

· 论著 ·

淋巴结转移率与食管鳞癌根治术后预后及术后辅助化疗的关系

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【摘要】 目的 探讨淋巴结转移率(LNR)与食管鳞癌根治术后预后及术后辅助化疗的关系。**方法** 采用回顾性病例对照研究方法。收集2012年1月至2016年9月北京大学肿瘤医院收治的121例食管鳞癌根治术患者的临床病理资料;男105例,女16例;中位年龄为58岁,年龄范围为42~76岁。患者均行至少两野淋巴结清扫食管癌根治术。术后部分患者施行对应化疗和放疗。胸部和腹腔淋巴结分组参照美国癌症联合会(AJCC)第7版标准,清扫淋巴结按分组进行标记,清扫淋巴结均行病理学活组织检查。观察指标:(1)随访情况。(2)不同AJCC N分期中LNR对预后的影响。(3)LNR与术后辅助化疗的关系。采用门诊、电话和医院统计室查询方式进行随访,了解患者术后生存情况。随访时间截至2017年2月。无病生存时间为手术日至确认肿瘤复发的时间,总体生存时间为手术日至患者死亡或末次随访时间。偏态分布的计量资料以M(范围)表示,采用Kaplan-Meier法计算生存率和绘制生存曲线,采用Log-rank检验进行生存情况分析。**结果** (1)随访情况:121例患者术后均获得随访,随访时间为3.0~94.2个月,中位随访时间为27.1个月。随访期间,121例患者中98例肿瘤复发转移(64例死亡),22例未发生转移,1例肿瘤转移情况不详。患者总体生存时间平均为30.8个月,1、3、5年无病生存率分别为47.1%、20.3%、5.9%,1、3、5年总体生存率分别为93.1%、48.7%、35.3%。(2)不同AJCC N分期中LNR对预后的影响:121例患者中,46例N0期,42例N1期,28例N2期,5例N3期。42例N1期患者中,35例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 无病生存时间为12.2个月(1.2~82.3个月),7例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 无病生存时间为6.9个月(2.1~23.1个月),两者比较,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 3.888, P < 0.05$)。28例N2期患者中,12例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 无病生存时间为8.5个月(1.2~38.8个月),16例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 无病生存时间为4.4个月(1.0~52.7个月),两者比较,差异无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 0.007, P > 0.05$)。46例N0期患者无淋巴结转移,5例N3期患者样本量小,均未作分层分析。(3)LNR与术后辅助化疗的关系:121例患者中,56例行术后辅助化疗,多采用紫杉醇、铂类、5-氟尿嘧啶为基础的化疗方案;58例未行术后辅助化疗;7例术后辅助化疗情况不详。121例患者中,46例 $\text{LNR} = 0$,47例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$,28例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 。46例 $\text{LNR} = 0$ 的患者中,17例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为8.1个月(3.9~66.7个月),总体生存时间为34.0个月(4.7~76.0个月);29例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为18.8个月(1.6~53.2个月),总体生存时间为48.6个月(8.3~94.2个月);两者无病生存时间和总体生存时间比较,差异均无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 0.311, 0.858, P > 0.05$)。47例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 的患者中,27例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为13.3个月(5.0~82.3个月),总体生存时间为53.1个月(5.7~82.3个月);20例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为8.4个月(1.2~39.2个月),总体生存时间为26.5个月(5.9~52.6个月);两者无病生存时间和总体生存时间比较,差异均有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 10.322, 4.971, P < 0.05$)。28例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 的患者中(7例术后辅助化疗情况不详),12例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为10.3个月(2.9~52.7个月),总体生存时间为29.5个月(11.2~58.5个月);9例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为2.9个月(1.4~35.7个月),总体生存时间为14.5个月(3.0~62.3个月);两者无病生存时间比较,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 6.687, P < 0.05$);两者总体生存时间比较,差异无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 2.938, P > 0.05$)。**结论** LNR可作为AJCC N分期系统的补充, $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 的食管鳞癌根治术后患者行术后辅助化疗可改善无病生存时间和总体生存时间。

【关键词】 食管肿瘤; 食管鳞癌; 淋巴结转移率; 预后; 辅助化疗**基金项目:**首都卫生发展科研专项(2016-2-2152)

