



· 综述 ·

# MRI预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态的研究进展及展望

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[摘要] 乳腺癌是全球范围内女性常见的癌症类型及死亡原因, 淋巴结状态是乳腺癌分期的重要信息, 与患者预后密切相关。磁共振成像 (magnetic resonance imaging, MRI) 技术对淋巴结以及新辅助治疗应答效果的评估具有优势, 可补充其他影像学检查的不足。标准化评分系统如淋巴结数据和报告系统 (Node Reporting and Data System, Node-RADS) 通过整合淋巴结大小、边缘、强化模式等特征, 可有效地减少评估的主观差异。影像组学通过高通量提取定量特征, 将医学图像转换为可挖掘的数据并对其进行分析, 进一步整合MRI影像组学、临床病理学特征及分子亚型信息构建多组学模型, 可有效地预测腋窝淋巴结转移, 为个性化治疗提供生物学依据。人工智能能够通过广泛搜索模型和参数空间来生成预测模型, 人工智能驱动的MRI影像分析可有效地预测淋巴结转移及治疗反应。在新辅助化疗评估中, 基于深度学习的全自动集成系统 (fully automated-integrated system based on deep learning, FAIS-DL) 结合多区域动态对比增强-MRI (dynamic contrast enhanced-MRI, DCE-MRI) 和临床数据可高效地预测腋窝病理学完全缓解, 将不必要的腋窝淋巴结清扫术率从47.9%降至6.8%。本文就不同发展阶段采用MRI预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态的研究进展作一综述, 以期提高临床医师和影像科医师对MRI在乳腺癌淋巴结状态评估及新辅助治疗效果评价中应用的认知, 并为精准预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态模型的构建提供帮助。

[关键词] 乳腺癌; 新辅助治疗; 淋巴结; 磁共振成像; 影像组学; 人工智能

中图分类号: R737.9 文献标志码: A

DOI: 10.19401/j.cnki.1007-3639.2025.08.009

基金项目: 无。

利益冲突: 作者均声明无利益冲突。

伦理批件: 不需要。

知情同意: 不需要。

引用本文: 翟梓涵, 陈 盛. MRI预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态的研究进展及展望 [J]. 中国癌症杂志, 2025, 35(8): 799-807.

Funding: no.

Conflicts of interest: authors all declare no conflicts of interest.

Ethical approval: not required.

Informed consent: not required.

Cite this article: ZHAI Z H, CHEN S. Research progress and prospects of MRI in predicting lymph node status in breast cancer [J]. Chin Oncol, 2025, 35(8): 799-807.

**Research progress and prospects of MRI in predicting lymph node status in breast cancer** ZHAI Zihan, CHEN Sheng (Department of Breast Surgery, Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Center, Department of Oncology, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University, Shanghai 200032, China)

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[Abstract] Breast cancer stands as the most prevalent malignancy and the primary cause of cancer-related mortality among women globally. The lymph node status is not only pivotal for accurate clinical staging of breast cancer but also significantly associated with patients' prognosis. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has advantages in evaluating lymph nodes status and the response effect of neoadjuvant therapy, serving as a valuable complement to other imaging modalities. Standardized scoring systems, such as Node Reporting and Data System (Node-RADS), integrate key features including lymph node size, margin characteristics, and enhancement patterns, effectively minimizing interobserver variability in evaluation. MRI radiomics, by extracting quantitative features at high throughput, converts medical images into mineable and analyzable data. Further integrating MRI radiomics, clinicopathological features and molecular subtype information to construct multi-omics models, can effectively predict axillary lymph node metastasis, thereby providing a biological basis for personalized treatment. Artificial intelligence (AI) leverages extensive search algorithms and parameter spaces to generate predictive models. AI-driven MRI analysis has proven effective in predicting lymph node metastasis and treatment responses. In the evaluation of neoadjuvant chemotherapy, the fully automated-integrated system based on deep learning (FAIS-DL) system, which combines multi-region dynamic contrast enhanced-MRI (DCE-MRI) and clinical data, can efficiently predict axillary pathological complete response. This innovation has substantially reduced the rate of unnecessary axillary lymph node dissection (ALND) from 47.9% to 6.8%. This article reviewed the prediction of lymph node status in breast cancer by MRI at different developmental stages, with the aim of enhancing the understanding of clinicians and radiologists

