

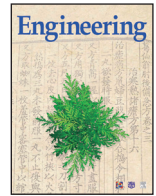


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肠道微生态——探索中药临床疗效的新思路

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摘要

自古以来, 中药在疾病预防、症状缓解和健康改善等方面发挥了重要作用。然而, 复杂的成分和尚未明确的机制阻碍了中药的广泛推广和应用。越来越多的研究表明, 和人体健康息息相关的肠道微生态与中药的疗效有关, 因此从肠道微生态的角度去探索中药可能是打开中药奥秘的金钥匙。肠道菌群主要通过以下4个生理途径中发挥作用: 参与宿主代谢、调节系统免疫、维持胃肠道稳态以及影响脑功能和宿主行为。本文回顾了中药与慢性肝病、溃疡性结肠炎、肥胖和2型糖尿病等疾病之间的联系, 从肠道微生态的角度阐明其潜在的机制。未来, 我们需要进一步的研究和更完善的实验设计, 以揭示中药与肠道菌群之间相互作用的具体机制, 并为中药的创新研究提供新的思路。

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1. 引言

中药, 也被称为草药, 在中华民族的疾病预防、症状缓解和健康改善等方面具有悠久的历史。中药包括种子、根、茎、叶、树皮和花[1]。《神农本草经》和《黄帝内经》是中医药配方历史收藏的典范。研究人员曾试图阐明中医药的作用机制, 并着重研究中药中的生物活性化合物。然而, 大多数来自中药的化学物质已被证明几乎没有甚至毫无生物活性或生物利用度[2,3]。目前的研究无法很好地解释中药的作用机制。因此, 为了更好地了解中药的作用机制, 需要新的研究切入点。最近的研究聚焦于一个以前被忽略的领域: 肠道微生态。

作为人体的重要组成部分, 肠道菌群在许多方面表现为一种重要的“器官”[4]。就中医药中的“整体医学”而言, 肠道菌群对中药具有重要的意义。研究表明肠道菌群与许多人类疾病有关(图1), 包括非酒精性脂肪性肝病(NAFLD)[5]、炎症性肠病(IBD)[6]、肥胖[7]、糖尿病[8,9]、肠易激综合征(IBS)[10]和癌症[11]。此外, 中药的成分与肠道菌群之间的相互作用正在进一步研究中[12,13]。具体而言, 肠道菌群可单独代谢或与人体共同代谢中药成分, 所产生的代谢物具有不同程度的生物利用度、生物活性和毒性。中药成分反过来可以调节肠道菌群的平衡。因此, 中药可以改善肠道微生态的功能障碍以及相关的病理状况[1]。基于上述发现, 肠道

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菌群可介导多种中医药成分之间的协同或拮抗作用[1]。因此,我们认为肠道菌群在中医药的治疗效果中起着重要作用,或许可以为中药的作用机制提供新的见解。

在本文中,我们主要总结目前肠道菌群在中医药中的作用。首先,我们简要介绍肠道菌群与人体健康之间的相互作用。其次,我们主要讨论中药与某些疾病之间的关系,以及与肠道微生态相关的相应机制。最后,我们对相关研究提出了展望。

2. 肠道菌群和人类健康

超过 1×10^{14} 个微生物生活在人类的口腔-胃肠道中,而这些微生物大多数都存在于肠道中,因此肠道成为菌群密度最高的器官[14]。肠道菌群与宿主共同发展,人类肠道菌群的总基因组含有约 3×10^6 个基因,是哺乳动物宿主编码基因数量的100倍[15,16]。一些肠道菌群可以为肠道发育提供各种信号,包括血管生成、黏膜屏障强化和出生后肠道成熟[17]。值得注意的是,肠道菌群与宿主免疫系统相互关联,促使免疫细胞产生细胞因子,这可能影响神经生理学[18],并参与免疫细胞成熟和免疫功能正常发育[4]。

在这里,我们简要回顾一下当前肠道菌群对宿主健康和疾病的影响以及所涉及的途径。一般来说,肠道菌群通过几个轴影响宿主:肠-肝轴、肠-脑轴、肠-肌轴或原位肠,并通过以下4个主要生理途径起作用[1]。

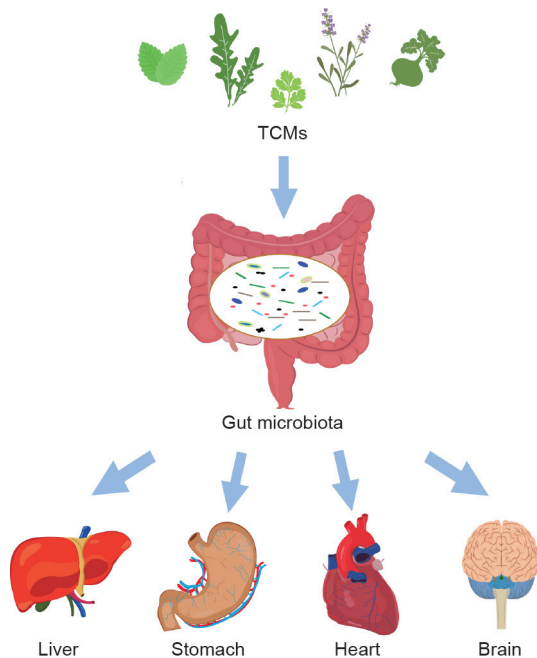


图1. 中药通过肠道微菌群对部分器官的影响。

(1) 参与宿主代谢。由于存在大量代谢酶,肠道菌群比人体基因组具有更强大的代谢能力。许多底物由肠道菌群与人体共同代谢,甚至由肠道菌群独立代谢[19]。

(2) 参与系统免疫的形成。人体先天性和适应性免疫反应都涉及肠道菌群,已经通过免疫缺陷和随后的无菌模型中肠道菌群移植后的病理改善证实[20]。进一步的研究表明,上述机制与细胞免疫和淋巴样器官有关[21-23]。

