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临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者病理分期上升的影响因素

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Risk Factors of Pathological Upstaging for Patients with Clinical T2N0M0 Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

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Abstract: Objective To investigate the risk factors for pathological upstaging of clinical T2N0M0 esophageal carcinoma by analyzing the clinicopathological data. **Methods** We collected 149 patients with clinical T2N0M0 esophageal squamous carcinoma who underwent minimally invasive esophagectomy with two-field lymph node dissection. Univariate and multivariate Logistic regression analyses were performed to identify the factors related to pathologic upstaging. **Results** There were 59 (39.6%) cases of pathologic T2N0M0; 23 (15.4%) cases were downstaged; 67 (45%) cases were upstaged; 42 (28.2%) cases were pathological T upstaged; and 45 (30.2%) cases had lymph node metastasis. Both T upstaging and lymph node metastasis occurred in 12.8% patients. Univariate analysis showed that tumor length, depth of infiltration, differentiation degree and pathological morphology were related to T upstaging and the influencing factors of lymph node metastasis were tumor length and depth of infiltration ($P < 0.05$). Multivariate analysis revealed that tumor length, depth of infiltration and differentiation degree were risk factors for T upstaging and the factors influencing lymph node metastasis were tumor length, degree of differentiation and lesion location ($P < 0.05$). **Conclusion** Clinical staging of T2N0M0 esophageal cancer remains inaccurate. Tumor length, depth of infiltration and differentiation degree are risk factors for T upstaging. The factors influencing lymph node metastasis are tumor length, degree of differentiation and lesion location.

Key words: Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma; Clinical T2N0M0; Lymph node metastasis; Risk factors

摘要: 目的 通过对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者临床病理资料的分析, 探讨患者术后病理分期上升的影响因素。**方法** 收集149例术前诊断为临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌并行胸腹腔镜下根治性手术切除患者的临床资料, 采用多变量Logistic回归分析分析各临床病理因素对患者病理分期上升的影响。**结果** 病理诊断T2N0M0患者59例, 准确率为39.6%。15.4%病理分期下降, 45%病理分期上升。28.2%病理T分期上升; 30.2%患者发生淋巴结转移; 12.8%患者同时存在T分期上升和淋巴结转移。单变量分析结果显示, T分期上升的影响因素为肿瘤长度、浸润深度、大体病理类型和分化程度, 淋巴结转移的影响因素为肿瘤长度、浸润深度 ($P < 0.05$)。多变量分析结果显示, T分期上升的影响因素为肿瘤长度、浸润深度和分化程度; 淋巴结转移的影响因素为肿瘤长度、分化程度和病变位置 ($P < 0.05$)。**结论** T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者临床分期仍不准确。肿瘤长度、浸润深度和分化程度是T分期升高的危险因素, 而影响淋巴结转移的因素为肿瘤长度、分化程度和病变部位。

关键词: 食管鳞癌; 临床T2N0M0; 淋巴结转移; 危险因素

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0 引言

临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者病理分期准确率很低^[1]。其中, 大部分患者术后病理分期大于T2N0M0, 这部分实际为局部进展期的患者存在分期不足, 另外一部分术后病理分期为T1N0M0患者, 这部分患者存在分期过度^[1-2]。一般认为, 对于分期过度的患者可以采用直接手术治疗, 而

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对于分期不足的患者可能需要进行新辅助治疗。这些分期不足的患者可能没有接受新辅助治疗和扩大淋巴结切除术,导致分期不足的患者比病理T2N0M0患者的存活率更低^[3-4]。有研究认为新辅助治疗可以改善临床T2N0M0食管癌患者的生存^[5];也有研究认为,新辅助治疗虽然可以降低患者的肿瘤分期,但是并不改善患者的生存,但由于超过一半患者存在分期上升,所以仍推荐新辅助治疗^[6];相反,也有研究认为新辅助治疗不利于患者的长期生存^[7]。目前,由于临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者分期的准确性不高,该类患者治疗模式仍然存在争论。本研究拟通过对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者临床病理资料的分析,探讨患者术后病理分期上升的影响因素,期望为改进患者的治疗策略提供依据。

1 资料与方法

1.1 病例资料

通过郑州大学附属肿瘤医院LinkDoc数据库收集2015年12月1日—2017年7月31日在胸外科术前诊断为临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌并且行胸腹腔镜下根治性手术切除+胸腹二野淋巴结清扫术患者的临床资料,包括患者年龄、性别、病变位置、肿瘤分化程度、大体病理类型、超声电子胃镜下肿瘤病变长度、浸润深度、淋巴结切除个数、术后病理分期等。

1.2 诊断方法

所有患者均进行超声电子胃镜及胸腹部CT检查。患者肿瘤T2分期通过超声电子胃镜确定,N0分期通过影像学淋巴结短径<6 mm确定。食管癌的分段采用美国癌症联合会(AJCC)2009标准。

1.3 手术方法

所有患者行胸腹腔镜下食管根治性手术切除+胸腹二野淋巴结清扫术,食管胃颈部吻合。

1.4 统计学方法

应用SPSS22.0软件进行统计分析,计量资料用均数±标准差($\bar{x} \pm s$)表示。计数资料以频数或百分率表示;两个独立样本组间比较采用 t 检验;组间率的比较采用 χ^2 检验。单变量和多变量Logistic回归模型用于预测病理分期上升的危险因素。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 一般资料

共收集149例患者,其中男102例、女47例,术后病理诊断T2N0M0患者59例,准确率39.6%;15.4%患者病理分期下降(23/149);45%患者病

理分期上升(67/149);42例患者发生病理T分期上升(28.2%);45例患者发生淋巴结转移,淋巴结转移率为30.2%(45/149);19例患者同时存在T分期上升和淋巴结转移(12.8%,19/149);平均每个患者清扫淋巴结29.9个,见表1。

表1 临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者的基本特征

Table1 Clinical characteristics of T2N0M0 esophageal squamous cell carcinoma patients in cohort

Characteristics	N(%)
Median age(years)	62.4±7.5
Gender	
Male	102(68.5)
Female	47(31.5)
Tumor location	
Upper esophagus	26(17.4)
Middle esophagus	70(47.0)
Lower esophagus	53(35.6)
Tumor length (cm)	5.5±2.5
Depth of infiltration (mm)	9.2±3.6
Tumor differentiation	
Well	34(22.8)
Moderately	78(52.4)
Poorly	37(24.8)
Pathological T stage	
T1	32(21.5)
T2	75(50.3)
T3	42(28.2)
Number of regional lymph nodes examined	29.9±9.6
Lymph node metastasis	
No	104(69.8)
Yes	45(30.2)
Comparison of TNM classification	
Excessive	23(15.4)
Accurate	59(39.6)
Insufficient	67(45.0)

2.2 临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期上升和淋巴结转移的单变量分析结果

对分层变量进行卡方检验,以 $P < 0.05$ 为标准,筛选出T分期上升的影响因素为大体病理类型和分化程度,对淋巴结转移的影响因素均无统计学意义,见表2。由于统计分析时发现蕈伞型食管鳞癌患者肿瘤浸润深度明显大于其他类型,而肿瘤侵入食管壁较浅,考虑蕈伞型食管鳞癌的生物学特性主要是向管腔内生长,与其他类型向食管壁内生长不同,所以在其他数据分析中剔除了大体病理类型为蕈伞型的患者(11例)。对连续变量进行 t 检验,以 $P < 0.05$ 为标准,筛选出T分期上升和淋巴结转移的影响因素均为病变长度和浸润深度,见表3。

2.3 病理T分期对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者淋巴结转移的影响

不同病理T分期患者的淋巴结转移率组间差异有统计学意义($\chi^2=12.24, P=0.002$),见表4。

表2 分层变量对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期上升和淋巴结转移的影响因素

Table2 Univariate analysis of risk factors for T upstaging and lymph node metastasis of T2N0M0 esophageal carcinoma: stratified variables

Factors	N	T stage			T upstaging (n(%))	P	Lymph node metastasis (n(%))	P
		T1	T2	T3				
Gender*						0.475		0.729
Male	95	18	47	30	30(31.58)		26(27.37)	
Female	43	9	23	11	11(25.58)		13(30.23)	
Pathological morphology						<0.001		0.103
Medullary	56	2	31	23	23(41.07)		20(35.71)	
Ulcerative	40	4	22	14	14(35.00)		11(27.50)	
Constrictive	5	0	2	3	3(60.00)		2(40.00)	
Fungating	11	5	5	1	1(9.09)		6(54.55)	
Erosive	37	21	15	1	1(2.70)		6(16.21)	
Tumor differentiation*						0.016		0.058
Well	32	11	16	5	5(15.63)		7(21.88)	
Moderately	75	12	42	21	21(28.00)		18(24.00)	
Poorly	31	4	12	15	15(48.39)		14(45.16)	
Tumor location*						0.195		0.069
Upper esophagus	23	5	9	9	9(39.13)		7(30.43)	
Middle esophagus	63	14	35	14	14(22.22)		12(19.05)	
Lower esophagus	52	8	26	18	18(34.62)		20(38.46)	

Note: *: Among 149 cases, 11 cases of fungating esophageal carcinoma patients were excluded.

表3 连续变量对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期和淋巴结转移的影响 ($\bar{x}\pm s$)

Table3 Univariate analysis of risk factors for T upstaging and lymph node metastasis of T2N0M0 esophageal carcinoma: continuous variables ($\bar{x}\pm s$)

Factors	T1, T2 stage	T3 stage	P	Non-lymph nodes metastasis	Lymph node metastasis	P
Age(years)	62.64±7.19	61.76±8.47	0.533	62.53±6.87	61.97±9.22	0.697
Tumor length(cm)	5.14±2.24	6.29±2.62	0.010	5.10±2.14	6.46±2.78	0.002
Depth of infiltration(mm)	8.22±3.57	10.75±2.62	<0.001	8.54±3.60	10.07±3.03	0.021

表4 病理T分期对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者淋巴结转移的影响

Table4 Influence of pathological T staging on lymph node metastasis in patients with T2N0M0 esophageal carcinoma

Pathological T staging	N	Lymph node metastasis(n(%))
T1	27	6(22.22)
T2	70	13(18.57)
T3	41	20(48.78)

2.4 临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期上升和淋巴结转移的多变量Logistic回归分析结果

经多变量逐步Logistic回归分析，筛选出T分期上升的影响因素为肿瘤长度、浸润深度和分化程度；建立Logistic回归方程： $\ln[P/(1-P)] = -1.722 + 0.255 \times \text{肿瘤长度} + 0.161 \times \text{浸润深度} - 1.728 \times \text{中分化程度} - 1.257 \times \text{低分化程度}$ 。预测正确率为76.1%；其中无T分期上升组预测正确率较高，为88.7%；T分期上升组预测正确率较低，仅为46.3%。筛选出淋巴结转移的影响因素为肿瘤长度、分化程度和病变位置；建立Logistic回归方程： $\ln[P/(1-P)] = -2.070 + 0.304 \times \text{肿瘤长度} - 1.258 \times \text{中分化程度} - 1.217 \times \text{低分化程度} - 0.678 \times \text{食管胸中段} - 1.214 \times \text{食管胸下段}$ 。预测正确率为74.6%；其中

无N分期上升组预测正确率较高，为89.7%；N分期上升组预测正确率较低，仅为39.0%，见表5。

3 讨论

肿瘤的临床分期可以预测患者的生存和筛选患者进行新辅助治疗。对食管癌患者治疗前进行临床分期是至关重要的一步^[8-9]。由于目前临床T2N0M0食管癌患者的分期准确性较低，所以它的治疗策略仍然存在争论^[5-7]。临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者存在明显术后病理分期上升情况^[10]。文献报道，使用CT、PET-CT和超声电子胃镜进行分期，准确性较差，即使使用联合诊断，临床T2N0食管癌患者术前分期和实际病理分期的一致性仍然较差^[2,11-13]。分期不足的患者主要是存在隐匿性的淋巴结转移，而分期过度的患者是因为肿瘤浸润深度的识别不准确^[5-7,14]。本研究中我们通过CT和超声电子胃镜对全部临床T2N0食管鳞癌患者进行分期，结果发现，分期准确率为39.6%，45%患者存在分期不足，15.4%患者存在分期过度。这与既往的报道^[3,13-15]相一致。

目前，临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者术后病理

表5 对临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期上升和淋巴结转移的多变量Logistic回归分析结果

Table5 Multivariate Logistic regression analysis results of T upstaging and lymph node metastasis in T2N0M0 esophageal carcinoma patients

