

Abstract

Depressive disorders are one of the three most frequent diseases causing disability of everyday life of humans. Its occurrence in the population is rapidly increasing. Etiology of depression is unclear, and the treatment usually only ameliorates its symptoms. In patients, there were identified signs not only of chronic stress, which has been associated with depression for quite a long time, but also signs of chronic inflammation in the body. This has led to focusing on proinflammatory cytokines and their connection to chronic stress and depressive symptomatology. We are also interested in the causal link between pro-inflammatory markers and stress that has not yet been unequivocally clarified. The aim of this study is to combine the knowledge about the influence of chronic stress on the development of depressive disorder gained from animal and human models. Additionally, to combine the knowledge of the effect of specific proinflammatory cytokines on the development of the depressive disorder and the change in brain structures morphology which may underlie the symptoms of this disease.