

维生素E对非酒精性脂肪性肝病的疗效及机制的研究进展

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高等学校博士学科点专项科研基金新教师类基金资助项目, No. 20113107120002

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收稿日期: 2013-06-09 修回日期: 2013-07-09

接受日期: 2013-08-13 在线出版日期: 2013-09-28

Efficacy and mechanism of action of vitamin E in treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

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Received: 2013-06-09 Revised: 2013-07-09

Accepted: 2013-08-13 Published online: 2013-09-28

Abstract

Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) is closely related to oxidative stress. Vitamin E (VE) is an effective antioxidant, which can relieve NAFLD symptoms by improving the balance between oxidation and anti-oxidation. However, recent research indicates that the mechanism of action of VE is not only limited to anti-oxidation, but also involves adjusting glucose and lipid metabolism disorders. Currently, the efficacy of VE in the treatment of NAFLD remains controversial, and its indications, dosage and treatment duration remain to be optimized. In this paper we review recent progress of clinical application of VE in the treatment of NAFLD and discuss the underlying mechanism.

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Key Words: Vitamin E; Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease; Oxidative stress; Glucose and lipid metabolism

Shu XB, Song HY, Ji G. Efficacy and mechanism of action of vitamin E in treatment of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Shijie Huaren Xiaohua Zazhi 2013; 21(27): 2787-2791 URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1009-3079/21/2787.asp> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11569/wcjd.v21.i27.2787>

■背景资料

随着生活水平的提高和生活方式的改变, 非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)发病率不断上升, 已经成为21世纪全球重要的公共健康问题之一。维生素E(vitamine E, VE)有可能在NAFLD的治疗中发挥重要作用。

摘要

非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)的发病与氧化应激密切相关。维生素E(vitamine E, VE)是一种有效的抗氧化剂, 能够通过改善氧化平衡缓解NAFLD症状, 新近研究表明其发挥作用的机制并不局限于此, 还包括对糖、脂质等代谢紊乱的调节。然而迄今在NAFLD治疗中, VE的应用疗效仍然存在争议, 临床适用病情、药物剂量、疗程等尚待探讨。本文就VE治疗NAFLD的临床应用及机制的近期研究进展做一综述。

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关键词: 维生素E; 非酒精性脂肪性肝病; 氧化应激; 糖脂代谢

核心提示: 维生素E在改善氧应激、糖脂代谢、铁代谢等方面起重要作用, 维生素E单独或与其他药物联合使用可能是治疗非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease)的有效策略之一。

舒祥兵, 宋海燕, 季光. 维生素E对非酒精性脂肪性肝病的疗效及机制的研究进展. 世界华人消化杂志 2013; 21(27): 2787-2791 URL: <http://www.wjgnet.com/1009-3079/21/2787.asp> DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11569/wcjd.v21.i27.2787>

0 引言

非酒精性脂肪性肝病(non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, NAFLD)是指除外酒精和其他明确的损肝因素所致的、以弥漫性肝细胞大泡性脂

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目前国际上尚缺乏对NAFLD稳定有效的治疗方案,本文通过综合阐述VE在NAFLD中的疗效及相关机制,以期探讨VE是否能够成为治疗NAFLD的安全有效的药物。

肪变为主要病理表现的临床综合征^[1],是代谢综合征在肝脏中的体现。随着肥胖和代谢综合征在全球的流行,近20年亚洲国家NAFLD发病率增长迅速,且呈低龄化发病趋势,中国的上海、广州和香港等发达地区成人NAFLD患病率达15%左右^[2]。NAFLD已成为转氨酶异常的最常见的慢性肝病,伴有炎症、肝细胞气球样变的进展为非酒精性脂肪型肝炎(non-alcoholic steatotic hepatitis, NASH),部分NASH患者可进一步恶化为肝纤维化、肝硬化、肝癌等晚期肝病,因此有必要积极防治NAFLD。普遍被认可的“二次打击”学说认为,胰岛素抵抗和氧化应激是NAFLD的主要发病机制,脂溶性维生素E(vitamine E, VE)作为一种有效的自由基清除剂,成为NAFLD治疗药物之一,但其临床长期应用效果不一,并且其治疗NAFLD的机制还包括其他非抗氧化活性。因此,本文整理VE对NAFLD的作用及其相关机制的相关研究报道,以作为对VE在临床中应用的指导依据。

