



肠道菌群及其代谢产物对心肌纤维化影响与治疗的研究进展

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摘要: 心肌纤维化是多种心血管疾病, 如冠心病、心肌梗死和心力衰竭等的终末期表现和主要致病因素。研究发现, 免疫和炎症过程在心肌纤维化的发病机制中起决定性作用。近年来, 人们发现肠道微生物在心肌纤维化的发病机制和发展中起着至关重要的作用。肠道菌群的失调可导致微生物的代谢产物转移到血液循环中, 如短链脂肪酸、脂多糖和氧化三甲胺等。这些代谢物直接或间接地诱导组织损伤免疫和激活全身炎症反应, 进而影响心肌纤维化。如何改变肠道菌群来改善心肌纤维化已成为当前的研究重点, 包括饮食干预、使用抗生素、补充益生菌和益生元, 以及粪便微生物群移植等。本综述旨在回顾肠道菌群及其代谢产物与心肌纤维化的相互作用, 介绍通过干预肠道菌群改善心肌纤维化的研究进展, 为心肌纤维化的治疗提供新思路。

关键词: 心肌纤维化; 肠道菌群; 免疫反应; 炎症

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Gut microbiota and its metabolites affect and help to treat myocardial fibrosis

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Abstract: Myocardial fibrosis is the end-stage manifestation and main pathogenic factor of a variety of cardiovascular diseases, such as coronary heart disease, myocardial infarction, and heart failure. Immune and inflammatory processes play a decisive role in the pathogenesis of myocardial fibrosis. Recent studies have demonstrated that gut microbiota plays a crucial role in the pathogenesis and development of myocardial fibrosis. The dysregulation of gut microbiota can lead to the transfer of microbial metabolites, such as short-chain fatty acids, lipopolysaccharides, and trimethylamine oxide into the blood circulation. These metabolites directly or indirectly induce immune responses to tissue damage and systemic activation of inflammatory responses which then affect myocardial fibrosis. How to mitigate myocardial fibrosis by modifying gut microbiota has become the focus of current research, and the measures include dietary interventions, antibiotics, probiotics, prebiotics, and fecal microbiota transplantation. This paper reviews the interactions of gut microbiota and its metabolites with myocardial fibrosis and introduces the research progress in alleviating myocardial fibrosis by modulating gut microbiota, providing new ideas for the treatment of myocardial fibrosis.

Keywords: myocardial fibrosis; gut microbiota; immune response; inflammation

心肌纤维化(myocardial fibrosis, MF)的特点是心脏成纤维细胞的过度增殖和细胞外基质的积累。这些变化是由缺血性心脏损伤、系统性疾病以及其他影响循环系统和心脏本身的有害刺激引起的^[1-2]。MF已被证明是心脏猝死的常见原因,英国的一项研究发现左心室纤维化是年轻运动员心脏猝死的主要原因^[3]。MF是多种心血管疾病的终末期表现之一,如冠心病、心房颤动、心肌衰竭和原发性心肌病等,它在这些疾病的发生和发展中起着重要作用^[4-5]。研究MF的发病机制、积极延缓和控制其发展,对改善心血管疾病的预后具有重要的临床意义。目前的研究表

明,免疫和炎症过程在MF的发病机制中起着决定性作用^[6],但相关机制仍不清楚,治疗手段非常有限,尚无有效的治疗方法来预防或逆转MF。因此,还需寻求更完善的治疗方法。

肠道菌群是存在人类肠道中的数千亿微生物,包括细菌、真菌、病毒、古细菌和原生动物^[7],其结构与健康和疾病密切相关。肠道菌群结构和代谢紊乱可能导致胃肠道疾病(肠易激综合征和炎症性肠病)^[8-9]、代谢性疾病(肥胖症和糖尿病)^[10-11]、精神疾病(抑郁症)^[12]和心血管疾病等^[13]。近年来,肠道菌群在心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)过程中的作用已引

起越来越多的关注,一些研究已经证实,肠道菌群组成的变化与心血管疾病的发病机制有关,包括动脉粥样硬化、高血压、心房颤动、心肌衰竭和中风^[14]。在这些关于心血管疾病和肠道菌群的研究中,已经证明了“肠-心轴”的存在。除了肠道菌群的结构和多样性外,肠道微生物分泌的功能分子和代谢物的改变对宿主的健康状况起着重要作用,肠道微生物与宿主保持共生关系,在代谢和免疫方面发挥重要而复杂的功能^[15]。

肠道菌群的失调继而引发微生物代谢产物的改变,比如氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine oxide, TMAO)和脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)水平的升高以及短链脂肪酸(short-chain fatty acid, SCFAs)水平的降低。其中一些有害的微生物代谢物转移到血液循环中,直接或间接地引起组织损伤的免疫反应以及系统激活的炎症反应^[16]。在遗传易感宿主中,微生物-免疫相互作用的失调被认为参与了多种免疫介导的疾病的发展和过程^[17]。研究表明,肠道菌群结构可能导致黏膜上皮屏障的结构破坏和通透性增加,从而促进一些内毒素、微生物元素和微生物代谢产物转入全身循环,影响宿主的代谢,参与高血压、冠心病和心衰等心血管疾病的发生^[18-19]。近年来,宿主-微生物群在纤维化中的相互作用研究已成为人们关注的焦点。到目前为止,已经有很多关于肠道微生物对肺、肝、肾纤维化的影响的研究,但是肠道微生物对 MF 的影响研究较少^[20]。因此,本综述旨在探讨肠道微生物及其代谢产物在 MF 中的作用,主要强调了 SCFAs、TMAO 和 LPS 对 MF 的影响,将现有关于肠道菌群与心脏保护作用的研究联系起来。此外,本文还讨论了肠道菌群及其代谢产物预防和治疗 MF 的潜力,在肠道菌群与心肌纤维化的治疗之间建立一定的因果关系。

