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促甲状腺激素与亚临床性甲状腺功能异常

郭永铁

【摘要】 亚临床性甲状腺功能异常的临床症状轻微、无特异性、不易被察觉, 只表现为促甲状腺激素的上升、下降。对促甲状腺激素在亚临床性甲状腺功能异常中早期诊治的价值进行综述。

【关键词】 促甲状腺素; 甲状腺功能减退症; 甲状腺功能亢进症

Thyroid stimulating hormone and subclinical thyroid dysfunction

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【Abstract】 Subclinical thyroid dysfunction has mild clinical symptoms. It is nonspecific and not so noticeable. It performs only for thyroid stimulating hormone rise and decline. The value of early diagnosis and treatment of thyroid stimulating hormone in subclinical thyroid dysfunction were reviewed.

【Key words】 Thyrotropin; Hypothyroidism; Hyperthyroidism

人体的代偿功能非常强大。体内甲状腺激素的分泌受“下丘脑-垂体-甲状腺轴”多层次的调

节, 依赖于下丘脑分泌的促甲状腺素释放激素与垂体分泌的促甲状腺激素(thyroid stimulating hormone, TSH)的调控。亚临床性甲状腺功能异常

患者的三碘甲腺原氨酸、甲状腺素正常,症状轻微短暂,不易诊断。由于甲状腺素释放激素的检测和控制对实验条件要求苛刻,不宜广泛开展,因此TSH的筛查和诊治对亚临床性甲状腺功能异常就显得尤为重要。

1 TSH

TSH是一种由垂体前叶特异性嗜碱细胞内生成、分泌的糖蛋白激素,相对分子质量为 28×10^3 ,由 α 和 β 两个亚单位组成, α 亚单位携带种族特异性信息, β 亚单位携带TSH特异的免疫学和生物学信息。垂体释放TSH是机体发挥甲状腺激素生理作用的中枢调节机制,刺激甲状腺激素的生成和分泌,并有增生效应。甲状腺激素水平的微小变化就会带来TSH水平向反方向的显著调整^[1]。美国国家临床生物化学家协会在1995年提出以TSH检测为中心的策略,评估甲状腺功能^[2]。

2 TSH与亚临床型甲状腺功能减退症(甲减)

亚临床型甲减是以血清TSH升高为主要特征,伴有或不伴有甲状腺激素的变化及临床症状的内分泌疾病。但有人认为,此定义只是一个实验室指标的界定,既可以指轻度的甲减,也可以指早期的、代偿性的、症状极少的甲减的临床前期^[3]。国外文献报道,亚临床型甲减的患病率女性为11.6%,男性为2.9%^[4];国内文献显示,成年患病率高达4%~8.5%,其患病率随年龄增加而增加,超过60岁的妇女中,患病率可高达20%^[5]。

亚临床型甲减的致病因素:慢性自身免疫性甲状腺炎最为常见;其次为碘摄入量过量和甲状腺治疗损伤(手术、外照射、¹³¹I、含碘药物)。主要表现为乏力、畏寒、迟钝、眼睑水肿等轻微不典型的症状^[6]。SHO的不良后果主要有:发展为临床甲减,导致血脂增高、动脉粥样硬化和缺血性心脏病,每年约有5%的亚临床型甲减进展为临床甲减^[7]。

对于TSH在4.5~10.0 mIU/L间的亚临床型甲减患者,美国内分泌协会不主张进行替代治疗,但需要每6~9个月连续监测TSH变化;而TSH>10.0 mIU/L是L-甲状腺素替代治疗的指证,但是否决定治疗仍需要结合存在的风险因素和临床表现进一步评估利弊^[8]。也有研究证明,当亚临床型甲减患者的TSH分别高于6.0、7.0和9.0 mIU/L时,进展为

