

基于 MR 神经成像定量评估周围性面瘫患者面神经及周围淋巴结^{*}

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[摘要] 目的:探讨 MR 神经成像定量评估急性周围性面瘫患者面神经及周围淋巴结的价值。方法:采用前瞻性实验设计,纳入 32 例急性周围性面瘫患者,基于 MR 神经成像技术采集双侧面神经 MR 高分辨薄层图像,测量双侧面神经不同节段(包括迷路段、膝状神经节、水平段、垂直段、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干)直径以及耳周、腮腺淋巴结的定量指标(数量、最大淋巴结的长短径)。采用配对 t 检验及 Wilcoxon 符号秩检验,比较双侧面神经直径、周围淋巴结定量指标差异。结果:面瘫侧膝状神经节、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干直径明显大于健侧(均 $P < 0.05$),但迷路段、水平段、垂直段直径与健侧比较差异无统计学意义;面瘫侧耳周淋巴结的数量明显多于健侧($P = 0.001$)。结论:MR 神经成像可定量评估急性周围性面瘫患者面神经结构变化:膝状神经节、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干及颈面干增粗;同时发现患侧耳周淋巴结数量增多。上述发现可辅助评估疗效、判断预后。

[关键词] 急性周围性面瘫;Bell 面瘫;Hunt 综合征;MR 神经成像;面神经

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The value of MR neuroimaging in image evaluation of facial neuritis

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Abstract Objective: To exploring the value of MR neuroimaging for quantitative assessment of the facial nerve and peripheral lymph nodes in patients with acute peripheral facial paralysis. **Methods:** Based on a prospective experimental design, 32 patients with idiopathic peripheral facial palsy were enrolled in the experiment. Based on MR neuroimaging technology, MR high-resolution thin-layer images of bilateral facial nerves were acquired. The diameters of different segments of the bilateral facial nerve were measured, including the labyrinthine segment, the geniculate ganglion, the horizontal segment, the vertical segment, the stem-mammary foramen segment, the trunk of the parotid segment, the temporal trunk, and the cervical trunk, as well as the quantitative indicators of peri-auricular and parotid lymph nodes (number, length and diameter of the largest lymph nodes). Differences in quantitative indices of nerve diameter and peripheral lymph nodes between the paraplegic and healthy sides were compared using the paired t-test and Wilcoxon signed rank test. **Results:** The diameter of geniculate ganglion, mastoid foramen stem, parotid main trunk, temporal facial trunk, and cervical facial trunk were notably increased on the facial paralysis side compared to the contralateral side ($P < 0.05$). However, no significant differences were observed in the diameter of labyrinthine segment, horizontal segment, or vertical segment compared to the contralateral side. There were significantly more periauricular lymph nodes on the facial paralysis side than the contralateral side ($P = 0.001$). **Conclusion:** MR neuroimaging enables the quantitative assessment of structural changes in the facial nerve of patients with acute peripheral facial paralysis, demonstrating nerve enlargement in the geniculate ganglion, stylomastoid foramen segment, main trunk of the parotid segment, temporal facial trunk, and cervical facial trunk. Additionally, an increased number of periauricular lymph nodes is observed on the affected side. These findings may aid clinicians in assessing the efficacy of treatments and predict the prognosis of these

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patients.

Key words acute peripheral facial palsy; Bell facial palsy; hunt syndrome; MR neurography; facial nerve

急性周围性面瘫是最常见的面神经疾病,临床症状包括面部下垂、流口水、闭眼困难,部分患者表现为耳周疼痛、头痛等^[1]。该病易形成顽固性面瘫留下后遗症,严重影响患者生活质量及社会交往。影像学检查及电生理学检查,包括神经兴奋性试验、面神经电图及肌电图检查等,可用于观察面神经功能及其疾病^[2-3]。然而,能够直观可视化急性周围性面瘫的成像方法匮乏。近年来,由于MR成像采集技术的进步,高分辨率MR神经成像被广泛用于全身不同部位的周围神经及相关疾病成像,如视神经^[4]、嗅神经^[5]、臂丛神经^[6-8]、坐骨神经^[9]、糖尿病^[10]与化疗引起的周围神经病变^[10],能有效评估周围神经的空间分布、解剖形态与个体解剖变异,指导临床治疗。

