

## 癌气概念的提出与临床意义

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**摘 要:** 中医温病学领域杂气病因学说与天人合一观是提出癌气概念的文献依据; 恶性肿瘤基因学发病机制和现代中医提出的“癌毒学说”与“扶正抑癌学说”是提出癌气概念的临床依据。癌气是人体杂气中之最强者; 在健康人体, 癌气受正气制约, 为正气所用, 是正气的组成部分。任何原因造成正气衰弱, 失于对癌气的制约, 癌气则逆作作疫, 导致恶性肿瘤的发生。恶性肿瘤的治疗应以促邪归正为原则, 采用扶正与攻毒并施的治法, 促使失制的癌气重新回归正气, 被正气制约; 促邪归正治疗原则与现代医学中诱导治疗思想暗合。

**关键词:** 肿瘤 杂气 癌气 癌毒 促邪归正 诱导

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根据天人合一的哲学观点, 将中医杂气病因学与恶性肿瘤基因学发病机制相结合, 笔者提出了癌气概念。通过癌气概念可以对恶性肿瘤的病因和发病做出新的解释, 提出新的治疗原则。撰文与同道商榷, 以期为恶性肿瘤的中医治疗提供新的研究思路。

## 1 癌气概念的提出依据

### 1.1 文献依据

杂气概念始自明末清初吴有性所著《温疫论》中的“杂气论”。吴氏指出杂气是引起传染病的病因, 为许多致病因素的统称, 有别于其他六气, “非风、非寒、非暑、非湿”, “乃天地间别有一种异气”, “无形、无象、无声、无臭”, “其来无时, 其着无方”, 可导致众人生病, “其气各异, 故谓之杂气”, 其中致病力特别强的又称为疫气、疠气或戾气<sup>[1]</sup>。由吴氏首倡的杂气病因学是温病学领域最重要的病因学说之一, 促进了温病学在近代的发展<sup>[2]</sup>。

“天人合一”是中医的哲学基础。《素问·气交变大论》曰“善言天者, 必应于地……善言气者, 必彰于物”; 《素问·宝命全形论》曰“夫人生于地, 悬命于天, 天地合气, 命之曰人”; 这些论述均反映了中医天人合一的哲学观念。天地人既然为一体, 天地有杂气, 人体也应有杂气; 天地之杂气失制可以导致疫病流行, 人体之杂气应也可以在体内引发疾病, 二者具有相似性。

### 1.2 病理生理依据

基因学研究证实, 恶性肿瘤的发病与癌基因和抑癌基因密切相关。正常细胞内存在原癌基因, 以非激活形式存在, 参与细胞的生长代谢, 对细胞的增殖、分化等生命活动起正性调节作用。原癌基因一旦被激活便成为癌基因, 会引起细胞癌变。抑癌基因与原癌基因一样也是细胞内正常的基因, 其表达产物对细胞增殖、分化起负性调节作用。抑癌基因一旦失活, 即有可能导致细胞失控性增长<sup>[3]</sup>。近年来的研究还发现, 单个癌基因转化正常细胞的能力有限, 有

些恶性肿瘤的发生除需癌基因激活外, 还需抑癌基因失活或丢失<sup>[4]</sup>。

按照正气与杂气的辩证关系, 杂气受正气制约, 如果将原癌基因与癌基因定义为杂气的物质基础, 则抑癌基因可被定义为正气的物质基础, 因原癌基因被激活为癌基因及抑癌基因的失活或丢失导致细胞发生癌变, 就可以被解释为正气失去对杂气的制约能力, 杂气脱离正气控制, 变逆为疫气, 导致内生疫病的过程。其中的杂气与原癌基因和癌基因相关, 是恶性肿瘤发病的物质基础, 可称癌气。

### 1.3 临床依据

癌毒是近年来出现的新概念, 基于癌毒概念的提出, 中医临床开始重视采用以毒攻毒的治法, 使用像蜈蚣、蟾酥、斑蝥和砒石等毒性药物治疗恶性肿瘤, 并取得了一定的疗效<sup>[5-8]</sup>。尽管不同的医家对癌毒概念的理解有所不同, 但他们均认为癌毒是导致恶性肿瘤发病的关键因素, 属于病因范畴的概念<sup>[9-10]</sup>。清代医家尤在泾著《金匱要略心典》指出, “毒者, 邪气蕴蓄不解之谓”, 可见癌毒的背后存在着某种与癌相关的邪气, 笔者根据杂气病因学结合现代医学中恶性肿瘤基因学发病机制认为, 与癌毒产生相关的邪气应是人体内部的一种杂气, 即癌气。

在恶性肿瘤中医治法中, 除依癌毒概念提出的以毒攻毒之外, “扶正抑癌”也显示了一定的疗效。同时, 像人参、当归、淫羊藿等补益药的提取物在体外实验也显示了抑制细胞生长的作用, 被证明有治疗恶性肿瘤的功效<sup>[11-13]</sup>。这些现象显然不能单纯以癌毒概念进行解释, 然而, 如果引入癌气的概念, 却可以进行合理的解释。正如上面的分析, 癌气是人体正气中的杂气, 且受正气制约, 那么补益正气就可以提高人体制约包括癌气在内的杂气的能力, 从而抑制癌气变逆, 阻止肿瘤的生长与转移。综合对“癌毒”概念和“扶正抑癌”治疗原则的分析, 扶正之所以能够抑制肿瘤和癌毒, 可能是因为补益药物提高了正气制约癌气的能力, 从而抑制了癌毒的产生, “以毒攻毒”和“扶正抑癌”在临床的有效应用形成支持癌气概念的临床依据。

## 2 癌气概念的临床意义

### 2.1 恶性肿瘤本质可能是人体内部自生的疫病

如果癌气是人体自身存在的一种杂气, 则为人体杂气

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中之最强者,是发生恶性肿瘤的物质基础。按杂气病因学,在健康人体,癌气受正气制约,随正气运行,为正气所用,是人体正气的组成部分;一旦由于任何致病因素的影响,或由于慢性疾病的迁延,引起正气亏虚,失于对癌气的制约,癌气则可能脱离正气,变逆为疫气,导致人体罹患恶性肿瘤。癌气属杂气,致病具杂气特征。天地间杂气失制导致传染病流行,其致病特征主要包括对物种的选择性、流行性和毒病性等<sup>[2]</sup>。每个人体的杂气均具备个体特征,因此人体自身杂气导致的内生疫病不会在人际间传播,但恶性肿瘤发病往往特发于某一器官组织,指示癌气致病对人体部位具有选择性;恶性肿瘤可产生局部浸润和远处转移,指示癌气致病在体内可以播散,具流行性;恶性肿瘤预后不佳,多致人死亡,指示癌气致病的毒病性。

## 2.2 肾气亏虚可能是导致恶性肿瘤的直接病因

原本归属于正气的癌气之所以脱离正气变逆为疫,必然是由于正气亏虚,失去了制约癌气的能力。恶性肿瘤多致人死亡,癌气之毒病性必为极致,而在健康人体制约癌气的正气也必然是人体最强之气。肾气,即肾中所藏之精气,是人身元阴元阳之根本,具备制约癌气的能力。恶性肿瘤的发病率随着年龄的增加明显升高,与人体肾气随着年龄增加而衰减的规律相一致;幼儿和儿童恶性肿瘤的发生常与遗传性的基因损害有关<sup>[14]</sup>,对应于先天禀赋的不足,肾气的不足;恶性肿瘤发病常由慢性疾患迁延而来,“五脏所伤,穷必及肾”,慢性疾病转化为恶性与肾气的损伤不无关系。从以上三种现象分析,恶性肿瘤的发生与肾气亏虚密切相关,在人体正气之中,应是作为人身之根本的肾气发挥着制约癌气的作用。无论疾病的始发因素为何,只有引起了肾气的亏虚,肾气不能制约癌气,癌气方能变逆作疫导致恶性肿瘤的发生。

