

综述

癌性疼痛，肿瘤患者的严重威胁

欧阳雪岩^{2, #}, 杨超^{1, #}, 朱朕⁴, 李静², 孙运恒², 丁罡^{3, *}, 吉永华^{4, *}, 姜峰^{1, *}

¹上海交通大学医学院附属新华医院崇明分院科研科, 上海 202150; ²上海交通大学医学院附属新华医院肿瘤科, 上海 200092; ³上海国际医学中心肿瘤科, 上海 201318; ⁴上海市崇明新华癌痛转化研究所, 上海 202150

摘要: 癌性疼痛严重困扰着肿瘤患者及其家庭。有临床研究表明, 疼痛或可成为促进肿瘤进程的危险因素。神经系统与肿瘤间存在诸多共享调控分子和途径, 如多种神经递质、神经源性细胞因子等, 为疼痛影响肿瘤进程提供了必要的基础条件。本文分别从中枢神经系统对内分泌和免疫的系统性调控, 及外周神经系统对肿瘤细胞的局部性影响等方面, 综述了疼痛加剧肿瘤的可能机制, 以期揭示癌性疼痛的临床危害及抗痛在肿瘤诊疗中的重要性。

关键词: 疼痛; 肿瘤; 神经-内分泌-免疫调控

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Cancer pain, a serious threat to patients

OUYANG Xue-Yan^{2, #}, YANG Chao^{1, #}, ZHU Zhen⁴, LI Jing², SUN Yun-Heng², DING Gang^{3, *}, JI Yong-Hua^{4, *}, JIANG Feng^{1, *}

¹Scientific Research Management Department, Xinhua Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Chongming Branch, Shanghai 202150, China; ²Oncology Department, Xinhua Hospital Affiliated to Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200092, China; ³Oncology Department, Shanghai International Medical Center, Shanghai 201318, China; ⁴Xinhua Translational Institute for Cancer Pain, Shanghai 202150, China

Abstract: A large number of cancer patients suffer from pain. Growing evidence suggested that pain might be a serious risk factor for cancer patients. The shared modulators and modulation pathways between neural system and tumor cells, such as various neurotransmitters and neurogenic cytokines, provide essential basis for the effect of pain on tumor. In this article, we reviewed some possible mechanism of this process from two aspects: the systematic regulation of central nervous system on endocrine and immunity, and the regional regulation of peripheral nerves on tumor cells. The aim of this review is to provide more innovative knowledge about pain and cancer and to emphasize the importance of anti-pain in the therapy of cancer.

Key words: pain; tumor; neuro-endocrine-immune regulation

世界卫生组织发布的《World Cancer Report 2014》指出, 仅 2012 年, 全球新报告确诊肿瘤病人达

1 400 万例, 死亡病例达 820 万。其中, 中国新增肿瘤确诊病例 307 万人, 占全球新增病例的 21.8%;

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[#]These authors contributed equally to this review.

*Corresponding authors. DING Gang: Tel: +86-21-60236160; E-mail: gang.ding@simcgroup.com. JI Yong-Hua: Tel: +86-21-66135189; E-mail: yhji@staff.shu.edu.cn. JIANG Feng: Tel: +86-21-69691540; E-mail: jf365321@163.com

中国肿瘤死亡病例 220 万人，占全球肿瘤死亡病例的 26.9%^[1]。随着医疗技术的进步，被诊治救助的肿瘤患者的总体生存期已达 6 年至 10 年。如同高血压、糖尿病等常见疾病，癌症已被视为一种临床慢性疾病^[2]，对肿瘤的治疗方案已从单纯的抗肿瘤治疗，逐渐扩展为兼顾患者症状的管理和全程照料。

对患者而言，确诊肿瘤本身就是一种强烈的精神心理应激源^[3]。研究发现，肿瘤人群普遍出现疼痛、失眠、抑郁、厌食等严重影响生活质量的症状^[4]。这些症状的存在，既是精神心理应激的原因，又是长期应激导致患者身体产生的不良结果。其中，疼痛便是最为常见的精神心理应激因素之一。临幊上 50%~70% 的肿瘤患者受疼痛的困扰，其中接受肿瘤治疗的患者中有 59% 主诉有疼痛症状，在中晚期及远端转移的患者中，疼痛的发生率高达 64%^[5, 6]。传统观念对肿瘤症状管理相对轻视，使得 50%~80% 的癌痛患者仍在经历着疼痛的折磨^[6, 7]。近年 *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians* 发文强调癌痛评估与控制的重要性，并提出将疼痛控制作为肿瘤控制的重要内容之一^[8, 9]。

