

• 综 述 •

## 基于经血源性子宫内膜干细胞的中枢神经系统疾病治疗的研究进展

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**摘 要:** 干细胞研究已成为当今生命科学领域中的前沿和热点问题, 该研究为探讨胚胎发生、组织细胞分化以及基因表达调控等生物学问题提供了理想的模型, 同时也为临床组织缺陷性疾病和遗传性疾病的细胞治疗和基因治疗开辟了新的手段。其中, 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞 (Menstrual blood-derived stem cells, MenSCs) 来源丰富, 具有多向分化潜能和较低的免疫排斥的特性, 可以实现个体化治疗, 是临床最具有应用优势的干细胞。脑与脊髓作为中枢神经系统, 其损伤极为常见, 致死率和致残率居各类创伤之首。与周围神经系统损伤相比, 中枢神经受损后恢复较为困难, 其治疗仍缺乏突破。而 MenSCs 的治疗有望解决此难题, 故结合近年来国内外对 MenSCs 的生物学特性及其对中枢神经系统疾病治疗的研究作一综述, 从而为中枢神经系统疾病的治疗提供参考。

**关键词:** 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞, 分化, 中枢神经系统疾病, 干细胞治疗, 修复

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# Process in menstrual blood-derived mesenchymal stem cells for treatment of central nervous system diseases

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**Abstract:** Stem cell research has become a frontier in the field of life sciences, and provides an ideal model for exploring developmental biology problems such as embryogenesis, histiocytosis, and gene expression regulation, as well as opens up new doors for clinical tissue defective and inheritance diseases. Among them, menstrual blood-derived stem cells (MenSCs) are characterized by wide source, multi-directional differentiation potential, low immune rejection characteristics. Thus, MenSCs can achieve individual treatment and have the most advantage of the clinical application. The central nervous system, including brain and spinal cord, is susceptible to injury. And lethality and morbidity of them tops the list of all types of trauma. Compared to peripheral nervous system, recovery of central nervous system after damage remains extremely hard. However, the treatment of stem cells, especially MenSCs, is expected to solve this problem. Therefore, biological characteristics of MenSCs and their treatment in the respect of central nervous system diseases have been reviewed at home and abroad in recent years, so as to provide reference for the treatment of central nervous system diseases.

**Keywords:** menstrual blood-derived stem cells, differentiation, central nervous system diseases, stem cell treatment, repair

与外周神经系统损伤修复相比, 中枢神经系统疾病的治疗是公认的世界难题, 多项研究表明干细胞治疗有望解决此题。经血源性子宫内膜干细胞 (Menstrual blood-derived stem cells, MenSCs) 是新近发现的干细胞, 既具有来源广、取材易、多向分化潜能等特性, 又具有无伦理学问题、可实现个性化治疗及免疫原性低等临床优势。因此, 结合本实验室之前对于中枢神经系统疾病原理的探究以及对 MenSCs 研究的初步结果, 本文主要就 MenSCs 的特性及其在中风、脊髓损伤修复、恶性胶质瘤和多发性硬化等中枢神经系统疾病治疗中的应用作一综述, 并展望了 MenSCs 的应用前景。

## 1 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞

### 1.1 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞的发现及来源

因血管生成是月经周期中子宫内膜增生的关键环节, Meng 等<sup>[1]</sup>提出能在月经血中分离出

干细胞这一假说且得到证实, 并将此干细胞命名为子宫内膜再生细胞。之后, Patel 等<sup>[2]</sup>提取、分离、命名该细胞为经血源性子宫内膜基质干细胞, 并证明该细胞能分化为中、外两个胚层细胞系。经研究发现 MenSCs 的确切来源是月经期间子宫内膜功能层脱落而来的月经血, 而不是源于骨髓间充质干细胞<sup>[3]</sup>。子宫壁由内向外分为3层, 即子宫内膜、肌层和浆膜, 而子宫内膜又分为基底层和功能层。月经周期分为3个时期: 增殖期、分泌期和月经期。在月经期间, 子宫内膜只有功能层脱落。月经周期受到性类固醇激素等的调控<sup>[4]</sup> (图1), 在雌激素等调控的增殖期, 子宫内膜在10 d内增厚5–7 mm<sup>[5]</sup>; 在黄体酮等调控的分泌期, 腺体和基质成熟<sup>[6]</sup>; 在分泌晚期, 黄体退化, 引起雌激素和黄体酮的分泌降低, 触发子宫内膜功能层脱落<sup>[7]</sup>。因而, 女性月经期间子宫内膜功能层脱落的月经血可以提取并分离出 MenSCs。

