



· 专家述评与论著 ·

HER2阳性和三阴性乳腺癌新辅助化疗后选择性避免腋窝手术分期的研究

石志强^{1,2}, 邱鹏飞^{1,2}, 刘雁冰^{1,2}, 赵桐^{1,2}, 孙晓^{1,2}, 陈鹏^{1,2}, 王春建^{1,2}, 张朝蓬^{1,2},丛斌斌^{1,2}, 王永胜^{1,2}1. 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;
2. 山东第一医科大学(山东省医学科学院), 山东 济南 250062

[摘要] 背景与目的: 新辅助化疗(neoadjuvant chemotherapy, NAC)目前已成为局部晚期乳腺癌患者的标准治疗模式。探讨人表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER2)阳性和三阴性乳腺癌(triple-negative breast cancer, TNBC)患者NAC后选择性避免腋窝手术分期的可行性及可能获益人群。方法: 回顾性分析2010年1月—2018年8月山东省肿瘤防治研究院(山东省肿瘤医院)收治的865例行NAC患者的临床病理学资料, 其中184例(21.3%)为HER2阳性和TNBC患者, 分析其临床病理学特征与NAC后腋窝淋巴结病理学阴性(y_pN₀)的相关性。结果: NAC前肿瘤分期、淋巴结分期及Ki-67, NAC后腋窝淋巴结临床阴性(y_cN₀)、乳房影像学完全缓解(breast radiologic complete response, brCR)及乳房病理学完全缓解(breast pathologic complete response, bpCR)均与NAC后y_pN₀显著相关($P < 0.05$), 其中NAC前临床淋巴结分期(OR=0.363, $P < 0.001$)、bpCR(OR=11.285, $P < 0.001$)及y_cN₀(OR=4.995, $P < 0.001$)是NAC后y_pN₀的独立预测因素。cN₀→y_cN₀组37例, NAC后bpCR、未达bpCR患者y_pN₀率分别为100.0%(17/17)、90.0%(18/20)($P=0.178$)。cN₁→y_cN₀组42例, NAC后bpCR、未达bpCR患者y_pN₀率分别为95.8%(23/24)、55.6%(10/18)($P < 0.001$)。NAC后未达bpCR的cN₁患者腋窝淋巴结残留转移的相对风险是bpCR患者的10.56倍(95% CI: 2.720~41.003; $P < 0.001$)。结论: 在HER2阳性和TNBC患者中, NAC后bpCR与腋窝淋巴结状态具有高度相关性。NAC后bpCR的cN₀及部分cN₁患者(NAC后降期为y_cN₀)腋窝淋巴结残留转移的风险 $< 5\%$, 使其选择性避免腋窝手术分期成为可能。

[关键词] 乳腺癌; 新辅助化疗; 三阴性乳腺癌; 人表皮生长因子受体2阳性; 腋窝手术分期

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Selective elimination of axillary surgery staging after neoadjuvant chemotherapy for HER2 positive and triple-negative breast cancer SHI Zhiqiang^{1,2}, QIU Pengfei^{1,2}, LIU Yanbing^{1,2}, ZHAO Tong^{1,2}, SUN Xiao^{1,2}, CHEN Peng^{1,2}, WANG Chunjian^{1,2}, ZHANG Zhaopeng^{1,2}, CONG Binbin^{1,2}, WANG Yongsheng^{1,2} (1. Breast Cancer Center, Shandong Cancer Hospital and Institute, Jinan 250117, Shandong Province, China; 2. Shandong First Medical University and Shandong Academy of Medical Sciences, Jinan 250062, Shandong Province, China)

Correspondence: WANG Yongsheng E-mail: wangysh2008@aliyun.com

[Abstract] **Background and purpose:** Neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NAC) has become the standard treatment mode for locally advanced breast cancer patients. This study aimed to explore the feasibility of selective elimination of axillary surgery staging after NAC in human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) positive and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) patients, and to assess which patients would acquire greater benefits from it. **Methods:** From Jan. 2010 to Aug. 2018, 865 patients who underwent surgery after NAC in Shandong Cancer Hospital and Institute were included in this retrospective study to analyze the correlation between clinicopathological characteristics of HER2 positive and TNBC patients and pathologically negative axillary lymph nodes after NAC

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通信作者: 王永胜 E-mail: wangysh2008@aliyun.com