1 疼痛对肿瘤的加剧作用

临幊研究表明，无论癌性疼痛本身，还是其作为肿瘤的一种并发症，都应引起高度重视。首先，疼痛往往与诸多不良症候同时出现，如长期的失眠、厌食、焦虑，对患者的身心健康极为不利^[10]。2010 年，Cao 等人的研究显示，与生活在普通环境中的小鼠相比较，生活在设施齐备的丰富环境中的“快乐小鼠”肿瘤生长受到抑制，这一结论揭示了情绪与肿瘤生长存在一定程度的相关性^[11]。此外，慢性癌痛的存在，可能与肿瘤患者生存期的缩短密切关联^[12]。例如，接受抗痛治疗可显著延长中晚期肿瘤患者的生存期^[13]。

为了证实疼痛是否对肿瘤的发生和发展有促进作用，本研究组分别以慢性坐骨神经压迫和肿瘤细胞胫骨移植的方式模拟神经病理性疼痛和骨癌痛，使大鼠处于持续性疼痛的状态。相较于对照组，皮下接种 Walker256 细胞悬液的大鼠肿瘤快速增长，肿瘤体积和瘤重较大，这提示了神经病理性痛和骨癌痛作为持续性疼痛均能够促进皮下移植乳腺瘤的生长；此外，局部止痛药布比卡因可抑制疼痛对乳腺肿瘤生长的促进作用，进一步的研究证实吗啡亦有此作用^[14]。另外，本研究组结合临床实践经验自

主研发了移动智能终端，应用疼痛智能管理系统对肿瘤疼痛患者进行随访，结果显示，良好的疼痛控制可显著提高患者的卡氏体能评分，提高患者生存质量^[15, 16]。

McBeth 等人对 6 565 名受试者（疼痛级别分别为无疼痛、局部疼痛或广泛性疼痛）进行的前瞻性研究结果表明，与无疼痛的人相比，有区域疼痛的人和广泛疼痛的人在随访期间肿瘤的发病率依次增高，且有广泛疼痛的受试者死亡风险亦增加。这一结果证实，疼痛与肿瘤的发病率增加和存活率降低呈正相关，且伴随疼痛范围的扩大，肿瘤的预后相应变差^[17]。研究者们对 27 年间的 104 份研究报告进行回顾性分析，发现疼痛控制与肿瘤的进程和患者的生存状况具有一定的相关性^[6, 18]。2017 年，Zylla 等人指出，疼痛可以作为前列腺癌患者评估预后的一项独立因素^[12]。据此可以推断，疼痛不仅严重降低了肿瘤患者的生存质量，还会严重威胁患者的生命。

2 肿瘤与神经系统的共享调控途径

癌性疼痛作为肿瘤患者的主要症状之一，其产生与神经系统有着密不可分的联系，具体通过何种机制影响到肿瘤的进程尚无明确的结论。但纵观癌性疼痛的产生机制及其对机体影响或许可得到重要启示。中枢神经系统和外周神经系统调节机体各器官正常运作的同时，发挥了对疼痛的介导和调节作用。其中，中枢神经系统对疼痛的发生及发展具有重要的“调控中心”的作用。

最新研究成果提示，许多外源物质的介入影响神经系统在机体各项生命活动中发挥的系统性调控作用，其对神经系统的影响方式与肿瘤调控共享许多分子机制。例如：在神经系统中，尼古丁与其受体结合，可增加神经兴奋性递质的释放量；同时，尼古丁受体还被发现在肿瘤组织中亦有表达，可参与肿瘤血管的生成，刺激上皮细胞向间质细胞的转化，这恰恰也是肿瘤生成的关键环节^[19, 20]。体外实验还证明，尼古丁可促进乳腺癌和胰腺癌细胞的生长、迁移和侵袭^[21, 22]，其受体介导的胆碱能信号还参与了对焦虑、应激等肿瘤相关风险因素的调节^[2]。

临床研究表明，多种用于治疗精神神经疾病的药物可以降低肿瘤发生风险。例如，长期服用多巴胺或 γ -氨基丁酸 (gamma-aminobutyric acid, GABA) 受体的变构激动剂 (安定类药物) 的精神分裂症患

