



肠道菌群与肠黏膜免疫衰老的关系*

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摘要 衰老已成为引发慢性疾病的危险因素之一, 众多慢性疾病的发生发展与老年群体的肠道免疫功能失调密切相关。衰老显著影响肠道免疫系统和肠道菌群稳态, 本文回顾了伴随衰老发生的肠黏膜免疫功能变化, 包括 Toll 样受体 (TLRs)、T 细胞和 B 细胞及炎症细胞因子, 如 IL-6、TNF- α 和 IFN- γ 等。分析了与年龄相关的典型肠道微生物及其代谢产物的变化。衰老导致肠道菌群的组成和多样性发生变化, 与年龄相关的拟杆菌、双歧杆菌、丁酸梭菌等肠道菌群发生变化, 肠道菌群代谢物短链脂肪酸 (SCFAs)、胆汁和吲哚及吲哚衍生物减少, 肠道菌群稳态失衡。本文探讨了肠道菌群及其代谢物与肠道免疫系统之间的相互作用, 并提出肠道菌群与肠黏膜免疫功能间存在高度关联性。正常情况下, 健康的免疫系统和肠道菌群相互加强, 共同促进宿主健康。然而, 随着年龄的增长, 肠黏膜完整性及肠道菌群稳态失衡, 导致免疫应答及调节能力下降, 不能有效应对各种外源侵害。同时, 免疫系统的持续性损伤更进一步加深肠道菌群失衡。老年人肠道菌群的变化影响防御素等抗菌肽、免疫球蛋白 A (IgA) 等关键免疫分子的多样性和数量。肠道中免疫分子的异常表达也导致肠道微生物组成的变化, 影响肠道健康, 并可能增加疾病的风险。肠道菌群代谢物通过与肠道受体相互作用, 激活相关信号通路, 直接调节免疫细胞, 控制免疫系统, 影响肠道屏障和肠道免疫功能, 对肠道具有肠道免疫调节作用。随着肠道菌群与免疫衰老的关系越来越清晰, 未来的研究可以探索针对肠道菌群调节的抗衰老和增强免疫策略。此外, 本文进一步探讨了通过饮食干预和粪便微生物群移植 (FMT) 调控肠道菌群及肠道免疫功能, 进而延缓免疫衰老的策略。饮食干预通过对老年人饮食结构的调整及补充微生物制剂, 促进有益菌生长, 维持肠道屏障, 减少慢性炎症产生。FMT 则是将健康个体的粪便移植到受体中来增强黏膜完整性和促进微生物多样性。本文综述了肠道菌群抗衰老手段的研究进展, 深入探讨了衰老、肠道菌群与免疫应答之间的复杂机制, 以期靶向调节肠道菌群促进肠黏膜免疫功能促进健康、抗衰老的研究提供参考。

关键词 肠黏膜免疫, 肠道菌群, 免疫衰老

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衰老是许多慢性疾病的主要危险因素。近年来, 糖尿病、肥胖、炎症性肠病等慢性疾病在老年人群中的发病率不断攀升, 这些慢性病的发生均与肠道功能密切相关。肠道被认为是“身体健康的第一道防线”, 影响宿主的消化代谢、免疫调节以及人体神经、皮肤功能乃至心理健康。肠道疾病的发生往往由肠道屏障 (机械屏障、化学屏障、微生物屏障和免疫屏障) 的破坏引起, 衰老伴随的肠道屏障损伤使宿主更容易受肠道微生物、食物抗原和毒素的侵害^[1]。

肠道菌群复杂多样, 一般受到遗传、环境及个人因素等的影响, 与人体健康息息相关^[2-3]。许多

研究证明, 年龄是影响肠道菌群结构的重要因素之一。老年人长期的饮食结构、生活方式及年龄本身都会引起肠道菌群及代谢产物发生改变, 从而诱导慢性炎症反应发生, 引起内分泌紊乱并降低机体免疫反应^[4]。这种由于年龄增长导致免疫功能的变化被称作免疫衰老。免疫衰老的主要特征是抗原免疫应答能力降低、记忆 T 细胞积累、反复感染及体内存在慢性炎症的情况^[5]。近年来, 人们已将靶

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向调节肠道菌群作为实现高质量健康长寿的关键策略之一^[6]。

本文综述了肠道免疫功能、肠道菌群及其代谢产物在老年群体中的变化、肠道菌群与免疫衰老的关系以及通过调节肠道菌群抗衰老的手段等方面的研究进展, 以期为目标调节肠道菌群促进肠黏膜免

疫功能而促进健康、抗衰老的研究提供参考。

1 老年群体肠道免疫功能及肠道菌群的变化

随着年龄的增长, 肠道免疫系统、肠道菌群及其代谢产物发生显著变化(图1)。

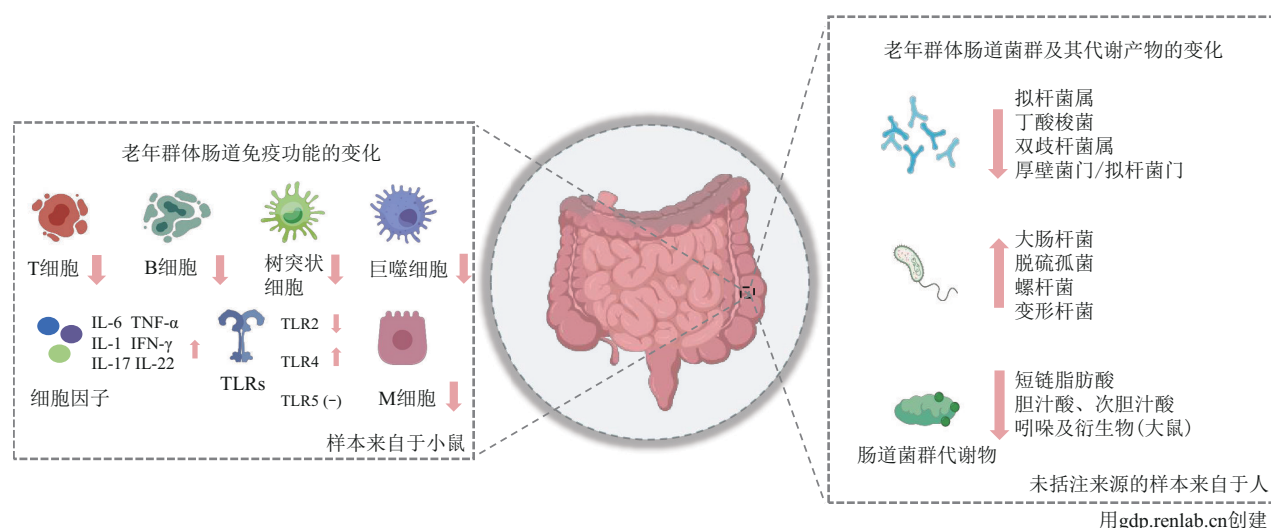


Fig. 1 Changes of intestinal immunity, intestinal microorganisms and metabolites in the elderly

