

综述

褪黑素与妊娠期高血压疾病的关系研究进展

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[摘要] 褪黑素(N-乙酰基-5-甲氧基色胺)为多效性神经内分泌脂溶性小分子物质, 主要由松果体分泌。妊娠期间, 孕妇夜间褪黑素水平随着妊娠期的进展而升高, 产后恢复正常。妊娠期高血压疾病病因复杂, 越来越多的证据表明褪黑素参与妊娠期高血压疾病的调控, 该调控与褪黑素表达水平、分泌节律和受体水平存在相关性。胎盘血液循环灌注异常、缺血缺氧和孕妇全身血管内皮功能障碍是妊娠期高血压疾病的主要病理生理过程。褪黑素通过直接抗氧化作用, 改善线粒体功能障碍和保护滋养层细胞免受氧化损伤, 参与胎盘氧化应激水平调控, 在防止胎盘缺氧缺血再灌注引起的氧化损伤中发挥保护作用, 从而维持胎盘功能稳态。此外, 也有证据显示褪黑素通过减少促炎细胞因子以及血管活性化合物的产生和分泌来保护母体血管内皮免受氧化应激损伤, 参与孕妇全身血压的调控。这些发现均提示褪黑素可通过氧化应激的调控参与妊娠期胎盘和全身血管功能稳态的维持。该文以褪黑素对妊娠期高血压疾病的影响及相关机制为切入点进行综述, 总结了褪黑素在妊娠期高血压疾病发病进程中所发挥的积极作用。

[关键词] 褪黑素; 妊娠期高血压疾病; 胎盘功能不全; 氧化应激; 血管内皮

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Research progress on the association between melatonin and hypertensive disorder complicating pregnancy

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[Abstract] Melatonin (N-acetyl-5-methoxytryptamine) is a polypotent neuroendocrine lipid-soluble small molecule secreted mainly by the pineal gland. During gestation, melatonin levels in the mother at night rise as the pregnancy progresses and return to normal after delivery. The etiology of hypertensive disorder complicating pregnancy (HDCP) is multifaceted. An increasing number of evidence suggests the involvement of melatonin in the pathogenic process, and the regulation is related to its expression level, secretion rhythm and receptor level. Abnormal placental blood circulation, ischemia and hypoxia and systemic vascular endothelium dysfunction are the main pathological processes of HDCP. Through direct antioxidant effect, melatonin improves mitochondrial dysfunction and protects trophoblast cells from oxidative damage, thus participating in the regulation of placental oxidative stress level, and plays a protective role in preventing oxidative damage caused by hypoxic ischemia reperfusion of placenta, thus maintaining placental functional homeostasis. In addition, there is also evidence that melatonin can protect maternal vascular endothelium from oxidative stress by reducing the production and secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and vasoactive compounds, and participating in the regulation of systemic blood pressure in pregnant women. These confidences suggest that melatonin can be involved in the maintenance of placental and systemic vascular functional homeostasis during pregnancy through the regulation of oxidative stress. In this article, the effects of melatonin on HDCP and the related mechanisms are reviewed, and the positive role of melatonin in the pathogenesis of HDCP is summarized.

[Key words] melatonin; hypertensive disorder complicating pregnancy (HDCP); placental insufficiency; oxidative stress; vascular endothelium

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妊娠期高血压疾病(hypertensive disorder complicating pregnancy, HDCP)是发生于妊娠20周后的孕妇特有的疾病，分为妊娠期高血压、子痫前期-子痫、妊娠合并慢性高血压和慢性高血压并发生子痫前期4个类型^[1]。近年来，HDCP发病率不断上升^[2]。据2019年一项meta分析^[3]显示，我国HDCP的总体患病率达到7.6%。由HDCP造成的孕产妇死亡占妊娠相关死亡的10%~16%，是我国孕产妇死亡的第二大原因^[4]。因此，HDCP是值得高度关注的公共卫生问题。

