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中频交变电流抑制肿瘤细胞的体外增殖

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摘要 目的:初步探究新型物理治疗技术中频交变电流对肿瘤细胞和正常细胞体外存活率的影响;设置不同实验参数(频率、电流、时间),观察影响效果;针对实验结果,分析中频交变电流抑制肿瘤细胞体外增殖的可能机制。**方法:**将对数生长期的细胞悬液接种于24孔培养板,贴壁后(24 h)施加不同参数的中频电流刺激,噻唑蓝(MTT)法检测细胞存活率;以人乳腺癌细胞MCF-7为例,观察中频交变电流对细胞生存环境温度和pH的影响,Annexin V-FITC/PI双染法流式细胞术定量检测细胞凋亡/死亡情况,扫描电子显微镜和透射电子显微镜观察细胞结构变化。**结果:**中频交变电流能降低肿瘤细胞的体外存活率,诱导其凋亡,但不影响正常细胞(L929)存活率;MCF-7细胞体外实验最适参数是100 kHz,50 mA,每天30 min;电刺激后MCF-7细胞表面微绒毛减少,细胞线粒体肿胀,有多泡体及溶酶体形成。**结论:**中频交变电流能抑制肿瘤细胞增殖,但不影响正常细胞(L929);抑制效果和电刺激的频率、电流和时间有关;抑制机制可能是中频交变电流能够诱导细胞凋亡,影响细胞膜表面蛋白功能,但不影响细胞生存环境。中频交变电流抑制肿瘤体外增殖为实体瘤等增生性疾病的治疗提供了新的思路。

关键词:中频交变电流;肿瘤细胞;凋亡;人乳腺癌细胞(MCF-7)

中图分类号:Q683, R730.59 **文献标识码:**A **文章编号:**1673-6273(2014)11-2032-05

Inhibiting Tumor Cells with Alternating Micro-current at Intermediate Frequency in Vitro

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ABSTRACT Objective: The aim of the present study is to investigate the inhibitory efficacy of alternating current at intermediate frequency (ACIF) on tumor cells and normal cells in vitro. Influencing effect of different parameters (frequency, electric current, duration) was observed. Then the possible mechanism of ACIF inhibition on tumor cell proliferation in vitro was analyzed based on the result of the experiments. **Methods:** The cells in logarithmic growth phase were planted in 24-well plates. ACIF of different parameters was applied after cells attachment. The survival rates to cells were determined by methyl thiazolyl tetrazolium (MTT) method. In human breast cancer cells (MCF-7), for example, effect of ACIF on temperature and pH of cell survival environment was observed. Apoptosis or death grates of MCF-7 cells were evaluated by Annexin V-FITC and PI double labeled flow cytometry. Scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy were applied to examine the changes in morphology and structural of MCF-7 cells, in order to evaluate cells apoptosis. **Results:** ACIF could decrease survival rates of tumor cells and induce apoptosis, but does not affect normal cells (L929) survival. The optimum stimulation parameters for MCF-7 cells are 100 kHz, 50 mA, lasting 30 min every day. Results of scanning electron microscopy and transmission electron microscopy showed that MCF-7 cells after treatment were damaged seriously, including reduction of microvilli, mitochondrial swelling, multi-vesicle body and lysosome. **Conclusion:** ACIF can inhibit tumor cell proliferation, but not normal cells. The effects are consistent with the frequency, electric current and duration. ACIF may act in two possible modes: inducing apoptosis and affecting function of membrane proteins. And this conclusion provides a new way for proliferative diseases.

Key words: Alternating current at intermediate frequency (ACIF); Tumor cells; Apoptosis; Human breast cancer cells (MCF-7)

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前言

近年来,电流和电场的生物学效应及治疗作用愈加受到人们关注^[1],包括肿瘤治疗电场(Tumor Treating Fields, TTF)、直流电化疗、电脉冲疗法等,主要用于肿瘤和增生性疾病的治疗。研究发现,低强度(μ A)、低频率(Hz)的交变脉冲电流能够抑制大鼠脑胶质瘤细胞C6、人前列腺癌细胞PC3的体外增殖^[2],15/25 mA的低强度微电流能够抑制人前列腺癌细胞C4-2B CaP、LuCaP 35的体内增殖^[3]。微电流能在人体内引发包括电解、电泳电渗、离子水化和极化等物理化学变化,有镇痛、促进成骨细胞生长、产生神经兴奋等临床应用^[4-6]。2011年,美国FDA批准TTF技术用于治疗复发或新发的成人多形性胶质母细胞瘤^[7]。

本课题组首次将中频交变微电流(Alternating micro-current at intermediate frequency, ACIF)应用于抑制肿瘤细胞的研究,经过前期实验发现,ACIF可有效抑制多种肿瘤体内外增殖,并在软件和工程研究基础上不断改进,研发了三代中频交变电流治疗仪^[8-10]。在此基础上,本课题拟对中频交变电流治疗参数进行优化,并对其机制做初步探讨。

1 材料与方法

1.1 材料

人肝癌细胞HepG2、BEL-7402、人乳腺癌细胞MCF-7、人神经胶质细胞瘤细胞U251和小鼠成纤维细胞L929(均来自上海协和细胞库),常规细胞培养法培养。

1.2 实验仪器

中频微电流治疗仪(实验室自主研发),主要参数:频率50-500 kHz,电流0-50 mA,正弦波。电极:铂金材质,L状,直径0.5 mm,L底边长度1.0 cm且平行,电极间距1.0 cm。

1.3 分组及电刺激方法

将对数生长期的细胞接种于24孔培养板,分为对照组和电刺激组,每组6个复孔。

对照组:正常培养细胞;电刺激组:施加不同参数(频率、电流、时间)中频交变电流刺激;刺激周期:接板后24 h开始,每隔24 h 1次,共3次。每孔电极施加方式侧视图如图1所示。

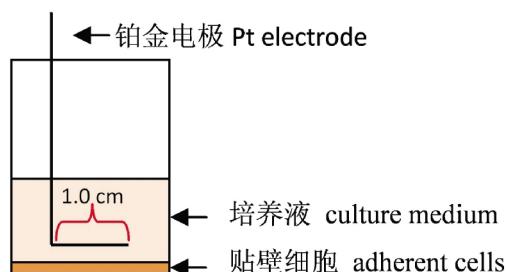


图1 电极施加方式侧视图

Fig.1 Sketch of experiment equipment

1.4 检测方法:

噻唑蓝(MTT)比色法检测细胞生存率,细胞生存率(%)=治疗组OD570/对照组OD570*100%。Annexin V-FITC/PI双染法标记凋亡及坏死细胞,流式细胞仪检测,得到图示(文中未给出)和定量结果。以MCF-7为例,绘制细胞生存曲线,pH计和光纤测温仪检测中频交变电流对细胞生存环境pH和温度的影响,扫描电镜和透射电镜观察电刺激后细胞结构变化。

1.5 统计处理

计量资料以均值±标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示。数据处理采用SPSS 16.0统计软件和Microsoft Excel作图。P<0.05表示差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 不同频率 ACIF 对肿瘤细胞的抑制作用

对不同细胞施加50 mA,50-500 kHz不同频率的电刺激15 min,肿瘤细胞在某些频率下存活率显著降低,L929存活率未受到明显影响。说明ACIF可以抑制肿瘤细胞增殖,对正常细胞没有影响,不同肿瘤细胞对ACIF频率的敏感度不同。

