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· 临床研究 ·

淋巴细胞与单核细胞比值在肝细胞癌患者中的预后价值分析

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摘要

背景与目的: 通过实验室血样进行评估系统性炎症的临床意义已在多种癌症中被证实。肝细胞癌(HCC)是一种炎症驱动型癌症, 炎症已被证实与分化不良、微血管侵犯和微转移相关。本研究旨在探讨淋巴细胞/单核细胞比值(LMR)对HCC患者术后的预后评估价值。

方法: 回顾性分析2012年1月—2016年12月在南京中医药大学附属南京医院行根治性肝切除术的88例HCC患者的资料。通过ROC曲线分析LMR评估HCC预后的性能, 并将其与中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比值(NLR)和血小板/淋巴细胞比值(PLR)进行比较。分析LMR与HCC患者临床病理因素的关系, 以及与无病生存率(DFS)、总生存率(OS)的关系。用Cox回归模型分析DFS和OS的危险因素。

结果: ROC曲线确定LMR最佳诊断界值为2.87, 曲线下面积(AUC)为0.757, 其评估HCC预后的性能大于NLR(AUC=0.687)和PLR(AUC=0.583)。根据LMR界值将患者分为高LMR组(LMR>2.87)与低LMR组(LMR≤2.87)。高LMR组中肿瘤数>3的例数明显少于低LMR组(P=0.048); 高LMR组的DFS与OS均明显优于低LMR组(均P<0.05); 在分期分层(BCLC A/B、BCLC C/D; CNLC I/II、CNLC III/IV)比较结果显示, 除了在CNLC I/II期组患者中, 高LMR组与低LMR组的DFS无统计学差异(P=0.132), 在其他分期组患者中, 高LMR组患者的DFS与OS均明显优于低LMR组(均P<0.05)。LMR为DFS的独立影响因素(P=0.001), 而BCLC分期(P=0.000)和LMR(P=0.000)为OS的独立影响因素, 此外, 对LMR、PLR与NLR以连续性变量形式进行校正后, 仅LMR具有预后价值(P=0.001)。

结论: LMR是HCC患者术后DFS和OS的独立预后因素, 且评估价值可能优于NLR和PLR。用LMR结合HCC分期对患者进行危险分级, 可能做出更为精准的评估。

关键词

癌, 肝细胞; 淋巴细胞-单核细胞比值; 预后; 危险因素
中图分类号: R757.7

Analysis of prognostic value of the lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma

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Abstract

Background and Aims: The clinical significance of systemic inflammation assessed with laboratory analysis of blood samples has been validated in variety of cancers. hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is an inflammation-driven cancer, and inflammation has been shown to be correlated with poor differentiation, microvascular invasion and micrometastasis. This study was conducted to investigate the prognostic value of the lymphocyte-to-monocyte ratio (LMR) in patients with HCC after hepatectomy.

Methods: The clinical data 88 HCC patients undergoing radical hepatectomy in the Affiliated Nanjing Hospital of Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine between January 2012 and December 2016 were retrospectively analyzed. The prognostic predictive power of LMR for HCC was analyzed by ROC curve, which was compared with those of the neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio (NLR) and platelet-to-lymphocyte ratio (PLR). The relations of LMR with the clinicopathologic factors as well as the disease-free survival (DFS) and overall survival (OS) of the HCC patients were determined. The risk factors for DFS and OS were determined by Cox regression model.

Results: The cut-off diagnostic value of LMR determined by ROC was 2.87, and the area under the curve (AUC) was 0.757, and its efficiency in estimating the prognosis of HCC was greater than those of NLR (AUC=0.687) and PLR (AUC=0.583). The patients were divided into low LMR group (LMR \leq 2.87) and high LMR group (LMR $>$ 2.87) according to the cut-off value of LMR. The number of cases with lesion number $>$ 3 in high LMR group was significantly less than that in low LMR group ($P=0.048$); both DFS and OS in high LMR group were significantly superior than those in low LMR group (both $P<0.05$); results of stage-stratified comparison (BCLC A/B, BCLC C/D; CNLC I/II, CNLC III/IV) showed that except the DFS had no significant difference between high LMR group and low LMR group among patients classified as CNLC I/II stage group ($P=0.132$), either DFS or OS in high LMR group were significantly superior than that in low LMR in all other stage groups (all $P<0.05$). LMR was an independent prognostic factor for DFS ($P=0.001$), while BCLC stage ($P=0.000$) and LMR ($P=0.000$) were independent prognostic factors for OS. In addition, after adjustment for LMR, PLR, and NLR as a continuous variable, only LMR had a prognostic value ($P=0.001$).

Conclusion: LMR is an independent prognostic factor for OS and DFS in HCC patients after hepatectomy, and its predictive value is possibly superior to that of NLR or PLR. Using LMR combined HCC stage to grade the risk of patients may probably make a more precise assessment.

