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· 甲状腺外科专题研究 ·

乳头样核特征的非浸润性甲状腺滤泡性肿瘤的病理特征 及外科治疗：附33例报告

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摘要

背景与目的: 甲状腺乳头状癌发病呈明显上升趋势, 因其治疗效果良好, 对其降级治疗提升生活质量成为一种趋势。病理学家将包裹性滤泡亚型乳头状癌中生物学行为更为惰性的非浸润性包裹性滤泡亚型乳头状癌更名为具有乳头样核特征的非浸润性甲状腺滤泡性肿瘤 (NIFTP), 为其治疗降级提供了理论基础。但此类疾病在实际临床病理诊断上还存在着一定的问题, 目前大多数情况下仍按经典的甲状腺乳头状癌处理。本研究探讨 NIFTP 的临床病理诊断特点及临床手术治疗中面临的问题及降级治疗的前景。

方法: 回顾性分析首都医科大学宣武医院 2017 年 11 月—2022 年 12 月期间入院, 经最后石蜡病理证实为 NIFTP 的 33 例患者的临床资料。

结果: 33 例 NIFTP 患者中, 男 11 例, 女 22 例; 平均年龄 50 岁; 肿瘤大小 0.6~7.5 cm; 单发 NIFTP 肿瘤 31 例, 多发 (均 2 处) 2 例; 11 例合并甲状腺乳头状癌 (均为 1 处), 其中 4 例与 NIFTP 同侧, 7 例位于对侧甲状腺。所有患者均行手术治疗, 常规开放手术 27 例, 腔镜手术 6 例。怀疑或不除外癌者均按甲状腺乳头状癌手术原则处理 (病变侧腺叶全切+同侧中央区淋巴结清扫)。术前超声影像特点为结节主要为低回声、形态尚规则、边界尚清楚、常伴钙化、纵横比 <1 。超声的 TI-RADS 分级评估 3 级 5 例、4a 级 9 例、4b 及以上 11 例。术前行穿刺者 29 例, 其中 1 例诊断为意义不明的细胞非典型病变或滤泡性病变 (AUS/FLUS), 12 例诊断为滤泡性肿瘤或可疑滤泡性肿瘤 (FN/SFN), 12 例诊断为可疑恶性肿瘤 (SUS), 4 例考虑为甲状腺乳头状癌。25 例患者术后行 BRAF^{V600E} 检测, 7 例检测到突变, 但均为合并甲状腺乳头状癌病例。

结论: NIFTP 概念的提出, 对某些侵袭性较弱的甲状腺肿瘤的降级或个体化治疗提供了依据。但在实际的临床诊疗中, 术前及术中 NIFTP 诊断目前仍比较困难。所以, 使手术医师改变治疗决策还需要更加准确的术前诊断标准及诊断方法。

关键词

甲状腺肿瘤/诊断; 甲状腺肿瘤/治疗; NIFTP

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Pathologic features and surgical treatment of noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features: a report of 33 cases

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Abstract

Background and Aims: The incidence of papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) has shown a significant upward trend. Given its favorable prognosis, there is a growing trend toward de-escalating its treatment to improve patients' quality of life. Pathologists have renamed the encapsulated follicular variant of PTC with indolent biological behavior as noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features (NIFTP), providing a theoretical basis for treatment de-escalation. However, challenges persist in the clinical pathological diagnosis of NIFTP, and it is still predominantly managed as classical PTC in most cases. This study was performed to explore the clinicopathologic diagnostic characteristics, surgical challenges, and prospects for de-escalation treatment of NIFTP.

Methods: The clinical data of 33 patients with thyroid disease who were admitted to Xuanwu Hospital Capital Medical University from November 2017 to December 2022 and confirmed as NIFTP by final paraffin pathology were retrospectively analyzed.