(3) 维护胃肠道的稳态。除了系统免疫力,肠道菌群参与黏膜免疫,以维持肠道微生态的平衡。为了保护自身,肠道菌群通过诱导定居T细胞分化为T辅助细胞2(Th2)和调节性T亚群(Treg)来防止过度免疫应答的发生[24]。此外,肠道菌群可以促使免疫球蛋白A(IgA)的产生,抑制细菌的过度生长[25]。肠道菌群通过竞争性排斥和诱导抗菌物质产生来抵抗入侵病原体,以此来协助肠道稳态[26]。此外,肠道菌群通过促进血管生成[27]、维持肠道屏障[28]和黏膜糖基化[29]促进胃肠道结构成熟。

(4) 影响脑功能和宿主行为。肠道菌群通过脑-肠轴与中枢神经系统相互作用,其涉及神经、内分泌和免疫途径,因此,它会影响大脑功能和宿主行为[30]。此外,肠道菌群可通过调节色氨酸代谢[31]并产生神经活性代谢物[32]和神经代谢物来影响大脑功能和行为。

大多数中药通过口服给药用于慢性病治疗[33],这导致其最终充分暴露于整个肠道菌群。有证据表明草药和其他膳食成分与肠道菌群有着强烈的相互作用并影响人类健康[34-37],而且越来越多的证据表明肠道菌群通过与中药成分间复杂的相互作用在中药治疗中发挥重要作用。这些相互作用包括以下活动:肠道菌群将中药成分生物转化为具有与其前体不同的生物利用度和生物活性/毒性的代谢物[12,13];中药成分改善肠道菌群的组成,从而减轻肠道菌群的功能障碍和相关的病理状况;肠道菌群介导中药中各种化学物质之间的相互作用(协同作用和拮抗作用)。

有趣的是,可以通过改变肠道菌群调节微生态平衡来改善一些疾病[4,38,39]。尽管尚未了解肠道菌群的失衡与病理学的确切机制,但这些关联已得到明确证实。

3. 中药、肠道微生态和疾病

3.1. 中药、肠道微生态和慢性肝病

本文所述慢性肝病主要包括感染性肝病、代谢性肝

病和自身免疫性肝病，最后都可能发展为肝硬化或肝癌。有足够的证据表明慢性肝病患者的肠道微生态存在严重紊乱，即有益菌的丰度下降和有害菌的丰度增加[40-44]。中国有大量的肝病患者，中药治疗肝病已有几千年的经验。

黄连素是一种异喹啉生物碱，主要从黄连 (*Coptis chinensis*) 等中草药中提取。黄连素已被证明可改善代谢紊乱，增加拟杆菌、双歧杆菌和乳杆菌的丰度，以及拟杆菌/厚壁菌比值，从而改善NAFLD[45]。祛湿化痰方是一个古老的中草药配方，具有相似的疗效。该方可缓解肝脏脂肪变性，降低肝脏中甘油三酯含量和游离脂肪酸水平，并调节肠道微生态，特别是埃希氏菌属/志贺氏菌属比例和柯林斯氏菌属[46]。Hui等[47]介绍并比较了21种中药在NAFLD治疗中的潜在益处，并发现大多数中药在体外和体内均可以改善NAFLD相关的生化和组织学病变。

茵陈蒿汤是治疗黄疸的主要传统药方。该药方在东汉张仲景撰写的《伤寒杂病论》中就有描述，其主要由香草、枸杞和大黄组成。研究表明，茵陈蒿汤能抑制肝损伤、肝细胞凋亡、肝星状细胞活化和胶原合成，促进胆红素代谢[48-52]。扶正化痰方是另一种传统的药方，主要用于减轻纤维化[53]。水飞蓟素是一种从水飞蓟 (*Silybum marianum* L. Gaertn) 种子中提取的新型黄酮类化合物，其主要活性成分之一是水飞蓟宾 (silychristin)，它已被证明在抗炎和免疫调节中起着复杂的作用，并具有降血脂、抗氧化和保肝作用[54-57]。目前基于水飞蓟素的治疗方案已被推荐用于肝脏疾病的治疗，甚至写进了中国的一些治疗指南中。

中药主要是多组分大分子，这些大分子在肝脏疾病中具有极其复杂的作用，并且与生理屏障、新陈代谢和免疫炎症有关[47]。通过研究栀子大黄汤、茵陈蒿汤和大黄消食汤的保肝活性发现，草药单体和活性物质具有保肝作用[58]。研究表明，中药和肠道菌群具有相互作用，肠道菌群可以将中药中的大分子物质分解成生物活性多酚类物质、生物碱和其他活性单体，反之中药也可以调节肠道菌群的构成[12,13]。