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Relationship of lymph node metastasis rate with prognosis of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after radical resection and postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy

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[Abstract] Objective To investigate the relationship of lymph node metastasis rate (LNR) with prognosis of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after radical resection and postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy. **Methods** The retrospective case-control study was conducted. The clinicopathological data of 121 patients who underwent radical resection of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma in the Peking University Cancer Hospital from January 2012 to September 2016 were collected. There were 105 males and 16 females, aged from 42 to 76 years, with a median age of 58 years. All patients underwent radical resection of esophageal cancer with at least two-field lymph nodes dissection. Some patients underwent corresponding chemotherapy and radiotherapy. The thoracic and abdominal lymph nodes were grouped according to the 7th edition standard of American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC). The lymph nodes dissected were labeled in groups, and all the lymph nodes were examined by pathology test. Observation indicators: (1) follow-up; (2) effects of LNR on prognosis of patients in different AJCC N staging; (3) relationship between LNR and postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy. Follow-up was conducted by outpatient examination, telephone interview and hospital statistical office to detect postoperative survival of patients up to February 2017. The disease-free survival time was from surgery date to date of confirmation of tumor recurrence, and the overall survival time was from surgery date to death of the patient or the last follow-up date. Measurement data with skewed distribution were expressed by M (range). The Kaplan-Meier method was used to calculate the survival rate and draw the survival curve. The Log-rank test was used for survival analysis. **Results** (1) Follow-up: 121 patients were followed up for 3.0–94.2 months, with a median follow-up time of 27.1 months. During the follow-up, 98 of 121 patients had tumor recurrence and metastasis (including 64 deaths), 22 had no metastasis, and 1 had unknown tumor metastasis. The mean overall survival time of patients was 30.8 months. The 1-, 3-, 5-year disease-free survival rates were 47.1%, 20.3%, and 5.9%, respectively. The 1-, 3-, 5-year overall survival rates were 93.1%, 48.7%, and 35.3%, respectively. (2) Effects of LNR on prognosis of patients in different AJCC N staging: of 121 patients, 46 were in N0 stage, 42 were in N1 stage, 28 were in N2 stage, and 5 were in N3 stage. Of 42 patients in N1 stage, 35 with $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ had a disease-free survival time of 12.2 months (range, 1.2–82.3 months), and 7 with $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ had a disease-free survival time of 6.9 months (range, 2.1–23.1 months); the difference between the two groups was statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 3.888$, $P < 0.05$). Of the 28 patients in N2 stage, 12 with $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ had a disease-free survival time of 8.5 months (range, 1.2–38.8 months), and 16 with $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ had a disease-free survival time of 4.4 months (range, 1.0–52.7 months); the difference was not statistically significant ($\chi^2 = 0.007$, $P > 0.05$). Forty-six patients in N0 stage were detected no lymph node metastasis, and only 5 cases were in N3 stage, with no analysis. (3) Relationship between LNR and postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy: of the 121 patients, 56 underwent postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy, which was mainly constituted by paclitaxel, platinum, and 5-fluorouracil-based regimens, 58 didn't undergo postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy, and 7 had unknown data of postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy. Of 121 patients, 46 had $\text{LNR} = 0$, 47 had $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$, 28 had $\text{LNR} > 0.15$. Of the 46 patients with $\text{LNR} = 0$, 17 who underwent postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 8.1 months (range, 3.9–66.7 months) and a overall survival time of 34.0 months (range, 4.7–76.0 months); 29 who didn't undergo postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 18.8 months (range, 1.6–53.2 months), and a overall survival time of 48.6 months (range, 8.3–94.2 months); there was no significant difference in the disease-free survival time and overall survival time between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 0.311$, 0.858 , $P > 0.05$). Of the 47 patients with $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$, 27 who underwent postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 13.3 months (range, 5.0–82.3 months), and a overall survival time of 53.1 months (range, 5.7–82.3 months); 20 without postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 8.4 months (range, 1.2–39.2 months), and a overall survival time of 26.5 months (range, 5.9–52.6 months). There were significant differences in the disease-free survival time and overall survival time between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 10.322$, 4.971 , $P < 0.05$). Of the 28 patients with $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ (7 had unknown data of postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy), 12 who underwent adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 10.3 months (range, 2.9–52.7 months), and a overall survival time of 29.5 months (range, 11.2–58.5 months); 9 without postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy had a disease-free survival time of 2.9 months (range, 1.4–35.7 months), and a overall survival time of 14.5 months (range, 3.0–62.3 months); there was a significant difference in the disease-free survival time between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 6.687$, $P < 0.05$),

and no significant difference in the overall survival time between the two groups ($\chi^2 = 2.938$, $P > 0.05$).