1 肠道菌群在心肌纤维化相关疾病中的变化

在大多数临床研究和广泛的心肌病变中,心脏纤维化的程度可预测不良后果^[21]。根据基础疾病和病理生理背景的不同,心脏纤维化的存在可能会导致心功能障碍^[1]。另一方面,心房纤维化重塑往往与心力衰竭患者的充盈压升高有关,并且容易引发心房颤动^[22]。

许多研究报告称, MF 与肠道细菌丰富度、多样性和群落结构的变化之间存在密切关系^[23]。一方面,肠道菌群可以通过控制肠道黏膜层的功能促进营养吸收和代谢。在适当的条件下,肠道菌群可以加强宿主的免疫系统,使身体能够抵御病原体^[24]。另一方面,肠道菌群群落丰富度和多样性的改变,如益生菌和具有抗炎特性的物种的减少以及机会性致病菌的增加,很可能导致慢性炎症的发生^[25]。肠道微生物代谢物失衡和肠道上皮功能障碍可能导致心力衰竭患者的心功能障碍、炎症、营养不良和其他疾病。相反,心力衰竭也可导致组织灌注不足、胃肠道充血和其他血流变化,从而改变肠道的形态和通透性以及肠道菌群的丰度和组成,破坏肠道屏障功能,刺激炎症反应,加速其病理变化^[26]。与健康人群相比, MF 患者的微生物群落结构的平衡性发生了变化,群落的丰度明显下降^[27]。一项临床研究表明,与健康人相比,患有动脉粥样硬化性心血管疾病的个体有大量的肠杆菌科(*Enterobacteriaceae*)、链球菌属(*Streptococcus*)和瘤胃球菌(*Rumenococcus*)^[28]。动物实验发现心肌梗死模型组比对照组有更多的毛螺菌科(*Lachnospiraceae*)、合养假单胞菌科(*Syntrophomonadaceae*)和 *Tissierella Soehngenia* 的数量^[29]。瘤胃球菌科(*Ruminococcaceae*)和毛螺菌科(*Lachnospiraceae*)是一些产生 SCFA 的

菌株, 而通过促进瘤胃球菌科和毛螺菌科和抑制拟杆菌科(*Bacteroidaceae*)可以对小鼠产生心脏保护作用^[30]。真杆菌科(*Eubacteriaceae*)和脱硫弧菌科(*Dethiosulfovibrionaceae*)丰度的升高, 可作为 MF 潜在的生物标志物, 有研究发现心肌梗死后, 一些机会性致病细菌, 如 *Synergistetes* 和蜥蜴科(*Lachnospiraceae*)增加^[31]。一些肠道致病菌的增加提高了心血管疾病的风险, 如普雷沃特氏菌(*Prevotella copri*)和克雷伯氏菌(*Klebsiella*), 这可能是高血压病变的原因^[32]。普雷沃特氏菌编码的超氧化物还原酶和磷酸腺苷硫酸盐还原酶可能有利于炎症的发生, 在结肠炎小鼠模型中, 普雷沃特氏菌的定殖促进小鼠体重下降并加剧了上皮细胞的炎症^[33]。金珊珊等^[34]的研究发现, 双歧杆菌(*Bifidobacterium*)的丰度在房颤患者中明显减少, 且随着房颤持续程度增加降低更显著。本课题组在探究房颤患者肠道菌群的变化中也发现了房颤患者中双歧杆菌丰度的显著降低, 且在属水平上, 房颤患者肠道菌群中普雷沃特氏菌属(*Prevotella*)、大肠杆菌-志贺氏菌属(*Escherichia Shigella*)和韦荣氏球菌属(*Veillonella*)的相对丰度显著上升, 而双歧杆菌(*Bifidobacterium*)具有显著的下降趋势(未发表数据)。另一种致病菌, 肺炎链球菌(*Streptococcus pneumoniae*), 也可以侵入心肌并诱导心肌细胞凋亡, 破坏心脏功能。在一个重症肺炎的模型中, 炎症侵入心肌, 引起心肌坏死和凋亡, 然后在抗生素治疗后引起心脏疤痕形成^[35]。虽然关于与心肌纤维化相关的关键物种的研究很少。然而, 基于微生物组的调控, 这些不同的物种可以被纳入预防和治疗心肌纤维化的措施中。因此, 确定心肌纤维化相关细菌作为目标, 可以用来开发更精确的治疗方法。肠道菌群及其代谢物在 MF 相关疾病中的变化见表 1。

