者均签署知情同意书(2021年7月—12月就诊于山东省肿瘤医院乳腺外科一病区, 共行10例次SLNB)。

1.4.2 大鼠SLNB模型实验

1.4.2.1 实验组

据解剖图示及研究结果^[13]显示, SD大鼠后肢淋巴引流由双侧腓LN引流至髂LN, 我们定义腓LN为SLN, 髂LN为次级LN。取0.1 mL ICG-RIT, 含ICG 0.125 mg, 麻醉大鼠后注射至大鼠后肢足垫皮下, 据团队既往研究^[14], 注射后18 min后腓LN开始显像, 39 min达到最佳显像效果。本实验设置注射后30 min用PASS探测并记录腓窝LN及髂LN光声信号强度, 同时行PAI。根据光声信号及成像结果解剖大鼠后肢及盆腔, 取出对应LN并置于PASS下探测并记录光声信号强度。取3只SD大鼠重复实验。

1.4.2.2 对照组

取0.1 mL MB(1 mg), 麻醉大鼠后注射至大鼠后肢足垫皮下, 重复上述实验步骤。取3只SD大鼠重复实验。

2 结果

2.1 PASS探测鸡胸组织下ICG-RIT仿体

示波器采集信号均显示鸡胸组织置于仿体上时可探测到相同基础信号, 为鸡胸组织的光声信号, 同时在基础信号上ICG-RIT仿体呈现特征性单峰信号波形, 证明PASS可特异性识别鸡胸组织下的ICG-RIT仿体(图4)。示波器采集数据后平均计算X轴距离, 得0~4层鸡胸组织平均厚度分别为0.00、15.13、24.84、39.72和52.42 mm。取单纯鸡胸组织基础光声信号为0, 测得单纯浓度100%的ICG-RIT仿体光声信号强度为26.70 mV, 在平均52.42 mm深处平均光声信号强度为5.87 mV; 对比100%MB在深度为0.00 mm处产生光声信号强度19.45 mV, 52.42 mm处产生光声信号强度4.34 mV(表1)。随着探测深度的增加, ICG-RIT浓度的降低, 仿体的光声信号逐渐减小(图4)。PASS探测25%ICG-RIT仿体达到最大探测深度62.22 mm, 信号强度为2.75 mV(图5)。6.25%ICG-RIT仿体在46.95 mm深度测得光声信号强度最小可观测值为2.74 mV, 与基础信号区分度小, 不予采用(图6)。

2.2 PASS、PAI与US探测腋窝脂肪下SLN

术中应用核素法及荧光法取得SLN, 在荧光脉管系统成像仪中显示为发光LN(图7)。PASS探测腋窝脂肪获取基础信号(图8), SLN在不同厚度脂肪下均呈现特征性单峰信号, 且随着深度减少光声信号减弱, 最大穿透深度为32.72 mm时光声信号为31 mV, 与6.25%的ICG-RIT在鸡胸组织下光声信号相似(图6D)。PAI可清晰成像约2.5 cm深度SLN, 对比超声可成像约4 cm深度SLN(图9)。

2.3 ICG-RIT定位SLN的能力

ICG-RIT组, 3只SD大鼠用PASS及PAI探测腓LN体表, 距超声换能器9.57 mm处探及高信号, 光声信号平均为2.00 mV, 对侧后肢腓LN处未探及明显信号, 髂LN处未探及明显信号(图10)。沿光声信号解剖大鼠后肢未见绿染LN

表 1 不同浓度ICG-RIT仿体在各深度下的光声信号强度

Tab. 1 Amplitudes of ICG-RIT phantoms with different concentrations at different depths

Depth <i>D</i> /mm	PA intensity of different agents <i>U</i> /mV					MB	Chicken breast tissue
	100%ICG-RIT	50%ICG-RIT	25%ICG-RIT	12.5%ICG-RIT	6.25%ICG-RIT		
0.00	26.70	20.99	12.60	9.79	9.51	19.45	0
15.13	15.80	12.04	9.66	9.23	6.99	11.06	
24.84	13.58	8.39	7.84	7.41	6.17	9.93	
39.72	10.22	7.56	6.85	4.61	3.78	5.73	
52.42	5.87	4.62	3.42	3.36	0.00	4.34	

