

“脾不散精-巨噬细胞焦亡”机制在慢性阻塞性肺疾病中的作用及中医药干预研究进展

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[摘要] 慢性阻塞性肺疾病(COPD)以持续性气流受限和慢性气道炎症为主要特征,是全球发病率与死亡率长期处于高位的重要慢性呼吸系统疾病。近年来,巨噬细胞焦亡作为一种炎症性、程序性细胞死亡方式,被认为在炎症反应放大及组织损伤进程中发挥重要作用。中医理论认为,脾不散精是多种慢性疾病的重要病理基础,其临床多表现为运化失常、痰湿内生及浊毒积聚。该文在梳理经典中医病机的基础上,结合现代分子生物学研究,提出脾不散精与巨噬细胞焦亡在COPD发病机制中可能存在一定的对应关系。具体而言,糖毒、脂毒及肠毒等代谢与免疫紊乱可通过晚期糖基化终末产物(AGEs)/AGEs受体(RAGE)/活性氧(ROS)、脂肪酸/Toll样受体4(TLR4)及脂多糖(LPS)/核转录因子- κ B(NF- κ B)/NOD样受体蛋白3(NLRP3)信号通路诱导巨噬细胞焦亡,而过度焦亡可进一步加重代谢失衡与炎症反应,形成恶性循环。此外,健脾益气、化湿解毒等中医药干预在调控NF- κ B、NLRP3炎症小体及自噬等焦亡相关信号通路方面显示出一定的潜在作用。综上,该文探讨了“脾不散精-巨噬细胞焦亡”机制在COPD中的作用,并对中医药防治的可能路径进行展望,为中西医结合研究与临床应用提供参考。

[关键词] 慢性阻塞性肺疾病; 脾不散精; 巨噬细胞焦亡; 中医药; 炎症机制; 核转录因子- κ B(NF- κ B); NOD样受体蛋白3(NLRP3)

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Role of Spleen Failing to Disperse Essence-induced Macrophage Pyroptosis in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Intervention of Traditional Chinese Medicine: A Review

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[Abstract] Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), characterized primarily by persistent airflow limitation and chronic airway inflammation, is a major chronic respiratory disease with persistently high morbidity and mortality. In recent years, macrophage pyroptosis, as an inflammatory form of programmed cell death, has been recognized as playing a key role in amplifying inflammatory responses and promoting tissue damage. According to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) theory, spleen failing to disperse essence constitutes an important pathological basis for various chronic diseases, clinically manifesting as impaired transportation and transformation, internal generation of phlegm-dampness, and accumulation of turbid toxins. Based on a review of classical TCM pathogenesis and modern molecular biological research, this study proposes that there may be a correlation between spleen failing to disperse essence and macrophage pyroptosis in the pathogenesis of COPD. Specifically, metabolic and

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immune disturbances such as glucotoxicity, lipotoxicity, and enterotoxicity may trigger macrophage pyroptosis through the advanced glycation end products (AGEs)/AGEs receptor (RAGE)/reactive oxygen species (ROS), fatty acids/Toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4), and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)/nuclear transcription factor- κ B (NF- κ B)/NOD-like receptor protein 3 (NLRP3) signaling pathways. Excessive pyroptosis, in turn, exacerbates metabolic dysregulation and inflammatory responses, forming a vicious cycle. Furthermore, TCM interventions such as strengthening the spleen and tonifying Qi, as well as resolving dampness and detoxifying, have demonstrated potential in modulating pyroptosis-related signaling pathways, including NF- κ B, the NLRP3 inflammasome, and autophagy. In summary, this article explores the role of spleen failing to disperse essence-macrophage pyroptosis mechanism in COPD and highlights possible therapeutic strategies of TCM, providing new insights for integrated Chinese and western medical research and clinical practice.

[Keywords] chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; spleen failing to disperse essence; macrophage pyroptosis; traditional Chinese medicine; inflammatory mechanisms; nuclear transcription factor- κ B (NF- κ B); NOD-like receptor protein 3 (NLRP3)

慢性阻塞性肺疾病(COPD)是一种以持续性气流受限与慢性气道炎症为特征的慢性呼吸系统疾病,具有较高的发病率和死亡率^[1]。临床多见慢性咳嗽、咳痰、气促等症状,并伴有急性加重发作。COPD的发生发展涉及慢性炎症、免疫失衡、氧化应激、细胞凋亡与焦亡及气道结构重塑等多方面因素^[2]。近年来,巨噬细胞焦亡作为一种依赖于炎症小体的程序性细胞死亡方式,逐渐受到关注^[3]。研究表明,巨噬细胞焦亡参与COPD慢性炎症维持及急性加重,尤其在炎症反应放大和气道损伤形成方面,其释放大量的白细胞介素(IL)-1 β 和IL-18等炎症因子可加剧气道炎症并进一步推动COPD的病程发展^[3]。