1 VE在NAFLD中的应用

1.1 VE的临床疗效 目前对于NAFLD的治疗还没有确切有效的方法,由于氧化应激在NAFLD的发生和发展中起着核心的作用,因此减少患者体内的氧应激水平不失为一种有效的策略。不过VE的早期临床研究确出现了相互矛盾的结果。Hasegawa等^[3]评估了22例经肝活检证实为NASH的患者,经过1年的VE(300 mg/d)治疗后,肝脏组织学得到显著改善。Lavine等^[4]用VE(400-1200 IU/d)治疗肥胖的NASH儿童患者,4-10 mo后,血清转氨酶水平显著降低。Hoofnagle等^[5]也证实VE能够改善NASH患者的肝脏组织学和降低血清转氨酶水平,不管是否伴随着体质量的下降。但Kugelmas等^[6]用VE(800 IU/d)治疗16例经活检证实为NASH患者12 wk后,不能够证明VE有任何疗效。在最近两个大型的多中心随机对照试验中^[7],对247例不伴有糖尿病的NASH成年患者,随机接受吡格列酮(30 mg/d)、维生素E(800 IU/d)或安慰剂治疗96 wk后,与安慰剂相比,VE明显改善NASH,减少了肝细胞脂肪变性、小叶内炎症和肝细胞气球样变性,而吡格列酮虽有趋势但没有统计学差异。但是两个治疗组都没有明显改善患者的肝纤维化水平^[8]。不过在一个小型的VE联合吡格列酮治疗的试验研究中发现,联合治疗明显优于单独VE治疗,不仅显著缓解脂肪变性和炎症,也减轻了

组织纤维化水平^[9]。而在随后进行的另一项大型研究中,173例NAFLD儿童随机接受VE(400 IU, 2次/d)、二甲双胍(500 mg, 2次/d)或安慰剂治疗96 wk后,并没有显著减轻脂肪变性和炎症^[10]。同样,这两项试验均未改善纤维化水平。上述结果表明至少在NAFLD的早期阶段,VE单药治疗能够提高肝功能和改善肝组织的某些病理变化。由于NAFLD的多因素发病,药物组合可能是更合适的治疗策略^[11]。有研究表明VE(400 IU/d)和吡格列酮的组合在改善肝脏组织学方面明显优于单独使用VE^[9]。Pietu等^[12]研究也发现VE(500 IU/d)联合熊去氧胆酸(ursodeoxycholic acid, UDCA)治疗NASH,4年后能够有效改善肝功能,同时约有33%左右患者的肝组织学明显改善。最近的研究也表明VE(600 mg/d)联合生活方式干预6 mo后,与单纯生活方式干预相比,能够有效降低氧化应激水平和改善有氧代谢,从而改善肥胖的NAFLD儿童的肝功能、糖脂代谢和胰岛素抵抗^[13]。

1.2 VE的用药原则 美国非酒精性脂肪性肝病诊疗指南指出VE(800 IU/d)对肝活组织检查证实的NASH以及可疑NASH儿童的肝组织学损害有改善作用。VE(800 IU/d)能改善无糖尿病的成年NASH患者的肝组织学损伤,因此,VE可作为成年无糖尿病的NASH患者的首选用药。不推荐VE用于治疗合并糖尿病的NASH、没有肝活组织检查资料的NAFLD、NASH肝硬化或隐源性肝硬化。因其疗效仍待考证,暂不推荐用于儿童NASH的常规治疗^[14,15]。

1.3 VE的用药安全 Miller等^[16]的一项荟萃分析指出补充高剂量的VE可能增加全因死亡率,然而一项大型的随机对照试验,对使用者平均随访8年结果显示VE(400 IU, 隔日)对总死亡率没有显著影响,但会增加出血性中风的风险^[17,18],此外,另一项近期的随机对照试验表明,男性补充VE(400 IU/d)会增加前列腺癌的风险^[19],所以对VE的用药安全仍需引起注意。同时对大鼠研究也表明,大量VE(10000 mg/kg)反而会导致机体抗氧化酶活性的下降^[20]。Hajiani等^[21]对小鼠实验也发现,饲料添加VE(600 mg/kg)饲养6 wk,可降低抗氧化酶的活性,诱导肝脏出现脂质过氧化。说明VE的剂量过高,可能会对机体产生不利的影响。

2 VE防治NAFLD的机制

2.1 维生素E和氧应激脂质过氧化的关系 在

NAFLD发病过程中, 肝内大量活性氧簇(reactive oxygen species, ROS)的产生造成线粒体功能的损害和抗氧化系统的消耗, 引起氧应激, 直接导致肝细胞膜脂质过氧化使细胞受到损伤, 或通过增加细胞因子表达引起肝细胞凋亡或坏死、炎性浸润、星状细胞活化等病理改变^[22]。VE能与自由基反应以清除ROS, 使脂质过氧化链中断。在自由基进攻的早期, VE通过消除细胞膜中产生的自由基, 保护细胞膜中的高不饱和脂肪酸, 阻断其氧化过程, 从而抑制膜磷脂形成脂质过氧化。通过抑制磷脂过氧化^[23,24], VE能够提高线粒体的膜电位, 改善线粒体的功能, 从而抑制线粒体ROS的产生^[25]。同时VE还能降低小鼠的丙二醛(malondialdehyde, MDA)水平, 同时降低机体脂质及蛋白质损伤程度, 升高谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶(glutathione peroxidase, GPX)和超氧化物歧化酶(superoxide dismutase, SOD)活性, 提高机体的抗氧化能力^[26]。核因子-κB(nuclear factor-κB, NF-κB)是重要的对氧化应激敏感的核转录因子, 过多ROS的堆积使NF-κB激活, 进而上调肿瘤坏死因子-α(tumor necrosis factor-α, TNF-α)、转化生长因子-β(transforming growth factor-β, TGF-β)、白介素(interleukin, IL-6)等炎症因子表达, 反过来增加ROS的生成, VE能通过调控氧应激和炎症信号降低这些细胞因子的表达, 改善肝脏炎症和纤维化反应^[27]。

