

· 经典名方 ·

洗心汤对D-半乳糖联合 $A\beta_{25-35}$ 诱导的AD模型大鼠结肠黏膜屏障及TLR4/NF- κ B p65信号通路的影响

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[摘要] 目的: 该研究旨在探讨洗心汤是否可通过修复结肠黏膜屏障, 调控 Toll 样受体 4 (TLR4)/核转录因子- κ B p65 (NF- κ B p65) 信号通路, 干预脑肠轴介导的病理过程, 从而改善 D-半乳糖与 β 淀粉样蛋白 ($A\beta_{25-35}$) 诱导的阿尔茨海默病 (AD) 大鼠模型的认知功能障碍。方法: 60 只 SPF 级雄性 SD 大鼠随机分为 5 组 ($n=12$): 正常组、模型组、多奈哌齐组、洗心汤组和益生菌组。除正常组外, 其余各组大鼠每日腹腔注射 D-半乳糖连续 6 周, 随后于双侧脑室立体定位注射聚集态 $A\beta_{25-35}$ 建立 AD 模型。干预期间, 给予各组大鼠相应药物及生理盐水灌胃处理。采用 Morris 水迷宫实验评估大鼠空间学习记忆能力; 苏木素-伊红 (HE) 染色法观察结肠组织病理形态变化; 免疫荧光法检测海马区 $A\beta_{1-42}$ 沉积及结肠黏膜黏蛋白 2 (MUC2) 表达; 蛋白免疫印迹法 (Western blot) 检测大鼠海马区 FFAR2、TLR4、NF- κ B p65、闭合蛋白 (Occludin)、闭锁小带蛋白-1 (ZO-1) 及黏蛋白 2 (MUC2) 蛋白表达水平; 酶联免疫吸附测定法 (ELISA) 检测结肠组织白细胞介素-6 (IL-6)、肿瘤坏死因子- α (TNF- α)、血清淀粉样蛋白 A (SAA) 及海马区 $A\beta_{1-42}$ 含量; 鲎试剂动态显色法测定大鼠结肠组织脂多糖 (LPS) 浓度。结果: 与正常组比较, 模型组大鼠逃避潜伏期显著延长 ($P<0.01$), 目标象限停留时间显著缩短 ($P<0.01$); 结肠黏膜结构完整性受损, 腺体排列紊乱, 杯状细胞数量减少; 海马区 $A\beta_{1-42}$ 沉积显著增多 ($P<0.01$); 结肠组织中 TLR4、NF- κ B p65 蛋白表达水平显著上调 ($P<0.01$), Occludin、ZO-1 蛋白表达水平显著下调 ($P<0.01$); 炎症因子 IL-6、TNF- α 及 SAA 含量显著升高 ($P<0.01$); 血清 LPS 水平显著升高 ($P<0.01$)。与模型组比较, 洗心汤组大鼠逃避潜伏期显著缩短 ($P<0.01$), 目标象限停留时间显著延长 ($P<0.01$); 结肠黏膜结构改善, 腺体排列整齐, 杯状细胞数量增多; 海马区 $A\beta_{1-42}$ 沉积显著减少 ($P<0.01$); 结肠组织 TLR4、NF- κ B p65 蛋白表达水平明显降低 ($P<0.05, P<0.01$), Occludin、ZO-1 蛋白表达水平显著升高 ($P<0.01$); IL-6、TNF- α 及 SAA 含量显著下降 ($P<0.01$); LPS 水平显著降低 ($P<0.01$)。结论: 洗心汤可通过修复结肠黏膜屏障结构, 减少脑内 $A\beta$ 沉积, 抑制外周及中枢炎症反应, 从而显著改善 AD 模型大鼠认知功能障碍, 其作用机制可能与抑制 TLR4/NF- κ B 信号通路活化, 降低内毒素水平, 调节肠脑轴密切相关。

[关键词] 阿尔茨海默病; 洗心汤; 脑肠轴; Toll 样受体 4 (TLR4)/核转录因子- κ B p65 (NF- κ B p65) 信号通路; 结肠黏膜屏障

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Effect of Xixintang on Colonic Mucosal Barrier and TLR4/NF- κ B p65 Signaling Pathway in AD Model Rats Induced by D-galactose Combined with $A\beta_{25-35}$

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[Abstract] **Objective:** This study aims to investigate whether Xixintang could ameliorate cognitive dysfunction in an Alzheimer's disease (AD) rat model induced by *D*-galactose and β -amyloid ($A\beta_{25-35}$), by means of repairing the colonic mucosal barrier, regulating the Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)/nuclear factor- κ B p65 (NF- κ B p65) signaling pathway, and intervening in the pathological process mediated by the gut-brain axis. **Methods:** Sixty specific pathogen-free (SPF) male Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats were randomly divided to five groups ($n=12$): A control group, a model group, a donepezil group, an Xixintang group, and a probiotic group. Except for those in the control group, rats in all other groups received daily intraperitoneal injections of *D*-galactose for six consecutive weeks. Subsequently, aggregated $A\beta_{25-35}$ was injected stereotactically into the bilateral ventricles to establish the AD model. During the intervention periods, the rats in all groups were administered their respective drugs and normal saline by gavage. The Morris water maze test was used to assess the capacity for spatial learning and memory. Hematoxylin-eosin (HE) staining was employed to observe the histopathological changes in the colon tissues. Immunofluorescence was used to detect $A\beta_{1-41}$ deposition in the hippocampal region and Mucin 2 (MUC2) expression in the colonic mucosa. Western blot was performed to measure the protein expression levels of FFAR2, TLR4, NF- κ B p65, occludin (OCLN), zonula occludens-1 (ZO-1), and MUC2 in the colonic tissues. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) was used to determine the contents of interleukin-6 (IL-6), tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α), serum amyloid A (SAA), and $A\beta_{1-42}$ in the hippocampal region from the colonic tissues. The lipopolysaccharide (LPS) concentrations in colon tissues of rats were measured by using a dynamic chromogenic limulus assay. **Results:** Compared with those in the control group, the rats in the model group exhibited a significantly prolonged escape latency and a markedly shorter duration in the target quadrant ($P<0.01$). The integrity of the colonic mucosal structure was compromised, with disordered gland arrangement and a reduced number of goblet cells. The $A\beta_{1-42}$ deposition in the hippocampal region was significantly increased ($P<0.01$). The protein expression levels of TLR4 and NF- κ B p65 in colonic tissues were significantly upregulated ($P<0.01$), while those of occludin and ZO-1 were downregulated ($P<0.01$). The contents of inflammatory factors such as IL-6, TNF- α , and SAA were significantly elevated ($P<0.01$), and the LPS level in the serum was markedly increased ($P<0.01$). In comparison to those in the model group, the rats in the Xixintang group showed a significantly shortened escape latency and a prolonged duration in the target quadrant ($P<0.01$). The colonic mucosal structure was ameliorated, with neat gland arrangement and an increased number of goblet cells. The $A\beta_{1-42}$ deposition in the hippocampal region was reduced ($P<0.01$). The protein expressions of TLR4 and NF- κ B p65 in the colon tissues were decreased ($P<0.05, P<0.01$), while the protein levels of occludin and ZO-1 were increased ($P<0.01$). The contents of IL-6, TNF- α , and serum amyloid A (SAA) were decreased ($P<0.01$), and the LPS level was reduced ($P<0.01$). **Conclusion:** Xixintang can significantly ameliorate cognitive dysfunction of AD model rats, by means of restoring the colonic mucosal barrier structure, reducing cerebral $A\beta$ deposition, and suppressing peripheral and central inflammatory response. Its mechanism of action may be closely associated with the suppression of the TLR4/NF- κ B signaling pathway activation, reduction of endotoxin levels, and regulation of the gut-brain axis.

