

EVALUATION OF NATURAL KILLER CELL ACTIVITY IN *NU/NU* MICE ON EXPOSURE TO OPIOID GROWTH FACTOR [MET5]-ENKEPHALIN

Ramūnas Žalys
Lietuvos veterinarijos akademija,
Užkrečiamųjų ligų katedra,
Tilžės g. 18, LT-3022 Kaunas, tel. 36 35 59

Summary. Opioid growth factor [Met5]-enkephalin (MET) is known as immunomodulator capable of inhibiting the growth of tumor cells. These effects are mediated by opioid receptors, as opioid antagonist naltrexone (NTX) can inhibit the effects of MET by blocking opioid receptors. We exposed *nu/nu* mice to intraperitoneal injections of 5 mg/kg of MET three times daily or 10 mg/kg of naltrexone (NTX) daily for 8 or 28 days. Utilizing standard 4-hour chromium release assay we determined that chronic treatment with MET or NTX had little influence on natural killer (NK) cell activity in *nu/nu* mice.

Keywords: opioid growth factor, naltrexone, *nu/nu* mouse.