

# 噪声致听觉系统损害的研究进展

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[关键词] 噪声性听力损失;听觉加工障碍;个体易感性

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## Auditory health effects induced by noise exposure

**Summary** Noise is one of the most common environmental and occupational exposures, and noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) has become the leading occupational disease, secondary to the age-related hearing impairment. It is a significant cause of disability and a major cost to the society. Three characteristics of NIHL have been thoroughly established through numerous studies. First, noise-induced threshold changes increases with noise intensity and duration of exposure. Second, difficulties in speech discrimination and temporal processing even in the presence of normal behavioral thresholds in the subjects with a history of noise exposure. Third, individual susceptibility to noise along with the degree of hearing loss varies greatly among population. NIHL is a complex disease resulting from the interaction between environmental and genetic factors. And much of the literature on NIHL is derived from cross-sectional studies, providing limited evidence for the natural history of the noise exposure. Then, it is urgent to explore the development tendency and identify the susceptible frequencies of NIHL through large-scaled longitudinal study, and provide a new method for estimating individual susceptibility to NIHL.

**Key words** noise induced hearing loss; auditory processing disorder; individual susceptibility

噪声是最主要的隐形环境污染源之一,长期持续的噪声暴露严重影响人类的身心健康,尤其是听觉功能。噪声性聋(noise induced hearing loss, NIHL)是最常见的获得性感音神经性聋之一,常年位居全球职业病之首<sup>[1-4]</sup>。随着工业、交通、城市建设的不断发展,噪声污染日益严重。据世界卫生组织统计,在成年耳聋患者中,16%的耳聋归因于噪声暴露<sup>[5]</sup>;亦有研究报道,全球多达5亿人口具有罹患NIHL的风险,NIHL已经成为全球普遍问题。

大量文献证实,噪声性聋发病机制具有以下显著特征。首先,噪声对听觉系统的危害取决于噪声暴露的强度及时间<sup>[6]</sup>;其次,在长期噪声暴露的人

群,有时虽未引起永久性阈移,却伴有噪声中言语识别率下降、耳鸣、听觉过敏、听觉疲劳等现象;此外,噪声性聋具有遗传与环境因素共同作用致病的典型特征,遗传因素所致的个体易感性在NIHL发生及发展中具有重要作用。本文结合笔者既往的研究工作,根据近期相关研究领域的研究成果,就噪声致听觉损害的以上3个方面进行综述,旨在探讨噪声致听力损伤的特点及亟需进一步研究的问题。

### 1 噪声暴露与听觉损害的量效关系

噪声引起的耳蜗损伤途径是多方面的,包括内耳迷路的机械性损伤、以血流量减少为特征的内耳微循环障碍、代谢紊乱所致耳蜗毛细胞的死亡、细胞连接蛋白的破坏缺失以及耳蜗外侧壁血管纹的血-迷路屏障通透性增加等,均在NIHL的发生发展过程中有不可或缺的作用。噪声对暴露个体听

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阈的影响具有部分可逆性。强噪声暴露一段时间后听阈升高,而离开噪声环境后部分听阈可以恢复,称之为暂时性阈移。但长时期在强噪声环境下作业,暂时性阈移就不容易恢复,而且会逐渐累积,导致内耳发生器质性病变,转变成永久性阈移。耳蜗外毛细胞死亡是噪声引起耳蜗毛细胞损伤最早出现和最主要的病理改变,NIHL 病变早期也主要局限于距离圆窗膜最近的耳蜗底回,外毛细胞的损伤要比内毛细胞的损伤重,支持细胞的损伤与内毛细胞相似。这一早期耳蜗的病变部位与 NIHL 的早期听力学检查的高频听阈提高相吻合。