[Keywords] Alzheimer's disease; Xixintang; gut-brain axis; Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4)/nuclear factor- κ B p65 (NF- κ B p65) signaling pathway; colonic mucosal barrier

阿尔茨海默病(AD)是一种以进行性认知功能衰退为特征的神经退行性病变,已成为老年人群死亡的主要病因之一^[1]。近年来对AD病理学的研究主要聚焦于大脑内的 β 淀粉样蛋白($A\beta$)沉积和Tau蛋白过度磷酸化^[2],现有治疗策略仅能有限地缓解症状,难以有效阻断疾病进展。近年研究显示,肠道微生物失调在中枢神经系统(CNS)疾病的发病中发挥重要作用^[3-4]。短链脂肪酸(SCFAs)的关键受体游离脂肪酸受体2(FFAR2)下调^[5-6],肠黏膜屏障受损,肠道通透性升高,从而导致肠腔内源于革兰氏阴性菌的脂多糖(LPS)等有害物质泄漏至血液循环中^[7-8]。Toll样受体4(TLR4)作为先天免疫系统的关键受体,能够特异性识别LPS,并通过激活其下游核心信号通路核转录因子- κ B(NF- κ B)p65,级联放大炎症反应^[9-10]。在AD病理背景下,循环中的LPS可直接作用于血脑屏障(BBB)内皮细胞表面的TLR4,激活下游NF- κ B信号通路,破坏BBB的结构

与功能完整性,使外周炎症因子[如白细胞介素-6(IL-6)、肿瘤坏死因子- α (TNF- α)等]、毒素及免疫细胞等穿透BBB,侵入中枢神经系统,从而加剧中枢神经炎症,促进 $A\beta$ 沉积并最终导致神经元损伤和认知功能衰退^[11-13]。同时,炎症因子还可通过调控晚期糖基化终末产物受体/低密度脂蛋白受体相关蛋白1受体系统(RAGE/LRP1),减少 $A\beta$ 的清除与转运,导致脑内 $A\beta$ 异常沉积^[14-15]。因此,通过修复肠道屏障以减少LPS等肠源性毒素入血,同时抑制TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路活化,可阻断外周炎症向中枢传导,减轻BBB损伤及中枢神经炎症,可能对于缓解AD病理进程具有重要意义。

在中医理论体系中,AD归属于“痴呆”“健忘”等范畴。清代陈士铎在《辨证录·呆病门》中以“痰积胸中、神明不清”阐释其病机,并创制洗心汤,确立“开郁逐痰、健胃通气”的治疗原则。基于此理论,第五永长团队进一步深化其理论认识,提出“髓

空痰浊”为AD发病的核心病机,治疗上从后天立论,强调“补气生精养髓,祛痰开窍益智”^[16]。洗心汤作为髓空痰蒙型AD的代表性方剂,其现代药效学研究已取得初步进展。前期研究证实,洗心汤可显著增加肠道菌群操作分类单元(OTU)数量,优化拟杆菌门及厚壁菌门等优势菌门分布结构,同时提升脑肠区脑源性神经营养因子(BDNF)及BDNF-络氨酸激酶受体B(TrkB)相关蛋白表达,通过恢复肠道微生态平衡、降低外周炎症负荷并减少海马区A β_{1-42} 沉淀,最终改善AD模型大鼠病理损害,初步揭示了该方通过脑肠轴干预AD的潜在机制^[17-19]。然而,肠道菌群变化影响肠道屏障结构的具体方式,以及肠道屏障损伤如何通过炎症信号影响中枢病理进程,仍待进一步阐明。为此,本文在前期研究基础上,探究该方是否通过抑制TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路,修复肠屏障功能,进而阻断“肠-脑”间炎症信号传导,旨在为洗心汤临床治疗AD提供更充分的实验依据。

1 材料

1.1 动物 实验选用60只2月龄SPF级雄性SD大鼠,体质量(210 \pm 10)g,合格证号SCXX(川)2020-0030,由成都达硕实验动物中心提供。实验动物饲养于陕西中医药大学中药资源产业化协同创新中心的SPF级动物房内,其间动物可自由摄取饲料与饮水。