(图10G、H)。取下LN后可见腮LN光声信号平均为2.50 mV，髂LN未见明显光声信号。MB组，腮LN处距超声换能器6.19 mm处探及光声信号平均为2.25 mV，髂LN处距换能器14.34 mm处探及光声信号平均为3.00 mV，PAI明确显像腮LN及髂LN(图11A~D)，取出LN后见腮LN光声信号平均为20.25 mV，髂LN光声信号7.74 mV(图12)。大鼠后肢注射ICG-RIT和MB各级LN光声信号强度对比如表1所示。证明PASS能准确地定位富集ICG-RIT的LN，具有定位SD大鼠腮LN的性能，且在30 min内无次级LN显像。对比

可看出，肉眼下MB染色的LN可视性优于ICG-RIT组(图10G、H和图11E、F)。

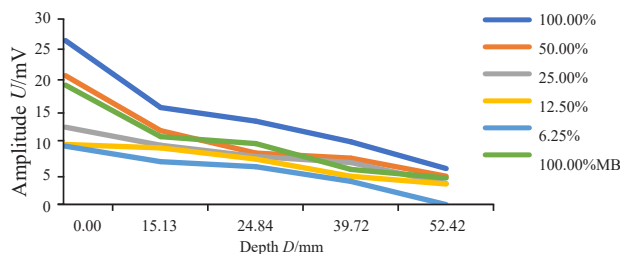


图 4 不同浓度ICG-RIT仿体在各深度下的光声信号强度变化趋势

Fig. 4 Amplitudes of ICG-RIT phantoms with different concentrations at different depths

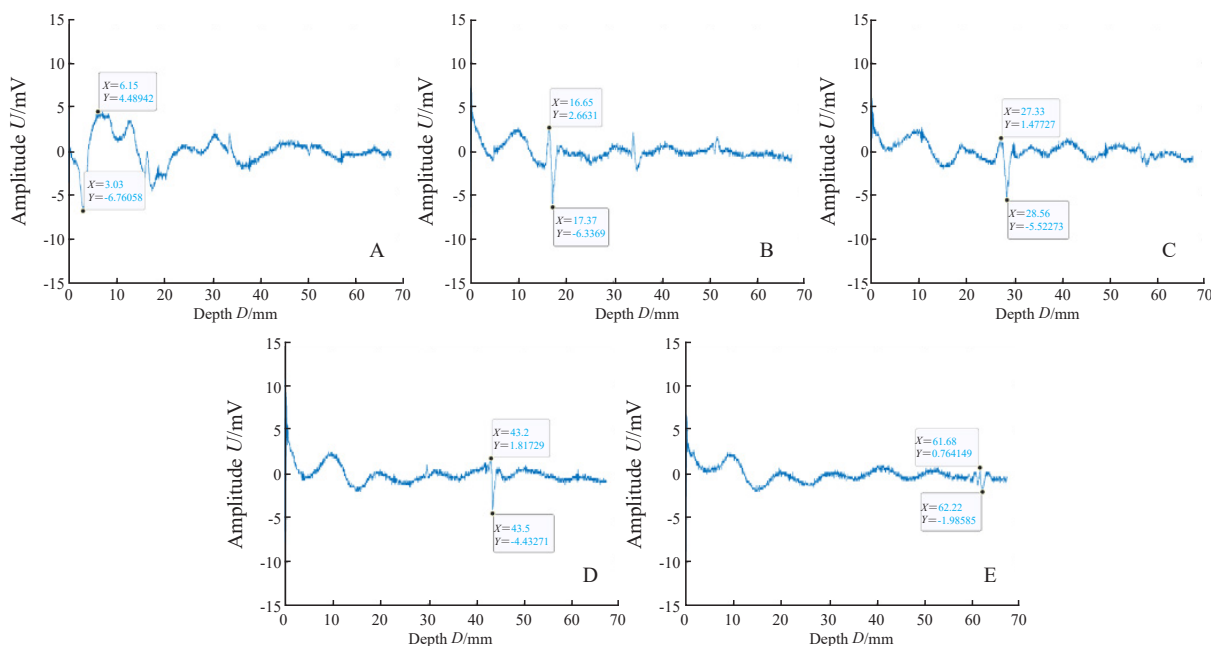


图 5 25%浓度ICG-RIT仿体在各深度下的光声信号图

Fig. 5 Photoacoustic signals of 25% concentration ICG-RIT phantoms at different depths

A: PA signal amplitude was 11.20 mV; Depth was 6.15 mm; B: PA signal amplitude was 8.99 mV; Depth was 17.37 mm; C: PA signal amplitude was 7.00 mV; Depth was 28.56 mm; D: PA signal amplitude was 6.25 mV; Depth was 43.50 mm; E: PA signal amplitude was 2.75 mV; Depth was 62.22 mm.

