

5G手机辐射对小鼠精子质量和性激素水平的影响

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摘要 为探讨5G手机射频辐射(Radiofrequency radiation, RFR)对成年雄性小鼠精子质量和性激素水平的影响,24只健康成年雄性C57BL/6小鼠随机分为假暴露组(Sham)和4.9 GHz暴露组(4.9 GHz RFR),每组12只。暴露组小鼠接受功率密度50 W/m²、频率为4.9 GHz的RFR全身暴露,每天1 h,连续暴露21 d。暴露结束后,通过检测精子数量和畸形率评估精子质量;通过苏木精-伊红(HE)染色观察睾丸组织形态;酶联免疫吸附试验(ELISA)测定睾酮(T)、卵泡刺激素(FSH)、黄体生成素(LH)、促性腺激素释放激素(GnRH)、胶质源性神经营养因子(GDNF)和干细胞因子(SCF)的水平;蛋白免疫印迹(Western blot)检测睾丸组织中GDNF和SCF以及血睾屏障紧密连接相关蛋白(ZO-1和Occludin)的水平。与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz组睾丸形态、精子数量和畸形率无显著改变;血清中FSH和LH含量无明显改变;睾丸内GDNF、SCF、ZO-1和Occludin蛋白水平均无明显变化;但是血清中T和GnRH含量显著降低。结果表明,本实验条件下,4.9 GHz RFR对小鼠精子质量无明显影响,但可导致性激素水平紊乱。

关键词 手机射频辐射,小鼠,睾丸,精子,性激素

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Effects of 5G mobile phone radiation on sperm quality and sex hormone levels in mice

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ABSTRACT To investigate the effects of 5G mobile phone radiofrequency radiation (RFR) on sperm quality and sex hormone level of adult male mice, 24 healthy adult male C57BL/6 mice were randomly divided into two groups, the sham-exposure group (Sham) and 4.9 GHz-exposure group (4.9 GHz RFR), with 12 mice in each group. The mice in the exposure group were exposed to RFR with a power density of 50 W/m² and frequency of 4.9 GHz for 21 consecutive days, for 1 h a day. After exposure, the sperm quality was evaluated by detecting the sperm quantity and abnormality rate; Histomorphology of the testis was determined using Hematoxylin Eosin (HE) staining; the levels of testosterone (T), follicle stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH), gonadotropin releasing hormone (GnRH), glial derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF), and stem cell factor (SCF) were measured using enzyme-linked

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immunosorbent assay (ELISA); A western blot was used to detect the levels of GDNF, SCF and tight junction related proteins (ZO-1 and Occludin) of the blood-testis barrier (BTB) in testis tissue. Compared with the Sham group, no significant change in testicular morphology, sperm count, and sperm abnormality rate was observed in the 4.9 GHz RFR group; The content of FSH and LH in serum showed no significant differences; and the levels of GDNF, SCF, ZO-1 and Occludin in the testis showed no significant differences. However, the concentration of T and GnRH in serum decreased significantly. The results showed that under the experimental conditions, 4.9 GHz RFR had no significant effect on the sperm quality of mice, but could lead to changes in sex hormone levels.

KEYWORDS Mobile phone radio frequency radiation, Mice, Testes, Sperm, Sex hormones

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2017年我国发布了5G移动通信频率的公告,3 300~3 600 MHz和4 800~5 000 MHz是5G移动通信系统重点引入的新频段,可能会取代目前的4G通信频段(900~2 400 MHz)^[1]。随着5G技术的发展,5G频段射频辐射(Radiofrequency radiation, RFR)是否会对健康产生危害引起越来越多的关注^[2]。Miyakoshi等^[3]研究表明,5.8 GHz电磁辐射暴露24 h后,对人眼角膜上皮细胞几乎没有产生遗传毒性。芮刚等^[4]研究表明,5.8 GHz微波连续暴露30 d(每天暴露2 h或4 h)对SD(Sprague dawley, SD)大鼠的学习记忆没有显著影响。睾丸是对射频辐射高度敏感的靶器官之一,既往研究表明,环境射频辐射会对男性生殖系统产生不利影响^[5]。Hasan等^[6]发现,经2.4 GHz射频辐射连续60 d后(每天40 min或60 min),小鼠睾丸组织结构受损,生精细胞减少,生精小管管腔增大。Shahin等^[7]报道,2.45 GHz射频辐射连续暴露30 d(每天2 h),小鼠精子数量和存活率显著下降,生精小管直径减小,但也有研究报告了射频辐射对大鼠睾丸组织结构功能没有明显影响^[8]。由于实验设计的暴露参数和时长不同,所以目前关于射频辐射对雄性生殖系统的影响还没有统一的结论。同时关于5G频段射频辐射对雄性生殖系统的影响尚未见报道,因此,本研究目的是探讨4.9 GHz射频辐射(5G手机主要工作频段之一)对小鼠睾丸结构和功能的影响。

