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SCC-Ag 在宫颈鳞癌病例中诊断淋巴结转移效能的 Meta 分析

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Diagnostic Value of Serum Squamous Cell Carcinoma Antigen on Lymphatic Metastasis in Cervical Cancer:a Meta analysis

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Abstract: Objective To establish the overall diagnostic accuracy of the measurements of serum squamous cell carcinoma antigen (SCC-Ag) for lymph node metastasis (LNM) in squamous cell cervical cancer. **Methods** After a systematic review of current studies, we pooled the sensitivity, specificity of serum SCC-Ag in diagnosis LNM cases from cervical cancer patient using random effects models. Qualified studies were retrieved from The Cochrane Library, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Pubmed, Embase, CNKI, WanFang, and CBM database. Two reviewers independently assessed the methodological quality of each study with the tool of QUADAS. We drew the Summary Receiver Operating Characteristic (SROC) curve, funnel figure of the included studies and made Meta-analyses using Meta-Disc 1.4 and Stata 11.0 software. **Results** Ten studies met the inclusion criteria for the analysis. After testing the heterogeneity of the included studies, a random effect model was selected to calculate the pool weighted sensitivity and specificity with 95% confidence interval; the sensitivity was 60% [95% CI (0.54~0.65)], the specificity was 76% [95% CI (0.73~0.78)], the DOR was 5.38 [95% CI (3.27~8.87)], and the AUC of SROC was 0.7126 (unsatisfied). The sources of heterogeneity maybe according to the cutoff. **Conclusion** SCC-Ag has certain diagnosis value in LNM cases, but it is not a perfect index to identify LNM cases from cervical cancer patients.

Key words: Squamous cell carcinoma antigen; Cervical cancer; Lymphatic metastasis; Diagnosis; Meta analysis

摘要:目的 系统评价鳞状细胞癌相关抗原(Squamous Cell Carcinoma antigen, SCC-Ag)在宫颈鳞癌患者中诊断淋巴结转移的诊断效能。**方法** 研究者检索 PubMed、Embase、Cochrane Library 及中国期刊网、万方数据库、中国生物医学网,收集当前有关宫颈癌 SCC-Ag 的所有中英文文献,并根据 QUADAS(Quality Assessment of Diagnostic Accuracy Studies)质量评价标准评价纳入文献的质量。用 Meta-Disc1.4、Stata11.0 软件对纳入研究进行异质性检验,合并敏感度、特异性等指标,绘制 SROC 曲线、漏斗图。**结果** 共纳入 10 篇符合纳入标准的文献。经随机效应模型分析,SCC-Ag 对宫颈癌淋巴结转移的诊断指标合并值分别为:合并敏感度 60% [95% CI (0.54~0.65)],合并特异性 76% [95% CI (0.73~0.78)],合并诊断比值比 5.38 [95% CI (3.27~8.87)],SROC 曲线下面积(AUC)0.7126(欠满意)。诊断界值的选择可能是纳入文献异质性的主要原因。**结论** 纳入文献质量较好,SCC-Ag 对宫颈鳞癌淋巴结转移虽然有一定的诊断价值,但仍不是一个理想的诊断指标。

关键词: 鳞状细胞癌相关抗原;宫颈癌;淋巴结转移;诊断;Meta 分析

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0 引言

宫颈癌是最常见的妇科恶性肿瘤,病理类型以鳞癌为主^[1]。宫颈鳞癌患者是否存在淋巴结转移是判断预后的重要因素,也是临床决策的重要依据^[2]。目前诊断宫颈癌淋巴结转移主要依靠手术病理或 CT 等影像学检查,尚缺乏特异性较高的血清肿瘤标志物。

鳞状细胞癌抗原(squamous cell carcinoma antigen, SCC-Ag)作为一种血清肿瘤标志物,与宫颈鳞癌的生物行为密切相关。SCC-Ag 由正常鳞状细胞产生的,鳞癌组织的快速生长使得 SCC-Ag 大量分泌并扩散入血^[3],血 SCC-Ag 检测可以在一定程度上判断患者淋巴结转移情况,监测患者的病情、判断预后。本研究旨在收集国内外所有中英文文献,汇总分析 SCC-Ag 在宫颈鳞癌患者中诊断淋巴结转移的临床价值。