COPD在中医学中多属“咳嗽”“喘证”“痰饮”和“肺胀”等范畴,其核心病机为“本虚标实”,其中脾不散精被视为重要的病机环节之一^[4]。《黄帝内经》提到“脾气散精,上归于肺,以通调水道”,强调脾脏在运化精微以协助肺行宣发肃降功能中的重要作用。一旦脾失健运,精微无法正常布散,痰湿内生并上犯于肺,致使肺之宣降功能受阻,出现咳嗽、痰多、气促等表现^[5]。

基于上述认识,本综述围绕脾不散精与巨噬细胞焦亡在COPD中的作用展开探讨,结合现代医学的相关研究分析脾虚与代谢紊乱、免疫失衡的内在联系及其可能形成的恶性循环。并进一步探讨中医药调节相关通路的潜在干预价值。

1 脾不散精病机理论内涵的发展

1.1 理论溯源 脾不散精这一病理概念源自《黄帝内经·素问·经脉别论》所载:“饮入于胃,游溢精气,上输于脾,脾气散精,上归于肺,通调水道,下输膀胱,水精四布,五经并行”,为“脾主散精”生理功能的提出奠定了理论基础。脾脏被视为调控水谷精微的重要枢纽,负责将胃肠吸收的精微物质上输至肺,以协助其完成宣发肃降等功能。若脾失健运,精微不布,气血不足,则痰湿内生,上犯于肺,形成痰阻气道与痰涎壅盛^[6]。上述理论在历代医家论述中得到了不断补充和发展。张仲景提出,脾虚可导致“痰饮”,即湿浊痰滞内生,影响肺气宣发。李东垣指出:“内伤脾胃,百病由生……肺金受邪,由脾胃虚弱不能生肺也”,提出“培土生金”治则,明确脾胃虚弱与肺系病变之间的内在联系,为后世脾肺同治法奠定基础^[7]。叶天士亦认为“痰从脾生”,指出脾虚为痰湿内生的根本。现代中医学研究在继承传统理论的基础上,将脾不散精与代谢紊乱、免疫功能失衡等现代病理机制相联系,拓宽了

其在慢性疾病发生发展中的解释范围,为传统中医学理论与现代生物医学的结合提供了理论支持^[8]。

1.2 脾不散精与能量代谢紊乱 中医认为,脾主运化是维持机体能量代谢稳态的重要基础。若脾失健运,则胃肠功能逐渐紊乱,引发与物质代谢相关的病理改变。在脾虚状态下,胃的腐熟功能受损,食物吸收与转化受阻,可表现为食欲减退、餐后饱胀等症状^[9]。脾虚加重时,小肠消化酶分泌及吸收功能减退,影响葡萄糖、氨基酸等营养物质利用,导致能量代谢障碍^[10]。脾虚亦可引发肠道菌群失衡,导致有害菌增多,肠道屏障功能受损,并进一步干扰机体免疫稳态的维持^[9]。中医理论认为,“脾虚-菌群紊乱-吸收不良”相互影响、相互加重,形成恶性循环,是多种慢性疾病的重要病理基础之一。上述认识与现代医学对代谢综合征、糖尿病等疾病的理解具有较高一致性。从现代医学角度来看,脾虚所致的能量代谢紊乱不仅表现为消化吸收障碍,还涉及胰岛素抵抗和脂质代谢异常^[11]。葡萄糖转运受阻及脂肪、蛋白质利用障碍,可导致血糖失衡和脂肪堆积,增加代谢性疾病发生风险^[11]。研究表明,脾虚还可影响线粒体功能,抑制氧化磷酸化过程,减少腺苷三磷酸(ATP)的生成,导致肌肉和骨骼等系统功能受损^[12]。因此,脾不散精并非单纯的脾脏功能异常,而是涵盖消化吸收、能量转化及细胞代谢调控的整体失衡状态。脾虚所致的代谢紊乱与现代医学中代谢性疾病的发生机制具有较高契合度,为相关疾病的防治研究提供了新的理论视角。

1.3 脾不散精与免疫系统紊乱 脾不仅主消化吸收,亦在维持机体免疫稳态中发挥重要作用。中医认为,脾虚可致气血不足并引发免疫功能失调^[13]。脾虚状态下,精微输布失常,气血生化乏源,机体免疫防御能力减弱。研究显示,脾虚状态下免疫细胞数量与功能下降,尤以巨噬细胞、树突状细胞最为明显,从而导致机体对外界病原体的抵抗能力下降^[14]。在COPD等慢性疾病中,脾虚所致的免疫功能减弱降低炎症调控能力,促使慢性低度炎症持续存在^[15]。该状态可加剧气道损伤,并与代谢紊乱及免疫失衡相互作用,形成恶性循环,推动COPD进展。因此,调节脾虚相关免疫失衡可能为COPD防治提供新的干预思路。