1 材料与方法

1.1 实验动物

24只健康成年雄性C57BL/6小鼠(体质量(22.6 ± 2.7) g),购自空军军医大学(中国西安)实验动物中心,在严格卫生和通风良好的条件下进行饲养(温度(23 ± 2) °C;湿度(50 ± 2)%;12 h光照,12 h黑暗),小鼠可自由获取食物和水。本研究中所有的动

物实验均经空军军医大学(中国西安)动物福利委员会批准。

1.2 射频辐射暴露条件及分组

暴露系统由信号发生器、放大器和辐射天线组成。信号发生器为Keysight N5171B(是德科技,美国),频段9 kHz~6 GHz;功放器型号为波恩BLMA0860-100(BONE,德国),输出频段为800 MHz~6 GHz,最大输出功率50 dBm;天线为双脊喇叭天线,型号为新加腾XJT-DR10180(西安新佳腾,中国),可用频段为1~18 GHz,天线对角长度D为280 mm。将小鼠随机分为假暴露组(Sham)和4.9 GHz射频辐射暴露组(4.9 GHz RFR),每组12只。将小鼠在清醒状态下单只置于有机玻璃盒内,置于距离天线70 cm处(射频辐射远场区域),每天全身暴露或假暴露于4.9 GHz RFR场1 h(上午9:00~11:00进行),连续暴露21 d,暴露区的功率密度为50 W/m²。Sham组小鼠的处理方式与4.9 GHz RFR组相同,但暴露系统无射频辐射输出。此外,每3 d记录两组小鼠的体重。

1.3 小鼠血清采集和组织取样

在暴露21 d结束后第二天,小鼠用1%戊巴比妥钠(60 mg/kg)腹腔注射麻醉。其中,每组12只小鼠经心脏左心室采血,全血在室温静置0.5 h后,4 °C、3 000 r/min离心15 min,收集血清用于性激素检测。分离双侧睾丸称重,并计算睾丸指数,用预冷的磷酸盐缓冲液(PBS,pH=7.4)洗涤后,9只小鼠睾丸冻存于-80 °C待用,3只小鼠睾丸固定于Bouin氏液(北京雷根公司)中进行组织形态学检测;分离双侧附睾尾,游离出成熟的精子用于检测精子质量。

1.4 小鼠精子数量及畸形率分析

剪开小鼠双侧附睾尾置于1 mL精子培养基中,

37 °C摇床缓慢摇动40 min制成精子悬液。稀释成合适浓度后冲入一次性尿沉渣计数板(BMJ Ventures Inc., 加拿大), 在光学显微镜下(Leica, 德国)计数; 将精子悬液均匀涂在载玻片上并自然风干, 用预冷的丙酮固定20 min后进行染色(2%伊红, 30 min), 在光学显微镜下观察精子形态。从每张载玻片的不同视野中统计约400个完整精子的形态以计算精子畸形率。畸形类型包括无定形、无钩、双头、双体或尾折叠。

1.5 小鼠睾丸和附睾组织苏木精-伊红染色

固定24 h后, 对睾丸进行修剪、脱水、清洁、浸蜡、石蜡包埋, 然后用旋转切片机(Leica RM2135, 德国)连续切片, 厚度为5 μm, 然后用常规染色程序对切片进行苏木精-伊红(HE)染色。

1.6 小鼠睾丸生精小管直径和上皮厚度测定

组织HE染色后, 在光学显微镜(Leica, 德国)下观察生精小管结构并拍照, 每组随机选取25个长径:短径小于1.2:1的生精小管, 使用ImageJ 1.43u软件以十字交叉法测量其直径和生精上皮厚度。