研究表明，黄连素的治疗机制主要是显著减少肝脏组织中的分化群14 CD14、白细胞介素1 (IL-1)、白细胞介素6 (IL-6) 和肿瘤坏死因子 α (TNF- α) 的水平[1,45]。此外，抗TNF- α 抗体可以改善肝脏脂肪变性，降低肝脏组织总脂肪酸水平和血清转氨酶水平，从而缓解NAFLD[59]。在肠道微生物中，双歧杆菌和乳酸杆菌可

以抑制TNF- α 的损伤作用[60]。此外，益生菌制剂 (VSL #3) 表现出与黄连素类似的疗效[59]。这一发现可能提示益生菌参与了黄连素的作用过程。一项研究发现，茵陈蒿汤中的一种活性成分6,7-二甲氧基香豆素 (6,7-dimethylesculetin) 可以激活组成型雄激素受体 (constitutive androstane receptor) 并加速体内胆红素清除[52]。京尼平 (genipin) 是一种梔子苷的肠道细菌代谢产物，是茵陈蒿汤的主要成分，可通过抑制DNA合成来抑制线粒体通透性转换和HSC，从而预防细胞凋亡，产生治疗效果[49,61]。水飞蓟素是一种具有抗脂质过氧化活性的成分，该化合物的抗氧化活性可能是通过抑制中性粒细胞释放超氧阴离子和增加淋巴细胞中超氧化物歧化酶的表达而生成的[62-64]。此外，水飞蓟素抑制核因子 κ -B激酶亚单位 β (IKK- β)、p50和p65的活性，从而抑制NF- κ B的作用并实现抗炎和保肝作用[65,66] (表1和图2)。

3.2. 中药、肠道菌群及溃疡性结肠炎

溃疡性结肠炎 (溃结, UC) 是一种临床上以结肠和直肠中的炎症与溃疡为特征的疾病。尽管UC的病因尚不清楚，但环境因素、遗传、免疫缺陷和肠道菌群可能参与其发病[67]。UC的治疗有几种经典药物，如柳氮磺胺吡啶和类固醇。此外，生物疗法也逐渐引起临床的重视，如粪菌移植，Dupont等[68]的研究发现UC的复发与肠道革兰氏阳性细菌有关。

研究表明，多种中药可改善大鼠模型和人类UC的临床症状和病理结果。白藜芦醇在水果中含量很高，已在两个临床研究中显示可部分改善UC患者的炎症[69]，而咖啡酸作为一种膳食成分，在结肠炎小鼠中表现出抗炎作用[70]。在一项使用大鼠模型的研究中，将40只雄性SD大鼠随机分成以下4组：正常对照组、模型组 (UC组)、草药处理艾灸组 (HPM处理组) 和阳性对照柳氮磺胺吡啶组 (SA处理组)。HPM处理组使用由附子、皮、根、红花和丹参组成的药物配方。结果显示，HPM处理组的一般形态学和免疫病理学评分显著低于模型组[71]。其他文章也表明，常见的中药如八味锡类散 (由西瓜霜、寒水石、人工牛黄、珍珠、硼砂、冰片、硃砂、青黛组成)[72]、红参、薏苡仁 (*Semen Coicis*) [37] 和纳米黄芪等，对UC的治疗都有潜在的作用。也有文章报道，小麦草汁粉、草药性穿心莲、雷公藤和其他23种中药似乎也对炎性肠病有效，但缺乏监督和标准、高成本和毒副作用等原因限制了中药在临床中的应用[73]。

如上所述，许多中药在生物利用度研究中被发现吸收

表1 中药与肠道菌群之间的关系

Disease	TCMs	Subjects	Indices of pathological changes	Main associated gut microbiota relative to the model group	Other mechanisms noted
Chronic liver diseases	Berberine	Adult male BALB/c mice	Decrease: Body weight, serum levels of lipids, glucose levels, and insulin resistance	Increase: Bacteroidetes, <i>Lactobacillus</i> and <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	Decrease in the expression levels of CD14, IL-1, IL-6, and TNF- α
	Qushi Huayu Fang	Male Sprague-Dawley rats	Decrease: Body weight, fat deposition in hepatocytes, triglyceride content, and free fatty acid levels	Increase: <i>Collinsella</i> Decrease: <i>Escherichia/Shigella</i> ratio	Increase in the production of SCFAs
Ulcerative colitis	Caffeic acid	C57BL/6 mice	Improve: Histopathological analysis Decrease: Disease activity index Increase: Body weight, colon length	Increase: <i>Akkermansia</i> Decrease: Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes ratio	Inhibition of the NF- κ B signaling pathway; suppression of the secretion of IL-6, TNF- α , and IFN- γ ; and colonic infiltration of CD3+ T cells, CD177+ neutrophils, and F4/80+ macrophages
	Moxibustion	Male Sprague-Dawley rats	Improve: Histopathological analysis Decrease: General morphological scores and histopathological scores	Increase: <i>Bifidobacterium</i> and <i>Lactobacillus</i> Decrease: <i>Escherichia coli</i> and <i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	Decrease in the expression of TNF- α and IL-12
	Bawei Xileisan	Female C57BL/6 mice	Improve: Clinical symptoms (haemocult-positive stools, and loose stools) and histopathological analysis Decrease: Histological score and disease activity index Increase: Body weight, colon length	Increase: <i>Bacteroides</i> and <i>Lactobacillus</i>	Decrease: Th17 cytokines, IL-17A, IL-17F, and IL-22 levels Increase: Th17/Treg ratio
	Red Ginseng and Semen <i>Coicis</i>	Male Wistar rats	Increase: Colon length Decrease: Colon index (the weight of the colon/the length of the colon), mucosal damage score, MCV, and MCH Improve: Mucosal damage and histopathological examination	Increase: <i>Bifidobacterium</i> and <i>Lactobacillus in vitro</i>	Anti-inflammatory effect
	Pomegranate extract and its metabolite urolithin-A	Male Fisher rats	Improve: Colon tissue damage and antioxidant status Decrease: Histological scores	Increase: <i>Bifidobacterium</i> and <i>Lactobacillus</i> spp.	Decrease in the levels of inflammatory markers (iNOS, cyclooxygenase-2, PTGES, and PGE (2)) in the colonic mucosa. Up-regulation of the G(1) to S cell cycle pathway; and preserved colonic architecture

