

# 孕期高温暴露导致早产的机制研究进展

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## 摘要：

早产及其并发症是导致新生儿死亡的主要原因,也是造成全球疾病负担的围产难题。近年来,多项关联性研究发现孕期高温暴露会增加早产的发生风险,但目前学术界对于高温如何影响早产的生物学机制尚不清楚。基于此,本文对既往文献进行了系统梳理,回顾了孕期高温暴露导致早产过程中的孕妇个体脆弱性因素和环境区域修饰性因素,总结了孕期高温暴露导致早产风险的潜在生物学机制,发现孕期高温会通过氧化应激、炎症反应、生殖和泌尿系统感染、神经内分泌改变以及妊娠期合并症等机制路径,导致早产风险。基于此提出高温暴露导致早产风险机制研究中存的问题及未来研究方向,建议今后应基于前瞻性队列研究和动物实验研究,阐明高温对不同类型早产的不良健康效应和机制,为高温天气时保障母婴健康,开展临床早产预防提供科学依据。

**关键词：**孕期 ; 高温 ; 早产 ; 风险 ; 机制

**Research progress on potential mechanisms of preterm birth after maternal heat exposure** WANG Liyun<sup>1</sup>, WANG Qiong<sup>1</sup>, HUANG Cunrui<sup>1,2</sup> (1. School of Public Health, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, Guangdong 510080, China; 2. Vanke School of Public Health, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China)

## Abstract:

Preterm birth and its complications are the leading cause of neonatal death, and also a perinatal problem that contributes to the global burden of disease. Recently, the association between maternal heat exposure and elevated risk of preterm birth has been found in lots of studies. But the potential mechanisms of how heat exposure increase the incidence of preterm birth are still unclear. Thus, we reviewed maternal vulnerability factors and territorial moderators associated with preterm birth due to heat exposure during pregnancy, and summarized potential mechanisms between heat exposure and risk of preterm birth based on previous studies. We found that heat exposure during pregnancy may involve various mechanisms to increase the risk of preterm birth, such as oxidative stress, inflammation, reproductive and urinary infections, neuroendocrine changes, and complications during pregnancy. Prospective cohort studies and animal experiments should be conducted to clarify the adverse health effects of heat exposure on different types of preterm birth from three facets of "exposure-mechanism-effect", aiming to provide a scientific basis for the protection of maternal and infant health through conducting clinical preventive interventions against preterm birth in scorching weather.

**Keywords:** pregnancy; high temperature; preterm birth; risk; mechanism

早产儿是指妊娠不足 37 周的活产儿,早产及其并发症是引起新生儿及 5 岁以下儿童死亡的主要原因<sup>[1]</sup>。与足月产相比,早产会对神经发育功能产生终生影响,伤残和成年后患慢性疾病的风险更高<sup>[2]</sup>。中国每年约有 117 万例的早产发生,早产儿人数居世界第二,仅次于印度的 352 万例<sup>[3]</sup>。早产病因复杂且影响因素众多,遗传、环境、心理和行为等因素均会增加早产的发生风险<sup>[4]</sup>。孕妇在怀孕期间,受胎儿生长和新陈代谢的影响,体温调节能力较弱,对环境因素高度敏感。同时,由于体重和脂肪沉积的增加,体表面积与体重比下降,导致孕妇的散热能力降低<sup>[5]</sup>,这些原因使孕妇成为高温暴露的脆弱人群。



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近年来,来自全球各地的人群流行病学研究表明,孕期暴露于极端高温会增加早产风险<sup>[6]</sup>,风险大小会受到易感人群特征及区域环境因素的影响<sup>[7]</sup>。实验研究也发现,小鼠在妊娠期每日暴露于高温(40 °C 及以上)1 h,发生早产的风险远高于对照组(23 °C)<sup>[8]</sup>。但高温如何引发早产风险的机制研究还非常缺乏。为了探究孕期高温暴露导致早产风险的潜在生物学机制,本文系统回顾了高温与早产的研究证据,并对高温影响早产的潜在生物学机制进行总结,最后提出孕期高温暴露导致早产发生风险的机制模型框架,可为今后开展深入研究提供思路。

