



PET特征改变对非小细胞肺癌放射治疗的预测价值

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【摘要】目的:探索¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT分子影像代谢特征参数与非小细胞肺癌(NSCLC)放疗近期疗效的关系。筛选早期预测NSCLC放疗近期疗效的有效指标。**方法:**对21例经病理证实的NSCLC患者进行回顾性研究。所有患者均接受治疗前和治疗后¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT扫描。使用Matlab程序重建和分割肿瘤靶区。同时提取患者治疗前后PET/CT图像的4个传统特征,包括最大SUV、最小SUV、平均SUV、SUV峰值,以及5个纹理特征,包括角二阶距、对比度、逆差距、熵和自相关。用Spearman相关系数法分析患者治疗后图像特征变化率与肿瘤体积变化率的相关性。以治疗后1个月肿瘤体积减小≥50%为标准,将患者分为无效组(Group1<50%)和有效组(Group2≥50%)。最后,通过Mann-Whitney U检验确定PET/CT影像特征变化率是否能区分肿瘤治疗疗效。**结果:**Spearman相关性分析结果表明逆差距(RS 0.557, P=0.009)和最大SUV(RS 0.468, P=0.033)与肿瘤体积变化率有相关性,其它参数无相关性。Mann-Whitney U检验结果表明,逆差距和最大SUV均具有统计学意义。**结论:**在所选的9个指标中,逆差距和最大SUV具有较好的预测价值,但本研究是回顾性研究,病例数相对较少,所选特征也较少,缺乏前瞻性。

【关键词】非小细胞肺癌;¹⁸F-FDG PET;标准摄取值;纹理特征

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Predictive value of PET feature change in radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer

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Abstract: Objective To explore the relationship between the metabolic parameters of ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT molecular imaging and the short-term therapeutic efficacy of radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), and to determine the effective indicators for early predicting the short-term efficacy of NSCLC radiotherapy. Methods A total of 21 cases of histologically confirmed NSCLC were retrospectively investigated. All patients received both pre-treatment and post-treatment ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT scans. Matlab program was used to reconstruct and segment tumor target areas. Meanwhile, 4 traditional features, including maximum standard uptake value (SUV), minimum SUV, mean SUV and SUV kurtosis, and 5 texture features, including the second angular moment, contrast, inverse different moment, entropy and autocorrelation, were extracted from pre-treatment and post-treatment PET images. Spearman coefficient correlation analysis was used to analyze the correlation between the change rate of image features and the change rate of tumor volume after treatment. Based on whether the tumor volume reduction at 1 month after treatment ≥50% or not, the patients were divided into ineffective group (Group1<50%) and effective group (Group2≥50%). Finally, Mann-Whitney U test was used to determine whether the change rate of PET/CT imaging features can be used for differentiating the response of tumor to therapy. Results The results of Spearman correlation analysis showed that inverse different

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moment (RS 0.557, $P=0.009$) and maximum SUV (RS 0.468, $P=0.033$) were correlated with the change rate of tumor volume, but had no correlation with the other parameters. The results of Mann Whitney U test revealed that both inverse different moment and maximum SUV were statistically significant. Conclusion Among the 9 selected indicators, only inverse different moment and maximum SUV have good predictive value. However, the retrospective study lack of prospectiveness because only a small number of cases and few features were investigated. Therefore, it's only a preliminary study, and further research is still ongoing.

Keywords: non-small cell lung cancer; ^{18}F -FDG PET; standard uptake value; texture feature

前言

肺癌是我国最常见的恶性肿瘤之一,其中非小细胞肺癌(Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer, NSCLC)约占80%。对于不能手术的NSCLC患者来说,如何提高患者的治疗疗效是临床难题,因此,早期预测NSCLC患者的治疗疗效、进而制定个体化的治疗方案具有重要临床意义。正电子发射断层扫描图像是肿瘤诊断领域广泛应用的工具,近年来被广泛用于放射治疗肿瘤靶区勾画以及对治疗反应和患者的随访研究^[1]。PET分子功能影像是基于生化和生物学特性的成像手段,具有表征组织特异性的能力^[2]。目前,以氟代脱氧葡萄糖(Fluorodeoxyglucose, FDG)作为示踪剂的PET被应用于肿瘤的检测,分期的临床实践,以及不同部位癌症的放射治疗靶区定义的报道越来越多^[3-5]。有足够的证据表明,FDG标准摄取值(Standard Uptake Value, SUV)不仅可以作为衡量肿瘤治疗疗效的重要指标还可以实现治疗疗效的预测^[6-8]。在本文中,笔者将探索PET/CT的SUV值以及肿瘤纹理特征在NSCLC治疗中的疗效预测作用,同时筛选早期预测NSCLC放疗近期疗效的有效指标。