Disease	TCMs	Subjects	Indices of pathological changes	Main associated gut microbiota relative to the model group	Other mechanisms noted
Obesity	Berberine	Wistar rats	Increase: Levels of serum lipopolysaccharide-binding protein, monocyte chemoattractant protein-1, and leptin Decrease: Adiponectin levels	Increase: <i>Blautia</i> , <i>Allobaculum</i> , <i>Bacteroides</i> , <i>Butyricimonas</i> , <i>Phascolarctobacterium</i> , <i>Prevotella</i> , unclassified Porphyromonadaceae, and unclassified Ruminococcaceae Decrease: <i>Bifidobacterium</i>	Increase in the production of SCFAs
	Dietary fiber	Male Sprague-Dawley rats	Increase: Insulin sensitivity Decrease: Body weight and endotoxin load	Increase: <i>Blautia</i> , <i>Anaerotruncus</i> , <i>Lactococcus</i> and <i>Allobaculum</i> , <i>Oceanobacillus</i> Decrease: <i>Prevotella</i> and <i>Anaeroplasma</i>	Changes in metabolic profiles, including the metabolism of organic acids, amino acids, and sugars
	Nopal	Wistar rats	Decrease: Body weight, blood lipids, metabolic endotoxemia, serum glucose levels, and insulin concentrations	Increase: <i>Ruminococcus bromii</i> , <i>Ruminococcus flavefaciens</i> , <i>Lactobacillus reuteri</i> , <i>Bacteroides fragilis</i> , and <i>Akkermansia muciniphila</i> ; Decrease: <i>Bacteroides acidifaciens</i> , <i>Blautia producta</i> , <i>Faecalibacterium prausnitzii</i> , <i>Butyricoccus pullicaecorum</i> , and <i>Clostridium citroniae</i>	Brain-intestine axis
	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	Mice of the C57BL/6NCrIBltw genetic lineage	Decrease: Body weight gain, levels of free fatty acids, inflammation, endotoxemia, and insulin resistance	Increase: <i>Parabacteroides goldsteinii</i> , <i>Bacteroides</i> spp., <i>Anaerotruncus colihominis</i> , <i>Roseburia hominis</i> , <i>Clostridium methylpentosum</i> (<i>Clostridium</i> IV), <i>Clostridium</i> XIVa and XVIII, and <i>Eubacterium coprostanoligenes</i> ; Decrease: <i>Mucispirillum shaedleri</i> , <i>Escherichia fergusonii</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> spp., <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> , <i>Clostridium lactatifermentans</i> (<i>Clostridium</i> XIVb), and <i>Oscillibacter valericigenes</i>	Decrease in the expression of lipogenic genes
Type 2 diabetes	Polysaccharide from PLP	Seven-week-old male inbred Wistar rats	Increase: HDL-c levels and antioxidant enzyme activity Decrease: Blood glucose, insulin, total cholesterol, triglycerides, non-esterified fatty acids, and malondialdehyde levels	Increase: <i>Bacteroides vulgatus</i> , <i>Lactobacillus fermentum</i> , <i>Prevotella loescheii</i> , and <i>Bacteroides vulgates</i>	Increase in the production of SCFAs
	STS	Wistar rats	Decrease: Serum lipopolysaccharide levels and IL-6 and TNF- α mRNA expression Increase: Akt/PI3K expression	Increase: <i>Phascolarctobacterium</i> , <i>Bilophila</i> and <i>Oscillospira</i> , <i>Turicibacter</i>	Decrease in the expression of IL-6 and TNF- α mRNA in the pancreas
	Resveratrol	Male C57BL/6N mice	Decrease: Glucose levels and body weight	Increase: <i>Bacteroides</i> and <i>Parabacteroides</i> Decrease: certain microbial families (<i>Lachnospiraceae</i> and <i>Turicibacteraceae</i>) and genera (<i>Moryella</i> and <i>Akkermansia</i>)	—
	GQD	Clinical patients	Decrease: HbA1c, FBG, and 2h-PBG levels Increase: HOMA- β levels	Increase: <i>Faecalibacterium</i> , <i>Gemmiger</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i> , <i>Lachnospiraceae incertae sedis</i> , and <i>Escherichia</i> Decrease: <i>Alistipes</i> , <i>Odoribacter</i> , <i>Parabacteroides</i> , <i>Bacteroides</i> , and <i>Pseudobutyrvibrio</i>	—

