

Fig. 3. Relative thrombocyte counts (%) observed in lung vessels of the C57BL/6 strain laboratory mice (T = SD).

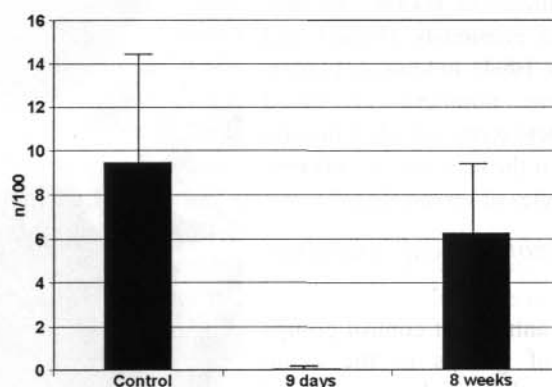


Fig. 4. Relative thrombocyte counts (%) observed in lung vessels of the C3H/J strain laboratory mice (T = SD).

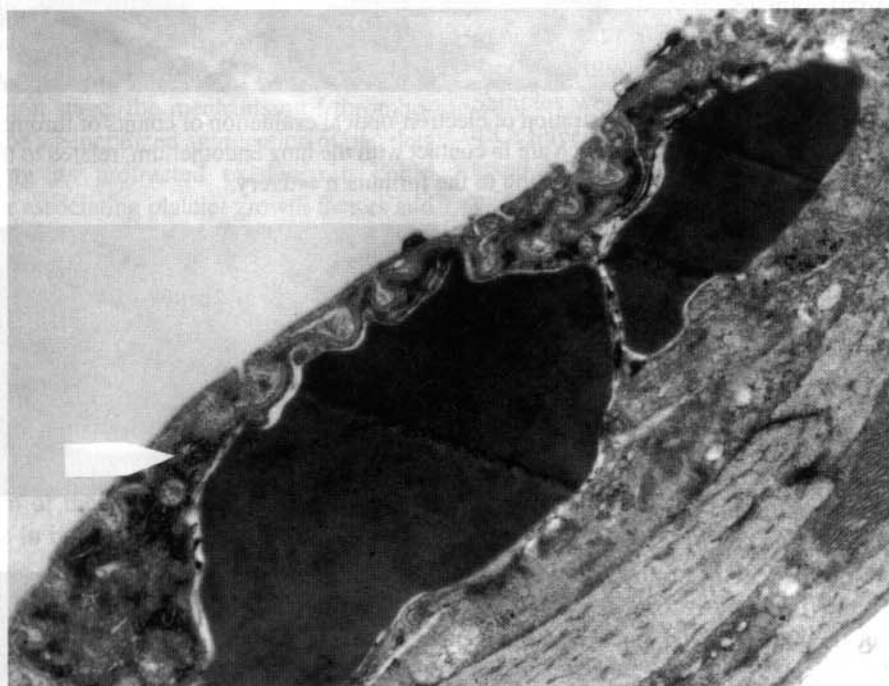


Fig. 5A. Disperse observation of enhanced electron density of endothelium of lung capillaries, see arrow (C57BL/6 strain on the 9th day after irradiation). Magnification 6000x.

ocytes in the bone marrow of C57BL/6 mice and significantly increased ( $P < 0.01$ ) in C3H/J mice (Table 1). Surprisingly, a very considerable decrease, by orders of magnitude, was determined in C3H/J and C57BL/6 mice on day 9 after irradiation. In the late phase, there was no considerable decrease in thrombocyte numbers.

## Discussion

TGF- $\beta$ 1 is produced just at the beginning of the postirradiation repair and the primary TGF- $\beta$ 1 production correlates with the tendency to fibrosis in the C57BL/6 strain. On the contrary, in the C3H/J strain,

there is only a minimum production of this factor after low-dose radiation exposure. The C57BL/6 strain is prevalently predisposed to universal fibrosing of all organs, lungs inclusive (Johnston et al., 1996). The fact that TGF- $\beta$ 1 is produced in the initial stages of postirradiation pneumopathy is known from the literature. Our results document that the cytokine mentioned is produced by the strain with increased tendency to fibrosing (C57BL/6) much more considerably than by the strain C3H/J. In this case, the lung fibrosing was not expected due to low-dose radiation exposure. However, production of TGF- $\beta$ 1 in tissues could be observed