

Abstract

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder characterised by epileptic seizures. It may be accompanied by cognitive deficits and inappropriate affective changes. This thesis addresses an as yet not well investigated – emotion recognition and empathy in epilepsy. Firstly, the theoretical part describes emotion recognition that uses information from facial expression, posture, gestures and utterances. Then, it discusses empathy as the capacity to comprehend other persons' feelings and incentives from their own perspective, which increases individuals' prosocial behaviour. Neurobiological correlates of both are described thereafter. As a part of social cognition, these can also be impaired in epilepsy disorder – which is depicted in two most extensive thesis subchapters. The theoretical part is followed by the empirical one. It introduces own research which have explorative character, and is focused on 28 patients with idiopathic generalised epilepsy and their 21 asymptomatic biological siblings in comparison to healthy control groups. It uses translated testing methods and verifies in a basic manner their appropriateness of usage. In consequence, it reports the outputs which do not confirm any significant differences among participant groups. However, they show mild deviation of the patients' and siblings' results from the control groups, while the two groups do not differ significantly.