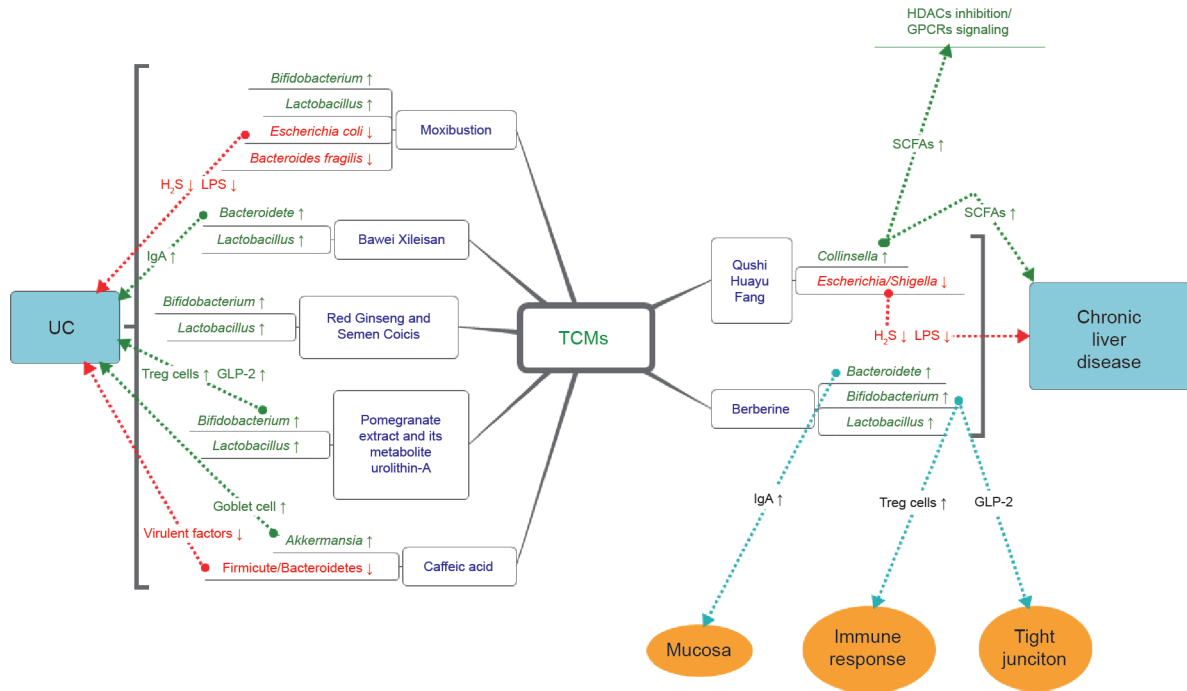


图2. 中药治疗对溃疡性结肠炎（UC）和慢性肝病肠道菌群的影响和潜在机制。蓝色字体表示中药；绿色字体表示研究中增加的菌群；红色字体表示减少的菌群。虚线箭头表示作用方向；虚线上的文字表示可能潜在机制。蓝色虚线表示其他可能的作用机制。GLP-2：胰高血糖素样肽-2；HDAC：组蛋白去乙酰化酶；GPCR：G蛋白偶联受体。

较差，因此，这些化合物在UC治疗中的作用机制尚不清楚。Marchesi等[74]研究了IBD患者（包括UC和克罗恩病）的排泄物，发现肠道菌群的共代谢物（乙酸、丁酸、甲胺和三甲胺）水平均下降，表明IBD患者的粪便代谢谱与正常人不同。此外，可以通过粪便代谢谱来区分UC和克罗恩病患者[74]。而一篇包含了21项随机对照实验（RCT）的研究中，结果显示用益生菌、益生元和（或）合生元治疗UC患者与常规治疗组相比，益生菌治疗的患者表现出更好的结果，包括整体诱导缓解的改善等指标[68]。因此，中医在UC治疗中的有益作用可能取决于肠道菌群。

白藜芦醇作为一种糖苷被吸收后，可被细胞质葡萄糖苷酶切割成糖苷配体。动物研究表明，白藜芦醇可减少促炎症细胞因子，降低ICAM/VCAM的表达，减少中性粒细胞浸润、氧化应激，并抑制TLR4/NF- κ B通路，上调SIRT1的表达，增强抗氧化作用。然而，肠道菌群产生的 β -葡萄糖苷酶也会降解白藜芦醇[69]。咖啡酸可恢复肠道菌群的丰富程度，并抑制厚壁菌门/拟杆菌比值，显著增加了可降解黏蛋白的Akkermansia细菌[70]。而在大鼠模型实验中，HPM组和SA组与模型组相比，常见有益细菌——双歧杆菌和乳酸杆菌群体显著增加，而作为常见有害细菌的大肠埃希氏菌（*Escherichia coli*）和脆弱拟杆菌（*Bacteroides fragilis*）则减少。此外，与炎症相关的TNF- α 和IL-12的