(ypN₀). **Results:** Among the 184 (21.3%) HER2 positive and TNBC patients receiving NAC, tumor staging, lymph node staging and Ki-67 before NAC, clinically node-negative (ycN₀), breast radiologic complete response (brCR) and breast pathologic complete response (bpCR) after NAC were correlated with ypN₀ ($P<0.05$). Clinical lymph node staging before NAC (OR=0.363, $P<0.001$), bpCR (OR=11.285, $P<0.001$) and ycN₀ (OR=4.995, $P<0.001$) were the independent predictors of ypN₀. Among 37 patients with clinically nodal-negative breast cancer before (cN₀) and after (ycN₀) NAC, 17 of 17 (100.0%) with and 18 of 20 (90.0%) without a bpCR had no evidence of residual nodal disease ($P=0.178$). Among 42 patients with cN₁ to ycN₀, 23 of 24 (95.8%) with and 10 of 18 (55.6%) without a bpCR had no evidence of residual nodal disease ($P<0.001$). Patients without a bpCR had a relative risk for nodal residual metastases of 10.56 (95% CI: 2.720-41.003; $P<0.001$) compared with those with a bpCR in cN₁ group. **Conclusion:** In HER2 positive and TNBC patients, bpCR is highly correlated with nodal status after NAC. The risk of axillary lymph nodes residual metastases after NAC in the patients of bpCR with cN₀ and cN₁ to ycN₀ was less than 5%, making it possible to selectively eliminate axillary surgery staging.

[**Key words**] Breast cancer; Neoadjuvant chemotherapy; Triple-negative breast cancer; Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 positive; Axillary surgery staging

新辅助化疗 (neoadjuvant chemotherapy, NAC) 目前已成为局部晚期乳腺癌及炎性乳腺癌最佳治疗模式, 以及大多数 II、III 期人表皮生长因子受体 2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER2) 阳性和三阴性乳腺癌 (triple-negative breast cancer, TNBC) 患者的优选治疗模式^[1]。NAC 不仅可使不可手术切除的乳腺癌变为可手术, 而且可使有保乳意愿的患者实现保乳, 同时也起到了体内药敏试验的作用^[2]。NAC 后病理学完全缓解 (pathologic complete response, pCR) 被认为是长期生存获益的替代指标并与分子分型显著相关^[3]。对于 HER2 阳性和 TNBC 患者, NAC 后腋窝淋巴结 (axillary lymph node, ALN) 病理学阴性 (ypN₀) 率可达 70%~80%^[4-6]。

前哨淋巴结活检 (sentinel lymph node biopsy, SLNB) 是一种微创分期技术, 但存在一定的创伤性及并发症, 患者 SLNB 术后 18 个月内出现淋巴水肿和感觉异常的比例分别为 7.0% 和 8.7%^[7]。鉴于 HER2 阳性和 TNBC 患者 NAC 后的高 ypN₀ 率, 使其 NAC 后选择性避免腋窝手术分期的研究受到越来越多的关注。本研究旨在通过分析 HER2 阳性和 TNBC 患者的临床病理学特征与 NAC 后 ypN₀ 的相关性, 探讨其 NAC 后选择性避免腋窝手术分期的可行性及可能获益人群。

1 资料和方法

1.1 患者资料

回顾性分析 2010 年 1 月—2018 年 8 月山东省肿瘤防治研究院 (山东省肿瘤医院) 收治的 865 例接受 NAC 患者的临床病理学资料, 年龄范围 27~70 岁, 中位年龄 47 岁, 其中 HER2 阳性和 TNBC 患者共 184 例 (21.3%): HER2 阳性组 89 例 (48.4%), TNBC 组 95 例 (51.6%), NAC 后总体 pCR (total pCR, tpCR) 率为 35.3% (65/184)。Ki-67 标记指数定义为 10 个高倍视野中细胞核阳性细胞占全部肿瘤细胞的平均比 $\geq 20\%$ 。NAC 前所有患者均接受完整的影像学评估, 对可疑阳性 ALN 行细针抽吸细胞学检查。

入组患者术前均行蒽环类联合紫杉类药物完整疗程的化疗, HER2 阳性患者均行抗 HER2 靶向治疗 (曲妥珠单抗)。

乳房影像学完全缓解 (breast radiologic complete response, brCR) 定义为 NAC 后行磁共振成像 (magnetic resonance imaging, MRI) 检查乳房内未发现残存病灶, NAC 后 ALN 临床阴性 (ycN₀) 定义为 NAC 后影像学检查未发现异常 ALN。乳房 pCR (breast pCR, bpCR) 定义为乳腺原发灶中无浸润性癌 (ypT_{0/is}), ypN₀ 定义为 ALN 或前哨淋巴结 (sentinel lymph node, SLN) 无乳腺恶性肿瘤细胞, 而 tpCR 定义为 ypT_{0/is} N₀M₀^[3]。排除标准为炎性乳腺癌、术前行腋窝

