

7 Summary

Buck, Henning (2006): Paleodontologic investigations of high-medieval skeletons of the „Wüstung Göritz“ (Brandenburg/Germany, 12./13th century)

We investigated the skeletal remains unearthed of the grave site from „Wüstung Göritz“, a medieval village in Brandenburg/Germany. The 104 individuals were divided into 31 male, 25 female and 48 individuals of undefinable sex, mainly children (n=41).

Out of 354 missing teeth 74.6% were lost post-mortem because of the bad state of preservation. The remaining 25.4% were lost presumably due to carious or parodontal reasons.

The caries frequency was 37.5% of all individuals or 5.84% of all available teeth. Only 14.6% of carious individuals were children. The caries frequency continuously increased from the age category maurus. Accumulations concerned male molars. The average caries degree was 2.9 ± 0.9 . Tendentiously, caries was more pronounced in maxilla, in molars and in men.

Calculus was found in 77.8% of the individuals with permanent dentition, frequently in mandibular molars. The mean calculus severity grade was $1.4 \pm 0,5$ with differences referring to gender, upper/lower jaw, single tooth or age. Sturdy plaque of grade III-IV was only seen in 3% of individuals, but because of post-mortem damage calculus might have been much more frequent in vivo.

Tooth wear was detected in 88.9% of individuals, more often and heavier in mandibular teeth, esp. molars. The extent of abrasion increased with age. The mean abrasion of all individuals was 1.9 ± 0.9 on a five stage scale. Especially molars of men were often affected by heavy tooth wear.

Bony resorption as a sign of untreated chronic periodontopathies was present in 85.7% of all individuals with permanent dentition. The mean bone loss was 4.1 ± 2.2 mm. Here, too, male sex, molars, mandible and a higher age were predisposing factors.

As notable features we found a total absence of fourth molars, two retained and two impacted teeth and three individuals with one cyst each.

The results of our paleodontologic investigations of the grave site „Wüstung Göritz“ are characteristic for an abrasive nutrition. For sociocultural reasons men would have been preferred for food distribution as we see in their higher caries incidence and the higher frequency of heavy tooth wear. The high frequency of attachment loss together with the high calculus incidence reflect the bad or missing oral hygiene of the medieval population. There were no signs of dental interferences.