

HBeAg阳性慢性乙型肝炎患者HBV前C/BCP突变/准种与HBeAg和HBV DNA的关系

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【摘要】目的 探讨HBeAg阳性慢性乙型肝炎(eP-CHB)HBV前C/BCP突变/准种及其与HBeAg、HBV DNA水平的关系。**方法** 采用断面研究对2016年1月至2018年12月就诊于首都医科大学附属北京佑安医院的220例eP-CHB患者进行前C/BCP突变检测,其中24例患者进行前C/BCP区扩增、克隆,同步检测血清HBeAg和HBV DNA水平,分析前C/BCP突变/准种的发生情况及其与HBeAg和HBV DNA水平的关系。**结果** 220例eP-CHB患者中,HBV前C/BCP总突变率为70.0% (154/220),前C/BCP共同突变率为18.2% (40/220),前C突变率为30.9% (68/220),BCP突变率为57.3% (126/220)。HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml患者上述4种突变检出率均高于HBV DNA < 5 lgIU/ml者,其中前C/BCP总突变和BCP突变患者差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 5.809$ 、 $P = 0.016$, $\chi^2 = 5.081$ 、 $P = 0.024$)。HBeAg水平越低(< 500 COI、 $500 \sim 1\,000$ COI和 $> 1\,000$ COI共3组患者比较),以上4种突变检出率越高,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 31.738$ 、 17.291 、 16.263 、 22.164 , P 均 < 0.001)。HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml患者中,HBeAg水平越低,以上4种突变检出率越高,差异亦均有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 40.503$ 、 19.654 、 16.727 、 29.119 , $P < 0.001$)。准种检测中,前C区高突变组患者HBeAg水平低于低突变组,差异有统计学意义($t = 2.230$ 、 $P = 0.017$),前C、BCP高突变组与低突变组间HBV DNA水平差异无统计学意义($t = 0.624$ 、 $P = 0.462$, $t = 0.893$ 、 $P = 0.317$)。**结论** eP-CHB患者中仍存在广泛的前C/BCP突变。高HBV DNA、低HBeAg表达者,前C和BCP突变的发生率较高;前C区突变株在准种中比率高者更影响HBeAg的表达。推测前C/BCP突变可能是eP-CHB出现低HBeAg、高HBV DNA,并导致抗病毒治疗停药后易复发的原因。

【关键词】 乙型肝炎病毒e抗原; HBV DNA; 肝炎, 乙型; 前C/BCP区突变; 准种

Relationship between HBV pre-C/BCP mutation/quasispecies and HBeAg and HBV DNA in HBeAg positive patients with chronic hepatitis B Lu Junfeng, Li Jin'e, Liu Yali, Jin Yi, Ma Lina, Hu Zhongjie, Chen Xinyue. Department of Hepatology, Beijing You'an Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing 100069, China

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【Abstract】Objective To investigate the pre-C/BCP mutation and quasispecies in patients with hepatitis B virus e antigen (HBeAg) positive (eP-CHB) and the relationship with the levels of HBeAg and HBV DNA. **Methods** The pre-C/BCP mutation was detected in 220 patients with eP-CHB from January 2016 to December 2018 admitted in Beijing You'an Hospital, Capital Medical University by cross-sectional study. Among whom, the pre-C/BCP region in 24 patients was amplified and cloned. Serum HBeAg and HBV DNA levels were detected simultaneously. The pre-C/BCP mutation and quasispecies and the relationship with HBeAg and HBV DNA levels were analyzed, respectively. **Results** Among the 220 patients with eP-CHB, total mutation rate of pre-C/BCP was 70.0% (154/220), co-mutation rate of pre-C/BCP was 18.2%

