

基于“中土之制”探讨黄连调节脂肪组织
糖脂代谢的作用机制^{*}

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摘要:中土主运化饮食水谷,升清降浊,是人体代谢之核心。调节机体代谢的重要器官之一为脂肪组织,其生理、病理与中土运化关联紧密。能量过剩引起脂质沉积,脂肪组织过度肥大,继发脂解、胰岛素抵抗,可致糖脂代谢紊乱。糖原周转是最新发现的一种脂肪组织代谢途径,可促进白色脂肪棕色化,调节机体产热和能量消耗,从而改善代谢。中土不运,清浊失常是肥胖、糖尿病等糖脂代谢紊乱疾病的常见病机,斡旋中土枢机以调和阴阳为主要治则。中土调运则精微得以正化,消减膏浊之积。黄连在代谢性疾病的治疗中应用广泛,其气寒味苦,行“中土之制”而清中土湿热浊邪痞结,配伍组方常围绕“中土之制”,从“辛开苦降”“苦寒直折”及“寒热并用”等展开。

关键词:黄连;“中土之制”;脂肪组织;糖脂代谢;辛开苦降;苦寒直折;寒热并用

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Regulation Effect of Rhizoma Coptidis on Glucose and Lipid Metabolism in
Adipose Tissue Based on "Zhong Tu Zhi Zhi"

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Abstract: "Zhong Tu", as the core of the human body metabolism, is mainly responsible for transporting the diet, ascending the clear Qi and reducing the turbid Qi. Adipose tissue is one of the important organs that regulate the metabolism of the body, and its physiology and pathology are closely related to the transport and transformation of "Zhong Tu". Excess energy causes lipid deposition, excessive hypertrophy of adipose tissue, secondary lipolysis and insulin resistance, which can lead to disorders of glucose and lipid metabolism. Glycogen turnover is a newly discovered metabolic pathway of adipose tissue, which can promote the browning of white fat, regulate heat production and energy consumption, and improve metabolism. The common pathogenesis of glucose and lipid metabolism disorders such as obesity and diabetes is "Zhong Tu Bu Yun". The main treatment principle should be to mediate "Zhong Tu" cardinals to reconcile Yin and Yang as well as clear Qi and turbid Qi. On the other hand, in the fine transportation the function of "Zhong Tu" can be rectified and the accumulation of ointment and turbidity can be reduced. Huanglian (coptis chinensis) is widely used in the treatment of metabolic diseases. With bitter taste and cold character, it practices "Zhong Tu Zhi Zhi" by clearing the dampness, heat, turbid and lump. Therefore, the in drugs compatibility and prescription organization are often based on it, from "Xin Kai Ku Jiang" to "Ku Han Zhi Zhe" and "Han Re Bing Yong" and so on.

Key words: Huanglian (coptis chinensis); "Zhong Tu Zhi Zhi"; adipose tissue; glucose and lipid metabolism; "Xin Kai Ku Jiang"; "Ku Han Zhi Zhe"; "Han Re Bing Yong"

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脂肪组织具备强大的储能及内分泌功能^[1],是胰岛素的主要靶器官之一,其糖脂代谢失调是肥胖、高脂血症、2型糖尿病等代谢性疾病重要的病理基础^[2]。随着当前饮食结构及生活习惯变化,以内脏脂肪堆积为主的腹型肥胖患病率迅速升高^[3],显著增加2型糖尿病及心血管事件风险^[4]。近年来,针对脂肪组织代谢的研究取得了一定进展,其中白色脂肪棕色化对改善代谢紊乱作用突出^[5],可使能量由储存向消耗转变。中医药治疗代谢性疾病具有显著优势及特色,早在《黄帝内经》中便有对肥满、消渴等病症的记载。中土为受纳腐熟水谷之场所,脾胃升降关乎精微输布与糟粕排泄,故改善代谢异常应重视对中土脾胃的辨治。黄连乃主入中土、清湿热之要药,纳旺形盛之实证尤宜用之,《本草述钩元》论黄连具“中土之制”。本文尝试探讨中土与脂肪组织对机体代谢的影响及二者的关联,并围绕中土运化及脂肪组织糖脂代谢阐释黄连“中土之制”的中医临床应用及科学内涵。

