Introduction. According to WHO statistics, more than a billion people are overweight [10]. In Russia, more than 30% of working age persons are obese, and 25% are overweight. WHO estimates obesity as a global epidemic which threatens millions of people. There is an established link between obesity and such diseases as type II diabetes mellitus, arterial hypertension, atherosclerosis, some malignant tumors, and musculoskeletal system diseases.

Preserving a standard body structure and optimal functional status requires to correct nutrition and practice physical exercises. Even 7-minute aerobic load each day for six weeks results in reducing fat mass and waist circumference as well as improving the cardiovascular system in young people [4].

The control of a balanced nutrition and body structure plays an important role in sport. A correlation between body composition and tolerance to intensive mental loads accompanied by adequate nutrition was studied in elite water polo athletes [5]. The conclusion was made that monitoring of body cell mass provides valuable information for assessing training effect and preventing performance reduction.

Quick fat loss results in the negative changes in a psycho-functional status. In 18 hours after weight cutting in elite wrestlers, the authors [6] revealed a change in the effectiveness of linear and angular kinematics of single-leg technique.

The results of the study on the mental aspects of eating behavior disorders were published [1, 3, 15]. It was established [11] that the psychological risk factors for excess weight in women are a low level of subjective control over important events and interpersonal relations, alexithymia tendencies, and an increased level of hetero- and
autoagression. However, the issue of personality features and their connection with eating behavior in people with excess weight from different age groups is not sufficiently studied. The understanding of psychophysiological features in persons with excess weight is essential for developing the means of psychological obesity treatment.

Aim. This study aimed to reveal psychophysiological features in women with excess weight for further development of the program including means for weight loss and psychological correction.

Materials and Methods. We studied two groups of women of different age: the first group – mean age 54.2 ± 3.0; the second group – mean age 25.0 ± 1.7. The average BMI of the first group corresponded with obesity values (32.3 ± 1.6), while an average BMI of the second group was within the upper limit of reference values (23.7 ± 0.9). However, according to body composition data, there was a risk of BMI increase. All participants wanted to take part in a previously described weight correction program which includes the recommendations on nutritional rebalancing developed by T.V. Popova and psychological support training developed by T.V. Popova.

Control groups involved people of the same age with a standard weight who practiced activity on an occasional basis. Each group consisted of 15 persons. All participants were of the same professional field (university professors and employees, school teachers and employees, students in natural sciences) and had no health-related complaints at the time of examination. All participants provided their informed consent in a written form.

Our examination included body composition and psycho-physiological functions analysis. Composition parameters, bioelectrical impedance was measured with Tanita BC-418MA analyzer (certificate No 2005/806 dd. 06.06.2005) to analyze body composition parameters. The analysis of a psycho-emotional status was performed by using Spielberger State-Trait Anxiety Inventory [13], the self-assessment of well-being, activity, and mood proposed by V.A. Doskin [2], as well as psychological tests for the ability to overcome stress [7]. Electroencephalography (EEG) was conducted with Neuron-Spectrum equipment (Neurosoft, Russia) by using a standard scheme of multi-channel registration with 8 cup electrodes connected to ear electrodes and placed in accordance with the 10–20 system. We also registered the cardiointervalogram (CIG) by using a computer program for the analysis of heart rate (HR) structure and the spectrum of cardiac intervals; arterial pressure was measured according to the Korotkov’s method.

The statistical processing of the data obtained was conducted with the help of the Statistics 6.0 software package (StatSoft, the USA) and SPSS. We calculated the arithmetic mean of variational series (M), the mean error of arithmetic mean (m), and Student’s t-criterion. A critical level of significance for statistical hypotheses was fixed at 0.05.

Results. The results of the study revealed certain peculiarities of psychophysiological functions in persons with excess weight.

The group of older women (1) differed from the group of young women (2) by significantly higher body mass, fat mass, total water, and BMI. To achieve optimal performance, weight to lose for older women was 3 times higher than for young women (Table 1).

