〈女性正常月經週期〉

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 - 。 單排卵物種
 - 。 濾泡波動動力學

 - 。 子宮內膜
 - 。 月經

摘要

女性月經週期變異度高,週期長 26-35 天,行經約 5 天;排卵日前 5 天至排卵當日為可孕期。生育力隨週期長度與年齡而異,且整體不高。所有女性在黃體期-濾泡期交界皆出現 FSH 上升,促使濾泡群生長並在早期濾泡期分泌 inhibin B;排卵優勢濾泡(DF)於中期濾泡期被選定,隨其生長,排卵前一週持續增加雌二醇與 inhibin A 的分泌。

濾泡對促性腺激素之反應性、IGF 結合蛋白表達與降解、以及血管生成,皆對 DF 的選擇與後續發展至關重要。三分之二女性每個週期呈現 2 個濾泡波,另 三分之一呈現 3 個。具 3 波者週期較長,雌二醇上升與 LH 高峰較晚。 黃體在 LH 脈衝刺激下分泌黃體酮、雌二醇與 inhibin A,並於排卵後 6-7 天 達到大小、分泌與血管化之高峰。黃體退化為被動過程,與子宮無關,但在受 孕 8 天後可被胚胎絨毛膜分泌之 hCG 阻止。

系統性類固醇與蛋白激素濃度下降,可能造成圍絕經期女性 FSH 升高。子宮內膜之功能層受類固醇激素調控而增生、分化,若無胚胎著床則脫落。月經由對黃體酮具反應之蜕膜細胞啟動,透過 PGE 與 PGF2α、血管收縮與白血球分泌基質金屬蛋白酶而執行。

卵巢功能及週期內激素波動與牛、馬之發情週期相似,顯示在單排卵物種中比較研究具有價值。

1. 引言

女性月經週期由內分泌、自分泌及旁分泌因子嚴密控制,調節卵巢濾泡發育、排卵、黃體化、黃體退化以及子宮內膜重塑。儘管女性與大型家畜共享基本的生殖過程,但週期特徵、調控面向與研究焦點差異甚大。例如,青春期後女孩常見週期不規則與不排卵(Golden & Carlson, 2008),而在育種動物中此情形則不可接受;在女性研究中,生殖老化導致的生育力降低是重要議題,而家畜通常不在高齡時繁殖。

然而,人畜生殖生理學家仍有共同關注點:(1)精確偵測排卵時點;(2)了解生育力決定因素。對人類生殖醫學而言,第一點為重大挑戰,因高等靈長類之排卵「隱蔽」,且行經並不必然代表正常排卵(Buffet 等,1998; Harlow,2000)。第二點對家畜經濟效益及野生動物保育皆關鍵;於人類,則關乎心理層面的不孕議題。透過深入了解女性月經週期,可釐清卵巢及子宮功能之保守機制。本文將討論「正常月經週期、發情(estrus)與生育力」;綜述濾泡與黃體功能;說明類固醇驅動之子宮內膜增生、分化與月經脫落;並探討「正常老化」的影響。

2. 月經週期

教科書式週期:健康、具生育力女性 19-42 歲之超音波與荷爾蒙研究顯示, 月經週期 28 天,濾泡期 14.6 天,黃體期 13.6 天 (Ecochard & Gougeon, 2000)。然而實際上:

- 1. **週期長度高度變異**: 25-34 天皆屬常見(Bakos 等, 1994; Harlow, 2000)。
- 2. **週期隨年齡改變**:見 Fig. 1——35 歲後週期縮短,變異增大,且青春初期與圍絕經期常見長週期與不規則出血(Golden & Carlson, 2008; Harlow, 2000)。
- 3. **濾泡期與黃體期皆可變**: 濾泡期 10-23 天,黃體期 7-19 天;僅 10%的 28 天週期女性具有「14 天濾泡期 + 14 天黃體期」(Harlow, 2000; Wilcox 等, 2000)。週期長度變異主要來自濾泡期(Waller 等, 1998)。
- **4. 無排卵比例**:在 25-39 歲、週期長度正常女性中近 7%,青春期與圍絕 經期更高 (Harlow, 2000)。

月經出血:80% 有排卵女性行經 3-6 天(範圍 2-12 天),次日出血最重,平均失血 33.2 ml(10-84 ml)。35 歲後行經日數減少約 0.5 天;50 歲失血量較年輕女性多 6 ml(Harlow, 2000)。行經特徵可能隨地區、族群、社經地位而異。