1 材料与方法

1.1 病例和PET扫描

选取2013年1月~2016年12月之间21例经活检病理诊断为NSCLC且接受放射治疗的患者。年龄范围32~72岁,平均年龄为49岁,中位数48岁,男11例,女10例。所有患者在放疗前和治疗1个月后进行PET/CT扫描。行PET扫描前要求禁食6 h以上, ^{18}F -FDG剂量5.55~7.40 MBP/kg,患者血液中的葡萄糖浓度为7 mmol/L以下。PET扫描在PET/CT机上完成(Discovery LS型, GE公司)。PET/CT可利用CT的优点精确定位病变显示病变的结构变化,与PET检测病变明显的代谢特征相结合。图1和图2展示了1位患者治疗前和治疗1个月后的CT、PET和PET/CT图像。

1.2 肿瘤靶区勾画

目前, ^{18}F -FDG PET图像确定肿瘤边界方法包括固定阈值(SUV ≥ 2.5)、36%~44%最大SUV值、复杂计

算公式定义阈值、视觉和手动分割等。许多学者已经分析了不同勾画方法的优势以及它们的应用情况。本研究中笔者应用SUV阈值2.5自动勾画方法定义肿瘤轮廓,并由3位经验丰富的临床医生确认。治疗前后包括体积变化率,SUV变化率和纹理参数变化率,都采用以下计算公式归一:

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{X_{\text{post}} - X_{\text{pre}}}{X_{\text{pre}}} \quad (1)$$

其中, X_{pre} 和 X_{post} 分别表示治疗前和治疗后各参数值。

1.3 SUV和纹理参数

放射性核素SUV的典型作用是反映感兴趣区的代谢程度在治疗前和治疗1个月后变化情况。提取治疗前后的4种传统参数:最小SUV值、最大SUV值、平均SUV值、SUV峰值;5种灰度共生矩阵的纹理参数:角二阶距(Second Angular Moment, SAM)、对比度(Contrast, CON)、逆差距(Inverse Different Moment, IDM)、熵(Entropy, ENT)、自相关(Autoorrelation, COR)。基于灰度共生矩阵的纹理参数的定义如下:

$$\text{SAM} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k (G(i,j))^2 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{CON} = \sum_{n=0}^{k-1} n^2 \left\{ \sum_{|i-j|=n} G(i,j) \right\} \quad (3)$$

$$\text{IDM} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{G(i,j)}{1 + (i-j)^2} \quad (4)$$

$$\text{ENT} = - \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k G(i,j) \log G(i,j) \quad (5)$$

$$\text{COR} = \sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k \frac{(i,j)G(i,j) - u_i u_j}{s_i s_j} \quad (6)$$

其中, G 是一个图像矩阵, i, j 是行和列的索引, $P(i,j)$ 表示图像像素的灰度值。

1.4 统计学分析

用SPSS 19.0进行数据统计分析,治疗前后PET/CT图像SUV和纹理参数采用均数±标准差表示。SUV和纹理参数与肿瘤体积变化率之间的相关性用Spearman系数分析法。用Mann Whitney U检验评估SUV参数和纹理参数区分有效组和无效组。 $P<0.05$ 认为结果有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 肿瘤体积

笔者计算治疗前和治疗结束后肿瘤体积变化情况。有疗效组肿瘤体积变化的为 $(-48.02\pm40.60)\text{ cm}^3$ (最大 -142.20 cm^3 , 最小 -13.81 cm^3)。无效组靶区体

积变化为 $(20.32\pm35.05)\text{ cm}^3$ (最大 61.63 cm^3 , 最小 -9.01 cm^3)。在图1和图2中,可以观察到治疗前和治疗1个月后肿瘤体积之间的明显差异。