胎盘血液循环灌注异常和缺血缺氧是HDCP的主要病理生理过程，但发生机制不明^[5]。近半个世纪以来，抗高血压药物一直是控制HDCP的常用药物，在一定程度上降低了孕产妇发病率和死亡率^[6]；然而，由于抗高血压药物用于HDCP的治疗主要在于优化孕妇自身血压^[7]，却忽视了胎盘的潜在病理生理发展，可能导致已灌注不足的胎盘血流量进一步减少而增加胎儿的风险^[8]。因此，更广泛、更深入地探索影响HDCP发病的因素及作用机制，可以为HDCP的辅助或靶向治疗提供新思路。既往研究揭示褪黑素在调节非孕妇人群多种心血管功能（包括血压）中发挥重要作用^[9-11]，其具有作为抗高血压药物开发的巨大潜力^[12-14]。因此，探索、阐述褪黑素在HDCP中的作用，对HDCP的预防和临床控制具有积极意义。2019年，一篇整合了8项观察性研究数据的meta分析^[15]探讨了褪黑素水平与子痫前期的相关性，结果显示褪黑素水平在子痫前期孕妇中明显降低，在重度子痫前期孕妇中降低水平尤为显著，提示褪黑素水平的降低与子痫前期的严重程度相关。发表于2022年的最新研究^[16]进一步发现，在伴有胎盘功能不全的妊娠（包括先兆子痫和胎儿生长受限）中，母体全身血清褪黑素水平显著降低，胎盘褪黑素受体表达显著降低。这些研究均提示褪黑素在HDCP的发病机制中发挥重要作用。褪黑素作为一种安全的内源性抗氧化剂，在胎盘和母体血管内皮中均发挥积极作用。深入探索和阐述褪黑素在HDCP发病机制中的作用，有助于开发更有效的治疗方法。本综述总结、归纳褪黑素在HDCP发病中作用的最新研究进展，以期为HDCP的精准治疗提供新的思路与方向。

1 褪黑素的基本生理特性

褪黑素(N-乙酰基-5-甲氧基色胺)是一种亲脂性吲哚胺类神经内分泌激素，主要来源于松果体，呈昼夜节律模式分泌^[17]。除人体昼夜节律调节功能^[18]外，褪黑素及其代谢产物还是有效的抗氧化剂，参与自由基清除^[19]，并作为清除机制的激活剂参与机体抗氧化功能调控，如刺激抗氧化酶的转录和活性^[20-21]、结合过渡金属以抑制羟基自由基的形成^[22]等。褪黑素在保护脂质、蛋白质和DNA免受氧化损伤中发挥重要作用^[23]。除松果体外，褪黑素在外周组织，如心脏、肝脏、胎盘、皮肤、肾脏、肠道等也能合成产生^[23-26]。作为脂溶性小分子物质，褪黑素很容易迅速地穿过胎盘屏障进入胎儿循环，在人类和动物模型中均发现褪黑素与胎盘功能及胎儿发育相关^[23]。孕妇的褪黑素分泌量显著高于非孕妇，其分泌量水平在整个怀孕过程中不断增加，并在足月时达到峰值，分娩后急剧下降^[27]；褪黑素也存在于羊水中，含量与母体血液水平呈正相关^[28]。

2 褪黑素与HDCP的相关性

2001年，一项纳入86名研究对象（7名健康的非孕妇和79名孕妇；孕妇中，正常单胎者30名、正常双胎者16名、子痫前期者19名、胎儿宫内生长受限者14名）的研究^[29]发现，正常单胎妊娠期间，孕妇夜间血清褪黑素水平显著高于日间，并且夜间褪黑素水平在妊娠24周后逐渐升高，妊娠32周后显著升高，产褥期第2日降至未妊娠水平；而重度子痫前期孕妇的夜间血清褪黑素水平显著低于轻度子痫前期或健康孕妇。另一项临床观察^[30]则进一步发现患有子痫前期的孕妇唾液褪黑素分泌水平的昼夜波动变化较小，单日平均数值显著低于健康孕妇。前瞻性队列研究^[31]（妊娠糖尿病患者21名、子痫前期患者19名、孕前存在高血压者24名、孕前肥胖和高血压者25名、健康志愿者22名）也间接证实了上述发现，研究结果显示子痫前期孕妇尿液中的褪黑素代谢物6-羟基硫酸褪黑素(6-sulfatoxymelatonin, aMT6s)水平明显低于健康对照。此外，还有研究发现子痫前期患者的血清^[32]和离体胎盘组织^[17]中褪黑素及其受体表达均减少，提示褪黑素及其受体表达减少可能是促进子



痫前期病情加重的因素。作为生物节律信号物质, 褪黑素参与血压生理性昼夜节律波动。研究^[33]发现血压昼夜节律异常的子痫前期孕妇存在褪黑素分泌节律受损, 且血压节律丧失与褪黑素浓度节律丧失是一致的; 分娩后, 血压节律重新出现, 但褪黑素节律并未出现。一项按孕妇年龄和胎龄匹配的病例对照研究^[34](31名先兆子痫孕妇 vs 20名正常孕妇)也发现部分HDCP可能与褪黑素分泌节律受损相关; 该结果显示, 与血压存在正常昼夜节律的子痫前期患者和健康孕妇相比, 血压昼夜节律丧失的子痫前期孕妇存在明显的夜间褪黑素分泌受损。上述研究比较一致地揭示了HDCP可能与血清褪黑素水平降低、分泌节律受损或受体表达减少相关。然而, 有2项研究发现了略有矛盾的结果。一项利用离体胎盘组织开展的研究^[35]结果显示, 与健康对照组相比, 所有类型HDCP胎盘组织中的褪黑素受体1A(melatonin receptor 1A, MTNR1A)表达均较高; HDCP急性病例(如子痫前期)中褪黑素合成有减少的趋势, 而慢性病例(如慢性高血压和慢性高血压并发子痫)则有所增加。另外一项临床研究^[34]则发现患有先兆子痫和昼夜节律紊乱的孕妇比健康孕妇(血压正常)具有更高的褪黑素水平。

关于褪黑素与HDCP的相关性, 尽管目前研究证据尚不充分, 相互矛盾的结果有待进一步论证, 但总体可认为褪黑素以某种方式参与HDCP的调控, 褪黑素的表达水平、分泌节律和受体水平都参与其中。

3 褪黑素在HDCP发病机制中的作用

胎盘缺血再灌注引发胎盘氧化应激和细胞凋亡, 是HDCP发病机制中的关键因素^[36]。该过程导致生物活性因子释放进入母体血液循环, 引起全身内皮功能障碍和过度炎症反应, 增加母体血管内阻力和血管功能障碍^[37]。以下从胎盘氧化应激水平和内皮功能调控2个角度论述褪黑素在HDCP中发挥的作用。

3.1 褪黑素参与胎盘氧化应激水平调控

3.1.1 褪黑素及其代谢产物是有效的抗氧化剂 研究表明褪黑素具有清除有毒反应物、增加抗氧化酶活性和平衡氧化应激相关细胞因子以减轻胎盘氧化损伤的功能。脂质过氧化可能导致子痫前期胎动脉内皮一氧化氮(nitric oxide, NO)生成受损, 进而可能引起