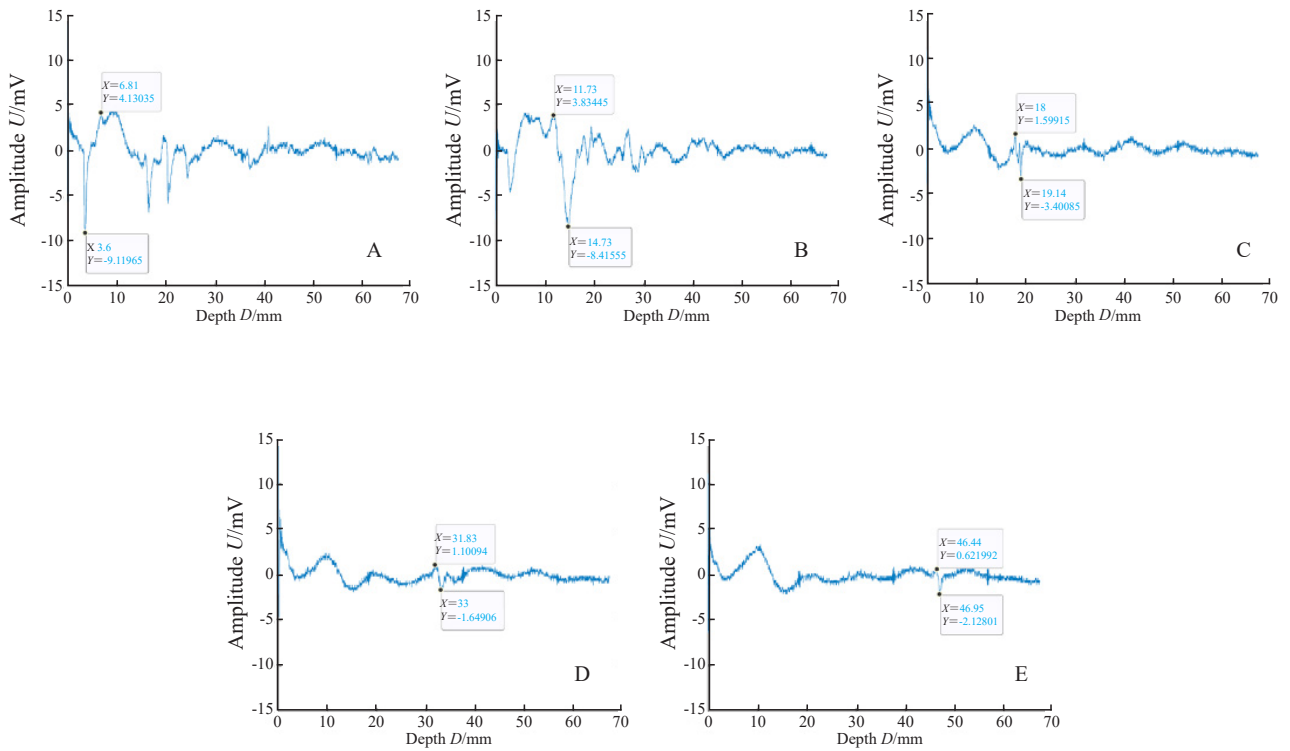


图 6 6.25%浓度ICG-RIT仿体在各深度下的光声信号图

Fig. 6 Photoacoustic signals of 6.25% concentration ICG-RIT phantoms at different depths

A: PA signal amplitude was 13.24 mV; Depth was 6.81 mm; B: PA signal amplitude was 12.25 mV; Depth was 14.73 mm; C: PA signal amplitude was 5.00 mV; Depth was 19.14 mm; D: PA signal amplitude was 2.74 mV; Depth was 33.00 mm; E: Photoacoustic signal at 46.95 mm depth was not used because of the low differentiation.

