



SPELEOTHERAPY CASE PRESENTATION – TURDA SALT MINE



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Abstract

Introduction. The presence of a large salt deposit with big dimensions in the north of Turda had influence the geomorphology and the biodiversity of the area, but in the same time had generated a multitude of natural resources used today in balneary therapy.

Turda Salt Mine is the result of salt extraction in the period 1690 – 1932 and represents an ensemble of galleries and underground chambers of big dimensions.

The salt mine had become a touristic attraction in 1992.

Between the ensemble of mining works are conserved and can be visited conical and parallelepipedic shape exploitation chambers beside the technical works used for miners circulation and salt transportation.

Beside the spectacle offered by visiting the old exploitation chambers, Turda Salt Mine shows interest also as a balneary destination.

Therapeutic properties of underground environment are different from a salt mine to another and there can be changes also differences between the exploitation chambers of the same salt mine.

Methods. The curative effects of salt mine microclimate for the respiratory disease treatment have been evaluated in several stages, through studies which evaluate the physic-chemical and microbiologic parameters of underground environment. It followed the experimental studies made on batch of laboratory animals with induced bronchitis asthma and in the end the study was made on human patients. The results have been statistical interpreted and represents the fundament for the conclusions looking at the possibility of using Turda Salt Mine in therapeutic purposes.

Results. The last studies have evaluated the influence of intense touristic traffic over the underground microclimate and the investigation of physic-chemical and microbiologic of Joseph chamber taking in consideration the opening of a new section of speleotherapy.

Conclusion. Salina Turda is a modern balneary-touristic destination, with specific characteristics which completes this type of European network.