

空气颗粒物致心血管损害机制研究进展

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摘要: 越来越多的证据表明, 空气污染与心血管疾病发病率和死亡率有关, 尤以空气颗粒物(particulate matter, PM)的影响最为人们所关注, 其致病机制亦有较多研究报道。本文将从流行病学研究、动物毒理实验及体外细胞实验综合阐述空气颗粒物暴露对心血管损害的生物学机制, 包括炎症损伤、氧化应激和对凝血系统、自主神经系统及内皮功能的影响等。

关键词: 空气颗粒物; 流行病学; 心血管损害; 生物学机制

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Abstract: A mounting number of studies have provided evidences that air pollution is associated with increased cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, especially the impact of particulate matters (PM). The pathogenic mechanisms underlying these associations are also reported in previous studies. The present article briefly summarized the biological mechanisms of cardiovascular damage resulted from PM exposure reported by epidemiological studies, animal toxicology experiments, and *in vitro* cell experiments, involving inflammatory, oxidative stress, and the effects on coagulation system, autonomic nervous system, and endothelial function.

Key Words: particulate matters; epidemiology; cardiovascular damage; biological mechanisms

心血管疾病的发病率与死亡率在世界各国一直位居疾病发生与死亡的前列, 是危及人类健康的环境相关疾病之一。暴露于空气颗粒物环境下, 可以增加心血管疾病的发病率和死亡率, 这已经在多个大型流行病学研究中得到证实。空气颗粒物对心血管损害的生物学机制也正逐步被揭示。本文将重点阐述空气颗粒物暴露导致心血管损害的各种生物学机制, 如炎症损伤、氧化应激和对凝血系统、自主神经系统及内皮功能的影响等。

1 空气颗粒物(particulate matter, PM)定义和分类

PM是指悬浮于大气中, 来源于不同的固态和液态颗粒的混合物。颗粒物的大小和化学成分因气候、季节、地理位置、污染来源不同而有差异。环境中颗粒物主要包括无机成分(硫

酸盐、硝酸盐、氨、氯化物、微量金属)、元素碳、有机碳、晶体材料、生物组分(细菌、孢子、花粉)和吸附的挥发性及半挥发性有机化合物^[1]。

PM按空气动力学直径主要分为3种: 粗颗粒物为直径2.5~10.0 μm, 主要来自飞尘、土壤、建筑工程、采矿作业、工业机械加工等, 可沉积于上呼吸道; 细颗粒物(PM_{2.5})为直径≤2.5 μm; 超细颗粒物(PM_{0.1}或UFPs)为直径≤0.1 μm。PM_{2.5}和UFPs主要来自燃料燃烧和工业活动以及交通运输尾气排放, 可沉积于细支气管和肺泡^[2]。UFPs可穿透肺泡间质进入血液循环系统^[3]。

2 空气颗粒物对心血管损害的流行病学研究

随着社会工业化发展, 越来越多的证据表明, 空气污染对人类健康产生了不良影响。WHO统计发现, 每年约80万人的过早死亡与PM_{2.5}有关, 位列致人类死亡风险的第13位^[4]。流行病学研究表明, 无论长期还是短期空气颗粒物暴露都会对心血管系统产生影响。一项对美国6个城市8 000多人进行的14~16年随访研究发现, 空气颗粒物暴露与心血管疾病死亡率升高有关^[5]; 在美国36个主要城市, 对65 893位已绝经妇女6年的随访发现, PM_{2.5}每升高10 μg/m³, 就可提高24%的心血管

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事件发生率, 76% 的心血管死亡风险^[6]。欧洲 APHEA2 的一项研究表明, 在短期 PM₁₀ 暴露后, PM₁₀ 浓度每升高 10 μg/m³, 导致心血管和呼吸系统疾病的死亡率分别提高 0.76% 和 0.58%^[7]。在对美国 20 个城市连续 7 年空气颗粒物检测发现, 市民短期暴露于 PM₁₀ 后, PM₁₀ 每升高 10 μg/m³, 心、肺疾病死亡率升高 0.68%^[8]。在中国北京、沈阳、上海等地对 PM 致心血管事件影响的研究发现, 急、慢性 PM 暴露均可使心血管疾病发病率、死亡率升高^[9-12]。对于 PM 短期暴露与长期暴露的关系, 有人认为, PM 急性暴露对人体产生的影响可能是慢性 PM 暴露效应叠加的结果^[13]。