Key words

Carcinoma, Hepatocellular; Lymphocyte-to-Monocyte Ratio; Prognosis; Risk facts

CLC number: R757.7

原发性肝癌是目前处于我国常见恶性肿瘤第4位，且是第2位肿瘤相关致死病因，严重威胁着我国人民的生命和健康^[1-2]。肝细胞癌（hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC）是全球癌症相关死亡的主要原因之一，中国约占50%的病例和死亡人数^[2]。目前，肝切除是HCC的主要治疗手段之一^[3]。不幸的是，肝切除术后HCC复发仍然是治疗失败和癌症相关死亡的主要原因。HCC的复发可能源于原发肿瘤的肝内转移，也可能源于残肝的新生肿瘤，分别导致早期和晚期（以24个月为截止时间）的复发^[4]。肝切除术后早期复发的HCC（约占HCC复发的70%）较晚期复发更具侵袭性，预后差，是威胁HCC患者生命的主要原因^[5]。HCC是一种炎症驱动型癌症，炎症已被证实与分化不良、微血管侵犯（microvascular invasion, MVI）

和微转移相关^[6-7]。此外，据报道^[5, 8-9]，侵袭性病理特征与HCC有关。因此，炎症可能在预测HCC中发挥重要作用。

炎症被认为是癌症的一个标志^[10]，越来越多的证据表明，宿主炎症反应与癌症进展和患者生存有关^[11]。伴有重型肝炎和活动性炎症的HCC患者，肝切除术后肝内复发率和肝外转移率较高^[12-13]。此外，除了肿瘤特征和肝功能等临床参数外，炎症相关标志物是肝切除术后预后的重要预测因素^[13]。最近，有许多基于炎症的预后评分是建立在全身炎症反应上的，例如中性粒细胞/淋巴细胞比率（neutrophil to lymphocyte ratio, NLR），血小板与淋巴细胞比（platelet to lymphocyte ratio, PLR），淋巴细胞/单核细胞比（lymphocyte to monocyte ratio, LMR），这些指标显示了对几

种癌症的预后价值。包括肺癌、肾细胞癌、生殖细胞瘤、膀胱癌,胃肠道肿瘤和HCC^[14-23]。尽管在各种恶性肿瘤中存在淋巴细胞浸润与预期寿命的显著增加有关,但来自循环单核细胞的肿瘤相关巨噬细胞(tumor-associated macrophages, TAM)与预后不良有关^[24-27]。这提示LMR可能与癌症的预后有关。值得注意的是,LMR在切除的原发性结直肠癌中的预后价值最近已在一项大型回顾性研究中得到证实^[28]。

本研究旨在其一探讨术前LMR作为HCC患者行肝切除术的预后价值,以及其对无病生存率(disease-free survival, DFS)和总生存率(overall survival, OS)的影响。

1 资料与方法

1.1 临床资料

回顾性收集了2012年1月—2016年12月在南京中医药大学附属南京医院(南京市第二医院)行根治性肝切除术的88例HCC患者的资料。纳入标准如下:(1)经病理证实的HCC诊断;(2)术前未行放射与化学治疗;(3)美国东部肿瘤协作组评分 ≤ 2 ;(4)肿瘤切除边缘阴性;(5)无其他恶性肿瘤病史。排除标准如下:(1)肝外转移,原发性肝癌伴有肝静脉或下腔静脉或门静脉或动脉或胆道系统侵犯;(2)肝切除术后失访。对每位患者的电子病例记录进行查询,例如标准的基线统计资料、原发结肿瘤特征、复发日期、死亡时间和最后一次随访等。

1.2 检验方法

炎症指标均在术前1个月内获得,同时白细胞计数在正常范围内(脾功能亢进除外)。考虑到急性感染或炎症过程改变的可能性而非慢性癌症相关的结果,白细胞减少和白细胞增多患者的炎症指标被排除在分析之外,但是脾功能亢进引起的白细胞减少在排除上述可能后纳入标本中。在HCC的诊断检查中,使用每位患者2 mL静脉血进行全血计数。在乙二胺四乙酸抗凝真空管中采集血液,提取后立即与抗凝剂混合,以防止血栓的形成。采用血液分析仪(XN-9000, Sysmex[®], Kobe, Japan)进行电子细胞计数法。本研究通过中性粒细胞对淋巴细胞的绝对计数计算NLR,血小板对淋巴细胞的绝对计数计算PLR,淋巴细胞对单核细胞的绝对计数计算LMR。本研究符合赫尔