2 肠道菌群影响心肌纤维化的可能机制

2.1 肠道上皮屏障的改变

肠道上皮组织是一个复杂的多成分系统, 其中上皮细胞和先天免疫细胞有助于肠道上皮的完整性, 从而防止其他细菌穿过上皮从腔内转移到体内。肠道渗透性是衡量肠道屏障完整性的一个指标, 在各种疾病中, 包括肠道疾病、慢性肾功能不全、癌症和心血管疾病都发现了肠道通透性增加^[45]。肠道屏障功能和肠道微生物组成的破坏可能导致宿主微生物代谢物的异常产生和吸收、心脏功能紊乱、炎症、营养不良和其他疾病。MF 的一个重要原因就是肠道屏障破坏, 导致细菌及其代谢产物渗入循环和免疫反应失调。肠道通透性增加的可能机制之一是微生物群的失衡导致致病菌增加, 同时产生更高水平的 LPS 以诱导上皮细胞损伤。将革兰氏阴性菌脱硫弧菌定殖到阿霉素诱导的心脏中毒小鼠体内, 发现脱硫弧菌增加了 LPS 并降低了粪便和外周血中的丁酸盐水平。而乳酸菌的定植恰好可以通过产生乳酸改变肠道微环境的 pH 值, 抑制了脱硫弧菌属的生长^[46-47]。此外, 在心血管疾病研究中, LPS 也可作为检测肠道通透性增加的标志物, 血清 LPS 升高可能表明细菌从肠道转移到循环系统^[48]。有趣的是, 肠道上皮屏障的破坏可以被一些乳酸菌修复, 如某些乳酸菌属可以通过上调紧密连接蛋白减少肠屏障的破坏, 嗜酸乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus acidophilus*)和植物乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus plantarum*)可以在体内和体外模型中增加闭合蛋白的表达, 促进肠道上皮屏障的紧密连接^[49]。

2.2 肠道菌群的代谢产物的改变

微生物代谢物是连接微生物群和心血管疾病的桥梁, 对疾病的发展具有重要价值。肠道菌

表 1 心肌纤维化相关疾病中肠道菌群及其代谢物的改变

Table 1 Changes of gut microbiota and its metabolites in myocardial fibrosis related diseases

Types	Changes in gut microbiota	Changes in metabolites of gut microbiota	Effects on the heart	References
Heart failure	<i>Prevotellaceae</i> ↑	SCFA↓	Abnormal production and absorption of microbial derived metabolites, such as decreased butyrate, leads to decreased anti-inflammatory effects. Elevated TMAO and LPS lead to cardiac dysfunction in patients with heart failure, stimulating the synthesis of cardiac fibroblasts and collagen, leading to adverse cardiac remodeling.	[36-38]
	<i>Acidaminococcaceae</i> ↑	TMAO↑		
	<i>Lachnospiraceae</i> ↓	LPS↑		
	<i>Ruminococcaceae</i> ↓			
	<i>Bifidobacteriaceae</i> ↓			
	<i>Clostridium</i> ↓			
	<i>Dorea</i> ↓			
	<i>F. prausnitzii</i> ↓			
	<i>Oscillibacter</i> sp. ↓			
Myocardial infarction	<i>Syntrophomonadaceae</i> ↑	SCFA↓	Increased opportunistic pathogens and decreased probiotics, intestinal barrier dysfunction, bacterial translocation, and postischemic infections may further contribute to systemic inflammatory responses.	[31,39-40]
	<i>Eubacteriaceae</i> ↑	TMAO↑		
	<i>Dethiosulfovibrionaceae</i> ↑			
	<i>Megasphaera</i> ↑			
	<i>Desulfovibrio</i> ↑			
	<i>Synergistetes</i> ↑			
	<i>Alistipes</i> ↑			
	<i>Faecalibacterium</i> ↓			
	<i>Roseburia</i> ↓			
<i>Tyzzerella</i> 3↓				
Atrial fibrillation	<i>Lachnospiraceae</i> ↑	SCFA↓	High levels of TMAO may promote the formation of AF susceptible substrates by promoting inflammation and fibrosis in the left atrium. Imbalance of gut microbial function is associated with an increased risk of thromboembolism in AF, and metabolic endotoxemia and chronic inflammation may trigger AF.	[41-44]
	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> ↑	LPS↑		
	<i>Eubacteriaceae</i> ↑	TMAO↑		
	<i>Bifidobacteriaceae</i> ↑			
	<i>Prevotellaceae</i> ↓			
	<i>Oscillospiraceae</i> ↓			
	<i>Faecalibacterium</i> ↓			
	<i>Alistipes</i> ↓			
	<i>Akkermansia</i> ↓			

↑: The increase in the abundance of gut microbes and the metabolites of gut microbiota in patients compared with healthy controls; ↓: The decrease in the abundance of gut microbes as well as the metabolites of the gut microbiota in patients compared with healthy controls.

群产生的生物活性代谢物,不仅可以被肠道粘膜细胞吸收利用,还可以被吸收到血液循环中,在肝脏中进行代谢,进一步发挥其生理功能^[50]。越来越多的研究表明,肠道微生物代谢产物 LPS、TMAO 和短链脂肪酸 SCFAs 在 MF 的发病机制中发挥着重要作用^[50-51]。

2.2.1 脂多糖

LPS 又称内毒素,主要由革兰氏阴性菌产

生,被公认为是一种促炎因子。大鼠的高脂肪喂养可以增加肠道中的革兰氏阴性菌,增加 LPS 含量,并减少紧密连接蛋白(zonula occludens protein 1, ZO-1)和 occludin 的表达,从而影响肠道上皮细胞的通透性和完整性^[52]。细菌死亡和裂解后,LPS 被释放到肠道环境中,并通过肠道通透性的增加进入循环系统,进一步上调全身循环的 LPS 水平,引起炎症和氧化应激,促进心

脏纤维化的发展和进展^[53]。心肌成纤维细胞表达 Toll 样受体-4 (Toll-like receptor 4, TLR4), LPS 作为其配体与其结合可以激活各种信号通路, 如激活 NOD 样受体热蛋白结构域相关蛋白 3 (NOD-like receptor thermal protein domain associated protein 3, NLRP3) 炎症体, 从而启动炎症反应^[54]。LPS 会加重先前存在的异常的肝脏、肾脏和心脏纤维化。即使在组织未损伤的情况下, LPS 也能增加心脏和肾脏的氧化应激因子, 减少抗氧化标志物, 并介导心脏和肾脏纤维化, 而且纤维化的程度与 LPS 的剂量呈正相关^[55]。Huang 发现 LPS 可以通过诱导心肌成纤维细胞中烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸氧化酶 2 (NADPH-oxidase 2, NOX2) 的表达来介导心脏纤维化的发展, LPS 可以增加成纤维细胞中刺激因子白细胞介素-6 (interleukin-6, IL-6) 的表达^[55]。最近的研究表明, LPS 可以通过上调 NLRP3 的表达水平促进心房纤维化, 进而诱发房颤的发生和发展^[56]。之前的研究中, 灌喂合成益生菌群可调节肠道菌群的群落结构, 显著降低粪便中 LPS 含量, 继而减轻房颤^[57]。总之, 尽管 LPS 不是成纤维细胞的直接激活剂, 但它可以通过各种间接机制诱发 MF, 而 LPS 是否能直接影响成纤维细胞还需要进一步探讨。

2.2.2 氧化三甲胺

富含胆碱、磷脂酰胆碱和左旋肉碱的食物经过肠道菌群代谢产生三甲胺(trimethylamine, TMA)。肠道中的 TMA 主要由厚壁菌和变形杆菌产生。这些细菌负责携带与参与 TMA 生产的酶的合成有关的基因, 如 TMA 裂解酶基因^[58]。然后, TMA 在肝脏黄素单氧酶的氧化作用下产生 TMAO, 这是肠道菌群的另一种重要代谢物^[59]。TMAO 与心血管疾病的预后和死亡率密切相关, 将 TMAO 加入小鼠原代心肌成纤维细胞后, 发现 TMAO 以剂量依赖的方式促进细胞增殖、迁

移和胶原蛋白的分泌, 其可能机制与 TGF- β (transforming growth factor- β)/Smad3 信号通路的激活有关, TMAO 可以通过 NLRP3 加重成纤维细胞的氧化应激反应^[60]。在一项对主动脉粗大和纤维化小鼠的研究中, 通过饮食阻断或靶向抑制 TMAO 的产生, 发现下调 TMAO 水平, 可提高心功能和改善心室重构, 其机制可能与缓解 MF 有关^[61]。一项中心研究显示, TMAO 增加了心肌细胞的细胞外体积分数, 并提高了纤维化相关标志物的水平, 如肌钙蛋白-I、galectin-3 和 N-末端前体脑钠肽, 因此 TMAO 被提议作为早期心脏结构重塑的可能标志物^[62]。在心肌梗死的小鼠模型研究中发现, TMAO 和高胆碱饲料对小鼠心功能和心肌纤维化均有明显影响, 其机制可能为 TMAO 促进成纤维细胞向肌成纤维细胞的转化, 激活 TGF- β 受体 I/Smad 2 通路, 增加了 TGF- β 受体 I 的表达, 促进 Smad 2 的磷酸化, 进而上调了 α -SMA 和 I 型胶原的表达, 降低鼠成纤维细胞中 TGF- β 受体 I 的泛素化, 间接促进纤维化^[63]。在大鼠心肌肥大模型中, 发现 TMAO 处理后, 心肌细胞体积增大, 心房钠尿肽(atrial natriuretic peptide, ANP) 和 β 肌球蛋白重链(β -myosin heavy chain, β -MHC)等心肌肥大标志物含量高, TMAO 直接诱导了心肌肥大的发生, 证明 TMAO 诱导的心肌肥大和纤维化涉及 TGF- β 1/Smad3 信号传导途径^[64]。有研究显示心肌梗死模型中 TMAO 和 LPS 水平升高, 表明心肌纤维化加重。通过鲁红颗粒治疗后, 心肌梗塞模型大鼠肠道菌群组成和肠道通透性改变降低了血液中的 TMAO 和 LPS 水平, 继而可以保护心肌梗死大鼠的心脏功能, 防止心肌纤维化, 延缓了心肌梗死后的心室重构^[65]。

2.2.3 短链脂肪酸

肠道菌群对膳食纤维的降解会产生有机酸、气体和大量的短链脂肪酸: 乙酸盐、丙酸盐和丁

酸盐。在人体结肠中，乙酸盐、丙酸盐和丁酸盐所占的比例为 60:20:20^[66]。乙酸盐是大多数肠道细菌的净发酵产物，而丁酸盐和丙酸盐是由更具体的细菌物种产生的，如梭状芽胞杆菌 (*Clostridium*)、丁弧菌 (*Butyrivibrio*)、*Akkermansia muciniphila* 等。SCFA 的部分生理作用通过 G 蛋白偶联受体(G protein-coupled receptors, GPR)的刺激发生，包括 GPR41、GPR43 和 GPR109A，短链脂肪酸通过与 G 蛋白偶联受体结合，在心血管疾病中起着重要作用^[67]。短链脂肪酸可调节血压，发挥心脏保护作用，其机制与通过免疫调节和下调氧化应激进而缓解心肌纤维化有关，其抗炎作用也在病理性心脏重塑中发挥作用^[18]。

有一项使用短链脂肪酸受体 GPR41、GPR43、GPR109A 及 GPR43/109A 敲除小鼠模型的研究，研究了 SCFA 对血管紧张素 II 引起的心肌纤维化的作用。结果表明 SCFA 可通过 GPR43/109A 受体介导、调节 L-3,4-二羟基苯丙氨酸水平和平衡 T 调节细胞的丰度等多种途径缓解心肌肥厚和纤维化，进一步研究发现通过饮用水补充 SCFA 可逆转肠道菌群失调引起的血管周围纤维化^[68]。此外，SCFAs 可作为组蛋白去乙酰化酶(histone deacetylase, HDACs)的抑制剂。抑制 HDAC 的活性会导致组蛋白中特定赖氨酸残基的乙酰化增加，从而减少组蛋白上的正电荷，促进相关基因转录^[67]。丁酸盐可以抑制组蛋白去乙酰化酶(histone deacetylase, HDAC)和巨噬细胞中核因子 kappa β (nuclear factor-kappa B, NF- κ B)的活化，从而改变与生理和病理过程相关的关键基因的表达^[69]。研究肠道上皮细胞中选择性 HDAC 缺失的影响时，发现 HDAC 对肠上皮黏膜稳态有重要影响，维持或破坏黏膜平衡和影响肠道炎症需要特定的 HDACs 之间复杂的相互作用。SCFAs，即 HDAC 抑制剂，可

以通过抑制促炎细胞因子 IL-6 和 IL-12 在各种免疫细胞，如局部巨噬细胞和树突状细胞中的表达而抑制炎症。在心脏方面，HDAC 抑制剂可抑制心肌细胞的肥大刺激，减少心脏和其他组织的缺血损伤^[70]。此外，SCFA 已被证明可增加肠道屏障相关基因紧密连接蛋白 1、闭锁素和 ZO-1 的表达，并抑制 Claudin 2 的表达以修复肠道屏障。GPR109A 可刺激 K⁺外流和超极化，导致白细胞介素-18 的分泌增加，该物质由炎症途径产生，是用于维持上皮完整性和完善肠道动态平衡的最佳分子机制^[71]。GPR43 受体的激活减少了 NF- κ B 的磷酸化，下调了白细胞介素 1 β (interleukin-1 β , IL-1 β)和 IL-6 的表达^[72]。在一个心力衰竭的小鼠模型中，高纤维饮食和醋酸补充都能显著降低收缩压和舒张压、心脏纤维化和左心室肥大。高纤维和醋酸的保护作用伴随着心脏和肾脏早期生长反应蛋白 1 (early growth response 1, Egr1) 的下调，Egr1 是参与心脏肥大、心肾纤维化和炎症调节的主要心血管调节器^[73]。Marques 等发现，SCFAs 可以调节肠道菌群的不平衡，平衡厚壁菌门(*Firmicutes*)和拟杆菌门(*Bacteroides*)的比例，增加 *Bacteroides* 的丰度，这项研究还发现，SCFAs 可以下调基因的表达，抑制心脏肥大、心肾纤维化和炎症的发生^[73]。SCFAs 可以通过 Egr1 下调脾脏效应记忆 T 细胞和脾脏辅助 T 细胞来抑制局部免疫细胞对心肌的浸润，从而改善全身炎症反应，缓解心肌肥大和纤维化^[74]。在一些经混合抗生素处理的小鼠中，在心肌梗死前单独补充乙酸、丙酸和丁酸可使小鼠存活率提高 50%^[75]。总之，SCFAs 的心脏保护作用部分取决于对心肌细胞的局部影响。SCFAs 是否对心肌成纤维细胞有直接作用仍需进一步探讨。肠道细菌代谢物(TMAO、LPS、SCFA)和心肌纤维化的机制见图 1。

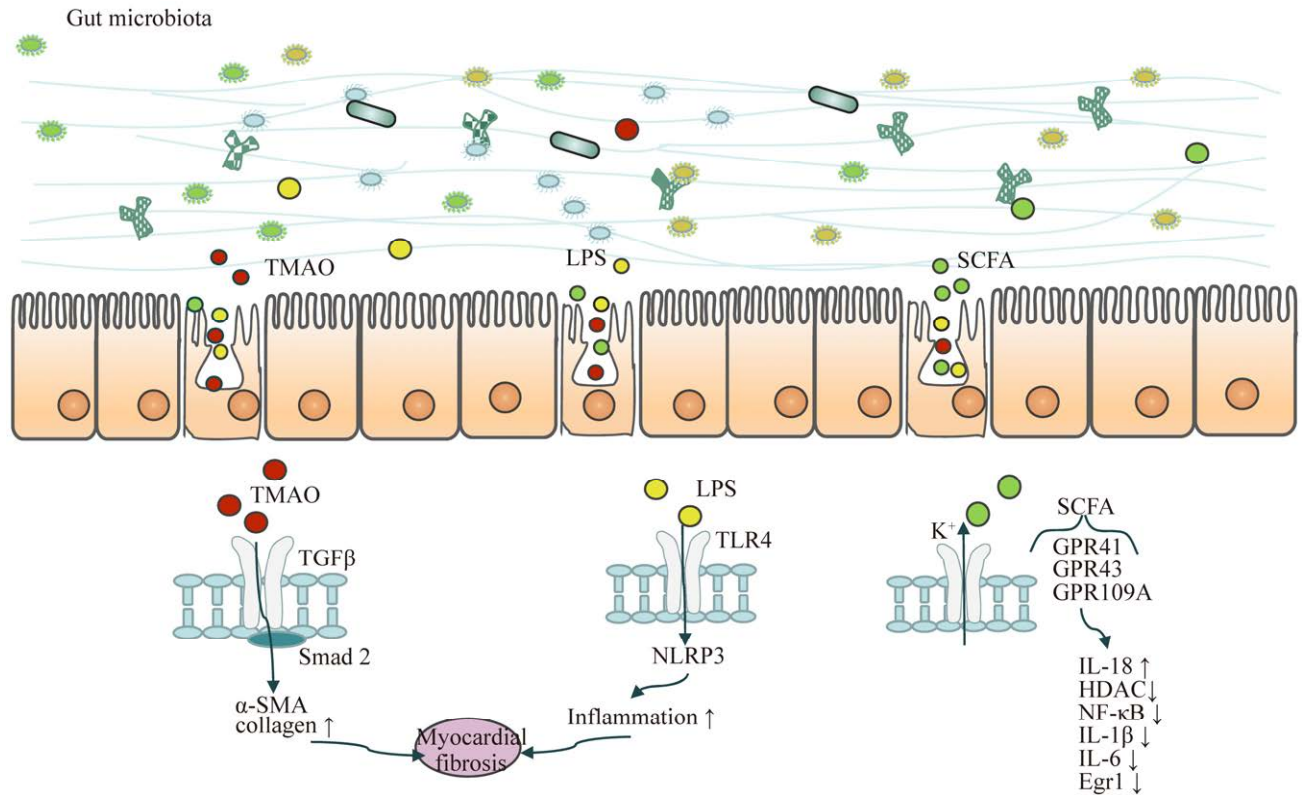


图 1 肠道菌群代谢产物与心肌纤维化的机制概述

Figure 1 Mechanism overview of intestinal microbiota metabolites and myocardial fibrosis. Lipopolysaccharide (LPS) binding to Toll-like receptor (TLR) activates various signaling pathways including NOD-like receptor thermoprotein structural domain-related protein 3 (NLRP3) inflammatory vesicles, thereby initiating inflammatory responses. Trimethylamine oxide (TMAO) activates the TGF- β receptor Smad 2 pathway, promotes Smad 2 phosphorylation, upregulates α -SMA and type I collagen expression and thus promotes MF. Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) stimulate the occurrence of G protein-coupled receptors (GPR41, GPR43 and GPR109A), in which GPR43 and GPR109A binding stimulates K^+ efflux and hyperpolarization, leading to increased interleukin (IL)-18 secretion; SCFA also inhibit histone deacetylase (HDAC) and nuclear factor (NF- κ B) activation and altered the expression of key genes, as well as downregulated the expression of IL-1 β , IL-6 and Egr1.

2.3 其他方式

除了上述 3 种肠道菌群代谢物外,肠道菌群还有可能通过其他代谢物影响 MF 的进展,如胆汁酸(bile acids, BAs)。BAs 在肝脏中通过胆固醇分解利用多种酶合成。食物消化后进入到肠道中,通过 7 α -羟化酶催化使其解聚和脱羟,分别形成二级 BAs 脱氧胆酸和石胆酸^[76]。胆汁酸还可以激活不同的胆汁酸受体来调节信号通路,以

调控复杂的代谢网络,包括葡萄糖、脂质和类固醇等,并调节能量平衡,从而深刻地影响宿主的代谢和免疫功能^[77]。研究表明,随着饮食中 BA 浓度的增加,大鼠模型中的非酒精性脂肪肝和心血管疾病也会增加^[78]。胆汁酸是具有系统内分泌功能的多功能信号分子,由于其固有的毒性,胆汁酸在肝细胞中受到严格的调节,法尼醇 X 受体(farnesoid X receptor, FXR)是 BA 的重要配

体之一^[79]。FXR 在各种正常和病理的人体组织中都有表达, PU 等最近的工作也证明了 FXR 在成人心肌细胞和心脏组织中的存在^[80]。FXR 已被提议作为心血管疾病的靶点, 调节胆固醇代谢和胆汁酸在肝脏和胃肠道的运输和代谢^[81]。临床数据显示, FXR 的表达在大鼠缺血的心脏组织中明显上调, FXR 的抑制减少了损伤的大小, 这表明 FXR 在介导心脏凋亡和损伤方面起着重要作用。在心脏、骨骼肌、脾脏、肾脏、肝脏、小肠和胎盘中检测到 BA 的另一个受体, 即 G-蛋白偶联胆汁酸受体(G-protein-coupled bile acid receptors, TGR5)。TGR5 似乎是控制 BA 激活 NLRP3 的一个组成部分。循环中的 BA 可能有办法通过 TGR5 作用于细胞外的心肌细胞。

此外, 肠道菌群与血压的调节和动脉高血压的发展有关系。在临床研究中, 高血压前期、高血压患者和他们的同伴在肠道菌群组成方面表现出明显的差异, 包括几种细菌类群^[32]。食用益生菌可以适度地改善血压。此外, 最近的一项分析提供了初步支持, 即富含乳酸菌的益生菌可能会影响高血压患者的血压^[82]。此外, Wilck 等的研究进一步表明, 罗伊氏乳杆菌(*Lactobacillus reuteri*)也有降压的作用^[83]。乙酸盐通过平行的机制影响血压和心脏功能, 并确立了 SCFAs 在调节交感神经张力和心脏收缩力方面的作用, 而丁酸盐可降低舒张压, 从而降低心血管疾病风险并控制血压^[84-85]。

3 干预肠道菌群以控制心肌纤维化

一些研究表明, 肠道菌群与 MF 之间存在密切关系, 可以通过干预肠道菌群调整到理想状态来改善菌群失调和相关症状。这些疗法通常侧重于使用抗生素来消耗部分菌株或通过饮食改变

