

液相色谱-串联质谱技术在 临床检验中的应用研究进展

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摘要:液相色谱-串联质谱(LC-MS/MS)技术具有高灵敏度、高特异性、高分辨率和高效率的优点。近年来随着仪器灵敏度的提高, LC-MS/MS在常规临床检验中显示出极大的潜力, 并在疾病早期预防和诊断中发挥着不可替代的作用。本文对 LC-MS/MS在新生儿疾病筛查、维生素 D 检测、内分泌激素检测、肽类和蛋白质定量分析等临床检验方面的研究进展进行综述, 并讨论了未来面临的挑战。

关键词:液相色谱-串联质谱(LC-MS/MS); 临床检验; 应用研究

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Progress in the Application of Liquid Chromatography-Tandem Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Diagnosis

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Abstract: The blood, body fluid and other samples of patients collected by clinical laboratory can be detected to find disease markers through different methods, so as to provide clinicians with an important basis for disease prevention, diagnosis, curative effect and prognosis. LC-MS/MS is an analytical instrument with high sensitivity, high specificity, high resolution and high efficiency. In recent years, with the improvement of instrument sensitivity, LC-MS/MS showed great superiority, practicability and development potential in analytical and clinical practices, thus many diseases can be diagnosed accurately, quickly and sensitively in the early stage. For example, LC-MS/MS was used for neonatal screening, and it could screen more than 30 disease markers including various amino acids and carnitine simultaneously. Comparing with immunoassay, LC-MS/MS applied to endocrine hormones can simultaneously determine a variety of

analytes and provide structural information of analytes. It has the advantages of high throughput and high specificity. Due to the expensive instruments and the cost of training, only a few clinical laboratories have the ability to develop and verify LC-MS/MS method. Based on the inherent limitations of the instrument, such as matrix effect and ion suppression effect, the efficiency of the method was decreased, resulting in challenges in the process of method development. In addition, the technical levels of different clinical laboratories are uneven, so it is necessary to establish corresponding reference measurement methods and reference ranges for clinical analysis. The standardization of quantitative results is significant for laboratory to build the traceability system. The research progress of the application of LC-MS/MS in clinical practices was introduced, and the advantages and disadvantages of the application of LC-MS/MS in neonatal screening, vitamin D detection, endocrine hormone detection, therapeutic drug concentration monitoring and protein quantitative analysis were discussed in the review. Finally the possible challenges and the recent advancement that clinical laboratories may confront in the application of LC-MS/MS were discussed.

Key words: liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS); clinical diagnosis; applied research

对临床实验室收集的患者血液、体液等样品进行各项指标检测,可以提供对疾病预防、诊断、治疗方案和预后判断的重要依据。传统的检测方法(如基于抗原抗体结合的免疫测定(IA))是常规临床检测方法之一^[1],但临床实践中发现,IA法会出现选择性差或假阳性结果^[2]。液相色谱-串联质谱(LC-MS/MS)技术凭借高灵敏度和高选择性的优点,可提供更准确的分析结果,在临床检验中发挥着重要作用。

质谱的电离模式通常可分为硬电离^[3]和软电离^[4-5],其中硬电离模式目前仅限于分析具有挥发性和热稳定的化合物^[6],不适用于分析临床样本;软电离允许样品分子在电离过程中保持完整形态^[7],有利于检测临床小分子分析物,电喷雾电离是临床质谱最常见的电离模式。完整的样品分子进入串联质谱后,在一级质谱中选择特定化合物的母离子,在碰撞池中将母离子碰撞裂解,随后采用二级质谱的MRM或SRM模式获得对应的离子对信息^[8-9]。相比于其他方法如紫外分光光度法、荧光光谱法和免疫测定法等,串联质谱具有更高的选择性、准确性、分辨率、灵敏度等优势^[10-11],可通过MRM/SRM模式实现对多种分析物的同时准确定量^[12]。