辛基宣言的标准,经南京中医药大学附属南京医院伦理委员会研究批准,并获得所有患者的知情同意。

1.3 随访

术后随访时间从术后1个月开始执行,术后2年内每3~4个月1次。术后2年以上每6个月1次,直至死亡或失访。随访包括体格检查、血清甲胎蛋白(AFP)和至少1次腹部图像扫描,包括腹部超声、腹部CT或MRI。同时每年进行1次胸部CT平扫。如经腹部超声检查怀疑复发,则行腹部增强CT或增强MRI或腹部超声造影检查以确诊,胸部增强CT扫描排除肺转移。骨扫描或正电子发射CT检查排除其他部位可以转移病灶。肿瘤复发的诊断标准如下:(1)肝活检;(2)CT/MRI的典型表现(动脉期强化,门脉期/静脉期减弱)^[29]。

1.4 统计学处理

统计分析采用SPSS 17.0 (SPSS, Chicago, IL, USA)和Prism 5 (GraphPad Software La Jolla, CA, USA)。DFS的计算从肝切除之日起至疾病复发之日止,并在与癌症死亡无关时或在患者最后一次随访时(如果患者在此期间仍无肿瘤)进行截尾。OS的计算从肝切除术之日起至因任何原因死亡之日止,并在最后一次随访时对仍在世的患者进行删失。通过应用受试者工作曲线分析(ROC),确定LMR、PLR、NLR的最佳截断水平。 χ^2 检验用于计算临床病理分类特征与LMR之间的关系。Kaplan-Meier方法分析LMR对DFS和OS的影响。各组生存结果采用log-rank检验进行比较。采用前向逐步法Cox回归模型,将单变量分析中的重要变量纳入多变量分析。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 LMR、PLR和NLR的ROC曲线分析结果

根据LMR、PLR和NLR与OS的关系绘制ROC曲线以确定最佳诊断阈值,本研究中,当LMR为2.87时,曲线下面积(AUC)为0.757,敏感度为76.5%,特异度为75.7%。当PLR为133.61时,AUC为0.583,敏感度为29.7%,特异度为86.3%。当NLR为2.60时,AUC为0.687,敏感度为64.9%,特异度为72.5%(图1)(表1),同时通过Spearson相关分析显示,淋巴细胞计数与单核细胞计数存在一定的相关性($r_s=0.652$, $P < 0.001$)(图2)。

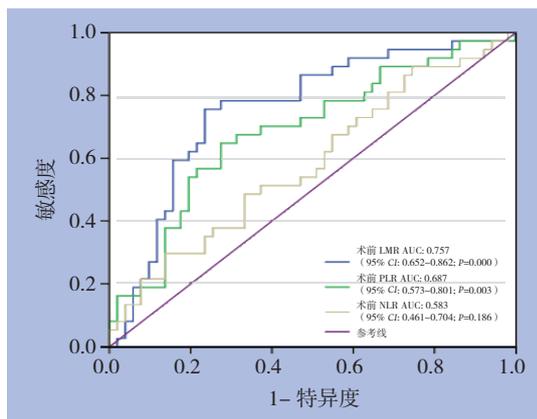


图 1 LMR、PLR、NLR 的预测 HCC 患者生存的 ROC 曲线
Figure 1 ROC curves of LMR, PLR and NLR for predicting the survival of HCC patients

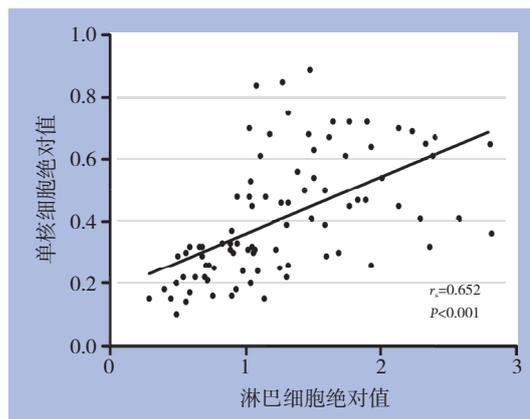


图 2 淋巴细胞绝对值与单核细胞绝对值相关分析结果
Figure 2 Correlation analysis between the absolute values of lymphocytes and monocytes

表 1 LMR、PLR、NLR 的 ROC 曲线分析结果

Table 1 Results of analysis of ROC curves of LMR, PLR and NLR

变量	AUC	最佳截断值	Youden 指数	敏感度 (%)	特异度 (%)	P	95% CI
LMR	0.757	2.87	0.521	76.5	75.7	0.000	0.652~0.862
PLR	0.583	133.61	0.160	29.7	86.3	0.186	0.461~0.704
NLR	0.687	2.60	0.374	64.9	72.5	0.003	0.573~0.801

2.2 LMR 与患者临床病理特征资料的相关分析

根据上述 ROC 分析结果，将患者分成两组，LMR > 2.87 为高 LMR 组和 LMR ≤ 2.87 为低 LMR 组。结果显示，LMR 分组与巴塞罗那临床肝癌分期 (barcelona clinic liver cancer, BCLC) 和中国

