

# 骨性关节炎生物学标志物研究进展

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**摘要** 骨性关节炎(osteoarthritis,OA)是一种随着年龄增长发病率明显升高的退行性变,常累及脊柱、髋、膝等人体负重关节,以关节缓慢发展的疼痛、肿胀,伴功能障碍为临床表现,主要有滑膜增生、软骨破坏、软骨下骨骨化及骨赘形成等一系列病理表现。OA对人类的健康和生活质量影响很大。随着老龄化社会的到来,本病的发病率日趋升高,其研究已成为医学领域中的重要课题。目前,OA的早期诊断、病变监测和有效防治仍是骨科领域亟待解决的疑难问题。随着分子生物学的发展和研究手段的提高,许多研究者都在试图寻找用于临床评价OA的生物学标志物。本文将就OA研究中所使用的主要标志物进行综述,为深入研究OA提供方便。

**关键词** 骨性关节炎;生物学标志物;研究进展

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## Progress of Stdudy on Biomarkers of Osteoarthritis

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**ABSTRACT:** Osteoarthritis is a progressive degeneration whose incidence is increased with age, often involving the vertebral column, hip, and knee joints, characterized by chronic pains, swelling and dysfunction clinically and synovial proliferation, cartilage destruction, subchondral bone ossification, osteophyte formed pathologically. OA has great effect on people's health and life quality. Along with the arrival of aging society, OA has become an important subject in medical area. Recently, early diagnosis, monitoring and prevention of OA is still a burning question in orthopedic field. With the development of molecular biology and research method, many scholars are trying to find some useful biomarkers for clinic evaluation. This review will provide convenience for further reseach of OA.

**Key words:** Osteoarthritis; Biomarker; Progress

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OA的生物学标志物为关节组织基质的分子物质或片断,它们在组织合成和分解的代谢过程中被释放进入血液或尿液,可通过酶联免疫吸附法(ELISA)或放射免疫法进行测定<sup>[1]</sup>。近年来,对软骨、滑膜及骨的生物学标志物进行了大量的实验研究和临床分析,并取得了较大的进展。OA的形成中包括滑膜、软骨及骨等不同组织的代谢改变<sup>[2,3]</sup>,所以为了充分全面的认识关节破坏的机制,应该选择这三种组织的标志物进行评价。

### 1 OA 生物学标志物分类

#### 1.1 骨源性标志物

I型胶原是三股螺旋的骨组织主要的有机细胞外基质,在其合成和降解过程中,可产生多种肽段,通过测定这些肽段如I型胶原氨基端肽(NTX-I)和羧基端肽(CTX-I)的浓度即可反映I型胶原的代谢情况。但是他们的代谢水平受到各种不同因素的影响,比如年龄、骨质疏松、绝经后状态等。因此,最近的研究基本还是聚集在软骨及滑膜源性的标志物上。

#### 1.2 滑膜源性标志物

尿激酶型纤溶酶源激活物(uPA urokinase-type plasminogen activator)uPA是广泛存在于人和动物体内的一种丝氨酸蛋白水解酶。研究表明,uPA主要作用于生理、病理条件下细胞迁移和组织修复,介导细胞周围基质蛋白的降解<sup>[4]</sup>。uPA可以通过多种途径调节滑膜炎症、血管炎症和关节破坏,且uPA与炎性细胞进入滑膜组织的再循环过程有关<sup>[5]</sup>。滑膜中增高的uPA除能引起或加剧滑膜炎症外,还可直接释放如关节液,激活软骨中的纤溶酶原,引起关节软骨基质的降解。Pap<sup>[6]</sup>发现uPA和OA在关节软骨破坏严重的表浅层强烈表达,并且uPA的水平与关节软骨破坏的严重程度密切相关。Pelletier<sup>[7]</sup>等发现在OA中滑膜中uPA浓度明显增高,肌肉注射纤溶酶原激活物抑制物后关节软骨退变明显减缓,从而证明滑膜中纤溶酶原激活物对OA进展的作用。

YKL-40:又称人软骨糖蛋白39,主要由滑膜细胞、软骨细胞、巨噬细胞和中性粒细胞产生,其mRNA在软骨细胞及肝脏中表达强烈。Conrozier<sup>[8]</sup>研究发现,髋关节OA患者血清YKL-40水平较正常人显著升高,这提示血清YKL-40可能与OA密切相关。Takahashi<sup>[9]</sup>等在对71例膝OA女性患者的研究中也发现,有症状OA患者血清YKL-40比无症状者的YKL-40水平增高更明显,并进一步观察到YKL-40水平与影像学分级有关,但与关节间隙无相关性。这提示血清的YKL-40水平可反映关节软骨降解破坏程度及局部疾病的活动

