

慢性脑低灌注小鼠模型构建及其认知功能研究



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【摘要】 **目的** 通过改良微弹簧双侧颈总动脉狭窄 (BCAS) 法构建慢性脑低灌注 (CCH) 小鼠模型, 并观察其认知功能。**方法** 本实验时间为2022年4—5月。选取30只雄性C57BL/6J小鼠, 随机分为假手术组和模型组, 各15只。模型组小鼠通过改良微弹簧BCAS法构建CCH小鼠模型, 主要使用直径0.08 mm的非吸收外科缝合线, 将直径0.18 mm的钢丝与颈总动脉 (CCA) 牢固结扎, 然后缓慢抽出钢丝。假手术组小鼠仅分离两侧CCA, 随后缝合消毒。术后第1天进行MRI扫描; 术后第1天、1个月和2个月, 分别从假手术组和模型组随机选取5只小鼠, 检测其脑血流量 (CBF) 及低灌注区占比; 两组小鼠均于术后2个月进行Morris水迷宫实验, 以检测其实验第1~5天游泳距离、逃避潜伏期及实验第6天60 s内穿过平台象限的次数。**结果** T2WI显示, 术后第1天两组小鼠均未发生急性脑梗死及其他异常改变。术后第1天、1个月、2个月, 模型组小鼠CBF少于假手术组, 低灌注区占比高于假手术组 ($P < 0.05$); 术后1个月、2个月, 模型组小鼠CBF多于术后第1天, 低灌注区占比低于术后第1天 ($P < 0.05$)。实验第3、4、5天, 模型组小鼠游泳距离长于假手术组 ($P < 0.05$)。实验第1、2、3、4、5天, 模型组小鼠逃避潜伏期长于假手术组 ($P < 0.05$)。实验第6天, 模型组小鼠60 s内穿过平台象限的次数多于假手术组 ($P < 0.05$)。**结论** 通过改良微弹簧BCAS法构建的CCH小鼠模型弥补了微弹簧无法进行活体MRI扫描的缺陷, 且能维持低灌注状态, 小鼠存在学习和记忆能力受损, 这为探究CCH发病机制提供了新的建模思路。

【关键词】 慢性脑低灌注; 血管性认知障碍; 双侧颈总动脉狭窄; 小鼠

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Construction of Chronic Cerebral Hypoperfusion Mouse Model and Its Cognitive Function GUO Wenjuan, SUN Qingling, LI Ting, WEI Mingqing, NI Jingnian, SHI Jing
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【Abstract】 **Objective** To construct the mouse model of chronic cerebral hypoperfusion (CCH) by modified microcoil bilateral common carotid artery stenosis (BCAS) method, and to observe its cognitive function. **Methods** From April to May 2022, 30 male C57BL/6J mice were selected and randomly divided into the Sham group and the model group, with 15 in each group. The mouse in the model group was constructed the CCH mouse model by the modified microcoil BCAS method. Common carotid artery (CCA) and a steel wire with a diameter of 0.18 mm were firmly ligated with a non-absorbable surgical suture with a diameter of 0.08 mm, and then the steel wire was slowly removed. The mice in the Sham group only separated the CCA on both sides, and then sutured and disinfected. MRI scan was performed on the 1st day after operation; 5 mice were randomly selected from the Sham group and the model group on the 1st day and at 1 month and 2 months after operation, respectively, and their cerebral blood flow (CBF) and percentage of the hypoperfused area were detected. The two groups of mice were underwent Morris water maze test at 2 months after operation to detect the swimming distance and escape latency from the 1st to the 5th day of the experiment and the times of crossing the platform quadrant within 60 s on the 6th day of the experiment. **Results** T2WI scan showed that acute cerebral infarction and other abnormal changes did not occur in both groups of mice on the 1st day after operation. On the 1st day and at 1 month and 2 months after operation, the CBF of mice in the model group was less than that in the Sham group, and the percentage of the hypoperfused area was higher than that in the Sham group ($P < 0.05$); at 1 month

and 2 months after operation, the CBF of mice in the model group was more than that on the 1st day after operation, and the percentage of the hypoperfused area was lower than that on the 1st day after operation ($P < 0.05$). On the 3rd, 4th and 5th day of the experiment, swimming distance in the model group was longer than that in the Sham group ($P < 0.05$). On the 1st, 2nd, 3th, 4th and 5th day of the experiment, escape latency in the model group was longer than that in the Sham group ($P < 0.05$). On the 6th day of the experiment, the times of crossing the platform quadrant within 60 s were more than those in the Sham group ($P < 0.05$). **Conclusion** The CCH mouse model constructed by the modified microcoil BCAS method makes up for the defect that the micro-spring cannot perform in vivo MRI scanning, and can maintain a low perfusion state. The mice have impaired learning and memory ability, which provides a new modeling idea for exploring the pathogenesis of CCH.

