

# Bone & Dental Histology

Dr Arwa Kharobi

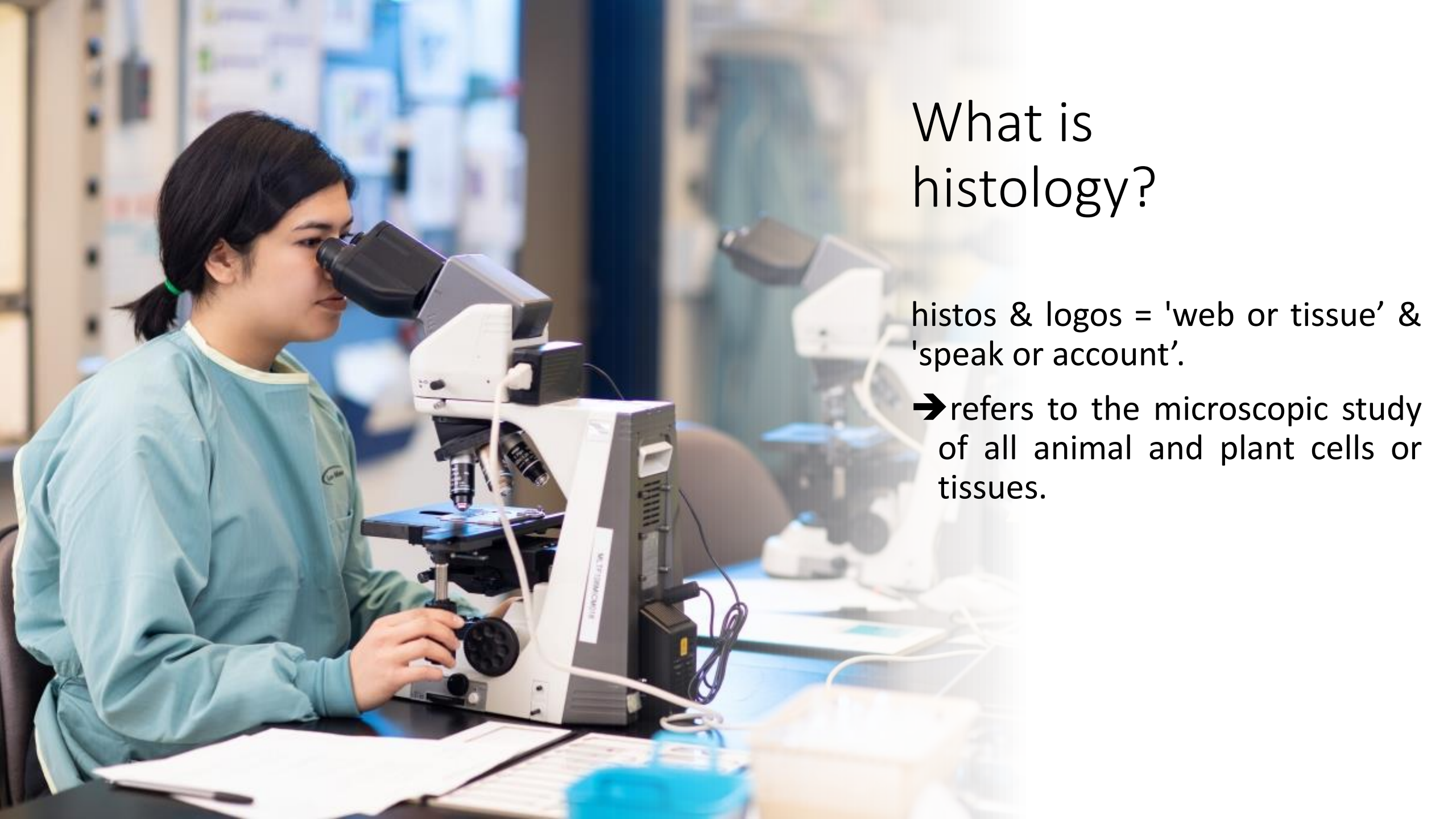


- **4 centuries ago**: Inventory of composite microscope opening a new dimension in the observation of nature
- The microscope's technical capabilities had profound epistemological, metaphysical, and methodological implications for science, **leading to a "recalibration of human knowledge"**
- It **raised questions** about living forms's origin, continuity & relationship with human diseases
- In medicine, the microscope enabled innovative **anatomical dissection**, allowing the examination of tissues, cells, and organ physiology
- Microscopy significantly contributed to **disease diagnosis**, providing rapid insights into diseased structures



- Histology's application to **paleopathology** traces back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with J. N. **Czermak** describing arteriosclerosis in an Egyptian mummy in 1879
- Sir Armand Ruffer 'father of paleopathology', revolutionized mummified tissue analysis in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century through **innovative rehydration methods**
- His method involved embedding sectioned material in alkaline salts & alcohol cycles, revealing various pathological conditions in mummified & bone remains
- Ruffer emphasized the systematic use of histology as a complement to macroscopic observation in his **1911 paper on Egyptian mummies**



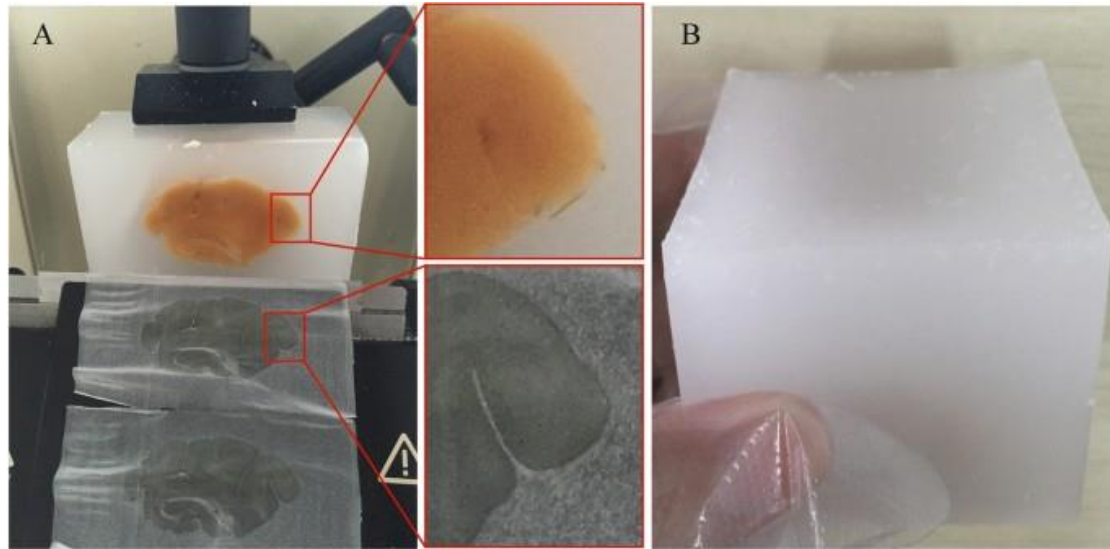


# What is histology?

histos & logos = 'web or tissue' & 'speak or account'.

➔ refers to the microscopic study of all animal and plant cells or tissues.

soft tissues are embedded in a soft substrate (paraffin wax) before being cut into fine slices using a microtome.



These slices may then be stained & examined using optical or transmission electron microscopy (TEM).

⚠ bone is much harder & more brittle than the body's soft tissues



⚠ difficult to section with a microtome in the usual way



demineralised

using mineral acids or a calcium chelating agent such as ethylenediamine-tetraacetic acid (EDTA)

**Then:** sectioning in the same way as soft tissues

sawn sections of whole bone

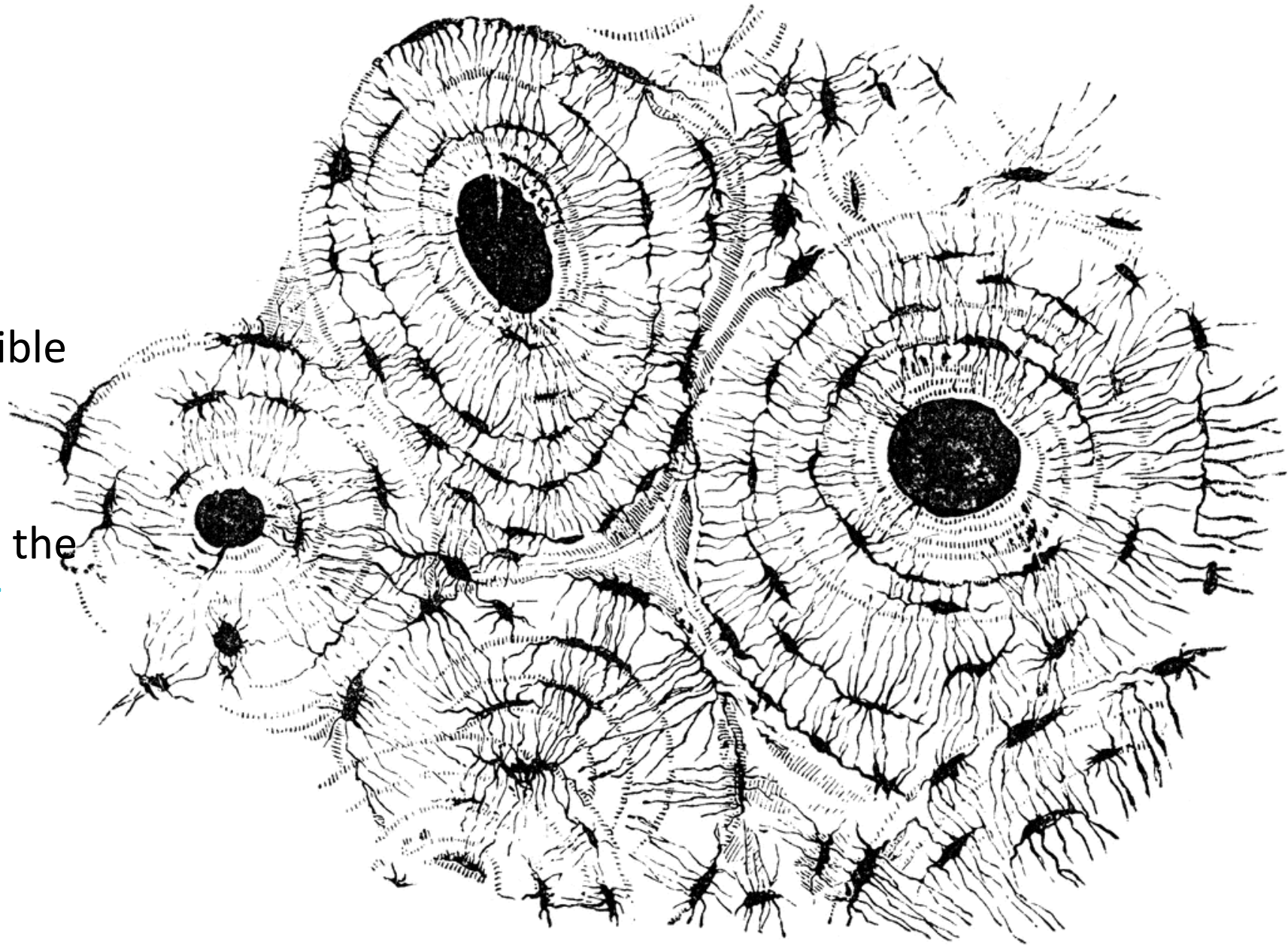
ground and polished with abrasives to the required thickness

**Then:** examination in reflected light or by scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

In light microscopy:

Wide range of structures is visible in thin sections of whole bone

The most prominent feature is the presence of **numerous circular structures**.

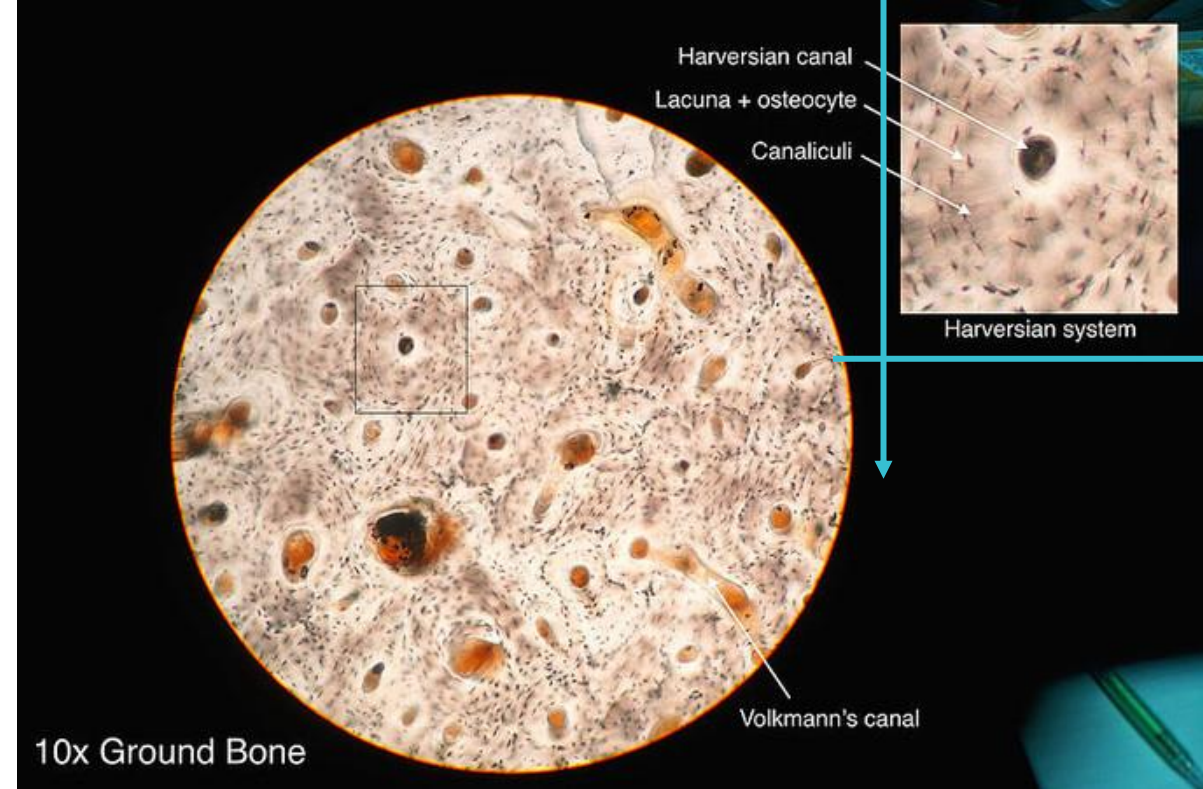


Each of these represents a structural unit known as a **Haversian system / osteon**

consists of concentric **lamellae** surrounding a central Haversian **canal**, enclosing:

- blood vessels,
- nerves,
- loose connective tissue

1. secondary bone tissue
2. formed during the remodeling of **primary bone tissue**,
3. contributes to the strength & vitality of the bone.





## Haversian system /osteon

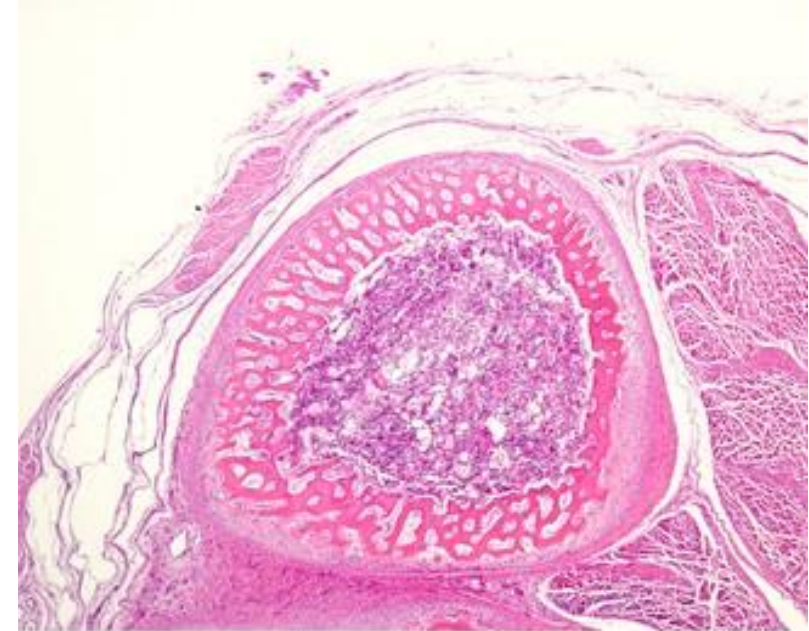
restricted to larger mammals:

whose longer lifespans necessitates more developed mechanism for bone maintenance & repair



# Primary bone tissue (woven bone)

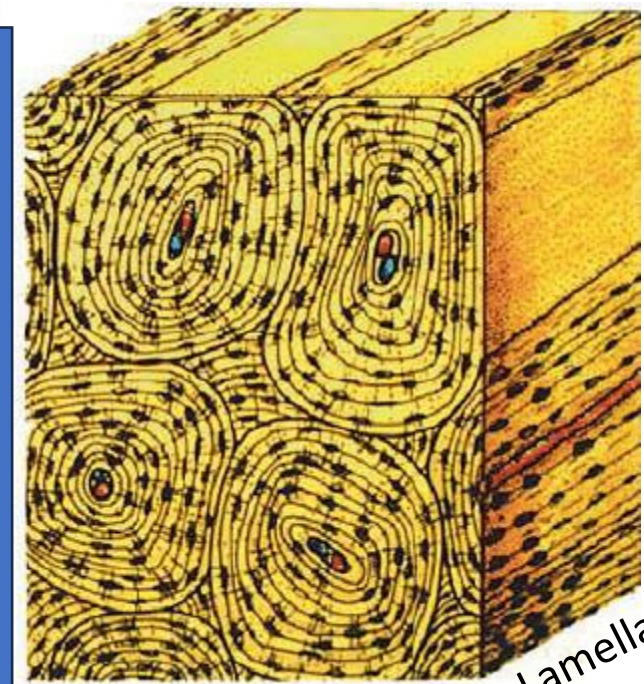
1. the **first** to form in bone growth & repair.
2. **temporary** structure: gradually replaced by resorption around blood vessels & subsequent deposition of secondary bone,
3. leading to the characteristic form of **osteons**
4. often **persists** in the tendon insertions & ligaments
5. It has:
  - irregular arrangement of collagen fibres,
  - higher proportion of bone cells or osteocytes
  - lower mineral content than the denser secondary bone.





