

Combination of clinical, ultrasonic and pathological features for diagnosing Delphian lymph node metastasis of papillary thyroid carcinoma

CAO Jiaojiao¹, CHEN Xiaomin^{2*}, JIA Hongjing¹, MA Liyuan¹, LU Bing¹, MA Lei¹
(1. Department of Ultrasound, Suzhou Hospital Affiliated to Nanjing Medical University
[Suzhou Municipal Hospital], Suzhou 215002, China; 2. Department of Ultrasound,
Dushuhu Public Hospital Affiliated to Soochow University, Suzhou 215124, China)

[Abstract] **Objective** To observe the value of combination of clinical, ultrasonic and pathological features for diagnosing Delphian lymph node metastasis (DLNM) of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC). **Methods** A total of 358 PTC patients who underwent radical thyroidectomy were enrolled and divided into positive group ($n=92$) and negative group ($n=266$) according to pathological findings of DLNM. Preoperative clinical, ultrasonic and postoperative pathological features were compared between groups using univariate and multivariate analysis. Then relative models were established, and the value of each model for diagnosing DLNM was analyzed. **Results** Based on clinical+ultrasonic features, male, age ≥ 45 years old, bilateral involvement, PTC with irregular ultrasonic morphology, ultrasonic extrathyroidal extension (ETE) and ultrasound cervical central lymph node metastasis (CLNM) were risk factors, while lower pole or isthmus PTC and complicated with nodular goiter were protective factors of PTC DLNM. Based on clinical+pathological features, male, age ≥ 45 years old, bilateral involvement, pathology ETE (P-ETE) and pathological CLNM were risk factors, while lower pole or isthmus PTC and complicated with nodular goiter were protective factors of PTC DLNM. Based on clinical+ultrasonic+pathological features, male, age ≥ 45 years old, bilateral involvement, irregular ultrasonic morphology PTC, ultrasonic ETE and pathological CLNM were risk factors, while lower pole or isthmus PTC and complicated with nodular goiter were protective factors of PTC DLNM. Finally clinical+ultrasonic, clinical+pathological and clinical+ultrasonic+pathological model were established, and the area under the curve (AUC) for diagnosing PTC DLNM was 0.823, 0.732 and 0.856, respectively. The AUC of clinical+ultrasonic+pathological model was the highest, which was of significant difference with that of clinical+pathological model ($P<0.01$). **Conclusion** Combination of clinical, ultrasonic and pathological features were helpful for diagnosing PTC DLNM.

[Keywords] thyroid cancer, papillary; lymphatic metastasis; ultrasonography; pathology

DOI: 10.13929/j.issn.1672-8475.2023.11.008

联合应用临床、超声和病理特征判断甲状腺乳头状癌 Delphian 淋巴结转移

曹皎皎¹, 陈小敏^{2*}, 贾红靖¹, 马丽媛¹, 陆冰¹, 马蕾¹
[1. 南京医科大学附属苏州医院(苏州市立医院)超声科, 江苏苏州 215002;
2. 苏州大学附属独墅湖医院超声科, 江苏苏州 215124]

[摘要] **目的** 观察联合应用甲状腺乳头状癌(PTC)临床、超声及病理特征判断其 Delphian 淋巴结转移(DLNM)