PM 对心血管系统损害主要涉及冠心病、心律失常、充血性心力衰竭、猝死等^[14-17]。其易感人群包含老年人、冠心病患者、心衰患者、糖尿病患者、慢性肺病患者、吸烟人群、受教育程度低和社会经济地位低的人群, 肥胖也是易患因素^[4, 18-19]。美国环境保护署 (EPA) 1997 年颁布了空气 PM 标准: PM_{2.5} 年均值为 15 μg/m³, 日均值为 65 μg/m³, 2006 年又将日均值降至 35 μg/m³。我国 1996 年颁布的空气质量标准规定 PM₁₀ 的二级标准年均值为 100 μg/m³, 日均值为 150 μg/m³。目前我国正在修订空气质量标准, 细颗粒物 PM_{2.5} 将纳入检测范围。

3 空气颗粒物对心血管的损害机制

尽管目前流行病学研究提供的大量证据表明, PM 与心血管系统疾病有关联, 但是对其生物学机制的研究仍然有限。现阶段研究发现, 空气颗粒物主要通过以下途径进入人体, 对心血管系统产生损害: ①颗粒物进入呼吸系统, 引起肺部或全身系统的炎症反应、氧化应激、影响凝血系统、改变自主神经功能、损伤内皮和影响血管舒缩功能; ②部分颗粒物通过其他途径, 如消化道进入循环系统引起上述反应。其可能的主要致病机制为以下 5 个方面:

3.1 炎症反应机制

多项研究表明, PM 可使暴露人群血清中 IL-6、IL-8、IL-1、IL-1β、TNF-α、CRP、MMP 水平升高^[20-24]。动物实验发现, PM 暴露可刺激骨髓释放单核细胞、中性粒细胞, 且在 PM 暴露下, 单核细胞更容易在粥样斑块动脉壁聚集^[25-27]。人肺巨噬细胞、支气管上皮细胞、内皮细胞染毒 PM 后, TNF-α、GM-CSF、IL-1β、IL-6、LIF、OSM 和 IL-8 表达水平也会升高^[21, 28-29]。

已有实验发现, PM 引起的炎症反应可加快粥样斑块发展^[26, 30]。冠状动脉粥样硬化是一种炎症和自身免疫性疾病, 空气颗粒物暴露引发的炎症反应可以加快动脉粥样硬化及血栓并发症的发生, 在 IL-1、TNF-α、INF-γ 和 MMP 等细胞因子的作用下, 斑块脆弱易破裂, 从而增加急性心脑血管事件的危险。PM 暴露引发的炎症反应还可导致血管炎、心肌损伤、心肌纤维化, 并影响自主神经系统等^[31-33]。

3.2 氧化应激作用机制

台北的一项对 76 名大学生为期一年的流行病学研究发现, PM 短期暴露与 8-羟基脱氧鸟苷 (8-OHdG, 一种能够量化人体 DNA 氧化损伤的标志物) 含量升高有关^[34]。动物模型实验表明, 燃烧产生的颗粒物、硅酸盐、二氧化钛、纳米粒子、多环芳烃与脂质过氧化物水平升高、DNA 氧化损伤有关^[35]。体外细

胞实验发现, PM 可使多种细胞产生 ROS、消耗内源性抗氧化剂、改变线粒体功能、产生氧化脂质和 DNA 损伤^[35-39]。

空气颗粒物通过 NAKPH 途径、线粒体途径、消耗内源性抗氧化剂等导致的 ROS 生成增多, 可以直接造成细胞 (如血管内皮细胞) 和组织的损伤。氧化应激能刺激免疫细胞和非免疫细胞产生炎症因子, 还可以作为细胞内信号诱导一些转录因子如核转录因子 (NF-κB) 的激活, 通过这些转录因子诱导各种生物分子的表达与分泌。PM 的氧化应激作用使机体产生的炎症反应、细胞死亡等均与心血管损害有关联^[36, 40-41]。PM 产生氧化应激的机制可能与其表面积大小、化学成分 (如有机物、金属离子等) 有关。目前研究表明, PM 中的多环芳烃产生的氧化应激还可以导致遗传毒性^[42]。

3.3 对凝血系统的影响

流行病学研究发现, 吸入 PM 可促进深静脉血栓形成、缩短凝血酶原时间, 这与 PM 导致血清中纤溶酶原激活抑制物、纤维蛋白原、vWF 水平升高和血小板激活、聚集有关^[34, 43-48]。动物模型和体外细胞实验证实, PM 可使纤维蛋白原、糖蛋白 IIb/IIIa 水平升高, 内皮细胞组织因子表达增加, 血管内的超细颗粒物可直接激活血小板^[49-52]。这些因素均可使血液处于高凝状态, 导致心血管事件发生。早前研究还推断细颗粒物所致肺部弥漫性炎症可能波及血液系统, 造成凝血机制的异常, 如激活的白细胞释放组织因子, 使凝血因子 X 转变为活性状态 X, 从而启动和促进凝血过程^[53]。但是也有研究表明, 空气颗粒物与凝血生物标记物无关, 如有实验发现, 在暴露柴油尾气 22 h 后, 健康成人 D-二聚体、vWF、CRP、血小板数量与过滤空气对照组相比无差别^[54]。

3.4 对自主神经功能的影响

PM 可降低正常人和冠心病人的 HRV, 提高心律失常发生率^[55-60]。动物实验也证明 PM 与 HRV 降低有关, 可使动物发生心律失常^[61-63]。PM 染毒心肌细胞后可抑制其搏动频率^[64]。心率变异度的降低和 PM 暴露存在关联, 说明了 PM 对心脏自主神经功能的影响, 进而引起心率和心率变异度的变化。PM 改变自主神经系统平衡 (提高交感神经活性及降低副交感神经活性) 导致心律失常或血管张力改变, 引起心血管损害^[65]。

PM 影响自主神经功能的机制仍然不清楚, 目前认为可能的机制是 PM 直接激活神经反射受体; 或者进入血液循环的 PM 直接影响心脏离子通道; 空气颗粒物产生的氧化应激作用; 也可能是局部或全身炎症反应对自主神经系统引发的一种急性时相反应。

3.5 损伤内皮和影响血管舒缩功能

流行病学调查和动物实验均表明, PM 可引起动脉血管收缩、血压升高^[32, 66]。暴露于 PM 中的人群, 其循环中内皮祖细胞减少^[67]。用 PM 染毒内皮细胞可刺激内皮细胞表达粘附分子、引起内皮细胞凋亡^[68-69]。内皮功能不全、血管收缩、血压升高均可导致心血管损害。目前认为 PM 致内皮功能不全及血管舒缩功能障碍可能与 PM 暴露导致的系统炎症、氧化应激、自主神经功能障碍有关^[70]。但是也有少部分体外实验发现, PM 也可引起血管舒张, 这可能与离体血管脱离了体液和神经的调控作用有关^[71]。

除以上五个主要生物学机制外,空气颗粒物对心血管损害机制研究还涉及对钙稳态、血管紧张素分泌、心肌缝隙连接等方面的影响研究^[72-73]。

4 研究展望

尽管已有大量流行病学和实验研究表明,空气颗粒物与心血管疾病发病和死亡有关联,并且提出了各种可能的损伤机制,但目前还没有一个能全面概括空气颗粒物导致心血管损伤机制的学说。还需要对损伤机制进行进一步深入的研究,如空气颗粒物的不同成分对机体的影响有何异同、颗粒物除经肺屏障进入血循环外的其他进入血循环的途径、不同遗传背景人群对空气颗粒物的易感性等,均需作进一步研究。虽然目前各国已经制定了空气颗粒物的最低检测标准,但是尚未有研究提供空气颗粒物导致人体健康损害的阈值。

我国作为空气污染较重,心血管疾病高发国家,对空气颗粒物致心血管损害流行病学及其机制的研究将为解决我国相关公共卫生问题、修改和制定相关政策法规提供符合我国实情的科学依据。

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