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· 综述 ·

# Th17/Treg 细胞在牙周炎与动脉粥样硬化发病中的作用及牙周干预治疗的相关研究

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**【摘要】** 牙周炎是由牙菌斑生物膜引起的牙周组织丧失的慢性感染性疾病。动脉粥样硬化是以脂质堆积为特征,发生在动脉壁的慢性炎症性疾病。近年来大量研究表明牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化之间存在一定的联系。从流行病学角度分析,发现牙周炎患者的动脉粥样硬化发病率更高;Th17分泌的白细胞介素17(interleukin-17, IL-17)通过促使基质金属蛋白酶含量升高,破坏结缔组织,加重两种疾病的进展;Treg细胞通过分泌抗炎因子和表达共抑制因子,降低T细胞活化,限制炎症发展;通过牙周干预治疗可以降低动脉粥样硬化中炎症标记物,有助于动脉粥样硬化的治疗。虽然多项研究结果表明牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化两者可相互影响,但仍需进一步的研究来明确牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化之间相互作用的具体机制。

**【关键词】** 牙周炎; 动脉粥样硬化; 辅助性T细胞17; 调节性T细胞; 白细胞介素17; 细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关抗原-4; 牙周干预治疗

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## The functions of Th17/Treg cells and relevant studies on the treatment of periodontitis and atherosclerosis

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**【Abstract】** Periodontitis is a chronic infectious disease in which periodontal tissue loss is caused by dental plaque biofilm. Atherosclerosis is a chronic inflammatory disease that occurs in the walls of arteries and is characterized by lipid accumulation. Recently, many studies have suggested that there is a certain relationship between periodontitis and atherosclerosis. From an epidemiological perspective, a previous literature review indicated that patients with periodontitis have a higher incidence of atherosclerosis. IL-17 secreted by Th17 cells may aggravate the progression of the two diseases by elevating the levels of matrix metalloproteinases, which may damage the connective tissue. Treg cells reduce the activation of T cells and limit the development of inflammation by secreting anti-inflammatory factors and expressing co-inhibitory molecules. Periodontal intervention may contribute to the treatment of atherosclerosis by reducing inflammatory markers in atherosclerosis. Many studies have shown that periodontitis and atherosclerosis may interact with each other, but further studies are needed to explore the concrete mechanism of the interaction between periodontitis and atherosclerosis.

**【Key words】** periodontitis; atherosclerosis; T helper cell 17; regulatory T cell; interleukin 17; cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein-4; periodontal intervention treatment

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牙周炎(periodontitis, PD)是一种以牙菌斑为始动因子,菌斑定植于牙齿龈上或者龈下部位,侵犯牙周组织,导致牙周袋形成,牙槽骨渐进式吸收的慢性炎症性疾病<sup>[1-2]</sup>。它是细菌菌群、宿主免疫和牙周组织之间病理性相互作用的结果。牙周炎不及时治疗是牙齿脱落的重要原因,也可能会影响全身系统性疾病,例如糖尿病、心血管疾病以及导致早产儿和低出生体重儿等疾病的发生<sup>[3]</sup>。心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)主要是指发生在心脏、血管处的疾病,如动脉粥样硬化、高血压、急性心肌梗死等。动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)是心血管疾病的基础,是一种慢性进行性血管炎症疾病,其特征是脂蛋白在动脉壁聚集修饰后,引发免疫炎症反应,导致动脉壁厚度增加,管腔狭窄,最终阻塞血管<sup>[4-5]</sup>。大量研究表明,牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化之间存在密切联系,具有部分共同的危险因素,如吸烟、年龄、肥胖、高血压和遗传等<sup>[6]</sup>。而且两种疾病都是多因素进行性的慢性疾病,与多种免疫细胞及细胞因子有密切联系。辅助性T细胞17(T helper cell 17, Th17)和调节性T细胞(regulatory cell, Treg)可介导免疫反应,其分泌的细胞因子在两种疾病的进展中起到重要作用。本文对Th17和Treg细胞在牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化两种疾病中的发病机制以及牙周治疗对动脉粥样硬化的预防保护作用作一综述。