[第一作者] 曹皎皎(1982—),女,江苏苏州人,本科,主治医师。研究方向:甲状腺超声诊断。E-mail: chh9038js@163.com

[通信作者] 陈小敏,苏州大学附属独墅湖医院超声科,215124。E-mail: 13814853829@163.com

[收稿日期] 2023-05-20 **[修回日期]** 2023-08-25

的价值。**方法** 纳入358例接受甲状腺根治性切除术的PTC患者,根据术后病理显示DLNM状态分为阳性组($n=92$)和阴性组($n=266$);以单因素及多因素分析比较2组术前临床、超声和术后病理特征并建立模型,观察各模型诊断DLNM的价值。**结果** 基于临床+超声特征,男性、年龄 ≥ 45 岁、双侧甲状腺受累,肿瘤超声形态不规则、甲状腺外侵犯(ETE)和颈部中央淋巴结转移(CLN)是PTC DLNM的危险因素;PTC位于下极和峡部、伴结节性甲状腺肿为其保护因素。基于临床+病理特征,男性、年龄 ≥ 45 岁、双侧甲状腺受累,病理学ETE(P-ETE)及CLNM是PTC DLNM的危险因素;PTC位于甲状腺下极和峡部、伴结节性甲状腺肿为其保护因素。基于临床+超声+病理特征,男性、年龄 ≥ 45 岁、双侧甲状腺受累,超声显示肿瘤不规则形态、ETE和病理显示CLNM均为PTC DLNM的危险因素,而PTC位于下极和峡部、伴结节性甲状腺肿为保护因素。基于上述结果分别建立临床+超声、临床+病理和临床+超声+病理模型,其诊断PTC DLNM的曲线下面积(AUC)分别为0.823、0.732和0.856,以临床+超声+病理模型的AUC最高,且与临床+病理模型AUC差异有统计学意义($P<0.01$)。**结论** 联合应用PTC临床、超声及病理特征有助于判断其DLNM。

[关键词] 甲状腺癌,乳头状;淋巴结转移;超声检查;病理学

[中图分类号] R736.1; R445.1 [文献标识码] A [文章编号] 1672-8475(2023)11-0675-05

甲状腺乳头状癌(papillary thyroid carcinoma, PTC)是最常见甲状腺恶性肿瘤,易早期发生淋巴结转移,增加术后复发风险。颈部中央淋巴结(central lymph node, CLN)是PTC最常见转移部位,包括气管旁、气管前和Delphian淋巴结(Delphian lymph node, DLN),颈部外侧淋巴结(lateral lymph node, LLN)转移次之,而跳跃性淋巴结转移较少^[1]。根据术前影像学检查和术中冷冻病理判断甲状腺癌淋巴结转移及其路径对术中选择清扫淋巴结方式、降低术后复发具有重要意义^[2];但DLN位置隐匿,仅凭影像学手段通常较难识别^[3]。既往研究^[4-5]表明,DLN转移(DLN metastases, DLNM)与头颈部肿瘤,尤其喉癌广泛淋巴结转移、复发及预后紧密相关。近期报道^[6]称PTC DLNM、CLN转移(CLN metastasis, CLNM)与LLN转移(LLN metastasis, LLNM)存在潜在相关性。本研究观察联合应用PTC临床、超声及病理特征用于判断其DLNM的价值。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料 回顾性纳入2019年10月—2022年10月于苏州市立医院经术后病理确诊的358例(78例双侧、280例单侧)PTC患者,男151例、女207例,年龄22~78岁、平均(49.5 \pm 11.4)岁;根据术后病理所见DLNM状态分为阳性组($n=92$)和阴性组($n=266$):阳性组男50例、女42例,年龄24~78岁、平均(50.6 \pm 10.7)岁;阴性组男101例、女165例,年龄22~74岁、平均(47.2 \pm 9.5)岁。纳入标准:①年龄 >18 岁;②影像学 and 病理所见符合PTC;③接受甲状腺根治性切除术;④术前甲状腺超声图像清晰;⑤临床资料完整。排除标准:①远处转移;②未检DLN;③急性甲状腺炎、甲状腺功能亢进、颈部外伤或手术史。本研究经院伦

理委员会批准(SZSLYY-2019A048)。检查前患者均签署知情同意书。

1.2 仪器与方法 采用Philips EPIQ7型彩色多普勒超声检查仪,频率5~12 MHz线性探头,选择“甲状腺”模式。嘱患者仰卧,扫查双侧甲状腺,记录肿瘤位置、直径,分别基于侧叶最大横切面测量甲状腺侧叶前后径及左右径,基于峡部最大厚度切面测量峡部前后径,基于侧叶最大纵切面测量侧叶上下径。