表达在HPM组和SA组的处理后比在UC模型组中更低。然而，肠道菌群与炎症因子之间的内在联系尚未得到进一步研究[71]。在另一项大鼠结肠炎模型中，富含鞣花单宁的石榴提取物显著增加了双歧杆菌和乳杆菌属的种群，而尿石素A是鞣花单宁的主要代谢产物。有趣的是，尿石素A的抗炎特性比富含鞣花单宁的提取物强得多[75]。关于八味锡类散的潜在机制，研究显示与对照组相比，治疗组的拟杆菌数量增加，而拟杆菌被认为是改善UC相关水肿和黏膜耐受的最有效细菌之一[72]。红参和薏苡仁表现出增强双歧杆菌和乳杆菌（已知益生菌）体外生长的能力，而红参还抑制几种不同病原菌株的生长，从而减轻UC症状[37]。纳米级黄芪治疗7 d后，大鼠肠道内双歧杆菌、乳酸杆菌含量明显上升。同时，肠球菌和大肠杆菌的数量和肠道菌群比率降至正常水平。结肠中的挥发性脂肪酸含量增加，并且肝脏中的细菌移位得到有效控制。总之，经上述处理后，肠道微生物群显示出一些变化。因此，肠道微生物群可能在这些药物的潜在作用机制中起部分重要作用，而这些机制在未来需要进一步研究（表1和图2）。

3.3. 中药、肠道微生态和肥胖

肥胖症是一种全球流行性代谢疾病，与全身低度慢性炎症相关[76]。在过去的数十年中，相关研究已经证明肥胖与肠道微生态存在因果关系[77,78]。

数十年的实践证明, 中药在治疗肥胖方面具有积极作用, 黄连素就是一个典型的例子。黄连素是黄连的主要活性成分, 几个世纪以来一直被用作退热药和中药中毒的解毒剂[79]。最近的研究表明, 黄连素可广泛作用于代谢, 可有效提高血清脂质多糖结合蛋白、单核细胞趋化蛋白-1、脂联素、丙酮酸、瘦素、血清素、生酮和生糖氨基酸等血清指标水平[35,80]。此外, 黄连素还被观察到可以改善肝脏中亚牛磺酸和蛋氨酸、尿中的吡哆醇和4-吡哆酸以及粪便中的腐胺、脱氧胆酸盐和岩藻酸盐的代谢[80]。这些代谢变化可能在不同程度上与肥胖有关。黄连素处理后的大鼠在肠道微生态中表现出显著的紊乱, 并选择性地富集了一些产短链脂肪酸(SCFA)的细菌[35,81]。

膳食纤维是中药的主要成分。膳食纤维如竹笋纤维和苦瓜, 可以通过调节肠道菌群组成来预防高脂饮食引起的肥胖[82,83]。作为富含膳食纤维的蔬菜, 仙人掌果具有类似的效果[84]。此外, 胭脂仙人掌(*nopal*)富含多酚, 它构成了许多药用植物和食品成分中异构次级代谢产物。越来越多的证据表明, 富含多酚和植物多糖的饮食可以调节肠道微生态, 并影响糖尿病和肥胖; 同时肠道菌群也参与多酚的广泛代谢, 反之可以调节肠道微生物的生物活性[85]。

黄连素具有较差的口服生物利用度, 因此黄连素对肠道微生态的调节常被假设是黄连素作用的一种机制[86,87]。黄连素处理后可以富集产SCFA的细菌, 并且SCFA可以改善对肥胖的控制。SCFA具有减轻炎症和保护肠屏障功能的作用。促进肠道L细胞增殖和胰高血糖素原mRNA表达的这一机制可能与SCFA的作用有关[87,88]。Maslowski等[89]研究也表明, 作为SCFA一种受体的G蛋白偶联受体43(GPR43), 可能介导对炎症反应的调节作用, 从而免受促炎细胞因子或LPS的作用[90,91]。越来越多的证据表明, 肠道菌群的种属组成变化与人类肥胖有关[92,93], 这可能与肠道和脂肪组织中空腹诱导的脂肪因子(*fiaf*)基因表达增加有关[87]。

由于膳食纤维通常不能从肠道吸收入血, 因此这些物质通常作为益生元来调节肠道微生态来改善宿主代谢。此外, 竹笋的膳食纤维表现出很强的水和油结合能力, 以及胆固醇和胆汁酸的结合能力[82]。苦瓜还含有丰富的植物素, 如酚类化合物和皂苷。多酚具有显著的抗氧化、抗菌和抗真菌活性, 以及可以抑制饮食中碳水化合物和脂质消化所涉及的酶[94,95]。多酚在调节肠道微生态方面同样发挥重要作用[96-98]。反之, 肠道菌群也代谢多酚。众所周知, 90%~95%的膳食多酚不能从肠道吸收, 多酚通过

结肠中的微生物酶降解为较小的酚类化合物或单体才具有生理活性[99,100]。多种多酚参与抑制钠依赖性葡萄糖协同转运蛋白(SGLT1)和肠道葡萄糖转运蛋白2(GLUT2)[95,101]。另外有报道指出, 多酚可激活5'腺苷单磷酸活化蛋白激酶(AMPK)并下调脂肪形成因子, 包括过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体 γ (PPAR γ)和CCAAT增强子结合蛋白(C/EBP α), 从而抑制3T3-L1细胞系中脂肪细胞的分化[102](表1和图3)。

3.4. 中药、肠道菌群及2型糖尿病

2型糖尿病(T2DM)是一种常见的代谢性疾病, 与轻度炎症和外周胰岛素抵抗相关。已经有研究显示一些中药通过不同的机制发挥抗糖尿病作用, 特别是通过调节肠道菌群的组成和功能。

