高齢者の骨格筋健康指標と運動機能との関係 - 2年間にわたる縦断的検討-

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Relationship between Skeletal Muscle Health Index and Motor Function: Longitudinal Evaluation over 2 Years

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ABSTRACT

It is well known that muscle atrophy occurs as a result of aging. However, loss of muscle tissue also increases intramuscular adipose and connective tissues, which is known as deterioration of muscle quality. Ultrasound skeletal muscle images based on

echo intensity (EI) are useful for assessing muscle quality. The purpose of this study was to investigate quality and quantity of skeletal muscle and physical performance of elderly individuals longitudinally. G60 and G70 groups consisted of 21 individuals with 65 or higher and 70 or lower and 27 individuals with 70 or higher and 82 or lower, respectively. EI, thicknesses of muscle and subcutaneous adipose tissue of the quadriceps, and 6 functional tests were performed at baseline and after 1 and 2 years. After two years follow-up, the EI of the vastus lateralis (VL) significantly increased in G60 and G70 groups, and muscle thickness of VL significantly decreased in G70. A significantly improvement was found in sit-up, sit-to-stand, and 5-m maximal walk tests in G60 and G70. These results suggested that age-related muscle atrophy over two years does not necessarily lead to functional impairment in older individuals.

要旨

高齢者の"健康指標"である骨格筋の量・質と 運動機能を2年間に渡って縦断的に検討すること を目的とした. 48名の高齢者が実験に参加し, 65 歳以上で70歳未満の対象者をG60群(21名, 年 齢67.6 ± 1.2歳)、70歳以上-82歳以下の対象者を G70群(27名, 年齢73.3 ± 3.8歳)に分類した. 大 腿部の筋エコー強度, 筋厚, 皮下脂肪厚, 握力, 上体起こし、椅子の座り立ち、5m最大速度歩行 等を測定した。初回の測定から2年後にはG60群 とG70群の外側広筋エコー強度, G70群の大腿四 頭筋エコー強度は有意に増加した. G70群の外側 広筋と外側部(外側広筋+中間広筋)の筋厚が有 意に低下した. 一方, 運動機能ではG60群また はG70群において上体起こし、椅子の座り立ち、 5m最大速度歩行が有意に改善した. 以上の結果 から、2年間の縦断的検討により外側部で筋萎縮 が認められたが、この筋萎縮が必ずしも筋機能の 低下に直結するわけではないことが示された.