

RETROVIRUSES AND THE DISEASES INDUCED BY THEM

V. Tamošiūnas

Summary. The description of retroviruses, causing leukemia, sarcoma, immunodeficiencies, etc. in cattle, poultry and humans is presented. Biological properties of retroviruses, mechanisms of their action, their effect on the immune system have been investigated. The study focuses on animal and human leukemia retroviruses causing T and B cell leukemia. The effect of retroviruses on T and B lymphocyte functions under *in vitro* and *in vivo* conditions were studied. Hypothetic mechanisms of immune response suppression, exposing the development of immunosuppressive state are presented.