

增生疗法联合经颅直流电刺激治疗膝骨性关节炎疼痛的临床疗效观察

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【摘要】 目的:观察增生疗法联合经颅直流电刺激治疗膝骨性关节炎疼痛的效果并探讨其作用机制。**方法:**选取膝骨性关节炎患者42例作为研究对象,随机分成观察组和对照组各21例。2组各有1例脱落,最终各20例完成研究。2组均给予增生治疗,即20%高渗葡萄糖8ml关节内注射,每周1次,共3次。观察组再给以电流强度为2mA的经颅直流电刺激治疗,每天1次,每次20min,持续2周;对照组也给予电刺激治疗。但每次仅在治疗开始和结束时各提供15s的2mA电流刺激以模拟真刺激的体感知觉,其余时间无电流刺激,每天1次,每次20min,持续2周。分别于治疗前、第1次增生治疗后2、4、6周,采用视觉模拟评分(VAS)、西安大略和麦克马斯特大学骨关节炎指数(WOMAC)、压痛阈(PPT)和条件性疼痛调制(CPM)对患者的膝关节功能活动及疼痛情况进行评估。**结果:**治疗前,2组患者的VAS、WOMAC、PPT及CPM比较均无统计学差异。在第1次增生治疗后的2、4、6周,观察组患者的VAS评分较同时点对照组降低,CPM较同时点对照组升高(均 $P<0.05$);2组患者的VAS、WOMAC均较治疗前降低(均 $P<0.05$),PPT均较治疗前升高(均 $P<0.05$),观察组患者的CPM较治疗前升高($P<0.05$)。**结论:**增生疗法联合tDCS的镇痛疗效优于单纯的增生疗法,既可以解决由于组织结构病变而引发的疼痛,又可以解决由于神经异常可塑导致的疼痛。

【关键词】 膝骨性关节炎;增生疗法;高渗葡萄糖;经颅直流电刺激;神经异常可塑;超声引导

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Clinical observation of prolotherapy combined with transcranial direct current stimulation in the treatment of knee osteoarthritis pain Li Juan, Xue Junqiang, Teng Zhaowei, et al. Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao 266000, China

【Abstract】 Objective: To observe the effect of prolotherapy combined with transcranial direct current stimulation in the treatment of knee osteoarthritis pain and explore its mechanism. **Methods:** Totally, 40 patients with knee osteoarthritis were selected according to the inclusion criteria. According to the different treatment methods, 40 patients were randomized to prolotherapy + active tDCS group and prolotherapy + sham tDCS group, 20 patients in each group. Both groups were given injection of 8 mL of 20% dextrose, once a week for a total of 3 times. At the same time, the prolotherapy + active tDCS group was subjected to a constant current intensity of 2 mA for 20 min once a day for 2 weeks. For the prolotherapy + sham tDCS, the electrodes were placed in the identical positions as for active tDCS, but included only 15-s of 2 mA of stimulation at the beginning and the end to mimic somatosensory perception of active tDCS. The outcome measures included the Visual Analog Scale (VAS), Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), pressure pain threshold (PPT) and conditioned pain modulation (CPM) which were obtained from patients before the first injection at the base line and 2, 4, 6 weeks after the first injection. **Results:** In the prolotherapy + active tDCS group, scores of the VAS and WOMAC were significantly reduced and PPT and CPM increased at 2, 4, 6 weeks after the first injection ($P<0.05$). In the prolotherapy + sham tDCS group, scores of the VAS and WOMAC were significantly reduced and PPT increased at 2, 4, 6 weeks after the first injection ($P<0.05$). The CPM in the prolotherapy + sham tDCS group had no significant change at different time points after injection ($P>0.05$). The VAS score in the prolotherapy + active tDCS group was significantly lower than that in the control group at 2, 4 and 6 weeks after the first injection. There was no significant difference in WOMAC and PPT between the two groups. The CPM in the prolotherapy + active tDCS group was significantly higher than that in the control group at 2, 4 and 6 weeks after the first injection. **Conclusion:** Prolotherapy combined with tDCS has a higher magnitude of effect than prolotherapy alone. The combined therapy can not only solve the pain caused by tissue structural lesions, but also solve the pain caused by neuroplastic changes.

