



· 综述 ·

MRI影像组学在乳腺癌评估中的应用

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[摘要] 磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)在乳腺癌的早期诊断、术前治疗方案制订和疗效预判中越来越重要。影像组学作为目前研究的热点,可以评估全肿瘤的异质性,具有重要的临床和研究价值。本文对MRI影像组学在乳腺肿瘤的良恶性鉴别、乳腺癌的分子分型识别、乳腺癌的新辅助化疗效果预测以及乳腺癌预后因子评估中的应用研究进展进行了综述。

[关键词] 乳腺癌; 磁共振成像; 影像组学

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[Abstract] Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has the great potential in the early detection, preoperative planning and progress prediction of breast cancer. As one of the research hotspots, radiomics can evaluate the heterogeneity of whole tumor, which has the important role in the clinical application. This article reviewed the application of MRI radiomics in the differential diagnosis between malignant and benign tumors, identification of breast cancer subtypes, assessment of response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy, and evaluation of prognostic factors in breast cancer.

[Key words] Breast cancer; Magnetic resonance imaging; Radiomics

乳腺癌是女性最常见的恶性肿瘤,根据2016年发表在*CA Cancer J Clin*上的癌症统计数据^[1],乳腺癌发病率在女性恶性肿瘤中高居首位;在中国,乳腺癌是45岁以下女性恶性肿瘤死亡的主要原因^[2]。早期发现、早期诊断是治疗乳腺癌和提高其生存率的关键。乳腺癌是一种高度异质性的肿瘤,不同的患者具有不同的肿瘤生物学行为,需要多种治疗方法来提高乳腺癌患者的总生存率。

磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)凭借其良好的软组织和空间分辨率,相比超声和钼靶检查,在乳腺癌的早期诊断、术前治疗方案制订和疗效预判中越来越重要^[3]。影像

组学是近几年来研究的热点和重点,由Lambin等^[4]在2012年首次提出并定义,影像组学是从医学影像的灰度级和/或像素信号强度研究病变组织异质性的图像后处理技术,可对肉眼观察不到的变化引起的图像异质性进行量化,进而用来解析具体的临床信息。影像组学的处理流程包括影像数据的获取、肿瘤区域的标定、肿瘤区域的分割、特征的提取和量化、分类和预测这5个主要步骤^[5]。目前乳腺影像组学研究方向包括乳腺肿瘤的良恶性鉴别^[6-7]、乳腺癌的分子分型识别^[8-11]、乳腺癌的新辅助化疗效果预测^[12-13]及乳腺癌预后因子评估^[14]。本文将对MRI影像组学在乳腺癌中的应用价值进行综述。

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1 MRI影像组学在乳腺良恶性肿瘤鉴别中的应用

乳腺MRI常规包括T1加权成像(T1-weighted image, T1WI)、T2加权成像(T2-weighted image, T2WI)、动态对比增强磁共振成像(dynamic contrast-enhanced MRI, DCE-MRI)和弥散加权成像(diffusion-weighted imaging, DWI)。MRI对乳腺癌的诊断具有高达100%的灵敏度,但是特异度中等。乳腺MRI影像组学在保证乳腺癌诊断高灵敏度的前提下,从DCE-MRI、T2WI、DWI中提取纹理和形态特征,可以提高乳腺癌诊断的特异度^[15-17]。

DCE-MRI不但提供了肿瘤的形态学特征和动力学特征,而且DCE-MRI分辨率高,肿瘤与背景组织对比明显,易于分割,所以DCE-MRI图像在MRI影像组学中常用来提取纹理和形态特征。Gibbs等^[6]通过提取79例患者DCE-MRI图像的灰度纹理特征来识别45例乳腺癌,特征筛选后的熵、方差、熵和这3个特征结合逻辑回归分析,良恶性鉴别的曲线下面积(area under curve, AUC)达到0.80。Nie等^[18]提取了DCE-MRI的纹理特征和形状特征,70例患者(28例良性,42例恶性)良恶性鉴别的AUC达到0.86。Whitney等^[19]提取了264例良性肿瘤和390例管腔A型乳腺癌的形状和纹理特征,研究发现DCE-MRI的形态特征有助于鉴别乳腺良性肿瘤和管腔A型乳腺癌。但是以上研究使用的纹理特征不尽相同,特征筛选和分类方法也不一致;目前还没有已发表的研究将不同的纹理、特征筛选和分类方法进行逐一分析并比较其优劣。

