

CHARACTERISTICS OF DENTITIONS FROM THE MEDIEVAL
SERIES FROM NECROPOLIS OF THE CHURCH OF FORTY
MARTYRS, VELIKO TARNOVO
(Preliminary investigation)

VICTORIA S. RUSSEVA¹

Abstract. This is a preliminary investigation of dentitions from the material from graveyard (late 13th –first middle of 14th c. AD) of church of SS. Forty Martyrs from Veliko Tarnovo. Developed permanent dentitions, preserved to 87.5 % (not more than four teeth lost post mortem (Table 1)) are analyzed. Presence/absence of dental caries, destruction of tooth crown up to the cemento-enamel junction (pulp exposed and eventually left only roots in alveolar process), periapical abscess and ante mortem tooth loss are aggregate as pathological events and their distribution per individual was achieved and analyzed by 10 years age intervals in both sexes. Investigated pathological changes are registered from young age (20–30 years), but increase rapidly after 30 years of age, becoming characteristic for ages over 40 years. Clear negative tendency with higher mean values and unfavorable distribution of individuals is derived for females for ante mortem tooth loss. Possible cases of dental agenesis of third molars are documented. Supernumerary tooth, fourth molar, was found in one mandible (grave N 84, Figure 4). Third left molar on maxilla from grave 147 (Figure 5) represents developed separate crown of tooth, adjacent to crown of the third molar.

Key words: Bulgarian anthropological series, dental pathology.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

State of dental and oral health is highly important in assessing living conditions in past populations, presented in anthropological material from archaeological sites. Numerous series are valuable as they provide data for analysis of age and sex distribution of studied features, which makes possible further interpretation of results. Here are presented preliminary results from the anthropological study of the material from graveyard (graves dated late 13th –first middle of 14th c. AD) of church of SS. Forty

¹ victoria_russeva@yahoo.com
Institute of Experimental Morphology and Anthropology – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
G. Bonchev Str, bl. N 25
Sofia 1113