

## ANALYSE DE LA RELATION ENTRE CARIE DENTAIRE ET ENVIRONNEMENT À PARTIR DE DEUX ÉCHANTILLONS DE POPULATIONS MÉDIÉVALES FRANÇAISES

ANNE-MARIE GRIMOUD<sup>1</sup>, SOPHIE ECHE<sup>2</sup>, SIMON LUCAS<sup>3</sup>,  
ANDRE SEVIN<sup>4</sup>, PATRICE GEORGES<sup>5</sup>, OLIVIER PASSARRIUS<sup>6</sup>

The aim of our study was to establish the carious lesions frequency taking into account access to food resources in two rural medieval populations in south west France, and on this basis display the role of anthropology in carious frequency surveys. We selected 114 individuals, with paired maxillaries, from two different geographical contexts, 56 from the Marsan's population in Gascogne and 58 from Vilarnau in Roussillon. We examined a total of 2498 teeth and defined the carious frequency in regard to (i) dental morphotype, molars and premolars were teeth most often affected and incisors and canines the less, and (ii) localization on teeth, in this case occlusal and proximal tooth surfaces were most often affected by carious lesions. In both cases caries percentage was higher in Marsan's individuals used to eat cooked cereal daily than those of Vilarnau living on the Mediterranean coast with the possibility to eat more vegetables and fruits. The difference in regional distribution of caries frequency, highlighted by our study, is still found today over survey confined to the study of prevalence, while the socioeconomic environment plays an important role in the development of this disease.

**Key words:** environment, Middle Age, carious frequency, south west France.

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<sup>1</sup> Service d'Odontologie, Hôtel-Dieu Saint Jacques, 2 rue Viguerie, TSA 80035, 31059 Toulouse cedex 9 France, Tel. : +33670576304 (grimoud.am@chu-toulouse.fr)

<sup>2</sup> Service d'Odontologie, Hôtel-Dieu Saint Jacques, 2 rue Viguerie, TSA 80035, 31059 Toulouse cedex 9 France (so.e@hotmail.fr)

<sup>3</sup> Service d'Odontologie, Hôtel-Dieu Saint Jacques, 2 rue Viguerie, TSA 80035, 31059 Toulouse cedex 9 France (docteur.simonlucas@hotmail.com)

<sup>4</sup> Laboratoire d'Anthropologie et d'Imagerie de synthèse UMR 5288, 37 allées Jules Guesde, 31073 Toulouse cedex 3, France (sevin@cict.fr)

<sup>5</sup> Laboratoire PACEA CNRS UMR 5199, Avenue des Facultés, 33405 Talence cedex, France (patrice.georges@inrap.fr)

<sup>6</sup> Pôle d'archéologie départemental, Conseil général des Pyrénées orientales, 66000 Perpignan, France (Olivier.PASSARRIUS@cg66.fr)