regarding the application of MRI in the assessment of lymph node status in breast cancer and evaluating the efficacy of neoadjuvant therapy, and providing assistance for the construction of a model for accurately predicting lymph node status in breast cancer.

[ **Key words** ] Breast cancer; Neoadjuvant therapy; Lymph nodes; Magnetic resonance imaging; Radiomics; Artificial intelligence

乳腺癌是全球女性最常见的癌症类型, 淋巴结状况是乳腺癌局部复发、转移及影响生存率的重要预测因子。腋窝淋巴结清扫术 (axillary lymph node dissection, ALND) 和前哨淋巴结活检术 (sentinel lymph node biopsy, SLNB) 被认为是评估乳腺癌局部淋巴结转移最准确的方法, 但均为有创性操作, 术后会出现上肢淋巴水肿等长期损害<sup>[1-3]</sup>。缩小手术范围是新辅助治疗 (neoadjuvant therapy, NAT) 的主要目标, 淋巴结对NAT应答良好, 但NAT后前哨淋巴结 (sentinel lymph node, SLN) 的假阴性率 (false-negative rate, FNR) 高 (13%~17%)<sup>[4-5]</sup>, 基线SLN阳性 (cN+) 患者在NAT后腋窝状态的评估方法仍存在争议。

## 1 MRI在乳腺癌诊断方面的研究进展

### 1.1 传统MRI评估淋巴结状态

传统MRI通过多序列与形态学评估在乳腺癌淋巴结状态预测中发挥重要作用, 其进展体现在标准化评分系统优化、多序列整合及临床应用场景拓展等方面。

#### 1.1.1 动态对比增强磁共振成像 (dynamic contrast enhanced-MRI, DCE-MRI)

DCE-MRI有多方向、多参数的优势, 对肿瘤存在、血管及淋巴管生成变化具有高度敏感性, 可以对肿瘤内微血管结构和功能进行非侵入性的半定量和定量分析<sup>[6-8]</sup>。

淋巴结数据和报告系统 (Node Reporting and Data System, Node-RADS) 评分通过整合淋巴结大小、边缘、强化模式等形态学特征为淋巴结状态评估提供了标准框架, 1项多中心研究<sup>[9]</sup>纳入了192例乳腺癌患者的1 134个淋巴结, 发现Node-RADS>2作为截断值时, 诊断淋巴结转移的曲线下面积 (area under curve, AUC) 达0.93~0.97, 且读者间一致性良好, Kappa值为0.71~0.83。标准化评分系统显著减少了阅片者的主观差异, 并为活检决策提供了量化依据。Node-RADS评分在NAT后评估中表现亦突出, 可通过淋巴结退缩模式, 如中央坏死、边缘强化等预测治疗反应<sup>[10]</sup>。

Liu等<sup>[11]</sup>的研究结合治疗前DCE-MRI影像特征与病理学特征, 将NAT后的肿瘤消退模式划分为同心性和非同心性收缩两类, 并对形态学和

动力学特征加以分析, 认为该模型在预测乳腺癌肿瘤消退模式方面具有实用价值, 有助于筛选出能从NAT中获益的患者, 以降低乳腺手术级别并调整治疗策略。

#### 1.1.2 磁共振淋巴成像 (magnetic resonance lymphography, MRL)

MRL是通过MRI结合间质淋巴造影, 在组织间隙注射特殊的造影剂如钆喷酸葡胺 (Gd-DTPA) 等, 形成SLN观察时间窗, 选择合适的成像序列显示淋巴管和淋巴结<sup>[12]</sup>。Li等<sup>[13]</sup>纳入68例接受SLNB且临床阴性的T1-2期乳腺癌患者, 以组织病理学为金标准、以异质性增强和增强缺陷为图像诊断标准, Gd-MRL在鉴别SLN转移的灵敏度为89.29%, 特异度为89.66%。

