

血管超声在脑小血管病中的应用进展

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【摘要】 超声由于其独特的优势已逐渐应用于脑小血管病领域。本文总结了超声在脑小血管病中应用的相关研究, 概述了脑小血管病与血管超声各类评估指标之间的关系, 并描述了超声在与脑小血管病并存的心、脑、肾等多系统疾病中的评估、诊断作用, 为应用超声对脑小血管病进行全面有效评估提供了理论依据。

【关键词】 脑小血管病; 颈动脉超声; 经颅多普勒超声

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Application Progress of Vascular Ultrasound in Cerebral Small Vessel Disease

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【Abstract】 Ultrasound has been gradually applied to the field of cerebral small vessel disease (CSVD) due to its unique advantages. This paper summarized the studies related to ultrasound in CSVD, and summarized the relationship between CSVD and various evaluation indicators of vascular ultrasound. What's more, this paper described the role of ultrasound in the evaluation and diagnosis of multi-system diseases such as heart, brain, and kidney coexisting with CSVD, and provided a theoretical basis for comprehensive and effective evaluation of CSVD by ultrasound.

【Key Words】 Cerebral small vessel disease; Carotid ultrasound; Transcranial Doppler

脑小血管病 (cerebral small vessel disease, CSVD) 主要发生于颅内小血管, 是脑血管和脑实质结构变化引起的一组不同临床表现和神经影像学特征病变的总称^[1]。本病发病人群广泛, 在老年人群中尤为常见。CSVD 病因及病理改变复杂多样, 影响CSVD发展的危险因素主要包括高血压、高龄、糖尿病、血脂异常、吸烟等^[2], 其临床特征主要有认知能力下降和痴呆、神经精神症状、卒中、步态障碍、情绪障碍等。目前MRI是CSVD的主要影像学检查方法, 其影像学表现包括腔隙性脑梗死、脑白质高信号 (white matter hyperintensity, WMH)、脑微出血、血管周围间隙扩大及脑萎

缩^[3]。尽管CSVD相关研究取得了一定进展, 但尚无有效的预防措施。

随着超声影像技术的不断发展, 多模态超声成像在越来越广泛的临床领域呈现出独特优势, 采用超声对CSVD进行评估的研究尚处在探索阶段。目前的MRI诊断针对继发于小血管病变的脑实质改变^[4], 是否存在对CSVD的直接显示、发现更早期的影像学表现、联合其他成像手段建立综合的影像预测模型等对CSVD的早期诊断具有重要意义。本文将综述血管超声在CSVD中的应用现状, 探讨其对CSVD评估的临床价值, 为早期筛查、发现重点人群提供新思路。

1 血管超声在脑小血管病中的应用

超声具有无创、经济、可重复检查的优势,有基于动物模型的研究显示,超声可用于CSVD评估,如超高分辨率超声可以对微小血管结构和血流动力学变化进行定量评估,不仅可以应用于大鼠等小动物,还可以应用于恒河猴等大动物模型,从而为超声对CSVD进行无创检查的临床应用提供重要的实验依据^[5-6]。在临床实践中,血管超声在CSVD中的应用研究主要集中于颈动脉内-中膜厚度(intima-media thickness, IMT)以及血管内斑块、血流速度、搏动指数、阻力指数、血管舒缩反应性与疾病的相关性。

