



Wine Consumption and Health : Heaven or Hell
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Looking at the literature devoted to the effects of alcohol consumption on health, we are confronted to quite divergent flows of thinking: on the one hand the huge amount of literature underlying the negative impact of alcohol consumption on cancer diseases and on the other hand the papers underpinning the positive impact of wine consumption on life expectancy, the so-called French paradox.

The two currents use the usual toolkit of statistical methods to fix their argumentation, trying to extract all possible correlations from their data sets. However, epidemiology studies are the poor parents in medical research that is mainly devoted to treatments, producing new classes of medicines. It also appears that in the field of prevention, the stress is mainly put on individual rather than on collective responsibility. The effects of tobacco consumption or of asbestos are described since decades and collective actions follow with such delays and inefficiency that the question of public responsibility should also be addressed when looking at the rise in cancer deaths (corrected for aging).

The purpose of this paper is to pose a critical regard on the different papers addressing the impact of wine consumption on health, taking the example of on one side the publications devoted to the positive impact described as the French paradox and on the other side the on recent papers or reports underlying the negative impact of alcohol consumption on the probability to get cancer. Looking at available data on consumption and health it appears that we are facing incomplete models where partial correlations and probabilities appear as the common proof.