有研究<sup>[14-15]</sup>表明, 淋巴管走行迂曲、中断、异常扩张; 淋巴结异常增大, 仅轻度强化或充盈缺损, 可作为MRL诊断SLN阳性的标准。

He等<sup>[16]</sup>的研究发现, 内乳区和腋窝是淋巴结转移的两种不同途径, 造影剂混合物的剂量不会造成检测结果差异。考虑到造影剂剂量与不良反应发生率之间的密切关联, 建议使用0.5 mL造影剂对乳腺癌腋窝或内乳淋巴结转移的途径进行MRL检查。

#### 1.1.3 磁共振波谱成像 (magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging, MRS)

MRS是一种无创检测组织内代谢物的方式。质子磁共振波谱 (<sup>1</sup>H-MRS) 是与肿瘤发生、进展和转移中涉及的多种酶变化相关的复合磁共振成像技术, 能够在不使用造影剂的情况下给出分子水平的信息, 可用于评估总胆碱 (total choline, tCho) 水平等<sup>[17]</sup>。一项前瞻性的横断面研究以此为依据, 纳入74例恶性患者和29例良性患者, 观察到恶性病变tCho水平显著高于良性病变 ( $P<0.001$ ), 在对于淋巴结转移的预测中tCho测量的AUC为0.760和0.788。当tCho水平<2.4 mmol/L时, 未发现转移性淋巴结<sup>[18]</sup>。在261例激素受体阳性、人表皮生长因子受体2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER2) 阴性乳腺癌患者的研究中<sup>[19]</sup>, 以tCho水平15 mmol/L为界, 得出tCho>15 mmol/L者淋巴结转移概率是2.69倍 ( $P=0.046$ )。tCho水平与10年无病生存期 (disease-free survival, DFS) 显著相关, 尤其是在晚年 (6~10年) 复发患者中

( $P=0.020$ )。

#### 1.1.4 弥散加权成像 (diffusion-weighted imaging, DWI)

恶性肿瘤自身生长迅速, 导致单位体积下细胞密度高、细胞外间隙小, 限制了水分子的运动, 从而使DWI呈高信号改变, 表观弥散系数 (apparent dispersion coefficient, ADC) 值是对应的量化分析, ADC值越低水分子运动受限程度越高, 反映病变的增殖程度<sup>[20]</sup>, 淋巴结阳性患者ADC值小于阴性患者<sup>[21]</sup>。Cho等<sup>[22]</sup>发现转移性腋窝淋巴结 (axillary lymph node, ALN) 的平均ADC值低于良性ALN, 但差异无统计学意义 ( $P=0.185$ ), 可能是由于微小淋巴结ADC值测定结果的准确性和稳定性欠佳<sup>[23]</sup>。而淋巴结尺寸、皮质厚度等形态学特征差异有统计学意义 ( $P<0.001$ ), 诊断准确率高, 表明在对比剂过敏或肾功能不全等无法行DCE-MRI时, DWI上ALN的形态评估足以区分良恶性ALN。

分别在基线、NAT过程中和治疗后进行DWI-MRI扫描, MRI检查中获得的最可疑淋巴结的最大直径与其病理学最大直径所有相关性均呈正相关。其中, 治疗后MRI淋巴结大小与病理学的相关性最高 ( $r=0.6, P<0.001$ )<sup>[24]</sup>。SLN有无转移在DWI信号、形态大小、强化程度、有无淋巴门、ADC值等方面的差异具有统计学意义<sup>[25]</sup>。

