

肠道菌群失调与自闭谱系障碍患者胃肠失调的关系研究进展

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Relationship between gut microbiota and gastrointestinal disorders in patients with autism spectrum disorders

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Abstract

Autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) are a group of neurodevelopmental disorders with increasing morbidity. Gastrointestinal disorders such as diarrhea, constipation and abdominal pain are common among patients with ASDs. This article reviews studies on gastrointestinal disorders among ASD patients, with great importance attached to the role of gut microbiota in ASD pathogenesis. We propose that food rich in probiotics and/or prebiotics should be designed for ASD patients to help improve their gut microbiota disorders.

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背景资料

自闭谱系障碍 (autism spectrum disorders, ASD) 是一系列以社交障碍、沟通困难以及重复刻板行为为特征的广泛发育障碍类疾病, 包括自闭症、阿斯伯格综合征、儿童瓦解性精神障碍、广泛性发育障碍未注明型等。ASD发病率近年来持续攀升, 引起了学界的广泛关注。

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■ 创新盘点

目前对ASD相关研究进展的论述较多,但本文从ASD患者胃肠失调着手,综述了肠道菌群与ASD发病的密切联系,介绍了ASD患者胃肠失调机制研究前沿进展,并探讨从改善肠道菌群角度改善ASD胃肠失调的可行性。

Key Words: Autism spectrum disorder; Gastrointestinal disorder; Gut microbiota; Fermented food; Probiotics

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摘要

自闭谱系障碍(autism spectrum disorders, ASD)是一类神经发育障碍疾病,近年来其发病率不断攀升,患者常伴随腹泻、便秘、腹痛等胃肠失调症状,给患者自身及其家庭都带来巨大痛苦。本文综述了ASD患者胃肠失调方面的研究进展,重点关注了肠道菌群失调在其中的影响,并提出可针对ASD患者肠道菌群失调开发富含益生菌和/或益生元食品。

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关键词: 自闭谱系障碍; 胃肠失调; 肠道菌群; 发酵食品; 益生元

核心提示: 本文综述了自闭谱系障碍(autism spectrum disorders, ASD)患者胃肠失调的近年研究进展,重点关注了肠道菌群在其中扮演的角色,并提出从调理肠道菌群角度着手改善ASD患者胃肠失调的治疗思路。

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0 引言

自闭谱系障碍(autism spectrum disorders, ASD),或称广泛性发育障碍(pervasive developmental disorders, PDD),是一类以社会功能缺失、语言和非语言沟通异常以及行为和兴趣的刻板局限为主要特征的广泛性发育障碍^[1]。ASD可分为自闭症(autism disorder)、阿斯伯格综合征(asperger syndrome)、儿童瓦解性精神障碍(childhood disintegrative disorder)、广泛性发育障碍未注明型(pervasive developmental

disorder not otherwise specified)等多个类别,自闭症是其中较为严重的一种。ASD发病性别差异显著,男女发病比例达到4:1-6:1^[2]。ASD患儿被喻为“星星的孩子”,因为他们听力视力无碍却不能与人正常沟通,生活在一个人的世界里^[3]。ASD致残率高,难以治愈,给患者和家庭带来巨大痛苦。流行病学研究表明,近40年来,ASD的发病率呈持续上升趋势。以美国为例,2011-2013年的ASD发病率为1.25%,而2014年国民健康调查报告显示发病率已升至2.24%^[4]。作为一种多因素疾病,ASD发病受环境因素和遗传因素的双重影响,其中肠道菌群与ASD发病机制、病程进展和ASD患者特有的胃肠并发症的相关性近年来受到广泛关注^[5]。

1 ASD患者胃肠失调的流行病学初探

ASD患者普遍存在胃肠不适症状^[6]。研究显示,90%以上的ASD患者都不同程度受到胃肠失调的困扰^[7]。美国2012年一项ASD人群调查报告显示,3-17岁ASD患儿发生便秘、腹泻、结肠炎的风险显著高于正常儿童^[8]。在精神发育异常人群中,ASD患者出现便秘或腹泻的概率比智力障碍者高70%,出现胃肠功能障碍的概率比注意缺陷多动症患者高出一倍^[9]。

