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脉冲射频治疗慢性肩痛的研究进展^{*}

林金龙,刘珍秀 综述,王丽娜[△] 审校

(苏州大学附属第一医院疼痛科 215006)

[摘要] 慢性肩痛是一种常见的肌肉骨骼问题,大约20%的普通人因肩痛影响生活,且部分患者存在治疗周期长、疗效不明显,反复注射不良反应大等问题。目前有研究应用脉冲射频技术治疗慢性肩痛,该文对脉冲射频治疗慢性肩痛的最新研究及临床应用进行综述,以分析脉冲射频技术的应用前景、最新进展等。

[关键词] 脉冲射频;慢性肩痛;肩胛上神经

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Recent advances in pulsed radiofrequency treatment of chronic shoulder pain^{*}

LIN Jinlong, LIU Zhenxiu, WANG Lina[△]

(Department of Pain, First Hospital of Soochow University, Suzhou, Jiangsu 215006, China)

[Abstract] Chronic shoulder pain is a common and important musculoskeletal problem. The living in about 20% of the ordinary persons was affected by shoulder pain, moreover partial patients have the problems such as long length of treatment cycle, unapparent efficacy, and great side effects due to repeated injections. At present, there are the studies on the application of pulsed radiofrequency technology for the treatment of chronic shoulder pain, so this paper reviews the latest researches and clinical applications of pulsed radiofrequency for the treatment of chronic shoulder pain to analyze the application prospects and latest progress of pulsed radiofrequency technology.

[Key words] pulse radio frequency; chronic shoulder pain; nervi suprascapularis

慢性肩痛是由多种因素导致的肩关节单部位或多部位的急性、亚急性或慢性疼痛,最常见的原因是肩袖疾病、粘连性关节囊炎、肩锁关节疾病和盂肱关节骨关节炎^[1-3]。一般认为肩痛的危险因素与社会人口学、基础疾病、职业等因素有关,一系列的物理职业暴露(如举、推或拉、重复的动作、振动、长时间的静止姿势)均增加其风险性,但最令人信服且风险最高的因素是上述这些暴露超过一定范围的累积效应。据估计,20%的普通人群在其一生中将遭受至少1次肩痛,其年发病率约为0.9%~2.5%^[4]。目前肩痛已成为成人第二大常见的肌肉骨骼疾病并且常转变为慢性疼痛。有效的肩关节疼痛控制依赖于明确的诊断及多种治疗方法,包括药物治疗、物理治疗、康复治疗、外科手术、选择性神经阻滞和脉冲射频治疗等^[5-7]。但仍有一部分慢性肩痛患者存在治疗后疼痛控制不佳等多种问题,包括治疗周期长、疼痛反复或治疗费用高等,临幊上一直在探索高效、微创、快速且疗效确切的治疗方法^[8-10]。

1 脉冲射频技术

脉冲射频因其损伤小,且可重复应用,已成为治疗神经病理性疼痛的重要方法。2002年ROHOF^[11]首次采用肩胛上神经脉冲射频(PRF)用于治疗慢性肩痛,近年来越来越多的医生将其应用于慢性肩痛患者,发现脉冲射频可快速缓解疼痛,以及提供长期的疼痛缓解和促进功能康复,同时也因其温度低对目标组织和周围组织无任何损伤,从而降低神经损伤、神经炎、肌腱钙化等风险,在慢性肩痛的治疗中日益受到关注。

2 脉冲射频机制

2.1 宏观机制

脉冲射频不同于标准射频利用局部高温对目标组织产生永久性损害,而是在其工作中利用静息期使局部温度降低,控制温度在42℃以下,避免温度过高,以达到不损坏目标组织的目的^[12]。目前多数研究已证实,脉冲射频使组织暴露于高强度电场中,通过诱导组织细胞产生跨膜电位改变突触传导,起到神经

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调节作用^[13]。但脉冲射频这种不损坏目标组织的工作温度是否有热消融作用,是否对组织的生物学改变有一定作用,仍未得出定论^[14]。这也引发了以下这一争论:组织的生物学改变是由热力效应还是电场强度引起,或是二者共同起作用^[15]。

2.2 微观机制

脉冲射频通过宏观机制对目标组织产生微观的调控作用,以缓解、控制疼痛,目前研究表明脉冲射频调节涉及伤害性信号传导(神经递质、离子通道、小分子肽)、免疫活动(小胶质细胞活性、炎症细胞因子、胞内蛋白)和突触功能等许多不同途径,这些途径单独或共同在病理上导致慢性神经性疼痛^[14,16-20]。但由于不同的参数设定、不同的目标组织、不同研究物种等因素的影响,现在仍缺乏充分阐明脉冲射频的直接作用机制^[21]。

3 目标神经选择

肩关节是上肢与躯干连接的部分,是上肢最大、最灵活的关节,由肩胛骨关节盂和肱骨头构成,其周围附着韧带、肌肉等组织,由臂丛神经发出的多条分支(肩胛上神经、腋神经、胸长神经、胸背神经、肩胛背神经、胸内侧神经、胸外侧神经、肌皮神经、副神经)负责肩关节运动及感觉。其中肩胛上神经负责肩关节 70% 的感觉,以及支配冈上肌、冈下肌的运动;腋神经负责盂肱关节前部、下部区域及其表面皮肤感觉,支配三角肌和小圆肌的运动^[22]。因此肩胛上神经及腋神经是负责肩关节疼痛的主要神经,既往有研究行肩胛上神经阻滞或肩胛上神经、腋神经阻滞缓解肩关节手术疼痛以及治疗慢性肩痛^[23-25],认为神经阻滞可能有助于减少疼痛保护性肌肉痉挛、调节神经信号传入输出和运动控制。因此可以假设肩胛上神经是控制肩痛的重要媒介^[26]。目前报道的脉冲射频治疗慢性肩痛多选择肩胛上神经,结果均提示可以明显缓解肩痛,随访 6 个月疼痛较治疗前明显减轻。也为脉冲射频治疗慢性肩痛提供了依据,目前治疗慢性肩痛的靶点可选择肩胛上神经或肩胛上神经和腋神经。有研究^[27]采用超声引导下肩胛上神经和腋神经脉冲射频治疗钙化型肌腱炎,经一次治疗使患者钙化灶明显缩小甚至消失,疼痛明显缓解,随访 6 个月未见复发。

4 穿刺入路选择

穿刺技术包括解剖定位、透视、CT 或超声直视下进行操作,目前更倾向于选择超声直视下进行操作,因其可实时引导,同时避免因解剖定位而导致损伤神经、血管等组织的弊端,也不会有透视、CT 带来的辐射危险。

肩胛上神经源于臂丛神经上干上方部分,向后方及远端走行,随后在肩胛舌骨肌和斜方肌肌腹之间向肩胛上切迹走行,支配冈上肌及冈下肌,目前神经阻滞、脉冲射频多选择肩胛上切迹入路。首先触诊确定

肩胛冈,应用超声扫查肩胛冈上方,可见“U”形切迹,确认肩胛上切迹、肩胛横韧带、肩胛上动脉、肩胛上神经等结构,穿刺针沿超声纵轴(平面内)由内向外进针,直至到达神经周围^[4]。SIEGENTHALER 等^[28]提供了一种新的阻滞入路——锁骨上入路,以肩胛舌骨肌为定位标志,在超声引导下确定肩胛上神经位于肩胛舌骨肌下方,相较经典入路,锁骨上入路因肩胛上神经位置表浅更易于确定,可以为患者提供更舒服的体位(经典入路为坐位或侧卧位,锁骨上入路为平卧位),但因其解剖上更靠近臂丛神经、胸壁等结构,操作安全性上差于经典入路。因此此方法可能更适用于神经阻滞,而脉冲射频选择此入路有待进一步研究。

腋神经发自臂丛神经后束,位于腋动脉后方,下行至肩胛下肌下缘时与旋肱后动脉伴行穿过四边孔,继续绕行肱骨外髁颈内后方和后外方。经典入路为四边孔入路,超声探头沿肱骨纵轴扫描其后部,确认由小圆肌、三角肌、肱三头肌、肱骨构成的四边孔,通过多普勒辨认旋肱后动脉,可确认腋神经位置。

5 脉冲射频参数设定

目前脉冲射频参数设定并没有统一的标准,临床常用的脉冲射频治疗参数为电极尖端温度不大于 42 ℃、输出电压 45 V、脉冲频率 2 Hz、脉冲宽度 20 ms、治疗时间 120 s^[12]。例如 SINHA^[26]、ERGONENC^[29]、YAN 等^[30]便是采用上述参数,不同点在于治疗总时间设定为 360 s。

ANAKA^[31]的动物实验研究显示脉冲射频 6 min 较 2 min 缓解小鼠机械疼痛更为明显。但依旧没有临床研究能够证明治疗效果与脉冲时间长短有关。不过目前的研究更倾向于在一定时间范围内,脉冲时间越长,疼痛缓解效果越好,效果持续时间更久。

6 小结

脉冲射频治疗慢性疼痛已经广泛应用于动物试验及临床。但现有研究对于脉冲射频治疗慢性疼痛的机制并不明确,参数设定无统一的标准。即使现有研究显示脉冲射频治疗可控制疼痛 6 个月,可限于样本量、有无对照组、随访时限等因素,上述结论以及远期效果仍不确切。慢性肩痛是一类肩关节疾病的共同症状,以神经为靶点的脉冲射频治疗对部分肩关节疾病有效还是对全部肩关节疾病有效有待进一步研究。对于慢性肩痛患者进行单一方法治疗还是联合治疗也需更多的研究证明。

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