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## 肠道菌群与肠屏障互作影响动脉粥样硬化形成的研究进展

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**【摘要】** 动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)是一种慢性炎症代谢性疾病,与高血压、高血脂、高血糖、高尿酸等危险因素联系密切。肠道屏障功能对维持人体肠道功能稳态发挥着重要调节作用,肠道菌群是肠道屏障的重要组成部分,肠道菌群紊乱会导致肠道屏障受损、肠道通透性增加,同时菌群相关产物如脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)、短链脂肪酸(short chain fatty acid, SCFAs)、胆汁酸(bile acids, BAs)、氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine oxide, TMAO)等发生改变,可引发机体炎症反应、氧化应激等不良反应,影响AS的发生发展。本文就肠道菌群与肠屏障互作对于AS的形成及其危险因素的影响作一综述,为研究和防治AS提供参考。

**【关键词】** 动脉粥样硬化; 肠道菌群; 肠道屏障; 危险因素

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## Research progress in the interaction between intestinal flora and the intestinal barrier in atherosclerosis

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**【Abstract】** Atherosclerosis (AS) is a chronic inflammatory metabolic disease closely associated with risk factors such as hypertension, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, and hyperuricemia. The intestinal barrier function plays an important regulatory role in maintaining intestinal homeostasis, and intestinal flora is an important component. Disturbance of intestinal flora can lead to intestinal barrier damage and an increase of intestinal permeability. The related products, such as lipopolysaccharide, short chain fatty acids, bile acids, and trimethylamine oxide change and can cause inflammation, oxidative stress, and other adverse reactions that then affect the occurrence and development of AS. In this article, we review the interaction between intestinal flora and the intestinal barrier in AS development and its risk factors, and provide a reference for the study and prevention of AS.

**【Keywords】** atherosclerosis; intestinal flora; the intestinal barrier; risk factors

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心血管疾病(cardiovascular disease, CVD)是严重危害人类健康的重大疾病。动脉粥样硬化(atherosclerosis, AS)是众多CVD的病理基础,也是

以炎症反应和脂质沉积为基础的代谢性疾病,与高血压、高血脂、高血糖、高尿酸等危险因素密切相关。然而,目前AS发生发展机制仍未被阐明,面对

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严峻的形势,深入研究 AS 的发病机制和影响因素对发现新型有效的防治方案有着重要意义。

大量研究发现,肠道菌群结构和肠道通透性与 AS 及其危险因素密切相关<sup>[1]</sup>。肠道中有益菌数量下降和有害菌数量上升,可导致肠道屏障损伤以及菌群相关产物脂多糖(lipopolysaccharide, LPS)、短链脂肪酸(short chain fatty acid, SCFAs)、胆汁酸(bile acids, BAs)、氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine oxide, TMAO)等物质发生变化,继而促使更多有害物质进入循环系统,引起炎症反应、氧化应激,影响 AS 进展<sup>[2]</sup>。本文将从肠道菌群与肠道屏障互作对 AS 及其危险因素发生发展的影响加以阐述,为研究和防治 AS 提供参考。

## 1 肠道菌群与肠道屏障

### 1.1 肠道屏障

肠道屏障由肠道皮下向肠腔内可依次细分为免疫屏障、机械屏障、化学屏障和生物屏障。免疫屏障主要由肠道相关淋巴细胞组织及其分泌的抗体组成,能抵御病原微生物入侵。由肠道上皮细胞和紧密连接(tight junction, TJ)等结构形成的机械屏障,能将机体与外界环境分隔,有效的阻挡大分子及有害物质进入。TJ 的完整性是肠道通透性保持健康状态的关键所在。化学屏障主要由肠道黏膜绒毛下侧的隐窝组织分泌的黏液、酶以及消化液构成,能消灭外来病原微生物<sup>[3]</sup>。生物屏障即肠道菌群,肠道菌群一直处于动态变化的状态,在免疫和营养吸收等方面发挥无可取代的作用<sup>[3]</sup>。

### 1.2 肠道菌群

肠道菌群作为肠道屏障的特殊部分,组成复杂且数量庞大,包含 1000 多种细菌,多达 100 万亿个细胞。肠道中 99% 微生物是厌氧菌,随着人类一起进化至今。肠道内存在共生菌和条件性致病菌,共生菌与宿主保持着共生关系,两者互惠互利,并且抑制条件性致病菌繁殖。肠道菌群的组成主要包括厚壁菌门、拟杆菌门、放线菌门、梭杆菌门、变形菌门、疣微菌门、蓝藻菌门,其中厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门占 92% 以上<sup>[4]</sup>。

### 1.3 肠道菌群与肠道屏障的互作

正常情况下,生物屏障中有益菌和有害菌保持稳态,并以争夺营养的方式对外来病原体起到拮抗作用,阻止致病菌定植<sup>[5]</sup>。肠道菌群是肠道屏障最初的关卡,坚守生物屏障这道关卡有利于维持肠道

其他屏障结构功能完整性,防止致病菌及其有害物质入侵。

#### 1.3.1 肠道菌群影响机械屏障

在细菌与细菌之间、菌群与肠道上皮细胞之间存在粘附现象,形成占位性保护对机械屏障有协助和加强作用<sup>[6]</sup>。肠道菌群组成的改变直接影响菌群相关产物的变化,并且通过各个途径影响屏障结构。例如,当革兰阴性杆菌丰度增加,细菌膜表面的主要毒力因子 LPS 随之增加。LPS 能降低空肠跨上皮电阻,使机械屏障 TJ 相关蛋白 claudin-1、occludin 和闭锁连接蛋白 1(zona occludens 1, ZO-1) 的表达降低,导致肠道通透性增加(表 1, 图 1)<sup>[7]</sup>。同时,LPS 具有交感神经兴奋作用,引起肠黏膜血管收缩供血、供氧缺乏,并且使肠上皮细胞代谢紊乱,进一步导致肠道机械屏障功能受损。随着肠道通透性增加,肠道内的 LPS 更易进入机体,而后会被 Toll 样受体(Toll-like receptors, TLR)识别激活核转录因子-κB(nuclear transcription factor-κB, NF-κB)引起免疫反应,增加单核巨噬细胞表达,促进凝血因子、炎症因子、氧自由基释放,并下调 TJ 蛋白使肠道通透性增加的情况进一步恶化,最终导致更多 LPS 侵入机体,形成恶性循环(图 1)<sup>[3,8]</sup>。同样的,部分菌群产生的三甲胺(trimethylamine, TMA)在肝被黄素单氧酶 3 (flavin monooxygenase, FMO3) 氧化为氧化三甲胺(trimethylamine oxide, TMAO), TMAO 也会引起机体炎症反应,降低 TJ 蛋白表达量(图 1)<sup>[9]</sup>。与之相反,双歧杆菌等益生菌能将难以消化的膳食纤维和抗性淀粉分解成 SCFAs,如乙酸、丙酸和丁酸,是肠道微生物区系以及肠道上皮细胞的重要碳能源,也是肠黏膜屏障的保护剂,能通过腺苷酸激活蛋白激酶(AMP-activated protein kinase, AMPK) 来调节 TJ 的组装,增强肠道屏障(表 2, 图 1)<sup>[10-11]</sup>。

#### 1.3.2 肠道菌群影响化学屏障

肠道上皮存在多种分泌细胞,肠腔中的粘液主要由杯状细胞分泌,潘氏细胞位于肠隐窝底部分泌抗菌肽、溶菌酶和磷脂酶等,可以阻止致病菌附着在上皮细胞边界并具有杀菌作用。粘蛋白 2(Mucin 2, MUC2) 是粘液层的主要组成部分,有部分共生菌喜好定植在外层粘液层,这可能与其能利用 MUC2 为自身生长功能有关,而内层粘液层与上皮细胞贴合且较为致密起到抵抗致病菌等作用<sup>[12-13]</sup>。例如嗜黏蛋白阿克曼氏菌(*Akkermansia muciniphila*, Akk) 具有很强的分解黏蛋白的能力能在黏蛋白上生长,

并且能产生乙酸盐和丙酸盐。*Akk* 本身能增加杯状细胞以及抗菌肽的数量,同时产生的 SCFAs 能够刺激 MUC2 基因的表达和肠道粘蛋白的释放(表 2,图 1)<sup>[14]</sup>。在小鼠模型中发现,结肠粘液的粘度由近端向远端增加,而这恰恰限制了细菌的运动,赋予细菌种群的空间结构分布<sup>[15]</sup>。另外,BAs 作为化学屏障主要成分之一,能破坏有害细菌细胞膜起到抑菌作用<sup>[16]</sup>。

### 1.3.3 肠道菌群影响免疫屏障

在免疫屏障中,微皱褶细胞也可称为 M 细胞,能摄取并转运肠腔内 LPS 等抗原,从而激活派尔集合淋巴结中的树突状细胞(dendritic cell, DC),后者能有效帮助幼稚 CD<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> T 细胞分化为调节性 T 细胞(T regulatory cell, Treg),分泌白介素-10(interleukin-10, IL-10)等进一步诱导产生免疫球蛋白 A(immunoglobulin A, IgA)结合病原体特异性受体使其凝集困于黏液中,并中和毒素和病原体,阻止它们直接接触上皮细胞<sup>[17]</sup>。SCFAs 通过刺激巨噬细胞和 DC 来促进 IL-10 的分泌。另外,肠道共生菌与病原体的种群密度或与其相关的内源性分子共同决定肠道中 IgA 的分泌。例如,梭状芽孢杆菌和脆弱拟杆菌的内源性多糖 A 和 SCFAs 促进杯状细胞分泌的粘蛋白,均可激活 Treg 细胞介导的抗炎反应,以加强免疫屏障功能<sup>[18]</sup>。肠杆菌科和相关肠道致病菌株的丰度增加相当于病原体的爆发,破坏免疫系统耐受性并激活促炎反应<sup>[19]</sup>。近期研究发现乳杆菌株具有抗菌活性,并通过增加小鼠体内的分泌型 IgA 来增强黏膜免疫力<sup>[20]</sup>。

## 2 肠道菌群与肠道屏障互作对 AS 的影响

肠道保持稳态与肠黏膜屏障、内环境及其代谢产物等因素有关,在肠道稳态被破坏的情况下菌群结构相继发生变化,肠道菌群及其代谢产物能影响各个层次肠道屏障。此时肠腔内的益生菌减少,致病菌大量增殖,遵循肠道渗漏概念,肠道屏障功能受损导致细菌产物易位进入宿主循环,这可能导致促炎状态,进一步增加肠道通透性,造成恶性循环<sup>[21]</sup>。相反,有益菌能抑制致病菌繁殖,可通过提高 TJ 蛋白含量、促使上皮细胞增殖分化、促进粘液和抗炎因子产生来维持肠道菌群稳态、肠道屏障完整、炎症水平稳定,有利于降低 AS 及其危险因素等疾病的危险性<sup>[22]</sup>。

### 2.1 影响 AS 危险因素

AS 逐渐被认为是一种慢性炎症性疾病,在 AS 疾病的发生发展中炎症免疫反应参与全过程,促进疾病进程、血栓形成以及斑块不稳定性。另外,氧化应激和脂质代谢受各种危险因素影响,影响 AS 斑块发生直至破裂,与血管内皮损伤、粘附分子表达等机制有关,促使单核细胞粘附血管内皮,发展为巨噬细胞并吞噬脂质转为泡沫细胞参与 AS 斑块形成<sup>[22]</sup>。高血脂、肥胖、高血压、高血糖、胰岛素抵抗、高尿酸等慢性代谢类疾病是近些年困扰人们健康的重要危险因素,也是增加心血管突发事件的元凶,并与 AS 联系密切,均存在慢性低度炎症、氧化应激等现象。随着对各疾病的深入研究,不断有文献报道肠道菌群在 AS 危险因素疾病中扮演着关键角色(表 1)。

#### 2.1.1 影响高脂血症

高脂血症是脂质代谢紊乱所引起的疾病,不仅是 AS 的病理基础之一,也是众多 CVD 高危因素。高脂血症的肠道菌群改变表现为链球菌、产气肠杆菌、瘤胃球菌、脱硫弧菌增加,双歧杆菌属、普拉梭菌、*Akk* 等产 SCFAs 菌减少、LPS 增加<sup>[23]</sup>。在高脂饮食物条件下,肠道中 LPS 能伪装成磷脂参与组装乳糜微粒蛋白进入机体,并且参与毛细血管内皮的脂蛋白胞吞作用,进入各个组织(表 1)<sup>[24]</sup>。

SCFAs 能保护肠道屏障,并通过 G 蛋白偶联受体 43(G protein-coupled receptor 43, GPR43) 和 GPR41 促进糖脂代谢。相应受体能刺激胰高血糖样素肽-1(glucagon peptide-1, GLP-1) 和胃肠肽类激素酪酪肽(peptide YY, PYY) 分泌,进而增加瘦素释放,瘦素和各类肽能增加饱腹感、控制饮食,从而减少高脂血症的发生(表 1, 图 1)<sup>[25]</sup>。因此,肠道菌群紊乱导致 SCFAs 产生减少、LPS 增加,不利于脂肪分解以及肠道屏障完整性的维持。

正常情况下,双歧杆菌、乳杆菌可使初级 BAs 转化为石胆酸和脱氧胆酸等次级 BAs,若肠道菌群失调则导致 BAs 代谢改变,影响胆汁酸的解偶联、转化和脱硫作用进一步破坏肠道稳态和通透性,还会使次级 BAs 合成减少导致其受体法尼醇 X 受体(farnesoid X receptor, FXR) 活化被抑制,对肠上皮炎症、脂质稳态产生负面影响<sup>[26]</sup>。肠道菌群不仅参与了次级 BAs 代谢,而且可抑制肝 BAs 合成<sup>[27]</sup>。另外,BAs 在脂代谢方面发挥着至关重要的作用,有利于胆固醇代谢,FXR 可以抑制脂肪生成、增加脂

解作用(表 1, 图 1)<sup>[28]</sup>。

### 2.1.2 影响高血糖

高血糖症往往伴随高脂血症一起出现,同样对 AS 产生影响,且长期的高血糖症还会发展为糖尿病,另外随着年龄增长 AS 患者的高血糖生物标志物也呈上升趋势<sup>[29]</sup>。LPS 是胰岛素抵抗的触发因素之一,还能增加促炎因子、损害胰腺  $\beta$  细胞功能,提高患糖尿病风险(表 1)<sup>[30]</sup>。另外,TMAO 能通过磷脂酰肌醇 3-激酶/蛋白激酶 B(PI3K/Akt)信号通路加剧高血糖病症和胰岛素抵抗(表 1)<sup>[9,31]</sup>。

双歧杆菌等益生菌可增加糖原合成并降低肝糖异生相关基因的表达,其产物 SCFAs 能保护  $\beta$  细胞,刺激胰岛素分泌促进血糖稳态<sup>[32-33]</sup>。*Akk* 被认为是一种很有前途的益生菌,是治疗肥胖和糖尿病的候选物。*Akk* 不仅可以改善葡萄糖耐量和胰岛素敏感性,还强效抑制相关酶活性,有效的阻止碳水化合物的分解,有利于降低餐后的血糖水平<sup>[33-34]</sup>。BAs 已被证实是葡萄糖代谢的重要调节物,有助于建立糖尿病的血糖控制,下游受体 FXR 能提高葡萄糖耐量和胰岛素敏感性,并刺激胰腺  $\beta$  细胞产生胰岛素(表 1, 图 1)<sup>[35]</sup>。

