

Petament (Cat. 7)

IMPACT ID: IMP00100

Institution: Leiden University

Designation: 7

Date of Acquisition: 1828

Contact: Dr. Maarten Raven (r.rave@rmo.ml)

Image Modality: CT

Country: Egypt

Site: Thebes

Time Period: Third Intermediate

Dynasty: 22nd Dynasty

Date: 800-750 BC (Second Half of the 22 dynasty)

Sex: Male

Age: 55-74



Figure 1.0 Lateral view of the skull of Petament, (Raven et al., 2005).

Background:

The mummy entitled Petament, was purchased in 1828 from G. d'Anastasi. Their sex has been classified as Male, and they were stated to have an estimated age interval of 55-74 years of age (Raven et al., 2005). Associated with the mummy were two wooden coffins, that were both painted and inscribed with the message, "for the door-keeper of the Gold-house of Amun Petament" (Raven et al., 2005). The authors suggest that the mummy must have come from Thebes based on the coffin's inscription (Raven et al., 2005).

Pathological features:

To begin, the method of wrapping has been described as irregular, with the wrappings themselves being defined as somewhat wide, and exhibiting a pale colour (Raven et al., 2005). It is clear that resin was used on the bandages, because "large patches of resin have formed under the buttocks and the knees" (Raven et al., 2005; 108). Water damage is observed on the legs,

back, and upper arms (Raven et al., 2005). Finally, in terms of decorative design, there appears to be a dyed dark green net, embedded with beads which had been draped over the anterior surface of the mummy; however, only fragments remain (Raven et al., 2005). Extra linen plugs and a subcutaneous filling were used on the dorsal, and ventral surface of the neck and thoracic aperture (Raven et al., 2005). No artifacts were found within the body or in the linen wrappings (Raven et al., 2005).

The skull is exhibiting a pathological feature that is actually somewhat rare in modern populations, biparietal osteodystrophy. On each parietal bone, “a large defect of the tabula external is present on the convexity” (Raven et al., 2005; 109). In addition, the diploë has been described as “partly visible”, mainly within the frontal and occipital bones (Raven et al., 2005). Consistent with their age classification, the sutures are stated to be “almost completely closed” (Raven et al., 2005). As a result of brain removal, the ethmoid has suffered some fragmentation, and the cranium itself is empty except for some linen bandages. In place of the eyes, is linen which has been generously coated in resin (Raven et al., 2005). The material used to fill the eye socket was also used to fill the mouth. Through physical observation, it is clear that Petament had an overbite, and also had poor dental health with severe attrition in conjunction with tooth loss (Raven et al., 2005). Finally, Raven et al., state that there are many periapical lucencies which appear on both the maxillary as well as mandibular teeth (Raven et al., 2005).

Raven et al. note a severe kyphotic curve which extends from the lower cervical vertebra to the cervicothoracic region of the spine. The authors note that due to the absence of fractures or dislocation these vertebrae are actually in situ, meaning, Petament lived with this spinal curvature during their life (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, the vertebral bodies as a whole, exhibit a lack of bone density; this is demonstrated with thickened trabecular and thinned cortical bone (Raven et al., 2005). A bone island or enostoses was observed in the tenth thoracic vertebrae (Raven et al., 2005). No osteoarthritis was observed within the sacrum; however, osteopenia was noted to be present (Raven et al., 2005). Interestingly, within the vertebral canal, nerve roots remain, specifically within the lumbosacral region. Finally, the pelvis, similar to the vertebral column, shows signs of osteopenia, but no other pathological features, like wear, were observed (Raven et al., 2005).

Transitioning to the thoracic and abdominal region, fractures, as well as osteopenia, are present on both scapulae. Both the thoracic and abdominal cavities are stuffed with dense material and fluid (Raven et al., 2005). The authors state that the existence of organ packages is not likely given that the linen used to pack the mummy is not well circumscribed (Raven et al., 2005). Finally, no organs were found within the mummy and the penis was wrapped using an extra roll of linen between the legs (Raven et al., 2005).

To conclude the description of Petament’s pathological features, we will discuss their extremities. A lack of density (thinning of the cortical bone) demonstrates that osteopenia is present within the long bones (Raven et al., 2005). Furthermore, Harris lines were noted on the right distal tibia, which implies that Petament was subject to physiological stress during a portion of their life (Raven et al., 2005). No misalignment is observed in either the upper or lower limbs (Raven et al., 2005). The authors also describe a narrowing of “the joint-clefts of the hips and knees” (Raven et al., 2005).

Resources

Raven, M. J., Taconis, W. K., & Maat, G. J. 2005. Egyptian mummies: Radiological Atlas of the Collections in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden. Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols