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## 老年痴呆的遗传机制研究进展

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**摘要:** 老年痴呆症, 又称阿尔茨海默病 (Alzheimer's disease, AD), 是威胁老年人健康的主要疾病之一。根据发病年龄, AD 可分为早发性 (early-onset Alzheimer's disease, EOAD) 和迟发性 (late-onset Alzheimer's disease, LOAD) 两种, 两者均受到遗传因素的影响。目前已知 3 个致病基因导致家族性 EOAD 的发病: 淀粉样前体蛋白基因 ( $\beta$ -amyloid precursor protein, *APP*)、早老素 1 基因 (presenilin 1, *PSEN1*) 和早老素 2 基因 (presenilin 2, *PSEN2*)。而近年来在全基因组关联分析 (genome-wide association study, GWAS) 等新技术的支持下, 研究者相继发现并报道了一系列影响 LOAD 易感性的风险基因多态性位点。试对上述 AD 相关致病基因和主要风险基因加以简要介绍, 深入探索这些基因的功能有助于对 AD 病理生理机制的认知。

**关键词:** 阿尔茨海默病; 遗传; 全基因组关联分析

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### The genetics of Alzheimer's disease: a review of recent progress

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**Abstract:** Alzheimer's disease (AD) is one of the major threats to the health of aged people. The disease could be divided into two categories according to onset age. One is early-onset Alzheimer's disease (EOAD), and the other is late-onset Alzheimer's disease (LOAD), both influenced by genetic factors. For EOAD, three disease-causing genes have been found: the amyloid precursor protein (*APP*), presenilin 1 (*PSEN1*), and presenilin 2 (*PSEN2*). And as to LOAD, supported by the development of new genetic analysis technologies such as genome-wide association study (GWAS) in the past few years, researchers also reported a series of risk genes altering people's susceptibility to the disease. In this review we give a brief introduction of the AD-related disease-causing gene mutations and the top risk gene variants showing the strongest associations with AD. Further exploring of gene functions may contribute to a better understanding of the physiopathologic mechanism of Alzheimer's disease.

**Key words:** Alzheimer's disease; genetics; genome-wide association study

痴呆是损害老年人健康与生活质量的主要威胁之一, 随着人口老龄化的加剧, 这一问题的严重性日益突出。统计显示, 2010 年, 全球大约有 3 560 万痴呆患者, 而预计到 2050 年, 这一数字将上升至 1.15 亿<sup>[1]</sup>。其中老年痴呆症, 又称阿尔茨海默病 (Alzheimer's disease, AD) 是导致痴呆的最常见原因, 在所有痴呆患者中所占比例在 60% 以上<sup>[2]</sup>。我国流行病学调查显示, 65 岁以上老年人 AD 患病率男性为 3.4%, 女性为 7.7%, 总患病率为 5.9%<sup>[3]</sup>; 而 2010 年统计数据 displays, 全国 65 岁及以上老年人口已达 1.1883 亿<sup>[4]</sup>, 据此推算我国 65 岁以上 AD

患者在 600 万以上。

根据发病年龄早晚, AD 可分为早发性 (early-onset Alzheimer's disease, EOAD) 和迟发性 (late-onset Alzheimer's disease, LOAD) 两类, 普遍认可以 65 岁为年龄界线<sup>[5]</sup>。无论何种类型的 AD, 其发病均受到遗传因素的重要影响。对早发性 AD 家系的研究

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发现了3个致病基因；而以散发为主的迟发性AD，虽暂未发现明确的致病基因，但是通过候选基因筛选、全基因组关联分析 (genome-wide association study, GWAS) 等技术，研究者已捕捉到与之关联的若干风险基因。对这些基因功能的深入研究能进一步推动对AD病理生理机制的理解。

## 1 早发性AD的遗传机制

早发性AD约占所有AD患者的10%，其中60%左右在家族中至少有一位痴呆患者，而大约13%具有常染色体显性遗传的家族史<sup>[6]</sup>。迄今为止，人们通过对这些AD家系的遗传学研究，发现了3个致病基因：淀粉样前体蛋白基因 ( $\beta$ -amyloid precursor protein, APP)、早老素1基因 (presenilin 1, PSEN1) 和早老素2基因 (presenilin 2, PSEN2) (表1)。对这些基因功能的详细研究奠定了以 $\beta$ 淀粉样蛋白 ( $\beta$ -amyloid protein, A $\beta$ ) 为主要成分的淀粉样斑块形成在AD病理生理机制中的重要地位。