## 1 高温与早产的人群流行病学研究

### 1.1 孕期高温暴露与早产之间的关联研究

目前,多数研究均提示高温暴露会增加孕妇的早产风险<sup>[9-13]</sup>,并且暴露的效应随着气温上升而增强。美国的一项队列研究表明,分娩前一周气温每升高 1 °C,发生胎膜早破自发性早产的风险增加 5%<sup>[14]</sup>。另一项病例交叉研究发现,暖季的周平均气温每升高 5.6 °C,自发性早产风险增加 11.6%<sup>[15]</sup>。基于中国 2013—2014 年初产活产孕妇出生队列数据的研究发现,孕期极端高温(>P<sub>95</sub>)暴露会使早产风险增加 55%<sup>[9]</sup>。此外,热浪作为极端天气事件也会增加早产风险。中国广州的研究发现,不同定义的热浪会增加 10%~92% 的早产风险<sup>[16]</sup>。关于高温影响早产的敏感窗口期,大多数研究发现了分娩前的急性效应,但不同的研究结论尚不一致。在美国 403 个县开展的研究发现,分娩前 4 周的高温暴露会使早产的风险增加 2.5%<sup>[10]</sup>。在中国广州开展的回顾性研究发现,分娩前 4 周的极端高温暴露会使早产风险增加 10%<sup>[11]</sup>。但也有其他研究发现,仅第 1~7 孕周和第 15~21 孕周的高温暴露才会增加早产风险<sup>[13]</sup>。因此,高温暴露导致早产的效应和敏感窗口期评价尚需更多的研究。

### 1.2 高温影响早产的孕妇个体脆弱性因素

高温影响早产的效应大小与孕妇脆弱性因素有关,包括孕妇年龄、疾病史、生育史、心理状况、生活和工作方式等方面。例如,孕妇分娩年龄过高(>35 岁)或过低(<19 岁)均是早产的高危因素,生殖系统发育不成熟或身体素质下降导致其在经历热暴露时,更易发生内分泌和生殖系统的应激反应,从而增加早产风险<sup>[17]</sup>。多项研究表明,若孕妇患有心脏病、糖尿病等疾病<sup>[18]</sup>,或在怀孕期间吸烟或饮酒<sup>[19]</sup>,高温暴露会导致更大的早产风险。异常的生育史与后续早产

发生也密切相关,队列研究表明有早产经历的妇女随后发生早产的风险增加了 2 倍<sup>[20]</sup>。高温暴露还会增加孕妇的情绪压力<sup>[21]</sup>,从而增加孕妇自发性早产的风险<sup>[22]</sup>。此外,每天站立或行走超过 3 h 的工作会使早产的风险增加 40%<sup>[23]</sup>。美国的一项研究表明,在空调设备使用较少的北加州地区高温导致早产的风险更大,可能的原因是孕妇更多地暴露于室内高温环境<sup>[24]</sup>。

### 1.3 高温影响早产的环境区域修饰性因素

高温影响早产也有较大的区域异质性,如空气污染、气候特征、地理环境等,均是修饰高温与早产关系的重要因素。中国广州市的一项研究表明,热浪与 PM<sub>2.5</sub> 的交互作用增加早产的风险<sup>[16]</sup>。针对湿度、日照等气候因素,美国的研究发现高温对早产的危害效应在寒冷干燥区域更大<sup>[10]</sup>,而中国的研究则发现在炎热地区的孕产妇对高温更敏感<sup>[12]</sup>。一项综述研究表明,在针对不同的洲、气候带和地理区域的研究中,极端高温造成的早产风险也存在较大差异<sup>[7]</sup>。既往研究还提示,区域的宏观社会因素如经济发展水平、医疗卫生资源等因素也会修饰高温与早产的关系。韩国一项研究表明,孕妇所在社区的社会经济水平越低,早产受高温的影响越大<sup>[25]</sup>。美国的一项时间序列研究表明,在没有产检或产检较晚的孕妇中,高温暴露与早产的关联更大<sup>[19]</sup>。

## 2 孕期高温暴露导致早产发生风险的潜在生物学机制

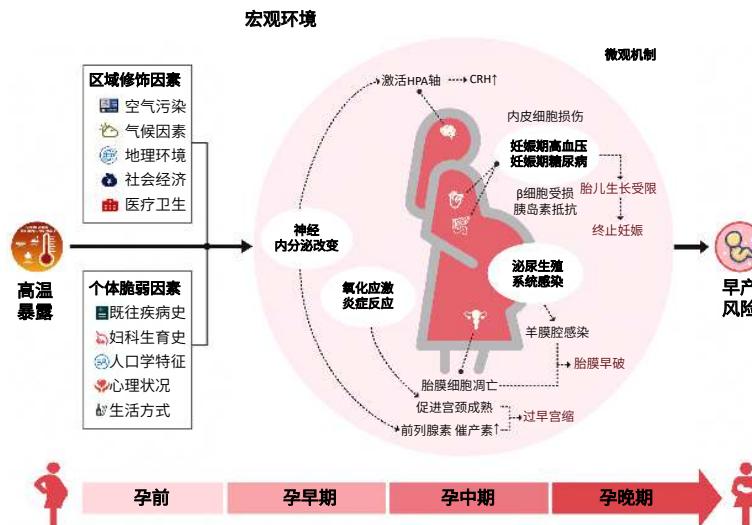
大量文献提示,妊娠动物和孕妇在高温暴露后,会出现全身性的氧化应激和炎症反应,以及泌尿生殖系统感染、神经内分泌系统改变和妊娠期并发症<sup>[26-27]</sup>。氧化应激生物标志物、炎症因子以及相关激素可能引起孕妇过早发生宫缩;泌尿和生殖系统感染可以波及子宫,造成羊膜腔内感染,诱发胎膜早破;而妊娠期并发症会增加提前终止妊娠的风险,这些均会导致早产的发生风险<sup>[28-29]</sup>。**图 1** 梳理和总结了孕期高温暴露影响早产风险的潜在机制。

### 2.1 氧化应激和炎症反应

机体长时间暴露于极端高温,会引发全身性的氧化应激和炎症反应。过度的氧化和高炎状态会损伤细胞结构,破坏母胎间的免疫平衡,这与早产的发生密切相关<sup>[30-31]</sup>。其中,氧化应激是炎症反应过程中的伴随现象,氧自由基会加重炎症反应,炎症介质又会促进氧化。多项实验研究表明,动物在受到急性或慢性的热应激后,体内的活性氧、过氧化氢和丙二醛等氧

化物会有不同程度的升高,谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶等抗氧化剂的活性则会显著降低<sup>[32-33]</sup>。而过氧化氢能显著诱导细胞凋亡和磷酸化 p38 丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK)信号通路,降

低绒毛膜细胞中长寿蛋白 SIRT3 的表达,表明在胎膜早破引发早产的过程中氧化应激介导的胎膜细胞凋亡被过早激活<sup>[34]</sup>。所以,孕妇的氧化应激状态即氧化剂和抗氧化剂之间的表达不平衡与早产有关<sup>[35]</sup>。



[注] 气候因素:气温、光照、降水等;地理环境:区域划分、森林覆盖率等;社会经济:城镇化、国内生产总值等;医疗卫生:医护人员数量、床位数等;既往疾病史:高血压、心功能不全等;人口学特征:年龄、体重指数、收入等;生活方式:吸烟(主动/被动)、饮酒、锻炼、工作模式等;HPA轴:下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺轴;CRH:促肾上腺皮质激素释放激素。

[Note] Climatic factors: temperature, light, precipitation, etc.; Geography: zoning, forest cover, etc.; Socio-economic factors: urbanization, GDP, etc.; Health care: number of health care providers, number of ward beds, etc.; Medical history: hypertension, cardiac insufficiency, etc.; Demographic characteristics: age, body mass index, income, etc.; Lifestyle: smoking (active/pассив), alcohol consumption, exercise, work patterns, etc.; HPA axis: hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis; CRH: Corticotropin-releasing hormone.

图 1 环境高温导致早产风险的潜在影响机制

Figure 1 Potential mechanisms between maternal heat exposure and the risk of preterm birth

热应激还可以通过引起全身性的炎症反应,对早产发动产生影响。实验表明在给予小鼠热暴露干预后,白介素(interleukin, IL)-1 $\beta$ 、IL-6、IL-10、肿瘤坏死因子- $\alpha$ (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , TNF- $\alpha$ )表达上升<sup>[36]</sup>。实验猪在热应激 4 h 后,核组分激活蛋白-1(activating protein-1, AP-1)和总核因子- $\kappa$ B(nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B, NF- $\kappa$ B)蛋白丰度增加,TNF- $\alpha$  转录增加,表明急性热应激通过启动 AP-1 和 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号通路激活炎症反应<sup>[37]</sup>。炎症反应是早产发动的潜在影响机制之一。实验研究表明,炎症反应通过激活妊娠小鼠免疫细胞内的 Toll 样受体 4(Toll-like receptor 4, TLR4)信号通路来驱动早产<sup>[38]</sup>。中国的巢式病例对照研究表明,多种炎症因子如 IL-9、IL-10、TNF- $\alpha$  等可促进宫颈成熟,为子宫收缩做准备,并能有效预测自发性早产的发生<sup>[39]</sup>。