血管收缩和胎儿低灌注。褪黑素可通过清除过氧亚硝酸盐以及羟基自由基($\cdot\text{OH}$)对抗过氧化氢和氧化低密度脂蛋白诱导的人脐动脉内源性NO生成障碍^[38-39]。此外, 褪黑素还能减轻由抗磷脂抗体(antiphospholipid antibodies, aPL)引起的亚硝基应激反应, 使3-硝基酪氨酸的形成减少^[40]。不仅如此, 褪黑素还具有直接抗氧化作用。有研究显示褪黑素可增加胎盘中谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶(glutathione peroxidase, GSH-Px)^[41]、超氧化物歧化酶(superoxide dismutase, SOD)和过氧化氢酶(catalase, CAT)的活性, 降低丙二醛[malondialdehyde, MDA], 为活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)引起脂质过氧化的主要标志物]的含量^[27], 从而保护胎盘滋养层免受氧化自由基损伤。同时, 褪黑素能够增加谷氨酸-半胱氨酸连接酶(glutamate-cysteine ligase, GCL)、硫氧还蛋白(thioredoxin, TXN)、NAD(P)H: 醛氧化还原酶1[NAD(P)H: quinone oxidoreductase 1, NQO1]抗氧化反应元件基因mRNA的表达^[42]和核因子E2相关因子2(nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2, Nrf2)/抗氧化反应元件(antioxidant response element, ARE)通路的抗氧化剂相关基因[Nrf2、SOD、GSH-Px和NQO1]mRNA的表达, 并降低肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)等胎盘促炎细胞因子的浓度^[27]。此外, 还有证据显示, 褪黑素可以通过增加Nrf2和下游抗氧化酶血红素加氧酶-1(heme oxygenase-1, HO-1)的产生, 降低黄嘌呤/黄嘌呤氧化酶(xanthine oxidase, XO)胎盘外植体模型中的氧化应激^[43]。在使用N-硝基-L-精氨酸甲酯(N_ω-nitro-L-nitroarginine methyl ester, L-NAME)诱导产生子痫前期大鼠模型的实验^[44]中也同样发现褪黑素干预有助于改善胎盘氧化应激水平; 干预结果显示, 胎盘中可溶性Fms样酪氨酸激酶-1(soluble Fms-like tyrosine kinase-1, sFlt-1)水平降低, 胎盘生长因子(placental growth factor, PLGF)水平上升, 滋养层中的血管生成因子和抗血管生成因子表达获得平衡, 同时抗氧化应激有益因子Nrf2和HO-1表达恢复正常。在另一项降低子宫灌注压先兆子痫大鼠模型的研究^[45]中也有类似的发现。

3.1.2 褪黑素能改善线粒体功能障碍 目前, 有研究提示妊娠期补充褪黑素可以通过改善线粒体功能维持母体-胎盘-胎儿正常氧化还原状态。体外实验^[23]



表明褪黑素在线粒体膜内发挥作用，可以中断脂质过氧化的连锁反应，并且褪黑素与抗坏血酸和/或 α -生育酚联合作用对人胎盘还原型烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸磷酸（reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, NADPH）和铁依赖性脂质过氧化具有明显保护作用。动物实验^[46]进一步发现褪黑素可显著逆转由缺氧/复氧（hypoxia/reoxygenation, H/R）导致的胎盘线粒体呼吸控制指数（respiratory control index, RCI；线粒体呼吸活动的标志）降低、腺苷二磷酸（adenosine diphosphate, ADP）浓度与呼吸期间氧消耗的比率〔磷氧比（adenosine diphosphate/oxygen, ADP/O；ATP合成效率的指标）〕降低及硫代巴比妥酸反应物质（thiobarbituric acid reactive substances, TBARS）浓度升高，抑制了H/R诱导的胎盘线粒体脂质过氧化和氧化损伤。另一项动物实验^[27]也有类似的发现，补充褪黑素可以使胎盘ATP、烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸（nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, NAD）水平和线粒体DNA（mitochondrial DNA, mtDNA）含量增加，ROS生成减少。褪黑素在与其膜受体MT1和MT2结合后，抑制ROS激活氧化还原敏感转录因子^[47]、p38和c-Jun氨基端激酶（c-Jun N-terminal kinase, JNK）、丝裂原活化蛋白激酶（mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK）的磷酸化，阻断促凋亡蛋白p53的活化。p53的失活可以降低B细胞淋巴瘤-2（B-cell lymphoma-2, Bcl-2）相关x蛋白（Bcl-2 associated x protein, Bax）/Bcl-2比值，继而减少Bax/Bcl-2途径激活导致的胱天蛋白酶9和胱天蛋白酶3的活化。褪黑素以这种方式抑制了线粒体膜电位的丧失^[47-48]，阻止由H/R诱导的细胞凋亡的发生。这些研究一致提示褪黑素可以通过改善线粒体生物合成来对抗氧化应激诱导的线粒体功能障碍和能量缺乏。

