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· 文献综述 ·

## 实体肿瘤治疗疗效评估系统的发展及其在肝癌靶向治疗中的应用现状

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### 摘要

由于靶向治疗、免疫治疗的发展兴起, 实体肿瘤的治疗已进入精准医学时代。因此, 目前提出了多种以传统实体瘤疗效评估系统为基础的, 与靶向治疗、免疫治疗相适应的新实体瘤疗效评估标准。笔者就实体肿瘤治疗疗效评价系统的发展与现状, 特别是肝癌靶向治疗疗效评估方面进行系统综述, 以期为临床实践提供参考。

### 关键词

实体肿瘤疗效评价标准; 肝肿瘤; 分子靶向治疗; 综述  
中图分类号: R730.5

## Development of efficacy evaluation system for solid tumors and its application status in targeted therapy of liver cancer

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### Abstract

With the development of targeted therapy and immunotherapy, the treatment of solid tumors has entered the era of precision medicine. As a result, several new response evaluation criteria systems for solid tumors, which are based on the traditional evaluation systems in solid tumors and comply with the requirements of targeted therapy and immunotherapy, have been developed. Here, the authors systemically present the development and current status of response evaluation systems for solid tumors, emphatically from the aspect of targeted therapy of liver cancer, hoping to provide a guidance for clinical practice.

### Key words

Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; Liver Neoplasms; Molecular Targeted Therapy; Review  
CLC number: R730.5

根据2021年国际癌症研究机构(International Agency for Research on Cancer)发布的2020年癌症

统计数据<sup>[1]</sup>, 肝癌是世界上第六大常见肿瘤、发病率第五位和第三大致死性肿瘤, 在男性病死率中

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排名第二,每年在世界范围内新增发肝癌患者例数约90.6万例,新增死亡例数约83万例。肝癌是近几十年来致死率很高的肿瘤<sup>[1-5]</sup>,在国内亦是致死率排名靠前的肿瘤<sup>[6-8]</sup>,其可分为原发性肝癌和继发性肝癌。其中原发性肝癌包括肝细胞癌(hepatocellular carcinoma, HCC)(75%~85%)和肝内胆管癌(10%~15%)以及其他罕见类型<sup>[1,9]</sup>。

早期肝癌患者因肿瘤尚未发生转移扩散,最有效的治疗方法为手术切除<sup>[10-12]</sup>。中晚期肝癌常见的治疗方法为经股动脉行肝动脉栓塞化疗(transcatheter arterial chemoembolization, TACE)、免疫治疗、靶向药物治疗等,并以综合治疗为主<sup>[11,13-15]</sup>。在治疗前应有能评估治疗疗效的标准,疗效评估的意义在于准确地评估患者的临床获益;患者继续当前治疗的标准及意义。因此,实体肿瘤治疗疗效评估系统应能准确地评估患者的治疗疗效,真实地反映患者的病情变化。肝癌是实体肿瘤,其疗效评估是采用实体肿瘤疗效评估标准(response evaluation criteria in solid tumors, RECIST),目前国内外肝癌的靶向治疗疗效评估主要采用基于RECIST标准改良而来的mRECIST标准<sup>[16]</sup>。

从最初的WHO标准<sup>[17]</sup>到RECIST标准<sup>[18]</sup>,它们未将治疗后肿瘤内部坏死的情况纳入评估范畴。为解决这一问题,肿瘤疗效评估系统纳入了欧洲肝病学会(European Association for the Study of the Liver, EASL)标准<sup>[19]</sup>,并在吸纳了EASL标准后推出了mRECIST标准<sup>[18]</sup>,其能很好地预测预后,且与生存期存在相关性,特别是在评价靶向药物、TACE治疗肝癌患者的生存获益较前更精准,但mRECIST标准仍有不足,即对肿瘤的活性、患者带瘤生存的情况等未能作出准确的生存获益评价。

mRECIST标准是以目标病灶的直径变化作为判断疗效的标准,该标准设计的初衷之一是为了避免过度报道疾病进展(progressive disease, PD)的患者<sup>[18]</sup>,因此会对总体反应评估造成重大影响,所以此标准在以下条件应用无法提供准确的疗效评价:(1)肿瘤的形态不规则或瘤体在治疗后发生不均匀性退缩;(2)评价以降低肿瘤细胞恶性程度为主要目的分子靶向药物的疗效<sup>[16,18]</sup>。以索拉非尼为代表的靶向治疗药物作用于肿瘤的机制及疗效表现主要是<sup>[20-22]</sup>:(1)抑制细胞增殖,疗效表现为肿瘤直径减小或不变;(2)阻断血管生成,疗效表现为直径变化,密度减低。这说明肿瘤对索拉

非尼的反应表现并不全体现为病灶大小的改变,还可体现为病灶内细胞或血管多少的变化<sup>[23]</sup>。基于mRECIST标准疗效评估的应用条件,其是否能准确评估肝癌患者靶向治疗疗效存在争议。鉴于此,本文将从实体肿瘤治疗疗效评价系统的发展方面,特别是肝癌靶向治疗疗效评估进行系统综述,为临床实践提供参考,让肝癌靶向治疗患者临床获益。

## 1 WHO标准、RECIST标准的推出背景

20世纪80年代初,实体瘤治疗疗效评估WHO标准在《Cancer》发表<sup>[17]</sup>。它通过计算肿瘤的面积来评估疗效,即肿瘤最大2个垂直径乘积。疗效评估可以分为完全响应(complete response, CR):通过相隔不少于4周的2次观察,所有肿瘤病灶完全消失。部分响应(partial response, PR):单发病灶,肿瘤面积缩小50%以上(最长直径乘以最大垂直直径);多个病灶,多个病灶周围直径之和减少50%以上;不出现新的病变或任何病变的进展。无变化(no change, NC):肿瘤大小缩小不足50%,增大不超25%。PD:肿瘤面积增加>25%或出现新肿瘤病灶。上述标准的判断均需观察4周以上方能确定[治疗的有效率(response rate, RR)=CR+PR]。在过去的一段时间里,WHO标准是世界公认的恶性肿瘤疗效评价方法。但随着这标准在临床的应用,逐渐暴露出其不足:部分概念不清、多病灶测量未划定、病灶测量时间长、人为误差较为明显等等因素,这些均易导致患者的肿瘤治疗疗效未能被准确地评价。于是在20世纪90年代初,经过几年,十几个实验,几千例患者的探索研究,最终得出双径测量法与单径测量法效果相同的结论。随后在2000年,欧洲癌症研究与治疗协会(European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer, EORTC)、加拿大国立癌症研究所(National Cancer Institute of Canada, NCIC)、美国国立癌症研究所(National Cancer Institute, NCI)共同提出新的RECIST标准<sup>[24]</sup>。它的特点是:(1)单径测量法推出;(2)PD和疗效的界定范围更改;(3)可测量及不可测量病灶的定义;(4)目标病灶和非目标病灶的定义。其提出的测量病灶、目标病灶等是全新的概念,有着重大的意义。除了CR、疾病稳定(stable disease, SD)的定义和WHO

标准的大致相同，其它的疗效评价均不相同。它对PR、PD的定义分别为：(1)目标病灶的最长径之和至少减少30%；(2)最长径之和至少增加20%。同时研究人员通过实验研究得出：RECIST标准评价肿瘤疗效效果同WHO标准一样<sup>[25]</sup>。

## 2 RECIST标准的不足及改进内容

RECIST标准使用有前提条件，即肿瘤是球形或接近球形，当肿瘤的形态非球形，测量便会很困难。同时WHO标准遗留下来的不足，即操作者的人为误差仍未解决。特别是当病灶边缘不规则时，操作者测量差异最大。RECIST标准适用范围有限，例如它不适用于非外周生长型的肿瘤<sup>[26]</sup>。又如在肝癌患者有腹水等非肿瘤大小的改变时，其测量不能完全反映疾病的真实情况<sup>[26]</sup>。

特别是在目前多种治疗方法综合使用的背景下，RECIST标准并不能完全适用于评价通过杀灭肿瘤细胞而使肿瘤减小的传统细胞毒药物、通过抑制肿瘤细胞生长和血管生成的靶向药物<sup>[27]</sup>、肝癌TACE治疗<sup>[28]</sup>的疗效。基于RECIST标准存在的问题，2009年推出的RECIST 1.1标准弥补了RECIST标准的不足<sup>[29]</sup>。

RECIST1.1标准主要改进是：(1)淋巴结短轴纳入测量；(2)评估目标病灶数量的改变；(3)小病灶进展定义为增大5 mm以上；(4)对目标病灶等一些概念定义修改；(5)纳入新影像学检查作为疗效评价的依据，例如FDG-PET<sup>[29]</sup>。

## 3 WHO标准、RECIST标准在肝癌治疗中存在的不足之处

纵观WHO标准、RECIST标准，它们主要是通过测量肿瘤大小的变化来量化评估肿瘤疗效，究其根本是这些标准最初是用来评估细胞毒性药物在实体瘤中的疗效。对索拉菲尼等靶向治疗药物而言，其主要是通过抑制肿瘤细胞、血管生成治疗肝癌，肝癌肿瘤可能存在大小变化不大，但活性不变或减小，同时肝癌患者生存时间会延长，这代表WHO标准、RECIST标准通过测量肿瘤大小的变化来评估肿瘤治疗疗效已经不适用于目前多种综合治疗的模式。

RECIST标准在肝癌治疗效果评价应用中的不

足，在SHARP研究<sup>[30]</sup>及ORIENTAL研究<sup>[31]</sup>中有所体现。SHARP研究是通过将肝癌患者随机分成索拉菲尼组和安慰剂组，结果证明索拉菲尼是改善肝癌生存期的药物，与安慰剂组的1年生存率33%相比，索拉菲尼组的1年生存率为44%，但根据RECIST标准，索拉菲尼的RR是2%。而在亚洲开展的ORIENTAL研究亦得出大致相同的结论，即根据RECIST标准，索拉菲尼的RR是3.3%，但都证明索拉菲尼延长了肝癌患者生存期，同时也证明了RECIST标准不能完全反映出索拉菲尼治疗肝癌患者的疗效。同样的情况亦存在于TACE治疗肝癌患者中。通过阻断肿瘤的血供使肿瘤缺血坏死的TACE，但并不会使肿瘤变小、消失，即RECIST标准不能准确反映出TACE的疗效<sup>[31]</sup>。

## 4 靶向、免疫治疗时代下实体肿瘤治疗疗效评估系统的发展

### 4.1 实体肿瘤靶向治疗疗效评估标准

2007年，依据肿瘤大小和密度变化制定出的Choi标准<sup>[32]</sup>用于评估靶向治疗疗效，最初主要应用于胃肠道间质瘤的靶向治疗疗效评估，后来亦应用于其他实体肿瘤，如肝细胞癌、肾细胞癌<sup>[33-34]</sup>。基于Choi标准提出的改良Choi标准(mChoi)标准<sup>[35]</sup>，是联合长径和CT值变化排列组合，主要用于肾癌的靶向治疗疗效评估，与Choi标准的主要不同是PR的定义。随着研究的深入，在应用靶向药物治疗转移性肾癌时发现，肿瘤大小减少与无进展生存期(progression free survival, PFS)的延长无必然相关性，所以Choi标准和mChoi标准不能对此进行准确的评估，SACT(size and attenuation CT)标准<sup>[36]</sup>因此推出。SACT标准是依据肿瘤密度绝对值的变化对肿瘤疗效进行评估，其局限性是未纳入转移性肿瘤的具体形态、结构改变、衰减的测量等，同时该标准应用时费时费力，难以推广。

### 4.2 实体肿瘤免疫治疗疗效评估标准

2009年，在WHO标准的基础上，Wolchok等<sup>[37]</sup>提出了免疫相关疗效标准(immune-related response criteria, irRC)，该标准引入肿瘤负荷的概念、重新定义了PD、实体瘤新病灶。但是irRC标准仍采用双径测量法，并未能解决WHO标准的局限性。因此，基于irRC标准和Nishino等研究<sup>[38]</sup>的基础上，又提出了实体肿瘤免疫相关疗效评价标准

(immune-related response evaluation criteria in solid tumors, irRECIST)<sup>[39]</sup>。该标准继续沿用了RECIST1.1标准的单径测量法和irRC标准中将可测量新病灶计算入原肿瘤负荷中的概念。2017年,推出了实体肿瘤免疫疗效评估标准(immune response evaluation criteria in solid tumors, iRECIST)<sup>[40]</sup>,该标准提出了新的定义,在原有的疗效评估上加上“免疫”英文的缩写“i”(immune),如免疫完全缓解(immune CR, iCR)、免疫部分缓解(immune partial response, iPR)、免疫疾病稳定(immune stable disease, iSD)等,并加入已证实的疾病进展(confirmed progressive disease, iCPD)、待证实的疾病进展(unconfirmed progressive disease, iUPD)等全新概念。2018年,在上述的标准基础上推出实体肿瘤免疫修饰疗效评价标准(immune-modified response evaluation criteria in solid tumors, imRECIST)<sup>[41]</sup>,重新定义了PD,即否定了非靶病灶和新病灶在定义PD时的价值,只计算基线可测量病灶。

## 5 mRECIST标准的推出背景

本世纪初,EASL将“肿瘤坏死”这一概念增补到反应标准中,即EASL标准<sup>[19]</sup>;它的出现与在临床的肿瘤疗效评价被推荐<sup>[19]</sup>,一定程度弥补了RECIST标准的不足。mRECIST标准是通过造影剂的增强对比现象的结果去评估在CT、MRI中的动脉期有活性的肿瘤范围去评估肿瘤疗效。针对EASL标准随后开展了一系列的临床研究<sup>[27, 42]</sup>,即把血管因素纳入评估中,研究结果显示肿瘤的缓解率升高<sup>[43-44]</sup>;同时也有研究表明EASL与WHO、RECIST标准疗效的判断不一致<sup>[45]</sup>,EASL标准较后两者能更准确地判断TACE治疗肝癌的效果。随后美国肝病学会(American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases, AASLD)把EASL标准的肿瘤概念纳入其评估中,2009年“有活力肿瘤”这一概念被补充入AASLD-JNCI指南,并在RECIST标准上提出改良的RECIST评估方案,即mRECIST标准<sup>[18]</sup>。对比RECIST标准,mRECIST标准把评估目标由“目标病灶”便变成“存活的肿瘤”,通过增强CT或增强MRI影像去评估。其等级评估定义改为:CR是所有靶病灶中瘤内动脉强化消失。PR是靶病灶最长存活肿瘤直径总和至少减少30%,以靶病灶

最长存活肿瘤直径的基线总和为参考,以治疗开始以来记录的目标病灶直径的最低点之和为参考。PD至少增加了20%的最长存活肿瘤直径之和。SD是指既未下降达到PR标准,也未足上升达到PD标准。

## 6 mRECIST标准的优势及应用范围

根据“客观缓解率”(objective response rate, ORR)在肝癌疗效评估中的研究,其建议使用mRECIST标准评估经系统治疗的肝癌患者的疗效反应,但不支持血清生物标志物即甲胎蛋白(AFP)水平的变化<sup>[46]</sup>作为评估指标,但单独的mRECIST标准应用范围主要是肝癌的局部治疗方面<sup>[47]</sup>,可能与其以“存活的肿瘤”作为评估标准的优势有关,且有研究<sup>[48]</sup>表明它可以很好地预测预后,并且与生存期有相关性。mRECIST标准在评价TACE、靶向药物治疗肝癌上较以前的疗效评估标准准确。在疗效评估、预测生存期方面,疾病进展时间(time to progress, TTP)、总生存期(overall survival, OS)的判断方面,mRECIST标准与EASL具有一致性,而且对TACE疗效有更客观的评估<sup>[49]</sup>。但Prajapati等<sup>[50]</sup>持不一样的意见,认为mRECIST标准在预测生存上较EASL标准更客观准确。另外RECIST标准较WHO标准在临床中应用更广泛,这与RECIST标准的判断疗效的定义及减少临床观察者干扰有关<sup>[51]</sup>,且WHO标准的测量方法较复杂、受到较多的限制、误差亦多,因此RECIST标准更有优势<sup>[52-53]</sup>。综上,RECIST标准在全身的系统性评价中仍是主流,基于RECIST标准建立并完善的mRECIST标准更适用于肝癌的局部治疗疗效评价。而且对于有多枚肿瘤结节的肝癌患者,mRECIST标准的病灶测量有前提条件,推荐选择2枚最大结节作为目标病灶进行测量<sup>[54]</sup>。

## 7 mRECIST标准的不足之处探讨

### 7.1 肝癌的特殊性

与其他肿瘤不同,肝癌是唯一可不需病理诊断便可临床诊断的癌症。根据肝癌的形态,我国肝癌病理协作组在Eggel分类的基础上将肝癌分为:(1)块状型(单块状、融合块状、多块状);(2)结节型(单结节、融合结节、多结节);(3)小