1.7 酶联免疫吸附实验

将小鼠睾丸组织剪碎, 加入预冷的PBS(重量体

积比1:9)充分研磨, 匀浆5 000×g离心5~10 min, 收取上清, 然后使用酶联免疫吸附实验

ELISA试剂盒(Elabscience, 中国)测定睾丸组织中干细胞因子(Stem cell factor, SCF)和胶质源性神经营养因子(Glial derived neurotrophic factor, GDNF)含量。此外, 使用ELISA试剂盒(北京华英生物)测定血清中性激素水平, 包括睾酮(Testosterone, T)、促卵泡激素(Follicle stimulating hormone, FSH)、黄体生成素(Luteinizing hormone, LH)和促性腺激素释放激素(Gonadotropin-releasing hormone, GnRH)。

1.8 蛋白免疫印迹(Western blot)

在冰上提取小鼠睾丸组织全蛋白(凯基生物, 中国), 然后使用10%十二烷基硫酸钠-聚丙烯酰胺凝胶电泳(SDS-PAGE)从每个样品中分离30 μg的蛋白质, 并湿转到聚偏二氟乙烯(PVDF)膜(Millipore, 美国)上, 用5%的脱脂牛奶室温封闭2 h, 加入一抗4 °C孵育过夜, 一抗详情见表1; 第二天复温30 min, 与相应种属的二抗(1:5 000, CWBIO, 中国)室温下孵育2 h, 然后使用Universal Hood II电泳成像仪(Bio-Rad, 意大利)进行化学发光。

表1 蛋白免疫印迹一抗详情
Table 1 Western blotting primary antibody details

抗体名称 Antibody	种属来源 Species	公司 Company	产地 Origin	稀释比 Dilution ratio
抗β-肌动蛋白	小鼠单克隆抗体	CMCTAG	密尔沃基, 美国	1:5 000
Anti-β-actin	Mouse monoclonal Ab		Milwaukee, USA	
抗神经营养因子	兔多克隆抗体	Abcam	剑桥, 英国	1:400
Anti-GDNF	Rabbit Polyclonal Ab		Cambridge, England	
抗干细胞因子	兔多克隆抗体	SAB	马里兰州, 美国	1:300
Anti-SCF	Rabbit Polyclonal Ab		Maryland, USA	
抗ZO-1	兔多克隆抗体	Proteintech	武汉	1:1 000
Anti-ZO-1	Rabbit Polyclonal Ab		Wuhan	
抗Ocludin	兔多克隆抗体	Proteintech	武汉	1:2 000
Anti-Ocludin	Rabbit Polyclonal Ab		Wuhan	

1.9 统计学处理

所有数据以平均值±标准差(Mean±SD)表示, 使用SPSS 20.0软件对组间进行两独立样本t检验; GraphPad Prism 8.2软件作图;p<0.05即有统计学意义。

2 结果与讨论

2.1 小鼠一般健康状况

小鼠体重监测结果如图1(a)所示, 与Sham组相比, 4.9 GHz RF组小鼠精神状态及食欲良好, 体

重在暴露期间无显著差异($p>0.05$)；4.9 GHz RFR 组小鼠睾丸重和睾丸系数均无显著差异($p>0.05$),图

1(b)和1(c))。上述结果提示,本研究条件下的射频辐射对小鼠的一般健康状况无明显影响。

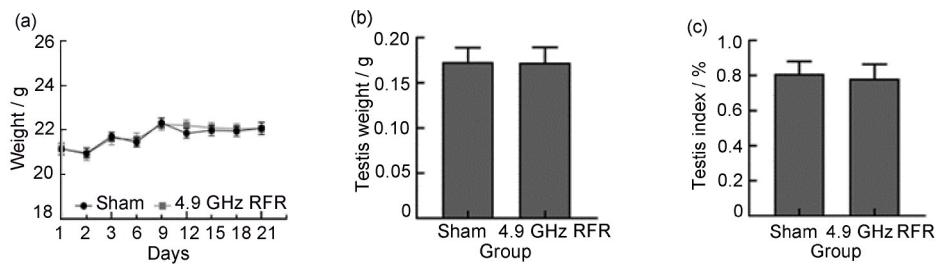


图1 4.9 GHz RFR连续暴露21 d对小鼠一般健康状况的影响：
(a)小鼠体重;(b)睾丸重;(c)睾丸系数;数据表示为Mean±SD, n=12

Fig.1 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on the general health of mice:
(a) body weight of mouse; (b) testis weight; (c) testis coefficient; data are expressed as Mean±SD, n=12