表1 不同频率 ACIF 刺激后肿瘤细胞的存活率

Table 1 Survival rates varying frequency

Frequency(kHz)	HepG2	BEL-7402	MCF-7	U251	L929
50	86.83±8.91*	86.31±6.59*	78.39±18.49*	85.01±18.24*	103.28±15.69
100	92.07±13.28	104.02±17.75	69.95±2.94**	86.79±17.37	99.23±10.48
200	94.39±6.91	86.12±6.98*	84.89±7.72*	100.02±13.24	108.33±11.16
300	84.91±11.42*	92.47±10.17	96.16±8.24	93.84±11.85	99.57±14.68
400	60.75±17.13**	93.12±13.51	94.92±4.6	93.75±14.68	102.57±12.86
500	69.43±10.66**	97.92±14.29	93.97±7.79	77.54±13.33**	109.35±15.99

注: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. 对照组

Note: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. control group

2.2 不同电流 ACIF 对 MCF-7 细胞的抑制作用

以MCF-7细胞为例,施加100 kHz,10-50 mA不同电流的刺激30 min,细胞存活率如表2。可见,MCF-7存活率随着电流

的增大而降低(限于设备,最大电流50 mA),低电流对MCF-7存活率几乎没有影响。

表 2 不同电流 ACIF 刺激后 MCF-7 的存活率

Table 2 Survival rates of MCF-7 varying current

Current(mA)	10	20	30	40	50
Survival rate(%)	108.82±12.07	99.51±16.72	88.42±11.00	70.70±13.58**	61.97±7.02**

注: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. 对照组

Note: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. control group

2.3 ACIF 作用不同时间对 MCF-7 细胞的抑制作用

以 MCF-7 为例,施加 100 kHz, 50 mA 电刺激,持续不同时间后细胞存活率如表 3。四组数据方差分析 P=0.0029,有明显

差异;组间比较发现,仅有作用 60 min 和 90 min 两组细胞存活率相比无明显差异(P=0.227)。

表 3 ACIF 作用不同时间 MCF-7 的存活率

Table 3 Survival rates of MCF-7 varying lasting time

Lasting time(min)	15	30	60	90
Survival rate(%)	69.93±8.99	0.27±12.54	50.20±13.07	44.92±6.40

2.4 MCF-7 细胞生长曲线

以 MCF-7 细胞为例,施加 100 kHz, 50 mA 电刺激 30 min, 贴壁后连续作用 5 天,每天 CCK-8 检测细胞存活情况。生长曲线如图 2,对照组和实验组在前 2 天生长曲线基本一致;第 3-4 天,对照组细胞数量增倍,实验组细胞生长受到抑制;第 5 天两组细胞数量都有所减少,可能由于细胞此时进入生长衰亡期。

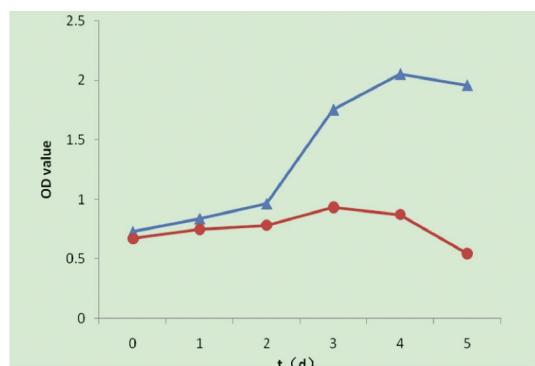


图 2 MCF-7 生长曲线,●-● 实验组,▲-▲对照组

Fig.2 Growth curve of MCF-7, ●-● test group, ▲-▲ control group

2.5 AICF 对 MCF-7 细胞凋亡的影响

以 MCF-7 细胞为例,施加 100 kHz, 50 mA 电刺激 30 min, 两组细胞正常、凋亡、坏死百分率见表 4, 电刺激后细胞凋亡

率、坏死率均有明显上升,与对照组相比有显著差异。

表 4 对照组和电刺激组细胞正常、凋亡、坏死百分率比较

Table 4 Normal, apoptosis, necrosis percentage of MCF-7 in test and control groups

	Normal(%)	Apoptosis(%)	Necrosis(%)
Control group	93.21±1.82	0.86±0.74	4.52±1.58
Test group	74.72±8.00*	11.43±6.01*	9.14±1.71*

