

According to the World Health Organisation, anxiety and affective disorders are the most prevalent psychiatric disorders in all societies, affecting even over 25% of the population at some time in their lives. Recent developments have indicated the new paths in understanding the psychological mechanisms of emotional disorders. A common factor seems to be a disturbance in the self-regulation, associated with the activity of maladaptive metacognition. Metacognition is this aspect of cognitive processing that is responsible for its monitoring and regulation; it is associated with information processing and emotion regulation. The planned research aim to explore the neural correlates of cognitive-attentional syndrome (CAS), being responsible for the presence of emotional disorder. Central feature of the CAS is dysfunctional style of cognitive processing, consisting of worry or rumination, attentional biases and maladaptive coping behaviours such as avoidance. It is assumed that this syndrome is driven by dysfunctional metacognition and underlies symptoms from different categories of psychiatric disorders. The main goal of the planned research is to search for neural correlates of the CAS and to understand better associations between its components and emotional disorders. We would like to answer the question if the symptoms of the CAS constitute an independent system on the behavioural and neural level, that might be observed even if symptoms of emotional disorder are not present. Methods of the planned study include self-report questionnaires, clinical interview, and the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). It is hoped that results of this study help to put in order and extend the knowledge of basic mechanisms of psychopathology, namely information processing and emotional regulation. It is also hoped that they contribute to elaboration of more effective methods of clinical assessment and treatment.