综上所述,脾不散精作为中医病机理论中的核心概念,不仅涉及消化吸收障碍,还与能量代谢、免疫及内分泌稳态密切相关。

2 脾不散精与 COPD 的病理关联机制

2.1 精微不布与能量代谢障碍 “精微不布”是脾不散精的重要表现,指水谷精微物质不能经由脾气上输而布散全身,导致气血不足与痰湿内生等病理改变。COPD 患者常见能量代谢障碍,表现为体质量下降、骨骼肌萎缩及呼吸肌疲劳等^[16-17],与中医“气虚乏力”及“肌肉消脱”描述相符。现代研究表明,COPD 患者存在线粒体功能障碍、氧化磷酸化功能受抑及 ATP 合成减少^[18],导致细胞能量供给不足并影响骨骼肌及心肺功能。脾虚状态下,短链脂肪酸(SCFAs)合成减少^[19],过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体 γ 辅助激活子-1 α (PGC-1 α)表达受抑,促进线粒体损伤和蛋白质降解^[20]。核转录因子- κ B(NF- κ B)/缺氧诱导因子-1 α (HIF-1 α)信号通路持续激活可形成“低效能耗-高氧化应激”恶性循环,加重全身性能量代谢失衡。因此,调节相关能量代谢网络可能有助于改善 COPD 患者的全身功能及生活质量。

2.2 痰湿内生与气道黏液高分泌 中医认为,脾不散精所致痰湿内生是 COPD 的重要病理特征。脾失健运则精微不布、湿气内停而成痰湿,阻碍肺宣发肃降。COPD 患者多见咳痰、气促,部分伴气道黏液分泌增多。现代研究表明,气道黏液分泌增加与杯状细胞化生及黏蛋白 5AC(MUC5AC)过度表达密切相关^[21]。IL-6、肿瘤坏死因子- α (TNF- α)等炎症因子通过激活糖蛋白 130(gp130)/Janus 激酶(JAK)/信号转导与转录激活因子 3(STAT3)信号通路促进杯状细胞化生和 MUC5AC 合成^[22-23]。黏液清除率下降可致潴留,加重气道阻塞及呼吸困难^[24]。因此,痰湿内生可通过炎症反应促进黏液分泌,并因自清功能受损导致黏液潴留与气道阻塞相互影响,从而加重 COPD 临床表现。

2.3 肺失宣降与气流受限 “肺失宣降”是 COPD 的重要病机之一。痰湿内生阻碍肺宣发肃降,导致气流受限。痰湿上犯肺脏,阻碍肺气运行,可表现为气道持续炎症反应和气流受限。现代研究表明,COPD 患者常见气道壁增厚、管腔狭窄等结构改变,与“肺失宣降”描述相符^[25]。研究显示,痰湿积聚可激活转化生长因子- β_1 (TGF- β_1)、IL-6 等炎症因子,促进纤维化进程及平滑肌肥厚,导致气道固定性狭窄^[26-28]。该过程通过“炎症-纤维化-平滑肌重塑”递进加重气流受限。黏液潴留抑制纤毛清除功能,可进一步加重气道阻塞,形成重塑与气流受限的恶性循环^[29]。因此,改善痰湿内生与黏液潴留、恢复肺宣发肃降,可能有助于缓解气流受限及相关症状。

2.4 气血亏虚与免疫减弱 气血亏虚是 COPD 患者免疫减弱及反复感染的重要内因。脾失健运致精微不布、清阳不升,气血生化之源,影响免疫功能^[13]。COPD 患者免疫细胞数量及功能下降,尤以巨噬细胞、树突状细胞活性减弱为著^[14]。现代研究发现,COPD 患者常呈持续低度炎症,IL-6、TNF- α 等介质处于较高水平,而免疫调控不足使炎症反应难以有效负反馈^[30]。因此,改善脾虚相关免疫低下、增强免疫细胞活性,可能成为防治 COPD 的重要干预方向。

2.5 痰瘀互结与慢性炎症重塑 痰瘀互结是 COPD 病程演变的关键环节,可视为脾不散精进一步发展的器质性表现。脾虚致痰湿内生并阻滞气道,与瘀血相互搏结形成痰瘀互

结^[31],推动气道结构性重塑。气道壁增厚、成纤维细胞增生及胶原沉积等改变可见于 COPD^[32-33],为上述过程的形态学体现。研究表明,痰瘀互结可通过“缺氧-活性氧(ROS)-NOD 样受体蛋白 3(NLRP3)”和“TGF- β_1 /Smad-上皮间质转化”双轴机制驱动慢性炎症及气道重塑^[34-35]。低氧可激活 HIF-1 α 并上调血管内皮生长因子、结缔生长因子等促纤维化因子,加速气道壁结构改变。NLRP3 炎症小体激活促进 IL-1 β 释放,加重局部炎症反应^[36]。异常微环境还可通过外泌体传递炎症信号,放大“炎症-纤维化”的正反馈环,促使气道病变持续进展^[37]。因此,破除痰瘀互结并干预气道重塑,是 COPD 治疗的重要目标之一。

综上所述,脾不散精贯穿 COPD 多条病理通路,其中肺部免疫稳态失衡尤为关键,并突出表现为巨噬细胞功能异常。脾虚致气血亏乏与痰湿内生,机体免疫防御能力下降,巨噬细胞处于低反应性与高能量消耗并存状态,吞噬及免疫调控等功能受损。在免疫调控失衡与炎症持续激活背景下,巨噬细胞程序性死亡方式逐渐成为影响疾病进程的重要因素。近年来,细胞焦亡依赖 NLRP3 炎症小体激活并大量释放 IL-1 β 、IL-18 等炎症因子,被认为参与慢性气道炎症放大及气道重塑^[38]。下文将进一步梳理其在 COPD 中的作用机制。

3 巨噬细胞焦亡在 COPD 中的作用

3.1 细胞焦亡的分子机制及其在 COPD 中的病理作用 细胞焦亡是一种由 NLRP 家族炎症小体启动、胱天蛋白酶-1(Caspase-1)依赖的程序性细胞死亡方式^[39],特征为细胞内容物外泄及促炎因子释放。炎症小体由 NLRP 家族、凋亡相关点样蛋白(ASC)和 Caspase-1 构成的多蛋白复合物,其中 NLRP3 炎症小体是目前研究较为深入的一种。在胞质内病原体或内源性危险信号刺激下,NLRP3 炎症小体激活 Caspase-1,促进 IL-1 β 和 IL-18 前体剪切成熟;同时 Caspase-1 切割消素 D(GSDMD)形成膜孔,使成熟细胞因子释放并诱导细胞焦亡^[40]。有研究表明,IL-1 β 在慢性炎症性肺病中过量释放可对肺组织造成损害^[41]。COPD 动物模型及临床样本显示,肺组织、肺泡灌洗液及痰液内的 IL-1 β 和 IL-18 水平均升高,且急性发作期高于稳定期^[42-43]。肺内巨噬细胞表达多种模式识别受体,如 Toll 样受体(TLR)、C 型凝集素受体和核苷酸结合的寡聚域样受体等,可识别内源或外源性危险信号^[44]。COPD 急性发作期细胞焦亡激活与 IL-18 等炎症因子释放密切相关^[45]。细胞焦亡亦参与多种呼吸系统疾病的炎症放大,如甲型流感病毒感染可经由巨噬细胞受体介导 NF- κ B 信号激活 NLRP3 炎症小体并触发焦亡^[46];而在细菌性肺炎相关肺损伤中,肺泡内细胞焦亡可促进 IL-1 β 和 IL-18 等介质释放,加重局部炎症反应并推动肺纤维化进程^[47],见图 1。

3.2 靶向细胞焦亡通路在 COPD 治疗中的潜在价值 过度细胞焦亡可促进支气管上皮损伤及肺组织纤维化^[48],提示其参与 COPD 病程进展。研究表明,靶向抑制 NLRP3 可缓解肺组织炎症反应^[49]。IL-18 作为 γ 干扰素诱导因子,可通过正反馈刺激单核-巨噬细胞持续分泌 IL-18,放大炎症因子级