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性。

### 1.3 软骨源性标志物

II型胶原羧基端肽(CTX-II) II型胶原是关节软骨的主要结构成分,占胶原总量的80%-90%。OA发生时,II型胶原降解代谢加快,在蛋白酶的作用下,II型胶原首先裂解产生C-端肽,即为CTX-II,以小肽形式全部进入尿液,可通过ELISA方法进行检测,因此具有作为OA候选生物学标志物基因的优势<sup>[10]</sup>。Garnero P等<sup>[11]</sup>研究发现CTX-II含量与OA影像学进展成正相关,而Dam EB等<sup>[12]</sup>也借助MRI证实了尿液中CTX-II含量升高可以预测软骨破坏进展,这提示尿液中CTX-II越高,OA的发病危险越大,疾病进展的可能也越大。徐守伟<sup>[13]</sup>关节软骨损伤后的早期,尿中CTX-II含量即显著升高,在24 h内达最高峰,而随着病情的康复进程,可能在软骨的修复及关节稳定性重建及其他可能的生物学因素作用下,CTX-II的含量呈下降趋势。

软骨寡聚基质蛋白(COMP):主要由软骨细胞和滑膜细胞分泌<sup>[14]</sup>。它是透明软骨的重要组成成分,其C端球状区可以连接I、II和III型胶原,提示其可能参与调节纤维结构和维持胶原蛋白网的完整性。Garnero等<sup>[15]</sup>发现膝关节OA患者与年龄匹配的健康人群相比,血清中COMP水平明显增高,因此他们认为血清COMP变化代表了软骨和滑膜组织的更新情况。波士顿膝关节研究组通过分析软骨代谢标记物与膝关节OA患者关节软骨变化之间的关系,发现COMP可以预测OA病情进展,血清和尿液中每增加1 U的COMP,软骨丢失的危险性将增高6倍以上<sup>[16]</sup>。Chaganti等<sup>[17]</sup>通过对老年白人女性髋关节OA发生与发展进行8年以上随访发现,在发生髋关节OA影像学改变的实验组血清中,COMP水平的平均变化率约达未发展为髋关节OA的对照组的4倍。血清中COMP每上升1 U,发生髋关节OA的危险性将增加58%。患有稳定性髋关节OA的患者血清中COMP平均变化率比进展期的患者高61%,血清中COMP每降低1 U,髋关节OA病情发生进展的可能性将降低26%。因此,COMP是目前所研究的生物学标记物中可以持续表达并预测进程的最佳标记物<sup>[18]</sup>。

II型胶原羧基端前肽(PIICP):OA关节软骨破坏的同时也伴随着软骨的修复。胶原纤维在形成过程中需在蛋白酶作用下在细胞外水解掉C端前肽变成成熟的胶原纤维,因此PIICP可以反映II型胶原的合成情况。研究表明早期OA患者血清PIICP水平较对照组明显升高<sup>[19]</sup>。Kraus VB等<sup>[20]</sup>对OA关节液中PIICP进行检测,发现PIICP在OA早、中期升高,在晚期下降,其原因可能是由于OA早期关节软骨破坏不明显,软骨细胞增加,合成功能增强;在晚期阶段,软骨基质严重破坏,软骨细胞减少,合成功能下降,PIICP水平也随之下降。因此检测血清或关节液PIICP水平可反映OA中软骨细胞合成型胶原的情况,间接反映OA进展情况。

II型胶原螺旋体(HELIX-II):是人类II型胶原α链上一种特异抗原,在II型胶原降解时被释放。研究发现OA及早期RA患者尿中Helix-II含量明显高于正常年龄及性别配对的对照组,在早期RA患者尿中Helix-II水平的升高程度则提示疾病的发展程度,当联合CTX-II进行分析时会显著提高对疾病

进展的预测能力<sup>[21]</sup>。

基质金属蛋白酶(matrix metalloproteinases,MMPs)是一组由细胞分泌的含有锌金属离子催化中心的肽链内切酶,近年的一些研究表明其几乎能降解除多糖以外的所有ECM(extracellular matrix),在正常情况下,其与金属蛋白酶组织抑制因子(tissue inhibitor of metallo-proteinases,TIMPs)以1:1不可逆结合,使ECM始终处于降解速度不快于更新速度的平衡过程<sup>[22]</sup>。在OA的病理过程中。软骨细胞与滑膜常受到累及。软骨细胞及滑膜细胞分泌过量的MMPs,打破了MMPs-TIMPs的平衡。因为MMPs能够特异地裂解胶原分子,导致胶原网受到破坏,原本被关节软骨外基质包埋的软骨细胞暴露于炎性因子的攻击之下,在力学负荷和炎性因子的作用下关节软骨抗应力的能力降低,软骨细胞发生凋亡,细胞外基质成分游离出软骨,最终软骨被破坏<sup>[23]</sup>。文献<sup>[24]</sup>报道在OA患者的滑膜中检测到MMP-13的高表达。也有学者<sup>[25]</sup>用酶谱分析法研究OA患者血清和滑液中MMP-2和MMP-9的活性,结论是OA患者血清和滑液标本中MMP-2和MMP-9酶活性均比正常对照组显著增强。但是MMPs作为一种在人体内广泛发挥作用的炎症介质,在各种炎症性病变及一些肿瘤病变中都会发生含量的异常变化,因此不能将其作为OA诊断的特异性标志物。

## 2 小结

虽然骨性关节炎生物学标志物种类繁多,但由于其表达水平容易受到年龄、性别、体重指数、其他骨病等诸多因素的影响,且单一生物学标志物的敏感性和特异性相对较差,因此目前还尚未能将其用于早期临床诊断。怎么样将这些标志物筛选出来并合理联合运用到早期临床检测诊断以及相关药物研发是目前亟待解决的问题。

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