

基于“肠心轴”探讨中药调节肠道菌群治疗心力衰竭的研究进展^{*}

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摘要:心力衰竭是各种心血管疾病的终末期阶段,其高患病率及死亡率严重威胁人类的健康。越来越多的证据表明,肠道微生物群失调、肠道屏障功能障碍和肠道微生物群代谢物与心力衰竭密切相关。中药单体及中药复方具有多通路、多靶点治疗的特点,能够对机体进行整体调节,影响机体多个系统的生理功能。中药通过调控“肠心轴”治疗心力衰竭符合中医整体观念。中药方剂如葛根芩连汤、黄连解毒汤、四妙勇安汤等能通过调控肠道菌群及其代谢产物治疗心力衰竭。

关键词:心力衰竭;“肠心轴”;肠道菌群;葛根芩连汤;黄连解毒汤;四妙勇安汤

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Research Progress of TCM Regulating Intestinal Flora in Treatment of Heart Failure Based on "Gut – Heart Axis"

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Abstract:Heart failure is the end – stage stage of various cardiovascular diseases, and its high prevalence and mortality seriously threaten human health. Accumulating evidence suggests that gut microbiota dysbiosis, gut barrier dysfunction, and gut microbiota metabolites are strongly associated with heart failure. TCM monomers and TCM compounds have the characteristics of multi – channel and multi – target therapy, which can regulate the body as a whole and affect the physiological functions of multiple systems of the body. The treatment of heart failure by regulating the "gut – heart axis" with traditional Chinese medicine is in line with the overall concept in traditional Chinese medicine. Traditional Chinese medicine formulas such as Gegen Qinlian Decoction, Huanglian Jiedu Decoction, and Simiao Yong'an Decoction can treat heart failure by regulating the intestinal flora and its metabolites.

Key words:heart failure;" gut – heart axis";intestinal flora;Gegen Qinlian Decoction;Huanglian Jiedu Decoction;Simao Yong'an Decoction

心力衰竭(heart failure, HF)是一种慢性进行性疾病^[1],由于心脏的结构改变和功能紊乱,影响了心脏向组织供氧的能力,在很大程度上影响和降低

了患者的生活质量,其高患病率和死亡率严重威胁人类的健康^[2]。肠道菌群是近年来的研究热点,其可通过参与宿主的物质代谢、氧化应激、免疫炎症反应等过程而导致心血管疾病^[3]。肠道菌群与心血管疾病之间有双向调节作用,研究表明,在 HF 患者中,微循环障碍可导致肠上皮功能受损,肠道屏障功能障碍和肠道菌群失调可能导致 HF 患者肠道菌群代谢物的异常产生和吸收,大量的有害代谢物通过

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受损的肠黏膜进入血液,从而加重HF患者炎症刺激和临床症状,这种心与肠道之间的双向调节作用称为“肠心轴”^[4]。中医药具有多渠道、多靶点的治疗特点,在稳定病情、改善心功能、提高生活质量方面具有明显优势,可通过调控“肠心轴”发挥治疗心力衰竭的作用,为该病的防治提供更广的思路。

1 “肠心轴”的中医理论基础

中医的藏象学说认为,心与小肠一脏一腑,相互影响,互为表里。心与小肠通过经脉相连,《灵枢·经脉》载:“心手少阴之脉,起于心中,出属心系,下膈络小肠……小肠手太阳之脉……入缺盆,络心,循咽下膈,抵胃,属小肠。”心与小肠在生理上相互为用,《素问·痿论》曰:“心主身之血脉。”《素问·灵兰秘典论》中言:“小肠者,受盛之官,变化出焉。”小肠受盛化物,泌别清浊,将水谷精微传输于心,化赤为血,使心血充足,心脉得养;而心主血脉、心阳温煦有助于小肠的化物功能。在病理上,两者也相互影响,《诸病源候论》载:“心主血,与小肠相合,若心家有热,结于小肠,则小便血也。”可见心火下移小肠可导致其泌别清浊的功能失司,小肠火随水液经三焦下注膀胱,则可引起尿少、尿赤涩痛、尿血等小肠实热的症状;小肠有热亦可循经上扰于心,出现心烦、失眠、口舌生疮等症。由此可见,心与小肠在经络上相络属,生理上相互为用,病理上相互影响。