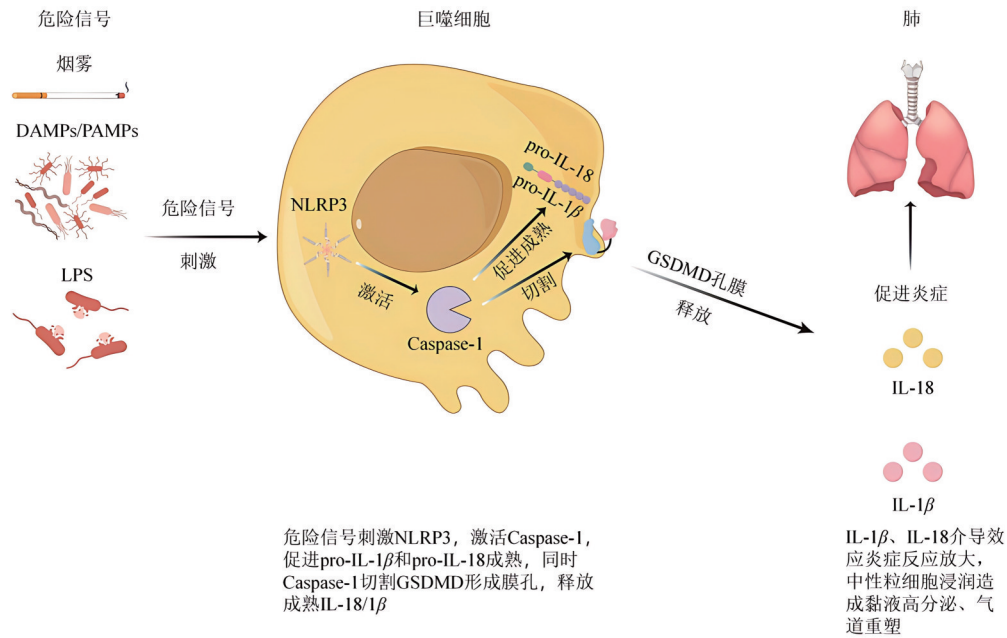


图1 巨噬细胞焦亡在COPD中的分子机制示意

Fig. 1 Molecular mechanisms of macrophage pyroptosis in COPD

联反应并造成免疫介导的组织损伤^[42]。IL-18受体在肺组织中高表达，尤其在纤维化区域，其水平与肺组织纤维化程度相关^[50]。抑制IL-1 β 受体或敲除巨噬细胞中NLRP3等相关基因，可减轻脂多糖(LPS)诱导的组织炎症损伤^[51]。基于上述研究，在COPD及相关肺纤维化的干预中，可通过抑制NLRP3炎症小体及其下游信号通路，调控过度激活的炎症反应。如P2X7拮抗剂和Caspase抑制剂VX-765等可改善肺组织炎症^[52]。因此，调控肺内细胞焦亡水平可能成为COPD治疗的潜在策略。

4 “脾不散精-巨噬细胞焦亡”机制的对应关系

4.1 脾不散精产生的“浊毒”可诱发巨噬细胞焦亡 脾不散精所致的“浊毒”(包括糖毒、脂毒、肠毒)被认为是激活巨噬细胞焦亡的重要上游因素^[53-55]。其主要通过提供代谢性危险信号，激活模式识别受体及下游炎症小体通路而发挥作用^[56]。脾不散精所致高血糖状态下，晚期糖基化终末产物(AGEs)大量生成^[57]。AGEs与其特异性受体结合后可激活烟酰胺腺嘌呤二核苷酸磷酸(NADPH)氧化酶，诱导ROS生成并促进钾离子外流，从而同时提供“启动信号”和“激活信号”，诱导NLRP3炎症小体组装与活化^[58-59]。活化的Caspase-1切割GSDMD，执行细胞焦亡程序，并促进IL-1 β 和IL-18成熟与释放^[38-39]。血脂异常，尤其是游离脂肪酸的升高，是脂毒性的直接体现^[60]。饱和脂肪酸可通过激活TLR2/4通路，启动炎症小体相关基因的表达^[61]。更为关键的是，游离脂肪酸被巨噬细胞吞噬后可破坏溶酶体稳定性或诱发线粒体ROS爆发，从而提供强烈的“第二信号”并直接激活NLRP3炎症小体^[62]。该机制在动脉粥样硬化中尤为显著，斑块内巨噬细胞吞噬胆固醇酯形成泡沫细胞，其焦亡是导致斑块不稳定及进展的核心机制^[63]。

中医认为脾与消化系统功能密切相关，脾不散精常伴随

肠道屏障功能受损^[64]。肠道屏障受损可导致菌群紊乱，其代谢产物LPS易位入血，形成内毒素血症^[65]。LPS作为外源性危险信号，可通过TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路启动NLRP3和IL-1 β 等前炎症因子转录，完成焦亡“priming”过程。随后，LPS或协同因子提供第二信号，触发巨噬细胞焦亡^[66]。近年来的基础研究为脾不散精诱发巨噬细胞焦亡提供了实验依据。在多种脾虚动物模型中，肺组织炎症反应较正常组明显增强，表现为NLRP3、Caspase-1及GSDMD等焦亡相关蛋白表达升高，支气管肺泡灌洗液中IL-1 β 、IL-18水平增加，并伴肺泡壁增厚及炎症细胞浸润^[67-68]。进一步研究显示，在脾虚基础上给予吸烟暴露或LPS刺激，NLRP3炎症小体激活呈协同增强，提示代谢性“浊毒”累积可降低巨噬细胞稳态阈值，使其在COPD危险因素作用下更易发生焦亡^[68-69]。上述实验结果从动物模型层面强化了“脾不散精-浊毒内生-巨噬细胞焦亡”的病理链条。