3. 發情(Oestrus)

女性具**「可孕性行為」(fertile sexuality) **——即發情期,出現在濾泡期末雌二醇上升、排卵前;與之相對,排卵後為「延伸性行為」(extended sexuality) (Gangestad & Thornhill, 2008)。在可孕期,女性對具陽剛特質與基因優勢之男性更具吸引力,對長期伴侶相容性(如財務成功等)的評分不受週期影響。 男性能透過生理(氣味)或行為線索偵測女性發情(Gangestad & Thornhill,

2008; Miller 等, 2007)。氣味線索亦可導致女性宿舍、姊妹或母女間之月經同步(Weller & Weller, 1993)。可能由可孕期分泌之 5α-androst-16-en-3α-ol 氣味減少 LH 脈衝所致(Morofushi 等, 2000; Shinohara 等, 2000)。是否透過延遲排卵達成同步,仍待同時量測費洛蒙、荷爾蒙與超音波以確認。

4. 生育力

計畫懷孕之年輕女性(平均 31 歲)單一週期懷孕率低:首二週期僅 25-30%,且自發性流產率高(hCG 短暫升高)達 31%(Small 等,2006)。最高受孕概率位於排卵前 1 天;然可孕窗共 6 天:排卵前 5 天至排卵當日(Wilcox 等,1995)。因濾泡期變異大,排卵可發生在行經第 4 天或距前次月經 3 週。 黃體期不具受孕可能。

30 與 31 天之前次週期,加上本週期 5 天行經者懷孕率最高,可能與 DF 品質及內膜功能有關(Small 等, 2006)。

低懷孕率可能因以下原因:

- 20-40 歲規律月經女性中,**黃體期缺陷**與雌二醇低下佔 40% (Dal 等, 2005)。
- 早期懷孕流失估計 22% (Small 等, 2006),與上述缺陷及卵巢、子宮血流受損相關。
- 生殖高齡(37 歲起)週期縮短(Fig. 1)及黃體缺陷增多,導致生育力下降(van Zonneveld 等, 2003)。

5. 濾泡動力學

女性與牛、馬均為**單排卵物種**(Fig. 2; Ginther 等, 2001)。

- **優勢濾泡 (DF)**: 於週期第 3 天、直徑 6 mm 時出現 (排卵後 11-12 天; Ginther 等, 2004)。
- **偏離點 (Deviation)**: 3-4 天後,濾泡達 10 mm (排卵前 1 週)起,DF 大於同批其他濾泡,後者將萎縮 (Baerwald 等, 2003b; Ginther 等, 2001, 2004)。
- 功能性 DF:第 5 天出現卵巢靜脈雌二醇非對稱分泌(Chikazawa 等, 1986)。
- DF 來源卵巢左右無偏好,也無左右交替規律(Baerwald 等, 2003a; Ecochard & Gougeon, 2000)。

濾泡波(Follicle waves):類似牛、馬;除最終一波外,其他波通常不產生 DF (Fig. 3)。

- 68% 女性每週期 2 波 (排卵日 DO 與 D14); 32% 有 3 波 (DO、 D12、D18) (Baerwald 等, 2003b)。
- 只有最後一波形成 ovulatory DF:於排卵後 D19(2 波)或 D22(3
 波)被選定,並在 22 mm(2 波)或 21 mm(3 波)時排卵(Baerwald)

等,2003b)。

• 3 波女性週期較長(29 天),但黃體期相似(Baerwald 等,2003b,2005)。波動模式是否固定、與生育力或年齡相關仍待研究。

青春期:17 歲少女平均週期 29.5 天,DF 於行經後第 9 天選定,距排卵約 5 天, 16 天 (Cabral & de Medeiros, 2007)。

生殖高齡: DF 在黃體期更早選定,生長期縮短、大小較小,整體濾泡期縮短 (Ecochard & Gougeon, 2000; Klein 等, 2002; Santoro 等, 2003; van Zonneveld 等, 2003)。

雙排卵:女性發生率 4%,低於馬(20%)與牛(<10%);雙卵孕多為雙胞胎, 西方發生率 1.6%(Ginther 等,2004; Baerwald 等,2005; Mihm & Evans, 2008; 英國衛生部統計)。雙胞胎增加與營養、基因、吸菸、停用避孕藥等因素 相關,自 1970 年代後增加多因高齡生育與輔助生殖技術(Hoekstra 等, 2008)。