1.2 伦理 本研究的实验流程与饲养管理均遵循陕西中医药大学动物伦理委员会的相关规定,且已取得该委员会批准(编号SUCMDL20240424002)。

1.3 药物 洗心汤配方颗粒由人参、陈皮、酸枣仁、姜半夏、茯苓、焦六神曲、石菖蒲、黑顺片、炙甘草组成(广东一方制药有限公司,批号分别为G4010643、G4031203、A3090313、A3070423、S3090623、A3080773、S4020133、AB410233、A312L643)。洗心汤原方为传统汤剂,本实验选用配方颗粒,便于剂量精准控制、给药稳定及动物实验规范化操作;该方临床常用于改善认知功能障碍及相关神志异常疾病,疗效确切。实验所用配方颗粒,规格为19.06 g/剂(相当于原生药132 g),采用60 $^{\circ}$ C超纯水配制成质量浓度为0.518 4 g \cdot mL⁻¹的溶液。益生菌冻干粉(河北一然生物科技有限公司,批号6905183205799,规格7 g/袋),常温超纯水配成1.904 g \cdot L⁻¹溶液。盐酸多奈哌齐片[卫材(中国)药业有限公司,批号H20050978,规格5 mg/片],使用常温超纯水配制成0.25 g \cdot L⁻¹溶液。各药液均现配现用。

1.4 试剂与仪器 戊巴比妥钠(生兴生物技术有限公司,批号3G223G27);大鼠IL-6、TNF- α 、血清淀粉样蛋白A(SAA)酶联免疫吸附测定法(ELISA)试剂盒,闭合蛋白(Occludin)、紧密连接蛋白-1(ZO-1)、FFAR2、NF- κ B p65、TLR4、黏蛋白2(MUC2)一抗, β -肌动蛋白(β -actin)、辣根过氧化物酶(HRP)-羊抗兔免疫球蛋白G(IgG)抗体(武汉博士德生物工程有限公司,批号分别为202507、202507、202504、BM4832、PB9234、A024422、A002841、A00017、BM5029、2BA2305、BA1054);二喹啉甲酸(BCA)蛋白定量试剂盒、蛋白上样品缓冲液、放射免疫沉淀法(RIPA)裂解液、蛋白酶磷酸酶抑制剂(上海碧云天生物技术有限公司,批号分别为P0013B、P0015A、P0010、P1045);甘油醛-3-磷酸脱氢酶(GAPDH)抗体、DBA显色试剂盒、苏木素-伊红(HE)染液(武汉塞维尔生物科技有限公司,批号分别为GB11002-100、G1212、G-1005);D-半乳糖(D-Gal)、A β_{25-35} (上海源叶生物科技有限公司,批号分别为JS260131、JS240706);内毒素检测试剂盒(厦门睿试剂生物科技股份有限公司,批号EC80545S)。

DW-2000型脑立体定位仪、WMT-100S型Morris水迷宫实验系统(成都泰盟仪器有限公司);F50型多功能酶标仪(瑞士Tecan泰康公司);TY2019001800型超速冷冻离心机(美国Thermo公司);Gel Doc Go型Gel Doc XR+Gel Documentation System凝胶成像系统(美国伯乐公司);Nikon Eclipse C1型正置荧光显微镜(日本尼康公司);ATR-BML50型石蜡包埋机(艾瑞特医疗科技有限公司);E0971型冰冻切片机(上海碧云天生物技术有限公司)。

2 方法

2.1 动物分组及处理 60只SD大鼠通过随机数字表法分为正常组、AD模型组、多奈哌齐组、洗心汤组与益生菌组5组。大鼠适应性喂养1周后,参考文献[20-21]的方法,采用D-Gal溶液腹腔注射联合双侧脑室注射A β_{25-35} 构建AD复合模型,以逃避潜伏期显著延长及脑中A β_{1-42} 明显聚集作为造模成功的标准^[22-24]。各治疗组每日注射D-Gal溶液(150 mg \cdot kg⁻¹),正常组腹腔注射等体积生理盐水,腹腔注射结束后实施脑内注射,大鼠麻醉固定后,于前囟后3 mm、矢状缝旁开2.5 mm处钻孔,垂直进针3 mm,缓慢注入聚集态A β_{25-35} 溶液5 μ L,正常组同法注射等量生理盐水。术后切口涂抹红霉素软膏预防感染,待大鼠恢复3 d后灌胃干预,每日予以

益生菌组(30.85 mg·kg⁻¹)、多奈哌齐组(0.88 mg·kg⁻¹)及洗心汤组(1.174 g·kg⁻¹)含药溶液灌胃,正常组和模型组予等体积生理盐水,干预周期为1个月。

2.2 Morris水迷宫试验 末次灌胃后,连续5 d进行定向航行训练,每日依次将大鼠从4个象限面壁放入水中,记录其60 s内找到安全平台的逃避潜伏期和运动轨迹;找到平台后停留10 s以巩固记忆,若60 s之内未找到,则标记为60 s并引导大鼠上平台并停留10 s。训练结束后第6天撤除平台,将大鼠从相对象限放入水中,记录每组大鼠第6天60 s内在原平台所在象限滞留时间、有效区域经过次数。

2.3 采用HE染色法观察AD模型大鼠结肠组织的病理形态改变 行为学测试完成后,采用0.5%戊巴比妥钠(按照50 mg·kg⁻¹剂量腹腔注射)对大鼠实施麻醉。随后迅速开腹,完整截取距肛门6 cm处的1 cm长结肠组织,用生理盐水冲洗干净内容物后,置于4%多聚甲醛中固定24 h。经梯度乙醇脱水、二甲苯透明、石蜡包埋后,连续切成4 μm厚的切片,捞片后于60 °C条件下烤片2 h。切片经脱蜡至水步骤后,行HE染色,以中性树胶封片,光镜下观察各组大鼠结肠黏膜、炎性浸润及腺体结构等病理形态变化。