者，肿瘤的发生率明显降低^[23]。三环类抗抑郁药物的临床运用 [抑制 5- 羟色胺 (5-hydroxytryptamine, 5-HT)/ 肾上腺素的重摄取] 可降低抑郁症患者结直肠肿瘤和脑肿瘤的发生风险^[24, 25]。此外，神经源性活性物质的存在可对肿瘤病程产生显著影响。例如，在癌性疼痛发生时，交感神经系统兴奋，释放去甲肾上腺素等递质，同时，肾上腺髓质释放肾上腺素，共同诱导体内产生大量白介素 -6 和活性氧类物质，而这些物质作用于肿瘤细胞后会明显促进肿瘤的进程^[26, 27]。

值得一提的是，除了神经元之外，中枢神经系统内另一类细胞——胶质细胞对癌痛的发生也发挥重要调控作用。正常状况下，神经元与胶质细胞间处于相对稳态，分泌各类促炎 / 抗炎物质，发挥神经免疫细胞的功能。癌痛状态下，持续的伤害性刺激，胶质细胞被激活，释放大量致炎物质，导致神经元与胶质细胞间的稳态被打破，大量神经源性炎症介质进入血液，上调肿瘤细胞的生物学活性^[28]。

事实上，除个别脑瘤和脊髓瘤外，绝大多数实体肿瘤均受神经纤维的支配，外周神经组织成为肿瘤微环境的重要支撑。交感神经、副交感神经、初级感觉神经元等的轴突均可合成并分泌包括谷氨酸、ATP、去甲肾上腺素、肾上腺素、乙酰胆碱和 P 物质等诸多神经源性小分子物质，这些小分子物质可作用于正常组织、原癌组织、类癌组织和癌组织上的相关受体，影响细胞的自我平衡^[2]。

相关研究表明，直接毁损部分感觉神经元能够显著延缓胰腺癌、纤维肉瘤、前列腺癌和黑色素瘤的疾病进程，延长患者或实验动物的生命。Bauman 等^[29]通过对 43 名前列腺癌患者的综合分析发现，交感神经或自主神经纤维在癌及周边组织的分布密度与肿瘤的不良预后高度相关，将神经元与前列腺癌细胞共培养，可增强癌细胞的增殖能力。神经生长因子一方面可增加肿瘤的侵袭能力，产生严重的疼痛等不良症状，另一方面能引导肿瘤细胞的易位生长，加速肿瘤进程^[30]。这些证据足以提示肿瘤细胞对神经系统的依赖性。

神经递质作用的膜通道与膜受体，是肿瘤与疼痛共享调控途径的最重要成员之一。离子通道的表达异常、功能紊乱或异常修饰是肿瘤细胞的显著特征^[31]，癌症相关基因表达、缺失或突变往往经细胞膜离子通道和细胞内信号转导系统介导实现^[32]。离子通道在细胞癌变、侵袭和转移等方面起着重要作用，

癌症发生的病理生理过程中常伴有细胞膜离子通道结构和功能的异常^[33]。近期有研究结果提示，广泛参与痛觉进程的酸敏感离子通道 (acid-sensing ion channels, ASICs) 在胶质母细胞瘤中表达，功能性下调酸敏感通道活性可抑制肿瘤生长，抑制该通道可使胶质母细胞瘤患者的生存期延长^[34]。诸多研究证实，离子通道与乳腺癌、前列腺癌、肺癌、结肠癌、食道癌、胰腺癌、胃癌、胶质肿瘤和血液肿瘤等多种肿瘤存在紧密联系，提示离子通道或可成为新的肿瘤标志物^[35]。神经活性物质的相关受体在神经元和肿瘤细胞上均有分布，即肿瘤细胞与神经细胞在一定程度上共享信号转导途径，这成为疼痛与肿瘤相互作用这一临床现象的生理学基础。

3 中枢神经系统的系统性调控作用

3.1 疼痛紊乱内分泌系统功能

从机体的结构上讲，神经系统与所有器官均有直接联系，主要的内分泌器官均同样受到神经支配，使得机体能够及时准确地感知各种刺激并作出响应。

本文前言中提及，肿瘤患者多会产生一定程度的心理应激现象，表现为焦虑、抑郁、失眠、乏力等症状，癌性疼痛的出现会加重患者的心理阴影，加剧应激反应^[3]。伴随着疼痛，肿瘤患者的抑郁、焦虑、认知障碍等精神性疾病风险显著增加^[36, 37]，形成了一系列不良心理应激反应症候群。患者心情低落、沟通障碍、自我隔离、甚至情绪崩溃，这些现象被定义为“癌性疼痛应激综合征”。从临床现象和流行病学研究的角度分析，不良应激对人体会产生有害的影响，缩短肿瘤患者生存期^[38]。研究表明，将实验性应激刺激施加于荷瘤实验动物，应激动物的乳腺癌转移是对照组动物的 38 倍^[39]。