综上，脾不散精状态下产生的AGEs、游离脂肪酸及LPS等“浊毒”共同构成触发巨噬细胞焦亡的信号链，将脾胃功能失调与细胞炎症性死亡过程有机衔接。

4.2 巨噬细胞焦亡加剧脾不散精的状态 巨噬细胞焦亡并非炎症的终点，而是驱动慢性代谢炎症及胰岛素抵抗的重要环节^[15,70]。其通过释放炎症因子进一步加剧脾不散精状态，形成恶性循环。发生焦亡的巨噬细胞释放IL-1 β 、IL-18及高迁移率族蛋白B1等炎症因子，其中IL-1 β 被证实是诱导胰岛素抵抗的关键介质^[71]。IL-1 β 通过激活IL-1受体，诱导胰岛素受体底物丝氨酸残基磷酸化，从而干扰胰岛素信号转导^[72-73]。该过程抑制骨骼肌及脂肪组织对葡萄糖的摄取，并促进肝脏糖异生，最终导致外周及肝脏胰岛素抵抗^[70,74]。从中医理论看，这正是以葡萄糖为代表的“精微物质”无法正常输布及利用的现代病理学体现。由焦亡所驱动的慢性低度

炎症是2型糖尿病、非酒精性脂肪性肝病等代谢性疾病的共同土壤^[15]。持续的炎症信号可经循环系统作用于多种代谢器官^[75]。例如,在脂肪组织中,焦亡相关炎症促进脂肪分解、抑制脂肪生成,并吸引免疫细胞浸润,形成炎症性微环境^[76]。在肝脏中,炎症信号可加剧肝细胞脂质沉积及气球样

变,推动单纯性脂肪肝向脂肪性肝炎发展。焦亡作为炎症“放大器”,持续破坏机体代谢平衡,从而加重脾不散精的病理基础^[77]。上述机制从分子层面揭示了巨噬细胞焦亡反向加剧脾不散精,构成了“代谢紊乱-炎症-代谢进一步失衡”的恶性循环核心环节,见图2。

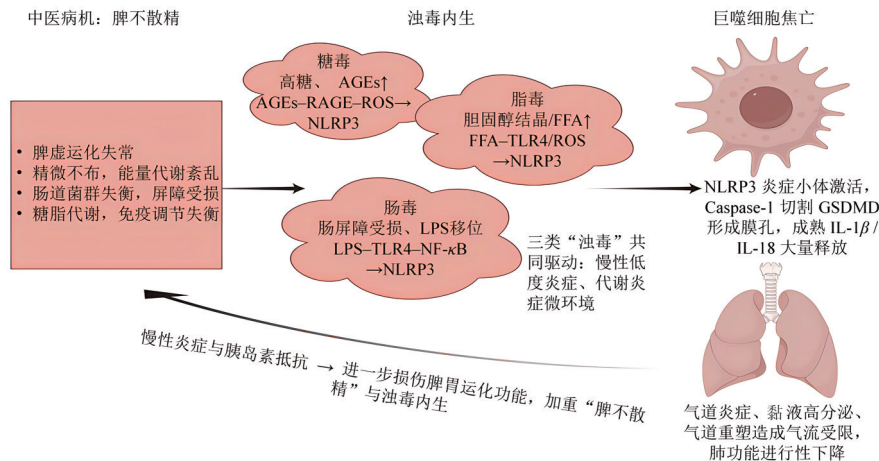


图2 “脾不散精-浊毒内生-巨噬细胞焦亡”对应机制

Fig. 2 Mechanistic diagram of spleen failing to disperse essence-macrophage pyroptosis