2.4 免疫荧光法检测海马组织Aβ₁₋₄₂沉积及结肠组织MUC2的表达情况 海马及结肠石蜡切片,经二甲苯、梯度乙醇、蒸馏水脱蜡至水后,组织切片置于柠檬酸抗原修复缓冲液中抗原修复,加入牛血清白蛋白(BSA)封闭,滴加Aβ₁₋₄₂(1:300)或MUC2(1:1500)一抗,4 °C孵育过夜,磷酸盐缓冲液(PBS)洗涤,避光条件下滴加对应荧光二抗,三甲川花菁染料(Cy3)标记山羊抗小鼠IgG(1:300)或Cy3标记山羊抗兔IgG(1:300),室温避光孵育1 h,滴加4',6-二脒基-2-苯基吡啶(DAPI)染液,PBS洗涤,加入自发荧光淬灭剂,封片,显微镜下采集图像,Image J测定红光平均荧光强度,定量Aβ₁₋₄₂及MUC2表达水平。

2.5 蛋白免疫印迹法(Western blot)检测结肠组织中FFAR2、TLR4、NF-κB p65、Occludin、ZO-1、MUC2的蛋白表达情况 取结肠组织加裂解液匀浆、离心后取上清,BCA定量并金属浴变性;经十二烷基硫酸钠-聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳(SDS-PAGE)分离、聚偏二氟乙烯(PVDF)转印,无蛋白封闭液室温封闭;TLR4、NF-κB p65、Occludin、ZO-1(1:1000),MUC2(1:1500)一抗,4 °C孵育过夜,TBST洗膜后

加入对应二抗β-actin(1:3000)或GAPDH(1:5000),37 °C孵育1 h,再次洗涤;增强化学发光法(ECL)化学发光暗室曝光成像,使用Image J软件对蛋白质条带密度进行定量分析。

2.6 ELISA检测结肠组织IL-6、SAA、TNF-α及海马区Aβ₁₋₄₂的表达情况 取结肠组织或海马组织加预冷PBS匀浆,低温离心后取上清。将梯度稀释标准品与待测样本加入96孔板,温育使抗原与固相抗体结合;弃液后加入检测抗体继续温育,经多次洗板后加酶标记亲和素反应;再次洗板后加底物避光显色,最后加终止液。用酶标仪读取吸光度A,绘制标准曲线计算各因子浓度,根据标准曲线计算IL-6、SAA、TNF-α、Aβ₁₋₄₂浓度。

2.7 免疫组化检测结肠组织中TLR4、NF-κB p65的表达 石蜡切片经脱蜡至水处理后自然冷却,用PBS洗涤3次,每次5 min。随后将切片置于3%双氧水溶液中,室温避光条件下孵育,孵育结束后洗涤。滴加3% BSA进行封闭处理,封闭后加入TLR4(1:300)或NF-κB p65(1:300)一抗,于4 °C环境中孵育过夜。次日,用PBS冲洗切片3次,每次5 min,接着滴加HRP标记山羊抗兔IgG二抗(1:500),再次以PBS冲洗3次(5 min/次)。之后滴加DAB显色液进行显色,显色完成后经苏木素复染,再依次脱水、透明,最后进行封片操作。白光显微镜下判读结果,Image J软件分析图片,计算阳性表达的光密度值。

2.8 萤试剂动态显色法检测大鼠结肠组织LPS含量 取结肠组织上清液,70 °C加热10 min灭活蛋白,冷却后按萤试剂盒说明加入萤试剂动态显色体系,37 °C恒温动态读板90 min,405 nm连续监测A,以配套标准曲线计算LPS浓度(EU·mL⁻¹),每板设阴性、阳性对照。

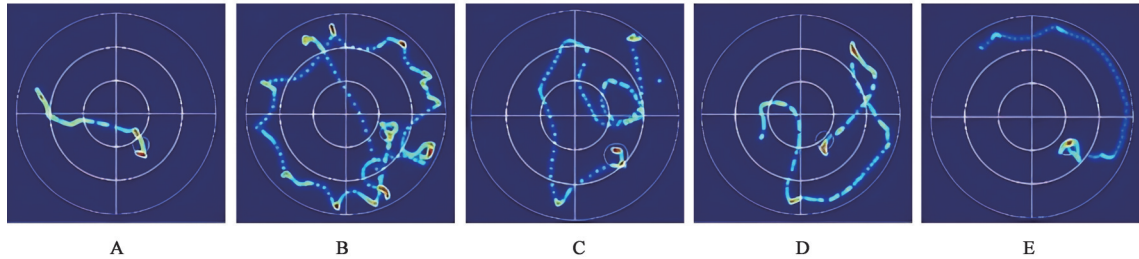
2.9 统计学分析 实验数据采用Graphpad Prism 10.2软件进行分析,结果以 $\bar{x} \pm s$ 表示。数据经检验后,若满足方差齐性条件,多组间比较采用单因素方差分析(One-way ANOVA),组间两两比较则选用最小显著性差异法(LSD);若存在方差不齐的情况,多组比较改为非参数Kruskal-Wallis检验,组间两两比较通过Bonferroni校正法完成。当P<0.05时,认为组间差异具有统计学意义。

3 结果

3.1 洗心汤对各组大鼠行为学的影响 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠第6天的逃避潜伏期显著延长(P<0.01),其在目标象限的停留时间则显著缩短(P<

0.01)。与模型组比较,益生菌组、多奈哌齐组和洗心汤组大鼠第6天的逃避潜伏期显著缩短($P <$

0.01),多奈哌齐组、洗心汤组大鼠在目标象限的停留时间明显延长($P < 0.05, P < 0.01$)。见图1、表1。



注:A.正常组;B.模型组;C.益生菌组;D.多奈哌齐组;E.洗心汤组(图2-图7同)

图1 洗心汤对大鼠在水迷宫中的逃避潜伏期的影响

Fig. 1 Effect of Xixintang on route trajectory of rats searching for safe platform in the water maze

表1 洗心汤对大鼠逃避潜伏期及目标象限停留时间的影响($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 1 Effect of Xixintang on escape latency and target quadrant search time of rats ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	逃避潜伏期	目标象限停留时间
正常组		6.23±1.92	24.35±1.76
模型组		54.97±7.22 ¹⁾	6.45±4.76 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	42.81±5.64 ³⁾	11.10±4.40
多奈哌齐组	0.88	25.19±7.68 ³⁾	11.30±2.25 ²⁾
洗心汤组	1 174	10.18±2.65 ³⁾	14.66±3.31 ³⁾