## 1 牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化的流行病学特征

牙周炎被称为第六种最常见的人类疾病,全世界超过90%的人都受其影响,全球超过7%的人患有重型牙周炎<sup>[7]</sup>。心血管疾病是发达国家高发病率和死亡率的主要原因,全球范围内心血管疾病引起的死亡大约占总死亡率的1/3,而且预计未来比例会继续上升<sup>[8-9]</sup>。口腔卫生和全身健康存在相互关系,不良的口腔环境是系统性疾病潜在危险。Byon等<sup>[10]</sup>利用2002年至2015年韩国国民健康数据库,调查牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化发展之间的关系,发现与非牙周炎患者相比,牙周炎患者发生动脉粥样硬化的风险更高,校正风险比为1.09(95%CI: 1.05 ~ 1.13)。Beukers等<sup>[11]</sup>调查表明,在

校正动脉粥样硬化的危险因素后,牙周炎是动脉粥样硬化的一个重要危险因素,且两者之间有明显相关性(OR: 1.59, 95%CI: 1.39 ~ 1.81)。根据最新牙齿脱落与动脉粥样硬化相关性Meta分析,牙周炎患者患动脉粥样硬化的风险比从1.50增加到3.20,提示牙齿剩余数量越少,动脉粥样硬化的预后风险越高<sup>[12]</sup>。最近一项研究发现,将33名牙周炎患者根据内皮功能评分分为两组,发现内皮功能障碍组的牙齿移动性和脱落牙数均增加<sup>[13]</sup>。

## 2 Th17/Treg细胞在牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化中的作用

T淋巴细胞活化后分化为效应性和调节性T细胞亚群,即Th1、Th2、Th17和Treg等。其中Th17和Treg细胞这两种CD<sup>4+</sup>T细胞亚群在牙周炎及动脉粥样硬化的发病机制中起着重要作用。

### 2.1 Th17细胞对牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化的作用

Th17是CD<sup>4+</sup>辅助性T细胞的一个亚群,主要在胸腺中产生,也可以从其他细胞转化而来<sup>[14]</sup>。Th17细胞产生标志性细胞因子白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6, IL-6)、IL-17、IL-21、IL-22、核因子-κB受体活化因子配体(receptor activator nuclear factor-κB ligand, RANKL)和肿瘤坏死因子-α(tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α)<sup>[15-16]</sup>。

在牙槽骨吸收和动脉粥样硬化发生中,Th17细胞通常表现出促炎作用,但它们也可以表现抗炎反应,主要依赖于局部环境中不同细胞因子的组合<sup>[17]</sup>。在牙周炎中,Th17细胞通过诱导粒细胞生成、中性粒细胞趋化募集和激活发挥保护作用<sup>[18]</sup>;并且在牙龈组织中发现Th17细胞规律性的排列;而缺乏IL-17受体的小鼠更容易受到骨丢失的影响<sup>[19]</sup>。还有相关研究发现,IL-17A可通过调节密封蛋白、上皮细胞产生的β-防御素和S100蛋白等抗菌因子来维持上皮屏障的完整性<sup>[18]</sup>,保护牙周微环境免受牙周致病菌的侵害。IL-17还可通过诱导动脉粥样硬化斑块中平滑肌细胞的增殖和胶原含量来维持斑块的稳定性;下调内皮细胞中血管细胞粘附分子-1(vascular cell adhesion molecule-1, VCAM-1)的表达以防止单核细胞粘附<sup>[20]</sup>。

但是,还是有更多研究证明Th17与溶骨作用以及感染性和自身免疫性疾病中的促炎作用有关<sup>[21]</sup>。Inönü等<sup>[22]</sup>检测了不同严重程度的牙周炎患者、龈炎患者和牙周健康者唾液中的IL-17浓度,发现与健康组相比,龈炎组及牙周炎组中IL-17的浓度均明显升高,提示牙周炎会引发Th17细胞含量升高,Th17细胞分泌具有促炎或破骨细胞特征的细胞因子。高水平的IL-17与相应的跨膜受体相互作用,触发了Janus激动2的磷酸化,随后磷酸化其下游信号转换器和转录激活因子3,促进成纤维细胞和成骨细胞膜上RANKL的表达,RANKL与前破骨细胞表面的RANK结合,进而诱导破骨细胞的形成<sup>[23]</sup>,这应该是成骨细胞和破骨细胞之间相互作用的结果,但过量的破骨细胞生成会导致牙槽骨吸收,促进牙周炎的进展。