图1 老年群体肠道免疫、肠道微生物及代谢产物的变化

TNF- α : 肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor- α); IFN- γ : γ 干扰素 (interferon- γ); IL: 白介素 (interleukin); TLRs: Toll样受体 (Toll like receptor)。

1.1 老年群体的肠道免疫功能变化

肠道免疫系统包括固有免疫、适应性免疫和肠道黏膜免疫。在动物实验中, 老年小鼠表现出肠道免疫的显著缺陷, 普遍迟钝的免疫反应会导致更严重的临床疾病^[7]。

固有免疫系统使用模式识别受体识别病原体产生的分子结构。最典型的受体是Toll样受体 (Toll-like receptors, TLRs), TLRs通过识别微生物膜分子、细菌或病毒的核酸使促分裂原活化的蛋白质激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinase, MAPK) 和核因子 κ B (nuclear factor κ B, NF- κ B) 信号激活并编码促炎细胞因子的基因转录。研究表明, 衰老使多种TLRs表达异常, 肠道屏障受损, 肠黏膜免疫反应下降, 增强肠道易感性^[8]。其中, TLR2、TLR4和TLR5在肠黏膜的固有免疫中起重要作用^[9]。TLR2与上皮屏障完整性具有密切关系。随年龄的增长, 小鼠TLR2表达和功能显著降低, 影响白介素 (interleukin, IL)-10和 γ 干扰素 (interferon- γ ,

IFN- γ) 水平, 进而导致肠黏膜损伤并引发炎症^[10]。TLR4在维持肠道免疫耐受、肠道稳态以及肠道微生物群平衡方面发挥重要作用。TLR4可被脂多糖 (lipopolysaccharides, LPS) 及各种病原相关分子模式激活, 依赖髓系分化初级反应蛋白质88 (myeloid differentiation primary response protein 88, MyD88) 或独立的信号在细胞内进行传递, 并通过NF- κ B蛋白诱导固有免疫系统。正常情况下小鼠TLR4的表达量较低, 而衰老肠道屏障会引发TLR4在肠道表达增加^[11]。过度激活TLR4导致IL-1、IL-6和IL-8等促炎细胞因子的产生, 并抑制抗炎因子表达, 从而破坏免疫平衡, 引发慢性炎症反应^[12-13]。TLR5是一种多功能受体, 能够刺激肝细胞增殖、影响肠道微生物, 在宿主代谢及固有免疫中发挥重要作用^[14]。TLR5是唯一能和蛋白质抗原进行结合的TLRs, 能够与大肠杆菌相互作用, 调控免疫球蛋白A (immunoglobulin A, IgA) 和IL-22的产生, 调节肠道黏膜免疫。虽然老年小鼠TLR5

的表达水平相对稳定,但由于老年小鼠肠道黏膜通透性增加,条件性致病菌丰度持续增长,也可能通过免疫途径诱发肠道炎症反应^[15]。

适应性免疫主要依赖具有特异性识别功能的T细胞和B细胞。T细胞通过特异性受体识别抗原,分化出相应类型的T细胞。在严重急性呼吸综合征冠状病毒2(severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2, SARS-CoV-2)疫苗BNT162b2老年临床疫苗研究中,老年组的病毒中和率及免疫反应均较低,预防效果减弱,一旦感染会出现重症比例大幅增加,这与老年适应性免疫下降有很大关系^[16]。随着年龄增长,小鼠的效应细胞和调节性T细胞(regulatory T cells, Tregs)之间比例发生变化,进而可能导致免疫应答能力下降^[17-18]。一些与年龄相关的T细胞产生的小分子物质或分泌的肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor- α , TNF- α)、IFN- γ 、IL-17、IL-22等促炎因子直接引发炎症^[19-20]。由于这些促炎因子的持续释放,干细胞的自我更新及分化能力也受到影响,过度的促炎环境可能会导致肠道干细胞过度消耗,进而造成肠道环境的破坏^[17]。另外,T细胞反应失调影响IgA的反应,降低微生物耐受性,导致肠道微生物失调,同时影响MyD88信号的表达,引起辅助性T细胞的过度反应^[17]。B细胞能够合成并分泌抗体,在肠道免疫反应中发挥重要作用。调节性B细胞(regulatory B cells, Bregs)能够分泌多种细胞因子,参与调控肠道炎症。某些B细胞能大量产生IgA从而保护肠黏膜及调节肠道菌群^[21]。然而,衰老小鼠B细胞的分化及成熟能力降低,从而引起B细胞多样性下降,进而改变外周B细胞的分布^[22]。B细胞的增殖、分化和激活等受到影响,其参与的免疫反应明显减少,IgA产量明显下降。另外,与年轻人相比,老年人B细胞会产生更多的TNF- α ,进一步破坏肠道免疫平衡^[22]。

肠道黏膜是人体内占比面积最大的黏膜屏障,90%以上的感染或病原体入侵发生在肠道黏膜,因此,肠黏膜免疫是黏膜免疫系统最主要的部分,关系到肠道生态平衡与机体健康。肠黏膜免疫系统主要包括派尔集合淋巴结、肠道的固有层等。派尔集合淋巴结是肠道黏膜免疫的诱导部位,它的顶端靠近肠腔的位置存在微褶皱细胞(M细胞)。M细胞在抗原的摄取和转运中具有重要作用。然而,老年小鼠M细胞SOX8、Spi-B和NF- κ B2等相关基因下调,并且由于衰老对Wnt信号的影响导致潘氏细

胞分化减弱,间接影响M细胞的分化,M细胞功能成熟能力下降,进而影响了抗原的识别和摄取,机体肠道对沙门氏菌等致病菌的识别能力下降^[23]。肠道的固有层包含树突状细胞、巨噬细胞、粒细胞等免疫细胞。树突状细胞具有强大的抗原传递及激活T细胞的功能,在免疫应答过程中属于枢纽作用。衰老使树突状细胞耐受性下降导致功能改变,出现迁移不足和特定细胞因子的产生减少^[24],无法最佳地诱导Tregs的产生,Tregs数量的减少进一步削弱了免疫系统的耐受性,导致免疫反应过度或失调,形成恶性循环^[25]。巨噬细胞的强大吞噬能力,能够消除受损和衰老的细胞,并缓解炎症。衰老引发的基因突变及化学暴露导致巨噬细胞衰老,降低吞噬功能、改变自噬、代谢等信号,导致细菌清除障碍及促炎细胞因子水平升高。另外,老年人巨噬细胞上TLRs的表达明显降低,可能会影响T细胞功能,从而导致免疫问题^[26]。衰老通过影响肠黏膜免疫相关的免疫细胞、免疫细胞因子及信号传递破坏肠道免疫屏障,使肠道免疫功能紊乱,进而引发各种免疫相关疾病。

1.2 老年群体的肠道菌群多样性和组成变化

肠道菌群会随着年龄增长发生动态演替。具体表现为,随着年龄的增长,肠道菌群组成失衡及内在功能退化^[27-28]。单核细胞增多性李斯特氏菌感染是一种食源性疾病,据统计,患病人数随着年龄的增长而增加,年龄每增加10岁患病人数增加一倍,并且感染会导致更广泛的病变,致死率也较高^[29]。老年群体肠道菌群多样性下降,与年龄相关的菌群组成和丰度也发生了显著变化。

拟杆菌、丁酸梭菌、双歧杆菌属等肠道菌群多样性降低、保护性共生厌氧菌的丰度下降是衰老过程中肠道微生物群的显著特征性变化。双歧杆菌具有抑制人体有害菌生长、抵抗病原菌感染、合成人体所需维生素等重要作用,衰老会导致双歧杆菌的丰度下降,对肠道健康具有不利影响。此外,老年人肠道内厚壁菌门与拟杆菌门比值显著降低(青年人10.9、老年人0.6)^[30-31]。另外,老年人肠道中草酸杆菌、丁酸弧菌、乳酸杆菌等35个肠道益生菌属的数量显著减少^[32],而大肠杆菌、脱硫弧菌、螺杆菌、颤杆菌属、变形杆菌等致病菌数量则显著增加^[33]。尽管个体差异性显著,但总体特征是优势核心微生物群消亡,取而代之的是亚优势微生物群,这使得肠道屏障功能受损和肠道炎症的风险大大增加^[34-35]。70岁以上老年人相较于40~69岁人群

的肠道微生物群中会拥有更多亚优势物种^[36]。健康老年人的肠道菌群的优势菌株包括梭菌簇、瘤胃球菌、嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌和克里斯滕森菌科等, 这甚至可能是老年人长寿的重要因素^[37-38]。

衰老与肠道菌群的组成有密不可分的关系, 尽管如此, 目前还没有可靠的方法根据肠道菌群组成来判断宿主的年龄。只是尝试推断特定微生物在人类衰老过程中的作用方法, 并将它们定义为潜在的衰老生物标志物^[39]。

1.3 老年群体的肠道菌群代谢物变化

肠道菌群代谢与年龄密切相关, 代谢紊乱会引起肥胖、脂肪肝、高血压、糖尿病、心血管疾病等, 严重危害人的健康^[40]。

肠道微生物发酵利用碳水化合物产生短链脂肪酸 (short-chain fatty acids, SCFAs), 主要包括乙酸、丙酸和丁酸。SCFAs在消化系统、内分泌系统、免疫系统等发挥重要作用。SCFAs不仅是宿主肠道细胞的直接能量来源, 而且能够通过激活特异性 G 蛋白偶联受体 (GPR-41、GPR-43 和 GPR109A) 和结肠细胞中的核受体过氧化物酶体增殖体激活受体 γ , 参与机体生理功能的调节^[41]。SCFAs通过激活肠黏膜表面的游离脂肪酸受体, 从而达到信号转导及调节生理功能的目的^[42]。另外, SCFAs通过对胃肠道内 pH 值、黏液产生及黏膜免疫功能影响从而改善肠道屏障功能^[43]。因此, 低水平的 SCFAs 不利于机体健康, 容易出现感染易感性、炎症及自身免疫和过敏性疾病, 大幅增加肠道细菌病原体感染的持续时间和严重程度。研究表明, 老年人肠道中的 SCFAs 含量显著降低, 尤其是丁酸的含量, 这与 SCFAs 产生菌梭菌属、厚壁菌门、双歧杆菌、乳酸杆菌等丰度降低密切相关^[44]。

肠道菌群对于脂质的代谢主要通过影响胆汁酸、次胆汁酸、SCFAs 及其他途径进行调节。胆汁酸具有促进脂类消化、影响肠道微生物群的多样性和作为信号调节分子等生理功能, 通过激活核受体法尼醇 X 受体 (Farnesoid X receptor, FXR) 和 G 蛋白偶联胆汁酸受体 (G-protein-coupled bile acid receptor, TGR5) 参与调控代谢和免疫等多种生理功能^[45]。因此, 老年人肠道中与胆汁酸、次胆汁酸相关的菌群 (如乳酸杆菌、双歧杆菌、厌氧芽胞杆菌和拟杆菌属等) 丰度降低, 会间接影响脂质、免疫等代谢水平。

色氨酸是人体必需氨基酸之一, 在肠道菌群平

衡和免疫耐受中发挥重要作用。老年大鼠色氨酸降低导致肠道菌群组成发生变化, 毛螺菌属、粪梭菌属和振荡杆菌属的细菌丰度降低, 肠杆菌属、放线菌门的丰度显著增加^[46]。在肠道菌群的代谢下, 色氨酸代谢产物主要包括吲哚、吲哚酸衍生物、色胺等^[47]。吲哚主要由大肠杆菌、变形杆菌、拟杆菌属等肠道菌产生。吲哚酸性衍生物具有抑制细菌生长、调控肠道上皮功能及减轻炎症的作用。吲哚丙酸能抑制嗜肺军团菌、鼠伤寒沙门氏菌等, 吲哚乙酸能够抑制部分菌的生长, 例如乳杆菌。色胺是一种神经递质, 能调节肠胃运动、参与维持细胞稳态、防止病原体入侵及抑制吲哚胺 2,3-双加氧酶 1 (indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase 1, IDO1) 活性来调节肠道稳态^[48]。随年龄的增长, 色氨酸及其微生物衍生化合物吲哚和吲哚-3-乳酸显著降低^[49]。