本研究旨在利用高分辨率MR神经成像技术采集双侧面神经图像,定量评估急性周围性面瘫患者双侧面神经不同节段神经主干肿胀程度,同时测量双侧耳周淋巴结、腮腺淋巴结的数量、最大淋巴结大小差异。探索MR神经成像应用于评估急性周围性面瘫患者面神经及周围淋巴结的价值,以辅助临床进行有效治疗及评估疗效与预测预后。

1 对象与方法

1.1 研究对象

本研究属于前瞻性设计,所有患者检查前签署知情同意书,实验医学图像及资料均进行匿名处理,符合《赫尔辛基宣言》伦理标准。本研究纳入2020—2023年就诊于我科的32例急性周围性面瘫的患者,按病程分为1周内5例,2周内10例,3周内8例,4周内9例。纳入标准:首次发病;年龄18~60岁。排除标准:核上性面神经麻痹等其他原因导致的面瘫;面部本身存在畸形者;双侧病变;身体存在肿瘤或外伤。

采集双侧面神经高分辨率MR图像,1名有10年工作经验的神经影像医师在不知道面瘫侧的情况下,测量面神经各段直径,包括迷路段、膝状神经营节长径和短径、水平段、垂直段、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干,同时统计和测量双侧耳周、腮腺淋巴结的数量,及对应的最大淋巴结长径和短径,比较双侧面神经不同节段神经直径、双侧耳周、腮腺淋巴结数量及大小之间的统计学差异。

1.2 检查方法

选取32例急性周围性面瘫患者的高分辨率面神经MR神经图像纳入研究。纳入标准:①处于急性周围性面瘫发作期内;②均进行完整的MR神经高分辨多序列等中心各向同性采集,具体序列及参数如下:基于三维容积内插体部扫描序列(3D T1

volumetric interpolated body examination,3D-T1-VIBE):横断位,TR 18 ms,TE 4 ms,FOV 180 mm×180 mm,矩阵288×272,体素大小0.6 mm×0.6 mm×0.6 mm,翻转角9°,Q-fat sat,带宽180 Hz/Px,112层。三维短时反转恢复各向同性变翻转角激发(3D-T2-sampling perfection optimized contrasts by using different flip angle evolution short time inversion recovery, T2-SPACE-STIR)序列:横断位,TR 1 400 ms,TE 162 ms,频率选择脂肪抑制技术,体素大小:0.6 mm×0.6 mm×0.6 mm,FOV 180×180,翻转角为115°,矩阵320×320,激励次数1.7,并行因子2,96层。三维双回波稳态水激发(double-echo steady-state with water excitation,3D-DESS-WE)序列:冠状位,TR 13 ms,TE 5 ms,FOV 128 mm×128 mm,矩阵256×256,空间分辨率0.6 mm×0.6 mm×0.6 mm,无间隔,反转角30°,带宽268 Hz/Px,水激励脂肪抑制技术,采集次数1 192层。

1.3 统计学处理

应用SPSS 26.0及GraphPad Prism 8.0软件包进行统计学处理。将32例患者以面瘫侧、健侧分组,不同分组患者年龄、性别差异有无统计学意义。面瘫侧、健侧面神经不同节段的直径及耳周、腮腺的淋巴结数量为定量数据,根据Shapiro-Wilk正态性检验结果,符合正态分布以 $\bar{X} \pm S$ 表示,组间比较采用配对t检验,符合偏态分布以 $M(P_{25}, P_{75})$ 表示,组间比较采用Wilcoxon符号秩检验。以 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 一般资料

32例面瘫患者包含19例右侧(女11例,男8例),13例左侧(女8例,男5例);年龄(46.25±12.87)岁;House-Brackman分级均Ⅲ级及以上。左、右侧周围性面瘫患者年龄、性别差异均无统计学意义($P=0.773$; $P=0.837$)。

2.2 急性周围性面瘫患者面瘫侧与健侧面神经不同节段的神经直径比较

32例面神经面瘫侧与健侧的膝状神经营节长径、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干的直径差异有统计学意义。其中面瘫侧膝状神经营节长径及短径的直径大于健侧($P=0.002$; $P=0.029$);面瘫侧茎乳孔处、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干的直径明显大于健侧(均 $P < 0.05$),而面瘫侧面神经的迷路段、水平段、垂直段的直径与健侧比较,均差异无统计学意义,见表1,图1。

