

Abstract

Adipose tissue is the biggest endocrine organ in a human body. Its function and composition have been intensively studied due to the rising number of overweight people. The cells of adipose tissue are called adipocytes. The substances that are produced by them are termed adipokines – cytokines secreted by adipocytes. It is possible to distinguish several types of adipose tissue based on its composition – white, brown and transient beige, or based on its location – visceral, subcutaneous and perivascular. Perivascular adipose tissue surrounds most of the blood vessels. Its effect can be inflammatory or anti-inflammatory and it is involved in the process of regulation of vascular tone. Pathology of perivascular adipose tissue can lead to a development of diseases which can directly or indirectly affect the cardiovascular system, and thus it may represent one of the main causes of death in the Western world.