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综述

嵌合抗原受体T细胞在儿童复发难治性急性淋巴细胞白血病中的研究进展

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[摘要] 目前儿童复发难治性急性淋巴细胞白血病的治疗仍处于困境, 即使提高化疗强度或联合造血干细胞移植, 仍有部分患儿预后差, 生存期短。嵌合抗原受体T细胞(chimeric antigen receptor T-cell, CAR-T)免疫疗法通过基因工程修饰T细胞, 并利用不依赖于人类白细胞抗原途径识别肿瘤特异性抗原, 靶向结合目标抗原细胞, 触发免疫反应, 从而发挥持续的抗白血病效应。作为发展最为迅速的肿瘤免疫疗法, CAR-T细胞在多种血液肿瘤的治疗中取得了突破性的进展, 但目前国内尚未建立全面的CAR-T细胞研发生产体系和规范的临床诊治方案。该文就CAR-T细胞在儿童复发难治性急性淋巴细胞白血病中的研究进展作一综述。

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[关键词] 急性淋巴细胞白血病; 嵌合抗原受体T细胞; 免疫治疗; 儿童

Recent research on chimeric antigen receptor T cells in children with refractory/reapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia

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Abstract: At present, the treatment of refractory/reapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia is still in a difficult situation, and even if the intensity of chemotherapy is increased or it is combined with hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, some children may have a poor prognosis and a short survival time. Chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) immunotherapy uses genetically engineered T cells and does not rely on the human leukocyte antigen pathway to recognize tumor-specific antigens, and then CAR-T cells bind to target antigen cells to trigger immune response, thereby exerting a sustained anti-leukemia effect. As the most rapidly developed tumor immunotherapy, major breakthroughs have been made for CAR-T cells in the treatment of various hematological tumors, but there still lacks a comprehensive system for the research, development, and production of CAR-T cells and standardized diagnosis and treatment protocols in China. This article reviews the recent research on CAR-T cells in children with refractory/reapsed acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

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Key words: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia; Chimeric antigen receptor T cell; Immunotherapy; Child

急性淋巴细胞白血病(acute lymphoblastic leukemia, ALL)是儿童期最常见的恶性肿瘤, 随着联合化疗和精准分层治疗的开展, 儿童ALL的5年总生存(overall survival, OS)率明显提高, 但仍有不少于20%的ALL患者因化疗耐药而出现复发^[1]。复发难治性ALL患儿的预后不容乐观, 5年OS率

仅为19%~52%^[2]。传统的异基因造血干细胞移植(hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, HSCT)是ALL治疗的重要手段, 但复发难治性患儿在移植前难以达到缓解状态, 即使缓解后接受HSCT, 患者的远期复发率仍高达20%~30%^[3-4]。免疫治疗是近年来肿瘤治疗领域的重大突破, 其中嵌合抗原受

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体T细胞(chimeric antigen receptor T-cell, CAR-T)免疫疗法发展最为迅速^[5]。目前瑞士诺华制药有限公司研发的靶向白细胞分化抗原19(cluster of differentiation 19, CD19)CAR-T细胞产品Tisagenlecleucel(商品名:Kymriah)已经美国食品药品监督管理局(Food and Drug Administration, FDA)审批上市,但国内尚无针对儿童ALL的CAR-T细胞产品获批。本文就CAR-T细胞在儿童复发难治性ALL中的研究进展作一综述。

1 CAR-T细胞的结构概述

CAR-T细胞主要包括3个功能结构域,即细胞外结构域、跨膜结构域和细胞内结构域。细胞内结构域由共刺激结构域和信号转导结构域组成,其中共刺激结构域通常为白细胞分化抗原28(cluster of differentiation 28, CD28)或肿瘤坏死因子受体超家族成员9(recombinant tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 9, TNFRSF9),信号转导结构域由T细胞受体(T cell receptor, TCR)/CD3ζ链构成^[6-7]。根据细胞内结构域可将CAR-T细胞分为5代,截至2022年,FDA批准上市的6款CAR-T产品均为第二代CAR-T细胞。第三代CAR-T细胞包含2个或更多的刺激分子,在此基础上引入自杀基因或免疫调控元件的CAR-T细胞,即重定向用于通用细胞因子介导杀伤的T细胞(T-cells redirected for universal cytokine killing, TRUCKs),它的提出意味着第4代CAR-T细胞的诞生。第5代CAR-T细胞插入了白细胞介素2(interleukin-2, IL-2)受体链和共刺激结构域,并通过激活蛋白酪氨酸激酶JAK(janus kinase)-信号转导子及转录激活因子(signal transducer and activator of transcription, STAT)途径促进细胞因子信号传递^[8]。尽管在抗肿瘤能力和安全性方面还未得到临床试验的证实,但新一代CAR-T细胞仍有望在血液肿瘤以外开辟新的治疗领域,取得更多革命性进展。

2 CAR-T细胞免疫治疗儿童复发难治性ALL的优势

2013年,Grupp等^[9]教授团队在*New England Journal of Medicine*杂志上发表了2例复发难治性ALL患儿接受CD19CAR-T细胞免疫治疗,其中1例患儿在治疗后约2个月复发,免疫分型检测表明

其白血病细胞表面CD19抗原表达转阴;而另1例患儿接受治疗后约1个月实现白血病形态学及分子生物学的完全缓解(complete remission, CR),现已无病生存10年,成为首位受益于CAR-T细胞免疫治疗的ALL患者。随着Tisagenlecleucel的审批上市,全球首个儿科CAR-T细胞免疫疗法Ⅱ期注册试验ELIANA在全球25个医学中心开展,共75名儿童和年轻成人患者入组接受了Tisagenlecleucel治疗,3个月内的总体缓解率(overall response rate, ORR)为81%,且微小残留病灶(minimal residual disease, MRD)均为阴性^[10]。6个月的无事件生存(event-free survival, EFS)率和OS率分别为73%(95%CI: 60%~82%)和90%(95%CI: 81%~95%),随访12个月EFS率和OS率分别为50%(95%CI: 35%~64%)和76%(95%CI: 63%~86%),所有患者均未出现治疗相关死亡。Tan等^[11]对12例合并中枢神经系统白血病(central nervous system leukemia, CNSL)的急性B淋巴细胞白血病(B cell-acute lymphoblastic leukemia, B-ALL)患儿予以CD19CAR-T细胞治疗,9例患儿获得缓解,6个月无白血病生存(leukemia-free survival, LFS)率为81.8%(95%CI: 59%~100%)。Chen等^[12]报道了7例睾丸复发的ALL患儿接受CD19CAR-T细胞免疫治疗,所有患儿均达到CR,睾丸均恢复正常。随访12个月,所有患儿的EFS为83.3%±15.2%,表明CAR-T细胞免疫治疗在髓外复发ALL患儿的治疗中同样发挥显著效果。Stefanski等^[13]对儿科真实世界CAR联盟(Pediatric Real World CAR Consortium, PRWCC)成员机构的185例输注Tisagenlecleucel的患者数据进行回顾性分析,输注CAR-T细胞的中位剂量为 1.7×10^6 细胞/kg,其中86例患者接受了更高剂量($1.701\sim 5.100 \times 10^6$ 细胞/kg)的CAR-T细胞输注,结果接受更高剂量Tisagenlecleucel患者的OS、EFS和RFS均得到明显改善($P=0.031$, 0.0079和0.0045),且更高剂量的Tisagenlecleucel与毒性增加无关。ZUMA-4是应用靶向CD19的CAR-T细胞产品KTE-X19(商品名:Tecartus)治疗儿童/青少年复发难治性B-ALL的Ⅱ期临床研究,在可评估剂量限制性毒性的患者中并未观察到剂量限制性毒性,而剂型为 1×10^6 CAR-T细胞/kg(40mL)队列中,患者的CR率及CR伴不完全血液学恢复(CR with incomplete count recovery, CRi)率可达71%,MRD阴性率达100%^[14]。另一项来自美国的

单中心I期剂量递增研究^[15]中，50例儿童和年轻B-ALL患者接受了CD19.28ζ-CART细胞治疗，31例（62.0%）获得CR，中位随访时间为4.8年，中位OS为10.5个月（95%CI：6.3~29.2个月）。在MRD阴性的28例患者中，有21例在CAR-T细胞输注后桥接了HSCT，其中位OS为70.2个月（95%CI：10.4个月至无法评估），表明CD19.28ζ-CART细胞桥接HSCT序贯治疗能使相当一部分儿童和年轻B-ALL患者获得疾病的持续缓解。

学术界仍在探索影响CAR-T细胞治疗反应性和持久性的相关因素。在一项多中心的回顾性研究^[16]中发现，相比处于缓解状态或者肿瘤负荷较低的患者，高肿瘤负荷患者（输注前骨髓原始细胞超过5%、合并CNSL以及髓外病灶）在输注CAR-T细胞后的OS和EFS明显降低（P<0.001）。Zhang等^[17]对254例应用CD19 CAR-T细胞治疗的B-ALL患者的随访结果进行分析，发现TP53（tumor protein P53）突变和骨髓原始细胞>20%是影响患者CR率的两个独立危险因素，而年龄、髓外疾病、复杂的细胞遗传学、既往移植史、既往化疗疗程、CAR-T细胞剂量和细胞产品的制造来源并不影响患者的CR率。与未接受CAR-T治疗的患者相比，在HSCT前接受CAR-T治疗患者的OS和LFS更高。

3 CAR-T细胞治疗儿童复发难治性ALL的不良反应

3.1 细胞因子释放综合征

细胞因子释放综合征（cytokine release syndrome, CRS）是CAR-T细胞输注后最常见的不良反应，主要机制是淋巴细胞活化导致的大量细胞因子释放^[18]。与CRS最为密切的细胞因子包括白细胞介素6（interleukin 6, IL-6）、白细胞介素1（interleukin 1, IL-1）、干扰素-γ、肿瘤坏死因子-α（tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α）、细胞间黏附分子-1、血管细胞黏附分子-1和血管内皮生长因子A^[19]。Maude等^[20]对137例接受Tisagenlecleucel治疗的难治复发性B-ALL患者的不良事件进行总结，结果发现77%的患者出现3~4级Tisagenlecleucel相关不良事件，在输注后8周内最常见的不良事件为CRS，其中22%患者为4级CRS。除了糖皮质激素以外，以IL-6为靶点的抗细胞因子治疗可显著缩短CRS病程，且不影响CAR-T细胞作用和远期疗效。

效。托珠单抗和司妥昔单抗是两种常用的抗IL-6生物制剂，Zhang等^[21]研究显示IL-6水平升高不到4倍的患者在接受托珠单抗治疗后发生严重CRS的概率更高（P=0.0125），这为在IL-6指导下细化CRS干预策略提供了依据。

3.2 免疫效应细胞相关神经毒性综合征

免疫效应细胞相关神经毒性综合征（immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome, ICANS）是CAR-T细胞治疗过程中的另一种严重不良反应，发生率为20%~70%，可与CRS同时出现，也可在CRS改善后出现，其发生率随CRS严重程度的增加而增加（P<0.001）^[20]。目前ICANS的发病机制尚不明确，大量炎性因子释放可能是ICANS的始动环节，血清中炎性因子水平异常升高可直接损伤血管内皮细胞并活化星形胶质细胞和小胶质细胞，引起血脑屏障通透性异常改变^[22]。在一项前瞻性队列研究^[23]中，3例骨髓复发且合并活动性神经系统症状的患儿在输注CD19 CAR-T细胞后，1例出现5级ICANS，表明高肿瘤负荷可能会增加严重神经毒性的风险。神经丝轻链（neurofilament light chain, NFL）作为神经轴突损伤的标志物，其血清水平与ICANS的严重程度呈正相关，可作为预测ICANS发生及评估ICANS严重程度的生物学指标^[24]。ICANS的治疗方案类似于CRS，主要是在基于毒性等级评估的基础上予以积极的支持治疗。IL-1受体拮抗剂阿那白滞素（Anakinra）和粒细胞-巨噬细胞集落刺激因子抑制剂Lenzilumab（仑兹鲁单抗）在ICANS动物模型中显示出一定的治疗效果，未来有望在ICANS的治疗中发挥作用^[25]。

3.3 B细胞缺陷

由于CAR-T细胞在靶向杀伤肿瘤细胞的同时清除表达CD19、白细胞分化抗原22（cluster of differentiation 22, CD22）等正常B细胞。B细胞缺陷持续时间从2个月到2年，其持续时间长短可作为衡量CAR-T细胞持久性的重要指标。在一项国际、多中心、回顾性队列研究^[26]中，35例B-ALL患者接受了Tisagenlecleucel输注，随访12个月，B细胞免疫缺陷的发生率约为70%（95%CI：46%~84%）。CAR-T细胞输注后的患者应定期检测B细胞数目和免疫球蛋白水平，对于严重或复发性细菌感染的患者，应优先考虑每月一次免疫球蛋白输注^[27]。