【Key words】 Knee osteoarthritis; Prolotherapy; Dextrose; Transcranial direct current stimulation; Neuroplastic changes; Ultrasound guidance

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骨性关节炎(osteoarthritis, OA)是一种退行性关节疾病,主要累及人体承重关节及周围组织^[1-2],膝关节是OA最常见的发病部位。膝骨性关节炎(knee osteoarthritis, KOA)是由多因素导致的退行性疾病,以软骨退变、关节间隙变窄、骨质增生等为典型病理特征,疼痛是其最主要的临床症状,也是患者就诊的主要原因。KOA的传统药物治疗常引发消化道症状、心血管事件等不良反应,而且疗效会随着时间的推移而降低^[3-4]。近年来,增生疗法被应用于治疗KOA疼痛^[5]。它通过向韧带或肌腱与骨之间的结缔组织或关节间隙内注射少量的刺激性溶液,促进软骨、韧带等组织的修复来减轻疼痛。研究发现,因增生疗法能够触发组织愈合,促进退行性组织中新生胶原沉积和重塑^[6],在缓解KOA疼痛方面比运动疗法和关节内注射利多卡因具有更好的效果^[7]。有研究发现,KOA疼痛的严重程度与放射学所显示的结构损伤改变不一致^[8],认为KOA疼痛不仅是外周组织结构病理改变的结果,还涉及中枢和外周神经系统敏化以及下行疼痛抑制减弱等^[9-10]。经颅直流电刺激(transcranial direct current stimulation, tDCS)由于其神经调节作用,在治疗慢性疼痛方面受到广泛关注^[11-12]。tDCS是以无创、无痛的方式向头部施加微弱的直流电,在一定程度上调节皮层和皮层下区域的疼痛处理通路来缓解疼痛^[13-15]。本研究将增生疗法与tDCS联合治疗KOA疼痛,旨在探讨其联合疗效及可能的作用机制。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料 选取2022年1月~2022年4月在青岛大学附属医院就诊的KOA患者42例。纳入标准:根据美国风湿病学会和欧洲抗风湿联盟制定的KOA诊断标准^[16],满足下列诊断标准的A,同时满足B、C、D、E中的任意2条,即可诊断为KOA:A:近1个月内反复膝关节疼痛;B:X线片(站立或负重位)示关节间隙变窄、软骨下硬化或囊性变、关节缘骨赘形成;C:年龄 ≥ 48 岁;D:晨僵 ≤ 30 min;E:活动时骨摩擦音;自愿接受关节内注射和tDCS治疗;若患者双侧膝关节均诊断为KOA,则根据患者双膝关节的疼痛视觉模拟评分(visual analogue scale, VAS)选取疼痛症状较重一侧膝关节纳入研究。排除标准:病变膝关节合并有局部皮肤感染、关节肿瘤或结核者;既往膝关节手术史或近3个月内接受过膝关节内或周围注射治疗者;严重的基础疾病患者(如控制不佳的高血压、糖尿病等)、凝血功能障碍患者;脑外科手术、脑瘤、癫痫、中风或颅内金属植入史者;合并认知障碍及精神障碍,不能配合治疗及随访者。本研究通过了青岛大学附属医

院医学伦理委员会的审核批准(批件号:QYFYWZLL26765)。采用随机数字表法分为观察组和对照组各21例,观察组1名患者在实验过程中因高血压未规律服用降压药物,收缩压持续高于200mmHG退出研究;对照组1名患者因突发消化道疾病中途退出。最终2组各20人完成了全程的治疗以及后续的随访评估。2组患者的年龄、性别、病程、体重指数(body mass index, BMI)等一般资料比较,差异均无统计学意义,具有可比性。见表1。

表1 2组患者一般资料比较

组别	n	年龄 (岁, $\bar{x} \pm s$)	性别(例)		病程 (年, $\bar{x} \pm s$)	BMI (kg/m ² , $\bar{x} \pm s$)
			女	男		
观察组	20	67.25 $\pm$ 6.86	13	7	7.58 $\pm$ 5.83	26.90 $\pm$ 3.22
对照组	20	63.75 $\pm$ 7.83	14	6	6.05 $\pm$ 3.97	27.14 $\pm$ 2.82

1.2 方法 ①2组患者均接受增生疗法:患者取仰卧位,膝关节屈曲10~15°,在彩色超声系统引导下通过平面上途径将针定位到患膝髌上囊,向髌上囊中注射8ml20%的高渗葡萄糖^[17],该注射过程要求在无菌条件下进行,每周1次,共注射3次。嘱患者在注射后48h内避免服用非甾体抗炎药。②观察组给予tDCS治疗:使用一对直径4cm、厚约0.3cm的圆形海绵电极,阳极电极置于患者患膝对侧的大脑初级运动皮层M1区,阴极电极置于患膝同侧的眶上区SO区,以2mA的恒定电流强度刺激,每天1次,每次20min,持续2周。该刺激参数和持续时间选择是基于循证指南和此前的研究选择的^[18-20]。③对照组给予假tDCS治疗,即电极被放置在相同的位置,但每次仅在治疗开始和结束时各提供15s的2mA电流刺激以模拟真刺激的体感知觉,其余时间无电流刺激,每天1次,每次20min,持续2周。为了保持实验的一致性,所有tDCS治疗均由同一位具备资质、经过培训的操作者实施。其中操作者知晓每个人的刺激条件,而两组患者对其所接受的刺激条件均不知情。2组患者在研究期间均不接受其他康复治疗手段,如物理因子及运动疗法等。

