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Anthropological and paleopathological studies of the necropolis of Mentesa Oretana (Villanueva de la Fuente, Ciudad Real)

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Oral Communication

ABSTRACT *In this study, the anthropological and paleopathological researches of two different necropolis located in Mentesa Oretana (Villanueva de la Fuente, Ciudad Real, Spain) is presented. Mentesa Oretana city was historically significant, which is archaeologically notes as there is a temporal continuum of occupation from the Bronze Age to modern times. Focusing on the necropolis of study, the first one, dated from late antiquity, corresponds to an area known as “Los Toriles” which constitutes most of the study sample. The second one, very close to the previous one, was dated as belonging to the Islamic period, and it is formed by a very small number of individuals. The sample consists of 64 individuals, of whom 42% are subadult subjects (52% children and 48% young individuals) and 58% adult subjects. In 10 adult individuals some diseases, markers of activity and some variants of normality were found: osteoarthritis, Schmorl’s nodules, osteoporosis, fractures, ankylosis, periostitis, hallux valgus and enthesopathies in different anatomical regions. Furthermore, in 14% of the subadult subjects, pathologies associated with physiological stress as orbitalia and femoral cribra were observed. The frequency of abundant and diverse pathologies as well as the good preservation of many of the individuals makes this one a high scientific interesting collection. The information shown is evidence of the time of change that must live the people at both times, in the same way reveals the importance that the concrete study of the necropolis in the area of the ancient cities.*

KEYWORDS *Paleopathology; Late Roman and Islamic necropolis; Mentesa Oretana; physiological stress; subadult*

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