在过去几年中, 许多研究人员, 尤其是中国学者, 试图将不同类型的中药用于治疗T2DM, 并通过肠道菌群途径阐明这些中药的机制。例如, 富含多酚和植物多糖(包括可可饮料和绿茶)的膳食成分具有抗糖尿病和抗肥胖作用[85], 许多其他中药也是如此。车前子(*Plantago asiatica* L.)多糖(PLP)能显著降低T2DM大鼠的血糖、胰岛素、总胆固醇、甘油三酯、非酯化脂肪酸及丙二醛浓度, 显著增加高密度脂蛋白-胆固醇的水平, 并提升抗氧化酶的活性[103]。水苏糖(STS)可以从水苏糖和豆科植物中轻易提取, 可以与二甲双胍(MET)相似的方式降低血清脂多糖、IL-6和TNF- α 的mRNA表达[104]。口服白藜芦醇可改善肥胖小鼠的葡萄糖稳态[105]。植物和中药的其他成分, 如蘑菇多糖[分布于药用蘑菇, 如灵芝(*Ganoderma lucidum*)和茯苓(*Poria cocos*), 可用作中药, 也作为功能性食品][106]、金银花(*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.) [107]和小檗碱[35]也被证明可有效预防大鼠的肥胖和胰岛素抵抗。但在临床试验方面, 较少有研究涉及中医、糖尿病和肠道菌群三者。有一项正在进行的临床随机对照实验用连梅颗粒进行干预[108]。另一项双盲安慰剂对照的RCT则使用葛根苓连汤(GQD), 被证明可有效治疗T2DM [109]。

虽然以前的几项研究表明, 各种类型的中药可以降低血糖水平, 并对小鼠模型中的T2DM产生有益作用, 但是许多中药难以吸收, 中医药治疗T2DM的机制仍然未知。因此, 为了进一步研究机制, 有学者将肠道菌群作为危险因素之一。在上述研究中揭示了以下机制。多酚在体外可抑制消化碳水化合物及脂质的酶的活性[103]。某些多酚可通过作用于转运蛋白而抑制葡萄糖的吸收。多酚具有潜

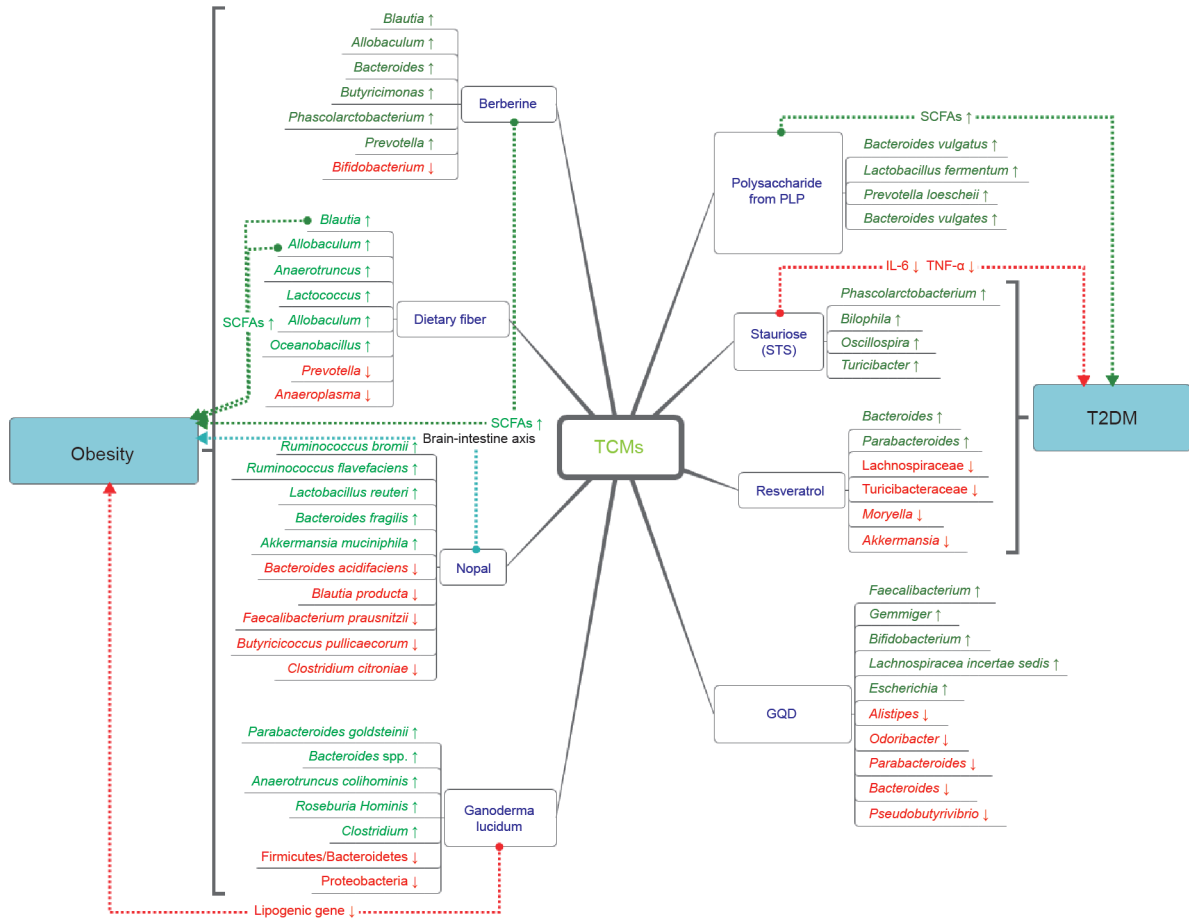


图3. 中药治疗对肥胖和2型糖尿病（T2DM）中肠道菌群的影响和潜在机制。蓝色字体表示中药；绿色字体表示研究中增加的菌群；红色字体表示减少的菌群。虚线箭头表示作用方向；虚线上的文字表示可能潜在机制。蓝色虚线表示其他可能的作用机制。

在的抗菌能力，可抑制致病菌在肠道中的生长；同时，肠道菌群可代谢多酚并调节其生物学活性[85]。在肥胖小鼠中，苦瓜粉（BMP）通过恢复肠道菌群和肠道代谢物水平来抑制胰岛素抵抗并表现出抗炎作用[83]。PLP可以显著影响大鼠结肠菌群的多样性，并改变细菌的丰度，如普通拟杆菌（*Bacteroides vulgatus*）、发酵乳杆菌（*Lactobacillus fermentum*）、洛氏普雷沃菌（*Prevotella pneumophila*）等。PLP的抗糖尿病作用可能与肠道菌群改变和SCFA水平升高有关[103]。STS则是一种从熟地黄中提取的成分，具有与MET相似的作用，能引起肠道菌群的改变和关键物种的富集。在属水平，STS选择性富集考拉杆菌属等5种菌属，而MET主要富集萨特氏菌属等4种菌属。STS还通过影响肠道菌群的关键物种来降低胰腺中IL-6和TNF- α 的mRNA表达，其机制与MET相似[104]。此外，白藜芦醇的摄入可以改变小鼠肠道菌群的组成和功能，可使小鼠肠道菌群的组成及功能发生改变：毛螺菌科、*Akkermansia*等细菌的丰度降低，拟杆菌门等丰度增加；摄入白藜芦醇的小鼠作为供体，将其粪便移植给肥胖小鼠后，后者的葡萄糖稳

态得到改善[105]。植物和蘑菇中的活性物质，如从雷公藤根中提取的化合物雷公藤红素，可以通过降低瘦素抗性来降低食欲；它们还可以调节脂质的吸收和代谢，增加胰岛素敏感性，增加产热量，改变肠道菌群[106]。连梅颗粒和阿卡波糖的疗效尚未在患者肠道菌群组成的临床试验中进行评估[108]。但另一项临床RCT显示，在治疗T2DM时，GQD会改变肠道菌群；肠道菌群的变化发生在糖尿病症状改善之前，并且肠道中有益细菌的丰度增加[109]。这些不同类型的中药都会导致肠道菌群在体外或体内发生不同程度的变化（表1和图3）。

4. 展望

如上所述，多种中药在预防和治疗与肠道菌群变化相关的不同疾病方面具有许多功能。虽然中药与肠道菌群之间相互作用的研究尚处于初步阶段，但此前的研究结果为中药研究奠定了科学基础。暴露于中药后，肠道菌群结构发生了变化，宿主的肠上皮细胞通过向肠神经系统发送信

号然后向大脑发送信号来回应这些变化。同时，肠神经系统从大脑接收信息以调节菌群功能[18,110]。在改善疾病症状之前，有益肠道菌群的富集和有害肠道菌群的丰度减少，这表明肠道菌群平衡的恢复可能促进了疾病症状的改善，而不仅仅是疾病症状改善导致肠道菌群的变化[109]。中药成分引起肠道菌群的生物转化、肠道菌群和宿主免疫系统介导的中药多组分相互作用，以及中药对肠道细菌的促进和抑制作用，由此可见肠道菌群是一种潜在的中医药治疗的靶点。以前，吸收被认为是中医发挥作用所必需的；然而，现在已经表明中药成分（如多糖）可以通过肠道菌群影响宿主生理和病理状况，甚至在没有吸收的情况下。因此，今后的药物研究应考虑中药与肠道菌群的相互作用[1]。

未来，进一步研究需要更完善的实验设计，例如直接分析中药靶向作用的肠道微菌群，以及开发精准的肠道菌群研究模型。这些研究的结果将进一步揭示中药与肠道菌群之间的相互作用，从而为基于中药的发现创新提供新的见解和指导[1]。此外，包括肠道菌群在内的人体超有机体概念为整体管理人类健康提供了一种全新的系统概念。

然而，目前的中药研究仍然存在一些问题：首先，我们对中药实际作用模式缺乏足够的了解。其次，偶尔出现的毒性表现和缺乏良好对照的临床试验使得中药无法成为主流药物。中医的“个性化和整体性”也导致难以进行随机、安慰剂对照和双盲试验[111]。所有这些因素都阻碍了中药在现代医学中的应用，因此，进一步的中药研究需要新的工具和方法。

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Compliance with ethics guidelines

Yan-Meng Lu, Jiao-Jiao Xie, Cong-Gao Peng, Bao-Hong Wang, Kai-Cen Wang, and Lan-Juan Li have no conflicts of interest to declare, and the manuscript has been approved for publication by all authors.

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