

# 虾青素酯来源、消化吸收与健康功效的研究进展

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**摘要:**自然界中虾青素主要有游离态和酯化态两种形式。虾青素酯种类多样,且消化吸收与健康功能不同于游离的虾青素。通过分析国内外研究数据,对虾青素酯的来源、消化吸收以及健康功效等方面的最新研究进展进行全面介绍,重点分析脂肪酸的存在对虾青素酯消化吸收的影响,阐述虾青素酯的功能活性及潜在作用机制,总结目前虾青素酯开发利用中存在的问题并对其发展方向提出展望。

**关键词:**虾青素酯;来源;消化吸收;健康功效

## Research progress on digestion, absorption and health efficacy of astaxanthin ester

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**Abstract:** Astaxanthin is primarily found in both free and esterified forms in nature, With astaxanthin esters presenting various structural variations. These forms differ significantly in their digestive, absorption, and health-related functions compared to free astaxanthin. This review provides a comprehensive overview of the latest research regarding the sources, digestion and absorption characteristics, and health benefits of astaxanthin esters, based on an analysis of domestic and international studies. It examines how the presence of fatty acids affects the digestion and absorption of astaxanthin ester and discusses their functional activity and potential mechanisms. Additionally, the review highlights existing challenges in the development and utilization of astaxanthin esters.

**Keywords:** astaxanthin ester; source; digestion and absorption; health benefits

虾青素是一种非维生素 A 原的脂溶性酮式类胡萝卜素,由一条多烯链和两个带有羟基、酮基及不对称的紫罗兰酮环构成<sup>[1-2]</sup>,13 个共轭双键的存在使得虾青素性质活泼,是目前已知的最强抗氧化剂<sup>[3]</sup>。研究发现,虾青素可以清除细胞中的活性氧并抑制氧化应激作用,对脑<sup>[4]</sup>、肝<sup>[5]</sup>、肾<sup>[6]</sup>等多个器官具有保护作用。

虾青素主要以游离态和结合态两种形式存在于自然界中<sup>[7]</sup>。如图 1 所示,虾青素酯由虾青素六元环上的羟基与脂肪酸结合而产生。虾青素酯的形式丰富:根据结合的脂肪酸数量不同,分为虾青素单酯与双酯<sup>[8]</sup>;依据其结合的脂肪酸分子不同,又可分为短链脂肪酸虾青素酯、中

链脂肪酸虾青素酯以及长链脂肪酸虾青素酯等。虾青素的健康功效已被研究者认可,虾青素酯因同时具备脂肪酸和虾青素,其生物学功效备受研究者关注。已有研究发现,虾青素酯在抑制炎症反应<sup>[9]</sup>、改善认知障碍<sup>[10]</sup>等方面功效突出。然而,现有研究缺乏对虾青素酯的总结。文章对虾青素酯的来源、消化吸收与营养功能的研究进展进行概述,以为为虾青素酯的开发利用及虾青素酯产业发展提供参考依据。

### 1 虾青素酯的来源

水生生物是虾青素酯最为重要的生物来源。除红发夫酵母和野生鲑鱼中的虾青素以游离态为主<sup>[11]</sup>外,大

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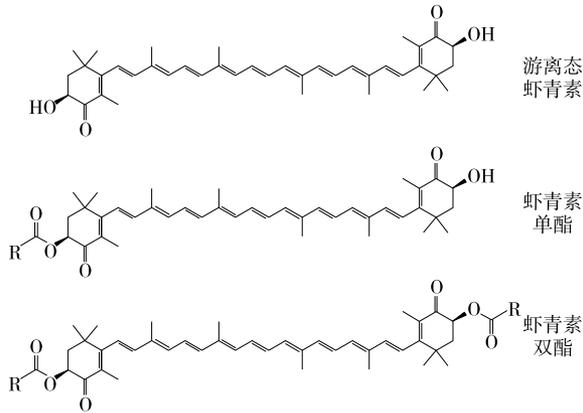


