

综述

非酒精性脂肪性肝病血清学无创诊断的研究进展

桑 潮¹, 梁丹丹¹, 谢国祥², 贾 伟^{1,2}, 陈天璐¹

1. 上海交通大学附属第六人民医院转化医学中心, 上海 200233; 2. 夏威夷大学癌症中心, 火奴鲁鲁 96813

[摘要] 随着肥胖和代谢综合征的流行, 非酒精性脂肪性肝病 (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD) 已成为我国第一大慢性肝病。NAFLD 可从单纯性脂肪肝发展为非酒精性脂肪性肝炎 (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH)、NASH 相关肝纤维化和肝硬化, 甚至肝细胞癌。准确评估 NAFLD 并尽早进行干预有利于减轻疾病负担, 控制疾病进展。肝穿刺活组织检查是诊断 NAFLD 的“金标准”, 但有一定的局限性和显著的并发症, 临床应用受限。血清学检测作为一种无创的检测方法, 越来越受到研究者和临床工作者的关注。了解各种 NAFLD 血清学无创诊断方法和指标的优缺点和应用范围, 有助于增加诊断途径、提高诊断效力、降低患者痛苦、节约医疗资源。文章对 NAFLD 血清学无创诊断研究进展作一综述。

[关键词] 非酒精性脂肪性肝病; 肝脂肪变; 脂肪性肝炎; 肝纤维化; 血清学诊断

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Progress in serological noninvasive diagnostic methods for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

SANG Chao¹, LIANG Dan-dan¹, XIE Guo-xiang², JIA Wei^{1,2}, CHEN Tian-lu¹

1. Center for Translational Medicine, Shanghai Sixth People's Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200233, China; 2. University of Hawaii Cancer Center, Honolulu 96813, HI, USA

[Abstract] Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) has become the most common chronic liver disease, along with the prevalence of obesity and metabolic syndrome. Non-alcoholic fatty liver will progress to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), NASH-related liver fibrosis and liver cirrhosis, and even hepatocellular carcinoma. Accurate assessment and early intervention are conducive to clinical burden reduction and disease control. Although being the "golden standard" for diagnosing NAFLD, the clinical application of liver biopsy is limited due to well-known limitations and significant complications. Serological testing, as a noninvasive method, has been well-recognized among researchers and clinicians. The understanding of the pros and cons and the application ranges of various methods and indexes is helpful for clinical applications, including providing more diagnosis approaches, improving diagnosis power, relieving pain of patients, and saving medical resources. This article reviews the advances in serological noninvasive diagnostic methods for NAFLD.

[Key words] non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD); hepatic steatosis; steatohepatitis; hepatic fibrosis; serological diagnosis

非酒精性脂肪性肝病 (non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD) 是指除过量饮酒或其他明确的肝脏损害因素之外导致的经影像学或肝组织病理学证实的肝细胞脂肪变 $>5\%$ 的临床病理综合征, 主要包括单纯性脂肪肝 (non-alcoholic fatty liver, NAFL)、非酒精性脂肪性肝炎 (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis, NASH)、NASH 相关肝纤维化和肝硬化以及肝细胞癌^[1-2]。近年来, 随着肥胖和代谢综合征 (metabolic syndrome, MetS) 的流行, NAFLD 已成为我国第一大慢性肝病, 患病率高达 29.2% ^[3-4]。预计到 2030 年, 我国 NAFLD 患者会达到 3.145 8 亿, 成为全球增速最快的 NAFLD 大国^[5]。研究^[1,4,6-7]显示 NAFLD 不仅可以进展为肝硬化和肝癌, 其

与肝外疾病, 如肝外肿瘤、糖尿病 (diabetes mellitus, DM)、心血管疾病和 MetS 等高度相关。因此, 对 NAFLD 患者进行早期筛查, 及早进行干预治疗, 可减轻疾病负担, 改善患者的生活质量。肝穿刺活组织检查是目前诊断 NAFLD 的“金标准”, 但由于其有创性及存在取样误差, 费用高, 有一定的感染率和死亡率等局限性, 不易被患者接受, 临床应用受限^[8]。血清学检测作为一种无创性检测方法, 因其费用低、操作简便以及可重复性强^[9], 在临床工作中逐渐得到了重视和发展。目前 NAFLD 血清学诊断研究方向主要有 3 个, 即诊断肝脂肪变性、脂肪性肝炎和肝纤维化。国外 NAFLD 血清学诊断研究开展得较早, 现已建立了 20 多个模型用于诊断