DWI可以评估对水分子的扩散能力,通过表观扩散系数(apparent diffusion coefficient, ADC)来定量表示其差别,可以间接反映肿瘤细胞密度、水分子扩散、纤维基质情况和细胞膜完整性等^[20]。DWI由于容易变形、分辨率低,在乳腺癌影像组学的应用方面与DCE-MRI相比要少。Hu等^[21]从ADC中提取88例乳腺患者的ADC特征,区别良恶性的AUC值为0.79,认为ADC的纹理特征可以用来鉴别乳腺影像报告和数据系统(Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System,

BI-RADS)4级的良恶性肿瘤。Suo等^[22]提取了ADC的直方图特征,发现ADC的最小值在101个患者(36例良性,65例恶性)中是诊断恶性肿瘤的独立因素。临床上常用的单指数模型DWI只能得到体素内的平均弥散系数,只反映扩散的总体情况,为了获得更多的微观结构信息,出现了新的多b值弥散模型,如多b值弥散的双指数体素不相干运动(intravoxel incoherent motion, IVIM)和弥散峰度成像(diffusion kurtosis imaging, DKI)。Park等^[23]分别提取单指数模型ADC、DKI的D和K定量图的直方图特征,研究发现ADC和DKI在区别良性肿瘤和乳腺导管原位癌中价值比较小。

2 MRI影像组学在识别乳腺癌分子分型中的应用

目前,乳腺影像组学正从乳腺肿瘤的良恶性鉴别逐步向解析肿瘤的生物行为及特性(如乳腺癌的分子分型、疗效预测等)过渡。

乳腺癌是一类在分子水平上具有高度异质性的肿瘤,不同患者的临床表现、治疗效果和预后也可能大相径庭^[24]。St. Gallen乳腺癌会议对乳腺癌临床病理替代分型进行了具体定义,强调免疫组织化学(immunohistochemistry, IHC)分型只是一种基因表达谱的替代分型^[25]。结合雌激素受体(estrogen receptor, ER)、孕激素受体(progesterone receptor, PR)、人表皮生长因子受体2(human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, HER2)和Ki-67增殖指数,将乳腺癌常规分为管腔A型、管腔B型、HER2阳性和三阴性乳腺癌这4种分子分型^[25]。常规临床IHC分子分型主要是通过穿刺活检获得的小样本进行评估,无法获得肿瘤的异质性信息;并且临床病理工作中会出现以下情况:IHC和荧光原位杂交(fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, FISH)中HER2受体状态结果不一致、IHC和FISH都无法确定HER2受体状态^[26],以及穿刺和术后标本的分子分型前后不一致。所以,影像组学可以为乳腺癌分子分型的正确识别提供补充手段,这对乳腺癌治疗方案的选择和疗效预测非常重要。

乳腺MRI影像组学通常使用DCE-MRI第1期

图像,提取其肿瘤或者肿瘤周边组织的特征来分析并预测乳腺癌的分子分型。Agner等^[8]提取了DCE-MRI第1期图像的形态和纹理特征,结合支持向量机分类器来鉴别三阴性乳腺癌与其他分子分型的乳腺癌。Blaschke等^[27]和Chang等^[28]从DCE-MRI图像中提取纹理特征来预测乳腺癌的分子分型和识别三阴性乳腺癌。Grimm等^[29]研究发现管腔A型乳腺癌与DCE-MRI的纹理特征具有相关性。Guo等^[30]整合了91例乳腺癌患者的基因数据库[癌症基因组图谱(The Cancer Genome Atlas, TCGA)]基因组学数据和影像数据库[肿瘤影像数据库(The Cancer Imaging Archive, TCIA)]影像组学数据,研究认为影像组学特征与乳腺癌的ER、PR和HER2状态具有相关性。目前乳腺癌影像组学不但可以分析乳腺癌肿块的特征,也可以对肿块周边的背景实质强化(background parenchymal enhancement, BPE)组织进行分析,间接评估肿瘤的生物特性,这主要是因为BPE与纤维腺体类型、乳腺癌的发病风险,以及BPE与乳腺癌的分子类型和治疗反应之间存在着相关性^[31]。Fan等^[32]提取了肿瘤和BPE的纹理特征,结合2个临床特征(年龄和月经)来区分管腔A型、管腔B型、HER2阳性和三阴性共4种分子分型乳腺癌。