In older women, BMI values corresponded to obesity, while in the group of young women BMI values were within reference limits except for some participants whose BMI was 1–3 c. u. higher.

In control groups, all weight indicators were lower than in experimental groups. However, in the group of young women, differences were significant in terms of body weight, while in older women only the 4th and 5th groups of parameters were not statistically significant. The most pronounced differences were registered in body weight, fat mass in %, and body weight to lose in kg.

Despite the low weight index in participants from the control group, the majority of women show the necessity of losing weight to achieve optimal values. This means that the body weight index alone does not prove that body weight is normal. A comprehensive analysis of fat-free and fat tissue structure in different parts of the body is necessary for obesity prevention.

The distribution of fat-free and fat mass in the limbs and body is of particular interest (Fig. 1).

In both groups, we established a lower fat mass percentage in the body compared to the limbs and a greater fat mass in kg. With a more significant amount of adipose tissue in older women, fat-free mass and muscle mass in all participants were greater than fat mass. In young women, fat mass in the body was significantly lower than in older women (9.8 ± 3.3 and 18.8 ± 4.1 kg; P < 0.05).
The study of a psychoemotional status revealed that all participants hardly coped with stress. However, young women overcame stress better (53.2 ± 2.2 points) compared to older women (72.3 ± 2.5 points, Р < 0.05).

The assessment of anxiety level showed its increased values. In all participants, situational anxiety was almost the same within 48 points. Situational anxiety in young women was higher compared to older women (51.2 ± 1.3 and 49.6 ± 2.1 points, respectively). This is possibly due to greater professional experience of participants from the older group.

The self-assessment test of a psychoemotional status did not reveal any significant differences between groups. Mood and well-being indicators were within 5.4–5.7 points, while activity indicators were lower (4.6–4.9 points).

Heart rate variability analysis revealed that HR in women from the first group was significantly higher compared to the second group (81.8 ± 4.5 and 64.4 ± 3.2 bpm; Р < 0.05). The activity indicators of the sympathetic system (AMo) in the first group were also higher (50.7 ± 3.2 and 27.5 ± 2.3 %, Р < 0.05, respectively) as well as the activity indicators of central regulatory mechanisms (SI 120.8 ± 5.6 and 49.1 ± 2.8 cu., Р < 0.05). In participants from the first group, the indicators of vagosympathetic interaction (LF/HF) obtained in HR spectral analysis were 2 times higher compared to the second group. These data prove that functional stress in older women is more pronounced than in young women.

In the first group, average systolic arterial pressure was 132.6 ± 4.6 mmHg; in the second group – 109.2 ± 3.2 mmHg (Р < 0.05); diastolic pressure – 85.8 ± 3.1 and 73.0 ± 2.2 mmHg, respectively (Р < 0.05). Therefore, in the first group, we revealed a tendency to hypertonia. In two women from the first group, arterial pressure indicators did not exceed 140/90 mmHg.

EEG analysis showed (Table 2) that alpha rhythm amplitude in women from the first group was higher on average and frequency was lower compared to the second group. Frontal lobe dominance was more frequent, while occipital

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Parameters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weight, kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>88.9 ± 5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>64.1 ± 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>64.5 ± 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>57 ± 2.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>P 1-1C</td>
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<td>P 2-2C</td>
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</table>

Note: 1, 2 – experimental groups, 1C, 2C – control groups. Weight – body weight, kg; BMI – body mass index, kg/cm²; FAT% – fat mass, %; TBW – total body water, kg; NFAT – recommended fat mass, %; LOSE – recommended weight to lose.
lobe dominance was found only in one person. During relaxation, alpha rhythm appeared mainly in occipital lobes. However, its amplitude was significantly lower compared to control groups.

Compared to control groups, in the majority of overweight women (80%), we registered delta-frequency slow-waves (frontal, central, temporal regions), and in 10% of women, we also found theta-frequency waves in the frontal region. Therefore, in the majority of groups, we revealed the EEG signs of functional stress.