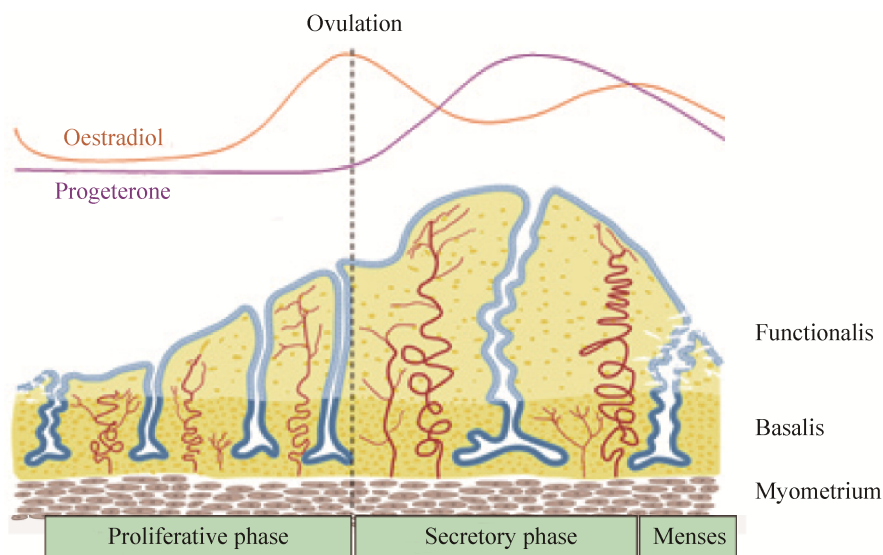


图1 在月经周期中子宫内层功能层的变化<sup>[4]</sup>

Fig. 1 Schematic of changes in the human endometrium during the menstrual cycle, illustrating the growth, differentiation and shedding of the functionalis layer<sup>[4]</sup>.

## 1.2 MenSCs 的分离、提取及鉴定

方法一是通过密度梯度离心分离出单个核细胞并成功诱导其分化为心肌细胞、呼吸上皮细胞、神经细胞、肌细胞、内皮细胞、胰腺细胞、脂肪细胞和成骨细胞；经流式细胞仪分析该细胞标志物并得到其表型特征为 Oct-4、CD105、CD44、CD73 和 CD9 等阳性，而 Nanog、SSEA-4、CD45、CD34 和 CD14 等阴性<sup>[1]</sup>。这是首次证明从月经血中可以分离出干细胞且该细胞具有分化为内、中、外 3 个胚层细胞系的潜能。方法二是直接离心取沉淀培养，用与子宫内膜高增殖性密切相关的 CD117 (c-kit) 微磁珠技术筛选细胞，获得的细胞经分析阳性表达 SSEA-4 以及 Oct-4，且可诱导分化为软骨细胞、脂肪细胞、成骨细胞、心肌细胞和神经细胞，证明该细胞能分化为中、外两个胚层细胞系<sup>[2]</sup>。

不同的收集和处理方法得到的 MenSCs 可能会在月经血中提取出具有不同生物学特性的细胞群<sup>[1-2,8]</sup>。不同的研究者在 MenSCs 是否表达表面标志物 SSEA-4 方面的结果仍有争议<sup>[1-2]</sup>。而研究

表明 MenSCs 表达端粒酶催化亚基和 Nanog<sup>[9]</sup>，这对于体外具有高增殖活性的干细胞来说是常见的。此外，MenSCs 不表达 HLA-DR 分子和低表达 HLA I 类分子<sup>[10]</sup>，这些都进一步为 MenSCs 的临床应用奠定了基础。

## 1.3 MenSCs 的体外分化

最初，Meng 等<sup>[1]</sup>用含 GlutaMax 和 hFGA-4 的神经诱导培养基诱导 MenSCs 分化为表达星形胶质细胞标记物 GFAP 和神经干细胞标记物 Nestin 的神经样细胞 (Neural like cells, NLCs)。紧接着 Patel 等<sup>[2]</sup>在诱导培养基中添加了 N2、bFGF 以及 EGF 等诱导 MenSCs 分化为少突胶质样细胞、神经元样细胞以及神经祖细胞样细胞。后来，Zemel'ko 等<sup>[9]</sup>证明相比于骨髓间充质干细胞和脂肪干细胞，全反式维甲酸对 MenSCs 的神经分化是必需的。这些方法都为后来的研究奠定了重要基础。总而言之，MenSCs 在体外诱导分化为 NLCs 与神经营养因子或其类似物紧密相连，在诱导条件下，一般先转变为神经祖细胞样细胞，再最终分化为其他 NLCs。大量 MenSCs 体外分化

