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MATHEMATICAL MODEL FOR DESCRIBING ANTI-VIRUS IMMUNE RESPONSE REGULATION ALLOWING FOR FUNCTIONAL DISORDERS IN A BODY*

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Our task was to create a mathematical model which could describe anti-virus immune response regulation allowing for disorders in the adaptation (neuroendocrine and immune) systems caused by chemical factors of various genesis. We analyzed immune response allowing for immunity types (inborn and acquired one) with certain quantitative parameters chosen in order to characterize them, notably: interferon and NK-cells for inborn immunity, and virus-specific cytotoxic T-cells and antibodies-forming B-lymphocytes for acquired immunity. Regulatory mechanisms incorporated in the model comprise influences exerted by hypothalamus-hypophysis-adrenals system hormones (corticoliberin, adrenocorticotropic hormone, and hydrocortisone), and cytokines (interleukin-1 and interleukin-2) produced by various regulatory cells of the immune system. The suggested model also takes spatial organization of infection and immune processes in different organs and tissues into account as we introduced a time lag for components interaction into it.

The model includes a system of 18 ordinary differential equations with a retarded argument; its parameters characterize how fast various processes influencing an infection dynamics evolve in a body. The parameters are identified on the basis of published experimental data which describe a process of a body being infected with a virus. We calculated dynamics in the immune and neuroendocrine system parameters under a virus infection allowing for disorders in the marrow synthetic function. The model is developed within the framework of a concept viewing a human body as a multi-level model allowing for interactions between its systems and functional state of examined organs under influences exerted on them by hazardous factors of different genesis. The performed research gives a qualitative idea on biological factors which explain an infectious agent kinetics under a virus infection and impacts exerted by factors of various genesis. The results can be applied for adjusting parameters of existing population models, spread and clinical course of various infections, and for making long-term forecasts on an epidemiologic situation which is necessary when we analyze infectious diseases risks, including those which occur under impacts exerted on a human body by hazardous environmental factors.

Key words: *mathematical model, dynamic system, virus disease, inborn immunity, acquired immunity, neuroendocrine regulation.*

Nowadays an issue of describing inter- their functioning in order to preserve their relations in adaptive systems which change optimal state under changing conditions is

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of great interest to researchers both in the sphere of neuroendocrine regulation and immune mechanisms [25, 30]. Works published in the field focus on various kinds of mutual regulatory influences [17, 41]. Some research dwells on neuroendocrine regulation of the immune system [4, 19, 29] and controlling influence exerted by the immune system, for example, via cytokines production, both on itself and on the neuroendocrine regulatory loop [37, 41]. Most experts believe neuroendocrine and immune regulatory loops are a unified "super"-regulatory meta-system [9, 21], which coordinates a complicated multi-level controlling process in a living system. The immune system is responsible for various mechanisms aimed at a macro-organism protection, including those preventing from virus infections. Losses occurring due to infectious morbidity make a considerable contribution into overall damages done to population by various health disorders and are a great medical and social problem [44]. Thus, morbidity with children virus infections (measles, chicken pox, and rubella) is significant among children population [12]. Acute respiratory virus infections in the RF take the first place among reasons for a temporary disability among adult population. Increased morbidity with virus hepatitis [11], HIV-infection [1], etc. is another serious problem.

Technogenic environmental factors can cause pathomorphism and lead to deterioration of infectious diseases clinical course and outcome [8,10,12,13]. Technogenic processes exert influence on regulatory (immune and neuroendocrine) systems; thus, for example, it was shown [3], that technogenic chemical factors exerted negative impacts on the said systems functioning.

Observation techniques or an experimental approach which are conventionally applied in biology and medicine to assess

functional disorders in the immune and neuroendocrine system usually involve consequent statistical processing of the results. In spite of all their significance, they don't fully allow to analyze mechanisms and assess consequences caused by an effect occurring when functional disorders accumulate in body systems. It is due to limitations which exist in choice of representative groups, complications related to identification and detection of basic factors, and substantial material costs which are required for organizing and conducting experiments.

Mathematical modeling seems to be one of the most efficient approaches to finding an optimal strategy for examining as well as predicting clinical course of virus diseases. To study regulatory systems influences, we previously suggested to apply a mathematical model of interaction between the immune and neuroendocrine system which we developed on the example of a bacterial infection [14]. This approach allows to save time and resources required for solving the set tasks. Mathematical models make it possible to analyze influence exerted by various factors and their combinations on an individual and population level. An example of such models is mathematical prediction models which describe correlation between human health and environmental factors [7].

