

DOI:10.3969/j.issn.1005-202X.2019.12.008

医学放射物理

基于4DCT和形变配准技术评估呼吸运动对肺癌立体定向放疗过程中剂量的影响

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【摘要】目的:探讨肺下叶肿瘤患者立体定向放疗(SBRT)治疗时,呼吸运动对肿瘤和正常器官受量的影响。**方法:**选取14例肺下叶肿瘤患者,均行平扫CT和四维CT(4DCT)扫描定位,获得平扫及10个呼吸时相的序列图像,同时记录患者放疗时的呼吸曲线,并得到各呼吸时相维持时间占比。利用MIM工作站勾画肿瘤和正常器官,基于平扫CT制定放疗计划,将3DCT计划移植到各呼吸时相的序列图像中并计算剂量,按照时间占比叠加各个时相的剂量。**结果:**比较平扫CT计划剂量分布和叠加剂量分布,得出相比平扫CT计划剂量。叠加剂量中,PTV平均剂量、患侧肺V₂₀、患侧肺平均剂量、健侧肺平均剂量和全肺平均剂量的4D加权叠加均小于3D剂量,分别减小了2.37%、5.08%、5.19%、3.61%和3.46%,差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。**结论:**患者的呼吸运动导致肿瘤和肺受量的降低,但在较小的变化范围内。利用4DCT和形变配准技术,引入患者各呼吸时相维持时间占比的因素,可更合理评估呼吸运动对肺下叶肿瘤SBRT放疗过程中剂量的影响。

【关键词】肺肿瘤;四维CT;形变配准技术;呼吸曲线;立体定向放疗治疗;剂量

【中图分类号】R811.1;R734.2

【文献标志码】A

【文章编号】1005-202X(2019)12-1406-05

Dose variation caused by respiratory motion on SBRT for lung tumors: an analysis based on 4DCT and deformable registration

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Abstract: Objective To discuss the effects of respiration motions on the doses to tumors and organs-at-risk in patients receiving stereotactic body radiotherapy for lung tumors in the lower lobe. Methods Fourteen patients with lung tumors in the lower lobe underwent plain CT scans and four-dimensional CT (4DCT) scans to acquire plain scanning image and sequence images of 10 respiratory phases. The percentage of time intervals of each respiratory phase in a whole respiratory motion was calculated from respiratory motion curves recorded during radiotherapy. MIM workstation was used to delineate tumors and organs-at-risks. Treatment plan was designed based on plain CT, and then 3DCT plan was ported to sequence images of each respiratory phase for dose calculation by accumulating doses based on the percentages of time intervals of each respiratory phase. Results The 4D weighted dose accumulations of the mean dose of planning target volume, the V₂₀ and mean dose of ipsilateral lung, the mean dose of contralateral lung and the mean dose of lungs were decreased by 2.37%, 5.08%, 5.19%, 3.61% and 3.46%, respectively, compared with 3D planned doses, with statistical differences ($P<0.05$). Conclusion The respiratory motions of patients result in decreased doses to tumors and lungs, but the variation is within a small range. The dose variation caused by respiratory motion on SBRT for lung tumors in the lower lobe can be more accurately evaluated by utilizing 4DCT and deformable registration and introducing the percentages of time intervals of each respiratory phase.

Keywords: lung tumor; four-dimensional computed tomography; deformable registration; respiratory motion curve; stereotactic body radiotherapy; dosage

【收稿日期】2019-07-15

【基金项目】西安交通大学第一附属医院院基金(2018MS-25)

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前言

放射治疗作为肿瘤综合治疗的重要手段之一,在肺癌治疗中起到重要作用^[1]。早期非小细胞肺癌放射治疗中,立体定向放射治疗(Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy, SBRT)技术治疗效果与手术效果相同^[2],对于年龄大或不能耐受手术的患者,SBRT治疗优于手术。但SBRT治疗过程中,单次给予高剂量,较小的剂量误差可能会导致治疗失败,SBRT治疗对于剂量准确性提出了更高的要求。在肺下叶肿瘤患者SBRT治疗过程中,肿瘤和正常器官随呼吸运动的位移和形变较大^[3-5],引起的剂量误差也较大^[4-8]。据报道呼吸运动导致肝脏肿瘤运动最大可达34 mm^[9],肺部肿瘤运动最大可达35 mm^[10],肾上腺肿瘤运动最大可达27 mm^[11],这使得肿瘤和正常器官的剂量难以准确评估。近年来,应用四维CT(4DCT)及形变配准技术可准确获得肿瘤的运动信息,进行肿瘤的准确定位和剂量累加,进而准确地评估呼吸运动对患者受量的影响^[3, 12-13],但以往研究均假定患者各呼吸时相维持时间等比例,未考虑患者实际呼吸时相维持时间比。本研究利用4DCT和形变配准技术,引入患者各呼吸时相维持时间占比的因素,探讨呼吸运动对肺下叶肿瘤患者SBRT治疗过程中剂量的影响。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般临床资料

2016年至2018年间,随机抽样选取西安交通大学第一附属医院14例II-III期小细胞肺癌患者。入选条件为诊断明确并接受SBRT治疗的II-III期小细胞下叶肺癌患者,男6例,女8例,中位年龄64岁(25~72岁),均通过医院伦理委员会论证,并签署知情同意书。

1.2 CT扫描

对患者行三维CT(3DCT)和4DCT扫描定位。采用荷兰Philips公司85 cm大孔径定位CT,患者采用仰卧位,双臂交叉抱肘置顶,热塑体模固定。扫描层厚3 mm,层间距3 mm,扫描范围上至环状软骨,下至肾上腺,4DCT图像根据呼吸运动幅度生成10个呼吸时相序列图像。

1.3 呼吸运动曲线分析

4DCT扫描定位后,CT自动记录患者呼吸运动曲线。本研究选用Quasar Respiratory Motion version v3.3.8软件分析呼吸运动曲线,吸气末(EI)为0%时相,呼气末(EE)为50%时相。运用Microsoft Office Excel随机数生成公式随机选取患者呼吸运动曲线中的3个呼吸周期,根据呼吸曲线计算10个呼吸时相

(0%~90%)的维持时间(Δt_{0-90}),并进一步计算3个呼吸周期中,各 Δt 占全呼吸周期时长的平均占比(PP_{0-90})。

1.4 肿瘤勾画及制作放射治疗计划

3DCT及4DCT的10个时相序列传输至pinnacle计划系统(V9.10,飞利浦公司,美国),由同一放疗医师逐层勾画大体肿瘤靶体积(Gross Tumor Volume, GTV)及双肺、心脏、脊髓等危及器官(OAR),将GTV均匀外放一定边界(鳞癌0.8 cm,腺癌0.6 cm)形成临床靶体积(CTV),将CTV均匀外放0.3 cm形成计划靶体积(Planning Target Volume, PTV),制定调强放射治疗计划,采用SBRT分割模式,总剂量45 Gy,15 Gy/次。计划制定后,将3DCT计划移植到各呼吸时相的序列图像中并计算剂量。

1.5 剂量比较

利用MIM工作站将各个时相的剂量变形配准到50%时相图像中,按照患者各呼吸时相等比例权重叠加剂量,形成4D叠加剂量;按照患者各呼吸时相维持时间占比(PP_{0-90})权重叠加剂量,形成4D加权叠加剂量。4D叠加剂量、4D加权叠加剂量分别与3DCT计划剂量进行比较。比较指标包括靶区均匀性、适形性,肺V₅、V₁₀、V₂₀(5、10、20 Gy受量的体积占整体的百分数),心脏平均剂量。

1.6 统计学处理

应用SPSS 25.0软件进行统计学分析,定量参数以均数±标准差表示,并对两组资料行配对t检验, $P<0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 呼吸曲线及呼吸时相的时间

患者放疗定位时自由呼吸的运动曲线如图1所示。可见患者呼吸运动时,胸廓运动并非线性,尤其是呼气过程曲线曲率更大。14名患者各随机选择3个呼吸周期,将各呼吸时相维持时间占比(PP_{0-90})求均值后列于图2。由图2可见呼吸时相维持时间明显不均等且临近呼气末时相时间间隔占比(PP_{40})最大。