Results: Among the 33 NIFTP patients, there were 11 males and 22 females, with an average age of 50 years. Tumor sizes ranged from 0.6 to 7.5 cm. There were 31 cases of solitary NIFTP tumor and 2 cases of multifocal tumors (each involving 2 sites). Eleven patients had coexisting PTC (one lesion in each case), with 4 lesions located on the same side as the NIFTP and 7 on the opposite side. All patients underwent surgical treatment, including 27 cases of conventional open surgery and 6 cases of endoscopic surgery. Suspicious or potentially malignant lesions were treated according to PTC surgical principles (lobectomy of the affected side plus central compartment lymph node dissection on the same side). Preoperative ultrasonography revealed that the nodules were predominantly hypoechoic, relatively regular in shape, well-defined, often accompanied by calcifications, and had a longitudinal-to-transverse diameter ratio of <1. TI-RADS classifications were as follows: 5 cases as grade 3, 9 cases as grade 4a, and 11 cases as grade 4b or higher. Among 29 patients who underwent preoperative fine-needle aspiration, 1 case was diagnosed as atypia of undetermined significance/follicular lesion of undetermined significance (AUS/FLUS), 12 as follicular neoplasm/suspicious for follicular neoplasm (FN/SFN), 12 as suspicious for malignancy (SUS), and 4 as PTC. BRAF^{V600E} mutation testing was performed postoperatively in 25 cases, and 7 mutations were detected, all in cases with concomitant PTC.

Conclusion: The introduction of the NIFTP concept provides a foundation for de-escalation or individualized treatment of certain less aggressive thyroid tumors. However, the preoperative and intraoperative diagnosis of NIFTP remains challenging in clinical practice. More precise preoperative diagnostic criteria and methods are needed to enable surgeons to adjust treatment decisions accordingly.

Key words

Thyroid Neoplasms/diag; Thyroid Neoplasms/ther; NIFTP

CLC number: R736.1

近年来,甲状腺癌的发病率在全球呈明显的上升趋势,其中甲状腺乳头状癌最为明显^[1]。其原因考虑可能与检诊技术的提高^[2]及肿瘤筛查的普及有关。因其良好的预后,很多学者认为甲状腺乳头状癌有过度诊治之虞,所以对其降级治疗甚至等待观察的观点不断出现^[3-4]。但甲状腺乳头状癌也并非都是低危癌,局部侵犯及较高的颈部淋巴结转移率也是根治性手术治疗的重点之一。所以如何筛选出生物学行为良好,侵袭性较弱的甲状

腺癌进行治疗的降级成为学者们关注的问题。2016年,来自匹兹堡大学的 Nikiforov 等^[5]对相关甲状腺癌病理及临床治疗结果进行了观察,发现包裹性滤泡亚型乳头状癌(encapsulated follicular variant of papillary thyroid cancer, EFVPTC)生物学行为相对惰性,而临床治疗却大部分还是按照经典的甲状腺乳头状癌来处理,因此认为有必要对此进行“纠偏”,提出将非浸润性 EFVPTC 命名为具有乳头样核特征的非浸润性甲状腺滤泡性肿瘤

(noninvasive follicular thyroid neoplasm with papillary-like nuclear features), 简称为NIFTP。随后对其诊断标准进行了描述和修订。在2017年版世界卫生组织(WHO)内分泌器官肿瘤分类中, NIFTP被纳入其中, 对甲状腺癌病理研究及临床诊治带来了重要的影响^[6]。但NIFTP仍是一种具有恶性潜能的“低风险肿瘤”, 对于组织学或细胞学诊断为NIFTP的患者, 目前仍推荐手术切除治疗, 但可仅行患侧甲状腺腺叶切除, 而无需预防性颈部淋巴结清扫及术后放射性碘(radioactive iodine, RAI)治疗^[7]。然而, NIFTP的准确诊断需要手术切除后对整个肿瘤包括包膜进行完整的镜下评估^[8], 术前穿刺病理及术中冷冻病理诊断目前仍较为困难, 所以临床外科医师对于此类病例手术中的治疗选择仍面临具体的困难。本研究对首都医科大学宣武医院自2017年11月以来收治的最终病理诊断为NIFTP的33例患者进行回顾性分析, 对此类疾病诊治过程的一些特点和遇到的问题进行探讨, 从而使临床医生对此类患者的临床病理特点更加明确, 治疗更加个性化。

