

胰岛素降低海马谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸含量改善糖尿病大鼠空间学习记忆能力

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摘要:目的 观察胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠空间学习记忆及海马组织中谷氨酸、*D*-丝氨酸含量的影响。方法 采用尾静脉注射链脲佐菌素(STZ)制备大鼠糖尿病(DM)模型。注射 STZ 第 3 天模型成功后,每天 1 次 sc 给予胰岛素 $2 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$,持续 82 d。定期检测各组动物体重及空腹血糖。造模 11 周后进行 Morris 水迷宫实验,检测大鼠学习记忆能力;实验结束后取海马组织,观察形态变化,并测定谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸含量。结果 与正常对照组比较,DM 模型组大鼠体重明显减轻($P < 0.01$),血糖明显升高($P < 0.01$),逃避潜伏期明显延长及原平台象限游泳时间显著减少($P < 0.01$),海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸的含量均显著升高($P < 0.01$)。胰岛素治疗组体重增加、血糖含量恢复到正常水平。与 DM 模型组相比,胰岛素治疗组大鼠逃避潜伏期显著缩短($P < 0.01$),原平台象限游泳时间占总时间百分比显著增加($P < 0.01$);海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸的含量也分别由 DM 模型组的 (1.550 ± 0.054) 和 $(0.084 \pm 0.05) \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ 下降为胰岛素治疗组的 (1.137 ± 0.023) 和 $(0.068 \pm 0.004) \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ 。结论 胰岛素可以改善糖尿病大鼠空间学习记忆能力,这可能与降低海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸的含量有关。

关键词: 糖尿病; 学习记忆; 海马; 谷氨酸; *D*-丝氨酸

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糖尿病(diabetes mellitus, DM)是一种以血糖升高为特征的代谢紊乱综合征,发病率逐年上升,我国每年约增加 120 万糖尿病患者^[1],已经成为糖尿病第一大国。糖尿病导致的学习记忆损伤早在 20 世纪 20 年代就有报道^[2]。在临床表现中表现为认知功能障碍、痴呆、精神性疾患等慢性脑病症状,称为糖尿病脑病(diabetic encephalopathy, DE)^[3-5]。已发现 DE 与大脑微血管病变^[6]、氧化应激^[7]、非酶性蛋白糖基化^[8]等有关,但其发病机制还不明确。

N-甲基-*D*-门冬氨酸(*N*-methyl-*D*-aspartic acid, NMDA)受体在突触可塑性及兴奋毒性等方面均具有重要作用。NMDA 受体 NR₁ 亚基上存在一个“甘氨酸位点”,该位点必须被结合后谷氨酸才能开放 NMDA 受体偶联的离子通道。而研究表明,*D*-丝氨酸与甘氨酸结合位点的结合效能比甘氨酸的更高,是真正的 NMDA 受体的共激活因子^[9-10]。

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NMDA 受体的过度激活可导致学习记忆损害。本文采用静脉注射链脲佐菌素(streptozotocin, STZ)制备糖尿病模型,观察胰岛素治疗对糖尿病大鼠空间学习记忆能力的影响,并测定了海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸含量变化,探讨胰岛素的作用机制。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物、药品及主要仪器

健康雄性 SD 大鼠,体质量 190 ~ 210 g,由辽宁医学院实验动物中心提供,动物合格证号: SCXK(辽)2003-2010。谷氨酸对照品,上海康达氨基酸厂生产,纯度为 99.9%。*D*-丝氨酸(纯度 99.9%)、邻苯二甲醛(*O*-phthalaldehyde, OPA)和 *N*-异丁酰基-*D*-半胱氨酸(*N*-isobutyl-*D*-cysteine, IBDC)、STZ 为 Sigma 公司产品。精蛋白锌胰岛素注射液(长效胰岛素,10 ml:400 U),江苏万邦生化医药股份有限公司生产。乙腈和甲醇为色谱纯;其余试剂均为国产分析纯。LC-10Avp 高效液相色谱仪,为日本岛津公司生产。Morris 水迷宫,中国医学科学院药物研究所研制。One Touch II 血糖仪,美国强生有限公司产品。

