

## 心血管疾病

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## 心脏脂肪沉积与心血管疾病关系的研究进展

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**【摘要】**心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)已成为造成残疾和死亡的主要原因。肥胖作为 CVD 的重要危险因素,在 CVD 管理中受到广泛关注。然而,并非所有的脂肪组织都有相同的炎症、分泌和代谢活动。最新研究表明,心脏脂肪的沉积与心脏代谢风险的增加尤为相关。通过超声、计算机断层扫描(computed tomography, CT)和磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)等无创性成像技术,可定性定量地反映心脏脂肪的沉积情况,为心血管风险评估发挥临床作用。据此,本文综述了无创性测量心脏脂肪的方法、心脏脂肪沉积的特点及其影响 CVD 的相关机制,为防治心血管风险进展提供重要依据。

**【关键词】**心脏脂肪;心血管疾病;肥胖;计算机断层扫描

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## Research progress of cardiac fat deposition and cardiovascular disease

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**【Abstract】**Cardiovascular disease(CVD) has become the main cause of disability and death. Obesity, as an important risk factor for CVD, has received widespread attention in the management of CVD. However, not all adipose tissues have the same inflammatory, secretory, and metabolic activities. The latest research shows that cardiac fat deposition is particularly associated with increased risk of heart metabolism. Noninvasive imaging techniques such as ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), which play a clinical role in cardiovascular risk assessment, can qualitatively and quantitatively reflect cardiac fat deposition. Therefore, this paper has reviewed the methods of noninvasive measurement and the characteristics of cardiac fat deposition, as well as the related mechanisms affecting CVD, so as to provide an important basis for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular risk.

**【Key words】**cardiac fat; cardiovascular disease; obesity; computed tomography

心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)已成为我国居民死亡和疾病负担的首要病因<sup>[1]</sup>。肥胖不仅是诱导 CVD 发生的独立危险因素<sup>[2]</sup>,也是加速 CVD 进展的重要危险因素<sup>[3-5]</sup>。体质指数(body mass index, BMI)作为临床上评估肥胖的常用指标,与 CVD 有关<sup>[6]</sup>。研究发现,相似 BMI 的个体可能存在不同的心血管风险<sup>[7]</sup>,这可能归因于体脂分布的异质性。越来越多的证据表明,区域性脂肪的沉积可能会增加心血管风

险,其中心脏脂肪沉积与 CVD 风险尤为相关<sup>[8-10]</sup>。近年来,一些无创性测量[如超声心动图、计算机断层扫描(computed tomography, CT)和磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)]心脏脂肪的研究显示,即使校正了 BMI 和常见心血管危险因素,心脏脂肪沉积仍与冠心病<sup>[11]</sup>、冠状动脉钙化<sup>[12]</sup>、心肌梗死及心律失常<sup>[13]</sup>等疾病患病率显著相关。因此,本文回顾了目前关于心脏脂肪沉积的研究,综述了无创性测量心脏脂肪的方法、心脏脂肪沉积的特点及其影响 CVD 的相关机制,从而为防治 CVD 的发生发展提供重要依据。

## 1 心脏脂肪的测量方法

心脏脂肪是心脏周围及心肌内的脂肪库,主要包括心外膜脂肪、心包脂肪及心肌内脂肪。目前大多数研究采用超声心动图、MRI 和 CT 等无创性影像学技术来定性定量地反映心脏脂肪的沉积情况。

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### 1.1 超声心动图

使用带有 M3S 矩阵探头的胸腔二维超声设施,让受试者置于左侧卧位,其主动脉瓣和二尖瓣位于屏幕最低位置,在 3 个心动周期中的舒张期通过胸骨旁长轴和短轴视图来测量右心室自由壁上的脂肪储库,用任何部位的最大值及其平均值来表示。其中心外膜脂肪为线性包膜心包顶部和右心室心包之间的回声区,心包脂肪为心包顶部的回声区<sup>[14]</sup>。但超声测量的准确性、可重复性较差,仅能粗略反映心脏脂肪沉积情况。