### 2.1.3 影响高血压

高血脂和高血糖是高血压的诱发因素,三种疾病互存的情况十分常见,能共同促进 AS。菌群改变使 LPS 升高,引发心率增加、去甲肾上腺素水平增加、压力反射敏感性降低等现象,还具有促炎、交感神经激活、促进神经炎症作用,以上反应均与高血压发病机制有关(表 1)<sup>[36]</sup>。

SCFAs 能激活 GPR 和嗅觉相应受体增加肾素释放促进血压升高,然而由于 SCFAs 具有舒张血管作用,因此血压在各因素共同作用下保持相对稳定(表 1)<sup>[37]</sup>。丁酸经相应受体作用与迷走神经能发挥一定的降压效果<sup>[36]</sup>。最新研究证实 TMAO 能通过激活蛋白激酶 R 样内质网激酶以及下游活性氧(ROS)等相关通路来实现收缩小动脉,并使血压对 Ang II 反应敏感并降低肾小球滤过率,从而增强 Ang II 诱导的血管收缩,且 TMAO 能延长 Ang II 对高血压的作用(表 1)<sup>[38-39]</sup>。

### 2.1.4 影响高尿酸

高尿酸与前三者一样均是 AS 的独立危险因素且相互关联,能加速 AS 进程。在 AS 斑块中存在较高的尿酸,推断尿酸对 AS 存在直接作用。机体尿酸过高可形成尿酸盐结晶直接损伤血管内皮,引起

炎症和氧化应激,刺激平滑肌细胞增殖、血小板聚集,促进 AS<sup>[40]</sup>。高尿酸患者的肠道菌群中双歧杆菌、乳酸杆菌等细菌分泌的活性蛋白酶、转运酶以及 SCFA 减少,嘌呤分解代谢和转运降低,利于尿酸形成(表 1)<sup>[41]</sup>。

高尿酸极易导致痛风、肾病的机制与 LPS 有关。LPS 诱导的 TLR 相关炎症反应不仅增加肠道通透性,肾通透性也增加,为肠源性 LPS 损害肾提供可能<sup>[42]</sup>。近期研究发现,可溶性尿酸可以增加 ROS 的释放,使线粒体膜电位去极化,激活 NLRP3 炎症小体和 NF- $\kappa$ B 信号,进一步导致 TJ 蛋白对肠屏障功能产生不良影响<sup>[43]</sup>。此外,部分革兰阴性变形菌在高尿酸血症中丰度较高<sup>[44]</sup>。进一步的研究发现,LPS 和尿酸生成关键酶黄嘌呤氧化酶(xanthine oxidase, XOD)以及尿酸呈正相关(表 1)<sup>[45]</sup>。然而,高尿酸和肠道菌群的相互作用机制还需要进一步探讨。

## 2.2 影响 AS 的发生发展

目前,在 AS 斑块中的研究发现来自口腔和肠道的五十多种细菌,如链球菌、假单胞菌肺炎支原体、幽门螺旋杆菌和、牙周病原菌,可见细菌可以通过某些途径进入定植于 AS 斑块并影响其稳定性<sup>[47]</sup>。实验动物和人群的肠道菌群 16sRNA、宏基因组等测序结果显示,AS 患者以及高血脂、高血压、高血糖、高尿酸疾病的肠道菌群组成与正常状态相比存在明显差异,厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门的比值(F/B)显著增加且菌群多样性降低<sup>[48]</sup>。AS 患者肠道菌群在门水平主要表现为厚壁菌门丰度增加以及拟杆菌门丰度减少,F/B 比值增加<sup>[36]</sup>(表 2)。

肠道菌群在 AS 及其危险因素疾病中,各菌门菌属的变化趋势相似程度较大。表现为双歧杆菌属、罗斯氏菌、普拉梭菌以及 *Akk* 等益生菌丰度的降低,而克雷伯氏菌、埃希氏菌、产气肠杆菌、脱硫弧菌等条件致病菌丰度升高,另外,瘤胃球菌作为肠道优势菌群在 AS 及其危险因素疾病中也表现为明显升高趋势(表 2)<sup>[49-50]</sup>。这说明了肠道菌群的改变确与疾病的发生发展密切相关,也进一步说明了 AS 与危险因素在肠道菌群方面存在一定联系。例如,AS 以及其危险因素类疾病研究中均有报道 LPS 水平在循环系统中升高,且 LPS 与 TMAO 一样对机体最严重的影响是激活 NF- $\kappa$ B 等炎症反应、氧化应激,进一步导致肠道通透性增加的恶性循环(表 2)<sup>[51-52]</sup>。