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(40/220) and mutation rate of pre-C and BCP were 30.9% (68/220) and 57.3% (126/220), respectively. The detection rates of the above four mutations in patients with HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml were all higher than those of patients with HBV DNA < 5 lgIU/ml, the rates of BCP mutation and pre-C/BCP total mutation were significantly different ($\chi^2 = 5.809$, $P = 0.016$; $\chi^2 = 5.081$, $P = 0.024$). The lower HBeAg level was (< 500 COI, $500-1\ 000$ COI and $> 1\ 000$ COI), the higher detection rates of the above four mutations were, all with significant difference ($\chi^2 = 31.738$, 17.291 , 16.263 , 22.164 ; all $P < 0.001$). Similarly, among the cases with HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml, the detection rates of the above four mutations were higher among the cases with lower HBeAg level, with significant differences ($\chi^2 = 40.503$, 19.654 , 16.727 , 29.119 ; all $P < 0.001$). In quasispecies detection, HBeAg level of cases with high mutation of the pre-C region was lower than that with low mutation, with significant difference ($t = 2.230$, $P = 0.017$). There was no significant difference between HBV DNA levels of cases with high mutation and low mutation of the pre-C region ($t = 0.624$, $P = 0.462$) and BCP ($t = 0.893$, $P = 0.317$). **Conclusions** There were still extensive pre-C/BCP mutations in eP-CHB. The mutation rates of pre-C and BCP were higher in patients with high HBV DNA and low HBeAg level. The high proportion of pre-C mutants in quasispecies had more influence on HBeAg expression. Combined with the previous studies, it was speculated that the pre-C/BCP mutation may be the cause of low HBeAg and high HBV DNA in eP-CHB and lead to the recurrence after withdrawal of antiviral therapy.

【Key words】 Hepatitis B virus e antigen; HBV DNA; Hepatitis B; Pre-C/basal core promoter mutation; Quasispecies

HBV前C区和基本核心启动子(basal core promoter, BCP)突变可影响乙型肝炎病毒e抗原(hepatitis B e antigen, HBeAg)和(或)HBV DNA的合成和表达^[1-3]。既往研究报道前C/BCP突变与慢性乙型肝炎(chronic hepatitis B, CHB)的病情进展、肝功能损伤、抗病毒疗效以及肝细胞癌的发生均相关^[4-8]。本研究团队前期对HBeAg阳性CHB(HBeAg positive CHB, eP-CHB)患者抗病毒治疗停药后复发因素进行研究,结果显示基线HBeAg水平越低、HBV DNA水平越高,停药后复发率越高^[9]。但关于基线低HBeAg水平、高HBV DNA水平导致停药后易复发的机制,推测亦可能与前C/BCP突变有关。在前期研究基础上,本研究断面分析eP-CHB患者HBV前C/BCP突变/准种的发生与HBeAg和HBV DNA水平的关系,为进一步探讨复发相关因素提供一定的理论基础,现报道如下。

资料与方法

一、研究对象

选取2016年1月至2018年12月就诊于首都医科大学附属北京佑安医院的220例CHB患者。符合2015年《慢性乙型肝炎防治指南》中eP-CHB的诊断标准^[10]。既往未接受过抗病毒治疗或近半年内未接受过抗病毒治疗。除外肝硬化、确诊或疑似的肝细

胞癌以及合并甲、丙、丁、戊型肝炎病毒或HIV感染。其中男性130例、女性90例,年龄13~75岁,平均(31.6 ± 8.4)岁;HBV DNA载量 $3.2 \sim 8.23$ lgIU/ml(中位数为 6.58 lgIU/ml);HBeAg水平 $1.17 \sim 1\ 608.00$ COI(中位数为 742.3 COI)。留取外周静脉血标本,同步进行HBV DNA、HBeAg和前C/BCP突变(G1896A、A1762T、G1764A)检测,其中24例患者同步进行前C/BCP区准种检测。

二、检测方法

血清HBeAg检测采用电化学发光免疫分析法,HBeAg > 1.0 COI为阳性;血清HBV DNA采用COBAS Taqman实时荧光定量PCR系统检测,HBV DNA检测下限为 20 IU/ml(罗氏诊断公司,德国)。前C/BCP区突变检测采用巢式PCR扩增HBV前C/BCP区基因,PCR产物纯化后进行直接测序,所用引物由上海生工有限公司合成。前C/BCP准种检测:将上述纯化PCR产物连入pMD18-T simple Vector,每例标本挑选25~30个克隆,提取质粒,电泳鉴定后测序。

三、统计学处理

应用SPSS 19.0软件进行统计处理。患者年龄为计量资料且为正态分布,以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示;HBeAg和HBV DNA取以10为底对数lg^{HBeAg}和lg^{HBV DNA},组间比较采用独立样本 t 检验或秩和检验;前C/BCP突变为计数资料,统计描述以例数和百分比表

