

FROM DYSPHORIA TO DEPRESSION. THE ROLE OF DYNORPHINS AND KAPPA OPIOID RECEPTORS IN THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF STRESS RELATED DISORDERS

Summary

Stress is a complex phenomenon which influences organism's health and functioning. Dynorphins and kappa opioid receptors are part of endogenous system which controls organism's homeostasis. Stressors induce dynorphins secretion in brain structures involved in control of stress reaction. Kappa opioid receptor-mediated analgesia and aver-

sion motivates to escape threat. However, chronic stress and prolonged kappa opioid receptor activation can induce stress sensitization, and cause increase in risk of stress related disorders. Preclinical data suggests that kappa opioid receptor by antagonists have potential for treatment of depression, anxiety disorders and addiction.