2.2 剂量体积直方图(DVH)及等剂量分布

以各呼吸时相维持时间占比(PP_{0-90})为权重进行叠加,肿瘤和正常器官的DVH和等剂量分布图如图3和图4所示,可见各个时相图像中心脏受量的变化最大。

2.3 4D加权叠加剂量与3D剂量的比较

14例患者4D加权叠加剂量与3D剂量比较结果见表1。在PTV平均剂量、患侧肺V₂₀、患侧肺平均剂量、健侧肺平均剂量和全肺平均剂量的对比中,4D加权叠

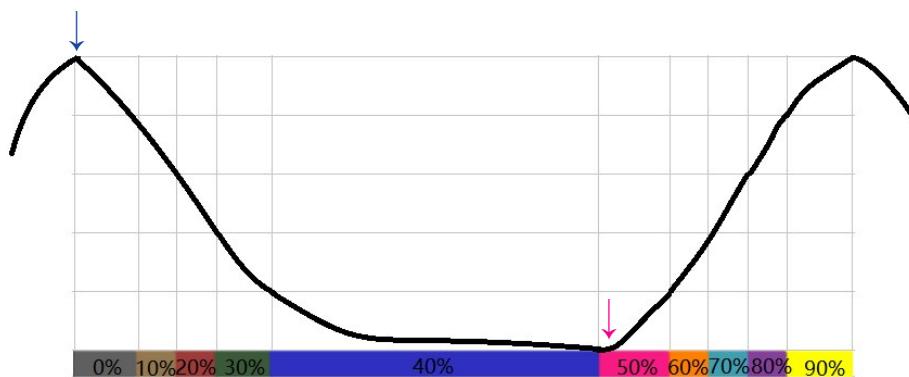


图1 患者放射治疗时呼吸曲线

Fig.1 Respiration motion curve of a patient receiving radiotherapy for lung tumor

→:吸气末,即0%时相;↑:呼气末,即50%时相

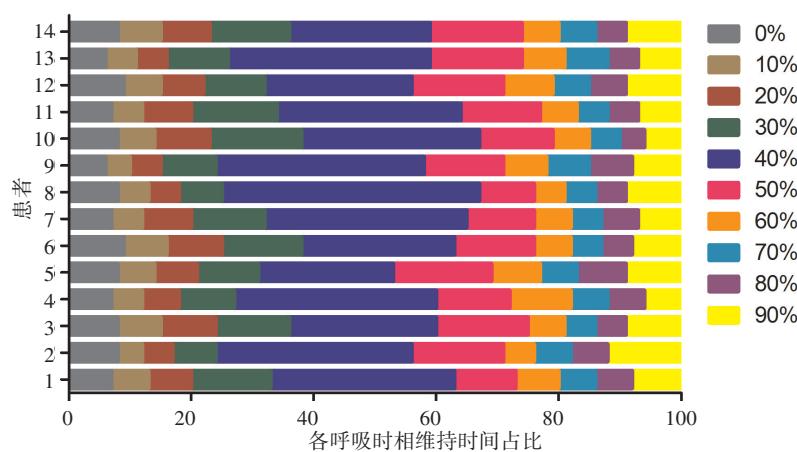


图2 14例患者各呼吸时相维持时间占总呼吸周期时长百分比

Fig.2 Percentages of time intervals of each respiratory phase in 14 patients

加均小于3D剂量,分别减小了2.37%,5.08%,5.19%,3.61%和3.46%,差异均有统计学意义($P<0.05$);在心脏平均剂量的对比中,4D加权叠加剂量大于3D剂量,增加了5.12%,差异有统计学意义($P<0.05$)。14例患者每一项剂量学指标结果显示,与3D剂量相比,4D加权叠加PTV最小剂量、平均剂量、患侧肺 V_5 、患侧肺 V_{10} 、患侧肺 V_{20} 、患侧肺平均剂量、健侧肺 V_5 、健侧肺 V_{10} 、健侧肺平均剂量、全肺 V_5 、全肺 V_{10} 、全肺 V_{20} 、全肺平均剂量、心脏平均剂量变化范围分别为:-14.73%~12.73%,-9.78%~0.51%,-5.9%~4.72%,-6.75%~4.98%,-8.24%~0.51%,-8.09%~0.39%,-8.94%~3.33%,-3.48%~6.34%,-6.59%~7.04%,-7.12%~8.99%,-7.76%~8.56%,-7.25%~7.81%,-6.81%~0.27%,-7.81%~6.68%。

3 讨论

SBRT已作为早期非小细胞肺癌治疗的首选手段,取得了很好的临床效果,但在SBRT治疗肺癌过程中,肿瘤、肺和心脏受呼吸运动的影响,在放疗过程中易发生明显的位移和变形^[7-8,14-16],计划设计所得

的剂量学分布可能并未反应肿瘤区和正常组织真实的受量^[17-21],进而可能影响治疗效果。因此,需要准确评估肺癌SBRT治疗过程中给予肿瘤剂量和正常组织剂量的准确性。

