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医学放射物理

头颈部肿瘤自适应放疗中不同治疗方案的剂量学比较

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【摘要】目的:研究基于形变配准头颈部肿瘤自适应放疗计划剂量学优势。**方法:**选取8例头颈部肿瘤患者行自适应放疗,每周扫描CT重新勾画靶区和危及器官并设计新的计划执行1周,直至分次治疗结束。以初始计划CT1为参考分别进行形变配准,每周实际受照剂量在CT1上累积得到自适应方案总受照剂量。同时计算初始计划剂量和虚拟常规放疗实际受照剂量作为对比。**结果:**8例患者自适应方案PTV D₉₅剂量平均值较初始计划低45 cGy,与初始计划剂量基本一致,剂量均匀性指数(HI)和适形指数(CI)分别提高0.002和0.031。左右腮腺D_{mean}分别降低24.37和127.50 cGy,脑干和脊髓D_{max}平均降低189.87和111.37 cGy。虚拟常规放疗PTV D₉₅剂量较初始计划低334.87 cGy,未达到初始计划剂量,HI和CI分别下降0.073和0.069,左右腮腺D_{mean}分别高出153.63和170.50 cGy,脊髓D_{max}平均高出113.37 cGy。**结论:**常规放疗方案患者靶区实际受照剂量低于计划剂量,部分危及器官受到超量照射。自适应放疗方案可使靶区受照剂量与初始计划剂量保持一致,同时降低危及器官剂量,具有显著的剂量学优势。

【关键词】头颈部肿瘤;形变配准;自适应放疗;虚拟计划;剂量学

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Dosimetric comparison of different treatment plans in adaptive radiotherapy for head and neck cancer

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Abstract: **Objective** To evaluate the dosimetric advantage of adaptive radiotherapy plan based on deformable image registration for head and neck cancer. **Methods** Eight patients with head and neck cancer were randomly selected and weekly scanned by CT. The target volume and organs at risk (OAR) were delineated weekly for re-planning. The new plans were performed for a week until the fractional treatment ended. The original planning CT (CT1) was set as the reference CT for deformable image registration. The weekly delivery doses of CT1 were accumulated to obtain the total delivery dose of adaptive radiotherapy plan. The doses of original plan and the delivery dose of virtual conventional plan were also calculated and compared. **Results** The mean dose of planning target volume (PTV) D₉₅ in adaptive radiotherapy plan for 8 patients was 45 cGy lower than that in the original plans, basically consistent with the dose of original plans. Compared with original planned dose, the homogeneity index (HI) and conformal index (CI) of adaptive plan respectively increased by 0.002 and 0.031, and the mean dose (D_{mean}) of left and right parotid gland, and the maximum dose (D_{max}) of brain stem and spinal cord respectively decreased by 24.37, 127.50, 189.87 and 111.37 cGy. The PTV D₉₅ in virtual conventional plan was 334.87 cGy lower than that in original plan, without reaching the dose of original plan. Compared with original planned dose, HI and CI of virtual

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conventional plan respectively decreased by 0.073 and 0.069, while the D_{mean} of left and right parotid gland and the D_{max} of spinal cord respectively increased by 153.63, 170.50, 113.37 cGy. **Conclusion** The delivery dose of target volume in conventional plan is lower than that in original plan, with over-radiated OAR dose. Adaptive radiotherapy can gain consistent target dose with original plan, and reduce the OAR dose, with significant dosimetric advantages.

Key words: head and neck cancer; deformable image registration; adaptive radiotherapy; virtual plan; dosimetry

前言

头颈部肿瘤调强放射治疗过程中,因患者体质下降、肿瘤退缩等原因,患者解剖结构在分次治疗期间易发生较大变化,如继续执行初始放疗计划易导致肿瘤的漏照射和危及器官的超量照射^[1-2]。自适应放疗根据患者在治疗期间的解剖结构变化进行相应的计划修正,使得肿瘤靶区得到最优照射剂量^[3],其中形变配准是自适应放疗中剂量累积的关键^[4-5]。目前国内外的研究主要集中在摆位误差的影响^[6-9]、解剖结构的变化^[10-11],对形变配准的剂量累积功能研究相对较少^[12-13]。本研究基于形变配准对8位头颈部肿瘤患者自适应放射治疗剂量进行累积,并与初始计划剂量和虚拟常规放疗实际受照剂量进行对比,探讨临床条件下头颈部肿瘤自适应放疗的剂量学优势。

