

# 前额叶的无创神经干预对饮食控制的影响： 基于 rTMS 和 tDCS 研究的综述\*

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**摘 要** 饮食控制缺陷可导致超重、肥胖和饮食失调。已有研究表明, 肥胖和饮食失调者在前额叶认知控制神经环路上存在缺陷。无创神经干预—经颅直流电刺激 (tDCS) 和重复经颅磁刺激 (rTMS)—通过调节前额叶皮层兴奋性来提高饮食控制能力, 改善饮食失调症状。未来的研究应考虑不同刺激参数和刺激位点下的干预效应, 融合其他神经生理技术考察无创神经干预改善饮食控制的作用机制, 考虑个体差异性并结合客观的行为范式进行探究。

**关键词** 无创神经干预 经颅直流电刺激 重复经颅磁刺激 饮食控制 前额叶

## 1 引言

最近发表在《柳叶刀》上的一项全球体重调查报告显示, 中国的肥胖人数已超过美国居世界首位 (NCD Risk Factor Collaboration, 2016)。超重和肥胖不仅增加了患“三高症”的风险, 还削弱了个体的执行控制功能和认知加工能力 (Davidson & Martin, 2014)。前额叶在节食目标导向行为和抑制快乐进食动机中具有重要作用, 其功能缺陷往往导致个体的节食失败 (Rangel, 2013)。在肥胖和饮食失调群体中, 前额叶控制脑区的激活降低可预测个体未来体重的增加 (Stice & Yokum, 2016)。神经影像追踪研究表明, 背外侧前额叶 (dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, DLPFC) 激活越强, 个体越倾向于做出健康饮食决策 (Weygandt et al., 2013)。由此可见, 前额叶是饮食控制神经环路中的核心节点。

肥胖和饮食失调严重影响了个体的身心健康, 因此探寻新的研究方法和高效治疗手段已成为了科研和临床工作者关注的焦点。由于非侵入性、安全、易操作和经济等特点, 无创神经干预技术在神经心理研究和临床治疗方面得到了越来越多的应用 (伊国胜, 王江, 魏熙乐, 邓斌, 2016)。无创神经干预在饮食控制中的应用集中在重复经颅磁刺激 (repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation, rTMS) 和经颅直流电刺激 (transcranial direct current stimulation, tDCS)

两种技术上。因此, 本文对已往在健康群体 (正常体重和超重者) 和饮食失调群体中使用 rTMS 和 tDCS 干预前额叶的研究进行总结梳理, 并探讨分析了其改善饮食控制的可能机制。

## 2 rTMS 干预前额叶对饮食控制的影响

rTMS 是在经颅磁刺激 (transcranial magnetic stimulation, TMS) 基础上发展起来的, 在饮食领域中得到了较早的应用 (Hausmann et al., 2004)。rTMS 通过感应线圈产生重复电磁脉冲来刺激特定脑区, 诱发大脑皮层的兴奋性发生变化 (兴奋或抑制), 进而调节刺激脑区的功能 (Allen, Pasley, Duong, & Freeman, 2007)。rTMS 通过引起神经元轴突内的微观变化, 甚至可以产生长时程的皮层可塑性改变 (Sandrini, Umiltà, & Rusconi, 2011)。低频 rTMS ( $\leq 1\text{Hz}$ ) 可抑制皮层兴奋性, 高频 rTMS ( $5 \sim 25\text{Hz}$ ) 可增强皮层的兴奋性。已有研究表明连续性  $\theta$  波脉冲刺激 (continuous theta burst stimulation, cTBS; rTMS 技术的一种) 的抑制效应更强 (Oberman, Edwards, Eldaief, & Pascual-Leone, 2011), cTBS 也已应用于饮食控制的研究 (Lowe, Hall, & Staines, 2014)。从总体的调查和饮食领域的已有研究来看, rTMS 是比较安全的 (Oberman et al., 2011)。

