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Body size preferences and socio-cultural influences on attitudes towards obesity among Moroccan Sahraoui women

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Body perception is among the factors determining overweight and obesity. This investigation aimed to study body size preferences and to examine the socio-cultural factors that influence obesity. A figural scale consisting of nine images ranging from thin to obese are presented to a sample of 249 Moroccan Sahraoui women, to rate their ideal body size and the size they thought to be "healthy". The participants indicated also the socio-cultural influences that affected their body size ratings. The results showed that women's rating of ideal body size (4.88) was significantly larger than their rating of healthy body size (4.33). The desire to lose weight was very low even among the majority of obese women, and that educational level did not affect their desire to lose weight. Women that are not satisfied with their body size were more likely to report "trying to gain" rather than "to lose" weight. Mothers, men, and fitting in traditional clothing are the major factors reported by the participants that influence their ideal body size. The study data show that preventing obesity and its complications are a challenge for health sector in Morocco and that any prevention program should include teenagers and key family members.

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About stability of a bladder cancer model under stochastic perturbations

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The method of stability investigation under stochastic perturbations of mathematical models of various types of epidemics, in particular, of the model of social obesity epidemic, was successfully used for investigation of cancer models. In this work the model of bladder cancer is investigated. Bladder cancer (BC) is 7th most common cancer (the 4th most common for men) with approximately 356,000 new cases each year and more than 145,000 deaths per year. Our model describes the treatment effects of the Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) bacteria. Based on previous study, we have developed a new model with adding delay in the immune response to BCG injection and special adaptation to new knowledge about the BCG immunotherapy. The model characterizes the dynamics of the interactions between the four different biological components (BCG bacteria within the bladder (B), effector T-lymphocytes, mostly CTLs that react to BCG and to tumor antigens (E), tumor cells infected with BCG (Ti) and tumor cells that are not infected by BCG (Tu)) and is described by the system of four non-linear differential equations with a variable delay and stochastic perturbations of the type of white noise. The stability investigation of the considered model is based on the general method of Lyapunov functionals construction that was proposed and developed by V. Kolmanovskii and L. Shaikhet during last two decades.

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