REVIEW

EFFECT OF ANTIDEPRESSANT DRUGS ON THE HYPOTHALAMIC-PITUITARY-ADRENAL AXIS ACTIVITY AND GLUCOCORTICOID RECEPTOR FUNCTION

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Hyperactivity of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis is the main biochemical change, besides disturbed monoaminergic neurotransmission, observed in the patients suffering from a major depression. High incidence of depression in Cushing’s syndrome as well as antidepressant effects of adrenocortical enzyme inhibitors in major depression [17, 20, 29, 42] support hypothesis that hyperactivity of HPA axis may be involved in pathogenesis of depression.

Key words: glucocorticoid receptors, depression, antidepressants, hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis