

Autism is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder with yet unknown etiology. The research point out abnormalities in the immune system of patients with autism, which could be related to the development of the disease. This thesis reviews current scientific knowledge about the role of the immune system in the development of autism. The leading chapters include family history of autoimmune diseases, specific HLA alleles, the most common autoantibodies and maternal antibodies, lowered NK cell activity and cytokine levels in patients with autism.