### 1.2 MRI

使用 1.5T MRI (最大转换率:  $150\text{T} \times \text{m}^{-1} \times \text{s}^{-1}$ ) 采集心脏脂肪组织图像,体部线圈以  $50\text{mT} \times \text{m}^{-1}$  的梯度运行,序列由心脏线圈和心电图触发。在采集时间内,受试者屏气 10~12 s,通过倾斜轴向的快速自旋回波 T1 加权序列获得心脏脂肪组织扫描。采集参数如下:回波时间为 42 ms,回波序列长度为 23 ms,带宽为 62.50 kHz;切片厚度为 8 mm,切片间隔为 0 mm,视场为 28.5 cm,矩阵大小为  $288 \times 224$ ;采集的信号数量为 1,最小触发延迟为 8 mm 厚的部分,0 mm 相交间隙以及  $256 \times 256$  矩阵视场。再将采集数据传输到专用工作站,使用临时开发的软件进行分析以确定心脏脂肪含量<sup>[15]</sup>。其中心外膜脂肪被定义为位于心包囊内的脂肪组织;心包脂肪被定义为心外膜与心内膜之间的高信号区域,为舒张末期的连续短轴图像  $\times$  层厚;心肌内脂肪表示为氢信号抑制序列中甘油三酯与水峰值的比值(%)<sup>[16]</sup>。但 MRI 因成本较高、分辨率较低、扫描时间较长等缺点也受到了限制。

### 1.3 CT

使用 64 排多螺旋 CT 扫描仪,以肺动脉分叉处为心脏上限、心肌最低面或带有后降支的最低面为心脏下限,通过样条插值生成心包脂肪轮廓并自动分割胸腔内部<sup>[17]</sup>,使用标准冠状动脉成像方案进行图像采集,最后通过 CT 自带软件计算心脏沉积的脂肪组织含量<sup>[18]</sup>。其中心外膜脂肪被定义为测量范围(上限为肺动脉分叉处,下限为膈肌,前至胸骨,后至降主动脉和食管)内 CT 密度为  $-250 \sim -30$  HU 的区域<sup>[19]</sup>。心包脂肪被定义为胸骨角水平的心包囊内 CT 密度为  $-150 \sim -30$  HU 的区域,而心肌内脂肪被定义为 CT 平扫中比正常心肌或心室血流密度低(衰减值低于  $-20$  HU)的区域<sup>[20]</sup>。

与超声和 MRI 相比,CT 分辨率更高,不仅能同时提供冠状动脉周围脂肪、非梗阻性和梗阻性冠状动脉病变以及心脏脂肪组织的大小和分布的信息<sup>[21]</sup>,且准确性及可重复性较高、成本较低。因此,推荐临床上使用 CT 来量化心脏脂肪沉积。

## 2 心脏脂肪沉积的特点

生理状态下,心脏脂肪占总脂肪含量的  $0 \sim 3\%$ <sup>[22-23]</sup>。心脏脂肪沉积易导致高血压、糖尿病、动脉粥样硬化性冠心病和心律失常等疾病,从而对心脏结构和功能造成不良影响<sup>[24-25]</sup>。此外,心脏不同部位的脂肪沉积有所不同,以下分别就心外膜脂肪、心包脂肪和心肌内脂肪沉积的特点进行分述。

### 2.1 心外膜脂肪

心外膜脂肪主要分布在房室和心室沟内,沿着心房的游离壁分布。生理情况下,心外膜脂肪平均质量约 50 g,占心脏质量的 20%<sup>[26]</sup>,构成心脏脂肪组织的重要部分(约 70%),可覆盖心脏表面的 80%<sup>[23,27]</sup>;而肥胖状态下,心外膜脂肪可覆盖整个心脏表面,致心脏漂浮在脂肪组织中<sup>[12]</sup>。

研究表明,心外膜脂肪含量与冠心病的范围和严重程度、不稳定心绞痛及冠状动脉血流储备等显著相关<sup>[28]</sup>。Sironi AM 等<sup>[24]</sup>纳入 13 例新发现、未经治疗的非糖尿病原发性高血压男性,对照 26 例年龄、BMI 匹配的正常血压男性,采用 MRI 技术测量内脏脂肪和心脏脂肪沉积,观察到心外膜脂肪增加与内脏脂肪增加、胰岛素抵抗、高血脂和高血压等有关。此外,在弗明翰心脏病队列研究中,1 267 名参与者(平均年龄 60 岁、女性占 53.8%和心血管疾病占 9.7%)通过 CT 扫描来量化心外膜脂肪的体积,发现冠心病和心肌梗死的患病率与心外膜脂肪蓄积的相关性更强<sup>[11]</sup>。

### 2.2 心包脂肪

心包脂肪位于心外膜脂肪之前、脏层心包和壁层心包之间,占心脏总质量的 20%<sup>[29]</sup>。肥胖状态下,心包脂肪可能达到相当大的比例,从而影响心脏结构和工作效率。据报道,心包脂肪与心肌收缩功能受损和左室舒张功能恶化独立相关<sup>[30-31]</sup>。一项病例对照研究发现,糖尿病患者的心包脂肪增加与冠状动脉病变严重程度显著相关<sup>[32]</sup>。一项前瞻性队列研究发现,即使在调整了心血管危险因素和冠状动脉钙化评分之后,心包脂肪也可以预测冠心病事件的发生<sup>[33]</sup>。此外,有学者认为心包脂肪还与房颤相关<sup>[34]</sup>,即使是在调整其他心律失常因素的影响后,心包脂肪仍能独立预测房颤的发生及严重程度<sup>[35]</sup>。

### 2.3 心肌内脂肪

心肌内脂肪组织主要位于右心室,仅少量分布在左心室壁及其心尖部<sup>[36]</sup>。生理情况下,心肌内脂肪约占心脏总质量的 1%<sup>[37]</sup>;而在肥胖状态下,心肌内脂肪蓄积量会增加,以右心室心肌内脂肪为例,其脂肪浸润开始于心外膜,后逐渐扩展至心内膜,最终导致心脏形态和血流动力学改变<sup>[13]</sup>。

据报道,心肌内脂肪的蓄积与心肌梗死、心律失常等疾病有关<sup>[13]</sup>。一项通过质子磁共振波谱(proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy, H-MRS)测量 15 例健康人心肌内脂肪的研究发现,超重和肥胖受试者的心肌内脂肪含量比消瘦者高 3 倍,且心肌内脂肪的蓄积与左室质量增加、左室舒张功能障碍和心功能损害有关<sup>[38]</sup>。此外,Krřák M 等<sup>[39]</sup>采用 MRI 和局部光谱学方法,对非糖尿病、年龄与 BMI 匹配的 11 例胰岛素敏感性患者和 10 例胰岛素抵抗患者的心肌内脂肪组织进行测量,结果表明心肌内脂肪的蓄积与糖代谢紊乱密切相关,包括糖耐量受损和糖尿病,会导致心脏功能和形态学改变。

上述研究表明,肥胖状态下,心脏脂肪包括心外膜脂肪、心包脂肪及心肌内脂肪的堆积,与高血压、冠心病、心肌梗死和心律失常等心血管疾病密切相关,是心脏、血管损害的重要危险因素。

### 3 心脏脂肪沉积影响 CVD 的相关机制

目前有关心脏脂肪沉积影响 CVD 的确切机制尚不完全清楚。据此,以下分别就心外膜脂肪、心包脂肪和心肌内脂肪沉积可能影响 CVD 的相关机制进行分述。

#### 3.1 心外膜脂肪

正常生理状态下,心外膜脂肪对心脏具有保护作用,不仅能通过吸收脂肪酸保护心脏免受高脂肪酸影响,还能分泌部分抗炎和抗动脉粥样硬化的脂肪因子(如脂联素和肾上腺髓质素等)来保护心脏。而肥胖状态下,心外膜脂肪的蓄积会对心肌和冠状动脉产生不利影响。

可能机制如下:①心外膜脂肪增加产生的过量脂肪酸易被分流到非氧化途径中,导致毒性脂质蓄积。一方面可干扰 Janus 激酶(Janus kinase, JAK)/信号转导及转录激活因子(signal transduction and activator of transcription, STAT)通路来减少细胞信号传导,另一方面通过激活蛋白激酶 C 信号通路增加活性氧和神经酰胺水平来介导细胞凋亡。此外,还通过下调线粒体基因表达的主调节因子(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- $\gamma$  coactivator-1 $\alpha$ , PGC-1 $\alpha$ ),包括过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体(peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, PPAR $\gamma$ )和活化剂 1 $\alpha$ ,导致线粒体功能障碍,最终导致心功能障碍<sup>[40-42]</sup>。②过量的脂肪酸可能阻止心脏纤维中神经冲动的产生和传播,从而导致室性心律失常的发展<sup>[43]</sup>。此外,心外膜脂肪可通过直接(如脂肪浸润)或间接(如脂肪因子的旁分泌作用)机制影响心房结构和电生理特性<sup>[44]</sup>,导致心房肥大和扩张,加快心房重构和纤维化的进展,从而促进房性心律失常的发生发展<sup>[45-46]</sup>。③心外膜脂肪作为细胞因子的主要来源<sup>[47]</sup>,包括瘦素、肿瘤坏死因子- $\alpha$ (tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , TNF- $\alpha$ )、白细胞介素(interleukin, IL)-1 $\beta$ 、单核细胞趋化蛋白-1、IL-6 及 8、抵抗素、血管紧张素原及血管内皮生长因子等,可诱导内膜中的单核细胞分化成巨噬细胞。肥胖状态下过多的细胞因子易导致巨噬细胞过度浸润,从而促进动脉粥样硬化的发生发展<sup>[48]</sup>。④心外膜脂肪的增加,可能产生多种促炎和促动脉粥样硬化的脂肪因子,包括 TNF- $\alpha$ 、单核细胞趋化蛋白-1、IL-6、神经生长因子、抵抗素、内脂素、卵磷脂、瘦素、纤溶酶原激活物抑制剂-1 和血管紧张素等,通过旁分泌途径影响心脏平滑肌细胞的迁移和增殖、新生血管的形成、炎症反应和氧化应激<sup>[49-52]</sup>等,从而促进冠心病、动脉粥样硬化及心律失常的发生发展<sup>[53]</sup>。此外,心外膜脂肪的增加还会导致心肌肥大、心肌细胞纤维化及凋亡,造成脂联素等抗炎和抗动脉粥样硬化的脂肪因子减少,进而导致炎症反应和动脉粥样硬化增加<sup>[54]</sup>。