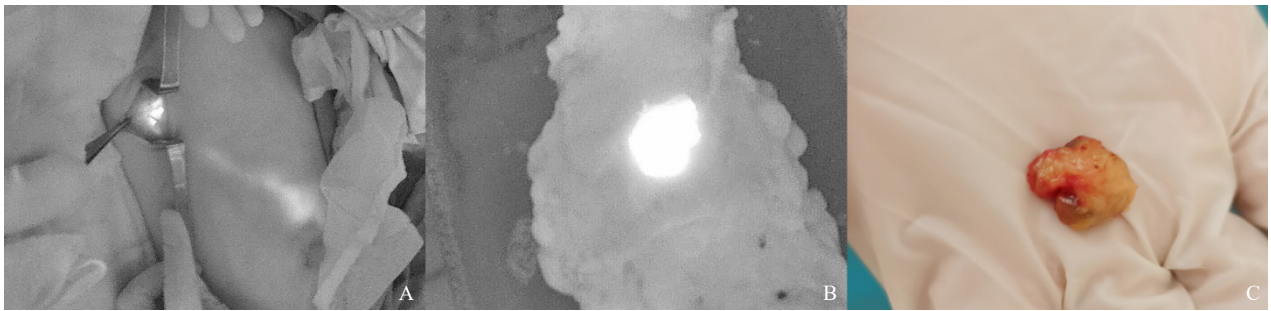


图 7 荧光法行SLNB

Fig.7 Lymph nodes in NIR fluorescence imaging system

A: Lymph drainage in the NIR fluorescence imaging system after subareolar injection of ICG-RIT; B: Image of excised SLN in the NIR fluorescence imaging system; C: Visual inspection of the excised SLN.

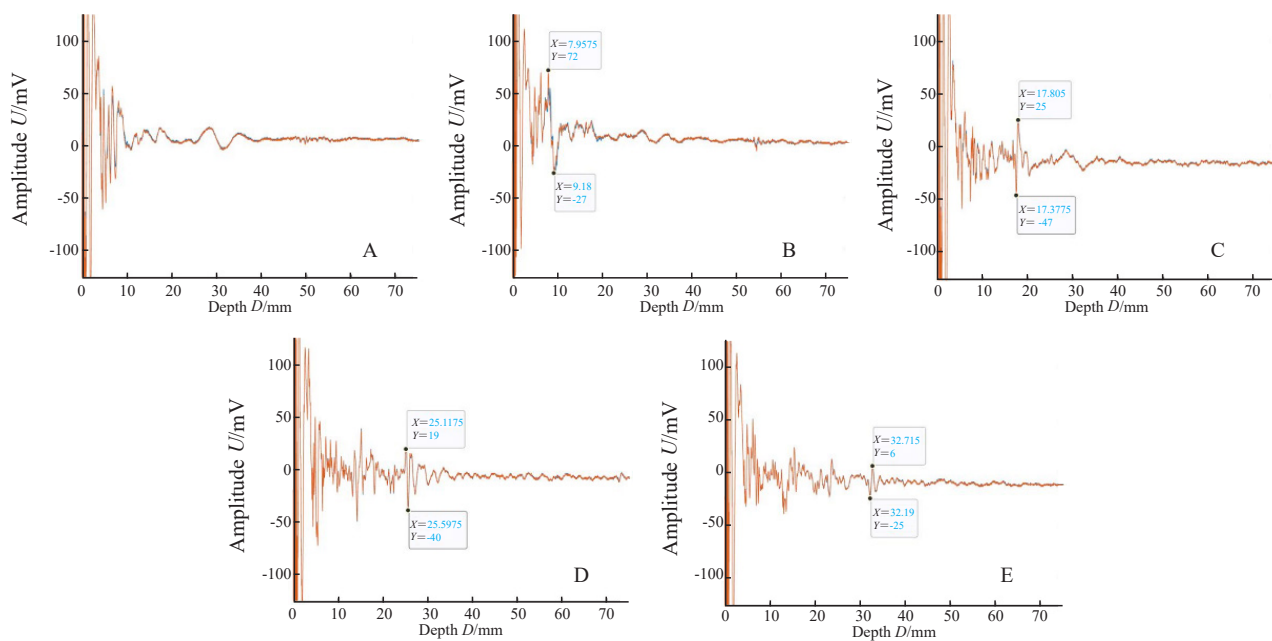


图 8 SLN在不同层数腋窝脂肪下光声信号图

Fig. 8 Photoacoustic signals SLN at different depths

A: The photoacoustic signal of axillary fat; B: PA signal amplitude was 99 mV; Depth was 9.18 mm; C: PA signal amplitude was 72 mV; Depth: 17.37 mm; D: PA signal amplitude was 59 mV; Depth was 25.60 mm; E: PA signal amplitude was 31 mV; Depth was 32.72 mm.