1 资料与方法

回顾性分析首都医科大学宣武医院2017年11月—2022年12月期间甲状腺患者的临床资料, 经最后石蜡病理证实为NIFTP者33例。

术前均行本院甲状腺B超检查, 对甲状腺结节的回声、大小、形状、边界、纵横比、血流等特点进行观察, 并根据中国版甲状腺成像报告和数据库系统(Thyroid Imaging Reporting and Data System, TI-RADS)^[9], 1级: 正常; 2级: 良性病变; 3级: 可能良性; 4级(4a、4b、4c): 可能恶性; 5级: 高度恶性; 6级: 病理证实恶性, 对其甲状腺结节的恶性可能进行评估。

凡超声影像评估4级以上(怀疑恶性可能者), 建议行细针细胞学穿刺活检(fine-needle aspiration, FNA)。相关病例的细胞学评估采用广泛使用的甲状腺细胞病理学Bethesda报告系统(The Bethesda System for Reporting of Thyroid Cytopathology, TBSRTC)标准^[10], 包括六类结果: (1)标本无法诊断; (2)良性病变; (3)意义不明的细胞非典型病变或滤泡性病变(AUS/FLUS); (4)滤泡性肿瘤或可疑滤泡性肿瘤(FN/SFN); (5)可疑恶

性肿瘤(SUS); (6)恶性肿瘤。对于FNA诊断考虑乳头状癌或不除外癌者(部分3类, 4~6类), 或术中冷冻不除外乳头状癌或考虑滤泡性肿瘤者行进一步手术治疗(病变侧腺叶切除+同侧中央区淋巴结清扫)。所有患者手术标本术后常规石蜡病理检查。对于NIFTP的诊断, 病理科依据Nikiforov等^[5]在2016年提出的初始诊断标准, 2018年提出的修订标准^[11], 以及2022年WHO分类^[12]的诊断标准进行诊断。主要标准: 有包膜或境界清楚; 滤泡状生长, 包括无形成良好的乳头状结构(无具有纤维血管轴心的乳头状结构), 无砂粒体, 实性/梁状/岛状生长方式<30%; 具有乳头状癌核特征, 核评分2~3; 无血管或包膜浸润, 无肿瘤坏死, 无较高的核分裂活性(核分裂指数<3个/HPF)。次要标准: 分子检测或免疫组化检测无BRAF^{V600E}突变; 无BRAF^{V600E}样突变(如RET/PTC融合)或其他高危突变(如TERT、TP53突变)。

大部分患者手术标本术后加行BRAF^{V600E}免疫组化和/或分子生物学基因检测。部分病例行RAS基因的突变检测。随访4~50个月。本研究获得首都医科大学宣武医院伦理委员会批准(批号: 临研审〔2020〕055号)。同意申请免除知情同意和知情同意书签字。

2 结果

2.1 临床特点及手术治疗

术后石蜡病理诊断为NIFTP的33例患者中, 男性11例, 女性22例; 年龄27~69岁, 平均50岁。肿瘤大小为1.1(0.6~7.5)cm。单发NIFTP肿瘤31例, 多发(均2处)2例, 均位于右侧甲状腺1例, 分别位于左、右甲状腺1例。病变位于左甲状腺者15例, 右侧甲状腺者17例, 双侧甲状腺者1例。11例合并甲状腺乳头状癌(均为1处), 乳头状癌大小为0.2~1.1cm, 其中4例与NIFTP同侧, 7例位于对侧甲状腺。33例NIFTP患者均行手术治疗, 常规开放手术27例, 腔镜手术6例(全乳晕入路5例, 腋入路1例)。手术切除范围: 19例行单侧甲状腺腺叶+峡部切除+同侧中央区淋巴结清扫; 5例行甲状腺全切+病变侧中央区淋巴结清扫; 2例行双侧甲状腺全切+双侧中央区淋巴结清扫; 6例仅行单侧甲状腺腺叶+峡部切除; 1例行甲状腺全切。单纯NIFTP患者术后常规服用左甲状

腺素治疗,其促甲状腺激素(TSH)水平控制在正常值下限水平左右。而NIFTP合并甲状腺乳头状癌患者按乳头状癌术后管理进行,将TSH控制在<0.1 mU/L,并随着随访进行动态调整。随访4~50个月,均无复发转移证据。