**表 1 肠道菌群对 AS 危险因素的影响**  
**Table 1 Effects of intestinal flora on risk factors of AS**

疾病 Disease	菌门 Phylum	菌属 Genus	影响疾病 Effects on disease
高血脂 Hyperlipidemia	厚壁菌门↑ <i>Firmicutes</i> ↑ <i>Bacteroidetes</i> ↓ <i>Proteobacteria</i> ↑ <i>Verrucomicrobia</i> ↓	链球菌属↑、产气肠杆菌属↑ 脱硫弧菌属↑、双歧杆菌属↓ 瘤胃球菌属↑、普拉梭菌属↓ 嗜黏蛋白阿克曼菌属↓ <i>Streptococcus</i> ↑ <i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i> ↑ <i>Desulfovibrio</i> ↑, <i>Bifidobacterium</i> ↓ <i>Ruminococcus</i> ↑, <i>F. prausnitzii</i> ↓ <i>Akk</i> ↓	产 SCFAs 菌 ↓ 不利于调节脂肪组织分解、瘦素分泌以及抑制食欲 <sup>[25]</sup> 。 LPS 增加乳糜微粒脂蛋白进入机体 <sup>[24]</sup> 。 双歧杆菌 ↓ 降低 BAs 转化, 不利于脂质代谢 <sup>[28]</sup> 。 The decrease of SCFAs producing bacteria is not conducive to the regulation of adipose tissue decomposition, leptin secretion and appetite suppression <sup>[25]</sup> . LPS increases the entry of chylomicron lipoprotein into the body <sup>[24]</sup> . <i>Bifidobacterium</i> reduction reduces BAs transformation, which is not conducive to lipid metabolism <sup>[28]</sup> .
高血糖 Hyperglycemia	厚壁菌门↓ <i>Firmicutes</i> ↓ <i>Proteobacteria</i> ↑	柯林斯氏菌↑、脱硫弧菌属↑ 瘤胃球菌属↑、双歧杆菌属↓ 罗斯氏菌↓、拟杆菌属↓ 嗜黏蛋白阿克曼菌↓ 普雷沃氏菌属↓ <i>Collinsella</i> ↑, <i>Desulfovibrio</i> ↑ <i>Ruminococcus</i> ↑ <i>Bifidobacterium</i> ↓ <i>Roseburia</i> ↓ <i>Bacteroides</i> ↓ <i>Akk</i> ↓, <i>Prevotella</i> ↓	产 SCFAs 菌 ↓ 不利于提高胰岛素分泌和敏感性, 并降低葡萄糖耐受性。 BAs 减少, 其下游受体 FXR 能促进葡萄糖耐量和胰岛素敏感性 <sup>[35]</sup> 。 产 LPS 菌 ↑ 胰岛炎症使 β 损伤, 胰岛素分泌不足, 并引发胰岛素抵抗 <sup>[46]</sup> 。 TMAO 通过 PI3K/Akt 信号通路加剧高血糖和胰岛素抵抗 <sup>[9,31]</sup> 。 The decrease of SCFAs producing bacteria was not conducive to the improvement of insulin secretion and sensitivity, and decreased glucose tolerance. BAs transformation decreased and its downstream receptor FXR promoted glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity <sup>[35]</sup> . Lps-producing bacteria increase islet inflammation, leading to β apoptosis, insufficient insulin secretion, and insulin resistance <sup>[46]</sup> . TMAO exacerbates hyperglycemia and insulin resistance through the PI3K/Akt signaling pathway <sup>[9,31]</sup> .
高血压 Hypertension	厚壁菌门↑ <i>Firmicutes</i> ↑ <i>Bacteroidetes</i> ↓ <i>Proteobacteria</i> ↓	链球菌属↑、克雷伯氏菌属↑、 脱硫弧菌属↑、瘤胃球菌属↑、 柯林斯氏菌↑、粪杆菌属↓、 罗斯氏菌↓、普拉梭菌↓、 双歧杆菌属↓、真杆菌属↓、 嗜黏蛋白阿克曼菌↓、 普雷沃氏菌属↑ <i>Streptococcus</i> ↑, <i>Klebsiella</i> ↑ <i>Desulfovibrio</i> ↑, <i>Ruminococcus</i> ↑ <i>Collinsella</i> ↑, <i>Faecalibacterium</i> ↓ <i>Roseburia</i> ↓, <i>F. prausnitzii</i> ↓ <i>Bifidobacterium</i> ↓, <i>Eubacterium</i> ↓ <i>Akk</i> ↓, <i>Prevotella</i> ↓	LPS 会造成心率增加、去甲肾上腺素水平增加、压力反射敏感性降低等, 还具有促炎、交感神经激活、神经炎症作用, 均与高血压发病机制有关 <sup>[36]</sup> 。 TMAO 增强 Ang II 诱导的血管收缩, 持续高血压过程 <sup>[38-39]</sup> 。 SCFAs 具有舒张血管作用 <sup>[37]</sup> 。 LPS can increase heart rate, increase the level of norepinephrine, decrease the sensitivity of pressure reflex, and also have pro-inflammatory, sympathetic nerve activation and neuroinflammation effects, all of which are related to the pathogenesis of hypertension <sup>[36]</sup> . TMAO enhances Ang II induced vasoconstriction and continues the hypertension process <sup>[38-39]</sup> . SCFAs have vasodilatory effects <sup>[37]</sup> .
高尿酸 Hyperuricemia	厚壁菌门↓ <i>Firmicutes</i> ↓ <i>Bacteroidetes</i> ↑	拟杆菌属↑、狄氏副拟杆菌↑ 双歧杆菌属↓、乳酸杆菌↓、 普拉梭菌↓ <i>Bacteroides</i> ↑, <i>Parabacteroides</i> ↑ <i>Bifidobacterium</i> ↓, <i>Lactobacillus</i> ↓ <i>F. prausnitzii</i> ↓	双歧杆菌、乳酸杆菌等细菌能分泌活性蛋白酶、转运酶、SCFAs, 参与嘌呤分解代谢和转运, LPS 和尿酸生成关键酶以及尿酸呈正相关 <sup>[41,45]</sup> 。 Bacteria such as <i>Bifidobacterium</i> and <i>Lactobacillus</i> can secrete active protease, transporter and SCFAs, and participate in purine catabolism and transport. LPS is positively correlated with key enzyme of uric acid production and uric acid <sup>[41,45]</sup> .

