

Paleopathology of Children

Identification of Pathological Conditions in the Human Skeletal Remains of Non-Adults

Mary Lewis

A child's skeleton contains a wealth of information about their physical and social life, from their birth, development, and diet to the social and economic factors that exposed them to trauma and disease at different stages of their brief lives. Their remains come in a variety of different sizes, with bones appearing and fusing at different times during growth. The special characteristics of pediatric bone also mean that conditions are often expressed differently than adults. Identifying pathology in such unfamiliar bones can be a challenge, and we often rely on photographs of clinical radiographs or intact anatomical specimens to interpret the lesions we see in children from archeological contexts. These are usually the most extreme examples of the disease and do not account for the wide degree of variation we may see in skeletal remains. *Paleopathology of Children: Identification of Pathological Conditions in the Human Skeletal Remains of Non-Adults* provides archeological examples of pathological child remains with various degrees of disease manifestation and illustrations of individual affected bones to assist with identification. Current themes in the diagnosis, significance, and interpretation of non-adult paleopathology are also explored.

Key Features

- Provides comprehensive review of the types of pathological conditions identified in non-adult skeletal remains
- Each chapter tackles a particular disease classification
- Features for each condition are described and illustrated to aid in identification with reference to differential diagnoses

About the Author

Dr. Mary Lewis (BA Leicester; MSc, PhD Bradford) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology, University of Reading. Mary specializes in non-adult skeletal pathology and is the author of *The Bioarchaeology of Children* (CUP, 2007). Mary has been researching and publishing on issues relating to child paleopathology for nearly 20 years. She is an Associate Editor for the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and *International Journal of Paleopathology*, and sits on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*.



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