1 中土运化与脂肪组织糖脂代谢

1.1 中土壅滞或可表现为脂肪组织过度肥大及糖脂代谢紊乱 脾胃者,仓廪也,居中属土,中央土以灌四傍。尤在泾《医学读书记》言:“土具冲和之德而为生物之本。”饮食水谷,受纳在胃而运化在脾。正如《四圣心源》所云:“中气旺则胃降而善纳,脾升而善磨,水谷腐熟,精气滋生,所以无病。”中土脾胃升降运化,纳饮食水谷之精微,并散精输布周身。精微之质厚重者属阴,化精血濡养脏腑,转为人之实体形质;质轻清者属阳,调动气机升降出入,推动人之生长收藏。人体脂肪组织的功能在此两方面有所体现:占比最高的白色脂肪组织(white adipose tissue, WAT)可贮存剩余营养物质,起到能量缓冲的作用,类似形质之阴者;棕色脂肪组织(brown adipose tissue, BAT)占比较少,因具备大量线粒体,可在寒冷环境中耗能产热维持体温,类似清阳之用。脂肪组织能量储耗平衡对糖脂代谢稳态具有重要作用^[6]。肝脏与骨骼肌的能量代谢通量很大程度上由脂肪组织协调^[7]。因而,脂肪组织的正常代谢在一定程度上反映中土脏腑之有序升降。

若饮食失节,馨饪之邪壅滞中土,脾胃升降失司,清气不升,停而成浊,膏浊堆积,则致肥满。《灵枢·卫气失常》曰:“膏者,多气而皮纵缓,故能纵腹垂腴”,膏人是《黄帝内经》对于肥胖人群的分类之一,饮食痰浊蕴结中焦,则腹膨隆突出,浊邪蕴久化热伤津,变生消渴。《素问·奇病论》言:“此肥美之所发也,此人必甘美而多肥也。肥者令人内热,甘者令人中满,故其气上溢,转为消渴。”此病机变化

亦可反映在脂肪组织功能异常上。当机体能量摄入超过所需, WAT 贮存过剩能量,脂肪积于腹部及内脏引起腹型肥胖, WAT 过度肥大,引起脂肪组织胰岛素敏感性下降并活化巨噬细胞,促进 WAT 脂解,释放大游离脂肪酸及甘油进入循环,导致“脂毒性”,可致肝脏脂质合成及糖异生增加、肌肉脂质沉积并损伤胰岛β细胞,引起糖脂代谢异常^[8-9]。研究表明,破坏脂肪细胞胰岛素信号元件可引起全身胰岛素敏感性下降^[10]。脂肪组织功能影响全身胰岛素敏感性和代谢疾病的易感性。

1.2 促进脂肪组织棕色化与建运中土的关系 在寒冷等刺激下, WAT 中出现散在棕色样脂肪细胞,即米色脂肪细胞^[11],这一改变称为 WAT 棕色化。米色脂肪细胞与 BAT 功能相似,以非战栗产热为主,具有丰富线粒体并表达线粒体解偶联蛋白 1 (UCP1),促进脂质及葡萄糖摄取进行能量代谢^[12],从而减轻 WAT 过度肥大及脂解,改善糖脂代谢的作用,是治疗肥胖、糖尿病等代谢性疾病的重要靶点之一^[13]。最新研究表明,脂肪组织中存在一种新的能量代谢途径与糖原的储存和消耗有关,糖原周转水平越高,代谢过程越强,燃烧脂肪越快,为代谢性疾病提供了新的潜在治疗靶点,并发现白色脂肪组织中有序的糖原周转可能通过维持 ROS 稳态并激活 p38MAPK/PGC1α,从而增加 UCP1 表达以促进 WAT 棕色化^[14]。