2 肠道屏障与HF

肠道结构和功能的完整性与疾病的发生发展有着密切的联系。研究人员通过乳果糖-甘露醇试验评估小肠通透性发现,慢性心力衰竭(chronic heart failure,CHF)患者的小肠通透性增加35%;三蔗糖试验显示,大肠通透性增加210%,D-木糖吸收减少,表明肠缺血^[5]。血清脂多糖(lipopolysaccharides,LPS),也称为内毒素,是评估肠道功能和通透性的重要指标。LPS以Toll样受体4(Toll-like receptor 4,TLR4)依赖的方式减少功能蛋白闭锁小带蛋白-1(zonula occludens-1,ZO-1)紧密连接(TJs),诱导肠上皮TJs变形,破坏肠屏障的完整性^[6]。急性水肿加重期间,CHF患者血浆内毒素和细胞因子浓度升高,强化利尿剂治疗可使内毒素水平恢复正常^[7]。此外,肝静脉的内毒素水平高于左心室或肺动脉的内毒素水平,提示细菌或内毒素可能从肠道转移到循环中^[8]。肠道通透性的增加与临床疾病的严重程度、静脉血充血以及全身炎症反

应相关^[9]。这些研究表明,心衰患者心排血量下降及周围循环瘀血可引起肠道水肿和黏膜缺血,导致缺氧和高碳酸血症。肠黏膜pH值降低和被动载体介导的运输活性降低导致“肠漏”,即肠道屏障功能减弱和通透性增加,可使细菌易位和循环内毒素增加,从而引发炎症反应,进一步加重HF^[10]。

3 肠道菌群及其代谢产物与HF

3.1 肠道菌群与HF 肠道菌群是微生物群落的复杂集合,通过各种途径参与人体的生理和病理活动。在生理条件下,超过90%的细菌由拟杆菌门和厚壁菌门组成,而厚壁菌门/拟杆菌门比例升高与HF有关^[11-12]。与正常人群相比,CHF患者肠道病原菌和真菌过度生长,如弯曲杆菌、志贺菌、沙门菌和念珠菌属,且肠道菌群的多样性与心功能不全的严重程度有关^[9]。

3.2 肠道菌群代谢物与HF 众多肠道菌群的代谢产物在HF的形成过程中发挥着重要作用,如短链脂肪酸(short-chain fatty acids,SCFAs)、胆汁酸(bile acids,BAs)、氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine-N-oxide,TMAO)等。

3.2.1 SCFAs SCFAs是由1~6个碳原子组成的饱和脂肪酸,主要由肠道微生物作用于淀粉等碳水化合物产生,包括3种主要产物,即乙酸盐、丙酸盐和丁酸盐。在HF患者中,产生丁酸盐的几种毛螺旋菌丰度减少,与丙酸盐呈正相关的毛茛科丰度也下降^[13]。HF的发生伴有促炎和抗炎细胞因子之间的不平衡^[14]。SCFAs可调节细胞因子的分泌,并介导多种免疫细胞的功能,如参与免疫应答和局部炎症反应的肥大细胞^[15]。丁酸盐通过抑制组蛋白去乙酰化酶(HDAC)来抑制肠道巨噬细胞分泌促炎介质,包括白细胞介素-6(interleukin-6,IL-6)、白细胞介素-12(interleukin-12,IL-12)和一氧化氮(nitrous oxide,NO)^[16]。研究发现,SCFAs可通过介导同源G蛋白受体43(G protein-coupled receptor 43,GPR43)和G蛋白受体109A(G protein-coupled receptor 109A,GPR109A)发挥心脏保护作用^[17]。在肠道内,乙酸盐显著增加紧密连接蛋白-1(Tjp-1)mRNA水平,并抑制促炎细胞因子白细胞介素-17a(interleukin-17a,IL-17a)和IL-6的表达。丙酸盐在一定程度上依赖于调节性T细胞来减少全身炎症、心肌肥大、纤维化和血管功能障碍^[18]。

3.2.2 BAs BAs在脂质的代谢和吸收中起着至关重要的作用。BAs作为信号分子,可识别在心血

管组织中广泛表达的特异性受体^[19]。BAs 可识别心肌细胞的法氏类核受体,激活心肌细胞线粒体死亡信号,诱导心肌细胞凋亡^[20]。BAs 与 HF 的发展密切相关,CHF 患者的原发性 BAs 水平降低,特异性继发性 BAs 升高^[21]。刘婷等^[22]研究发现,血清 BAs 水平与炎症细胞因子、心室重构参数呈正相关,说明血清 BAs 参与 CHF 发生、发展;同时 BAs 可通过介导炎症反应,进一步引起心室重构,加重 CHF 患者病情。在衰竭的心肌细胞中,肉碱乙酰转移酶通过介导 BAs 合成途径促进胆固醇分解代谢。BAs 或 BAs 合成中间体的细胞内积累诱导线粒体 DNA 释放到细胞质中,从而触发 I 型干扰素反应和 AIM2 炎症小体活化,促进慢性心肌炎症和 HF 进展^[23]。

3.2.3 TMAO 饮食中的胆碱和左旋肉碱被肠道微生物代谢为三甲胺(trimethylamin, TMA),TMA 通过门静脉循环进入肝脏,被含肝黄素的单加氧酶(flavin containing monooxygenase, FMO)家族尤其是黄素单加氧酶 3 (flavin containing monooxygenase 3, FMO3) 氧化为 TMAO^[24]。TMAO 可诱导泡沫细胞聚集和血小板高反应性,具有很强的致动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS) 和促血栓形成特性,增加了 HF 的风险^[25]。此外,TMAO 诱导的内皮细胞炎症反应促进了 HF 的发展^[26]。Organ 等^[27]研究证实,喂食 TMAO 的小鼠左心室射血分数降低,脑利钠肽水平增加,而饮食消除 TMAO 可改善 HF 小鼠模型的心脏功能及心脏重塑。循环 TMAO 水平与 HF 的预后(死亡率和再入院率)密切相关,TMAO 水平越低则预后越好^[28]。

3.2.4 其他代谢产物 肠道微生物群代谢物苯乙酰谷氨酰胺(phenylacetylglutamine, PAGln)既与人类动脉粥样硬化血栓性心脏病相关,又通过调节肾上腺素能受体信号传导与动物模型中的心血管疾病发病机制相关。研究表明,循环 PAGln 水平与 HF 严重程度(LVEF 和 NT-proBNP)密切相关^[29]。吲哚硫酸(indoxylsulfuric acid, IS)是一种尿毒素,由食物中的蛋白质经肠道微生物代谢产生,具有促纤维化、促肥大和促炎作用,在 CHF 中,IS 能激活 p38 MAPK、p42/44 MAPK 和 NF-κB 通路,从而刺激心肌成纤维细胞和胶原合成,导致不良心脏重塑^[30]。

4 中医药通过调控“肠心轴”治疗 HF

中医古籍中并无心力衰竭这一病名的记载,依据患者的临床症状表现,可将其归为“心水”“心胀”“水肿”的范畴,病位在心,病机为气虚血瘀水停,虚

实夹杂。中医药在 HF 的治疗方面显示出独有的优势^[31]。中药口服后在肠道中被吸收,其得以发挥治疗作用有赖于肠道菌群的贡献。中药单体及中药方剂可通过改善肠道菌群结构和组成、调节肠道菌群产物、减轻炎症反应等来减轻对心血管造成的负面影响,对 HF 的发生、发展起抑制作用。

4.1 中药单体

4.1.1 白藜芦醇 白藜芦醇是具有活血解毒功效中药虎杖的有效成分之一,这种酚类物质广泛存在于葡萄、花生等天然植物中,具有抗炎、抗氧化、抗衰老等作用^[32]。白藜芦醇可增加拟杆菌门、反硝化菌门、大肠杆菌门细菌的丰度,而这些细菌的主要代谢产物是 SCFAs^[33-34]。此外,抗菌蛋白 Reg3γ 是一种调节菌群结构的蛋白,白藜芦醇能增加抗菌基因 Reg3γ mRNA 表达,从而调节菌群组成^[33]。肠道菌群与线粒体在宿主能量代谢、氧化应激及免疫炎症反应等方面存在明显的交互作用,其代谢产物次级胆汁酸可直接调控不同类型沉默调节因子 1 (silent regulatory factor 1, SIRT1) 的表达,进而影响线粒体炎症和肠道屏障功能^[35]。白藜芦醇还可通过直接激活 SIRT1 来发挥抗炎作用。SIRT1 能够抑制 NF-κB 炎症通路,减少炎性因子释放,从而减轻炎症反应^[36-37]。对载脂蛋白 E 基因敲除小鼠的研究中发现,白藜芦醇通过抑制三甲胺合成酶从而减少 TMAO 的生成,并增加乳酸菌/双歧杆菌的比例来促进 BAs 代谢,以减缓 AS 的进程^[38],而影响 HF 进展的一个重要因素是 AS 的过程。

4.1.2 姜黄素 姜黄为姜科姜黄属植物姜黄的干燥根茎,也是传统药食同源植物,其主要活性成分包括姜黄素类化合物、挥发油、多糖等^[39]。姜黄素为酚酸类物质,口服时系统利用度较低,但在肠道可检测出高度累积的姜黄素^[40]。在摄入后往往可调节结肠的菌群丰富度与多样性,显著提高了乳酸杆菌和 7 种产短链脂肪酸菌的相对丰度^[41-42]。在高脂喂养小鼠中,姜黄素的添加显著降低了在调节宿主碳水化合物、脂类和胆汁酸代谢方面起着重要作用的厚壁菌门/拟杆菌门的比例,调节由饮食诱导的菌群生态失调^[43]。在对镉暴露诱导的 APOE^{-/-} 小鼠中发现,姜黄素通过重塑菌群结构改善了脂质代谢,并抑制了 TMAO 的合成,减轻了镉诱导的 AS^[44]。姜黄素通过增加紧密连接蛋白如 occludin、ZO-1、claudin-3 的表达来增强肠道屏障,减少循环 LPS 水平。此外,姜黄素还分别下调 TLR4 和 MyD88 蛋白的表达,抑制 p65 核易位和 NF-κB 的 DNA 结合

活性,降低肿瘤坏死因子- α (tumor necrosis factor- α ,TNF- α)、白细胞介素-1 β (interleukin-1 β ,IL-1 β)的mRNA表达及血清TNF- α 、IL-1 β 的水平^[45]。

4.1.3 小檗碱 小檗碱是一种天然的以季异喹啉为基础的生物碱,存在于毛茛科黄连、芸香科黄柏等清热解毒类中药里。小檗碱对肠道菌群具有双向调控作用,一方面能提高短链脂肪酸产生菌、胆汁酸分解菌等有益菌的相对丰度,另一方面又能降低霍乱弧菌、弗氏志贺菌等有害菌的相对丰度^[46]。小檗碱可以影响大鼠肠道的短链脂肪酸产生菌和内毒素产生菌数量及其代谢产物,恢复机体代谢和免疫功能^[47]。通过降低胆汁酸产生菌的数量和胆盐水解酶的活性,间接提升牛磺胆酸的水平,激活回肠中FXR的表达;或调节肠道菌群与上G蛋白偶联受体的关系,提高环磷酸腺苷水平,参与糖脂代谢^[48-49]。一项研究显示,小檗碱对肠道菌群具有维生素样作用,并能抑制三甲胺酶和FMO3活性,降低TMAO的生成^[50]。