Discussion. The results of our study prove the increase of psychoemotional and functional stress in overweight persons. European scientists also admit that constant stress among both professors and university students contributes to psychoemotional and functional stress [8]. More intensive physical loads can explain the fact that this stress is more pronounced in the older group than in the young group. Moreover, with the increase of physical activity in young women, there is a decrease in adipose tissue in the body [17]. This is possibly connected with a decrease in the so-called obesity factors contributing to the development of metabolic syndrome [9].

Neurohormonal mechanisms play an important role in weight regulation. For example, the study of Clozapine antipsychotic medication [12] revealed that in the majority of participants Clozapine caused weight increase against the improvement of mental status. However, certain participants demonstrated a weight decrease. It was established [14] that neurotransmitters and neuropeptides contribute to the inclination to obesity through a complex chain of reactions.

The histamine inhibition of the mesolimbic pathway involved in appetite regulation was studied. It was established that the agonists of H1 receptors decrease appetite and food intake. Leptin is one more anorexigenic hormone which acts through histamine. Some other neuropeptides such as an α-melanocyte-stimulating hormone, leptin, insulin, and glucagon are considered as playing a role in appetite decrease [16]. Therefore, psychophysical correction of the body contributes to a psychological status and normalizes body weight through neurohormonal mechanisms.

Conclusion. Our previous studies showed that psychophysical relaxational self-regulation contributes to the optimization of a psychophysical status against weight cutting in wrestlers [8]. This study proves the increase of psychoemotional and functional stress in untrained overweight women. These facts allow us to recommend psychophysical correction for optimizing psychophysical status during weight decrease in women of the age groups studied.

References
2. Doskin V.A., Grombakh S.M. [Prevention


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Цель. Вывести психофизиологические особенности женщин с проблемами избыточного веса для дальнейшей разработки комплекса, включающего средства для снижения веся и психокоррекции. Материалы и методы. Исследованы две группы женщин, пожелавших заниматься по программе коррекции веса: 1-я – средний возраст 54,2 ± 3,0 и 2-я – 25,0 ± 1,7 года. В 1-й группе средний индекс массы тела (32,3 ± 1,6) свидетельствовал об ожирении; во 2-й группе (23,7 ± 0,9) он был на верхней границе нормы, но существовал риск его повышения. Так, процент жировой ткани превышал рекомендуемые цифры, и рекомендуемая потеря веса составила для старшей группы 18,2 ± 2,6 кг, а для молодых испытуемых 5,6 ± 1,4 кг. В качестве контрольных обследованы две группы женщин того же возраста, с нормальным весом. Результаты. Исследования выявили как возрастные, так и особенности психофизиологических показателей у женщин с разным весом. Амплитуда альфа-ритма ЭЭГ у испытуемых 1-й группы была ниже, а частота – выше; выявлен также более высокий уровень активности дельта диапазона в лобной области в покое, чем у женщин контрольной группы. Исследование психоэмоционального состояния показало, что все испытуемые относились к категориям лиц, с трудом справляемых со стрессами. Однако молодые испытуемые легче справляются со стрессовой ситуацией по сравнению со старшими. Результаты оценки тревожности показали ее повышенный уровень, у всех испытуемых групп наблюдения личностная тревожность была практически аналогичной, в пределах 48 баллов. Уровень же ситуационной тревожности у молодых женщин был выше, чем у старших (51,2 ± 1,3 и 49,6 ± 2,1 балла соответственно). Заключение. Большинство психофизиологических показателей свидетельствовали о функциональном напряжении, особенно у женщин старшего возраста с избыточным весом. Сделано заключение, что для сохранения оптимального психофизиологического статуса лиц, участвующих в программах по коррекции веса, необходима также коррекция психофизического состояния с учетом возрастных особенностей.

Ключевые слова: избыточный вес, возраст, структура тканей тела, электроэнцефалограмма, психоэмоциональное состояние, функциональное напряжение.

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