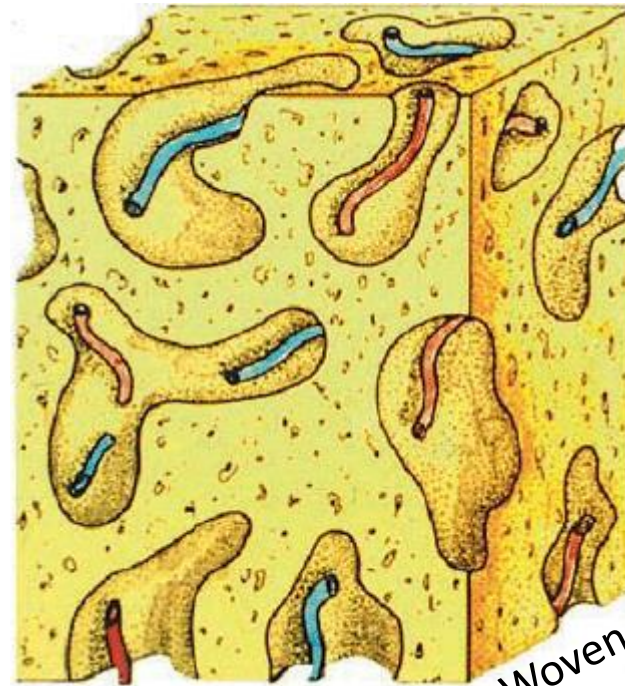
a continuous destruction and rebuilding of **secondary** bone tissue (**Haversian systems**) during growth & adult life,

*“this succession is often reflected in overlapping osteons”.*

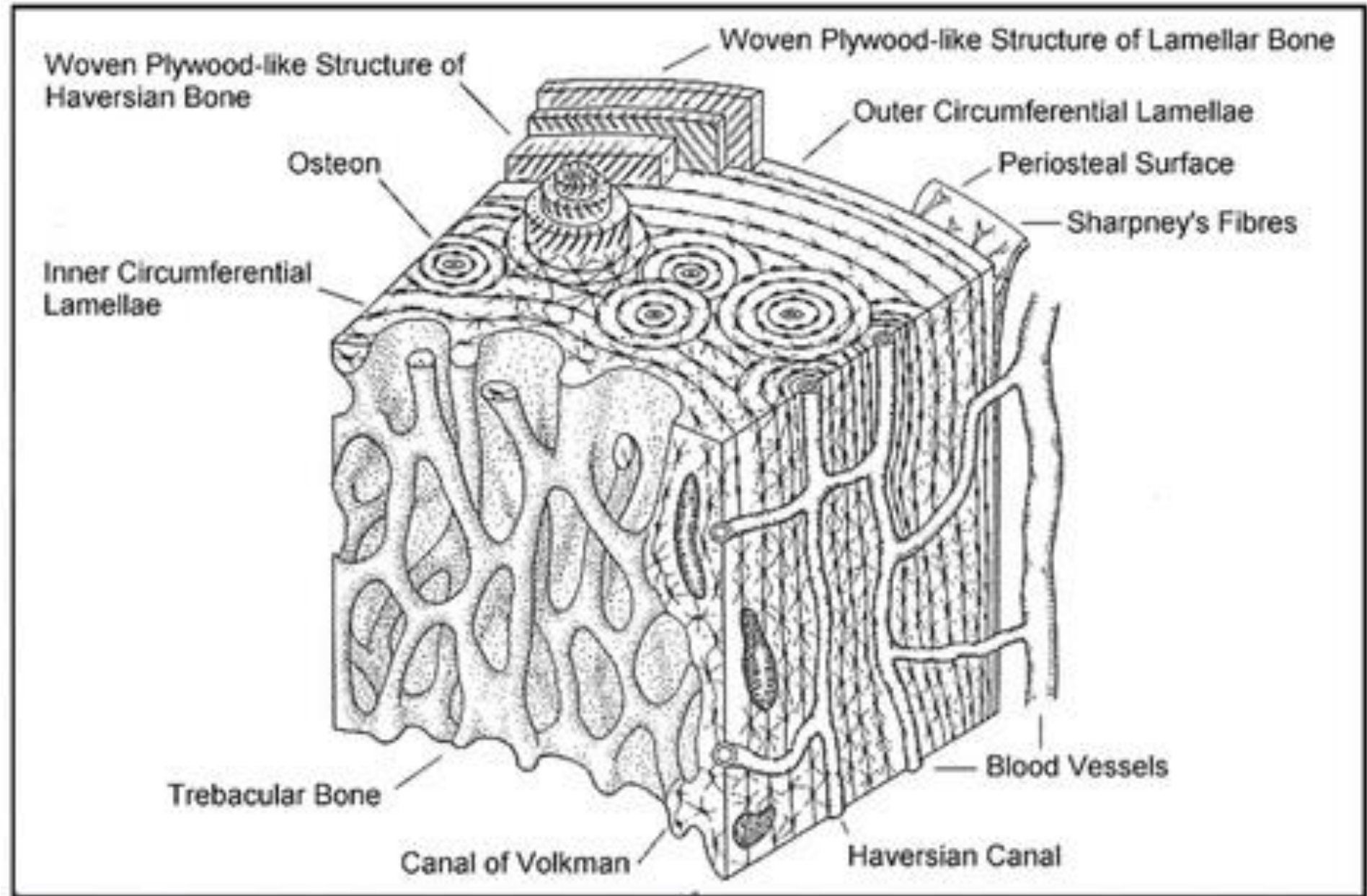
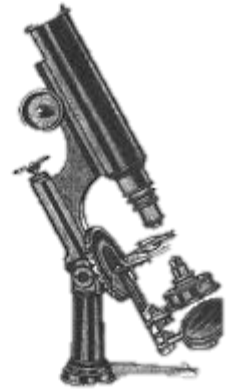


Lamellar

**Primary** bone (**woven bone**) can often still be distinguished in the outer & inner circumferential lamellae lying close to the external & internal surfaces of bones.



Woven



A 3-dimensional representation of the key features seen in bone histology

# Which machine?

At a microscopic level, the structure of ancient bone can be examined in a number of different ways:

1. optical microscopy (OM),
2. scanning electron microscopy (SEM)
3. microradiography ( $\mu$ R),
4. transmission electron microscopy (TEM)
5. confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM),
6. near-field scanning optical microscopy (NSOM),
7. atomic force microscopy (AFM)
8. X-ray microtomography ( $\mu$ CT),
9. development of medical computed axial tomography (CT).

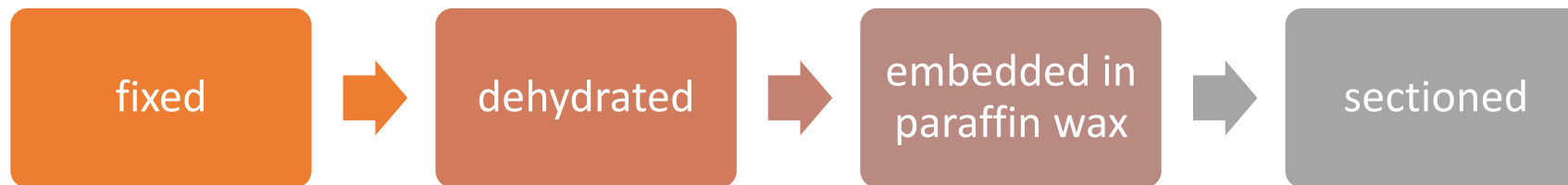
most common  
applied to  
archaeological  
specimens

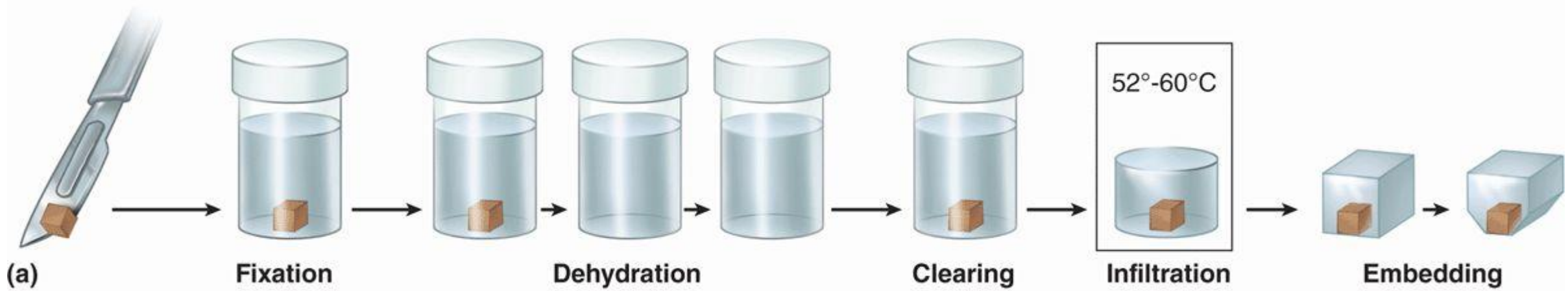


# Samples & sample preparation

The techniques used for **archaeological** bones grew out of standard histological methodologies of **modern tissues** (soft & mineralized tissues).

- same as for (biopsies, surgery or autopsy)
- common to decalcify the samples to leave only collagen and its associated cells which can then be:

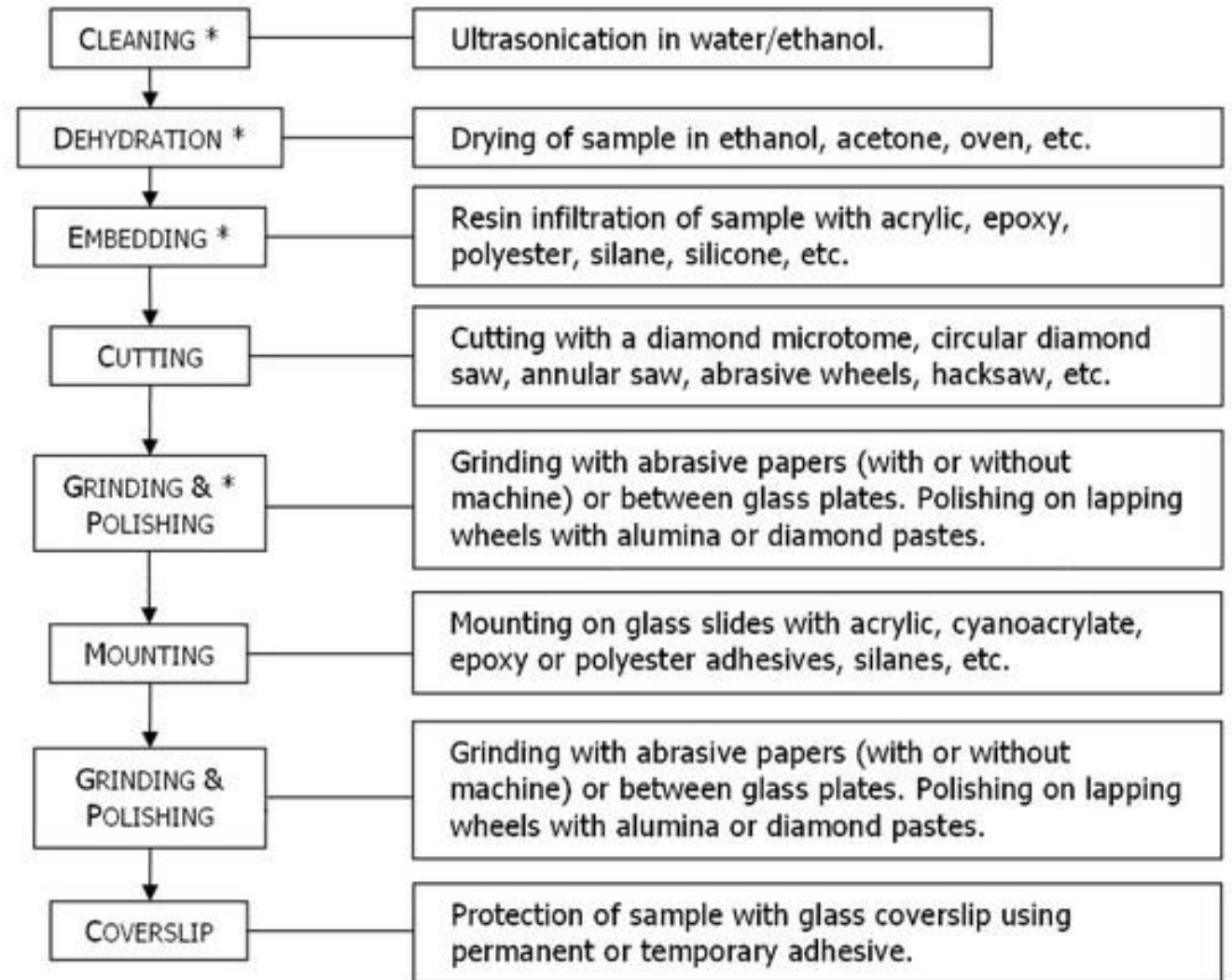




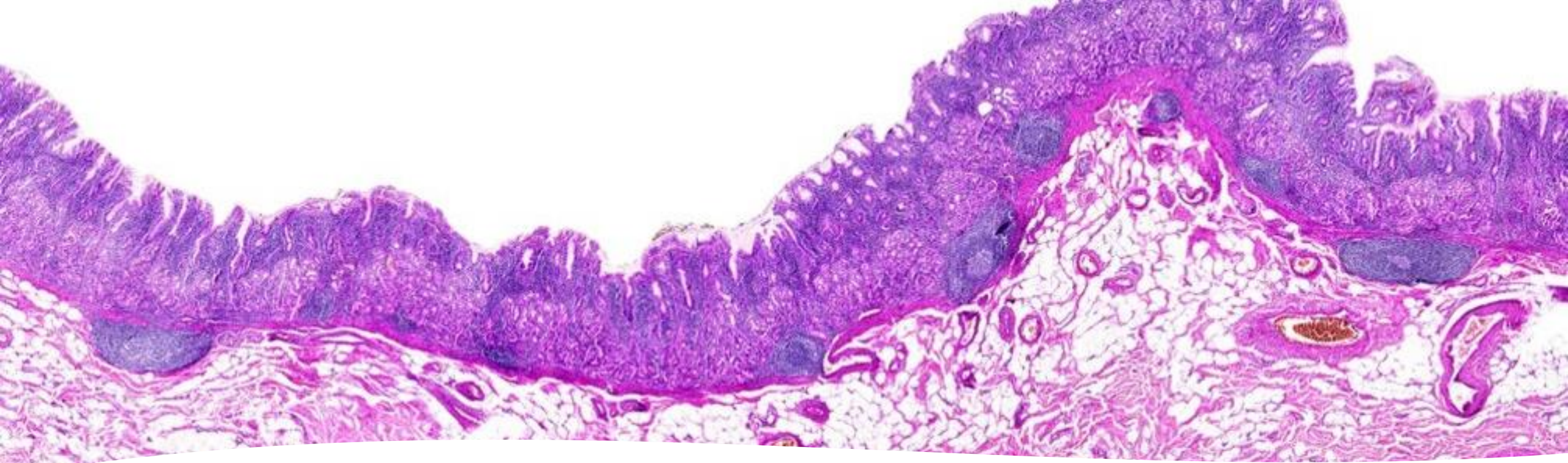
## Samples & sample preparation

- ❑ In fresh bone specimens it is necessary to first stabilise the cells and other soft tissues from putrefaction by “fixing” them with a cross-linking agent, normally a 10% solution of formaldehyde in phosphate buffered saline.
- ❑ In archaeological specimens bacterial degradation and other diagenetic processes have normally left the bone devoid of all cellular materials, so there is no requirement to fix them.
- ❑ However, they are usually cracked & friable and it is necessary to saturate them with a suitable resin before attempting to prepare any kind of section.

suitable for the preparation of:  
- **thick sections** (for electron microscopy)  
-- **thin sections** (for light microscopy)







# Multiple Applications of Histology

1. Differentiation between human, nonhuman remains, and other structures
2. Taphonomic processes
3. Identification of burned remains
4. Estimation of age at death in skeletonized human remains
5. Ontogeny, phylogeny, and the skeletal response to biomechanical stress
6. Mummy studies
7. Bone paleopathology
8. Tooth alterations
9. Bone cut marks
10. Forensic anthropology

# 1. Human or nonhuman?

Histology is a useful tool to distinguish between human & **nonhuman** bone remains

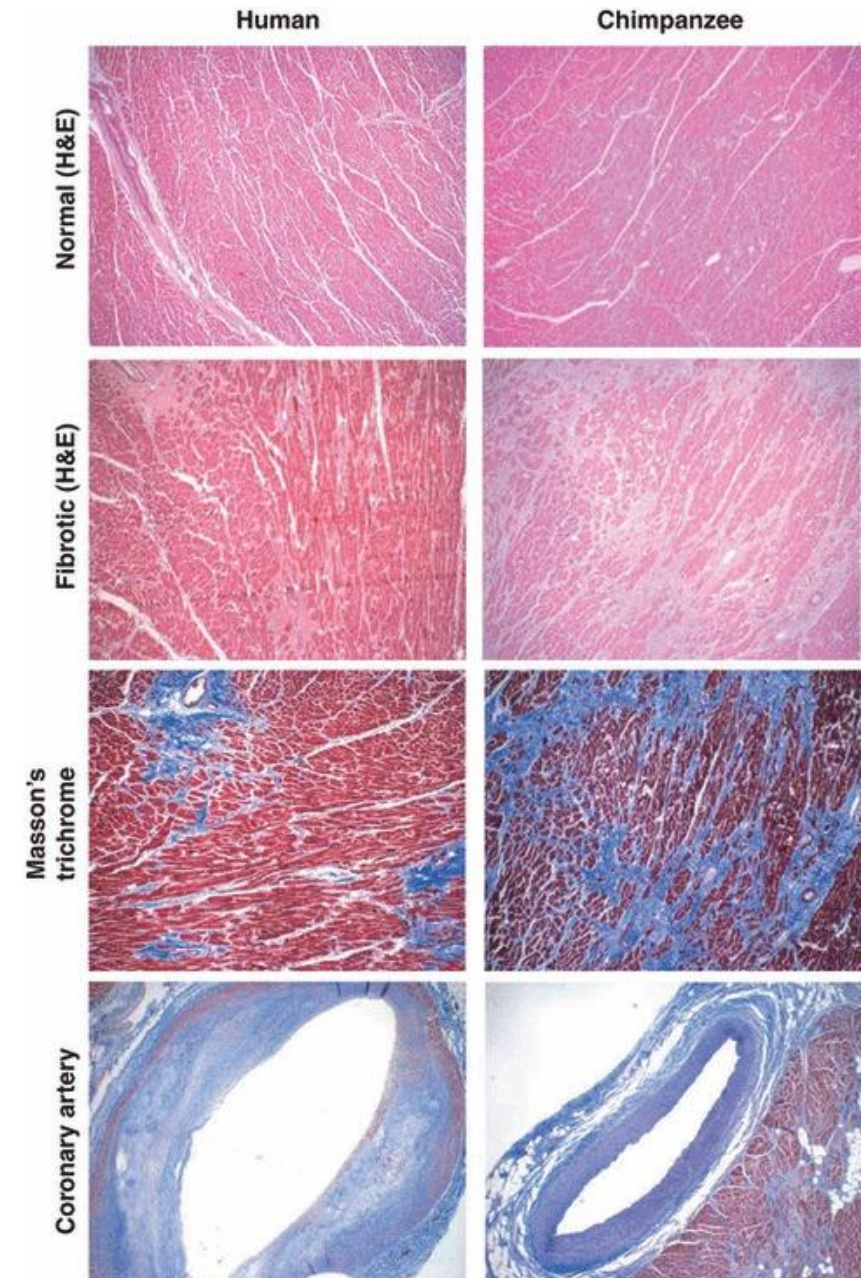
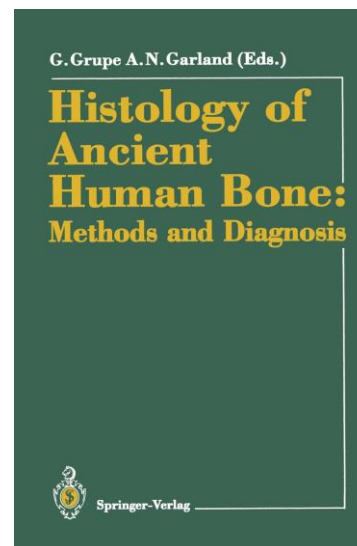
especially when bone is **fragmentary** (e.g. Harsanyi, 1993; Croker et al., 2009; Greenlee and Dunnell, 2009; Mulhern and Ubelaker, 2012).



## Differentiating Human Bone from Animal Bone: A Review of Histological Methods

Maria L. Hillier M.Sc., Lynne S. Bell Ph.D.