2.2 VE和脂代谢的关系 脂质在肝脏异常异位蓄积是NAFLD发生的主要原因。在对哺乳动物的研究中发现VE通过抑制甲基戊二酸单酰辅酶A还原酶(HMG-CoAR)的表达, 降低胆固醇的堆积^[28]。此外, Burdeos等^[29]在HepG2细胞和F344大鼠中发现, VE通过下调脂肪酸合成酶的表达、升高脂肪酸β氧化相关基因(细胞色素氧化酶P450 3A4和肉毒碱棕榈酰转移酶)的表达降低甘油三酯, 而对胆固醇则没有明显的改变, 表明VE在降低胆固醇方面的作用还存在争议。同时临床研究也表明, VE能够降低高胆固醇血症患者的血清总胆固醇、低密度脂蛋白胆固醇、载脂蛋白B和甘油三酯的水平, 改善脂代谢^[30]。3T3-L1前脂肪细胞在诱导剂诱导下能够分化为成熟的脂肪细胞, 有研究表明, VE可通过抑制磷酸酯酶A2的活性从而抑制前列腺素的产生和Akt磷酸化来降低胰岛素诱导的3T3-L1细胞分化, 降低小鼠体质量^[31,32]。

2.3 VE和糖代谢的关系 近年来研究发现, 氧化应激对糖代谢有一定影响, 同时升高的葡萄糖

也可以促进线粒体ROS的产生, 引起细胞内氧化应激反应^[33]。流行病学研究显示低血浆VE的男性患糖尿病的风险相比对照组增加4倍^[34]。而VE通过其抗氧化能力可增强肝细胞功能, 改善胰岛素抵抗^[35,36]。同时VE也能够清除氧自由基, 降低caspase3的活性, 保护STZ诱导的胰岛β细胞损伤^[37]。同时有研究发现, VE可以有效降低糖尿病大鼠的血糖和糖化血红蛋白, 同时在(600-900 mg/kg)范围内可能存在剂量反应关系^[38]。脂联素能够刺激AMP-活化蛋白激酶, 增加骨骼肌中脂肪酸的氧化和葡萄糖转运, 同时抑制肝脏中脂肪的生成。VE通过激活PPAR及其内源性受体上调脂联素的表达^[39,40], 从而上调GLUT4的表达, 改善大鼠对葡萄糖的利用, 并提高胰岛素的敏感性^[41,42]。有研究也发现VE能够独立于胰岛素信号而通过增加肌肉中AMPK和脂肪酸氧化酶的表达而改善DEX诱导的糖尿病大鼠的糖耐量^[43]。

2.4 维生素E和铁代谢的关系 铁代谢失常和NAFLD的关系还存在争议。美国对经活检证实的NAFLD患者的大型研究表明, 1/3的患者存在铁代谢异常^[44]。相关研究也发现, NAFLD患者的转铁蛋白受体1(TfR1)、转铁蛋白受体2(TfR2)、铁调素(hepeidin)、血清铁和铁蛋白都明显升高^[45,46], 铁超载的NAFLD患者的氧化应激的标志物血清硫氧还蛋白也显著升高, 表明铁超载能够通过Fenton反应催化ROS引起氧应激^[47], 提示铁代谢失常是NAFLD发生发展的因素之一。Chalasani等^[48]发现VE能够改善铁诱导的大鼠肝脏脂质过氧化和肝细胞损伤, 防止肝纤维化的发生。同时VE能减轻铁诱导的毒性反应^[49], 降低大鼠肝组织的不稳定铁离子^[50], 增强肝细胞活力^[51]。李敏等^[52]也报导VE还能够降低高糖培养下L02细胞活性氧的含量, 降低IRP1、TfR1、TfR2蛋白表达和铁调素的水平, 改善铁介导的氧应激和糖脂代谢紊乱, 逆转肝细胞损伤。

3 结论

VE在改善肝脏氧应激、脂质过氧化、糖脂代谢、铁代谢方面发挥重要作用。在治疗NAFLD中发挥重要作用, 但其临床应用仍需考虑病情进展等因素来决定其应用与否和使用的剂量。

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■相关报道
据报道VE在改善氧应激和糖脂代谢等方面具有作用, 但其在NAFLD中的应用疗效方面研究结果不一。

■创新盘点

本文总结了近几年有关维生素E对NAFLD的疗效及相关机制的研究报道，同时综合阐述了维生素E的用药原则、不良反应等，为VE治疗NAFLD合理使用提供依据和指导。

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■同行评价

本文对VE能否成为NAFLD的辅助治疗及预防制剂有一定参考价值.

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