PUTATIVE THERAPEUTIC TARGETS IN TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: FOCUS ON NEUROTROPHIC FACTORS

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Traumatic brain injury (TBI) remains a leading cause of death and disability, mainly in young adults. Until now, unfortunately, clinical trials in TBI did not lead to efficacious therapeutic interventions in the acute phase, able to rescue significant brain tissue and prevent neurologic sequels. Neuroprotection is still considered an important strategy for TBI, targeting deleterious biochemical reactions which induce secondary tissue damage. In this paper I will summarize putative therapeutic targets in TBI and I will focus on neurotrophic factors, brain-self multimodal molecules involved in regulation of apoptosis, cell signaling, synapse maintenance and neuroplasticity.