注: “↑”表示菌群丰度增加; “↓”表示菌群丰度降低。

Note. “↑” represents increased abundance of flora. “↓” represents decreased abundance of flora.

TMAO 不仅参与炎症反应、氧化应激、糖代谢, 还参与胆固醇和胆汁酸代谢、泡沫细胞形成以及血小板活化。最近 Cai 等<sup>[53]</sup>通过宏基因组等手段发现, 在 AS 患者肠道中有两种细菌显著高于健康人群, 它们含有最丰富的 CutC 同源序列, CutC 是 TMA 裂解酶基因负责与胆碱相关的 TMA 转化, 后续小鼠实验发现血清 TMAO 水平显著升高会导致斑块明显堆积。原因是 TMAO 能下调胆汁酸合成酶胆固

醇 7α-羟化酶 (cholesterol 7α-hydroxylase, CYP7A1) 的表达, 造成胆固醇转运障碍、细胞内脂质堆积(图 1)<sup>[54]</sup>。且巨噬细胞胆固醇反向转运的关键途径可以被 TMAO 抑制, 事实上, FMO3 作为 TMAO 合成酶在胆固醇代谢和反向胆固醇转运的调节方面发挥着强大作用<sup>[55]</sup>。另外, TMAO 还能导致血小板过度活化来增加血栓形成<sup>[56]</sup>。由此可见, TMAO 不仅影响 AS 的斑块形成还影响斑块稳定性。

同样在脂代谢方面发挥作用的还有 BAs, 除在糖脂代谢等方面发挥有益作用外, BAs 还通过 FXR 等受体抑制 NF- $\kappa$ B 的促炎反应, 并且 FXR 能在转录水平诱导一氧化氮合酶表达, 增加血管扩张剂一氧化氮的产生达到扩充血管的作用<sup>[57-58]</sup>。另外, FXR 能诱导 MUC2 表达, 且 NF- $\kappa$ B 也参与其中<sup>[59]</sup>。SCFAs 不仅能抑制 NF- $\kappa$ B 活化, 还能通过激活 GPR43 等受体从而诱导 Treg 细胞, 并由 Treg 和 DC 产生 IL-10 等抗炎细胞因子<sup>[60]</sup>。而且高浓度 SCFAs 可以降低结肠肠腔中的 pH 值, 抑制潜在病原体生

长, 并促进有益细菌例如乳酸杆菌和双歧杆菌的生长, 从而影响微生物群落, 降低心血管疾病的风险<sup>[23]</sup>。无论在 AS 或者其危险因素中, 炎症、氧化应激对疾病的影响都处于重要地位, SCFAs 的有益作用表现为有助于维稳肠道菌群、修复肠道通透性、改善炎症以及氧化应激。Yuan 等<sup>[61]</sup>研究了 SCFAs 对 NLRP3 炎症小体的形成和激活的影响, 结果显示丁酸盐能阻断含半胱氨酸的天冬氨酸蛋白水解酶-1(caspase-1) 的活化, caspase-1 活化被抑制可减少 IL-1 $\beta$  等炎症因子, 对血管损伤有保护作用(表 2)。