## 2.3 促邪归正可能是恶性肿瘤的基本治则

按癌气概念,癌气原本归属于正气,癌气脱离正气制约发生变逆是恶性肿瘤的基本发病机制,其治疗当以促使变逆的癌气重新回归正气为原则,笔者称此为促邪归正。促邪归正应从扶正和攻毒两方面着手用药。采用补益之剂扶助人体的正气,一则可以增强正气制约癌气的能力,使尚未变逆的癌气受到严格控制,断绝变逆癌气生成之源;二则由于癌气的正气属性,与扶正之剂同气相求,补益可以对已经变逆的癌气形成感召力,吸引其向正气一方转化。使用毒性药物,以毒攻毒,一则可以清除不能归正之变逆癌气;二则毒性药物与变逆癌气毒毒相克,对癌气产生压制力,强制其向正气一方转化;扶正与攻毒“恩威并施”,形成促使变逆癌气回归正气的合力。通过药物干预,诱导癌细胞趋于正常细胞是治疗恶性肿瘤的有效途径,这一观点已经被学者广泛接受和认可。某些中药可以诱导增殖失控的癌细胞的生命行为趋向正常细胞,发生凋亡或分化。已经被证实可以诱导癌细胞发生分化或凋亡的中药主要分“毒性药”和“补益药”两类,毒性药类包括砒石、雄黄、全蝎、斑蝥、雷公藤等;补益药类包括人参、丹参、苦参、地黄、当归、淫羊藿等<sup>[15-16]</sup>,其中砒石(亚砷酸)对急性早幼粒细胞白血病的诱导治疗在临床取得了理想的疗效,引起了广泛的关注。与目前采用中药对恶性肿瘤诱导治疗研究不同的是,促邪

归正治疗原则强调毒性药和补益药联合施治,但促邪归正治疗原则的提出受到诱导治疗思想的启示,又与诱导治疗思想暗合。

## 3 讨论

现代医学中一切恶性肿瘤(malignant tumor)均可被称为癌(cancer)或癌症(carcinoma),当恶性肿瘤广泛播散,称作癌病(carcinomatosis, carcinosi)<sup>[4]</sup>,癌气概念保持了与现代医学相关术语的一致。癌毒是新近提出的病因概念,成为中医临床使用毒性药物治疗恶性肿瘤的依据。基于癌气概念的提出认为癌气是产生癌毒的物质基础,籍此有望实现对恶性肿瘤中医发病机制认识的明确和统一。对于恶性肿瘤的治疗,虽然医家有侧重于从正虚论治者,有侧重于从邪实论治者,但均重视联合使用扶正与攻毒两个治法<sup>[10,17]</sup>,根据癌气概念提出的促邪归正治疗原则,从针对病机的角度实现了扶正与攻毒两个治法矛盾的统一。促邪归正治疗原则暗合于现代医学中对恶性肿瘤的诱导治疗思想,系使用中医思维对诱导治疗思想的引申和发展,为提出有效的中医组方对恶性肿瘤进行诱导治疗提供了可能。

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# Introduction and Clinical Indication of Cancerous – Qi

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**Abstract:** Based on the philosophical view that nature and man unite as one along with analysis on Za – Qi (Sun-dry – Qi) nosology of Chinese medicine combining to genetic pathogenesis of cancers of modern medicine, Cancerous – Qi conception has been produced. Cancerous – Qi is the most powerful one among kinds of Za – Qi within human bodies. In a healthy body Cancerous – Qi is part of Vital – Qi (Zheng – Qi) and it is governed, employed by Vital – Qi of the body. If Vital – Qi is weakened and has no enough energy to govern others, Cancerous – Qi may go uncontrolled and result in cancers. It may be applied as the treatment principle to cancers to revert pathogenic factor to the vital according to this theory. Therapy made by this principle should include measurements to support healthy energy with nourishing drugs and to counteract toxin with another (like cures like) mainly, and it is consistent to the induction therapy in modern medicine.