2 肠道菌群对肠道免疫衰老的影响

肠道菌群在免疫系统调节中起重要作用, 肠道免疫稳态微妙的平衡又对肠道菌群产生影响。随着年龄增长, 老年人肠道菌群及其代谢产物与其肠道免疫功能都发生相应变化^[50]。肠道菌群与免疫衰老的相互影响不容小觑 (图 2)。炎症性肠病 (inflammatory bowel disease, IBD) 是一种以肠道炎症为表征的免疫性疾病, 在老年疾病中较为常见。IBD 的发病主要有免疫、遗传、环境、微生物四大因素, 其中在老年 IBD 患者中遗传易感性降低。随着年龄增长, 生理功能下降、免疫系统受损、肠道微生物变化 (如大肠杆菌) 均可能增加产生 IBD 的风险^[51-52]。近几年, 老年人 IBD 患病率持续增长, 并且常伴随着合并症、治疗并发症等^[53]。老年 IBD 患者肠道微生物多样性的降低, 拟杆菌门、变形菌门、肠杆菌科、粪杆菌属和罗斯拜瑞氏菌属等减少, 肠通透性增加, 免疫细胞数量异常, 促炎因子和抗炎因子的表达异常^[54], 对扰动的易感性增加^[55-56]。

2.1 肠道菌群组成对肠道免疫衰老的影响

免疫系统与肠道细菌存在相互作用和共享的信号通路。健康的免疫系统能有效地应对各种病原体的入侵, 促进宿主和肠道菌群的共生关系, 进而再提高免疫力^[57]。普拉梭菌属、瘤胃球菌属和嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌等肠道菌群对宿主肠道免疫具有积极影响, 梭状芽胞杆菌属、脆弱拟杆菌、拟杆菌属、乳酸杆菌等共生菌可促进 T 细胞特异性抗原识别^[58]。嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌参与免疫反应的调节

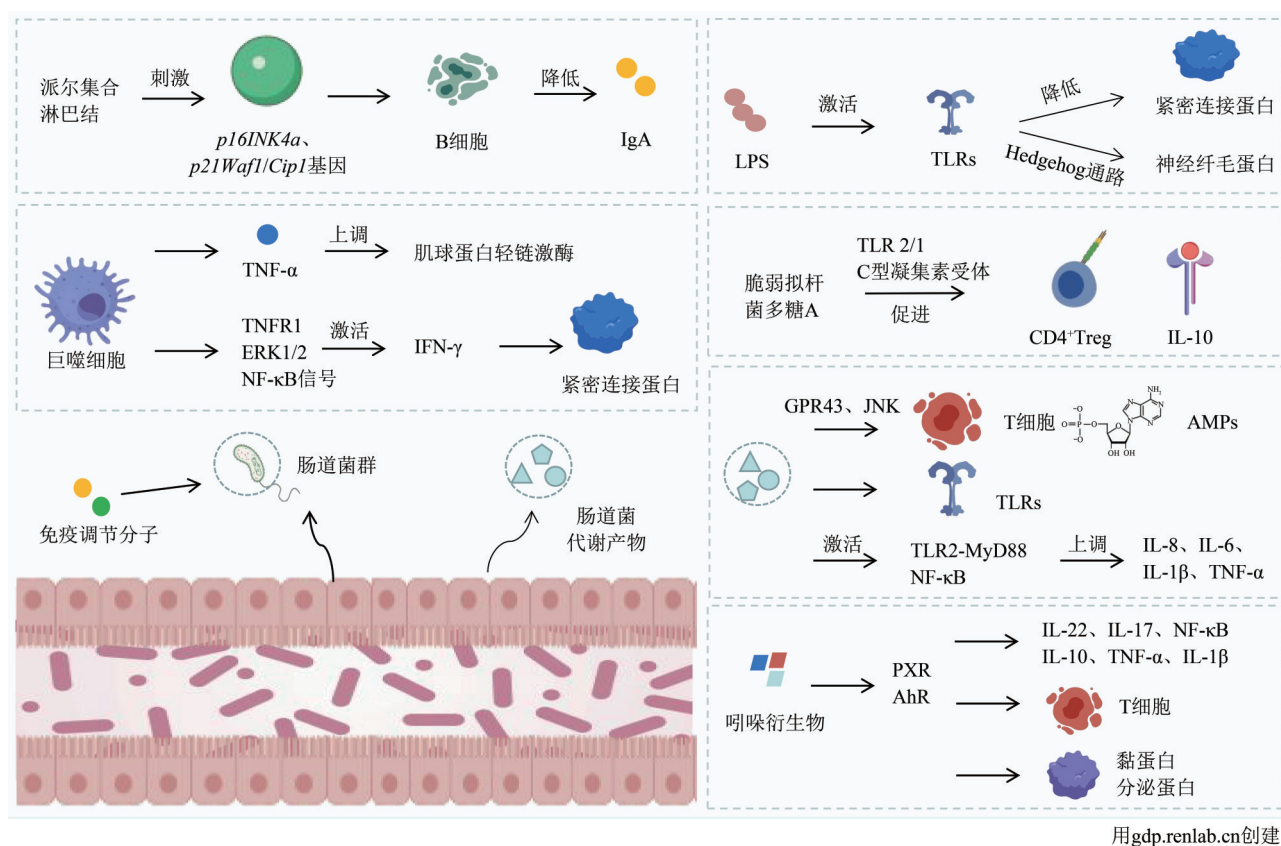


Fig. 2 Effects of the intestinal flora on intestinal immunosenescence

图2 肠道菌群对肠道免疫衰老的影响

IgA: 免疫球蛋白A (immunoglobulin A); LPS: 脂多糖 (lipopolysaccharides); TLRs: Toll样受体 (Toll-like receptors); TNF- α : 肿瘤坏死因子 α (tumor necrosis factor- α); IFN- γ : γ 干扰素 (Interferon- γ); PSA: 脆弱拟杆菌多糖A; GPR43: G蛋白偶联受体43 (G-protein-coupled receptor 43); JNK: c-Jun氨基末端激酶 (c-Jun N-terminal kinase); AMPs: 抗菌肽 (antimicrobial peptides); IL: 白介素 (interleukin); PXR: 孕烷X受体 (pregnane X receptor); AhR: 芳香烃受体 (aryl hydrocarbon receptor)。

的作用, 增加巨噬细胞、细胞毒性T淋巴细胞的水平及Treg细胞的数量。并通过上调紧密连接 (tight junction, TJ) 蛋白基因 *ZO-1*、*Occludin*、*Claudin-1* 和 E-钙黏蛋白的 mRNA 表达, 增强上皮屏障功能^[59]。