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[作者简介] 桑 潮(1994—), 女, 硕士生; 电子信箱: sang_chao@sjtu.edu.cn。

[通信作者] 陈天璐, 电子信箱: chentianlu@sjtu.edu.cn。

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[Corresponding Author] CHEN Tian-lu, E-mail: chentianlu@sjtu.edu.cn。

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NAFLD。这些模型大多是基于几项或十几项血清学指标建立的,如脂肪肝指数模型^[10]、NASHTest模型^[11]、NAFLD纤维化评分^[12]和基于4因子的纤维化指数(fibrosis index based on the 4 factors, FIB-4)^[13]等。多数模型已被外部队列验证,有很好的应用价值。近年来,国内也进行了大规模的NAFLD血清学诊断研究,并建立了脂肪性肝病指数^[14]、ZJU指数^[15]、NAFL筛查评分^[16]和NAFLD岭回归评分^[17]等模型,队列样本数远超国外的研究队列;但多数样本尚未被外部队列验证,仍处于研究阶段,不能应用于临床。本文就NAFLD无创性血清学诊断方法作一综述,以期临床工作提供一些理论和实践参考。

1 肝脂肪变的诊断

1.1 脂肪肝指数

Bedogni等^[10]于2006年提出脂肪肝指数(fatty liver index, FLI)模型,研究对象为经超声诊断的268例非脂肪肝患者和228例脂肪肝患者。该模型通过逐步Logistic回归方法,从13个变量中挑选出4个指标,即体质量指数(body mass index, BMI)、腰围(waist circumference, WC)、三酰甘油(triacylglycerol, TAG)和 γ -谷氨酰转肽酶(γ -glutamyl transpeptidase, GGT),建立诊断公式: $FLI=100/(1+e^{-z})$; $z=0.953 \times \ln[TAG(mg/dL)] + 0.139 \times BMI(kg/m^2) + 0.718 \times \ln[GGT(U/L)] + 0.053 \times WC(cm) - 15.745$ 。其得分介于0和100之间,FLI<30可排除脂肪肝(阴性似然比为0.2),FLI \geq 60可诊断为脂肪肝(阳性似然比为4.3),准确率可达0.84,95%CI为0.81~0.87。目前,FLI模型已被广泛应用于筛选肝脂肪变性。在一项拥有13 122名受试者的中国西部地区NAFLD简易指标验证的回顾性横断面研究中^[18],FLI模型表现出良好的诊断性能。其预测NAFLD的受试者工作特征曲线下面积(area under the receiver operating characteristic curve, AUROC)为0.880(95%CI 0.874~0.886),FLI<30的准确度、敏感度、特异度分别为0.782、0.832、0.770,FLI \geq 60的准确度、敏感度、特异度分别为0.838、0.443、0.940。但另有研究表明,FLI预测超声诊断的脂肪肝的最佳临界值(cut-off值)存在性别差异^[19],且FLI不能很好地区分轻度脂肪肝与中重度脂肪肝^[20]。