图1 游离态虾青素、虾青素单酯、虾青素双酯结构示意图  
Figure 1 Schematic diagram of the structure of free astaxanthin, astaxanthin monoester and astaxanthin diester

部分水生生物中的虾青素主要以酯化态的形式存在。研究发现,南极磷虾<sup>[12]</sup>、蟹<sup>[13-14]</sup>以及绿藻<sup>[15]</sup>中的虾青素多以双酯的形式存在;在雨生红球藻中虾青素单酯所占的比例较高约 80%,双酯约 15%<sup>[16]</sup>。在南美白对虾<sup>[17]</sup>以及飞马哲水蚤<sup>[18]</sup>中,虾青素单酯和双酯所占比例大致相当。在脂肪酸种类方面,雨生红球藻中的虾青素酯结合的脂肪酸以 C<sub>18:3</sub>、C<sub>18:2</sub>、C<sub>18:1</sub> 和 C<sub>16:0</sub> 为主,而在南美白对虾、南极磷虾以及梭子蟹中,虾青素酯的脂肪酸链以 C<sub>20:5</sub> 和 C<sub>22:6</sub> 为主<sup>[19]</sup>。同一种生物的虾青素酯含量在不同

组织和器官中呈现出巨大差异性。研究显示,黑斑节对虾腹部以游离虾青素为主,而腹肢主要以单酯的形式存在<sup>[20]</sup>;在南美白对虾的虾膏、虾壳和虾肉中游离虾青素和虾青素酯所占比例分别为 2:3,1:1,3:2<sup>[21]</sup>。值得注意的是,虾青素酯在高等植物中分布较少,仅在夏侧金盏花等少数物种中有所分布,其花瓣中虾青素酯含量占到了干重的 1% 左右,脂肪酸链主要以 C<sub>18:0</sub>、C<sub>18:1</sub> 和 C<sub>16:0</sub> 为主<sup>[22]</sup>。

## 2 虾青素酯的消化吸收

大量研究<sup>[23-24]</sup>阐明了游离虾青素的消化吸收过程,而虾青素酯由于结合了不同种类的脂肪酸,在遵循虾青素消化吸收特征的基础上,存在着独特的规律。虾青素酯的消化吸收过程如图 2 所示。首先,在肠道消化酶的作用下,部分虾青素酯先分解成为游离态的虾青素与脂肪酸,再与脂质(如胆固醇和磷脂)、脂质消化产物(如游离脂肪酸和溶血磷脂)和胆盐混合形成混合微团。之后,混合微团通过被动扩散的方式再由小肠黏膜吸收并形成富含甘油三酯的乳糜微粒。乳糜微粒通过淋巴系统进入血液循环,在血液中被脂蛋白酶迅速分解<sup>[25]</sup>,含有虾青素的乳糜微粒残留物迅速被肝等部位吸收<sup>[26]</sup>;虾青素也可以通过血一视网膜屏障在眼部得到积累<sup>[26]</sup>。同时,虾青素可以在机体中转化为视黄醇<sup>[27]</sup>,但转化作用的部位尚不明确。小肠中未被充分利用的虾青素酯到达结肠组织<sup>[28]</sup>,在此与肠道中的微生物相互作用。