基于液相色谱分离的LC-MS/MS是目前临床实验室中最常用的检测方法^[13-15]。由于临床检验的样本通常是基质复杂的生物液体或固体,不适于直接通过质谱分析,须对样品进行预处理和色谱分离。其中,预处理过程中样品制备不仅会影响色谱的分离效果,还会影响分析物信号强度。有时需要根据所采用LC-MS/MS系统的检出限浓缩或稀释样品,并通过优化液相色谱条件将目标物与干扰成分分离^[11, 16-17]。

本文基于LC-MS/MS在临床检验中的应用研究进展进行综述,拟讨论LC-MS/MS在新生儿筛查^[18]、维生素D检测^[19]、内分泌激素检测^[20]、血药浓度监测^[21]、蛋白定量分析^[22]等应用中存在的独特优势和局限性,并讨论目前临床实验室在LC-MS/MS应用中可能面临的挑战,并对其发展趋势和应用前景进行展望。

1 LC-MS/MS在临床检验的应用研究进展

目前,LC-MS/MS在临床中可检测项目多达500余项,主要的检测项目列于表1。该技术使多种疾病在早期得以被准确、快速、高灵敏地诊断。

表 1 临床质谱检测项目
Table 1 Detectable items of MS in clinical application

序号 No.	检测项目 Test item	项目数量 Item quantity	疾病标志物 Disease marker
1	新生儿遗传代谢病筛查 ^[23-29]	200 余项	新生儿筛查,可一次性筛查 30~40 种遗传代谢病,包括氨基酸、肉碱、有机酸、胆汁酸、脂肪酸及各种代谢物等的检测
2	维生素 ^[30-35]	10 余项	25-羟基维生素 D ₂ /D ₃ 、1,25-双羟基维生素 D ₂ /D ₃ 、维生素 A/C/E/K、维生素 B 族等
3	治疗药物实时监测 ^[36-39]	100 余项	抗免疫排斥类药物、抗抑郁和抗精神病类药物、抗 HIV 药物、抗肿瘤药物等、治疗浓度小需要需要精确定量的药物
4	疼痛药物管理 ^[36]	120 余项	镇静剂类、兴奋剂类、致幻剂类等
5	药物毒物滥用 ^[40-42]	10 余项	吗啡、芬太尼、可待因、氧可酮、生物碱等
6	内分泌/类固醇激素类 ^[43-48]	70 余项	睾酮、孕酮、雌酮、雌二醇、17-羟孕酮、皮质醇等超过 15 种类固醇,激素类等免疫方法测量结果不准确的激素
7	神经递质类化合物 ^[49]	10 余项	儿茶酚胺:多巴胺、去甲肾上腺素、肾上腺素;儿茶酚胺代谢产物:甲氧基肾上腺素、甲氧基去甲肾上腺素
8	高血压/糖尿病 ^[50]	50 余项	同型半胱氨酸、1,5-脱水葡萄糖醇、肾素活性-血管紧张素、醛固酮、皮质醇、氨基酸、有机酸等
9	蛋白/多肽类 ^[51-56]	10 余项	胰岛素、IGF-1、甲状腺球蛋白、血红蛋白等

1.1 新生儿遗传代谢疾病筛查

先天性代谢缺陷(IEM)是一类罕见的遗传疾病,其成因复杂,且多属于进行性疾病,病情恶化后可导致新生儿严重的损伤甚至残疾,因此早期筛查、诊断和治疗具有重要意义。LC-MS/MS 技术能够快速、准确地对新生儿筛查中的多种疾病标志物进行定性、定量分析^[57-58]。该技术可通过收集干血斑(DBS)制备样本,对婴儿伤害小且简单^[59]。通常直接用含有一定量同位素内标的提取液从干血斑中提取目标物,然后直接进行 LC-MS/MS 分析,预处理简便、省时,2 min 内即可完成 1 个样本的检测,具备极高的检测效率和通量。随着方法的不断开发,单个样本中可同时检测的分析物种类不断增加。目前,市售的试剂盒可以同时分析单个样品中的 30 多种标志物,如山东英盛的新生儿遗传代谢病筛查试剂盒,可检测 13 种氨基酸、31 种肉碱和琥珀酰丙酮,列于表 2。此外,将高效液相色谱替换为超高效液相色谱,与串联质谱联用,不仅扩大了疾病诊断的范围,还能进一步提高仪器的灵敏度,一些标志物的检出