表1 面瘫侧与健侧面神经不同节段直径和淋巴结的比较

组别	阳性	阴性	统计值	P
迷路段	0.98±0.24	1.00±0.23	0.440	0.662
膝状神经节长径	2.56±0.53	2.29±0.39	3.340	0.002
膝状神经节短径	2.02±0.48	1.81±0.35	2.290	0.029
水平段	1.19±0.29	1.13±0.23	0.880	0.387
垂直段	1.65±0.34	1.59±0.20	0.830	0.413
茎乳孔	1.83±0.31	1.5±0.22	6.996	<0.001
腮腺段主干	1.63±0.31	1.35±0.31	3.640	0.001
颤面干	1.36(1.24,1.56)	1.05(0.70,1.25)	3.820	<0.001
颈面干	1.26±0.38	0.86±0.28	5.760	<0.001
最大淋巴结长径	10.58±4.07	10.63±3.95	0.070	0.943
最大淋巴结短径	5.95±1.98	5.83±1.89	0.340	0.736
耳周淋巴结	5.00(3.25,7.00)	3.00(1.25,4.00)	3.480	0.001
腮腺淋巴结	10.00(7.00,12.75)	9.00(6.25,11.75)	1.903	0.053

2.3 急性周围性面瘫患者面瘫侧与健侧耳周、腮腺淋巴结数量及大小的比较

面瘫侧耳周淋巴结的数量明显多于健侧,差异有统计学意义($P = 0.001$);最大淋巴结的长径及短径,面瘫侧与健侧比较,2者差异无统计学意义,见表1,图2。

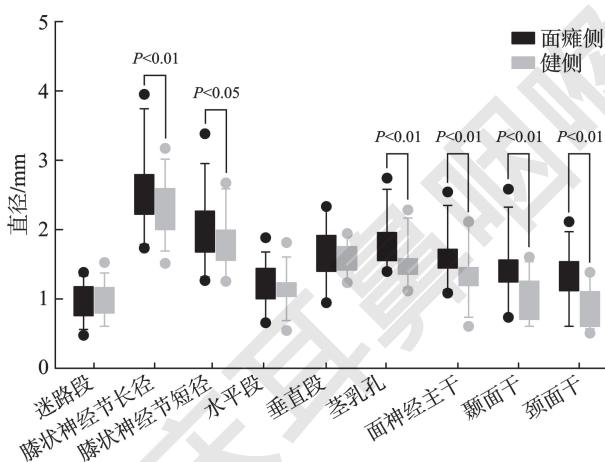


图1 面瘫侧与健侧面神经各段直径比较

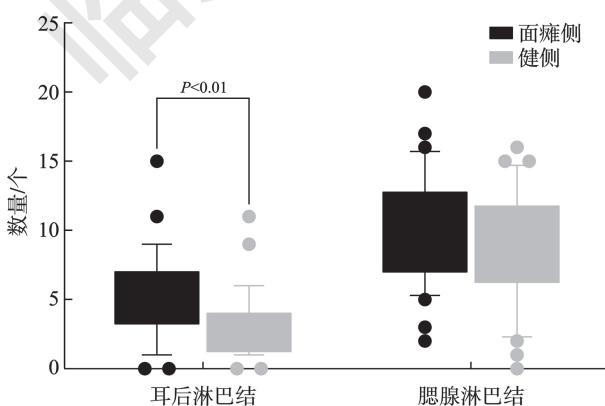


图2 面瘫侧与健侧耳周/腮腺淋巴结数量比较

2.4 基于高分辨MR神经成像评估与测量急性周围性面瘫患者面神经炎性反应

本研究采用MR神经成像结合多平面重组、曲面重建等图像后处理技术,直观显示面神经不同节段。按照面神经走行,识别不同解剖节段,定量测量不同节段直径最粗处神经直径。基于三维双回波稳态水激发3D-DESS-WE序列高分辨图像显示外周面神经的优势,测量垂直段、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颤面干、颈面干直径(图3a~c)。其中茎乳孔段起自面神经出茎乳孔至腮腺,腮腺段起自面神经入腮腺至颤面干与颈面干分叉。同时由于该序列具备相对T1及T2双对比成像优势,能够直观显示双侧耳周、腮腺淋巴结,据此实现对淋巴结大小的定量测量及其数量计数(图3d,e)。基于三维容积内插体部扫描序列3D-T1-VIBE序列显示面神经颅骨内段的优势,测量面神经迷路段、膝状神经节长径与短径、水平段神经直径(图3f)。通过三维短时反转恢复各向同性变翻转角激发3D-T2-SPACE-STIR序列除外面神经脑池段肿瘤、神经血管压迫等。