Factors	T upstaging			Lymph node metastasis		
	Odd ratio	95%CI	P	Odd ratio	95%CI	P
Tumor length	1.291	1.054-1.581	0.014	1.356	1.121-1.639	0.002
Depth of infiltration	1.174	1.006-1.370	0.042	1.104	0.956-1.275	0.178
Pathological morphology			0.106			0.942
Medullary						
Ulcerative	0.507	0.065-3.951	0.516	1.164	0.142-9.571	0.888
Constrictive	0.594	0.073-4.843	0.627	0.906	0.106-7.758	0.928
Erosion	0.038	0.002-0.726	0.030	0.796	0.076-8.383	0.849
Tumor differentiation			0.033			0.045
Well						
Moderately	0.178	0.039-0.808	0.025	0.284	0.077-1.049	0.059
Poorly	0.284	0.099-0.820	0.020	0.296	0.109-0.809	0.018
Tumor location			0.119			0.045
Upper esophagus						
Middle esophagus	1.741	0.464-6.531	0.411	0.508	0.148-1.739	0.281
Lower esophagus	0.485	0.182-1.292	0.148	0.297	0.114-0.774	0.013

分期上升的影响因素并不十分明确。本研究将患者年龄、性别、病变位置、肿瘤分化程度、大体病理类型、肿瘤长度、浸润深度作为影响因素进行分析。单因素分析显示，T分期上升的影响因素为病变长度、肿瘤浸润深度、大体病理类型和分化程度；淋巴结转移的影响因素为病变长度和浸润深度。多变量分析结果显示，T分期上升的影响因素为肿瘤长度、浸润深度和分化程度；淋巴结转移的影响因素为肿瘤长度、分化程度和病变位置。我国学者曾仅以食管癌病变长度作为食管癌（1976年阳泉分期）非手术分期的标准，但病变长度与肿瘤分期是否有关目前尚存在争论^[15]。本研究中病变长度是病理T分期上升和淋巴结转移的影响因素。有研究显示，肿瘤分化程度越高淋巴结转移率越低^[11,15]，肿瘤细胞分化程度差是病理分期上升的独立影响因素^[5-7]。也有研究显示，术前活检病理肿瘤分级升高和存在淋巴管浸润可以共同预测病理分期的上升^[1]。但是由于胃镜活检组织块太小，目前很多机构病理结果没有报告淋巴管浸润情况。本研究结果同样显示低分化程度是临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者T分期上升和淋巴结转移的危险因素。

有研究显示食管癌的淋巴结转移率和肿瘤浸润深度有关^[5-7,15]，通常肿瘤浸润越深，淋巴结转移率越高^[16]。所以T分期和N分期并不是相互独立的变量。研究报道临床T2N0食管癌患者的淋巴结转移率为39%到55%^[5-7,11]。本研究显示，随着病理T分期上升，患者的淋巴结转移率也逐渐上升，并且肿瘤浸润越深，患者病理T分期上升的可能越

大。多数研究认为胸段食管癌淋巴结转移与肿瘤位置无关^[17-18]。本研究中单因素分析结果显示胸段食管癌淋巴结转移与肿瘤位置无关，但是多因素分析显示肿瘤位置是淋巴结转移的影响因素。这可能与本研究中手术方式采用胸腹二野淋巴结清扫术，清扫范围和数目有限，尚不能完全显示食管癌淋巴结转移特点和规律有关。

本研究显示大体病理类型是病理T分期上升的影响因素。糜烂性食管癌患者病理T分期上升率很低，淋巴结转移率明显低于其他类型，可能与糜烂性食管癌患者浸润深度大多仅达到浅肌层有关^[9]。有报道认为蕈伞型食管癌淋巴结转移率相对较低^[11]，而本研究中相对较高，但是这并不矛盾。因为其他研究包含了所有分期的蕈伞型食管癌，并且通常蕈伞型食管癌患者由于肿瘤向管腔内生长，很早就出现梗阻症状，所以发现时病理分期较早。本研究中已经排除了临床分期较早的蕈伞型食管癌患者，肿瘤达到临床诊断为T2时肿瘤通常比较大。所以本研究中蕈伞型食管癌患者淋巴结转移率较高。

综上所述，我们认为临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者病理分期上升虽有一定规律，但目前诊断方法有限，涉及因素复杂，T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者临床分期仍然高度不准确。临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者病理分期上升与肿瘤长度、浸润深度、大体病理类型、分化程度和病变位置有关。准确预测临床T2N0M0食管鳞癌患者病理分期，可以为改进患者的治疗策略提供依据。术后病理分期上升的患者可以选择新辅助治疗或者扩大的淋巴结清扫，从

而改善患者生存,同时也可以避免分期过度患者进行不必要的新辅助治疗。

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