2.2 小鼠睾丸形态、生精小管直径和生精上皮厚度的变化

睾丸HE染色结果显示,Sham组小鼠的睾丸组织生精上皮基膜完整,生精小管及间质组织结构正常,生精小管内各级生精细胞排列整齐、层次清楚,

管腔内有大量成熟精子,与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz RFR组睾丸形态结构没有明显变化(图2(a)),生精小管直径和生精上皮厚度无显著差异($p>0.05$,图2(b)和(c))。上述结果提示,本研究条件下的射频辐射对小鼠睾丸组织结构无明显影响。

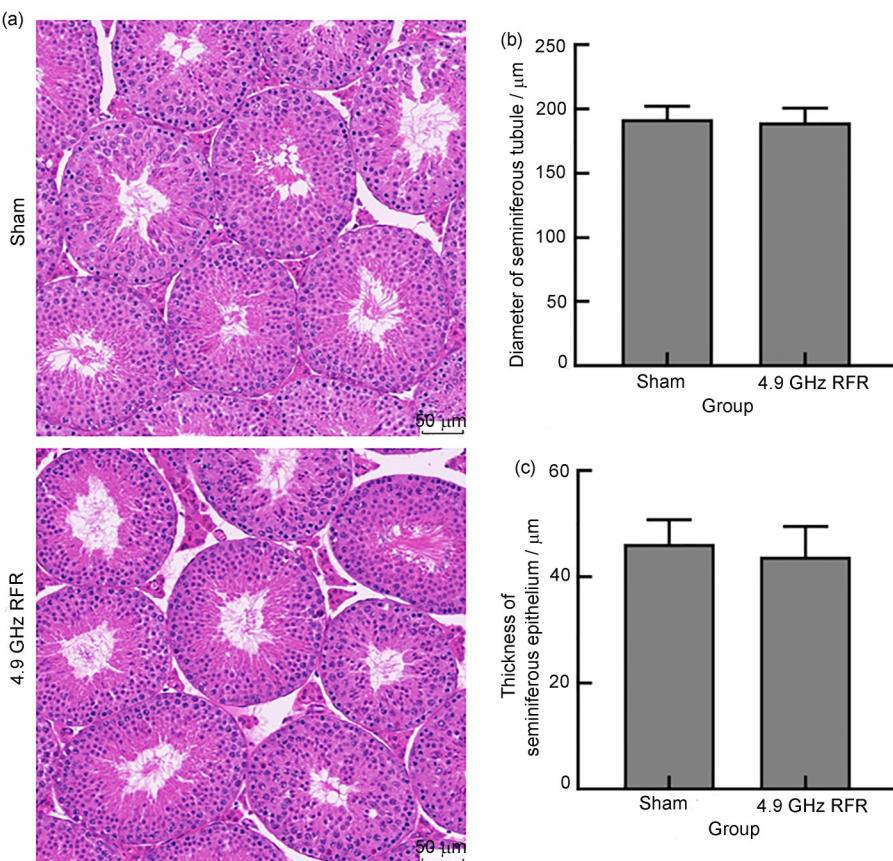


图2 4.9 GHz RFR连续暴露21 d对小鼠睾丸组织生精小管形态结构的影响：
(a)睾丸组织HE染色结果,n=3;(b)生精小管直径;(c)生精上皮厚度

Fig.2 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on the morphological structure of seminiferous tubules in testis tissue of mice: (a) HE staining results of testis tissue, n=3; (b) diameter of seminiferous tubules;
(c) thickness of seminiferous epithelium

2.3 小鼠附睾形态和精子数量及畸形率的变化

附睾HE染色结果显示,4.9 GHz RFR组小鼠附睾基底层细胞完整,管腔内精子数量正常,与Sham组相比没有明显形态学变化(图3(a))。与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz RFR组精子数量和畸形率均无显著差异($p>0.05$,图3(b)和(c))。上述结果提示,本研究条件下的射频辐射对小鼠精子数量和畸形率无明