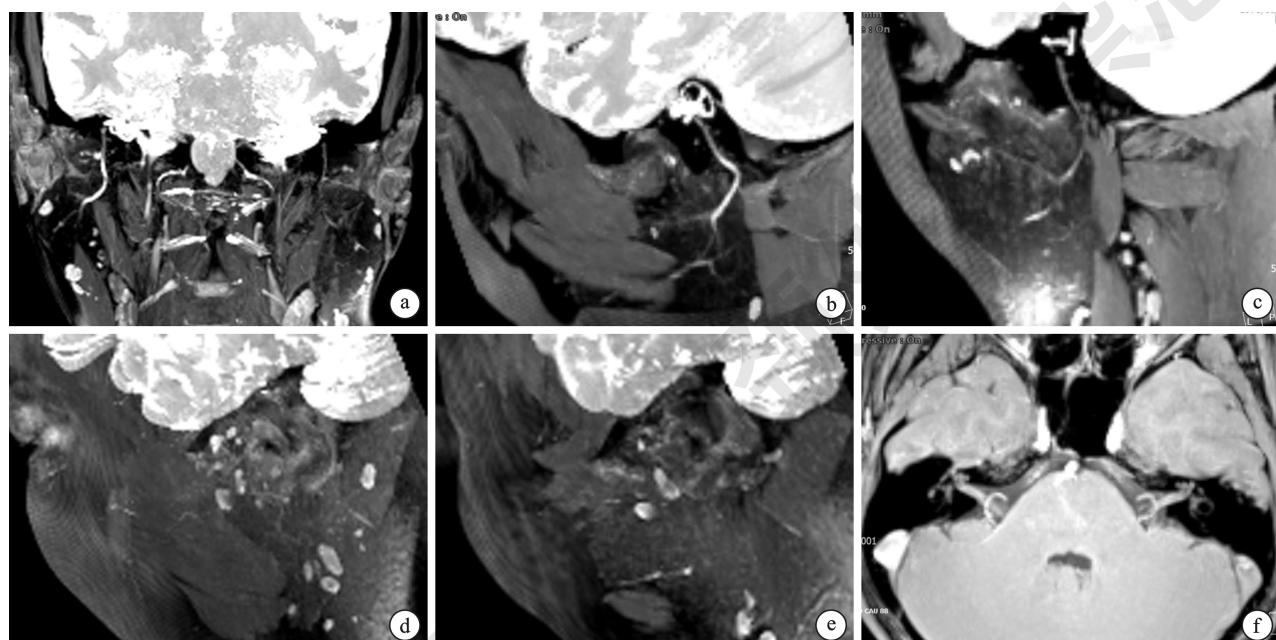
3 讨论

本研究利用MR神经成像技术,定量评估急性周围性面瘫患者面神经炎及周围淋巴结炎性反应,结果显示患侧面神经膝状神经节、茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颤面干及颈面干增粗;同时发现患侧耳周存在显著增多的淋巴结,提示此类患者可能存在面神经-外周免疫之间的互作。

首先,相比于其他影像学技术,MR神经成像技术对于面神经的显示具有显著的优势。超声虽然可以显示面神经颞骨外段病变,但对颞骨内各段病变显示欠缺。高分辨率颞骨CT只能显示骨性面神经管,不能直接显示面神经的形态。常规MRI序列对面神经分辨率有限,难以完整显示面

神经各段。MRI 增强扫描能提高面神经炎的显示率,可观察到颞骨内的增强现象^[11],但由于需要注射造影剂,可能会引起患者不良反应^[12]。不同 MR 神经成像序列因软组织分辨率高被广泛应用于外周神经成像,如 3D-DESS-WE 序列为无间隔薄层扫描,可进行任意层面的多平面重建(multi-planar reconstruction, MPR)及曲面重组(curved planar reformation, CPR),已广泛应用于周围神经细小分支的显示^[13-15]。Qin 等^[16]报道,应用 3D-DESS-WE 序列可以清晰显示健康人群的面神经腮腺段

