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腔面型乳腺癌内分泌治疗耐药的研究进展^{*}

欧阳慧婷¹, 童璐², 易嘉宁¹, 吴昭颐¹, 范培芝^{1*}

(¹湖南师范大学附属第一医院/湖南省人民医院, 湖南长沙, 410000;

²常德市第二人民医院, 湖南常德, 415000)

摘要: 腔面型乳腺癌(HR+/HER2-BCA)是乳腺癌中最普遍的类型,内分泌治疗是延长患者总生存期的一种重要手段,但内分泌治疗耐药和远处复发等问题尚未得到有效解决。如何减少、延缓甚至逆转内分泌治疗耐药现象的发生,是目前研究的焦点。得益于现代科技的不断发展,乳腺癌耐药相关分子及基因研究取得了显著进展,初步揭示了内分泌治疗耐药的途径,如雌激素受体 α 基因突变、细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶4/6抑制剂耐药途径、组蛋白去乙酰化酶抑制剂耐药途径等,这些研究为推动精准治疗的发展奠定了基础。本文拟总结归纳HR+/HER2-BCA内分泌药物治疗的作用机制、耐药机制及其临床治疗方面的研究进展,并对未来研究进行展望。

关键词: 腔面型乳腺癌; 内分泌耐药; 内分泌治疗; 机制研究

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Research progress on endocrine therapy resistance in luminal breast cancer^{*}

OUYANG Huiting¹, TONG Lu², YI Jianing¹, WU Zhaoyi¹, FAN Peizhi^{1*}

(¹The First Affiliated Hospital of Hunan Normal University/Hunan Provincial People's Hospital,

Changsha, 410000, Hunan, China; ²The Second People's Hospital of Changde City, Changde, 415000, Hunan, China)

Abstract: Luminal breast cancer (HR+/HER2-BCA) is the most prevalent type of breast cancer, and endocrine therapy is an important means to prolong the overall survival of patients. However, the problems of endocrine therapy resistance and distant recurrence have not been effectively addressed. How to reduce, delay or even reverse the occurrence of endocrine therapy resistance is the focus of current research. Thanks to the continuous development of modern science and technology, significant progress has been made in the study of breast cancer drug resistance at the molecular and genetic levels, initially revealing the pathways of endocrine therapy resistance, such as gene mutation of estrogen receptor α , cell cycle protein-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor resistance pathway, histone deacetylase inhibitor resistance pathway, and so on, which have laid the foundation for promoting the development of precision therapy. In this paper, we summarized the mechanism of action of HR+/HER2-BCA endocrine drug therapy, the mechanism of resistance generation and its research progress in clinical treatment, as well as the prospect of future research.

Keywords: Hormone receptor-positive breast cancer; Endocrine drug resistance; Endocrine therapy; Mechanism research

0 前言

乳腺癌是世界范围内女性癌症死亡的首要原

因,并且是主要的公共卫生问题之一^[1]。基于分子特征,乳腺癌一般分为四种类型^[2-3]。腔面型乳腺癌(hormone receptor+/human epithelial growth factor recep-

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作者简介:欧阳慧婷,女,硕士研究生,住院医师,研究方向:乳腺甲状腺疾病的基础与临床研究。

^{*}通信作者:范培芝,女,教授,主任医师,研究方向:甲状腺、乳腺癌诊断与综合治疗的研究。

tor 2- breast cancer, HR+/HER2- BRCA)是最常见的乳腺癌表型,约占所有乳腺癌的 80% 以上^[4-5]。HR+/HER2- BRCA 患者的主要治疗手段之一是内分泌治疗^[6-7],治疗药物包括选择性雌激素受体下调剂 (selective estrogen receptor down-regulator, SERD)、选择性雌激素受体调节剂 (selective estrogen receptor modulator, SERM) 及芳香化酶抑制剂 (aromatase inhibitor, AI) 等。研究表明,通过内分泌疗法,HR+/HER2- BRCA 患者的复发率和死亡率可降低 50% 以上^[8-9]。但内分泌药物抵抗导致的肿瘤复发或远处转移对患者的生活水平和生存状况有着极大影响。