4.1.4 人参皂苷 人参皂苷是人参的重要活性成分,具有抗氧化、抗炎、血管舒张、抗糖尿病等多种治疗作用^[51]。小鼠肠道菌群结构在受到人参皂苷调节后发生了显著变化,荧光假单胞菌和丁酸梭菌数量明显增加,抑制肠道病原菌的生长,改善小鼠的健康水平^[52]。人参茎叶中的总人参皂苷可以通过调节肠道菌群和SCFAs代谢来改善炎症反应和氧化应激^[53]。人参皂苷Rk3(Rk3)通过增加紧密连接蛋白的表达来修复肠屏障功能障碍,并降低高脂肪饮食诱导小鼠的结肠炎性细胞因子水平。重要的是,Rk3可有效改善肠道菌群的代谢失调,显著降低厚壁菌/拟杆菌比值,并通过抑制TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路抑制炎症级联反应^[54]。在心肌梗死大鼠模型中,人参皂苷具有促血管生成和减轻心肌纤维化的作用,可改善左心室功能,延缓HF病程^[55]。

4.1.5 槲皮素 槲皮素是一种广泛存在于自然界中的黄酮类化合物,具有心肌细胞保护作用,并可预防心肌纤维化^[56-57]。黄酮类化合物对机体健康的影响很大程度上取决于肠道微生物群的转化^[58]。槲皮素可改善LPS诱导的空肠微生物群变化,并通过增加消化球菌、红贝利微生物、红色杆菌属和Slacilda的丰度来改善肠道免疫力。此外,槲皮素还能缓解炎症反应和细胞凋亡并提高肠道屏障功能^[59]。槲皮素可显著提高肝脏胆固醇转化为胆汁酸的关键酶胆固醇7 α -羟化酶的活性^[60];通过下调mTOR/

YY1信号通路使胆固醇转化为BAs,导致CYP7A1活性升高,从而恢复胆固醇稳态^[61]。槲皮素增强了胃肠道微生物 α 和 β 多样性,缓解了由羊茅中毒引起的肠道微生物群和微生物群代谢产物SCFAs的失调;通过抑制NF- κ B信号通路激活来降低炎症反应,改善羊茅中毒诱导的线粒体功能障碍,并通过抑制氧化代谢物的增加和提高抗氧化酶的水平来缓解心血管氧化损伤^[62]。这些发现表明,槲皮素可能通过调节肠心轴发挥心脏保护作用。

4.2 中药复方

4.2.1 葛根芩连汤 葛根芩连汤出自《伤寒论》,是中医治疗腹泻的常用方剂。它由葛根、黄芩、黄连和甘草4味药组成。现代药理研究表明,葛根芩连汤具有抗炎、抗氧化、增强机体免疫功能等作用^[63]。葛根芩连汤主要通过3个方面调节肠道菌群来治疗疾病。(1)增加SCFAs含量,正向调节生物学功能:通过上调SCFAs产生阿克曼菌属、瘤胃球菌属等,激活下游通路,增加能量代谢,促进瘦素分泌调节脂质代谢,平衡肠道微生态^[64-65]。(2)维护肠道屏障完整性:益生菌形成的生物屏障是肠道屏障之一,研究证明,葛根芩连汤能上调益生菌以提高Occludin紧密连接蛋白的表达,保护溃疡性结肠炎小鼠的肠黏膜^[66];此外,葛根芩连汤可以促进生成普雷沃菌属等,形成肠道生物屏障,产生抗菌物质等方式保护肠道屏障^[67]。(3)减少肠道促炎因子,平衡肠道内环境:葛根芩连汤可以上调肠道内乳酸杆菌的丰度,降低LPS水平,减轻炎症反应^[68];还能降低泄泻模型仔猪空肠IL-1 β 、TNF- α 、IL-6的表达水平,从而改善肠道炎症状态,平衡肠道内环境^[69]。