由2名超声科主治医师独立分析肿瘤超声特征,并经讨论达成共识。将存在叶/微针的结节归为“形态不规则”结节;以钙化灶最大径 ≤ 1 mm为“微钙化”;以存在多个PTC病灶为“多灶性PTC”。根据甲状腺癌超声指南^[7]诊断甲状腺外侵犯(extrathyroidal extension, ETE)和CLNM。见图1。

对双侧PTC行双侧甲状腺全切+CLN清扫术,对单侧PTC行单侧甲状腺叶切除+峡部切除或甲状腺全切除+单侧或双侧CLN清扫术;术前发现LLNM证据时,行单/双侧淋巴结清扫术。肿瘤直径 >4 cm、单个甲状腺叶中存在多个PTC病灶、病理性ETE(pathology ETE, P-ETE)及远处转移时,行甲状腺全切除术。将术中所见甲状腺峡部上方、甲状腺被膜前方及环甲肌之间的淋巴结记为DLN。

1.4 统计学分析 采用SPSS 20.0统计分析软件。以 $\bar{x}\pm s$ 表示计量资料,采用 t 检验行组间比较;以 χ^2 检验比较计数资料。行多因素logistic回归分析,筛选DLNM的危险因素,并以R3.6.3软件建立列线图模型,以校准曲线和决策曲线验证模型的吻合度和获益比。绘制受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线,采用DeLong检验比较曲线下面积(area under the curve, AUC)。 $P<0.05$ 为差异