1 内分泌治疗的作用机制

目前,临床上激素受体阳性乳腺癌患者一线治疗药物主要使用 SERMs 和 AIs,在伴有晚期、转移和/或主要内分泌治疗后病情继续进展的情况下,与磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶/蛋白激酶 B/哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白 (phosphoinositide 3-kinase/protein kinase B/mammalian target of rapamycin, PI3K/AKT/mTOR) 抑制剂和/或细胞周期蛋白依赖性激酶 4/6 (cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6, CDK4/6) 抑制剂联合使用。中国临床肿瘤学会 (Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology, CSCO) 乳腺癌诊疗指南 2023 版对不同类型药物的推荐使用分级见表 1。

表 1 腔面型乳腺癌内分泌治疗代表药物

Tab. 1 Representative drugs for endocrine therapy of hormone receptor-positive breast cancer

药物类型	代表药物	适用范围
SERMs	他莫昔芬、托瑞米芬	早期患者(绝经前)辅助内分泌治疗
SERDs	氟维司群	内分泌耐药进展的晚期患者
AIs	甾体类:依西美坦 非甾体类:来曲唑、阿那曲唑	早期患者(绝经后)辅助内分泌治疗
CDK4/6 抑制剂	阿贝西利、哌柏西利、达尔西利	与 AIs 联合使用可作为绝经后高复发风险患者的一线治疗
PI3K 抑制剂	依维莫司、坦西莫司	与 AIs 联合用于内分泌耐药进展的晚期患者(二线治疗)
mTOR 抑制剂	阿培利司	内分泌耐药进展的晚期患者(二线治疗)

1.1 雌激素受体抑制剂

雌激素受体抑制剂主要分为两类:一类是 SERMs,另一类是 SERDs。SERMs 是指抗雌激素药物在某些部位如乳腺和生殖系统中起到阻断雌激素受体 (estrogen receptor, ER) 的作用^[10-12],而在其他部位如大脑和骨骼中则发挥 ER 激动剂的作用^[13-16],主要代表药物是他莫昔芬 (tamoxifen, TAM)^[17-18],为绝经前用药。雌激素 α 受体 (estrogen receptor α , ER- α) 基因既是 ER 的编码基因,也是驱动转录因子。雌二醇 (estradiol, E2) 是雌激素中最主要的活性最强的激素。E2 结合 ER 后通过受体 N 末端 AF1 和配体结合域 (ligand binding domains, LBD) AF2 这两个转录激活域 (activation domain, AF) 刺激调控细胞增殖和细胞存活的靶基因转录。TAM 与 E2 竞争性结合 ER 后阻断 LBD-AF2, 影响其转录活性。与 SERMs 不同的是,氟维司群作为 SERDs 的代表药物,不仅可使 ER 中 AF1 和 LBD-AF2 均失活,还可阻止 ER 进入细胞核,甚至加速其降解,完全切断 ER 通路,同时伴随核质穿梭过程中受体核摄取被抑制,仅发挥单纯抗雌激素的作用。

1.2 AIs

E2 通过激活 ER- α 在激素依赖性乳腺癌的进展中发挥关键作用。对于绝经后女性,体内的 E2 主要是由雄激素 (androgen, A) 在脂肪、肝脏、肾脏处转换而来^[19]。芳香化酶是这一转化过程中的关键限速酶。AIs 通过阻断肾上腺的 A 转化为雌激素抑制激素依赖性乳腺癌的生长^[20-21]。依据与芳香化酶是否可逆性结合,可将 AIs 分为两大类:来曲唑、阿那曲唑等非甾体 AIs,与芳香化酶可逆性结合,阻止 AR 的转化;依西美坦等甾体类 AIs,通过与芳香化酶不可逆性结合减少雌酮的产生。