NIHL 的听力学特点通常是双侧、对称的。由于右利手的原因,可能导致左耳损伤略重于右耳。大量的研究表明,噪声引起的永久性阈移早期听力曲线易感频率在听阈曲线上表现为高频 3~6 kHz 有“V”型特征,而 0.5~2.0 kHz 听阈正常,这也是 NIHL 早期不易被发现的原因之一。这种“V”型切迹往往被认为是噪声性听力损伤的“标记性切迹”或“飞行员切迹”,因为这种听力损失的特征与特定的职业相关<sup>[7]</sup>。随着噪声接触工龄的增加,听力损伤向语言频段发展;工龄 10 年以内,噪声性听力损失呈线性进展,10~15 年以后渐趋平缓<sup>[8]</sup>。

## 2 非阈移噪声及其所致听觉损害特征

长期噪声暴露可导致程度不等的听力损害,进而影响对语言的理解及音乐的欣赏。既往研究一致认为,高强度噪声暴露可引起耳蜗毛细胞的凋亡、变性、坏死以及中枢听觉处理功能障碍<sup>[9]</sup>;而中低强度( $\leq 85$  dB SPL)噪声通常不会导致纯音听阈的变化,因而也称为非阈移噪声。后者对外周听觉器官的结构与功能、对成年期中枢听觉通路似乎并无明确的影响;而其对包括认知功能在内的成年人健康的影响,则常被归因于心理及其副作用<sup>[10-12]</sup>。我国职业性 NIHL 的诊断标准要求有明确的职业噪声接触史,即长期连续暴露在超过国家卫生标准限值 $\geq 85$  dB(A)的噪声环境下作业,每天工作 8 h,连续噪声作业工龄 3 年以上<sup>[13]</sup>;而工作岗位噪声强度未达到国家标准即不能诊断为职业性 NIHL。上述种种原因的叠加,使得非阈移噪声的危害易于被人们所忽视。

最近有研究表明,中低强度噪声可在不产生明显听觉敏感度下降的前提下导致成年大鼠听皮层结构和功能的改变,并进而影响中枢听觉及其相关行为,其具体机制尚未完全阐明<sup>[14]</sup>。听觉的产生不仅依赖于耳蜗的换能和编码机制,更依赖于各级听觉中枢对于声音信号的编码、识别以及增益调节。听觉中枢在其逐级向上传递听信息的过程中,通过不断进行的聚合和辐散,并通过兴奋和抑制的整合而实现对于听信息的处理。听觉中枢功能在声音信息的处理感知中起着十分重要的作用,其特

性及功能的可塑性变化影响个体听觉及听觉相关行为,病理状态下可导致中枢听觉处理功能障碍(central auditory processing disorder, CAPD)。根据美国言语听力学会的定义<sup>[15]</sup>,CAPD 是指中枢神经系统对听觉信息的感受处理困难,以及在听觉电生理电位上反映出来的听处理潜在的神经生物活动障碍,包括声源定向及优势偏向,听觉分辨、听觉模式的识别、听觉时间处理以及竞争信号下听觉能力的衰退等。对于存在 CAPD 的患者,助听器和人工耳蜗均不易受益。目前临床常用的听力学检查手段仅能反映听觉外周感受器和神经传导通路,不能反映大脑听皮层的功能状况。近年来,随着分子生物学、神经电生理及功能核磁共振成像技术的发展,大量动物实验、临床观察、解剖和电生理证据表明,大脑在遭遇神经系统损伤或完成功能所需基础供给的连续性受到损伤时具有可塑性反应能力,这种能力可以在分子、突触、皮层和神经网络等多种水平上表现出来<sup>[16-18]</sup>。