然而, 衰老带来的肠道菌群改变, 会影响肠黏膜完整性及肠道稳态, 进而导致免疫应答及调节能力下降, 不能够有效应对各种外源侵害。免疫系统造成全方位的功能破坏, 也会作用于肠道菌群, 进而使免疫力持续下降。老年人肠道拟杆菌的丰度降低, 引发隐窝、杯状细胞和糖蛋白的损失, 下调黏液蛋白的表达, 破坏结肠黏液层的完整性, 进而破坏宿主肠道屏障, 发生结肠炎症^[60]。某些革兰氏阴性菌对老年小鼠回肠的侵害加剧, 在 Peyer's 斑块中持续刺激上调 *p16INK4a* 和 *p21Waf1/Cip1* 基因的表达, 使细胞衰老并积累, 并通过促进有丝分裂

加速衰老回肠 B 细胞的积累, 进而降低 IgA 水平^[61]。革兰氏阴性细菌产生 LPS, 在适量的情况下, 对受体具有诱导作用, 可以激活相关免疫细胞。但随着年龄的增长, LPS 的释放量不断增加^[62], 富集的 LPS 会激活 TLRs, 从而导致肠道 TJ 蛋白表达降低, 诱发全身性低度炎症的产生。LPS 还可通过上皮 TLR2, 抑制肠道 Hedgehog 通路的信号转导, 上皮细胞神经纤毛蛋白被溶酶体降解, 削弱肠道屏障功能^[63]。老年人肠道中常见的脱硫弧菌属可诱导巨噬细胞分泌更多的 TNF- α ^[33], TNF- α 通过上调肌球蛋白轻链激酶加重肠上皮屏障功能障碍, 并通过肿瘤坏死因子受体 1 (tumor necrosis factor receptor-1, TNFR1)、胞外信号调节激酶 (extracellular signal-regulated kinases, ERK) 1/2 信号通路激活 NF- κ B 信号通路及与 IFN- γ 作用, 降低 TJ 蛋白表达^[33], 抑制丁酸盐代谢及部分免疫功能,

导致肠上皮细胞的过度增殖和代谢异常,还会产生抗原,破坏上皮细胞的完整性^[64]。衰老导致的Tregs细胞缺乏,改变肠道微生物群,使厚壁菌门/拟杆菌门比例下降,胃肠道黏膜部位会发生明显病变^[65]。

2.2 肠道菌群与机体肠道免疫调节分子的相互作用

肠道中存在许多具有免疫功能的蛋白质,包括抗菌肽(antimicrobial peptides, AMPs)、IgA等^[66]。随着年龄增加,抗菌和防御蛋白到黏膜表面的机械保护和运输减少,进而影响宿主的免疫活动及微生物群平衡,使老年人更容易感染细菌或病毒。

AMPs与微生物群的相互作用具有维持肠道菌群稳定及免疫调节等多种生理功能^[67]。AMPs表达异常,引发微生物组中优势细菌群发生变化,影响T细胞的免疫应答,从而影响免疫系统平衡。防御素作为与肠黏膜密切相关的AMP,在微生物及其衍生物的促进下产生,具有抗菌、抗病毒等作用,能有效杀灭革兰氏阴性细菌及一些被膜病毒,是确保肠道黏膜屏障功能的关键分子^[68]。有报道称,老年人肠道 α 防御素5(human α -defensin5, HD5)的水平低于中年人,这使老年人的肠道免疫系统易受到破坏,HD5也可能影响肠道微生物的组成,导致拟杆菌属减少,而厚壁菌门、另枝菌属和克里斯滕森氏菌等的丰度增加,从而引发某些年龄相关疾病的潜在风险^[69]。

IgA是机体中最丰富也最常见的免疫球蛋白,通常以二聚体形式存在^[70]。IgA对沙门氏菌等具有重要的防御作用,有效防止病原体危害肠道黏膜屏障甚至机体稳态^[71]。研究表明,丁酸梭菌能显著提高肠道黏膜固有层B淋巴细胞分泌的IgA的含量,增强机体免疫功能^[72]。研究表明,老年人粪便中总IgA含量和克隆多样性较低,并且肠道微生物刺激回肠B细胞,会诱导改变IgA含量及其克隆性^[73]。IgA的多样性与肠道微生物群的变化有关,但具体的变化机制还不清楚。脆弱拟杆菌产生多糖A是典型的免疫调节分子,其在与TLR2/1和C型凝集素受体的相互作用后,刺激PI3K产生信号转导,并促进CD4⁺ Treg的增殖及产生免疫调节细胞因子IL-10^[50, 74]。

2.3 衰老过程中肠道菌群代谢产物对机体肠道免疫系统的影响

肠道菌群代谢物具有调节肠道免疫的功能,主

要包括胆汁酸、次级胆汁酸、SCFAs、吲哚及衍生物等^[75]。

次级胆汁酸通过直接调节TH17细胞或Treg细胞的分化程度来控制宿主免疫反应^[76]。衰老导致肠道黏膜TLR5表达量降低,小鼠的胆汁酸代谢异常^[77]。SCFAs通过与G蛋白偶联受体43(G-protein-coupled receptor 43, GPR43)及c-Jun氨基端激酶(c-Jun N-terminal kinase, JNK)等相互作用,刺激合成AMP^[78],进而影响肠道屏障及肠道免疫系统,同时激活GPR43和GPR41,从而促进宿主结肠中的Foxp3⁺Tregs,改变肠道微生物群的组成,增加肠道中抗炎细胞因子IL-10的释放^[79],SCFAs也诱导低水平的促炎因子IL-8,但其对保持宿主免疫系统警觉是有益的^[80]。随着年龄的增长,代谢物产生的相关基因丢失,肠道微生物群释放的代谢物显著降低,衰老小鼠中G蛋白偶联受体41(G-protein-coupled receptor 41, GPR41)表达减少和GPR43表达增加,也证明了代谢物所控制的肠道通路受损,影响肠道稳态^[81]。

小鼠中丁酸盐促进了Treg细胞的胸腺外生成,赋予树突状细胞促进Treg细胞分化的能力。丙酸盐影响肠道产生IL-17和IL-22^[82],也能抑制组蛋白去乙酰化酶活性。另外,由于老年人丁酸梭菌的丰度降低,阻碍SCFAs的产生,肠道TJ蛋白的合成受阻,导致肠道通透性增加,抑制肠道免疫功能^[47]。另外,丁酸梭菌及代谢产物通过激活肠道细胞TLRs等,激活多个信号通路。其可利用脂磷壁酸等菌体成分激活肠道细胞TLR2-MyD88或NF- κ B信号通路,小幅上调促炎因子IL-8、IL-6、IL-1 β 和TNF- α 的表达,激活肠道天然免疫系统,帮助机体清除病原体。