1.3 CDK4/6 抑制剂

细胞周期蛋白 (cyclin) 与 CDK 是构成细胞周期调控的核心物质。目前,CDK4/6 抑制剂联合抗雌激素药物已被用作转移性 HR+/HER2- BRCA 的一线治疗^[22-24]。CDK4/6 促进肿瘤细胞增殖的作用机制主要是通过 cyclin D1-CDK4/6 通路来激活下游视网膜母细胞蛋白 (retinoblastin, RB),使其磷酸化后激活 G₁/S 期转化的 cyclin E,为 DNA 复制合成做准备^[25]。CDK4/6 抑制剂可利用自身与 CDK4/6 特异性结合的能力阻止 CDK-cyclin 复合物的形成,导致 G₀ 和 G₁ 期阻滞,从而影响细胞的分裂和增殖能力,达到抑制肿瘤生长的效果。

1.4 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 抑制剂

PI3K 是众所周知的细胞生长、增殖调节剂, PI3K 亚单位 p110 α (PI3KCA) 是乳腺癌中最常见的突变基因, 且绝大多数突变位点位于激酶结构域, 晚期 HR+/HER2- BRCA 患者的 PI3KCA 突变率高达 35%^[26]。PI3K/AKT/mTOR 通路是转移性乳腺癌中最为常见的信号通路。在生理条件下, PI3K 受上游生长因子如酪氨酸激酶受体 (tyrosine kinase receptor, TKR) 的刺激, 使其下游的磷脂酰肌醇-4,5-二磷酸转化为三磷酸磷脂酰肌醇 (phosphatidylinositol triphosphate, PIP3), PIP3 又通过磷脂酰肌醇 3 依赖性蛋白激酶激活 AKT, 使得 AKT T308 位点上的苏氨酸发生磷酸化。mTOR 是一种丝氨酸/苏氨酸蛋白激酶, 也是 AKT 的下游效应物, 具有调控 mRNA 翻译的能力, 其包含两种功能不同的复合物: mTOR 复合物 1 (mTOR complex 1, mTORC1) 和 mTORC2。mTORC1 激活后可限制上游效应物如血小板衍生生长因子受体传递的增殖信号, 从而导致 PI3K/AKT 活性减弱^[27]; 相反的, mTORC2 可在 S473 位点上调节 AKT, 使其完全磷酸化。此外, mTORC1 激活可直接导致 mTORC2 活性降低, mTOR 的下游底物 S6 激酶可以磷酸化和激活 ER 的功能域, 导致配体非依赖性受体激活, 从而影响肿瘤增殖、生长及血管生成^[28-29]。目前, 无论是已经应用于临床的 mTOR 抑制剂依维莫司、坦西莫司和 PI3K 抑制剂阿培利司, 还是仍在研发中的 AKT 抑制剂, 都是通过打破和抑制 PI3K/AKT/mTOR 信号通路的转导达到抑制肿瘤生长和改善预后等目的。

2 内分泌耐药机制

2.1 ER 耐药经典途径

虽然内分泌治疗是一种很好的治疗方法, 但是, 约 50% 的女性患者用药后会出现内分泌抵抗和疾病进展^[30-31]。引起人体内分泌抗药性的机制很多, 其中大部分是由雌激素调控引起的。ER 中最为经典的是位于细胞核的类固醇激素受体, 包括两大亚类: ER- α 和雌激素 β 受体 (estrogen receptor β , ER- β)。在绝大多数乳腺癌中, E2 激活 ER- α 被认为是引起肿瘤细胞增殖的原因, 与之相反的是 ER- β 在乳腺癌中发挥抑制 E2 对细胞增殖的刺激作用^[32]。E2 与 ER 结合后激动 AF 启动第二信使系统, 通过结合靶基因上的雌激素应答元件来调节基因表达或改变基因的转录活性^[33]。基于前文阐述的

内分泌治疗药物的作用途径和生物学机制, 内分泌抵抗产生的原因也围绕着上述基因表达和通路转导所展开。耐药产生的机制十分复杂, 可涉及多基因、多通路的改变, 包括 ER 突变、细胞生长因子旁路途径、参与细胞周期或细胞凋亡的分子信号转导失调, 以及激活细胞复制与逃逸通路等^[34-39]。