1.3 评定标准 ①疼痛视觉模拟评分(Visual analogue scale, VAS)^[21]:评估患者的疼痛程度,范围从0分(没有疼痛)~10分(可以想象到的最严重的疼痛)进行评定。②西安大略和麦克马斯特大学骨关节炎指数(Western Ontario and McMaster University osteoarthritis index, WOMAC)^[22]:评估患者身体机能,包括三个维度:疼痛5项、僵硬2项和身体机能17项。每项内容使用VAS评分,评分范围0~10分,总分合计0~240分,得分越高,表明患者临床症状越重、身体机能越差。③压痛阈(pressure pain threshold, PPT):对患者的疼痛感进行定量评估,用手持数字压力测痛仪对膝关节施加钝性机械压力,患者在感觉由

深压觉转变为轻微疼痛的时刻及时告知操作者,以此测量此时患侧膝关节髌骨中心和患侧的远端桡尺关节的压力值。条件性疼痛调节(conditioned pain modulation, CPM);其机理是一种疼痛刺激可以被身体另一部位的疼痛刺激所抑制,是机体下行性疼痛抑制通路的一种表现形式^[23],常被用来评估机体的下行疼痛抑制通路的功能。CPM通过检测身体一个区域施加测试刺激(test stimulus, TS)后因身体另一区域受到条件性刺激(conditioning stimulus, CS)所引起的疼痛变化。具体步骤为:分别测定患者患侧膝关节髌骨中心和患侧远端桡尺关节的压痛阈,测量3次,取平均值记为PPT1,将血压袖带施加于患膝对侧的上臂,并将袖带充气至恒定的压力(约250 mmHg)后静止,直到患者报告上臂出现约4/10分的疼痛强度,然后再次分别测定上述两位点的压痛阈,同样测量3次,取平均值记为PPT2,计算出两位点的CPM=PPT2-PPT1。按照欧洲联盟疼痛协会的建议,CPM计算为正值表示下行性疼痛抑制被激活;CPM为负值表示下行性疼痛抑制减弱^[24]。PPT和CPM都是反映中枢性疼痛的可靠指标,简单易行。以上测评均在治疗开始前、第1次增生治疗后2、4、6周即第14、28及42天进行。

1.4 统计学方法 应用SPSS 26.0统计软件进行分析。符合正态分布的计量资料采用 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,采用 t 检验;计数资料用例表示,采用 χ^2 检验;组间比较采用双因素重复测量方差分析。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异具有统计学意义。

2 结果

治疗前,2组患者的VAS、WOMAC、PPT及CPM比较均无统计学差异。在治疗的第14、28、42天,观察组患者的VAS评分较同时间点对照组降低($P < 0.05$),CPM较同时间点对照组升高($P < 0.05$);2组患者的VAS、WOMAC均较治疗前降低(均 $P < 0.05$),PPT均较治疗前升高($P < 0.05$),观察组患者的CPM较治

疗前升高($P < 0.05$)。见表2。

3 讨论

近年来研究发现,与利多卡因及透明质酸等传统关节注射治疗对比,增生疗法具有更好的镇痛疗效^[25-26]。Hung^[7]的Meta分析也提示高渗葡萄糖注射治疗可减轻手指关节和膝关节关节炎患者的疼痛,并且发现高渗葡萄糖治疗比运动疗法、局部麻药注射有更好的治疗效果。高渗葡萄糖因安全、有效且廉价,成为增生疗法最常用的药物。本研究采取超声引导下的注射治疗,利用超声可视化的优点,实现精准定位注射,从而避免盲法注射引起的穿刺相关并发症^[27]。在注射及随访过程中,我们的所有患者均未发生因注射引起的不良反应。因为增生疗法具有促进组织修复和生长的作用,也被称之为再生疗法。研究认为,高渗葡萄糖会在脆弱的韧带或肌腱区域引发炎症和细胞渗透压变化,并在该区域诱导释放细胞因子和生长因子从而诱导新的愈合级联反应,激活成纤维细胞,生成胶原前体,加强结缔组织^[28-29]。Topol等^[30]对KOA患者进行了关节内高渗葡萄糖的注射治疗,通过对其软骨活检样本进行组织免疫学染色发现了新生软骨成分,进一步证实高渗葡萄糖具有软骨再生效应。