1 资料与方法

1.1 纳入与排除标准

纳入符合下列条件的研究:(1)选择治疗人群为宫颈鳞癌患者的文献;(2)病例组为经手术病理证实的宫颈癌伴淋巴结转移病例;(3)对照组为经手术病理证实的宫颈癌不伴淋巴结转移的病例;(4)试剂来源和试验方法明确;(5)研究结果中含有或通过计算可得四格表数据;(6)中文或英文文献;(7)研究病例例数≥10 例。排除标准:(1)病例、对照组中包含有非鳞癌病例或未报道宫颈肿瘤病理类型的文献;(2)无法计算出四格表数据,或数据前后明显矛盾的文献;(3)研究、对照组中手术病理结果不全;(4)不符合纳入标准的文献。

1.2 文献检索

由两位研究者独立检索文献,检索时间均从建库至 2011 年 8 月。计算机检索 PubMed、Embase、Cochrane Library、中国期刊全文数据库(CNKI)、万方数据库、中国生物医学文献数据库,同时追索纳入文献的参考文献,并手工检索北大核心期刊收录的 7 本妇产科杂志(中华妇产科杂志,中国实用妇科与产科杂志,实用妇科杂志,生殖与避孕,现代妇产科进展等)。英文检索词包括:Squamous cell carcinoma antigen、SCC-Ag、SCCA、SCC-antigen、cervix、cervical、cancer、tumor、carcinoma、neoplasm、LNM、ALNM、lymph node metastasis、Lymphatic metastasis、node metastasis;中文检索词包括:鳞状细胞癌抗原、鳞癌抗原、宫颈癌、淋巴结转移、淋巴转移。

1.3 文献筛选

两位研究者对各个数据库所检索的文献按纳入标准进行筛选,首先从题目排除无关文献及无摘要文献,再排除无参考标准的文献,最后排除无敏感度、特异性等准确性指标的文献,经过该流程最后获得符合纳入、排除标准的文献。

1.4 资料提取

由两位研究者按纳入排除标准独立筛选文献,并按照设计好的资料提取表分别提取资料,最后交

叉核对资料提取情况,如遇分歧,通过讨论协商解决。文献提取的内容包括:研究对象、研究地点、样本量、年龄、试剂来源、试验方法、临界值等,同时直接获取或计算四格表数据。

1.5 文献质量评价

两位研究者使用诊断性试验准确性质量评价工具 QUADAS(quality assessment of diagnostic accuracy studies) 14 个条目评价文献质量,从偏倚、变异、报告质量三方面对文献质量进行评价,找出各种偏倚、变异产生的原因。每一个条目以“是”、“否”、“不清楚”3 个判断标准进行计分及评价^[4]。

1.6 统计学方法

1.6.1 异质性检验 使用 Meta-Disc1.4 软件进行统计学处理。绘制 SROC 及森林图观察散点分布,采用 Spearman 相关分析检查有无阈值效应引起的异质性,对敏感度和特异性采用 χ^2 检验,对阳性似然比、阴性似然比及诊断比值比采用 Cochran-Q 检验,如存在异质性,则采用随机效应模型进行 Meta 分析,反之则采用固定效应模型进行 Meta 分析。I²评价异质性大小:I²≤25%时异质性较小,25%< I²<50%时异质性中等,I²≥50%异质性较大。

1.6.2 指标汇总 采用随机效应模型计算纳入研究的合并敏感度(SEN)、特异性(SPE)、阳性似然比(PLR)、阴性似然比(NLR)以及诊断性比值比(DOR)等指标。绘制综合受试者工作曲线(SROC),计算曲线下面积 AUC。检验水准为 $\alpha=0.05$ 。对 SROC 的分析用 Q 值表示,Q 值越大,表示诊断试验的准确率越高,AUC 越接近 1,说明诊断效果越好。

1.6.3 发表偏倚 根据样本数量绘制敏感度、特异性森林图,观察纳入文献散点分布是否对称如倒置漏斗,同时使用 Stata 11.0 软件绘制 Begg's 漏斗图并计算 P 值,P>0.05 不存在发表偏倚。

2 结果

2.1 纳入文献的特点及质量评价

初检文献 718 篇,排除综述和重复数据,阅读文题及摘要后初步纳入 33 篇。进一步阅读全文,排除未达到纳入标准的文献 23 篇,最终纳入文献 10 篇。合并统计 1313 例宫颈癌患者。纳入文献的基本信息见表 1,根据 QUADAS 评分标准对文献进行质量评价,见图 1。阅读文献前即根据 QUADAS 评分标准设计了针对本研究中的具体解释,见表 2。