肠道菌群通过调节色氨酸的代谢来调节宿主免疫系统。色氨酸代谢物通过孕烷X受体(pregnanane X receptor, PXR)及芳香烃受体(aryl hydrocarbon receptor, AhR)影响小鼠的肠屏障完整性、免疫细胞及免疫反应。吲哚是色氨酸细菌代谢物的主要分子,被认为是肠上皮细胞中的有益信号。吲哚激活AhR信号转导并促进IL-22的产生。AhR有助于肠道中Treg细胞的产生,并控制IL-17应答,有助于改善肠道炎症,维持肠道稳态^[46]。此外,AhR信号通路还通过诱导相关基因的表达,增强黏膜屏障和黏蛋白的产生,从而进一步巩固肠道屏障。同时,AhR信号能够抑制NF- κ B的过度活化以及促炎趋化因子的过度产生,从而减轻炎症

和组织损伤^[47]。然而随着年龄的增长, 吡啶通过 AhR 信号及 IL-22 等发挥的免疫作用失调, 导致上皮屏障破坏及与年龄相关性疾病的发生^[19]。吡啶丙烯酸可促进 IL-10 的产生和黏蛋白基因的表达, 从而起到抗炎作用。吡啶丙酸也可刺激 IL-10 产生, 并减少 TNF- α 、IL-1 β 等, 增加 TJ 蛋白, 并降低细胞内渗透性来增强肠屏障功能。吡啶乙酸能够激活 AhR 调节免疫反应, 调控巨噬细胞中 IL-1 β 、IL-6 等促炎细胞因子的表达, 从而缓解炎症反应^[48]。色胺可以诱导肠上皮细胞分泌离子并对 IDO1 抑制的作

用, 有助于免疫细胞产生更有效的肿瘤反应性应答, 这对抗癌治疗是有益的^[47]。

3 靶向肠道微生物减缓肠道免疫衰老的策略

随着肠道微生物与宿主健康衰老之间的关系越来越清晰, 后续可研究靶向调节肠道微生物群的抗衰老策略。目前, 靶向调节肠道微生物群的策略包括饮食干预、粪便微生物群移植等^[83], 以达到健康衰老或长寿的目的 (图3)。

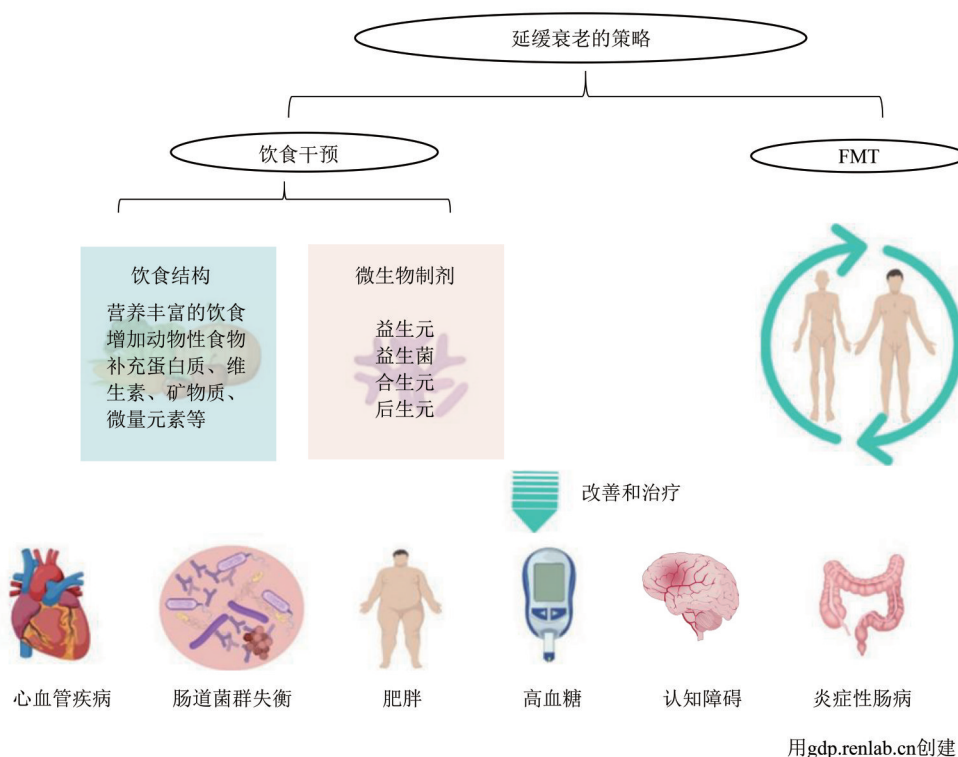


Fig. 3 Strategies for promoting healthy aging: dietary intervention and fecal microbiota transplantation

图3 促进健康衰老的策略: 饮食干预、粪便微生物群移植

FMT: 粪便微生物群移植 (fecal microbiota transplantation)。

3.1 饮食干预

饮食是决定肠道菌群组成和功能的重要因素, 对于维持身体健康至关重要^[84]。由于老年人生理机能发生改变, 感官、咀嚼及吸收代谢能力降低, 对营养的要求更高, 需要更加丰富的饮食来维持身体健康。老年人倾向于比年轻人食用纤维更多、糖更少的食物^[85]。但大部分老年人饮食不够多样化, 蔬菜水果、鱼禽奶类摄入不足, 普遍存在营养不足情况, 同时油盐摄入量也严重超标^[85-86]。老年人营养摄入不足, 导致体重下降^[87]、肠道菌群变化、

免疫能力改变及感染风险增加、出现认知障碍^[88-89]、肌肉减少^[90]、高血糖、心血管疾病、癌症等。老年人胃底容忍性舒张功能降低导致早饱感、胃酸过少导致细菌过度生长、激素分泌改变肠道菌群, 经黏液真杆菌属的丰度较低与营养不良相关, 且老年受试者粪便乙酸盐水平降低^[87, 91]。并且老年人干细胞增殖能力下降, B细胞和T细胞的产生减少, 自然杀伤细胞活性降低, 血清免疫球蛋白浓度降低, TLR2和TLR4受到影响^[91]。健康及科学的饮食有助于缓解衰老及预防各种疾病^[84]。

