



基于倾向得分匹配探讨中国老年人听力损失与认知功能之间的关系*

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【摘要】目的 通过倾向得分匹配法,探讨老年人群听力损失与认知功能各维度之间的关系。**方法** 使用中国健康与养老追踪调查(China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study, CHARLS)2018年的数据,纳入60岁及以上的参与者共7605人。使用无卡钳值、不可替换的1:1最近邻匹配法进行倾向得分匹配,再用G-computation估计听力损失对认知功能各维度的平均处理效应(average treatment effect, ATE)。**结果** 匹配前,女性3626人(47.68%),听力损失1409人(18.53%),认知障碍3031人(39.86%)。匹配后,听力损失组和听力正常组分别纳入1409例受试者,且两组间人群基本特征分布相似。人群平均处理效应结果显示,听力损失组的认知功能得分均低于正常组,整体认知功能低0.593分[95%置信区间(confidence interval, CI): -0.916 ~ -0.257, $P < 0.001$]、定向力低0.183分(95%CI: -0.302 ~ -0.055, $P = 0.004$)、即时记忆力低0.150分(95%CI: -0.218 ~ -0.085, $P < 0.001$)、以及语言能力低0.178分(95%CI: -0.303 ~ -0.058, $P = 0.006$)。老年听力损失者的认知障碍患病率比正常者高4.2%(95%CI: 0.007 ~ 0.077, $P = 0.020$)。**结论** 听力损失影响老年人定向力、记忆力和语言能力,同时也是老年人发生认知障碍的潜在危险因素。

【关键词】 听力损失 认知功能 倾向得分匹配

Relationship Between Hearing Loss and Cognitive Function in Elderly Chinese People: A Study Based on Propensity Score Matching

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【Abstract】 Objective To explore the relationship between hearing loss and cognitive function in the elderly population through propensity score matching method. **Methods** We analyzed the data of 7605 participants aged 60 and above who were included in the 2018 China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS). The non-substitutable 1:1 nearest neighbor matching method without caliper value was used for propensity score matching and G-computation was used to estimate the average treatment effect (ATE) of hearing loss on all dimensions of cognitive function. **Results** Before matching, there were 3626 (47.68%) women, with 1409 (18.53%) of whom suffering from hearing loss and 3031 (39.86%) of whom suffering from cognitive impairment. After matching, 1409 subjects were included in the hearing loss group and 1409, in the normal hearing group, with both groups sharing similar distribution of basic demographic characteristics. The results for the average treatment effect of the population indicated that the cognitive function scores of the hearing loss group were lower than those of the normal hearing group, with the overall cognitive function being 0.593 points lower (95% confidence interval [CI]: -0.916- -0.257, $P < 0.001$), orientation being 0.183 points lower (95% CI: -0.302- -0.055, $P = 0.004$), immediate memory being 0.150 points lower (95% CI: -0.218- -0.085, $P < 0.001$), and language skills being 0.178 points lower (95% CI: -0.303- -0.058, $P = 0.006$). The prevalence of cognitive impairment of the hearing loss group was 4.2% higher than that of the normal hearing group (95% CI: 0.007- 0.077, $P = 0.020$). **Conclusion** Hearing loss adversely affects the orientation, memory, and language skills of the elderly population and forms a potential risk factor for cognitive impairment in the elderly population.

【Key words】 Hearing loss Cognitive function Propensity score matching

老年痴呆与衰老密切相关,高发于老年人,目前尚未有明确的根治手段,给患者家庭和社会造成了极大的疾

病和经济负担^[1]。LI等^[2]基于模型预测,到2050年,中国痴呆患者将达到4898万人,但若从2020年开始进行预防和干预,到2050年该预测病例数将减少1196万,减轻6390.4亿美元的经济负担。认知障碍(cognitive impairment)是痴呆的早期表现,常表现为记忆功能和执

