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· 综述 ·

改良踝足矫形器的应用进展

孟殿怀¹ 王 彤¹

矫形器是以减轻身体运动功能障碍为目的的一种体外装置, 其中应用于踝关节的矫形器称为踝足矫形器(ankle-foot orthosis,AFO),也称小腿矫形器。常见的AFO有全接触塑料AFO、带踝关节铰链的塑料AFO、金属条AFO、免荷AFO和软性AFO五种^[1]。

AFO常用于先天性或后天性内外翻足、尖足和各种瘫痪性疾病引起的踝足关节不稳等, 可起到扩大足与地面的接触、加强对体重的支持、踝足关节的稳定、改善步态、防止踝足部变形等作用^[2];同时AFO常用于踝与后足部疾患^[3],以帮助减轻疼痛和稳定关节。由于AFO的应用范围较广,且没有根据具体情况进行调整,因此也有着明显不足:①关节(包括踝与足部关节)活动范围受限,长期穿戴导致局部肌肉功能下降;②形体过大,增加了局部皮肤受压的可能,可引起红肿、水泡,甚至破溃、感染等;③限制了足离地时蹬地动作,加上其对下肢额外的重量负荷,导致步态僵硬、不协调等。正因为有这些不足,多年来临床医生与科研工作者一直在寻求各种各样的改良方式,以求在现有标准AFO作用的基础上,附加某些治疗或保护性功能。本文就踝足矫形器的改良与应用

进展作一综述。

1 带抑制条的AFO(AFO with inhibitor bar)

Bronkhorst 和 Lamb^[4]在1987年最早开始在AFO上增添一个抑制条,以降低脑瘫患者的跖屈肌张力(图1)。抑制条是一个位于远节趾骨和中间趾骨之间的衬垫,其应用目的是降低远段趾骨的压力,以避免诱发屈趾反射,并最终降低下肢的跖屈肌张力。Diamond等^[5]的研究表明,带抑制条的AFO可以提高偏瘫患者的步行能力。

目前还没有研究表明带抑制条的AFO可以降低步行时的肌张力。Crenshaw等^[6]的报道指出,对于患有先天性痉挛性麻痹的儿童所使用的铰链式AFO,附加抑制条与否,没有显著的功能性差异。

虽然带抑制条的AFO是否能够改善痉挛步态仍不确

1 南京医科大学第一附属医院康复科, 210029

作者简介: 孟殿怀,男,主治医师

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定,但Kondo等^[7]报道了利用带抑制条的AFO可以减轻偏瘫患者因跖屈肌痉挛引起的疼痛,并使患者的步态更协调流畅;Manabu等^[8]的研究也表明,对伴有强直性足跖屈曲(tonic toe flexion reflex,TTFR)的偏瘫患者而言,附加抑制条的AFO可以提高他们的步行能力。

2 前置 AFO(anterior ankle-foot orthosis,A-AFO)

AFO有多种类型,金属材质的AFO已经逐渐被塑料材质的AFO所取代,因为前者较重且外观较笨拙。常规的塑料AFO主要是后置式,利用分层或真空技术在下肢石膏阳模上进行制作^[9]。而前置AFO由低温热塑板材制成,属前置式,这种设计更有利于在室内赤脚或穿鞋行走,因而在中国台湾地区受到广泛应用^[10];另外,前置AFO也可由高温热塑板材制作(图2)。



图1 带抑制条的 AFO



图2 前置 AFO

Wong等^[11]报道68例早期偏瘫患者,有46例(67.8%)用A-AFO可以显著的改善步行,且没有任何主观不适的申诉。Chen等^[12]研究了A-AFO对偏瘫步态的影响,表明穿戴A-AFO患者的步速明显提高,而足触地时的负荷降低。此外,Chen等^[13]的研究表明,相比于常规的AFO,A-AFO对人体姿势的稳定性没有任何负面效应,且侧方承重能力有所提高。

3 后足 AFO(hindfoot ankle-foot orthosis,H-AFO)

AFO常用于踝与后足部疾患^[3],如骨关节炎^[14]、风湿性关节炎^[15]、关节不稳^[16]或扁平足^[17]。AFO通过控制炎症关节前后向的相互运动而减轻炎症与疼痛,同时最大限度的减轻AFO总量与体积可以更好的维持患者的运动功能,因此出现了后足AFO,即在常规AFO的基础上,去除了足地面跟骨前侧的部分,同时小腿后侧的部分也大大缩短(图3)。