**Key words:** Cancer; Za – Qi; Cancerous – Qi; Cancerous – Toxin; Revert the Pathogenic Factor to the Vital; Induction Therapy

Based on the philosophical view that nature and man unite as one and analysis on Za – Qi nosology of Chinese medicine combining with genetic pathogenesis of cancers, Cancerous – Qi conception has been produced. Causes and pathogenesis of cancers are able to be explained newly with this conception and new treatment principle is worked out to the disease. This thesis has been issued in order to discuss with colleagues studying Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and to offer new ideas for the therapy research on cancers with TCM.

## 1 Conception

### 1.1 Literature Evidence

The TCM doctor named Wu Youxing living in early Qing dynasty brought a conception of Za – Qi in his famous work titled by Infectious Epidemic Disease Issues (温疫论). As Wu's description, Za – Qi is a general name for pathogenic factor and it acts as the causes of epidemics. Za – Qi is a special kind of Qi beyond Six – Qi factors in nature and different from any of Six – Qi such as wind, cold, summer – heat or wetness. Za – Qi has no shape, no sign, no sound, as well as no odor. It may come at any time, and affect any thing. It can cause kinds of disease. Because there are many kinds of Qi belong to category, they are given a united name of Za – Qi. In the family of Za – Qi, the stronger members to cause diseases are entitled as Yi – Qi (Pestilence – Qi or Plague – Qi)<sup>[1]</sup>. Za – Qi etiology established by Wu is the most important disease – cause theory about epidemic febrile disease science of TCM, and promoted the development of this subject in recent centuries<sup>[2]</sup>.

The view that nature and man unite as one is the philosophical foundation of TCM. Suwen • Qi Jiaobian Dalun (素问 • 气交变大论) said that: the description to the nature can be verified in the human body, – – – – and the description to Qi can be reflected in the environment; Suwen • Baoming Quanxing Lun (素问 • 宝命全形论) said that humankind live

on the earth and depend on the nature, meanwhile, Qi communicating between the earth and the nature constitute the humankind. All these classic arguments are to describe the viewpoint that humankind and the nature are interwoven, and belong to one, so we have a conclusion that if the former has Za – Qi, the other should have also, and Za – Qi within bodies may cause inner – pestilence as the outside kinds.

### 1.2 Pathophysiological Evidence

Modern studies verified that cancerous pathogenesis is closely related to oncogenes and cancer suppressor genes. Healthy cells have proto – oncogenes existing in inactive state and playing a basic role in cell growth as well as metabolism. Proto – oncogenes regulate cells' activities positively such as proliferation, differentiation and so on. Once proto – oncogenes are activated, they will change into oncogenes and induce cell canceration. Cancer suppressor genes are normal genes in cells also and they regulate negatively cells' proliferation and differentiation. If cancer suppressor genes become inactive, cells may go into uncontrolled proliferation and induce canceration<sup>[3]</sup>. Recent studies observed that only one kind of oncogenes are not able to induce canceration of cells, however, cell canceration need the combining action of oncogene activation and cancer suppressor gene inactivation or lack generally<sup>[4]</sup>.

According to the dialectical relationship that Za – Qi is controlled and employed by Vital – Qi, if proto – oncogenes and oncogenes are defined as material basis of Za – Qi, meantime, cancer suppressor genes are defined as material basis of Vital – Qi, the course of cell canceration induced by activation of proto oncogenes and/or inactivation of cancer suppressor genes can be described as the course that Vital – Qi loses the ability to control Za – Qi, and Za – Qi violates Vital – Qi, as well as goes into condition out of control and result into inner – pestilence within bodies. Za – Qi mentioned here related to

proto-oncogenes and oncogenes those are the material basis inducing cancers, this kind of Qi is defined as Cancerous-Qi.