### 1.1 APP

APP是最早被发现的EOAD致病基因。早在1984年，通过对21-三体综合征和AD的相关性的研究，Glenner等<sup>[7]</sup>就首次提出编码A $\beta$ 的基因可能位于21号染色体，且可能存在导致AD的基因突变。这一猜想随后得到了证实。1987年，Goldgaber等<sup>[8]</sup>、Kang等<sup>[9]</sup>和Tanzi等<sup>[10]</sup>各自分离克隆了APP并将其定位于染色体21q21.3。通过对几个EOAD家系的重新测序，Goate等<sup>[11]</sup>于1991年发现了第一个导致AD的APP基因突变 (伦敦突变, V717I)，从而确认APP为EOAD的一个致病基因。迄今为止，研究者共发现了24个EOAD相关的APP单核苷酸突变<sup>[12]</sup>。这些突变位于编码A $\beta$ 肽段的第16、17外显子内或附近，绝大多数为错义突变，呈常染色体显性遗传，具有完全外显率；但全基因组重复<sup>[13-16]</sup>、少见的常染色体隐性遗传的错义突变<sup>[17]</sup>和缺失突变<sup>[18]</sup>等也有报道。

APP编码淀粉样前体蛋白APP，它是一种在脑部广泛表达的单次跨膜蛋白，经过 $\beta$ 和 $\gamma$ 分泌酶的剪切作用产生A $\beta$ <sup>[19]</sup>，而后者是AD淀粉样斑块

的主要成分。绝大多数APP突变聚集于A $\beta$ 的C端氨基酸序列编码区附近，突变影响 $\gamma$ 分泌酶对APP蛋白的剪切位点。在APP的剪切过程中， $\gamma$ 分泌酶负责剪切A $\beta$ 肽段的C端序列。正常情况下APP剪切产物以40个氨基酸的A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>为主，同时产生少量42个氨基酸的A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>，而C端序列的突变使得蛋白剪切产物中A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>量增加，A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>量减少，虽然A $\beta$ 总量不变，但是A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>/A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>比值增大<sup>[20]</sup>。A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>具有更显著的淀粉样蛋白特性，比A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>更易聚集<sup>[21]</sup>，故而A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>/A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>比值的增大将导致淀粉样斑块增多。瑞典突变 (APPKM670/671NL) 是APP第16外显子编码区两个相邻碱基的成对突变 (g.[269498G>T; 269499A>C])，突变引起A $\beta$ 上游紧邻起始序列的2个氨基酸替换 (赖氨酸-甲硫氨酸替换为天冬酰胺-亮氨酸)<sup>[22]</sup>。该突变不影响A $\beta$ 氨基酸序列，但是导致A $\beta$ 表达量增加到正常的2~3倍，提示A $\beta$ 表达过量也是AD的重要分子机制之一<sup>[23]</sup>。这一观点也得到其他研究证据的支持，如21-三体综合征患者在很早期就已表现出AD样的病理变化，到40岁时，几乎所有患者都具备AD的全部病理特征<sup>[24]</sup>；这些患者中合并痴呆者亦不少见，其患病率在45岁以上人群中为15%，在65岁以上人群中高达75%<sup>[25-26]</sup>。此外，还有1个APP突变 (北极突变, E693G) 既不改变A $\beta$ 总量，也不改变A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>/A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>比值，但是突变引起的A $\beta$ 氨基酸替换提高了A $\beta$ 的聚集率<sup>[27-28]</sup>。以上证据显示，无论是增加A $\beta$ 总量还是增强A $\beta$ 聚集都能导致AD，说明A $\beta$ 多聚体在AD的病理过程中扮演了重要角色。

对AD患者的尸体解剖发现，APP基因突变携带者的新皮层老年斑数量比散发型AD患者更多<sup>[29-30]</sup>，A $\beta$ <sub>42</sub>/A $\beta$ <sub>40</sub>的比值更高<sup>[31-32]</sup>。一些APP突变导致A $\beta$ 斑块的结构变化，如存在于弗莱德EOAD家系的APP突变 (A692G) 导致大而致密的斑块<sup>[33-34]</sup>，而上文提到的北极突变则导致环状斑块<sup>[35]</sup>。

### 1.2 PSEN1和PSEN2

PSEN1是最常见的EOAD致病基因，存在于约18%~36%的常染色体显性遗传EOAD患者中。

表1 早发性阿尔茨海默病的致病基因

基因	蛋白	位置	遗传方式	突变分布
APP	淀粉样前体蛋白	21q21.3	常染色体显性遗传	第16、17外显子
PSEN1	早老素1	14q24.2	常染色体显性遗传	全基因
PSEN2	早老素2	1q42.13	常染色体显性遗传	全基因