示, 组间比较采用卡方检验。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

结 果

一、eP-CHB前C/BCP突变及其与HBeAg和HBV DNA的关系

1. 前C/BCP突变检测: 220例患者中, 单前C区(G1896A)突变率为12.73% (28/220), 单BCP区[A1762T和(或)G1764A]突变率为39.09% (86/220), 前C与BCP区共同突变率为18.18% (40/220), 前C/BCP总突变(3个变异位点中至少检出1个)率为70.0% (154/220), 未检测突变者仅占30% (66/220), 见表1。

2. HBV DNA水平与前C/BCP区突变: 根据HBV DNA水平分为 $\geq 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ 和 $< 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ 两组。HBV DNA $\geq 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ 患者前C突变、BCP突变、前C/BCP共同突变及前C/BCP总突变的检出率均高于HBV DNA $< 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ 患者, 其中两组BCP突变和前C/BCP总突变差异有统计学意义 ($\chi^2 = 5.081$ 、 $P = 0.024$), 见表2。

3. HBeAg水平与前C/BCP区突变: 根据HBeAg水平分为 $< 500 \text{ COI}$ 、 $500 \sim 1\,000 \text{ COI}$ 和 $> 1\,000 \text{ COI}$ 共3组。HBeAg水平越低, 前C突变、BCP突变、前C/BCP共同突变及前C/BCP总突变的检出率越高, 3组间差异有统计学意义 (P 均 < 0.05), 见表3。

在HBV DNA $\geq 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ 患者中, 根据HBeAg

水平分3组(同上), HBeAg水平越低, 前C突变、BCP突变、前C/BCP共同突变及前C/BCP总突变的检出率越高, 组间总体差异亦有统计学意义 (P 均 < 0.001)。在HBeAg $< 500 \text{ COI}$ 患者中, 上述4种突变的检出率最高(高于表3中未考虑HBV DNA水平时的检出率, 前C/BCP总突变率达93.1%), 见表4。

二、eP-CHB前C/BCP准种及其与HBeAg、HBV DNA的关系

1. 前C/BCP准种检测: 24例患者标本, 每例标本克隆株为25~30个。50.0% (12/24) 检测出前C区G1896A突变, 45.8% (11/24) 检测出BCP区A1762T和G1764A突变, 25.0% (6/24) 检测出前C与BCP区共同突变。此外, 41.7% (10/24) 检出碱基缺失, 缺失碱基数5~20个碱基, 主要集中在增强子II和BCP重叠区。A1762T和G1764A突变株在准种中所占比例为4.0%~100%, G1896A突变株在准种中所占比例为3.3%~89.7%, 见表5。

2. G1896A在准种中突变与HBeAg和HBV DNA水平: 根据G1896A突变株在准种中比率分布, 将G1896A突变比率 $> 55\%$ 定义为高突变组, $< 10\%$ 定义为低突变组(包括无突变者)。HBeAg和HBV DNA取以10为底对数(\lg^{HBeAg} 和 $\lg^{\text{HBV DNA}}$)。高突变组HBeAg水平低于低突变组, 差异有统计学意义 ($t = 2.230$ 、 $P = 0.017$)。高突变组HBV DNA水平高于低突变组, 差异无统计学意义 ($t = 0.624$ 、 $P = 0.462$), 见图1。

3. A1762T/G1764A在准种中突变与HBeAg和HBV DNA水平: 根据A1762T/G1764A在准种中突变比率分布, 将A1762T和G1764A突变比率 $> 55\%$ 定义为高突变组, $< 10\%$ 定义为低突变组(包括无突变者)。高变异组与低变异组相比, HBeAg水平降低, HBV DNA水平稍有升高, 但差异均无统计学意义 ($t = 1.026$ 、 $P = 0.128$, $t = 0.893$ 、 $P = 0.317$), 见图2。

表1 eP-CHB 中前 C 和 BCP 区突变检测

突变类型	例数	检测率 (%)
无突变	66	30.0
单前C突变	28	12.7
单BCP突变	86	39.1
前C/BCP共同突变	40	18.2
合计	220	100.0

表2 HBV DNA 水平与前 C/BCP 突变 [例 (%)]