注:与正常组比较¹⁾ $P < 0.01$;与模型组比较²⁾ $P < 0.05$,³⁾ $P < 0.01$ (表3、表4和表6同)

3.2 洗心汤对AD模型大鼠结肠组织的病理形态改变 正常组大鼠结肠组织结构完整,腺体排列紧密,杯状细胞丰富。与正常组比较,模型组大鼠肠黏膜明显受损,腺体排列紊乱、萎缩,并伴有隐窝、杯状细胞减少。与模型组比较,各给药组肠黏膜受损与腺体萎缩情况均有所改善,其中洗心汤组腺体排列相对整齐,肠腺及杯状细胞数量增多。与洗心汤组比较,益生菌组和多奈哌齐组杯状细胞数目减少,腺体数目减少并伴有萎缩。见图2。

3.3 洗心汤对各组大鼠海马中A β_{1-42} 沉积及结肠组织MUC2的表达情况 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠

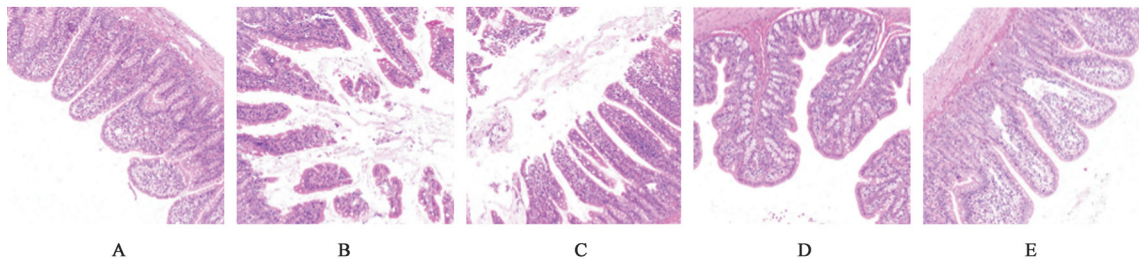


图2 洗心汤对大鼠结肠组织病理学改变的影响(HE,×100)

Fig. 2 Effect of Xixintang on pathological changes of colon tissues in rats (HE,×100)

海马区的A β_{1-42} 平均荧光强度显著升高($P < 0.01$),结肠组织MUC2平均荧光强度显著降低($P < 0.01$)。与模型组比较,洗心汤组、益生菌组及多奈哌齐组大鼠海马区的A β_{1-42} 平均荧光强度显著降低($P < 0.01$),结肠MUC2平均荧光强度显著升高($P < 0.01$)。见图3、图4、表2。

3.4 洗心汤对各组大鼠结肠组织中FFAR2、TLR4、NF- κ B p65、Occludin、ZO-1、MUC2蛋白表达的影响 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠结肠组织中FFAR2、Occludin、ZO-1、MUC2的蛋白表达水平显著下调($P < 0.01$),TLR4、NF- κ B p65的蛋白表达水平显著上调($P < 0.01$);与模型组比较,益生菌组、多

奈哌齐组Occludin、ZO-1蛋白表达水平明显升高($P < 0.05, P < 0.01$);洗心汤组FFAR2、MUC2、Occludin、ZO-1蛋白表达水平明显升高($P < 0.05, P < 0.01$),NF- κ B p65、TLR4蛋白表达水平明显下降($P < 0.05, P < 0.01$)。见图5、表3。

3.5 洗心汤对各组大鼠结肠组织IL-6、SAA、TNF- α 及海马区A β_{1-42} 含量的影响 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠结肠组织中的IL-6、TNF- α 、SAA及海马区A β_{1-42} 含量显著上升($P < 0.01$);与模型组比较,益生菌组大鼠结肠组织中IL-6、TNF- α 、SAA含量明显下降($P < 0.05, P < 0.01$);多奈哌齐组和洗心汤组大鼠结肠组织中的IL-6、TNF- α 、SAA及海马区A β_{1-42}

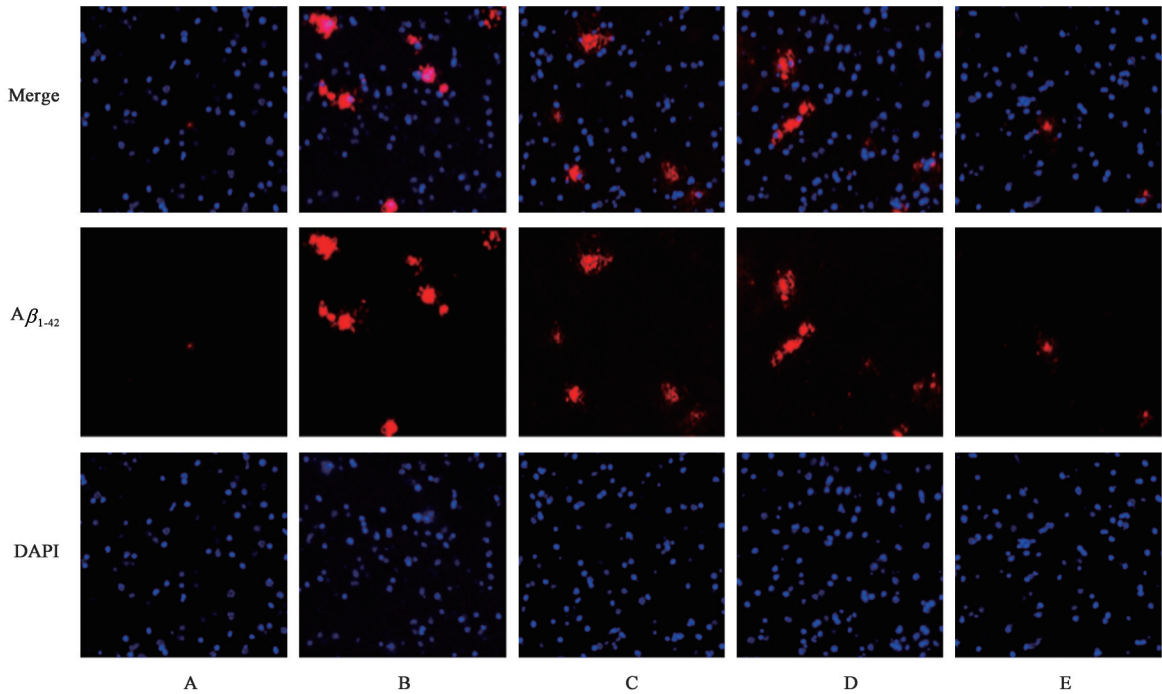


图3 洗心汤对大鼠海马区 $A\beta_{1-42}$ 表达的影响 (免疫荧光, $\times 200$)

