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· 综述 ·

继发性牙根纵裂诊断的研究进展

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【摘要】 牙根纵裂是一种源自牙根的纵向裂纹,可发生在活髓牙和根管治疗后牙齿,是病因复杂、预后较差的牙体硬组织疾病。发生于髓腔治疗后的牙根纵裂称为继发性牙根纵裂(secondary vertical root fracture, SVRF),对SVRF的诊断,应结合临床体征(如疼痛、肿胀、牙齿松动、位于牙龈边缘附近的窦道和深而窄的孤立牙周袋)和根尖片(如牙周膜增宽、垂直骨丧失和根周骨丧失、根周“晕圈状”或“J”形的透射影)进行综合判断。对疑似牙根纵裂的牙齿,应通过锥形束CT(cone-beam computed tomography, CBCT)等三维影像学辅助诊断,如CBCT显示牙根上的折裂线以及颊侧或舌侧骨板缺损;优化设置CBCT参数,如选用小视野CBCT、增强染料辅助的应用、使用金属伪影还原工具(metal artifact reduction, MAR)等方法提高CBCT诊断SVRF的精确度。使用多种影像技术可对不同宽度的裂纹进行检测,如核磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)中表现为异常的高强度信号;使用数字减影技术(digital subtraction radiography, DSR)进行图像处理出现的黑色线状区域;不同宽度的裂纹在光学相干断层扫描(optical coherence tomography, OCT)可表现为高亮度线或暗区。人工智能(artificial intelligence, AI)诊断技术和预测模型也是SVRF诊断的辅助手段。通过各种无创手段仍然无法确诊的SVRF病例,可通过根管内直视和翻瓣手术中直视发现SVRF。

【关键词】 继发性牙根纵裂; 锥形束CT; 核磁共振成像; 数字减影技术; 光学相干断层扫描; 金属伪影还原工具; 人工智能; 临床诊断

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【Abstract】 Vertical root fracture is a type of longitudinal crack originating from the roots of teeth that can occur in vital teeth and teeth after root canal treatment. It is a hard tissue disease of teeth with a complex etiology and poor prognosis. The vertical root fracture that occurs in teeth after pulp treatment is called secondary vertical root fracture (SVRF). A comprehensive judgment should be made based on clinical signs such as pain, swelling, tooth looseness, sinus located near the gum edge, and deep and narrow isolated periodontal pockets, as well as apical films such as periodontal membrane widening, vertical and root bone loss, and “halo” or “J” shaped transmission shadows around the root. For teeth suspected of longitudinal root fractures, three-dimensional imaging such as cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) should be used to assist in the diagnosis. If CBCT shows a defect in the buccal or lingual bone plate, it can increase the possibility of diagnosing SVRF. The setting of CBCT parameters should be optimized by using small field CBCT, enhancing dye-assisted applications, and metal artifact reduction (MAR) tools to reduce the impact of artifacts and improve the accuracy of CBCT diagnosis of SVRF. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), digital subtraction radiography (DSR), optical coherence tomography (OCT), and other imaging techniques can detect cracks of different widths, and artificial intelligence (AI) diagnostic technology and predictive models provide further auxiliary means for SVRF diagnosis. SVRF

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cannot be determined through noninvasive methods, and the final diagnostic method is to detect the presence of SVRF through direct observation within the root canal and during flap surgery.

【Key words】 secondary vertical root fracture; cone-beam computed tomography; magnetic resonance imaging; digital subtraction radiography; optical coherence tomography; metal artifact reduction; artificial intelligence; clinical diagnosis

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牙根纵裂是指在某些致病因素作用下,发生于牙根的平行于牙长轴,由根尖向冠方的纵向裂纹,可分为发生于活髓牙的原发性牙根纵裂(primary vertical root fracture, PVRF)和发生于牙髓治疗后牙齿的继发性牙根纵裂(secondary vertical root fracture, SVRF)^[1]。研究表明,在所有拔除的根管治疗牙齿中,3%~25%的患牙存在牙根纵裂^[2],且随着牙髓治疗后时间的延长,其发生率逐渐升高^[3,4]。本文对SVRF相关的诊断研究进展进行综述,以期临床提供参考。

1 SVRF的临床表现

SVRF的早期诊断关键在于结合患者的症状,如自发性钝痛和咬合疼痛以及临床检查发现的牙周袋、软组织肿胀、窦道或牙齿松动等体征^[5-6],但这些临床表现通常与根管治疗后的炎症、根管再感染和原发性牙周病相似,导致诊断困难。