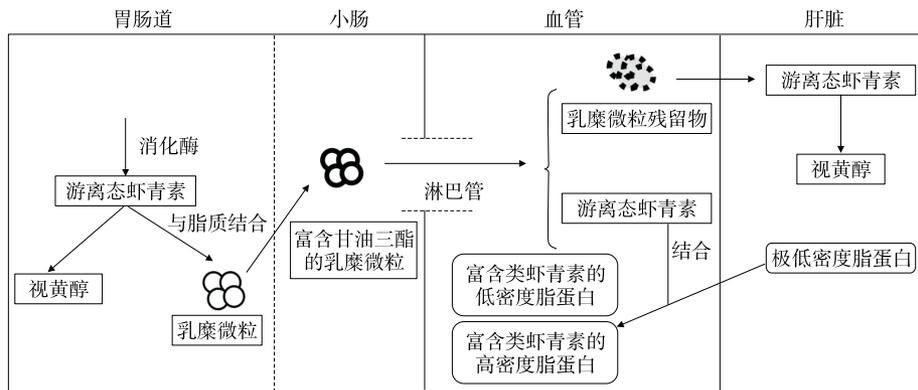


图2 虾青素酯在人体内的消化吸收过程

Figure 2 Digestion and absorption of astaxanthin ester in human body

脂肪酸的链长、饱和度以及脂肪酸数目对虾青素酯的生物利用度产生重要影响。相较于游离的虾青素,虾青素酯通常具有更高的生物利用度,对于不同分子结构虾青素酯的消化吸收特性以及生物利用度的研究详见表 1。Qiao 等<sup>[29]</sup>研究发现,与游离虾青素相比,人工合成的琥珀酸虾青素双酯在 ICR 小鼠的血清和肝脏中具有更高的积累。Yang 等<sup>[30]</sup>以血清中游离虾青素浓度为检测指

标,借助体内外试验比较分析了 14 种虾青素酯的生物利用度,结果显示脂肪酸的链长和饱和度与虾青素酯的生物利用度存在着负相关的关系,短链脂肪酸虾青素酯的生物利用度优于长链脂肪酸虾青素酯,高不饱和脂肪酸虾青素酯优于低不饱和脂肪酸虾青素酯,且虾青素双酯高于游离态虾青素和虾青素单酯。虽然结合长链脂肪酸虾青素酯的消化吸收不高,但鉴于某些长链脂肪酸如二

十二碳六烯酸(DHA)与二十碳五烯酸(EPA)独特的营养学功效,与DHA/EPA结合的虾青素酯仍然受到研究者的关注。Li等<sup>[28]</sup>借助Balb/c小鼠与n-3缺乏小鼠单次灌胃试

验分别比较了DHA虾青素单酯与双酯的代谢情况,发现DHA虾青素单酯比双酯更有利于机体对虾青素的吸收,而双酯更有利于吸收DHA。

表1 不同分子结构虾青素酯的消化吸收

Table 1 Bioavailability of astaxanthin esters with different molecular structures

来源	脂肪酸种类与数目	模型	结果	参考文献
雨生红球藻 /		Wistar大鼠	单次灌胃虾青素酯6h后眼部虾青素水平明显升高,之后又显著降低,在9h降低到与肝脏近似水平。同时,眼睛的平均虾青素含量比肝组织高出3倍	[26]
化学合成	DHA 虾青素单/双酯	Balb/c小鼠与n-3缺乏小鼠	大部分的DHA 虾青素双酯随粪便排出体外,单酯更有利于机体对于虾青素的吸收;DHA 虾青素双酯更有利于机体对DHA 的利用	[28]
化学合成	琥珀酸虾青素双酯	ICR小鼠	相比游离虾青素,琥珀酸虾青素双酯更有利于机体对于虾青素的吸收	[29]
化学合成	Asta-C <sub>4:0</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>8:0</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>12:0</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>18:0</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>18:1</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>18:2</sub> (单、双酯)、Asta-C <sub>22:6</sub> (单、双酯)	ICR小鼠与体外消化液模拟试验	短链脂肪酸虾青素酯的消化吸收优于长链脂肪酸虾青素酯;高不饱和脂肪酸虾青素酯优于低不饱和脂肪酸虾青素酯;虾青素双酯优于游离态虾青素和虾青素单酯	[30]
雨生红球藻 /		Balb/c小鼠	单次灌胃虾青素酯后,在小鼠消化道壁、血清和肝脏中仅检测到游离形式的虾青素,且含量出现了明显的上升,空肠的吸收能力最高,其次是回肠和十二指肠,最后是结肠	[31]
雨生红球藻 /		Balb/c小鼠	微乳液、微胶囊与脂质体包裹的虾青素酯生物利用度均高于虾青素酯油剂组,且3种运载体系中脂质体的生物利用率最高,推测与脂质体良好的生物相容性相关	[32]
化学合成	DHA 虾青素单酯	BALB/c小鼠	羟丙基-β-环糊精的包埋可显著提升DHA 虾青素单酯的生物利用度,口服后的血浆中虾青素浓度是包合前的2.68倍	[33]
雨生红球藻 /		ICR小鼠	以乳清蛋白、玉米蛋白、乳铁蛋白、大豆蛋白和酪蛋白酸钠为壁材制备的微胶囊均可以提升虾青素酯的生物利用度,其中乳清蛋白的效果最好	[34]
南极磷虾油	虾青素酯	体外消化模型	由于南极磷虾油中磷脂等两性分子的存在,使其虾青素酯的体外生物可接受率高于藻源虾青素酯的3.8倍	[35]
雨生红球藻 /		Balb/c小鼠与体外消化液模拟试验	生物利用率随油脂脂肪酸链长度的增加和不饱和度的降低而增加	[36]