【Key words】 Chronic cerebral hypoperfusion; Vascular cognitive impairment; Bilateral common carotid artery stenosis; Mice

慢性脑低灌注 (chronic cerebral hypoperfusion, CCH) 是导致脑小血管疾病的主要原因^[1-2], 也是认知功能下降和神经退行性改变的主要致病因素^[3-4]。目前, 大鼠和小鼠CCH模型构建方法包括双侧颈总动脉闭塞 (bilateral common carotid artery occlusion, BCCAO) 法、双侧颈总动脉狭窄 (bilateral common carotid artery stenosis, BCAS) 法、双侧椎动脉+双侧颈总/内动脉结扎 (bilateral vertebral artery+bilateral common/internal carotid artery ligation, 4VO) 法、渐进式颈总动脉狭窄 (gradual common carotid artery stenosis, GCAS) 法和非对称性颈总动脉缩窄 (asymmetric common carotid artery stenosis, ACAS) 法, 其中临床应用最广泛的是微弹簧BCAS法, 但微弹簧成本较高, 且无法采用MRI进行扫描; 如采用离体脑组织进行MRI检查又无法继续实验, 且检测结果与真实结果之间可能存在误差。因此, 优化CCH模型构建方法对脑小血管疾病和血管性认知障碍发病机制、病理特征、治疗方法的研究非常重要。本次实验参照MANSOUR等^[5]改良版BCAS法构建CCH大鼠模型的方法, 使用一个非固定29号钝针使颈动脉缩窄, 但不留在体内的方法改良了微弹簧BCAS法, 进而使小鼠满足活体MRI扫描的条件, 并分析改良微弹簧BCAS法构建的CCH小鼠模型的认知功能, 现报道如下。

1 材料与方 法

1.1 实验动物 本实验时间为2022年4—5月。选取30只雄性C57BL/6J小鼠, 体质量24~29 g, 8~9周龄, 购自斯贝福 (北京) 生物技术有限公司 [实验动物生产许可证: SCXY (北京) 2019-0013]。将所有小鼠随机分为假手术组和模型组, 各15只。所有小鼠被安置在恒温 (25 ℃)、相对湿度为40%~60%的环境中, 每笼5只小鼠。所有小鼠的饲养符合实验动物饲养管理规定, 并遵循动物伦理和福利原则。

1.2 实验方法 模型组小鼠采用改良微弹簧BCAS法构建CCH模型, 具体如下: 通过腹腔注射1%戊巴比妥钠麻醉小鼠, 采用无菌器械沿小鼠颈部中部切开皮肤和

皮下组织, 采用玻璃分针缓慢分离迷走神经, 暴露两侧颈总动脉 (common carotid artery, CCA)。使用直径0.08 mm的非吸收外科缝合线, 将直径0.18 mm的钢丝与CCA牢固结扎, 见图1; 然后缓慢抽出钢丝, 观察有血流通过则缝合皮肤。假手术组小鼠仅分离两侧CCA, 随后缝合消毒。手术过程中保持直肠温度为36.5~37.5 ℃。

1.3 MRI检查 术后第1天采用1.5%~2.0%异氟烷麻醉小鼠, 使用动物生理检测器测量小鼠呼吸频率, 以70~80次/min为宜。采用Bruker 7.0 T小动物磁共振成像设备 (型号: BioSpec 70/16USR) 进行MRI检查, 采用T2WI序列获取全脑轴向图像。小鼠俯卧在小动物MRI扫描床上, 头部固定在专用线圈内, MRI扫描过程中通过鼻导管维持麻醉状态。T2WI序列参数: TR 2 500 ms, TE 35 ms, FOV 20 mm × 20 mm, 层数20, 层厚0.5 mm, 矩阵256 × 256, 扫频时间5' 20", 回波间隔11.667 ms。