5 基于脾不散精理论的中医药干预进展

5.1 健脾复运,培土生金 脾为后天之本,主运化水谷精微并维持气血生成。治疗 COPD 时,通过健脾复运恢复脾功能,使精微物质能够正常输布,以增强体力、改善免疫功能,缓解肺部症状。现代中西医结合研究表明,健脾复运不仅有助于改善气血生成,还能调节免疫反应,降低肺部炎症^[78-79]。林小玲等^[80]发现,党参多糖可稳定 NF-κB 抑制因子 α (IκBα)/NF-κB 复合物,抑制 IκBα 磷酸化降解,阻断 NF-κB 核转位,从而下调 TNF-α、IL-6 等促炎因子转录。在抑制炎症反应的同时,杨勤军等^[81]证实参芪调肾方可激活节核因子 E₂ 相关因子 2(Nrf2) 转录因子,上调溶质载体家族 7 成员 11 及谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶 4(GPX4) 表达,促进谷胱甘肽合成,清除磷脂过氧化,抑制铁死亡进程。NF-κB 通路活化可诱导 ROS 产生,而 Nrf2 作为抗氧化主调控因子,其激活又能反向抑制 NF-κB 信号,二者共同构成“炎症-氧化应激”的负反馈调节环。在炎症与氧化应激调控基础上,李晓丹等^[82]进一步发现补肺颗粒可通过抑制脂酰肌醇 3-激酶(PI3K)/蛋白激酶 B(Akt)/哺乳动物雷帕霉素靶蛋白(mTOR)信号通路,解除 mTOR 对自噬的抑制,促进自噬相关蛋白微管相关蛋白 1 轻链 3 II 及自噬效应蛋白-1(Beclin-1) 表达,增强自噬流。而自噬激活不仅能清除受损线粒体、减少 ROS 产生,还能通过降解 NF-κB 通路中关键信号分子间接抑制炎症反应。在免疫调节层面,张华等^[83]发现培土生金法可调节辅助性 T 细胞 17(Th17)/调节性 T 淋巴细胞(Treg) 平衡,该过程与 mTOR 和 NF-κB 信号通路密切相关:mTOR 信号通路抑制促进 Treg 分化,而 NF-κB 活化驱动 Th17 分化。从“肠-肺轴”角度,李乃健等^[84]通过粪菌移植研究证实,肠道菌群代谢产物 SCFAs 可通过 G 蛋白偶联受体调节组蛋白去乙酰化酶活性,

影响 Treg 分化并调控 NF-κB 信号。上述研究共同表明,培土生金法通过多靶点分子网络发挥作用:一方面经 Nrf2/GPX4 轴抑制氧化应激与铁死亡,另一方面通过 PI3K-Akt-mTOR 轴激活自噬、抑制凋亡,并经 IκBα-NF-κB 轴调控免疫反应;各通路通过 ROS、细胞因子、代谢产物相互联结,形成协同调控网络,从分子层面阐释其治疗 COPD 的多层次机制。在上述代谢-炎症调控基础上,健脾益气类中药对焦亡通路的干预亦逐渐受到关注。研究显示,黄芩苷、槲皮素、白藜芦醇等黄酮类成分可抑制 NLRP3 与 ASC 寡聚化,阻断炎症小体组装,降低 Caspase-1 激活并减少 IL-1β、IL-18 释放^[85-87]。同时,人参皂苷 Rg₁、黄芪多糖等可通过改善线粒体功能、降低 ROS 生成,减弱焦亡启动信号^[88-89]。补中益气汤、参芪调肾方等复方亦可同步下调 NLRP3、Caspase-1 及 GSDMD 表达,为“健脾复运”直接调控焦亡通路提供实验依据^[36,80-81]。

5.2 化痰祛邪,通络利肺 COPD 的显著特点为痰湿内生、浊邪积滞,导致气道阻塞及肺功能受限。在脾不散精理论指导下,中医药治疗通过化痰、祛湿、通络、利肺等法,改善气流受限症状。三子汤、杏苏二陈方等具有较好的化痰祛湿作用^[90-91],可通过清肺化痰、化湿行气等途径,促进气道痰湿清除,改善肺通气功能。与上述化痰祛湿作用相一致,现代研究表明,清肺化痰汤用于 COPD 急性加重期痰热壅肺证患者,可下调外周血 TLR4 mRNA、NF-κB、TNF-α、中性粒细胞弹性蛋白酶(NE) 及 Th17 等炎症与免疫相关指标,其机制可能与干预 TLR4/NF-κB 通路并调节 Th17 相关免疫反应有关^[92]。在抑制气道炎症的同时,姜黄素干预 COPD 大鼠模型可通过调控 IL-8/MUC5AC 信号通路,降低气道黏液分泌及 MUC5AC 表达,从而缓解咳嗽症状^[93]。在分子层面,赤芍总

苷等中药活性成分可通过调节TLR4/NF- κ B信号通路抑制过度炎症反应;同时,痰热清雾化吸入在动物模型中可减轻氧化应激和线粒体损伤,从而改善气道炎症状态^[94-95]。银杏叶提取物还可通过抑制TLR4/NLRP3信号通路,减少炎症小体激活,缓解COPD相关炎症反应^[96]。

