



· 综 述 ·

肿瘤内微生物组的研究进展

李欣然^{1, 2}, 梁依依¹, 屠 红¹

1. 上海交通大学医学院附属仁济医院上海市肿瘤研究所, 肿瘤系统医学全国重点实验室, 上海 200032;
2. 复旦大学基础医学院, 上海 200032

[摘要] 肿瘤内微生物组是指存在于肿瘤中并构成肿瘤微环境的微生物群体。虽然肿瘤病毒的研究已有百余年历史, 但细菌、真菌等其他微生物在肿瘤中的存在现象及生物学意义却一直未有定论。近年来, 随着高通量测序技术的发展, 日益增多的证据表明, 细菌等微生物确实能够存活于肿瘤组织中, 并与肿瘤的发生、发展及耐药有一定的相关性。本文综述了肿瘤内微生物组的最新研究进展, 总结了各肿瘤组织中微生物种群的特征及潜在功能, 重点讨论了细菌微生物组在乳腺癌、胰腺癌和肺癌中的作用机制, 并展望了其未来临床应用前景。

[关键词] 癌; 肿瘤内微生物; 肿瘤免疫微环境; 宏基因组测序

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Research progress of the intratumoral microbiome LI Xinran^{1,2}, LIANG Yiyi¹, TU Hong¹ (1. State Key Laboratory of Systems Medicine for Cancer, Shanghai Cancer Institute, Renji Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200032, China; 2. School of Basic Medicine, Fudan University, Shanghai 200032, China)

Correspondence to: TU Hong, E-mail: tuhong@shsci.org

[Abstract] Intratumoral microbiome is defined as the microbes that reside within tumor tissues to form the tumor microenvironment. Although substantial advances have been made in the research on virus infection and cancer during the past century, little is known about the existence and the role of intratumoral bacteria or fungi in cancer. In recent years, with the development of high-throughput sequencing technology, evidence has emerged to support the existence and functional activity of intratumoral bacteria. This review summarized the recent research progress in intratumoral microbiome, particularly their contribution to the carcinogenesis and chemoresistance of breast cancer, pancreatic cancer and lung cancer. The future perspectives of intratumoral microbiota in clinical application were also discussed.

[Key words] Cancer; Intratumoral microbiome; Tumor immune microenvironment; Metagenome sequencing

自20世纪20年代在人类肿瘤组织中首次培养出细菌以来, 越来越多的证据^[1-2]表明, 肿瘤中存在着微生物群落。但由于肿瘤内微生物含量极低, 难以排除实验过程中外部细菌或细菌DNA的污染, 因而实验结果的可靠性在早年备受争议。近年来, 随着高通量测序技术的发展, 肿瘤中存在微生物群落的观点逐渐受到认同。2020年, Nejman等^[3]在一项全球多中心研究中, 对7

个癌种的1 010例肿瘤标本和516例癌旁标本进行了16S rRNA测序, 发现这些癌种中均存在细菌DNA, 包括与外界并不相通的卵巢癌、脑胶质瘤和骨肉瘤等。这一研究开启了肿瘤微生物组学研究的新篇章。

1 肿瘤内微生物组的种类、来源和作用

存在于肿瘤组织中并构成肿瘤微环境的微生物群体被称为肿瘤内微生物组, 包括细菌、真

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第一作者: 李欣然(ORCID: 0000-0002-5914-4645), 本科生在读。

通信作者: 屠红(ORCID: 0000-0002-8298-5207), 博士, 研究员, E-mail: tuhong@shsci.org。

菌、病毒和支原体等，目前已在20余种恶性肿瘤中检测到微生物的存在。在大多数癌种中，变形菌门和拟杆菌门比例较高，但不同癌种间也会有变化，如结直肠癌中丰度最高的是厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门（70%~80%），而胰腺癌中则是变形菌门占主导地位（约80%）^[3]。

肿瘤内微生物的来源可能有3个途径：

① “原住民”，即微生物来自于肿瘤起源的组织内部，例如，当口腔微生物组中的058型链球菌、口腔消化链球菌成为优势菌群时，可能与口腔鳞癌的发生相关^[4]；当肠道菌群中的梭杆菌比例增加时，结直肠癌的发病风险上升^[5]。② 血液运输，即微生物随血液循环到达肿瘤部位，这一过程也可与癌细胞的转移相伴随，例如，原发性结直肠癌中的细菌，可穿过被肿瘤破坏的肠道血管屏障，经门静脉系统到达肝脏的继发灶中^[6]。③ 肠道逆流，即肠道菌群经胆总管、肝总管和主胰管等逆行至肝、胆、胰的肿瘤部位，例如，有研究^[7]发现，胰腺癌微生物组与正常十二指肠微生物组的构成十分相似，由于胰总管开口于十二指肠乳头，这一现象提示细菌有可能沿管道逆行迁移至胰腺癌中。

肿瘤内微生物可能在癌前阶段即已存在于病变组织中并参与了肿瘤形成。在反流性食管炎的食管组织中，弯曲杆菌的丰度增加，且白细胞介素（interleukin, IL）-8随之上调，提示弯曲杆菌可能通过慢性炎症及致癌代谢物的产生而诱发食管癌^[8]。但更多研究者认为肿瘤内细菌可能是在癌形成后才迁移过来的。肿瘤新生血管内皮渗漏性增加，有助于外周循环中的细菌穿出血管进入肿瘤。肿瘤中独特的缺氧环境，十分有利于厌氧菌的生长。而不断坏死的肿瘤组织能为细菌的繁殖提供充足的养分。加之肿瘤微环境的高度免疫抑制状态，这些都为细菌的长期生存创造了条件。

2 肿瘤微生物组的检测方法

16S rRNA测序方法是肿瘤内微生物研究最常用的方法。该方法通过高通量测序，分析细菌16S rRNA基因的可变区序列以获得各细菌的分类学特征。该方法可对样品中的所有细菌进行分

类学鉴定和定量，但对于种间差异较小的细菌，16S rRNA不能准确鉴定到种。此外，对于细菌以外的微生物，也无法通过16S rRNA测序进行鉴定。

宏基因组学的发展使肿瘤内微生物组研究跨上了一个新台阶。宏基因组是指环境中所有微生物基因组的总和。与16S rRNA测序不同的是，宏基因组并不只针对某个特定微生物群（真菌、细菌或病毒）进行单一性的靶向测序，而是对所有微生物基因组的总和进行序列分析，因而其在物种的精确鉴定中具有优势，并能推测微生物组的功能特性。其不足之处在于序列的组装和比对受微生物序列数据库中参照序列条目的限制，且从肿瘤组织中提取的遗传信息绝大部分是人类DNA，而低含量微生物的数据较为有限。

在细胞水平上，研究者通常使用针对革兰氏阴性菌的脂多糖（lipopolysaccharide, LPS）或革兰氏阳性菌的脂磷壁酸所进行的免疫组织化学证实肿瘤组织中细菌的存在。以特异性16S rRNA基因序列为探针的荧光原位杂交（fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, FISH）也可确认瘤内细菌的存在。FISH联合透射电镜成像还能精确地鉴定细菌在癌细胞或浸润性免疫细胞中的亚定位。目前，通过分离培养技术获得肿瘤内活菌的研究较少。与宏基因组学相比，培养组学能够获得微生物的纯培养物，有助于进一步研究菌株的生物学特性并构建体外模型。若能将宏基因组学和培养组学联合应用，将能获得更为客观真实的研究结论。

3 肿瘤内微生物组在各类肿瘤中的研究进展

3.1 乳腺癌瘤内微生物组研究

3.1.1 乳腺及乳腺癌中的微生物

乳腺在传统上被认为是一个无菌器官。但近年来研究^[9]发现，哺乳期妇女的母乳样本中存在着各种不同的细菌群落，且会受肥胖等因素的影响。以16S rRNA测序和细菌培养的方法，能检测到乳腺组织中存在着大量不同类型的细菌，门水平以变形杆菌为主^[10]。Nejman等^[3]对乳腺癌、肺癌、卵巢癌、胰腺癌、恶性黑色素瘤、骨肉瘤和脑胶质瘤等7种恶性肿瘤中的微生物组进行了分析，发现乳腺癌中的细菌种类最多，平均

每个样本中可检测到17种细菌, 而其他肿瘤中的细菌种类平均小于9种。

与正常乳腺相比, 乳腺癌组织中普遍存在着微生物菌群失调现象。Banerjee等^[11]还发现癌旁组织中的微生物显著高于健康对照组, 尤其是芽孢杆菌、肠杆菌、葡萄球菌、具核梭杆菌等的丰度较正常乳腺或乳腺良性病灶显著增高, 提示肿瘤内微生物可能会影响到邻近组织, 或乳腺癌中的微生物在癌前病变时已经存在。

此外, 在乳腺癌中还发现了病毒(包括副痘病毒科、人乳头状瘤病毒、疱疹病毒科、反转录病毒科、多瘤病毒)、真菌和寄生虫的存在, 它们与细菌一起构成的肿瘤微生物组型别, 具有临床预后预测价值^[12-13]。

3.1.2 乳腺癌内微生物对肿瘤的作用及机制

在小鼠乳腺癌模型中, 瘤内注射人乳腺癌来源的细菌, 能增强小鼠乳腺癌肺转移的潜能; 相反, 应用抗生素清除瘤内细菌, 则乳腺癌肺转移病灶减少^[14]。机制研究^[14]表明, 在肿瘤转移过程中, 携带有细菌的循环肿瘤细胞通过重塑肌动蛋白获得了更强的抵抗流体剪应力的能力, 从而促进了癌细胞的转移。乳腺癌中的细菌还能与细胞外基质相互作用, 通过对硫酸皮肤素的降解、肽聚糖的合成抑制及蛋白聚糖稳定性的减弱^[15]等途经, 为癌细胞的侵袭、迁移创造有利条件。

乳腺癌内微生物多样性降低或关键种群结构的改变, 能影响肿瘤微环境中免疫细胞的募集和活化。Tzeng等^[16]发现丙酸杆菌在乳腺癌中缺失, 由于该菌丰度与T细胞激活相关基因的表达呈正相关, 因而这一现象提示丙酸杆菌缺失可能通过抑制肿瘤局部T细胞免疫从而促进肿瘤的生长。此外, 也有研究^[17]发现, 随着乳腺癌瘤内微生物组菌群多态性的下降, 细菌相关代谢产物也会发生相应变化, 例如, 石胆酸浓度降低后, 其所诱发的细胞氧化应激凋亡效应减少, 从而促进乳腺癌的进展。

具核梭杆菌存在于30%的乳腺癌标本中, 在小鼠乳腺癌模型中, 具核梭杆菌的致病因子Fap2能与乳腺癌细胞中高表达的半乳糖-N-乙酰半乳

糖胺结合, 使具核梭杆菌特异性定植于乳腺癌组织中, 并抑制肿瘤浸润T细胞积聚, 促进乳腺癌的生长和转移^[18]。具核梭杆菌还能通过调节雌激素的生物利用度或诱导乳腺细胞DNA损伤, 促进乳腺癌的发生^[2]。

3.2 胰腺癌瘤内微生物组研究

3.2.1 胰腺及胰腺癌中的微生物

2017年, Geller等^[7]对胰腺导管腺癌手术切除标本和20例正常胰腺对照标本进行了细菌16S rRNA的定量分析, 发现胰腺癌样本中细菌的检出率显著高于正常胰腺组织(76% vs 15%, $P < 0.005$)。FISH和免疫组织化学检测也均证实了人胰腺癌组织中存在细菌。胰腺癌组织中最常见的细菌是 γ -变形菌纲中的肠杆菌科和假单胞菌科, 约占细菌总数的51.7%。Pushalkar等^[19]也发现胰腺癌中存在着13个门的细菌, 其中以变形菌门(45%)、拟杆菌门(31%)和厚壁菌门(22%)最为丰富。胰腺癌中的细菌可能是从十二指肠逆行迁移而来的。用荧光标记的粪肠球菌对小鼠进行灌胃, 可以直观地观察到细菌自肠道逆行至胰腺^[19]。在临床上, 接受胰管固定术的患者肿瘤内的细菌明显增多, 也支持这一推测。但与肠道菌群相比, 胰腺癌组织中的细菌仍有其独特性, 尤其是变形杆菌在从肠道向胰腺的移位过程中发生了选择性富集^[19]。

胰腺癌中另一个值得注意的微生物群是真菌。Aykut等^[20]发现马拉色菌属等真菌在小鼠和人胰腺癌组织中大量存在, 是正常胰腺组织的3 000倍。未来也可尝试使用靶向真菌的抗生素来抑制胰腺癌的生长。

3.2.2 胰腺癌内微生物对肿瘤的作用及机制

细菌能促进胰腺癌的发生、发展。将 $p48^{Cre}$ 、 $LsL-Kras^{G12D}$ (KC)小鼠饲养于无菌环境中, 以抗生素口服清理肠道菌群后, 小鼠胰腺癌形成进程减缓。肠道重定植 $Pdx1^{Cre}$ 、 $LsL-Kras^{G12D}$ 和 $P53R^{172H}$ (KPC)胰腺癌小鼠的粪菌后, KC小鼠胰腺癌生长速度恢复, 但定植正常对照小鼠的粪菌则不能促进胰腺癌的生长。在胰腺癌原位模型中, 口服抗生素清除瘤内细菌后, 也能引起肿瘤缩小50%左右^[19]。

关于瘤内微生物促进胰腺癌发生、发展的机制,目前研究主要集中于肿瘤微环境中细菌与免疫细胞间的交互作用。生存期长的胰腺癌患者,其肿瘤中所富集的糖多孢菌、革兰氏芽孢杆菌和克劳西芽孢杆菌具有较强的免疫调节功能^[21]。将抗生素处理过的小鼠胰腺癌原位肿瘤中浸润T细胞分离后过继给胰腺癌皮下瘤模型小鼠,结果能使瘤重下降50%左右^[19]。在KPC小鼠中,抗生素处理能提高胰腺癌中CD8⁺/CD4⁺ T细胞比例,增强CD8⁺ T细胞的杀伤能力,并促进CD4⁺ T细胞向Th1分化。细菌清除还能导致肿瘤微环境中髓源性抑制细胞(myeloid-derived suppressor cell, MDSC)的减少和M1型巨噬细胞的增加^[19]。

细菌代谢产物多胺可能也参与胰腺癌的进展。通过宏基因组分析KPC小鼠在胰腺癌发生过程中的微生物代谢途径改变,发现其主要与腐胺、亚精胺和精胺的代谢通路相关^[22]。胰腺癌患者血清中多胺水平显著高于健康对照者^[22],进一步提示细菌代谢产物在胰腺癌的发生、发展中发挥重要作用。肿瘤内部真菌也具有促胰腺癌生长的作用。通过口服两性霉素B减少肿瘤中的真菌,能使小鼠胰腺自发瘤显著缩小,小鼠生存期延长^[23]。其机制可能为特定真菌刺激胰腺癌细胞分泌IL-33,招募并激活Th2细胞和II型天然免疫细胞^[23]。真菌促癌的另一种机制可能与激活补体级联反应有关^[20]。

3.3 肺癌瘤内微生物组研究

3.3.1 肺及肺癌中的微生物

2011年,Apostolou等^[24]在肺癌样本中首次发现了支原体、表皮葡萄球菌、链球菌和芽孢杆菌等的存在。随后,越来越多的研究^[25-28]证实了这一现象。在健康肺中,普雷沃菌、链球菌和奈瑟菌等最为丰富^[26],但Yu等^[27]研究发现,变形菌门在非恶性肿瘤的肺组织中占主导地位(约60%)。Jin等^[28]则证实小鼠肺癌原位模型中草螺菌和鞘脂单胞菌在肿瘤组织中较为富集,肺癌组织中细菌菌群多样性显著低于正常肺组织。

Nejman等^[3]比较了吸烟与非吸烟的肺癌患者肿瘤组织中的细菌富集通路,发现约半数通

路与降解香烟中尼古丁、邻苯甲醚、甲苯和苯酚等物质的通路相关,提示高浓度的香烟代谢物为这些细菌提供了良好的生存环境。参与香烟代谢过程的细菌主要属于变形菌门、放线菌门和蓝藻门。Greathouse等^[29]研究发现,在TP53突变的肺鳞癌中存在独特的细菌构成,如嗜酸菌属丰度增加等,提示肺癌中微生物组的改变可能还与驱动基因突变存在关联。

最近,Dohlman等^[30]研究发现,肺癌细胞中存在真菌,且吸烟患者中的瘤内真菌丰度更高、含更多的曲真菌和伞菌纲真菌。他们在两个独立的队列中,证实以真菌作为标志物可有效地区分肺癌和健康对照,在肺癌的早期诊断中有一定的潜力。

3.3.2 肺癌瘤内微生物对肿瘤的作用及机制

肺癌共生菌具有促进肺癌发生、发展的作用。*LsL-Kras*^{G12D}、*p53*^{fllox/fllox}(KP)小鼠在无菌(germ free, GF)条件下,肺部肿瘤生长减慢,数量减少,出现高级别癌前病变的比例显著降低;令GF小鼠与无特定病原体小鼠共居,GF对KP小鼠的抑瘤现象消失,表明共生细菌具有促进肺癌发生、发展的作用^[28]。

目前认为肺癌中细菌主要通过改变免疫微环境、调节局部免疫反应来影响肿瘤进程。细菌引起的慢性炎症可促进肺癌的生长和转移^[26],局部细菌负荷的增加和菌群组成的改变,可刺激髓系免疫细胞通过MyD88依赖性途径产生IL-1 β 和IL-23,这些细胞因子刺激V γ 6⁺V δ 1⁺ γ δ T细胞活化和增殖,进而产生IL-17和其他效应分子促进炎症和肿瘤发生^[28]。抗生素雾化吸入使小鼠肺部细菌数量减少后,能激活肿瘤浸润T细胞和自然杀伤(natural killer, NK)细胞,并减少免疫抑制性的调节性T细胞数量,增强局部抗肿瘤免疫反应^[31]。

3.4 其他肿瘤中的微生物组学研究

除胰腺癌、乳腺癌和肺癌外,几乎所有常见恶性肿瘤中都发现有微生物组的存在。表1概括了这些肿瘤中微生物的种类及其对疾病发展的作用和机制。

表1 常见肿瘤中的微生物及其在肿瘤发生、发展中的作用和机制

Tab.1 The main microbial species in human cancers and their roles and possible mechanisms in cancer occurrence and progression

Cancer type	Microbial species	Function	Mechanism	Reference
Melanoma	<i>Propionibacterium</i> ; <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ; <i>Corynebacterium</i>	Promote cancer growth	Melanoma cells present HLA-conjugated intracellular bacterial peptides to activate T cell immune responses	[32-33]
Ovarian cancer	<i>Proteobacteria</i> ; <i>Firmicutes</i>	Promote cancer growth and metastasis	Up-regulate the expression of TLR5 in tumor cells to promote the mobilization of MDSC; LPS up-regulates the expression of PI3K, EMT and metastasis-related genes in tumor cells	[34]
Nasopharyngeal carcinoma	<i>Corynebacterium</i> ; <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Promote cancer recurrence	The increase of bacteria in tumor is negatively correlated with tumor infiltration of CD8+ T cells	[35]
Brain glioma	<i>Pseudomonas</i> ; <i>Erythrobacillus</i> ; <i>Actinomycetes</i>	Promote cancer growth	Secretion of fatty acids, LPS and other metabolites through the brain-intestinal axis affects the central nervous system immunity	[36]
Bone tumour	<i>Pseudomonas</i> ; <i>Actinomycetes</i>	Promote cancer growth	Degrade the hydroxyproline that makes up bone collagen	[3]
Colorectal cancer	<i>Firmicutes</i> ; <i>Bacteroidetes</i> ; <i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	Promote cancer invasion and metastasis	Down-regulate the expression of m6A methyltransferase METTL3 in tumor tissue and enhance tumor invasiveness; CD8+ T cell infiltration in liver metastases is decreased and MDSC infiltration is increased to inhibit anti-tumor immune response	[3, 36]
Prostate cancer	<i>Pseudomonas</i> ; <i>Escherichia coli</i>	Inhibit cancer metastasis and improve the efficacy of immunotherapy	Negatively associated with tumor metastasis; Enhance the immunogenicity of tumor cells; Increase tumor infiltration of immune effector cells	[37-38]
Gastric carcinoma	<i>Peptostreptococcus</i> <i>Streptococcus</i> ; <i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i>	Promote cancer growth or improve the efficacy of immunotherapy	Increase the content of N-nitrite compounds in the stomach and promote the colonization of harmful bacteria; Increase the expression of PD-L1 in gastric epithelial cells and induce T cell apoptosis; Up-regulate the purine metabolic pathway of the tumor flora, enhancing the immune response	[39-40]
Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma	<i>Corynebacterium</i> ; <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Promote cancer growth	Staphylococcal α -toxin induces normal cell death, while tumor cells are resistant; Inhibition of T cell killing promotes tumor immune escape	[41-42]
Oral squamous cell carcinoma	<i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i> ; <i>Monad</i> ; <i>Prevotella copri</i>	Promote cancer growth and invasion	LPS promotes the release of IL-1 and VEGF in tumor and mononuclear cells and enhances tumor invasiveness; Bacterial metabolites such as acetaldehyde cause DNA damage and over proliferation of epithelial cells	[43]
Squamous cell carcinoma of head and neck	<i>Fusobacterium</i> ; <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Promote chronic inflammation; Promote cancer invasion	The amount of bacteria is positively correlated with the tumor infiltration of macrophages and promotes the inflammatory tumor microenvironment; Up-regulate EMT-related signaling molecules in tumor cells	[44-45]
Esophagus cancer	<i>Fusobacterium</i> ; <i>Proteobacteria</i>	Promote cancer occurrence	LPS promotes cancer by promoting the release of inflammation-related mediators	[46]
Gallbladder cancer	<i>Campylobacter</i> ; <i>Phyllobacterium</i>	Associated with survival and lymph node metastasis	Not involved	[47]
Bladder cancer	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ; <i>Corynebacterium</i>	Promote cancer progression and recurrence	Up-regulate the expression of PD-L1 in cancer tissues and promote immune escape	[48]
Cervical cancer	<i>Lactobacillus</i> ; <i>Fusobacterium</i>	Promote cancer growth	Promote Th cells to secrete IL-1 β , IL-6 and IL-8 to promote inflammation and inhibit anti-tumor immune response; Induce the accumulation of sphingolipids and glycerols in the outer membrane of cervical epithelial cells, leading to cell damage and the formation of pro-inflammatory microenvironment	[49-50]
Endometrial cancer	<i>Porphyromonas</i> ; <i>Bacteroides</i> ; <i>Bacillus faecalis</i>	Induce and promote cancer growth	Activate endometrial cells to produce pro-inflammatory cytokines; Release toxins that damage host DNA and induce autophagy and carcinogenesis	[51-52]

4 肿瘤内微生物组的临床应用

4.1 瘤内微生物组在肿瘤患者预后判断中的作用

瘤内微生物群落的分布特征,有望成为新的肿瘤进展预测标志物^[53]。Riquelme等^[21]根据代表细菌群落多样性的香农指数将胰腺癌患者分为高 α -多样性组和低 α -多样性组,结果显示,前者的中位生存期达9.66年,而后者仅为1.66年($P<0.001$)。基于假黄单胞菌、糖多孢菌、链霉菌和克劳西芽孢杆菌4种菌所构建的预测模型,受试者工作特征曲线的曲线下面积(area under curve, AUC)在发现队列和验证队列中分别可达0.98和0.99。Peters等^[54]研究发现,肺癌旁组织中细菌的丰度和多样性与无复发生存期(recurrence-free survival, RFS)具有相关性。具体而言,红藻科菌的丰度增加与RFS呈正相关,而粪杆菌和瘤胃球菌的丰度增加则与RFS呈负相关。

肿瘤内微生物也能影响药物治疗的敏感性。目前发现至少有13种细菌能引起癌细胞对吉西他滨耐药,其中以 γ -变形菌纲为主。由于胰腺癌组织中存在的细菌以 γ -变形菌纲为主,Geller等^[7]将胰腺癌标本中的细菌培养后处理肠癌细胞,结果使后者产生了吉西他滨耐药。此外,有临床研究^[55]显示,肿瘤内LPS可作为吉西他滨治疗胰腺癌疗效的预测因子。未来将特定抗生素与吉西他滨联用,将有助于提高胰腺癌化疗的有效性。

4.2 循环微生物DNA(circulating microbial DNA, cmDNA)在肿瘤诊断中的作用

cmDNA是指外周血中存在的微生物来源的游离DNA。迄今为止,cmDNA在肺癌、前列腺癌、结肠癌、胃癌、乳腺癌和肝癌中都显示出较好的诊断价值。Poore等^[56]对癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)数据库信息进行整合分析后发现,cmDNA能较好地区分早期肿瘤和正常对照,尤其是在前列腺癌和肺癌的诊断中,AUC高达0.947 7和0.971 6。在结肠癌中,Xiao等^[57]也发现有28个菌种在患者和正常对照血清中存在显著差异。不过这些菌种在结肠癌患者中也有相应改变,并不能很好地鉴别肿瘤的良恶性。Messaritakis等^[58]研究发现,

16S rDNA、大肠杆菌 β -半乳糖苷酶、脆弱双歧杆菌谷氨酰胺合酶及5.8S rDNA与结肠癌的转移及总生存期显著相关($P<0.001$)。Cho等^[59]研究发现,与肝硬化和正常对照相比,肝癌患者血清中有7个属的细菌丰度发生了显著改变,尤其是葡萄球菌在肝癌患者血清中上升了4.3倍($P<0.001$)。基于5种细菌构建的评分模型,能有效地区分肝癌与对照组,AUC在发现队列和验证队列中分别达0.879和0.875,提示cmDNA在肝癌诊断中具有潜在价值。

5 总结与展望

目前已证实,在肿瘤微环境中存在着细菌和真菌等微生物。这些微生物可游离于细胞外,也可寄居于肿瘤细胞或免疫细胞中,利用肿瘤细胞坏死提供的养分长期生存。这些微生物究竟是肿瘤发生、发展的“驱动”因子,还是仅作为“旁观者”存在,尚待更多研究进一步验证。相对于肿瘤细胞而言,肿瘤内微生物在数量上占比很少,因此目前的研究在很大程度上依赖于深度测序技术,在微生物丰度极低的组织样本中如何做到消除污染及精准分类仍具有挑战性。由于共生菌与肿瘤间错综复杂的关系,也使得一些小样本临床研究所得出的结论重复性欠佳。

展望未来,瘤内共生菌的种类鉴定及临床意义仍是研究重点。现有的机制研究主要集中于瘤内菌通过免疫介导发挥间接调控肿瘤的作用,有关共生菌对癌细胞本身的直接作用研究报道较少。将微生物组学与代谢组学、蛋白质组学、免疫组学等进行多组学整合分析,将有助于全面系统地了解微生物在肿瘤微环境中的作用。总之,肿瘤内微生物组这一全新概念,将进一步丰富人们对肿瘤发生、发展的认识,也为肿瘤的临床诊治提供新的线索。

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