4.2.2 黄连解毒汤 黄连解毒汤是清热解毒的代表方剂,由黄连、黄芩、黄柏、栀子组成。黄连解毒汤对菌群结构的影响与剂量有关,高水平呈现出抗生素样作用,相对低剂量下可调节有益菌及致病菌丰度^[70]。门水平上,黄连解毒汤可以显著降低肠道内厚壁菌门以及放线菌门的丰度;属水平上,黄连解毒汤可以升高嗜胆菌丰度,降低消化链球菌、安德克菌以及克里斯滕森菌丰度^[71]。一项动物研究显示,黄连解毒汤能显著调节机体5-羟色胺水平和SCFAs的含量,参与机体的肠蠕动和糖脂代谢^[72]。单胺氧化酶(monoamine oxidase, MAO)活性高低能够间接反映肠道菌群失衡程度,在ApoE^{-/-}小鼠实验中发现,黄连解毒汤能增加拟杆菌门丰度,降低结肠的厚壁菌门和变形菌门丰度,抑制MAO活性,延缓AS斑块形成^[73]。

4.2.3 四妙勇安汤 四妙勇安汤是一种具有抗炎特性的传统方剂,能降低厚壁菌/拟杆菌的比例,增加有益的微生物群来改变肠道微生物群的组成。还能保护肠黏膜和绒毛结构,提高紧密连接蛋白的表达,并减少肠道通透性。四妙勇安汤通过调节肠道菌群和保护肠道屏障,从而减少LPS向循环中的转运。此外,还能抑制LPS诱导的TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路,使炎症因子释放减少,最终减轻心肌损伤^[74]。另有研究表明,四妙勇安汤可显著降低高脂血症大鼠血浆总胆固醇、低密度脂蛋白水平并提高高密度脂蛋白水平,还可使胆汁酸经典中性合成途径的主要产物胆酸、牛磺胆酸和甘胆酸水平增加^[75]。

4.2.4 其他复方 补阳还五汤能调节HF大鼠肠道菌群的多样性,增强肠道屏障功能,显著降低血清TMAO含量,还可改善HF大鼠模型的心功能,从而延缓HF的进展^[76]。三黄泻心汤是一种具有抗炎、抗氧化、抗AS等多种生物活性的清热解毒方。研究发现,三黄泻心汤能降低TMAO产生,减少血小板聚集和炎症反应^[77]。一项临床随机对照试验表明,痰火方可降低产生SCFAs及LPS的细菌,还具有减少TMA生物合成基因及增加TMA降解基因的潜力,可通过介导肠道菌群及代谢物发挥功效^[78]。瓜蒌薤白汤可通过调节紧密连接的mRNA和蛋白质表达、抑制氧化应激、降低细胞凋亡等途径显著改善BAs诱导的肠屏障功能障碍^[79]。桃红四物汤干预可增加血虚血瘀综合征大鼠模型有益菌丰度,降低致病菌丰度,通过调节血小板功能和氨基酸代谢,改善由血虚和血瘀引起的症状^[80]。四逆汤具有心脏保护作用,其机制可能是通过调节磷脂和BAs代谢来调节NF- κ B信号通路,对抗异丙肾上腺素诱导的心肌损伤^[81]。Zhao等^[82]研究发现,四逆汤可以通过调节肠道微生态环境来影响HF的发展。加参方通过丰富肠道微生物多样性、调节菌群结构来改善肠道菌群紊乱,而且能调节代谢物血浆水平,改善代谢紊乱,可通过提高大鼠左室射血分数改善HF大鼠的心功能,从而改善HF^[83]。

5 总结与展望

心力衰竭是全球慢性心血管疾病预防和治疗的重要组成部分。越来越多的证据表明,肠道微生物群失调、肠道屏障功能障碍和肠道微生物群代谢物与HF有关。中药单体及中药复方具有多通路、多靶点治疗的特点,能够对机体进行整体调节,影响机

体多个系统的生理功能。中药通过调控“肠心轴”治疗HF符合中医整体观念。许多研究表明,中药方剂能调控肠道菌群及其代谢产物,治疗HF符合其药理作用和药理学基础。但在实际的临床工作中,通过调控肠道菌群治疗HF的数据并不多,大多局限于动物实验且未阐明具体是何成分所起作用,希望越来越多的专家和学者能够积极研究中药调控肠道菌群与治疗HF之间的关系,阐明其中的机制,为HF的诊疗提供新的思路及理论依据。

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