

This study examines the influence of endogenous opioid system on physiological processes. Opioid substances and their receptors are located not only in central but also in peripheral nervous systems, as well as in other tissues. Endogenous opioids are produced in the body and influence a wide-range of physiological functions. They are regulators of pain, emotions, breathing, memory, homeostatic functions, etc. Due to their diversity and variety of effects, they may have many possible medical uses, whether in the field of cardiology, anesthesiology or psychiatry. Since the opioid system influences many physiological processes, the understanding of its properties and functioning is prerequisite for deeper study of those processes. Therefore, the study of opioid system and new discoveries in this field receive a great deal of attention nowadays.

Key words: Opioid system, endogenous opioids, receptors, nervous system, physiological functions, pain, emotions, breathing, memory, homeostasis