1.2 肝脏脂肪指数

肝脏脂肪指数(hepatic steatosis index, HSI)模型由Lee等^[21]于2010年提出,该研究共纳入10 724人,每个

受试者都进行了实验室检测、肝脏超声、人体测量评估和问卷评估,其中5 362人被诊断为NAFLD。随机抽取5 360人作为训练集,5 364人作为验证集,通过多元Logistic回归的方法,用BMI、DM和谷丙转氨酶(glutamic pyruvic transaminase, GPT)/谷草转氨酶(glutamic oxalacetic transaminase, GOT)比值建立诊断公式: $HSI=8 \times GPT/GOT + BMI(kg/m^2) + 2(\text{if DM}) + 2(\text{if 女性})$ 。当HSI<30时排除NAFLD,当HSI>36时可诊断为NAFLD。训练集中,模型的AUROC为0.812(95%CI 0.801~0.824),HSI<30的敏感度为92.5%(95%CI 91.5%~93.5%),HSI>36的特异度为92.4%(95%CI 91.3%~93.4%),HSI<30或HSI>36的样本中准确率达85.6%。验证集中,模型的AUROC为0.819(95%CI 0.808~0.830),HSI<30的敏感度为93.1%(95%CI 92.1%~94.1%),HSI>36的特异度为93.1%(95%CI 92.0%~94.0%),HSI<30或HSI>36的样本中准确率达86.3%。在一项基于13 122名受试者的外部验证集中^[18],该模型的AUROC为0.833(95%CI 0.825~0.841),与Lee等^[21]的结果一致,证实了模型良好的诊断准确性和稳定性。但同FLI一样,HSI也不能很好地区分轻度与中重度脂肪变性^[20]。

1.3 脂质蓄积指数

2005年Kahn^[22]提出脂质蓄积指数(lipid accumulation product, LAP)模型,通过WC和TAG评估DM和心血管疾病风险。公式为LAP(男)=[WC(cm)-65]×TAG(mmol/L);LAP(女)=[WC(cm)-58]×TAG(mmol/L)。2010年Bedogni等^[23]提出经自然对数转换的LAP(natural logarithm of lipid accumulation product, lnLAP)模型可预测肝脏的脂肪变性程度。该研究共纳入588人,超声检查无肝脂肪变性的有332人,中度脂肪变性的有118人,重度的有138人。无肝脂肪变性与肝脂肪变性组的AUROC为0.79(95%CI 0.76~0.83),无肝脂肪变性+中度肝脂肪变性组与重度肝脂肪变性组的AUROC为0.79(95%CI 0.76~0.83)。该模型只需要WC和TAG两个指标,相对于目前现有的其他几个NAFLD肝脂肪变性简易血清学诊断模型,LAP所需的费用最少,但仍能获得较好的诊断结果,其区分NAFLD组和对对照组的AUROC值为0.853(95%CI 0.845~0.860)^[18]。但不同于其他模型,LAP目前还没有一个明确的cut-off值,在一定程度上限制了其临床应用。

1.4 SteatoTest模型

Poynard等^[24]于2005提出SteatoTest模型,该模型是

在FibroTest和ActiTest^[25]的基础上衍生而来的,通过 $\alpha 2$ -巨球蛋白、载脂蛋白A1、结合珠蛋白、总胆红素、GGT、GPT、BMI、总胆固醇(triglycerides, TC)、TAG和空腹血糖10个指标,并根据年龄和性别进行调整,建立的一个Logistic回归方程。该研究有4个数据集,训练集有310人,验证集1有171人,验证集2有201人,验证集3有62人。SteatoTest模型的训练集AUROC为0.79,标准误(standard error, SE)为0.03,验证集1、2、3的AUROC分别为0.80 (SE=0.04)、0.86 (SE=0.03)、0.72 (SE=0.05)。采用4级评分系统评估肝脂肪变性:S0级,无脂肪变性(0%);S1级,轻度脂肪变性(1%~5%);S2级,中度脂肪变性(6%~32%);S3~S4级,重度脂肪变性(33%~100%)。诊断S2~S4级,SteatoTest模型训练集和3个验证集的敏感度分别为0.91、0.98、1.00和0.85, cut-off值为0.30;特异度分别为0.89、0.83、0.92和1.00, cut-off值为0.70。Munteanu等^[26]在Thierry Poynard的研究基础上,采用了新的SAF评分(steatosis, activity and fibrosis score)评估肝穿刺标本,并采用了非二进制的AUROC(nonbinary-AUROC, NonBinAUROC)评估SteatoTest模型。该研究纳入了600名受试者,NonBinAUROC为0.822 (95%CI 0.804~0.840)。能够将肝脂肪变性程度进行分级是SteatoTest模型的一大亮点,且确诊手段为肝穿刺活检,可靠性强;但该模型较为复杂,计算公式暂不明,部分检测指标临床不常用,使其在临床应用中较为受限。

1.5 其他模型

除上述模型外,还有许多其他模型,如Korea指数^[27]、脂肪性肝病(fatty liver disease, FLD)指数^[14]、NAFLD指数^[28]、ZJU指数^[15]和FSI(Framingham steatosis index)指数^[29]等,也具有一定的诊断价值,在临床应用或流行病学研究中可根据实际情况进行选择。但由于大部分研究并非以肝穿刺活检作为诊断依据,而是选择无创而又简便的超声检查来诊断NAFLD,其结果的准确度有待进一步验证。另外,评估一个模型的优劣需经过大量的外部数据进行验证,不能仅依据该研究的验证结果,而目前很多模型尚缺少外部独立队列的验证。

2 脂肪性肝炎的诊断

2.1 细胞角蛋白18

细胞凋亡是肝细胞死亡的重要原因,也是NASH的突出特征。细胞角蛋白18(cytokeratin-18, CK-18)是构成肝细胞中间丝蛋白的主要成分之一,也是凋亡蛋白酶3

裂解的重要底物,可反映肝细胞凋亡水平^[30]。在肝细胞凋亡过程中,巯基蛋白酶被不同的凋亡刺激物激活,形成胱天蛋白酶,该酶可将CK-18裂解成CK-18片段^[31]。有研究^[32-34]表明,CK-18和CK-18片段与肝脂肪变性程度、小叶炎症、气球样变性和纤维化程度密切相关,可作为NASH诊断的无创生物标志物。一项纳入了国内10项NAFLD研究的meta分析^[35]结果显示,CK-18诊断NASH的敏感度和特异度分别为77% (95%CI 0.70~0.83)和71% (95%CI 0.65~0.77),而CK-18片段的敏感度和特异度分别为83% (95%CI 0.80~0.86)和71% (95%CI 0.66~0.76)。CK-18片段在诊断敏感度上明显优于CK-18,将CK-18片段作为筛选NASH的生物学标志更为可靠。虽然已有许多CK-18与NASH的相关性研究,但其准确度仍有待提高,目前尚未应用于临床。

2.2 炎症细胞因子

炎症细胞因子主要包括肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)、白细胞介素6(interleukin 6, IL-6)和穿透素3(pentraxin 3, PTX3)等。NASH患者TNF- α 和IL-6水平高于NAFL患者,故其水平正常可考虑作为排除NASH的参考依据^[36-37]。研究显示,PTX3水平可随着NASH的发展而逐渐升高,NAFLD患者血清PTX3水平高于正常对照组,而NASH患者高于非NASH的NAFLD患者,因而该指标在区分NASH和NAFL方面有着较高的诊断价值^[38-39]。由于体内存在其他炎症时,这些炎症细胞因子也会升高,其诊断NASH的特异性较低,还需要大规模的队列研究验证这些炎症细胞因子的诊断价值。

2.3 NASHTest模型

Poynard等^[11]于2006年提出NASHTest模型,该模型使用了一种专利算法,由年龄、性别、身高、体质量、TAG、TC、 $\alpha 2$ -巨球蛋白、载脂蛋白A1、结合珠蛋白、GGT、GPT、GOT、总胆红素13个参数组成,用来区分非NASH、可疑NASH和NASH。训练集有160人,验证集有97人。训练集模型诊断NASH、可疑NASH、非NASH的AUROC分别为0.79 (95%CI 0.69~0.86)、0.69 (95%CI 0.60~0.77)和0.77 (95%CI 0.68~0.84),训练集模型分别为0.79 (95%CI 0.67~0.87)、0.69 (95%CI 0.57~0.78)和0.83 (95%CI 0.67~0.90),其诊断性能有待提高。另一项纳入494例NAFLD患者的研究^[40]发现,NASHTest诊断非NASH的准确率很高,更适合作为一种排除标准,使大多数非NASH患者免于肝活组织检查。