First published: 06 February 2007 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1556-4029.2007.01111.x>



# 1. Human or nonhuman?

**Differentiation** is possible because:

Humans

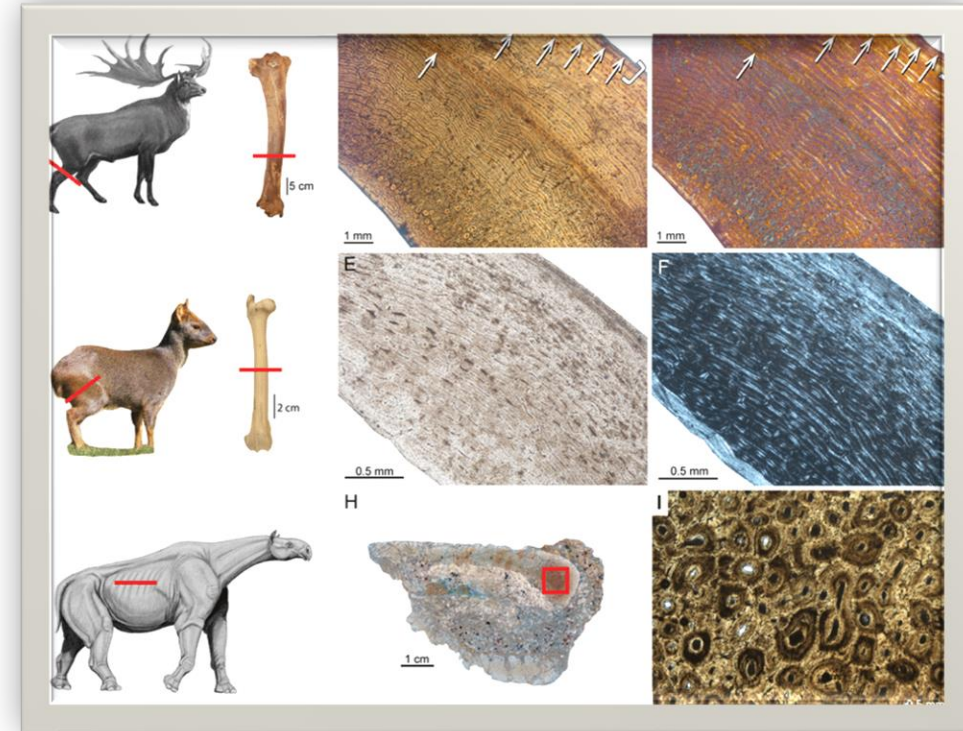
Have scattered  
distribution of  
cortical osteons

primary bone  
types

Mammals

Have plexiform  
pattern

show osteon  
banding



# 1. Human or nonhuman?

Apart from nonhuman primates (i.e. chimpanzees)

We share a similar bone microstructure & age-related changes



Research Article

## **Histologic examination of bone development in juvenile chimpanzees**

Dawn M. Mulhern ✉ Douglas H. Ubelaker

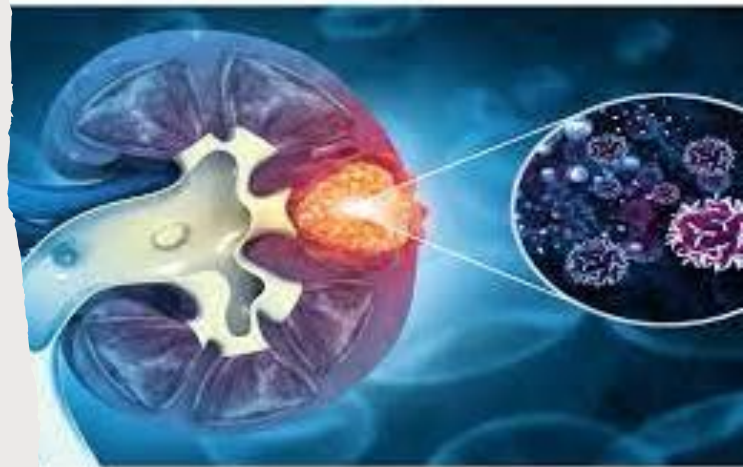
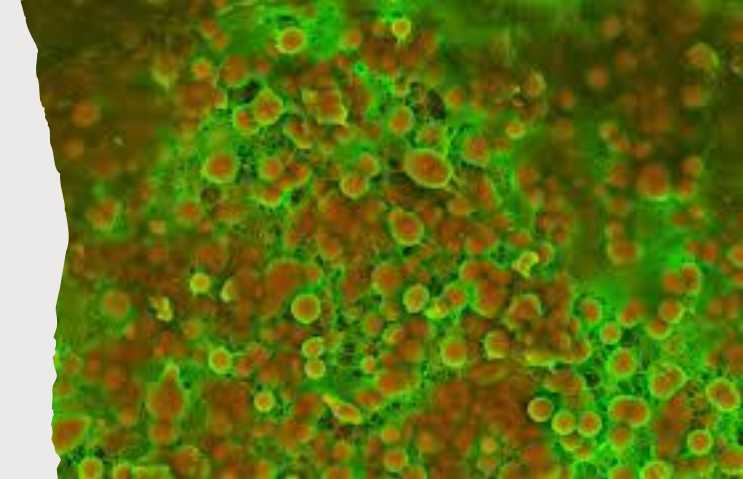
First published: 19 May 2003 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajpa.10294> | Citations: 25



# 1. Human or nonhuman?

Histology has also played a role in the identification of strange bodies recovered from human skeletal remains:

1. renal & biliary calculi (e.g. Morris and Rodgers, 1989; Sanchez and Etxeberria, 1991)
2. calcified tissues & organisms (e.g. Perry et al., 2008; Quintelier, 2009)
3. fossilized body fluids & faecal deposits (Maat, 1991; Blondiaux & Charlier, 2008; Shillito et al., 2011)
4. parasites & contaminating substances (e.g. Oh et al., 2010)



## Differential Diagnosis of a Calcified Object from a 4th–5th Century AD Burial in Aqaba, Jordan

M. PERRY,<sup>a\*</sup> J. NEWMAN<sup>b</sup> AND M. GILLILAND<sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> East Carolina University, Department of Anthropology, Flanagan 231, Greenville, North Carolina 27858, US

<sup>b</sup> Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas, US

<sup>c</sup> Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, US

**ABSTRACT** In 1997 a calcified object was recovered from the pelvic region of an adult male excavated from an ancient cemetery in Aqaba, Jordan. The cemetery ( $n=48$ ) dates to the middle 4th to early 5th century AD and is associated with the Byzantine-period marine trading centre of Aila located on the Gulf of Aqaba in the Red Sea. The oblong calcification consisted of linearly aligned tubules within a thin shell. Twenty-eight conditions potentially resulting in calcification within the pelvic region were considered. Of these, five were retained as possible diagnoses due to the object's location and size and the presence of a thin shell and fully calcified tubules. In the end, the object appears to be a calcified, but unidentified, parasite. Copyright © 2008 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

**Key words:** Aila; calcification; echinococcosis; cryptorchidism; testicular microlithiasis; Sertoli cell tumour; gonadoblastoma; calcified parasite

### Introduction

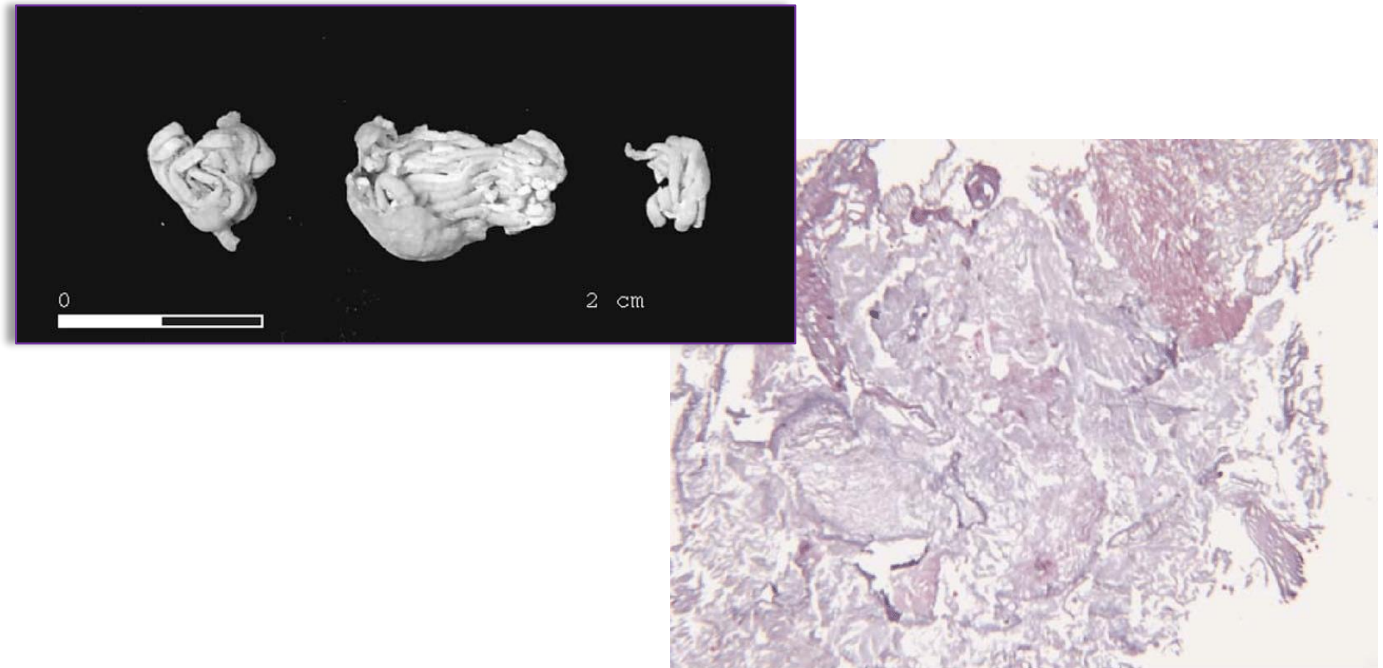
Discussion of calcified or ossified masses associated with ancient skeletons remains a rare component of palaeopathological research due to complications surrounding their discovery and diagnosis (Baud & Kramar, 1991). Archaeologists may not always notice these extraskeletal objects (Gładkowska-Rzeczycka, 1991; Tenney, 1991), thus preventing recovery or resulting in disturbed contextual information. If recovered, taphonomic factors such as root growth or animal burrowing can disturb the object's original location. Careful archaeological excavation none the less may

pinpoint the approximate location of a mass in the human body. Classifying these archaeologically-derived extraskeletal calcifications and ossifications can reveal valuable information about the history and incidence of disease in specific geographical areas, time periods and populations. The discovery of a calcified object in the grave of an adult male from a mid-4<sup>th</sup> century AD cemetery in Aqaba, Jordan (Figure 1), can assist significantly in the differential diagnosis of extraskeletal calcifications or ossifications.

### Bioarchaeological analysis of the A.10:10 burial

In 1997, an isolated calcified mass was recovered from the pelvic region of an adult male (burial

## The calcified object recovered from the pelvic region of an adult male



view of a fragment including the cyst wall and worm-like structure

- ✓ **28 conditions** potentially resulting in calcification within the pelvic region were considered.
- ✓ **5 retained** as possible diagnoses due to the object's location & size and the presence of a thin shell and fully calcified tubules.
- ✓ In the end, the object appears to be a calcified, but **unidentified, parasite.**

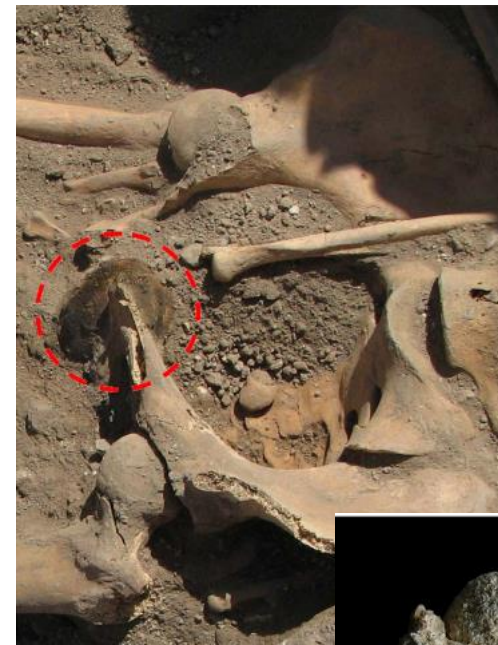
\* Correspondence to: East Carolina University, Department of Anthropology, Flanagan 231, Greenville, North Carolina 27858, United States.  
e-mail: perry@ecu.edu

## A Case of Ancient Bladder Stones from Oluz Höyük, Amasya, Turkey

K. ÖZDEMİR,<sup>a\*</sup> A. A. AKYOL<sup>b</sup> AND Y. S. ERDAL<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Letters, Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey

<sup>b</sup> The Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property Department, Fine Art Faculty, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey



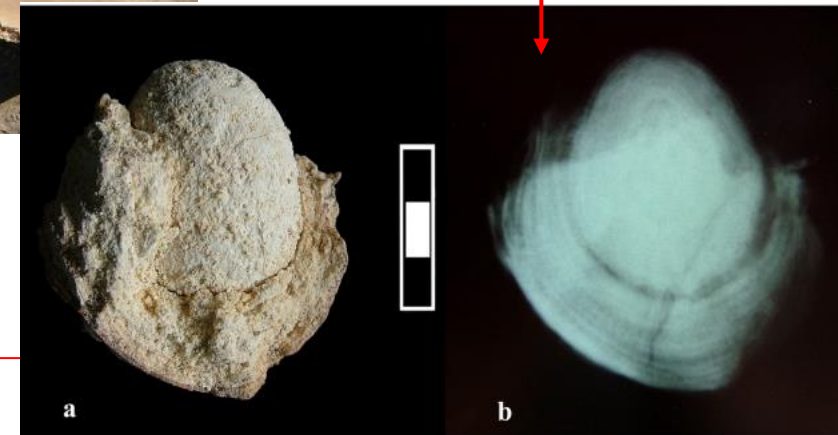
The oval-shaped bladder stone with visible concentric layers. (b) The radiographical view of the bladder stone.



tion of an adult woman coded to SK13 unearthed from Oluz Höyük during the medieval period on the basis of the burial customs and as a bladder stone on morphological, radiographic and chemical analysis. The mineralogical composition of the stone was determined by X-ray diffraction, polarised energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy and confocal Raman spectroscopy. The mineralogical composition of the stone was found to be as calcium phosphate (apatite). Bladder stone disease is endemic in poor agricultural regions where the typical diet is mostly based on grain carbohydrate consumption with scarce intake of animal protein.

Keywords: Ca/P calculus; palaeopathology; urolithiasis

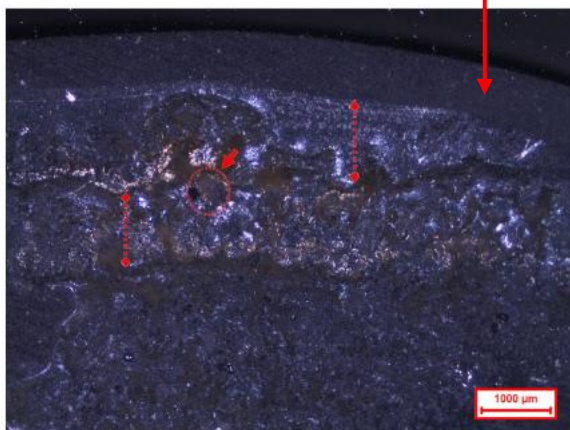
(a) Thin section microphotograph of the outer concentric layers (calcium phosphate  $[Ca_3(PO_4)_2]$  lump between the layers). (b) A close photograph showing the layers. T



### Methods:

radiographic and chemo-analytical grounds  
X-ray diffraction,  
polarised energy dispersive X-ray fluorescence spectroscopy, confocal Raman spectroscopy  
microscopic techniques

The mineralogical composition of urinary stone was found to be as calcium phosphate (apatite). Bladder stone disease is endemic in poor agricultural regions where the typical diet is mostly based on grain carbohydrate consumption with scarce intake of animal protein.



## 2. Taphonomic processes

bone exposed to the burial environment -> structural changes induced by:

1. physical,
2. chemical
3. biological agents

postmortem alterations?

decomposition phenomena?

normal physiological processes?

disease lesions?



**Microscopy** used to evaluate the integrity of bone microstructure in different environmental contexts





polished sections of bone  
using BSE-SEM  
to identify characteristic  
features attributed to:  
aerobic soil bacteria,  
cyanobacteria,  
sulphate reducing bacteria.

## Reconstructing taphonomic histories using histological analysis

Gordon Turner-Walker<sup>a,\*</sup>, Miranda Jans<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Cultural Heritage Conservation, National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, Taiwan

<sup>b</sup> Institute for Geo and Bioarchaeology, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

### ARTICLE INFO

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Histology  
SEM  
Cyanobacteria  
Frambooidal pyrite  
Bioerosion

### ABSTRACT

Recent years have seen rapid advances in the understanding of diagenetic changes to bone tissues and how these influence the chemistry, microstructure and histological appearance of ancient bone. It is now possible to recognise many characteristic features of diagenetically modified bone and this has led to the potential use of these parameters in estimating the potential survival of biogenic signals such as DNA, lipids, proteins and stable isotopes. These characteristic features also hold the potential for preserving a record of different post-mortem environments in individual bones or assemblages of bones from the same site. In sites where the burial conditions have changed over archaeological or geological timescales, histological analyses can shed light on these different burial environments and permit the reconstruction of taphonomic histories of some bones. Examination of polished sections of bone using BSE-SEM has been used to identify characteristic features attributed to aerobic soil bacteria, cyanobacteria, and sulphate reducing bacteria. The approach shows promise for providing supplementary evidence when phasing complex sites, such as graveyards, which developed over several hundred years.

### Reconstructing taphonomic histories using histological analysis

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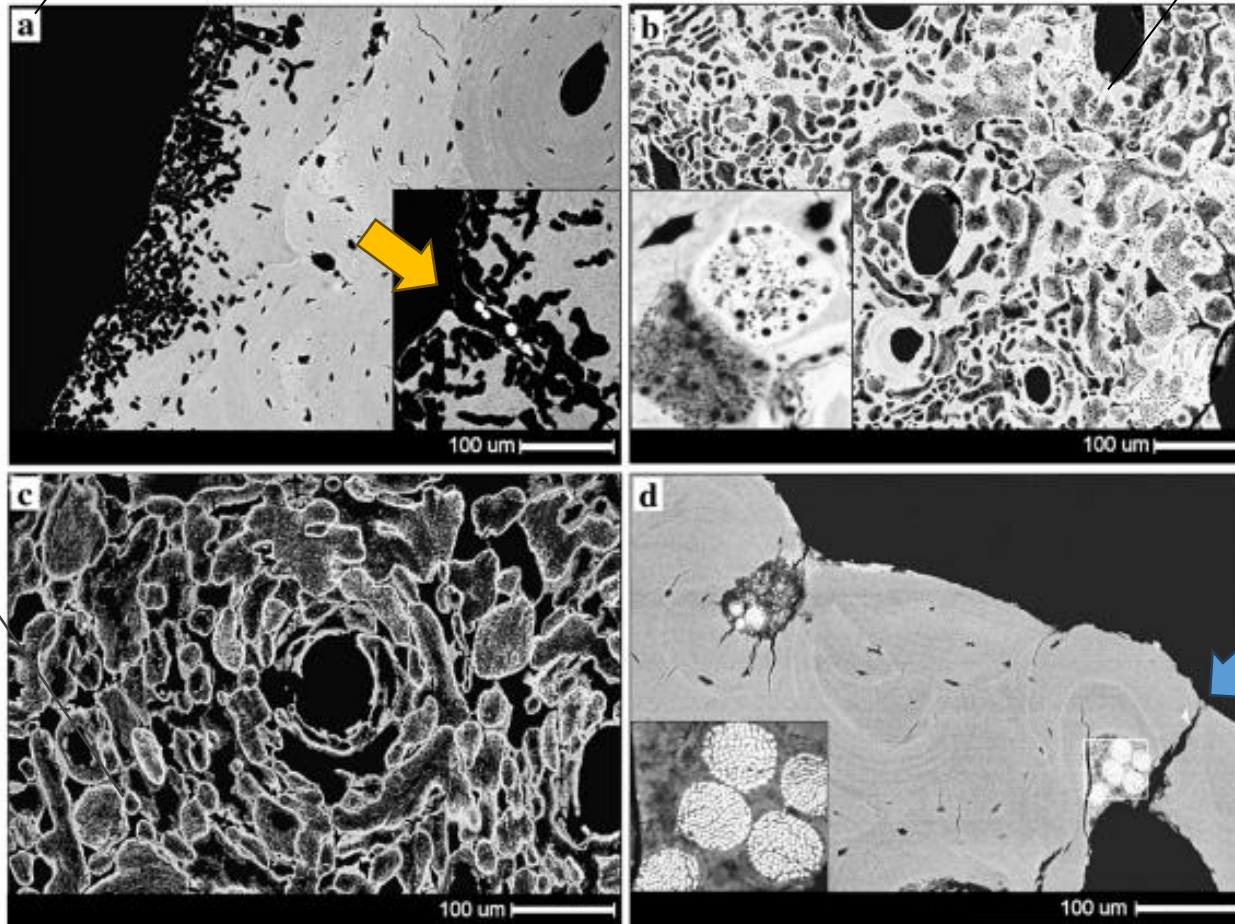
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#### ABSTRACT

Recent years have seen rapid advances in the understanding of diagenetic changes to bone tissues and how these influence the chemistry, microstructure and histological appearance of ancient bone. It is now possible to recognise many characteristic features of diagenetically modified bone and this has led to the potential use of these parameters in estimating the potential survival of biogenic signals such as DNA, lipids, proteins and stable isotopes. These characteristic features also hold the potential for providing supplementary evidence when phasing or mortem environments in individual bones or assemblages of bones from burial conditions have changed over archaeological or geological timescales. Examination of polished sections of bone using BSE-SIM has been used to highlight features attributed to aerobic soil bacteria, cyanobacteria, and sulphate shows promise for providing supplementary evidence when phasing or mortem environments in individual bones or assemblages of bones from burial conditions have changed over archaeological or geological timescales. Examination of polished sections of bone using BSE-SIM has been used to highlight features attributed to aerobic soil bacteria, cyanobacteria, and sulphate shows promise for providing supplementary evidence when phasing or mortem environments in individual bones or assemblages of bones from burial conditions have changed over archaeological or geological timescales.