表 1 10 篇纳入文献的基本信息

Table 1 The general characteristics of the 10 included studies

Num.	Author	Publish	Country/Area	Design	TP	FP	FN	TN	Cutoff	Blind	Reagent
1	Gao,et al ^[5]	2010	China	Review	17	9	10	74	4	Not clear	Abbott
2	van de Lande ,et al ^[6]	2009	Holland	Review	14	15	11	41	1.65	Not clear	Abbott
3	Xiong,et al ^[7]	2007	China	Review	17	36	10	51	1.5	Not clear	Abbott
4	Kim,et al ^[8]	2005	Korea	Review	12	45	7	40	2	Yes	Abbott
5	Takeda,et al ^[9]	2002	Japan	Review	22	33	6	42	2	Not clear	Dinabot
6	Lin,et al ^[10]	2000	Taiwan	Review	20	11	36	217	8	Not clear	Abbott
7	Gaarenstroom,et al ^[11]	2000	Holland	Review	11	21	4	27	1.5	Not clear	Abbott
8	Takeshima,et al ^[12]	1998	Japan	Review	13	7	9	106	4	Not clear	Dinabot
9	Bae,et al ^[13]	1997	Korea	Review	10	9	5	43	2	Not clear	Abbott
10	Duk,et al ^[14]	1996	Holland	Review	42	59	23	128	1.9	Not clear	Abbott

表 2 QUADAS 应用于本研究中的解释

Table 2 The explanation of QUADAS in this study

14 criterion of QUADAS	
1	Was the spectrum of patients representative of the patients who will receive the test in practice?
2	Were selection criteria clearly described?
3	Is the reference standard likely to correctly classify the target condition?
4	Is the time period between reference standard and index test short enough to be reasonably sure that the target condition did not change between the two tests? verification bias,work-up bias,selection bias,or sequential ordering bias)
5	Did the whole sample or a random selection of the sample, receive verification using a reference standard of diagnosis
6	Did patients receive the same reference standard regardless of the index test result
7	Was the reference standard independent of the index test (i. e. the index test did not form part of the reference standard
8	Was the execution of the index test described in sufficient detail to permit replication of the test?
9	Was the execution of the reference standard described in sufficient detail to permit its replication?
10	Were the index test results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the reference standard?
11	Were the reference standard results interpreted without knowledge of the results of the index test?
12	Were the same clinical data available when test results were interpreted as would be available when the test is used in practice?
13	Were uninterpretable/ intermediate test results reported?
14	Were withdrawals from the study explained?
QUADAS in this study	
1	Were the patients all cervical squamous cancer?
2	Were the patients all in early stage?
3	Were pathological diagnosis reference standards or not?
4	Have serum SCC test before primary treatment?
5	Have all the patients have lymph node pathological diagnosis
6	Was pathological diagnosis the only stand for lymph node metastasis?
7	Were SCC examination and imaging check independently?
8	Can SCC check be repeated?
9	The acquire of pathological diagnosis described clearly?
10	Reading the results of SCC in unaware of pathology results?
11	Reading the results of pathology in unaware of SCC results?
12	Were the clinical data credible?
13	Have reported all the results including the cases with difficult explain?
14	Have reported all the patients?

2.2 异质性检验

2.2.1 阈值效应 通过 Meta-disc 软件拟合 SROC 曲线,见各研究的精确估计量在曲线中的位置呈不典型的“肩臂”样分布,见图 2,计算敏感度对数与(1-特异性)对数的 Spearman 相关系数为 0.675, $P=0.032$,表明纳入研究存在阈值效应。

2.2.2 非阈值效应 通过绘制合并敏感度、特异性及诊断比数比森林图,见图 3~5,可见每个研究的精确估计值与合并值不呈同一直线分布,同时计算 Chi-square 或 Cochran-Q, P 值均小于 0.05,表明纳入研究存在非阈值效应,见图 2。