限可达 1 ng/mL^[25,29],为临床实验室提供了更强大的分离各种疾病标志物的能力^[60]。

LC-MS/MS 技术自 20 世纪被用于新生儿筛查,至今已经发展成熟,其缺点在于设备昂贵、对实验室条件和技术人员的要求较高,且需要实验室具有一定水平的质量控制能力。此外,由于新生儿筛查临床样本中各分析物的浓度受疾病和新生儿母亲营养水平影响较大,因此各分析物具有较宽的参考范围。IEM 患儿出生后,短时间内一些代谢物可能保持在正常水平,但随年龄增长后出现变化,有时仅依靠 LC-MS/MS 的定量结果不足以构成诊断的充分条件。目前,第二代测序技术作为 LC-MS/MS 的二级诊断方式或二者组合的形式被广泛使用,这种组合策略可降低 LC-MS/MS 的误诊风险^[61]。

1.2 维生素 D

维生素 D(VD)的缺乏会导致少儿佝偻病和成年人的软骨病,是一个世界性的健康问题,对 VD 的浓度水平检测具有诊断意义^[62]。VD 在肝脏中转化为 25-羟基维生素 D(25(OH)D),

表2 氨基酸、肉碱和琥珀酰丙酮的LC-MS/MS测定试剂盒

Table 2 LC-MS/MS kit for determination of amino acids, carnitine and succinyl acetone

分析物 Analyte	缩写 Abbreviation	灵敏度 Sensitivity/ ($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	线性范围 Linear range/ ($\mu\text{mol/L}$)	参考范围 Reference range/ ($\mu\text{mol/L}$)
甘氨酸	Gly	50	400~4556	98~1200
缬氨酸	Val	0.8	35~2240	63~330
亮氨酸/异亮氨酸/羟基脯氨酸	Leu/Ile/Pro-OH	1.0	35~2240	70~330
苯丙氨酸	Phe	0.5	20~1280	21~120
酪氨酸	Tyr	1.0	20~1280	25.8~320
丙氨酸	Ala	2.0	175~2000	62.9~650
蛋氨酸	Met	0.8	10~640	8~55
瓜氨酸	Cit	1.0	15~960	4~45
鸟氨酸	Orn	0.6	23~1900	42~400
精氨酸	Arg	0.5	10~640	1.64~66.5
脯氨酸	Pro	0.8	65~740	61~500
琥珀酰丙酮	SA	0.8	1.2~100	0~3.0
游离肉碱	C0	0.2	8.5~544	8~60
乙酰肉碱	C2	0.1	5~320	3.4~57
丙酰肉碱	C3	0.04	1~64	0.2~5
丙二酰肉碱/3-羟基-丁酰肉碱	C3DC/C4OH	0.04	1~64	0.02~0.3
丁酰肉碱	C4	0.04	0.2~51.2	0.05~0.53
甲基丙二酰肉碱/3-羟基-异戊酰肉碱	C4DC/C5OH	0.04	0.2~51.2	0.07~0.61
异戊酰肉碱	C5	0.03	0.2~51.2	0.04~0.45
异戊烯酰肉碱	C5:1	0.03	0.2~51.2	0~0.12
戊二酰肉碱/3-羟基-己酰肉碱	C5DC/C6OH	0.03	0.2~51.2	0.01~0.3
己酰肉碱	C6	0.02	0.05~12.8	0.01~0.15
己二酰肉碱	C6DC	0.02	0.05~12.8	0.01~0.25
辛酰肉碱	C8	0.02	0.05~12.8	0.02~0.2
辛烯酰肉碱	C8:1	0.02	0.05~12.8	0.02~0.38
癸酰肉碱	C10	0.01	0.05~12.8	0.01~0.3
癸烯酰肉碱	C10:1	0.01	0.05~12.8	0.01~0.27
癸二烯酰肉碱	C10:2	0.01	0.05~12.8	0~0.12
十二酰肉碱	C12	0.02	0.1~25.6	0.02~0.34
十二烯酰肉碱	C12:1	0.02	0.1~25.6	0.01~0.3
十四酰肉碱	C14	0.02	0.2~51.2	0.02~0.5
十四烯酰肉碱	C14:1	0.02	0.2~51.2	0.01~0.3
十四碳二烯酰肉碱	C14:2	0.02	0.2~51.2	0~0.15
3-羟基-十四酰肉碱	C14OH	0.02	0.2~51.2	0~0.04
十六酰肉碱	C16	0.08	2.5~160	0.15~6.31
十六烯酰肉碱	C16:1	0.08	2.5~160	0.01~0.46
3-羟基-十六酰肉碱	C16OH	0.08	2.5~160	0~0.06
3-羟基-十六烯酰肉碱	C16:1OH	0.08	2.5~160	0~0.1
十八酰肉碱	C18	0.04	0.65~41.6	0.1~1.85
十八烯酰肉碱	C18:1	0.04	0.65~41.6	0.17~3
十八碳二烯酰肉碱	C18:2	0.04	0.65~41.6	0.06~0.87
3-羟基-十八酰肉碱	C18OH	0.04	0.65~41.6	0~0.05
3-羟基-十八烯酰肉碱	C18:1OH	0.04	0.65~41.6	0~0.06