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recent bone a gravel beach (Cyprus)  
Note the meandering tunnels & small pyrite framboids (inset).



bacterially degraded Medieval bone (UK)  
Note the zones of demineralised & hypermineralised bone and bimodal nature of micro-porosity (inset).

Highly degraded Iron Age bone (Scilly).  
This represents the final stages of bacterial attack

Well preserved Medieval bone (Norway).  
no evidence of bacterial attack on bone tissues but the presence of framboids (inset) indicates the presence of sulphate reducing bacteria & an anoxic burial environment.

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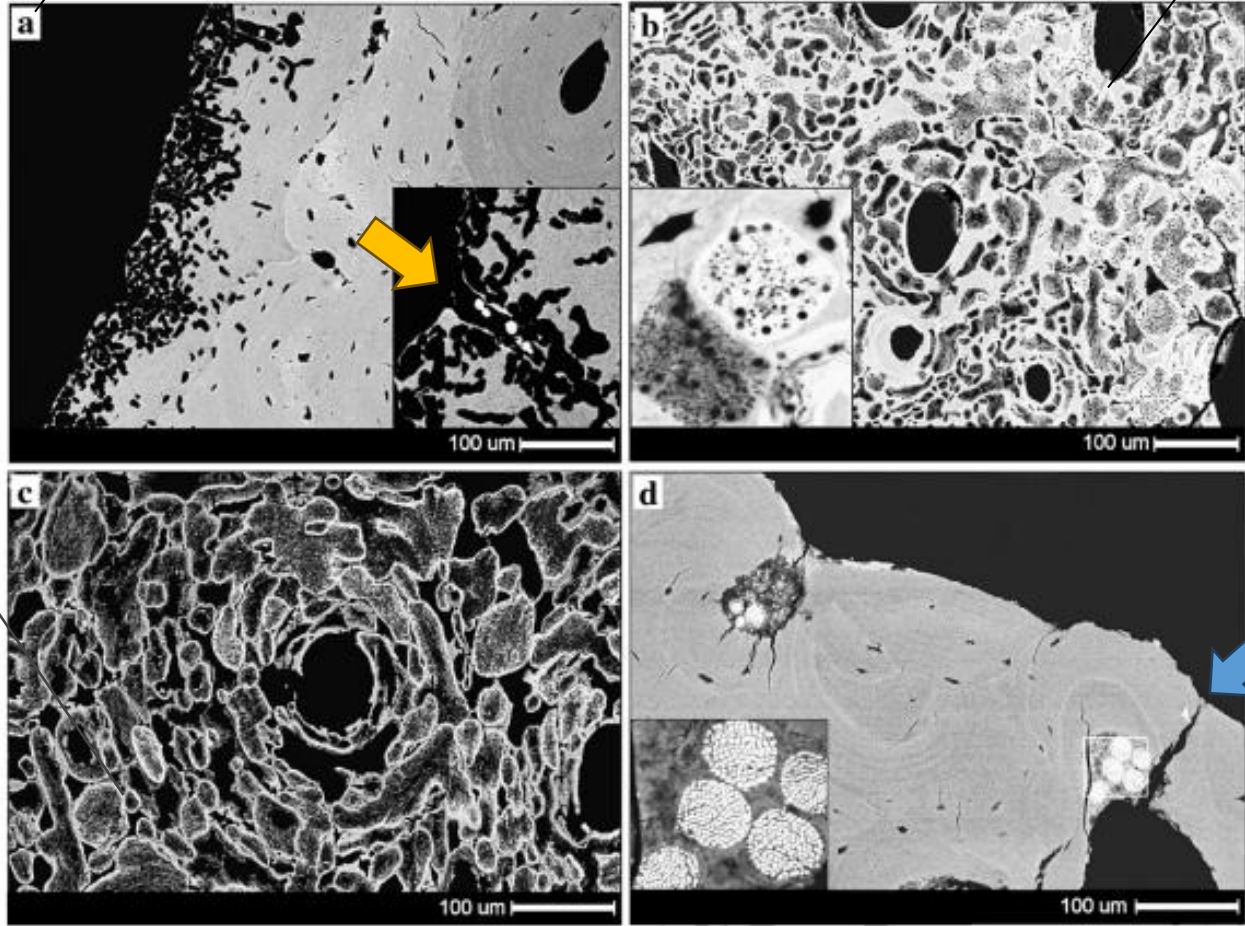
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Recent years have seen rapid advances in the understanding of diagenetic changes to bone tissues and how these influence the chemistry, microstructure and histological appearance of ancient bone. It is now possible to recognise many characteristic features of diagenetically modified bone and this has led to the potential use of these parameters in estimating the potential survival of biogenic signals such as DNA, lipids, proteins and stable isotopes. These characteristic features also hold the potential for providing supplementary evidence when phasing mortem environments in individual bones or assemblages of bones from burial conditions have changed over archaeological or geological timescales. Examination of polished sections of bone using BSE-SIM has highlighted features attributed to aerobic soil bacteria, cyanobacteria, and sulphate shows promise for providing supplementary evidence when phasing c which developed over several hundred years.

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The approach shows promise for providing supplementary evidence when phasing complex sites e.g. graveyards, which developed over several hundred years

## 2. Taphonomic processes

In zooarchaeological studies **Microscopy** also contributes to understanding the diagenetic processes that affect buried bones & teeth (Haynes *et al.*, 2002; Stutz, 2002).



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doi:10.1006/jasc.2001.0805, available online at <http://www.idealibrary.com> on **IDEAL**®



### Polarizing Microscopy Identification of Chemical Diagenesis in Archaeological Cementum

Aaron Jonas Stutz\*

*Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1079, U.S.A.*

(Received 20 July 2001, revised manuscript accepted 14 December 2001)

Cementum increment analysis can potentially retrieve relatively complete, high-precision seasonality and mortality profiles from archaeological mammalian tooth assemblages. However, cementum exhibits many similarities to bone in composition, histology, ultrastructure, and even microstructure. Consequently, the mineralized dental tissue may be prone to the same processes of post-depositional chemical alteration that affect bone. This article reviews the issues

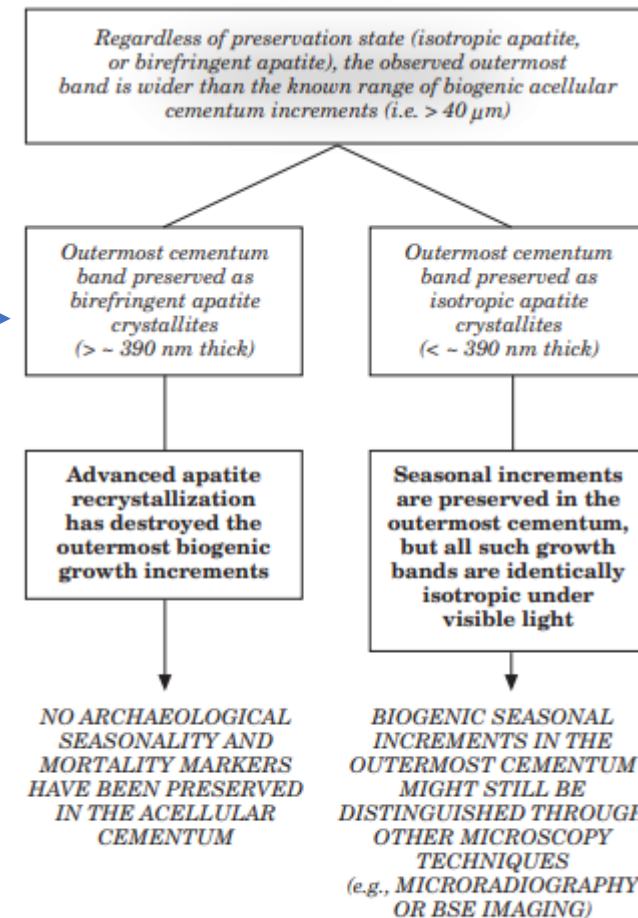
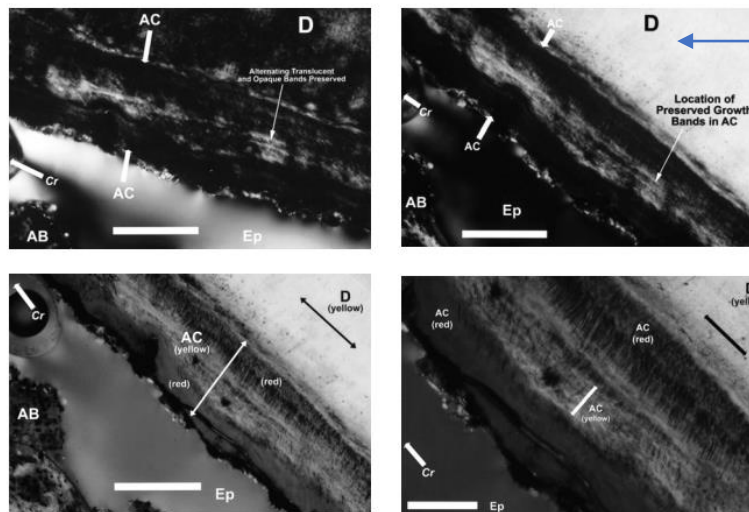


Figure 9. Decision tree for  $\lambda$  plate analysis of acellular cementum, when a diagenetic outermost cementum band wider than the known range of biogenic growth increments (>c. 40  $\mu\text{m}$ ) is observed.

Polarizing photomicrographs of the archaeological reindeer tooth specimen HAS4 in greyscale. The sub-alveolar crest acellular cementum, AC, on the mesial root of the archaeological specimen is shown, demonstrating thorough collagen leaching, with varying levels of apatite recrystallization.



# 3. Identification of burned remains

also of great value for:

- 1. examining pathological conditions
  - 2. estimating age at death
- of cremated remains

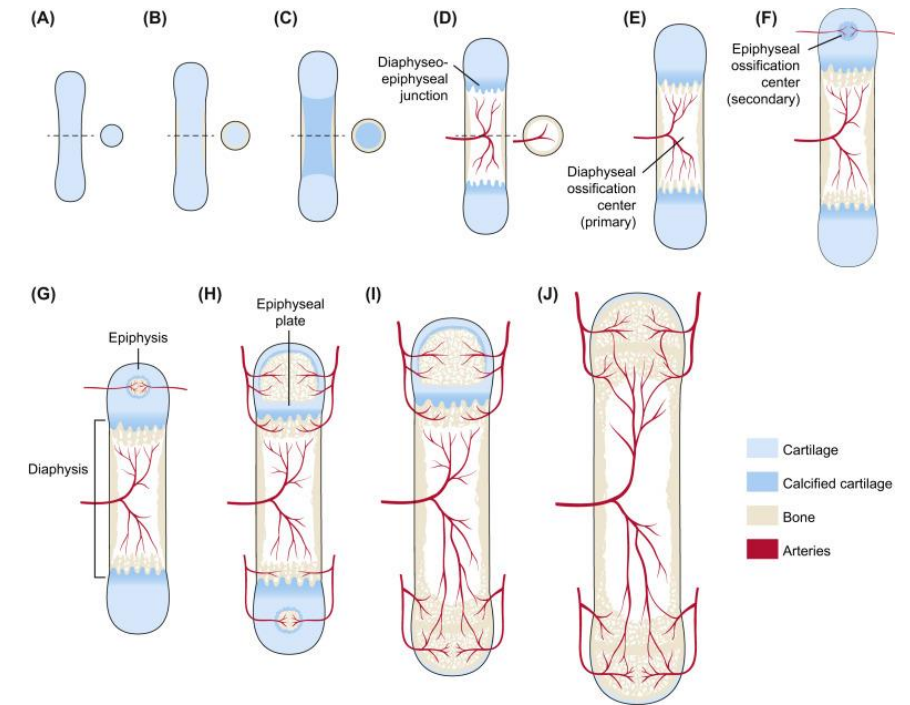
(e.g. Holden et al., 1995; Schultz, 1997; Hanson and Cain, 2007; Squires et al., 2011).



## 4. Estimation of age at death

Several histological methods in:

- ✓ ancient & modern
- ✓ bone & dental remains



Bone growth, modeling, & remodeling are responsible for a mature cortex with particular features that can be quantified using histomorphometric analysis

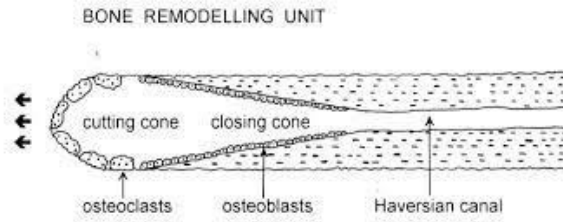
➔ that is, the **quantitative study** that consists in counting or measuring tissue components:

cells

or extracellular constituents

or both





## 4. Estimation of age at death

-> Histological indicators of age are based on:

1. grade of remodeling of osteons
2. their respective quantification in adult cortical bone

-> On different skeletal elements

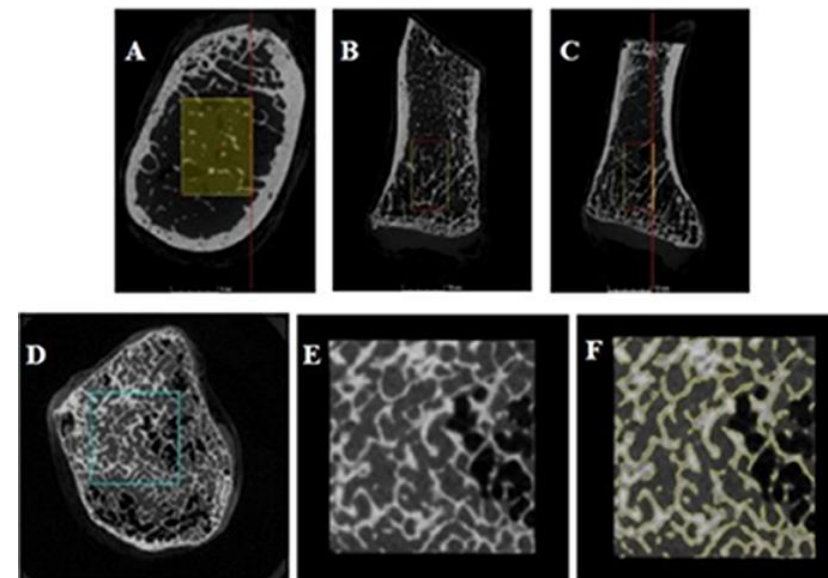
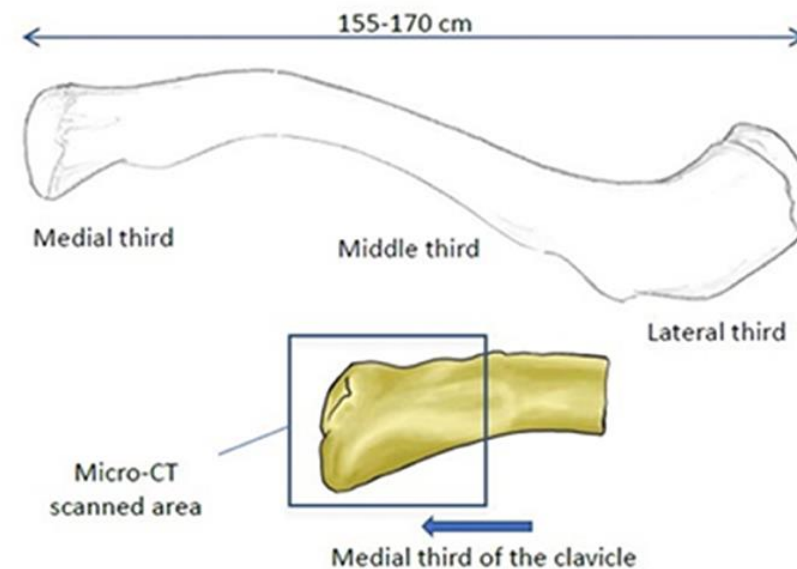
Bone	Histological Methods
ribs & clavicle	e.g. Stout & Paine, 1992; Stout et al., 1996; Crowder & Rosella, 2007; Kim et al., 2007; Pavön et al., 2010; Cho & Stout, 2011
long bones	e.g. Kerley, 1965; Singh and Gunberg, 1970; Kerley & Ubelaker, 1978; Pfeiffer, 1980; Stout and Gehlert, 1982; Frost, 1987; Stout & Stanley, 1991; Wallin et al., 1994; Ericksen, 1991 and 1997; Ericksen & Stix, 1991; Lynnerup et al., 2006; Maat et al., 2006b; Chan et al., 2007; Robling and Stout, 2008; De Donno et al., 2009; Han et al., 2009; Villa and Lynnerup, 2010
ilium	e.g. Boel et al., 2007



## Age-Related Trends in the Trabecular Micro-Architecture of the Medial Clavicle: Is It of Use in Forensic Science?

Hannah McGivern<sup>1</sup>, Charlene Greenwood<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas Márquez-Grant<sup>1</sup>, Elena F. Kranioti<sup>3,4</sup>, Bledar Xhemali<sup>5</sup> and Peter Zioupos<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cranfield Forensic Institute, Cranfield University, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, Shrivenham, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup> School of Chemistry and Physical Sciences, Keele University, Keele, United Kingdom, <sup>3</sup> Edinburgh Unit for Forensic Anthropology, School of History Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom, <sup>4</sup> Forensic Medicine Unit, Department of Forensic Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece, <sup>5</sup> Institute of Forensic Medicine, Tirana, Albania



Shape and size of a human clavicle. (A–C) ROI selection process using VGStudio Max 2.1 representing maximum volume of trabeculae in the (A) transverse (x-y), (B) sagittal (y-z), and (C) coronal (x-z) planes. (D–F) Sequential process of surface determination for the VGStudio Max 2.1 software progressing through the (D) volume selection, (E) subsequent isolation of the ROI, and (F) segmentation of the bone material.



