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· 新进展 ·

重复经颅磁刺激治疗中枢神经系统特发性炎症性脱髓鞘疾病所致认知障碍的疗效及其机制研究进展

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【摘要】 认知障碍(CI)是中枢神经系统特发性炎症性脱髓鞘疾病(CNS-IIDDs)常见并发症之一,严重影响患者的生活质量和身体健康。重复经颅磁刺激(rTMS)是一种新型的神经电生理技术,可通过刺激患者局部皮质兴奋性和大脑突触联系而改善神经功能,在治疗各类疾病所致CI中效果确切。但国内外尚无针对rTMS改善CNS-IIDDs所致CI机制的系统研究。本文就rTMS治疗CNS-IIDDs所致CI的疗效及其作用机制进行综述,以期该类疾病的治疗提供新的选择。

【关键词】 遗传性中枢神经系统脱髓鞘疾病;视神经脊髓炎;多发性硬化;认知障碍;经颅磁刺激

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Research Progress of the Efficacy and Mechanism of Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in the Treatment of Cognitive Impairment Caused by Idiopathic Inflammatory Demyelinating Diseases ZHANG Min¹, XUE Qun²

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【Abstract】 Cognitive impairment (CI) is one of the common complications of central nervous system idiopathic inflammatory demyelinating diseases (CNS-IIDDs), which will seriously affect the patients' quality of life and health. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) is a new neurophysiological technology, which can improve the nervous function by stimulating the excitability of local cortex and synaptic connection of brain, and has definite effect in the treatment of CI caused by various reasons. However, there is no systematic study on the mechanism of rTMS improving the CI caused by CNS-IIDDs at home and abroad. In this paper, the efficacy and mechanism of rTMS in the treatment of CI caused by CNS-IIDDs are reviewed, in order to provide new options for the treatment of this kind of diseases.

【Key words】 Hereditary central nervous system demyelinating diseases; Neuromyelitis optica; Multiple sclerosis; Cognition disorders; Transcranial magnetic stimulation

认知障碍(cognitive impairment, CI)作为中枢神经系统特发性炎症性脱髓鞘疾病(central nervous system idiopathic inflammatory demyelinating diseases, CNS-IIDDs)的常见并发症,其发生及进展较感觉、运动障碍更为隐匿,故易被忽视^[1],可严重影响患者的社会功能和学习能力。目前口服药物治疗无法延缓CI进程,如何改善CI成为临床治疗CNS-IIDDs亟须关注的重点。CNS-IIDDs是一类因免疫稳态受损,原发于脑、脊髓或视神经,以炎性细胞浸润和神经脱髓鞘为主要病理特征的疾病,包括视神经脊髓炎(neuromyelitis optica

spectrum disorders, NMOSD)、急性播散性脑脊髓炎(acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, ADEM)、多发性硬化(multiple sclerosis, MS)等,其中以NMOSD、MS最为常见。CNS-IIDDs好发于中青年女性,临床症状复杂,较易累及视力及感觉、运动功能等,其中NMOSD、MS患者较易并发CI。有研究表明,57%~67%的NMOSD患者并发的CI与MS症状相似^[2-3],主要表现为信息处理速度减慢及执行功能、注意力、工作记忆能力损伤^[4]。与NMOSD患者相比,MS患者视觉、记忆障碍发生率较高,注意力障碍发生率较低^[5]。另有研究表明,MS、NMOSD患者早期CI与炎性脱髓鞘相关,晚期CI则与神经变性相关^[1]。早期炎性脱髓鞘是由少突胶质细胞发生炎症损伤,进而发展为白质、灰质坏死性损伤所致^[6]。研

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究表明, MS 所致 CI 与白质脱髓鞘和 / 或皮质脊髓束轴突丢失关系密切^[4]。CNS-IIDDs 致 CI 普遍存在, 其特点如下: (1) MS、MNOSD 患者常伴有认知功能损伤, 主要表现为信息处理速度减慢及执行功能、语言流畅性、注意力和记忆功能改变^[4-5, 7-8]。其中, MS 患者视觉、记忆障碍发生率较高, MNOSD 患者注意力损伤发生率较高^[5]。(2) MS、MNOSD 患者发生 CI 可能与炎症^[6]、脑容量减少 (brain volume loss, BVL)^[9-14]、脑白质损伤^[2, 4, 6]及灰质体积减小^[3, 6, 15]、海马萎缩^[2, 15-16]、胼胝体减少^[4]及代谢率减慢^[17-22]、神经再生和轴突变性、神经血管解偶联^[22]有关。(3) MS、MNOSD 患者认知功能损伤与多个大脑网络变化有关, 尤其是默认模式网络 (default mode network, DMN)^[3, 23-24]和丘脑网络^[25]。

重复经颅磁刺激 (repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation, rTMS) 作为一种无创、安全性高的新型治疗手段, 目前已被用于 CNS-IIDDs 如 MS 等疾病的评估和运动康复治疗, 且已被证实可有效降低 CI 发生风险^[26-27]。但国内尚缺乏针对 rTMS 对 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 作用机制的系统阐述。基于此, 本文结合既往文献综述了 rTMS 治疗 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 的疗效及其作用机制, 以期为临床治疗提供参考。

1 rTMS 改善 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 的潜在神经通路

rTMS 对包括正常健康人及 CNS-IIDDs 患者在内的不同群体的认知功能均具有明显的改善作用, 且相关神经学专家已针对其对大脑区域及其功能的关联做了大量研究, 但至今为止, 尚缺乏 rTMS 治疗 CI 机制的神经通路研究。直接观察 CNS-IIDDs 患者发生 CI 时刺激区域如背外侧前额叶皮质 (dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, DLPFC) 及其相关的神经网络可能有助于理解 rTMS 改善认知功能的机制。

既往多项功能性神经影像学研究表明, CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 主要表现为执行功能^[28-29]、信息处理速度^[30]、工作记忆能力^[31-32]、注意力^[33-34]及语言流畅性^[35-36]等异常, 而这些功能均与大脑 DLPFC 的作用密切相关。DLPFC 是 rTMS 增强认知功能的关键解剖区域之一。早期研究表明, 左侧 DLPFC 在任务执行期间激活与任务难度相关^[37]。目前已有大量研究肯定了 rTMS 对左侧 DLPFC 的安全性及认知增强作用。虽有部分研究发现对除 DLPFC 以外的其他区域应用 rTMS 也可改善患者认知功能, 如 rTMS 刺激左侧初级运动皮质可改善相关记忆功能^[38], 但大多数研究发现通过 rTMS 刺激左侧 DLPFC 可产生有效的认知增强作用。研究表明, 在 CNS-IIDDs 致认知受损所涉及的大脑区域中, 以前额叶、丘脑等区域损伤为主^[36], 而这些区域处于 DMN、丘脑网络等大脑网络中, 其中 Papez 回路^[39]、丘脑-海马-前额叶回路^[16]可有效连接前额叶与丘脑、海马、扣带回等区域的功能, 而前额叶皮质^[40]是 rTMS 中最常作用到的刺激位点。推测 rTMS 通过刺激前额叶皮质而诱导皮质下易化, 增加神经突触可塑性, 诱导长时程增强 (long-term potentiation, LTP), 从而对刺激局部及远隔皮质产生持续性的生理效应, 并将该作用延伸至与干预靶点相连的环路脑区^[41], 以重塑局部或整个神经网络, 而相关神经功能网络连接增强可以部分抵消脑结构破坏导致的认知功能下降, 进而达到改善认知功能的目的。

2 rTMS 改善认知功能的方案及疗效

根据频率高低将 rTMS 频率 < 1 Hz 定义为低频 (low frequency, LF)-rTMS, 频率 > 5 Hz 定义为高频 (high frequency, HF)-rTMS。LF-rTMS 是通过去极化来诱导神经元抑制, 可间接影响患者的情绪和行为^[42], 但将其用于改善认知功能的研究相对较少; HF-rTMS 可增强皮质兴奋性并维持 1 个月^[43], 故常被用于改善认知功能。研究表明, rTMS 治疗 2~4 周患者的认知功能才能改善^[44]。但目前国内外对于 rTMS 改善 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 的参数设置、治疗时程和功效评定尚无明确方案, 今后还需进一步研究 rTMS 对 CI 的影响, 包括刺激部位、频率、强度及刺激的脉冲量、间隔时间和持续时间等。

