SPECIFIC READING DISORDER IN RECENT RESEARCH DATA

Summary

Dyslexia, i.e. specific reading disability, is a phenomenon known from 100 years but its causes are still unrecognised. At the end of the last century cases of „word blindness" resulting from lesions to *angular gyrus* were diagnosed, which provoked persisted interpretation of reading disability in terms of congenital malfunctioning of that area of brain. Thus, belief that dyslexia is an inherited dysfunction was highly accepted, but only recently it gained scientific confirmation from genetics. Some data suggest that chromosome 15 and 6 may be related to reading disability and that having an affected parent is a strong risk predictor. Modern attempts to understand neurophysiological processes underlying dyslexia are divided into two main streams: linguistic and visual. Linguistic hypothesis refers to reduced phonological skills, while visual, to dysfunction of magnocellular channel of visual system. Both have collected evidence for anatomical and functional differences supporting each hypothesis. Only few attempts to resolve this controversy were undertaken recently.