肝癌分期 (china liver cancer staging, CNLC) 及其他临床病理因素均无明显关系 (均 P > 0.05)，仅发现 LMR 与患者肿瘤数目有关 (P = 0.048) (表 2)。

表 2 LMR 与 HCC 患者临床病理特征关系 [n (%)]

Table 2 Relations of LMR with the clinicopathologic features of HCC patients [n (%)]

因素	病例数 (n)	低 LMR 组	高 LMR 组	P	因素	病例数 (n)	低 LMR 组	高 LMR 组	P
年龄 (岁)					肿瘤包膜				
≤ 40	16	8 (19.0)	8 (17.4)	0.841	完整	73	32 (76.2)	41 (89.1)	0.107
> 40	72	34 (81.0)	38 (82.6)		欠完整	15	10 (23.8)	5 (10.9)	
性别					血管侵犯				
男	73	37 (88.1)	36 (78.3)	0.220	有	26 (29.5)	10 (23.8)	16 (34.8)	0.260
女	15	5 (11.9)	10 (21.7)		无	62 (70.5)	32 (76.2)	30 (65.2)	
病毒性肝炎类型					神经侵犯				
乙型肝炎	80	38 (90.5)	42 (91.3)	0.400	有	7 (8)	2 (4.8)	5 (10.9)	0.437
丙型肝炎	4	1 (2.4)	3 (6.5)		无	81 (92)	40 (95.2)	41 (89.1)	
其他	4	3 (7.1)	1 (2.2)		Edmondson-Steiner 分级				
肝硬化					I-II	35 (39.8)	19 (45.2)	16 (34.8)	0.317
有	29	10 (23.8)	19 (41.3)	III-IV	53 (60.2)	23 (54.8)	30 (65.2)		
无	59	32 (76.2)	27 (58.7)	0.081	肿瘤数目 (个)				
AFP (ng/mL)					≤ 3	84	38 (90.5)	46 (100.0)	0.048
≥ 20	61	27 (64.3)	34 (73.9)	> 3	4	4 (9.5)	0 (0.0)		
< 20	27	15 (35.7)	12 (26.1)	0.328	BCLC 分期				
AFP 异质体比率 (%)					A~B	65	32 (76.2)	33 (71.7)	0.635
≥ 10	34	12 (28.6)	22 (47.8)	< 10	54	30 (71.4)	24 (52.2)	10 (23.8)	
肿瘤大小 (cm)					CNCL 分期				
≤ 5	60	27 (64.3)	33 (71.7)	0.453	I~II	62	31 (73.8)	31 (67.4)	0.510
> 5	28	15 (35.7)	13 (28.3)		III~IV	26	11 (26.2)	15 (32.6)	

2.3 LMR 与患者预后的相关生存分析

为了进一步分析LMR与HCC患者预后的关系,根据LMR截断值将88例患者分成高LMR组和低LMR组。然后,绘制Kaplan-Meier生存曲线,使用log-rank检验比较生存率,进一步研究OS和DFS的关系。结果显示,高LMR组患者的DFS ($P=0.001$)与OS ($P=0.000$)均明显优于低LMR组(图3)。结合肿瘤BCLC分期与CNLC分期,将早期肿瘤包括CNLC I/II期和BCLC A/B期,晚

期肿瘤包括CNLC III/IV期和BCLC期C/D^[31]分别比较。结果显示,无论是BCLC A/B期患者还是BCLC C/D期患者中,高LMR组患者的DFS与OS均明显优于低LMR组(均 $P<0.05$)。在CNLC I/II期患者中,高LMR组与低LMR组的DFS无明显差异($P=0.132$),但高LMR组的OS优于低LMR组($P=0.005$);在CNLC III/IV期患者中,高LMR组患者的DFS ($P=0.001$)与OS ($P=0.000$)均明显优于低LMR组(均 $P<0.05$)(图4-5)。