显影响。

2.4 小鼠血清性激素的变化

如图4所示,与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz RFR组小鼠血清睾酮(T)浓度明显降低($p<0.05$,图4(a)),血清黄体生成素(LH)和卵泡刺激素(FSH)的浓度无明显改变($p>0.05$,图4(b)和(c)),血清促性腺激素释放激素(GnRH)浓度显著降低($p<0.01$,图4(d))。

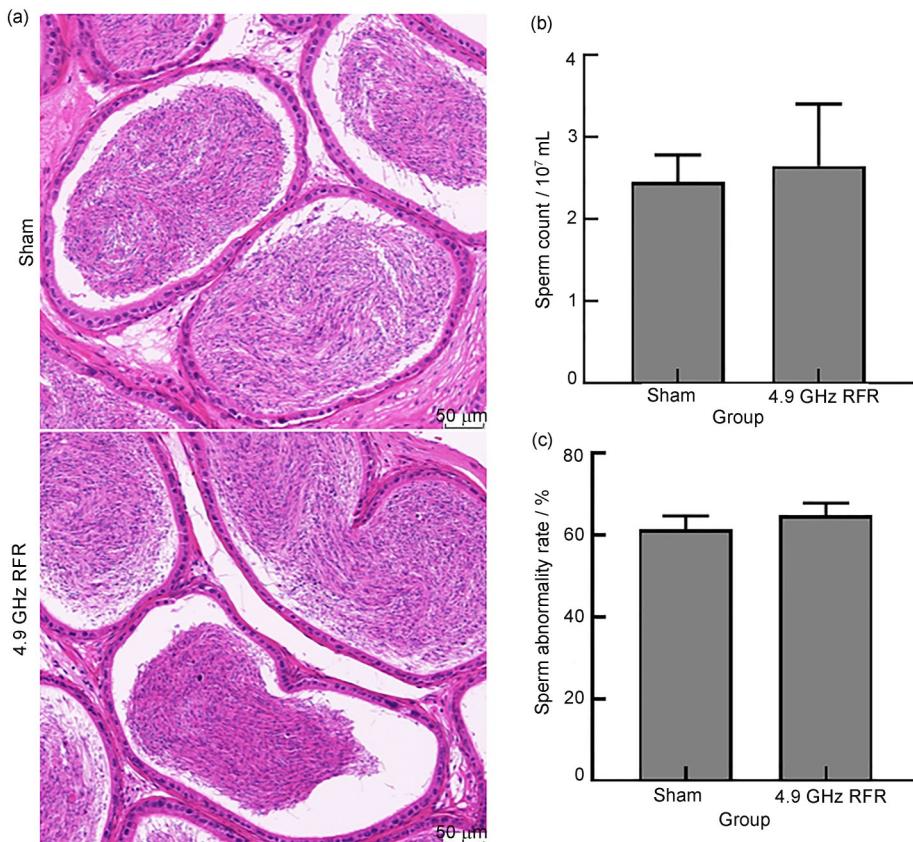


图3 4.9 GHz RFR连续暴露21 d对小鼠附睾形态结构和精子质量的影响:
(a)附睾组织HE染色, $n=3$; (b)精子数量; (c)精子畸形率

Fig.3 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on epididymal morphology and sperm quality in a mice:
(a) HE staining of epididymal tissue, $n=3$; (b) sperm count; (c) sperm abnormality rate

上述结果提示,本研究条件下的射频辐射能够引起小鼠血清性激素FSH和GnRH浓度的变化,并改变睾丸间质细胞分泌T的功能。

2.5 小鼠睾丸内干细胞因子和胶质源性神经营养因子含量的变化

酶联免疫吸附试验(ELISA)检测睾丸组织中胶质源性神经营养因子(GDNF)和干细胞因子(SCF)

含量,如图5所示。与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz RFR组小鼠睾丸组织GDNF和SCF含量均无明显变化($p>0.05$)。Western blot检测睾丸组织中GDNF和SCF蛋白水平结果显示,与Sham组相比,4.9 GHz RFR组小鼠睾丸GDNF和SCF相对表达量无明显变化($p>0.05$,图6),与ELISA结果一致。上述结果提示,本研究条件下的射频辐射对小鼠睾丸支持细胞分泌功能无明显影响。