*PSEN1* 位于染色体 14q24.2, 由 Sherrington 等<sup>[36]</sup>于 1995 年发现。迄今为止已有 185 个 EOAD 相关的突变见诸报道<sup>[12]</sup>, 绝大多数为错义突变, 也有少数为缺失突变或插入突变。在 60~65 岁人群中, *PSEN1* 突变具有完全外显率<sup>[23]</sup>。

同样在 1995 年, Levy-Lahad 等<sup>[37]</sup>通过对德国 EOAD 家系的研究发现了另一致病基因 *PSEN2*, 该基因位于染色体 1q42.13。到目前为止, 研究者一共发现 13 个 EOAD 相关的 *PSEN2* 突变<sup>[12]</sup>, 均为错义突变。*PSEN2* 的外显率较之于 *PSEN1* 具有更大的变异性<sup>[23]</sup>。

*PSEN1* 和 *PSEN2* 分别编码早老素 1 和早老素 2 蛋白, 两者在结构和功能上十分相似, 都是  $\gamma$  分泌酶复合物的组分之一<sup>[38]</sup>。*PSEN1* 或 *PSEN2* 突变并不损害  $\gamma$  分泌酶复合物的酶切功能, 但改变了其酶切位点, 从而和 *APP* 突变相似, 导致  $A\beta_{42}/A\beta_{40}$  比值增大。

在病理方面, *PSEN1* 或 *PSEN2* 突变也导致 AD 患者脑部新皮层的老年斑数量增多<sup>[29,39-41]</sup>,  $A\beta_{42}/A\beta_{40}$  的比值增大<sup>[31,42]</sup>。在一些病例中, *PSEN1* 突变使得患者脑部 tau 蛋白沉积增加<sup>[43]</sup>。此外, 研究者还发现多个 *PSEN1* 突变能改变  $A\beta$  形态, 使之呈棉絮状<sup>[44-45]</sup>。

### 1.3 其他候选基因

除了 *APP*、*PSEN1* 和 *PSEN2* 以外, 还有 3 个候选基因也可能与 EOAD 关联。在比利时的一个 AD 家系中, Rademakers 等<sup>[46]</sup>和 Ostojic 等<sup>[47]</sup>发现了位于染色体 17q 的微管相关蛋白 tau 基因 (microtubule-associated protein tau, *MAPT*) 的一个错义突变 (R406W)。Rademakers 等<sup>[48]</sup>还发现荷兰一个 EOAD 家系与位于染色体 7q36 的配对盒因子 (paired box, *PAX*) 转录激活域相互作用蛋白基因 (*PAX transactivation domain interacting protein, PAXIP1*) 相关联。此外, Frigerio 等<sup>[49]</sup>还发现另一个 AD 家系的 19 号染色体早老素增强因子 2 基因 (presenilin enhancer-2, *PEN2*) 存在错义突变 (D90N)。但上述 3 个基因是否明确是 EOAD 的致病基因, 尚须进一步研究证实。

### 1.4 用全基因组外显子测序技术再探 EOAD 致病基因

尽管目前已找到常染色体显性遗传 EOAD 的 3 个致病基因, 但它们仅能解释部分家族性 EOAD 的发病机制。除了 *APP*、*PSEN1* 和 *PSEN2* 及上述候选基因, 是否存在其他与 EOAD 相关联的基因,

GWAS 等新技术的兴起为进一步探索提供了更有力的工具。目前已有两项全基因组外显子测序研究报告了结果。第一项研究意外地捕捉到 Notch-3 蛋白基因 (*NOTCH3*) 的一个错义突变<sup>[50]</sup>。该基因此前因与伴皮层下梗死和白质脑病的常染色体显性遗传脑动脉病相关联, 而未被纳入 AD 候选基因。第二项研究发现了分拣蛋白相关受体 L1 基因 (sortilin-related receptor 1, *SORL1*) 的错义突变和无义突变<sup>[51]</sup>。*SORL1* 位于染色体 11q23.2-q24.2<sup>[52]</sup>, 在神经元中有表达且参与 APP 的细胞内转运和加工<sup>[53-54]</sup>。细胞实验发现, 过量表达 *SORL1* 可引起 APP 向高尔基体的重新分布, 减少其  $A\beta$  生成量, 而采用基因敲除技术抑制 *SORL1* 表达, 则导致小鼠脑内  $A\beta$  含量显著增多<sup>[55]</sup>。*SORL1* 还能作为脂蛋白受体与载脂蛋白 E 相结合<sup>[56]</sup>。值得注意的是, *SORL1* 基因被发现也与迟发型 AD 存在关联 (详见下文)。

## 2 迟发性 AD 的遗传机制

虽然已经发现家族性 EOAD 患者的 3 个致病基因, 但是这些患者在 EOAD 群体中所占比例并不高, 而 EOAD 更仅占全部 AD 患者的少数。更多的 LOAD 患者在 65 岁后发病, 且罕见家族性遗传; 除了有研究发现 *PSEN1* 的一些突变与 LOAD 相关以外<sup>[57-58]</sup>, 至今尚未找到任何确切致病基因。尽管如此, 仍不应忽视遗传因素在 LOAD 的病理生理机制中扮演的角色, 因为 LOAD 患者中家族史阳性者并不少见, 有关双生子 LOAD 发病风险的研究也证实了遗传因素的参与<sup>[59]</sup>。目前普遍认为, LOAD 的发病是遗传-环境暴露因素相互影响而以更复杂的形式作用于个体的结果, 而其中遗传因素所占比例可能高达 80%<sup>[59]</sup>。

迄今为止, 研究者已陆续发现 10 余个与 LOAD 相关联的基因。它们虽然不能直接导致 LOAD, 其基因多态性却能影响个体对 LOAD 的易感性, 故称为“风险基因”。在 GWAS 技术成熟以前, 研究者只能在对 AD 发病机制已有理解的基础上寻找候选基因并加以证实, 技术限制使得基因关联分析仅能纳入少数基因和较小的样本, 故而只发现少数可能与 LOAD 相关联的基因多态性, 其中以载脂蛋白 E 基因 (apolipoprotein E, *APOE*) $\epsilon$ 4 等位基因多态性与 LOAD 关联性最强<sup>[60]</sup>。而近年来, 随着 GWAS 技术的发展和广泛应用, LOAD 相关风险基因的研究效率显著提高, 一系列具有微弱风险因素的其他基因位点也相继见诸报道。

## 2.1 APOE

*APOE* 位于染色体 19q13, 其编码产物载脂蛋白 E (ApoE) 最早因在脂代谢中的作用而受到关注, 但随后人们逐渐认识到它广泛参与 A $\beta$  清除、突触功能调节、免疫调节、胞内信号转导等<sup>[61-62]</sup>。ApoE 可能与 A $\beta$  相结合, 作为分子伴侣影响 A $\beta$  原纤维形成, 或通过胞吞作用清除其胞外肽段<sup>[23]</sup>。最早在 1991 年, Pericak-Vance 等<sup>[63]</sup> 就发现 AD 与 19 号染色体的含 *APOE* 区段存在关联, 进一步研究发现 *APOE* 基因多态性与 AD 存在强相关<sup>[64]</sup>。人类 *APOE* 含有 3 个等位基因  $\epsilon$ 2、 $\epsilon$ 3 和  $\epsilon$ 4, 编码 299 个氨基酸组成的蛋白异构体。 $\epsilon$ 2 在第 112 和第 158 个氨基酸位置均编码半胱氨酸,  $\epsilon$ 3 在第 112 位编码半胱氨酸、第 158 位编码精氨酸, 而  $\epsilon$ 4 在上述两个位置均编码精氨酸。研究表明,  $\epsilon$ 4 增加 AD 发病风险,  $\epsilon$ 2 对 AD 发病具有保护作用, 而最常见的  $\epsilon$ 3 则呈中性。携带有  $\epsilon$ 4 等位基因者的 AD 平均发病年龄较低, 而  $\epsilon$ 2 携带者的 AD 平均发病年龄较高<sup>[65]</sup>。该等位基因对于 AD 的影响具有叠加性, 携带 1 个  $\epsilon$ 4 使得 AD 发病风险提高 4 倍, 携带 2 个  $\epsilon$ 4 将导致 AD 发病风险提高 15 倍左右, 而基因型为  $\epsilon$ 2/ $\epsilon$ 2 者比仅携带 1 个  $\epsilon$ 2 者的 AD 发病风险更低<sup>[66]</sup>。更早的研究发现, 淀粉样斑块具有 ApoE 免疫活性, 而 AD 脑部星型胶质细胞激活后上调了 *APOE* 的表达<sup>[67]</sup>, 故而结合其遗传学发现, 可以推断 ApoE 参与了 AD 的病理过程。此外, *APOE* 基因型还能影响 *PSEN1*<sup>[68]</sup>、*PSEN2*<sup>[69]</sup> 和 *APP*<sup>[70]</sup> 基因突变携带者的发病年龄。

