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【综述】

田鼠巴贝虫病诊断方法的研究进展

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【提要】 田鼠巴贝虫病是一种与疟疾相似的人兽共患血液寄生虫病, 主要分布于美国、欧洲和亚洲等国家和地区。田鼠巴贝虫病的诊断方法种类繁多, 但目前大多仍处于初期探索阶段。本文对现有的人感染田鼠巴贝虫病的主要诊断方法和存在的问题作一简要综述。

【关键词】 田鼠巴贝虫; 诊断

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Research Progress on Diagnostic Methods for *Babesia microti* Infection

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【Abstract】 Human babesiosis, a malaria-like zoonosis transmitted by the tick, is mainly distributed in Europe, USA and some Asian countries. There are various kinds of diagnostic methods for babesiosis caused by *Babesia microti*, but many of them are still in the preliminary stage. This article reviews the main diagnostic techniques and the existing problems.

【Key words】 *Babesia microti*; Diagnosis

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巴贝虫病曾一直被认为是一种仅感染牛和马等牲畜的疾病。从 1957 年第一例人巴贝虫病被报道后^[1], 更多的病例在欧洲^[2], 美国^[3], 以及亚洲^[4]等地被报导。巴贝虫病因被确认为一种人兽共患寄生虫病而受到国内外研究者越来越多的关注。其病原体巴贝虫 (*Babesia*) 是以硬蜱为媒介的原虫, 是除锥虫外最常见的寄生于哺乳动物的血液传播寄生虫。从野生动物和家畜分离的巴贝虫有 100 余种, 但只有少数几种可以感染人类^[5,6]。目前已经鉴定发现 7 种区别明显的可感染人的巴贝虫, 即田鼠巴贝虫 (*B. microti*)、分歧巴贝虫 (*B. divergens*)、牛巴贝虫 (*B. bovis*)、犬巴贝虫 (*B. canis*)、邓氏巴贝虫 (*B. duncani*)、维氏巴贝虫 (*B. venatorum*), 以及一种新的巴贝虫, 类似于绵

羊巴贝虫 (*Ovine babesias*), 暂命名为 KO1^[7-10]。在美国, 绝大多数的人巴贝虫病是由田鼠巴贝虫感染引起的^[11,12], 而在欧洲, 大部分病例是由分歧巴贝虫引起的^[2]。在中国, 新近针对田鼠巴贝虫的巴贝虫自然疫源地流行病学调查研究表明, 该虫广泛存在于多个省市蜱媒与保虫宿主体内。在南方重点调查省(市)的蜱媒和野生鼠类中, 田鼠巴贝虫感染率分别达 3.22% 和 3.25%^[13], 并已有人感染病例报道^[14]。由于机体免疫力、感染虫种不同, 人感染巴贝虫后的临床表现程度也不同, 有无症状、中度的感冒样症状和贫血、器官衰竭甚至死亡^[15,16]。尤其在免疫功能不全的人群中 (如脾切除者和艾滋病患者), 疾病症状更严重^[17,18]。近年来, 世界各地报道的巴贝虫病例持续增多, 迫切需要可靠、迅速的诊断方法。本文就田鼠巴贝虫病诊断方法的进展和存在问题作简要综述。

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1 显微镜观察

油镜下观察患者外周血吉氏或瑞氏染色的薄涂

片,可见田鼠巴贝虫的滋养体在红细胞中呈深色的环状体,直径约 1~3 μm ,并有浅蓝色的细胞质。环状体可为圆形、卵形、梨形或者变形虫样^[19]。有时还可见四联的裂殖子(又叫马尔他十字)^[20]。田鼠巴贝虫的环状体与恶性疟原虫的非常相似,可根据患者是否去过巴贝虫病流行区,结合镜下形态学观察来鉴别诊断。田鼠巴贝虫无配子体和疟色素,但此区别不是绝对的,因为疟原虫初期的滋养体也没有疟色素^[21]。田鼠巴贝虫引起的寄生虫血症一般为 1%~10%,在脾切除患者中可高达 80%^[22]。在疾病早期,寄生虫血症密度常在 1%以下,所以至少需观察 300 个视野来确定结果。这种方法由熟练的技术员操作,诊断敏感性可达 $10^5\sim 10^6$ (即 $10^5\sim 10^6$ 个红细胞中可找到 1 个虫体)^[23]。

2 血沉棕黄层定量分析法 (Quantitative Buffy Coat system)^[24]

该系统最初被用来检测疟原虫的感染。其工作原理是感染原虫的红细胞比正常红细胞轻,而比白细胞略重,离心分层后集中分布于红细胞和血沉棕黄层之间,再用荧光观察。该法的敏感性和特异性至少与吉氏染色血涂片方法相同,但不能区分巴贝虫与疟原虫的滋养体,且该系统的设备耗材昂贵,操作耗时费力,故未得到推广使用。

3 动物接种

由于人感染巴贝虫产生的寄生虫血症密度常低于 1%,经治疗后的患者可能更低,所以镜下很难观察到病原体。此时可取患者全血经腹腔接种仓鼠(仓鼠是田鼠巴贝虫的敏感宿主),接种后连续 6 周监测外周血涂片,约在第 2~4 周出现病原体^[25]。动物接种方法敏感性较高,大约 1ml 血中可查到 300 个病原体^[26],但此法耗时、昂贵,比较适合用于回顾性诊断和辅助性诊断,如治疗后复查、长期隐性感染等的诊断。

4 核酸分子技术

症状轻微的亚临床感染者由于虫血密度极低,而在镜下很难观察到病原体,以及溶血和治疗所导致虫体破碎、变形而难以辨认。对于此类病例的诊断和监控,则需敏感性更高、不依赖虫体形态观察的技术,核酸分子技术为此类病例的快速诊断提供了可能。

4.1 田鼠巴贝虫 ss-rDNA 扩增产物的序列分析 用 ss-rDNA 通用引物扩增纯化田鼠巴贝虫 DNA,可得到一条长度 589 bp 的片段,其中 514 bp 是田鼠巴贝虫特异的序列信息^[27]。在制备田鼠巴贝虫 DNA 样品时,

宿主细胞 DNA 污染不可避免,所以该法的关键之处在于田鼠巴贝虫的该段序列与其他红细胞内寄生虫及宿主的同源性很低。如与恶性疟原虫序列的同源性为 75%,与人血和鼠血的同源性分别为 75%和 74%^[28]。对扩增得到的片段进行序列分析,可确认是否为田鼠巴贝虫。

4.2 巢式 PCR 技术^[28] 用田鼠巴贝虫的特异引物 Bab1 和 Bab4 对其 DNA 进行扩增,可得到一段 238 bp 的产物,即可作为阳性标志。对上述扩增产物用巢式引物 Bab2 和 Bab3 进行重复扩增,可得到一条长 154 bp 具有发光特性的片段。要观察到该片段的化学发光现象则需一种增强化学发光基因检测系统设备(Amersham)。一般情况下,由于设备要求和操作复杂,不做最后一步发光检测。扩增得到的两个片段可通过测序进行确认。

4.3 实时定量 PCR^[29,30] 田鼠巴贝虫的实时定量 PCR 检测方法是在传统 PCR 基础上发展起来的一种更为敏感、特异和快速的检测方法。该法针对田鼠巴贝虫的 18S rRNA,可进行种内鉴定,也可与其他血液原虫和细菌进行鉴别诊断,特异性达到 100%。由于该法是定量分析,可根据检测结果生成虫血密度的变化曲线,这对于疗效考核非常有用,因为虫血密度有可能在短时间内快速升高。实时定量 PCR 的敏感性比吉氏染色高 20 倍,可很好的检测低密度虫血症者,还可用来筛选隐性感染的血液捐献者。

5 免疫学检测方法

近年来,田鼠巴贝虫的免疫学检测方法也有很大发展,主要包括间接免疫荧光抗体试验(IFAT)、蛋白质印迹分析(Western blotting)和 ELISA。

5.1 IFAT 用虫血密度达 40%以上的小鼠全血制备抗原片,将患者血清处理后按一定比例稀释,与抗原片反应,而后用荧光显微镜观察反应强度^[31]。IFAT 是目前惟一标准化的血清学检测方法。IgM 滴度 $>1:64$ 和 IgG 滴度 $>1:1024$ 提示活动期或新近感染。抗体滴度会在 6 个月内降至 $1:64$ 以下,但可能会持续存在数年。IFAT 的不足之处是可能与疟原虫发生交叉反应,但滴度一般在 $1:16$ 以下^[32]。

5.2 Western blotting 从感染小鼠全血中提取田鼠巴贝虫蛋白,电泳转印至硝酸纤维素膜上。将膜处理后切成条带状,分别与待测血清反应。从感染两周到 18 个月的患者血清都可以检测到抗体。Western blotting 的敏感性和特异性与 IFAT 相仿^[31],分别达 96%和 99%,但优点是试验过程简单快速,不需荧光显微镜设备和熟练技术人员,适合作为急性田鼠巴贝

虫感染的常规临床诊断方法。

5.3 ELISA 抗原的靶标蛋白, 如 BMN117 家族^[34]、BmHSP-70^[35]、BmSA1^[36]和 BmP94^[37]等。将这些重组抗原组合起来可能发展一种更加快速有效的田鼠巴贝虫 ELISA 诊断方法, 以取代现行的显微镜、PCR 和 IFAT 等诊断方法。

6 结语

巴贝虫病防控与监测工作中存在的高危地区快速评价、病例正确诊断和输血及血制品的安全等 3 大实际问题, 亟需敏感性与特异性较高的巴贝虫感染筛查技术。到目前为止, 吉氏染色镜检仍是田鼠巴贝虫病诊断的金标准, 但在低密度虫血症的情况下会出现假阴性; 动物接种的方法敏感性高, 但耗时、昂贵; PCR 技术具有很高的敏感性和特异性, 但对实验室设备技术要求较高; IFAT 作为目前惟一标准化的田鼠巴贝虫检测方法, 由于其特殊设备和操作过程而限制了应用。另外, 近年来由于输血而引起感染的病例持续增多^[38]。接受输血的人群多数身体虚弱、免疫力低下, 如果接受了隐性感染者的血液, 或将出现严重后果, 甚至死亡。检测隐性感染人群可进行早期治疗, 避免持久的寄生虫血症, 也可以从血库中排除已被污染的血液。所以, 一种更加敏感、特异, 并且可进行大样本快速检测的诊断技术对于人田鼠巴贝虫病的控制和消除是十分必要的, 而利用重组抗原的 ELISA 检测技术可解决这一问题^[39]。因此, 发掘潜在的、免疫原性好的特异田鼠巴贝虫重组抗原将是这一研究的重要方向。

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