1.2 动物模型制备、分组及药物治疗

45 只大鼠适应性喂养 3 d 后,置于 Morris 水迷

宫中学习训练 2 d。于第 3 天,选择 4 次均能在 90 s 内找到平台的 43 只大鼠为合格实验动物。合格大鼠自由觅食饮水,再喂养 3 d 后,随机选出 10 只为正常对照组。余下的大鼠禁食不禁水 12 h,一次性尾静脉给予 STZ $50 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ (STZ 临用前溶解于新鲜配制的 $0.1 \text{ mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$, pH 4.4 的柠檬酸-柠檬酸钠缓冲液,配制成 1% 的溶液),记为第 0 天 (d 0)。72 h 后由尾静脉采血测定血糖,选择血糖 $\geq 15.0 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ 者为糖尿病大鼠^[11]。将复制成功的糖尿病大鼠再用随机法分为 2 组:DM 模型组 16 只;胰岛素治疗组 13 只,每日下午 5~6 时腹部 sc 给予胰岛素,并于次日上午 8~9 时检测血糖,调整胰岛素用量,使大鼠血糖控制在 $6 \sim 9 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$,胰岛素用量约为 $2 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ 。正常对照组腹部皮下给予等体积的柠檬酸-柠檬酸钠缓冲液。所有大鼠均自由摄食饮水,12 h 光照,连续给药 82 d。

1.3 大鼠体重、血糖的测定

每周定期测定 1 次大鼠进行体重。定期检测大鼠空腹血糖,尾静脉采血,用血糖仪测定。

1.4 Morris 水迷宫实验^[12]

参照 Morris 方法于第 80 天进行大鼠水迷宫实验。记录大鼠寻找平台并爬上平台所需时间(逃避潜伏期)和计算大鼠在原平台象限游泳时间占总游泳时间的百分比。实验期间继续给药。

1.5 HE 染色观察海马 CA1 区神经细胞形态

Morris 水迷宫实验结束后,用 10% 水合氯醛 ($300 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$) 腹腔注射,麻醉后开胸暴露心脏,经左心室插管灌流生理盐水,剪开右心房,待心脏变白后改用 4% 多聚甲醛灌流固定,取脑组织,固定于 10% 甲醛中,石蜡包埋切片,经 HE 染色后光镜下观

察海马 CA1 区神经细胞形态变化。

1.6 高效液相色谱法检测海马组织中谷氨酸、D-丝氨酸含量^[13-14]

水迷宫实验完成后立即取双侧海马,冻存,5 d 内用邻苯二甲醛 (O-phthalaldehyde, OPA) 柱前衍生化高效液相色谱法测定谷氨酸、D-丝氨酸含量 ($\text{mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ 湿重)。

1.7 统计学处理

实验数据以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示,用 SPSS16.0 软件包,采用单因素方差分析 (ANOVA) 及其 LSD's *post hoc test* 进行统计学分析。

2 结果

2.1 胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠体质量和血糖的影响

表 1 及表 2 结果显示,正常对照组大鼠体质量增长明显,血糖维持正常水平,而 DM 模型组大鼠体质量增长缓慢或下降,血糖一直处于较高水平 (血糖 $\geq 15.0 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$),与正常对照组相比差异具有统计学意义 ($P < 0.01$)。胰岛素治疗组大鼠体质量增加明显,血糖也恢复到正常水平 (表 2)。

2.2 胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠空间学习记忆的影响

表 3 结果表明,DM 模型组大鼠逃避潜伏期较正常对照组明显延长,且在原平台象限游泳时间占总游泳时间的百分比明显降低 ($P < 0.01$),表明 DM 大鼠空间学习记忆功能明显受损 ($P < 0.01$)。胰岛素治疗组逃避潜伏期较 DM 模型组明显缩短 ($P < 0.01$),大鼠在原平台象限的游泳时间占总游泳时间的百分比明显增加 ($P < 0.01$),说明胰岛素可以明显改善糖尿病大鼠的学习记忆能力 (表 3)。

Tab. 1 Effect of insulin on body mass in diabetes mellitus (DM) rats

| Group | n | Body mass/g | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | d 0 | d7 | d 28 | d 56 | d 80 |
| Normal control | 10 | 218.1 ± 23.7 | 240.1 ± 24.6 | 295.1 ± 31.2 | 301.5 ± 30.3 | 302.8 ± 33.7 |
| DM model | 9 | 224.0 ± 27.9 | 199.6 ± 27.8** | 201.7 ± 29.0** | 200.9 ± 33.8** | 203.1 ± 33.8** |
| DM model + Insulin | 8 | 219.0 ± 12.9 | 201.1 ± 13.6 | 267.6 ± 29.0## | 284.6 ± 30.6## | 288.3 ± 18.0## |

Diabetes was induced by a single intravenous injection of streptozotocin (STZ) $50 \text{ mg} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$, and the day was counted as the beginning day (d 0). Rats with blood glucose $\geq 15.0 \text{ mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ were considered as DM model animals on d3 after blood examination. Insulin $2 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ was given sc from d3 for 80 d. $\bar{x} \pm s$. ** $P < 0.01$, compared with normal control group; ## $P < 0.01$, compared with DM model group.

Tab. 2 Effect of insulin on blood glucose in DM rats

| Group | n | Blood glucose/ $\text{mmol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | d 0 | d 3 | d 28 | d 80 |
| Normal control | 10 | 5.7 ± 0.5 | 5.8 ± 0.3 | 5.9 ± 0.5 | 5.7 ± 0.5 |
| DM model | 9 | 5.7 ± 0.5 | 29.1 ± 5.1** | 29.0 ± 4.8** | 28.9 ± 3.4** |
| DM model + Insulin | 8 | 5.8 ± 0.5 | 30.4 ± 3.5 | 6.8 ± 1.1## | 6.6 ± 1.2## |

See Tab. 1 for the legend. $\bar{x} \pm s$. ** $P < 0.01$, compared with normal control group; ## $P < 0.01$, compared with DM model group.

Tab. 3 Effect of insulin on escape latencies and percentage of time spent in target quadrant of amnesic rats

| Group | n | Escape latency/s | | | Percentage of time spent in target quadrant/% |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| | | d 83 | d 84 | d 85 | d 86 |
| Normal Control | 10 | 31.4 ± 5.0 | 25.0 ± 4.0 | 18.6 ± 7.1 | 36.5 ± 6.4 |
| DM model | 9 | 41.2 ± 4.7** | 35.5 ± 6.3** | 31.7 ± 7.5** | 22.4 ± 6.0** |
| DM model + Insulin | 8 | 34.1 ± 5.3 ^{##} | 27.3 ± 4.5 ^{##} | 20.4 ± 4.8 ^{##} | 35.6 ± 5.5 ^{##} |

See Tab. 1 for the legend. Morris water maze was begun on d 81. $\bar{x} \pm s$. ** $P < 0.01$, compared with normal control group; ^{##} $P < 0.01$, compared with DM model group.

2.3 胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠海马组织病理变化的影响

从海马冠状切片 HE 染色可见,正常对照组(图 1A)、DM 模型组(图 1B)、胰岛素治疗组(图 1C)光镜下海马 CA1 区锥体细胞均排列整齐、密集;神经元形态完整,胞核染色清晰,核圆形或椭圆形、核仁明显。

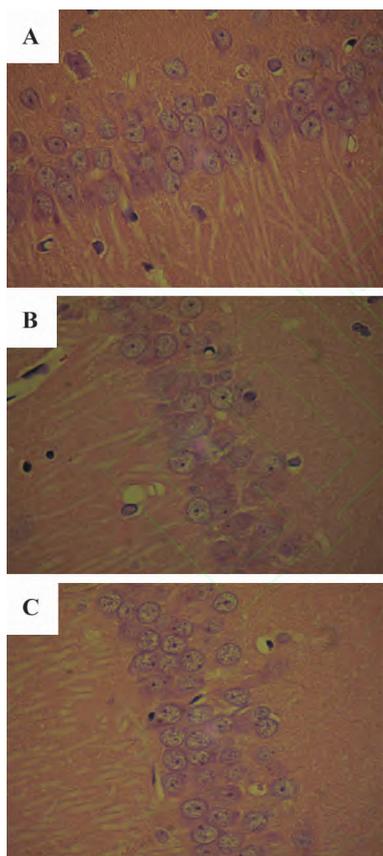


Fig. 1 Effect of insulin on pyramidal neurons in hippocampal CA1 regions (HE staining × 400). See Tab. 1 for the legend. A: control group; B: DM model group; C: DM model + insulin group.

2.4 胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠海马组织中谷氨酸、D-丝氨酸含量的影响

表 4 结果表明,与正常对照组相比,DM 模型组

海马组织谷氨酸及 D-丝氨酸含量都明显升高 ($P < 0.01$)。与 DM 模型组相比,胰岛素治疗组海马组织中谷氨酸及 D-丝氨酸含量均显著降低 ($P < 0.01$),与正常对照组相比无显著性差异。

Tab. 4 Effect of insulin on levels of glutamate (Glu), D-serine (D-Ser) in hippocampus of DM rats

| Group | Glu/mg·g ⁻¹ | D-Ser/mg·g ⁻¹ |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Normal Control | 1.113 ± 0.039 ^{##} | 0.062 ± 0.07 ^{##} |
| DM model | 1.550 ± 0.054** | 0.084 ± 0.05** |
| DM model + Insulin | 1.137 ± 0.023 ^{##} | 0.068 ± 0.004 ^{##} |

See Tab. 1 for the legend. All the samples were stored at -80°C and were determined within 5 d. $\bar{x} \pm s$, $n = 5$. ** $P < 0.01$, compared with normal control group; ^{##} $P < 0.01$, compared with DM model group.