与其他序列相比, DWI序列能够较清晰地显示内乳淋巴结。有研究<sup>[26]</sup>显示, 某些特定的MRI定量参数, 如短轴及长轴长度、短/长轴比、脂肪门以及扩散受限情况等, 在区分良恶性内乳区淋巴结方面亦有统计学意义。

#### 1.2 传统MRI在评价乳腺癌淋巴结状态中的优势与不足

DCE-MRI可以评估肿瘤及淋巴结的大小变化, 是NAT前后首选的成像方式; MRL可以显影淋巴引流情况; MRS可以通过治疗前后代谢物的变化预测NAT疗效; DWI可以通过水分子扩散程度来预估疗效。

MRI多模态成像对ALN转移负荷的预测价值在近年来得到了进一步验证。一项回顾性队列研究<sup>[27]</sup>纳入345例cN0患者, 通过整合DCE-MRI与DWI两个模态的影像学特征, 构建了包含肿瘤环状强化、廓清曲线、ADC值、淋巴结皮质厚度的评分系统, 该模型对宏转移预测效能显著, AUC为0.89, 对微转移 (0.2~2.0 mm) 的预测AUC为0.76, 或可为cN0患者个体化治疗决策提供影像

学量化工具。

Zhang等<sup>[28]</sup>开发并验证了一种新型列线图模型, 其中多变量逻辑回归分析显示NAT后腋窝病理学完全缓解 (pathological complete response, pCR) 可能性与腋窝MRI显著相关 ( $P<0.001$ )。但是, 这些传统MRI检查技术在评估乳腺癌NAT后ALN状态方面仍具有一定的局限性, 目前并不能替代对淋巴结进行组织学评估<sup>[29-32]</sup>。NAT后的腋窝淋巴形态学变化可能不明显, 仅发生血管通透性、细胞代谢等微环境改变; 此外, 视野、组织分辨率、缺乏腋窝专用线圈等技术限制及放射科医师对影像学检查结果判读的主观性也可能影响评估效果。

乳腺淋巴引流约3/4至腋窝、1/4至内乳, 内乳区淋巴结无肿大时可用腋窝SLN状态代表区域淋巴结状态; 但若内乳区淋巴结有肿大, 无论ALN有无肿大, 均不宜用腋窝SLN状态评估区域淋巴结状态, 且术后还应对内乳区进行放疗<sup>[33-34]</sup>。术后病理学检查仍是判断内乳区淋巴结转移的金标准, 但内乳区SLN活检的适应证尚未标准化。MRI可以区分不同组织的信号差异, 内乳区包含淋巴管、血管、淋巴结等众多软组织, 用MRI判断内乳区淋巴结的状态可为临床治疗提供有力指导。目前关于MRI预测内乳区淋巴结的研究有限, 未来需要更多的探索。

## 2 MRI影像组学方面的研究进展

影像组学是通过高通量提取定量特征, 将医学图像转换为可挖掘的数据并对其进行分析以提供决策支持的过程<sup>[35]</sup>。

### 2.1 单独使用MRI影像组学特征

Calabrese等<sup>[36]</sup>筛选出10篇使用MRI影像组学预测乳腺癌SLN转移的论文, 梳理了这些研究的特征和结果, 并根据放射组学质量评分评估了方法学的质量, 得出平均放射组学质量评分为11.1 (最高可能值为36), 表明MRI影像组学在预测ALN状态方面的结果令人鼓舞。

多项研究<sup>[37-38]</sup>证实, 多模态影像组学特征整合可显著提升预测效能<sup>[37]</sup>, 一项纳入141例患者的研究<sup>[38]</sup>结果表明, DCE-MRI、T2WI和DWI的影像组学特征组合性能最优, 在不同测试集中AUC分别达0.910和0.717。值得注意的是, 影像组学凭借对淋巴结形态及纹理的高度敏感, 在评估NAT后肿瘤微环境改变导致的淋巴结转移方面展现出超越传统MRI的优势。未来研究需聚焦扩大样本量、优化特征选择及提升模型泛化能力。

