

This thesis focuses on the psychological factors that play a role in the development and maintenance of chronic postsurgical pain in patients after cardiac surgery. The literature review deals with the mechanisms of chronic postsurgical pain, its risk factors, the process of the transformation of acute pain into chronic pain, and the psychological management of chronic pain after surgery, specifically in the field of cardiosurgery. The thesis focuses in particular on patient-related factors in terms of anxiety or depression before or after the surgery, coping strategies, fear of pain, attachment styles, and how are these factors involved in the development and maintenance of chronic pain. The empirical part consists of a research of quantitative design conducted at the Department of Cardiac Surgery of the 3rd Faculty of Medicine and FN KV in Prague, which monitors the development of pain in patients after cardiac surgery at the time of discharge, 3 months after the surgery and after 1 year after the surgery, and focuses on the assessment of preoperative and postoperative patient-related factors that contribute to the development and maintenance of chronic pain. The main aim of the research is to identify these psychological factors.