## 2.2 生殖和泌尿系统感染

孕期高温暴露可通过增加孕妇生殖和泌尿系统感染的风险而引起早产。其作用机制可能与阴道或尿道上行感染及白细胞募集有关,当感染波及子宫,造成羊膜腔内感染,可以触发细胞因子诱导前列腺素产生并导致子宫收缩及宫颈扩张,从而诱发早产<sup>[40]</sup>。

项基于中国农村地区医院就诊数据的研究表明,8.7%的妇科炎症可归因于高温暴露<sup>[41]</sup>。西班牙的人群研究也表明,在较高的环境温度暴露下,孕妇阴道和子宫颈定植感染 B 组链球菌的风险增加 21%,同时在夏季定植风险普遍较高<sup>[42]</sup>。生殖系统感染不仅是引发早产的高危因素<sup>[43]</sup>,还可作为早产风险筛查的微生物指标。一项纳入全球 32 项研究的系统综述表明,细菌性阴道炎使早产的患病风险增加了 138%<sup>[44]</sup>。

随着环境温度的升高,孕妇罹患泌尿系统感染的风险也显著增加。卡塔尔的回顾性研究发现,孕妇尿细菌感染率与月平均温度呈正相关( $r=0.677$ )<sup>[45]</sup>。美国的多中心研究也表明,周平均温度由 5~7.5 °C 上升到 25~30 °C,女性泌尿道感染的发生率增加了 20%~30%<sup>[27]</sup>。泌尿系统感染是导致早产的诸多危险因素之一,其中尿路感染、无症状菌尿、肾盂肾炎都与早产的风险增加有关<sup>[46]</sup>。一项纳入 20 万例孕妇的队列研究也表明患泌尿系统感染的产妇早产风险更高<sup>[47]</sup>。

## 2.3 神经内分泌系统改变

当怀孕期间出现某种压力时,母体的下丘脑-垂体-肾上腺(hypothalamic pituitary adrenal, HPA)轴会

被激活,刺激糖皮质激素分泌增加,促进能量动员、心血管反应和免疫反应,从而避免压力对后代的不利影响<sup>[48]</sup>。大鼠在急性热暴露后,血浆促肾上腺皮质激素和皮质酮水平升高,促肾上腺皮质激素免疫阳性细胞的形状发生变化,提示对热的耐受性不佳与 HPA 轴损伤有关<sup>[49]</sup>。HPA 轴在控制妊娠期和触发分娩发作中起关键作用<sup>[50]</sup>,其中促肾上腺皮质激素释放激素(corticotropin releasing hormone, CRH)作为下丘脑调节肽,可以响应压力控制 HPA 轴的功能。而 CRH 作为“胎盘时钟”与分娩触发时机有关,孕妇在妊娠第 31~33 周体内高水平的 CRH 与自发性早产也显著相关<sup>[51]</sup>。

热应激还可以通过影响催产素和前列腺素的分泌,促进子宫平滑肌的收缩并诱发早产。高温会导致妊娠孕妇脱水,子宫血液流动速度减慢,引起垂体分泌催产素<sup>[52]</sup>。热暴露还会减少妊娠大鼠的子宫胎盘血流量,引起胎盘中前列腺素 F2α 及其代谢物水平升高,此过程还与内皮素受体的血管收缩作用有关,从而致使大鼠妊娠失败<sup>[53]</sup>。此外,波多黎各的队列研究表明,尿液样本中前列腺素 F2α 与早产有关,而前列腺素可促进宫颈成熟和子宫收缩<sup>[54]</sup>。