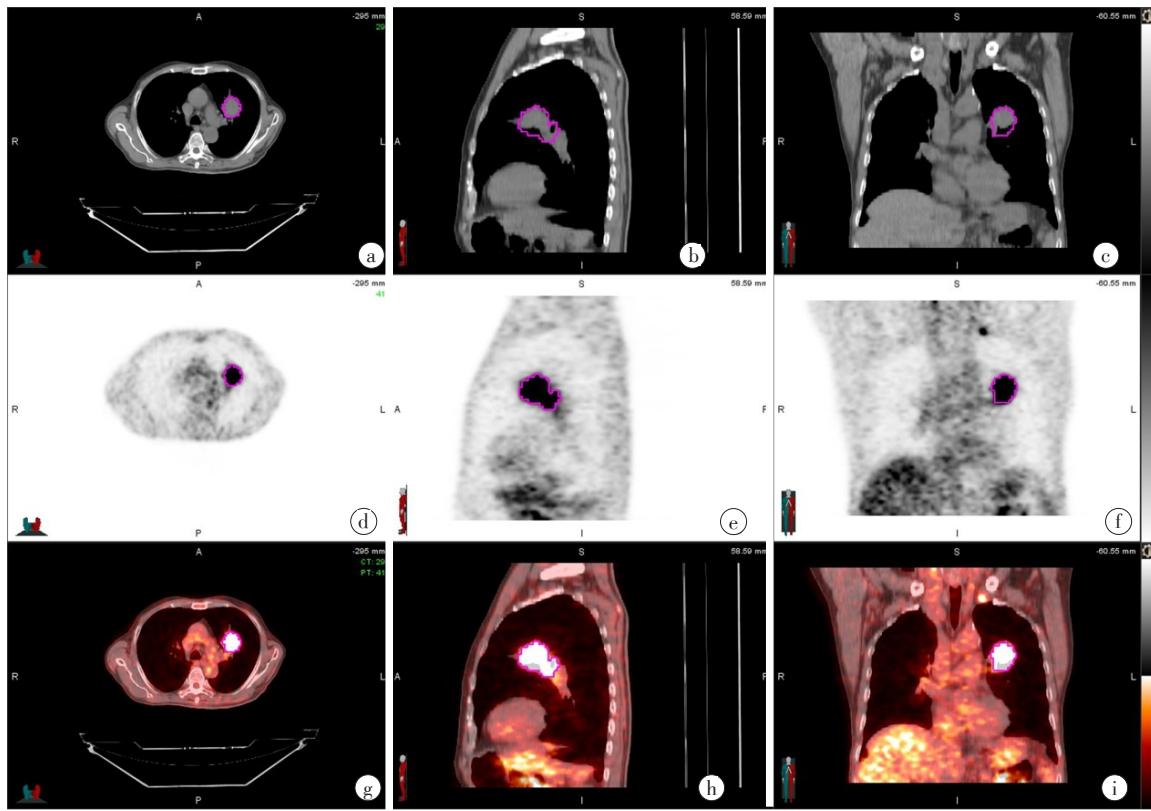


图1 CT、¹⁸F-FDG PET 和 ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT 显示治疗前肿瘤图像

Fig.1 CT, ¹⁸F-FDG PET and ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT images before treatment

a、b、c分别代表治疗前CT图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面; d、e、f分别代表治疗前PET图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面; g、h、i分别代表治疗前PET/CT融合图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面

2.2 PET特征参数

患者治疗前和治疗1个月后从PET图像提取的代谢特征最大SUV,最小SUV,平均值SUV和SUV峰值以及纹理参数的统计结果,如表1所示。

将肿瘤体积变化率与SUV参数和纹理参数的变化率做Spearman相关性分析,相关性分析结果表明逆差距(RS 0.557, $P=0.009$)和最大SUV(RS 0.468, $P=0.033$)与肿瘤体积变化率有相关性,其它参数无相关性。

