

## ABSTRACT

The thesis focuses on the history of pain treatment from the beginning of humanity to present days. It aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the research development, creation of theories and struggling of a man with the pain, an unpleasant sensory perception, without which the mankind would most probably not survive.

From the skeletal remains we learn about pain-killing practices among primitive people who were, besides various potions, charms, spells and rituals, able to use even the trepanation techniques. We find that people in ancient times apparently understood the pain caused by traumatic mechanisms but they could not handle the pain caused by some internal disorder. Early findings about the treatment of pain were thus linked to the nature. People used plants with narcotic and analgetic effects e. g. opium, cannabis, mandrake and physical quantities such as pressure, heat, cold or even shocks generated by electric fish. Over the time they improved this knowledge and reached for new findings. This thesis presents also ideas and creation of theories of pain provided by thinkers and scholars across centuries. Works from antiquity had apparently the biggest and the longest lasting influence on pain and medical problematics.

From historical sources we read that new discoveries in medicine built controversy between scholars and religions and even among thinkers themselves. Many of research methods as well as painkillers were condemned or even banned in certain historical periods. Despite all of this the hunger for knowledge and for the mastering of pain led to new modern theories of its treatment which were trying to explain not only anatomical physiological substance of the pain but mainly ways of how to influence and cure it. The creation of a new science discipline – algesiology and of organizations working with pain phenomenon was an ultimate outcome of these efforts.

This historical thesis is complemented by graphical attachments.

### Keywords:

pain management, analgesics, anesthesia, pain, history, treatment, care, theory, development, research