图3 常规 AFO 与后足 AFO

Huang等^[18]观察了踝关节、距下关节骨性关节炎的患者分别穿戴常规AFO、后足式H-AFO(HFO-R)、铰链式H-AFO(HFO-A)的运动功能,发现:HFO-A对后足部位的限定作用不如AFO,但是对前足部位的限定作用与AFO相同;而HFO-R对后足的限定作用与AFO差异无显著性意义,且前足有足够的活动空间。因此,作者认为,对于踝关节骨性关节炎的患者而言,HFO-R是最理想的矫形器。

Harold等^[19]也对此三种步行方式用测量地面反作用力方式进行了研究,认为:AFO和HFO-R比HFO-A更能限制后足的矢状面运动;三种方式均能限制后足的冠状面运动,而AFO最好;HFO-A与AFO可以限制后足的横断面运动。因此,要限制矢状面(即前后向)的运动,最好用AFO或HAFO-R;如果同时要限制冠状面与横断面的运动,则最好使用AFO。

4 带液压减震器的 AFO

穿戴常规AFO可以限制踝关节跖屈,以阻止摆动相的足下垂,但过度的对抗跖屈将引起支撑相时膝关节屈曲。Lehmann等^[20]报道,对抗跖屈的力度越大,膝关节屈曲的角度越大。因此就需要精确的设定跖屈对抗装置。对多种塑料AFO灵活度的研究表明^[21],通过选择适当的运动轨迹或塑料材质的厚度来精确调节灵活度是比较困难的。

Osamu等^[22]发明了一种液压减震器(图4),它可以在支撑相初期对抗踝关节跖屈活动,且对抗强度根据患者的实际情况进行个性化的调节。作者对2例偏瘫患者穿戴液压减震AFO与常规AFO的步态进行分析,结果表明,液压减震AFO在充分的跖屈控制的基础上,可以减缓支撑相膝关节的屈曲,从而使得步态更加协调舒适。

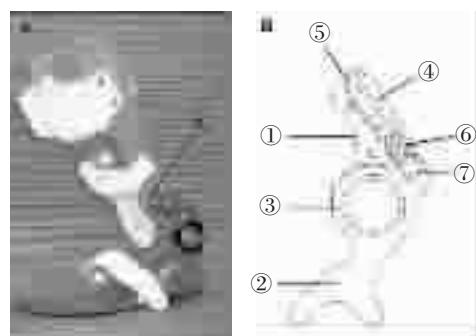


图4 A 带液压减震器的 AFO;B 液压减震器的设计简图

①液压减振单元;②金属托;③环形部;④液柱杠;⑤液压调节螺丝;
⑥弹簧部;⑦关节角度调节帽

5 动力式 AFO(powered ankle-foot orthosis,P-AFO)

踝关节跖屈肌对步行时产生前向速度及支撑体重比较关键^[23],因此Ferris等^[24-25]发明了一种简便的动力式AFO(P-AFO)(图5),可以在步行时辅助跖屈。P-AFO包含了小腿后侧的碳纤维柄(人工肌)与聚丙烯足面。在碳纤维柄底部有压力传感器,可以在足接触/离开地面时感受到压力,从而带动碳纤维柄发生相应的变化以产生跖屈力。

另外,还有人发明了两类P-AFO^[26-27],但其设计目的仅是提供足背屈力矩,而不是辅助跖屈。



图5 动力式 AFO

国内近年来也有人开始对踝足矫形器进行改良设计,以期获得更好的临床效果。易南等^[28]观察了带楔鞋与硬踝足矫形器联合应用对膝屈曲挛缩脑性瘫痪儿童膝关节伸展能力和平衡功能的影响,发现其可以提高患儿的站立平衡能力,并增强了膝关节的伸展能力;孟殿怀等^[29]在普通AFO小腿后侧的支撑板上附加可调节式胫骨推移板,观察了10例健康大学生穿戴后对其膝关节运动角度的影响,发现膝关节屈曲角度(支撑相早期、支撑相中期及最大值)明显增加。

在实际的临床工作中,我们应依据患者的具体病情、功能需求选择装配相应的AFO,如单纯足下垂可选用前置AFO(A-AFO),后足疼痛宜选用后足AFO(H-AFO);同时需要考虑患者的伴随症状,如伴有跖屈肌痉挛的患者宜选择带有抑制条AFO,伴有小腿三头肌无力时选择动力式AFO(P-AFO)等。当然,以上各种改良方式只是给出了一种解决AFO实际应用中出现的各种临床问题的思路,临床疾病多种多样,足踝部功能障碍也是变化多端,这就需要临床医生与科研工作者继续不断的努力,从而为患者设计与装配最为合适的AFO。

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