## 2.2 MRI影像组学特征与其他变量相结合

### 2.2.1 结合临床特征

Dong等<sup>[39]</sup>关于DCE-MRI影像组学预测乳腺癌ALN转移诊断效能的meta分析得出多变量多参数联合模型的灵敏度为0.82 (95% CI: 0.78~0.86), 特异度为0.78 (95% CI: 0.74~0.82), AUC为0.88 (95% CI: 0.86~0.90), 提示其具有较高的诊断价值。高放射组学评分组存在细胞迁移通路上调、细胞分化通路下调的情况<sup>[40]</sup>。亚组分析表明, 基于原发肿瘤影像组学特征的模型效能优于淋巴结特征模型 (AUC: 0.89 vs 0.83), 且使用LASSO算法筛选特征的模型异质性更低。由于很难将经病理学检查证实的淋巴结与MRI图像上的淋巴结相匹配, 多数研究的影像组学特征和列线图基于从原发肿瘤中提取的特征, 而不是淋巴结本身。诸多研究<sup>[41-44]</sup>表明, 将原发肿瘤和ALN MRI影像组学特征与临床病理学特征相结合的模型在NAT前后的预测效能均很显著。

### 2.2.2 结合动力学曲线

动力学曲线可反映病变中毛细血管通透性和血流动力学变化的动态特征。肿瘤细胞浸润淋巴结使得血管生成异常, 破坏正常血管壁, 形成动静脉瘘, 加速了造影剂在延迟期的外排。动力学曲线在阴性和阳性淋巴结之间差异有统计学意义, 但不能反映淋巴结的异质性, 然而影像组学能与其相互补充<sup>[45]</sup>。基于时间强度曲线选出的多相对比增强MRI峰值增强相位图像, 可显著提升病变边界的清晰度<sup>[46]</sup>。将DCE-MRI影像组学特征与动力学曲线参数相结合构建的列线图模型, 在淋巴结转移预测中展现出优异性能, 验证集的AUC高达0.86<sup>[47]</sup>。但动力学曲线反映淋巴结的局灶性DCE-MRI特征, 不同位移向量的设置可能会有特征提取的种类和数量不同, 后续需进一步的大样本量的前瞻性研究验证。

### 2.2.3 结合肿瘤周围特征

尽管大多数乳腺癌影像组学研究都集中在瘤内特征, 但也有证据表明肿瘤周围组织变化, 如肿瘤周淋巴管和血管浸润、淋巴结周浸润、淋巴管生成、基质反应等可能包含了肿瘤相关信息<sup>[48-51]</sup>, 优化肿瘤周围区域大小的选择 (3或4 mm) 可以进一步提高影像组学模型的预测性能<sup>[52-53]</sup>。

Wu等<sup>[54]</sup>整合基于DCE-MRI的临床病理学、肿瘤内或肿瘤周围MRI影像组学和生境特征, 开发并验证预测乳腺癌患者ALN转移的

诺模图 (训练集和测试集AUC分别为0.977和0.873), 并进一步确定准确预测的最佳肿瘤周围区域大小为4 mm。Xu等<sup>[55]</sup>还提出DCE-MRI的肿瘤内和肿瘤周围4 mm的MRI影像组学特征可作为区分乳腺癌患者中管腔和非管腔亚型的预测性生物标志物。

目前基于肿瘤内联合肿瘤周围特征预测乳腺癌NAT后ALN状态的研究较少, 未来还可将肿瘤内联合肿瘤周围特征与临床指标等变量结合起来共同预测NAT后的pCR。

传统影像学方法在评估ALN转移时存在诸多局限性, 而影像组学能够从MRI图像中挖掘出隐匿的特征信息, 这些特征与淋巴结的微观结构、细胞组成以及肿瘤微环境密切相关。通过对大量临床病例的MRI影像进行深入分析, 提取ALN的形状、纹理、强度等特征, 结合先进的机器学习或深度学习算法构建预测模型, 有望实现对ALN状态的术前精准无创预测。