研究表明,动脉粥样硬化患者中的Th17细胞水平明显升高<sup>[20]</sup>。测量发现动脉粥样硬化模型组大鼠血清中IL-17的表达明显高于正常对照组<sup>[14]</sup>,向载脂蛋白E<sup>-/-</sup>(ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>)模型小鼠腹腔中注射抗IL-17抗体后,IL-17表达降低且抑制小鼠斑块的形成<sup>[14]</sup>。可推断出IL-17可以加速血管内斑块的形成,甚至影响斑块的稳定性,IL-17的缺乏或耗尽具有保护动脉粥样硬化的作用。IL-17作为一种促炎细胞因子,激活巨噬细胞、血管平滑肌细胞和内皮细胞,产生炎症细胞因子,如IL-6、TNF- $\alpha$ 和IL-1 $\beta$ ,促进动脉粥样硬化的形成。IL-17本身是一种弱的炎症诱导剂,其强大的炎症效应主要来自于与其他细胞因子的协同作用,诱导CXC趋化因子配体1(CXC chemokine ligand 1, CXCL1), C-C基序趋化因子配体20(chemokine C-C motif ligand 20, CCL20)的释放<sup>[17]</sup>,增强炎症细胞的黏附,并将中性粒细胞、单核细胞和其他类型的细胞募集到动脉粥样硬化病变中,再释放促炎症介质前列腺素E<sub>2</sub>,进一步加重炎症发展,增加斑块不稳定性。IL-17还可通过激活caspase-3和caspase-9以及通过增加Bax/Bcl-2比值来诱导血管内皮细胞凋亡<sup>[20]</sup>。

## 2.2 Treg细胞对牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化的作用

Treg细胞能够抑制促炎的先天免疫细胞和适应性免疫细胞功能,以及促进组织修复来维持免疫动态平衡和耐受性。有趣的是有研究发现,暴露于牙龈卟啉单胞菌(*P.gingivalis*, *P.g*)或长期处于高胆固醇环境中,外周血中高含量的IL-1 $\beta$ 和IL-6会促进Treg分泌细胞因子IL-17,使可塑性Treg细胞转化为Th17样细胞<sup>[24-25]</sup>。但是,大多数Treg细

胞面对炎症是起到抗炎、保护机体的作用。在牙周炎及动脉粥样硬化进展过程中,除了Treg细胞数量减少外,Treg的抑制功能也受损。Da Motta等<sup>[21]</sup>把30只小鼠按照牙周炎严重程度分类,并且对Treg标记后检测发现,Ⅲ-B(Ⅲ期B级)组小鼠Treg的数量明显高于Ⅳ-C(Ⅳ期C级)组,通过该实验除了发现Treg含量会随着炎症的加重而降低之外,还可推断出Treg细胞可延缓小鼠实验性牙周炎的进展,并对牙周病的骨吸收起到保护作用。在牙周炎中,牙槽骨吸收和炎症的减轻归因于:①Treg细胞下调IL-17和RANKL的表达;②Treg促进骨保护素(osteoprotegerin, OPG)表达,抑制RANKL表达,降低RANKL/OPG比值,进而抑制破骨细胞生成和骨吸收<sup>[16]</sup>。

在模拟动脉粥样硬化进展的小鼠模型中,使用抗CD25抗体靶向消耗Treg会加剧疾病进展,而转移植入Treg则阻止疾病的进展<sup>[9]</sup>。Treg细胞通过抑制T细胞促炎反应和增强巨噬细胞的促分解功能,促进组织修复和斑块收缩。Treg打破斑块中效应T细胞和M1(炎性或经典激活):M2(交替激活)型巨噬细胞的平衡,增加M2:M1的比值。相比于M1型巨噬细胞,M2型表现出免疫抑制,增强清除能力,产生抗炎细胞因子,有助于斑块消退和组织修复<sup>[26]</sup>。而在没有Treg或者Treg含量降低的状况下,斑块不仅不会消退,而且还表现出类似动脉粥样硬化进展的状态。