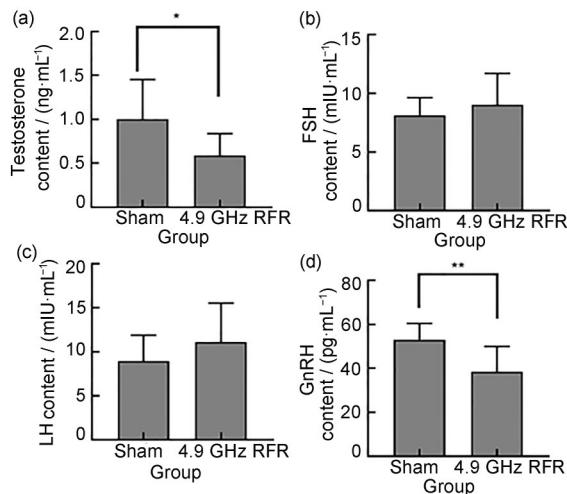


图4 4.9 GHz RFR 连续暴露21 d对小鼠血清性激素的影响:(a)睾酮浓度;(b)卵泡刺激素浓度;(c)黄体生成素浓度;(d)促性腺激素释放激素浓度,* $p<0.05$ vs. Sham;** $p<0.01$ vs. Sham;数据表示为Mean±SD, $n=11\sim12$

Fig.4 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on serum sex hormones in adult male C57 mice: (a) testosterone content; (b) FSH content; (c) LH content; (d) GnRH content, * $p<0.05$ vs. Sham; ** $p<0.01$ vs. Sham; data are presented as Mean±SD, $n=11\sim12$

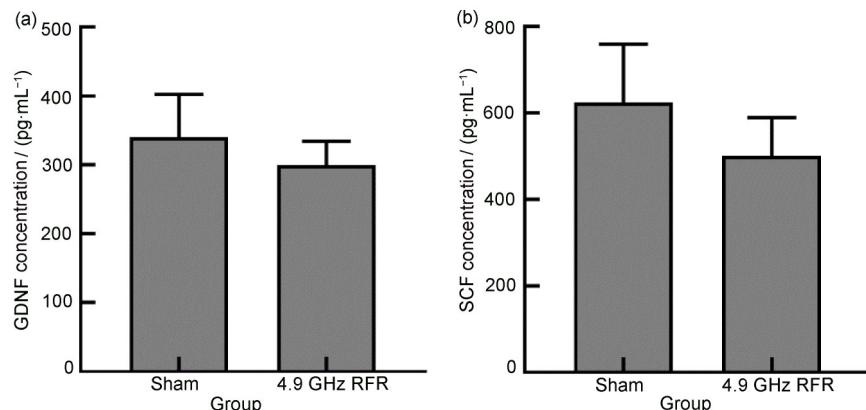


图5 4.9 GHz RFR 连续暴露21 d对小鼠睾丸支持细胞分泌功能的影响：
(a) GDNF含量;(b) SCF含量;数据表示为Mean±SD, $n=6$

Fig.5 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on the secretory function of sertoli cells in mice:
(a) GDNF concentration; (b) SCF concentration; data are presented as Mean±SD, $n=6$

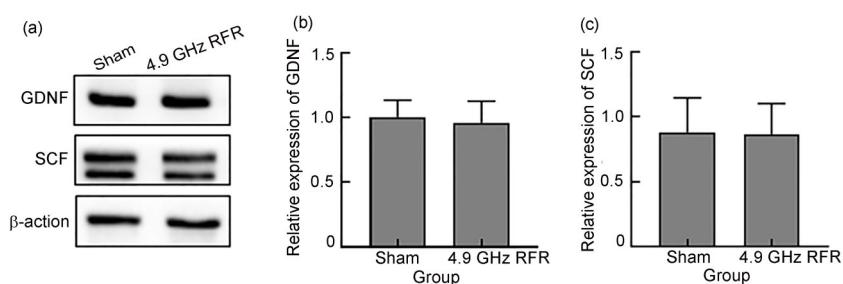


图6 4.9 GHz RFR 连续暴露21 d对小鼠睾丸支持细胞分泌相关蛋白的影响：
(a) Western blot 代表性条带图;(b) GDNF灰度值;(c) SCF灰度值;数据表示为Mean±SD, $n=3$