本研究利用4DCT获得SBRT治疗患者10个呼吸时相的图像序列,将平扫3D计划剂量移植到10个呼吸时相序列,利用变形配准技术将各个时相剂量等比例权重叠加,得到患者4D叠加剂量。结果表明呼吸运动引起了肺癌SBRT治疗过程中肿瘤和肺受量的降低,心脏剂量的增加。Ehrbar等^[22]也利用4DCT和图像配准技术评估呼吸运动对SBRT治疗肺癌患者剂量学的影响,得出3D和4D肿瘤剂量偏差为-2.1%~1.4%,3D和4D重要器官剂量偏差为-0.8%~1.7%,结果与Rao等^[13]和Zou等^[23]的研究结果类似,偏差结果小于本研究结果,可能因为本研究均选择肺下叶肿瘤患者,呼吸幅度影响较大,导致肿瘤和正常器官剂量变化较大,特别对于肿瘤最小剂量而言,4D叠加剂量增加了12.68%,更加容易受到呼吸运动的影响。而且Ehrbar等^[22]的研究将所有患者的呼吸周期固定为3.4 s和6.8 s,没有考虑到个体

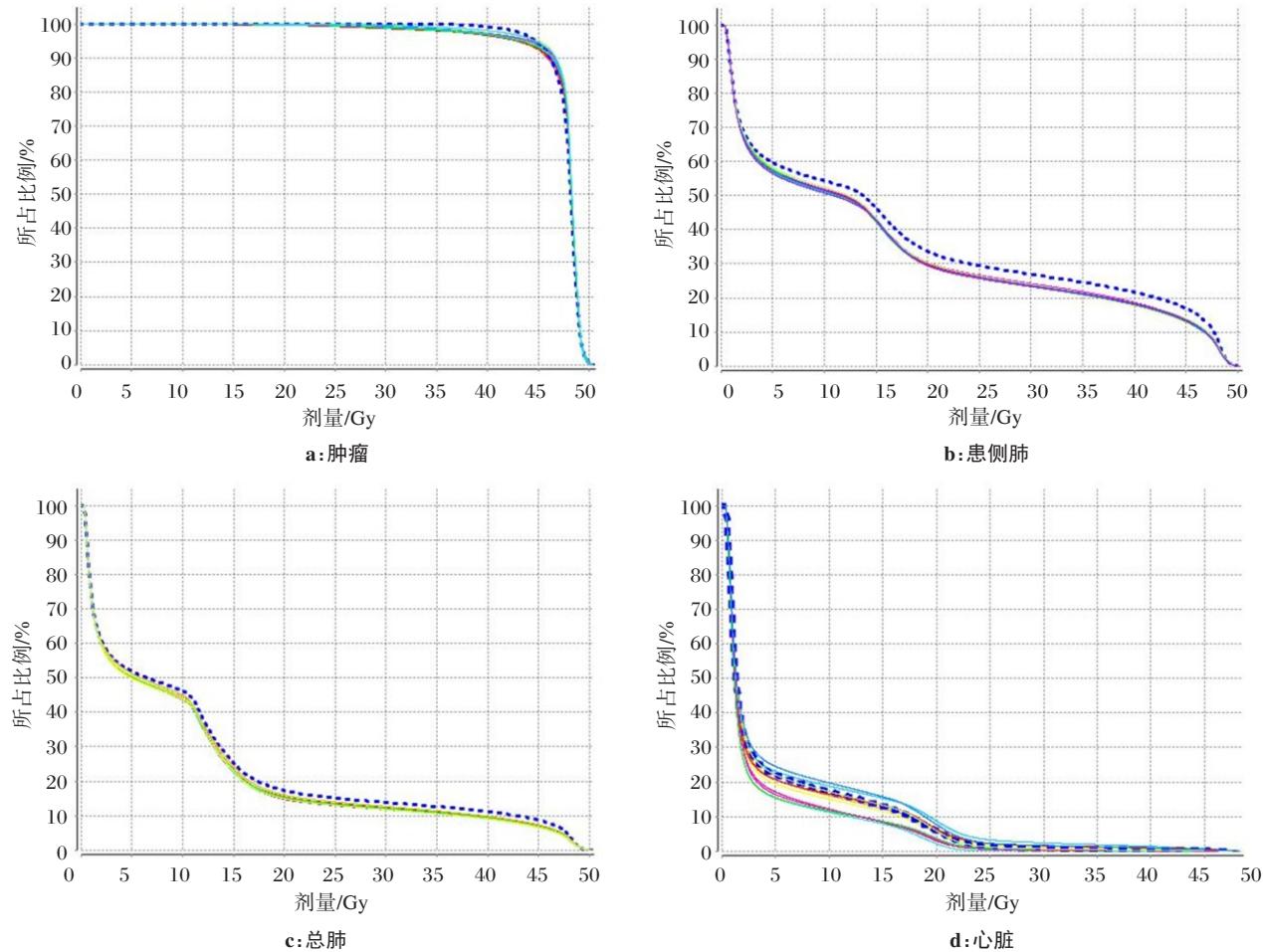


图3 各呼吸时相计划中肿瘤和正常组织的剂量-体积直方图

Fig.3 Dose-volume histograms of tumor and organs-at-risk for each respiratory phase plan