手术和放疗及NAC过程中疾病进展的患者。

1.2 方法

初始临床淋巴结阴性 (clinically nodal-negative, cN₀) 患者, 若行NAC后评估ALN仍为阴性则行SLNB, 术中行SLN印片细胞学及冰冻切片快速病理学检查, 仅对SLN阳性者行腋窝淋巴结清扫 (axillary lymph node dissection, ALND)。NAC前穿刺细胞学检查证实临床淋巴结阳性 (clinically nodal-positive, cN⁺) 且NAC后ALN转阴者, SLNB后转行ALND, 若NAC后体格检查及超声评估ALN阳性则直接行ALND。接受SLNB的患者均采用联合示踪技术, 术前注射核素示踪剂, 术中联合应用亚甲蓝染料寻找SLN。病理学检查发现宏转移、微转移及孤立性癌细胞者均定义为SLN阳性或ALN阳性 (ypN⁺)。

1.3 统计学处理

采用SPSS 22.0软件进行统计学分析, 计数资料的组间比较采用 χ^2 检验或Fisher精确测定法检验, $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。然后对差异有统计学意义的因素行多因素logistic回归分析。

2 结果

2.1 NAC后ypN₀与临床病理学特征的相关性

HER2阳性和TNBC患者NAC后ypN₀率为57.1% (105/184)。单因素分析显示, NAC前肿瘤分期、淋巴结分期及Ki-67, NAC后ycN₀、brCR及bpCR均与NAC后ypN₀显著相关 ($P < 0.05$), 而绝经状况、病理学类型及分子分型与NAC后ypN₀无关 ($P > 0.05$, 表1)。多因素分析显示, NAC前临床淋巴结分期、brCR及ycN₀是NAC后ypN₀的独立预测因素 ($P < 0.001$, 表2)。

2.2 cN_{0/1}患者NAC后选择避免腋窝手术分期的可行性

cN₀→ycN₀组37例, NAC后bpCR率和ypN₀率分别为45.9% (17/37) 和94.6% (35/37)。NAC后bpCR和未达bpCR患者ypN₀率分别为100.0% (17/17) 和90.0% (18/20) ($P = 0.178$, 图1)。

cN₁→ycN₀组42例, NAC后bpCR率和ypN₀率分别为59.5% (25/42) 和76.2% (32/42), NAC后bpCR和未达bpCR患者ypN₀率分别为95.8%

表1 乳腺癌患者的临床病理学特征与NAC后ypN₀的相关性

Tab. 1 The correlation between ypN₀ after NAC and clinicopathological characteristics of the breast cancer patients

Characteristic	All patients (n=184)	ypN ₀ (n=105)	Percentage/%	P value
Menopausal status				0.256
Menopause	67	35	52.2	
No menopause	117	70	59.8	
Pathological types				0.354
Ductal	156	87	55.8	
Other	28	18	64.3	
Ki-67				0.004
Low expression	34	13	38.2	
High expression	150	92	61.3	
Molecular subtypes				0.805
HER2 positive	89	53	59.6	
TNBC	95	52	54.7	
Clinical tumor staging				0.009
cT ₁	18	12	66.7	
cT ₂	89	56	62.9	
cT ₃	34	19	55.9	
cT ₄	43	18	41.9	
Clinical lymph node staging				<0.001
cN ₀	37	35	94.6	
cN ₁	82	47	57.3	
cN ₂	31	12	38.7	
cN ₃	34	11	32.4	
Radiologic response of the primary tumor on MRI				0.020
brCR	72	48	66.7	
No brCR	48	23	47.9	
Missing	64	34	53.1	
Radiologic response of the lymph nodes				<0.001
ycN ₀	95	77	81.1	
No ycN ₀	89	28	31.5	
Pathologic response of the primary tumor				<0.001
bpCR (ypT _{0/is})	79	65	82.2	
No bpCR	105	40	38.1	

表 2 NAC后ypN₀相关因素的多因素logistic分析

Tab. 2 Multivariate logistic analysis of ypN₀ related factors after

Characteristic	NAC		
	OR	95% CI	P value
Ki-67	1.643	0.689-3.866	0.255
Clinical tumor staging	0.789	0.550-1.133	0.200
Clinical lymph node staging	0.363	0.243-0.542	<0.001
brCR	1.389	0.872-2.212	0.166
ycN ₀	4.995	2.496-9.993	<0.001
bpCR	11.285	4.395-28.974	<0.001

