**Online Supplementary Figure 1.** Immunohistochemical analysis of rat thyroid tissue with monoclonal antibodies against CD86 (brown staining). Staining intensity was: weak (+/-) staining of immune-positive cells in the control (A; n = 10); intensive staining (++ / +++) in group I with exogenous thyrotoxicosis - overexpression of CD86 (B; n = 10); intensive staining (+++) in group II with thyrotoxicosis associated with stimulation of interleukin-2 - overexpression of CD86 (C; n = 10); x 400.