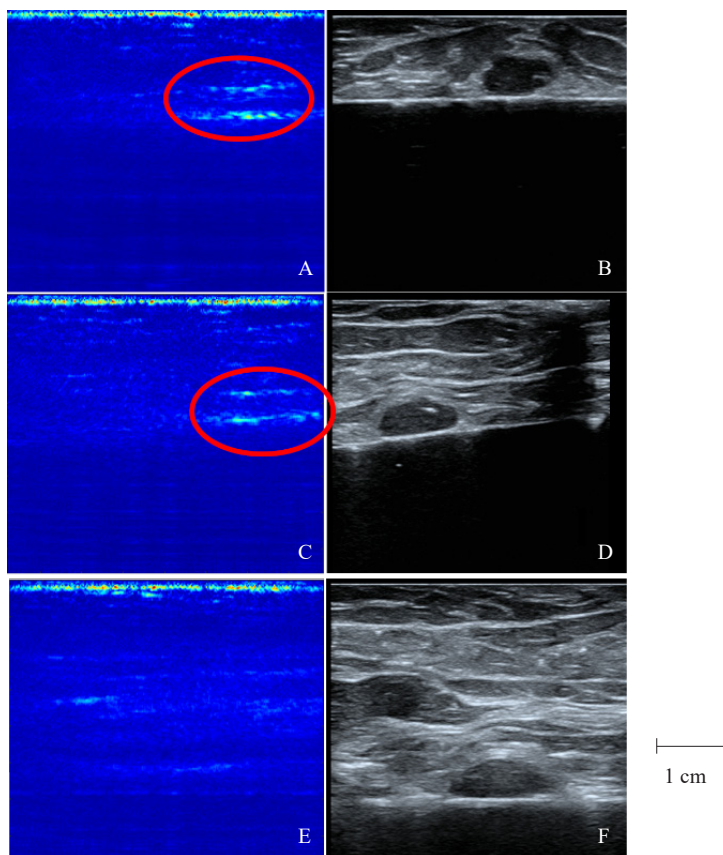


图 9 SLN在深度不同的腋窝脂肪下光声成像与超声成像

Fig. 9 Photoacoustic images and ultrasound images of SLN at different depths

A, B: Both PAI and US imaged SLN under about 1 cm thick axillary fat; C, D: Both PAI and US imaged SLN under about 2.5 cm thick axillary fat; E: No significant SLN signal was found in PAI under about 4 cm thick axillary fat; F: US imaged SLN under about 4 cm thick axillary fat.