除脂肪酸的影响外,来源以及溶解基质的不同也是导致虾青素酯生物利用度差异的一个关键因素。虾青素酯来源对生物利用度的影响机制尚未完全揭示,推测可能与虾青素酯的脂肪酸组成有关。周庆新等<sup>[31]</sup>发现雨生红球藻源虾青素酯在消化道中部分分解为游离态的虾青素,且体内虾青素主要集中在血清和肝脏部位。空肠对于虾青素的吸收能力最高,其次是回肠和十二指肠,最后是结肠。为提高虾青素酯的生物利用率,周庆新等<sup>[32]</sup>制备了微乳液、微胶囊与脂质体3种运载体系,结果显示

3种运载体系包裹的虾青素酯生物利用度均高于虾青素酯油剂组,且脂质体组的生物利用率高于其他两组,推测与其良好的生物相容性相关。羟丙基-β-环糊精包埋的DHA 虾青素酯,口服后血浆中虾青素浓度是包埋前的2.68倍<sup>[33]</sup>。Yang等<sup>[34]</sup>利用5种蛋白基材料(乳清蛋白、玉米蛋白、乳铁蛋白、大豆蛋白和酪蛋白酸钠)制备虾青素酯微胶囊,发现5种蛋白材料均可以提高虾青素酯的生物利用度,其中乳清蛋白效果最好,包载后的生物利用度提高了2.15倍。南极磷虾油中的虾青素酯的生物可接受率

比雨生红球藻源虾青素酯高出 3.8 倍,这一差异可能与南极磷虾油存在多种两性分子有关<sup>[35]</sup>。Yang 等<sup>[36]</sup>采用体外胃肠道模拟试验和 Balb/c 小鼠体内试验,探索虾青素酯在 6 种油基质(丁酸酯、辛酸酯、油酸酯、橄榄油、玉米油、鱼油)中消化吸收特性,结果显示虾青素酯的生物利用度随溶解基质中油脂脂肪酸链的延长(油酸酯>辛酸酯>丁酸酯)和不饱和度的降低(橄榄油>玉米油>鱼油)而增加。

### 3 虾青素酯的健康功效

虾青素酯的生物利用度是其发挥体内正常生理功能的基础。消化吸收数据提示,虾青素酯具有更高的生物利用度,更有利于其营养功效的发挥。近几年,虾青素酯在抑制氧化应激<sup>[37]</sup>、改善认知功能<sup>[38]</sup>、缓解肾损伤<sup>[39]</sup>、抑制癌症<sup>[40]</sup>、改善代谢综合征<sup>[41]</sup>等方面的营养功效逐渐被揭示。虾青素酯优异的生物学特性一方面归因于虾青素在细胞膜上特殊位置的活性,另一方面与其结合的脂肪酸如短链脂肪酸、长链多不饱和脂肪酸的功效也不容忽视。