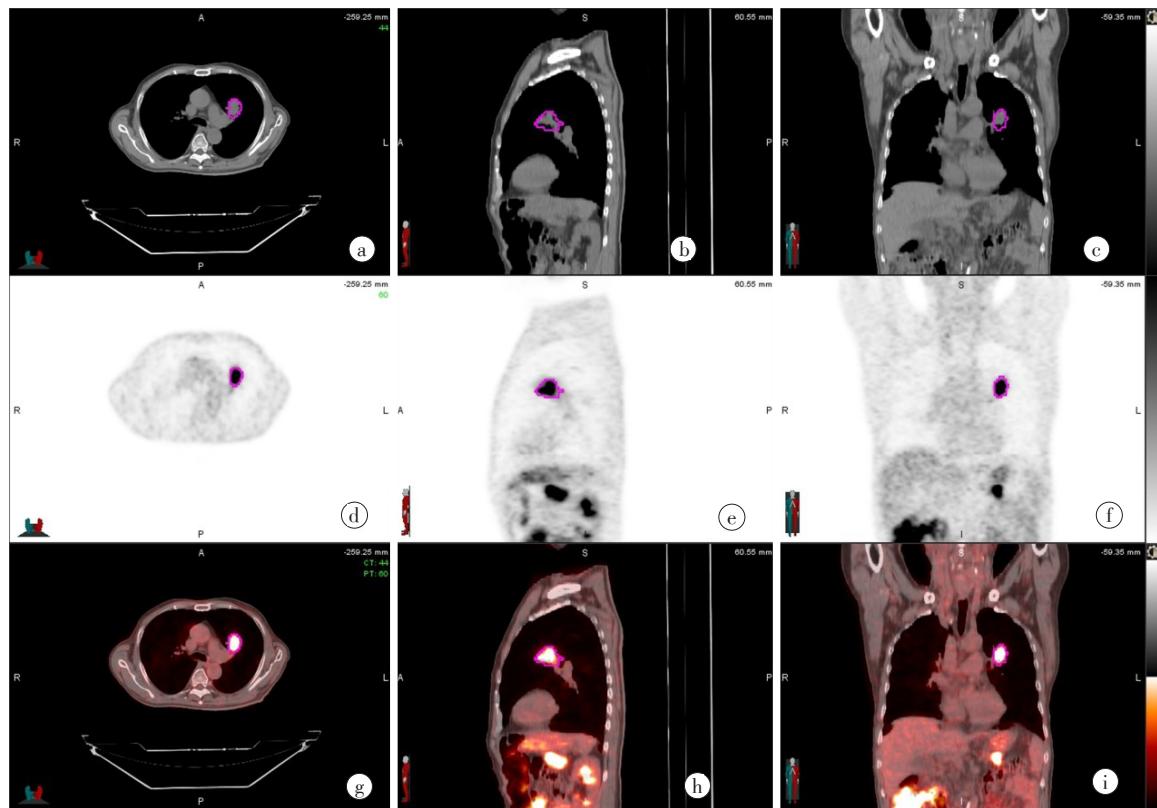
2.3 疗效预测

在图3箱线图中可以观察两组间的参数分布,图3a显示的是IDM变化率在无效组Group1和有效组Group2的分布情况,图3b显示的是最大SUV变化率在无效组和有效组的分布情况。

进一步的Mann Whitney U检验评估SUV参数和纹理参数区分有效组和无效组。其统计学结果见表2。

3 讨论

目前,治疗癌症的效果评估主要是通过视觉评估方法,根据标准的实体瘤疗效评价标准(Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors, RECIST)测量肿瘤体积减少和肿瘤收缩进行分类。许多纹理研究表明,¹⁸F-FDG PET能够反应肿瘤细胞内的代谢异质性从而评估病人的放化疗疗效。根据分类标准通过测量肿瘤大小、分析了治疗后肿瘤的反应。定量的研究SUV和纹理的变化在评估NSCLC患者对放化疗的响应中的价值,发现最大SUV值和纹理特征的逆差距的改变值是判断肿瘤有无疗效的重要参数。有研究表明最大SUV值是治疗疗效相应的一个预测因子,而且是一个可重复性的参数^[9-10]。所以最大SUV值成为评估治疗反应的首选参数。然而,一个快速增长的瘤体发生中心坏死可能会显示最大SUV值没有变化甚至出现减小,因为存活肿瘤的薄边缘会受部分容积效应的影响^[11]。因此,肿瘤体积和吸收强度的代谢参数建议结合使用^[12-13]。

图2 CT, ¹⁸F-FDG PET 和 ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT 显示治疗1个月后肿瘤图像Fig.2 CT, ¹⁸F-FDG PET and ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT images after a month of treatment

a、b、c 分别代表治疗1个月后CT图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面；d、e、f 分别代表治疗1个月后PET图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面；g、h、i 分别代表治疗1个月后PET/CT融合图像横断面、矢状面、冠状面