1 材料与方法

1.1 患者情况

选取安徽医科大学第一附属医院放疗科接受直线加速器和滑轨CT组合(CTVision, Siemens)自适应放疗的头颈部肿瘤患者8例,其中男5例,女3例,患者年龄41~63岁(中位数52岁),患者处方剂量5 600~6 600 cGy。

1.2 体位固定及CT图像获取

8例患者均采用仰卧位,头垫B/C枕,采用头颈肩热塑性面罩固定。患者在治疗中每周行1次螺旋CT扫描(Somatom Definition AS, Siemens),扫描范围为头顶至锁骨下缘下3 cm,层厚3 mm,层距3 mm。每次扫描条件相同,每例患者均扫描6次CT。

1.3 靶区勾画

由高年资放疗科医师在患者所有CT图像上依次进行靶区勾画,依据ICRU 50^[14]和ICRU 62^[15]号报告,肿瘤靶区(GTV)为CT等检查中可见的肿瘤及转移淋巴结,临床靶区外扩3 mm作为计划靶区(PTV)。将PTV适当修改以确保在皮下3 mm内,同时应用自动轮廓勾画模块勾画出腮腺、脊髓、脑干、晶体等危及器官并予以手动修正。

1.4 形变配准

在形变配准前先对影像进行刚性配准,将每位

患者初始计划图像CT1作为参考图像,治疗期间每周扫描的图像CT2,CT3…CT6作为目标图像分别与CT1进行配准。刚性配准完成后采用Hybrid模块进行形变配准。本研究中采用的形变配准算法为ANACONDA^[16],该算法是基于图像灰度和轮廓几何的混合算法。通过该算法将初始图像CT1作为参考影像,经形变配准将每周扫描CT计算得到的每周照射剂量在CT1上形变叠加,从而得到累计总剂量。形变配准过程中设置PTV和各参考危及器官为控制结构,为保证形变配准精度,形变分辨率在前后、左右和上下3个方向均设置为0.2 cm。

1.5 计划设计

(1)应用RayStation治疗计划系统(4.5.1版本, RaySearch Laboratories,瑞典)在初始图像CT1上为8例患者设计5~9野的调强治疗计划Plan1,给予Plan1总计划分次数得到计划总剂量Dose_Planned;(2)实际治疗过程中采用自适应放疗方案,初始计划Plan1治疗5次后在CT2上计划得到新的治疗计划Plan2,之后每周在新的周扫描CT上重新进行计划设计直至分次治疗结束。将CT2,CT3…CT6上计算得到的Plan2,Plan3…Plan6每5 d受照总剂量通过形变配准叠加至CT1,得到自适应放疗总剂量Dose_Replan;(3)常规放疗中患者解剖结构变化导致体表定位点逐渐偏离计划定位点,将初始计划Plan1分别以CT2,CT3…CT6上体表定位点确定的中心为等中心复制,将虚拟常规放疗每周的实际受照剂量通过形变配准在CT1上进行累加,得到虚拟常规放疗实际受照总剂量Dose_Virtual。

1.6 剂量评估指标

剂量对比参考结构选取PTV、左右腮腺、左右眼晶体、脑干和脊髓。在治疗过程中记录PTV和患者左右腮腺的体积变化,以初始CT1上勾画靶区体积为参考计算体积下降比。Dose_Planned、Dose_Replan、Dose_Virtual剂量评估参数选取 D_{98} 、 D_{95} 、 D_2 、 D_{mean} 和 D_{max} 。同时计算PTV的适形指数(CI)和剂量均匀性指数(HI),其中 $CI=TV_{RI}/TV*TV_{RI}/V_{RI}$, $HI=(D_5-D_{95})/D_{50}$,其中 TV_{RI} 为PTV满足处方剂量的体积,TV为PTV体积, V_{RI} 为满足处方剂量的所有体积,CI越接近

1说明适形性越好,HI越小说明剂量均匀性越好。

1.7 统计学方法

用Origin 9.0软件对剂量体积直方图(DVH)进行处理,采用SPSS 22.0统计软件对PTV和参考危及器官3种累积剂量评估参数进行配对t检验, $P<0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 靶区和左右腮腺体积变化

如图1所示,8例患者在分次治疗过程中,靶区和左右腮腺均出现不同程度退缩。至治疗结束,8例患者靶区退缩比率均值($14.92\pm7.11\%$),左右腮腺退缩均值($23.52\pm8.02\%$)和($26.76\pm7.13\%$),其中2例患者左腮腺、3例患者右腮腺体积退缩超过30%。