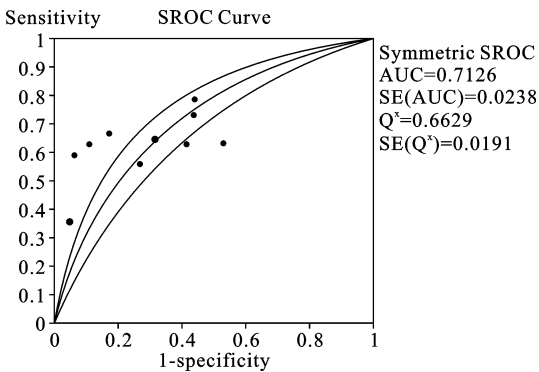


图 2 纳入文献的 SROC 曲线
Figure 2 The SROC curve of the 10 included study

2.3 合并统计量

纳入文献的合并敏感度、特异性、阳/阴性预测

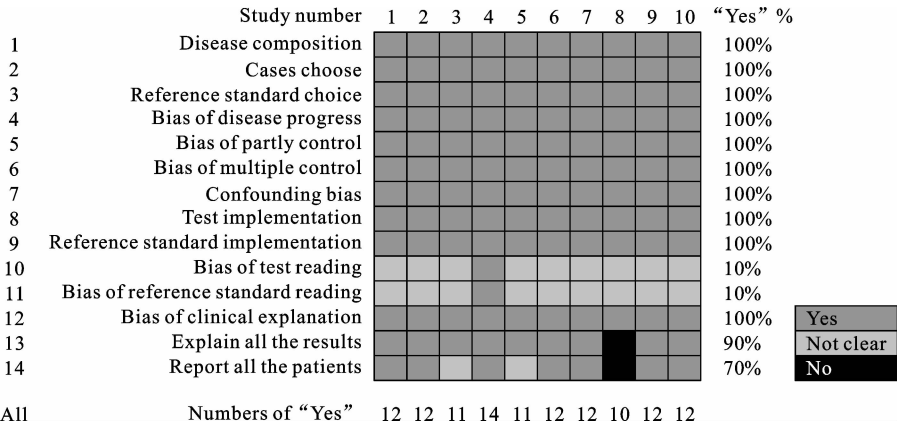


图 1 纳入文献的 QUADAS 评分情况
Figure 1 QUADAS of the 10 included studies

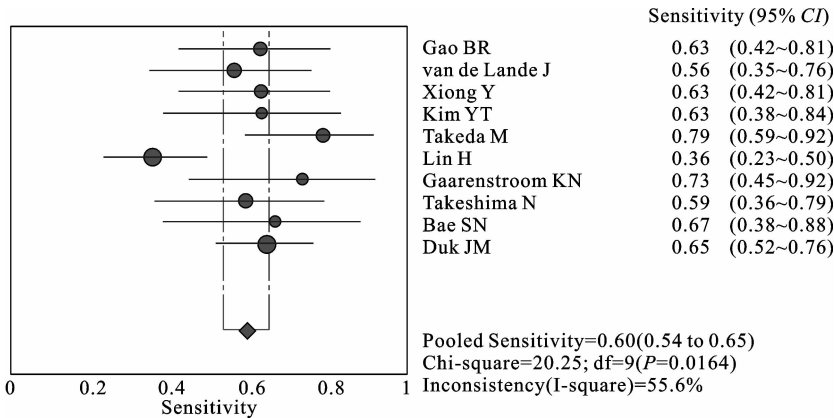


图 3 纳入文献的敏感度森林图
Figure 3 Pooled sensitivity of included 10 studies (forest plots)

值、诊断比数比见表 3,除阴性预测值的 P 值大于 0.05(同质性好),其余指标均小于 0.05(存在异质性)。同时,SROC 曲线下面积(AUC)0.7126, Q 值 0.6629,见图 3。

表 3 纳入文献的合并统计表
Table 3 Combined statistics of included 10 studies

	Merger value	df	95%CI	Chi-square	Cochran-Q	I ²	P
Sensitivity	0.6	9	0.54~0.65	20.25		55.6%	0.0164
Specificity	0.76	9	0.73~0.78	173.33		94.8%	0.0000
PPV	2.63	9	1.84~3.76		53.65	83.2%	0.0000
NPV	0.57	9	0.49~0.66		9.84	8.6%	0.3634
Diagnostic OR	5.38	9	3.27~8.87		23.93	62.4%	0.0044