WAT 棕色化提示脂肪组织由能量贮存过剩转变为能量的调动与利用,多余的能量以热量消耗,类似于中医阴浊由聚至散,进而生清消浊,转阴为阳的过程^[15]。而这一能量的变化可由脂肪组织中动态有序的糖原周转调动,具有中医由静转动、动而生阳的变化特点,如张景岳《类经》云:“阳动而散,故化气,阴静而宁,故成形”。由静转动、由阴转阳的关键在于斡旋中土气机,中土运化有赖脾胃升降和合,以布散精微、通降糟粕,《临证指南医案》言:“脾宜升则健,胃宜降则和”。肥胖、2型糖尿病等代谢性疾病初期以饮食失节之痰湿热实证为主^[16-17],欲调畅中土则应治以祛邪化浊调气,结合脾胃特点灵活应用润燥、升降、寒热、攻补之法^[18],以复中土健运,使气化如常,则浊邪散、清阳升。

2 黄连“中土之制”治疗代谢性疾病的作用

2.1 黄连“中土之制”之本草释意 黄连气寒味苦,味厚气薄,乃主中焦清湿热之要药。陶弘景《本草经集注》言黄连“主治热气”“止消渴”且“调胃厚肠”。张元素《珍珠囊》言黄连“除脾胃中湿热,治烦躁恶心,郁热在中焦,兀兀欲吐,心下痞满,必用药也”。清代医家杨时泰在明末儒医刘若金所著《本

草述》基础上删辑而成《本草述钩元》，总结性提出黄连“中土之制”这一特点：“黄连本寒水至阴气味，而色象与告成之时，俱归中土……有节色黄，中土之制……主治郁热在中，烦躁消渴，或兀兀欲吐，心下痞满。”结合历代本草，黄连主“中土之制”的含义首先体现在黄连的自然特征，其花果及根色俱黄，取象比类，应中土之气；再者，体现在其主治功效，因黄连味苦而厚，气寒而降，性冷而燥，可使湿除火退，长于祛湿热，可清中焦郁热、散中土痞结，祛浊邪、止消渴、厚肠胃。然中土薄弱、气血虚损者慎用之。《神农本草经疏》言：“黄连味大苦，气大寒，群草中清肃之物。故祛邪散热，荡涤肠胃，肃清神明，是其性之所长；而于补益精血，温养元气，则其功泊如也。”

2.2 黄连“中土之制”之配伍应用 历代医家多有使用黄连配伍组方辨治痞满、泄泻、腹痛等中土失和之症者，《伤寒杂病论》中有十余方使用黄连。黄连的配伍可有效改善糖脂代谢，对于改善肥胖、2型糖尿病、代谢综合征等代谢性疾病临床疗效显著。

2.2.1 辛开苦降，消散中土痞结 邪气结于中土，多为痰湿热结或寒热错杂，而生痞满、结胸、伏梁等病症，常以辛散之品配伍黄连苦泄之性，如半夏、瓜蒌、枳实等，升降相因，调复中土气机。《临证指南医案》云：“苦降能驱热除湿，辛通能开气宣浊。”代表方剂有小陷胸汤、黄连温胆汤、半夏泻心汤等。邢颖等^[19]通过数据挖掘，分析2 943例2型糖尿病患者处方用药规律，发现黄连使用频率最高，且以“辛开苦降”为主要配伍模式。临床试验表明，黄连温胆汤对改善代谢综合征患者血脂紊乱、糖代谢异常以及肥胖具有显著作用^[20]。

2.2.2 苦寒清解，直折中土火热 若中土火热炽盛，常以苦寒清热之品配伍黄连，以肃清中土郁热，常选黄芩、栀子清热解郁。如大黄黄连泻心汤，主治无形邪热壅聚于中焦而致气机痞塞之“热痞”；黄连解毒汤，宜治三焦火热；或配生地、牡丹皮清热凉血，如清胃散，主胃火牙痛。符绩军等^[21]使用黄连解毒汤联合低热量饮食干预新诊断2型糖尿病患者98例，较对照组可改善肥胖并控制血糖。邹志强等^[22]在西医综合治疗基础上联合大黄黄连泻心汤干预火热证2型糖尿病患者106例，较对照组可改善血糖水平及胰岛功能。

