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ANALYSIS OF DENTAL STATUS IN BRONZE AGE POPULATION RESIDING ON TERRITORY OF MODERN POLTAVA REGION

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The aim of the study is to establish and interpret dental status using human bone remains in association with the general status of skeletons (sex, age, and body length) in the Bronze Age population (approximately 3300 BC to 1200 BC) residing on separate territories of the modern Poltava region.

Materials and methods. The study material includes 25 poor-preserved Bronze Age human skeletons (in all cases there were no complete fragments of bones), found in the Chutovsky district of the Poltava region during spring – autumn 2019 by the Chutovsky archaeological expedition (V. V. Sherstyuk was a project leader). All the examined objects are now in the V. Krichevsky Poltava Museum of Local History.

The set of teeth was in good condition and completely well-preserved. The authors of the study applied their own patented method of analyzing the skeletal tissue of ancient people, carried out at the laboratory of historical and medical anthropology at the Municipal institution "Center for the Protection and Research of Archaeological Monuments", Poltava Regional Council, and the Department of Pediatric Therapeutic Dentistry with the Prevention of Dental Diseases, Poltava State Medical University.

Research results. Having analyzed the human remains, we found 4 children skeletons, 10 female skeletons, and 11 male skeletons. The average age of women was 40 years, men – 39 years. The average height of women was 152.0 cm; men – 163.0 cm. There were no physical diseases in individuals checked. Only one woman was found as having bone deformities that can be considered as age-related. No dental pathology was revealed in samples of Bronze Age human skeletons. Mineralized dental deposits were found in 5 skeletons, which included 20 % of all studied samples. One female and three male skeletons showed "thin line" deposits. Another male skeleton had dental deposits of "overhanging lump" shape.

Conclusion. The skeletons of 25 people who lived on the modern territory of the Poltava region in the Bronze Age were studied and analyzed. Their physical condition and dental status is identical to the status of humans from another areas of this region, whom we studied in the communities of the Bronze Age. No oral pathologies were found. Dental mineralized deposits were detected in 5 skeletons. This health status can be explained by the complete body adaptation to the existing social conditions and by the unity of people with the surrounding nature.