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Serotonin receptors in depression and anxiety: insights from animal studies**Elżbieta Żmudzka^a, Kinga Salaciak^a, Jacek Sapa^a, Karolina Pytka^a***^aDepartment of Pharmacodynamics, Faculty of Pharmacy, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Krakow, Poland***Corresponding author:** Karolina Pytka - Department of Pharmacodynamics, Faculty of Pharmacy, Jagiellonian University Medical College, Medyczna 9, 30-688 Krakow, Poland, phone: 48(12) 620 55 38, e-mail: karolina.pytka@uj.edu.pl**Key words**

serotonin receptors; animal studies; antidepressant-like; anxiolytic-like; serotonin

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Abstract

Serotonin regulates many physiological processes including sleep, appetite, and mood. Thus, serotonergic system is an important target in the treatment of psychiatric disorders, such as major depression and anxiety. This natural neurotransmitter interacts with 7 families of its receptors (5-HT₁₋₇), which cause a variety of pharmacological effects. Using genetically modified animals and selective or preferential agonists and antagonist, numerous studies demonstrated the involvement of almost all serotonin receptor subtypes in antidepressant- or anxiolytic-like effects. In this review, based on animal studies, we discuss the possible involvement of serotonin receptor subtypes in depression and anxiety.

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