

Chronic exposure to stress negatively affects the prenatal and postnatal period of growth and development of humans. The major source of stress for the foetus during the prenatal period is the mother, while during the postnatal period stressors act directly on the individual. The aim of this work is to summarize the basic available knowledge about the psychosocial and emotional impact of stress on the growth and development of the child. Stress response mechanisms and their pathophysiological effects are observed in relation to the growth and development schemes during the prenatal period, childhood and adolescent.