其中 25-羟基维生素 D₃ (25(OH)D₃) 是主要的存在形式, 同时也存在少量 25-羟基维生素 D₂ (25(OH)D₂)。由于 25(OH)D 总含量高于其他任何 VD 代谢物且相对稳定, 临床通过检测 25(OH)D 作为评价人体 VD 营养水平的可靠指标, 将 25(OH)D 低于 20 ng/mL (50 nmol/L) 定义为 VD 缺乏^[69]。目前, 血清样品中 25(OH)D 的检测主要采用基于抗原与抗体特异性结合的 IA 法或 LC-MS/MS 法, IA 法成本低廉, 预处理过程易于自动化和高通量检测, 但其主要缺点是抗体与 25(OH)D 代谢物之间存在交叉反应, 并且检测容易受到温度、基质、抗体状态等条件影响^[70]。此外, 该方法仅能得到 25(OH)D 总含量, 无法分别定量 25(OH)D₂ 和 25(OH)D₃。LC-MS/MS 技术不仅能区分微量复杂样本中 25(OH)D₂ 和 25(OH)D₃, 同时具有很高的灵敏度, 这是由于通过色谱分离或同位素标记法来筛选候选的生物标记物, 解决了同分异构体干扰的问题^[63], 因此, LC-MS/MS 被国际公认为测定 25(OH)D 的“金标准”^[64]。

然而, 在临床实践中发现, VD 存在少量差向异构体的类似物, 差向异构体在一些人如婴儿体内的含量足以影响诊断结果, 需要进行长时间的色谱分离才能得到满意的分离效果。此外, 由于 25(OH)D 为甾体类化合物, 除 C、H、O 外只含有较少的其他原子, 因此电离效率较低, 且电离后表现出较差的、非特征性的碎裂特性^[65], 限制了 VD 临床检测的灵敏度。一些研究^[66-67]使用样品衍生化或在流动相中添加盐来提高灵敏度, 但衍生化步骤繁琐、耗时且不利于大规模分析应用。Tai 等^[68]开发了一种基于 LC-MS/MS 的测定人血清中 25(OH)D 的参考测量测序程序, 采用 LLE 预处理样品, 不经过衍生化, 分析时长为 45 min, 25(OH)D 的检出限为 0.375 nmol/L。Liebisch 等^[69]改进了该方法后, 使分析时间缩短至 4 min。Kassim 等^[70]开发了一种基于衍生化的检测血清中 12 种 VD 代谢物的 LC-MS/MS 方法, 分析时间长达 34 min, 但检出限可达 fmol 水平。Wan 等^[71]基于衍生化开发了检测 VD 代谢物的新方法, 同时采用液液萃取-固相萃取 (LLE-SPE) 联用的预处理方法, 与单独的 SPE 相比, 降低了 2~4 倍的离子抑制, 分析时间为 13 min, 定