2.4 异质性分析

根据临床需要及文献所能提供的分析资料,本研究设置了 cutoff(界值 >2 为 1 分, ≤ 2 为 0 分)、Abbott(雅培试剂 1 分,其他试剂 0 分)、blind(盲法设计 1 分,非盲法 0 分)、design(前瞻性研究 1 分,回顾性 0 分)、四个因子进行 Meta 逐步回归分析异质性来源,见表 4,依次去除对异质性影响最小的因子(P 值最大的)进行分析,结果表明各研究的异质性主要来自诊断界值的因素,界值 >2 的研究比界值 ≤ 2 的研究精确性高 3.17 倍(RDOR = 3.17),但这一判断缺乏统计学依据($P=0.1412$),见表 4。

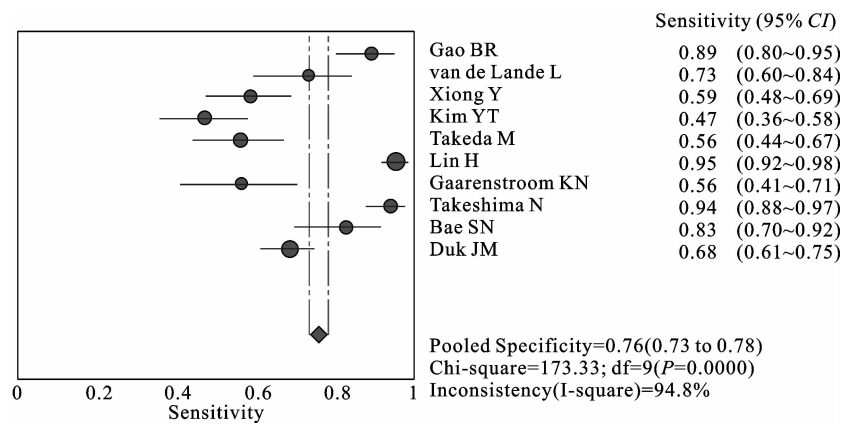


图 4 纳入文献的特异度森林图
Figure 4 Pooled specificity of included 10 studies (forest plots)

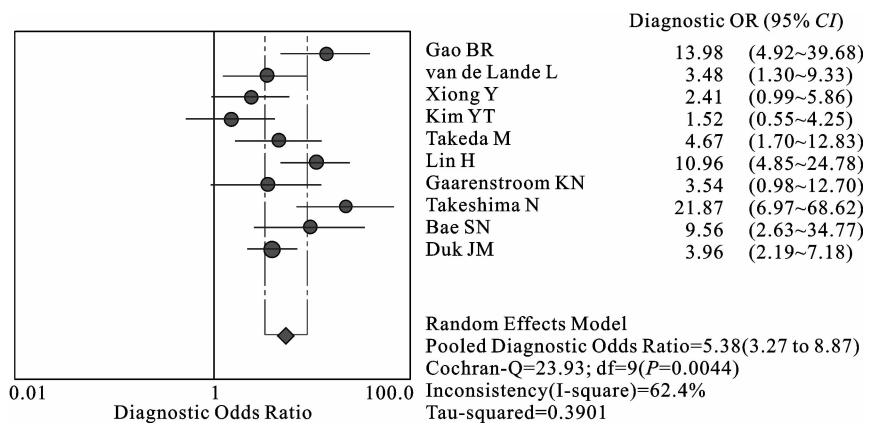


图 5 纳入文献的诊断比数比森林图
Figure 5 Pooled diagnostic OR of included 10 studies (forest plots)

2.5 亚组分析

根据临床需要和 Meta 回归分析结果,将纳入文献按界值分为>2 组和≤2 的两个亚组。界值>2 的亚组($n=3$),文献数目少不计算阈值效应;界值≤2 组($n=7$)计算阈值效应,敏感度对数与(1-特异性)对数的 Spearman 相关系数为 0.286, $P=0.535$,同质性好。两个亚组各个诊断指标合并值及其 P 值(代表异质性),见表 5。

表 5 诊断界值不同的两个亚组各诊断指标合并值表
Table 5 Diagnostic indices of each group in 2 different boundary value

	Cutoff>2($n=3$)	Cutoff≤2($n=7$)
Mergesensitivity	0.48*	0.66
P	0.0307*	0.7019
Merge specificity	0.94	0.63*
P	0.1895	0.0002*
Merge PPV	7.25	1.79
P	0.6481	0.0963
Merge NPV	0.52	0.55
P	0.0574	0.74
Merge DOR	13.88	3.49
P	0.628	0.4223
Area under SROC	0.8958	0.7008
Q	0.8267	0.6535