2.2.3 寒热并用，调和中土阴阳 黄连性苦寒，若遇脾胃虚弱或夹寒邪者，可配伍干姜、人参、甘草，寒热并举，攻补兼施，佐制偏胜之害，如干姜黄芩黄连人参汤及半夏泻心汤等，主中土寒热错杂之呕逆；再合桂枝，则成黄连汤，取其辛散温通，配合黄连解中土邪郁以止腹中痛^[23]，适宜代谢性疾病由实转虚阶段中脾虚胃热证者^[24]，此时疾病或已传变至并发症期。

陈玉甜等^[25]以干姜黄芩黄连人参汤治疗寒热错杂型糖尿病胃轻瘫患者64例，观察组较对照组胃排空率明显升高，患者空腹及餐后2 h血糖水平显著降低。

恰如《本草思辨录》谈黄连之配伍：“其制剂之道，或配以大黄芍药之泄；或配半夏栝蒌实之宣；或配以干姜附子之温；或配以阿胶鸡子黄之濡；或配以人参甘草之补；因证制宜，所以能收苦燥之益而无苦燥之弊也。”临证详加辨别，行黄连“中土之制”，祛邪安正，调运中土，清升浊降，机体代谢自可运转如常。

3 黄连治疗代谢性疾病的潜在机制

黄连凭其冷燥之性，祛中土浊邪痞结，而行“中土之制”以调中土运化，其配伍组方以调中土治疗代谢性疾病疗效确切。前文论述了脂肪组织糖脂代谢的生理病理特点与中土运化的联系，依据现代药理学研究，脂肪组织亦是黄连发挥其改善代谢作用的重要靶标之一。通过对当前研究结果的探讨，在“中土之制”的传统内涵基础上进一步延伸其可能的科学内涵。

3.1 黄连可促进脂肪组织棕色化及糖脂代谢 诸多研究报告了黄连及其主要生物碱成分，如黄连碱、小檗碱、表小檗碱等具有降低实验动物血脂、血糖及脂肪组织质量的作用^[26-28]。Kwon等^[29]观察发现，黄连乙醇提取物可以降低肥胖小鼠胰岛素抵抗及血脂，抑制附睾脂肪组织脂质积累及巨噬细胞炎症。有关黄连主要提取物小檗碱的研究较为丰富，其对于治疗2型糖尿病、肥胖、高脂血症等代谢性疾病具有可靠的安全性及有效性^[30-31]。具体作用机制上，小檗碱可抑制脂肪组织的脂肪生成^[32]、炎症^[33]、纤维化^[34]及自噬^[35]等，针对脂肪组织能量代谢，小檗碱可升高小鼠腹股沟WAT中UCP1表达水平并诱导WAT棕色化^[36]，促进脂肪组织重塑和产热，可通过激活AMPK/SIRT1提高PPAR γ 去乙酰化水平^[37]，或介导AMPK/PRDM16^[38]实现。由此可见，黄连可通过改善脂肪组织功能，促进能量代谢，干预高热量饮食引起的体重增加及糖脂代谢异常。

3.2 黄连可调控糖原代谢 糖原是机体重要的储能形式之一，糖原周转指糖原合成与分解的动态过程^[39]，受高度有序的酶调节，合成途径主要受糖原合酶(glycogen synthase, GS)催化，分解途径主要受糖原磷酸化酶(glycogen phosphorylase, GP)调控，GS与GP活性受相反的磷酸化效应调控^[40-41]。研究表明，黄连对于肝脏糖原代谢具有显著作用，小檗碱可增加高糖培养的小鼠正常肝细胞中的糖原含量^[42]，黄连干预T2DM大鼠可显著降低葡萄糖-6-磷酸酶和GP的活性，显著增加磷酸果糖激酶和GS活性，促进肝脏糖原生成，从而降低血糖^[43]。