突变类型	HBV DNA水平		χ^2 值	P值
	$< 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ (31例)	$\geq 5 \text{ lgIU/ml}$ (189例)		
前C突变	7 (22.6)	61 (32.3)	1.172	0.279
BCP突变	12 (38.7)	114 (60.3)	5.081	0.024
前C/BCP共同突变	3 (9.7)	37 (19.6)	1.152	0.283
前C/BCP总突变	16 (51.6)	138 (73.0)	5.809	0.016

表3 HBeAg 水平与前 C/BCP 突变 [例 (%)]

突变类型	HBeAg (COI)			χ^2 值	P值
	< 500 (111例)	500~1 000 (42例)	> 1 000 (67例)		
前C突变	48 (43.2)	9 (21.4)	11 (16.4)	16.263	< 0.001
BCP突变	78 (70.3)	25 (59.5)	23 (34.3)	22.164	< 0.001
前C/BCP共同突变	32 (28.8)	4 (9.5)	4 (6.0)	17.291	< 0.001
前C/BCP总突变	94 (84.7)	30 (71.4)	30 (44.8)	31.738	< 0.001

表4 HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml 时 HBeAg 水平与前 C/BCP 突变

突变类型	HBeAg (COI)			χ^2 值	P值
	< 500 (87例)	500~1 000 (38例)	> 1 000 (64例)		
前C突变	41 (47.1)	9 (23.7)	11 (17.2)	16.727	< 0.001
BCP突变	69 (79.3)	23 (60.5)	23 (35.9)	29.119	< 0.001
前C/BCP共同突变	29 (33.3)	4 (10.5)	4 (6.3)	19.654	< 0.001
前C/BCP总突变	81 (93.1)	28 (73.7)	30 (46.9)	40.503	< 0.001

表5 24 例患者 HBV 前 C/BCP 区克隆株突变

患者 编号	突变类型 [株 (%)]				克隆株 (株数)
	A1762T	G1764A	G1896A	碱基缺失	
1	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	29
2	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	16 (64.0)	4 (16.0)	25
3	28 (100.0)	28 (100.0)	0 (0)	0 (0.0)	28
4	17 (54.8)	17 (54.8)	0 (0.0)	9 (0.0)	31
5	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	18 (72.0)	0 (0.0)	25
6	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	9 (36.0)	25
7	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	29 (100.0)	29
8	28 (96.6)	28 (96.6)	26 (89.7)	0 (0.0)	29
9	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	27
10	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.6)	16 (57.1)	28
11	19 (65.5)	19 (65.5)	0 (0.0)	3 (10.3)	29
12	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	7 (25.9)	0 (0.0)	27
13	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	29
14	2 (7.1)	2 (7.1)	23 (82.1)	0 (0.0)	28
15	21 (75.0)	21 (75.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	28
16	28 (96.6)	28 (96.6)	17 (58.6)	0 (0.0)	29
17	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	16 (55.2)	8 (27.3)	29
18	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	22 (0.0)	29
19	5 (16.7)	5 (16.7)	1 (3.3)	1 (3.3)	30
20	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	25
21	1 (4.0)	1 (4.0)	15 (60.0)	0 (0.0)	25
22	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (3.7)	0 (0.0)	27
23	8 (32.0)	8 (32.0)	0 (0.0)	9 (36.0)	25
24	27 (100.0)	27 (100.0)	21 (84.0)	0 (0.0)	27