3.4 血液学毒性和其他并发症

在输注CAR-T细胞前采取的常规清除淋巴细胞预处理方案，以及CAR-T细胞输注后的脱靶效应是导致血液学毒性的主要原因。目前文献报道的CD19 CAR-T细胞治疗B-ALL后3~4级中性粒细胞减少发生率为53%~94%，3~4级贫血的发生率为51%~68%，3~4级血小板减少的发生率为41%~53%^[28~31]。感染也是CAR-T细胞治疗的重要并发症，在CAR-T细胞输注后28 d内发生的感染定义为早期感染。在Hill等^[32]的报道中，早期感染发生率约23%左右，且CRS的严重程度与感染密切相关。尽管超过半数患者为细菌感染，但中国人口基数大，乙型肝炎病毒携带率高，如何控制乙肝病毒激活的风险仍然需要引起重视。对于CAR-T细胞输注前肿瘤负荷高的患者而言，输注后出现肿瘤溶解综合征的风险更大，且比化疗引起的肿瘤溶解综合征更加严重。凝血功能异常与内皮细胞的异常激活或损伤有关，但出现严重脏器出血导致死者罕见^[33]。嗜血细胞性淋巴组织细胞增生症/巨噬细胞活化综合征(hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis/macrophage activation syndrome, HLH/MAS)常继发于重度CRS，在临床症状方面也存在一定的重叠，目前报道其发生率低于1%，但死亡率极高。此外，CAR-T细胞输注后的移植植物抗宿主病、皮肤损害等也有少量报道。今后仍需要大量研究以精确管理及控制CAR-T细胞治疗相关并发症，对提高患者预后及生存质量具有重要意义。

4 CAR-T细胞治疗后的复发

越来越多的研究^[34]表明，CAR-T细胞治疗后的患者并不能获得长期缓解，近50%的患儿在1年内出现复发。根据CD19抗原是否存在可分为CD19阳性复发和CD19阴性复发。CD19阳性复发的主要原因是CAR-T细胞的持久性差，在这种情况下，CD19抗原仍然保留在肿瘤细胞表面。但在CD19阴性复发的情况下，CD19抗原将不再存在，肿瘤将不能被CAR-T细胞识别和清除，称为抗原逃逸^[35]。但仍有一些患者的复发不一定表现为抗原完全丧失，提示存在其他潜在机制导致肿瘤逃避CAR-T细胞的攻击，如抗原密度降低、抗原编码基因突变、选择性剪接、谱系转换等^[36~38]。此外，肿瘤抑制微环境中的各种代谢物、抑制性细胞因子、

免疫抑制细胞也会影响CAR-T细胞的活性^[39~40]。CAR-T细胞上的某些抑制分子如程序性死亡受体1(programmed cell death protein 1, PD-1)、T淋巴细胞免疫球蛋白黏蛋白3(T cell immunoglobulin domain and mucin domain-3, TIM-3)、细胞毒性T淋巴细胞相关蛋白4(cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4, CTLA-4)及淋巴细胞活化基因3(lymphocyte-activation gene 3, LAG-3)等的上调也会导致T细胞功能抑制和衰竭^[41~42]。

5 减少复发和提高CAR-T细胞疗效的策略

随着CAR-T细胞适应证的不断增加，学术界开始将研究重点转向如何减少复发和提高CAR-T细胞的疗效，针对CAR-T治疗的全过程采取多种综合措施有望降低复发率。首先需要建立T细胞供者筛选和采集后评价体系，并不断完善标准化的CAR-T细胞制备生产流程以及质量检验控制标准。其次可以通过研发人源化CAR-T细胞、通用型CAR-T细胞、改进基因编辑技术、优化预处理方案等增强CAR-T细胞的功能并延长其生存时间^[43~44]。为了进一步减少输注后肿瘤细胞的免疫逃逸，有学者提出开发可作用于多个抗原靶点的CAR构建物。目前报道的临床前数据包括抗CD19和抗CD22靶向CAR-T、抗CD19和抗白细胞介素-3受体α链(interleukin-3 receptor alpha chain, IL-3Ra)组合CAR-T等。在CAR-T细胞治疗同时联合新药如B细胞淋巴瘤-2(B-cell lymphoma 2, Bcl-2)抑制剂、布鲁顿酪氨酸激酶(Bruton's tyrosine kinase, BTK)抑制剂、酪氨酸激酶抑制剂(tyrosine kinase inhibitors, TKI)等可显著增强CAR-T细胞的抗肿瘤效应，但其具体机制及适应证仍需要大量研究进一步明确^[48~49]。

6 总结及展望

目前CAR-T细胞在儿童复发难治性ALL的治疗中显示出良好前景，尤其是对于合并CNSL以及睾丸等髓外病灶的患者揭示了新的治疗策略，但机遇与挑战并存，在免疫治疗的新时代，仍需要不断改进CAR-T细胞的结构设计、制备工艺、质量控制标准以提高CAR-T细胞的有效性和安全性，而对于CAR-T细胞在体内的生物学特性以及肿瘤免疫逃避的机制，也需要大量研究数据进行探讨。我们有理由相信，随着对CAR-T细胞研究的

不断深入，制约其临床大规模应用和推广的因素必将逐渐消失，CAR-T细胞将成为一种更加安全有效的细胞免疫疗法，也必然会改变现有的治疗模式，造福更多复发难治性ALL患儿。

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