在本研究中,在治疗的第14、28、42天,2组患者的VAS、WOMAC均较治疗前降低,观察组患者的VAS评分较同时间点对照组降低,显示增生疗法联合tDCS治疗可有效降低KOA患者疼痛,减轻症状,提升身体机能。同时,2组患者的PPT均较治疗前升高,观察组的CPM较同时间点对照组升高,提示外周和中枢的敏化。CPM是定量感觉测评的一种工具,它通过“以痛抑痛”的原理测量下行疼痛抑制通路的功能,反映中枢神经系统对疼痛信号处理的变化。与其他慢性疼痛综合征相似,外周组织结构的损伤不再是KOA疼痛的唯一驱动因素,外周神经和中枢神经系统的生理学改变都与KOA疼痛相关^[9,31]。在外周水平,

表2 2组患者不同时间点各项指标比较 $\bar{x} \pm s$

组别	时间	VAS(分)	WOMAC(分)	PPT(kg/cm ²)		CPM(kg/cm ²)	
				髌骨中心	桡尺关节	髌骨中心	桡尺关节
观察组 (n=20)	治疗前	6.50±1.24	66.80±16.75	3.31±0.52	2.66±0.46	-0.16±0.35	-0.22±0.23
	治疗第14天	4.10±1.02 ^{ab}	52.25±14.86 ^a	3.77±0.49 ^a	3.12±0.48 ^a	0.34±0.22 ^{ab}	0.17±0.21 ^{ab}
	治疗第28天	3.20±0.95 ^{ab}	40.05±10.64 ^a	4.17±0.55 ^a	3.42±0.40 ^a	0.47±0.27 ^{ab}	0.39±0.24 ^{ab}
	治疗第42天	2.55±0.95 ^{ab}	32.65±11.04 ^a	4.90±0.52 ^a	4.02±0.65 ^a	0.65±0.36 ^{ab}	0.65±0.30 ^{ab}
对照组 (n=20)	治疗前	6.45±1.47	69.35±28.91	3.22±0.45	2.66±0.43	-0.14±0.46	-0.15±0.41
	治疗第14天	5.05±1.36 ^a	56.95±24.48 ^a	3.71±0.48 ^a	3.05±0.33 ^a	0.05±0.48	-0.06±0.42
	治疗第28天	4.10±1.33 ^a	50.25±21.11 ^a	4.02±0.55 ^a	3.40±0.30 ^a	0.10±0.52	-0.03±0.41
	治疗第42天	3.65±1.57 ^a	42.70±19.59 ^a	4.60±0.58 ^a	3.84±0.47 ^a	0.13±0.57	0.00±0.45

与治疗前比较,^a $P < 0.05$;与同时间点对照组比较,^b $P < 0.05$

外周伤害感受器对肌肉骨骼受到的伤害性刺激的反应增强,低强度的阈下刺激即可产生疼痛信号并传导到中枢神经系统,这一过程称为外周敏化;膝关节结构变化带来的持续性伤害性输入可以增加中枢疼痛通路中突触的兴奋性,并导致中枢敏化,增强了脊髓疼痛信号的放大,减弱了机体下行性疼痛抑制能力^[32-33]。本研究显示增生疗法联合 tDCS 疗法能调控下行疼痛抑制通路,调节异常的中枢和外周敏化。

tDCS 作为一种无创的脑功能调节技术,在治疗慢性疼痛中展示出极具潜力的价值^[34]。tDCS 能够激活下行疼痛抑制通路^[35-36]。Pagano^[37]在对幼年大鼠的运动皮质进行电刺激治疗发现,刺激小鼠的运动皮质可以降低 γ -氨基丁酸 (gamma aminobutyric acid, GABA) 能中间神经元对中脑导水管周围灰质投射神经元的抑制作用,从而激活延髓头端腹内侧核下行疼痛抑制系统,抑制脊髓伤害性感受的传入。我们的研究结果进一步验证了 tDCS 是通过激活人体的下行性疼痛抑制通路,提高自身的疼痛抑制能力达到镇痛的作用。值得一提的是,本研究所有受试者均未出现认知功能损害或诱发癫痫等不良反应,少部分患者在刺激过程中,头皮会伴有轻微刺痛、刺痒或头晕的感觉,这些反应会在直流电刺激结束后几小时内消失,没有引发任何远期副作用,具有较高的安全性。

综上所述,在 KOA 的疼痛治疗中采用增生疗法联合 tDCS 可以有效缓解 KOA 的疼痛,改善膝关节功能,其疗效优于单纯的增生疗法,可以成为临床治疗 KOA 的一种安全、有效的方法。但我们的研究缺乏更为直接的探测治疗前后脑功能变化的指标,如脑功能成像及神经电生理学等手段,未来我们还需要进行大样本、多中心、多指标以及长时间随访的随机对照试验深入研究,进一步完善相关的机制探讨,更好地应用于 KOA 患者的治疗。

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