机制的探究为许多不治之症带来了希望。

## 2 MenSCs 与中枢神经系统疾病的治疗

脑部疾病是引起人类死亡的第三大原因，而干细胞可以适时地调节炎症，消除细胞死亡，保留神经功能。之前的许多研究中，已经成功地将 MenSCs 分化成各种细胞系，包括胶质样细胞<sup>[11]</sup>。与骨髓间充质干细胞相比（表 1），MenSCs 具有长期的自我更新能力和较强的增殖能力，较小的核型异常风

险，不会引发免疫原性反应或肿瘤形成<sup>[12-13]</sup>。因此，MenSCs 更有可能成为治疗中枢神经系统疾病的“潜力股”。另外，MenSCs 取自“废物”——月经血，避免了胚胎干细胞的伦理问题以及骨髓干细胞取材的侵入性，这些特性使得 MenSCs 的临床应用会变得更加广泛。因此，我们对 MenSCs 在中枢神经系统疾病如中风<sup>[19, 24-25]</sup>、脊髓损伤<sup>[26]</sup>、恶性胶质瘤<sup>[27]</sup>和多发性硬化<sup>[28]</sup>等疾病治疗中的应用（表 2）作一阐述。

表 1 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞与骨髓间充质干细胞的比较

Table 1 Comparison of menstrual blood-derived endometrial stem cells (MenSCs) with bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells (BM-MSCs)

	MenSCs	BM-MSCs
Source	Menstrual blood	Bone marrow
Surface marker*	CD9 <sup>+</sup> , CD13 <sup>+</sup> , CD29 <sup>+</sup> , CD117 <sup>+</sup> , SSEA4 <sup>+</sup> , CD73 <sup>+</sup> , CD90 <sup>+</sup> , CD105 <sup>+</sup> , HLA I <sup>+</sup> , HLA-DR <sup>-</sup> , STRO-1 <sup>-</sup> <sup>[1-2,14-15]</sup>	CD9 <sup>-</sup> , CD13 <sup>-</sup> , CD29 <sup>-</sup> , CD117 <sup>-</sup> , SSEA4 <sup>+</sup> , CD73 <sup>+</sup> , CD90 <sup>+</sup> , CD105 <sup>+</sup> , HLA I <sup>+</sup> , HLA-DR <sup>-</sup> , STRO-1 <sup>+</sup> <sup>[9, 16-18]</sup>
Immunoreactivity	MenSCs<BM-MSCs <sup>[19]</sup>	
Differentiation	Mesoderm (myocytes, cardiomyocytes, osteocytes, adipocytes), ectoderm (neurons, glial-like cells) or endoderm (hepatocytes, pancreatic cells, respiratory epithelium) origin <sup>[1-2, 9, 11, 13]</sup>	Numerous cell types of mesenchymal origin, glial cells, neurons, hepatocytes, and pancreatic islet cells <sup>[20-21]</sup>
Self-renewal and proliferation capacity	MenSCs>BM-MSCs <sup>[13]</sup>	
Clinical application	Have stable genome and are not tumorigenic <sup>[13, 22]</sup>	Exhibit crippling abnormalities, such as reduced proliferation rate, differentiation capacity and passage-associated abnormalities <sup>[16, 23]</sup>

\*Cell surface markers are not exactly the same as the table.

表 2 经血源性子宫内膜干细胞在中枢神经系统疾病治疗中的应用

Table 2 Application of menstrual blood-derived endometrial stem cells in the treatment of central nervous system diseases

Treated diseases/model	Total injected cell concentration	Outcomes	Administration route
MCAO stroke animals	400 thousand or 4 million for intracerebral and intravenous injection, respectively	Robust effects, less neurologic deficit	Intracerebral and intravenous injection
Dorsally hemisectioned SCI rat	1 million	Neuronal regeneration, axonal remyelination and motor function recovery	Implantation
Experimental animal tumor model	3 million	Migratory capacity, therapeutic efficacy	Tail vein injection
Multiple sclerosis	30 million	No notable events or abnormalities	Intrathecal infusion

Abbreviation: MCAO middle cerebral artery occlusion.