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行功能障碍^[3]。有研究显示,听力损失(hearing loss, HL)会导致老年人沟通交流的意愿减少,从而影响其认知功能^[4]。在一项13 914人参与的研究中发现,听力损失与记忆力和认知功能减退相关^[5],而日本和美国的横断面研究未发现听力损失与认知功能之间的联系^[6-7]。韩国和我国的队列研究发现听力损失与认知障碍具有负向相关关系^[8-9]。目前,尽管国内外已开展了关于听力损失与认知功能关系的研究,但是研究结果尚不一致,且少有研究探讨听力损失与认知功能各维度之间的关系。

倾向得分匹配(propensity score matching, PSM)法可对非随机化研究中的混杂因素进行类似随机化的均衡处理,均衡处理组与对照组之间的协变量分布,减少选择性偏倚。与传统回归比较,PSM具有以下优势:①经PSM后,排除混杂因素的影响,效应评估时,仅需考虑处理因素与结局变量的关系,结果易于理解,便于解释。②当协变量较多而结局变量罕见时,传统回归无法充分调整模型中包含的所有协变量,而倾向得分模型可将所有协变量转化为一个与匹配相关的概率值,包含所有信息^[10]。③仅需通过检验处理组和对照组之间的协变量分布情况,即平衡性检验,即可判定倾向得分模型是否充分合适,而传统回归中模型参数如拟合优度等指标难以充分判定模型是否合适^[11]。

因此,本研究拟基于倾向得分匹配方法,探讨老年人听力损失与认知功能各维度之间的关系,为痴呆干预提供科学证据,制定具有针对性的策略和干预措施,改善老年人生活质量,构建积极老龄化社会。

1 资料与方法

1.1 资料

本文拟进行横断面调查分析,数据来自于2018年中国健康与养老追踪调查(China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study, CHARLS)。CHARLS是由北京大学开展的一项具有代表性的、全国性的中老年人队列研究,从2011年开始进行基线调查,旨在关注45岁及以上人群健康相关问题,采用与人口规模成比例概率(probability proportional to population size, PPS)抽样方法进行抽样,采用面对面的方式进行问卷调查。2018年的调查是CHARLS开展的第4次调查,是本研究开展时已公开发表的最新一期数据,包括28个省份,共19 816人。纳入标准:①60岁及以上老年人群;②听力、认知功能及各维度数据完整。排除标准:其他控制变量缺失。见图1。2018年,共调查60岁以上老年人11 054人,分别排除听力数据缺失的75人,认知功能各维度数据缺失的1 047人,以及控制变量数据缺失2 327人,最后纳入7 605人。

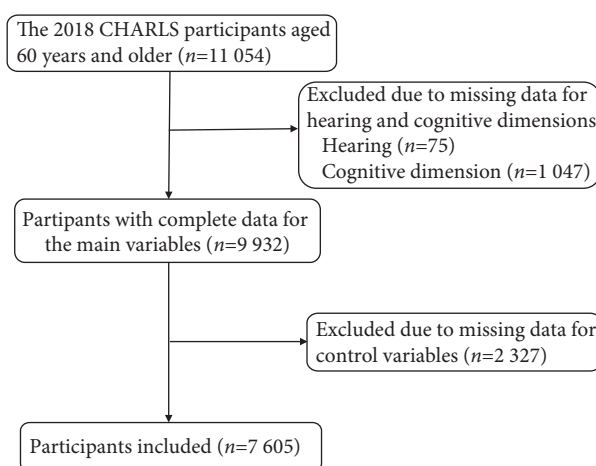


图 1 参与者纳入流程图

Fig 1 Participant enrollment process

1.2 方法

1.2.1 变量选择

因变量:整体认知功能、认知功能各维度得分,以及认知障碍。认知评估采用简易精神量表(Mini-Mental State Exam, MMSE),总分反映整体认知功能。MMSE总分为30分,得分越高,表示整体认知功能越好^[12]。认知功能各维度评分为:定向力(10分),即时记忆(3分),注意力和计算力(5分),延迟回忆(3分),以及语言能力(9分)。根据文化程度对MMSE进行校正,若满足下述情况,则判定为认知障碍:文盲且MMSE得分 ≤ 17 ;小学文化水平且MMSE得分 ≤ 20 ;中学及以上文化水平且MMSE得分 ≤ 24 ^[13]。

自变量:听力损失。若老年人具有以下情况之一则视为听力损失:①半聋或聋残疾;②佩戴助听器;③自评听力状况不好。

混杂变量:基于既往研究,纳入以下混杂因素^[5, 14-16]:①一般人口学特征:年龄、性别、婚姻、居住地、独居;②社会经济状态:文化程度和个人月平均支出;③健康相关行为:吸烟、饮酒和社交活动;④健康疾病状况:慢性病数量和抑郁^[17]。

1.2.2 统计学方法

连续变量使用均值和标准差进行描述,分类变量使用频数和百分比描述;使用 t 检验或 χ^2 检验分析有无听力损失的两组老年人的基本特征差异;通过PSM探讨老年人听力损失与认知障碍及认知功能各维度之间的关系。使用PSM进行无卡钳值、不可替换的1:1最邻近匹配法,包括以下4个步骤:①建立倾向得分模型,计算PS得分:估计个体进入新处理组的概率,建立二元logistic模型,以是否有听力损失作为因变量,混杂变量作为自变量;②匹

配: 在原对照组中找到与前者PS最相近的个体纳入新对照组, 重复上述过程, 分别建立新的处理组和对照组; ③平衡性检验: 检验匹配后两组混杂变量分布特征, 总体PS核密度函数曲线重合度较好以及各控制变量间的均值差异较小(standardized mean difference<0.1和Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics<0.5), 则达到平衡; ④计算平均处理效应(average treatment effect, ATE): 在观察性研究中, ATE指的是全人群中每个个体都暴露于危险因素与未暴露于危险因素之间的潜在结果的平均差异^[18]; 在评价两组具有较好的可比性后, 使用G-computation估计听力损失对认知障碍及认知功能各维度的ATE, 并使用bootstrap法计算其置信区间。使用无替换的, 卡钳值为0.2(即PS分值的标准差的0.2倍)的1:1卡钳半径匹配

进行稳健性分析。

本研究采用双侧检验, 检验水准 $\alpha=0.05$ 。统计分析使用R 4.1.3软件完成, PSM过程主要利用“MatchIt”和“marginaleffects”包实现。

2 结果

2.1 匹配前人群基本特征

见表1。本研究最终纳入协变量完整样本量共7 605人, 其中, 女性3 626人(47.68%), 听力损失1 409(18.53%)人, 认知障碍3 031(39.86%)人。与听力正常人群相比, 听力损失人群的认知各维度得分均低于正常人群, 且在整体认知功能、定向力、即时记忆、注意力和计算力以及语言能力方面差异均有统计学意义($P<0.001$)。

