# Advancing Hydrocephalus Management: Pathogenesis Insights, Therapeutic Innovations, and Emerging Challenges

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#### Methods

A comprehensive literature review was conducted by searching the Web of Science, PubMed, and Scopus databases for peer-reviewed English-language articles. The search terms included "hydrocephalus," "cellular mechanism," "treatment," "animal models," and "experimental hydrocephalus." The review primarily focused on articles published within the past decades, that is, from 2014 to 2024, to ensure a thorough understanding of recent advancements. However, earlier seminal studies were also included to provide historical context and highlight the development of foundational concepts. The inclusion criteria encompassed experimental studies, clinical trials, and review articles directly relevant to the pathogenesis, treatment, and modeling of hydrocephalus. Particular attention was given to high-quality studies that provided significant contributions to understanding the disease mechanisms and therapeutic strategies. Early foundational studies were incorporated to highlight the development of key concepts, while recent publications were prioritized to present the latest advancements.

Туре	Age	Species/Gen der (F/M)	Injection of agent	Methods	Type of hydrocephal us	Features	Conclusion	Ref
РІѴН	Neonatal/P4	SD rat	200 μL of fresh maternal whole blood	Intraventricu lar injection	C 4w	Human umbilical cord blood- derived MSCs intervention	Intravenous administration of MSCs might be a promising treatment	[1]
	Neonatal/P8	C57BL/6J and Balb/c background mouse/-	LPA	Intraventricu lar injection	SA 1w	LPA1 and LPA3 were key mediators of PHH	The mechanism might be ventricular surface denudation and ciliary dysfunction, not physical obstruction	[2]
	Adult	SD rat/M	200 µL non- heparinized autologous blood	Intraventricu lar injection	A 1d-3d	The elevation of AQP4 level expression in the rat hydrocephalus model was verified	Downregulation of AQP4 expression could worsen hydrocephalus	[3]
		SD rat/M	130 μL of autologous vena caudalis blood/50 μL FeCl <sub>3</sub> (2 mmol/L)	Intraventricu lar injection	A-C 2d-4w	Iron activated the Wnt signaling pathway after IVH and regulated subarachnoid fibrosis	Edaravone alleviated hydrocephalus and neurological disorders by activating the Nrf2/HO-1 pathway	[4] [5]
		-	Wistar rat/M	200 μL homologous blood	Intraventricu lar injection	A 2d	The regulatory mechanism of	CSF hypersecretion was mediated by

#### Supplementary Table 1. Animal models of Post - hemorrhagic Hydrocephalus

				CSF secretion was revealed	activation of the TLR4- dependent STE20-type stress kinase SPAK	
SD rat/M	200 μL homologous blood	Intraventricu lar injection	SA 1w	Metformin intervention	The occurrence of hydrocephalus was related to the activation of the VEGF/VEGFR2 /p-Src pathway	[7]
SD rat/M	50 μL FeCl <sub>3</sub> (2 mmol/L)/30 μL lysed RBCs	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	Injections of packed RBCs could not cause hydrocephalus	Injection of iron resulted in VD and ependymal cell injury	[8]
SD rat/M	200 μL of autologous blood/3 U thrombin	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	PAR-1 antagonist SCH79797 intervention	Thrombin- induced hydrocephalus was associated with ependymal damage and BBB disruption, which is mediated by PAR-1	[9]
SD rat/M	3 U of rat thrombin	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor acetazolamide or PAR1/p-Src/p- PAK1 inhibitors intervention	Thrombin down-regulated the expression of VE-cadherin in the CP	[10 ] [11 ]
SD rat /F, M	5U/ 3U rat thrombin	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	Focusing on estrogen	Thrombin caused more severe VD and white matter damage in female rats	[12 ]
SD rat /F, M	Recombinan t rat Prx2 protein solution	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	MC intervention	Prx2 might cause hydrocephalus by inducing inflammation and damage to the ventricular wall	[13 , 14]
SD rat/M	LPA	Intraventricu lar injection	A ld	TRPV4 was an ICP regulator that regulated the rate of CSF secretion	LPA directly acted on TRPV4 in adult rats to regulate NKCC1 and promote	[15 ]

							CSF hypersecretion	
	Elderly	Fischer rat/M	50 μL FeCl <sub>3</sub> (2 mmol/L)	Intraventricu lar injection	A 1d	Minocycline or clodronate liposomes intervention	The stromal macrophages of elderly rats account for more than 10% of CP cells	[16 ]
GMH	Neonatal/E2 9	New Zealand white rabbit	50% glycerol: water (6.5 g/kg)	Intraperitone al injection	A ld	Unrestricted somatic stem cells intervention	Unrestricted somatic stem cells could exert anti- inflammatory effects to reduce pathological damage	[17 ]
	Neonatal/2 h postnatal age	Rabbit pup/-	Glycerol	Intraperitone al injection	SA 2w	It was difficult to replicate	Human pathological phenomena such as VD, glial cell hyperplasia, decreased myelination had been reproduced	[18 ]
	Neonatal/P7	SD rat/-	0.3 U of clostridial collagenase VII-S	Ganglionic eminence injection	C 4w	PPARγ stimulation and PPARγ antagonist intervention	PPARγ-induced upregulation of CD36 to promote hematoma lysis might be a key therapeutic target	[19 ]
		Rat/-	Bacterial collagenase	Ganglionic eminence injection	C 4w	COX-2 or mTOR inhibitors improved the hydrocephalus after GMH	Inflammatory and proliferative responses that might be upstream of dysregulation of extracellular matrix proteins	[20 ]
		SD rat/- SD rat/- SD rat/- SD rat/- 0.3 U o clostrid collage VII-S	0.3 U of clostridial collagenase VII-S	Striatum injection	SA-C 1w- 4w	Microglia and astrocyte activation inhibitor MC intervention	Treatment with MC reduced GMH-induced hydrocephalus and brain injury	[21 ]
			0.3 U of clostridial collagenase VII-S	Ganglionic eminence injection	C 1m	Neurological consequences after GMH were described	This model corresponded to grades III-IV GMH in human preterm infants	[22 ]
ICH	Adult	Wistar rat/M	0.5 μL of collagenase (Type VII, 1μ/μL)	Caudate putamen injection	SA 7d	Atorvastatin intervention	Atorvastatin relieved hydrocephalus and inhibited	[23 ]

							neuronal apoptosis	
		SD rat/M	200 μL autologous blood	Caudate nucleus injection/ Intraventricu lar injection	A-C 1d-4w	The ICH/IVH rat model resulted in the same bilateral VD, perhaps excluding interference with brain atrophy and tissue loss in assessing ventricular size	The ICH/IVH rat model induced more severe chronic hydrocephalus and cerebral iron deposition than the PIVH model	[24 ]
		SD rat/M	200 μL autologous blood	Caudate nucleus injection	A-C 1d-4w	Chronic hydrocephalus model	It was inconsistent with the high mortality rate in patients with ICH in clinical practice	[25 ]
SAH- Injection	Neonatal/on e-year-old	Cynomolgus monkey/F	2-3 mL of autologous blood	Cisterna magna injection	C 17d	Primate model animals	Extensive arachnoid granule fibrosis was present	[26 ]
	Neonatal/P1 0- P11	C57BL/6 mouse/-	300 ng of human recombinant TGF-β1	Parietal lobe injection	C 3w-6w	Slowly progressive communicating hydrocephalus model	Human recombinant TGF- $\beta$ 1 injection resulted in a reduction in cilia on the ependyma and deposition of collagen fibers in the leptomeninx intercellular space	[27 , 28]
		CD-1 nude mouse/-	300 ng of human recombinant TGF-β1	Intraperitone al injection	C 6w	Near-infrared fluorescence imaging methods	Near-infrared optical imaging could be used to monitor CSF movement	[29 ]
	Adult	SD rat/F	0.4 mL of non- heparinized autologous blood	Cisterna magna injection	C 2w	The expression of HGF and VEGF in hydrocephalus was analyzed for the first time	The pathological damage of chronic hydrocephalus after SAH was related to the high expression of HGF and VEGF	[30 ]
		SD rat/M	0.5 mL autologous un- heparinized blood	Cisterna magna injection	C 3w	Decreased expression of TGF- β1/Smad/CTGF signaling pathway was	ICA II inhibited chronic hydrocephalus and	[31 ]