1.1 内-中膜厚度、斑块及动脉僵硬度

颈动脉硬化包括颈动脉IMT增厚和斑块形成,但颈动脉IMT增厚是颈动脉硬化的初始阶段,被认为是颈动脉硬化重要的新生标志物,是广泛应用于无创评估颈动脉硬化的指标^[7]。研究显示,IMT能够反映CSVD负担(腔隙性脑梗死有无、WMH体积、血管周围间隙扩大和脑微出血病变程度),对WMH负担加重的影响在70岁以上人群中尤为突出^[8-10]。IMT增厚与CSVD的临床表现如认知功能降低、痴呆和其他神经退行性疾病风险增加呈正相关,WMH和脑萎缩均参与了上述过程^[11-12]。有研究显示,颈动脉斑块会增加CSVD的发病风险,尤其与腔隙性脑梗死的高发病率相关^[13],随着IMT进一步增厚形成颈动脉斑块,CSVD发病风险增加。其中,易损斑块可增加CSVD患者发生急性缺血性卒中的风险,也会导致颈动脉狭窄患者斑块内出血同侧的CSVD总积分更高^[14-15]。在与CSVD相关的研究中,超声测量的颈动脉硬度与WMH体积和腔隙性脑梗死呈正相关,且颈动脉硬度可预测多年后MRI成像上的WMH体积和总脑容量,即颈动脉硬度与发病20年后的WMH体积及脑萎缩程度呈正相关^[16-17]。总之,CSVD的影像学标志物与动脉粥样硬化指标密切相关,探究

二者间的关系可以从多方面对CSVD进行早期评估。

1.2 血流动力学

有研究显示,在50岁以上的亚洲成年人中,CSVD影像学所表现的WMH、腔隙性脑梗死和脑微出血均与颈动脉血流速度呈负相关,舒张末期血流速度降低与CSVD评分增高独立相关,表明颈动脉血流速度减低可能是脑萎缩和更严重的CSVD的标志^[18]。脑血流自动调节是脑血管系统对血压快速变化的短暂反应,以维持脑血流稳定,是一种评估脑血管功能的检测指标^[19-20]。与健康人相比,CSVD患者的动态脑血流自动调节功能受损,且CSVD总负担、WMH、血管周围间隙扩大和脑微出血等神经影像学特征与其动态脑血流自动调节功能受损密切相关^[20]。因此,监测动态脑血流自动调节可以对CSVD进行有效评估。此外,有研究显示,可通过运动激发测量潜在CSVD患者的脑血流变化,从而对其进行早期诊断,这是由于相比于年轻人和无脑血管病的老年人,CSVD患者在运动期间的脑血流会发生明显改变,特征是表现出更高的搏动指数^[21]。

1.3 搏动指数及阻力指数

搏动指数及阻力指数是反映远端微小血管阻力的重要参数,上游颅内大动脉的搏动指数可受颅内小穿通动脉病变或功能障碍的影响而发生改变。

研究显示,搏动指数和阻力指数与CSVD的影像学表现之间存在着密切的相互作用,反之,评估CSVD的影像学表现也可对搏动指数和阻力指数进行预估。大脑中动脉(middle cerebral artery, MCA)的搏动指数与WMH严重程度相关,尽管该研究的阳性预测值不高(34.9%),但该研究具有良好的阴性预测值(85.6%),提示搏动指数正常的患者WMH异常的可能性较低^[22];反之,WMH越严重MCA的搏动指数越高^[23]。腔隙性脑梗死会导致颅内小血管狭窄,增加远端阻力,从而导致搏动指数升高;而搏动指数的升高,又进一步导致远

端小血管发生坏死等一系列变化,随之腔隙性脑梗死体积也相应增加,因此搏动指数可作为急性腔隙性脑梗死体积的独立预测因素^[24]。阻力指数也与WMH体积呈正相关,与CSVD导致认知障碍的严重程度显著相关,认知障碍患者的阻力指数升高^[25-26]。

此外,TCD还可通过屏气试验评估CSVD的血管舒缩功能^[27]。通过对颅内大动脉的血流动力学参数(血流速度、搏动指数等)进行分析可得到“TCD分析系数”,即峰值血流速度相对时间的变化率,用以检测微循环损伤,对CSVD进行筛选和量化^[28]。采用超声对脑实质进行检测发现CSVD患者黑质高回声的病变率比正常人更高(30.4% vs. 11.1%),黑质和豆状核回声增强以及第三脑室和侧脑室的大小与CSVD中WMH的严重程度呈正相关^[29]。