〈女性正常月經週期(續)—第 **6-12** 節繁體中文翻譯〉 M. Mihm 等(2011)《Animal Reproduction Science 124: 229-236》

6 内分泌變化:促性腺激素 FSH 與 LH

如同牛與馬,在女性也可見**濾泡波生長、優勢濾泡(DF)選擇與 FSH 濃度**之間的緊密功能聯結(Ginther et al., 2001)。

- **FSH 高峰**:自黃體期—濾泡期交界開始上升,約在月經來潮前 4 天便啟動(Figs. 2、3; Miro & Aspinall, 2005)。
- FSH 在 **DF 波出現當日**達最高,隨後於濾泡期(第 5-13 天)緩降,至 排卵前最低(Ginther et al., 2005; van Santbrink et al., 1995)。
- 每當**次要或主要濾泡波**浮現,也可偵測到小幅 FSH 升高(Baerwald et al., 2003b; Ginther et al., 2005)。

生殖高齡女性: FSH 基準值較高,且在黃體期更早升高(van Zonneveld et al., 2003),伴隨濾泡群較早湧現及 DF 較早選定(Klein et al., 2002; Santoro et al., 2003)。FSH 升高亦與**濾泡期縮短**相關(Miro & Aspinall, 2005)。雖然 FSH 受體基因突變可影響 FSH 及週期特性,卻未改變雙排卵之發生率(Greb et al., 2005; Hoekstra et al., 2008);其對濾泡波動力學之影響仍待釐清。

LH 高峰(排卵前峯):

- 垂體-卵巢軸成熟需至青春期中-後期方能誘發 LH 峰 (Park et al., 2002)。
- 促發 LH 峰的急劇**雌二醇上升**僅發生於濾泡期,且或需黃體酮與 GnRH 脈衝預先「定錨」。在 2 波女性中 LH 峰比 3 波女性早 1 天 (Fig. 2)。
- LH 峯前 12-40 小時出現小幅黃體酮上升,此舉對 LH 峰的啟動必不可少(Buffet et al., 1998; Hoff et al., 1983)。

- **LH 峯持續 48-54 小時**,在約 **14** 小時達最高。峰期間雌二醇下降而黃體酮持續升高(Fritz et al., **1992**)。
- 峯起至排卵間隔約 38 小時;而排卵恒於雌二醇峰後 24-36 小時發生,故尿 LH/雌二醇/黃體酮代謝物常用於市售排卵試紙(Park et al., 2002)。

GnRH/LH 脈衝:

- 濾泡期:每 60-90 分鐘一次。
- LH 峯:振幅與頻率皆增,高達每 15-20 分鐘一次。
- 黃體期中後期:因黃體酮高峯,脈衝降至每 3-4 小時一次,振幅增加。
- 黄體期末黃體酮下降時, LH 脈衝頻率可增加 4 倍(Hall et al., 1992)。

能量負平衡(如厭食症) \rightarrow LH 脈衝減少、DF 萎縮、無排卵——牛與女性皆然(Diskin et al., 2003;Meczekalski et al., 2008)。反之,在青春期不規則週期或多囊卵巢症候群(PCOS)中可見 LH 脈衝增加、但 DF 選擇失常(Minan et al., 1999)。圍絕經期女性則呈 FSH 先升、之後 LH 平均值上升、LH 脈衝頻率降低、對雌二醇誘導之 LH 峯反應減弱(Park et al., 2002)。

7 卵巢内分泌功能:濾泡與黃體分泌

雌二醇:

- 濾泡期開始於 DF 浮現後上升, DF 被選定後上升速率加快; 2 波女性 較 3 波者上升更早(Baerwald et al., 2003b)。
- 排卵後雌二醇在黃體中期(排卵後 7-9 天)再度升高,之後下降——源於黃體分泌,與早期波動無關(Muttukrishna et al., 1994, 2002)。

黃體酮:在排卵前 2 天即於卵巢靜脈非對稱上升,源自 DF(Chikazawa et al., 1986)。

- 黃體於排卵後 4 天直徑、組織面積增加;排卵後 6 天黃體酮達峯,之後遞減至行經(Baerwald et al., 2005)。
- 黃體面積與血中黃體酮、雌二醇以及血流量成正比(Bourne et al., 1996)。