胃肠失调会影响ASD患者日常营养的摄入,引起体质虚弱和营养不良。Adams等^[10]和Gorrindo等^[11]的研究还分别指出,ASD患儿胃肠不适严重程度和其自闭程度高度相关。Nikolov等^[12]对172例ASD患儿进行调查,发现胃肠不适的ASD患儿更加焦虑易怒,并且表现出更严重的社交回避。Mazefsky等^[13]发现胃肠失调的ASD儿童都存在较严重的情感问题,而Maenner等^[14]发现胃肠不适的ASD儿童更容易产生对立违抗性障碍。临床研究表明,ASD患者部分异常行为可能源自对腹痛等生理痛苦的发泄和表达尝试^[15],因此,一些研究者呼吁,当ASD患者的异常行为突然增加,应首先进行内科检查,以排除消化系统疾病^[7]。胃肠失调还会引起睡眠质量下降,研究显示,胃肠失调的ASD儿童存在睡眠障碍的比例比没有胃肠失调的ASD儿童高出四倍多^[7]。胃肠失调影响了ASD患者的生活质量,干扰了行为评估和康复训练,不利于患者的身心发展。

ASD患者最常见的消化道症状包括便

秘、腹痛和腹泻, 其他如小肠结肠炎^[16]、淋巴结节性增生^[17]、胃炎、食管炎^[18]、反流食管炎、双糖酶活性下降^[19]等消化系统疾病也曾见报道。此外, 研究者还发现, ASD患者的肠道存在器质性改变, 如de Magistris等^[18]报道了36.7%的ASD患者存在肠壁通透性增加的情况, 肠道中某些免疫球蛋白和细胞因子的水平也异常升高^[20]。

除消化系统疾病以外, ASD患者肠道菌群也出现显著异常^[21]。迄今为止, 已经证明肠道菌群失调与多发性硬化症、精神分裂、阿尔茨海默病等多种中枢神经系统疾病存在相关性^[22]。理解肠道菌群在ASD发病及ASD患者胃肠失调中扮演的角色, 对于提出有效的治疗策略有重要意义。

2 肠道菌群失调与ASD

在对ASD患者和正常人粪便样本进行分析时, 研究者发现两者肠道菌群之间存在细菌种类和数量的显著差异。拟杆菌(*Bacteroides*)、变形菌(*Proteobacteria*)、放线菌(*Actinomycetes*)和厚壁菌(*Phylum Firmicutes*)是正常人肠道内的四种优势菌。Finegold等^[23]研究发现, 这四种菌在ASD儿童和正常儿童肠道中的含量显著不同, ASD儿童肠道中拟杆菌(*Bacteroidetes*)数量更多, 厚壁菌(*Firmicutes*)数量更少。De Angelis等^[24]则在ASD儿童肠道发现八叠球菌(*Sarcina*)、喜热菌(*Caloramator*)、梭菌(*Clostridium*)的显著上升, 和优杆菌(*Eubacteriaceae*)、双歧杆菌(*Bifidobacterium*)的显著减少。Parracho等^[25]利用荧光原位杂交技术分析粪便样品, 发现ASD儿童粪便中溶组织梭菌(*Clostridium histolyticum*)含量显著高于未患病兄弟姐妹及无血缘关系的其他正常儿童。Martirosian等^[26]则在ASD儿童肠道中检测到产气荚膜杆菌(*Clostridium perfringens*)显著增加。

正常成年人肠道中共生着多达 10^{13} - 10^{14} 个微生物, 是人体自身细胞数量的10-100倍^[27,28]。肠道菌群具有复杂的生理功能, 能合成分泌某些维生素, 构成肠道免疫屏障并参与调节人体代谢^[29]。大部分ASD患者在3岁以前的幼儿期发病, 而这一时期恰好与人类肠道菌群快速发育阶段重合, 这提示ASD发病很可能与早期肠道菌群发育异常有关^[30]。