1.1 深而狭窄的牙周袋

牙周探诊存在深、狭窄的孤立性牙周袋是SVRF的常见体征,64%~93%的SVRF病例中可探查深牙周袋^[7],但早期SVRF往往导致局限性深牙周袋,与广泛的牙周炎牙周袋不同。深而狭窄的牙周骨缺损提示存在SVRF导致的牙槽骨破坏。

1.2 咬合疼痛

SVRF患者常因咬合不适或疼痛而就诊,临床检查可能会存在叩痛等不适^[8],隐痛或轻度不适可能会长期存在,但严重疼痛相对罕见。Yamaguchi等^[9]发现牙根纵裂的存在也是难治性根尖周炎发生的重要原因,因此,如果根管治疗完善,但表现出特定的咬合疼痛不适,或出现长期的根管治疗后咀嚼不适,可能是存在SVRF。

1.3 软组织肿胀和窦道

See等^[2]研究表明14%~64.9%的SVRF病例存在窦道。将牙胶插入窦道示踪可有助于诊断,

如果牙胶与牙根平行,则高度怀疑牙根纵裂的存在。有研究表明,SVRF相关的窦道位置通常靠近龈缘,而非根尖区^[10];而在根管治疗失败的病例中,窦道通常位于根尖区^[2],这表明窦道的位置对于难以判断的SVRF具有诊断参考价值。

然而,目前还缺乏对这一观点的详细分析,尤其是在没有深而狭窄的孤立性牙周袋存在的情况下。Kasahara等^[11]发现虽然SVRF相关的窦道位置更靠近龈缘,但其与纵裂导致的骨缺损关系密切。因此,窦道位置对诊断存在深而狭窄牙周袋的SVRF有一定临床意义,但对于没有这一特征的SVRF,仍需要更多分析以确诊。

1.4 深而狭窄牙周袋和窦道的并存

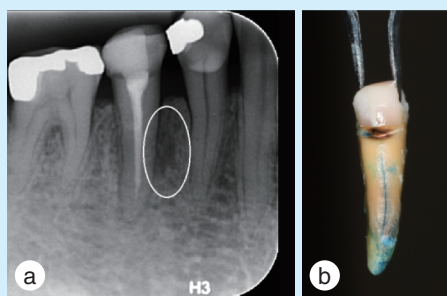
根管治疗后牙齿出现窦道、并且存在深而狭窄的孤立性牙周骨缺损,则高度怀疑存在“病理性”的牙根纵裂^[12]。然而,上述症状并非存在于所有的SVRF病例中。有研究表明^[13],在诊断为SVRF的病例中,只有43.8%的病例存在这种临床症状组合,Tamse等^[14]研究结果显示这种临床症状比例仅有23.9%。

2 SVRF的影像学检查

2.1 根尖片

特有的X线根尖片表现是诊断SVRF的主要依据,表现为牙根纵形的低密度线条影,早期根管影像局部或全部变宽,晚期则可沿牙根中轴从牙颈部折断且发生移位;可表现为牙槽骨弧形或楔形吸收,在纵裂周呈现“晕状”(图1a),其纵裂形态如图1b所示,或在根尖片上表现为“J”形透射阴影。一般认为,当上述根尖片影像学特征、深而窄的孤立性牙周袋、位于近冠方的窦道共存时,通常是SVRF的典型特征^[2,8,10]。

SVRF在影像上的表现通常与根管治疗失败或牙周病变相似,只有当断裂线与X射线束角度差



a: the white circle shows the shadow on the root side in the X-ray image; b: extracted tooth shows obvious cracks after staining

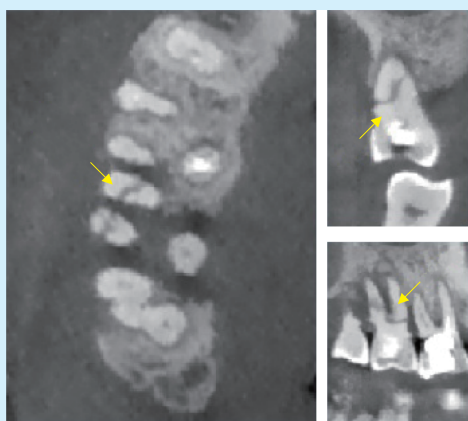
Figure 1 Secondary vertical root fracture in the mandible right second premolar