3.1.3 褪黑素能保护滋养层细胞免受氧化损伤 褪黑素还通过调节细胞凋亡和自噬来保护胎盘滋养层免受H/R的影响，通过抑制内质网应激反应和滋养层细胞的凋亡，从而减缓子痫前期的进展^[49]。有5篇文献^[47,50-53]都表明褪黑素对H/R条件下的滋养层细胞具有保护作用。褪黑素可以逆转由H/R诱导的ROS增加，抑制TNF和白细胞介素-6（interleukin-6, IL-6）水平上升及IL-10水平降低，防止SOD1和SOD2 mRNA表达水平下降，并有助于下调H/R诱导的缺氧诱导因子1（hypoxia inducible factor 1, HIF-1）、核

因子- κ B（nuclear factor-kappa B, NF- κ B）p65和p53活性形式的表达^[47,51]。先兆子痫胎盘中氧化应激增加与内质网应激有关，在子痫前期胎盘外植体中，褪黑素显著减少了胎盘细胞外囊泡携带的错误折叠蛋白^[40,53]，使滋养层细胞中与内质网应激相关的蛋白〔葡萄糖调节蛋白78（glucose regulated protein 78, GRP78）、真核生物翻译起始因子2 α （eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 α , eIF2 α ）、X盒结合蛋白1（X-box binding protein-1, XBP1）、转录激活因子6（activating transcription factor 6, ATF6）和CCAAT/增强子结合蛋白同源蛋白（CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein homologous protein, CHOP）〕的mRNA和蛋白表达出现下调^[51]。褪黑素还通过促进H/R诱导的滋养层细胞侵袭和迁移，减少焦亡来保护滋养层细胞，具体的信号转导机制是通过降低NT-GSDMD（N-terminal fragment Gasdermin D；焦亡的主要执行者）、裂解胱天蛋白酶-3和核苷酸结合寡聚化结构域样受体蛋白8（nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain-like receptor protein 8, NLRP8）的表达水平，正调控microR-520c-3p（miR-520c-3p），通过miR-1c-520p/SET结构域蛋白3（SET domain protein 3, SETD3）轴抑制HtrA7转录和HtrA1启动子区的组蛋白甲基化^[54]，还可以抑制滋养层中凋亡信号调节激酶1（apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1, ASK-1）/JNK信号通路的活化^[52]，促进滋养层细胞的增殖和浸润，抑制凋亡。

综上，迄今为止的大多数研究支持褪黑素能够通过多种信号通路影响滋养层细胞凋亡的内在途径，减少电子泄漏和电子传递链中ROS的产生，改善线粒体功能，并增加滋养层中抗氧化酶的表达，减轻氧化应激对胎盘的损伤。以上证据均支持褪黑素对HDCP的有益作用有其生物学合理性。

3.2 褪黑素对内皮功能障碍的影响

胎盘缺血/缺氧刺激多种细胞因子释放进入母体循环，包括抗血管生成因子〔例如sFlt-1、可溶性内皮糖蛋白（soluble endoglin, sEng）〕^[44-45]、炎症介质（例如TNF- α 、IL-6等细胞因子）^[51]等。这些因子引起广泛的母体内皮功能障碍，进而导致母体全身血管阻力增加以及母体凝血和免疫系统激活^[7]。相比于胎盘功能，褪黑素与母体血管内皮的研究较少，证据尚不充分，需要未来更多的研究来补充和证实。先兆