Fig. 3 Effect of Xixintang on expression of $A\beta_{1-42}$ in hippocampal region of rats (IF, $\times 200$)

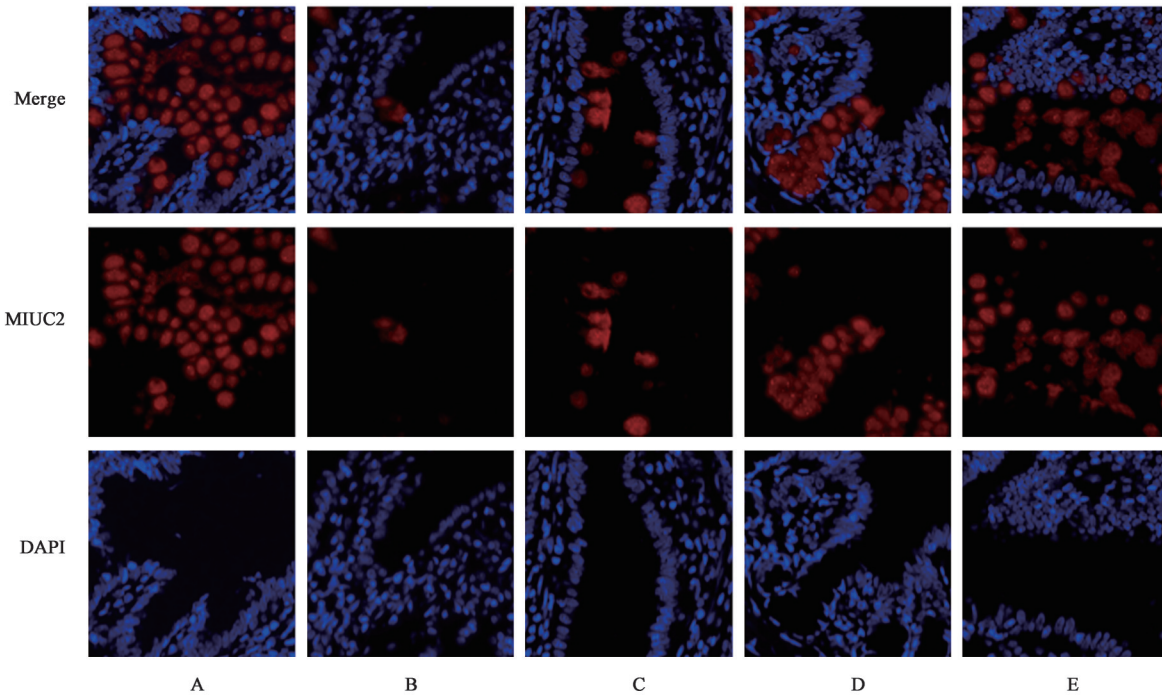


图4 洗心汤对大鼠结肠内 MUC2 表达的影响 (免疫荧光, $\times 400$)

Fig. 4 Effect of Xixintang on MUC2 in colon of rats (IF, $\times 400$)

含量均显著下降 ($P < 0.01$)。见表4。

3.6 洗心汤对各组大鼠结肠组织中 NF- κ B p65、TLR4 蛋白表达的影响 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠结肠组织中 NF- κ B p65、TLR4 的蛋白表达水平均显著升高 ($P < 0.01$);与模型组比较,益生菌组、多奈哌齐组、洗心汤组大鼠结肠组织中 NF- κ B p65 的蛋

白表达水平均显著降低 ($P < 0.01$);多奈哌齐组、洗心汤组大鼠结肠组织中 TLR4 的蛋白表达水平显著降低 ($P < 0.01$)。见图6、图7、表5。

3.7 洗心汤对各组大鼠结肠组织 LPS 含量的影响 与正常组比较,模型组大鼠结肠组织 LPS 含量显著升高 ($P < 0.01$);与模型组比较,益生菌组、多奈哌齐

表2 洗心汤对大鼠海马区Aβ₁₋₄₂与结肠组织MUC2平均荧光强度的影响($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 2 Effect of Xixintang on mean fluorescence intensity of Aβ₁₋₄₂ in hippocampal region and MUC2 in colon tissues of rats ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	平均荧光强度	
		Aβ ₁₋₄₂	MUC2
正常组		7.31±1.90	45.38±4.39
模型组		70.57±4.33 ¹⁾	11.93±1.07 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	55.44±8.21 ²⁾	21.88±2.76 ²⁾
多奈哌齐组	0.88	44.50±14.70 ²⁾	24.11±2.43 ²⁾
洗心汤组	1 174	23.21±9.39 ²⁾	27.03±0.92 ²⁾

注:与正常组比较¹⁾P<0.01;与模型组比较²⁾P<0.01(表5同)