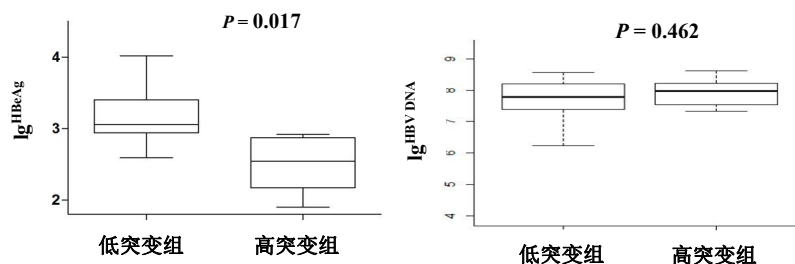


图1 G1896A高突变组和低突变组患者HBeAg和HBV DNA水平

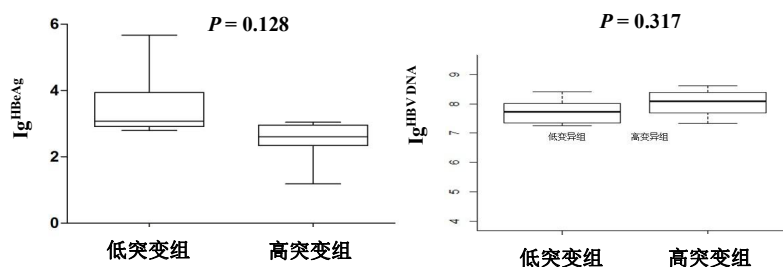


图2 A1762T/G1764A 高突变组和低突变组患者 HBeAg 和 HBV DNA 水平

讨 论

既往认为HBV前C/BCP突变与HBeAg阴性CHB相关^[11-12]。近年来,有文献报道eP-CHB中前C/BCP突变率达59.9%~65.7%^[13-16]。本研究对220例eP-CHB进行前C/BCP突变检测,结果显示前C突变率为30.9%,BCP突变率为57.3%,前C/BCP总突变率高达70.0%,与上述文献报道一致,表明eP-CHB患者中依然存在广泛的前C/BCP突变。

eP-CHB患者中前C/BCP突变与HBV DNA和HBeAg水平间关系既往研究较少。本研究结果显示,高HBV载量患者前C突变、BCP突变、前C/BCP共同突变以及前C/BCP总突变的检出率均高于低HBV载量患者(两组前C突变和前C/BCP共同突变差异无统计学意义,可能与样本量较少有关)。与之相反,高HBeAg患者上述4种突变的检出率均显著低于低HBeAg患者。在HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml患者中,同样高HBeAg水平患者上述4种突变的检出率显著低于低HBeAg水平患者。在HBV DNA ≥ 5 lgIU/ml且HBeAg < 500 COI的患者中,上述4种突变的检出率最高,表明HBV DNA水平越高、HBeAg水平越低,前C/BCP突变的发生率越高。

然而,上述结果仅局限于前C/BCP突变的“有”或“无”与HBeAg和HBV DNA间的关系。HBV在体内是以“准种”的形式存在^[17-19],前C/BCP突变株在准种内所占比率与HBeAg和HBV DNA

关系尚未明确。为此,本研究对eP-CHB患者进行前C/BCP区准种检测。结果显示前C区G1896A高突变患者HBeAg水平显著低于低突变患者,而BCP区A1762T/G1764A高突变患者HBeAg水平略低于低突变患者,差异无统计学意义。既往有文献亦报道前C突变对HBeAg的合成和表达影响更大^[3, 20]。推测可能的原因:① G1896A突变可导致前C蛋白的翻译不能继续,HBeAg合成终止^[21],G1896A突变株在准种中所占比率越高,HBeAg水平越低。而BCP区A1762T和G1764A突变,仅降低前C mRNA的转录,导致HBeAg水平表达下降^[22-23];②本研究中部分BCP区序列存在碱基缺失,可能影响对BCP突变的分析;③样本量小,BCP区高突变与低突变患者间差异未能显现出来。尽管差异无统计学意义,但前C区G1896A和BCP区A1762T/G1764A高突变患者HBV DNA水平均高于低突变患者。既往文献报道前C突变可增强HBV DNA的复制^[22],且前C区G1896A突变后,可使前C区茎环结构更加稳定,也有利于病毒的复制^[24]。因此,前C突变可使HBeAg不表达,但并不影响甚至可能通过不同机制增强HBV DNA的复制能力。亦有文献报道,BCP突变可增强HBV DNA复制能力,甚至高于野生株水平^[25-26]。

无论从前C/BCP直接扩增测序角度或从准种检测角度,eP-CHB患者中均存在广泛的前C/BCP突变,而前C/BCP突变可影响HBeAg的表达和HBV DNA的复制,表现为低HBeAg、高HBV DNA水

平,结合本课题组前期研究^[9],推测前C/BCP变异可能是eP-CHB患者出现低HBeAg水平、高HBV DNA并导致停药后易复发的原因。然而,因HBV基因突变的广泛性和体内准种的复杂性,部分克隆株还存在碱基缺失突变,前C/BCP突变对HBeAg和HBV DNA的影响难免存在一定的偏差,仍需继续扩大样本进一步研究。

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