3 肝纤维化的诊断

3.1 NAFLD 纤维化评分

Angulo 等^[12]于2007年提出NAFLD纤维化评分(NAFLD fibrosis score, NFS)模型,该研究包含2个数据集,训练集有480人,验证集有253人。模型由年龄、是否存在DM或空腹血糖异常(impaired fasting glucose, IFG)、BMI、血小板计数(platelet counts, PLT)、白蛋白(albumin, ALB)及GOT/GPT比值组成,公式为 $NFS = -1.675 + 0.037 \times \text{年龄(岁)} + 0.094 \times \text{BMI (kg/m}^2\text{)} + 1.13 \times \text{DM/IFG (是=1, 否=0)} + 0.99 \times \text{GOT/GPT} - 0.013 \times \text{PLT} (\times 10^9/\text{L}) - 0.66 \times \text{ALB (g/dL)}$ 。该模型有2个cut-off值,低cut-off值($NFS < -1.455$)用于排除进展期纤维化,而高cut-off值($NFS > 0.676$)用于诊断进展期纤维化, $-1.455 \sim 0.676$ 为“灰色地带”,需要通过肝穿刺活检进行确诊。模型训练集和验证集的诊断AUROC为0.88和0.82,总体准确率达90%。随后,该模型在不同地区和种族人群中被广泛验证,有着较好的诊断准确性和稳定性^[41]。目前,NFS已成为应用最多的NAFLD无创性血清学肝纤维化诊断模型之一,已被美国肝病研究协会认可,作为一种临床决策辅助工具^[1]。

3.2 FIB-4

FIB-4最早由Sterling等^[13]提出,用来评估慢性丙型肝炎合并人类免疫缺陷病毒感染患者的肝纤维化程度。该模型采用多元逻辑回归的方法,基于PLT、年龄、GOT、GPT 4个指标,建立公式: $FIB-4 = \text{年龄(岁)} \times \text{GOT (U/L)} / \{ \text{PLT} (\times 10^9/\text{L}) \times [\text{GPT (U/L)}]^{1/2} \}$ 。该研究共纳入832名受试者,随机将其分成2组,其中训练集555人,验证集277人。与NFS类似,FIB-4模型也有2个cut-off值,低cut-off值($FIB-4 < 1.45$,敏感度70%)用于排除进展期纤维化,而高cut-off值($FIB-4 > 3.25$,特异度97%)用于诊断进展期纤维化; $1.45 \sim 3.25$ 为“灰色地带”,需要通过肝穿刺活检进行确诊。区分进展期纤维化和非进展期纤维化的诊断AUROC为0.765。目前,FIB-4在慢性肝病肝纤维化评估中应用非常广泛,不仅可以诊断慢性丙型肝炎患者的肝纤维化程度,对慢性乙型肝炎和NAFLD患者依然适用^[42-44],且诊断效果与磁共振弹性成像的预测价值相当^[45]。

3.3 增强肝纤维化组合分数

Guha等^[46]在原欧洲肝纤维化组合分数的基础上,简化了年龄变量,建立了增强肝纤维化组合分数(enhanced

liver fibrosis panel, ELF)模型。该模型由金属蛋白酶组织抑制物-1(tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinase 1, TIMP-1)、透明质酸(hyaluronic acid, HA)、Ⅲ型前胶原氨基末端肽(aminoterminal peptide of pro-collagen Ⅲ, P3NP)3个指标组合而成,诊断公式为: $ELF = -7.412 + 0.681 \times \ln(HA) + 0.775 \times \ln(P3NP) + 0.494 \times \ln(TIMP-1)$ 。该研究共纳入了192例NAFLD患者,其预测重度纤维化、中度纤维化及无纤维化的AUROC分别为0.90、0.82和0.76。除此之外,研究者还将ELF与NFS模型结合,建立了预测重度纤维化、中度纤维化及无纤维化3套组合公式。结合了NFS的ELF模型预测重度纤维化、中度纤维化及无纤维化的AUROC分别提高至0.98、0.93和0.84,模型的诊断性能显著提升,有效避免了不必要的肝穿刺检查。