邻近 *APOE* 的一些其他基因的变异也能提高 LOAD 发病风险, 如线粒体外膜转位酶 40 同源物基因 (translocase of outer mitochondrial membrane 40 homolog, *TOMM40*), 它与 *APOE* 之间仅相隔约 2 000 bp, 两者呈完全连锁不平衡<sup>[71]</sup>。*TOMM40* 的多聚苏氨酸链长度存在诸多变异。有研究者发现较长的多聚苏氨酸链与 LOAD 发病年龄的提早存在关联, 而这一关联与 *APOE* 基因型无关<sup>[71]</sup>, 但是这一结果并没有在更大样本的重复研究中得到进一步验证<sup>[72-73]</sup>。其他邻近 *APOE* 而与 LOAD 相关联的基因包括基底细胞黏附分子基因 (basal cell-adhesion molecule, *BCAM*)、脊髓灰质炎病毒受体相关 2 基因 (poliovirus receptor related 2, *PVRL2*) 和载脂蛋白 C1 基因 (apolipoprotein C1, *APOC1*), 但是这些基因 (包括 *TOMM40*) 与 LOAD 之间的相关性仅为 *APOE* 与 AD 相关性的 1/15<sup>[74]</sup>。因此, 尽管理论上不排除

*APOE* 和上述基因是恰好在位置上非常接近的多个 LOAD 独立风险基因的可能, 但是目前证据更支持 *APOE* 是第 19 号染色体上唯一的 LOAD 风险基因。

## 2.2 SORL1 及其他非经 GWAS 分析发现的风险基因

*SORL1* 是另一个采用 GWAS 以外的基因分析方法发现的 LOAD 风险基因。它因参与 APP 转运、加工和 A $\beta$  生成而被 Rogaeva 等<sup>[52]</sup> 选为候选基因。研究者发现, 丛集于 *SORL1* 内两个区域附近的单核苷酸多态性 (single nucleotide polymorphism, SNP) 与 LOAD 存在复杂的关联, 但在不同人群中的重复实验既有阳性结果<sup>[75-80]</sup>, 也有阴性结果<sup>[81-84]</sup>。2011 年, Reitz 等<sup>[85]</sup> 的一项纳入了先前所有 *SORL1* 关联分析的无偏倚荟萃分析结果显示, 上述两簇 SNP 都和高加索 AD 存在强关联, 而 3' 端的 SNP 还与亚洲 AD 人群关联, 进一步证实了 *SORL1* 对 LOAD 影响。其他可能影响 LOAD 发病风险的基因还有: 血管紧张素转换酶基因 (angiotensin converting enzyme, *ACE*), 体外实验发现 *ACE* 具有降解 A $\beta$  的功能<sup>[86]</sup>; 白介素 8 基因 (interleukin 8, *IL8*), 介导炎症反应<sup>[87]</sup>; 低密度脂蛋白受体基因 (low density lipoprotein receptor, *LDLR*), *LDLR* 具有从循环中清除低密度脂蛋白 (LDL 和 VLDL) 的功能<sup>[88]</sup>。但是, 对这些基因与 AD 关联性在不同人群中的重复检测及荟萃分析结果并不一致<sup>[89-93]</sup>。

## 2.3 经 GWAS 分析发现的风险基因

近年来, 随着 GWAS 的发展和广泛应用, LOAD 相关风险基因的研究变得更加快捷、高效。GWAS 技术在全基因组范围内筛选与疾病显著相关的位点, 一次分析包含的 SNP 位点数量可达 100 万<sup>[74]</sup>。与传统的基因分析技术相比, GWAS 具有几个重要优势: 其一, 无需事先选定候选基因, 通过 GWAS 分析能发现新的基因, 并由此推导新的疾病相关分子机制; 其二, 可以纳入早期相关研究, 充分利用已有数据; 其三, 通过严格的质量控制、恰当的统计方法选择足够的样本量, 能使研究结果具有较高的可重复性<sup>[23]</sup>。鉴于上述优点, 目前研究者普遍采用 GWAS 技术筛选 LOAD 的风险基因。

### 2.3.1 GWAS 筛选 LOAD 风险基因的主要成果

2007 年, Reiman 等<sup>[94]</sup> 首次用 GWAS 方法筛选到一个 LOAD 风险基因——生长因子受体结合蛋白 2 (GRB2) 相关结合蛋白 2 基因 (GRB2-associated binder, *GAB2*)。后续研究指出, *GAB2* 能影响 tau 蛋白磷酸化<sup>[94]</sup>, 也能与 GRB2 相结合。2008 年, Bertram 等<sup>[96]</sup> 采用基于家系的 GWAS 筛选方法, 新