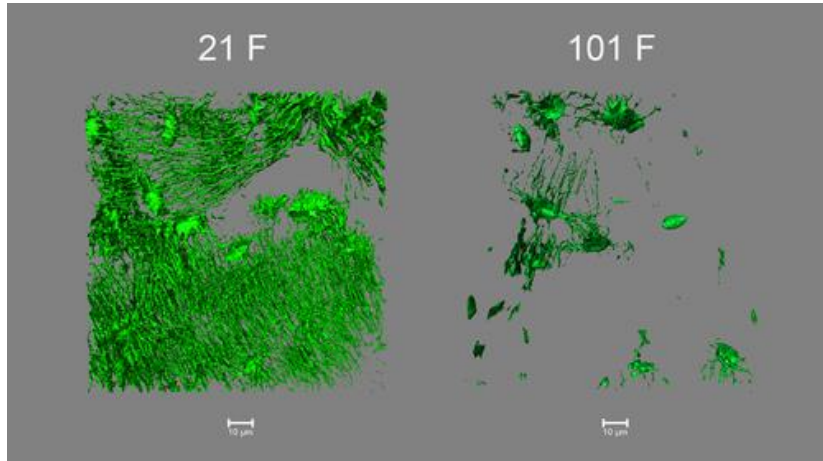
Advanced Review |  Full Access

# Current and emerging histomorphometric and imaging techniques for assessing age-at-death and cortical bone quality

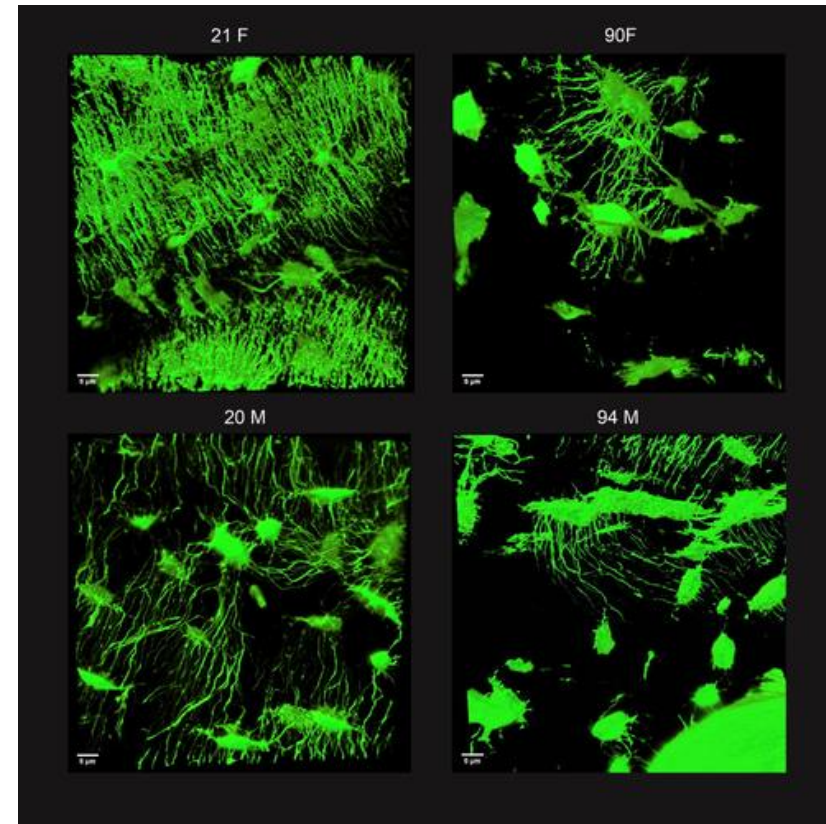
Janna M. Andronowski , Mary E. Cole

First published: 25 October 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/wfs2.1399> | Citations: 8

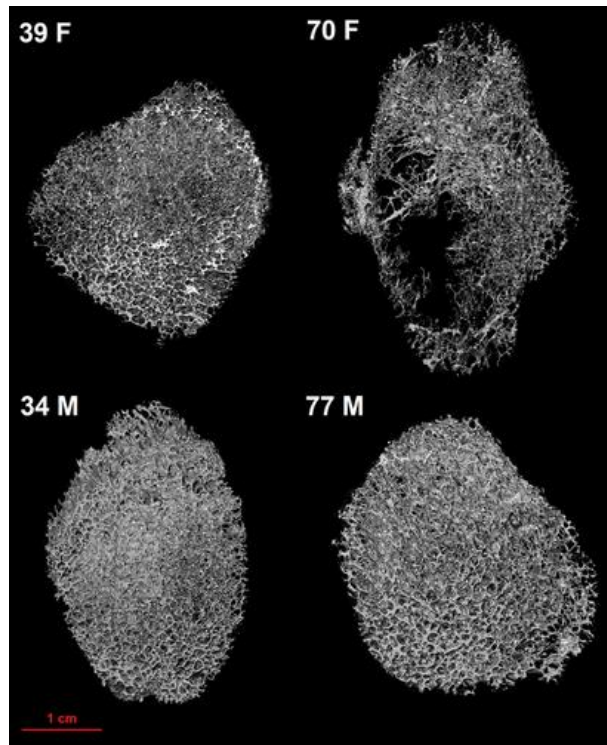
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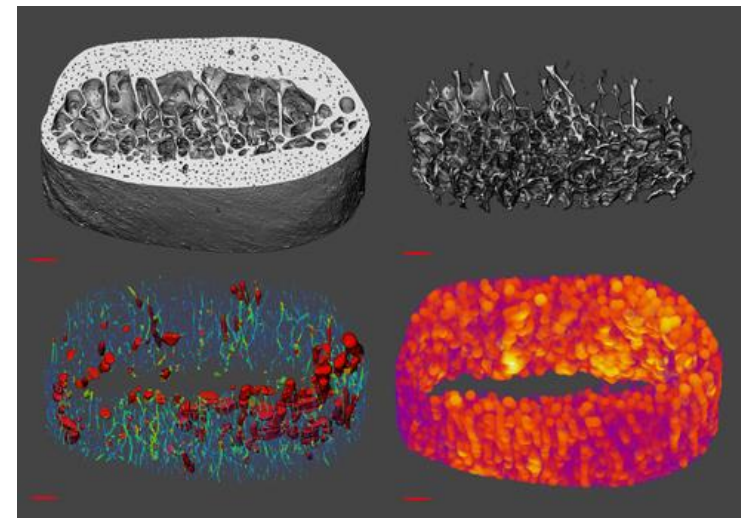
Micro-computed tomography 3D renders of the human femoral neck reveal age-associated trabecular bone loss. Females (aged 39 and 70, top row) tend to decrease in trabecular number and connectivity and increase in trabecular spacing. Males (aged 34 and 77, bottom row) tend to lose trabecular bone through the thinning of individual struts. Scale =1,000 μm. (Photo Credit: Mary Cole)



A 2D image slice generated with confocal laser scanning microscopy demonstrates age-associated reduction in the osteocyte lacunar-canalicular network in females (aged 21 and 90, top row) and males (aged 20 and 94, bottom row). Scale bar = 5 μm. (Photo Credit: Janna Andronowski)



Micro-computed tomography 3D renders of the human femoral neck reveal age-associated trabecular bone loss. Females (aged 39 and 70, top row) tend to decrease in trabecular number and connectivity and increase in trabecular spacing. Males (aged 34 and 77, bottom row) tend to lose trabecular bone through the thinning of individual struts. Scale = 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ . (Photo Credit: Mary Cole)

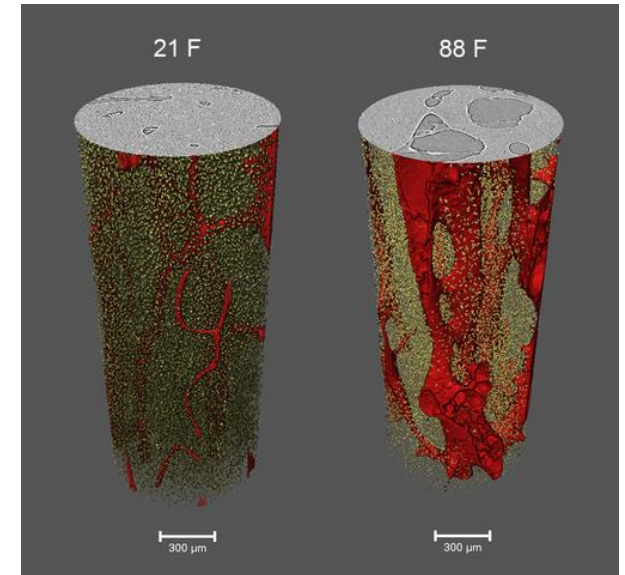


Laboratory micro-computed tomography provides 3D visualization of the midshaft of a sixth rib from a 26-year-old male. Image processing of the original 3D reconstruction of the cortex (upper left) can extract trabecular architecture (upper right), cortical pore networks colored by local thickness (lower left) and maps of pore separation (lower right). Scale bar = 1,000  $\mu\text{m}$ . (Photo Credit: Mary Cole)

## 4. Estimation of age at death

- ✓ The reliability of using weight-bearing bones,
- ✓ The effect of intrinsic (sex & population variability) and extrinsic (adequate bone sampling) factors on age at death estimation

*also been discussed*

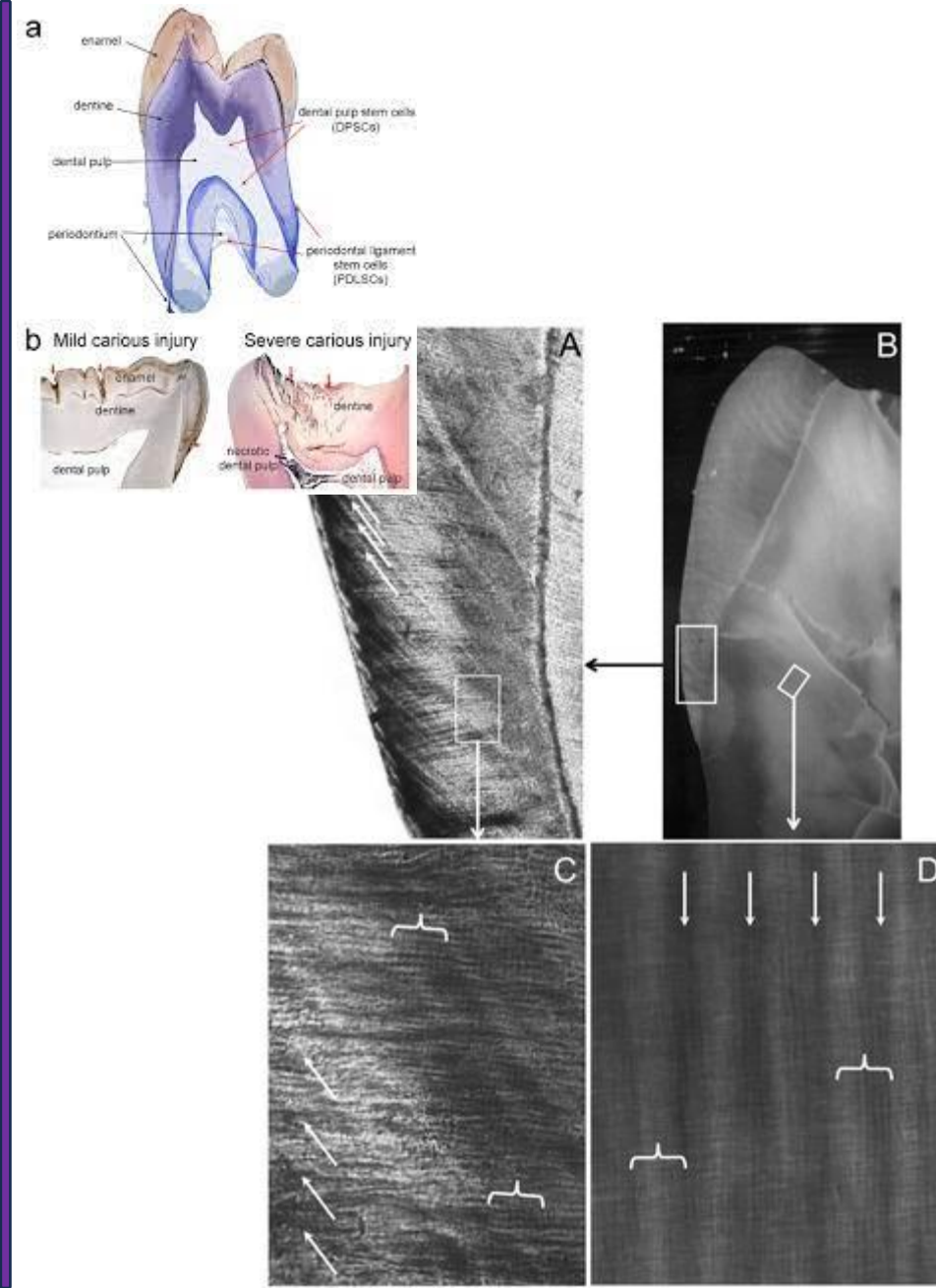


(e.g. Aiello & Molleson, 1993; Drusini, 1996; Iwaniec et al., 1998; Macho et al., 2005; Paine & Brenton, 2006; Robling & Stout, 2008; Henning & Cooper, 2011)

## 4. Estimation of age at death

**Dental histological techniques** on the basis of the study of:

1. secondary dentin formation (e.g. Charles et al., 1986; Maat et al., 2006)
2. cementum annulation (e.g.; Roksandic et al. 2009; Wittwer-Backofen et al., 2004)
3. striae of Retzius in enamel (e.g. FitzGerald and Saunders, 2005)
4. daily cross striations (e.g. Martin et al., 2008)
5. root dentine translucency (e.g. Chandler and Fyfe, 1997)

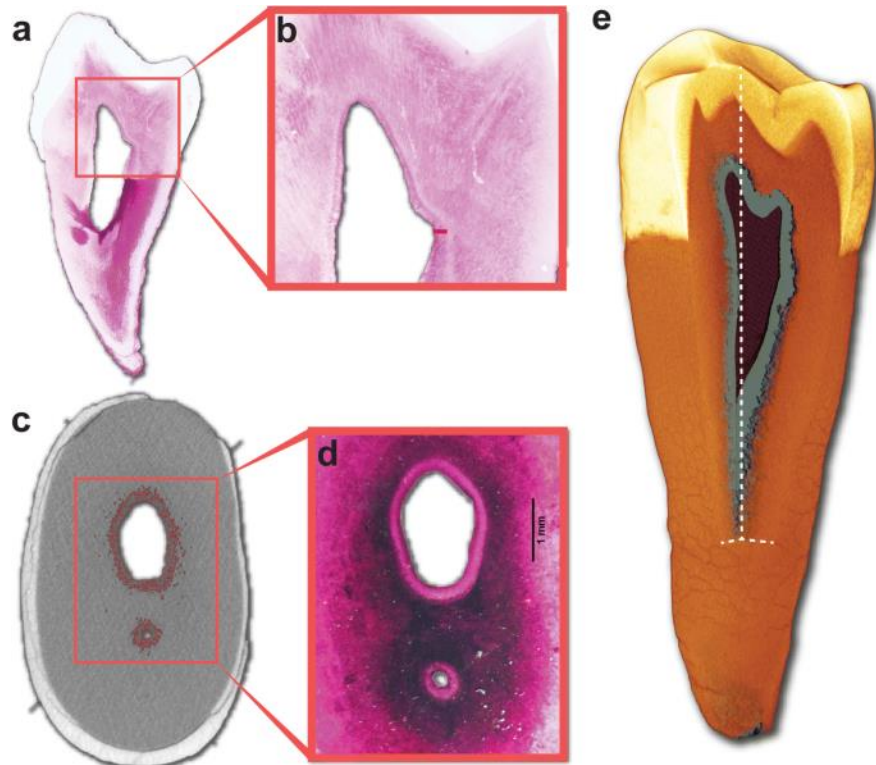


# Age estimation of fragmented human dental remains by secondary dentin virtual analysis

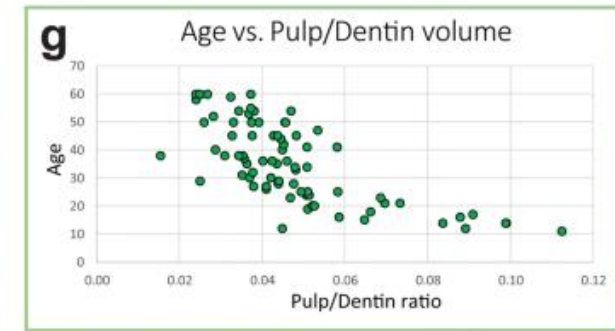
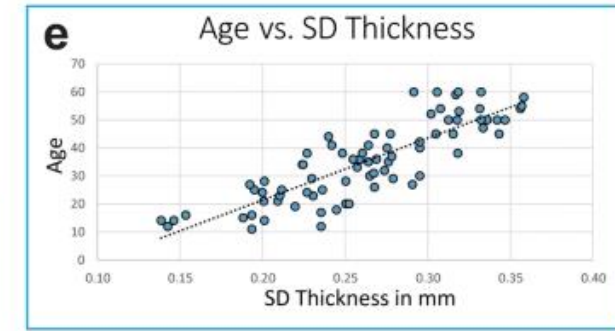
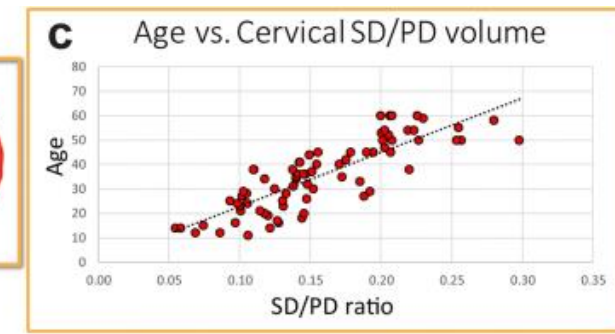
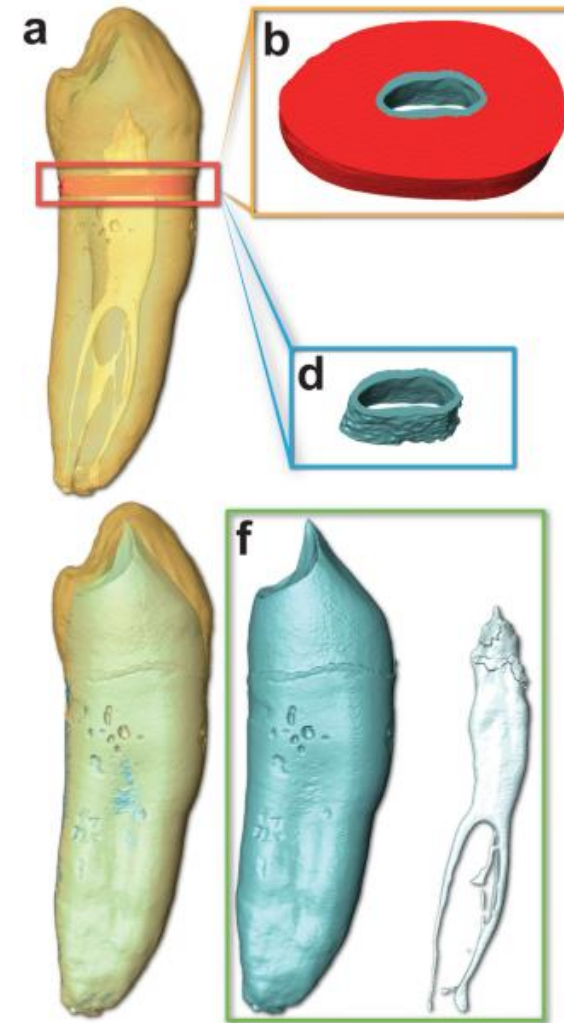
Itay Nudel, Ariel Pokhojaev, Bryan S. Hausman, Yoli Bitterman, Nir Shpack, Hila May & Rachel Sarig

*International Journal of Legal Medicine* 134, 1853–1860 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

842 Accesses | 7 Citations | 2 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)



Validation of  $\mu$ CT scans for the evaluation of secondary dentin (SD): Histological SD and primary dentin (PD) measurements were compared with segmented  $\mu$ CT slices, with an accuracy of  $\pm 27 \mu\text{m}$ . **a** Histological slice, coronal cross section, paragon stain. **b** Magnified section (SD marked by a red bar). **c**  $\mu$ CT scan, horizontal section, central SD area engulfed in red. **d** The histological slice corresponding to (c). **e** Corner cut of lower premolar volume rendering. SD designated in gray

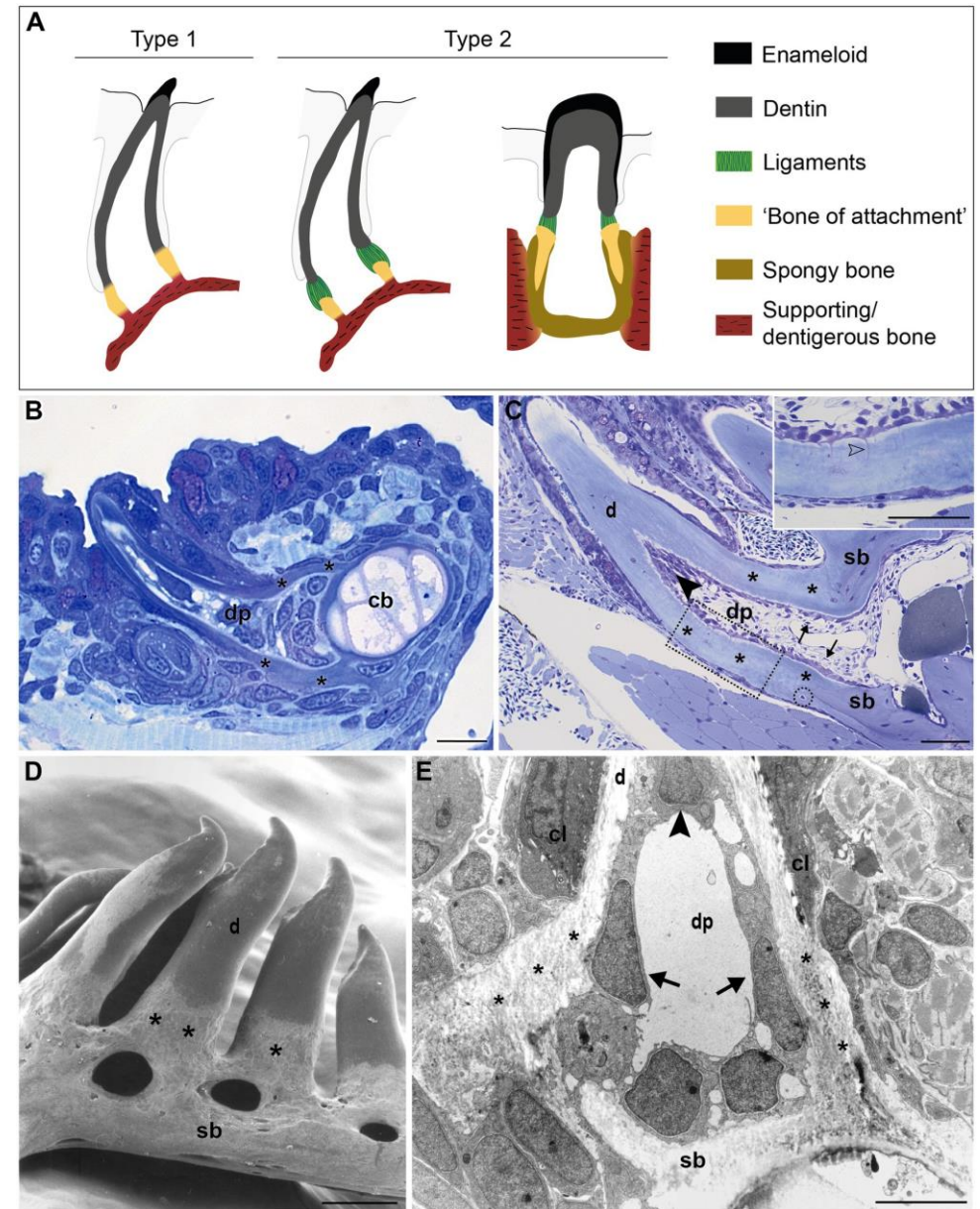
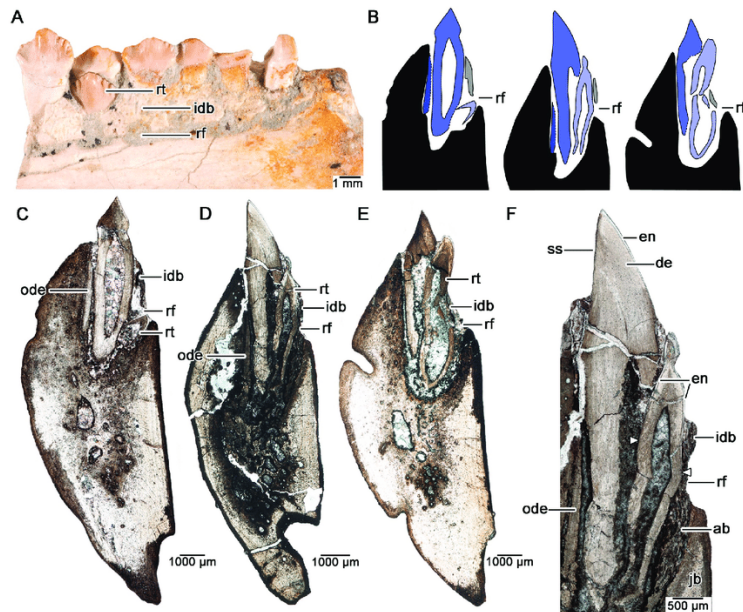