在新版《中国老年人饮食指南》中发布了中国老年人推荐饮食变化, 强调了老年人需要膳食品种丰富, 动物性食物充足, 及时补充蛋白质、维生素、矿物质及微量元素。

除了调整老年人的日常饮食状态, 还可以适当增加微生物试剂, 增强肠道健康及身体免疫, 例如, 益生元、益生菌、合生元及后生元等。益生元作为肠道微生物发酵的重要底物, 其通过肠道代谢, 调节肠道微生物群的组成或活性, 从而促进宿主健康。益生元主要包括膳食多酚、膳食纤维等。多酚普遍存在于水果和蔬菜中, 具有公认的抗氧化、抗炎及调节肠道生态失调的特性, 是潜在的抗衰老剂。多酚和肠道微生物群形成双向网络相互联系, 影响肠道主要菌群之间的发酵平衡, 通过多种机制塑造微生物群的组成, 从而保持肠道屏障的健康^[92]。多酚可以诱导乳酸杆菌、双歧杆菌和拟杆菌属的生长, 并减少厚壁菌门, 促进有益菌株的出现, 从而抑制致病菌种的增殖^[93]。多酚还影响部分细菌 SCFAs 的产生。研究表明, 在多酚干预后, 观察到纤维发酵和丁酸盐产生细菌显著增加^[94-95]。另外, 多酚可以通过直接调节 TJ 蛋白功能从而保护肠道屏障的完整性。膳食纤维是最常见的益生元, 有助于降低老年人的心血管系统疾病风险、减少全身炎症、抗癌、控制体重及促进肠道健康等^[96]。膳食纤维通过增加有益细菌的数量, 抑制致病菌生长, 能有效降低微生物群中致动脉粥样硬化的血清胆固醇, 并使小肠周围形成黏稠层, 使葡萄糖、脂质和氨基酸的吸收减少, 降低高血糖, 增加对葡萄糖的耐性^[97]。抗性淀粉 (resistant starch, RS) 被称为一种可以抵抗人体消化酶水解的膳食纤维, 它在肠胃中不易消化, 能够到达大肠与肠道微生物相互作用, 发酵并产生比其他膳食纤维更多的 SCFAs^[96, 98]。给中老年受试者补充抗性淀粉后发现, 双歧杆菌的丰度增加, 厚壁菌门/拟杆菌门比值降低, 丁酸盐的产量也显著增多^[99]。

除了益生元, 食用益生菌也有助于老年身体健康。与免疫调节药物相比, 肠道细菌的效应最初可能显得很小时, 但它们的持续影响不可低估^[100]。众所周知, 双歧杆菌、嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌, 及厚壁菌门都具有很高的抗炎活性, 可以作为益生菌的选择。通过口服益生菌嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌能够增加黏液厚度, 改善炎症免疫状态, 对细胞免疫功能及氧化应激参数等都有较为明显的作用, 并且能够降低 IL-2、IL-6 和 TNF- α 等, 促进肠道益生菌在结肠

的黏附和定植, 进而重塑肠道微生物群结构^[101-102]。为解决益生菌在肠道定植困难, 开发出组合益生菌和益生元的合生元。合生元不是二者有益成分的简单加和, 而是指包含活微生物和宿主微生物选择性利用底物的混合物, 可发挥益生元及益生菌的双重作用, 在肠道稳态及免疫平衡中具有积极作用, 有益于宿主的身体健康^[103]。在对老年人进行多酚-益生菌饮食干预后, 观察到肠道 IL-6、IL-10 及 C 反应蛋白水平降低, 丁酸盐和乙酸盐及乳酸杆菌和双歧杆菌丰度显著增加, 有助于减轻慢性炎症^[104]。然而, 益生菌和合生元都需要活菌, 并在定植后通过在肠道中竞争黏附位置发挥作用, 具有一定局限性。后生元则通过一定方式对微生物灭活, 保留益生菌在肠道中代谢益生元的产物以及有益菌体成分, 包括益生菌代谢产物、SCFAs、细胞壁片段、功能蛋白等^[103]。后生元具有更强的稳定性及安全性, 工业过程及储存更加简便, 同时由于菌体灭活, 失去了复制能力, 没有引发菌血症或真菌血症等风险^[103]。后生元包含了多种有益物质, 并具有和益生菌类似的作用效果, 有利于肠道健康, 免疫功能及血糖血脂调节。例如, 乳酸杆菌后生元能够强效保护肠屏障, 增加肠黏蛋白表达, 降低 TNF- α 的诱导, 并能使肠道预防大肠杆菌的感染、葡聚糖硫酸钠诱导的结肠炎以及 LPS/D-半乳糖胺诱导的细菌易位和肝损伤等肠道屏障相关疾病^[105]。

3.2 粪便微生物群移植

粪便微生物群移植 (fecal microbiota transplantation, FMT) 是将健康人的粪移植到受体的肠道中, 用以改善肠道菌群失调的问题。研究表明, 在小鼠 FMT 实验中, 老龄小鼠的炎症因子 TNF- α 、IL-6、IL-1 β 下降, 显著增加杯状细胞的数量及黏蛋白、TJ 蛋白 ZO-1 和 Occludin 的表达, 肠上皮屏障和炎症得到改善^[106]。另外, FMT 显著增加老龄小鼠的微生物多样性, 部分逆转了肠道生态失调, 并激活了 T 细胞受体信号和肠道免疫网络 IgA 的产生^[106]。

FMT 在肠道疾病的实际治疗中, 具有一定成效。FMT 成功用于根除肠道艰难梭菌感染患者的致病产毒细菌, 在病例中的有效率达 90% 以上。在 IBD 患者的治疗中, FMT 能诱导患者微生物群的长期变化, 使益生菌丰度显著增多, 明显改善疾病严重程度^[107-108]。但由于不同个体的肠道微生物存在巨大差异, 部分疾病仍无法预测 FMT 的临床

疗效。另外,如果患者与捐赠者匹配程度不高,FMT获得则不够精确,植入的部分微生物在患者身上可能是有害的。因此,在临床医学上对FMT的研究依旧任重道远。

4 研究展望

中国人口老龄化日益严重,老年人的健康问题获得更加广泛重视,被称为人体“第二大脑”的肠道健康却容易被忽略。肠道中的菌群非常复杂,多种疾病的发生与肠道菌群失调有关。已有足够的证据表明,肠道菌群在衰老过程中发挥重要作用。老年肠道菌群会发生趋势性改变,增加了肠道稳态失衡的风险。衰老的肠道菌群通过多种途径对人体免疫系统造成影响,肠道免疫的破坏也会改变肠道菌群种类及功能,二者相互影响,相互加剧。虽然肠道免疫衰老与肠道菌群间的关系毫无疑问,一些研究已经证明了它们之间的相互作用,但诸多具体机制仍不清楚。近年来,通过调控肠道菌群来预防与年龄相关的代谢紊乱带来的诸多健康问题,已成为研究的热点。主要策略包括饮食干预和FMT。在饮食干预的研究中,膳食及抗衰老之间的相互作用还有待深入了解。虽然现有的FMT处理策略是有效的,但仍然存在不精确、不匹配和效果差等各种问题,肠道微生物组的巨大个体间变异性使得粪菌移植的临床疗效具有挑战性。此外,考虑到生活方式、饮食习惯和现有肠道微生物群等个性化因素,有必要针对个体的衰老过程量身定制针对微生物群的干预措施。