量限为 0.005~0.02 nmol/L。Mena-Bravo 等^[72]基于二维液相色谱 (2DLC) 提出了 SPE-2DLC-MS/MS 方法, 用于人血清中 VD 代谢物的绝对定量分析, 2DLC 可以分离 25(OH)D₃ 和差向异构体, 检出限范围在 0.023~0.225 nmol/L, RSD 小于 11.6%。最近, Kassim 等^[34]报道了在不使用衍生化的情况下, 25(OH)D₂ 和 25(OH)D₃ 的检出限分别达到 0.012 和 0.037 nmol/L, 由于采用了在线 SPE 方法, 进一步纯化提取物需要较长时间, 总分析时长为 35 min。因此, 开发更短时间和少量样本即可同时分析 VD 及其代谢物的新方法, 将有助于 VD 缺乏相关疾病的临床诊断。通过 LC-MS/MS 同时检测维生素 D 和其代谢物的相关信息列于表 3。

1.3 内分泌激素

人体内某种激素浓度发生变化可能会对其他激素产生影响, 因此, 同时测量多种内源性激素在临床和生理学研究具有重要意义^[73]。但许多激素具有相似的分子结构, 且激素含量较低, 样品受性别、年龄等因素影响较大^[74-76], 准确定量分析内分泌激素是目前临床最具挑战性的问题之一。以临床中常见的肾上腺皮质癌为例, 其病理特征是在男性和绝经后女性体内过量分泌雌激素, 而且患者的 17-羟基孕酮、雄烯二酮和硫酸脱氢表雄酮等多种激素也在生理周期内异常上升^[77], 须在 1 次检测中同时筛选多种激素才能分析诊断, 常规检测涉及激素种类有限, 难以满足要求。采用 LC-MS/MS 法能同时检测这些激素含量, 通过色谱分离, 使具有相似化学结构的类固醇得到优异的纯化效果, 同时缩短了分析时间, 能快速得到高重现性的结果, 这对揭示内分泌失调等疾病的发病机理, 疾病诊断或预防的标志物以及相关治疗方案具有巨大潜力^[78]。

目前, LC-MS/MS 已用于测量几乎所有类别的内分泌激素^[79], Enver 等^[80]采用 LC-MS/MS 建立了婴儿肾上腺激素含量的参考范围, 可检测 14 种内分泌激素。Handelsman 等^[81]通过 LC-MS/MS 测量 10 904 份血清样本, 认为男性雄激素水平受到年龄、身高和体重等因素的影响, 男性的睾酮及其 2 种生物活性代谢物双氢睾酮和雌二醇等内分泌激素水平呈现从 35 岁逐渐下降, 80 岁后下降更显著的年龄特征。然

表3 维生素D的LC-MS/MS分析
Table 3 LC-MS/MS analysis of vitamin D

分析物 Analyte	预处理方法 Pretreatment method	检测技术 Analytical method	分析时间 Analysis duration/min	检出限 LOD/ (nmol/L)	线性范围 Reference range/ (nmol/L)	参考文献 Reference
VD ₂ , VD ₃ , 25(OH)D ₂ , 25(OH)D ₃	PP、衍生化	LC-MS/MS	34	0.20~0.86*	50~1250	[70]
维生素D	PP、SPE	LC-MS/MS	35	0.012~0.182	0.5~100	[34]
25(OH)D ₂ , 25(OH)D ₃	LLE-SPE、 衍生化	LC-MS/MS	13	0.005~0.02**	0.2~1000	[71]
25(OH)D ₂ , 25(OH)D ₃	LLE	LC-MS/MS	45	0.375	600~1000	[68]
VD ₂ , VD ₃ , 25(OH)D ₂ , 25(OH)D ₃ , 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃	SPE	LC-MS/MS	28	0.023~0.225	0.75~625	[72]
25(OH)D ₂ , 25(OH)D ₃ , 3-epi-25(OH)D ₂ , 3-epi-25(OH)D ₃	LLE	LC-MS/MS	4	2.1~7.3**	2.1~460	[69]