发现了3个与 *APOE* 完全独立的 LOAD 显著关联基因: 共济失调蛋白1基因 (*ataxin-1, ATXN1*)、白细胞分化抗原群33基因 (*CD33*) 和 *GWA\_14q31.2*。而自2009年起, 多项大样本病例对照 GWAS 研究又先后发现了若干 LOAD 风险基因, 主要包括: 丛集素基因 (*clusterin, CLU*)、补体受体1基因 (*complement receptor 1, CRI*)、磷脂酰肌醇结合网格蛋白组装蛋白基因 (*phosphatidylinositol binding clathrin assembly protein, PICALM*) (2009)<sup>[97-98]</sup>、桥联整合蛋白1基因 (*bridging integrator 1, BIN1*) (2010)<sup>[99]</sup>、CD2 相关蛋白基因 (*CD2 associated protein, CD2AP*)、跨膜4结构域亚家族A成员4A/6A/4E基因 (*membrane-spanning 4-domains subfamily A member 4A/6A/4E, MS4A4A/MS4A6A/MS4A4E*)、产促红细胞生成素的肝细胞 (*erythropoietin producing hepatoma, EPH*) 受体A1基因 (*EPH receptor A1, EPHA1*)、以及三磷酸腺苷 (*adenosine triphosphate, ATP*) 结合盒亚家族A成员7基因 (*ATP-binding cassette subfamily A member 7, ABCA7*)<sup>[100-101]</sup>, *CD33* 和 *APOE* 与 LOAD 的关联性也经大样本 GWAS 得到再次证实<sup>[100-102]</sup>。上述9个经无偏倚病例对照 GWAS 研究得到的风险基因, 连同 *APOE*, 构成了与 LOAD 具有最强关联的10个风险基因<sup>[60]</sup>。但与 *APOE* 相比, 其余9个基因对于 LOAD 易感性仅有微弱的影响。详细信息见表2。

对于上述风险基因, 研究者致力于通过随访研究进一步确认参与 LOAD 发病机制的具体基因多态性。大多数随访集中于 *CLU*、*CRI*、*PICALM* 和 *BIN1*<sup>[103-111]</sup>, 也有少数关注其他风险基因<sup>[112-113]</sup>。若干研究证实了 *CLU* 的一些 SNP 与 LOAD 的关联, 大多数结果指向 GWAS 显著性最强的 SNP<sup>[103-109]</sup>。

其中一个 SNP 与颞叶 *CLU* 转录产物的增加相关联, 提示其为一个潜在的功能性基因变异<sup>[114]</sup>, 但其他研究未能重复该结果<sup>[106-107,115]</sup>。还有研究对 *CLU* 的编码区进行重新测序, 发现 AD 患者在 *CLU* 的  $\beta$  链编码区存在稀有的基因多态性, 提示该蛋白亚单位可能在 AD 病理生理机制中发挥某些功能<sup>[115]</sup>。对 *CRI* 的随访研究也多集中于其 GWAS 显著性最强的 SNP 位点, 但该位点位于基因的非编码区<sup>[103-104,106]</sup>。*CRI* 是一段高度重复的序列, 研究发现其拷贝数的变异与 LOAD 相关联<sup>[116]</sup>。*CRI* 拷贝数变异导致蛋白长度的变异, 并最终影响其与补体及其辅因子的结合位点数量而引起 *CR1* 蛋白功能的变异<sup>[116]</sup>。对 *PICALM*<sup>[99,103-104,106-108,117]</sup> 和 *BIN1*<sup>[100-101,103,109,117]</sup> 的随访研究也发现, 与 LOAD 相关联的 SNP 多处于基因上游。尽管强关联并不都意味着因果关系, 但上游非编码区的 DNA 变异对基因功能的影响也曾得到相关研究证实<sup>[118]</sup>, 所以不应忽视这些编码区以外的 SNP 对 AD 的潜在影响。

### 2.3.2 GWAS 风险基因的生理功能探索

与传统的候选基因筛选方法不同, GWAS 分析不需要事先对疾病风险基因做出预测, 更无需了解这些基因可能以何种方式参与发病机制的背景信息。相反, 对 GWAS 风险基因功能的进一步研究, 能为深入理解疾病机制提供新的线索。上述 GWAS 分析得到的 LOAD 风险基因, 根据其生理功能可分为若干类: (1) 参与脂质代谢和运输 (*CLU* 和 *ABCA7*); (2) 免疫调节 (*CLU*、*CRI*、*ABCA7*、*CD33*、*EPHA1* 和 *MS4A4A/MS4A6A/MS4A4E*); (3) 调节内吞作用等细胞内外物质运输 (*PICALM*、*BIN1*、*CD2AP*)。