## 2.1 MenSCs 与中风

“脑卒中”又称“中风”、“脑血管意外”，是一种急性脑血管疾病，具有发病率高、死亡率高和致残率高的特点，也是导致中国成年人残疾的首要原因，然而一直缺乏有效的治疗手段，干细胞治疗有望解决此难题。

众所周知，中风不仅仅影响神经元的功能，而且涉及到与其周围免疫系统相互作用的“血管神经纤维瘤”中的脑细胞及其细胞外基质。由于这些原因，中风的治疗应针对这些系统，而不是只针对个别的损伤过程，才能避免过去临床转化开发特定神经保护药物的失败尝试。Borlongan 等<sup>[29]</sup>使用 Patel 等<sup>[2]</sup>描述的 MenSCs 研究中风的体外和体内模型的治疗。研究发现这些细胞提供了一些保护原代神经元免受氧-葡萄糖剥夺的物质。进一步研究发现这些物质能够发挥类似的神经保护作用，这可能与血管内皮生长因子、脑源性生长因子和神经营养因子 3 有关。早先，关于其他干细胞系的研究也发现了一种或多种因子的释放<sup>[30-31]</sup>及其对卒中治疗的潜在益处<sup>[32]</sup>，该研究明确表示无论是在脑内还是在静脉内自体移植 MenSCs 均未显示免疫抑制；实验诱导成年大鼠缺血性卒中后，其行为学和组织学损伤显著降低。因此，移植 MenSCs 而得的神经结构和血管生成能力可以成为中风治疗的有效途径，也支持它们成为用于其他基底神经节疾病，如帕金森病和亨廷顿病治疗的干细胞来源。

## 2.2 MenSCs 与脊髓损伤修复

脊髓损伤 (Spinal cord injury, SCI) 是一种创伤性损伤，可导致运动神经元或感觉神经元的损失。与周围神经系统相比，脊髓的有限再生能力是源于创伤后环境，如缺血、炎症、免疫应答和胶质瘢痕的形成<sup>[33]</sup>。已经证明，干细胞治疗可通过释放一系列内源性修复的营养因子或通过分化成神经元或神经胶质细胞以替换受损细胞来促进

SCI 后的神经元再生<sup>[34-36]</sup>。另外，三维支架通过模拟内源性微环境更有利地支持细胞存活、增殖和体内分化。故将工程支架与干细胞结合可能成为治疗 SCI 的有前途的策略。

MenSCs 作为具有多种临床应用优势的干细胞，已有研究将其种植在一种纳米纤维上，再植入到背侧半透明的大鼠模型中，可以减轻二次反应，促进神经元再生、轴突髓鞘再生和运动功能恢复<sup>[26]</sup>。此外，作为抗炎和神经保护介质的番茄红素的同时，给药可以抑制神经变性过程并帮助改善神经元再生。这表明 MenSCs 的移植并结合支架可以更好地促进损伤部位细胞的恢复，成为有效治疗 SCI 的方法。

## 2.3 MenSCs 与胶质瘤

神经胶质瘤是中枢神经系统中最常见和最恶性的脑肿瘤。肿瘤细胞的侵袭性和浸润性以及有效治疗的困难导致预后很差。尽管手术、放疗、化疗甚至基因治疗已被广泛应用，但胶质瘤的 5 年生存率仍低于 10%<sup>[37]</sup>。因此，迫切需要一种消除侵袭性肿瘤细胞而不损伤正常脑组织的新的治疗手段。

研究表明，肿瘤坏死因子相关凋亡诱导配体 (Tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand, TRAIL) 可以通过激活凋亡途径诱导癌细胞凋亡。结构分析表明，分泌型 TRAIL (sTRAIL) 含有蛋白质的受体结合域，可用于选择性触发癌细胞凋亡而不损害正常细胞<sup>[38]</sup>。而 Wang 等<sup>[27]</sup>结合 sTRAIL 与 MenSCs 靶向治疗恶性胶质瘤，为神经胶质瘤的治疗带来了新的思路。在该研究中，当用作治疗药物的基因递送载体时，MenSCs 显示人类恶性胶质瘤的向性。而感染过表达 sTRAIL 的有效腺病毒血清型 35 载体的 MenSCs 在体外和体内均显示出显著的抗肿瘤作用。在此，MenSCs 既具有干细胞增殖、分化的优点，又作为 sTRAIL 等药物靶向治疗的载体，正是治疗胶质瘤的希望