结合既往研究发现, 使用 10 Hz rTMS 在 80%~110%^[29, 33, 45-46]的运动强度阈值下刺激患者左侧 DLPFC, 并进行至少 1 000 个刺激 (间隔时间为 26~28 s, 总持续时间约为 20 min, 疗程为 2~4 周) 后, 患者的工作记忆能力^[45]、言语记忆 / 注意力和执行功能^[46]、选择性注意力^[33]均有所改善。这些研究为今后的临床治疗提供了参考。此外, 线圈的正确定位对于治疗效果也是至关重要的, 与人工安放相比, 使用 Pascual-Leone 方法 (将线圈放置在距主要运动皮质热点 5 cm 处) 或通过 10-20 EEG 系统定位左侧 DLPFC 可以达到更好的效果, 同时, 立体神经导航对诱导持久的认知功能改善也十分重要^[29]。

值得注意的是, 采用统一方法评估认知功能可能有助于提高研究结果的可靠性, 近年临床主要采用神经心理学测试评估认知功能, 不同的量表可有针对性地评估不同的认知内容, 如简易精神状态检查量表 (Mini-mental State Examination, MMSE)、蒙特利尔认知评估 (Montreal Cognitive Assessment, MoCA) 量表主要用于评定整体的认知功能, 符号数字模式测验 (Symbol Digit Modalities test, SDMT) 主要用于评估视觉处理速度和工作记忆能力, 步调听觉连续加法任务 (Paced Auditory Serial Addition Task, PASAT) 主要用于评价听觉加工速度、注意力和工作记忆能力, 加州语言学习测试第二版主要用于测试奥迪历史记忆或语言情景记忆能力, 改良的视觉空间记忆测验 (Brief Visuospatial Memory Test Revised, BVM-T-R) 主要用于评价视觉或空间情景记忆能力, 威斯康星卡片分类测验 (Wisconsin Card Sorting Test, WCST) 主要用于评估高级执行功能。

3 rTMS 治疗 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 的机制

3.1 神经突触可塑性 神经突触可塑性即大脑重组神经网络, 使其具有连接性, 从而改善大脑功能, 而突触间的连接是通过神经元实现的, 是可调节的, 如 LTP 和长时程抑制 (long-term depression, LTD)。HF-rTMS 已被证实能诱导皮质下易化, 且这种易化的持续时间超过刺激时间, 这种长期效应被认为是由 LTP 介导的^[47-48]。神经突触可塑性是脑功能连接性在休息状态 [静息状态功能连接性 (resting-state-functional connectivity, rs-FC)] 和执行任务期间发生改变的, 其中 rs-FC 被认为是 MS 发生早期 CI 的代偿机制^[38], 而 rTMS 可以增加这种功能连接性, HULST 等^[31]通过在 MS

患者 DLPFC 上使用 HF-rTMS 并测量其任务相关的大脑激活和任务相关的大脑连接性, 结果发现, 与健康对照组相比, MS 患者表现出更高的任务相关的额叶激活, 而与假刺激相比, rTMS 患者右侧 DLPFC 与右侧尾状核和双侧或对侧扣带回之间的任务相关功能连接增加, 揭示了 rTMS 在 MS 患者认知功能康复中的潜在作用。ESSLINGER 等^[49]使用 5 Hz rTMS 刺激健康受试者右侧 DLPFC, 通过功能磁共振成像 (functional magnetic resonance imaging, fMRI) 发现, 健康受试者 n-back 试验期间工作记忆网络内的连接性明显增加, 且在侧翼任务期间前扣带皮质中的激活减少, 表明刺激部位下游前额叶连接网络的可塑性变化是行为效应的基础^[50]。AHMED 等^[51]研究 HF-rTMS 对小鼠学习过程和海马神经元兴奋性的影响, 结果显示, 暴露的动物海马脑片记录到的 LTP 明显提高了突触效率, 表明 HF-rTMS 可有效增加脑功能连接性, 增强神经突触可塑性, 从而改善认知功能。BVL、海马体积减小也是导致认知功能降低的重要原因。YANG 等^[52]对抑郁症患者进行为期两周的 HF 左侧 DLPFC rTMS 治疗 (刺激频率为 20 Hz, 参数为 25 列, 持续时间为 2 s, 训练间隔为 28 s, 1 000 个脉冲 / 次, 刺激强度设定为静息运动阈值的 90%~100%), 结果发现, 左侧 DLPFC 海马体积增加且工作记忆能力明显改善。证实了 rTMS 可通过诱导神经突触可塑性而改善认知功能。

综上, rTMS 可通过改变患者大脑神经突触可塑性而进一步改善其认知功能, 但其确切的作用通路及机制仍有待进一步研究。

3.2 神经营养因子与神经再生 已有研究证实, 多种神经营养因子及神经生长因子 (nerve growth factor, NGF) 能引起诸如 MS 等疾病的神经再生^[53]。海马齿状回室管膜下区 (hippocampal dentate gyrus and in the subventricular zone, SVZ) 及颗粒细胞层 (sub-granular zone, SGZ) 是神经再生的主要部位, 而神经再生又与神经营养因子的表达关系密切^[54], 如脑源性神经营养因子 (brain derived neurotrophic factor, BDNF)、海马血管内皮生长因子 (vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)、NGF、转化生长因子 α (transforming growth factor alpha, TGF- α)、表皮生长因子 (epidermal growth factor, EGF)、成纤维细胞生长因子 2 (fibroblast growth factor-2, FGF-2) 等^[55-56]。

YILDIRIM 等^[57]研究指出, VEGF 和 BDNF 作为促进中枢神经元增殖和分化的重要神经营养因子, 均经 PKA-CREB 通路进行调控, 在脑缺血大鼠认知功能的恢复中具有重要作用。BDNF 广泛分布于海马、大脑皮质及周围神经系统中, 是影响神经元生长、分化^[58]和损伤因子修复及突触可塑性^[59-60]的重要神经营养因子, 成熟的 BDNF 通过与酪氨酸激酶受体 B (tyrosine kinase receptor B, TrkB) 结合而影响神经突触可塑性。已有多项研究证实了 rTMS 能有效提高大鼠海马中的 BDNF 水平, 进而改善认知功能^[51, 61-63]。BLANC 等^[64]通过研究脑缺血大鼠证实 BDNF 可以促进神经干细胞的增殖和分化, 进而影响认知功能。WANG 等^[63]通过使用 5 Hz rTMS 刺激成年大鼠前额叶皮质, 发现大鼠血清 BDNF 水平及 BDNF 对 TrkB 的亲合力均明显增加。而 AHMED 等^[51]在 rTMS 对小鼠

学习过程和海马神经元兴奋性影响的研究中发现, HF-rTMS (15 Hz) 刺激大鼠海马可有效升高 BDNF 水平, 并且有促进神经元增殖和保护神经元的作用, 这为中枢神经系统疾病患者的治疗提供了新的可能。VEGF 是由外周血分泌并穿过血-脑脊液屏障, 可促进内皮细胞形态改变和新血管生成, 增加局部脑血流量和糖代谢水平^[65]。ZHANG 等^[65]通过对 VaD 大鼠模型进行 HF-rTMS (5 Hz) 发现, 大鼠体内 VEGF、BDNF 和 N-甲基-D-天冬氨酸受体 (N-methyl-D-aspartic acid receptor, NMDAR) 水平升高, 提示 rTMS 通过上调 VEGF、BDNF 和 NMDAR 表达而增强海马 CA3-CA1 突触 LTP, 改善大鼠的学习、记忆能力。

NGF 与 BDNF 同属 NGF 家族, NGF 主要由神经元和星形胶质细胞分泌, 具有调节多种神经元反应的能力, 包括通过促进离散神经元亚群的存活来增加传入突触的类型和数量^[66]。生理情况下, NGF 在海马和大脑皮质中含量较高。早在 2010 年 NILSSON 等^[66]通过向海马注射外源性神经营养因子 (NGF 或 BDNF) 证实其可有效逆转转基因 AD 小鼠的空间记忆缺陷。有研究表明, 使用 HF-rTMS (> 5 Hz) 可以上调正常大鼠的 BDNF、NGF 水平^[67]。TAN 等^[68]研究发现, 在健康鼠脑海马体背侧齿状回注射 β -淀粉样蛋白 (amyloid β -protein, A β) 后, LTP 和空间记忆力严重受损, 且 BDNF、NGF 和海马区 NMDAR 水平下降; 而采用 rTMS (1 Hz) 治疗 14 d 后, BDNF 和 NGF 水平均上升, NMDAR 表达上调, LTP 和空间记忆力改善。

综上, rTMS 对脑内神经递质的影响可能是其调节脑功能的机制之一。

3.3 炎症因子 目前发现多种促炎症的酶类及炎症因子对 rTMS 治疗效果有调节作用。有研究发现, 针对脑内注射 6-羟基多巴胺制造的帕金森病 (Parkinson's disease, PD) 模型, 经 0.5 Hz 的 LF 磁刺激后即有促使纹状体释放多巴胺, 改善黑质区细胞存活以及增加黑质区炎症递质的作用^[52]。这提示 rTMS 可通过减少促炎因子 [如环氧化酶 2 (cyclooxygenase-2, Cox-2)、肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor alpha, TNF- α)] 而起到神经保护作用。MEDINA-FERNANDEZ 等^[69]研究发现, rTMS 可引起神经元去极化和抑制神经炎症, 这可能有助于促进大脑神经元恢复。TIAN 等^[70]使用 1 周 15 Hz 的 rTMS 治疗焦虑 / 抑郁患者, 发现核因子 E2 相关因子 2 (nuclear factor E2 related factor 2, Nrf2) 的表达升高, 而炎症因子 [如 TNF- α 、诱导型一氧化氮合酶 (inducible nitric oxide synthase, iNOS)、白介素 (interleukin, IL)-1b 和 IL-6] 含量减少。Nrf2 作为抗氧化反应基因和二期解毒酶的主要决定因素, 因其缺失引起的慢性炎症已在 PD、AD、缺血性脑卒中等中枢神经系统炎症相关疾病的研究中得到证实。同时, KENSLER 等^[71]研究发现, Nrf2 也参与了中枢神经系统炎症性疾病的防御反应。

因此, rTMS 可以抑制神经炎症, 这可能也是其调节大脑认知功能的有效机制之一。

3.4 脑血流量及代谢水平 事实上, rTMS 可以有效改善患者脑血流量及代谢水平, 进而改善认知功能。DRESSLER 等^[72]

早在 30 年前就使用 fMRI 证实了阈上 rTMS 可增加线圈下皮质的脑灌注。PAUS 等^[73]使用刺激参数为 10 s 的连续脉冲序列,以 10 Hz 的频率发送,强度为刺激器最大输出 40% 的 HF-rTMS 作用于猴眼,并使用正电子发射断层扫描 (positron emission tomography, PET) 测量脑血流指数,结果发现 rTMS 脉冲数与刺激部位脑血流指数呈正相关;DRESSLER 等^[72]通过单体质子磁共振波谱测定代谢物比率的变化来测量区域性脑代谢的变化,并使用 10 Hz rTMS 刺激精神分裂症阴性症状如认知缺陷患者的左前额叶背外侧皮质,15 次/3 周、每次刺激 1 000 次,结果显示患者的认知缺陷得到明显改善。GAO 等^[74]发现,¹⁸F-FDG PET 监测下使用频率 20 Hz,5 s 连续脉冲序列重复 10 次,100% 静息运动阈值的 HF-rTMS 治疗前额叶皮质可增加大鼠缺血半球葡萄糖代谢水平、抑制细胞凋亡。而 LF-rTMS 则相反,其可通过抑制 VEGF 而降低局部脑血流量和葡萄糖代谢水平^[75]。

由此认为, HF-rTMS 可以提高大脑皮质的兴奋性、易化局部神经元的活动、提高神经元的效率、影响脑功能代谢,从而提高刺激部位神经生化代谢物质如葡萄糖代谢水平^[74]; HF-rTMS 可以增加脑部血流速度,改善脑部血液循环,为脑代谢提供充足的氧气和养分,进而促进认知功能恢复。

4 rTMS 治疗 CNS-IIDDs 所致 IC 的安全性

rTMS 的安全性是影响患者治疗依从性的关键,由于刺激线圈产生的磁场会引起较大的噪声,常见不良反应主要有过头痛、面部肌肉抽搐、听力障碍、耳鸣^[76]等。头痛作为最常见的不良反应,发生率约为 18.4%^[76];而癫痫是治疗过程中较严重的不良反应,发生率为 0.11%~0.46%,且癫痫发作多与 10~25 Hz 的刺激和阈值强度以上的高强度刺激有关^[77]。可见, rTMS 在治疗 CI 方面出现的少数不良反应可能与刺激强度、频率等有关。

综上, rTMS 辅助治疗 CI 的安全性较高,治疗过程中可能出现少数不良反应,但多轻微且易被患者接受。但对于有癫痫病史的患者则应谨慎使用 HF-rTMS 治疗。

5 小结

rTMS 能够通过多种机制及作用于多个脑区、神经环路发挥不同的作用,是研究大脑神经传递和信息加工过程的重要工具。rTMS 应用于 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 治疗尚处于初期研究阶段,国内外对此类研究少之又少,进一步明确 rTMS 对 CNS-IIDDs 所致 CI 的作用,将会为如 NMOSD、MS 等疾病相关 CI 的治疗提供参考依据。

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