#### 3.2 心包脂肪

心包脂肪沉积通过心肌脂肪浸润及纤维化增加,造成心脏结构改变,从而增加 CVD 风险。此外,心包脂肪包围在冠状动脉和心肌周围,在肥胖状态下可能分泌较多的脂肪因子和促炎细胞因子,如 TNF- $\alpha$  和 IL-6<sup>[55]</sup>等,其中 TNF- $\alpha$  通过

损害胰岛素受体的信号通路来增加脂解作用,释放非酯化脂肪酸造成外周组织的胰岛素抵抗,从而增加 CVD 风险;而 IL-6 可加重全身低度炎症反应和肝脏 C 反应蛋白产生,并抑制脂蛋白脂肪酶<sup>[56]</sup>,最终导致内皮功能障碍和冠状动脉粥样硬化等 CVD 的发生发展。

#### 3.3 心肌内脂肪

有学者认为,心肌内脂肪沉积可能造成心肌细胞肥大、心肌脂肪浸润以及纤维化增加,此外,心肌内脂肪产生的脂肪因子会对邻近心肌产生局部毒性作用<sup>[57]</sup>,最终导致 CVD 的发生发展。心肌内脂肪沉积与心脏功能障碍之间的联系,可能归因于脂质过剩和脂肪酸过度氧化导致的继发性心脏脂毒性,而过度蓄积的毒性脂代谢产物会加重左心室肥厚、凋亡和收缩功能障碍<sup>[43, 58]</sup>。此外,心肌内脂肪的蓄积可造成甘油三酯和神经酰胺等毒性脂质积累,通过细胞凋亡、刺激诱导型一氧化氮合酶产生和促肥大细胞信号传导等途径造成心肌细胞损伤,最终导致心功能障碍和心衰的发生<sup>[59]</sup>。

总之,心脏脂肪作为代谢活跃的内分泌及旁分泌器官,可释放大量的促炎和抗炎脂肪因子,引起心脏重构、血管损害及心肌细胞损伤。此外,心脏脂肪还通过局部脂肪浸润造成心脏结构改变,最终增加 CVD 风险。

### 4 减重及药物对心脏脂肪沉积的影响

心脏脂肪沉积与 CVD 发生发展关系密切,因此,减少心脏脂肪沉积可能成为治疗 CVD 的新方向。目前已有研究表明,减肥可降低心脏脂肪酸的摄取及氧化,减少与肥胖相关的心肌内脂肪沉积,从而改善心室舒张功能<sup>[60]</sup>。Gepner Y 等<sup>[61]</sup>通过对 240 名肥胖患者进行为期 18 个月的随机对照研究发现,地中海和低碳水化合物饮食可显著降低心包内脂肪含量约 11%。Sacks HS 等<sup>[62]</sup>认为,口服吡格列酮降糖的冠心病合并 2 型糖尿病患者,心外膜脂肪中 IL-1B 及其他促炎介质基因表达降低。而在使用吡格列酮及辛伐他汀联合治疗的冠心病患者中,心外膜脂肪炎症及血浆炎症标志物减少幅度更大<sup>[63]</sup>。Iacobellis G 等<sup>[64]</sup>也同样证实了使用利拉鲁肽治疗可减少心外膜脂肪厚度约 40%。

### 5 总结

综上所述,心脏脂肪沉积(包括心外膜脂肪、心包脂肪和心肌内脂肪沉积)与 CVD 的发生发展密切相关。CT 作为评估心脏脂肪沉积的首选影像学方法,为正确认识心脏脂肪沉积与 CVD 的关系提供了可能。目前研究表明,心脏脂肪沉积可能通过脂肪浸润和分泌脂肪因子来直接或间接影响心血管结构和功能,减少心脏脂肪沉积在一定程度上可改善血压及血糖,降低炎症反应及心肌细胞损伤,但并不清楚其获益是否由药物或其他因素直接作用于心脏脂肪所致。因此,更多有关心脏脂肪沉积与药物或其他因素的作用机制有待进一步研究。此外,现阶段多为观察性研究,更多关于心脏脂肪

沉积与心血管疾病的前瞻性研究仍有待进行。

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