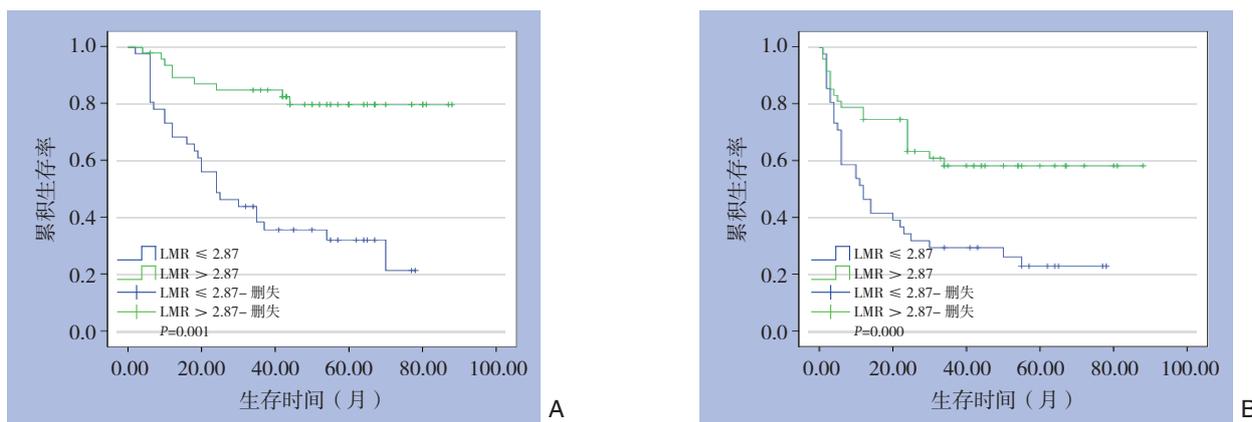


图3 高 LMR 组与低 LMR 组 HCC 患者的生存曲线 A: DFS 曲线; B: OS 曲线

Figure 3 Survival curves of HCC patients in high LMR group and low LMR group A: DFS curves; B: OS curves

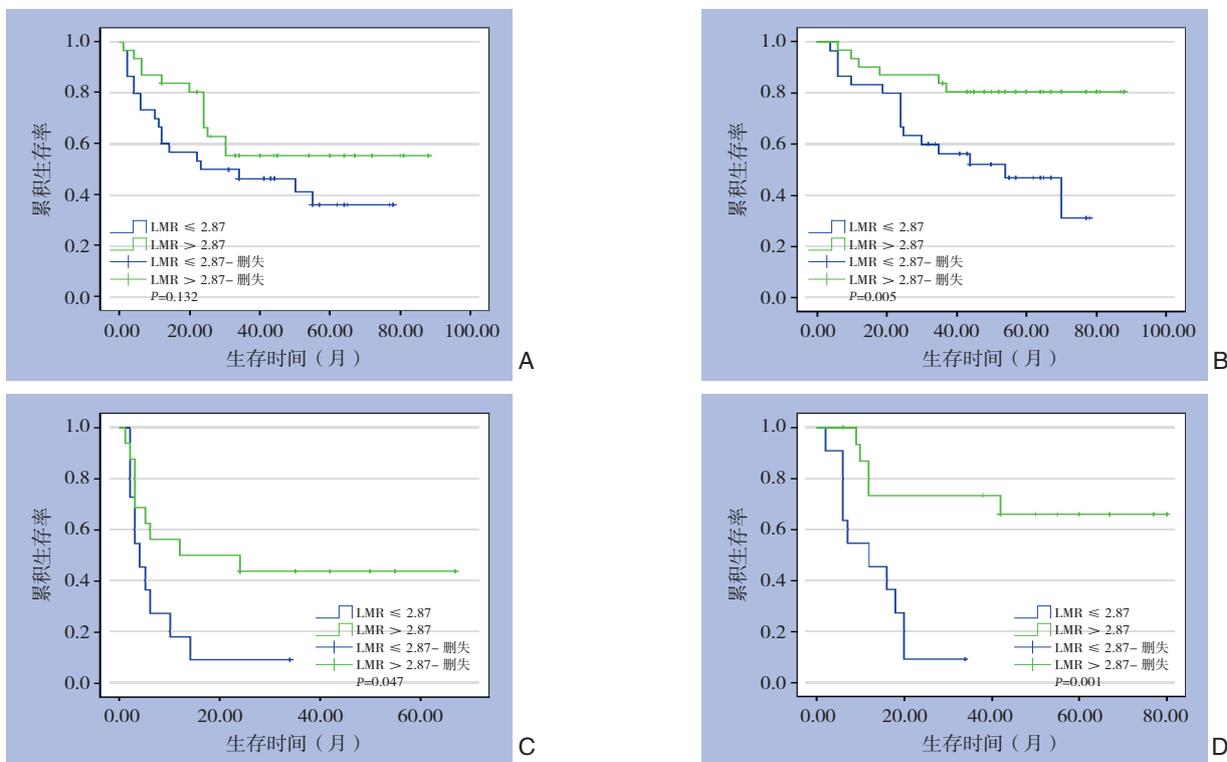


图4 BCLC分期分层后高 LMR 组与低 LMR 组 HCC 患者的生存曲线 A: BCLC A/B 期患者 DFS 曲线; B: BCLC A/B 期患者 OS 曲线; C: BCLC C/D 期患者 DFS 曲线; D: BCLC C/D 期患者 OS 曲线

Figure 4 Survival curves of HCC patients in high LMR group and low LMR group after BCLC stage stratification A: DFS curves of patients classified as BCLC A/B stage; B: OS curves of patients classified as BCLC A/B stage; C: DFS curves of patients classified as BCLC C/D stage; D: OS curves of patients classified as BCLC C/D stage