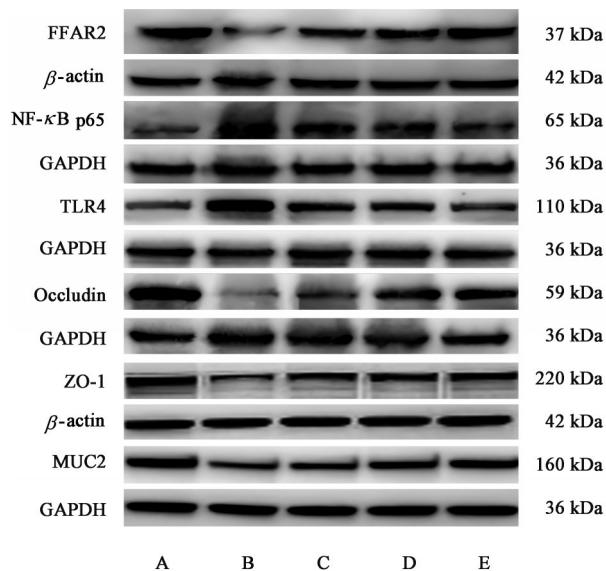


图5 各组大鼠结肠组织中FFAR2、TLR4、NF-κB p65、Occludin、ZO-1、MUC2的蛋白表达电泳

Fig. 5 Electrophoresis of FFAR2, TLR4, NF-κB p65, Occludin, ZO-1 and MUC2 protein expression in colon tissues of rats across various groups

组、洗心汤组大鼠结肠组织LPS含量明显降低($P<0.05, P<0.01$)。见表6。

表3 洗心汤对大鼠海马区FFAR2、TLR4、NF-κB p65、Occludin、ZO-1、MUC2蛋白相对表达量的影响($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

Table 3 Effect of Xixintang on FFAR2, TLR4, NF-κB p65, Occludin, ZO-1, MUC2 protein expression in colon tissues of rats across various groups ($\bar{x} \pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	FFAR2 /β-actin	TLR4 /GAPDH	NF-κB p65 /GAPDH	Occludin /GAPDH	ZO-1 /β-actin	MUC2 /GAPDH
模型组		0.48±0.15 ¹⁾	1.62±0.10 ¹⁾	1.93±0.40 ¹⁾	0.41±0.06 ¹⁾	0.41±0.06 ¹⁾	0.59±0.09 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	0.59±0.13	1.55±0.17	1.81±0.26	0.58±0.06 ²⁾	0.58±0.06 ²⁾	0.77±0.16
多奈哌齐组	0.88	0.69±0.15	1.51±0.16	1.70±0.28	0.68±0.08 ³⁾	0.68±0.08 ³⁾	0.77±0.05
洗心汤组	1 174	0.92±0.18 ²⁾	0.12±0.18 ³⁾	1.23±0.17 ²⁾	0.88±0.17 ³⁾	0.88±0.12 ³⁾	0.91±0.12 ²⁾

注:设正常组相关蛋白表达均为1

4 讨论

AD作为一种老年人群高发的神经退行性疾病,其临床核心特征为进行性认知功能衰退,病理机制主要涉及Aβ沉积形成的神经炎症斑块、Tau蛋白过度磷酸化形成的神经纤维原缠结,以及神经元丢失和胶质增生等方面^[25-26]。近年来,脑肠轴理论的兴起为AD发病机制研究提供了新视角,肠道微生物生态失调引发的肠黏膜屏障损伤与中枢炎症反应的关联性逐渐受到关注^[27-28]。洗心汤是源自中医古籍《辨证录·呆病门》的经典方剂,方中人参健脾益气以固根本,姜半夏、陈皮燥湿化痰以除标实,石菖蒲开窍醒神以通脑络,附子温阳化气以助痰消,诸药合用既补脾胃,又清痰浊,其“补益脾胃元气,化痰降浊开窍”的组方思路与AD“髓空痰蒙”的基本病机相符合^[16]。本研究行为学实验结果显示,AD模型大鼠的空间学习记忆能力严重受损;而经洗心汤干预后,大鼠的水迷宫逃避潜伏期显著缩短,且改善效果优于多奈哌齐组和益生菌组。免疫荧光结果进一步证实,洗心汤能够显著降低AD模型大鼠海马区Aβ₁₋₄₂的沉积水平。上述结果表明,洗心汤可有效减轻AD模型大鼠脑内Aβ病理沉积,提升大鼠学习记忆能力,与课题组前期研究结果一致^[29-30]。

大量研究表明,肠道微生物群通过肠-脑轴调节大脑功能和行为,在AD的发病机制中起关键作用^[31-32]。肠道菌群失调可能导致肠道屏障的通透性增加,进而加剧肠道的炎症^[33-34],其特征是革兰氏阴性菌的丰度增加^[35-36]。作为革兰氏阴性菌细胞壁的组成成分,LPS是介导炎症反应的关键^[37]。LPS刺激后,促炎因子被释放,从而导致肠道炎症环境的形成,最终造成肠黏膜屏障损伤^[38-39]。肠黏膜屏障是抵御肠道有害物质入血的物理防线,其完整性依赖于Occludin、ZO-1与MUC2的协同作用^[40-41]。Occludin与ZO-1通过形成细胞间紧密连接维持肠黏膜屏障的完整性,MUC2是杯状细胞分泌的黏液

表 4 洗心汤对大鼠结肠组织 TNF- α 、IL-6、SAA 及海马区 A β_{1-42} 含量的影响 ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

Table 4 Effect of Xixintang on TNF- α , IL-6 and SAA levels in colon tissues and A β_{1-42} content in hippocampal region of rats ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	结肠组织			海马区
		TNF- α	IL-6	SAA	A β_{1-42}
正常组		209.32±25.95	31.94±4.96	20.22±1.61	587.82±54.75
模型组		395.55±19.49 ¹⁾	56.44±4.31 ¹⁾	32.11±1.96 ¹⁾	777.45±52.46 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	368.86±21.06 ²⁾	51.20±5.38 ²⁾	29.41±1.91 ³⁾	733.20±41.29
多奈哌齐组	0.88	275.88±27.95 ³⁾	44.14±4.16 ³⁾	25.13±2.17 ³⁾	691.01±54.50 ³⁾
洗心汤组	1 174	255.15±19.98 ³⁾	37.42±4.57 ³⁾	22.79±2.69 ³⁾	637.75±47.19 ³⁾

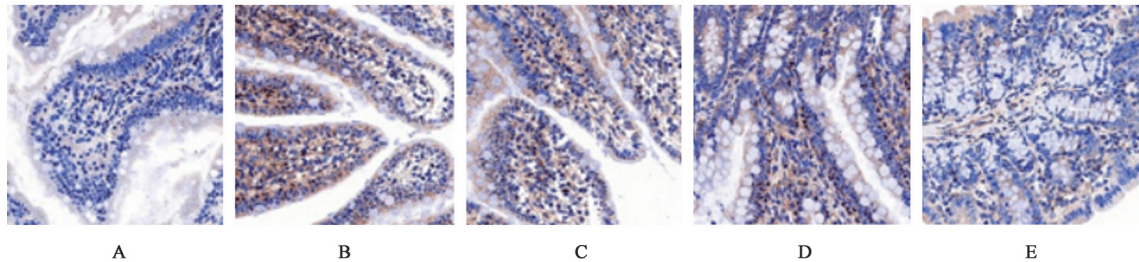


图 6 洗心汤对大鼠结肠黏膜 NF- κ B p65 蛋白表达的影响 (免疫组化, $\times 200$)

Fig. 6 Effect of Xixintang on NF- κ B p65 proteins expression in colonic mucosa of rats (IHC, $\times 200$)

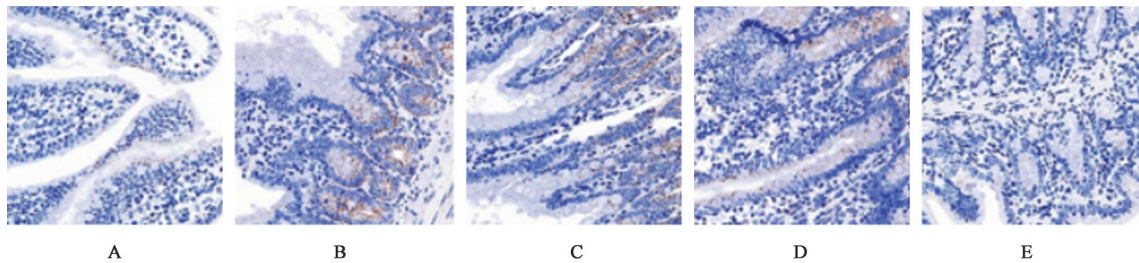


图 7 洗心汤对大鼠结肠黏膜 TLR4 蛋白表达的影响 (免疫组化, $\times 200$)

Fig. 7 Effect of Xixintang on TLR4 proteins expression in colonic mucosa of rats (IHC, $\times 200$)

表 5 洗心汤对大鼠结肠组织中 NF- κ B p65 与 TLR4 蛋白相对表达量的影响 ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

Table 5 Effect of Xixintang on relative expression levels of NF- κ B p65 and TLR4 proteins in colon tissues of rats ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	NF- κ B p65	TLR4
正常组		6.58±1.36	1.06±0.44
模型组		21.02±4.16 ¹⁾	2.68±0.45 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	12.01±1.77 ²⁾	1.98±0.76
多奈哌齐组	0.88	11.13±1.36 ²⁾	1.35±0.33 ²⁾
洗心汤组	1 174	9.13±2.13 ²⁾	1.17±0.41 ²⁾

表 6 洗心汤对大鼠结肠组织 LPS 含量的影响 ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

Table 6 Effect of Xixintang on LPS contents in colon tissues of rats ($\bar{x}\pm s, n=3$)

组别	剂量/mg·kg ⁻¹	LPS/EU·mL ⁻¹
正常组		0.18±0.05
模型组		0.48±0.08 ¹⁾
益生菌组	30.85	0.36±0.07 ²⁾
多奈哌齐组	0.88	0.35±0.08 ²⁾
洗心汤组	1 174	0.23±0.05 ³⁾

核心成分,其分泌的黏液层不仅能阻隔肠道菌群与上皮细胞的直接接触,还可中和有害物质从而加固屏障防线,三者表达下调均会导致肠黏膜屏障功能受损,肠道渗透性增高。此外,肠道菌群代谢产物可通过激活 FFAR2 调控肠黏膜屏障功能,而 FFAR2 表达异常会导致肠道通透性增加^[42]。本实验 HE 染

色结果显示,洗心汤组结肠黏膜较模型组结构明显修复,腺体排列整齐,杯状细胞数量增多,提示洗心汤可改善肠黏膜组织病理形态。经洗心汤干预后,大鼠血清 LPS 水平下降,结肠组织中 FFAR2、Occludin、ZO-1 蛋白相对表达增加,免疫荧光显示 MUC2 阳性表达上调,表明洗心汤可能对肠黏膜屏障结构与功能完整性具有修复作用。

TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路是调控天然免疫与炎症反应的核心通路,在AD病理进程中发挥重要作用^[43]。TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路的异常激活是肠-脑轴调控失衡的关键分子事件。TLR4作为一种模式识别受体,不仅能识别外源LPS,还能结合内源性A β 片段激活下游信号^[44-45]。此外,TLR4还可通过NF- κ B信号通路介导炎症因子的产生,NF- κ B被激活后可直接调控IL-6、TNF- α 及SAA等多种炎症因子的基因转录并对炎症刺激作出反应^[46]。已有研究证实,在AD模型小鼠及患者体内,TLR4及其下游促炎因子表达升高,通过抑制该通路能有效改善认知功能障碍^[47-48]。本研究的Western blot与免疫组化结果显示,模型组结肠组织TLR4、NF- κ B p65蛋白表达水平显著上调,而洗心汤组二者表达均显著降低,并伴随结肠组织中IL-6、TNF- α 及SAA等炎症因子含量的显著降低,表明洗心汤可能通过抑制TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路的异常激活,减少下游炎症因子的释放,从而减轻肠道局部炎症。

综上所述,洗心汤可改善AD大鼠学习记忆能力,减少脑内A β 沉积,其作用机制可能与调控TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路减轻肠道炎症损伤,修复肠黏膜屏障功能,从而抑制肠道内源性毒素入血相关。本研究只初步探讨了洗心汤对脑肠轴中肠黏膜屏障的保护作用,尚未深入探索脑肠轴中关键的信号传导机制,未来还需进一步深入研究。

[利益冲突] 本文不存在任何利益冲突。

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