### 1.3 Clinical Evidence

Treatments to cancers with integrated traditional Chinese and western medicine show better effects than with any of them singly. Due to modern science and techniques are applied in the former, we know more about the mechanism or evaluation of western medicine than the Chinese medicine, however, because of the limited effects of modern medicine on cancers, either researchers, practitioners or patients in China focus and expect more on TCM, as a result, new ideas about mechanism of cancers are being presented continually. Cancerous-Toxin is a new conception promoted by TCM researchers and practitioners recent years. Based on this conception, principle to counteract toxin with another (like cures like) is put much value on clinical practice, and toxic Chinese drugs such as Wugong (centipede), Chansu (venenum bufonis), Banmao (Cantharidin), as well as Pishi (Arsenolite) and so on are used successfully in cancerous patients, meanwhile, effects of extracts from these drugs to suppress cancer cells are observed through experiments<sup>[5-8]</sup>. Understandings to Cancerous-Toxin of TCM doctors are different actually, but all doctors holding this point believe that Cancerous-Toxin is the key factor to cause cancers and it belongs to disease cause category<sup>[9-10]</sup>. Another famous doctor living in Qing Dynasty, You Zaijing told us through his book titled by Jinkui Yaolue Xindian (金匱要略心典) that toxin is accumulated pathogenic factors exactly, so a conclusion that pathogenic factors related to cancers produced Cancerous-Toxin is concluded. If Za-Qi nosazontology is introduced here, and the key pathogenic factors producing Cancerous-Toxin is defined as one kind of Za-Qi as well as named Carcino Qi, the Cancerous-Toxin may be looked upon as the producer of Cancerous-Qi.

Cancerous-Toxin conception and the principle to counteract toxin with another can not covers all in explanation to the pathology as well as treatment of cancers. Other TCM doctors hold that the main development of cancers is due to too weak Vital Qi, and put more value on reinforcing body energy, more over, extracts from nourishing drugs such as Renshen (ginseng), Danggui (angelica), and Yinyanghuo (epimedium brevicornum) also demonstrate curative effects to cancer or function to suppress cancer cells in experiments<sup>[11-13]</sup>. This phenomenon can not be explained by Cancerous-Toxin obviously, however, with Cancerous-Qi conception, the function of these drugs can be explained that their nourishing action on Cancerous-Qi. As analysis above, Cancerous-Qi is controlled by the vital, and if the reinforced vital can govern Cancerous-Qi well, its producer Cancerous-Toxin may be decreased by nourishing drugs. The pathology as well as treatment of cancers is explained by Cancerous-Qi conception, and the effective application of nourishing drugs to cancers support the conception.

## 2 Clinical Indication

### 2.1 Inner-pestilence of Bodies

If Cancerous-Qi is one kind of Za-Qi that is the materi-

al basis inducing development of cancers, it should be the most powerful one within human bodies. According to Za-Qi nosazontology, within a healthy body Cancerous-Qi which is controlled as well as employed by Vital-Qi is necessary components of Vital-Qi exactly. If being injured by any pathogenic factor or chronic diseases, Vital-Qi becomes too weak and has no enough energy to govern Cancerous-Qi, Cancerous-Qi may escape from control and go against its employer, as a result, cause cancers. As one kind of Za-Qi, Cancerous-Qi has characters of Za-Qi. If Za-Qi in the nature is out of control, it may cause the prevalence of infectious diseases with features including selectivity to species, epidemicity and severity<sup>[2]</sup>. Because Za-Qi of each individual has special features and lives in different environment, it only can induce disease within the special body and has no ability to spread among persons generally. Otherwise, each type of cancer is apt to occur in one special organ or tissue and this rule may indicate the selectivity character of Cancerous-Qi. Furthermore, Cancerous-Qi's character of epidemicity can be observed by the phenomena that cancers often metastasize or infiltrate to other body parts, even spread to the whole system. Meantime, prognoses of cancers are worse and the patients may go to death in a short time generally, these can be deemed as the indication of the severity of Cancerous-Qi. So cancers may be looked on as inner-pestilences of bodies.