Age and SD measurements: **a–b** Analysis of SD (gray) and PD (red) cervical slice. Volumes were computed for 1 mm slices taken below the CEJ after tooth alignment and computed as SD/PD. **c** Age vs. SD/PD volume. Linear trend line,  $r=0.83^*$ . **d** Average thickness for SD in mm. **e** Age vs. SD thickness,  $r=0.84^*$ . **f** Segmentation of dentin and pulp for volume analysis. **g** Age vs. pulp/dentin volume ratio,  $r=-0.71^*$ . All correlations were found to be significant at  $*p<0.05$ .  $n=77$  (50 males, 27 females)

# 4. Estimation of age at death

Dental histological techniques also applied to the study of faunal remains

(e.g. Beasley et al., 1992; Burke and Castanet, 1995; Wendy, 1998; Dirks et al., 2002).

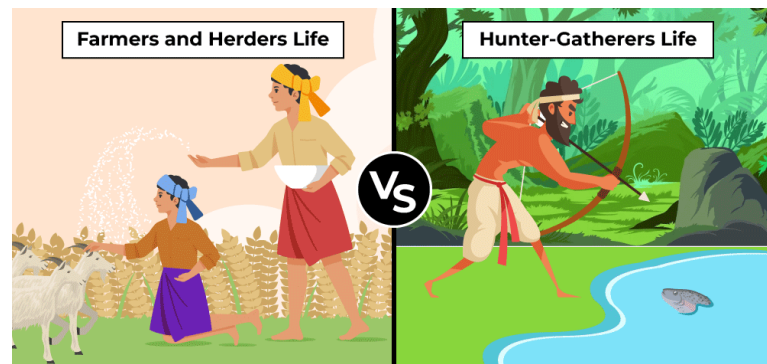


# 5. Skeletal response to biomechanical stress

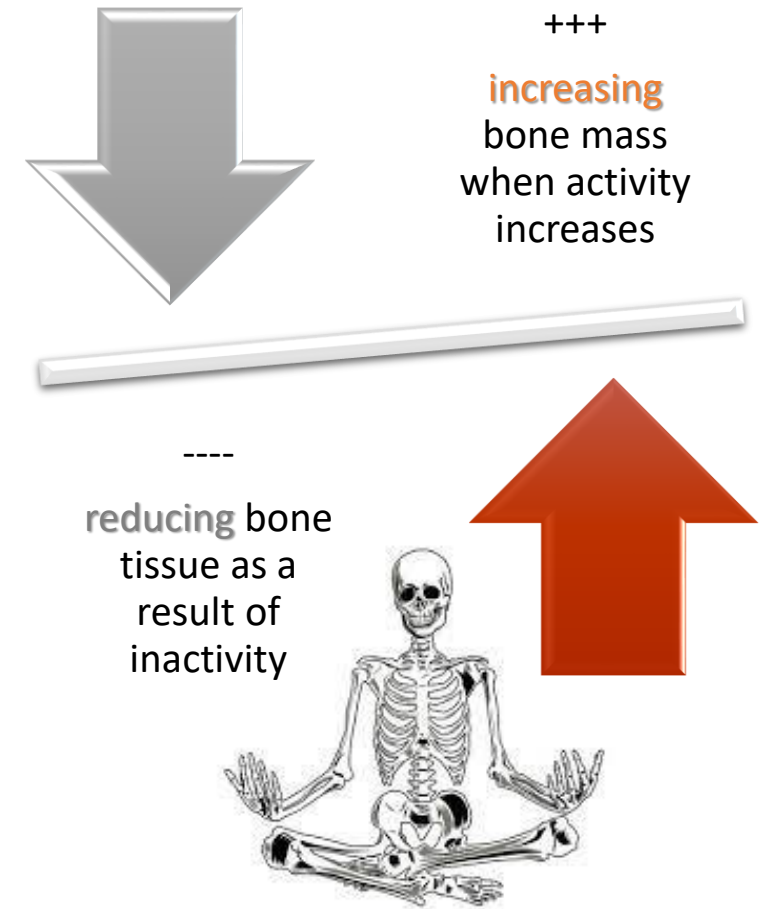
During the individual's lifetime, skeleton has the capacity to adapt to **biomechanical stress**

1. **histo-morpho-metric** analysis: infer strain levels & bone dynamics within populations /human groups of:

1. different chronologies
2. different geographic provenance,
3. different modes of subsistence



(i.e. hunter-gatherers vs. agriculturalists)





# 5. Skeletal response to biomechanical stress

II. **histo-morpho-metric analysis:** provides insights into the dynamics of bone growth & remodeling over the course of human ontogeny & evolution (e.g. Martin & Armelagos, 1979; Oyen et al., 1979; Abbott et al., 1996; Gosman & Ketcham, 2009).

III. **histo-morpho-metric analysis:** allows for the development of standards for comparison with other nonhuman primates (e.g. Schaffler & Burr, 1984; Havill, 2003; Mulhern & Ubelaker, 2003).

Osteon Remodeling Dynamics in *Macaca mulatta*:  
Normal Variation with Regard to Age, Sex, and Skeletal  
Maturity

[L. M. Havill](#) 

[Calcified Tissue International](#) 74, 95–102 (2004) | [Cite this article](#)



# 5. Skeletal response to biomechanical stress

A similar contribution is made by the histological study of **dentition**

(e.g. Molnar et al., 1981; Hildebolt et al., 1986, Mann et al., 1991; Anemone et al., 1996; Hillson and Bond, 1997).

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY 104:89-103 (1997)

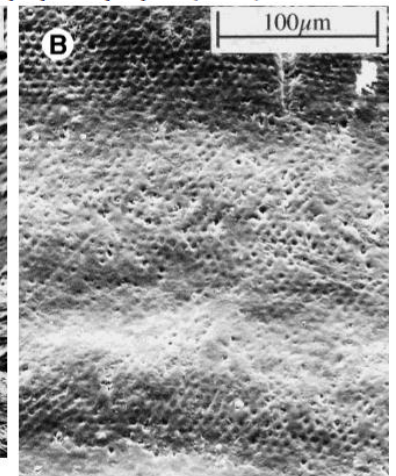
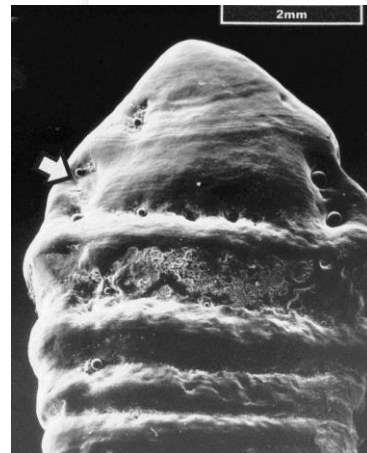
## Relationship of Enamel Hypoplasia to the Pattern of Tooth Crown Growth: A Discussion

SIMON HILLSON\* AND SANDRA BOND  
*Institute of Archaeology, University College London,  
London, WC1H 0PY, United Kingdom*

**KEY WORDS** hypoplasia; dental development; dental enamel defects; perikymata

**ABSTRACT** The defects of enamel hypoplasia can be related to the layered structure of enamel which represents the sequence of development in tooth crowns. From such studies, it is possible to see that furrow-type enamel defects (the most common) are related to the most prominent enamel development sequence. Furthermore, the enamel development layers which occur

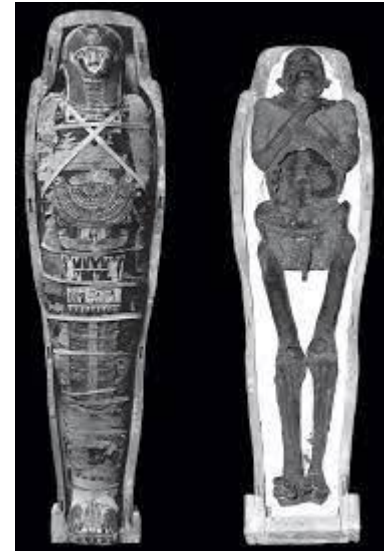
both the prominent enamel development layers which occur to use measurements of enamel thickness as a means of assessing dental development. The most common type of enamel defect is the furrow-type enamel defect which appears as a very little enamel. The defects of enamel hypoplasia can be examined using scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to study the development of enamel. Hillson and Bond, 1997.



# 6. Mummy studies

One of the first applications of histology to the study of ancient remains  
Nowadays it continues.....

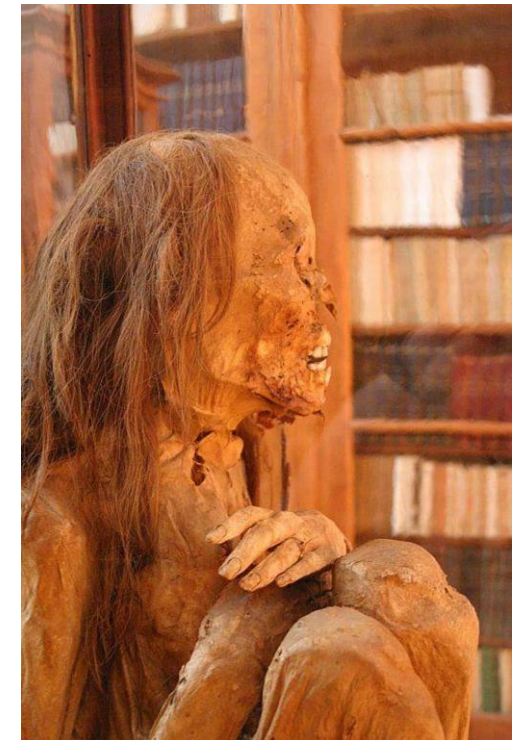
- simple identification of soft tissues
- study of abnormal lesions & taphonomic changes



 International Journal of Paleopathology  
Volume 1, Issue 2, October 2011, Pages 75-80


Invited Commentary  
**Soft tissue taphonomy: A paleopathology perspective**

Arthur C. Aufderheide  





# First report in pre-Columbian mummies from Bolivia of *Enterobius vermicularis* infection and capillariid eggs: A contribution to Paleoparasitology studies

Guido Valverde <sup>a</sup>, Viterman Ali <sup>a b</sup>, Pamela Durán <sup>a b</sup>, Luis Castedo <sup>c</sup>, José Luis Paz <sup>c</sup>,  
Eddy Martínez <sup>a b</sup>  

- 12 Bolivian mummies / Microscopic analysis of rehydrated samples (coprolites and abdominal content)
- Eggs of *Enterobius vermicularis* were identified in coprolites from one mummy, and capillariid eggs in the organic abdominal content from another individual.

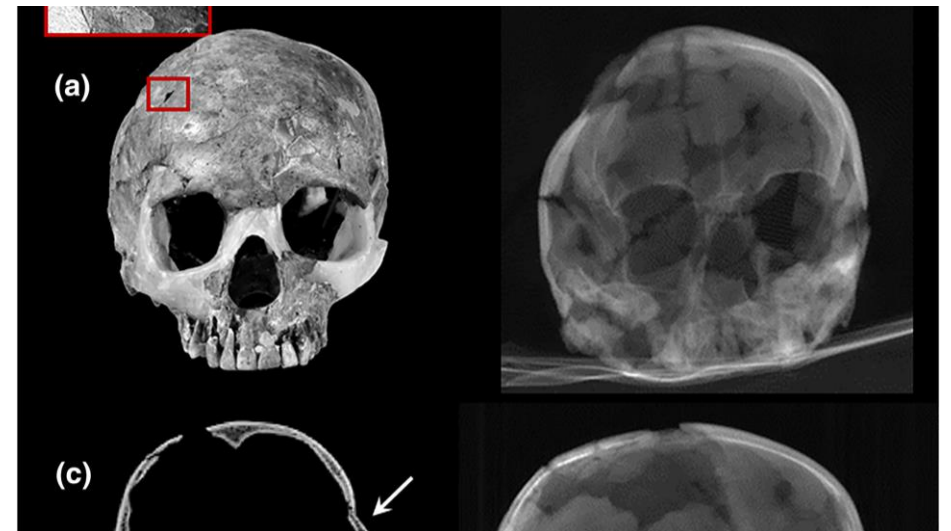


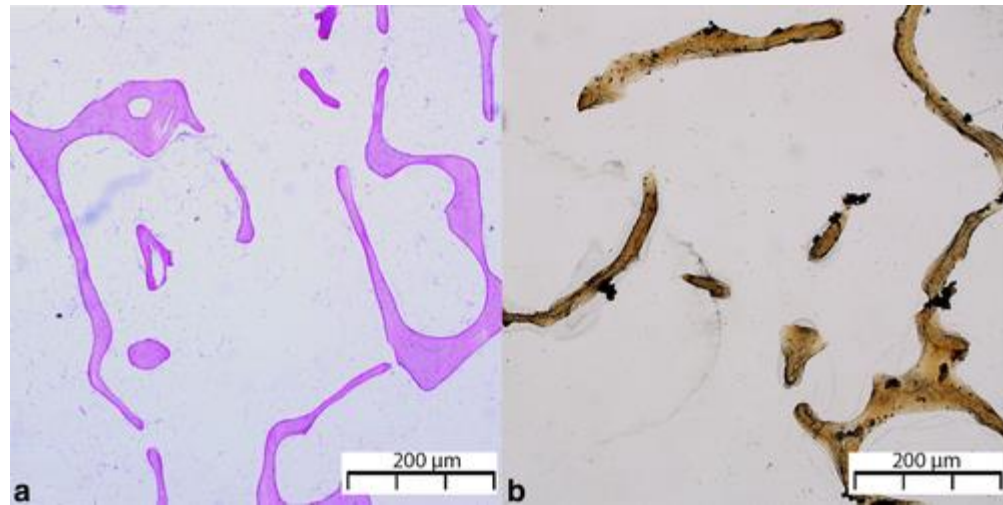
# 7. Bone paleopathology

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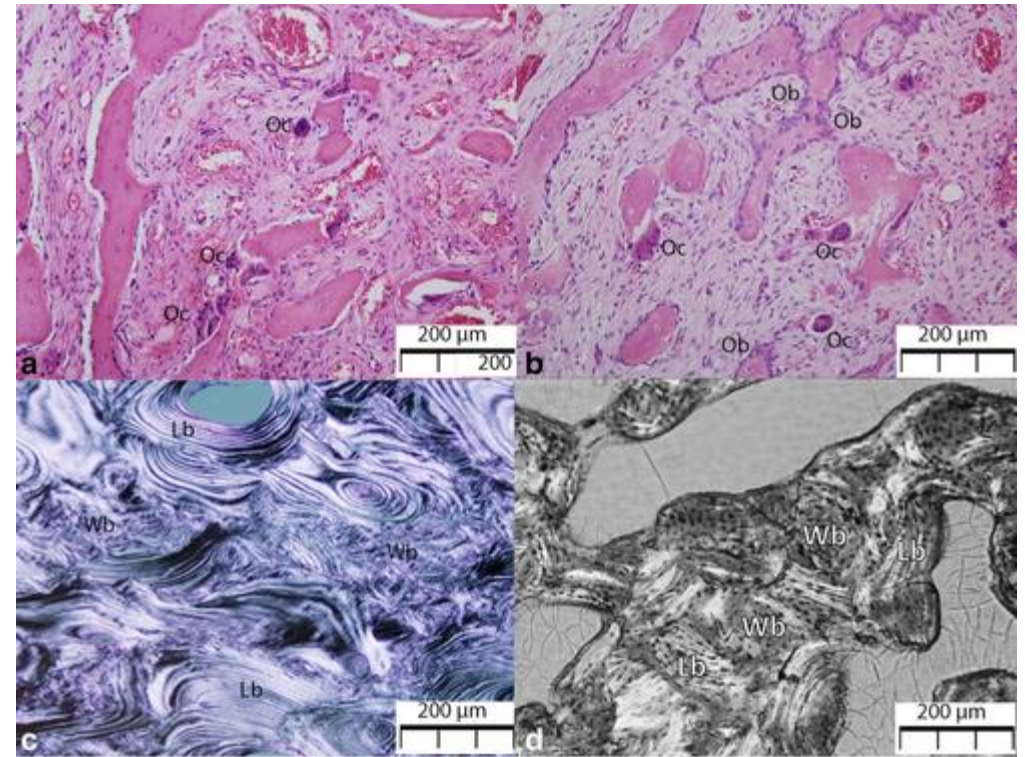
1. long history (paleopathology & histology) -> improvement disease diagnosis
2. Residual application to the study of dry bones compared with other technical approaches
3. Used as an auxiliary diagnostic tool & not as a primary source for paleopathological evidence:

- metabolic conditions, 34%
- benign and malignant tumors, 27%
- specific and non-specific infectious diseases, 23%
- combined pathologies 5.3%
- bone trauma 4.3%