						associated with chronic hydrocephalus and fibrosis	subarachnoid fibrosis	
SAH- Endovascul ar perforation	Adult	SD rat/M	-	Endovascula r perforation technique	A-C 1d- 23d	Elevated ICP was associated with VD and behavioral alterations	Rats with hydrocephalus suffered more severe hemorrhage and ventricular wall damage than rats without hydrocephalus	[32 ]
		SD rat/M	-	Endovascula r perforation technique	A ld	This model focused on changes in the cells of the plexus epiplexus cell	There was an increase in the number and size of epiplexus cells in rats with hydrocephalus, which may be related to thrombin	[33 ]
				SD rat /F, M	-	Endovascula r perforation technique	Ger infl foration A 1d dev rforation A 1d acu nique hyc afte	Gender influenced the development of acute hydrocephalus after SAH
TBI- Modified weight drop	Neonatal /P20	SD rat/M	-	The impact weight was allowed to fall freely	SA 2w	It was the first detailed study of intracellular electrophysiologi cal changes after rmTBI	Compared to a single mTBI event, rmTBI could induce significant long- term VD	[35 ]
TBI-LFPI	Adult	SD rat/M	Lateral fluid percussion brain injury (2.5–3.5 atm)	-	A 1d	This study reported the acute hydrocephalus induced by the LFPI model	DFX treatment could reduce TBI-induced ipsilateral and contralateral VD	[36 ]
TBI-CCI	Adult	C57BL/6 mouse/M	CCI device with velocity of 2.5 m/s	-	SA 1w-2w	New therapeutic strategies for monocytes were presented	Depletion of monocytes attenuated hydrocephalus and preserved functional white matter	[37 ]

Abbreviations: F, Female; M, Male; P, Postnatal day; PIVH, Primary intraventricular hemorrhage; IVH, Intraventricular hemorrhage; GMH, Germinal matrix hemorrhage; ICH, Intracerebral hemorrhage; SAH, Subarachnoid hemorrhage; TBI, Traumatic brain injury; mTBI, Mild traumatic brain injury; rmTBI, Repetitive mTBI; LFPI, Lateral (parasagittal) fluid-percussion injury; CCI, Controlled cortical impact; A, Acute hydrocephalus; SA, Subacute hydrocephalus; C, Chronic hydrocephalus; h, Hour; d, Day; w, Week; m, Month; y, Year; VD, Ventricular dilatation; CSF, Cerebrospinal fluid; MSCs, Mesenchymal stem cells; AQP, Aquaporin; NF-κB, Nuclear factor-κB; TLR4, Toll-like receptor 4; SPAK, STE20/SPS1-related proline/alanine-rich kinase; VEGF, Vascular endothelial growth factor; PAR-1, Protease-activated receptor-1; p-Src, Phospho-Src; p-PAK1, Phospho-PAK1; BBB, Bloodbrain barrier; VE-cadherin, Vascular endothelial-cadherin; CP, Choroidal plexus; Prx2, Peroxiredoxin 2; LPA, Lysophosphatidic acid; TRPV4, Transient receptor potential vanilloid 4; PPARγ, Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma; TGF-β1, Transforming growth factor-β1; ICA II, Icariside II;

DFX, Deferoxamine; SCH79797, 3-N-cyclopropyl-7-[(4-propan-2-ylphenyl)methyl]pyrrolo[3,2-f ]quinazoline-1,3-diamine;dihydrochloride; CTGF, Connective tissue growth factor; ICP, Intracranial pressure

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