抑制素 / Activin 系統:

- Inhibin A (α+βA): LH 依賴, DF 選定後與雌二醇同步升高;排卵後下降,然因黃體分泌於排卵後 4–6 天再達一峯(Muttukrishna et al., 1994, 2002)。
- Inhibin B (α+βB): 於黃體—濾泡交界升升高,行經後第 5 天達峯,反映 FSH 促之濾泡群;故為小濾泡數量與健康度指標 (Laven & Fauser, 2004)。
- Activin A (βA+βA)於黃體後半期升高,於 early follicular 期下降, midfollicular 期再與雌二醇、Inhibin A 一起上升(Muttukrishna et al., 1996)。

- **Follistatin**(activin 結合蛋白)在整個週期無顯著變動(Muttukrishna et al., 2004)。
- → 綜合來看,**活化素上升**、黃體酮與雌二醇下降,以及 Inhibin A/B 減少(反映小濾泡減少),皆導致生殖高齡女性 FSH 升高(Mersereau et al., 2008)。

AMH:源自前、少數胞濾泡;與 Day 3 Inhibin B 正相關,於濾泡耗竭至停經前逐漸降至不可測(van Rooij et al., 2005)。

8 DF 選擇、排卵與濾泡閉鎖的分子調控

在人、牛、馬, DF 選擇的關鍵機制包括:

- 1. 調控促性腺激素反應:上調 LH 受體、下調 FSH 受體。
- 2. 增加游離 IGF:降低小分子量 IGF 結合蛋白,增加其專一性蛋白酶 PAPP-A。
- 3. **促血管新生**:提升 VEGF 表達與功能,改善血流(Fraser & Duncan, 2005;Jokubkiene et al., 2006a;Mihm & Evans, 2008)。

目前關於 DF 選擇階段之轉錄體研究多來自牛模型。

9 黄體功能、退化與胚胎救援之分子面向

- 與大型家畜不同,黃體對 LH 依賴性貫穿整個黃體期;黃體細胞分泌甾體、前列腺素、細胞激素等(Niswender et al., 2000)。
- **黃體退化**:與子宮無關;主因為黃體對 LH 敏感度下降,而非 LH pulsatility 減少 (Messinis et al., 2009)。
- hCG 救援:受精後第 8 天起,胚胎絨毛膜分泌 hCG,作用於 LH 受 體,維持黃體、促進血管新生、抵抗 PGF2α (del Canto et al., 2007)。

10 動態子宮內膜

子宮內膜每月在**增生期(濾泡期)、分泌期(黃體期)與行經**間循環。

- 功能層:增生、分泌、脫落——亦為胚胎著床處。
- 基底層:負責行經後再生。
- 雌二醇→ 促增生;黃體酮→ 抑制增生、促分化。
- VEGF 介導血管改建,對白血球移入、血管收縮重要(Jabbour et al., 2006)。
- 超音波:內膜厚度於濾泡期遞增,排卵前達峯,然後降低(Alcazar, 2006)。2 波女性因雌二醇較早上升,內膜增厚亦較早(Baerwald & Pierson, 2004)。

11 月經機制

月經始於黃體退化後的黃體酮下降。

1. 啟動相:

- 蜕膜化的間質細胞對黃體酮下降反應→ 產生 $PGE_2 \setminus PGF_2\alpha$;
- 。 白血球浸潤;
- 。 螺旋動脈收縮;
- 。 VEGF 表達。
- 2. 不可逆相:白血球分泌基質金屬蛋白酶(MMP)分解細胞外基質。
- 3. 功能層剝離;基底層產生凝血酶止血,同步進行再生(Jabbour et al., 2006)。

12 結論

相較於家畜,女性生殖呈:

- 週期長度與排卵時間變異大;
- 單周期受孕率低;
- 缺乏排卵外顯徵候;
- 生育力自 30 歲後加速下降。

然而,女性與牛、馬之**單排卵週期機制**高度相似,提供跨種比較研究之契機。 反之,女性在人類生殖老化、AMH應用、FSH/LH受體突變等方面的研究也可 反饋給動物科學。

註:本文翻譯忠實呈現原文第 6-12 節內容,並保留核心學術術語,以利後續學術引用。

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