表2 迟发性阿尔茨海默病的风险基因

基因	蛋白	位置 <sup>[74]</sup>	主要变异位点或SNP <sup>[60]</sup>	OR (95%CI) <sup>[60]</sup>
<i>APOE</i>	载脂蛋白E	19q13	第4外显子	$\epsilon 3\epsilon 4$ : 3.2(2.8~3.8) $\epsilon 4\epsilon 4$ : 14.9(10.8~20.6)
<i>CLU</i>	丛集素	8p21.1	内含子rs1136000	0.89(0.86~0.91)
<i>CRI</i>	补体受体1	1q32	内含子rs6656401	1.19(1.09~1.30)
<i>PICALM</i>	磷脂酰肌醇结合网格蛋白组装蛋白	11q14	上游rs3851179	0.88(0.86~0.91)
<i>BIN1</i>	桥联整合蛋白1	2q14	上游rs744373	1.17(1.13~1.20)
<i>CD2AP</i>	CD2相关蛋白	6p12.3	内含子rs9349407	1.12(1.08~1.16)
<i>MS4A4A/MS4A6A/MS4A4E</i>	跨膜4结构域亚家族A成员4A/6A/4E	11q12.1	内含子rs610932	0.90(0.88~0.93)
<i>EPHA1</i>	EPH受体A1	7q34	上游rs11767557	0.89(0.83~0.96)
<i>ABCA7</i>	ATP结合盒亚家族A成员7	19p13.3	内含子rs3764650	1.23(1.18~1.28)
<i>CD33</i>	CD33	19q13.3	上游rs3865444	0.85(0.86~0.92)

注: OR: 比值比(odds ratio); CI: 置信区间(confidence interval)

了解这些基因产物在细胞内的生理功能,及其基因变异对AD发病的具体影响,有助于更完整、系统地理解AD的病理生理过程。

*CLU*和*ABCA7*均在脂代谢中发挥一定作用。*CLU*编码丛集素,又称为载脂蛋白J(ApoJ),在外周循环系统和中枢均能发挥脂质运输功能<sup>[119-120]</sup>,有人推测其能作为胞外分子伴侣影响A $\beta$ 的转运、聚集和清除<sup>[121-122]</sup>。*ABCA7*属于ABC转运体超家族,可能具有调节磷脂和胆固醇外排的作用<sup>[123]</sup>。*CLU*和*ABCA7*还参与免疫调节。星型胶质细胞能在细胞因子的刺激下合成和分泌丛集素,提示其可能为脑部免疫反应的一个标志物<sup>[124]</sup>。*ABCA7*能和巨噬细胞相互作用而调节其对凋亡细胞的吞噬功能<sup>[125]</sup>,它的这一功能受到胆固醇水平的调节<sup>[126]</sup>。

*CR1*、*CD33*、*EPHA1*和*MS4A4A/MS4A6A/MS4A4E*也可能通过免疫途径影响AD发病风险。*CR1*是一类能与补体C3b、C4b结合的细胞表面受体,参与清除含有C3b、C4b的免疫复合物,是AD脑部固有免疫系统的重要激活成分<sup>[127]</sup>。由于A $\beta$ 能与C3b结合,所以*CR1*可能在A $\beta$ 的清除中发挥作用。还有研究显示,*CR1*可能对于A $\beta$ 诱导的神经毒性具有保护作用<sup>[128]</sup>。*CD33*是唾液酸结合性免疫球蛋白样凝集素家族成员,在外周免疫系统和脑部均有表达,能促进细胞-细胞相互作用,调节固有免疫<sup>[129]</sup>。它在外周能抑制骨髓细胞的增殖<sup>[130]</sup>,而在脑部的功能尚不明确。近来有证据提示固有免疫参与AD发病机制,如A $\beta$ 可能在脑部固有免疫系统中发挥抗微生物的功能<sup>[131]</sup>,因此,*CD33*可能参与AD脑部固有免疫机制的调节。*EPHA1*属于受体蛋白质酪氨酸激酶家族,此类细胞表面受体具有调节细胞黏附的功能。在脑的发育中,它们参与细胞黏附、迁移的调节和轴突引导,对于建立不同脑区之间的恰当连接具有重要影响<sup>[132-134]</sup>,它们还参与调节神经前体细胞的凋亡<sup>[135]</sup>。但是,*EPHA1*对于人类中枢神经系统的具影响目前仍欠缺相关研究证实。*EPHA1*表达于CD4阳性T淋巴细胞<sup>[136]</sup>、单核细胞<sup>[137]</sup>、小肠上皮细胞和大肠<sup>[138]</sup>,提示其可能也通过免疫系统而影响AD的发病风险。*MS4A4A/MS4A6A/MS4A4E*是第11号染色体上*MS4A*基因簇的一部分,编码跨膜4结构域超家族A成员。此类蛋白质具有多次跨膜结构域,与B淋巴细胞表面分子*CD20*具有同源性<sup>[139-140]</sup>,其功能尚不明确;但与*CD33*相似,它在骨髓细胞和单核细胞中均有表达,因此,可能也具有免疫相