本研究组既往研究使用以黄连为君药的中药复方提取物干预饮食诱导的肥胖 C57BL/6J 小鼠,发现该方可改善糖脂代谢紊乱,同时增加腹股沟 WAT (iWAT) 线粒体数目、上调 UCP1 表达。值得注意的是,在糖原染色切片下观察到,中药干预组 iWAT 中糖原表达较模型组显著升高。相较肝脏及骨骼肌,脂肪组织中的糖原水平偏低,但具有相当的代谢活性及生理意义^[44]。早期研究发现,在禁食后重新进食 WAT 中可出现短暂糖原峰值^[45],且糖原动态调节可促进 BAT 分化^[46],且 BAT 较 WAT 含有更多糖原。Keinan 等^[14]通过基因敲除糖原靶向蛋白及抑制 GP 活性阻断糖原周转,发现 UCP1 表达及能量消耗明显降低,证明了糖原在脂肪组织代谢中的重要作用。因此,糖原代谢作为黄连已知的作用靶标,可能与黄连促进脂肪组织代谢的机制相关。

3.3 黄连促进 WAT 棕色化可能与糖原周转下游通路活性氧(reactive oxygen species, ROS)/p38 丝裂原活化蛋白激酶(p38MAPK) 相关 Keinan 等进一步研究发现,糖原周转可通过产生 ROS 激活 p38MAPK,最终提高 UCP1 表达^[14]。ROS 是线粒体呼吸链的副产物,糖原分解释放 1-磷酸葡萄糖,为脂肪细胞糖酵解提供主要底物,一定量的 ROS 是细胞内重要的信号分子,ROS 可介导 p38MAPK^[47]驱动 BAT 中 UCP1 表达及产热^[48]。p38MAPK 磷酸化 cAMP 反应元件结合蛋白、激活转录因子 2 和过氧化物酶体增殖物激活受体 γ 共激活因子 1 α ,诱导 UCP1 转录^[49]。同时 UCP1 升高可抑制 ROS 产生^[50],从而维持 ROS 平衡,避免 ROS 过多引起氧化应激损伤线粒体功能^[51]。

黄连在多种疾病中调节 ROS,黄连提取物木兰花碱在胃癌细胞中高度诱导 ROS 以促进自噬及凋亡^[52],黄连乙醇提取物也可通过提高 Hep3B 细胞中的 ROS 水平、促进线粒体介导的细胞凋亡,从而起到抗癌作用^[53]。而小檗碱则通过减少主动脉内皮细胞中的 ROS,改善内皮功能障碍预防动脉硬化^[54]。小檗碱还可介导 Akt/ASK1/ROS/p38MAPKs 诱导 HepG2 细胞凋亡^[55],而另一种黄连主要提取物四氢帕马丁则通过抑制 p38MAPK/NF- κ B/iNOS 改善神经性疼痛和减轻神经炎症反应^[56]。以上研究提示了黄连影响 ROS 平衡及 p38MAPK 的可能性。结合黄连对糖原的调控及脂肪组织能量代谢的干预作用进行推测,调控脂肪组织糖原周转并影响其下游 ROS/p38MAPK 通路,可能是黄连促进 WAT 棕色化、改善脂肪组织糖脂代谢的潜在机制之一。

4 结语

综上,中医在治疗肥胖、2 型糖尿病等代谢性疾

病方面常以调运中土为则,运用黄连配伍治疗代谢性疾病疗效显著。黄连清中土湿热浊邪以行“中土之制”,推动脾胃升降,调和动静阴阳,可引静为动,消阴浊而生清阳。脂肪组织功能对机体代谢影响显著,与中土运化功能息息相关。研究表明,脂肪组织是黄连发挥改善代谢作用的主要靶标之一,其中促进 WAT 棕色化产热耗能是黄连改善糖脂代谢的重要机制,也是黄连发挥“中土之制”改善代谢紊乱的药理机制之一。最新研究提出,脂肪组织中有序的糖原周转可激活棕色化脂肪。诸多研究观察发现了黄连对糖原代谢的调节作用,据此探讨并推测,黄连可能通过调节脂肪组织糖原周转促进糖脂代谢,具有一定深入研究价值。

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