表 2 肠道菌群对 AS 的影响  
Table 2 Effects of intestinal flora on AS

菌门 Phylum	菌属 Genus	对 AS 影响 Impact on the AS
Firmicutes ↑	瘤胃球菌属↑、乳杆菌属↑ 链球菌属↑、罗斯氏菌↓ 乳球菌属↓、气球菌科↓ 真杆菌属↓、粪杆菌属↓ 普拉梭菌属↓ <i>Ruminococcus</i> ↑ <i>Lactobacillaceae</i> ↑ <i>Streptococcus</i> ↑ <i>Roseburia</i> ↓, <i>Lactococcus</i> ↓ <i>Aerococcaceae</i> ↓ <i>Eubacterium</i> ↓ <i>Faecalibacterium</i> ↓ <i>F. prausnitzii</i> ↓	链球菌↑炎症因子表达增加, 产生活性氧、激活 NLRP3 炎症小体和血小板, 促进泡沫细胞形成, 促使 AS 斑块形成堆积, 影响斑块不稳定性 <sup>[62]</sup> 。 普拉梭菌、真杆菌↓产 SCFAs 减少, 抗炎、抗氧化作用减弱, 修复肠道屏障能力降低, 无法抑制 NLRP3 形成 <sup>[60]</sup> 。 The increase of <i>Streptococcus</i> leads to increased expression of inflammatory factors, production of reactive oxygen species, activation of NLRP3 inflammasome and platelets, and promotion of foam cell formation, accumulation of AS plaques, affecting plaque instability <sup>[62]</sup> . The decrease of <i>F. prausnitzii</i> and <i>Eubacterium</i> reduced SCFAs production, which weakened the anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects, reduced the ability to repair the intestinal barrier, and could not inhibit NLRP3 formation <sup>[60]</sup> .
Bacteroidetes ↓	拟杆菌属↓ <i>Prevotella</i> ↓ <i>Bacteroides</i> ↓ <i>Prevotella</i> ↓	普雷沃氏菌、拟杆菌↓产 SCFAs 减少, 降低生物转化降解胆酸作用, 影响脂质代谢泡沫细胞形成。普雷沃氏菌与 LPS 以及炎症呈负相关 <sup>[60]</sup> 。 The decrease of <i>Prevotella</i> and <i>Bacteroidetes</i> reduced SCFAs production, which reduced the biotransformation of cholic acid degradation, and affected the formation of lipid metabolism foam cells. <i>Prevotella</i> was negatively correlated with LPS and inflammation <sup>[60]</sup> .
Actinobacteria ↑	柯林斯氏菌↑ 伊格尔兹氏菌属↑ 双歧杆菌属↓ <i>Collinsella</i> ↑ <i>Eggerthella</i> ↑ <i>Bifidobacterium</i> ↓	柯林斯氏菌↑增加炎症水平以及肠道通透性。诱导趋化因子产生以及中性粒细胞募集, 促使斑块形成 <sup>[63]</sup> 。双歧杆菌↓减少胆汁酸水解酶以及次级 BAs 的产生, 增加炎症反应和肠道通透性 <sup>[60]</sup> 。 Increased numbers of <i>Collinsella</i> bacteria lead to increased levels of inflammation as well as increased intestinal permeability. Chemokine production and neutrophil recruitment promote plaque formation <sup>[63]</sup> . The reduction of <i>Bifidobacterium</i> resulted in the reduction of bile acid hydrolase and secondary BAs production, and increased inflammatory response and intestinal permeability <sup>[60]</sup> .
Proteobacteria ↓	克雷伯氏菌属↑ 埃希氏菌属↑ 产气肠杆菌↑ 脱硫弧菌属↑ <i>Klebsiella</i> ↑ <i>Escherichia</i> ↑ <i>E. aerogenes</i> ↑ <i>Desulfovibrio</i> ↑	产气肠杆菌、脱硫弧菌属、肺炎克雷伯氏↑增加 TMA 的产生, 引起炎症因子表达, LPS 升高 <sup>[9,31]</sup> 。 脱硫弧菌↑分解 SCFAs 并产生 H <sub>2</sub> S 对肠上皮有毒害作用, 引发炎症 <sup>[64]</sup> 。 The increase of <i>E. aerogenes</i> , <i>Desulfovibrio</i> and <i>Klebsiella pneumonia</i> promotes the production of TMA, causes the expression of inflammatory factors and increases LPS <sup>[9,31]</sup> . Elevated <i>Desulfovibrio</i> can decompose SCFAs and produce H <sub>2</sub> S, which is toxic to the intestinal epithelium and triggers inflammation <sup>[64]</sup> .
Verrucomicrobia ↓	疣微菌门↓ <i>Verrucomicrobia</i> ↓ 嗜黏蛋白阿克曼菌属↓ <i>Akk</i> ↓	<i>Akk</i> ↓产 SCFAs 能力以及肠道屏障保护能力降低, 不利于降低血液 LPS 水平。细胞间粘附分子的表达增加, 促炎细胞因子和巨噬细胞浸润的作用增加, AS 斑块增加 <sup>[65]</sup> 。 The decrease of <i>Akk</i> reduces the ability of SCFAs production and intestinal barrier protection, which is not conducive to reducing blood LPS levels. The expression of intercellular adhesion molecules increased, the role of pro-inflammatory cytokines and macrophage infiltration increased, and AS plaques increased <sup>[65]</sup> .

注: “↑”表示菌群丰度增加; “↓”表示菌群丰度降低。

Note. “↑”represents increased abundance of flora. “↓”represents decreased abundance of flora.

### 3 结语

综上所述,AS 以及高血脂、高血糖、高血压、高尿酸等相关疾病存在菌群紊乱的现象,例如革兰阴性细菌和产 TMAO 菌增加,而产 SCFAs、BAs 的益生菌减少,相应的菌群相关产物 LPS、TMAO 增加,SCFAs、BAs 减少,导致菌群占位性保护减弱、TJ 蛋白降低、粘液层减少以及炎症等反应,使肠道屏障受损、肠道通透性增加,大量有害物质进入机体,并进一步促使肠道菌群紊乱。有害物质进入机体后影响炎症反应、氧化应激、脂质代谢、血糖代谢、血

栓形成等机制,促进高血脂、高血糖、高血压、高尿酸以及 AS 的发生发展。由此可见,肠道菌群相关产物作为桥梁在各个机制中影响疾病发生发展,AS 与其危险因素互为因果、相互促进(图 1)。因此,通过改善肠道状态来治疗 AS 以及相关疾病或可成为新型治疗手段。

目前已知益生菌对机体有利,但其具体作用机制有待进一步探究,例如 *Akk* 可通过促进 SCFAs 增加来调节人体的能量代谢、葡萄糖耐量、免疫系统等功能,但涉及的分子机制尚未确定。最近 Yoon 等<sup>[66]</sup>研究发现,*Akk* 能分泌一种  $84 \times 10^3$  大小,名