#### 3.1 调控氧化应激

氧化应激是指体内的氧化与抗氧化平衡失调,倾向于氧化的一种状态。体内的氧化因子主要包括活性氧(ROS)自由基和活性氮(RNS)自由基两大类。ROS 自由基主要有超氧阴离子、羟自由基及其活性衍生物如过氧化氢、单线态氧等。ROS 与 RNS 引起的氧化应激会加速机体衰老并引发免疫炎症病变、神经系统、心血管疾病和癌症等疾病的发生。慢性氧化应激会抑制机体内源性抗氧化调节系统的功能,表现为超氧化物歧化酶(SOD)、过氧化氢酶(CAT)和谷胱甘肽过氧化物酶(GPX)等活性减弱。与游离态虾青素相似,虾青素酯同样具有猝灭单线态氧、调控氧化应激的能力<sup>[42]</sup>。

抗氧化能力的评价主要包含体外评价法与体内评价法。虾青素酯的抗氧化活性目前主要集中在雨生红球藻源的虾青素酯方面。研究<sup>[43]</sup>发现,提取方法影响虾青素酯的抗氧化活性,CO<sub>2</sub>超临界萃取获得的虾青素酯比 DMSO 提取法具有更强的抑制 ROS 产生的能力,且虾青素酯的抗氧化活性优于游离态虾青素。此外,雨生红球藻源虾青素酯抑制胃壁细胞质子泵(H-K-ATP 酶)和脂氧合酶的能力分别约为游离态虾青素的 2, 23 倍<sup>[40]</sup>,提示虾青素酯优异的抗氧化能力是虾青素与脂肪酸共同作用的结果。多项研究表明,雨生红球藻源虾青素酯在抑制脂多糖诱导的巨噬细胞 ROS 的产生<sup>[44]</sup>、脾脏细胞内 ROS 与 RNS 的积累<sup>[45]</sup>方面效果突出。同时,体内研究也显示,补充虾青素酯可显著提高胃溃疡大鼠体内的 SOD、CAT 等水平<sup>[40]</sup>;并缓解四氯化碳致 Wistar 大鼠肝脏氧化应激损伤<sup>[46]</sup>。但是,虾青素酯调控氧化应激的机制仍需要进一步探究。

#### 3.2 缓解肾损伤

肾脏由大量的微血管网构成,是人体的重要器官之一。在维持基础代谢、清除外源性的化学物、毒物以及体内的代谢毒物中发挥重要作用。急性肾损伤的典型临床症状是肾小球滤过率短期内迅速降低,表现为肾功能的迅速下降和代谢废物的蓄积<sup>[47]</sup>。近年来,急性肾损伤的发病率不断升高,其中男性为高发人群,已经成为世界范围内的一个公共卫生问题<sup>[48]</sup>。

血液中的肌酐和尿素氮是评估肾损伤的主要指标。Shi 等<sup>[39]</sup>利用游离虾青素、DHA 虾青素单、双酯进行连续 7 d 的灌胃试验,发现 DHA 虾青素双酯显著改善了万古霉素导致的小鼠尿素氮和肌酐水平增加现象,其作用效果优于游离态虾青素。雨生红球藻源虾青素酯(80%单酯、15%双酯)也可显著改善庆大霉素诱导的急性肾损伤。相关机制研究<sup>[6,49]</sup>发现,虾青素酯缓解肾损伤的作用除与调控 Nrf2/Keap1 抗氧化防御途径有关外,还涉及到增强自噬—溶酶体解毒、介导 MAPK/ERK 通路诱导细胞生长和分化以及调控胱天蛋白酶级联来抑制细胞凋亡等多信号通路调控机制。