肠道菌群结构来调控心血管疾病, 具体包括饮食干预、益生菌、益生元、粪便微生物移植以及工程益生菌等方式来调节微生物群^[86-87]。

3.1 饮食干预

饮食干预可以介导肠道菌群结构的变化, 同时能够显著降低心血管疾病的风险。例如, 地中海饮食可以成为治疗心房颤动的一个有用工具^[88]。研究报告称, 高纤维饮食可以降低高血压和 MF 大鼠的血压, 显示了饮食干预的潜力^[73]。高纤维饮食也可以增加产生乙酸盐的微生物群的比例, 降低血压, 缓解心脏肥大和纤维化的情况^[89]。一些源自植物的生物活性化合物可以作为心血管疾病的替代疗法, 如类胡萝卜素、花青素、番茄红素和黄酮类化合物^[90]。此外, 其他研究表明, 由石榴、仙人掌和苹果汁生产的果醋对肥胖引起的心脏损伤、心肌肥大和纤维化有保护作用。这些果醋可用于治疗与肥胖相关的心脏疾病^[91]。过量的盐摄入可能会导致血压升高, 进而导致心血管疾病发病率, 低盐饮食不仅可以降低心血管疾病的风险, 还可以增强降压药的降血压作用^[92]。因此, 健康饮食模式、结合定期体育锻炼和避免肥胖, 将降低未来患心血管疾病的风险, 对其他慢性疾病也具有良好的预防效果。

3.2 抗生素

对于 MF 来说, 抗生素可以通过针对产生 TMAO 的细菌来调控微生物群^[93]。例如, 米诺环素可以增加肠道菌群的多样性, 减少厚壁细菌群的丰度, 从而扭转肠道菌群的不平衡, 最终达到降低血压的效果^[94]。由于多药耐药菌已经成为社会的主要关注点, 因此不推荐用药物调节微生物群的疗法。然而, 在补充益生菌之前仍可短期使用抗生素来消除致病菌种, 并在其他调节方法之前提高整体疗效^[95]。

3.3 益生菌和益生元

益生菌已被证明有助于减少血管炎症和保护内皮功能,从而有助于控制血压和缓解 MF,可促进心血管功能和宿主健康^[96]。植物乳杆菌是一种具有生理效益的益生菌补充剂。在动物研究中,食用植物乳杆菌可以减少肠杆菌科细菌,包括大肠杆菌和沙门氏菌,还可以减少细菌在肠道上皮的易位,降低炎症反应,增加抗菌免疫活性。同时,在饮食中添加植物乳杆菌可以降低血清瘦素、纤维蛋白原和低密度脂蛋白胆固醇水平^[97]。在心肌梗死的大鼠模型中,植物乳杆菌通过抑制瘦素的产生,最终减少了万古霉素喂养大鼠的心肌梗死面积^[98]。一些研究发现,植物乳杆菌-苹果酱可以增强血管功能支持,减少心肌胶原蛋白的表达,改善心肌缺血和舒张功能障碍,并通过介导 NF-E2 相关因子 2 (nuclear factor erythroid2-related factor 2, Nrf2)的激活改善心脏功能^[99]。口服脆弱拟杆菌(*Bacteroides fragilis*)通过增加 Treg 细胞显著减弱炎症反应,从而防止 D-半乳糖诱导的心房结构重塑,抑制衰老大鼠心房颤动的发生,为靶向肠道微生物预防衰老相关的心房颤动的有效性提供了实验证据^[100]。合成益生菌群可改善心房纤维化的形成,并降低房颤引起的炎症反应,结果显示益生菌可调节肠道菌群的结构,增加益生菌使肠道菌群得到改善,进而对房颤的治疗有良好的作用^[57]。一项评估 GMNL-263 乳杆菌在改善糖尿病(diabetes mellitus, DM)大鼠心脏功能和结构中的作用的研究发现,GMNL-263 乳杆菌减弱了 TLR4 诱导的炎症反应,抑制了 DM 大鼠心脏的心肌肥厚和纤维化信号通路的激活^[101]。另一组动物实验也证明,益生菌可以改善肠道菌群失调,减少 NLRP3 的表达,改善阿霉素诱导的心力衰竭大鼠的心功能^[102]。

益生元可以从各种来源获得,包括母乳、大

豆和生燕麦。最受欢迎的益生元是植物中含有的低聚糖,如芦笋、朝鲜蓟、菊苣和洋葱^[103]。益生元食品,如膳食纤维、各种低聚糖和多糖以及抗性淀粉,可以维持肠道菌群的平衡^[104]。菊粉可以改善代谢综合征大鼠模型中的高血压、心脏损伤和舒张功能障碍,而不影响肥胖或胰岛素抵抗^[105]。

3.4 粪便微生物移植

粪便微生物移植 (fecal microbiota transplantation, FMT)是将粪便肠道菌群从健康捐赠者转移到另一个捐赠者身上的过程,目的是通过增加受试者肠道菌群的多样性和功能来恢复宿主健康^[106]。虽然 FMT 现在被认为是治疗艰难梭菌感染的有效方法,但 FMT 的初步临床试验显示对其他疾病也有同样积极的效果,包括胃肠道疾病(炎症性肠病、肠易激综合征)、自身免疫性疾病(过敏性哮喘、糖尿病)和神经系统疾病^[107]。在肠道炎症性疾病中,有大量证据表明 FMT 有明显的治疗效果,在一项包括 70 名急性溃疡性结肠炎(ulcer colitis, UC)患者的随机试验中,FMT 组的缓解率为 24%,而对照组为 5%。因此,FMT 诱导 UC 患者的缓解率明显高于安慰剂,而且没有其他不良反应^[108]。在代谢性疾病中,FMT 可以改善脂质代谢,研究报告称 FMT 对各种疾病有明显的效果。来自老年大鼠的肠道菌群可以增加大鼠心房颤动和心房纤维化的易感性,相反,移植年轻大鼠的肠道菌群可以防止老年大鼠发生心房颤动^[56]。一些研究人员发现,将高血压小鼠的粪便细菌移植到无菌小鼠身上可以降低小鼠的血压^[109]。然而,作为一种治疗方式,与心血管疾病相关的研究很少,但在未来,仍然需要对 FMT 进行大规模的临床研究,以证实其有效性,为 MF 的治疗提供有力的依据。