注: *表示单位为fmol; **表示结果为LOQ

而,LC-MS/MS在检测内分泌激素方面存在一些缺点。首先,检测样本时会受到基质效应和离子抑制等现象的影响,如来自不同人群的血液样本基质成分不同,显示出不同的离子抑制效果,同时,由于样本基质复杂,可能会发生同量异位素干扰导致定量误差,造成误诊。其次,雌激素离子化效率低,虽然通过衍生化引入带电部分能提高离子化效率,但许多雌激素衍生物会产生非特异性产物离子^[20]。近年来,有报道^[82]采用LC-MS/MS法测定人血清中包含雌激素在内的类固醇,通过在流动相中添加氟化铵盐来替代衍生化,但该方法仅限于检测孕妇体内几种高表达的内源性雌激素,尚不适用于检测低含量的类固醇化合物。此外,LC-MS/MS在内分泌激素检测的应用时间相对较短,实验室内部方法的开发具有一定难度,实验室建立的各分析物参考范围仍需要经过实践检验,实现标准化以尽量减少实验室内和实验室间的差异问题^[83]。

1.4 血药浓度监测

血药浓度监测包括治疗药物检测(TDM)、疼痛药物管理^[84-85]和毒理学检测^[86]等,其中TDM是血药浓度监测在临床中最常见的应用。在临床实践中,由于免疫抑制药物的治疗窗口狭窄且患者个体差异较大,须准确测量血液中的免疫抑制药物浓度来确定给药窗口,以制定个性化给药方案,从而避免药物副作用。LC-MS/MS方法可在单个血样常规分析中对任意免疫抑制剂的组合方案进行准确定量,是

目前实现TDM的最佳选择^[87]。

TDM中常用的免疫抑制剂包括他克莫司(TAC)、西罗莫司(SIR)、依维莫司(EvE)和环孢素A(CsA)等,药物中约75%~95%的成分会与红细胞结合,所以目前TDM的临床实践主要基于全血样本,其他非常规临床材料(如组织、细胞、尿液和其他体液的基质)也可用于TDM,但应用较少。此外,由于全血样本储存时间短,将全血制备成DBS为临床提供了一种简单的样本基质替代方案,Sadilkova等^[88]研究表明,通过LC-MS/MS在DBS和全血中进行免疫抑制剂测量的结果具有良好的相关性。

在样本前处理阶段,由于全血样本中血细胞和蛋白质含量较高,大分子蛋白质和细胞会堵塞色谱柱,无法直接注入色谱柱进行分离。此外,全血样本中药物浓度通常较低,且存在大量干扰物质,导致基质干扰严重,因此,为提高方法的灵敏度,有必要去除干扰物质来净化样品,并通过浓缩分析物来增强信号。蛋白质沉淀(PP)、液液萃取(LLE)和固相萃取(SPE)是常用于TDM的样品预处理方法,PP使用有机溶剂如甲醇、乙腈、丙酮或这些溶剂的混合物沉淀全血中的蛋白质,将硫酸锌添加到全血样本中进行溶血可以辅助沉淀蛋白质。LLE通常使用甲醇、乙腈和叔丁基甲醚或它们的混合物萃取样品,但蒸发和复溶步骤可能会导致分析物的损失。SPE无需蒸发和复溶步骤,减少了分析时间,但成本较高。临床实验室需要根据具体分析目标优化合适的预处理方案或组合方案,具体报道列于表4。

表 4 免疫抑制剂的 LC-MS/MS 定量分析

Table 4 Quantification of immunosuppressantare by LC-MS/MS

分析物 Analyte	预处理方法 Pretreatment method	定量限 LOQ/ (ng/mL)	线性范围 Reference range/ (ng/mL)	分析时间 Analysis duration/ min	参考文献 Reference
TAC、SIR、EvE、CsA	PP/乙腈	0.1~1	0.1~500	8	[90]
TAC、SIR、EvE、CsA	PP/甲醇,硫酸锌	0.5~5	0.5~2000	3.5	[91]
TAC、SIR、EvE、CsA	PP/甲醇-硫酸锌(60:30,V/V)	2~9	2~1000	2.5	[92]
TAC、CsA	PP/乙腈,硫酸锌	14.6~17.5	10~1974	7	[93]
TAC、SIR、EvE、CsA	PP/硫酸锌	1~27.7	1.0~1483	—	[94]