## 2.3 Th17/Treg细胞在牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化中的作用

越来越多的研究表明,Th17/Treg失衡对牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化发展起到致病作用。Gao等<sup>[27]</sup>观察牙周炎小鼠Th17/Treg细胞比值,发现在最开始几周比值增加明显。Yang等<sup>[28]</sup>通过分析脾细胞中的Th17和Treg细胞的百分比,发现脾细胞中与未感染*P.g*的ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠相比,感染*P.g*的ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠Th17细胞的百分比更高,而Treg细胞的比例更低;与单纯动脉粥样硬化相比,牙周炎伴动脉粥样硬化中的Th17/Treg细胞比值升高更明显。同时大量动物研究证明,通过抑制Th17细胞应答,增加Treg细胞活化,可减轻疾病炎症。在体内实验中,全反式维甲酸可调节Th17/Treg比值,保护小鼠免受实验性牙周炎的影响<sup>[29]</sup>。Fan等<sup>[30]</sup>研究对比不同剂量药物对ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠的影响,发现给药组均可降低Th17/Treg比值,对ApoE<sup>-/-</sup>小鼠具有抗动脉粥样硬化的作用。

结缔组织的降解,尤其是胶原的破坏是牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化病理变化的共同的特征。I型胶原是牙周细胞外基质和动脉粥样硬化斑块的主要成分。基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinases, MMPs)是一种蛋白水解酶,参与胶原蛋白和细胞外基质(extracellular matrix, ECM)蛋白的生理降解<sup>[5]</sup>,主要由巨噬细胞释放。而牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化中升高的IL-17也可促进成纤维细胞、内皮细胞和上皮细胞产生MMPs(如:MMP-1、MMP-3、MMP-8、MMP-9和MMP-13)<sup>[20]</sup>。MMP-8对I型胶原有较高的亲和力,是牙周炎及动脉粥样硬化中的主要胶原酶。Gürsoy等<sup>[31]</sup>研究结果表明,唾液中MMP-8片段的水平随着牙周炎的进展而增加,并在疾病发展过程中保持较高的水平。活化的MMPs对细胞外基质具有较高的亲和力,致使牙周结缔组织的消失,最终导致牙齿脱落。同时,这些酶也会促进降解动脉内富含胆固醇斑块的薄纤维帽<sup>[5]</sup>,加快从稳定斑块向易损斑块的转化,从而导致斑块扩张和破裂。Treg细胞可分泌抑炎因子,如:IL-10和转化生长因子- $\beta$ (transforming growth factor- $\beta$ , TGF- $\beta$ )<sup>[32]</sup>,减轻牙周炎及动脉粥样硬化炎症反应。IL-10通过直接拮抗单核细胞和巨噬细胞产生的趋化因子,抑制促炎介质的表达<sup>[33]</sup>;或者在激活JAK1后,磷酸化下游的STAT3,直接控制抗炎反应发生<sup>[34]</sup>。而TGF- $\beta$ 通过膜结合丝氨酸/苏氨酸激酶受体,刺激下游信号分子Smad7,并通过诱导NF- $\kappa$ B抑制剂来抑制炎症活化<sup>[35]</sup>。还有研究表明,Treg可通过表面共抑制分子,如细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关抗原-4(cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein-4, CTLA-4)的表达抑制抗原提呈细胞的成熟和功能,从而抑制树突状细胞诱导的T细胞活化,在免疫炎症反应的动态平衡控制中发挥关键作用。CD28信号在促进T细胞的扩张、存活和辅助功能中起到重要作用,CTLA-4是促进Treg抑制功能的跨膜蛋白质,主要表达在活化T细胞和Treg上,是一种相对于T细胞共刺激分子CD28的抑制性受体。与CD28相比,CTLA-4对CD80/CD86有更高的亲和力。因此,CTLA-4与表达在APC上的共刺激分子CD80和CD86结合,诱导Treg细胞反应,抑制炎症发生。Nakane等<sup>[36]</sup>研究发现,CTLA-4-Ig可显著减少结扎性骨吸收和破骨细胞样细胞的数量,提示CTLA-4-Ig可能通过与单核/巨噬细胞表面的CD80/CD86结合,直接作用于破骨细胞前体,通过抑制破骨细胞的分化和活化来抑制诱导牙周炎的骨吸收。同时,抑制CTLA-4可增加高脂血症小