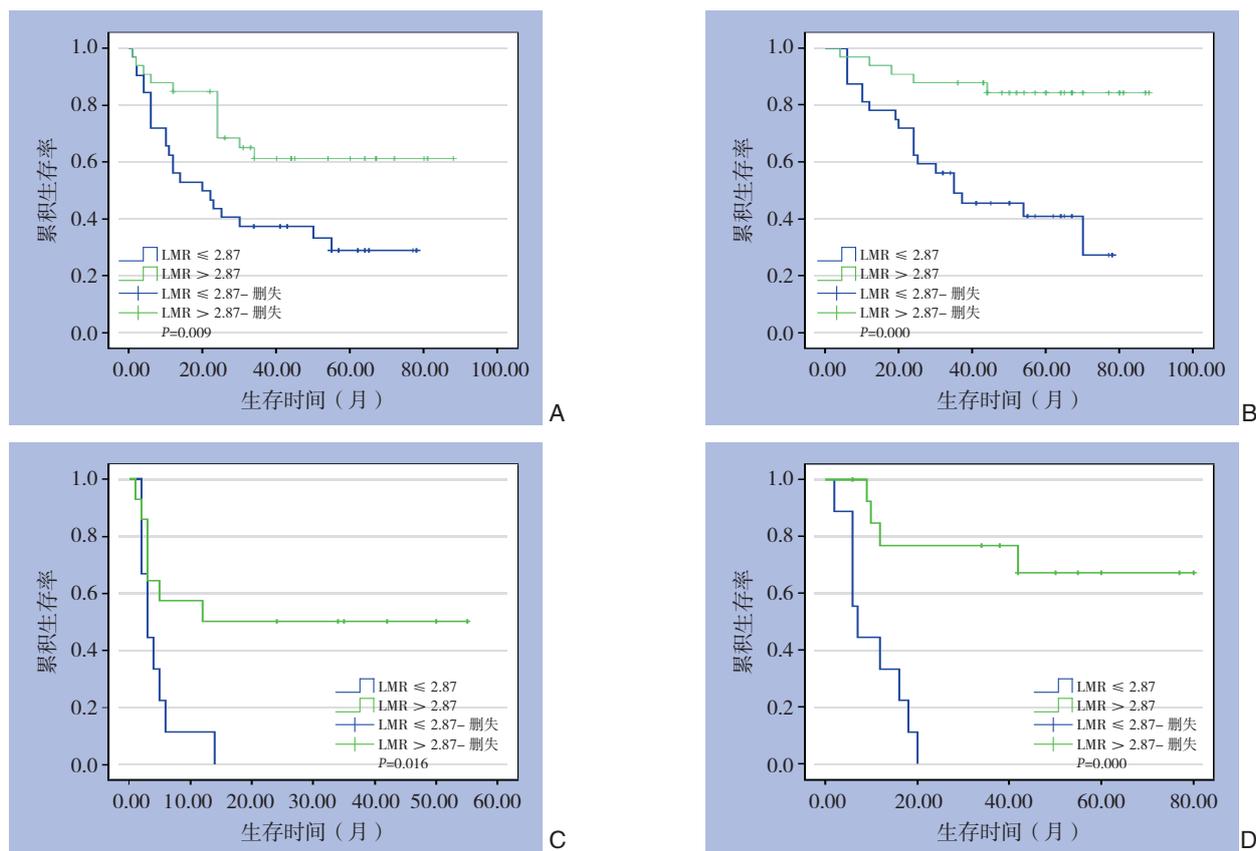


图 5 CNLC 分期分层后高 LMR 组与低 LMR 组 HCC 患者的生存曲线 A: CNLC I/II 期患者 DFS 曲线; B: CNLC I/II 期患者 OS 曲线; C: CNLC III/IV 期者 DFS 曲线; D: CNLC III/IV 期者 OS 曲线

Figure 5 Survival curves of HCC patients in high LMR group and low LMR group after CNLC stage stratification A: DFS curves of patients classified as CNLC I/II stage; B: OS curves of patients classified as CNLC I/II stage; C: DFS curves of patients classified as CNLC III/IV stage; D: OS curves of patients classified as CNLC III/IV stage

2.4 HCC 患者生存的影响因素分析

2.4.1 DFS 的影响因素分析 单因素分析提示肿瘤大小 ($P=0.028$)、血管侵犯 ($P=0.039$)、CNLC 分期 ($P=0.018$)、BCLC 分期 ($P=0.011$) 及 LMR ($P=0.002$) 有预后价值; 通过采用前向逐步法 Cox 回归模型, 将单因素分析中的重要变量纳入多因素分析提示 LMR ($P=0.001$) 为 HCC 患者 DFS 的独立影响因素 (表 3)。