(23/24)和55.6%(10/18)($P<0.001$)；cN₁→ycN₁组40例，NAC后bpCR率和ypN₀率分别为20.0%(8/40)和35.0%(14/40)，NAC后bpCR和未达bpCR患者ypN₀率分别为87.5%(7/8)和21.9%(7/32)($P<0.001$ ，图1)。NAC后未达bpCR的cN₁患者ALN转移的相对风险(relative risk, RR)是bpCR患者的10.56倍(95% CI: 2.720~41.003; $P<0.001$)。32例NAC后bpCR的cN₁患者中发现2例ALN转移：1例只有1枚阳性ALN，1例有2枚阳性ALN，未发现≥3枚阳性ALN转移的患者(表3)。

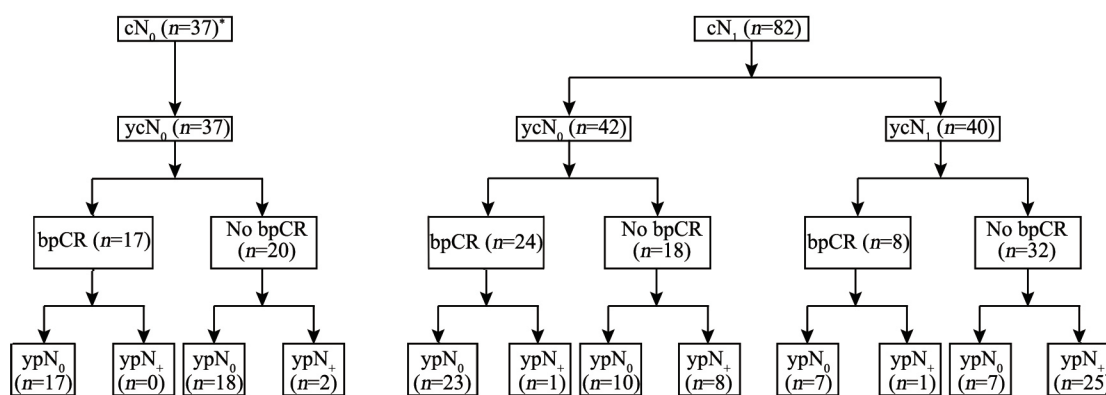


图 1 HER2阳性和TNBC的cN_{0/1}患者NAC后bpCR与ypN₀的相关性

Fig. 1 Correlation between bpCR and ypN₀ in cN_{0/1} patients with HER2 positive and TNBC

*: cN₀ patients with disease progression during NAC were excluded

表 3 未达bpCR与bpCR的cN₁患者NAC后病理ALN状态

Tab. 3 Pathologic ALN status in cN₁ patients with and without a bpCR after NAC

Number of positive ALN after NAC	No bpCR			bpCR			RR (95% CI)	P value
	HER2 positive	TNBC	HER2 positive and TNBC	HER2 positive	TNBC	HER2 positive and TNBC		
0	9	8	17	15	15	30	10.56 (2.720-41.003)	<0.001
1	6	5	11	0	1	1		
2	5	4	9	0	1	1		
≥3	5	8	13	0	0	0		

3 讨 论

从局部晚期乳腺癌到早期乳腺癌，NAC适应证在过去10多年里日趋完善^[8]。随着分子分型指导的NAC和靶向治疗效果不断改善，tpCR率不断提高，HER2阳性和TNBC患者尤其显著，tpCR率可达到60%或更高^[6]。NAC后tpCR不仅可作为乳腺癌患者远期生存的替代指标^[3]，而

且影响着乳腺癌局部区域的降阶梯治疗^[9-11]。NAC不仅可使乳腺原发肿瘤降期以增加保乳手术的机会，也可使约40%的ALN阳性患者降期为阴性患者^[12]。美国国立综合癌症网络(National Comprehensive Cancer Network, NCCN)乳腺癌临床实践指南V1和V2版(2017年)推荐，对于行NAC的cN₀患者，NAC前后均可行SLNB，而V3版之后的指南则更改为推荐NAC后行SLNB^[9]。St. Gallen专家共识(2017年)^[11]对于初诊cN₁

且NAC后ALN转阴患者,53.6%的专家认为NAC后行SLNB检出的SLN>2枚才能保证其准确性。Z1071试验^[13]和SENTINA试验^[14]证实,使用联合示踪剂、检出SLN>2枚及NAC前标记阳性ALN并于术中检出,可将假阴性率(false negative rate, FNR)降低到10%以下,NCCN乳腺癌临床实践指南(2017年)也推荐使用以上技术行SLNB(2B类证据)^[9]。但SLNB的并发症也是不可忽视的,Fleissig等^[7]进行了一项为期18个月的随机对照研究,结果显示,尽管SLNB的术后并发症较ALND明显减轻,但仍有7%的患者出现上肢水肿,8.7%诉手臂麻木感。本研究显示,NAC后bpCR的cN₀及部分cN₁患者(NAC后降期为ycN₀)的ypN₀率为97.6%(40/41),提示针对这部分患者,可以考虑避免腋窝手术。