1.4 激光散斑对比成像 (laser speckle contrast imaging, LSCI) 检测小鼠脑血流量 (cerebral blood flow, CBF) 及低灌注区占比 所用仪器为激光散斑血流成像仪 (SIM BFI HR Pro, 武汉迅微光电技术有限公司生产), 将三目立体显微镜 (OLYMPUS生产) 与计算机连接, 进行实时定位和校准。术后第1天、1个月和2个月, 分别从假手术组和模型组随机挑选5只小鼠, 称重

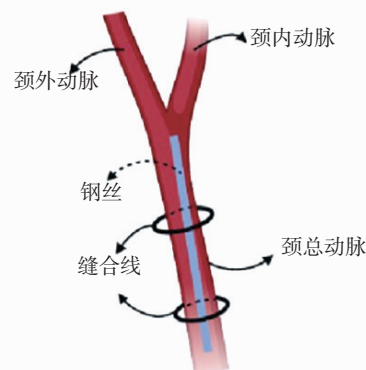


图1 改良微弹簧BCAS法构建CCH模型示意图

Figure 1 Schematic diagram of CCH model constructed by improved microcoil BCAS method

后腹腔注射1%戊巴比妥钠进行麻醉,剪开小鼠头顶皮肤并消毒,剥离骨膜暴露头骨,将小鼠置于台式显微镜下20 cm处。CBF检测过程中,在小鼠头骨顶部滴入0.9%氯化钠溶液,以保持顶骨测试区域湿润。LED光强度为4 000,光学倍数为12,亮度为1.5级,采样频率为57帧/s,曝光时间为15 ms,分辨率为1 024×758像素。利用Image J中的“Split Channels”功能对3个RGB通道进行分割统计,然后计算低灌注区占比^[6]。

1.5 Morris水迷宫实验检测小鼠学习和记忆能力
两组小鼠均于术后2个月进行Morris水迷宫实验,以评估其学习和记忆能力。Morris水迷宫实验设备包括一个圆形水池(直径100 cm,高50 cm)、一个平台(直径5 cm)、一架跟踪摄像机和一台电脑。将(23±1)℃的水注入水池至30 cm深度,水面高于平台1 cm。将摄像机置于水池中心上方200 cm处,记录动物的位置、游泳距离、游泳时间及游泳路径。Morris水迷宫实验分为定位导航和空间探索两部分。实验前5 d进行定位导航,将水池分为4个象限,平台位于其中一个象限的中心。记录动物找到水下平台的时间(s),即逃避潜伏期。实验前3 d,如果小鼠寻找平台的时间超过60 s,则引导其到平台停留10 s。实验第4、5天,无论小鼠是否找到平台,都不再进行训练。实验第6天进行空间探索,将平台移走,将小鼠从原平台象限的对面放入水中,记录其在60 s内穿过平台象限的次数。

1.6 统计学方法 应用SPSS 25.0统计学软件进行数据处理。本研究计量资料均为偏态分布,以 $M(QR)$ 表示,组间比较采用秩和检验,组内比较采用配对秩和检验。以 $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 MRI检查结果 T2WI显示,术后第1天两组小鼠均未发生急性脑梗死及其他异常改变。

2.2 CBF和低灌注区占比 术后第1天、1个月、2个月,模型组小鼠CBF少于假手术组,低灌注区占比高于假手术组,差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$);术后1个月、2个月,模型组小鼠CBF多于术后第1天,低灌注区占比低于术后第1天,差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$),见表1。

2.3 游泳距离、逃避潜伏期、60 s内穿过平台次数 实验第1、2天,两组小鼠游泳距离比较,差异无统计学意义($P>0.05$);实验第3、4、5天,模型组小鼠游泳距离长于假手术组,差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。实验第1、2、3、4、5天,模型组小鼠逃避潜伏期长于假手术组,差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$),见表2。实验第6天,假手术组小鼠60 s内穿过平台象限的次数为1(2)次,多于模型组的0(1)次,差异有统计学意义($U=391, P<0.05$)。

3 讨论

CCH是血管性认知障碍、痴呆的主要发病机制,故CCH模型的构建方法一直被不断探索。啮齿类动物常被用于探索CCH或血管性痴呆发病机制、病理特征的基础实验中,其中C57BL/6J小鼠因后循环脑血管解剖结构发育不全^[7],可弥补后椎动脉代偿供血情况,故被认为是构建CCH的理想动物。MANSOUR等^[5]提出使用直径为0.18 mm的微弹簧缩窄C57BL/6J小鼠CCA,可避免BCCAO法构建CCH模型诱发的视神经损伤^[7],且术后即刻小鼠CBF明显减少,术后30 d可恢复到术前的80%^[8],进而成功模拟CCH状态。