#### 3.3 抗癌作用

癌症不仅是中国主要的公共卫生问题,也是全球主要死亡原因之一。癌症的发生给居民健康、经济乃至心理造成极大的负担。癌细胞在生长失控的同时,还会局部侵入周围的正常组织和器官甚至经由体内循环系统或淋巴系统转移到身体其他部位,对人体造成较大的损伤。2020 年全球癌症新发病例达到了 1 929 万余例,其中中国新发癌症 456 万余例<sup>[50]</sup>,高发率与高死亡率特征对机体健康造成了巨大的威胁。膳食来源活性物质对肿瘤细胞的抑制作用因安全性高、副作用小引发广泛关注。

关于虾青素酯的抗癌活性研究已有大量报道。体外研究发现,雨生红球藻源虾青素酯(80%单酯型、15%双酯型)可以显著抑制人结肠癌细胞(HCT-116、LS-174、WiDr、SW-480)<sup>[51]</sup>、肺癌细胞(A549)<sup>[52-53]</sup>以及肝癌细胞<sup>[54]</sup>等的增殖,初步机制研究<sup>[51]</sup>提示虾青素酯主要通过降低细胞周期蛋白 D1 的表达、下调 AKT 的磷酸化、细胞凋亡相关的蛋白以及 MAP 激酶信号传导来抑制癌细胞的生长并促进其凋亡。也有研究<sup>[52]</sup>发现,虾青素酯主要通过增加 ROS 的产生、促进线粒体膜电位的崩溃等方式加速肺癌 A549 细胞的凋亡。另外,Rao 等<sup>[55]</sup>以 Wistar 大鼠为研究对象,发现雨生红球藻源虾青素双酯可显著抑制紫外线和二甲苯萘诱导的肿瘤,使其发病率降低至 88%,其抗癌效用约是游离虾青素的 3.5 倍。

#### 3.4 改善肠道菌群

正常人体肠道内寄居的微生物数量多达 10<sup>14</sup>,不仅数量庞大,而且种类繁多,是调节宿主健康的关键因素之一。随着微生物组与代谢组学技术的发展,膳食营养组

分与肠道菌群的相互作用成为肠道研究领域的热点问题,机体与不同肠道微生物的复杂关系逐渐被揭示。研究表明,肠道菌群参与了肠道中80%的免疫应答活动<sup>[56]</sup>,并通过脑—肠轴<sup>[57]</sup>、肠—肝轴<sup>[58]</sup>、肠—肾轴<sup>[59]</sup>等多种途径影响机体健康。

前期研究多关注膳食纤维<sup>[60]</sup>、多酚<sup>[61]</sup>、多糖<sup>[62]</sup>等营养物质对肠道菌群的调控。近期,脂质与肠道菌群的互动也受到研究者重视。由虾青素酯的消化吸收特征可知,其可以到达结肠与肠道菌群相互作用。李明爽<sup>[63]</sup>利用C57BL/6小鼠构建葡聚糖硫酸钠(DSS)诱导的急性炎症性肠病模型,发现膳食补充150 mg/kg体重的EPA虾青素单酯14 d可以促进厚壁菌门和拟杆菌门丰度的恢复,重塑肠道菌群,达到改善炎症性肠病的目的。Qiao等<sup>[64]</sup>研究发现,琥珀酸虾青素双酯的干预显著降低了溃疡性结肠炎小鼠肠道中拟杆菌属、地杆菌属、另枝菌属、酪酸菌属和副拟杆菌属的丰度,促进了厌氧菌和乳酸菌的增殖。正辛酸虾青素双酯的补充增加了蓝细菌门2个属的丰度,并且显著增强了淀粉和蔗糖代谢及磷酸戊糖途径,从而减弱了高脂肪和高蔗糖饮食引发的胰岛素抵抗<sup>[65]</sup>。上述研究提示,虾青素酯可以通过重塑肠道菌群组成和调整菌群的代谢过程两种方式影响肠道微生态以及肠道相关疾病,但由于肠道微生物组成的多样性以及代谢产物的复杂性,虾青素酯与肠道菌群及其代谢产物之间的具体作用关系仍不明确。