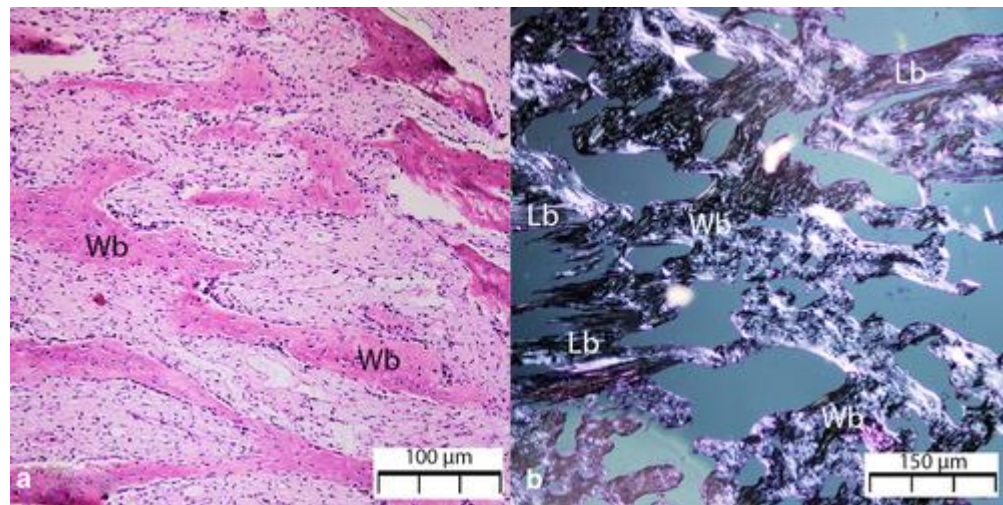




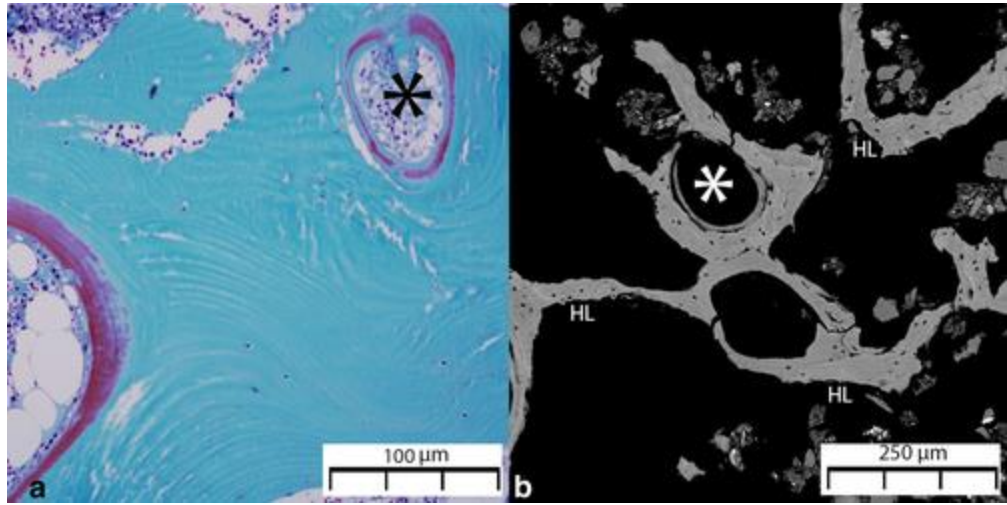
Fresh and dry bone histology of **osteoporotic** bone tissue



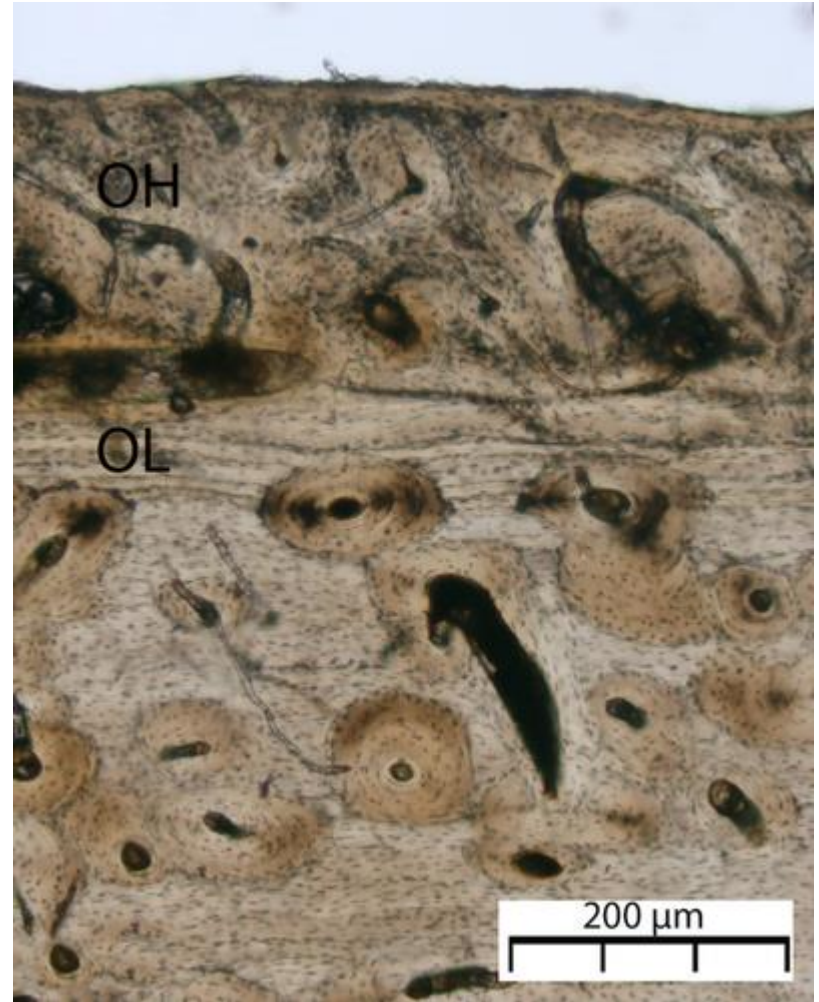
Fresh and dry bone histology of **Paget's disease** of bone



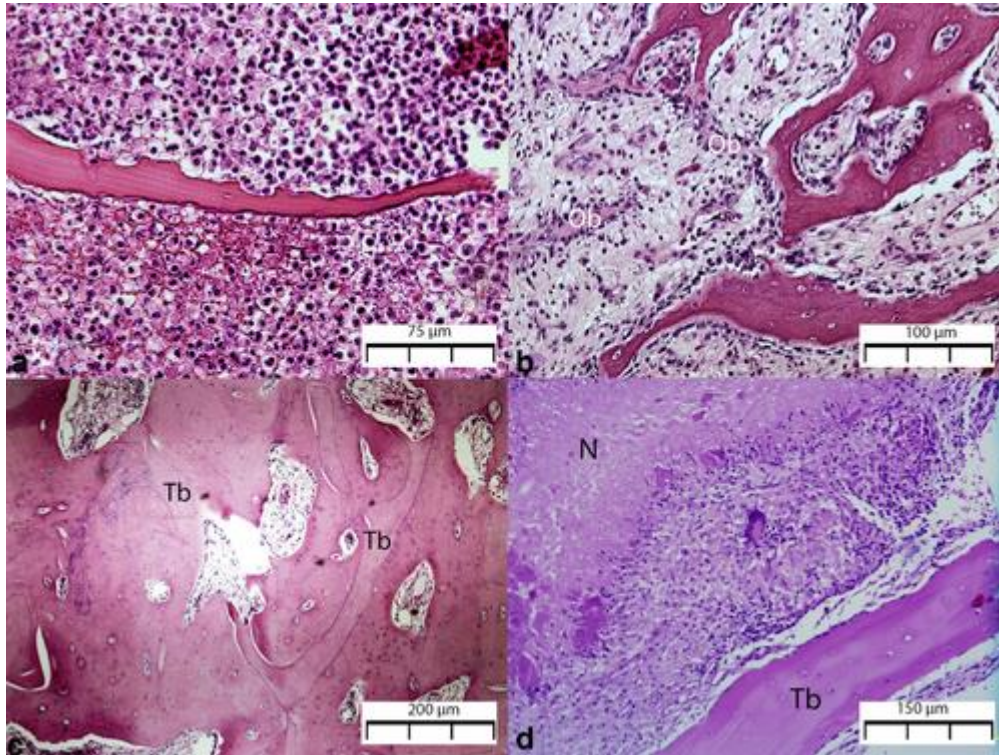
Fresh and dry bone histology of woven bone deposition in **fracture** repair.



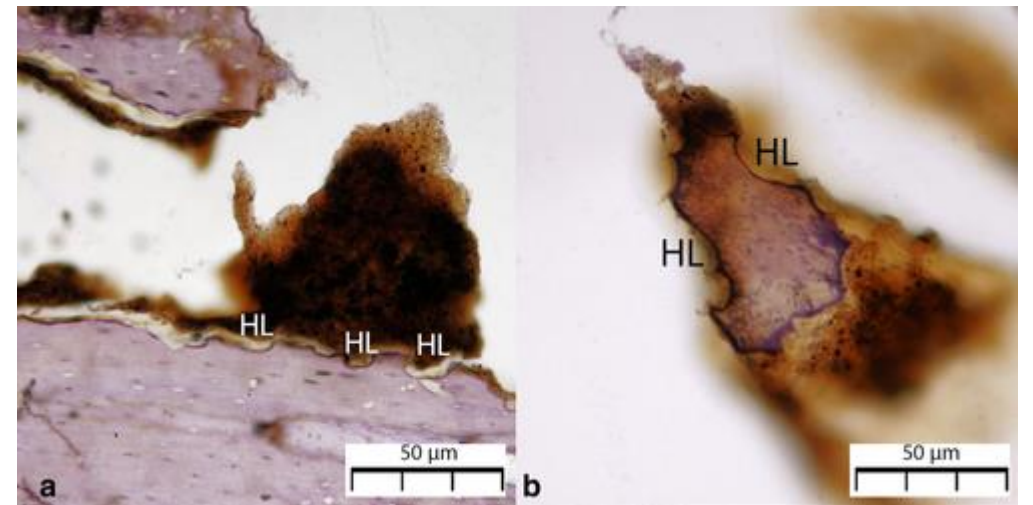
Fresh and dry bone histology of “defective cement lines” in osteomalacia.



Dry bone histology of an ossified hematoma



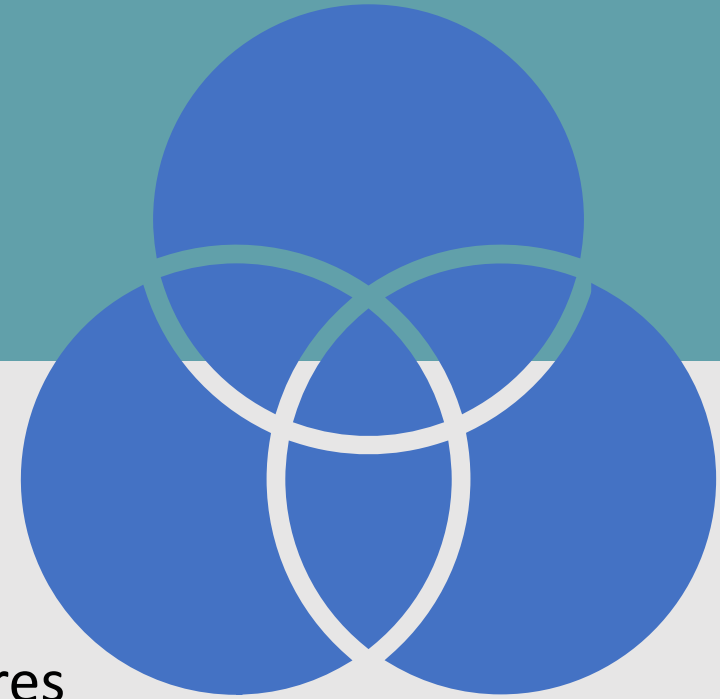
Fresh tissue histology of osteomyelitis.



Dry bone histology of osteomyelitis.



## 7. Bone paleopathology



### Limits:

1. **low** specificity of some bone histo-morphometric features
2. **invasive** nature of most histological techniques
3. **high** level of scientific proficiency needed to interpret bone morphology at the microscopic level

Behavior

Diet

Stress

# 8. Tooth alterations

**Dental microwear** : compare dietary habits & seasonal changes in food resources among:

1. **fossil hominins** (e.g. Estebananz et al., 2009)
2. **modern humans** (e.g. Ma and Teaford, 2010)
3. **nonhuman primates** (e.g. Scott et al., 2006)







Journal of Human Evolution  
Volume 57, Issue 6, December 2009, Pages 739-750



## Testing hypotheses of dietary reconstruction from buccal dental microwear in *Australopithecus afarensis*



[F. Estebanaranz](#), [L.M. Martínez](#), [J. Galbany](#), [D. Turbón](#), [A. Pérez-Pérez](#)  



Journal of Human Evolution  
Volume 51, Issue 4, October 2006, Pages 339-349



## Dental microwear texture analysis: technical considerations



[Robert S. Scott](#) <sup>a</sup>  , [Peter S. Ungar](#) <sup>a</sup>, [Torbjorn S. Bergstrom](#) <sup>b</sup>, [Christopher A. Brown](#) <sup>b</sup>, [Benjamin E. Childs](#) <sup>b</sup>, [Mark F. Teaford](#) <sup>c</sup>, [Alan Walker](#) <sup>d</sup>



Journal of Human Evolution  
Volume 132, July 2019, Pages 80-100



## Dental microwear texture analysis of Pliocene Suidae from Hadar and Kanapoi in the context of early hominin dietary breadth expansion

[Ignacio A. Lazagabaster](#) <sup>a,b</sup>  

# 8. Tooth alterations

behavioral or "cultural" practices / teeth as a third hand

scratches produced when flake tools involved in processing materials held between the anterior teeth came into contact with the labial enamel face



manipulative activities unique to ancient humans

## Non-dietary Marks in the Anterior Dentition of the Krapina Neanderthals

CARLES LALUEZA FOX, DAVID W. FRAYER

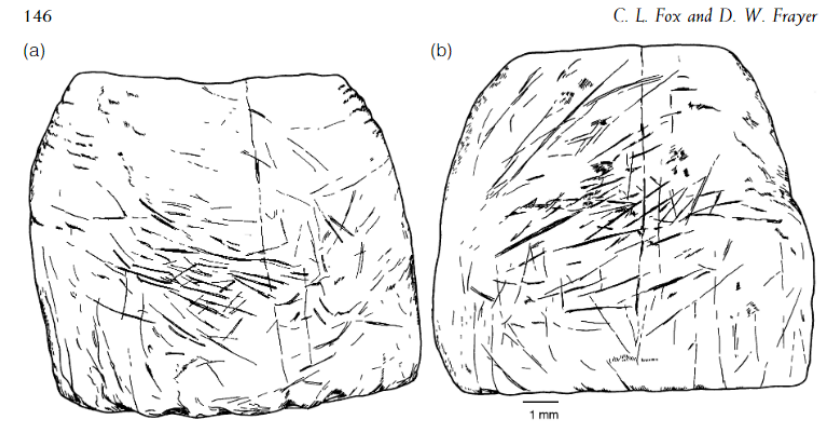
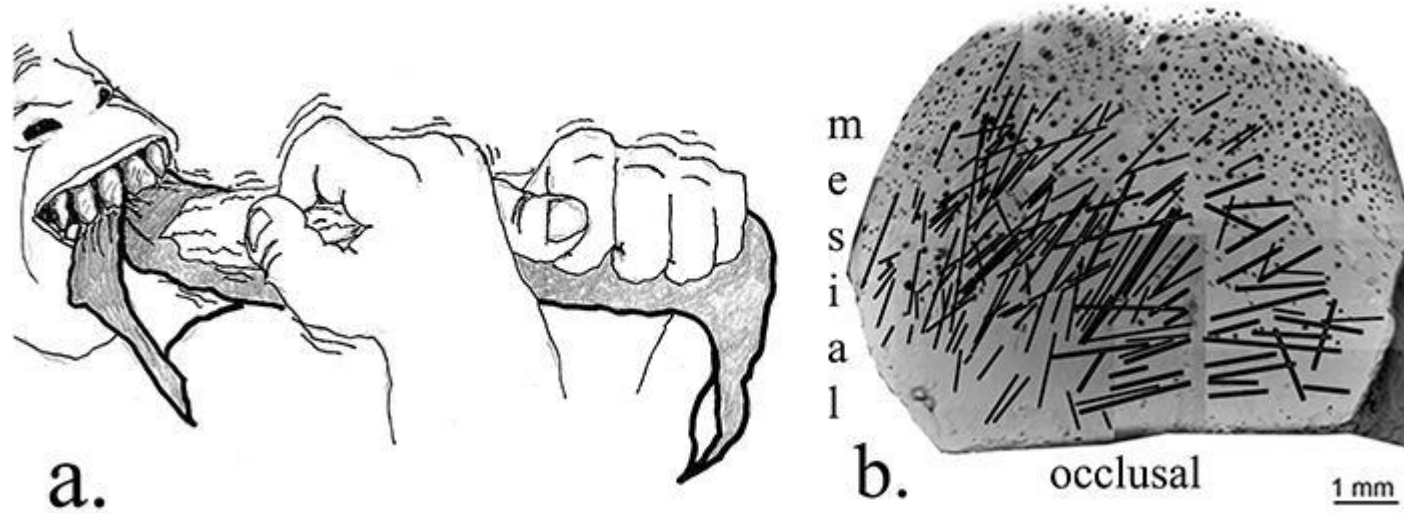


Figure 9. Reconstructed images of the labial surfaces of two right maxillary central incisors: (a) KDP 4 (tooth no. 154); (b) individual 'Q' (tooth no. 132). Some vertical lines are natural cracks.

# Study Finds Earliest Evidence in Fossil Record for Right-Handedness

Homo habilis fossil 1.8 million yrs old moved from left to right, indicating the earliest evidence in the fossil record for right-handedness.

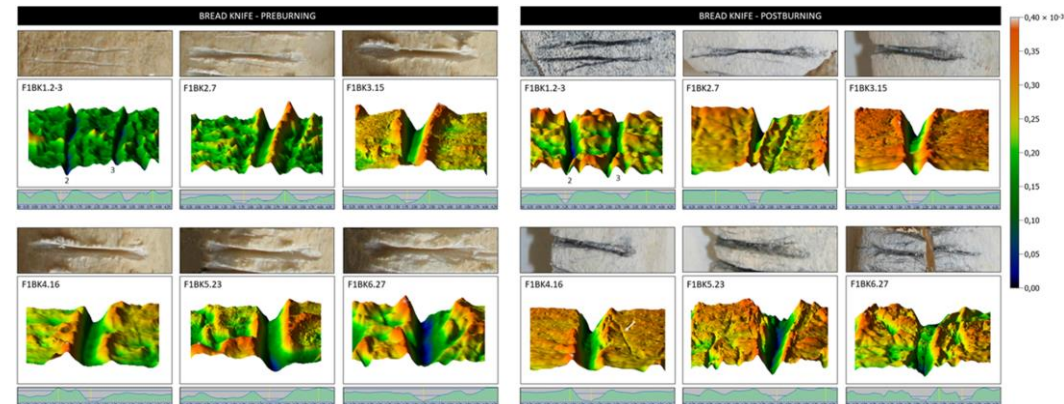
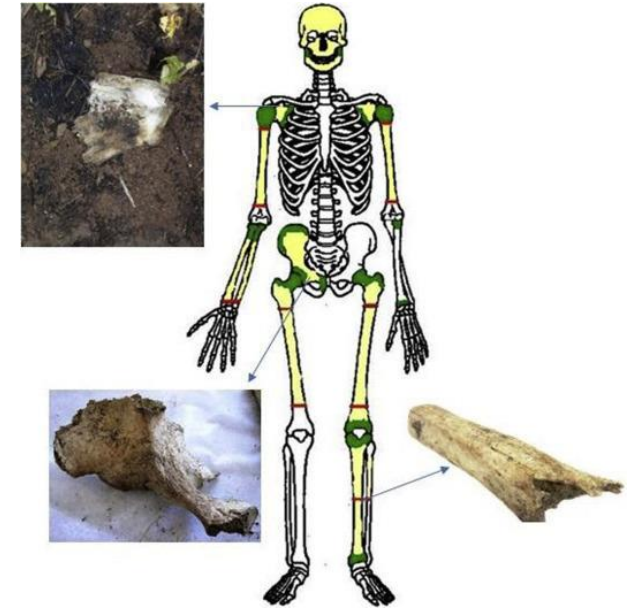
Researchers believe the marks came from using a tool to try to cut food being pulled from the mouth with the left hand.



# 9. Bone cut marks

1. hacking trauma (Hutchinson, 1996)
2. dismemberment (Alunni-Perret et al., 2005)
3. traces of defleshing in hominin fossil remains (e.g. White, 1986)
4. marks of butchering on faunal remains and their role in understanding the evolution of hominin handedness (e.g. Pickering and Hensley-Marschand, 2008).

in past populations  
& forensic contexts



Femur cut with a bread knife

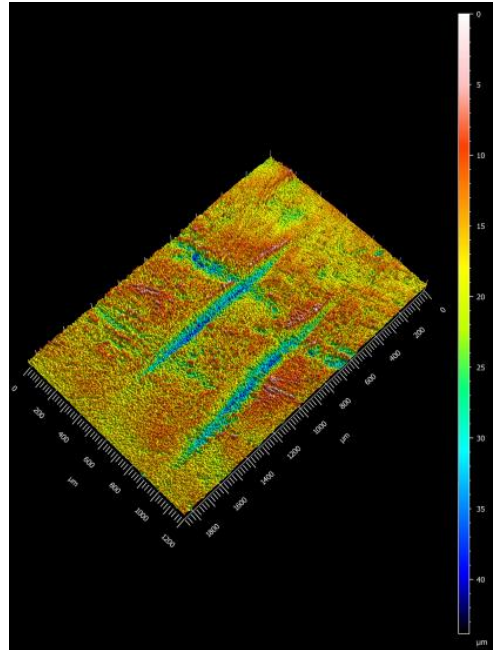
## OPEN Early Pleistocene cut marked hominin fossil from Koobi Fora, Kenya

Briana Pobiner<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Pante<sup>2</sup> & Trevor Keevil<sup>3</sup>

Identification of butchery marks on hominin fossils from the early Pleistocene is rare. Our taphonomic investigation of published hominin fossils from the Turkana region of Kenya revealed likely cut marks on KNM-ER 741, a ~1.45 Ma proximal hominin left tibia shaft found in the Okote Member of the Koobi Fora Formation. An impression of the marks was created with dental molding material and scanned with a Nanovea white-light confocal profilometer, and the resulting 3-D models were measured and compared with an actualistic database of 898 individual tooth, butchery, and trample marks created through controlled experiments. This comparison confirms the presence of multiple ancient cut marks that are consistent with those produced experimentally. These are to our knowledge the first (and to date only) cut marks identified on an early Pleistocene postcranial hominin fossil.