## 3 基于人工智能的MRI影像组学的研究进展

人工智能能够通过广泛搜索模型和参数空间来生成预测模型, 其在医学领域的应用或可提高诊断性能, 成为疾病管理和控制的重要手段, 在疾病筛查、早期诊断、治疗选择和预后评估等方面发挥关键作用。

### 3.1 基于机器学习

基于不同序列的影像学特征采用机器学习算法构建模型, 有研究<sup>[56]</sup>报道, 与单独肿瘤感兴趣体积 (volume of interest, VOI) 或单独瘤周VOI建立的影像组学模型相比, 组合序列影像组学模型显示出最高的预测准确度, 如使用反向传播神经网络算法将肿瘤内、肿瘤周围3 mm的DCE-MRI影像组学相结合构建的模型AUC达0.820<sup>[57]</sup>。采用机器学习算法对T2WI、DCE-MRI、DWI等多模态影像组学特征建模来预测乳腺癌淋巴结转移状况、DFS等情况时, 诸多学者证实极端梯度增强 (XGBoost) 算法表现出更稳定的性能<sup>[58-59]</sup>, 在NAT后的残余癌症负荷、无复发生存期和疾病特异性生存期的早期预测中也适用 (平均AUC为0.858, 最佳AUC为0.943)<sup>[60]</sup>。

一项多中心回顾性研究<sup>[61]</sup>应用随机森林算法从乳腺原发性肿瘤和T1+C、T2 WI和DWI-ADC序列的ALN区域提取影像组学特征, 通过支持向量机算法在803例乳腺癌患者中开发用于预测ALN状态的模型。结合肿瘤和淋巴结MRI影像组学、临床和病理学特征以及分子亚型的多组学特征的模型在训练队列中表现出良好的预

测性能，AUC为0.90，在外部验证队列中AUC为0.91。另一项纳入86例三阴性乳腺癌患者的研究<sup>[62]</sup>中，从T2WI和T1加权减影图像中提取MRI影像组学特征，使用LASSO选择重要特征，采用支持向量机、随机森林、logistic回归3种机器学习算法构建模型，发现在多变量分析中较大的血管容积是ALN转移的唯一显著预测因素（ $P=0.008$ ）。Zhu等<sup>[63]</sup>研究并验证了一种纵向堆叠模型，在MRI图像上整合了多个空间（乳腺肿瘤、瘤周区域和腋窝区域）和多个时间（NAT前、NAT后），以评估ALN对NAT的反应。最终，该研究团队开发了一种人工智能辅助手术策略。与单独使用SLNB相比，人工智能辅助手术模型显著降低了SLN的FNR。尽管如此，由于是回顾性研究，一些患者的临床信息和MRI序列缺失，导致样本量较小，且来自多个中心的MRI扫描的异质性不可避免。

### 3.2 基于深度学习

血管浸润被认为是淋巴结阴性乳腺癌患者的不利预后因素。Liang等<sup>[64]</sup>回顾性纳入280例ALN阴性的浸润性乳腺癌患者，基于DCE-MRI提取肿瘤内影像组学特征，结合临床放射学特征（年龄、瘤周水肿、达峰时间、微乳头状癌成分），利用多层感知器等机器学习算法构建模型预测脉管侵犯状态。结果显示，仅影像组学特征的多层感知器模型预测效能最佳，且显著优于临床特征模型及整合模型，AUC分别为0.896、0.720和0.835，多参数MRI结合深度学习可无创预测淋巴结血管浸润。

卷积神经网络（convolutional neural network, CNN）作为深度学习的常用算法，可以提取出突出的特征并自动学习有助于图像识别和分类的关键信息。有研究<sup>[65]</sup>采用残差网络（residual networks, ResNet）18算法将所有入组的患者分为SLN低风险和高风险两个亚组，再区分阳性高危患者的腋窝非SLN状态。该研究结果表明，CNN模型表现出令人满意的SLN预测力，可有效地预测任何大小的可检测病灶的SLN，在内部验证集和外部测试集中AUC分别为0.899和0.885，降低了SLN评估的FNA。对于SLN阳性患者，CNN模型还可以进一步区分腋窝非SLN状况，其在内部验证集的AUC为0.800，外部测试集的AUC为0.7631。Ren等<sup>[66-67]</sup>检验了CNN对ALN的MRI分析可以准确地预测与乳腺癌相关的ALN转移的假设，得出所有CNN模型均具有相似的性能，准确率为86.08%~88.50%，AUC为

0.804~0.882。使用T1W和T2W MRI联合的CNN模型表现最好<sup>[68-9]</sup>。CNN算法的发展趋势是针对更高抽象层次进行优化，因此需要越来越多的标记训练样本数据；需要大量能够有效地训练和测试的计算资源以优化深度学习模型；随着特征数量的增加，CNN训练变得越来越复杂，并且存在过度拟合的问题<sup>[70]</sup>。

Chen等<sup>[71]</sup>研究了479例乳腺癌患者共计488个病灶的术前磁共振成像数据，开发了应用DenseNet 121的预训练神经网络从DCE-MRI和DWI-ADC中提取影像组学特征，进一步将影像组学特征与淋巴结可触及性、MRI中的肿瘤大小和Ki-67增殖指数等临床病理学特征相结合，训练集的AUC从0.76提高到了0.80。

一项回顾性研究<sup>[72]</sup>纳入941例术前接受DCE的乳腺癌患者，提出了一种基于3D深度ResNet架构和卷积块注意力模块的深度学习模型（RCNet）用于ALN转移识别，该模型在内部测试集中AUC为0.907，外部验证集中AUC为0.853。RCNet模型的灰度图像和相应的热图显示原发肿瘤和ALN这两个区域对识别淋巴结状态很有价值。

Lokaj等<sup>[73]</sup>融合超快动态对比增强MRI（ultrafast dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI, UF-DCE MRI）图像、病变特征和临床信息，对比了传统机器学习方法、单模态影像模型及多模态编码器算法MMST-V的性能。结果显示，其MMST-V性能显著优于仅基于临床信息或影像数据的模型，表明多模态深度学习融合影像与临床信息可提升乳腺病变分类的准确性。

为研究基于深度学习的MRI影像组学在NAT后乳腺癌ALN状态中的效用，Zhang等<sup>[74]</sup>的回顾性研究纳入了327例患者，在NAT前的DCE图像上识别原发肿瘤并进行三维分割，使用ResNet34提取深度学习特征预测NAT后淋巴结状态，其中支持向量机模型在训练集和测试集中的AUC分别为0.99和0.83，展现出最好的性能。放射组学特征和临床特征整合建立的列线图AUC为0.99。

Li等<sup>[75]</sup>提出了一种基于深度学习的全自动集成系统（fully automated-integrated system based on deep learning, FAIS-DL），利用临床病理学特征、肿瘤和ALN的DCE-MRI预测乳腺癌NAT后的腋窝pCR。FAIS-DL在内部测试集、合并外部测试集和前瞻性测试集中AUC分别达到了0.95、0.93和0.94，显著高于基于单区域DCE-MRI的临

床模型和深度学习模型。在合并的外部和前瞻性测试集中, FAIS-DL将ALND率从47.9%降低到6.8%, 并将受益率从52.2%提高到86.5%, 有较好的临床适用性。有研究<sup>[76]</sup>指出, DL模型可以提

供一种非手术方法通过乳腺MRI自动预测ALN转移, 多参数MRI和结合多个模型的集成学习值得进一步研究。MRI预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态的主要研究进展见表1。