Conclusion LNR can be used as a supplementation of AJCC N staging system. In patients with $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$, postoperative adjuvant chemotherapy can improve disease-free survival time and overall survival time.

【Key words】 Esophageal neoplasms; Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma; Lymph node metastasis rate; Prognosis; Adjuvant chemotherapy

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食管癌是常见的消化道恶性肿瘤之一,也是引起肿瘤相关死亡的常见肿瘤之一,5 年生存率为 15%~25%^[1]。我国食管癌患者中,食管鳞癌约占 90%^[2]。目前,食管鳞癌根治术后患者的预后仍较差。国内外的研究结果显示:手术清扫淋巴结中阳性淋巴结数目是影响食管癌预后的重要因素^[3-6]。美国癌症联合会(AJCC)第 7 版食管癌分期,将 N 分期改为按照淋巴结转移数目划分,且推荐最少淋巴结清扫数目为 12 枚。但由于受病变部位、与周围大血管的关系、手术难度和术者技术水平的影响,清扫淋巴结数目常存在较大差异。若阳性淋巴结未被检出,则容易导致分期偏倚,难以预测预后及指导术后辅助治疗。因此,近年来,有学者提出淋巴结转移率(metastatic lymph node ratio, LNR),即食管癌根治术中阳性淋巴结数目占清扫淋巴结总数的比例,是影响患者预后的独立因素^[7-9]。本研究回顾性分析 2012 年 1 月至 2016 年 9 月北京大学肿瘤医院收治的 121 例食管鳞癌根治术患者的临床病理资料,探讨 LNR 与食管鳞癌根治术后预后及术后辅助化疗的关系。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料

采用回顾性病例对照研究方法。收集 121 例食管鳞癌患者的临床病理资料,男 105 例,女 16 例;中位年龄为 58 岁,年龄范围为 42~76 岁。患者均行至少两野淋巴结清扫食管癌根治术。术后部分患者施行对应化疗和放疗。本研究通过北京大学肿瘤医院医学伦理委员会审批,批号为 2016KT48。患者及家属均签署知情同意书。

1.2 纳入标准和排除标准

纳入标准:(1)食管癌根治术后,病理学检查证实为鳞癌,TNM 分期明确。(2)年龄 ≥ 18 岁,性别不限。(3)手术前后化疗方案不限。(4)术后辅助化疗、放疗前卡氏评分为 80~100 分。(5)无影响生存及放化疗的其他重要疾病。(6)临床病理资料完整。

排除标准:(1)食管鳞癌行姑息性手术。(2)年

龄 < 18 岁。(3)合并影响生存的其他重要疾病,卡氏评分 < 80 分。(4)其他组织类型的食管癌或合并其他器官的恶性肿瘤。(5)临床病理资料缺失。

1.3 患者胸腹腔淋巴结分组及清扫取样

患者行标准的经腹右胸两切口食管癌切除术(Ivor-Lewis 手术)、经右胸腹颈三切口食管癌切除术(McKewon 手术)或经左胸食管癌切除术,并均进行至少两野淋巴结清扫术。胸部和腹腔淋巴结分组参照 AJCC 第 7 版标准,清扫淋巴结按分组进行标记,清扫淋巴结均行病理学活组织检查。

1.4 观察指标和评价标准

观察指标:(1)随访情况:获得随访的患者例数、随访时间、肿瘤复发及转移(含死亡)例数、患者总体生存时间、无病生存率及总体生存率。(2)不同 AJCC N 分期中 LNR 对预后的影响。(3)LNR 与术后辅助化疗的关系。