Our research goal was to give a mathematical description of an interaction between the immune and neuroendocrine systems mechanisms which occurs under a virus infection; this description allowed for functional disorders caused by negative influences exerted by chemical environmental factors.

Data and methods. Structural scheme of our model given in Figure 1 is a set of interrelated immune and neuroendocrine system elements which are the most significant components in a body response to a virus invasion. The model allows for func-

tional state of organs which are being considered. We can highlight such factors influencing changes in their state as natural ageing and negative impacts exerted by various chemicals penetrating a body from the environment.

As we describe interactions between the immune and endocrine system which are very complicated we introduce certain simplifying assumptions into the design of our model. Cells and viruses populations are assumed to be evenly spread over the epithelial layer of a target organ at any moment. We also assume that speed of changes in any variable in the model is determined by the current values of all the variables. At present we assume that the

basic processes which regulate immune protection dynamics take place in three local volumes: brains (hypophysis and hypothalamus), abdominal cavity (adrenals), and a target organ. Interaction between these three local volumes occurs with a time lag.

Protection mechanisms are activated after macrophages have started interaction with dead cells of a target organ which were destroyed due to a virus life cycle. As macrophages remove cells damaged by a virus, simultaneously information molecules of (cytokine) interleukin-1 are synthesized [22].

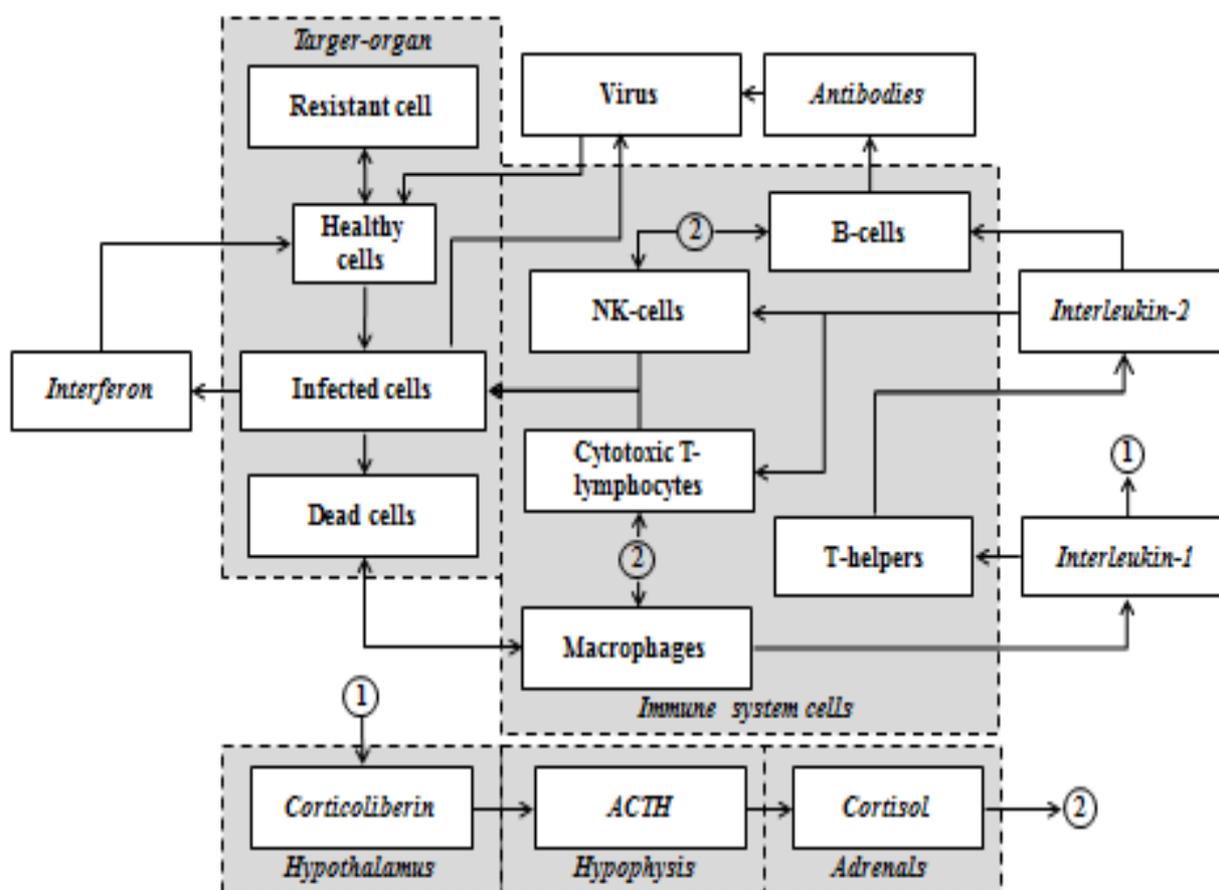


Figure 1. Immune and neuroendocrine system functioning in case virus infection occurs: a conceptual scheme