3.4 其他

由于肝纤维化程度可影响患者的长期预后^[47],除了上述模型外,还有许多血清学诊断模型用于评估NAFLD肝纤维化程度,如BARD^[48]、APRI^[49]、Hepascore^[50]、Fibrometer^[51]、Fibrotest^[52]等。这些模型与NFS和FIB-4相比,适用范围较局限,且诊断准确度也相对较低,故在临床中应用较少,很多都处于研究阶段,是否适用于临床还有待更进一步的研究。

4 总结

目前,NAFLD肝纤维化的血清学诊断模型研究较为广泛,已有多达10余种肝纤维化诊断模型建立并被反复验证;其中NFS和FIB-4模型已被推荐作为一种临床决策辅助工具^[1],辅助诊断进展期肝纤维化,避免不必要的肝穿刺检查。NAFLD肝脂肪变性诊断模型还处于发展阶段,目前在初步筛查上有着较好的应用价值,可作为流行病学调查研究中的替代指标;但因其无法准确判断NAFLD患者肝脂肪变性程度,临床应用较为受限,多数患者仍需肝穿刺检查判断疾病进展。NAFLD脂肪性肝炎的血清学诊断研究较少,没有明确被证实的可用于诊断的血清学模型,大多都作为排除诊断工具,且特异度不高,独立队列验证较少,模型的诊断价值还有待进一步验证。因此,在临床工作中,暂没有可完全替代肝组织穿刺活检的血清学诊断方法;且在研究工作中,仍需以肝组织穿刺活检作为确诊手段,将无创性诊断方法与之进行比较,判断其可靠性。除了提高单个血清学模型的诊断性能,还可以在现有的研究基础上,结合多个血清学诊断模型和简单的无创性影像学检查方法,进行大规

模的队列研究;或结合人工智能,通过机器学习等方法,建立更加精准高效的诊断模型。目前,有研究提出 FibroMeter 与振动控制瞬态弹性成像技术(vibration controlled transient elastography, VCTE)的组合 FibroMeter^{VCTE}可综合评估肝纤维化程度^[53];将 FIB-4 与 FibroMeter^{VCTE}结合,能显著提高 NAFLD 患者晚期纤维化诊断的准确率^[54];另有一些研究成功将机器学习方法应用于疾病诊断^[17,55-56]。此外,血清代谢组学也可作为评

估慢性肝脏疾病的辅助性生物标志物。众所周知,肝脏是生产脂肪酸、胆汁酸和降解氨基酸的主要代谢器官,这些代谢物与慢性肝病的进展和预后密切相关。因此,可以将血清代谢物与现有临床指标结合,进一步提高模型的诊断效能,推动 NAFLD 无创性诊断的快速发展,从而减少肝组织穿刺活检的使用,减轻患者的痛苦,为患者提供及时、准确的干预治疗,改善患者的生活质量。

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[本文编辑] 吴 洋

学术快讯

上海交通大学公共卫生学院王慧教授组织国际公共卫生专家在《柳叶刀》子刊发表针对公共卫生突发事件沟通的评论

上海交通大学医学院公共卫生学院院长王慧教授作为通信作者领衔组织全球顶尖公共卫生领域专家,在《柳叶刀》子刊 *Lancet Digital Health* 发表了以公共卫生突发事件沟通为主题的评论。评论主要以突发公共卫生事件为背景,围绕当前数字化时代背景下全球公共卫生突发事件沟通所存在的困境和挑战展开讨论,并且对未来公共卫生的沟通路径提出了展望。该评论提出,多国已经进入实时和点对点的资讯交换模式,呼吁建立新的全球信息框架。

评论还指出,为应对新冠疫情反复及新型传染病的发生,积极投入防控信息编撰、信息验证与传播的机制建设至关重要。其中一些关键问题应引起重点关注:传播媒介之间如何相互作用,传播个体的社交状态如何作用于人际间传播;在事态尚不明确阶段,应采取交流信息形成后的动态评估措施;同时,应开发新的系统医学和有效促进防控行为的交流传播课程,从而训练卫生专家、研究者、教职员、媒体专家和决策者与群众积极沟通,以推动数字健康在传染病及多种疾病防治方面发挥应有的作用。