

THE OBJECTIVE LOOK ON „BAD” ACETALDEHYDE

Summary

High content of ethyl alcohol in the organism turns on the main catabolic pathway of ethanol leading to its oxidation to acetaldehyde. In this process, an important role is played by the complex: alcohol dehydrogenase/acetaldehyde dehydrogenase (ADH/ADLH), apart from MEOS (microsomal ethanol oxidizing system), catalase activity and nonoxidative degradation processes. The acetaldehyde is

considerable more adverse for tissues than ethanol oneself. Thus, its decomposition reaction should be fast but dependent on the amount of drunk and length of its consumption. The both dehydrogenases reveal some polymorphism connected with different metabolic intensity, dependent upon the kind of tissue or organ.