Note: * : $P<0.05$ high heterogeneity

2.6 发表偏倚

随机误差和偏倚影响诊断试验的真实性^[15],但是大样本研究与小样本研究相比,可信区间更窄,诊断效果的估计也更精确,各诊断指标散点图将呈倒置漏斗状^[16-17]。将纳入文献按样本例数分别绘制敏感度和特异性散点图,呈对称漏斗状,见图 6~7,最上方极值均来自唯一一个诊断界值为 8 的研究(其余研究界值均在 4 以下)。同时,应用 stata11.0 软件绘制 TP/FP 的 Begg's 秩合检验漏斗图,见图 8, $P=0.138$,表明纳入文献偏移较小,整体质量较高,可信度好。

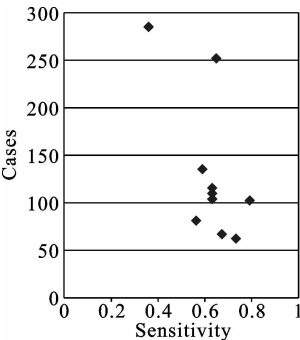


图 6 敏感度漏斗图
Figure 6 Funnel figure of sensitivity

表 4 Meta 逐步回归计算列表

Table 4 Calculate table of Meta stepwise regression

Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(1)(4 possible factors)					
Var	Coeff.	Std.	Err. p	RDOR	[95%CI]
Cte.	1. 765	0. 4670	0. 0194	-	-
S	- 0. 115	0. 2819	0. 7041	-	-
Cutoff>2	0. 918	0. 8413	0. 3366	2. 50	(0. 24;25. 89)
Abbott	- 0. 479	0. 5093	0. 4005	0. 62	(0. 15;2. 55)
Blind	- 0. 790	0. 6144	0. 2680	0. 45	(0. 08;2. 50)
Design	0. 064	0. 7382	0. 9353	1. 07	(0. 14;8. 28)
Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(2)(eliminate design)					
Var	Coeff.	Std.	Err. p	RDOR	[95%CI]
Cte.	1. 760	0. 4634	0. 0126	-	-
S	- 0. 106	0. 2613	0. 7020	-	-
Cutoff>2	0. 938	0. 8071	0. 2974	2. 56	(0. 32;20. 35)
Abbott	- 0. 467	0. 4899	0. 3846	0. 63	(0. 18;2. 21)
Blind	- 0. 803	0. 5956	0. 2355	0. 45	(0. 10;2. 07)
Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(3) (eliminate Abbott)					
Var	Coeff.	Std.	Err. p	RDOR	[95%CI]
Cte.	1. 357	0. 1888	0. 0004	-	-
S	0. 016	0. 2278	0. 9458	-	-
Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(3)(4 possible factors)					
Cutoff>2	1. 317	0. 7026	0. 1100	3. 73	(0. 67;20. 82)
Blind	- 0. 947	0. 5762	0. 1516	0. 39	(0. 09;1. 59)
Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(4) (eliminate blind)					
Var	Coeff.	Std.	Err. p	RDOR	[95%CI]
Cte.	1. 255	0. 1782	0. 0002	-	-
S	- 0. 082	0. 2197	0. 7191	-	-
Cutoff>2	1. 153	0. 6955	0. 1412	3. 17	(0. 61;16. 41)
Meta-Regression(Inverse Variance weights)(5)(blind alone)					
Var	Coeff.	Std.	Err. p	RDOR	[95%CI]
Cte.	1. 449	0. 1823	0. 0001	-	-
S	- 0. 357	0. 1110	0. 0148	-	-
Blind	- 0. 794	0. 5704	0. 2068	0. 45	(0. 12;1. 74)