Juliana 等^[89]采用 LC-MS/MS 同时分析了全血样本中 4 种免疫抑制药物的 235 种组合方案,以探究器官移植后患者的最佳免疫抑制剂给药量,体现了 LC-MS/MS 在临床中为患者提供准确的个性化诊疗方案的巨大优势。然而,LC-MS/MS 存在设备较昂贵、只能在具备条件的实验室使用等缺点。未来,随着质谱仪更加自动化、小型化,使 TDM 从实验室分析走向现场快速分析成为可能。

1.5 肽类和蛋白质定量分析

蛋白质是生命过程的关键角色,定量检测蛋白质对于疾病的预防、诊断和治疗至关重要。目前,质谱已成为蛋白质定量分析必不可少的工具,其应用包括肿瘤标志物检测^[95]、蛋白质或肽类药物定量^[96]和靶向蛋白质组学分析^[97-98],Sabbagh 等^[99]对蛋白质定量分析适用方法进行了概述。

基于质谱的蛋白质定量分析要求检测结果具有高灵敏度、高稳定性、高通量以及良好的重复性,挑战性较高。首先,由于蛋白质在体外条件下易被降解,对样本基质的稳定性具有更严格的要求,预处理方法时长须小于 6 h^[100]。其次,不同蛋白质在血清或血浆样本中丰度具有较大差异,须通过液相分离、使用 SPE 富集、适配体亲和富集或使用包括修饰的磁性纳米材料等技术富集含量较低的蛋白质。此外,不同于临床其他分析物,蛋白质属于大分子化合物,实验室常用的三重四极杆质谱无法直接定量分析其天然存在形式,需使用胰蛋白酶进行消化处理生成特征肽段,然后将这些特征肽段作为目标分析物,并严格优化包括孵育时间、反应温度以及蛋白酶用量在内的消化条件,以确保特征肽段与目标蛋白质的物质的量比例接近。可通

过不同类型的质谱仪实现肽类和蛋白质的定量分析,包括基质辅助激光解吸-飞行时间质谱(MALDI-TOF MS)、离子阱质谱、单四极杆质谱、四极杆-飞行时间串联质谱、三重四极杆质谱以及高分辨质谱。大多数情况下使用三重四极杆的 SRM/MRM 模式即可实现对多个目标物的高度并行分析^[101]。

目前,基于质谱的蛋白质定量分析方法日趋成熟,然而也存在不足:长时间的色谱分离和有限的通量限制了该方法进一步发展;样品制备中胰蛋白酶消化和低丰度蛋白质的富集,大大延长了分析时间;大多数易于定量的蛋白质尚未建立各自的参考范围^[102],由于蛋白质丰度的变化可能受多种非疾病因素影响,因此定量结果还需要其他技术印证。

2 结论与展望

基于 LC-MS/MS 的定量分析方法在临床检验中变得越来越重要,目前已建立了 LC-MS/MS 对氨基酸、肉碱、VD、一些内分泌激素和蛋白质等分析物定量检测的参考测量程序,并提供了可溯源至国际单位制的标准物质,随着标准化规模的扩大,LC-MS/MS 在临床分析中将得到更多认可。目前面临的主要挑战有:1) 受限于现有仪器的灵敏度,一些分析物的定量分析需要提前进行衍生化处理,增加了分析时间和使用成本,不利于临床大规模分析应用;2) 由于临床样本基质的复杂性,大多数分析物尚不明确其定量参考范围,或缺少相应的 LC-MS/MS 参考测量程序,不同个体间的定量差异须受到重视;3) LC-MS/MS 设备昂贵,开发新方法的成本较高,因此分析物的定量分析通常仅限于实验室内,限制了临床应用的进一步发展。未来,随着

质谱仪器小型化,仪器成本将得到控制,现场 LC-MS/MS 检测将成为可能。

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