As interleukin-1 concentration in blood increases, it makes for T-helpers producing interleukin-2 and stimulates specific receptors in the hypothalamus to produce corticoliberin, a release hormone. Corticoliberin influences the adenohypophysis and causes adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) secretion [18]. When penetrating blood, ACTH stimulates the adrenals to produce hydrocortisone; increased concentration of this hormone inhibits ACTH secretions and blocks interleukin-1 production as per negative feedback mechanism.

Regulatory impacts exerted by interleukin-2 are aimed at NK-cells cytotoxic T-lymphocytes and B-cells [15, 32, 35]. Basic NK-cells function is related to infected cells elimination at early stages of a body protecting against virus infections. NK-cells are produced by the marrow. NK-cells activity is influenced by various cytokines and hormones produced by a body. In our work we allow for inhibiting effects exerted by hydrocortisone and stimulating influence by interleukin-2 [24, 28, 36].

Infected cells produce interferon and it is another mechanism of primary anti-virus body protection [31, 39, 40]. Interferon influences neighboring uninfected cells and invokes resistance to virus infection in them [20]. This resistance is temporary and

then cells transfer into adiphoria thus becoming resistant to interferon influence for a while [33]. There are basic mechanisms of specific acquired immune response: B-cells produce antibodies [16], which bind free viruses, and cytotoxic T-lymphocytes destroy cells infected with viruses [36]. Active reproduction of the above-mentioned immune response cells starts after a body gives its first signals that a virus infection has occurred; these signals are given via stimulating effects by interleukin-2. Activation of antibodies production by B-cells and T-killers entering the circulatory and lymphatic systems occurs only when a number of specific cells reaches a certain level. Hydrocortisone inhibits antiviral activity of the examined cells. The initial number of acquired immune response cells depends on the marrow functional state and previous case history of a body being infected with this virus.

Basing on the above-given interaction scheme we can describe a mathematical model of the regulation mechanism comprising elements of the immune and endocrine system with the help of the designed model which is a system consisting of 18 ordinary first-order differential equations with a retarded argument (1):

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}
 \frac{dC_{HE}}{dt} &= k_1(C_{HE} + C_R)C_D + k_2C_R - k_3C_{HE}C_{IFN} - k_4C_{HE}C_V \\
 \frac{dC_I}{dt} &= k_4C_{HE}C_V - k_5C_{NK}C_IC_{IL2} \left(1 - k_8 \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) - \\
 &\quad - k_6C_{CTL}C_I \left(1 - k_9 \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) H(C_{CTL} - k_{46}) - k_7C_I \\
 \frac{dC_R}{dt} &= k_3C_{HE}C_{IFN} - k_2C_R \\
 \frac{dC_{IFN}}{dt} &= k_{10}C_I - k_{11}C_{HE}C_{IFN} - k_{12}C_{IFN} \\
 \frac{dC_D}{dt} &= k_7C_I + k_5C_{NK}C_IC_{IL2} \left(1 - k_8 \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) + \\
 &\quad + k_6C_{CTL}C_I \left(1 - k_9 \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) H(C_{CTL} - k_{46}) - k_{13}C_DC_M \\
 \frac{dC_V}{dt} &= k_{14}C_I - k_{15}C_VC_A - k_{16}C_VC_{HE} - k_{17}C_V \\
 \frac{dC_M}{dt} &= k_{18}F_b - k_{19}C_M \\
 \frac{dC_{IL1}}{dt} &= k_{20}C_MC_D \left(1 - k_{21} \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) - k_{22}C_{IL1} \\
 \frac{dC_{TH}}{dt} &= k_{23}F_b - k_{24}C_{TH} \\
 \frac{dC_{IL2}}{dt} &= k_{25}C_{TH}C_{IL1} - k_{26}C_{IL2} \\
 \frac{dC_{NK}}{dt} &= k_{27}F_b - k_{28}C_{NK} \\
 \frac{dC_{CTL}}{dt} &= k_{29} + k_{30}C_{CTL}C_{IL2} - k_{32}C_{CTL} - k_{31}C_{CTL}C_I \left(1 - k_9 \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) H(C_{CTL} - k_{46}) \\
 \frac{dC_B}{dt} &= k_{46} + k_{33}C_B C_{IL2} - k_{34}C_B \\
 \frac{dC_A}{dt} &= k_{35}C_B \left(1 - k_{36} \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) H(C_B - k_{45}) - k_{37}C_VC_A - k_{38}C_A \\
 \frac{dC_{CRH}}{dt} &= k_{48}F_h \left(1 - k_{39} \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) (1 + k_{40}C_{IL1}) - k_{41}C_{CRH} \\
 \frac{dC_{ACTH}}{dt} &= k_{49}F_p \left(1 - k_{42} \frac{C_K(t-T)}{k_{47} + C_K(t-T)} \right) C_{CRH} - k_{43}C_{ACTH} \\
 \frac{dC_K}{dt} &= k_{50}F_a C_{ACTH}(t-T) - k_{44}C_K
 \end{aligned} \right. \quad (1)$$