表 1 匹配前人群基本特征

Table 1 Basic characteristics of the participants before matching

Variable	Total (n=7 605)	Hearing loss		P
		No (n=6 196)	Yes (n=1 409)	
Age/yr.,case (%)				<0.001
60-69	4 982 (65.51)	4 214 (68.01)	768 (54.51)	
70-79	2 199 (28.92)	1 683 (27.16)	516 (36.62)	
80-	424 (5.58)	299 (4.83)	125 (8.87)	
Female/case (%)	3 626 (47.68)	2 933 (47.34)	693 (49.18)	0.221
Married/case (%)	1 329 (17.48)	1 025 (16.54)	304 (21.58)	<0.001
Rural area/case (%)	5 558 (73.08)	4 438 (71.63)	1 120 (79.49)	<0.001
Living alone/case (%)	1 581 (20.79)	1 245 (20.09)	336 (23.85)	0.002
Education/case (%)				<0.001
Illiteracy	1 776 (23.35)	1 382 (22.30)	394 (27.96)	
Primary	3 556 (46.76)	2 881 (46.50)	675 (47.91)	
Junior high school and above	2 273 (29.89)	1 933 (31.20)	340 (24.13)	
Monthly expenses/case (%)				<0.001
Low	2 468 (32.45)	1 919 (30.97)	549 (38.96)	
Middle	3 207 (42.17)	2 639 (42.59)	568 (40.31)	
High	1 930 (25.38)	1 638 (26.44)	292 (20.72)	
Smoking/case (%)	3 632 (47.76)	2 958 (47.74)	674 (47.84)	0.972
Drinking status/case (%)				0.006
Never	2 049 (26.94)	1 691 (27.29)	358 (25.41)	
Quit drinking	554 (7.28)	474 (7.65)	80 (5.68)	
Drinking	5 002 (65.77)	4 031 (65.06)	971 (68.91)	
Social activity/case (%)	3 940 (51.81)	3 281 (52.95)	659 (46.77)	<0.001
Comorbidities/case (%)				<0.001
0	4 020 (52.86)	3 383 (54.60)	637 (45.21)	
1	2 164 (28.45)	1 743 (28.13)	421 (29.88)	
≥ 2	1 421 (18.69)	1 070 (17.27)	351 (24.91)	
Depression/case (%)	2 864 (37.66)	2 150 (34.70)	714 (50.67)	<0.001
Cognitive disorder/case (%)	3 031 (39.86)	2 376 (38.35)	655 (46.49)	<0.001
Global cognitive function (mean [SD])	21.67 (5.34)	21.94 (5.26)	20.49 (5.50)	<0.001
Orientation (mean [SD])	8.18 (1.84)	8.26 (1.80)	7.82 (2.00)	<0.001
Immediate memory (mean [SD])	2.44 (0.84)	2.48 (0.81)	2.27 (0.91)	<0.001
Attention and calculation (mean [SD])	2.74 (1.98)	2.80 (1.97)	2.46 (2.00)	<0.001
Delayed memory (mean [SD])	2.07 (1.02)	2.07 (1.02)	2.03 (1.03)	0.204
Language (mean [SD])	6.25 (1.90)	6.33 (1.89)	5.90 (1.91)	<0.001

SD: standard deviation.

2.2 平衡性检验

匹配成功1409对,即听力损失和听力正常组分别纳入1409人。对两组进行平衡性检验,结果如图2和图3所示。图2为两组总体PS值的核密度图,匹配前,听力损失和正常人群核密度函数图重合部分较少,两曲线的峰度和偏度不同;匹配后,听力损失和正常人群核密度函数图重合部分较为一致,匹配后模型拟合度较好,总体PS平衡性较好。图3显示了协变量平衡情况,在每个结局变量的左图中显示匹配后两组间各控制变量的标准化均值差异(standardized mean difference, SMD)均<0.1;而右图显示,经Kolmogorov-Smirnov statistics检验,匹配后两组间各控制变量间差异均<0.05,控制变量间平衡性较好。故匹配后,两组在总体PS及各控制变量之间平衡性较好。利用0.2的卡钳半径匹配进行稳健性分析,结果仍成立。

2.3 人群平均处理效应

由表2可知,在认知功能各维度中,听力损失对老年人整体认知功能、定向力、即时记忆和语言能力均有负向影响,存在听力损失的老年人比正常者的整体认知功能(ATE=-0.593, P<0.001)、定向力(ATE=-0.183, P=0.004)、即时记忆(ATE=-0.150, P<0.001)和语言能力(ATE=-0.178, P=0.006)的分数均较低,即存在听力损失

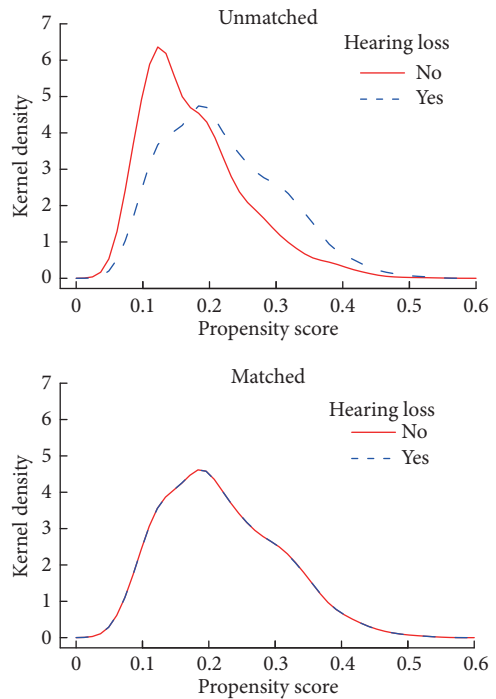


图 2 匹配前后核密度图

Fig 2 Kernel density graph before and after propensity score matching

老年人认知功能评分比正常者低。此外,听力损失与老年人患认知障碍风险正向相关(ATE=0.042, P=0.020),即

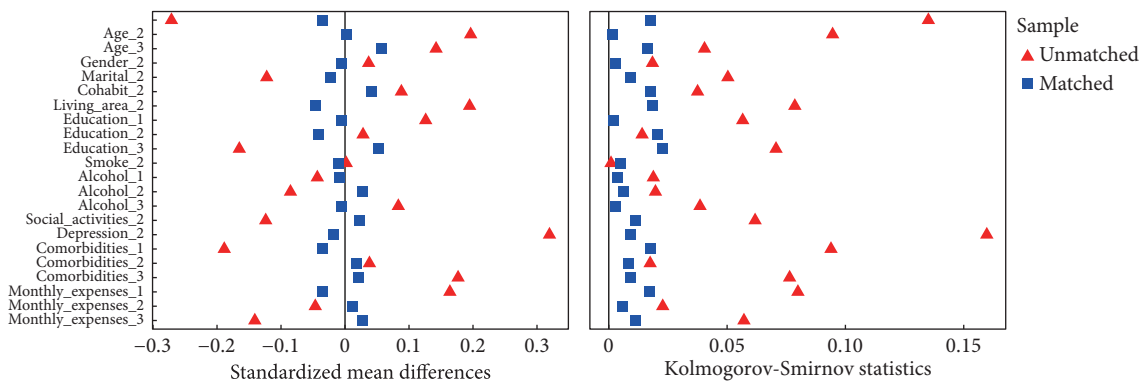


图 3 协变量平衡

Fig 3 Covariate balance

表 2 听力损失对认知障碍的平均处理效应估计

Table 2 Estimated ATE of hearing loss on cognitive impairment

Cognition	ATE			
	MD/RD	Std	95% CI	P
Global cognitive function	-0.593	0.167	(-0.916, -0.257)	<0.001
Orientation	-0.183	0.064	(-0.302, -0.055)	0.004
Immediate memory	-0.150	0.033	(-0.218, -0.085)	<0.001
Attention and calculation	-0.117	0.067	(-0.245, 0.021)	0.080
Delayed memory	0.035	0.039	(-0.033, 0.121)	0.367
Language	-0.178	0.064	(-0.303, -0.058)	0.006
Cognitive disorder	0.042	0.017	(0.007, 0.077)	0.020

ATE: average treatment effect; MD: mean difference; RD: risk difference; Std: standard deviation; CI: confidence interval.