#### 2.4 妊娠期并发症

妊娠期并发症为妊娠期特有疾病,多于妊娠结束后自然消退,包括妊娠期高血压疾病、妊娠期糖尿病和妊娠期肝内胆汁淤积等,可能在高温导致早产的过程中起关键作用。高温暴露会引起成人的血压发生变化<sup>[55]</sup>,而孕妇妊娠期血压升高可能是早产的潜在影响因素。一项瑞典的队列研究表明,早产孕妇相较于正常孕妇在孕晚期的收缩压上升了 3.8 mmHg,更为重要的是,高温暴露会增加孕妇妊娠期高血压疾病的患病风险<sup>[56]</sup>。中国的一项队列研究结果表明,孕早期高温暴露导致子痫或子痫前期的发生风险增加 16%<sup>[57]</sup>。子痫前期是孕妇发生早产最重要的危险因素<sup>[58]</sup>,子痫孕妇的子宫小动脉重铸不足会导致胎盘灌流下降,在伴有内皮功能损伤的情况下容易出现胎盘功能不足并引起胎儿生长受限,在病情持续加重或母胎症状无改善的情况下,医师通常会选择提前终止妊娠<sup>[59]</sup>。

中国的一项前瞻性队列研究发现,妊娠第 21、22 周的极端高温暴露使妊娠期糖尿病风险增加 66% 和 74%<sup>[60]</sup>。环境温度影响孕妇妊娠期糖尿病的机制可能与 β 细胞功能障碍和胰岛素抵抗有关,如加拿大的一项研究发现在葡萄糖耐量测试前的 3~4 周内环境温度升高会引起妊娠期糖尿病风险增加 20%,其中,评价胰岛素抗性和 β 细胞功能的指标显著升高<sup>[61]</sup>。高

血糖状态可使胚胎发育异常,出现胎儿生长受限、畸形等,此外妊娠期糖尿病还容易合并感染和妊娠期高血压疾病等并发症,通常需提前终止妊娠,患者的早产风险比正常孕妇高 30%<sup>[62]</sup>。

### 3 高温暴露与早产关系的机制研究中存在的问题及研究方向

在全球气候变化的背景下,未来高温热浪事件的发生频率将持续增加,会对孕产结局产生严重的威胁。目前,有关高温与早产的研究开始受到国内外学术界的广泛关注,但在探讨高温暴露导致早产发生的生物学机制时,孕期高温暴露对早产的影响可能会因早产类型不同而存在较大差异。迄今为止,温度与早产的研究几乎都是对所有的早产类型进行合并分析,尚不清楚高温暴露是通过什么样的机制和路径影响不同类型的早产风险。

根据分娩发动的原因,早产可分为分娩发作自发性早产、胎膜早破自发性早产和治疗性早产。分娩发作自发性早产是指具有完整胎膜的阴道分娩早产,胎膜早破自发性早产指具有胎膜早破并发症的早产,而治疗性早产指有医学指征而通过引产或选择性剖宫产进行分娩的早产<sup>[63]</sup>。不同临床亚型早产的病因差异较大,且存在不同的危险因素,如分娩相关激素水平改变能够影响分娩发作自发性早产,感染主要引起胎膜早破自发性早产,而妊娠期并发症则主要影响治疗性早产<sup>[64]</sup>。因此,有必要根据不同的早产类型开展系统性的研究,解析高温导致早产风险的潜在影响机制。

未来研究应针对不同临床类型的早产,构建孕期高温暴露导致早产发生风险的机制模型,以阐明高温对早产的不良健康效应机制。首先,基于前瞻性队列研究,建立精准的孕期个体高温暴露模型,随访孕妇生殖泌尿系统感染和妊娠期并发症的情况,并追踪敏感窗口期内孕妇暴露高温后炎症因子、激素等生理指标的改变,以探索不同影响机制在高温暴露导致各类型早产中的关键作用,阐明高温暴露导致各类型早产的精细化路径。其次,设计实验研究,建立妊娠动物模型并模拟环境高温和给予干预,检测早产率、干预后胎盘改变和敏感窗口期内相关分子水平。从人群研究和动物实验角度为高温影响早产的机制研究提供科学证据。最后,开展转录组学、蛋白质组学等多组学研究,识别与孕期高温暴露有关的组学标志物,揭示高温环境与早产统计相关性之外的潜在分子作用机制。

## 4 结论

综上所述,既往研究发现孕期高温暴露会通过氧化应激和炎症反应、生殖和泌尿系统感染、神经内分泌改变以及妊娠期合并症等机制路径,导致早产风险。未来研究应该基于前瞻性队列研究和动物实验研究设计,建立高温暴露导致早产的机制模型,从而探索不同影响机制在高温暴露导致各类型早产中的作用大小,为围生期孕幼保健、临床预防早产提供科学依据和理论基础。

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