

The present thesis deal with problems related to alcohol. Risk factors, main symptoms of alcohol abuse, and respective psychiatric disorders are reviewed. Furthermore, the impacts of alcohol on the molecular level and on the organ systems as well as its embryotoxicity are described. Methods for screening, diagnosis, and prevention strategies are provided, including disulfiram administration. Using the CHEST method (Chick Embryotoxicity Screening Test) disulfiram embryotoxicity was studied. Results showed profound teratogenic effect of disulfiram on chick embryos incubated for 2 days. On the opposite, disulfiram manifested no apparent teratogenic potential when administered on 3 and 4 day old chick embryos. Results should be interpreted with caution when adapted to human, nevertheless teratogenic effect produced by administration of disulfiram in early organogenesis could be predicted. Therefore alternative preventive methods should be preferred in fertile women.