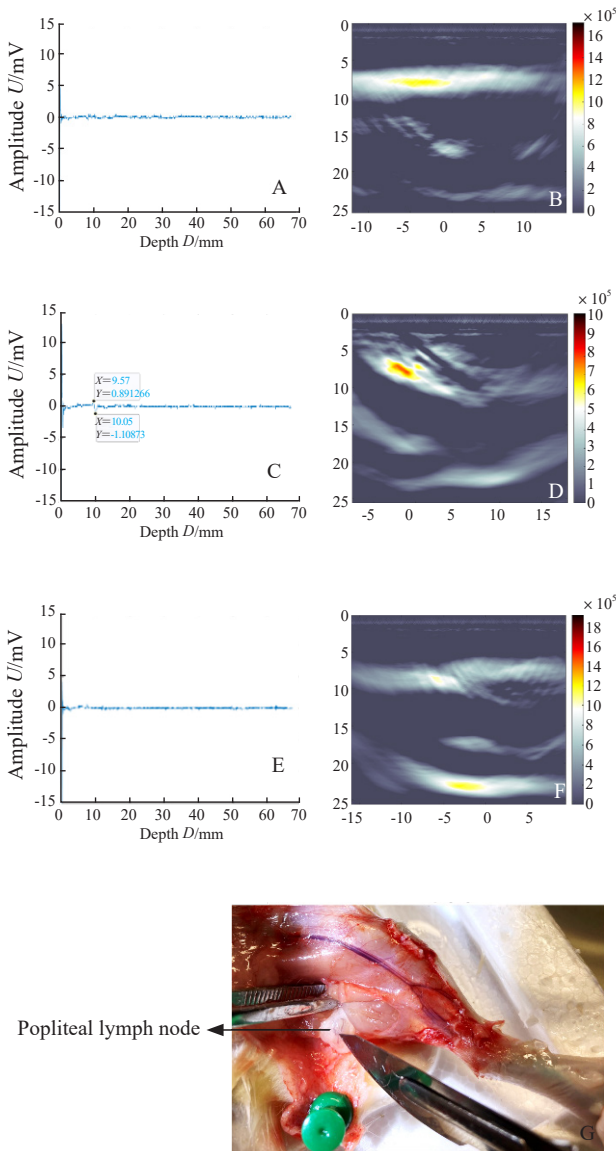


图 10 大鼠后肢注射ICG-RIT各级LN光声信号强度及对应光声成像
Fig. 10 Amplitudes and photoacoustic images after injection of ICG-RIT

A, B: No significant signal of the popliteal LNs in the PASS and PAI was observed with no ICG-RIT injection; C, D: Characteristic photoacoustic signal in the PASS and PAI of the popliteal LNs was detected at 10.05 mm depth after ICG-RIT injection; E, F: No significant signal of the iliac LNs in the PASS and PAI was observed after ICG-RIT injection; G, H: No obvious staining of the popliteal LNs and the iliac LNs dissected along photoacoustic signal.

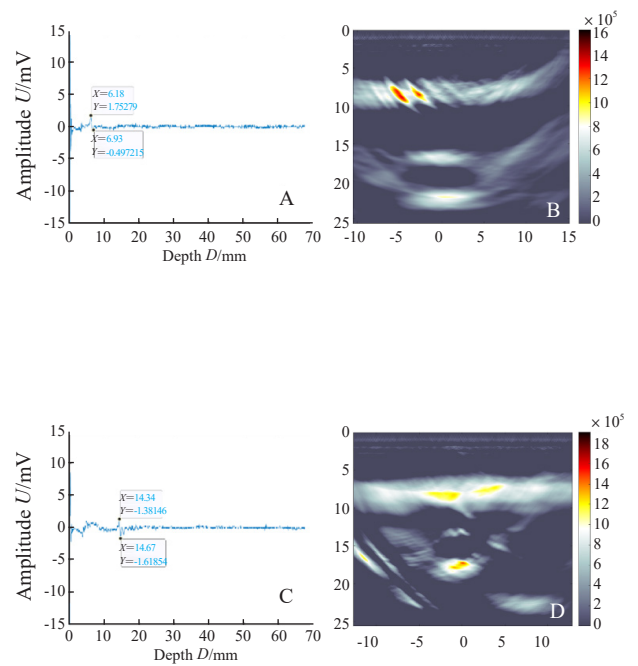
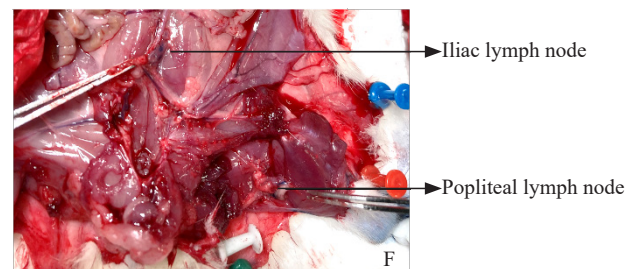
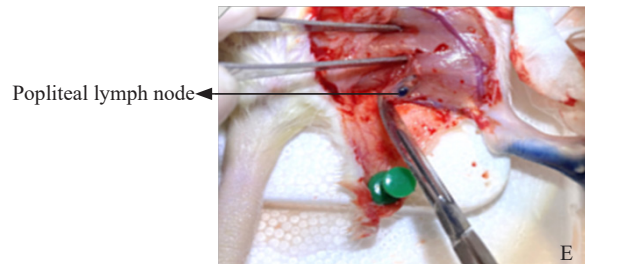
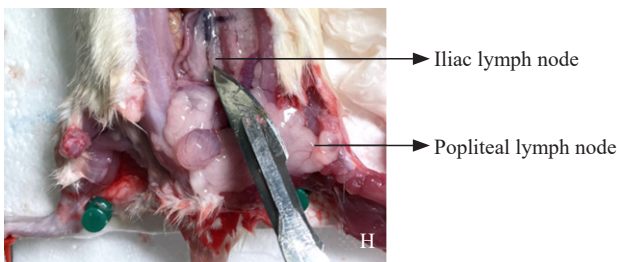


图 11 大鼠后肢注射MB各级LN光声信号强度及对应光声成像
Fig. 11 Amplitudes and photoacoustic images after injection of MB

A, B: Characteristic photoacoustic signal in the PASS and PAI of the popliteal LNs was detected at 6.93 mm depth after MB injection; C, D: Characteristic photoacoustic signal in the PASS and PAI of the iliac LNs was detected at 14.67 mm depth after MB injection; E, F: Obvious staining of the popliteal LNs and the iliac LNs dissected along photoacoustic signal.