were C_A – antibodies concentration, [mIU/ml];

C_{ACTH} – is adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) concentration, [picogram/ml (pg/ml)];

C_B – is B-cells concentration, [cells/ml];

C_{CTL} – is cytotoxic T-lymphocytes concentration, [cells/ml];

C_{CRH} – is corticoliberin concentration, [pg/ml];

C_D – is number of dead cells in a target organ, [cells];

C_{HE} – is number of healthy cells in a target organ, [cells];

C_I – is number of infected cells in a target organ, [cells];

C_{IL1} – is interleukin-1 concentration, [pg/ml];

C_{IL2} – is interleukin-2 concentration, [pg/ml];

C_{IFN} – is interferon concentration, [ME/ml];

C_K – is hydrocortisone concentration, [nanogram/ml];

C_M – is macrophages (monocytes) concentration, [cells/ml];

C_{NK} – is NK-cells (natural killers) concentration, [cells/ml];

C_R – is number of resistant cells in a target organ, [cells];

C_{TH} – is T-helpers concentration, [cells/ml];

C_V – is antigens concentrations, [copies/ml];

F_a – is adrenals functional capacity, synthesizing function, [dimensionless value];

F_b – is marrow functional capacity, synthesizing function, [dimensionless value];

F_h – is hypothalamus functional capacity, synthesizing function, [dimensionless value];

F_p – is hypophysis functional capacity, synthesizing function, [dimensionless value].

The model parameters were indentified on the basis of experimental data obtained during research on a process of a body being infected with a flu virus; parameters values are given in Table.

We suggest to consider functional disorders in the immune system on the example of the marrow which produces immunocytes. Functional changes in the marrow occurring due to various reasons, chemical contamination included, influence rates at which various inborn and acquired immunity cells are produced. In future it leads both to quantitative (immunocytes and auxiliary immune system cells number dynamics) and qualitative (lower functional activity of immune-competent and auxiliary cells) changes in the immunity, including those evolving due to auto-regulation mechanisms disorders. Functional disorders in the neuroendocrine system elements which we described earlier and which can be caused by chemical environmental factors [3, 5], in their turn, are able to result in the "outer" immune system failure and lower immune response efficiency.

To describe this factor, we apply a mathematical model which allows to predict functional disorders evolution under exposure to environmental factors. The model allows for body age-related peculiarities, and functional disorders accumulation due to natural processes occurring in a body and environmental factors impacts.

Disorders in each organ's functional abilities is characterized with a functional damage parameter \dots ; means an organ functions properly (perfectly). means an organ is unable to fulfill its functions.

Parameters of the mathematical model describing interactions between the immune and endocrine systems under a virus infection