近年来也有研究使用DCE-MRI或DWI定量图的纹理特征来预测乳腺癌的分子分型。Wang等^[33]提取了DCE-MRI药代动力学参数 K^{trans} 、 K_{ep} 和 V_e 的肿块和BPE的纹理特征来区别乳腺癌分子分型,结果发现肿块和BPE的纹理特征为识别恶性度更高的三阴性乳腺癌提供了一种无创的影像学评估手段。Kim等^[34]和Choi等^[35]报告了ADC直方图特征与乳腺癌的预后因子具有相关性,并且三阴性乳腺癌的ADC峰值高于管腔型乳腺。Xie等^[36]提取DCE-MRI半定量washin和washout的直方图特征结合ADC的直方图特征来区分三阴性乳腺癌与非三阴性乳腺癌,研究认为多参数定量图的直方图分析对三阴性乳腺癌的识别具有一定的价值。

这些研究结果表明DCE-MRI、DWI或其定量图的影像组学特征在预测分子分型中具有一定的

诊断效能。

3 MRI影像组学在乳腺癌新辅助化疗效果预测中的应用

新辅助化疗(neoadjuvant chemotherapy, NAC)是局部晚期乳腺癌的规范疗法,可以使肿瘤降期以利于手术,或是变不能手术为能手术;若能达到病理学完全缓解(pathological complete response, pCR),则预示较好的远期效果;对于肿瘤较大且有保乳意愿的患者可以提高其保乳率。

NAC疗效预测是影像组学近年来研究的热点问题。MRI虽然检测NAC后残留病灶要比超声、钼靶检查更加敏感,但是也存在假阳性。MRI影像组学提供的定量特征,可以为pCR的预测提供客观准确的依据。Braman等^[37]从肿瘤和肿瘤周边组织提取DCE-MRI纹理特征来预测pCR,研究发现结合肿瘤周边组织纹理特征和受体状态,影像组学可以很好地预测NAC后的pCR。Banerjee等^[38]提取药代动力学参量图(K^{trans} 、 K_{ep} 和 V_e)的Reisz纹理特征对53例三阴性乳腺癌患者NAC疗效进行预测,发现Reisz纹理特征对pCR的AUC达到0.83,优于GLCM纹理特征。Liu等^[39]提取T2WI和DCE-MRI的纹理特征结合机器学习对乳腺癌NAC疗效进行预测,发现多参数影像组学在ER阳性、HER2阴性和三阴性乳腺癌中具有较好的预测效果,AUC高达0.86。Xiong等^[40]提取了多参数T2WI、DWI和DCE-MRI的纹理特征来预测乳腺癌病理Miller-Payne分级(1、2级为治疗无效,3~5级为治疗有效)。

4 MRI影像组学在乳腺癌预后分析中的应用

前哨淋巴结活检术(sentinel lymph node biopsy, SLNB)是乳腺癌外科治疗史上里程碑式的进步,避免了不必要的腋窝淋巴结清扫。评估腋窝淋巴结是否转移有助于判断预后。Dong等^[41]研究发现,从DWI提取的纹理特征,相比从ADC提取的纹理特征,更能预测腋窝淋巴结的转移状态。

Ki-67增殖指数评估细胞增殖和治疗反应,与早期乳腺癌的远期生存密切相关^[42]。

Ma等^[43]基于377例乳腺癌探究DCE-MRI的影像组学特征与Ki-67增殖指数的相关性, 结果显示采用机器学习方法结合对比度、熵和线像度3个纹理特征, 预测模型的AUC达到0.733。

Chan等^[44]基于563例乳腺癌的DCE-MRI纹理特征建立了一套乳腺癌风险预测工具, 训练数据集的AUC达到0.88, 验证数据集的AUC达到0.77。Sutton等^[45]通过分析95例ER阳性乳腺癌患者的DCE-MRI纹理特征, 研究发现Oncotype DX(21基因)评估与DCE-MRI的峰度特征及肿瘤分级相关, 可以用于ER阳性乳腺癌患者的复发风险评估。Oncotype DX和Mamma Print基因芯片只在美国获得了美国食品药品监督管理局(Food and Drug Administration, FDA)认证, 所以使用中国人群的数据进行影像组学和基因相关性的研究比较少。

乳腺影像组学是乳腺影像发展的未来, 尤其是MRI影像组学在乳腺癌的早期诊断、分子分型、风险和疗效预测中具有广阔的发展前景, 同时影像组学目前在临床应用中也存在非常大的挑战^[5]。随着大数据、深度学习等技术的发展, 乳腺病灶的智能识别、分割和分类, 以及集成分析流程进一步优化, 乳腺影像组学在临床实践和研究中的价值将进一步体现出来。

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