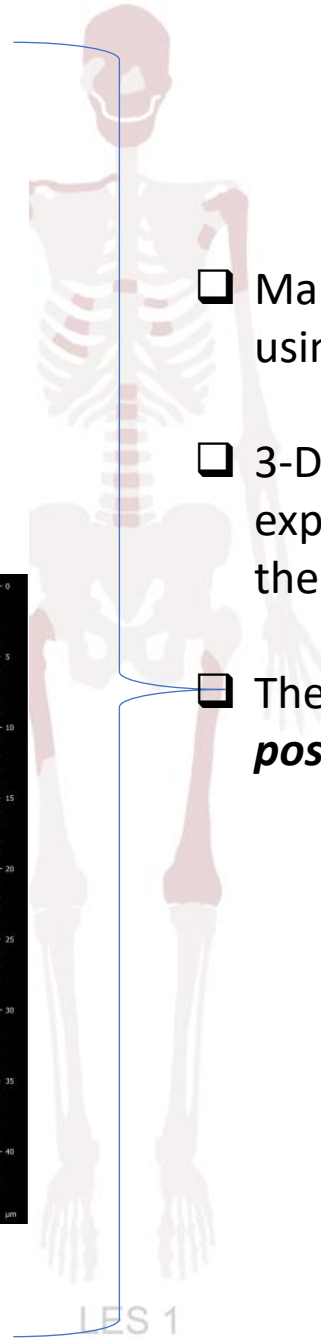


Complete view of tibia (KNM-ER 741) and magnified area that shows cut marks perpendicular to the long axis of the specimen. Scale=4 cm.



3D model of marks 7 and 8 identified as cut marks by the quadratic discriminant model.

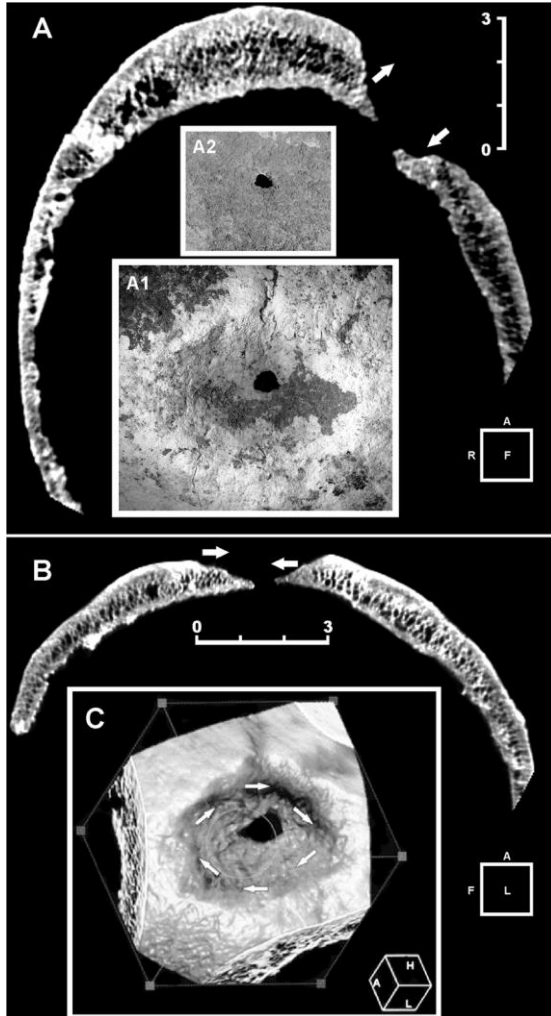
Check for updates



- ❑ Marks replicated with dental molding material & analyzed using a Nanovea white-light confocal profilometer.
- ❑ 3-D models of the marks compared with a database of 898 experimental tooth, butchery, & trample marks, confirming the presence of ancient cut marks.
- ❑ The first & only cut marks identified on an *early Pleistocene postcranial hominin fossil*.

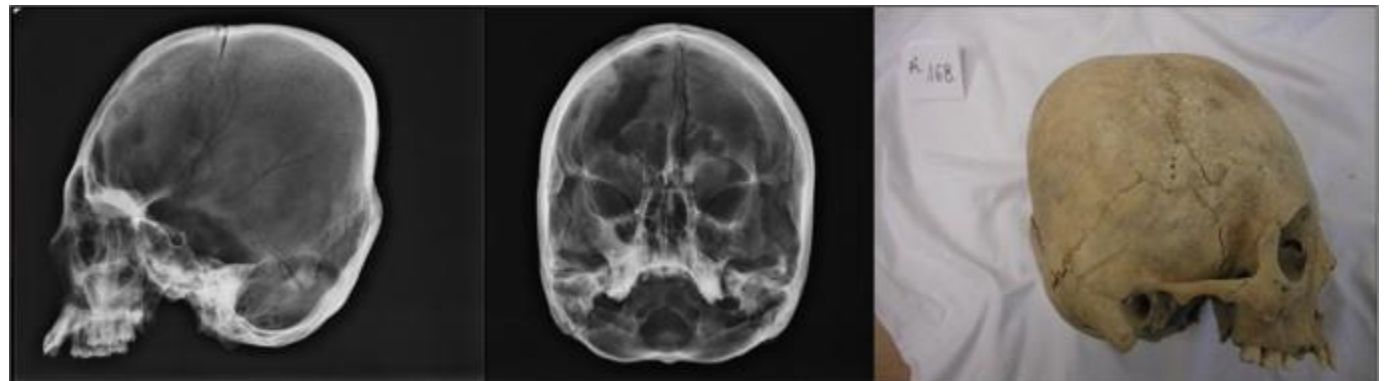


# 9. Bone cut marks



Cutmark micromorphology is also considered in the study of surgical or ritual bone incisions, such as **trephinations**, and their differentiation from taphonomic changes

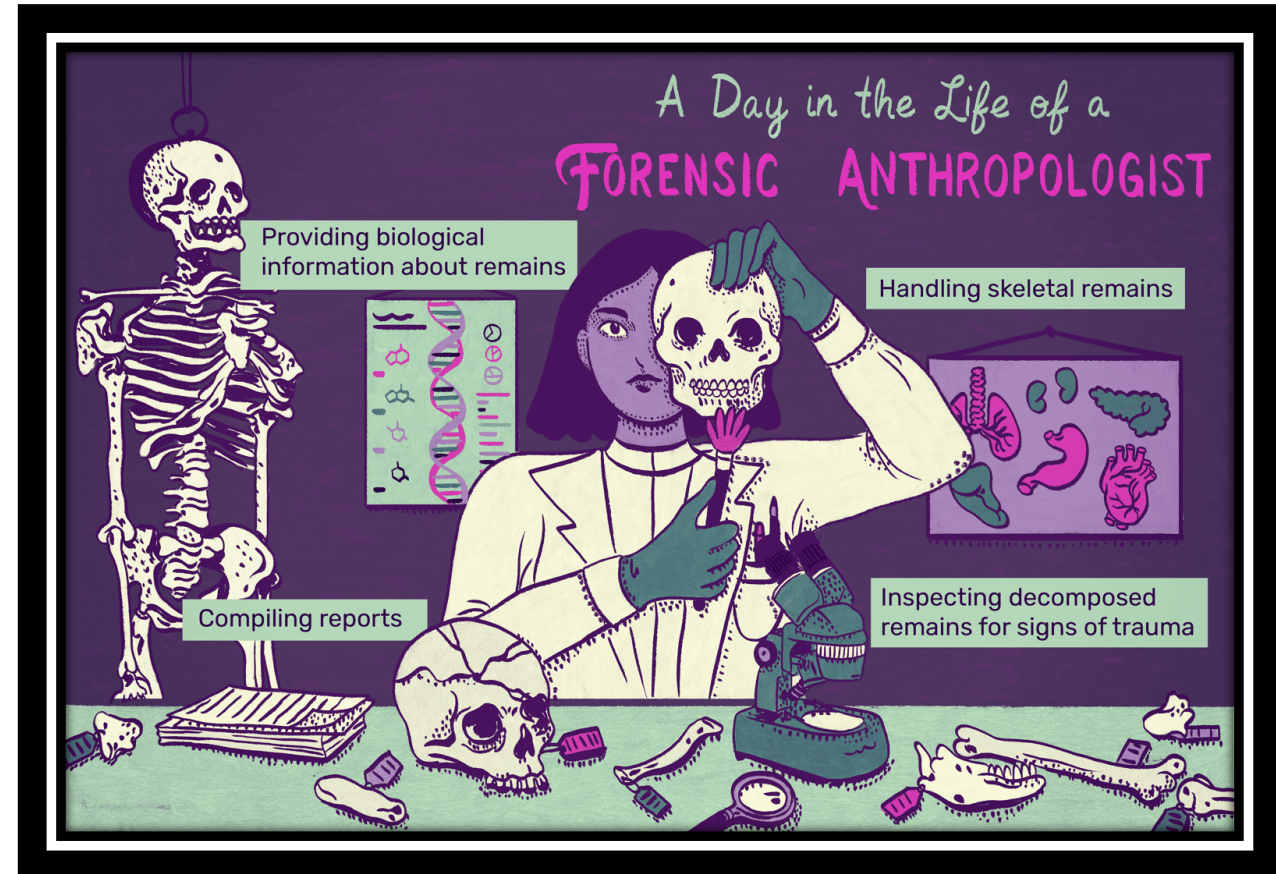
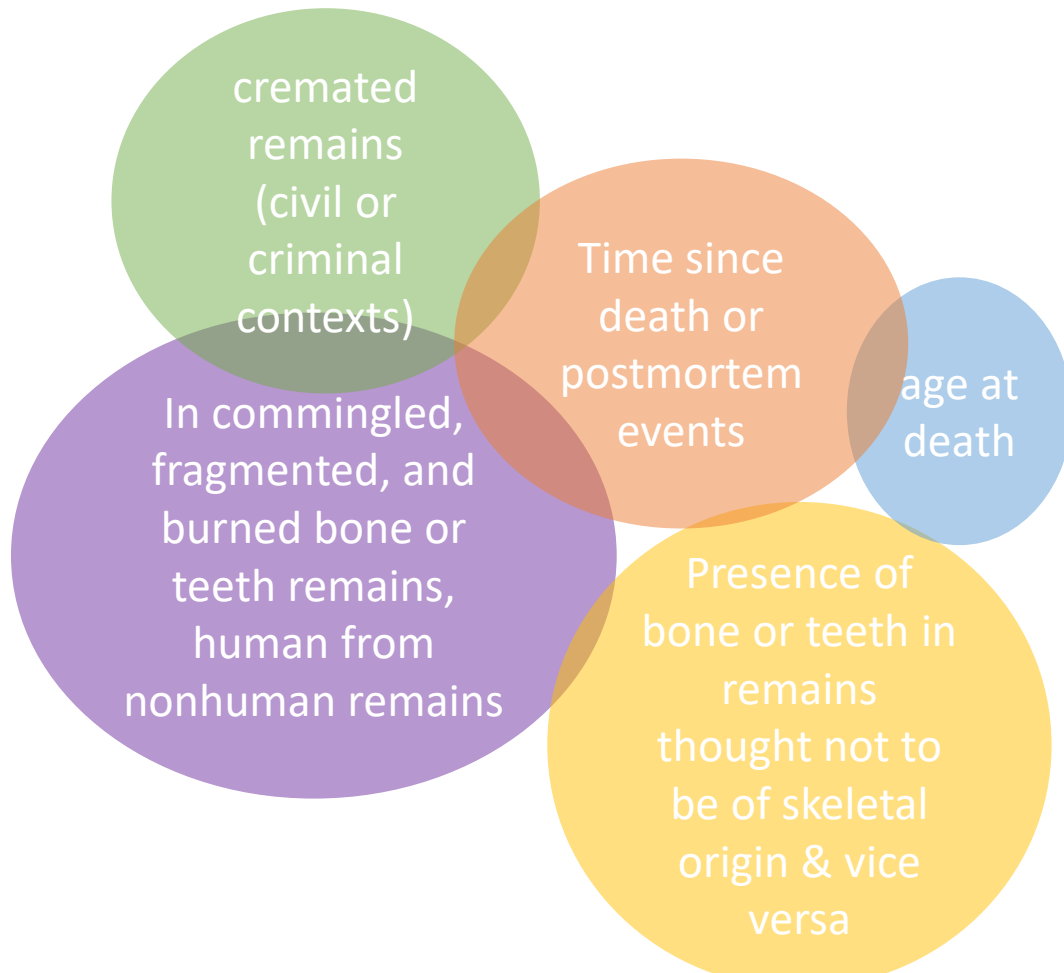
(e.g. Stevens and Wakely, 1993; Fabbri et al., 2012)





# 10. Forensic anthropology

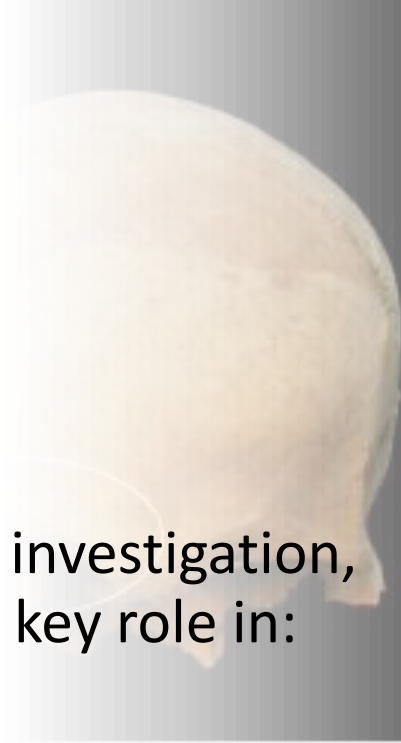
Rich data on using **microscopies** in forensic anthropology



# 10. Forensic anthropology

In the scope of trauma investigation, the microscope plays a key role in:

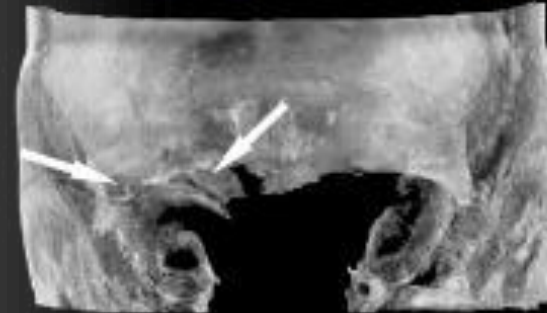
1. trauma lesions or postmortem phenomena & developmental defects
2. origin of trauma signs
3. nature of bone inclusions



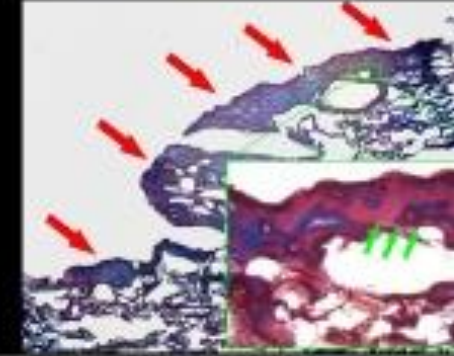
a



b



c



f

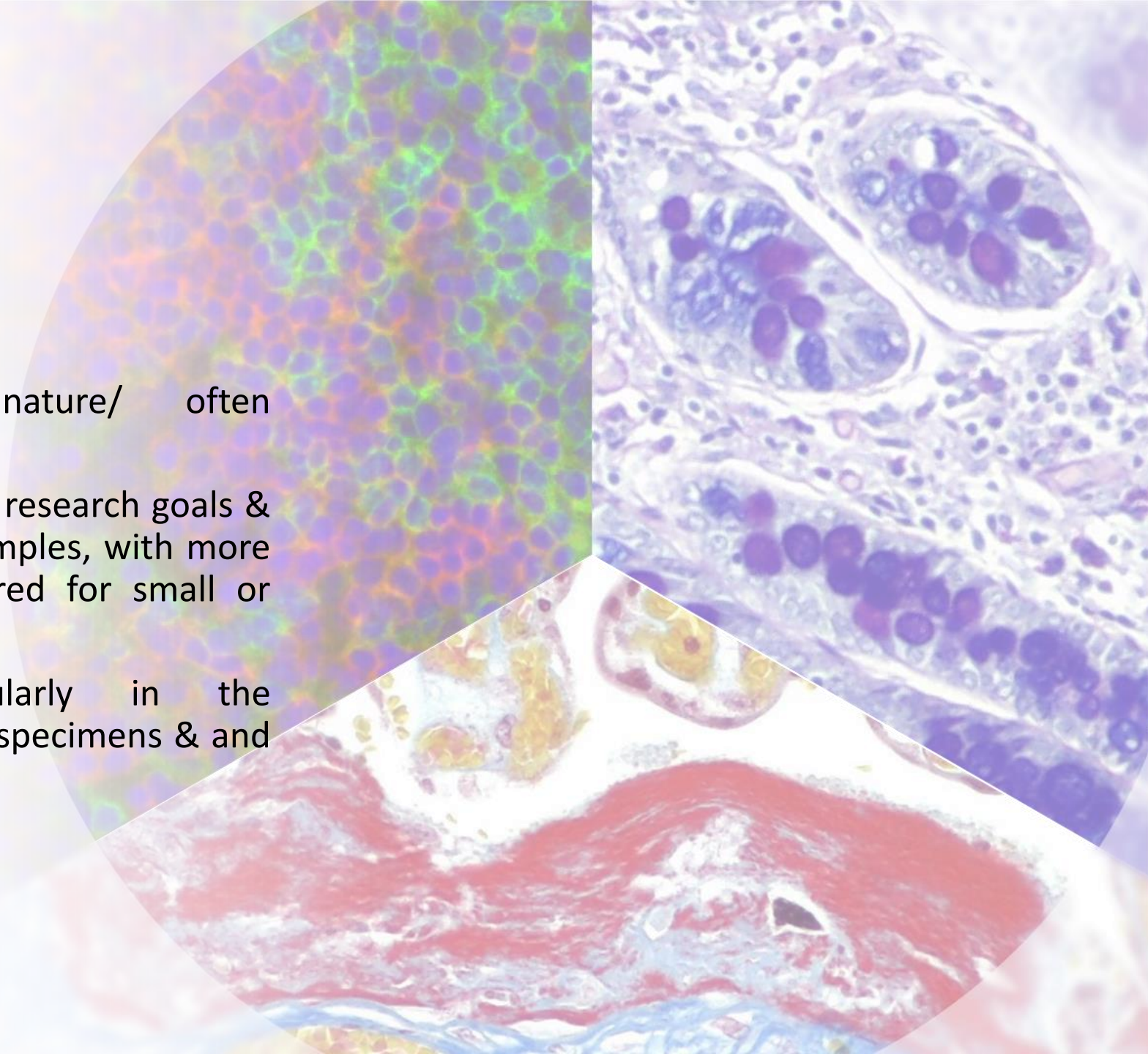


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# Current limitations & future challenges

- ❑ Perceived **time-consuming** nature/ often associated with high **costs \$\$\$**
- ❑ **Choice of method** depends on 1) research goals & 2) preservation status of bone samples, with more time-intensive techniques preferred for small or fragile specimens
- ❑ **Insufficient training**, particularly in the examination of paleopathological specimens & mummified tissue





# Current limitations & future challenges

- ❑ Studies emphasize the crucial role of **training and experience** in reducing bias and ensuring accurate analysis, underscoring the importance of developing a deep understanding of mosaic patterns in normal and pathological skeletal and tissue structures.
- ❑ Advancements in **less invasive techniques**, such as synchrotron radiation X-ray microtomography, circularly polarized light microscopy (CPLM), are overcoming traditional limitations
- ❑ These innovative methods provide detailed insights into bone structures and features, offering valuable **non-destructive alternatives**, although some challenges like potential color changes & equipment size complexity are acknowledged.