表1 两组小鼠术后不同时间CBF和低灌注区占比比较 [$M(QR)$, $n=5$]

Table 1 Comparison of CBF and proportion of hypoperfusion area between the two groups at different time after operation

组别	CBF (PU)			低灌注区占比 (%)		
	术后第1天	术后1个月	术后2个月	术后第1天	术后1个月	术后2个月
假手术组	164.8 (21.9)	197.7 (23.2)	170.8 (39.0)	17.3 (4.8)	11.8 (2.1)	12.8 (5.2)
模型组	62.8 (29.0)	104.4 (45.3) ^a	108.7 (30.9) ^a	53.6 (24.8)	39.7 (10.9) ^a	33.3 (4.4) ^a
U值	<0.001	<0.001	1.000	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001
P值	0.008	0.008	0.016	0.008	0.008	0.008

注: CBF=脑血流量; ^a表示与同组术后第1天比较, $P<0.05$

表2 两组小鼠训练不同时间游泳距离和逃避潜伏期比较 [$M(QR)$, $n=15$]

Table 2 Comparison of swimming distance and escape latency between the two groups at different training time

组别	游泳距离 (mm)					逃避潜伏期 (s)				
	实验第1天	实验第2天	实验第3天	实验第4天	实验第5天	实验第1天	实验第2天	实验第3天	实验第4天	实验第5天
假手术组	13 127 (4 796)	8 464 (9 128)	4 568 (8 751)	3 983 (5 472)	4 455 (7 264)	60.0 (9.0)	34.8 (39.3)	23.4 (48.2)	22.8 (27.8)	21.3 (46.8)
模型组	12 262 (1 983)	10 647 (4 644)	9 302 (5 738)	9 683 (4 495)	8 829 (5 168)	60.0 (0)	60.0 (0)	60.0 (8.4)	60.0 (16.4)	60.0 (13.1)
U值	935	845	688	560	447	765	597	486	377	470
P值	0.532	0.176	0.009	<0.001	<0.001	0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

既往研究表明, CCH小鼠模型可再现血管性认知障碍的临床特征和病理特征, 引起小鼠认知障碍、CBF减少、皮下白质损伤^[9-11]及空间记忆功能损伤^[12]。但微弹簧的金属材质无法用于MRI扫描, 且其价格昂贵。而本研究中改良微弹簧BCAS法是采用缝合线代替微弹簧来缩窄CCA, 进而实现了活体MRI扫描, 且可以降低建模成本。本研究结果显示, 术后第1天、1个月、2个月, 模型组小鼠CBF少于假手术组; 术后1、2个月, 模型组小鼠CBF多于术后第1天; 提示模型组小鼠术后2个月仍维持低灌注状态。本研究结果还显示, 术后第1天、1个月、2个月, 模型组小鼠低灌注区占比高于假手术组, 模型组小鼠低灌注区占比低于术后第1天, 再次佐证了模型组小鼠可以维持低灌注状态。且模型组小鼠术后第1天未发生急性脑梗死及其他异常改变, 这与微弹簧BCAS法构建的CCH小鼠模型一致^[13]。本研究结果还显示, 实验第3、4、5天, 模型组小鼠游泳距离长于假手术组; 实验第1、2、3、4、5天, 模型组小鼠逃避潜伏期长于假手术组; 实验第6天, 模型组小鼠60 s内穿过平台象限的次数多于假手术组, 提示通过改良微弹簧BCAS法构建的CCH小鼠模型可损伤小鼠的学习和记忆能力。

综上所述, 通过改良微弹簧BCAS法构建的CCH小鼠模型弥补了微弹簧无法进行活体MRI扫描的缺陷, 且能维持低灌注状态, 小鼠存在学习和记忆能力受损, 这为探究CCH发病机制提供了新的建模思路。

作者贡献: 郭文娟、李婷、时晶进行文章的构思与设计; 郭文娟、孙庆玲、李婷进行研究的实施与可行性分析; 郭文娟、李婷进行数据收集、整理、分析; 孙庆玲、李婷、魏明清、倪敬年进行结果分析与解释; 郭文娟负责撰写、修订论文; 时晶负责文章的质量控制及审核, 并对文章整体负责、监督管理。

本文无利益冲突。

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