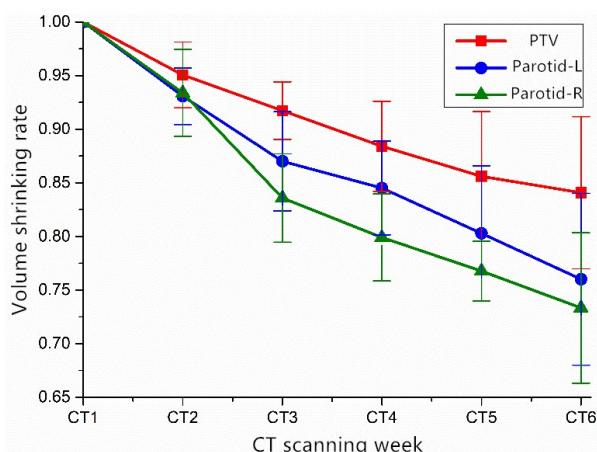


图1 8例患者靶区和左右腮腺平均体积下降比

Fig.1 Volume shrinking rate of 8 patients' planning target volume (PTV) and parotids

2.2 剂量参数比较

8例患者虚拟常规放疗PTV实际总累积受照剂量相对于初始计划总剂量D₉₅平均低334.87 cGy,D_{mean}、D₂和D₉₈均有降低,未达到初始计划剂量。左右腮腺D_{mean}分别较初始计划剂量高153.63 cGy和170.5 cGy,左右晶体D_{max}分别高出114.63 cGy和177.87 cGy,脊髓受到D_{max}平均高出113.37 cGy的超量照射,见表1。相对于初始计划,8例患者实际治疗采用的自适应方案PTV D₉₅平均值相差45 cGy,差异不明显且显著小于常规治疗方案剂量差值。左右腮腺D_{mean}较初始计划降低24.37和127.5 cGy,脑干和脊髓D_{max}平均降低189.87和111.37 cGy,左右晶体D_{max}平均高出34.5和24.75 cGy,见表2。示例患者DVH如图2所示。

2.3 靶区的CI和HI

8例患者虚拟常规计划较初始计划靶区剂量HI和CI平均下降0.073和0.069,采用自适应方案靶区HI和CI平均提高0.002和0.031。详见表3和表4。

3 讨论

形变配准是轮廓自动勾画的关键流程,目前在临幊上广泛使用,可大大降低手动勾画轮廓时间,提高自适应放疗计划修改的效率^[17-18]。但形变配准用于剂量累积及评估目前研究还较少^[12-13, 19]。本研究在使用轮廓自动勾画的同时,探究形变配准用于临幊自适应放疗剂量累积及评估的可行性,通过形变配准过程,在参考CT和待配准CT之间得到形变矢量场(DVF),将DVF作用于剂量网格得到形变剂量并

表1 8例患者初始计划和虚拟常规计划剂量参数对比(cGy)

Tab.1 Dosimetric comparison of original plan and virtual conventional plan for 8 patients (cGy)

Parameter	Original plan	Virtual conventional plan	t value	P value
PTV D ₉₅	6 044.12±281.04	5 709.25±323.95	5.378	0.001
PTV D _{mean}	6 242.87±265.74	6 151.62±276.46	5.889	0.001
PTV D ₂	6 479.37±273.49	6 394.50±260.92	8.615	0.000
PTV D ₉₈	5 946.37±301.25	5 416.87±423.17	5.222	0.001
Parotid-L D _{mean}	1 546.75±853.32	1 700.38±1 081.05	-0.998	0.351
Parotid-R D _{mean}	1 636.13±834.57	1 806.63±1 159.64	-0.820	0.439
Lens-L D _{max}	270.25±212.16	384.88±337.03	-2.305	0.055
Lens-R D _{max}	237.38±176.74	415.25±478.53	-1.493	0.179
Brainstem D _{max}	4 289.75±1 172.60	4 272.38±1 231.74	0.157	0.879
Spinal cord D _{max}	2 300.13±1 069.77	2 411.50±1 323.76	-0.889	0.404

表2 8例患者初始计划和自适应计划剂量参数对比(cGy)

Tab.2 Dosimetric comparison of original plan and adaptive plan for 8 patients (cGy)

Parameter	Original plan	Adaptive plan	t value	P value
PTV D ₉₅	6 044.12±281.04	5 997.12±303.54	1.450	0.190
PTV D _{mean}	6 242.87±265.74	6 216.25±256.06	2.292	0.056
PTV D ₂	6 479.37±273.49	6 383.25±258.48	2.205	0.063
PTV D ₉₈	5 946.37±301.25	5 808.50±370.93	2.140	0.070
Parotid-L D _{mean}	1 546.75±853.32	1 522.38±939.22	0.395	0.705
Parotid-R D _{mean}	1 636.13±834.57	1 508.63±860.54	1.748	0.124
Lens-L D _{max}	270.25±212.16	304.75±233.38	-1.900	0.099
Lens-R D _{max}	237.38±176.74	262.13±189.28	-2.004	0.085
Brainstem D _{max}	4 289.75±1 172.60	4 099.88±1 253.42	2.335	0.052
Spinal cord D _{max}	2 300.13±1 069.77	2 217.38±1 158.31	0.970	0.364