图1 右下第二前磨牙继发性牙根纵裂

不超过 4° 时,才可能在根尖片上可见^[8]。此外,有研究表明,对纵裂线宽度 $<0.2\text{ mm}$ 的病例,根尖片诊断牙根纵裂的准确性较低^[15]。因此,如怀疑存在SVRF但根尖片又显示不清时,应多角度拍摄根尖片或采取其他辅助检查。

2.2 锥形束CT

美国牙髓学协会和美国口腔颌面放射学会发布的最新指南建议,在二维放射检查结果不确定的情况下,可使用锥形束CT(cone-beam computed tomography, CBCT)进行牙根纵裂检测^[16]。与根尖片相比,CBCT可以提供三维影像呈现出颊舌侧根折线的具体位置和牙槽骨破坏区域^[17],在诊断SVRF方面具有显著的优势(图2)。



The yellow arrows show the vertical root fracture in the CBCT image, which is shown as linear shadows on the root and shadows around the root, and is accompanied by significant bone destruction on the buccal and lingual sides

Figure 2 Secondary vertical root fracture in the maxillary right second molar

图2 右上第二磨牙继发性牙根纵裂

虽然CBCT在诊断SVRF上比传统根尖片更准确,但仍有争议。部分学者认为CBCT与根尖片准确度相似,且缺乏特异性^[18-19]。因此,临床医生怀疑SVRF时,应与放射科医生深入沟通,开具个性化的CBCT处方,提高诊断准确性。

2.3 核磁共振检查

核磁共振成像(magnetic resonance imaging, MRI)是利用核磁共振原理,通过检测物质内部不同环境中的能量衰减来绘制出内部结构图像。由于裂纹与牙本质的信号差异较大,其在MRI中可表现为异常的高亮信号。MRI在诊断裂纹方面优于CBCT,因为它不受根管内材料影响,对比度高、无电离辐射。研究发现MRI能检测到的最小牙根纵裂宽度为 $26\sim 64\ \mu\text{m}$ ^[20],并与CBCT在诊断牙根纵裂方面的敏感性和特异性相当^[21]。虽然MRI在口腔临床应用中尚处于起步阶段,但目前的研究表明,MRI有望成为未来诊断SVRF的重要手段。

2.4 数字减影放射技术

数字减影技术(digital subtraction radiography, DSR)是一种利用计算机处理技术,通过对比两张同一区域X线片并减去相同部分,从而突出显示两幅影像之间差异的成像技术。DSR能够提升检测连续X线片中细微变化的能力,增强影像学诊断微小解剖结构变化的敏感性。Queiroz等^[22]构建根管充填后SVRF离体模型,拍摄根尖片后使用Regeemy软件进行数字减影,牙根纵裂在图像中表现为黑色线状区域,结果表明DSR是一种可应用于研究SVRF诊断的有效工具,与Mikrogeorgis等^[23]研究结果相符。Kapralos等^[24]使用EIKONA软件比较了DSR和根尖片在诊断SVRF的敏感性和特异性,结果表明DSR在检测单根管牙齿SVRF方面更加准确,并能识别宽度为 $13\sim 194\ \mu\text{m}$ 的SVRF,但需要更大的X线投射角度。综上所述,DSR是一种可靠的SVRF辅助诊断方法,且成本和辐射剂量较低。但X线角度、SVRF宽度和根管填充物都可能影响其诊断性能,仍需要更多临床研究来证实DSR在SVRF诊断上的有效性。

2.5 光学相干断层扫描

光学相干断层扫描(optical coherence tomography, OCT)是一种微米级分辨率的成像技术,它利用低相干光来获取生物组织或其他散射介质的二维和三维图像。目前已作为一种非辐射和非侵入性的技术开始应用于口腔领域诊断^[25]。牙本质中的裂纹会影响其折射率,在OCT图像上这些裂纹

或许会表现为细窄的高亮线,更宽的裂纹则可能显示为两条高亮线之间的暗区。Shemes等^[26]使用OCT观察并评估牙根裂纹,在不同条件下诊断牙根纵裂,得到了93%的灵敏度。这表明OCT在牙根纵裂诊断方面非常有效,是一种有潜力的非侵入性成像技术。陈晨等^[27]研究表明,OCT在诊断SVRF中具有高准确性(98.3%)。随后,该课题组采用自主研发的扫频激光光源系统(swept source optical coherence tomography, SS-OCT)也准确地诊断了人工模拟的根裂^[28]。OCT技术因其安全、微创和高分辨率等优点,有望广泛应用于临床研究。