存在听力损失老年人认知障碍的患病率比正常者高4.2%。

3 讨论

本研究基于2018年中国健康与养老追踪调查数据,在横断面研究中应用PSM法探讨老年人听力损失对整体认知功能的影响。研究结果表明,与听力正常的老年人比较,有听力损失老年人的整体认知功能较差,且认知障碍患病率也较高。与本文研究一致,JOO等^[9]在4844名韩国老年人的研究中发现,自我报告为听力损失者发生认知障碍的风险是非听力损失者的1.65倍。CROLL等^[19]研究也发现,听力损失与老年人整体认知功能降低相关,听力损失越严重,整体认知功能越差。听力损失影响老年人认知功能的可能生物学机制如下。首先,听力损失和认知障碍可能存在共同原因,随着年龄的增长,出现整体的神经功能退化,两者可能具有相似的神经退行性病理^[20]。研究发现,在高龄老年人中,听力损失与记忆力、整体认知和语言能力下降相关,而小体积的海马体和伏隔核在听力损失对记忆和整体认知的影响中具有明显的中介作用^[21];也有研究发现,听觉和认知功能都可能与听觉系统的螺旋神经节或血管纹的系统性血管病变有关^[20,22]。其次,也有学者提出了“感觉剥夺假说”,认为长时间的感觉剥夺会造成神经传递障碍,尤其是与语义记忆有关的大脑区域,从而限制了大脑皮层认知处理的能力^[23]。最后,JOHN SWELLER提出的“认知负荷假说”认为,当听力较差时,有限的认知资源用于努力倾听,进而导致认知资源枯竭,这种资源重新分配对认知功能有不利影响^[23-25]。

同时,本文也探讨了听力损失与认知功能各维度之间的关系。本研究的结果显示,存在听力损失老年人的定向力得分比正常者低。日本学者KAWADE^[26]在一项评估听力能力与认知领域关系的研究中发现,定向力得分与听力状况呈负相关。此外,本研究发现听力损失老年人语言能力得分比正常者低,与BELKHIRIA等^[27]的研究结果一致,后者发现伴有耳蜗功能障碍的听力损失者具有较差的整体认知功能、执行功能和语言能力,可能与脑岛、杏仁核和其他颞叶区萎缩有关,其中,脑岛与参与语言处理的额叶区域有着密切联系。在记忆力方面,本研究发现听力损失与即时记忆相关,而与延迟回忆无关联,与HUANG等^[28]的发现一致。BARBOSA等^[29]的研究也支持了上述听力与记忆关系的论点,认为即时记忆可能更直接地受到听力障碍的影响,因为听力障碍患者不能正确地听到和重复外界信息。而在关于听力损失与计算力和注意力之间的关系探讨中,本研究未发现明显关联,仍需开展进一步的研究进行探讨。

本研究通过PSM法平衡了协变量之间的差异,减少了因人群特征分布差异带来的选择性偏倚,更好地揭示了听力损失和认知功能的关系。然而,该研究仍有不足:①PSM方法不能处理未测量的混杂因素;②本研究使用的最近匹配法虽然保留了最大部分的样本,但在匹配过程仍会丢失部分的样本量;③研究数据通过问卷调查获得,存在回忆偏倚。④听力状态为自报结果,不如客观的听力测试准确;⑤采用横断面数据,不能推断因果关联。

本研究结果发现,听力损失是发生认知障碍的独立危险因素。由于听力损失是潜在的可干预的痴呆危险因素,因此建议对社区老年人群进行听力筛检,并针对有听力损失的老年人尽早开展干预措施,如降噪技术和康复服务(助听器和耳蜗植入等),提高老年人生活质量,延缓认知功能的减退。

* * *

作者贡献声明 廖玉琪负责论文构思、正式分析、初稿写作和审读与编辑写作,寇文凯和师赛龙负责正式分析和审读与编辑写作,周亚希和钟怀昌负责可视化和审读与编辑写作,邱培媛负责监督指导和审读与编辑写作,万洋负责论文构思、研究方法、经费获取、监督指导和审读与编辑写作。所有作者已经同意将文章提交给本刊,且对将要发表版本进行最终定稿,并同意对工作的所有方面负责。

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利益冲突 所有作者均声明不存在利益冲突

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