2.2 超声特点

结节为低回声22例,等回声9例,不均回声4例。形态规则或尚规则者28例,欠规则或不规则者7例。边界清楚或尚清楚者28例,边界欠清或不清楚者7例。周围伴低回声晕者4例,均为病灶较大者(1.8~4.9)cm。伴钙化者11例:点状钙化8例,斑块状或环形钙化3例。纵横比≥1者6例,纵横比<1者29例。结节周围及内部血流丰富者12例,可见者18例,未见者5例。影像学TI-RADS分级主要集中在4级,包括3级5例,4a级19例,4b级及以上11例(表1)(图1)。

表1 33例NIFTP患者35个病灶超声特征[n(%)]

超声特征	数值
回声	
低回声	22(62.9)
等回声	9(25.7)
不均回声	4(11.4)
形状	
(尚)规则	28(80.0)
不或欠规则	7(20.0)
边界	
(尚)清晰	28(80.0)
不或欠清晰	7(20.0)
伴声晕	
伴钙化	11(31.4)
纵横比	
≥1	6(17.1)
<1	29(82.9)
周围及内部血流	
丰富	12(34.3)
可见	18(51.4)
未见	5(14.3)
TI-RADS分级	
3级	5(14.3)
4a级	19(54.3)
4b级及以上	11(31.4)

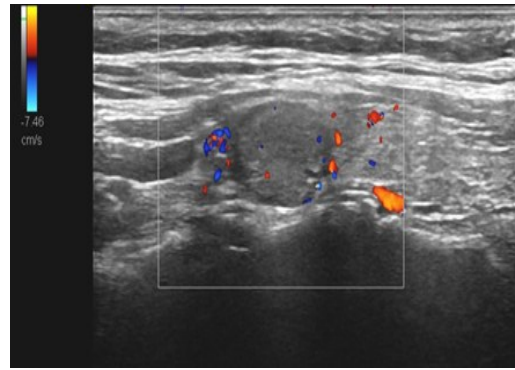


图1 NIFTP患者超声影像表现(甲状腺内可见低回声实性结节,大小1.1 cm×1.0 cm×0.9 cm,形态尚规则,边界清,周边可见晕环,内部可见散在小的液性透声区,CDFI:结节周边可见较丰富血流信号;TI-RADS 4a级,可疑甲状腺癌)

Figure 1 Ultrasonographic findings in an NIFTP patient (A hypoechoic solid nodule is visible within the thyroid, measuring 1.1 cm × 1.0 cm × 0.9 cm; the nodule has a relatively regular shape, well-defined margins, and a peripheral halo; scattered small anechoic areas are observed within the nodule; CDFI shows abundant blood flow signals around the nodule; TI-RADS classification: grade 4a, suspicious for thyroid carcinoma)

2.3 病理特点

有5例患者术前考虑良性可能性大,术前未行FNA,均因有压迫表现行手术治疗,术后病理证实为NIFTP。两灶(NIFTP)位于同侧的患者仅穿刺了较大病灶,较小病灶未穿刺。故术前共穿刺病灶29处(表2)。1例患者术前穿刺诊断为AUS/FLUS。12例患者诊断为FN/SFN(图2)。12例患者诊断为SUS。4例患者诊断为甲状腺乳头状癌。其中8例患者术中加做了冷冻病理检查,均未提示或诊断NIFTP:5例考虑或不除外滤泡性肿瘤,2例不除外乳头状癌,1例考虑乳头状癌。33例患者中,术后病理有25例患者进行了BRAF基因检测,7例患者BRAF^{V600E}检测到突变,但均为合并甲状腺乳头状癌病例。而只有4例患者进行了RAS基因检测,其中2例检测出KRAS基因突变,另2例未检测到突变。4例患者术后病理发现中央区淋巴结转移,但均合并有甲状腺乳头状癌。

表2 NIFTP患者术前FNA TBSRTC报告结果[n (%)]
Table 2 The TBSRTC results of preoperative FNA of the patients with NIFTP [n (%)]