3 提高CBCT诊断SVRF精确度的策略

CBCT对SVRF的诊断发挥了重要的作用,是目前临床诊断SVRF较常用的影像学手段^[8],但CBCT诊断SVRF受技术因素及伪影等因素的影响可能导致误诊和漏诊,因此许多学者们在提高CBCT对SVRF诊断的准确性方面进行了深入研究。

3.1 选用小视野 CBCT 诊断 SVRF

CBCT图像的质量受到多技术因素的影响,如像素大小、视野大小、管电流、电压和图像投影的数量等^[29],Uysal等^[30]分析了CBCT体素尺寸对根管治疗后牙齿牙根纵裂检测的影响,结果显示小视野的CBCT准确度更高,并且视野越小,患者接受的辐射剂量越小。因此小视野CBCT是诊断SVRF的更优选择。

3.2 增强染料辅助应用提高CBCT诊断的准确性

在显微根尖外科手术中,常用亚甲蓝染色识别微裂或根折。CBCT对SVRF的诊断受到体素、视野及牙齿解剖结构等因素影响,有研究发现结合染料可提高其诊断准确率。Alamri等^[31]通过体外研究使用一种新型的改良亚甲基蓝染料,将其导入龈沟使其与牙周组织接触,然后拍摄CBCT,评估检测SVRF的能力,结果显示增强染料能够渗透至微裂和根裂,其可以提高CBCT检测SVRF的准确性,但这一方法缺乏对该改良亚甲基蓝染料生物相容性的研究。

3.3 金属伪影还原工具(metal artifact reduction, MAR)减少伪影对CBCT诊断SVRF的影响

根管治疗中使用的根管封闭剂和牙胶、桩核修复、各类全冠修复体、种植体等均可导致CBCT拍摄中产生伪影,从而影响CBCT对SVRF诊断的灵敏度、特异度和准确度^[32-34]。金属伪影还原工具(metal artifact reduction, MAR)可以通过降低图像

灰度变异和提升对比度-噪声比来改善图像质量。有研究发现,使用MAR工具能减少由于种植体伪影引起的牙根纵裂假阳性,提高诊断SVRF特异性^[35]。因此,在存在金属桩、金属充填物或种植体等影响因素时,建议使用MAR以优化诊断。

尽管部分研究支持MAR工具可以提高SVRF的诊断准确性,但也存在争议。Fontenele等^[36]研究发现MAR反而会降低CBCT图像质量,且关于MAR检测根管内含材料的牙根纵裂的有效性证据不足。因此,有待进一步研究MAR或其他图像处理软件以减少金属伪影对SVRF诊断的影响,提高诊断准确性。

4 人工智能学习诊断SVRF

以卷积神经网络(convolutional neural network, CNN)为特征的深度学习系统是人工智能(artificial intelligence, AI)技术的一个子集^[37]。目前,生物学领域已经提出了许多神经网络架构用于医学图像分类,用于牙根纵裂诊断的深度学习网络算法结构有ANNs、PNNs、CNNs^[38],其中深度残差网络ResNet50、VGG19及DensenNet169深度网络模型常被用于CNN的分类任务。研究显示CNN在检测未经根管治疗的原发性牙根纵裂和经根管治疗后的SVRF中准确性较高^[38-39]。

5 预测模型诊断SVRF

CBCT虽然在SVRF的诊断中有广泛应用,并能检测出一些传统根尖片无法确认的牙根纵裂,但由于CBCT诊断SVRF是基于低密度纵裂线的存在,一些纵裂线宽度太窄无法通过CBCT发现^[40]。Cao等^[41]分析了95颗疑似牙根纵裂的根管治疗后牙齿,记录其临床及CBCT参数,建立了一套预测模型用以筛查根管治疗后牙齿早期未能发现的牙根纵裂。该研究对4项CBCT指标进行分析和评分,分别为:骨缺损(bone loss, BL);根尖根充范围(apical extent of root filling, AR);牙根冠方1/3处根管充填最大直径与牙根直径比(the ratio of root filling diameter to the actual diameter, TA);牙根中1/3处根管充填最大直径与牙根直径比(2/3TA)。然后,将5个变量(年龄、BL、AR、1/3TA和2/3TA)采用二元条件Logistic回归模型进一步分析,把BL、AR和2/3TA纳入方程,使用逻辑回归参数计算SVRF概率预测模型: $p = 1/(1+e^{-x})$,其中e代表自然对数的底数,其值约为2.718 28, $x = -7.433 + 1.977$