评价标准:术后肿瘤复发的判定标准为(1)病理学检查证实肿瘤复发。(2)螺旋 CT 检查示新出现短径 ≥ 1 cm 胸腹腔淋巴结或脏器转移。(3)体表淋巴结超声检查示新出现短径 ≥ 1 cm 淋巴结或随访过程中逐渐增大、考虑恶性淋巴结。(4)PET-CT 检查示高代谢,提示恶性病变(同机 CT 扫描检查示病灶直径 ≥ 1 cm)。(5)细胞学检查证实为恶性浆膜腔积液。(6)参考文献[10]中 LNR 分界值的方法,以 0 和 0.15 为界将患者分为 $\text{LNR} = 0$; $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$; $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 。

1.5 随访

采用门诊、电话和医院统计室查询方式进行随访,了解患者术后生存情况。随访时间截至 2017 年 2 月。无病生存时间为手术日至确认肿瘤复发的时间,总体生存时间为手术日至患者死亡或末次随访时间。

1.6 统计学分析

应用 SPSS 22.0 统计软件进行分析。偏态分布的计量资料以 M (范围)表示,采用 Kaplan-Meier 法计算生存率和绘制生存曲线,采用 Log-rank 检验进行生存情况分析。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 随访情况

121 例患者术后均获得随访,随访时间为 3.0~94.2 个月,中位随访时间为 27.1 个月。随访期间,121 例患者中 98 例肿瘤复发转移(64 例死亡),22 例未发生转移,1 例肿瘤转移情况不详。患者总体生存时间平均为 30.8 个月,1、3、5 年无病生存率分别为 47.1%、20.3%、5.9%,1、3、5 年总体生存率分别为 93.1%、48.7%、35.3%。

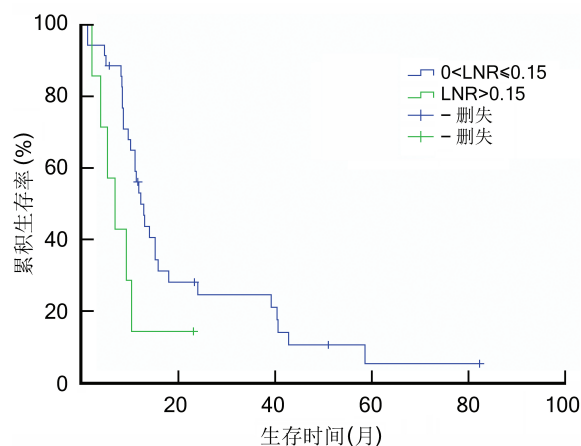
2.2 不同 AJCC N 分期中 LNR 对预后的影响

121 例患者中,46 例 N0 期,42 例 N1 期,28 例 N2 期,5 例 N3 期。42 例 N1 期患者中,35 例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 无病生存时间为 12.2 个月(1.2~82.3 个月),7 例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 无病生存时间为 6.9 个月(2.1~23.1 个月),两者比较,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 3.888, P < 0.05$)。28 例 N2 期患者中,12 例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 无病生存时间为 8.5 个月(1.2~38.8 个月),16 例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 无病生存时间为 4.4 个月(1.0~52.7 个月),两者比较,差异无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 0.007, P > 0.05$)。见图 1,2。46 例 N0 期患者无淋巴结转移,5 例 N3 期患者样本量小,均未作分层分析。

2.3 LNR 与术后辅助化疗的关系

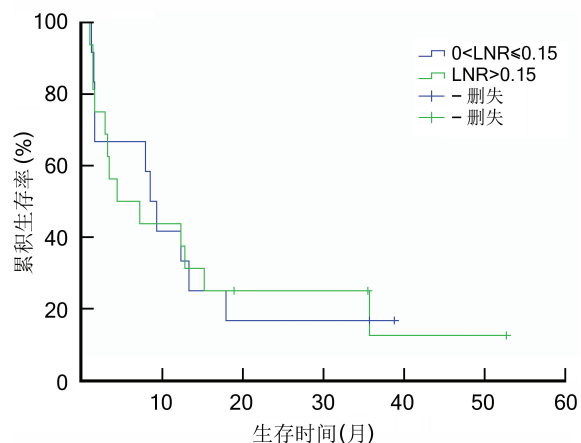
121 例患者中,56 例行术后辅助化疗,多采用紫杉醇、铂类、5-氟尿嘧啶为基础的化疗方案;58 例未行术后辅助化疗;7 例术后辅助化疗情况不详。121 例患者中,46 例 $\text{LNR} = 0$,47 例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$,28 例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 。46 例 $\text{LNR} = 0$ 的患者中,17 例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 8.1 个月(3.9~66.7 个月),总体生存时间为 34.0 个月(4.7~76.0 个月);29 例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 18.8 个月(1.6~53.2 个月),总体生存时间为 48.6 个月(8.3~94.2 个月);两者无病生存时间和总体生存时间比较,差异均无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 0.311, 0.858, P > 0.05$)。47 例 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 患者中,27 例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 13.3 个月(5.0~82.3 个月),总体生存时间为 53.1 个月(5.7~82.3 个月);20 例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 8.4 个月(1.2~39.2 个月),总体生存时间为 26.5 个月(5.9~52.6 个月);两者无病生存时间及总体生存时间比较,差异均有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 10.322, 4.971, P < 0.05$)。28 例 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 的患者中(7 例术后辅助化疗情况不详),12 例行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 10.3 个月(2.9~52.7 个月),总体生存时间为 29.5 个月(11.2~58.5 个月);

9 例未行术后辅助化疗患者无病生存时间为 2.9 个月(1.4~35.7 个月),总体生存时间为 14.5 个月(3.0~62.3 个月);两者无病生存时间比较,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 6.687, P < 0.05$);两者总体生存时间比较,差异无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 2.938, P > 0.05$)。见图 3~8。