甲减的百分率为36%、48%和67%^[9]。Jorde等^[10]报道,TSH为3.5~10.0 mIU/L的亚临床型甲减患者,没有出现甲减相关的症状,L-甲状腺素替代治疗亦不会对相关的指标产生影响。众所周知,甲状腺激素对于各种物质代谢均有影响。在脂代谢方面,它加速脂酯合成、活化及降解,其分解大于合成,致使亚临床型甲减患者血清总胆固醇、低密度脂蛋白以及甘油三酯水平升高,而高密度脂蛋白水平降低^[10],在亚临床型甲减状态下,低密度脂蛋白受体数目和活性下降,对循环中的低密度脂蛋白胆固醇摄取减少,从而使低密度脂蛋白胆固醇的降解和清除减少,同时还可通过抑制脂蛋白酯酶活性,使总胆固醇的清除率下降。文献证实:血清TSH每升高1.0 mIU/L,患者血清总胆固醇将相应上升0.09~0.16 mmol/L,经L-甲状腺素替代治疗后,可改善亚临床型甲减患者的血脂紊乱^[11]。不同的研究还发现:亚临床型甲减可使同型半胱氨酸升高,同型半胱氨酸每增加4 μ mol/L,心脑血管疾病危险性增加40%^[12];也可使C-反应蛋白水平升高,C-反应蛋白可抑制扩血管物质一氧化氮合酶的表达和血管舒张物质一氧化氮的释放^[13],导致内皮功能紊乱,使纤维蛋白原、凝血因子VII、纤溶酶原激活物抑制剂1升高,ATIII减低,导致高凝和低纤溶状态^[14],从多方面参与动脉粥样硬化的形成与发展。

心血管系统是甲状腺激素的主要靶器官。有研究证明,亚临床型甲减可使心脏舒缩功能下降,心脏指数、最大动脉流速及射血分数下降,血管内皮损伤等^[15]。国外学者通过连续4年的分组研究后认为:亚临床型甲减增加TSH \geq 7.0 mIU/L的老年人慢性心衰的风险,在高TSH患者中慢性心衰的风险更高:TSH 7.0~9.9 mIU/L,危险指数为2.58;TSH \geq 10.0 mIU/L,危险指数达3.26^[16]。

亚临床型甲减是否需要治疗的问题一直存在争议。亚临床型甲减的患病率与进一步发展的概率不高,说明亚临床型甲减有一定的自限性,但是由于病情与个体的差异,每位患者进展为临床甲减的概率不一样。目前普遍认为,以TSH>10.0 mIU/L为基准,伴有甲状腺抗体阳性、血脂增高、甲状腺肿大中的任何一项,就应给予替代治疗^[17]。

3 TSH与亚临床型甲状腺功能亢进(甲亢)

亚临床型甲亢是指游离三碘甲腺原氨酸、游离

甲状腺素水平正常而 TSH 水平低于正常的甲亢, 病因多为甲状腺素摄入过量, 其次是各种甲状腺炎、亚临床 Graves 病和不明原因^[18]。患者多有心悸、手颤、怕热、多汗、神经质和易怒等表现^[19]。药源性亚临床型甲亢通过减少甲状腺素, 可以使 TSH 恢复到正常范围, 一般没有必要进行特殊的治疗。有学者认为, 当 TSH <0.1 mIU/L 时, 应积极治疗^[6]。

目前认为, 亚临床型甲亢是心房颤动发生的危险因素之一。国外文献报道, 亚临床型甲亢患者、甲状腺功能正常者心房颤动的发生率分别为 6.7%、3.1%^[21]。研究认为, 甲亢者胰岛素分泌增加^[22], 过多的胰岛素可增加 Na⁺, K⁺-ATP 酶的活性, 促进糖和钾离子向细胞内转移, 致低血钾, 从而引起周期型低钾性麻痹的发作, 好发人群为青壮年男性。

综上所述, 随便着生活状况、工作节奏的变化, 有些疾病的症状不典型、病因不明, 如何早诊断、早治疗是医疗行为的关键。亚临床型甲状腺功能异常是一种临界状态的病变, TSH 水平的变化为进行早期针对性治疗提供了可靠依据。

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