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环境雌激素的生殖毒性的分子机理研究进展

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摘要: 环境激素 (environmental endocrines, EEs) 是外源性激素, 可模拟体内天然激素与机体内的受体以及相应靶点结合, 导致内分泌系统以及生殖系统功能紊乱。环境激素所产生的效应十分复杂, 因此, 进一步明确其毒性机理将为环境激素所致危害的预防和治疗提供理论依据。就环境雌激素的生殖、发育等毒性机理作一综述。

关键词: 环境激素; 环境; 雌激素; 生殖

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Progress in molecular mechanisms on reproductive toxicity of environmental estrogens

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Abstract: Environmental endocrines (EEs) are environmental hormones which bind receptors and the targets by imitating natural hormones and result in endocrine system and reproductive system disorders. The effects of EEs are very complex. Thus, further studies on its molecular mechanisms will provide theoretic basis for the treatment and prevention of toxicity of EEs. This paper reviewed the toxicity mechanisms of environmental estrogens on reproduction and development.

Key words: environmental hormone; environment; estrogens; reproduction

当现代技术发展给人类带来物质文明时, 人们发现了一些存在于生物机体之外的激素, 被广泛应用于农业生产和人们的日常生活中。环境激素 (environmental endocrines, EEs) 是指环境中存在的一类能像激素一样影响人体内分泌功能的物质, 有学者将环境激素称为“环境内分泌干扰物”、“导致内分泌障碍的化学物质”、“外因型内分泌扰乱化学物质”等。它们并不是直接作为有毒物质给机体带来影响, 而是模拟或拮抗机体的内源性激素, 从而影响内源激素及受体的合成代谢过程, 破坏生物体功能, 进而导致生殖和发育功能异常, 甚至引发恶性肿瘤与生物绝种^[1-2]。环境激素所产生的效应十分复杂, 目前对其分子机制的了解还不清楚。

环境激素可分为环境雌激素、环境雄激素和环境甲状腺激素。本文就环境雌激素对生殖及发育的

影响进行综述。

1 环境雌激素的种类

1.1 合成激素

合成激素包括与雌二醇结构相似的类固醇衍生物, 这些物质主要来自口服避孕药和促家畜生长的同化激素。

1.2 植物雌激素

这类物质是某些植物产生的, 并具有弱激素活性, 以非甾体结构为主。这些化合物主要有异黄酮类、

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木质素和拟雌内醇,产生这些化合物的植物有豆科植物、茶和人参等。

1.3 具有雌激素活性的环境化学物质

环境中许多人工合成的化学物质也是常见的污染物,具有弱激素活性,这类物质主要包括:(1)杀虫剂,如双对氯苯基三氯乙烷(dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, DDT)、氯丹等;(2)多氯联苯类化合物(polychlorinatedbiphenyls, PCBs)和多环芳烃(polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, PAH);(3)非离子表面活性剂中的烷基苯酚类化合物;(4)塑料添加剂,如塑化剂;(5)食品添加剂,如抗氧化剂。

环境雌激素大多数为脂溶性,化学性质稳定,可通过食物链富聚,经过消化道、呼吸道、皮肤接触等途径进入人和动物体内;由于其生物半衰期较长,难以生物降解,可在动物和人体组织中长期滞留蓄积,不易排出^[3]。

2 环境雌激素作用强度

越来越多的研究表明,环境雌激素的最大容许浓度比以往人们预想的要低得多,并且浓度的影响是非线性的^[4],因此,低浓度的研究尤为重要^[5]。能够引起老鼠生殖系统病变的血液中 DDT 的最低效应浓度仅为 18 ng/ml^[6];甲氧滴滴涕 1~100 µg/ml 就可以降低性激素的水平^[7];0.1~10 µmol/L 的双酚 A (bisphenol A, BPA) 就可降低孕激素水平^[8],而 0.1~10 nmol/L 的 BPA 则能降低卵巢芳香化酶的表达^[9]。还有研究表明,50 µg/kg/d 的低剂量双酚 A 可致怀孕 16~18 d 小鼠生产的雄鼠前列腺明显变大,是正常鼠的 2 倍,同时附睾重量下降。

3 环境雌激素的生殖毒性

3.1 环境雌激素对雄性生殖系统的影响

环境雌激素对雄性生殖系统的影响,主要表现为性腺发育不良,生精细胞、支持细胞、间质细胞数目减少,精液质量下降,精子数目减少,甚至无精子,还可导致前列腺、睾丸肿瘤、隐睾、雄性动物雌性化等疾病。动物实验发现 PCBs 不仅影响精子发生、损害精子质量,还干扰睾丸正常的内分泌功能。Hauser 等^[10]发现不育男性精液中,多氯联苯(PCBs)及邻苯二甲酸酯类(phthalate esters, PAEs)浓度明显高于正常男性,PCBs 及 PAEs 联合作用较单独作用更能损害精子活力,因此,PCBs 可能是导致不明原因不育男性精子质量下降的原因之一。Duty 等^[11]发现 PAEs 能干扰卵泡刺激素(follicle-

stimulating hormone, FSH) 的分泌并损伤精子 DNA,使男性精子数量减少、运动能力低下、形态异常,严重的还会导致睾丸癌。睾丸是对二恶英(2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin, TCDD)极为敏感的器官,二恶英的排出率影响精子的密度和精子的活力,导致精子的前向运动速度明显降低^[12]。此外,砷污染可以导致男性不育^[13]。