BL+1.479(2/3TA)+1.102 AR。该模型在另一组独立样本集的验证中也取得了良好的诊断准确性。虽然该研究存在一定局限性,但也提供了一种结合CBCT指标进行牙根纵裂诊断的新思路。

6 可视化诊断SVRF

6.1 牙周内窥镜诊断SVRF

牙周内窥镜是一种常用于牙周炎非手术治疗的设备,通过将探头插入牙周袋放大牙根影像,有助于更精细地观察牙根情况。由于牙根纵裂病例常存在窄而深的牙周袋,有研究利用牙周内窥镜进行牙根纵裂的临床诊断,效果较好,其诊断结果与CBCT相一致,且不受根管充填物、桩冠修复体等形成伪影的干扰^[42]。未来的研究需进一步评估其在牙根纵裂诊断中的稳定性和准确性。

6.2 根管内直视下诊断SVRF

由于很多牙髓和根尖周疾病存在旧修复体,可能存在修复体边缘破裂、继发龋、微裂、牙根纵裂等问题,如果临床检查和根尖片不能提供足够信息得以诊断,需要去除旧修复体以便准确诊断。Abbott等^[43]研究发现,在进行牙髓治疗前去除原修复体可以帮助发现隐藏的裂缝,避免无效治疗。因此,在牙科显微镜等放大设备的辅助下去除现有修复体和根管填充材料有助于更精确地诊断牙根纵裂等问题。

6.3 翻瓣手术直视下诊断SVRF

尽管目前有多种方法可用于诊断SVRF,但还缺乏全面的研究来评估这些方法的准确性及其综合运用对SVRF诊断的效果。因此,在怀疑SVRF存在但无法通过常规技术确诊时,建议进行翻瓣手术以实现直接和准确的诊断,从而帮助临床医生做出正确的治疗决策。Walton等^[8]分析了42例SVRF的牙齿,翻瓣探查显示所有SVRF牙根均存在充满肉芽肿组织的骨缺损。Maddalone等^[44]分析了944颗计划根尖手术的根管治疗后牙齿,共有68颗牙齿确诊为牙根纵裂,其中在根尖手术中探查确定36例牙根纵裂。因此,翻瓣后直视下显微可视化评估是诊断SVRF的最直观和肯定的方法。然而,对于存在于舌侧/腭侧的或微小的牙根纵裂,可能仍难以确定,通常需进一步的根尖切除后通过染色等显微镜下直视确定^[8,45]。

7 SVRF的治疗

发生SVRF的患牙通常因诊断困难,临床表现

特征性不强,其发现时多已出现明显的根尖周炎症,治疗难度较大。Okaguchi等^[46]研究发现,使用4-META/MMA-TBB树脂粘接裂纹并结合意向再植的方法进行治疗可以取得良好的临床效果。Karu-maran等^[47]使用三氧化矿物凝聚体(mineral trioxide aggregate, MTA)作为充填材料治疗发生牙根纵裂的患牙,经过了两年的随访,其病变基本愈合,患牙得以保存。Zhong等^[48]研究使用复合树脂结合新型生物陶瓷材料(i Root BP plus),通过意向再植的方式,治疗发生SVRF的患牙,1年后随访,其牙周探诊和影像学检查基本正常,这种方式兼顾了复合树脂对缺损的粘接效果和i Root BP plus良好的生物相容性,为SVRF的治疗提供了新的思路。

8 小结

SVRF的临床表现和症状常与根管治疗后炎症未愈合、根管再感染、难治性根尖周炎等相似,而且受到根管内充填物、各类修复体等产生的伪影等的影响,不能准确地进行根管治疗后牙齿牙根纵裂的诊断,导致临床不必要的处置。目前,各种诊疗技术和方法能提高SVRF诊断的准确率,但仍有一定的局限性,根管内直视和翻瓣手术直视是其最终的诊断手段。

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