3 讨论

本实验结果表明,胰岛素能够使 DM 大鼠血糖恢复到正常水平,体重也逐渐增加,动物无多饮多尿现象。注射 STZ 11 周后进行水迷宫实验,与 DM 模型组相比,胰岛素治疗组逃避潜伏期明显缩短,原平台象限游泳时间占总游泳时间的百分比明显升高,说明胰岛素对 STZ 诱导的大鼠学习记忆损伤具有治疗作用,该结果与文献报道结果基本一致^[15]。

NMDA 受体是谷氨酸受体的一种亚型,介导多种生理病理变化,其激活需要谷氨酸及 D-丝氨酸共同参与。本研究还测定了海马组织中这两种氨基酸含量,结果表明 DM 模型组海马组织中谷氨酸及 D-丝氨酸分别是正常对照组的 1.39 及 1.35 倍。有文献报道糖尿病大鼠谷氨酸生成量增加^[16],与本实验结果基本一致。D-丝氨酸作为哺乳动物体内最主要的 D 型氨基酸之一,达到了体内游离丝氨酸总量的三分之一。在体内 D-丝氨酸主要由丝氨酸消旋酶 (serine racemes, SR) 将体内的 L-丝氨酸转化而来^[10]。有文献报道,腹腔注射 STZ 具有提高视网膜 SR 活力及 D-丝氨酸含量的作用^[17],因此推断 STZ 在脑组织中也可能通过同样的机制来提高脑海马组

织中的 *D*-丝氨酸的含量。谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸在激活 NMDA 受体过程中发挥关键性作用^[9-10,18]。研究显示 NMDA 受体上甘氨酸位点并不饱和^[19], 并且能够被外源性 *D*-丝氨酸进一步激活^[20], 因此推测 DM 模型组大鼠学习记忆损伤可能与大鼠海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸含量升高, 引起 NMDAR 过度兴奋有关。而胰岛素对糖尿病大鼠学习记忆的治疗作用可能是通过降低海马组织中谷氨酸及 *D*-丝氨酸的浓度, 进而发挥了治疗作用。

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Improvement of insulin on learning and memory impairment by decreasing content of glutamate and *D*-serine in hippocampus of diabetic rats

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Abstract: **OBJECTIVE** To investigate the effects of insulin on learning and memory abilities in rats with diabetes mellitus and its mechanism. **METHODS** Diabetes was induced by a single intravenous injection of streptozotocin (STZ). The insulin treatment began 3d after STZ injection. The rat in insulin group was given subcutaneous injection insulin about $2 \text{ U} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1} \cdot \text{d}^{-1}$ per day for 82 d, respectively. The body weight and serum glucose were measured at defined time. After 11 weeks of STZ injection, all groups were tested in Morris water maze to detect spatial learning and memory abilities. After that, all of the rats were sacrificed by decapitation and then the hippocampus was harvested. HE staining was performed to observe the changes of microstructure in hippocampus. The contents of glutamate (Glu) and *D*-serine were determined by high performance liquid chromatography. **RESULTS** Compared with Normal control group, DM group's body weight decreased ($P < 0.01$) and blood glucose increased ($P < 0.01$), and the escape latency to reach the platform increased ($P < 0.01$), the percentage of time spent in target quadrant decreased ($P < 0.01$) significantly. The contents of GLU and *D*-serine in the hippocampus of DM model group were higher significantly than those in Normal control group. Compared with DM model group, the insulin group's rats blood glucose returned to normal, body mass increased, the latency decreased ($P < 0.01$) and percentage of time spent in the target quadrant increased ($P < 0.01$). the content of Glu and *D*-serine in insulin group decreased from (1.550 ± 0.054) , $(0.084 \pm 0.05) \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$ in DM model group to (1.137 ± 0.023) , $(0.068 \pm 0.004) \text{ mg} \cdot \text{g}^{-1}$, respectively. **CONCLUSION** Insulin can improve the learning and memory ability of streptozotocin-diabetic rats. The effect of insulin may relate to its decrease the content of Glu and *D*-serine in hippocampus.

Key words: diabetes mellitus; learning and memory; hippocampus; glutamate; *D*-serine

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