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## Bioarchaeological perspective on the population buried at Bribirska glavica

As was the case with archaeological excavations at Bribirska glavica, anthropological analysis of the skeletal material buried at Groblje cemetery revealed some new insights into the life and death of the population that inhabited the area. It was a challenge to analyse the osteological material because most of the graves contained more than one individual along with commingled bones. The first step was to determine the minimum number of individuals (MNI) in a skeletal assemblage, and when possible the whole skeletons or well preserved skulls were separately analysed. The minimum number of 217 individuals (152 adults and 65 subadults) was present in the analysed skeletal sample. Sex and age were determined for 110 skeletons. The sample comprising of 38 subadults, 20 females, and 52 males shows unequal ratio 0.73:0.38:1 with the evident underrepresentation of females.

Taphonomy, which refers to the natural or intentional processes that alter the body after death, was observed for each skeleton. Preservation of the cortex varied from very poor to excellent. Traces of animal activity (rodent gnawing) were detected on 28.2% of individuals. It was for the first time that this process was recorded in such a high percentage in any Croatian skeletal sample.

Several pathological conditions (indicators of subadult stress –cribra orbitalia and linear enamel hypoplasia, as well as indicator of non-specific infectious diseases – periostitis), were recorded. Relatively high frequencies of these pathologies (25.8% of cribra orbitalia, 60% of linear enamel hypoplasia, and 40% of non specific periostitis) suggest poor living conditions and low health standard. Some of the factors responsible could have been iron deficiency anaemia, infectious diseases, inadequate diet and parasitical infections. In this context, special attention was given to infectious diseases recorded in the sample. Possible and certain cases of leprosy were found in 11 individuals and tuberculosis in only one individual.

## Bioarheološka slika stanovništva pokopanog na Bribirskoj glavici

Jednako kao i arheološka istraživanja na Bribirskoj glavici, antropološke analize ljudskoga koštanog materijala koji potječe s nalazišta Groblje dale su nova saznanja o životu i smrti populacije koja je nastanjivala ovo područje. Analiza ovog materijala je bila izazov jer je većina grobova sadržavala kosti više pokojnika koje su bile pomiješane. Prvi korak bio je odrediti najmanji broj osoba u koštanom uzorku, a nadalje, ako je to bilo moguće, zasebno su analizirani izdvojeni kosturi ili dobro sačuvane glave. U uzorku je prisutno najmanje 217 osoba (152 odrasle osobe i 65 djece). Spol i starost određeni su na 110 osoba, od kojih je 38 djece, 20 žena i 52 muškarca. Ovakav omjer 0,73 : 0,38 : 1 pokazuje očitu podzastupljenost žena u uzorku.

Za svaki su kostur evidentirane tafonomske promjene koje se odnose na prirodne i namjerne procese koji djeluju na tijelo nakon smrti. Sačuvanost kostura varira od loše do odlične, a najveća se zanimljivost odnosi na tragove životinjske aktivnosti (glodavaca) koji su zamijećeni na 28,2 % kostura. Takav visoki postotak je po prvi put zabilježen u nekom koštanom uzorku iz Hrvatske.

Također su zabilježene određene patologije: pokazatelji subadultnog stresa (cribra orbitalia i hipoplazija zubne cakline) te nespecifičnih zaraznih bolesti (periostitis). Relativno visoke učestalosti ovih patologija (25,8 % cribrae orbitaliae, 60 % hipoplazije zubne cakline i 40 % nespecifičnog periostitisa) sugeriraju loše životne uvjete. Neki od mogućih odgovornih faktora su anemija uzrokovana nedostatkom željeza, zarazne bolesti, neadekvatna prehrana i parazitizam. U tom kontekstu, posebnu važnost imaju zarazne bolesti evidentirane u uzorku s Bribirske glavice: 11 mogućih i sigurnih slučajeva lepre te jedan slučaj tuberkuloze.