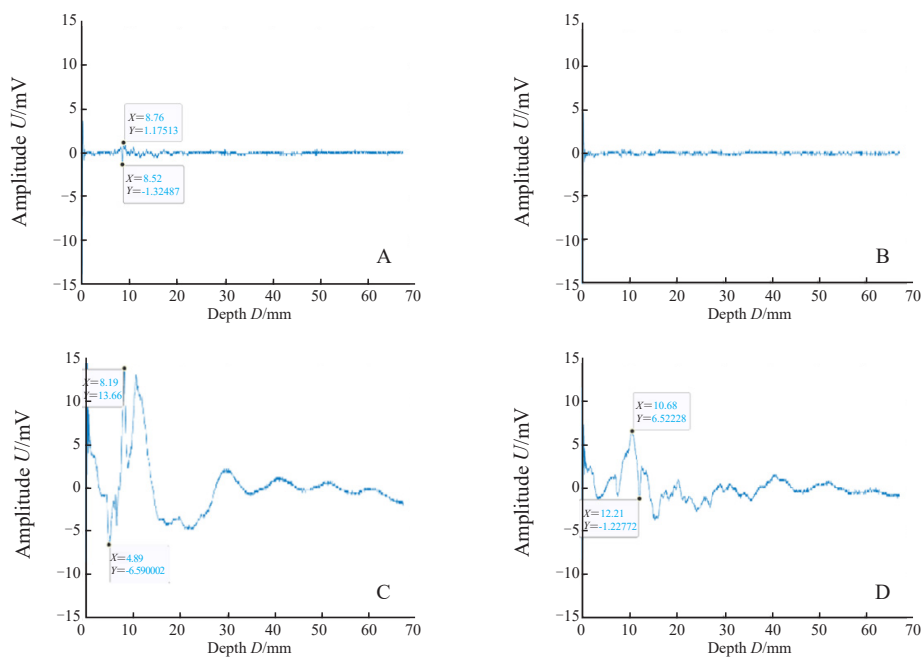


图 12 离体LN后光声信号图

Fig. 12 Amplitudes of ex vivo lymph nodes

A: ICG-RIT injection *ex vivo* popliteal LNs PA signal amplitude was 2.50 mV; B: ICG-RIT injection *ex vivo* popliteal LNs PA signal amplitude was 0 mV; C: MB injection *ex vivo* popliteal LNs PA signal amplitude was 20.25 mV; D: MB injection *ex vivo* popliteal LNs PA signal amplitude was 7.74 mV.

表 2 大鼠后肢注射ICG-RIT与MB各级LN光声信号强度对比 (mV)

Fig. 2 Amplitude differences between ICG-RIT and MB at different level lymph nodes

Item	<i>In vivo</i>			<i>Ex vivo</i>	
	Contralateral popliteal lymph node	Popliteal lymph node	Iliac lymph node	Popliteal lymph node	Iliac lymph node
ICG-RIT	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.50	0.00
MB	0.00	2.25	3.00	20.25	7.74

3 讨 论

SLNB是早期乳腺癌患者分期的标准技术，SLN阴性的患者可以豁免腋窝淋巴结清扫，从而减少腋窝淋巴结清扫引发的上肢淋巴水肿、感觉异常及运动障碍等并发症^[1-2]。因此准确定位并识别SLN是重要环节。当前指南^[15]推荐蓝染法联合核素法作为SLN示踪技术，但其仍存在一定的限制性，MB会使次级LN染色，可出现皮肤色素沉着导致坏死的不良反应；核素具有放射性，同时其制备过程需严格质控，这需要医院配备核医学科室^[3-5]。理想的示踪剂应具备靶向性：局部注射后，由外周淋巴管网快速到达并大量积聚在SLN，不进入次级淋巴结；可视性：确保SLN