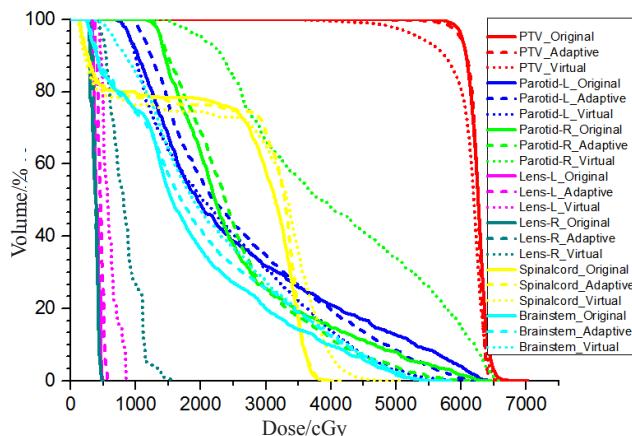


图2 某例患者3种不同计划方案累积剂量DVH图

Fig.2 Dose-volume histogram of three different plans of one patient

表3 初始计划与虚拟常规计划靶区HI和CI统计

Tab.3 HI and CI of original plan and virtual conventional plan

Parameter	Original plan	Virtual conventional plan	t value	P value
HI	0.085±0.022	0.158±0.054	-4.260	0.004
CI	0.685±0.044	0.616±0.048	4.814	0.002

HI: Homogeneity index; CI: Conformal index

表4 初始计划与自适应计划靶区HI和CI统计

Tab.4 HI and CI of original plan and adaptive plan

Parameter	Original plan	Adaptive plan	t value	P value
HI	0.085±0.022	0.087±0.034	-0.181	0.862
CI	0.685±0.044	0.716±0.073	-2.387	0.048

在参考CT上进行剂量累积^[20]。

头颈部肿瘤放疗期间患者解剖结构的变化,包括肿瘤靶区、危及器官体积及相对位置的改变都会影响患者实际受照剂量。本研究中患者治疗结束时PTV平均退缩14.92%,与文献[12, 21]报道结果相近。由形变配准在初始CT上叠加得到的虚拟常规放疗总剂量,相比初始计划,PTV D₉₅、D_{mean}、D₂、D₉₈等参数偏差较大,HI和CI均明显降低,且均有显著统计学意义。Beltran等^[22]在16例头颈部肿瘤患者放疗第15次和第25次时重新扫描CT图像,以初始计划的目标函数重新制定计划并分别与初始计划做比较,发现在放疗第15次时GTV的D₉₅和D₉₉已出现明显下降。张勇乾等^[12]比较了12例HT治疗的头颈部肿瘤患者实际照射剂量与计划照射剂量,发现相对于初始计划,实际受照中PTV的D₅₀、D₉₅、D₉₈、D₁₀₀分别降低了0.8%、1.9%、3.9%、13.5%,且具有统计学差异,以上研究结果与本文一致。而由形变配准得到的自适应计划累计总剂量相比于初始计划,以上参数均无统计学意义,自适应方案达到初始计划剂量预期。危及器官中体积变化最为明显的是左右腮腺,8例病人平均出现20%以上的体积退缩,自适应计划左右腮腺平均剂量较常规虚拟计划减少1.8 Gy和3.0 Gy。Castelli等^[13]比较16例头颈部肿瘤初始计划、实际照射计划、每周自适应计划两套方案,指出实际受照计划腮腺平均剂量比初始计划高3.7 Gy,而每周自适应计划较实际受照计划可减少腮腺平均剂量5.1 Gy。本研究结果的腮腺减少剂量略小于上述研究。

头颈部肿瘤自适应放疗方案具有显著的剂量学优势,采用自适应放疗方案可使得靶区受照剂量和初始计划剂量保持一致,提高靶区剂量均匀性和适形性,同时由于能针对患者解剖结构的实际变化进行调整,降低危及器官的实际受照剂量。利用图像的形变配准技术,可以对自适应放疗中的治疗计划进行剂量的累积,对自适应放疗期间分次及累积剂量进行追踪评估,真正体现自适应放疗的优势。

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