ER- α 和 PI3KCA 的突变在获得性耐药中最为常见。ER- α 转录激活因子 AF2 的活性依赖于 ER 残基 538 和 552 之间的亲水性和亲脂性两性 α 螺旋结构, 该区域残基的点突变显著减少了雌激素依赖性 ER 的转录激活, 但对 E2 和 DNA 的结合无明显影响。与野生型 ER 作用相反, TAM 和 E2 衍生物 ICI 164,384 在 ER 突变的 HeLa 细胞中都表现为强激动剂, 可刺激 ER 通路的激活和靶基因转录^[40-42]。值得注意的是, 突变型受体在 ICI 164,384 处理后仍保持核定位信号位点以及 DNA 结合活性; 因此, ER 基因突变或雌激素非依赖性信号通路引起的 AF2 结构域改变可以解释某些 HR+/HER2- BRCA 对 TAM 治疗的不敏感性。此外, 还有研究表明, ER 的 LBD-AF2 第 351 位氨基酸由天冬氨酸替换为酪氨酸可能是 TAM 耐药中 ER 的主要突变形式^[43], 但若 LBD-AF2 中 351 位天冬氨酸被甘氨酸取代, 则可使 4-羟基他莫昔芬-ER 复合物 (4-hydroxytamoxifen-estrogen receptor complex, 4-OHT ER) 转换为完全的 E2 拮抗剂^[44]。

2.2 ER 耐药非经典途径

生长因子在肿瘤微环境 (tumor microenvironment, TME) 中发挥着关键作用, 既能激活特定的细胞内信号通路, 也能介导内质网非经典途径的激活^[45]。既往研究证实, 雌激素与生长因子均能刺激类固醇依赖性肿瘤细胞的增殖, 其中人表皮生长因子受体 2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER2)、表皮生长因子受体 (epidermal growth factor receptor, EGFR) 和胰岛素样生长因子受体 1 (insulin-like growth factor receptor 1, IGF-1R) 等过度表达可以增强 ER 信号通路^[46]。丝裂原活化蛋白激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK) 是一种重要的信号转导因子, 参与多种肿瘤的信号转导通路。MAPK 信号通路在细胞内具有重要作用, 可加速细胞增殖、分裂和分化, 并与肿瘤的侵袭和药物抵抗有关。MAPK 信号通路主要由 ERK1/2、ERK5、JNK 和 P38 四条通路组成, ERK1/2 是 MAPK 信号转导的典型途径。ER- α 的转录激活域 AF1 的激活是

由 MAPK 途径、PI3K/AKT 途径和 CDK 途径之间相互交联和串扰介导的^[47]。因此,这些生长因子过度表达可以激活 AF1,刺激非激素依赖的 ER 信号通路来促进肿瘤细胞的增殖,这种机制可能会导致对各种内分泌疗法的耐药性。

2.3 CDK4/6 抑制剂耐药途径

CDKs 是 cyclin D 所依赖的细胞周期性分裂的驱动因子。在细胞周期的 DNA 合成阶段, cyclin D1-CDK4/6 复合物可导致肿瘤抑制基因 RB 过度磷酸化,通过将其与 E2F 转录因子解偶联而使其生长抑制功能失活;E2F 转录可调节许多基因的表达,这些基因负责协调随后的细胞周期进程和 DNA 复制,该途径可导致细胞周期从 G₁ 期进展到 S 期^[48]。若肿瘤产生特异性突变,激活 RAS、RAF、PI3K 或 RTK,可增强 cyclin D 对 CDK4/6 的依赖性应答^[49],使细胞分裂不受调控,肿瘤细胞过度增殖。既往研究表明,内分泌抗性细胞模型中仍有 cyclin D 和 RB 失活现象,并且内分泌疗法不能活化 RB 介导的转录抑制作用^[50-52]。