### 3.5 脑功能的改善

随着人口老龄化与慢性病的高发,认知障碍患者呈逐年增加趋势。认知功能障碍的典型特征表现为记忆力与学习能力下降以及反应迟钝等。研究显示,阿尔茨海默症<sup>[66]</sup>、帕金森病<sup>[67]</sup>、创伤性脑损伤<sup>[68]</sup>均伴随不同程度的认知障碍。DHA甘油三酯、DHA磷脂等传统形式鱼油改善学习记忆、维持神经元发育的营养功效已得到证实<sup>[69-70]</sup>。近期新型鱼油,富含DHA的虾青素酯改善脑功能、维持神经元结构完整性的营养功效引起学者的广泛关注。

行为是机体重要的外在表现,它反映了生物体的身体机能和运动状态。八臂迷宫和Morris水迷宫是常用的评价动物学习记忆能力的行为学试验。研究<sup>[71]</sup>显示,相对于游离虾青素,富含DHA的虾青素双酯更能改善阿尔茨海默症经典模型APP/PS1小鼠的学习记忆能力。Wang等<sup>[72]</sup>以游离虾青素和DHA虾青素酯干预APP/PS1小鼠连续3个月,发现DHA虾青素酯通过激活ULK1信号通路和恢复自噬—溶酶体融合减轻大脑淀粉样蛋白和磷酸化Tau蛋白沉积,最终改善神经元功能,且其改善效果优于游离虾青素的单独作用。另一项研究<sup>[73]</sup>发现,与游离态的虾青素相比,DHA虾青素酯在改善1-甲基-4-苯基-1,2,3,6-四氢吡啶(MPTP)诱导的小鼠帕金森病疾病中作用更

为突出,进一步研究显示DHA虾青素酯可以通过线粒体介导途径、JNK和P38 MAPK途径抑制脑内多巴胺能神经元凋亡,进而预防帕金森症的行为缺陷。上述研究提示,富含DHA的虾青素可能是一种潜在的改善认知障碍、维持神经元正常功能等的营养物质。但目前仍缺乏DHA虾青素酯与传统鱼油改善脑功能的比较研究。

### 3.6 代谢综合征的改善

代谢综合征(metabolic syndrome, MetS)指以中心性肥胖、脂质异常(高胆固醇血症和血脂异常)、高血压、胰岛素抵抗和炎症为主要风险因子的一组复杂的代谢紊乱症候群<sup>[74]</sup>。据2019年的一项研究估计,全世界代谢综合征患者约有10亿人<sup>[75]</sup>,在中国代谢综合征的患病率高达21.9%<sup>[76]</sup>。代谢综合征的防治已成为世界各国不容忽视的公共健康问题。MetS的高发病率与现代饮食模式的改变密切相关,高膳食脂肪和高糖饮食是MetS高发的主要原因。

王雪娟<sup>[77]</sup>发现虾青素酯连续干预60 d能有效降低高脂高果糖饮食导致的小鼠脂肪积累、空腹血糖及血清胰岛素增加,改善糖耐量及胰岛素抵抗,推测其改善机制可能与调控机体炎症水平相关。Hussein等<sup>[78]</sup>发现橄榄油基虾青素酯可以使代谢综合征模型SHR/NDmcr-cp大鼠的空腹血糖水平及胰岛素抵抗稳态指数显著降低,提高胰岛素敏感性,同时抑制脂肪细胞的减少和损失。与短链脂肪酸结合的虾青素酯(丁酸虾青素酯)也被证明可显著改善高脂高糖饲料导致的C57BL/6J小鼠胰岛素抵抗,且效果优于硬脂酸虾青素双酯与藻油来源虾青素酯,其作用机制可能与改善肠屏障功能、调节肠道菌群产物LPS和短链脂肪酸相关<sup>[79]</sup>。Wang等<sup>[80]</sup>发现DHA虾青素单酯通过调节mTOR和AMPK诱导的ULK1磷酸化,恢复自噬体—溶酶体融合抑制,从而缓解高脂饮食诱导的体重异常增加。整体看来,虾青素酯对于代谢综合征的调控也具有多靶点的特征。