鼠主动脉内皮细胞间黏附分子1(intercellular cell adhesion molecule1, ICAM1)的表达,促进免疫细胞招募到血管炎症部位,加速斑块向更晚期和不稳定病变的进展,加重了实验性动脉粥样硬化<sup>[37]</sup>。

### 3 牙周干预治疗降低动脉粥样硬化风险

在一项前瞻性研究中,研究者选择了247 696例无任何心血管疾病的参与者,随访9.5年,发生14 893起心血管事件,多变量校正后,每天多刷牙与心血管疾病发生率降低相关,定期专业清洁进一步降低了事件发生率<sup>[38]</sup>。研究者对130例牙周患者治疗前后进行牙周和全身检查,发现牙周治疗后,患者两侧颈总动脉的最大内膜中层厚度(intima-media thickness, IMT)显著降低<sup>[39]</sup>。动物实验也提示,牙周非手术治疗可能降低动脉粥样硬化的发展和改善颈动脉血管结构<sup>[40]</sup>。这些随机临床实验和动物实验结果提示,进行口腔卫生维护、定期龈上洁治和成功的牙周治疗有利于降低心血管疾病发病率<sup>[41]</sup>。

Teeuw等<sup>[42]</sup>针对牙周治疗对与动脉粥样硬化风险相关的炎症标记物进行荟萃分析,发现与未进行治疗组相比,牙周治疗组的超敏C反应蛋白(hypersensitive C-reactive protein, hs-CRP)、IL-6、TNF- $\alpha$ 、纤维蛋白原、总胆固醇(total cholesterol, TC)等含量降低,而高密度脂蛋白胆固醇升高;同时还发现心血管疾病和糖尿病的牙周炎患者从牙周治疗中获益更多。表明牙周治疗在降低动脉粥样硬化危险因素方面是有益的。有研究显示,与未进行牙周非手术治疗的牙周炎患者相比,进行治疗的患者术后1个月血浆中的IL-17与治疗前相比水平降低<sup>[15]</sup>。因此,可推测牙周治疗可通过有效清除牙周致病菌、减少局部炎症,降低动脉粥样硬化性疾病的生物标志物和血浆中IL-17的水平,改善内皮功能。因此,提出牙周非手术治疗对降低动脉粥样硬化风险有着重要意义。

有证据表明,首次强化牙周治疗以控制牙周炎症会引起最初的全身性炎症高峰,并伴随着血管内皮功能的恶化;但随着牙周健康的改善,在接下来的6个月中,血流介导的血管扩张(flow-mediated dilatation, FMD)、IMT都稳步改善;而且,代谢和血管参数的改善程度与牙龈炎症的减轻和口腔健康的改善呈线性相关<sup>[43]</sup>。尽管大量实验支持,牙周干预治疗通过改善内皮功能,有益于动脉粥样硬化这一观点;然而,Saffi等<sup>[44]</sup>在一项随机临床试验中调查了非手术牙周治疗对血管内皮功能的

影响,对69名患者进行随机对照试验,分别于治疗前和治疗后3个月测定血流介导的舒张功能,结果发现牙周治疗并没有为心血管疾病患者提供更好的血管扩张。因此,牙周治疗是否可以改善动脉粥样硬化的发病率还没有一个明确的答案,仍需要更多的动物实验和临床实验深入研究。

#### 4 小 结

综上所述,牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化两者相互影响,已有研究表明牙周炎是动脉粥样硬化的独立危险因素。在局部炎症微环境免疫中发挥重要作用的Th17细胞、Treg细胞以及种细胞因子都参与了两种疾病的发生发展。目前对牙周炎和动脉粥样硬化的研究还不是十分透彻,仍需要更深入的研究进一步阐明二者之间的相互作用机制。

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