迄今为止,乳腺癌的外科治疗已进入不断优化的降阶梯治疗,乃至避免手术的时代。正在进行的SOUND研究(NCT 02167490)和INSEMA研究(NCT 02466737)旨在探索早期乳腺癌患者腋窝临床及超声检查阴性能否避免SLNB,而ASICS研究拟探索cN₀患者NAC后避免SLNB的可行性^[15]。这三项研究结果的公布可能会改变目前的临床实践,从而提出cN₀患者在SLNB替代ALND的基础上进一步实现腋窝降阶梯处理(避免腋窝手术分期)的新理念。

美国MD Anderson癌症中心对527例T₁₋₂N₀₋₁M₀的HER2阳性和TNBC患者行前瞻性队列研究,以期用bpCR预测NAC后ypN₀的患者,并开展免除腋窝手术的临床研究^[16],结果发现,初始超声显示,cN₀组290例,NAC后bpCR和未达bpCR患者分别为116和174例,其ypN₀者分别为116和164例(100.0%和94.3%, $P<0.01$);初始活检证实cN₁组237例,NAC后bpCR和未达bpCR患者分别为77和160例,其ypN₀者分别为69和68例(89.6%和42.5%, $P<0.01$)。NAC后未达bpCR的cN₁患者ALN转移的RR较bpCR患者高5.30倍(95% CI: 2.7~10.3, $P<0.001$)。在上述研究的基础上,美国MD Anderson癌症中心回顾性纳入30 821例T₁₋₂N₀₋₁M₀的乳腺癌患者^[17],结果显示,NAC后bpCR的HER2阳性和TNBC的cN₀患者ALN残

留转移的风险<2%,可考虑避免腋窝手术。本研究结果显示,NAC后bpCR的cN₀及部分cN₁患者(NAC后降期为ycN₀)的ypN₀率为97.6%(40/41),其腋窝转移风险较低,使其NAC后选择性避免腋窝手术分期成为可能,与Siso等^[18]的研究结果相一致。本研究结果也显示,NAC后bpCR的cN₁患者虽有2例ALN转移,但病理学检查未发现≥3枚阳性ALN转移的患者,提示NAC后bpCR的cN₁患者ALN残留转移负荷较低,仍可考虑选择性避免腋窝手术分期。

本研究结果显示,NAC前临床淋巴结分期、bpCR及ycN₀是NAC后ypN₀的独立预测因素,NAC前临床淋巴结分期和ycN₀在临床工作中较易获得,但bpCR只能通过手术后病理学检查才能获知,这成为预测NAC后ypN₀最大的障碍。作为bpCR的预测指标,肿瘤分子分型、NAC方案和乳腺影像学检查都缺乏准确性。然而利用影像学方法引导的微创活检(minimally invasive biopsy, MIB)技术有准确预测NAC后bpCR的潜力^[19-20]。Heil等^[21]对50例NAC后达到临床及影像学完全缓解的乳腺癌患者,术前行超声引导的真空辅助微创穿刺活检(vacuum assisted biopsy, VAB)。在具有组织学代表性的VAB样本中($n=38$),预测NAC后bpCR的阴性预测值(negative predictive value, NPV)和FNR分别为94.4%(95% CI: 87.1~100.0)和4.8%(95% CI: 0.0~11.6),与美国MD Anderson癌症中心研究^[22]的结果相一致。

综上所述,NAC前肿瘤分期、淋巴结分期及Ki-67标记指数,NAC后ycN₀、brCR及bpCR均与NAC后的ypN₀显著相关,其中NAC前临床淋巴结分期、bpCR及ycN₀是NAC后ypN₀的独立影响因素。在HER2阳性和TNBC患者中,NAC后bpCR与ALN状态具有高度相关性。NAC后bpCR的cN₀及部分cN₁患者(NAC后降期为ycN₀)ALN残留转移的风险<5%,使其选择性避免腋窝手术分期成为可能,这将有助于降低术后并发症,改善患者的生活质量,降低医疗成本。本研究的结论若推广至临床工作中,仍需大型前瞻性临床试验对避免腋窝手术患者的总生存率及局部区域复发率的研究。

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