早在19世纪和20世纪初, 人们就已经认识到肠与脑之间存在联系, 提出了脑-肠轴(brain-gut axis)联合调控人心理行为的理论^[31,32]。随后, 随着肠道菌群在维持身心健康方面的重要影响被逐渐揭示, 人们了解到, 肠道菌群不仅是肠、脑之间沟通的桥梁, 其本身也会对宿主的心理和行为产生复杂影响, 于是肠道菌群被加入肠-脑轴中, 形成“菌-肠-脑轴”(microbiota-gut-brain axis)的新概念, 以指代包含肠道、肠道菌群及大脑在内的, 会对人行为心理产生重大影响的一整个复杂调控体系^[33-35]。目前研究揭示, 肠道菌群、肠、大脑三者之间可以通过免疫系统、分泌神经递质和刺激迷走神经等多种途径传递信息^[31]。健康人体内, 肠道菌群与宿主处于一种微妙的平衡状态, 这种平衡一旦打破, 可能会引起免疫系统、神经系统、机体营养吸收和物质代谢等多方面的失调, 并最终在宿主情绪和行为上体现出来^[36-38]。换言之, 肠道菌群失调将有可能引起免疫系统、神经系统、机体营养和代谢等多方面失调, 从而间接增加中枢神经系统紊乱风险。迄今为止, 肠道菌群失调导致以上病理性改变的证据已十分充分。以免疫系统为例, Olszak等^[39]曾用无菌小鼠证实了早期暴露于不同的微生物, 会长久地影响小鼠自然杀伤T细胞的细胞功能。此外, 许多临床研究也揭示了肠道菌群失调与过度免疫之间的联系, 肠道菌群失调会增加炎症性肠病、类风湿性关节炎、I型糖尿病等自免疫疾病风险^[40]。神经系统方面, Bravo等^[41]在鼠李糖乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus rhamnosus*)引发的小鼠焦虑模型实验中发现, 切断小鼠的迷走神经会使焦虑行为减少, 提示肠道微生物可以通过迷走神经调控宿主行为。Bercik等^[42,43]研究了小鼠自主神经传导被阻断的情况下, 肠道菌群对中枢神经系统和行为的影响, 发现当肠道菌群被抑制后, 小鼠大脑海马体中神经营养因子显著增加, 且小鼠表现出更多的探索行为, 这说明肠道菌群存在神经传导以外的调节途径。肠道作为人体第一大消化器官, 是吸收食物营养的重要场所, 肠道菌群失调会直接干扰宿主营养摄取和物质代谢过程。以硫元素为例, 食物中以硫酸盐形式存在的硫元素可以被肠道吸收, 若硫酸盐被还原为硫化氢则会逸散导致生物利用率降低。脱硫弧菌(*Desulfovibrio*)是肠道中一种可以特异性还原硫酸盐为硫化氢的细菌,

应用要点

本文在综述肠道菌群与ASD发病及伴发胃肠失调相关性的研究进展基础上, 提出用植物性原料生产发酵食品用于调理ASD患者肠道菌群, 对于推动ASD治疗方案的完善, 有一定启发意义。

同行评价

ASD患者普遍存在腹泻、便秘、腹痛等胃肠不适和其他消化系统疾病, 伴随着肠道菌群的群落结构异常, 阐述两者的关系及影响作用机制, 具有重要意义。

正常人肠道中, 脱硫弧菌含量较少。如果脱硫弧菌在肠道异常增殖, 则导致食物中大量硫酸盐被还原为硫化氢逸散, 不能被宿主吸收利用^[44]。长期硫元素摄入不足会引起系统性硫缺乏, 后者与ASD发病存在相关性^[45]。与此相呼应, Finegold等^[46]的研究报道了ASD患者肠道中脱硫弧菌(*Desulfovibrio*)数量显著上升的事实。β-丙氨酸是另一种与ASD发病风险相关的化合物, 能透过血脑屏障并与抑制性神经递质γ-氨基丁酸发生了拮抗, 引发ASD典型的社交障碍^[47]。Emam等^[47]分析了儿童粪便中的真菌, 发现ASD与白色念珠菌(*Candida albicans*)过度增殖显著相关。

肠道菌群位于人体消化吸收的第一大器官肠道, 并与中枢神经系统存在密切联系, 通过分泌活性物质、调控免疫反应和脑外神经的介导, 调控宿主精神状况及外在行为, 在ASD发病占据不容忽视的角色。

3 治疗与干预

目前, 肠-菌-脑和外在行为之间的紧密关联已经获得普遍认同。肠道菌群作为治疗和改善ASD的有效切入点, 可以通过抗生素和益生菌制剂等方式干预。口服抗生素可以快速抑制肠道中有害菌, 矫正肠道菌群结构失衡。动物实验方面已取得较多进展, 如Gareau等^[48]用抗生素治疗因接种鼠类柠檬酸杆菌(*Citrobacter rodentium*)而表现出记忆障碍的小鼠, 服用抗生素后小鼠记忆力显著提高。一些ASD患者口服万古霉素和甲硝唑后也表现出自闭行为减少, 胃肠症状减轻^[49]。但抗生素治疗一旦中止, 原有自闭症状会强烈反复。此外, 长时间服用抗生素容易使细菌产生抗药性, 为了保持最佳治疗效果, 服用者往往需要不断加大用量。

通过微生物制剂改善ASD的相关干预实验是近年来ASD研究的另一大热点。Hsiao等^[50]给自闭模型小鼠接种脆弱杆菌(*Bacteroides fragilis*)后, 小鼠肠道通透性下降, 肠道菌群趋于正常, 小鼠的焦虑程度减轻, 重复强迫行为减少。Messaoudi等^[51]研究了瑞士乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus helveticus* R0052)和长双歧杆菌(*Bifidobacterium longum* R0175)对大鼠和健康志愿者的心理状态影响, 发现两种菌制剂能显著减少大鼠焦虑行为, 并有效缓解志愿者心理压力。Kałużna-Czaplińska等^[52]让ASD儿童口服

嗜酸乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus Acidophilus*)或安慰剂, 随后进行行为学评分。该研究发现, 实验组儿童注意力更集中, 能更好地根据命令做出相应反应。Parrocho等^[53]研究团队比较了服用植物乳杆菌WCSF1(*Lactobacillus Plantarum*)和安慰剂对ASD患者行为的影响, 发现植物乳杆菌组在反社会行为、焦虑水平和交流障碍方面的表现优于安慰剂组。Tomova及其同事研究发现补充益生菌制剂能矫正ASD儿童的肠道菌群异常, 缓解胃肠失调^[54]。除了纯菌制剂之外, 富含益生菌的食物可能也能对ASD患者有一定改善。如Tillisch等^[55]的研究还指出, 补充含有益生菌的酸奶能使志愿者心情更愉悦, 其机制或许与酸奶对肠道菌群的影响有关。除了益生菌, 食品中的功能性低聚糖也能促进肠道益生菌增殖。针对ASD患者肠道菌群失调的情况, 多食用含有益生菌或益生元的食物也许有助于肠道健康。而一些研究显示某些ASD患者可能存在对酪蛋白和谷蛋白不耐受的情况^[18], 因此ASD患者在补充益生菌或益生元时, 最好同时控制酪蛋白和谷蛋白的摄入。

近年来, 以果蔬作为发酵原料的功能性食品研究在世界多地均有开展。果蔬原料通常具有纤维素含量高、蛋白质含量低的特点。Harima-Mizusawa等^[56]新近发表了用植物乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus Plantarum*)发酵柑橘汁的研究报告, 我们所在的研究团就植物发酵液在抗氧化、抗癌方面的功效进行了相关研究, 取得了积极的进展^[57]。这种以植物性原料发酵的方法, 避免了引入过多蛋白质, 同时保留了功能性低聚糖、矿物质等有益成分, 或可成为开发ASD患者特殊功能性食品的一种思路。相关研究的推进不仅有助于彻底理解肠道菌群与ASD发病的联系, 也能为治疗和改善ASD患者胃肠失调提供新的思路。

4 结论

ASD患者在出现广泛发育障碍的同时, 伴随着胃肠失调, 消化系统疾病风险增加。越来越多的证据表明, 菌-肠-脑轴在ASD发病及胃肠失调中均扮演了重要角色。肠道菌群通过与肠道、大脑的交互沟通调控宿主的心理状况和生理行为。当肠道菌群出现失调, 会通过神经、体液、免疫等多种途径传递至脑与肠道, 引起ASD和胃肠失调。鉴于肠道菌群对于宿主

健康的重要影响, 越来越多针对肠道菌群的治疗与干预手段随之出现. 其中, 利用益生菌和益生元促进肠道菌群平衡是较有前景的治疗思路. 然而, 肠道菌群影响ASD发病和胃肠失调的具体机制尚未彻底阐明, 是肠道菌群结构失衡还是个别菌种异常增殖诱发了ASD目前尚不能明确, 有待进一步研究. 此外, 益生菌和益生元在ASD患者中的应用, 仍主要见于科研报道, 距离广泛地应用于实际治疗, 还有许多工作要做.

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