

Abstract

Matrix metalloproteinases belong to the group of proteases which in normal tissue are responsible for degradation and remodeling of extracellular matrix components and their activity is regulated by endogenous inhibitors. However, many pathological conditions of the anterior eye segment are characterized by increased activity of matrix metalloproteinases and conversely decreased activity of their tissue inhibitors. The imbalance between matrix metalloproteinases and their inhibitors can lead to destructive proteolytic tissue damage anterior eye segment, including blindness.

Key words: matrix metalloproteinases, tissue inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases, extracellular matrix