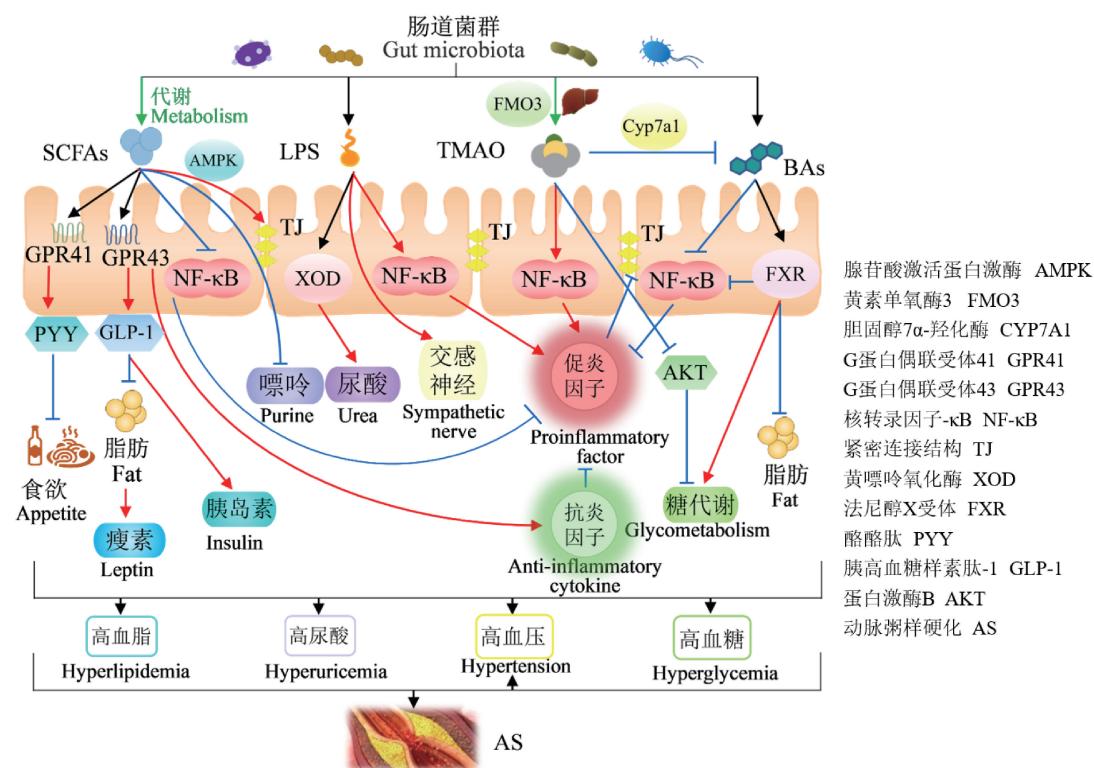


图 1 肠道菌群与 AS 以及危险因素的关系

Note. The red arrow indicates the promoting effect; green arrow indicates metabolic production; blue indicates inhibition. SCFAs, a metabolite of intestinal flora, can inhibit appetite and fat formation and promote leptin and insulin secretion by activating GPR41 and GPR43, respectively; GPR41 and GPR43 can also promote the secretion of anti-inflammatory factors; In addition, SCFAs can inhibit purine formation and protect TJ structure; and SCFAs can also reduce proinflammatory factor secretion by inhibiting NF-κB. LPS can promote uric acid formation through XOD, activate sympathetic nerve and NK-κB to promote the secretion of proinflammatory factors, while inflammatory reaction will destroy TJ structure. TMAO produced by liver metabolism triggers inflammatory reaction in the same way, and hinders sugar metabolism by inhibiting AKT pathway; TMAO also inhibits BAs formation through CYP7A1. BAs can inhibit the secretion of proinflammatory factors, fat formation and promote glucose metabolism through FXR and other ways.

Figure 1 Relationship between intestinal flora and AS and risk factors

为P9的蛋白,P9能诱导GLP-1分泌、褐色脂肪组织产热,可改善小鼠的葡萄糖稳态和代谢疾病,作者还发现P9与细胞间粘附分子2存在相互作用,这在未来可能成为代谢疾病治疗的新靶点。

事实上,肠道菌群相关代谢产物的产生机制尚不明确,如细菌是如何利用膳食纤维产生SCFAs的。最新研究证实肠道菌群能产生新的微生物结合型BAs,这种有微生物介导形成的结合BAs其确切机制并不明了,但可能对回肠受体或BAs转运蛋白的结合机制产生空间位阻<sup>[16]</sup>。这类微生物结合型BAs还是强效的人类FXR激动剂,并且当给予小鼠时,负责肝中胆汁酸产生的FXR靶基因的表达降低<sup>[67]</sup>。当然,对于这种新发现BAs仍需要更多的研究来探索其对人类健康以及FXR相关疾病的潜在影响。

肠道菌群与肠道屏障互作可能还与多种疾病密切相关,多项研究表明肠菌群在心血管疾病、代谢性疾病、神经退行性疾病、肠道疾病等多种疾病中有重要作用<sup>[2,68-71]</sup>。随着更加深入的研究,通过调节肠道菌群稳态来改善肠道屏障以及肠道通透性来治疗相关疾病的策略越来越有吸引力。

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