### 3.7 运动能力的恢复

随着时代的进步与发展,生活节奏不断加快,处于疲劳等亚健康状态的人群比例不断上升,据统计全球亚健康人数超过60亿人,占全球总人口的85%;而在中国,亚健康人数约9.5亿人口,占总人口的70%<sup>[81]</sup>。而运动能力的下降正是亚健康状态的主要症状之一。运动对于人体健康非常重要,可以促进人体的新陈代谢<sup>[82]</sup>。虾青素对于运动能力的改善主要通过调控氧化损伤,改善线粒体供能,降低血乳酸堆积,提高耐力水平且促进肌肉恢复和生长等实现<sup>[83-84]</sup>。近期发现虾青素酯在恢复机体运动能力和促进人体健康方面也发挥着重要作用。

虾青素酯通常在肌肉等组织中有更强的积累,从而促进运动能力的恢复与增强。雨生红球藻源虾青素酯(80%单酯型、15%双酯型)在血浆、骨骼肌、心脏、肝脏中

的积累能力要强于补充人工合成的虾青素和红法夫酵母源虾青素(主要为游离态虾青素),从而使小鼠在运动中体现出更强大的耐力<sup>[85]</sup>。陈东方等<sup>[86]</sup>研究发现,为期 30 d 的 150 mg/kg 虾青素酯灌胃可以明显延长 ICR 小鼠负重游泳的时间,提升运动耐力,同时,天然虾青素酯的补充还可以增加肝糖原含量、降低血清尿素的产生,并减少小鼠血乳酸曲线下面积,对小鼠的耐力恢复产生积极的影响。

#### 4 结语与展望

虾青素酯同时具有虾青素与脂肪酸的双重营养功效,尤其是结合短链脂肪酸、n-3 长链多不饱和脂肪酸的虾青素酯在维持肠道稳态、健脑益智方面优于游离虾青素,提示其可以作为膳食营养组分或者营养补充剂用于促进机体健康。

由于虾青素酯类型的多样性,在实际应用中需要综合考虑脂肪酸碳链长度与饱和度、虾青素酯化程度、虾青素酯稳定性及生物利用度等问题。整体看来,虾青素酯的开发利用仍然存在以下问题:虾青素酯是水产品中天然存在的一类结构特殊的脂质,但含量较低,尤其是结合 n-3 长链多不饱和脂肪酸的虾青素酯含量低;相对游离虾青素,虾青素酯的稳定性与生物利用率得到一定程度的提升,但是仍存在体内吸收以及生物利用率低的情况。目前对于虾青素酯的制备多采用有机试剂提取法与化学合成法,产品的纯度低,质量不稳定,且存在有机试剂残留问题,极大限制了虾青素酯的深加工;虾青素酯的营养功能是研究者关注的热点问题,但目前关于虾青素酯营养功效研究多集中在维持肠脑健康、改善心血管疾病等方面,且具体作用机制不明确,不利于其作为营养功效因子的开发利用。针对上述问题,虾青素酯研究可以从以下几个方面展开:优化虾青素酯的提取工艺,可采用生物酶法转化等更加绿色、健康、低毒性的方法制备虾青素酯;可采用包埋、纳米乳液、脂质体等技术,提升虾青素酯的稳定性、缓释效果以及靶向递送,改善其体内吸收与营养功效;丰富虾青素酯的营养功效并阐明其发挥营养功效的机制,以拓展虾青素酯在食品营养以及生物医药领域的应用需求。

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