Fig.6 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on the secretion of related proteins from sertoli cells in mice:
(a) representative results of Western blot; (b) relative expression of GDNF;
(c) relative expression of SCF; data are presented as Mean±SD, $n=3$

2.6 小鼠血睾屏障紧密连接相关蛋白的变化

Occludin 和 ZO-1 是小鼠血睾屏障(Blood-testis barrier, BTB)紧密连接相关蛋白。Western blot 检测小鼠睾丸组织中 ZO-1 和 Occludin 蛋白水平, 结果如

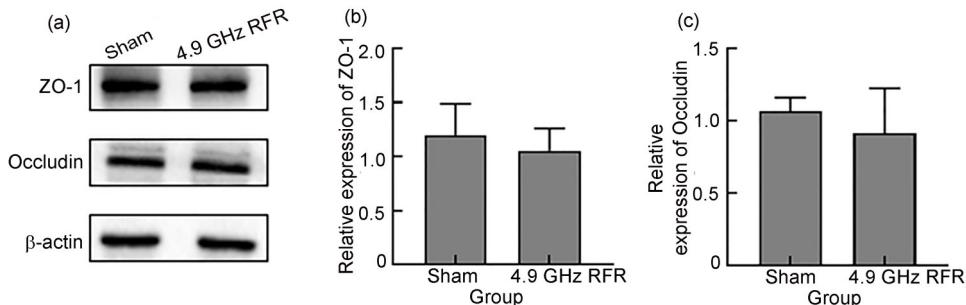


图 7 4.9 GHz RFR 连续暴露 21 d 对小鼠血睾屏障紧密连接相关蛋白的影响:

(a) Western blot 代表性条带图; (b) ZO-1 灰度值; (c) Occludin 灰度值; 数据表示为 Mean±SD, n=3

Fig.7 Effects of continuous exposure to 4.9 GHz RFR for 21 days on blood-testis barrier tight junction-related proteins in mice:
(a) representative bargraphs of Western blot; (b) ZO-1 gray value; (c) occludin gray value; data are expressed as Mean±SD, n=3

3 讨论

既往研究表明, 射频辐射可对生殖和神经系统产生不利影响^[9]。众所周知, 睾丸组织对射频辐射十分敏感, 射频辐射暴露可能会导致雄性动物精子数量减少、活力降低^[10-11], 并对睾丸组织形态造成损伤^[12]。然而, 也有研究表明, 射频辐射对雄性生殖系统未产生明显影响。Imai 等^[8]将大鼠全身暴露 1.95 GHz (功率密度 1 W/m²) 电磁场中 35 d, 每天 5 h, 大鼠体重、睾丸重量和精子数量均未发生明显变化。在另一项研究中, 915 MHz (功率密度 2.4 W/m²) 连续暴露 2 周 (1 h/d), 与对照组相比, 大鼠睾丸功能和结构无明显改变^[13]。因此, 关于射频辐射对雄性动物睾丸结构和功能的影响还没有确切的结论。

在本研究中, 我们将成年雄性小鼠每天暴露在 4.9 GHz 射频辐射场中 1 h, 连续 21 d, 然后从精子数量和畸形率、睾丸的组织形态、性激素水平、支持细胞分泌功能以及血睾屏障完整性等方面评估 4.9 GHz 射频辐射对小鼠睾丸结构和功能的影响。根据 2019 年 IEEE 提出的个人职业暴露限值 (50 W/m²), 本研究选择的射频辐射功率密度为 50 W/m²。

据报道, 暴露于 900 MHz 射频辐射, 每天 1 h, 连续 30 d, 可致成年雄性大鼠曲细精管基底膜出现空泡, 生精小管直径和生精上皮厚度均减小^[14]。另有研究报告^[15], 小鼠连续暴露在手机产生的电磁辐射场中 (900 MHz, 54~160 mW/cm²) 30 d, 每天 4 h, 睾