所在。

## 2.4 MenSCs 与多发性硬化

多发性硬化症 (Multiple sclerosis, MS) 是一种常见的中枢神经脱髓鞘疾病, 伴随着胶质纤维增生而形成钙化斑, 多见于视神经、脊髓和脑干。

目前, 虽然已有多种疾病缓解疗法 (Disease-modifying therapies, DMTs) 获得批准治疗 MS<sup>[39]</sup>, 但仍没有有效药物能阻止该疾病进展或直接促进已有中枢神经系统损伤的修复。使用干细胞治疗不仅可以减弱免疫反应, 还能更好地促进内源性修复机制的运行。Zhong 等<sup>[28]</sup>认为 MenSCs 是具有多能分化活性和诱导新血管发生能力的间充质干细胞群, 在体外和动物体内的研究都表明 MenSCs 具有免疫特性, 在某些情况下能主动抑制免疫应答, 并报道了 1 例静脉内和鞘内注射 MenSCs 以及 3 例鞘内注射 MenSCs 临床治疗多发性硬化症患者的初步安全性研究。经最长超过一年的随访, 病人并没有出现免疫反应或治疗相关的不良反应。这些初步数据表明 MenSCs 在临床治疗的可行性, 并支持使用这种新型干细胞治疗疾病的进一步研究。

Naddafi 等<sup>[40]</sup>研究表明尼古丁在多发性硬化症实验模型中具有保护作用。而后, Mahfouz 等<sup>[41]</sup>揭示间充质干细胞和尼古丁的组合可以进一步改善 MS, 可成为 MS 治疗的有希望的策略。所以, 以细胞为基础的治疗 (移植、动员和药物治疗) 可能有助于退行性机制导致的多发性硬化症的治疗, 但这一假设有待进一步证实<sup>[42]</sup>。因此, MenSCs 这种无入侵性、来源广、免疫原性较低的干细胞结合药物一起治疗 MS 或许是一种不错的选择。

## 3 展望

移植的干细胞可以提供新的神经元以及分泌细胞因子以形成新的功能性神经回路并促进轴突再生<sup>[43-45]</sup>。基于干细胞的治疗方法可以促进神经

元重建、抑制细胞凋亡、轴突再生和髓鞘形成。最新研究报道, 神经干细胞和间充质干细胞已经用于损伤脊髓的细胞替代疗法。然而, 神经干细胞治疗脊髓损伤的结果并不理想, 很大程度上是由于神经胶质瘢痕组成以及神经干细胞体内分化的复杂性而导致的突触靶向再生的阻碍<sup>[46-48]</sup>。此外, 神经干细胞治疗还存在以下问题: 1) 移植后的神经干细胞存活时间短<sup>[49]</sup>; 2) 所移植的神经干细胞纯度及其可能与其他宿主神经细胞之间产生的不可预测的相互作用<sup>[49-50]</sup>; 3) 移植后的神经干细胞可能逃脱分化和选择过程并在移植部位扩大形成肿瘤<sup>[50-51]</sup>。而间充质干细胞表现出的下调促凋亡因子、上调抗细胞凋亡分子以及阻碍轴突脱髓鞘和退化的能力, 已被提倡作为干细胞治疗的“明日之星”<sup>[52]</sup>。但是, 宿主免疫应答、神经分化的缺乏和移植细胞的低存活率仍是使用间充质干细胞的限制<sup>[53]</sup>。

此时, “应召而来”的 MenSCs 是适用于细胞治疗的新型的干细胞来源<sup>[54-55]</sup>。这些细胞不仅具有分离、提取的非侵入性和快速扩增特性, 还表现出高增殖潜力, 有分化成为具神经源性细胞类型的能力<sup>[2, 56]</sup>。研究表明, MenSCs 免疫原性较低, 已经在治疗子宫内膜异位症<sup>[57]</sup>、卵巢早衰症<sup>[58]</sup>、Asherman 综合症<sup>[59]</sup>等子宫疾病、高血糖症<sup>[60]</sup>、胶原诱导的关节炎和异物移植抗宿主病<sup>[10]</sup>、急性肝功能衰竭<sup>[61]</sup>、皮肤创伤<sup>[62]</sup>以及急性肺损伤<sup>[63]</sup>等疾病的研究中得以证实。

值得一提的是, 间充质干细胞的免疫调节机制并不总是相同, 而是取决于众多相关因素的相互作用, 需要更进一步的研究来阐述其不同疾病状态下的特异效应<sup>[64]</sup>, 这对于 MenSCs 来说也不例外。此外, 干细胞包括 MenSCs 的治疗仍面临着很多问题, 如移植后细胞的存活、细胞命运、维持指定的细胞分化表型、避免畸胎瘤的形成及移植的安全性等问题。为解决这些问题, 将组织

工程与干细胞技术结合应用可能是一个非常不错的选择, 如上述胶质瘤和脊髓损伤的治疗。因此 MenSCs 在临床应用之前不仅需要充足的研究积淀, 还需要进行全面可靠的安全评估。

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