2.4 组蛋白去乙酰化酶 (histone deacetylase, HDAC) 抑制剂耐药途径

组蛋白是由 H2A、H2B、H3 和 H4 四个亚单位各拷贝两组形成的蛋白质复合物,存在于细胞核染色体内。DNA 包裹组蛋白形成的复合体被称为核小体^[53]。一般来说,细胞核中核小体紧密堆积的区域为异染色质区,核小体松散堆积的区域为常染色质区,异染色质区的转录活性较低,而常染色质区的转录活性较高^[54]。组蛋白的位置受到许多蛋白质和酶的严格调节,例如组蛋白乙酰化和去乙酰化分别由组蛋白乙酰转移酶 (histone acetyltransferase, HAT) 和 HDAC 调节。组蛋白赖氨酸残基的乙酰化参与转录调节和 DNA 修复,而组蛋白去乙酰化则会引起 DNA 损伤及抑癌基因失活^[55]。组蛋白 HDAC 复合体组成了 E2 转录复合物的关键部分。已有研究证实,HDAC 抑制剂可通过上调 ER- β 基因表达或抑制生长信号通路来逆转 HR+/HER2- BRCA 患者的 TAM/AIs 耐药^[56]。

3 内分泌耐药治疗及进展

根据欧洲肿瘤内科学会 (European Society for Medical Oncology, ESMO)、美国临床肿瘤学会 (American Society of Clinical Oncology, ASCO) 及 CSCO 颁布的指南,目前临床对于内分泌耐药

HR+/HER2- BRCA 的一线治疗方案,首选 AIs 联合 CDK4/6 抑制剂,其次为联合其他内分泌治疗和靶向药物;若患者仍出现疾病进展,发展为晚期或转移性乳腺癌 (metastatic breast cancer, MBC),则可选择其他抗体药物偶联物 (antibody-drug conjugate, ADC) 或靶向药物 (如 PAM 通路抑制剂、HDAC 抑制剂等) 及化疗^[57-59] (图 1)。

