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## **21. LIFE AND HEALTH ON THE ROMAN LIMES**

Session organisers / Chairpersons:

Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović, Institute of Archaeology Belgrade (E-mail: miladinovic.radmilovic@gmail.com)

This session includes anthropological research of osteological material from old and new archaeological excavations along Limes. This will imply the impact of historical circumstances on the social and health status of the rural, urban and military populations, their paleodemographic structure, the reconstruction of economic relations and the diet, the level of medical care and protection, intentional and accidental traumas, everyday occupations and habits, relations towards children, as well as the reconstruction of funeral practice.

### **The appearance of ulcer on one skeleton from Viminacium and the possibility of its' treatment in Antiquity**

Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović, Ilija Mikić, Dragana Vulović, Ksenija Đukić

Viminacium (Stari Kostolac) was the largest and the most important city in Moesia Superior (Upper Moesia). It was the provincial capital, administrative, religious, military and trade centre. It was built on a strategic location at the confluence of the river Mlava and the Danube, on the crossroad of both land and river routes with large military and trade potential.

On one of the necropoles of Viminacium, Pirivoj, in grave no. 325, skeletal remains of a juvenile female individual were discovered. The burial is dated into the first half of the 3rd century. The deceased juvenile was laid on the back with hands clasped on her stomach. The orientation of the grave was North–South.

Anthropological analyses revealed traces of osteomyelitis with proliferative periostitis on the left tibia and left fibula. The source of infection was related to a large ulcer on the left tibia. The current appearance of the bone shows poor health treatment of the ulcer and active inflammation at the time of death.

In this presentation, we will also focus on the ulcer aetiology and possibility of its' treatment in Antiquity. Treatments will also be briefly discussed, with preparations based on silver and lead, vinegar, honey, etc.

### **Case of myositis ossificans traumatica on one skeleton from Viminacium**

Dragana Vulović, Ilija Mikić, Ksenija Đukić, Nataša Miladinović-Radmilović

The Roman city and military camp of Viminacium is situated between the villages of Stari Kostolac and Drmno, 12 kilometres eastwards from Požarevac, close to the confluence of the Mlava and the Danube. During its' history, it became the biggest urban settlement and the capital of the province of Upper Moesia (Moesia Superior), later the First Moesia (Moesia Prima). It represented one of the most important military strongholds, not only in Upper Moesia, but it also represented the area from which Roman legions operated in other provinces as well.

On one of the necropoles of Viminacium, Pećine, in grave no. 5785, skeletal remains of a juvenile male individual were discovered. The funeral took place in the Late Antiquity period. The deceased juvenile was laid on the back with hands clasped on his stomach. The deceased's skull was not found. The orientation of the grave was West–East.

Anthropological analyses revealed a fracture of the right femur followed by myositis ossificans traumatica.

Myositis ossificans is defined as a localised formation of heterotopic non-neoplastic bone in muscle or soft tissue. It usually represents one of the complications of fractures, like in our case here. The trauma to the bone can damage the overlying muscle and, occasionally, the muscle tissue will respond to the trauma by producing bone directly in the muscle tissue itself. This

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