3.5 工程益生菌

工程益生菌是指基于合成生物学理论,通过

基因编辑,对现有的益生菌进行修饰,以获得所需的新益生菌。尽管益生菌与益生元疗法已经被证实可以改变宿主肠道微生物组进而改善宿主健康,对炎症性肠病、湿疹和抑郁症等疾病均有显著的治疗效果^[110]。然而,由于与心血管疾病复杂机制的了解有限,单一的益生菌补充剂策略的功效可能不一致且难以优化,其生物活性成分和作用机制还不清晰。相比之下,合成生物学提供了一种直接的方法,可以有针对性地设计益生菌,实现靶向药物递送,恢复肠道中紊乱的微生物群落内的稳态^[111]。Scott 等开发了用于治疗炎症性肠病的工程酵母益生菌,可以表达人类 P2Y2 嘌呤能受体,激活的受体与 ATP 降解酶 *apyrase* 的分泌联系起来,从而创造了能够感知促炎分子并自我调节中和促炎分子。这些自我调节的酵母益生菌抑制了炎症性肠病小鼠模型中的肠道炎症,减少了肠道纤维化和生态失调^[112]。一些益生菌还可以通过增强癌细胞的凋亡和防止氧化应激来诱导抗癌作用。使用合成生物学方法开发了一种工程益生菌大肠杆菌 *Nissle 1917* 菌株,它可以将肿瘤产生的代谢废物转化为增强抗肿瘤免疫应答的 L-精氨酸,并能有效增强程序性细胞死亡蛋白-1 及其配体抑制剂对小鼠肿瘤的治疗效果^[113]。不仅如此,工程益生菌还可以作为感知和诊断疾病的工具,益生菌在宿主体内通过与宿主细胞、代谢物和其他微生物相互作用,使其成为有吸引力的生物传感器靶标,可以设计用于检测组织或器官中的代谢失衡和病原体的存在^[114]。虽然工程益生菌研究仍处于探索阶段,但这一领域正在迅速发展,有望在未来为心肌纤维化的预防和治理提供更多的选择。

4 结论与前景

肠道菌群对宿主心脏的健康起着至关重要的作用,肠道菌群及其代谢产物,如 SCFA、LPS、

TMAO 和 BAs,在 MF 的发病机制和发展中具有关键作用。基于肠道菌群及其代谢物,出现了多种治疗和预防 MF 的新策略,包括饮食干预、抗生素、益生菌和粪便微生物群移植。作为 MF 疾病的一个因素,肠道菌群在宿主的系统性以及局部炎症中的作用表明它对不同疾病中纤维化途径的调节有贡献。

肠道菌群是近年来一个研究热点,对心血管疾病的预防和治理有重要意义。研究证实,肠道微生物与心血管疾病之间存在重要联系,肠道菌群的代谢产物有可能对心血管疾病,特别是中风产生不利影响。然而,人们对肠道菌群影响心脏和 MF 的机制知之甚少。很难明确肠道菌群的因果关系,也很难确定关键的代谢物及其调节途径,如某些细菌在 MF 中的作用。因此,对 MF 影响的具体作用机制还需要进一步澄清。同时,目前几乎所有与 MF 相关的研究都涉及细菌,而关于非细菌性微生物,如真菌、古细菌和病毒对纤维化影响的研究则很有限。对真菌或古细菌的深入探索将扩大对肠道菌群和 MF 之间关系的理解,因此未来的研究不仅应关注细菌在 MF 中的作用,还应关注非细菌微生物群对肠道菌群和 MF 的整体影响。同时还应该解决益生菌和抗生素在治疗和预防人类 MF 方面的潜力。比如,活性的 *A. muciniphila* 可以预防与寒冷有关的房颤,*A. muciniphila* 是一种存在于接近宿主细胞的黏液层中的有益细菌,因为它在代谢紊乱和免疫疾病中发挥着有前途的益生菌作用^[115]。微生物代谢产物与成纤维细胞和 MF 的相互关系已成为进一步研究的热点,其结果必将为 MF 的针对性治疗提供新的途径。工程益生菌是一种前沿技术,通过基因编辑技术可以改变微生物群落中的特定基因,从而增强某些益生菌的功能,如促进血管健康。总之,工程益生菌和合成生物学等新技术的应用为心肌纤维化的治疗和预防提供

了新思路和新方法。与此同时,人工智能在肠道微生物组研究中也扮演着越来越重要的角色。依赖于神经网络模型的深度学习正在推动生物学图像的分析能力,人工智能可以帮助医生更好地理解微生物组数据和生物标记物数据,为临床协作提供新的数据密集型研究框架^[116]。关于肠道细菌以及真菌与宿主相互作用的机制,病理条件下宿主肠道菌群的变化过程及其对病理结果的影响,还需要进行更大规模的临床研究,以进一步锁定和验证肠道菌群及其代谢物对MF的有益作用,并评估其对疾病诊断和治疗的可行性。

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