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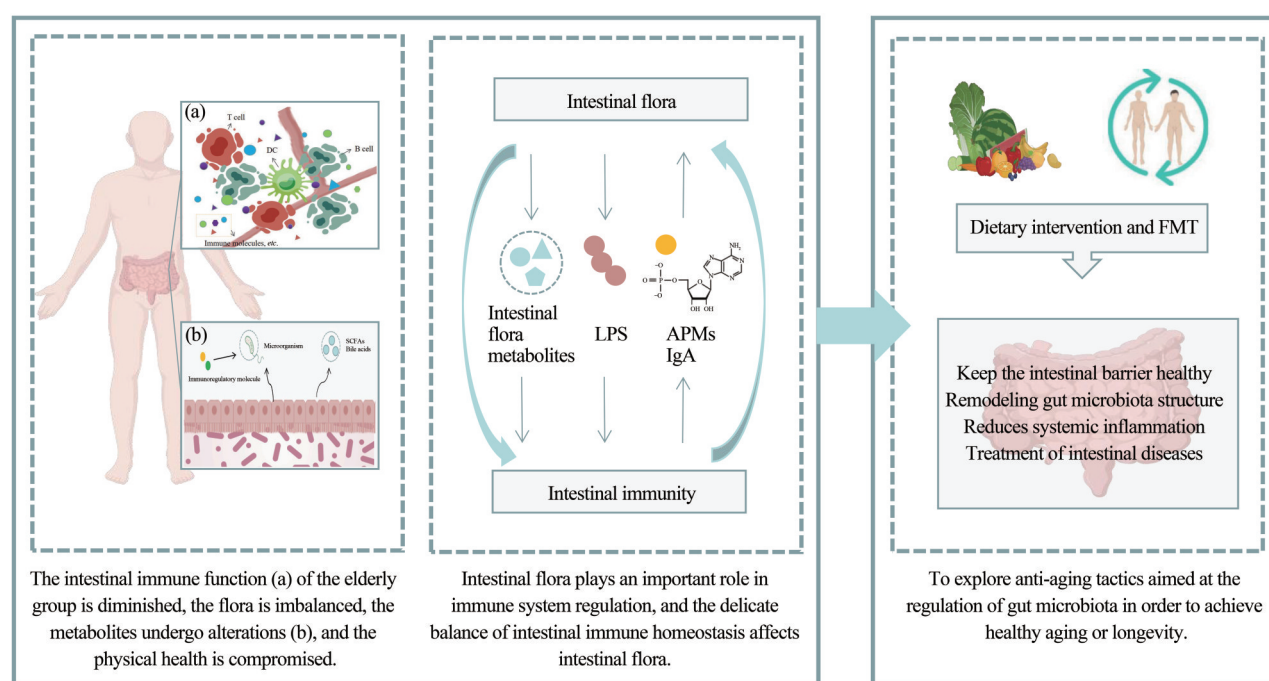
The Relationship Between Intestinal Flora and Intestinal Mucosal Immune Senescence*

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Graphical abstract



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Abstract Aging has been identified as one of the risk factors for chronic disease, and the onset and development of many chronic diseases are closely related to gut immune dysfunction in the elderly. Aging profoundly affects the intestinal immune system and the homeostasis of intestinal flora. We have reviewed the changes in intestinal mucosal immune function that occur with aging, including Toll-like receptors (TLRs), T cells, B cells and inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6, TNF- α and IFN- γ . Age-related changes in typical gut microbiota and their metabolites were discussed. Aging leads to changes in the composition and diversity of the gut microbiota. With advancing age, intestinal bacteria such as *Bacteroides*, *Bifidobacterium* and *Clostridium butyricum* undergo

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significant alterations. These changes lead to a decline in the metabolites produced by the gut flora, including short chain fatty acids (SCFAs), bile, indole and indole derivatives. As a result, the homeostasis of the gut microbiota becomes disrupted, leading to an imbalance in the intestinal microbial ecosystem. The interaction between the intestinal flora and its metabolites and the intestinal immune system has been studied and a high correlation between the intestinal flora and the immune function of the intestinal mucosa has been proposed. Under normal circumstances, a healthy immune system and gut flora are mutually reinforcing and promote the health of the host. However, with age, the integrity of intestinal mucosa and the homeostasis of intestinal flora are disrupted, resulting in a decline in the immune response and regulatory capacity and an inability to respond effectively to various exogenous insults. Meanwhile, the ongoing damage to the immune system further exacerbates the imbalance in the gut flora. Changes in the gut flora of the elderly affect the diversity and levels of key immune molecules such as defensins and immunoglobulin A (IgA). Abnormal expression of immune molecules in the gut also leads to changes in the composition of the gut microbiome, affecting gut health and potentially increasing the risk of disease. The metabolites of intestinal flora interact with intestinal receptors, activate relevant signalling pathways, directly regulate immune cells and control the immune system, influence the intestinal barrier and intestinal immune functions, and exert immunoregulatory effects on the intestine. As the relationship between gut flora and immune aging becomes clearer, future research can explore strategies for targeted regulation of gut flora for anti-aging and immune enhancement. In this paper, we further explore the regulation of gut flora and gut immune function by dietary intervention and fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) to achieve the goal of delaying immune aging. Dietary intervention promotes the growth of beneficial bacteria by adjusting the structure of the elderly's diet and supplementing with microbial preparations, maintaining the intestinal barrier and reducing chronic inflammation. FMT involves the transplantation of faeces from healthy individuals into recipients to improve mucosal integrity and promote microbial diversity. This paper has discussed the complex mechanism between aging, gut flora and immune response, highlighted the research progress of gut flora anti-aging methods, with the aim of providing a reference for research on targeted gut flora regulation to promote gut mucosal immune function for health promotion and anti-aging.

Key words intestinal mucosal immunity, gut microbiota, immunosenescence

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