表1 MRI预测乳腺癌淋巴结状态的主要研究进展

Tab. 1 Key research advances in MRI for predicting lymph node status in breast cancer

Category	Research advances	References	
Conventional MRI	DCE	Established the standardized scoring system Node-RADS, providing a quantitative basis for biopsy decision-making	[ 9-10 ]
	MRL	Sensitive to the morphology of lymphatic vessels and lymph nodes. Suitable for internal mammary lymph node examination	[ 14-16 ]
	MRS	When the total choline level is <2.4 mmol/L, no metastatic lymph nodes are detected. When it is >15 mmol/L, the probability of lymph node metastasis is 2.69 times that in the situation of total choline level <15 mmol/L	[ 18-19 ]
	DWI	In clinical scenarios of contrast agent allergy or renal insufficiency, morphological assessment of axillary lymph nodes on DWI can distinguish benign from malignant, and clearly visualize internal mammary lymph nodes	[ 22-26 ]
MRI radiomics	Combined with other features	Radiomics models integrating clinical, pathological, intra-tumoral, and peritumoral (3 or 4 mm) features demonstrate favorable predictive performance	[ 54-55 ]
	Based on machine learning	The XGBoost algorithm exhibits relatively stable performance. Multi-spatiotemporal model assisting surgical strategies can effectively reduce the false-negative rate of sentinel lymph nodes	[ 58-60, 63 ]
	Based on deep learning	The CNN model demonstrates good predictive performance. The fully automatic integrated system FAIS-DL, which is based on deep learning, can efficiently predict pathological complete response of axillary lymph nodes, thereby helping to reduce unnecessary axillary lymph node dissection	[ 65-70, 75-76 ]

DCE: Dynamic contrast enhanced; Node-RADS: Node Reporting and Data System; MRL: Magnetic resonance lymphography; MRS: Magnetic resonance spectroscopic imaging; DWI: Diffusion weighted imaging; XGBoost: Extreme gradient boosting; CNN: Convolutional neural network.

#### 4 总结与展望

淋巴结状态是乳腺癌分期的重要信息, 与患者预后密切相关。上述研究表明, MRI可能是评估淋巴结状态的最佳影像学方法, 标准化评分系统如Node-RADS通过整合淋巴结大小、边缘、强化模式等特征, 可有效地减少评估的主观差异。与传统MRI相比, 影像组学不仅能从医学图像中提取大量特征并将其转换为可量化的数据进行分析, 还可通过将成像特征与其他特征(包括临床特征、药代动力学、动力学曲线和肿瘤周围特征等)相结合来捕获肿瘤微环境等差异, 以支持治疗决策。影像组学特征通常从感兴趣区(region of interest, ROI)中提取, 由医师手动绘制的ROI预测效果好, 但耗时长且有主观性, 开发一种可靠且经过验证的自动分割方法以提高分割效率并减少主观不一致性可能是下一步的研究方向。现阶段分析NAT后乳腺癌淋巴结状态的研究样本量小, 且基本为回顾性分析, 后期可扩大样本量并开展前瞻性的多中心研究来进一步验证。

归功于计算方面的改进, 使得组学研究能够利用纹理分析和人工智能算法等先进技术得以快速发展。基于多空间、多时间、多序列影像组学的机器学习模型对于ALN状态表现出了良好的预测价值。亦有诸多研究支持基于MRI的DL技术的可行性, 它可同时提供肿瘤内和肿瘤周围信息。因此, 深度学习特征可以补充预测信息, 提高影像组学特征的预测性能。在NAT后淋巴结状态评估中, FAIS-DL系统结合多区域DCE-MRI和临床数据, 可高效能地预测腋窝pCR, 有助于减少不必要的ALND。

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(收稿日期: 2024-10-24 修回日期: 2025-06-06)

(责任编辑: 王琳辉)