全程。RESOLVE 序列通过在读出方向上采用分段采样的方式来缩短采样时间、减少磁敏感导致的图像畸变和 T2* 模糊效应,进而提高信噪比,改善图像质量^[17-18]。3D-FIESTA 序列可清晰显示腮腺段主干、颈面、颞面分区及主腮腺导管^[19]。本研究应用非增强高分辨 MR 神经成像技术,结合多平面重组、曲面重建图像后处理技术,能够直观显示面神经全段、肿胀程度、边缘以及毗邻结构并能够进行定量测量,尤其适用于显示并评估面神经炎急性期面神经各段形态。



a~c:面神经茎乳孔段、腮腺段主干、颞面干、颈面干的直径右侧面瘫侧(b)大于健侧(c);d、e:面瘫侧(d)耳周淋巴结的数量明显多于健侧(e);f:周围性面瘫患者面神经膝状神经节左(健侧)、右侧(面瘫侧)差异。

图 3 周围性面瘫患者双侧面神经 MR 神经成像

急性周围性面瘫患者面瘫侧面神经在不同节段与健侧神经直径存在显著差异。本研究结果显示,两组面神经膝状神经节、茎乳孔处、腮腺段主干、面神经腮腺段及分支的直径差异有统计学意义,而迷路段、水平段、垂直段的直径与健侧比较,均未发现差异有统计学意义。本研究对面神经的影像定量分析既包含颞骨内段、也包括颞骨外段,而以往的研究多关注于颞骨内段^[20]。既往针对贝尔面瘫患者进行面神经对比增强 MRI 显示,患者患侧膝状神经节存在增强后神经强化^[21]。另外一项对比增强 MRI 研究显示,患侧面神经迷路段、膝状神经节、鼓室-乳突段出现强化的概率分别为 43%、91%、21%^[22]。本研究中,急性周围性面瘫患者膝状神经节增粗与既往研究结果一致,但迷路段肿胀程度差异并不显著,考虑原因在于本研究中采用非增强 MR 面神经成像直观显示神经增粗与肿胀,无需注射对比剂,由于迷路段位于狭窄的面

神经管内,导致该段炎症扩张受到物理限制^[23],故对比增强 MRI 可能有利于检出迷路段面神经炎性强化的差异。有研究发现,去除骨覆盖物后,面神经直径可扩张 12% ~ 32% (平均 21.0% ± 6.1%)^[24]。因此,狭窄骨性面神经管的限制可能为本研究中患侧与健侧迷路段神经肿胀差异不显著的解剖学基础。而茎乳孔外以及腮腺段主干和腮腺分支的面神经节段,由于脱离了面神经骨管的束缚,神经肿胀程度更明显,因此患侧与健侧面神经直径差异更显著。

最后,急性周围性面神经炎患者面瘫侧耳周淋巴结数量与健侧存在显著差异。急性周围性面瘫患者 MRN 图像上双侧耳周及腮腺内可观察到多发淋巴结,而患侧耳周存在更多有统计学差异的外周淋巴结反应。淋巴结是人体重要的外周免疫器官,有效过滤引流区域的淋巴液,进行持续的免疫监控和应答^[25]。本研究结果提示,急性周围性面

神经炎可能涉及外周神经-免疫互作的炎性反应过程。由于以往成像技术的限制,常规影像技术难以直观可视化急性周围性面瘫患者面神经炎伴随的外周淋巴结改变,既往未见研究报道该神经免疫互作现象。在与面神经炎可类比的其他神经炎中,较为典型的是吉兰-巴雷综合征(guillain-barre syndrome,GBS),在自身免疫学说中,特发性周围性面瘫被认为是GBS的一种单神经性变异^[26]。关于急性周围性面瘫患者外周面神经-免疫相互作用现象的背后机制尚需进一步探索。

本研究具有以下几个局限性,首先,纳入的病例数相对较少,急性周围性面瘫患者虽处于急性期,但时间可能存在个体化差异,可能会影响试验结果。今后应结合病程、面肌功能损伤程度等进一步比较MR神经成像与面神经电图(electroencephalogram,ENOG)、面肌电图(electromyogram,EMG)等不同手段评估面瘫严重程度和判断预后的灵敏度和准确性。最后,面神经、耳周、腮腺淋巴结相关炎性反应背后可能存在神经免疫互作机制,有待加大样本量及临床免疫相关实验室检查进一步探索。

综上,MR神经成像可定量评估急性周围性面瘫患者面神经及周围淋巴结的结构变化,能够辅助临床医生评估面神经炎性肿胀范围与程度,排除其他致病原因,指导早期干预、评估疗效及预测预后。

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(上接第 33 页)

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