注: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. 对照组

Note: * P<0.05, ** P<0.01 vs. control group

2.6 AICF 对细胞生存环境的影响

100 kHz, 50 mA 电刺激 MCF-7 细胞的同时,用 FOT-301 光纤测温仪(西安和其光电科技有限公司)每隔 1min 记录一次培养液 RPMI-1640 的温度,温度曲线(图 3)显示,100 kHz, 50mA 的交变电流对温度的影响很小,温度从 36.7 ℃ 下降到 34.6 ℃,与对照组相比(数据未给出)无明显差异。温度降低的原因可能是培养板从孵箱到无菌操作台内的正常温降。

用 pH 计检测不同频率电刺激 MCF-7 细胞后培养液 RPMI-1640 的 pH 值,结果如图 4,与对照组相比,各实验组 pH 均没有显著差异,说明电刺激不会改变细胞生存环境的 pH,pH 升高可能是因为培养液暴露于超净台环境时间过长,培养基中的碳酸根离子分解成二氧化碳逸出。

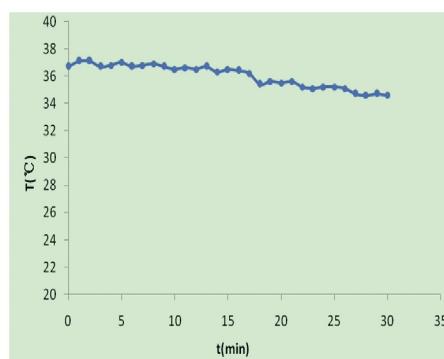


图 3 电刺激过程中培养液的温度变化

Fig.3 Temperature curve of culture medium

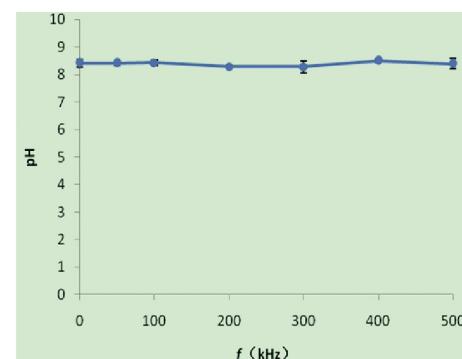


图 4 不同频率电刺激后培养液 pH 值

Fig.4 pH of culture medium varying frequency

2.7 扫描 / 透射电子显微镜观察结果

扫描电镜(10000X)观察 MCF-7 细胞电刺激后膜表面的变化。如图 5 所示,电刺激后细胞膜表面微绒毛减少,形态卷曲甚至完全光滑。

透射电镜(8000X)观察 MCF-7 细胞电刺激后胞内结构变

化。如图 6 所示,对照组呈现正常肿瘤细胞特点:细胞核大,胞质少,细胞器较少,细胞表面有完整的微绒毛。而电刺激后肿瘤细胞核膨胀,核质疏松,核膜下可见少许异染色质聚集,核右下方有小的膨出;胞质疏松,有多泡体形成。

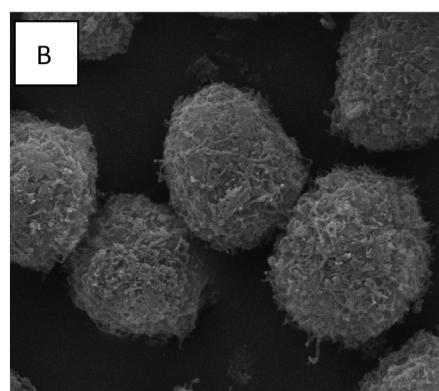
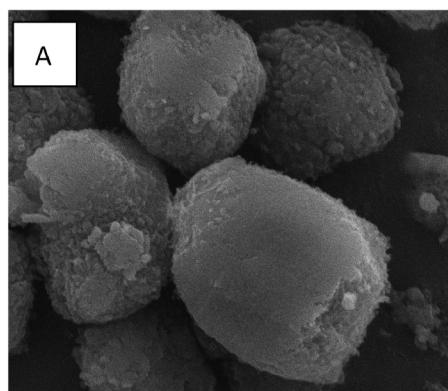