此外也有研究发现,在产生永久性阈移之前,噪声可导致小鼠听神经纤维的损伤乃至螺旋神经节神经元的延迟性死亡<sup>[19]</sup>。噪声暴露后,外毛细胞的损伤能完全恢复,不产生永久性阈移;但长期的中低强度的噪声暴露可能导致内毛细胞与螺旋神经节细胞之间突触损伤。内毛细胞是机械-电信号转换的神经感受器,主要与 I 型传入听神经纤维形成突触连接。部分突触破坏的后果包括:存留的突触仍然能够向中枢传递信息、但信息量减少,长期失去突触联系的螺旋神经节细胞也将因失去营养支持会发生延迟性死亡;修复的突触以及所支配的螺旋神经节神经元存在功能上的缺陷,在临床上表现为听阈正常,相关的功能影响在一定的代偿范围内,很长时间内也不可能被患者意识到。这种听阈正常但有听功能障碍的听力损失称为隐性听力损失<sup>[20-23]</sup>。从临床角度,存在隐性听力损失患者的突触损伤早于毛细胞,听敏度不受影响,常规频率纯音测听显示听阈正常,其听觉障碍往往在完成较为困难的聆听任务(如噪声下言语识别、时域分辨测试等)时才表现出来<sup>[21,24-25]</sup>。这种损伤无论在基础实验还是临床工作中,都难以用传统的方法定量分析,因此进一步评估及探索其相关机制十分重要。

## 3 噪声性聋具有遗传与环境因素共同作用致病的典型特征

人们对噪声刺激的反应存在着明显的个体差异,相同噪声环境及相同暴露时间内,不同个体听力损伤的程度却有很大的差异。这种差异被认为与遗传因素有关,遗传因素在 NIHL 发生及发展中具有重要作用<sup>[26]</sup>。长期噪声暴露会引起听觉通路细胞的代谢性损伤,影响信号传导,该过程与多种

蛋白质、复合物、mRNA 和基因间的相互作用相关。查找可能的易感基因是 NIHL 遗传易感性研究的一个热点问题。目前国内外对 NIHL 遗传易感性的研究进展缓慢。至今,尚无关于家族遗传性 NIHL 的研究报道。近年来,大量的动物实验及人群研究已发现了多种候选基因的单核苷酸多态性(nucleotide polymorphisms, SNPs)对 NIHL 易感,数以百计的参与调控内耳结构及功能的 SNPs 位点被逐一甄别,结果发现:GSTM1、PON2、SOD2、CAT 等与氧化应激有关的基因<sup>[27-29]</sup>、KCNE1 等钾离子循环基因<sup>[30-31]</sup>、HSP70-1 等与热休克蛋白合成相关的基因<sup>[32-33]</sup>,以及 MYH14、CDH23 等其他基因与 NIHL 遗传易感性相关<sup>[34-35]</sup>,找到易感基因以及了解其发病机制具有非常重要的临床意义。

现有的动物模型已经证实某些基因可以影响动物对噪声的个体易感性<sup>[36-37]</sup>,然而,NIHL 人群基因关联性研究仍存在一定挑战性。首先,如何定义噪声易感与抵抗个体以及噪声暴露后听力损失的计算和评定标准不一。既往的研究中,以左耳 3 kHz 或左耳 4 kHz 和 6 kHz 的平均听阈作为 NIHL 的测算依据,亦有研究应用双耳的 3、4 及 6 kHz 的平均听阈测算<sup>[38]</sup>。其次,扩展高频在 NIHL 的早期监测中具有重要的意义,然而由于扩展高频测听在临床上尚未普及应用,联合应用扩展高频计算噪声所致听力损失的报道较少。此外,职业 NIHL 的定义在各国间存在差异,各国间在噪声暴露年限、听力损失计算标准方面也有较大差异<sup>[39]</sup>。查找易感基因、深入了解 NIHL 易感基因的功能及分子致病机制、确定易感人群的特征,为尽早开展高危人群的 NIHL 易感个体筛查提供重要依据,对 NIHL 的早期有效防治具有十分重要的临床意义。

噪声普遍存在于日常生活和工作中,高强度噪声引起的听觉系统损伤直接表现为听觉阈值的升高,而噪声对听觉功能的隐性损伤和机制、这种隐性损伤是否随着年龄的增长具有累积效应、噪声对中枢听觉系统的损伤机制等仍有许多问题悬而未决。目前的临床研究大多局限于横断面或病例对照研究,进一步开展基于噪声暴露人群的大样本前瞻性队列研究,可能为噪声性听力损伤特点的探究、挑选 NIHL 的易感个体及基因遗传学研究提供强有力的证据,同时将有助于 NIHL 干预和治疗策略的建立。

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