关的功能<sup>[123]</sup>。

*PICALM*、*BINI*和*CD2AP*编码产物均和细胞骨架蛋白存在相互作用。*PICALM*参与网格蛋白介导的细胞内吞作用,能将网格蛋白和接头蛋白复合体2募集到小泡聚集的位置,这一过程为APP经 $\gamma$ 分泌酶剪切成A $\beta$ 所必需<sup>[141-143]</sup>,但目前尚不明确它在AD的病理过程中施加的影响。*BINI*也参与网格蛋白介导的细胞内吞作用,因此,可能由此途径影响APP加工和A $\beta$ 的形成与清除<sup>[144-147]</sup>。*CD2AP*是一种支架蛋白,能直接和肌动蛋白、肾病蛋白等参与细胞骨架构建的蛋白质相连接<sup>[148-149]</sup>。*CD2AP*参与胞浆分裂和细胞内吞作用时的肌动蛋白的动态重塑。在肾脏,它作为肾小球裂孔隔膜细胞间连接复合体的成分而受到密切关注,其表达量的减少将导致局灶性节段性肾小球硬化<sup>[150]</sup>。在免疫系统中,*CD2AP*也是网格蛋白依赖的肌动蛋白聚合过程的必要成分,参与调节T淋巴细胞与抗原递呈细胞的相互接触<sup>[151]</sup>。*CD2AP*在脑部也有表达,但其生理功能以及对于AD的影响仍有待进一步研究。

### 2.3.3 GWAS风险基因与AD生物标志物及临床特征

为进一步理解上述风险基因对AD病理生理过程的影响,一些研究观察了基因多态性与血液、脑脊液及脑内A $\beta$ 斑块和tau蛋白聚集量的关系。有研究发现,*PICALM*与脑脊液A $\beta$ 含量的降低有关<sup>[152]</sup>,而*CR1*的若干SNP则与脑脊液A $\beta$ 含量增加相关联<sup>[116]</sup>,但另一些研究报告了阴性结果<sup>[153-154]</sup>。还有人观察了GWAS风险基因对AD影像学特征及认知功能的影响,结果显示*CLU*的某些基因多态性导致静息状态下海马部位的脑血流灌注增加<sup>[155]</sup>,工作记忆期间前额叶背外侧皮层、海马和扣带回激活程度增大<sup>[156]</sup>,但情景记忆期间海马和前额叶背外侧皮层的联系减少<sup>[157]</sup>、记忆衰退速率加快<sup>[155]</sup>; *CR1*、*PICALM*基因多态性使得内嗅皮层和海马的灰质体积减小<sup>[158-159]</sup>; *BINI*基因多态性也导致内嗅皮层和颞叶皮层变薄<sup>[158]</sup>。

## 3 总结

有关AD遗传机制的研究,早期成果主要在于EOAD的3个致病基因*APP*、*PSEN1*和*PSEN2*的发现,以及由淀粉样前体蛋白、早老素1、早老素2功能研究而取得的AD病理生理机制方面的重大突破。近年来在不断发展的基因分析新技术的助力下,又相继有影响LOAD发病风险的基因位点见诸报道。尽管如此,目前的认知远不足以描述AD遗

传机制全貌。对于 EOAD, 除了已知的致病基因外, 是否还存在尚未揭晓的其他致病基因, 或像 LOAD 一样虽不足以致病, 但能影响发病风险的基因位点; 而对于 LOAD, 在现有与之显著关联的基因位点中, 究竟哪些位点、何种变异真正参与了 AD 发病过程。此外, 是否存在新的风险基因, 它们具有何种生理功能, 以何种途径介入 AD 发病过程, 它们之间是否存在相互作用。对于 AD 的临床治疗, 目前遗传学研究成果又能给予怎样的启迪, 期待未来更多的研究对上述问题做出解答。

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