2.4.2 OS 的影响因素分析 单因素分析提示肿瘤大小 ($P=0.011$)、CNLC 分期 ($P=0.043$)、

BCLC 分期 ($P=0.021$) 及 LMR ($P=0.000$) 有预后价值。通过采用前向逐步法 Cox 回归模型, 将单因素分析中的重要变量纳入多因素分析提示只有 BCLC 分期 ($P=0.000$) 和 LMR ($P=0.000$) 为 HCC 患者 OS 的独立影响因素 (表 4)。为进一步了解 LMR 在 HCC 患者中的预后价值, 将 LMR、PLR 以及 NLR 三者作为连续变量 (试图校正因为截断值对变量的影响造成结果的偏差) 进行 Cox 比例风险分析^[32], 仅 LMR 具有预后价值 ($HR=0.571$, $95\% CI=0.416\sim 0.786$, $P=0.001$) (表 5)。

表3 HCC患者DFS的单因素和多因素Cox比例风险回归分析

Table 3 Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of factors for DFS of HCC patients

变量	单因素			多因素		
	HR	95% CI	P	HR	95% CI	P
性别(男 vs. 女)	1.333	0.599~2.964	0.481	—	—	—
年龄(≤40 vs. >40岁)	0.652	0.340~1.249	0.197	—	—	—
病毒性肝炎(乙型肝炎 vs. 丙型肝炎 vs. 其他)	0.882	0.449~1.733	0.715	—	—	—
肝硬化(有 vs. 无)	0.747	0.402~1.387	0.355	—	—	—
AFP(ng/mL)(<20 vs. ≥ 20)	1.331	0.726~2.441	0.355	—	—	—
AFP异质体比率(%)(<10 vs. ≥ 10)	1.377	0.785~2.418	0.265	—	—	—
肿瘤大小(cm)(≤ 5 vs. >5)	1.886	1.072~3.317	0.028	1.430	0.789~2.592	0.239
肿瘤数目(个)(≤ 3 vs. >3)	0.906	0.220~3.730	0.891	—	—	—
肿瘤包膜(完整 vs. 欠完整)	0.711	0.355~1.425	0.337	—	—	—
血管侵犯(有 vs. 无)	1.848	1.033~3.307	0.039	0.001	0~2.656E55	0.915
神经侵犯(有 vs. 无)	1.591	0.630~4.015	0.326	—	—	—
Edmondson-Steiner 分级(I-II vs. III-IV)	0.581	0.323~1.046	0.070	—	—	—
BCLC 分期(A~B vs. C~D)	2.174	1.191~3.968	0.011	1.934	0.437~8.563	0.385
CNLC 分期(I-II vs. III-IV)	2.025	1.131~3.627	0.018	2 243.988	0~9.230E61	0.911
LMR(≤ 2.87 vs. >2.87)	0.410	0.230~0.728	0.002	0.350	0.188~0.653	0.001

表4 HCC患者OS的单因素和多因素Cox比例风险回归分析

Table 4 Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of factors for OS of HCC patients

变量	单因素			多因素		
	HR	95% CI	P	HR	95% CI	P
性别(男 vs. 女)	1.372	0.534~3.525	0.511	—	—	—
年龄(≤40 vs. >40岁)	0.665	0.314~1.411	0.288	—	—	—
病毒性肝炎(乙型肝炎 vs. 丙型肝炎 vs. 其他)	1.166	0.591~2.298	0.658	—	—	—
肝硬化(有 vs. 无)	0.846	0.417~1.716	0.643	—	—	—
AFP(ng/mL)(<20 vs. ≥ 20)	1.271	0.627~2.574	0.506	—	—	—
AFP异质体比率(%)(<10 vs. ≥ 10)	0.889	0.450~1.756	0.735	—	—	—
肿瘤大小(cm)(≤ 5 vs. >5)	2.321	1.209~4.455	0.011	1.459	0.711~2.991	0.303
肿瘤数目(个)(≤ 3 vs. >3)	1.764	0.423~7.365	0.436	—	—	—
肿瘤包膜(完整 vs. 欠完整)	0.499	0.235~1.060	0.071	—	—	—
血管侵犯(有 vs. 无)	1.852	0.950~3.614	0.071	—	—	—
神经侵犯(有 vs. 无)	1.393	0.426~4.551	0.583	—	—	—
Edmondson-Steiner 分级(I-II vs. III-IV)	0.515	0.254~1.044	0.066	—	—	—
BCLC 分期(A~B vs. C~D)	2.225	1.127~4.393	0.021	4.229	1.989~8.991	0.000
CNLC 分期(I-II vs. III-IV)	1.993	1.021~3.888	0.043	1.223	0.155~9.632	0.848
LMR(≤ 2.87 vs. >2.87)	0.197	0.093~0.421	0.000	0.133	0.059~0.301	0.000

