

Anthropology and Anatomy

Paleopathological Changes in the Human Postcranial Skeletal Remains from the Necropolis in the Locality of Saint Spas, in the Varosh Quarter, Town of Pernik, Western Bulgaria (15th-19th Centuries)

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Rescue archaeological excavations were undertaken in the locality of St. Spas situated in the Varosh Quarter, town of Pernik in 2003 and 2004. A sector of wide necropolis was examined, which had been in use within the periods of the 11th-12th and the 14th-19th c. The 2014 field season excavated fifty-one burial pits with inhumation, dated in 15th-19th c. Bone remains of a total eighty-seven individuals were identified. The aim of present study comprised identifying the age and sex of buried and the pathological changes on postcranial skeletal in the series of the necropolis. The percentage distribution between adults and subadults is almost equal but children in early childhood prevail. Pathological changes were observed in 31.51% of the postcranial skeletons: 65.22% were males, 30.43% were females and 4.35% unsexed individuals (a child). Fractures, arthritis, pathology on the limbs, vertebral pathology, ossified insertionitis and *myositis* were registered.

Key words: paleopathology, palaeoanthropology, necropolis, human postcranial skeletal remains.