### 2.2 Cause of Cancers

Cancerous-Qi under the control of Vital-Qi is going to violate because the reason mainly that the latter has no enough energy to govern and nourish it. The phenomena that patients with cancers may die in short time shows that the toxicity of Cancerous-Qi is the strongest kind of Za-Qi within bodies, then the energy of its counterpart in Vital-Qi to constraint Cancerous-Qi should be the strongest too. The Kidney-Qi, the genuine energy stored in the kidneys namely, which is the root of primordial Yin-and-Yang of the body, should have the energy to govern Cancerous-Qi. Cancer morbidity is increasing with aging of the population, and this rule is consistent to other that Kidney-Qi goes weak with aging; cancers of infant or children are related to hereditary gene injuries<sup>[14]</sup> which is consistent to innate shortcoming of natural endowment and Kidney-Qi; furthermore, as the law that the injury of the five internal organs will cause injury of kidney sooner or later, cancers induced by chronic diseases is related to the weakening Kidney-Qi also. According to the 3 phenomena mentioned here, incidence of cancers is closely related to deficiency of Kidney-Qi and perhaps it is Kidney-Qi to play the role to govern Cancerous-Qi in human bodies. Whatever the originating causes of the disease, only in the event that the Kidney-Qi goes to be too weak to govern Cancerous-Qi, Cancerous Qi may violate and make pestilence within human bodies, as the final result, cancers occur.

### 2.3 Treatment Principle to Cancers

Based on the new conception offered by this article, Cancerous-Qi is part of Vital-Qi originally. To the violating

Cancerous - Qi, the therapy should induce it return to the vita again, and the authors of this article argue the principle to revert pathogenic factors to the vital is an effective treatment principle for cancers. Supporting healthy energy together with counteracting toxic factors should be involved by this principle. TCM drugs to promote body energy not only can enhance the strength of Vital - Qi which controls normal Cancerous - Qi and keeps it under control closely as well as prevents it from violating, but also induce the violating or violated Cancerous - Qi to return to the side of the vital because of their nourishing actions. TCM toxic drugs not only can eliminate the Cancerous - Toxin generated by Cancerous - Qi within bodies, but also force the violating or violated Cancerous - Qi return to the vital; principle combining supporting body energy with counteracting toxic factors can produce joint force to make the violating or violated Cancerous - Qi reverse to the vital. Therapy of modern medicine to induce cancer cells to live as the normal is believed as an effective way to cope with cancers by scholars broadly, and some TCM drugs has been reported that they demonstrated function to induce cancer cells to go into differentiation or apoptosis. These drugs reported can be divided into two groups, the one is the toxic, such as Pishi, Xionghuang ( realgar ), Quanxie ( scorio ), Banmao, Leigongteng ( tripterygium wilfordii ) and so on, the other are the nourishing, such as Renshen, Danshen ( radix salviae miltiorrhizae ), Kushen ( flavescent sophora root ), Dihuang ( rehmannia root ), Danggui ( angelica ), Yinyanghuo etc.<sup>[15,16]</sup>. Among them, The main component of Pishi, arsenic trioxide ( arsenous acid ) shows a good effects to acute promyelocyte leukemic with its inducing action. It is different from the current studies on induction therapy to cancers that principle to revert pathogenic factors to the vital puts more value on the combination of toxic drugs and nourishing; meanwhile, this principle is consistent to the induction therapy of modern medicine exactly.

### 3 Discussion

All kinds of malignant tumors can be entitled as cancer or carcinoma in modern medicine, and when malignant tumors disseminate, the disease is called as carcinomatosis or carcinosi<sup>[4]</sup>. The conception name of Cancerous - Qi keeps consistent to these terms. Cancerous - Toxin is a conception of disease cause brought recently, and it gives a reason to apply toxic drugs to cope with cancers according to the treating idea that like cures like. Based on the perspective that Cancerous - Qi is the material basis to produce Cancerous - Toxin which causes cancers directly, the cancer pathogenesis explained by TCM may be definite and united along with the coming of Cancerous - Qi conception. Although some TCM doctors hold that cancers should be treated by nourishing mostly and the other argue that cancers should be treated by counteracting toxin, both sides all put great emphasis on combination of supporting healthy energy and counteracting toxin in clinical practice<sup>[10,17]</sup>. The treatment principle to revert pathogenic factors to the vital make the two paradoxical methods consistent due to the pathogenesis induced by Cancerous - Qi. Treatment principle

to revert pathogenic factors to the vital is consistent with the ideas of induction therapy to cancers in modern medicine and make it is possible to work out new effective formula of TCM to treat cancers with induction therapy.

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