癌型；(4)弥漫型。这侧面说明了肝癌的形态多样、不规则。特别是弥漫型肝癌，数量多、 $<1$  cm的病灶多、边界不清、难以测量。同时，有研究<sup>[55]</sup>表明超过80%的肝癌和肝硬化共存，这使得影像评估具有独特的复杂性，肝硬化固有的致病性和血液动力学变化可能模拟或隐藏肝内肿瘤。mRECIST标准中靶病灶选择的肿瘤病变需要能代表受累器官，CT或MRI测量的最长直径 $\geq 1$  cm，并适合于精确和重复测量。非典型肝内病变在mRECIST标准中被定义为非强化病变，即不表现出上述瘤内动脉强化模式的病变。这些非典型肝癌特征可在分化良好的未成熟新生血管肿瘤、脂肪变性和硬化性肿瘤以及分化不良的浸润性肿瘤中观察到<sup>[56]</sup>，其非典型病变包括边缘状动脉强化的肝癌，其新生血管主要集中在肿瘤周围，并常伴有中央缺血或坏死。

## 7.2 mRECIST标准使用的前提条件

要进行mRECIST标准的评估需满足以下条件：

(1) 患者行增强CT或MRI的检查并确定造影剂给药时间至关重要，以便在第1次运行时获得高质量的动脉期成像，在第2次运行时获得高质量的门静脉期成像。过早获得的动脉期（即当肝动脉分支完全增强但门静脉尚未增强时）可能是不充分的，因为肝癌增强的程度通常在动脉期后期更高（即当肝动脉分支完全增强时，门静脉也增强，但肝静脉尚未增强）。(2) 患者配合及影像医生的阅片能力，在进行增强CT或MRI检查时，患者需进行屏气。同时在阅片评估时，要求3名影像学的医生分别独自阅片。(3) 肝癌的肿瘤特性原因，需要可测量的病灶，即边界清楚、形状规则、典型的病灶。

## 7.3 mRECIST标准的未来发展

目前的增强CT、MRI存在不足和局限性，其只能对 $\geq 1$  cm的病灶进行评估，而且增强影像上的改变也不能完全代表肿瘤的活性，还需进行定性、定量分析。而一种最近发展起来的显著技术计算机断层灌注成像（computed tomography perfusion imaging, CTPI）可用于肿瘤学评估，其可反映体内血管生成和肿瘤血管化的微血管变化<sup>[57]</sup>，可获得关于肝实质的血液动力学特性的定量信息<sup>[58]</sup>。此外有报道<sup>[59-60]</sup>称，CTPI参数可能在接受介入治疗（如TACE）的患者的早期评估中发挥预测作用。由于CTPI能够评估治疗后肝癌病变的血流动力学

反应<sup>[61]</sup>，所以未来mRECIST标准会在CTPI等影像技术的发展推动下变得更完善。

mRECIST标准主要运用影像学指标进行疗效评估，并未纳入与肝癌恶性程度和预后相关的检验学指标作为评价指标。当影像学检查对肿瘤坏死不能准确评价时，结合血清肿瘤标记物倍增的时间、数值等<sup>[62-64]</sup>或许可以更好地反映肿瘤的疗效情况。这些指标常在临床应用，或许这些指标联合mRECIST标准可让医生更好地评价中晚期肝癌患者靶向治疗的疗效。例如AFP是一种公认的肿瘤标志物，肝癌患者普遍存在血清AFP高表达，且表达水平与肝癌恶性程度存在密切相关性，即肿瘤恶性程度越高，血清AFP越高<sup>[65-69]</sup>。mRECIST作为中晚期肝癌治疗疗效评估标准，关于中晚期肝癌OS预测因子和潜在替代终点的相关研究得出<sup>[70]</sup>，AFP $>200$  ng/mL在mRECIST标准中是独立的预后因素。并且，AFP是目前在与肝癌的恶性程度相关的免疫指标中应用最广泛、最被大家熟悉的检验学指标，可在大多数医院进行检测，利于临床的应用推广。

## 8 展望

在历经半世纪的发展，肝癌治疗的疗效评估系统从WHO标准、RECIST标准等逐步发展至适合评估靶向治疗的mRECIST标准。相信随着影像技术的发展，特别是CT、MR灌注成像等功能影像学检查技术和检验学的发展，相信将来在血流、形态、生化等方面对肝癌靶向治疗的疗效会有更加科学、更加全面的评价。

利益冲突：所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突。

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