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花生四烯酸代谢与健康 and 疾病——序言

(Arachidonic acid metabolism in health and disease: An introduction)

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脂肪酸 (fatty acid) 作为重要的营养素对维持生命健康发挥不可或缺的作用。根据含碳原子的多少, 脂肪酸可以分为短链 (含 2~4 碳原子)、中链 (含 6~12 碳原子)、长链 (含 14 个及以上碳原子) 脂肪酸; 根据饱和度, 脂肪酸又可分为饱和、单不饱和、多不饱和脂肪酸 (polyunsaturated fatty acids, PUFA); 根据首个不饱和键距离碳链甲基端的位置, PUFA 还可以进一步分为 ω -3 PUFA (从脂肪酸的甲基端即 ω 端开始, 第一个不饱和双键出现在第 3 和第 4 个碳原子之间) 和 ω -6 PUFA。其中花生四烯酸 (arachidonic acid, AA) 和二十碳五烯酸 (eicosapentaenoic acid, EPA) 及二十二碳六烯酸 (docosahexaenoic acid, DHA) 分别是 ω -6 PUFA 和 ω -3 PUFA 的代表, 具有广泛而重要的生物学功能, 与生命健康和疾病发生及治疗有密切的关系^[1]。

AA 是一种由 20 个碳原子组成的 ω -6 PUFA, 其化学结构为全顺式 -5,8,11,14- 二十碳四烯酸 (20C:4 ω 6)。AA 于 1909 年由伦敦大学 Percival Hartley 博士首次分离和纯化, 随后在 1940 年正式确定了其分子结构^[1]。体内的 AA 主要从食物摄取或由亚油酸 (十八碳二烯酸) 通过去饱和与碳链延长生物合成, 是人体组织中含量最丰富的 PUFA, 在体内以磷脂的形式广泛存在于所有组织的细胞膜中^[2]。AA 的发现及其代谢通路的研究给生物医药领域带来了重大影响。其中, Sune K. Bergström、Bengt I.

Samuelsson 和 John R. Vane 三位教授因发现 AA 环氧酶代谢产物前列腺素及阿司匹林的药理机制于 1982 年荣获诺贝尔生理学或医学奖。随着对 AA 代谢及生物学功能研究的深入, 人们对众多机体重要生理机制和重大疾病发生机理的认识取得了长足的进步, 这对很多重大疾病的治疗产生了革命性的影响。

现已阐明, AA 可以通过至少三个代谢通路产生数十种重要的脂质活性物质 (图 1)。其中环氧酶 (cyclooxygenases, COXs) 通路将 AA 催化为包括前列腺素 E2 (prostaglandin E2, PGE2)、前列环素 (prostaglandin I2, PGI2) 和血栓烷素 A2 (thromboxane A2, TXA2) 等在内的类前列腺素 (prostanoids); 脂氧酶 (lipoxygenases, LOXs) 通路将 AA 转变为白三烯 (leukotrienes, LTs); 而细胞色素 P450 表氧化酶 (cytochrome P450 epoxygenses) 和 P450 ω -羟化酶 (ω hydroxylases) 则将 AA 催化为表氧化二十碳三烯酸 (epoxyeicosatrienoic acids, EETs) 和羟化二十碳四烯酸 (hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acids, HETEs)^[3-5]。上述生物活性物质广泛参与了机体所有器官和组织的生理功能调节, 如疼痛感知、体温调节、血小板凝集、血压稳态、分娩调控、气管通气、黏膜屏障等; 也在包括炎症反应、发热、哮喘、高血压、主动脉瘤、动脉导管闭锁不全、肿瘤等重大疾病的发生和发展中发挥重要作用^[6-8]。目前, PGI2 的衍生物贝前列

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现了一批在扩张型心肌病并发心力衰竭患者的心肌组织中参与 AA 代谢调控且异常表达的 microRNAs^[22]; 华东师范大学医学与健康研究院张晓燕教授全面讨论了前列腺素 E₂ 对肾脏集合管水转运的调控作用, 并报道了血管平滑肌细胞过表达人 PGE₂ EP4 受体对血管紧张素 II 诱导高血压的改善作用^[23, 24]; 大连医科大学医学科学研究所的陈丽红教授和管又飞教授系统介绍了前列腺素 E₂ 合酶及其受体在心血管疾病中的作用和 AA 代谢与肝脏糖脂代谢稳态调控的关系^[25, 26]。

本专辑中上述关于 AA 代谢与健康维护及疾病发生关系的研究及进展对我们理解多种重要组织器官生理功能的调节及多种重大疾病的发生机制提供了新的思路和见解, 也为包括心血管疾病、代谢性疾病和肾脏疾病在内的重大疾病治疗提供了新的干预靶点。此专辑的内容反映了我国学者在 AA 代谢领域的最新研究进展及与世界同行比肩的研究实力, 相信该专辑的出版不仅会促进我国 AA 研究领域的进一步发展, 也将有助于扩大我国 AA 研究在世界范围内的学术影响。

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