

ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis focuses on the influence of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA axis) on the development of affective disorders. Affective disorders such as Major Depressive Disorder or Posttraumatic Stress Syndrome are serious mental illnesses that have a serious impact on the life of the individual suffering from the disorder. The HPA axis plays a key role in the adaptation of individual to stressful situations. Dysfunction of the HPA axis can significantly affect the homeostasis of the organism, due to increased or decreased levels of hormones and neurotransmitters or deregulation of the stress system. This can lead to the development of affective disorders. This thesis focuses on the analysis of the connections between the activity of the HPA axis and the emergence of affective disorders and examines the possibilities of therapeutic treatment of this axis as a potential target for the treatment of these disorders. The results of this review of individual scientific articles support the understanding of the mechanism that links the HPA axis to affective disorders and offer a perspective for future research.

Key words: HPA axis, cortisol, major depressive disorder, anxiety disorder, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder