Abstract

Sleeping sickness is a human disease found in sub-saharan Africa, and is caused by a parasitic protozoan *Trypanosoma brucei*. *Trypanosoma brucei* species infects various mammals, however, only *Trypanosoma brucei gambiense* and *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* subspecies are resistant to trypanolytic factors found in human blood serum. This work briefly summarizes known operating mechanisms of trypanolytic factors and resistance mechanisms of trypanosomes to these factors. The work covers mainly description and summarization of current diagnostic methods of sleeping sickness and used trypanocidal drugs. Majority of introduced methods shows high levels of sensitivity and specificity, however, for poor, disease affected areas they are often way too expensive. Prescribed drugs are expensive as well, and what's more, they are often ineffective against both subspecies and have severe side effects. Last part of the work is dedicated to potential development of new medicaments.