注:LNR 为淋巴结转移率

图 1 42 例 N1 期不同淋巴结转移率食管鳞癌患者行食管癌根治术后无病生存曲线



注:LNR 为淋巴结转移率

图 2 28 例 N2 期不同淋巴结转移率食管鳞癌患者行食管癌根治术后无病生存曲线

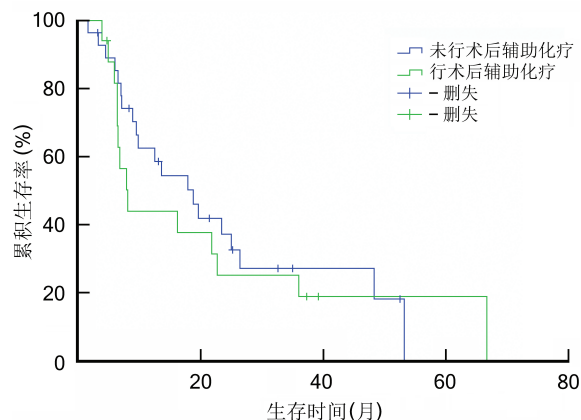


图 3 46 例淋巴结转移率=0 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗无病生存曲线

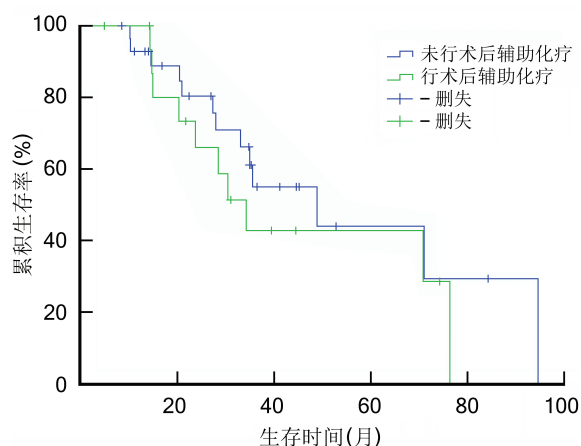


图 4 46 例淋巴结转移率=0 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗总体生存曲线

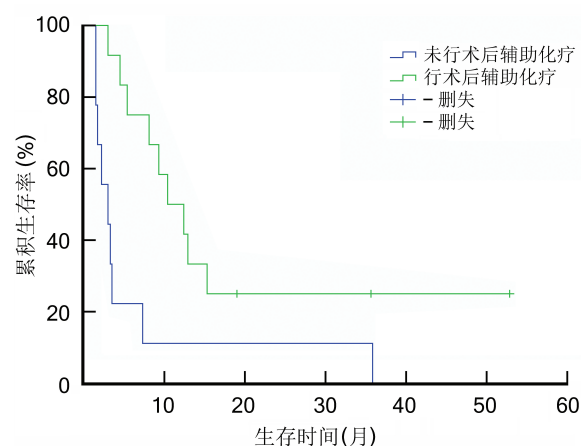


图 7 21 例淋巴结转移率>0.15 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗无病生存曲线

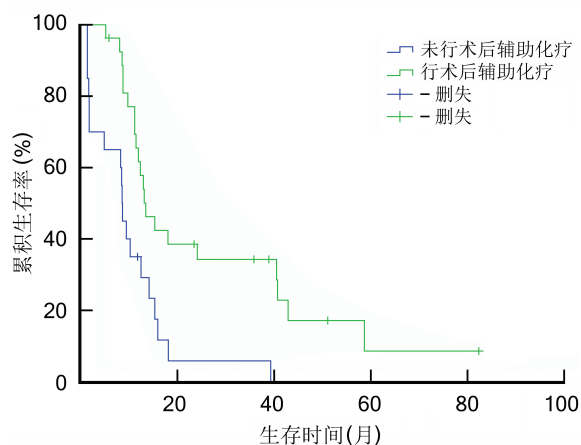


图 5 47 例 0<淋巴结转移率≤0.15 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗无病生存曲线

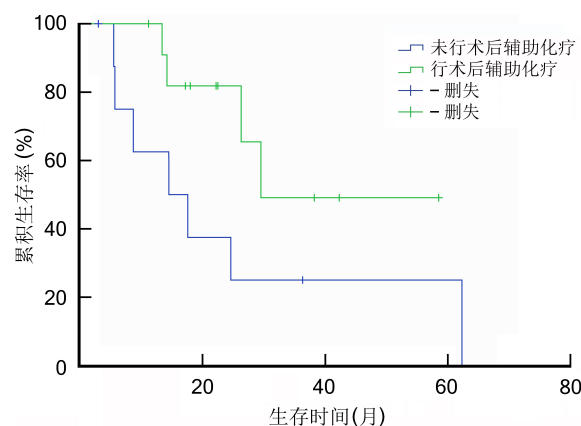


图 8 21 例淋巴结转移率>0.15 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗总体生存曲线

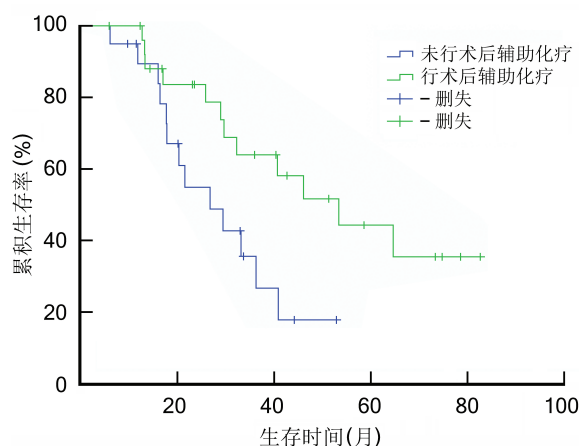


图 6 47 例 0<淋巴结转移率≤0.15 食管鳞癌根治术患者行术后辅助化疗和未行术后辅助化疗总体生存曲线

3 讨论

AJCC 第 7 版食管癌分期系统从按区域划分改为按淋巴结转移阳性数目划分,已被广泛应用于临床。同时其推荐手术清扫淋巴结数目应>12 枚,否则可能因阳性淋巴结未被检出,影响对患者预后的

判断。近年来对术中最少清扫淋巴结数目存在较大争议,多项研究结果表明:应清扫更多淋巴结以利于精确分期及改善预后^[11-13]。以上原因使 AJCC N 分期系统在临床应用过程中受到限制。因此,近年来有较多学者关注 LNR,目前已有多项研究结果显示:LNR 是影响患者术后肿瘤复发及生存的独立因素^[7, 10, 14-20]。