表5 HCC患者OS的LMR、PLR、NLR单因素和多因素Cox比例风险回归分析比较

Table 5 Univariate and multivariate Cox proportional hazards regression analysis of LMR, PLR and NLR for OS of HCC patients

连续变量	单因素			多因素		
	HR	95% CI	P	NLR vs. LMR		
	HR	95% CI	P	HR	95% CI	P
NLR	1.170	1.054~1.299	0.003	1.057	0.923~1.211	0.422
PLR	1.005	1.000~1.010	0.073	—	—	—
LMR	0.571	0.416~0.786	0.001	0.571	0.416~0.786	0.001

3 讨论

本研究结果表明,术前LMR是HCC根治性切

除患者OS和DFS不良预后的独立指标。此外,在CNLC分期或BCLC分期患者的亚组中发现,LMR也与OS和DFS显著相关。且近期有一项研究发现LMR、PLR、NLR与TNM分期及BCLC分期密切相关,这从另一面证实了本研究的结果的价值^[33]。同时本研究将LMR与CNLC分期和BCLC分期相结合有助于进一步量化预后风险,并提供更多的预后信息。虽然LMR的预后价值已经在血液病恶性肿瘤和最近的实体肿瘤中得到证实^[28, 34-36],但LMR在HCC分期亚组中的预后价值报道较少。然而,它的价值需要独立的和更多的数据来验证。

之前发表的关于实体瘤中LMR的数据,一项研究调查了LMR对已切除的原发性结肠直肠癌患

者的影响,另一项研究调查了诊断为软组织肉瘤的患者^[28,34]。在前一项研究中,Stotz等^[28]在372例结肠直肠癌患者中使用LMR截断值(DFS为2.83,OS为2.14)证明了LMR与DFS和OS之间的联系。在第二项研究中,Szkandera等^[34]通过分析340例软组织肉瘤患者,确定了低于2.85的LMR与较差的DFS和OS之间存在相关性。这些截断值与本文当前研究中确定的截断值很接近。且本文为了进一步了解LMR在HCC中的预后价值,根据CNLC分期及BCLC分期特点进一步分析,得到在肿瘤早期(CNLC I~II, BCLC A~B)及肿瘤晚期(CNLC III~IV, BCLC C~D)DFS和OS的差异。且通过DFS及OS的Cox多因素比例风险回归分析得到LMR可作为HCC独立预后危险因素。

通过ROC曲线分析中Youden指数为LMR、NLR和PLR定义了最佳切割点,分别为2.87、2.60和133.61。同时发现LMR(AUC:0.757)预测患者生存的效能大于NLR(AUC=0.687)和PLR(AUC=0.583)。此外,本研究还发现,与众所周知的OS和DFS的独立指标NLR和PLR相比,LMR是一个更好的长期生存指标^[37-40]。在此研究之前,相关研究通常报道NLR优于PLR^[41-44]。然而,本研究发现NLR和PLR都不是OS的独立指标。在本研究中,在单因素和多因素分析中发现,LMR高于2.87与HCC患者的OS和DFS增加之间存在明显联系。

LMR降低与患者不良预后相关的机制尚不清楚,但一些研究已经给出了一些解释。早在20世纪70年代,在对晚期肿瘤患者淋巴细胞减少的研究中,这些淋巴细胞成分的标记物已经得到了充分的证实^[45]。这是其他已建立的炎症标志物的基础之一,如PLR和NLR。淋巴细胞是免疫系统的支柱,是在乙肝或者丙肝病毒、酒精等毒性物质或代谢综合征等慢性炎症背景下发生肝细胞癌的微环境的关键防御机制^[46-47]。肿瘤浸润淋巴细胞的预后意义已被公认^[48]。虽然单核细胞与预后的相关性最近已被评估,但只有初步的假设可以解释为什么单核细胞可能提示预后信息。在此,笔者提出了几种可能的机制。首先,已有研究发现循环单核细胞可能促进肿瘤生长,帮助肿瘤细胞逃避免疫监视^[49-50]。其次,据报道^[51-53],来源于循环单核细胞的TAM能够渗透到HCC基质中,发挥包括促进增殖、转移、血管生成和免疫抑制在内的活性。

本文虽然提供了一些新的发现,但是这项研究有几个局限性需要解决。一方面,由于LMR的值在随访时是动态的,本研究仅使用基线值来预

测未来的结果,因此可能会遗漏很多信息,且样本量较小,但近期Yu等^[33]发表文献报告6 619例数据,研究结果与本文类似,可为本研究提供一定的研究基础。另一方面,由于回顾性研究的性质,存在潜在的选择偏差。

综上所述,本研究表明LMR优于NLR和PLR作为OS和DFS的独立预后因素,具有一定的临床价值,外科医生可以利用LMR结合HCC分期对患者进行危险分级,判断患者是否为高危人群。本研究结果尚需要一个更大的前瞻性研究来进一步证实。

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