

## DISEASES OF THE PULMONARY SYSTEM IN THE MEDIEVAL POPULATION OF WROCLAW

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Respiratory diseases have accompanied humanity from the beginning. Information on their transmission and evaluation is provided by historical data and paleopathological studies. Assessment of this type of disease is quite difficult because diseases are mainly related to the soft tissues, which are destroyed in archeological samples. Information can, however, be drawn from the traces that remain on the elements of the skeleton bone. The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of respiratory diseases in medieval inhabitants of Wroclaw. We analyzed 110 skeletons of individuals of both sexes, from different areas of the city. Sex of individuals was assessed on the basis of the morphology of skulls and pelvic bones, according to accepted standards. Individual's age at death was estimated on the basis of the degree of obstruction sutures of the skull and dental crowns clash. Living conditions and health status of the population surveyed, were rated on the basis of historical data and the assessment of the incidence of cribra orbitalia, enamel hypoplasia and dental caries. In order to assess pneumatisation of paranasal sinuses and nasal septum curvature, radiographs were performed in the projection PA. Nasal septum deviation was noted in 52% of individuals. Asymmetry of the frontal sinuses and their aplasia were observed in 10% of individuals. There was no significant relationship between the curvature of the nasal septum and frontal sinus aplasia. There was no occurrence of maxillary sinus aplasia. During the study, one case history of tuberculosis, one case of abscess causing perforation of the maxillary sinus were noted. Using available methods, there were no developmental abnormalities observed that may significantly impair the patency of the nasal cavity. Developmental variation of sternum in the form of openings in the body of sternum was present in two individuals. In other two individuals, rib fractures with bone union were observed. Analysis of the presence of respiratory disease on bone material is particularly difficult, but the use of modern methods such as x-rays, CT scans and endoscopy significantly expands the diagnostic capabilities. Research will continue using endoscopic techniques to assess the state of the maxillary sinus without damaging valuable paleopathological material.