Parameter	Value	Source	Parameter	Value	Source
k ₁	2.35*10 ⁻¹¹ [1/cells*day]	[34]	k ₂₇	1.1*10 ¹⁴ [cells/ml*day]	
k ₂	0.98 [1/day]	[36]	k ₂₈	0.11 [1/day]	
k ₃	1.1*10 ⁻¹⁷ [ml/IU*day]	[21]	k ₂₉	4*10 ¹³ [cells/ml*day]	[36]
k ₄	2*10 ⁻¹² [ml/copies*day]	[36]	k ₃₀	4.15 [ml/pg*day]	[36]
k ₅	2.5*10 ⁻¹⁷ [ml ² /cells*pg*day]		k ₃₁	1.6*10 ⁻¹¹ [1/cells*day]	[21]
k ₆	6.6*10 ⁻¹⁸ [ml/pg*day]	[21]	k ₃₂	0.4 [1/day]	[36]
k ₇	1.5 [1/day]	[2]	k ₃₃	5.75 [ml/pg*day]	[36]
k ₈	0.5 [dimensionless]		k ₃₄	0.4 [1/day]	[36]
k ₉	0.5 [dimensionless]		k ₃₅	7.56*10 ¹² [mIU/cells]	[36]
k ₁₀	3.2*10 ⁶ [IU/cells*ml*day]		k ₃₆	0.5 [dimensionless]	
k ₁₁	1.01*10 ⁻¹⁰ [1/cells*day]	[21]	k ₃₇	8.6*10 ⁻¹⁰ [ml/copies*day]	[21]
k ₁₂	8 [1/day]	[21]	k ₃₈	0.043 [1/day]	[36]
k ₁₃	10 ⁻¹⁴ [ml/cells*day]		k ₃₉	0.5 [dimensionless]	
k ₁₄	510 [copies/ml*cells*day]	[2]	k ₄₀	0.002 [ml/pg]	
k ₁₅	8.6*10 ⁻¹⁰ [ml/mIU*day]	[43]	k ₄₁	3.767 [1/day]	[26]
k ₁₆	6.1*10 ⁻¹² [1/cells*day]	[21]	k ₄₂	0.5 [dimensionless]	
k ₁₇	1.7 [1/day]	[21]	k ₄₃	0.7572 [1/day]	[38]
k ₁₈	3*10 ⁹ [cells/ml*day]	[36]	k ₄₄	0.1972 [1/day]	[38]
k ₁₉	0.03 [1/day]	[36]	k ₄₅	1.8139*10 ²⁰ [cells/ml]	
k ₂₀	2.94*10 ⁻¹⁹ [pg/cells ² *day]	[20]	k ₄₆	0.4*10 ¹⁶ [cells/ml]	[36]
k ₂₁	0.5 [dimensionless]		k ₄₇	3.055 [ng/ml]	[42]
k ₂₂	0.1245 [1/day]	[27]	k ₄₈	7.659 [pg/ml]	[26]
k ₂₃	5.8*10 ³ [cells/ml*day]		k ₄₉	21 [pg/ml]	[38]
k ₂₄	0.0058 [1/day]		k ₅₀	3.055 [ng/ml]	[42]
k ₂₅	3.28*10 ⁻⁷ [ml/cells*day]		T	0.0132 [day]	[42]
k ₂₆	0.248 [1/day]			1.1*10 ¹⁴ [cells/ml*day]	

Outer (for an organ being considered) impacts and internal degradation (ageing) are basic reasons for damages in it. Outer impacts are hazardous substances penetrating into a body and influencing damages to an organ.

Assuming that damages speeds depend on various factors, we suggest the following structure of equations describing evolution of functional damages to human organs (2):

$$\frac{dF}{dt} = \alpha F + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \left\langle \frac{p_i}{p_i^N} - 1 \right\rangle, \quad (2)$$

where α – is a coefficient which characterizes a speed at which an organ grows older [1/year];

β_i – is a coefficient which characterizes a value of impacts exerted by i-th hazardous factors on functional damages to an organ [1/year];

p_i – is i-th hazardous substance introduction into a human body;

p_i^N – is standard (maximum permissible) value of i-th substance introduction for an organ being considered.

So called McCauley brackets are given as $\langle x \rangle$ будут обозначаться так называемые скобки Мак-Кейли (McCauley): $\langle x \rangle = 0$ при $x < 0$ и $\langle x \rangle = x$ при $x \geq 0$.

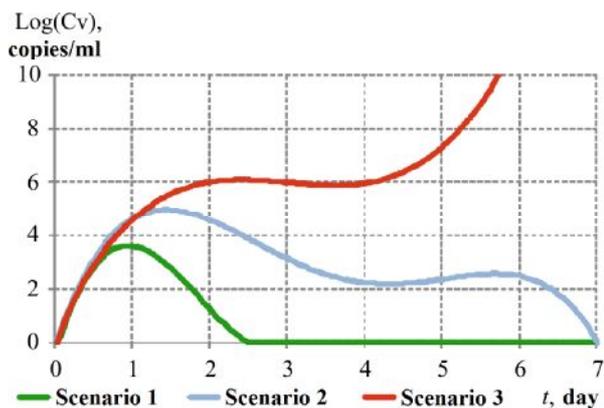
The first summand in the equation (2) makes an additional contribution into functional damages due to an increase in the intensity an undamaged part of an organ functions with in case any structural damages disorders occur; this increased intensity results from the necessity for a healthy part of an organ to enter an enhanced mode required for proper organ functioning. This enhanced functioning mode decreases cells life and causes faster organ destruction.