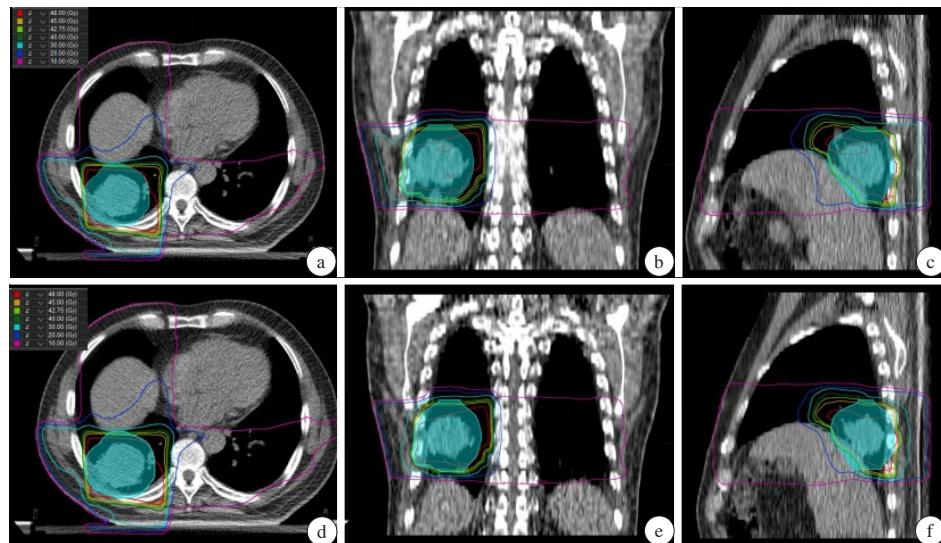


图4 治疗计划剂量叠加前后分布图

Fig.4 Dose distributions before and after dose accumulation

a~c:患者50%呼吸时相剂量分布;d~f:患者各呼吸时相叠加后剂量分布,显示于50%呼吸时相。蓝色实心区域表示PTV

化导致偏差结果较小。

综上所述,患者的呼吸运动导致肿瘤和肺受量的降低,但在较小的变化范围内。利用4DCT和形变

配准技术,引入患者个体化的呼吸时间权重比因素,可更合理评估呼吸运动对肺下叶肿瘤SBRT治疗过程中剂量学的影响。

表1 14例患者3D计划和4D加权叠加计划的剂量学指标比较
Tab.1 Dosimetric differences between 3D plan and 4D weighted accumulation plan for 14 patients

指标	3D剂量	4D叠加剂量	t值	P值
PTV最小剂量/Gy	40.85±9.50	39.80±9.22	0.558	0.586
PTV平均剂量/Gy	49.61±8.88	48.43±9.30	5.840	0.001
患侧肺V ₅ /%	45.91±18.83	45.64±18.69	0.632	0.538
患侧肺V ₁₀ /%	39.00±18.93	38.59±18.87	0.947	0.363
患侧肺V ₂₀ /%	27.56±16.25	26.16±16.38	3.942	0.002
患侧肺平均剂量/Gy	13.49±7.30	12.79±7.14	6.096	0.001
健侧肺V ₅ /%	21.62±19.73	22.04±21.95	1.607	0.132
健侧肺V ₁₀ /%	14.13±16.03	13.34±15.48	1.554	0.144
健侧肺平均剂量/Gy	3.32±2.56	3.20±2.49	3.074	0.009
全肺V ₅ /%	33.77±19.78	33.58±19.36	0.502	0.624
全肺V ₁₀ /%	25.61±16.21	25.33±15.66	0.754	0.464
全肺V ₂₀ /%	12.68±7.74	12.48±7.68	1.061	0.308
全肺平均剂量/Gy	7.81±4.36	7.54±4.16	3.440	0.004
心脏平均剂量/Gy	6.64±5.13	6.98±5.35	2.278	0.040

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(编辑:黄开颜)