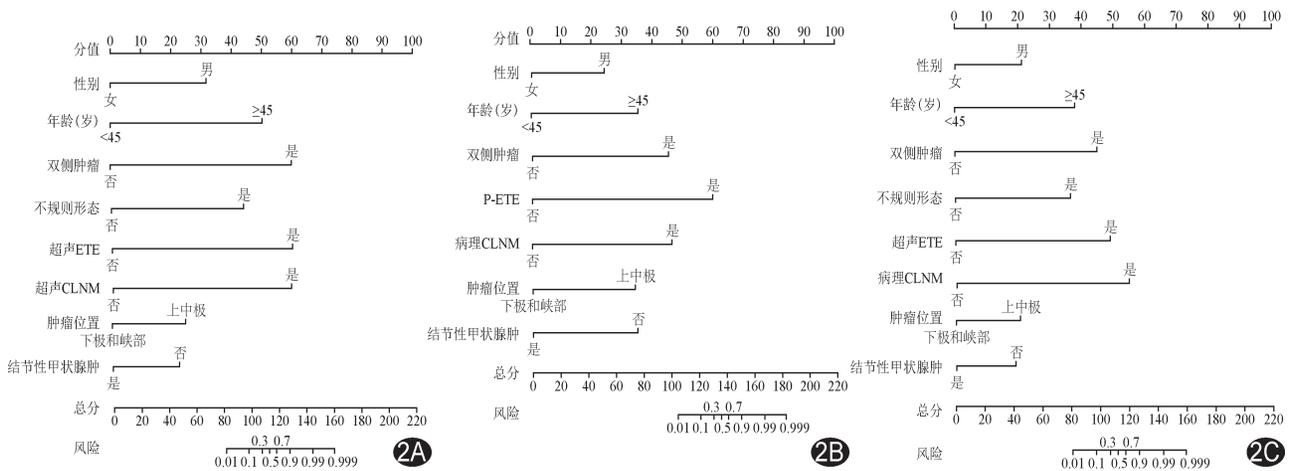


图2 判断PTC DLNM的列线图模型 A.临床+超声模型; B.临床+病理模型; C.临床+超声+病理模型

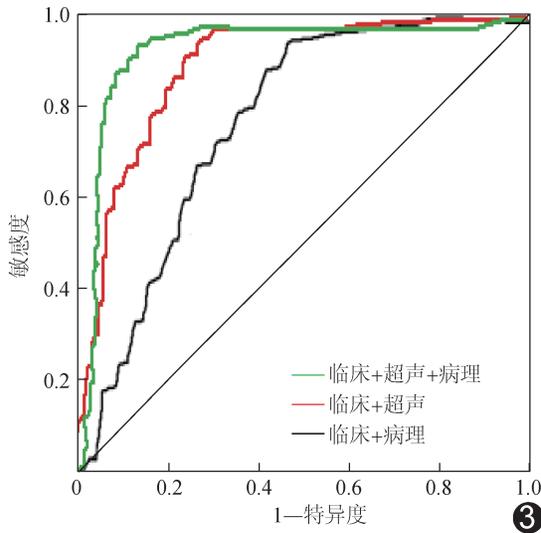


图3 临床+超声、临床+病理及临床+超声+病理模型判断PTC DLNM的ROC曲线

358)。DLNM是头颈部恶性肿瘤患者颈部淋巴结转移及预后较差的独立预测因素^[10]。PTC伴DLNM患者发生CLNM风险是不伴DLNM者的5~8倍,发生LLNM风险为不伴DLNM者的3.5倍,且CLNM或LLNM患者发生DLNM风险均为非CLNM或LLNM者的3倍^[11]。以上结果提示,评估DLN状态对于分析PTC患者颈部淋巴结转移风险具有重要指导价值。HUANG等^[12]报道,PTC伴DLNM患者中,T3b~4b期占比约为不伴DLNM者的3倍,提示DLNM或有助于预测PTC侵袭性。LI等^[13]推荐以术中快速冰冻切片检查所示DLN状态为PTC术中清扫淋巴结范围的重要依据。超声、临床及病理特征联合有助于判断PTC淋巴结转移情况。

有学者^[14]指出,PTC所在位置与DLNM显著相关,原因可能在于大部分喉前淋巴结引流区域为甲状

腺上叶、峡部和圆锥部;但也有研究^[15]结果显示PTC位置并非DLNM的独立危险因素。超声所见ETE对评估PTC DLNM风险具有重要意义,超声显示甲状腺包膜模糊可作为PTC累及包膜的证据而提示DLNM^[16]。超声所见CLNM亦对评估甲状腺癌DLNM具有较高的敏感性和特异性^[17]。本研究结果显示,男性、年龄≥45岁、双侧甲状腺受累、形态不规则、超声ETE和病理CLNM是PTC DLNM的危险因素,而PTC位于下极和峡部、伴结节性甲状腺肿则为其保护因素。

列线图模型具有较好的可视化效果和可操作性,能方便、准确地预估PTC DLNM发生率,术前提示DLNM风险^[18]。本研究所获临床+病理+超声模型和临床+超声模型均对判断PTC DLNM具有较高价值,尤其后者不依赖于病理结果,可作为术前评估工具,适于临床推广。

综上所述,联合应用PTC临床、超声及病理特征有助于诊断其DLNM。本研究的主要不足:①为单中心、回顾性研究,缺乏外部数据验证;②超声检查结果存在操作者主观依赖性;③缺乏术后长期随访结果;有待后续加以完善。

[参考文献]

[1] 李慧敏,李娟,王俊杰.高分辨率超声联合增强CT对甲状腺癌颈部淋巴结转移的诊断价值[J].中国CT和MRI杂志,2021,19(9):27-30.
 [2] 张恒,孙锦平,李静怡,等.超声成像对乳头状甲状腺癌颈部淋巴结转移的诊断价值[J].癌症进展,2018,16(6):776-778,782.
 [3] KIM D H, KIM S W, HWANG S H. Predictive value of Delphian lymph node metastasis in the thyroid cancer [J].

- Laryngoscope, 2021, 131(9):1990-1996.
- [4] 颜海波, 夏中平, 陈善, 等. 甲状腺乳头状癌 Delphian 淋巴结转移的危险因素[J]. 外科理论与实践, 2022, 27(5):453-457.
- [5] ZHU Y, LIN J, YAN Y, et al. Delphian lymph node metastasis is a novel indicator of tumor aggressiveness and poor prognosis in papillary thyroid cancer[J]. J Surg Oncol, 2021, 123(7):1521-1528.
- [6] YAN Y, WANG Y, LIU N, et al. Predictive value of the Delphian lymph node in cervical lymph node metastasis of papillary thyroid carcinoma[J]. Eur J Surg Oncol, 2021, 47(7):1727-1733.
- [7] 中华医学会超声医学分会浅表器官和血管学组, 中国甲状腺与乳腺超声人工智能联盟. 2020 甲状腺结节超声恶性危险分层中国指南:C-TIRADS[J]. 中华超声影像学杂志, 2021, 30(3):185-200.
- [8] WANG B, WEN X Z, ZHANG W, et al. Clinical implications of Delphian lymph node metastasis in papillary thyroid carcinoma: A single-institution study, systemic review and meta-analysis[J]. J Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg, 2019, 48(1):42.
- [9] 吴猛, 周如海, 袁瑞, 等. 超声联合 FNA-Tg 检测诊断乳头状甲状腺癌术后转移性淋巴结的意义[J]. 中国超声医学杂志, 2017, 33(8):676-679.
- [10] HE Q, ZHU Q, DONG J, et al. The clinical value of Delphian lymph node metastasis in papillary thyroid carcinoma[J]. Asian J Surg, 2020, 43(12):1180-1181.
- [11] CHEN M L, XU D, YAN X Q, et al. Delphian lymph node metastasis predicts occult contralateral carcinoma for unilateral papillary thyroid carcinoma patients with contralateral benign nodules[J]. Asian J Surg, 2023, 46(1):156-159.
- [12] HUANG J, SUN W, ZHANG H, et al. Use of Delphian lymph node metastasis to predict central and lateral involvement in papillary thyroid carcinoma: A systematic review and meta-analysis[J]. Clin Endocrinol (Oxf), 2019, 91(1):170-178.
- [13] LI X, DUAN Y, LIU D, et al. Diagnostic model incorporating clinicopathological characteristics of Delphian lymph node metastasis risk profiles in papillary thyroid cancer[J]. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne), 2021, 12:591015.
- [14] ZUO Q, CHEN X, YANG J, et al. Analysis of the clinical value of Delphian lymph node metastasis in papillary thyroid carcinoma[J]. J Oncol, 2022, 2022:8108256.
- [15] ZHAO J, ZHANG Y, ZHENG X. Clinicopathological characteristics of papillary thyroid cancer located in the isthmus with Delphian lymph node metastasis[J]. Br J Oral Maxillofac Surg, 2022, 60(5):635-638.
- [16] ALIBAKHSHI A, SHEIKHI S, MESHKATI YAZD S M, et al. The incidence and features of Delphian lymph node involvement in patients with papillary thyroid carcinoma[J]. BMC Surg, 2022, 22(1):320.
- [17] 王强, 张明星, 金凤山, 等. 基于弹性成像的列线图预测单发临床颈部淋巴结转移阴性甲状腺癌对侧中央淋巴结转移[J]. 放射学实践, 2022, 37(5):632-637.
- [18] 朱琳, 严继萍, 王金萍, 等. 基于临床、超声及基因特征列线图预测甲状腺乳头状癌侵袭性[J]. 中国介入影像与治疗学, 2022, 19(6):356-360.

消 息

《中国介入影像与治疗学》网站的域名为 www.cjiit.com, 作者投稿请登录本刊网站(www.cjiit.com)主页, 点击左上角“作者登录”进入, 第一次投稿需完成作者注册; 专家审稿请点击“审稿登录”进入。

为了便于广大作者、读者查阅本刊文献, 本站提供从 2004 年创刊起所有期刊的全文检索。