TBSRTC分类	数值
标本无法诊断	0(0.0)
良性病变	0(0.0)
AUS/FLUS	1(3.4)
FN/SFN	12(41.4)
SUS	12(41.4)
恶性肿瘤	4(13.8)

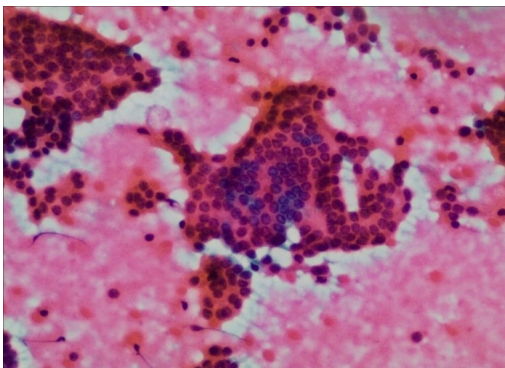


图2 FNA病理(镜下散在及灶状甲状腺滤泡上皮细胞,部分区域呈微滤泡结构,胞浆丰富,部分细胞核增大,呈毛玻璃样,偶见核沟,未见明确核内假包涵体,不除外滤泡性肿瘤;TBSRTC 4类, FN/SFN; HE×400)

Figure 2 FNA pathology (Microscopic examination shows scattered and focal thyroid follicular epithelial cells, with some areas displaying a microfollicular structure; the cytoplasm is abundant, and some nuclei are enlarged with a ground-glass appearance; occasional nuclear grooves are observed, but no definitive intranuclear pseudoinclusions are identified; Follicular neoplasm cannot be excluded; TBSRTC category 4, FN/SFN; HE×400)

3 讨论

自2017年WHO将NIFTP纳入内分泌器官肿瘤组织分类中,其受到了越来越多的重视。在欧洲和北美等国家,NIFTP约占所有甲状腺癌的13.3%,而在亚洲约占1.6%^[13]。所以NIFTP命名的提出,对甲状腺癌的组成占比产生了一定的影响。2017年第二版TBSRTC^[10]就NIFTP也做了相应的更新,使其术前的诊断或提示诊断成为可能。NIFTP的提出和确定,为这部分极低度恶性潜能肿瘤避免过度

治疗提供了理论基础,可以减轻国家社会的医疗负担和患者的心理负担^[14],但NIFTP的诊断和治疗仍面临着许多现实的问题。

首先,在NIFTP的诊断方面,尽管2017版TBSRTC对FNA诊断NIFTP规定了相应的诊断标准,但FNA中NIFTP并没有单一特征性细胞学特征,其与甲状腺其他良性及恶性肿瘤的细胞学特性都有重叠,使NIFTP的术前诊断成为一个挑战。但NIFTP也有病理特征的一些倾向性,为其诊断提供了思路。从结构性特点看,NIFTP的细胞团主要以微滤泡为主^[15];从细胞核特征看,轻度核增大是最常见的核特征之一^[15-16],核沟很常见^[15,17],核染色质透明或呈毛玻璃样核^[15-16,18],但核内假包涵体少见^[15,17-18]。核评分通常是2分^[19],这也说明NIFTP的细胞核异型性大于正常而小于癌。但2017版TBSRTC并未像有些学者^[19-20]建议的那样为NIFTP增加一个独立的分类,而仍采用原来的六分类诊断^[21]。从理论上讲,在实际判读中,如果微滤泡结构显著而乳头样核特征不典型,将容易被判读为FN/SFN,反之乳头样核特征较明显,而滤泡结构不典型则可能会判为AUS/FLUS或可疑乳头状癌。而相关研究^[22]也证实,最终的NIFTP病例集中来源于FNA细胞学判读的三个中间型分类(AUS/FLUS 30%; FN/SFN 21%; SUS 24%),共约占75%,从而进一步影响了各分类的TBSRTC恶性风险的评估。如果NIFTP不诊断为癌,以上三个分类的恶性风险由10%~30%、25%~40%、50%~75%分别降至6%~18%、10%~40%、45%~60%^[10]。本研究29处病灶有25处的FNA判读为以上三个中间类型,占比约为86%(25/29),结果类似,但AUS/FLUS较少(1例),而主要集中在FN/SFN和SUS(各12例)。所以,NIFTP被直接判为良性或恶性的可能性一般不大。2017版TBSRTC在FN/SFN、SUS及恶性这三个诊断类别增加了注释性报告模式,当细胞学特征提示可能存在NIFTP时,可在报告内选择性地注释其可能性^[10]。但是在现实的临床工作中,因为NIFTP与EFVPTC、经典甲状腺乳头状癌在细胞学特征中有许多重叠,所以病理科医生从诊断安全上考虑,给予明确的诊断或提示性诊断可能较小。本研究25例病例中,术前穿刺21例,无1例术前穿刺提示NIFTP。其实NIFTP不是一种细胞学诊断,NIFTP被定义为组织学实体^[23],在细胞学诊断水平,明确诊断NIFTP确有困难。这也给相应的

后续治疗带来了难度。而术中冷冻的组织学检查,虽然可以取得完整病变(肿瘤)进行检查,但冷冻病理自身的局限性,无法对整个病变进行标准薄层的切片以确定有无包膜、脉管侵犯及其他病理特点,如有无真正的乳头结构,有无砂粒体等。对“整个肿瘤进行检查”不仅在冷冻病理难以实现,即便是术后石蜡病理也困难重重^[24]。

超声及多普勒图像在甲状腺结节良恶性判断上有着重要的作用^[25]。在超声影像上,NIFTP是一种圆形或椭圆形、边界清楚、回声不等的结节,可为低回声、等回声或非均质,倾向于良性表现^[26-27]。还有一些NIFTP表现出边缘不清,形状不规则,有钙化及纵横比>1等甲状腺乳头状癌的表现。NIFTP结节在超声诊断中通常不表现为高度可疑性(TI-RADS 5级),在EFVPTC中表现为TI-RADS 5级的频率也较低,但在浸润性EFVPTC中的频率较高^[28-30]。大部分NIFTP被划分为轻度可疑(TI-RADS 3级)和中度可疑(TI-RADS 4级)^[31-32]。本研究中,NIFTP结节的采用TI-RADS分级,主要集中在4a级附近,与以上文献结果类似。另外,本研究中有11例NIFTP患者的病变合并有钙化,但病变中的钙化似乎与NIFTP病理诊断中的砂粒体无关。而NIFTP结节周围及内部血运相对丰富(丰富者12例,可见者18例),仅5例未见血流信号。有研究^[33]为探讨甲状腺结节富血运是否为恶性肿瘤,对698枚甲状腺结节进行了调查,发现结节内血管增生血运丰富与腺瘤/腺瘤样甲状腺结节之间存在显著关联,但甲状腺乳头状癌却表现为缺乏血管充血。因此,NIFTP在超声影像上与纤维腺瘤,滤泡亚型的甲状腺乳头状癌甚至经典的甲状腺乳头状癌都有许多重叠,缺乏特异性。所以仅依靠超声影像学,并不能获得满意的诊断率。但术前的超声检查可以显示甲状腺结节的整体信息,可提供结节的边界及包膜特点,弥补FNA的不足。如果穿刺病理表现出NIFTP特征,可结合结节的超声影像学特点进行评估,此外如影像学未显示充分浸润证据,提倡备注NIFTP的可能诊断。

分子生物学分析对于甲状腺癌的诊断及指导治疗有重要的作用。对于NIFTP的诊断也有一定程度的帮助。NIFTP中无BRAF^{V600E}突变,缺乏BRAF^{V600E}样突变或TERT、TP53等其他高危突变^[11]。而对于那些乳头状癌核特征突出的病例,除对整个肿瘤进行检查以排除乳头状结构之外,还推荐行

BRAF^{V600E}突变的分子检测,如检测阴性,有助于NIFTP诊断。本研究中,25例患者术后行病理行BRAF^{V600E}检测,21例未检测到突变。4例检测到突变,但均合并经典型甲状腺乳头状癌,其突变阳性考虑与合并的乳头状癌有关。虽然NIFTP中也可以检测到BRAF突变,但通常是BRAF^{K601E}突变,而非BRAF^{V600E}突变。与BRAF^{V600E}突变相比,BRAF^{K601E}突变的预后更好^[34-37]。而NIFTP中最常检测到的基因异常是RAS基因突变(30%~67%),RAS基因突变的检测有助于鉴别NIFTP,EFVPTC或经典乳头状癌^[38-40]。此外,NIFTP中也少量存在PAX8-PARG γ 易位和THADA重排^[8, 38, 41]。

另外,在NIFTP的治疗方面同样也存在着许多问题。NIFTP具有较好的生物学行为,预后非常好,转移及复发的风险也极低^[5, 7, 42]。但NIFTP不是一种“良性肿瘤”,而是目前甲状腺肿瘤中最常见的一种交界性肿瘤^[43],具有恶性潜能,所以需要手术切除进行诊断,并对整个肿瘤包括包膜进行完整的显微镜评估^[44]。对于组织学或细胞学诊断为NIFTP的患者,目前仍推荐手术切除治疗。Nikiforov等^[5]对67例NIFTP患者仅行患侧甲状腺叶切除而无碘-131(¹³¹I)治疗,随访10~26年未发现颈部淋巴结转移、远处转移和死亡的情况发生。Thompson等^[45]报道了75例NIFTP患者的术后随访结果,这些患者同样只进行手术切除(腺叶切除41例,甲状腺全切34例)而无术后¹³¹I治疗,随访11.8年未发现疾病有进展情况。即使在肿瘤较大(>4 cm)、没有RAI治疗的情况下,相对保守的手术治疗(甲状腺腺叶切除)也能获得较好的治疗效果(32例患者随访11.2年无复发)^[46]。所以许多学者建议对于此类型肿瘤的治疗可仅行患侧甲状腺腺叶切除,无需术后RAI治疗及预防性颈部淋巴结清扫^[47],而一些亚洲的学者甚至认为仅诊断性腺叶切除术也是有害的^[48]。NIFTP提出的目的是希望将一些低风险肿瘤分离出来,以避免过度治疗,从而节省医疗资源和改善生活质量。但现实似乎并不像病理学家们想的那么简单,NIFTP与一些典型的乳头状癌之间可能存在许多的重叠^[49],而确定真正低风险的NIFTP,还必须建立更准确的病理组织学标准,或辅助其他方法如分子生物学方法、影像学等。而在大多数情况下,术前临床及病理检查仅能给出怀疑NIFTP的诊断,即便术中冷冻检查,也不能最终明确诊断。所以术中手术医师将面临选

择：保守还是保险。由于对肿瘤的恐惧和结果的担心，大多数患者或医师可能都会选择保险。本研究中，除术前考虑为良性病变者，术前诊断怀疑 NIFTP 及怀疑乳头状癌者，均行患侧中央区淋巴结清扫，也是无法术前或术中获得明确 NIFTP 诊断的无奈之举。NIFTP 的提出原本是减少低风险甲状腺肿瘤的过度治疗，但除肿瘤较大的 NIFTP 患者可以豁免术后 ^{131}I 治疗外，其他 NIFTP 患者似乎获益并不明显。此外，NIFTP 也经常合并乳头状癌^[50]，也会使手术治疗变得更为复杂。本研究中有 11 例合并乳头状癌，其中 4 例出现中央区淋巴结转移，也为建议对 NIFTP 行相对保守治疗的学者敲了警钟。

总之，NIFTP 的提出为甲状腺肿瘤的精细化、个体化诊治提供了一个很好的尝试，符合甲状腺外科的总体发展理念。但实际临床诊疗中，病理科医师能否很好地掌握 NIFTP 诊断标准并给予提示，术前或术中无法获得令人满意的诊断仍会困扰手术医师。本研究为回顾性研究，病例数较少，仅对临床的现实问题进行了分析和探讨，而对于问题的解决还需不断尝试和大宗病例的研究。相信随着病理实践的不断完善，随访及各项评估观察的充实，甲状腺肿瘤的临床管理将会越来越精准。

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