图 5 扫描电镜照片(A 电刺激组 B 对照组)

Fig.5 Micrographs of MCF-7 under SEM(A test group, B control group)

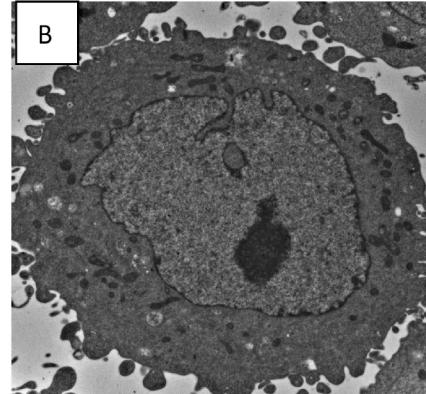
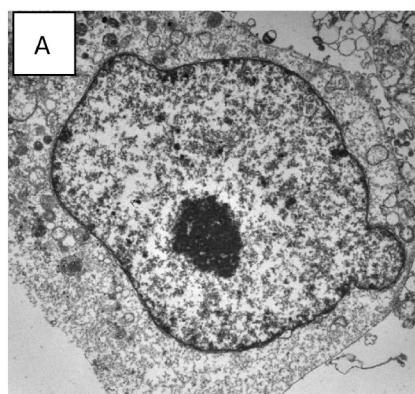


图 6 扫描电镜照片(A 电刺激组 B 对照组)

Fig.6 Micrographs of MCF-7 under TEM(A test group, B control group)

3 讨论

细胞膜是包围在细胞质外周的磷脂双分子层,表面带有电荷,具有电阻特性、电池特性和电容特性^[11],在细胞与外环境进行物质能量交换及信息传导等过程中起着十分重要的作用。与正常细胞相比,肿瘤细胞表面带有更多负电荷,细胞膜结构或表面电荷变化会影响细胞行为^[12],被认为是抗肿瘤研究的重要潜在靶标。

实验结果显示,AICF 能够抑制肿瘤细胞生长,且不影响正常细胞存活率。初步证明,作为种新型肿瘤无创治疗技术,ACIF 安全有效。与 TTF 相似,ACIF 抑制肿瘤的效果和肿瘤细胞种类、频率、电流大小有关;延长作用时间可以提高抑制率。各项参数的优化利于后续实验的进展,但体内实验及临床治疗的最佳参数还需要大量的实验数据。

与电化学疗法相比^[13],ACIF 同样能诱导肿瘤细胞凋亡和坏死,但不改变细胞生存环境温度和酸碱性,体现了物理治疗方法毒副作用低的优点。该结果提示,ACIF 对肿瘤细胞的抑制作用是电流的非热效应,而非通过改变肿瘤微环境实现的,与

直流电的单方向持续作用使得温度和 pH 值不断升高有本质区别。

电流通过细胞会改变膜电位差^[14],本实验中,电刺激后的肿瘤细胞膜结构改变,膜表面微绒毛消失。据此分析,ACIF 可能是通过改变膜的电位差和结构,影响细胞膜蛋白功能和细胞内外离子平衡,引起细胞凋亡,但具体是由哪条细胞凋亡途径完成尚需进一步探究。

电流 / 电场治疗技术是近年来肿瘤治疗研究的热点,本实验室国内外首次探讨了 AICF 对肿瘤的抑制作用,为物理方法治疗肿瘤提供了新的思路。接下来的实验需要更深入地研究其作用机制,如细胞周期、凋亡途径、细胞膜通透性、细胞迁移力等方面,优化治疗参数,为 AICF 治疗仪的临床应用提供可靠基础。

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