鉴于前额叶在饮食控制上的重要作用, rTMS 干

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预的靶位点均是选在前额叶,尤其是 DLPFC (Lowe & Hall, 2013)。在健康群体上均是单次刺激,在饮食失调群体上多是重复刺激。刺激线圈脉冲主要为高频 10 Hz (Lowe & Hall, 2013; Mattavelli et al., 2015),仅有一项研究探究了低频 (1Hz) 刺激的干预效应 (Camus et al., 2009)。未来可进一步考察低频 rTMS 刺激在饮食领域中的应用,与高频刺激的研究相对比。静息运动阈值强度决定了脉冲刺激强度,在各个研究中差异很大 (50% ~ 120%)。在健康群体上的研究表明, rTMS 高频刺激前额叶可降低个体的主观食欲渴求,但在进食量上的效应有待进一步的验证。在饮食失调群体中测量指标多是结构化临床访谈、临床量表和食欲渴求评定,且多数研究表明高频刺激能有效改善饮食失调症状及伴随的情绪症状 (Dunlop et al., 2015; McClelland, Bozhilova, Campbell, & Schmidt, 2013)。饮食领域中的多数研究是采用自我报告测量,但目前已有少数研究采用更客观的行为范式来考察前额叶与食物相关的认知功能之间的关系 (Camus et al., 2009; Lowe et al., 2014)。在饮食失调群体中,已有研究结合神经生理技术探索了 rTMS 刺激前额叶改善饮食控制背后潜在的神经生理机制 (Claudino et al., 2011; Dunlop et al., 2015)。

### 2.1 在健康群体上的研究

在健康群体中, rTMS 高频刺激前额叶能有效地降低食欲渴求,但在进食量上的结果却不一致。Uher 等人 (2005) 首先利用高频刺激左侧 DLPFC, 结果发现真实刺激下的食欲渴求降低,在进食量上无差异。但最近一研究发现抑制左侧 DLPFC, 个体的进食量会显著增加 (Lowe et al., 2014)。进食量上的不一致,可能源于实验参数和研究方法上的差异。如一个采用改进伪刺激方法的研究,采取特定的参数设置使真伪刺激条件下个体的疼痛感受匹配。研究发现真伪刺激之间并无差异,伪刺激呈现出安慰剂效应 (Barth et al., 2011)。因此,未来需要澄清疼痛感是否会干扰 rTMS 的效应。

目前有少数研究结合行为实验范式,考察了 rTMS 刺激前额叶对与食物有关的奖赏价值评估、执行功能和内隐偏好的影响。Camus 等人 (2009) 采用食物拍卖范式,发现低频刺激右侧 DLPFC 导致对食物的价值评估降低,这证明 DLPFC 在食物奖赏价值的整合加工中具有重要作用。另外,使用 cTBS 刺激抑制左侧 DLPFC 可削弱个体在 Stroop

任务上的表现,同时增强对美食的奖赏预期 (Lowe et al., 2014)。由此可推测, rTMS 可能是通过调节 DLPFC 的执行功能来影响个体的食欲渴求。还有研究结合内隐联想测验考察了 rTMS 刺激内侧前额叶 (medial prefrontal cortex, mPFC) 对食物内隐评估影响 (Mattavelli et al., 2015)。结果发现非外显美食偏好者对食物的内隐偏好增强,但在外显偏好者上无效应。这表明, rTMS 干预前额叶对食物认知功能的调节会受到个体差异的影响。将来的研究应考虑个体差异,并结合更多的行为范式来考察前额叶在食物相关的执行控制和饮食决策上的作用。

### 2.2 在饮食失调群体上的应用

rTMS 在饮食失调的干预研究上得到了相对较多的应用。在饮食失调中多是采取随机对照、双盲设计。虽然有研究发现真伪刺激之间无差异 (van den Eynde, Claudino, Campbell, & Schmidt, 2011; Walpoth et al., 2008),但多数研究表明 rTMS 高频刺激 DLPFC 和背内侧前额叶 (dorsal medial prefrontal cortex; DMPFC) 能降低饮食失调程度。研究对象的差异、天花板效应和研究样本数量较小,都可能是造成研究结果差异的原因。

最近有研究探究了 rTMS 和神经生理技术在饮食控制领域中的联合应用 (Claudino et al., 2011; Dunlop et al., 2015; Sutoh et al., 2016)。有研究结合静息态功能成像探究了高频刺激 DMPFC 的干预效应,发现干预成功者在认知控制脑区和奖赏脑区之间的功能连接增强,而失败者连接强度降低。并且,暴食/导泻症状的改善与前额纹状体功能连接变化具有正相关 (Dunlop et al., 2015)。结合近红外成像 (functional near-infrared spectroscopy, fNIRS) 的研究发现刺激左侧 DLPFC 降低了食欲渴求和前额区域氧合血红蛋白浓度 (Sutoh et al., 2016)。这说明控制脑区功能增强及其与奖赏区域之间的功能协调性增加,可能是 rTMS 干预前额叶改善饮食控制的作用机制。另外,刺激左侧 DLPFC 降低了唾液皮质醇浓度 (Claudino et al., 2011)。皮质醇是内感受性的生物标记物,这说明 rTMS 刺激前额叶会影响饮食相关的内感受性 (Therrien et al., 2008)。以上研究说明, rTMS 刺激前额叶会改变与食物相关的认知控制功能和内感受性加工。

## 3 tDCS 干预前额叶对饮食控制的影响

tDCS 利用恒定、低强度直流电 (1 ~ 2 mA) 来

调节大脑皮层神经元活动,进而诱发脑功能变化(Brunoni et al., 2011)。刺激模式有三种:阳极刺激可引起静息电位的去极化,增强刺激脑区的皮层兴奋性;阴极刺激引起静息电位的超极化,抑制皮层兴奋性;伪刺激作为一种对照刺激,使被试产生与真刺激相同的主观感受。且因 tDCS 不直接诱发动作电位,其安全性较高(Brunoni et al., 2011)。

在饮食领域中已发表的 tDCS 研究均是 DLPFC 作为目标刺激位点。作为一种最近兴起的无创神经干预方法, tDCS 在饮食控制中的研究历程还很短(Fregni et al., 2008)。在被试选择上存在混淆因素,如同一研究从正常体重到超重者、肥胖者均有(Goldman et al., 2011; Montenegro et al., 2012)。在实验参数方面,刺激强度多为 2mA,但也有 1mA 和 1.5mA(Lapenta, Di Sierve, de Macedo, Fregni, & Boggio, 2014)。在健康群体上刺激持续时间均为 20min,但饮食失调临床研究的刺激持续时间更长( $\geq 25\text{min}$ )。在饮食领域中, tDCS 结合神经生理测量的研究目前还很少,仅有一项研究采用事件相关电位(event-related potential, ERP)。

### 3.1 在健康群体上的研究

在健康群体中,研究发现 tDCS 刺激 DLPFC 可有效降低状态性食欲渴求。Fregni 等人(2008)首次应用三种模式刺激 DLPFC,发现右侧阳极刺激条件能够降低个体对美食的主观渴求和注视次数,且进食量减少。Jauch-Chara 等人(2014)也发现,连续 8 次阳极刺激右侧 DLPFC 可降低进食量。但是,也有研究并未发现在进食量上的效应(Goldman et al., 2011; Montenegro et al., 2012)。Montenegro 等人(2012)研究表明,有氧锻炼可增强 tDCS 对食欲的抑制效应,但进食量并无显著改变。自由进食中实验环境控制的差异,可能是结果不一致的原因,如有的研究中存在促进进食的干扰因素(Goldman et al., 2011)。

最近一项研究结合 ERP 技术探究了阳极刺激右侧 DLPFC 对食物抑制控制的影响,采用食物线索的 Go/no-go 范式(Lapenta et al., 2014)。结果发现不仅个体的食欲渴求降低,而且在前额上的 N2 波幅降低和 P3 波幅增强。研究者认为 tDCS 可能增强了皮层的抑制控制和皮层下奖赏冲动之间的平衡(Lapenta et al., 2014)。但此研究中实验范式的有效性尚待商榷,在 Go/no-go 上的任务表现并无差异。还有研究采用阳极刺激限制性饮食者的额下回,结果发现个体在停止信号任务上的停止信号反应时降低,

对食物线索的抑制控制增强(陈帅禹,董德波,裘玉荣,肖子伦,陈红,2015)。未来应进一步地结合神经生理技术和客观的行为实验范式来考察 tDCS 刺激前额叶对饮食控制的影响。

### 3.2 在饮食失调群体上的应用

虽然有研究者指出 tDCS 比 rTMS 更适合临床干预治疗(Sparing & Mottaghy, 2008),但 tDCS 在饮食失调群体中的临床研究目前还很少,仅有三例研究。其中,有研究阳极连续五天刺激普瑞德威利氏症患者的右侧 DLPFC,结果发现其贪食症状明显减轻,去抑制性进食倾向也显著降低(Bravo et al., 2015)。另外,Gluck 等人(2015)的研究也发现,阳极重复刺激病态肥胖者的左侧 DLPFC 不仅在进食量上有改善效应,而且体重亦明显下降。但在神经性厌食症上的案例研究却发现,重复刺激左侧 DLPFC 后部分被试的临床症状显著改善,而另一部分被试在干预前后无变化(Khedr, Elfetoh, Ali, & Noamany, 2014)。

对于此现象(Khedr et al., 2014),可能是研究对象的个体差异造成的。饮食失调群体各个亚型的临床症状和生理机制差异悬殊,如厌食症就存在导泻型与非导泻型之分,可能导致在同一实验参数下出现不同的效应。如在饮食失调的 rTMS 研究已发现,个体前额叶和奖赏脑区之间的基线功能连接会影响到干预效果(Dunlop et al., 2015)。因此,未来需考虑研究对象在临床症状和神经生理机制上的差异,探究针对特定饮食失调群体的最佳实验参数。

