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IMMUNOSENSORY FUNCTIONS OF THE VAGUS NERVE

Summary

Contemporary research on neuroimmune communication allowed us to expand on our understanding of the immune response as well as human and animals sickness behavior. One of the most important paths of communication is the vagus nerve. Its afferent endings gather information directly thanks to their receptors for signaling molecules of the immune system, as well as indirectly by communicating with other specialized cells. As a result, central nervous system collects information necessary for regulating the immune response, hormonal activity and behavior. The purpose of this work is to summarize our current knowledge on the physiological processes that allow the vagus nerve to mediate the communication between the immune system and the central nervous system.

Key words: immune system, immunomodulation, nervous system, sickness behavior, vagus nerve