可被准确识别，肉眼可见/可经特殊设备探测发现；可重复性：易质控；以及安全性、操作简便、价格低廉等特点^[8]。

为此，我们团队研究将大分子的RIT与小分子的ICG进行偶联，其原理为小分子ICG中的含硫活性基团与大分子RIT中的自由氨基相结合，每个大分子的利妥昔单抗能偶联15~20个小分子ICG，新形成的ICG-RIT以ICG产生荧光效应，以RIT产生靶向定位效应。通过荧光成像仪显像富集ICG-RIT的SLN，以此行SLNB。该新型示踪剂制备工艺简单且无放射性危害，为无菌、无致热原、无急性毒性的示踪剂。同时，ICG-RIT是一种粒径稳定的偶合物，通过透射电镜确认其粒径为200~300 nm，皮下注射时能通过淋巴管（100~500 nm）而不会进入毛细血管（20~50 nm）。

当RIT与ICG以质量比为4:1制备,注射剂量为10 $\mu\text{L}/20\text{ mg}$ 小鼠时(含ICG 12.5 μg),在荧光成像系统中能达到SLN显像且无次级LN显像效果。但其最大穿透深度约为22 mm,实际操作中容易漏检产生荧光效应的淋巴管及LN^[6-7, 16]。

本研究利用ICG的光声效应,其依赖于光热转换,造影剂吸收脉冲激光引起局部热弹性膨胀,随后向外辐射超声波,由于不同组织成分的光吸收系数不同,超声换能器可以检测到不同强度的超声波,分析处理后即形成了组织光能吸收差异光声信号图。光声技术不仅结合了光学成像高对比度和超声成像高穿透力的优势,还能通过光声造影剂获得组织功能和相关分子信息,有助于组织结构形态、生理病理特征和代谢功能等的研究,在生物医学领域具有广阔的应用前景^[8-10]。ICG光吸收峰位于近红外区域,与RIT结合后光吸收峰位于780 nm,在手持式PASS下定位效果优于荧光成像系统。

本研究应用100 $\mu\text{L}/250\text{ mg}$ 大鼠(含ICG 125 μg),实验显示注射30 min后,SD大鼠腭LN显像,而无髂LN显像,证明ICG-RIT靶向停留在腭LN中,在PASS系统中成像特征性单峰信号图,证明富集ICG-RIT的LN能被特异性识别;在仿体实验中,小于2.74 mV的光声信号难以与鸡胸组织产生的基础信号区分,而大鼠实验中2.00 mV信号与基础信号区分度大,即光声信号强弱不代表识别难易程度。不同组织下基础光声信号呈现不同波形,识别特定信号依赖于与基础信号的区分,提示后续研究需采集不同组织的基础信号,以识别特定信号波形,从而避免系统误差,提示操作手持式PASS系统需要一定的学习曲线。接收到的光声信号强度与超声换能器到探测组织内产生光声信号源的距离相关,距离越近光声信号强度越高,预计临床应用时与核素探测仪效果相似,即探头与被探测物越近则信号越强,结合特定信号区别于基础信号即可识别前哨LN。ICG-RIT淋巴结在PASS系统中穿透腋窝脂肪厚度达到32.72 mm,突破以往利用荧光效应显像时穿透深度低的限制;深度大于32.72 mm时,其特定信号与基础信号难以区分,这是因为激光

穿透组织深度有限,以及光声信号穿透组织时有更大衰减使得信号淹没在其他非目标组织所产生的信号中。

早期乳腺癌腋窝的外科处理传统意义上是为了提升生存率、提高局部控制率以及为分期和治疗决策提供依据。当前早期乳腺癌外科处理在有效的局部控制及全身治疗的基础上呈现降阶梯化的趋势,腋窝处理更大的作用在于提供分期信息以及为全身治疗决策提供依据。在此背景下,精准识别乳腺癌腋窝SLN能更大程度地减少患者腋窝损伤,提高生活质量。利用ICG-RIT的淋巴结靶向性及新型手持式PASS和手持式PAI的高组织穿透力,该技术有望精准地识别乳腺癌SLN,使SLNB进一步微创化,是一项理想的示踪技术,需要进一步开展临床试验证实。

总之,利用ICG-RIT的光声特性、靶向LN特性及良好的被探测深度,通过手持式PASS系统及手持式PAI能特异性定位SLN,具有良好的应用前景,但仍需进一步临床试验数据证实。

利益冲突声明:所有作者均不存在利益冲突。

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(收稿日期: 2021-12-24 修回日期: 2022-01-10)

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