3.1 LNR 是食管鳞癌 AJCC N 分期标准的补充

既往研究结果显示:淋巴结清扫总数与阳性淋巴结数目存在统计学关联,但与 LNR 无明显相关性^[20-21]。因此,清扫淋巴结数目<12 枚时,LNR 可能较 AJCC N 分期更具优势。且 LNR 较 AJCC N 分期系统更具有预后评估价值。Zhang 等^[20]对 387 例食管鳞癌术后患者的研究结果显示:单因素分析结果中 LNR 及 AJCC N 分期均是患者预后的相关因素,但多因素分析中将 N 分期与 LNR 作为共变量时,N 分期对预后的影响失去统计学意义。该结论也得到了 Chen 等^[22]及 Wei 等^[23]的验证。

为探索不同 AJCC N 分期中 LNR 对预后的影响,进一步得出 LNR 相对于 AJCC N 分期系统的优势,本研究将 N1 期患者分为 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 和 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 两类,两者无病生存时间比较,差异有统计学意义;而 N2 期患者两者无病生存时间比较,差异无统计学意义。这提示 LNR 对 N1 期食管癌根治术后患者肿瘤复发风险可能更有预测价值。N1 期患者中,阳性淋巴结数目为 1 枚和 2 枚时,需分别清扫 ≥ 7 枚和 > 13 枚淋巴结,此时 $\text{LNR} < 0.15$,患者肿瘤复发风险降低。临床实践中常受病变部位与周围脏器血管关系、手术难度和术者操作技术、病理学检查水平等因素的影响,导致术后检出淋巴结总数偏少(清扫淋巴结数目 < 13 枚)。这将造成 AJCC N1 分期的准确性下降。而此时, LNR 可将 AJCC N1 期患者区分为肿瘤复发高危和低危人群,对于术后肿瘤复发风险的判断比 AJCC N 分期更有优势,可作为对 AJCC N 分期系统的补充。

3.2 LNR 与食管鳞癌根治术后辅助化疗的关系

食管鳞癌术后辅助化疗一直存在争议,主要是没有合适指标指导临床治疗决策的制订。既往研究多根据淋巴结转移情况探索术后辅助化疗对患者肿瘤复发及生存的影响。多数研究结果表明:淋巴结转移患者术后辅助化疗可能对改善无病生存时间有益,但对总体生存时间却无明显影响^[24-27]。Ando 等^[26]对 122 例单纯手术及 120 例手术+术后辅助化疗的食管鳞癌患者进行分析,其研究结果发现:单纯手术患者与手术+术后辅助化疗患者 5 年无病生存率分别为 45% 和 55% ($P=0.037$),而两组患者 5 年总体生存率分别为 52% 和 61% ($P=0.130$)。但部分学者认为:术后辅助化疗可能改善食管鳞癌患者总体生存时间^[28-29]。Kim 等^[29]对食管癌患者总体生存时间的影响因素进行多因素分析发现:手术+术后辅助化疗组(62 例)与单纯手术组(68 例)患者的总体生存时间比较,差异有统计学意义(风险比 = 0.47, 95% 可信区间为 0.28~0.77, $P=0.003$)。

本研究中 LNR 以 0 和 0.15 为界将患者分为 3 类,对患者按 LNR 进行分层分析,探索 LNR 对术后辅助化疗的指导意义。其研究结果显示:当 $\text{LNR} > 0$ 即存在淋巴结转移时,行术后辅助化疗可以改善患者无病生存时间,这与既往多项研究结论一致^[24-27]。当 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 时,患者行术后辅助化疗可以改善总体生存时间。当 $\text{LNR} = 0$ 及 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 时,行术后辅助化疗均不能改善患者总体生存时间。 $\text{LNR} > 0.15$ 的患者,由于食管鳞癌生物学特性较差,一旦

出现较高的 LNR,就可能预示其合并较晚的 T 分期甚至可能有潜在的远处转移。这些因素导致患者预后较差。此外,受患者术后恢复慢、体质差等因素影响,目前食管癌术后辅助化疗的剂量强度和疗程可能相对不足。这也是影响患者预后的重要因素。

综上, LNR 可作为对 AJCC N 分期系统的补充,对 $0 < \text{LNR} \leq 0.15$ 的食管鳞癌患者进行术后辅助化疗可改善患者无病生存时间和总体生存时间。由于本研究为回顾性研究,且样本量较小,可能对结果造成偏倚,其研究结果仍有待大规模的前瞻性临床研究加以验证。

利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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