

THE 21ST EUROPEAN MEETING OF THE PALEOPATHOLOGY ASSOCIATION

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PROGRAM&ABSTRACTS

**Moscow
2016**

For the design of the cover a Russian post card of the beginning of the 20th century is used.

The title: “Deformed crania from Gothic burials (Khasaut aul, Nalchik district, Terek province, Northern Caucasus)”. The card addressed to Moscow. Imperial Moscow University. Anthropological office of His Excellency. Dmitry Nikolaevich Anuchin* (Mister Professor). Kislovodsk city. Year 1909.

***D.N. Anuchin was the founder of the Institute and Museum of Anthropology of Moscow University. Anuchin himself was studying Ainu crania [Anuchin, 1976, 1880] and artificial cranial deformations [Anuchin, 1887].**

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REPORT ON DEGENERATIVE AND ACTIVITY-RELATED SPINE ABNORMALITIES IN THE BRONZE AGE (2ND MILLENNIUM B.C.) SETTLERS OF THE COASTAL AREA AROUND LAKE SEVAN, MODERN ARMENIA

Lake Sevan is located in a high-altitude area in Armenia. In the mid 20th century the lake's level decreased, revealing a Bronze Age cemetery nearby modern Lchashen village. Though the excavation works are complete, skeletal remains are still waiting for a complex analysis and some characteristics of the population are not yet fully understood. Our aim was to study skeletal remains of the ancient Lchashen settlers for Schmorl's nodes, signs of posterior disc prolapse, traumas, spondylolysis and osteoarthritic changes in the spine. Totally, 60 individuals were studied (13 infants and juveniles of undetermined sex, 25 males and 22 females). Males had significantly higher frequencies of Schmorl's nodes compared to females. Group frequencies reached 71%. Osteoarthritic changes showed tendency toward prevalence in males and were associated with increasing age. Degenerative changes of discovertebral junctions were most frequent in the cervical spine. Signs of posterior disc prolapse in the thoracic and lumbar regions were observed in 16 adults (26.7%), more commonly appearing in males (11 males vs. 5 females). The most frequent appearance was at T6-T8 level coinciding with the apex of kyphosis. A few cases of possible anterior hernia were present. Five cases of bilateral spondylolysis in the inferior lumbar spine were observed (8.3%, 3 males and 2 females). All five cases showed evidences of forward slippage in the affected discovertebral junction. Four cases demonstrated signs of compression fractures, 3 of these cases represented individuals older than 50 years of age. Overall, the skeletal sample demonstrated normal aging pattern of the vertebral column and percentage of spondylolysis within ranges reported in the literature. However, it is characterized by relatively high frequencies of intervertebral disc prolapses in males which may reflect their systematic involvement in strenuous physical activities and labor division between sexes.