Note: - ,not applicable

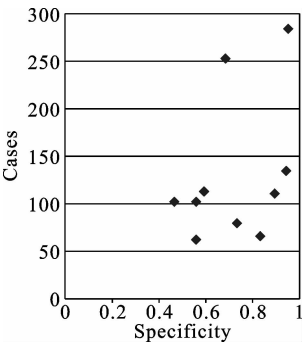


图 7 特异性漏斗图

Figure 7 Funnel figure of specificity

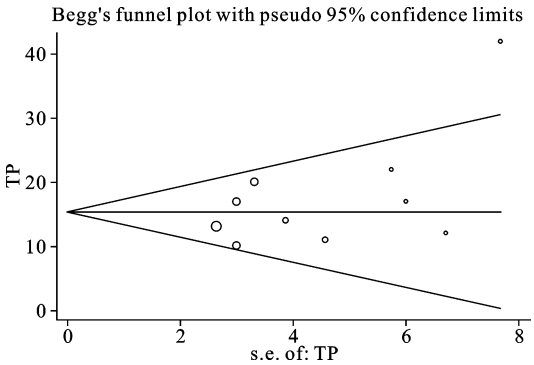


图 8 Begg's 漏斗图

Figure 8 Begg's funnel figure

3 讨论

宫颈鳞癌患者淋巴结转移与否预示着不同的预后,直接关系到临床决策。文献表明,宫颈癌早期病例(Ⅱ期以下)不伴淋巴结转移的患者 5 年生存率为 100%,而伴淋巴结转移者仅为 63.4%^[18]。临床上对于宫颈癌淋巴结转移病例的处理相对积极。目前诊断淋巴结转移主要依靠手术病理或 CT 等影像学检查,但是病理检查受手术范围的限制,影像学检查则不能提供病理依据,这些检查本身固有的局限性不可避免地会造成漏诊误诊,而寻找特异性高的血清肿瘤标志物作为辅助手段一直都是学术界关注的热点。

SCC-Ag 是相对分子质量约为 45 kD 的蛋白质,属于丝氨酸蛋白酶抑制物家族,主要由 2 个同源性非常高的基因 SCCA1、SCCA2 编码;SCCA1 编码产物主要在细胞内表达,SCCA2 编码产物为酸性易于释放到细胞外。同时,SCCA2 可调节细胞迁移和 E-钙黏蛋白,对鳞癌的转移、侵袭有一定作用^[19]。SCC-Ag 可在正常鳞状细胞中表达,当鳞状细胞癌变时,癌组织 SCCA2 功能亢进,合成大量 SCC-Ag 释放出细胞外,分泌入血导致血清 SCC-Ag 升高。SCC-Ag 的检测已多年应用于临床,研究表明其与宫颈鳞癌的临床分期、病理分级、淋巴结转移、疾病进展或复发、不良预后相关,是目前宫颈鳞癌最为可靠的血清肿瘤标志物^[20-21]。然而,SCC-Ag 并非癌组织细胞分泌的特异蛋白,血清中高表达的 SCC-Ag 一定程度上依赖于肿瘤负荷和血管侵犯程度,同时 SCC-Ag 主要由高分化鳞状细胞分泌,在低分化鳞癌中高表达并不明显,这些因素使得血清 SCC-Ag 作为宫颈鳞癌肿瘤标志物存在不可避免的缺陷,尤其当诊断界值偏低时,其特异性也偏低。本研究通过 Meta 回归分析探讨异质性来源的结果也表明,界值的选择是异质性的主要来源。由于诊断效能直接受到诊断界值的影响,同时因为选择合适的界值能够给临床工作带来实际的好处,所以我们根据诊断界值对文献进行分类,分析表明界值>2 组

相对而言特异性和诊断效能更高,但由于研究数较少($n=3$),尚不可轻下结论。敏感度和特异性漏斗图上出现顶部偏移的散点,正是因为个别较大样本的研究,由于重视特异度而选择了较高的诊断界值。

毫无疑问,纳入文献的质量直接决定 Meta 分析的结果是否真实可靠,且无论设计多么完美的研究都不可避免受到随机误差和偏倚的影响,灰色文献的获得又十分艰难,这些因素都给 Meta 分析的准确性带来了一些影响。但是我们严格遵守 QUADAS 评分标准,根据研究目的在阅读文献前即设定纳入和排除标准,确保了纳入文献的质量。漏斗图分析表明纳入文献的偏倚很小,质量可靠,可信度好。整体来看,血清 SCC-Ag 在宫颈癌患者中诊断 LNM 病例的合并敏感度为 0.60,特异性为 0.76, SROC 曲线下面积 0.7126, Q 值为 0.6629,虽然有一定诊断价值,但仍不是一个准确的指标,不能让临床医生满意,也许需要更多更大样本的研究提供新的数据,或者能够发现更具诊断价值的血清标志物。

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