2 超声在脑小血管病共病中的应用

心脏、肾血管与大脑都依赖微循环小血管来适应代谢需求的快速变化,具有相似的病理基础,如小动脉根据心肌、肾及脑实质的代谢需求调节灌注,血管危险因素共同作用在心、肾和脑,具有相似的疾病过程,如动脉粥样硬化、小动脉重塑等^[30-31]。因此对多系统共病的评估,有助于全面理解CSVD。

2.1 脑、颈大血管病变 脑、颈大血管病变如大动脉狭窄、动脉粥样硬化与CSVD具有相同的血管危险因素。在各种危险因素的作用下,IMT不均匀增厚可逐渐形成斑块,进一步发展为动脉粥样硬化。有研究显示,动脉粥样硬化与腔隙性脑梗死、WMH体积及基底节区血管周围间隙扩大呈正相关;而动脉粥样硬化进一步发展可导致大动脉狭窄,如颈内动脉狭窄和MCA狭窄是基底节区血管周围间隙扩大的独立预测因素,MCA狭窄与半卵圆中心区血管周围间隙扩大独立相关^[32-33]。严重的大动脉狭窄、动脉粥样硬化及CSVD均可独立增加缺血

性卒中的发生风险,且二者具有协同作用,但CSVD负担对卒中的相对贡献大于严重大动脉狭窄^[34]。

2.2 心血管系统疾病 心血管系统疾病与CSVD存在共同的危险因素,如高龄和高血压等,因此在CSVD发病过程中易合并出现心血管系统疾病,如心房颤动等。右心房压力增加导致颈静脉回流阻力增加和脑静脉淤血,进而导致CSVD负担改变,因此超声心动图测得的右心房直径可以间接反映微循环灌注以及CSVD总负担的变化^[35-36]。通过经胸超声心动图测得的左心房面积和右心室内径与MRI图像中WMH增加程度有关,可以作为WMH的早期预测因子^[37]。心房颤动通过多种机制增加CSVD负担,与WMH体积相关,并与认知功能下降、卒中的发生密切相关^[38]。采用超声对心血管系统疾病患者进行检查可能有助于预测CSVD的发病风险。

2.3 肾血管病变 肾和脑的血流动力学、解剖学和功能特征相似,因此外周微血管阻力的变化可以反映脑内血管的变化^[39],且肾脏病变与CSVD并存。肾内小血管病变可由糖尿病、慢性肾脏病等多种原因引起。糖尿病肾病及慢性肾脏病等可导致肾内动脉血流速度减低,动脉阻力指数升高,阻力指数 ≥ 0.70 可作为慢性肾脏病恶化的预测指标^[40-41]。慢性肾脏病易导致脑内小血管损伤,增加CSVD患病率和严重程度,进而导致脑干和中枢神经系统深部白质更易发生缺血性或出血性卒中^[41-42]。此外,肾功能障碍与CSVD总负担呈负相关,肾功能障碍程度越严重,出现脑微出血的风险越高,同时发生缺血性卒中或TIA的风险也越高^[43]。将肾功能障碍与超声测得的MCA的搏动指数相结合进行研究,发现肾功能障碍程度与搏动指数成正比,肾功能障碍加重会导致全身血管僵硬,并促进CSVD进展^[44]。

由此,超声在多个系统中的联合应用可能有助于对CSVD进行合理的分层及预测。

3 结论

超声在CSVD中的应用尚处于探索阶段,对血管的检查可以直接反映大血管及血流的变化,以及间接表现出管壁硬度、小血管阻力等变化,与CSVD的MRI表现及临床表现密切相关,对CSVD具有一定的预测价值。随着多模态超声技术的不断发展,未来有望通过超声检测上述指标来评估CSVD,并应用超声进行多系统联合检查,从而对CSVD进行更广泛和深入的研究,为CSVD临床诊疗提供依据。

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【点睛】 本文综述了血管超声在脑小血管病中的应用进展, 并与心、脑、肾等相关系统疾病联系, 为应用超声对脑小血管病进行综合评估提供了理论依据。