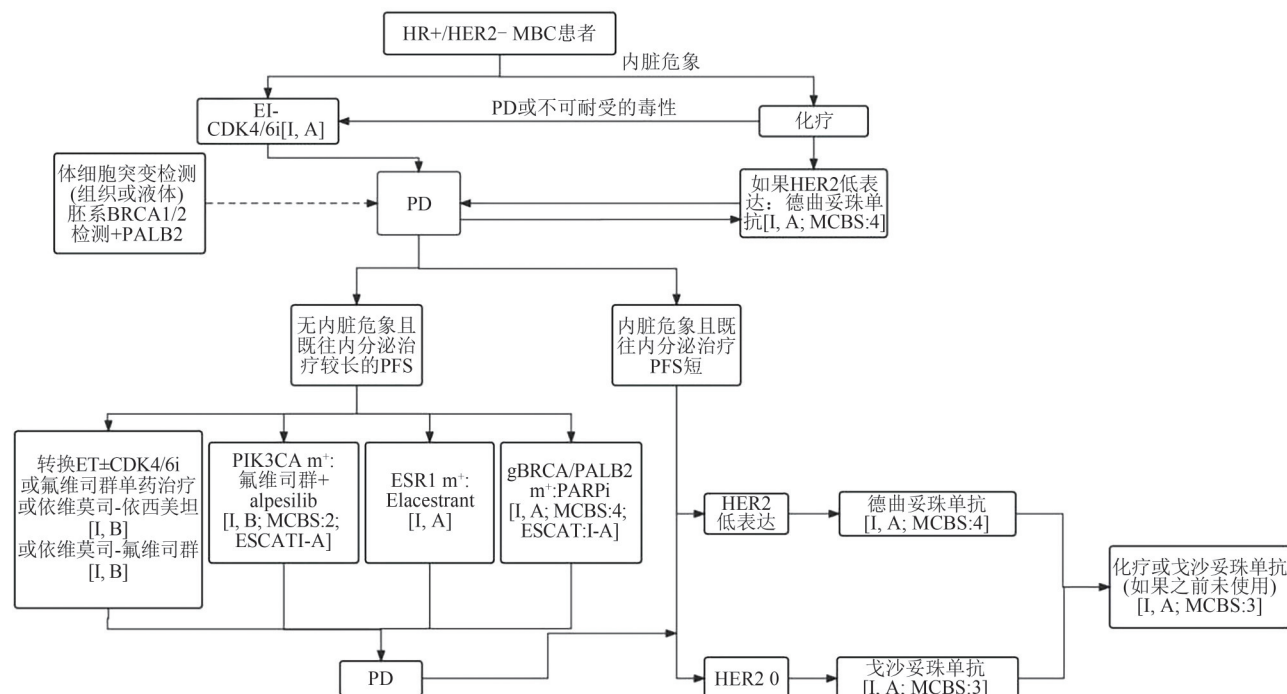
3.1 SERDs

随着对乳腺癌基因序列研究的逐步深入,人们发现,HE+/HER2- BRCA 患者对 AIs 产生获得性耐药的主要原因之一是 ER- α 基因突变^[60-61]。

氟维司群 (fulvestrant, FLV) 是 SERDs 的代表性药物,可阻断内质网二聚化和 DNA 结合,增加内质网周转,并抑制受体的核摄取^[62]。CONFIRM 试验、FIRST 试验和 FALCON 试验表明,FLV 注射剂 500 mg 是一种有效剂量,与阿那曲唑组相比,中位无进展生存期 (progression-free survival, PFS) 明显延长^[63-64]。2010 年,美国食品药品监督管理局和欧洲药品管理局批准了 FLV 单药治疗,并将其作为发生内分泌耐药的转移性 HR+/HER2- MBC 患者的一线内分泌治疗方案,该方案要求患者每月接受一次 500 mg 单药注射。而在 FACT 试验和 SWOG S0226 试验中,要求 HR+/HER2- MBC 患者分别接受 FLV 联合阿那曲唑与阿那曲唑单药治疗,并评价了 FLV 联合 AIs 的疗效^[65-66]。由于研究结果存在争议,FLV-AIs 联合治疗还需进一步探讨。

3.2 CDK4/6 抑制剂

对于发生内分泌耐药的 HR+/HER2- BRCA 患者,CDK4/6 抑制剂的联合治疗为首选方案。CDK4/6 抑制剂含有三种剂型,目前已上市的药物包括阿贝西利 (abemaciclib)、瑞博西尼 (ribociclib)、帕博西尼 (palbociclib) 及国产药物达尔西利 (darpiciclib)。多项临床研究证实,CDK4/6 抑制剂与内分泌药物联合应用相较内分泌药物单药治疗,能为患者带来更为显著的获益。PALOMA-2、3 期研究^[22] 结果显示,与来曲唑单药组相比,帕博西尼联合来曲唑组患者的 PFS (24.8 个月 vs. 14.5 个月,风险比 = 0.58, $P < 0.001$) 和客观缓解率 (objective response rate, ORR) (55.3% vs. 44.4%) 均有所获益。另一项 MONALEESA-2 试验^[23] 评估了瑞博西尼联合来曲唑与仅使用来曲唑的疗效,结果显示,瑞博西尼联合来曲唑可改善患者的 PFS (25.3 个月 vs. 16.0 个月,风险比 = 0.56) 和 ORR (43% vs. 29%), 并显示出具有统



注: ET: 内分泌治疗; HR: 激素受体; PD: 疾病进展; PFS: 无进展生存期; m⁺: 突变; BRCA1: 乳腺癌易感基因 1; BRCA2: 乳腺癌易感基因 2; PALB2: BRCA2 的合作伙伴和定位者; CDK4/6i: CDK4/6 抑制剂; PARPi: 多腺苷二磷酸核糖聚合酶抑制剂; ESCAT: ESMO 分子靶点临床操作性评估量表; ESMO-MCBS: ESMO 批准的临床新疗法/适应证的评分。

Note: ET: endocrine therapy; HR: hormone receptor; PD: disease progression; PFS: progression-free survival; m⁺: mutation; BRCA1: breast cancer susceptibility gene 1; BRCA2: breast cancer susceptibility gene 2; PALB2: the partner and localizer of BRCA2; CDK4/6i: CDK4/6 inhibitor; PARPi: a poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase inhibitor; PI3KCA: phosphatidylinositol-4, 5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha; ESCAT: European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Scale for Clinical Actionability of Molecular Targets; ESMO-MCBS: ESMO Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale.