3.2 环境雌激素对雌性生殖系统的影响

环境雌激素可引起卵母细胞染色体畸变,影响受精卵的发育和着床,干扰胚胎发育关键基因的表达,导致胚胎发育及分化异常,尤其是早期暴露对胚胎发育的影响较大^[14-15]。环境激素还可通过母亲导致胎儿生殖系统改变^[16],还可导致流产^[17],对女孩的初潮期影响较大^[18-19]。PCBs 能损害卵巢功能,暴露于 PCBs 的小鼠卵母细胞发育异常,成熟卵泡中的卵母细胞和在输卵管中的卵子均没有放射冠,而放射冠对于精子穿透卵子和受精是必需的。PCBs 暴露还与人孕期的缩短有关^[20]。环境雌激素还可降低受精率并且影响卵母细胞成熟^[21]。Louis 等^[14]发现子宫内膜异位症患者的血清 PCBs 浓度明显高于正常人。PCBs 浓度与卵细胞的直径成反比^[22]。双酚 A 还与胎盘发育不良有关^[23]。此外,高蛋白饮食也可以导致女性不育^[24]。

4 环境雌激素生殖毒性的作用机制

环境雌激素对生殖系统毒性作用的机制十分复杂,与受体途径以及激素合成有关,但还不是十分清楚。

4.1 受体途径

环境污染物主要通过芳烃受体(arylhydrocarbon receptor, AhR)和类固醇激素受体而起作用^[25]。此外,雌激素受体(estrogen receptor, ER)、雄激素受体(androgen receptor, AR)、补体、孕激素受体等也参与了环境雌激素对生殖系统毒性的作用机制。

Takeuchi 等^[26]发现环境雌激素与 AhR 结合,形成的复合物进入细胞核与 DNA 上特定的芳烃受体反应元件(arylhydrocarbon receptor response element, AHRE)结合,使其构象发生变化,引起细胞色素 C P4501A1 (cytochrome P450 1A1, CYP1A1)、CYP1A2、CYP1B1 和致癌基因的表达^[27]。此外, AhR 和烃受体核转运体(hydrocarbon receptor nuclear translocator, ARNT)形成异二聚体后,可以增加 ERβ 受体的活性^[28],促进卵母细胞生长^[29]。

环境雌激素与 ER 结合后,激活转录因子 Fos

和 Jun, 从而使含有活化蛋白 1 (activator protein-1, AP-1) 的元件基因表达。ER 有 ER α 和 ER β 两种亚型, 虽然它们与雌激素的亲合力相差不大, 但两者无论是在结构上还是在组织分布上均存在着一定的差异, 造成了两者在体内所发挥的生理功能各有不同, ER α 通过神经细胞受体起促进作用, 而 ER β 起抑制作用^[30]。ER 受多种胞外信号的影响, ER 的转录激活途径可能与表皮生长因子 (epidermal growth factor, EGF) 信号转导通路有关。EGF 通过 EGF 受体导致丝裂原活化蛋白激酶 (mitogen-activated protein kinases, MAPK) 级联反应, 使 Ser¹¹⁸ 磷酸化导致 ER 激活, 环境雌激素有可能作用于这些 ER 相关的信号通路, 从而干扰机体正常功能。此外, DDT 通过 E2 受体增加 DDT 的毒性^[31]。环境中的杀虫剂也是通过影响雌激素受体、雄激素受体和芳香化酶的活性而对机体起破坏作用^[32]。二恶英具有拮抗雌激素诱导的 ER α 的活性作用^[33]。

雌激素与膜受体结合后能激活三磷酸肌醇信号途径, 促使胞内钙离子的迅速释放, 从而导致人成熟卵母细胞和颗粒细胞内游离钙离子浓度升高, 导致环磷酸腺苷 (cyclic adenosine monophosphate, cAMP) 的生成增加及 cAMP 反应元件结合蛋白 (cAMP-response element binding protein, CREB) 磷酸化, MAPK 信号途径激活以及内皮一氧化氮合酶 (endothelial nitric oxide synthase, eNOS) 快速激活, 介导不同生物学效应^[34]。

4.2 调节激素合成

除了受体途径以外, 环境雌激素还可以抑制激素合成。TCDD 可以诱导 CYP1B1 mRNA 的水平增加, 从而调节雌二醇合成^[7]。长期 TCDD 暴露诱导 CYP1B1 转录活性增加, 从而下调 CYP17A1 和生长分化因子 9 (growth differentiation factor 9, GDF9), 最终影响卵泡因子的生成^[35]。BPA 通过抑制类固醇激素合成急性调节蛋白 (steroidogenic acute regulatory protein, Star)、3 β -类固醇脱氢酶 (3 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, Hsd3b1) 和 CYP17A1 的转录, 导致类固醇激素合成减少^[36]。

环境雌激素还可抑制类固醇激素代谢相关酶的活力, 延长激素活性, 进一步改变内源性雌激素的代谢状况。雌激素磺基转移酶在内源性雌激素代谢中起重要作用。二恶英类、双酚 A 等能抑制磺基转移酶, 从而增加雌激素的生物利用度^[37]。PCBs 代谢物不仅能与 ER 结合, 还能抑制雌激素磺基转移酶的活力, 使内源性雌激素失活减慢, 从而表现出

雌激素样活性。

5 其他

环境雌激素除了对人类生殖功能产生危害外, 还可以影响到与生殖功能相关的一些行为, 如二苯醚和 PCBs 可以导致性行为异常^[38], PCBs 还可以导致妊娠妇女中维生素 D3 的水平改变^[39]。此外, 环境雌激素还与生殖系统癌症相关, 如睾丸癌^[40]。

总之, 环境雌激素对人类危害十分严重, 尤其是对生殖功能, 其作用机制尚未阐明。目前, 深入研究环境雌激素的生殖毒性机制, 建立有效的预防体系, 将是关系到人类繁衍的重要研究领域。

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