The second summand characterizes damages caused by environmental factors which can occur due to excessive hazardous substances introduction. The suggested structure describes the overall picture of damages evolution and allows for self-destruction (natural ageing) and damages accumulation caused by hazardous substances introduction which is beyond the set standards.

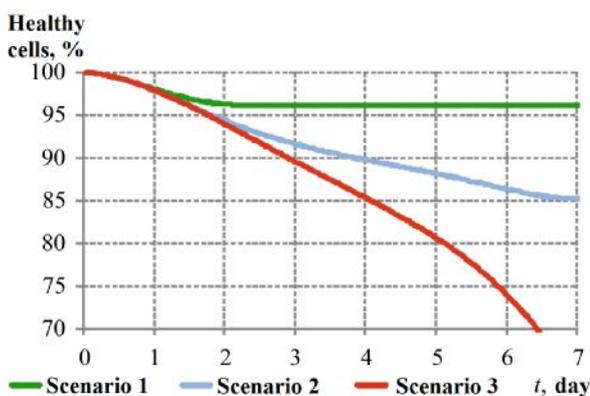
As all the equations in the model are complicated and non-linear, it becomes more difficult to obtain analytical solution with its application. To solve the differential equation system, we apply implicit numerical technique by Runge-Kutta of the third order.

Results and discussion. To test our model, we performed a numerical experiment and implemented three possible scenarios of the system behavior. The difference between them was related to the degree of disorders in the marrow synthesizing function, and this degree was determined by the intensity of impacts exerted by negative chemical factors. Each scenario involved breaking the system balance by setting up the initial viruses level. The results are given in Figures 2.

Our first scenario modeled virus invasion and a body successful fighting against it ($F_b = 1$). Initially macrophages produced interleukin-1 which stimulated interleukin-2 production. The latter in its turn activated NK-cells which were already present in a body; they rapidly inhibited infected cells thus preventing viruses from being released. After all viruses were successfully destroyed, interleukin-1 concentration went down to zero. Tentatively speaking, we can assume that it will correspond either to absence of any clinical signs of a disease or to a very mild form of it which will result in complete and fast recovery.



a



b

Figure 2. a – Graph showing changes in number of virus copies in a body over time and depending on damages to the marrow synthesizing function Graph showing changes in number of virus copies in a body over time and depending on damages to the marrow synthesizing function; b – Graph showing changes in % of healthy cells quantity against their initial level

The second scenario describes activation of not only inborn immunity but also acquired one ($F_b = 0,85$). If we take clinical practices, a disease with average gravity can be an example of such a scenario. At initial stages fighting against a virus is based on inborn immunity. But a body can't overcome it and viruses continue to reproduce themselves. Acquired immunity activations occurs on the fifth day and a number of viruses goes down rapidly. We can observe this scenario when the marrow

synthesizing function is a bit weakened, when virus load is substantial, or when there is no immune memory about this concrete type of viruses.

The third scenario concentrates on virus invasion in case when the marrow synthesizing function is significantly reduced ($F_b = 0,7$) as a result of adverse impacts exerted by the environment. These impacts cause initially low levels of macrophages, NK-cells, B-cells, and cytotoxic T-lymphocytes in a body. As a result a number of viruses in a body grows continuously. It can correspond to a very serious disease or even lethal outcome of it.

When an infection occurs, a number of healthy cells in a target organ gradually goes down due to negative impacts exerted by viruses. There are the following gradations for damages to a target organ tissue corresponding to a disease clinical form: damage to less than 8-10% of a tissue corresponds to a mild disease; 10-20%, an av-

erage disease; 20-25%, a grave disease; when more than 25-30% of a target organ tissue is damaged, lethal outcome is rather probable [6].

Conclusions. So, the suggested predictive mathematical model of regulatory systems functioning under virus invasion and under exposure to chemical factors represents the occurring processes quite qualitatively and sufficiently. This model is a simplified variant of a complicated multi-component process of interaction between regulatory systems under chemical contamination when virus invasion occurs. However, it allows to show mechanics of multi-component interaction between regulatory systems when inflammatory reactions of viral genesis evolve. Basing on it, in future we plan to expand the model component structure possibly performing population analysis of dependence between infectious morbidity and chemical contamination.

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