肺脾气虚型患者多表现为咳嗽无力、气短乏力、纳差便溏及形体消瘦等,其病机以脾气亏虚、精微不布为主。临床常以补中益气汤加减为基础,选用黄芪、党参、白术等益气健脾药物。既往研究显示,此类益气健脾法可降低IL-6、TNF- α 等炎症因子水平,对缓解慢性炎症与改善全身状态具有一定疗效^[97-98]。痰热壅肺型患者多见咳嗽黄稠、胸闷咽干、气喘,其病机多与痰热壅滞、肺失宣降相关。临床多以清肺化痰汤、麻杏石甘汤合二陈汤加减,配伍黄芩、瓜蒌、鱼腥草等,以清热化痰、宣肺通络。相关研究显示,上述治疗可缩短急性加重病程、改善气道症状,并降低痰液或血清中IL-1 β 、IL-18及NLRP3等焦亡相关分子水平^[90-91,99]。

在吸入性糖皮质激素(ICS)联合长效 β_2 受体激动剂(LABA)或ICS联合长效抗胆碱能药物(LAMA)等标准治疗基础上,联合健脾益气或化痰祛浊类中药复方,可进一步改善气道炎症状态并降低急性加重发生频率。部分临床研究显示,联合治疗较单纯西药更显著地下调NLRP3、Caspase-1、消皮素D-N端(GSDMD-N)及IL-1 β 等焦亡相关蛋白表达^[100-101]。上述临床证据从实践层面支持脾不散精理论在COPD分证分型及个体化治疗中的应用价值。

6 总结与展望

COPD是一种以慢性炎症及进行性气流受限为主要特征的疾病,其发病机制复杂且多层。结合现代研究可见,脾不散精不仅涉及能量代谢障碍、免疫失衡及慢性炎症,还与巨噬细胞焦亡这一分子病理过程密切相关。

在现代生物学层面,脾不散精状态下机体出现糖脂代谢紊乱、能量供应不足及炎症持续激活。代谢异常产生的晚期糖基化终末产物、游离脂肪酸及肠源性内毒素等“浊毒”物质,可通过TLR4/NF- κ B途径启动炎症小体反应,进一步激活Caspase-1及GSDMD,引发巨噬细胞焦亡。焦亡细胞释放的IL-1 β 、IL-18等炎症因子,不仅加剧气道炎症及黏液高分泌,还可破坏胰岛素信号传导、干扰能量代谢平衡,进而加重脾不散精的病理状态。二者形成“代谢紊乱-炎症放大-代谢失衡加剧”的恶性循环,是推动COPD慢性迁延及急性加重的重要内在机制。

中医药干预在打破该循环中显示出独特优势。健脾复运法通过“培土生金”增强脾气、促进能量代谢并改善免疫状态,而化痰祛邪法以“通络利肺、化痰解毒”为主,可抑制NLRP3炎症小体活化,减轻气道炎症及黏液潴留。现代研究表明,黄芪、党参、陈皮及银杏叶提取物等可调控NF- κ B、PI3K/Akt/mTOR及Nrf2/抗氧化反应元件等信号网络,发挥抗炎、抗氧化及代谢-免疫调节作用。这种“多靶点-多通路”的综合干预特征,正契合COPD复杂病理的多环节特征。

尽管“脾不散精-巨噬细胞焦亡”机制构建具有一定的中医病机与现代生物学依据,但仍存在多方面局限。首先,目

前脾虚及脾不散精动物模型缺乏统一、规范化构建标准,不同研究在造模方式、证候评价及检测指标上存在显著差异,影响研究结果可比性与重复性。其次,中医药干预多为多成分、多靶点综合作用,虽然已有研究提示其可调控NLRP3炎症小体及焦亡关键分子,但针对特异性靶点验证不足,缺乏剂量-效应关系与物质基础的明确阐释。此外,目前临床研究多为小样本、短周期观察,缺乏以焦亡通路相关分子为主要终点的高质量随机对照试验,限制了该理论向循证医学体系进一步转化。

未来研究方向应更加注重中西医结合机制阐释与临床转化。未来可借助代谢组学、单细胞转录组学及空间组学等技术,解析“脾不散精-焦亡”在细胞层面的动态网络,并探索以脾不散精证候为基础的分子标志物体系,建立中医辨证与现代分子分型对应关系。此外,亟需高质量前瞻性临床研究,验证中医药干预对焦亡通路及代谢网络的调控作用。

综上所述,“脾不散精-巨噬细胞焦亡”机制为理解COPD发生发展提供一个整合代谢、免疫及炎症的新视角。中医药通过“健脾复运、化痰祛邪”整体调节,有望在改善能量代谢、抑制炎症反应及延缓疾病进展中发挥重要作用。这一跨学科研究方向既丰富了中医病机理论的现代内涵,也为COPD精准防治提供新思路。

[利益冲突] 本文不存在任何利益冲突。

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