

Changes in the Pathological Spectrum under the Influence of the Climatic Optimum

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Through osteological material research, information can be obtained not only about biological sex, age, and ethnicity, but also about living conditions and the environment. For this purpose, evidence left on the skeleton must be studied comprehensively. Living conditions throughout history were constantly changing, and accordingly, adaptation markers on skeletal remains also changed.

Periodic climatic changes caused shifts in living conditions for groups of people inhabiting particular regions. Naturally, these changes affected their overall level of health. In this research, 10 skulls dating to Late Antiquity and 50 skulls dating to the Early Medieval period were studied. These periods were characterized by different climatic conditions, which resulted in changes in lifestyle.

Skulls from the Late Antiquity period exhibit pathologies such as hyperostosis, caries, osteoma, and incomplete fusion of cranial sutures. In the second group, the number of pathological conditions is significantly higher, with most pathologies being associated with nutritional deficiencies, such as porotic hyperostosis and cribra orbitalia.

Both of these pathologies are most often caused by unfavorable living conditions, which are largely related to climatic changes.