表1 治疗前后肿瘤的SUV值和纹理参数值($\bar{x} \pm s$)Tab.1 SUV and texture parameters of the tumor before and after treatment (Mean \pm SD)

特征类型	特征	治疗前	治疗后
SUV值	最小SUV	1.51 \pm 1.07	1.67 \pm 1.00
	最大SUV	13.46 \pm 5.604	9.01 \pm 4.79
	平均SUV	4.04 \pm 1.98	3.55 \pm 1.37
	SUV峰值	22.38 \pm 21.92	16.33 \pm 24.64
纹理参数值	SAM	0.01 \pm 0.02	0.01 \pm 0.01
	CON	56.22 \pm 45.47	66.87 \pm 48.08
	ENT	5.61 \pm 0.98	5.45 \pm 0.97
	IDM	0.26 \pm 0.16	0.19 \pm 0.13
	COR	0.76 \pm 0.17	0.64 \pm 0.30

SUV: 标准摄取值; SAM: 角二阶距; CON: 对比度; ENT: 熵; IDM: 逆差距; COR: 自相关

研究表明,代谢的变化经常先于形态学变化,¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT比常规CT等具有更准确的预后评估能力^[14]。早期研究表明,治疗1~3周后SUV值下降超过50%的患者生存期大多超过了6个月,而SUV值下

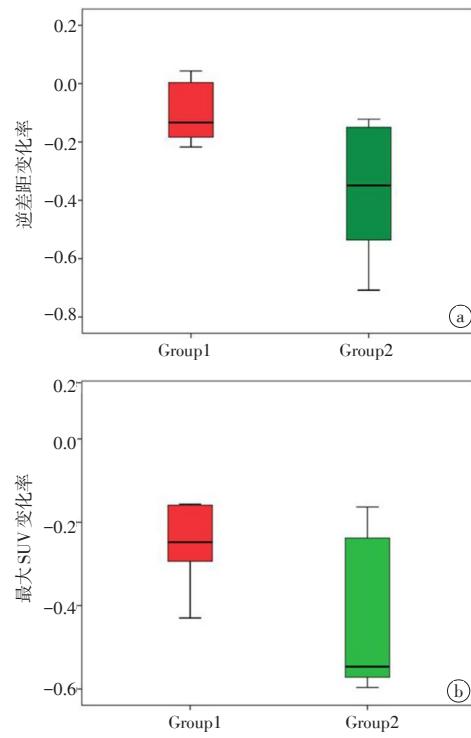


图3 箱式图表示逆差距(a)和最大SUV变化率(b)在无效组(红色)和有效组(绿色)中的分布情况

Fig.3 Box plots of the change rates of inverse different moment (a) and maximum SUV (b) in ineffective group (red) and effective group (green)



表2 9个特征参数变化率Mann Whitney U检验的统计学结果

Tab.2 Statistical results of Mann Whitney U test on the change rates of 9 parameters

统计学结果	最小SUV	最大SUV	平均SUV	SUV峰值	SAM	CON	ENT	IDM	COR
P 值	0.831	0.033	0.776	0.201	0.831	0.155	0.776	0.004	0.155

降低于50%的患者绝大部分生存期不足6个月^[15]。有学者评估NSCLC患者以铂类作为基础的化疗药物,发现SUV变化与肿瘤对治疗的反应密切相关,可以使用肿瘤的SUV减少20%作为有疗效的标准^[16-20]。当然,使用¹⁸F-FDG PET评估放疗疗效也具有其局限性。例如,¹⁸F-FDG在正常组织或炎症区域内的高摄取必须排除,治疗后什么时间测量SUV值和SUV值降低到什么程度作为标准至今仍然没有达成共识。目前纹理在影像组学中获得了广泛应用。纹理是一种反映图像中同质现象的视觉特征,它体现了物体表面具有缓慢变化或者周期性变化的表面结构组织排列属性。纹理可以反映肿瘤体的特异性,可以提供更多的图像信息。所以,本文不仅研究SUV值,还加入纹理特征用于疗效的预测。

研究初步显示,¹⁸F-FDG PET的最大SUV值和纹理IDM的变化率有能力预测肿瘤治疗疗效,此方法在临床实践中有较好的应用前景。

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