子痫的发病取决于母体对胎盘因素的反应。褪黑素能够阻止母体血管内皮细胞的细胞间黏附分子-1 (intracellular adhesion molecule-1, ICAM-1) 升高, 使内皮细胞免受滋养层细胞碎片的影响^[40]。此外, 实验^[42]证明, 褪黑素在1 000 μmol/L的浓度下显著减少了原代人滋养层的sFLT-1分泌, 但没有减少TNF-α诱导的血管细胞黏附分子-1 (vascular cell adhesion molecule-1, VCAM-1) 和内皮缩血管肽-1 (endothelin-1, ET-1) 在内皮细胞中的表达; 而另一项研究^[43]证明褪黑素可防止人脐静脉内皮细胞 (human umbilical vein endothelial cells, HUVECs) 中TNF-α诱导的VCAM-1表达。一项对20名早发性先兆子痫孕妇进行的I期临床试验^[43]发现, 与对照组相比, 褪黑素治疗可将孕妇从确诊先兆子痫到分娩的间隔时间延长6 d, 并减少孕妇抗高血压药物的需求。在电刺激诱导的HDCP小鼠模型中, 褪黑素通过促进子宫动脉中BK_{Ca}钾离子通道的表达, 显著增强了乙酰胆碱诱导的子宫动脉内皮依赖性松弛, 并有效降低HDCP小鼠模型的血压^[55]。因此, 褪黑素具有减轻母体全身血管内皮损伤的潜力, 可以为延长妊娠时间、降低血压提供有效的辅助治疗。

4 思考与展望

HDCP是孕产妇和新生儿发病乃至死亡的重要原因。褪黑素作为一种安全的内源性激素, 具有明确的

抗氧化和抗高血压作用, 可以在胎盘中合成并易于通过外源性途径获取。因此, 分析褪黑素与HDCP的相关性, 探索其潜在的生物学机制对于寻找新的治疗或辅助治疗靶点具有重要意义。迄今为止, 尚未开展完整的临床干预试验用以评估怀孕期间补充外源性褪黑素的安全性和药代动力学特征。由于体内褪黑素的分泌具有节律性, 相关研究须动态监测褪黑素水平, 测量其波幅、波峰、持续时间等。因此, 需要建立高质量研究系统, 完整阐明褪黑素与HDCP之间的关联, 为HDCP的预防和治疗提供新策略。

利益冲突声明/Conflict of Interests

所有作者声明不存在利益冲突。

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作者贡献/Authors' Contributions

陆若玉与康文慧共同构思文章框架, 赵安达负责文献整理, 陆若玉撰写初稿并完成修改, 李生慧、陆兆辉提出写作思路并修改、审阅全文。所有作者均阅读并同意了最终稿件的提交。

LU Ruoyu and KANG Wenhui jointly conceived the framework of the manuscript. ZHAO Anda was in charge of literature review. LU Ruoyu wrote the first draft and finished the revision. LI Shenghui and LU Zhaohui proposed the writing ideas, and revised and reviewed the full text. All the authors have read the last version of paper and consented for submission.

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学术快讯

上海交通大学医学院附属第九人民医院陆颖理/王宁荐团队揭示代谢因素控制在房颤一级预防体系中的重要地位

2023年9月19日, 上海交通大学医学院附属第九人民医院内分泌科陆颖理/王宁荐团队在国际著名期刊 *European Heart Journal* 上发表题为 *Acquired risk factors and incident atrial fibrillation according to age and genetic predisposition* 的研究论文, 揭示代谢因素控制在心房颤动(房颤)一级预防体系中具有突出重要地位。该前瞻性队列研究时间跨度长、涉及人群广泛, 随访年限长达12年, 纳入人群约41万, 并发现控制代谢因素(尤其是高血压、超重及肥胖)是不同年龄和遗传风险群体房颤预防策略的关键部分; 同时, 控制代谢因素在遗传风险低的人群中可以获得更大的成效, 相比高遗传风险人群也能起到更好的新发房颤预防效果。