心理应激状态下，肾上腺髓质系统激活释放的肾上腺素通过与肾上腺素受体结合导致其过度活化，加剧系统性炎性反应^[40]，并诱导肿瘤新生血管形成，调控肿瘤细胞与血管内皮细胞间的对话，促进肿瘤转移^[41]。肾上腺素 $\beta 2$ 受体在乳腺癌组织中的高表达与患者对靶向原癌基因人类表皮生长因子受体 2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor-2, Her-2) 治疗性抗体赫赛汀 (Herceptin) 的耐药性呈正相关，由肾上腺素以及去甲肾上腺素诱导的 $\beta 2$ -AR 信号通路的激活可显著抑制赫赛汀的抗肿瘤活性^[42]。选择性敲除肾上腺素 $\beta 2$ 和 $\beta 3$ 受体后，前列腺癌的生长受到显著的抑制^[43]。上述研究结果提示，内分泌系

统是神经心理应激产生系统性影响的关键途径，持续的疼痛可通过激活肾上腺素能信号诱发系统性炎症反应，促进肿瘤生长和转移。

3.2 疼痛异化免疫系统功能

疼痛对免疫系统的功能同样具有重要调节作用，该过程与神经-内分泌调节轴具有密切的关联。不良心理应激可诱导下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴和交感神经系统的兴奋，刺激脑源去甲肾上腺素和多巴胺的分泌，肾上腺髓质大量分泌肾上腺素，肾上腺皮质分泌糖皮质激素等。这些物质的存在，可产生显著的免疫抑制作用，特别是对淋巴细胞和巨噬细胞的免疫功能的抑制^[44]。肾上腺分泌的糖皮质激素和儿茶酚胺类物质能够介导外周和中枢免疫细胞的分化、转运和激活。应激状态下，去甲肾上腺素可诱导T淋巴细胞增殖能力的减弱，通过细胞毒T淋巴细胞相关抗原-4 (cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated antigen-4, CTLA-4) 发挥免疫抑制作用^[45]。乳腺癌患者小样本临床研究显示，心理应激症状明显的患者群组中，其血液自然杀伤 (natural killer, NK) 细胞

的免疫活性明显低于心理应激症状轻微的患者^[46]。糖皮质激素不仅可以与肿瘤细胞上的相关受体直接作用，与核因子κB (nuclear factor κB, NF-κB) 结合，抑制其核转运机制，而且可抑制组织相容性抗原的表达，进而抑制T细胞和B细胞的激活^[47, 48]。儿茶酚胺类物质则主要通过β2受体介导，促进IL-10，却减少IL-2、IL-12和干扰素γ (interferon γ, IFN-γ) 的分泌，选择性地抑制Th1免疫反应^[49]。

此外，癌性疼痛相关的应激反应被认为具有累加效应，长期的癌痛应激可导致免疫系统的损害和细胞的老龄化，细胞端粒长度的变化便是重要表现之一，与患者心理应激所致的内分泌和免疫环境改变有关^[3, 50]。

4 外周神经系统的局部性影响

持续性疼痛不仅通过中枢系统对肿瘤进程发挥调控作用，还可通过外周神经系统对肿瘤细胞的生物学活性产生局部影响。这一调节作用突出表现为肿瘤的噬神经性 (neuronophagia) 方面。有“癌中之

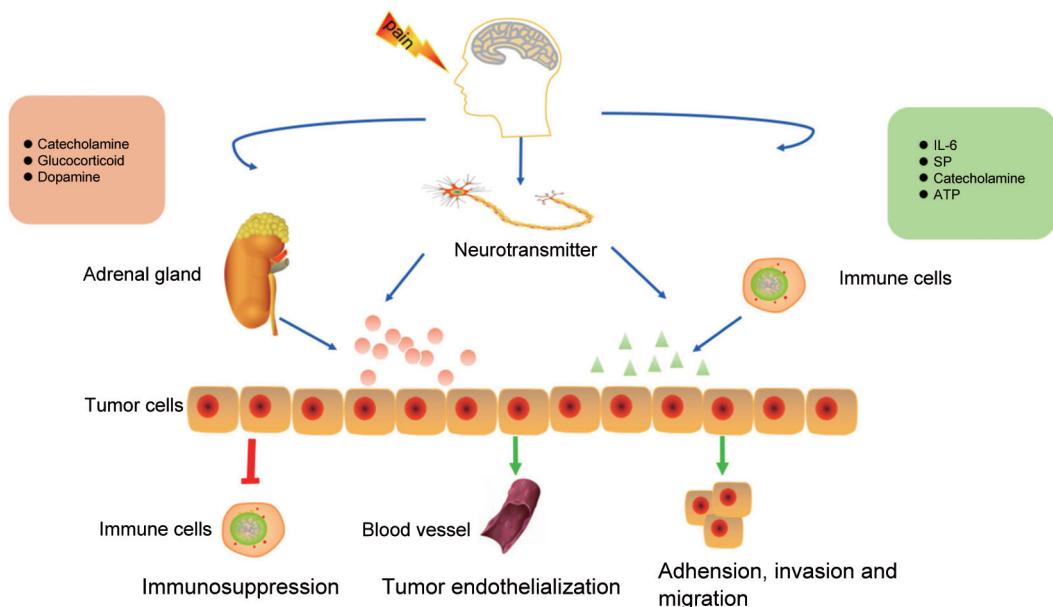


图 1. 疼痛引起神经-内分泌-免疫系统的变化对肿瘤的影响

Fig. 1. Cancer development is mediated by pain through the integration of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, sympathetic nervous system (SNS), and immune system. Cancer pain is transmitted to the cerebral cortex and activates the HPA axis and SNS, which release acetylcholine, neuropeptides, cortisol, dopamine and small molecules, ATP, substance P (SP), interleukin-6 (IL-6), reactive oxygen species (ROS) and so on. All of them are involved in the progress of tumor growth. Besides, long-term cancer pain put patients in a state of stress, which is associated with inhibitory regulation of immune function. Furthermore, the activation of the HPA axis and SNS leads to changes in stress hormones and cytokines in the plasma, such as glucocorticoid (GC) and IL-6. These responses decrease the number of lymphatic cells and natural killer (NK) cells and weaken the killing capability, thereby increasing the tumor metastasis rate.

王”称号的胰腺癌，其肿瘤细胞能够表现出强烈的噬神经性，这种肿瘤细胞通过神经纤维浸润的现象在前列腺癌和肺癌中也得到过证实^[51, 52]。此外，神经周围浸润作为胰腺癌的突出特征，与肿瘤侵袭程度密切相关^[53]。且在前列腺癌、口咽部肿瘤^[54, 55]中也证实，肿瘤的神经浸润的程度与肿瘤进程的加快和患者的低存活率有一定相关性。正如前文所述，神经系统与肿瘤细胞间大量共享的调控分子和调控途径，为肿瘤细胞的噬神经生长提供了病理生理学基础。当肿瘤细胞在外周神经周围包绕生长时，逐渐形成对外周神经的压迫，从而使得神经末梢释放的神经递质成为肿瘤细胞生长、侵袭和迁移的天然刺激物。例如，交感节后神经末梢和肾上腺素能神经元分泌的去甲肾上腺素^[56]以及作为神经传递素的P物质^[57]，二者作为神经递质的同时，其含量的上升使STAT3的磷酸化水平增加，进而提高胰腺导管癌的浸润程度。

5 小结

综上所述，无论是免疫系统还是内分泌系统，均可受到神经系统的调控，而免疫系统和/或内分泌系统功能的紊乱与疼痛应激状态下的神经兴奋性紊乱密切关联（图1）。另一方面，肿瘤细胞在癌痛等应激刺激下，不断分泌更多炎性物质作用于神经系统，反复加剧神经系统的兴奋性，打破了神经细胞正常的生理稳态，形成了“神经-肿瘤”作用环路。因此我们推测，打破肿瘤细胞与神经系统间的相互作用的恶性环路或可改善癌痛患者的生活质量。探讨神经系统对肿瘤细胞的直接或间接的调控作用，揭示癌痛对肿瘤产生影响的分子与细胞机制，有助于我们更好地理解疼痛和肿瘤的内在关联性，对于提高抗痛在肿瘤治疗中的地位也具有重要的理论和现实意义。

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