

"Mechanisms of the nocebo response"

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ABSTRACT

The *psychosocial context* surrounding the patient and the *psychobiological model* offer interesting perspectives from which to study the nocebo response. The term “response” should only be reserved for an *active neurobiological process* that occurs as a result of a dummy treatment administered in a *negative psychosocial context*.

In particular, data from pain neuroimaging studies and RCTs will be presented in order to elucidate the underlying nocebo phenomena.

The importance of these studies is their attempt to minimize the worsening of symptoms, prevent a negative outcome and the associated discontinuation of medication intake. The ultimate goal is to achieve a greater well-being of the patient in term of a personalized medication.