## 4 前额叶无创神经干预改善饮食控制的作用机制探讨

虽然 rTMS 和 tDCS 通过刺激前额叶来改善饮食控制的研究取得了初步的成果,但其背后潜在的作用机制目前并不清楚。本文拟从微观和宏观两个层面来探讨无创神经干预改善饮食控制的可能机制。

在微观层面上,无创神经干预刺激可引起一系列生理生化的改变,譬如神经递质、神经营养因子和生理激素。已有研究证明,高频 rTMS 刺激 DLPFC 可以增加奖赏、记忆和皮下等脑区中的多巴胺浓度(Cho & Strafella, 2009; Keck et al., 2002)。而且, tDCS 的效应受到多巴胺 D2 受体阻断剂的调节(Nitsche et al., 2006)。另外,研究者已证实饮食行为的调控需要多种神经递质的参与,例如多巴胺、5-羟色胺和谷氨酸盐(Ramos, Meguid, Campos,



& Coelho, 2005)。其中,多巴胺在美食奖赏的习得强化上具有关键作用,例如肥胖和暴食者在奖赏神经环路上存在多巴胺受体浓度降低(Volkow, Wang, Tomasi, & Baler, 2013)。此外,动物上的研究表明 rTMS 刺激可增加脑源性神经营养因子和胆囊收缩素的水平(Müller, Toschi, Kresse, Post, & Keck, 2000)。脑源性神经营养因子是一种促进体重下降和抑制食欲的厌食因子(Pelleymounter, Cullen, & Wellman, 1995),胆囊收缩素是调节饱感信号的脑-肠肽(Duca, Zhong, & Covasa, 2013)。而且,在饮食领域的研究亦表明 rTMS 刺激可降低暴食者体内皮质醇的浓度(Claudino et al., 2011)。皮质醇在肥胖发展过程中具有重要作用,在食物暴露下贪食症患者的皮质醇水平增高(Neudeck, Florin, & Tuschen-Caffier, 2001)。因此,我们认为,无创神经干预可能通过生理上的改变达到对刺激脑区神经元的重塑,这可能是无创神经干预前额叶改善饮食控制的生理基础。

在宏观层面上,无创神经干预可能增强刺激脑区的功能及其与相关脑区的协同性(伊国胜等, 2016),进而来提高饮食控制能力。根据 Heatherton 的前额-皮层下平衡模型,健康行为调控需要前额叶自上而下控制加工和皮层下脑区奖赏加工之间的平衡(Heatherton & Wagner, 2011)。前额叶冲突监控和抑制控制功能的削弱会打破前额叶-皮层下神经环路的平衡,导致个体节食失败进而过度进食。神经影像研究表明当看到高热量图片时,肥胖者在抑制控制有关的额叶上的激活减弱(汪宇,路晖,杜捷,陈红, 2016)。此外,肥胖和暴食者在前额控制脑区和奖赏脑区之间的功能连接降低(Stice & Yokum, 2016)。

在饮食领域中已发现无创神经干预前额叶会产生相应认知功能和神经机制的改变。有研究发现 rTMS 可降低对食物的价值评估,并能增强控制脑区和奖赏脑区之间的功能耦合(Camus et al., 2009; Dunlop et al., 2015)。还有研究表明 tDCS 能增强个体对食物线索的抑制控制,并降低对美食的注意偏好(Fregni et al., 2008; Lapenta et al., 2014)。另一方面,无创神经干预在改变刺激脑区的灰质密度和激活强度的同时,也可增强刺激区域与其他脑区的功能连接(Bachtiar, Near, Johansen-Berg, & Stagg, 2015; May et al., 2007)。例如, tDCS 不仅能改变额顶控制网络和默认网络连接强度(Keeser et al., 2011),还能

增强 DLPFC 左右半球之间的功能协调性(Park et al., 2013)。综上,无创神经干预刺激前额叶可引起相应的神经生理机制的改变,从而增强前额叶自上而下的执行控制功能,并抑制个体对美食的奖赏冲动,最终改善个体的饮食控制能力。

## 5 展望

无创神经干预技术为饮食控制的神经机制研究和干预提供了新的视角。针对无创神经干预在饮食领域研究中存在的一些问题与挑战,跨学科的融合研究将有助于解决这些挑战。

第一,因变量测量的多样性和刺激位点的选择。主观的自我报告测量可能混有期望效应。以往研究证明,肥胖和饮食失调者不仅食欲渴求异于常人,而且对食物线索的认知能力和执行功能也存在缺陷(Davidson & Martin, 2014)。采用行为范式的无创神经干预研究,更能就某一具体认知成分来探究相关脑区在饮食调控中的作用。此外,对刺激位点的选择不应局限于 DLPFC,而应进一步地关注与饮食控制有关的其他脑区,譬如额下回、背侧前扣带回和顶叶。

第二,未来研究应考虑个体差异性。以往研究在研究对象上界定不清晰,将来的研究应进一步将健康个体、肥胖超重者和饮食失调各亚型细化区分,如研究方案需把饮食失调亚型的神经生理机制考虑进去(Dunlop et al., 2015)。此外,男女不仅在大脑结构和功能上存在性别差异,而且对食物加工过程中的神经激活也存在差异(Cornier, Salzberg, Endly, Bessesen, & Tregellas, 2010)。在以往研究中有少数研究混有男性被试(Camus et al., 2009; Mattavelli et al., 2015)。

最后,无创神经干预应与其他研究方法相融合。在饮食控制领域中结合脑成像和生理生化测量的无创神经干预研究目前还处于起步阶段,但这将是未来的研究热点。结合神经生理技术不仅能考察无创神经干预改善饮食控制的作用机制,而且能为靶位点的选择和个体化干预方案提供支持。另外,联合其他的干预方法可能会增强无创神经干预的效应。可以把无创神经干预与认知行为干预及药物治疗相结合,譬如食物线索的认知训练干预和心理治疗。

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# Effects of Non-Invasive Neurostimulation of Prefrontal Cortex on Eating Control: A Systematic Review Based on rTMS and tDCS

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**Abstract** Unhealthy eating habits can lead to overweight, obesity and eating disorder. A study has shown that obesity and disordered eating is a formidable global medical challenge, especially in China. The number of people who are worldwide overweight or obese has augmented dramatically over the past decades. The hedonic-inhibitory model of feeding posits that overconsumption of palatable food results from the disrupted balance between appetitive motivation mediated by the mesolimbic reward system and active inhibitory control mediated by the prefrontal areas, whereby appetitive motivation may override inhibitory control. Recently, data from obesity neuroimaging studies shows that imbalance in the prefrontal and limbic brain circuits that support cognition and reward-related aspects of eating behavior. Indeed, obesity and eating disorder often display abnormal neural activity in the prefrontal control circuitry, a key area for the eating control and processing of food motivation and satiety signaling.

In this context, there is a pressing need for novel approach to prevention and treatment of obesity and eating disorder. Non-invasive neuromodulation techniques allow the external manipulation of the human brain in a safe manner, without the requirement of a neurosurgical procedure. Over the past decades there has been rising interest in the use of non-invasive neuromodulation in neurology and psychiatry motivated by the shortage of existing treatments. The most commonly used non-invasive neuromodulation techniques are repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) and transcranial direct current simulation (tDCS). The purpose of this work is to conduct a systematic review of rTMS and tDCS efficacy on improving the eating control among the healthy participants and eating disorder as well as methodological considerations and its potential mechanism.

Eating control is a new application for the non-invasive neuromodulation, with the earliest study dating back to 2004. To date, seeing that the vital role of the prefrontal regions on the inhibit the hedonic eating, the most studies published to this day pay attention to the prefrontal cortex, especially in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex (DLPFC). In the healthy participants, most studies have found that the subjective food craving was reduced and the food-related cognitive function was enhanced after one session stimulation. In the eating disorders, improvement in clinical symptoms and alteration of the neurobiological basis were shown after one or more sessions. Nonetheless, it is necessary to note that a small number of studies did not achieve the desirable intervention effect. Non-invasive neuromodulation stimulating the prefrontal cortex would bring a series of neural physiological and biochemical changes, which boosts the capacity to control the hedonic eating and inhibits the appetitive motivation. This will heighten the strength of the top-down executive function and suppress the bottom-up reward impulsivity, thereby facilitating the eating control among the obesity and eating disorder.

To sum, non-invasive neurostimulation technology might effectively enhance the ability to control appetite, which ultimately improves the symptoms of disordered eating by altering the neuropsychological mechanism of the prefrontal cortex to adjust its excitability. Future research should further take the effect of different stimulation parameters and other target sites into account, consider the individual differences and explore the underlying neural mechanism by integrating with other neurophysiological techniques and combining with the objective behavioral paradigms.

**Key words** non-invasive neurostimulation technology, tDCS, rTMS, eating control, prefrontal cortex