图 1 ESMO 指南 HR+/HER2- 转移性乳腺癌最新治疗策略

Fig. 1 Updated treatment strategies for HR+/HER2- metastatic breast cancer in ESMO guidelines

计学意义的总生存期(overall survival, OS)数据(63.9 个月 vs. 51.4 个月, 风险比=0.76, P=0.004), 这是迄今为止唯一显示出 OS 益处的组合。基于以上研究, AIs 联合 CDK4/6 抑制剂成为转移性 HR+/HER2- BRCA 的一线标准治疗方案。

3.3 HDAC 抑制剂

HDAC 抑制剂可以调节导致内分泌耐药的表观遗传修饰。体外研究报告称, HDAC 抑制剂可使 ER 阳性细胞系恢复对内分泌治疗的敏感性^[67]。CSCO 指南^[59] 建议, HR+/HER2- BRAC 患者在 CDK4/6 抑制剂治疗进展后, 可以尝试使用 HDAC 抑制剂西达苯胺(tucidinostat)。ACE 临床研究^[68] 纳入内分泌耐药的 HR+/HER2- BRAC 患者, 对比依西美坦单药与西达苯胺联合依西美坦的疗效, 结果显示联合治疗组患者中位 PFS 显著改善(7.4 个月 vs. 3.8 个月), 且 ORR 和临床获益率(clinical benefit rate, CBR) 均高于对照组。该研究揭示了西达苯胺在乳腺癌中的

治疗潜力, 并为临床实践提供了新的思路。

3.4 其他新型治疗

2023 年 ESMO 年会公布了多项乳腺癌领域的最新研究成果。早期乳腺癌治疗领域的一系列临床研究充分证实了免疫检查点抑制剂在三阴性乳腺癌新辅助治疗中的价值, 在 HR+/HER2- BRCA 新辅助治疗中也显示出潜在优势。新型口服高效 SERDs 的研发将为靶向及内分泌治疗耐药的 ER- α 突变患者带来更高效的治疗手段。Elacestrant 是一种口服活性 ER 降解剂, 在乳腺癌细胞异种移植模型中, 无论单独使用还是与帕博西尼联合使用, 均表现出显著的抗肿瘤活性, 尤其在具有 ER- α 突变的乳腺癌中效果更为显著^[69]。此外, ADCs 为内分泌耐药带来了治疗新机遇。戈沙妥珠单抗(sacituzumab govitecan, SG) 是一种新型 ADC, 其表现出的显著疗效进一步推动了抗肿瘤药物研究的发展。TROPiCS-02 研究^[70] 表明, 在接受过内分泌治疗且

经历多线化疗的 HR+/HER2- MBC 患者中,SG 在延长患者 PFS、OS 以及提高 ORR 方面展现出显著优势,为 HR+/HER2- MBC 患者带来了新的治疗希望。SG 在多线治疗失败患者中表现出色,证实了其在这一患者群体中的临床应用价值。

4 总结与展望

内分泌治疗因价格低廉、副作用小等优势在 HR+/HER2- BRAC 患者的治疗中有着不可替代的地位,然而,内分泌耐药仍是一个亟待解决的问题。内分泌耐药机制多样,涉及基因组变异、表观遗传学变异等,目前研究尚需深化。根据国内外指南推荐,针对内分泌耐药,越来越多靶向药物得以应用,涵盖 CDK4/6 抑制剂、PAM 通路抑制剂、HDAC 抑制剂等。随着内分泌耐药机制的深入研究,新型治疗手段如免疫抑制剂、新型口服 SERDs、ADCs 等药物在内分泌耐药的 HR+/HER2- BRCA 治疗领域呈现出潜在优势。然而,部分耐药乳腺癌患者仍存在有效治疗手段不足的问题。因此,有必要加强针对 HR+/HER2- BRCA 内分泌耐药基础与临床研究的力度,揭示其复杂的耐药机制,研发更高效的治疗方法,为患者带来希望。

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