丸组织受到损伤, 生精小管直径减小, 腔内的精子数量降低。长时间 (30 d, 每天暴露 6 h 或 18 h) 暴露于电磁场中 (2.104 GHz) 会导致大鼠的精子数量减少, 但睾丸组织没有明显形态学改变^[16]。我们的实验发现, 4.9 GHz 射频辐射暴露 21 d 后, 小鼠体重、睾丸重量、睾丸形态、精子数量和畸形率没有明显变化, 表明在本实验条件下, 4.9 GHz RFR 对小鼠一般生殖健康状况没有显著影响。这些结果与之前的报告一致^[8, 13, 17]。

血清中的睾酮主要由睾丸间质细胞产生, 可诱导精母细胞转化为精子细胞, 促进精子细胞的产生和发育, 在精子发生中起关键作用^[18]。既往研究显示, 一定条件的射频辐射会导致雄性动物睾酮水平显著下降^[19-21]。这与我们的实验结果一致, 小鼠 4.9 GHz RFR 连续暴露 21 d 后 T 含量降低。然而, 也有实验得出了相反的结果, 如将小鼠暴露于 1.8 GHz 微波场 (功率密度 100 mW/cm²) 2 周 (2 h/d), 其 T 含量升高^[22]; 此外, 有报道使用 890~915 MHz 手机辐射对大鼠进行连续 10 周 (每天拨通 2 h) 的暴露, 大鼠血清睾酮水平没有显著变化^[23]。

睾丸间质细胞分泌睾酮功能受到下丘脑和垂体分泌的性激素的调节, 如 FSH、LH、GnRH 等。目前, 关于射频辐射对 FSH 和 LH 的影响尚无一致结论。有研究报道, 射频辐射可导致雄性动物 FSH 和 LH 水平显著下降^[24-25]; 也有研究发现, 大鼠经 900 MHz (功率密度 100 mW/cm²) 连续暴露 30 d, 血清中 FSH

和LH显著增加^[26]。Cetkin等^[23]的研究结果显示,用890~915 MHz手机辐射对大鼠进行连续10周(每天拨打2 h)的暴露,大鼠血清中FSH和LH含量没有显著变化,与我们的实验结果一致。GnRH是由下丘脑合成并分泌的一种激素,主要作用于垂体前叶,使其分泌LH和FSH,后者可调节睾丸间质细胞分泌T。有研究表明,大鼠经2 100 MHz连续暴露16 d,血清中GnRH含量显著降低^[27],与我们的实验结果一致。射频辐射诱导性激素水平改变的原因推测与下丘脑-垂体-性腺轴之间存在的反馈和负反馈调节机制有关^[28]。

睾丸组织支持细胞能够分泌多种重要因子(如GDNF和SCF)来维持生精小管微环境的平衡,为生殖细胞的发育和繁殖提供营养^[29]。本实验条件下,小鼠4.9 GHz RFR连续暴露21 d后睾丸内GDNF和SCF水平没有显著变化。BTB主要由支持细胞之间的紧密连接构成,为生殖细胞发育提供适宜的微环境,保护生殖细胞免受细胞毒性分子的侵害^[30]。Yu等^[31]研究了大鼠接受4G手机辐射连续暴露150 d后睾丸BTB的变化,发现与对照组相比,暴露组动物BTB紧密连接蛋白如occludin和ZO-1的水平明显降低,提示大鼠BTB在接受手机辐射后受损。但是在我们的实验条件下,5G手机辐射(4.9 GHz)连续暴露21 d对小鼠的血睾屏障紧密连接相关蛋白的表达无明显影响^[5-6]。

4 结论

本实验条件下,5G手机辐射(4.9 GHz,50 W/m²)连续暴露21 d(1 h/d)对小鼠睾丸及附睾结构、精子数量和畸形率无显著影响,但可导致性激素水平发生紊乱(T和GnRH含量下降)。关于GnRH和T两种激素下降的原因有待进一步研究。

作者贡献声明 薛一哲是本研究工作的主要执行者,负责实验计划的制定与落实,并完成论文初稿写作;张兆文协助照射实验和结果分析以及论文撰写修改;郭玲负责协助样本取材及部分结果分析;来盼盼负责蛋白和激素的含量分析;林加金负责照射实验参数的设定及机器的操作维护;秦佟洲参与论文撰写;荆云涛负责协助动物实验;王星负责实验数据的统计分析;周桂强负责协助结果分析,论文撰写与修改;丁桂荣负责实验设计与论文修改。全体作者都阅读并同意最终的文本。

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