CAT.8. Mummy of a Man

IMPACT ID: IMP00101

Institution: Leiden University

Designation: 8

Date of Acquisition: Unknown

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

Image Modality: CT

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

Country: Egypt

Site: Thebes (?)

Time Period: Third Intermediate

Dynasty: Dynasty 22 (Probably)

Date: 945-712 BC

Sex: Male

Age: 44-55 (adult)

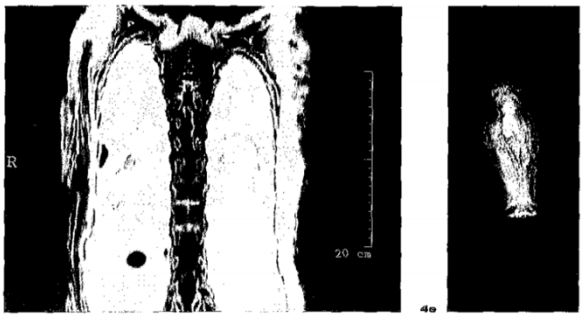

Figure 2.0 CT slices showing the mummiform figure found within the abdomen (Raven et al., 2005)

Background:

Some of the background information about the Mummy of a Man is missing. For instance, the date and how the mummy was acquired are both unknown. That being said, the authors suggest that the mummy originates from Thebes and has been dated to the 22nd dynasty, these details are not known for certain, they are simply what the authors feel is most likely true (Raven et al., 2005). The mummy itself has been wrapped in pale red linen (Raven et al., 2005). There appears to be some water damage on the linen covering the forehead and neck, though all damage appears to be minor (Raven et al., 2005).

Pathological features:

The authors describe that an abundant amount of resin was used predominantly within the layers closest to the skin versus the layers near the outside (Raven et al., 2005). Multiple linen plugs were used in the mummification process, they can be found in the area “between the chin

and the ventral part of the cervical spine", and within the space between the legs, (Raven et al., 112). The authors note that no artifacts were found within the linen or the body, except for metal pins, which were put in place during modern restoration (Raven et al., 2005).

Venous lakes, which have been described as osteolytic lesions, are observed in the parietal and occipital bones (Raven et al., 2005). The diploë is noted to be well observed (Raven et al., 2005). The cranial sutures are classified to be obliterated, which is consistent with the authors' age categorization (Raven et al., 2005). As a result of brain removal, the cribriform plate, the ethmoid, and the upper concha were all heavily impacted (Raven et al., 2005). The left side is slightly more affected, however, the authors state that brain removal most likely occurred through the right side of the nose (Raven et al., 2005). The brain removal appears to have been successful as the cranium is empty besides some remains from the dural lining (Raven et al., 2005). In place of the eyes, is rolled linen, which has been slightly saturated with resin (Raven et al., 2005). The mouth and oropharynx are densely packed with linen, as it is pushing up against the cervical vertebra (Raven et al., 2005). The linen used to fill the oral cavity has been sparsely coated in resin (Raven et al., 2005). In regard to, the permanent teeth, the authors state several pathological features. To begin, there is substantial attrition, resulting in significant tooth loss, the is a large abscess on M3 (present on all four quadrants), and "several periapical lucencies" (Raven et al., 2005).

As a whole the vertebral column is intact, however, osteopenia appears to be present (Raven et al., 2005). The thickening of the trabecular bone and lack of bone density of the vertebral body is what drew the authors to conclude that osteopenia is present (Raven et al., 2005). No other degenerative diseases were observed within the spinal column. The pelvis appears to be intact, with some slight bone density loss (Raven et al., 2005).

Now onto a discussion of the thorax and abdomen, the thoracic cage is intact (Raven et al., 2005). The cavities themselves have been filled with a variety of materials, one of the sections has been described as "moderately dense but homogeneous material displaying air/fluid levels" (Raven et al., 2005; 113). The authors suggest that this material could be solidified resin (Raven et al., 2005). Within the lower thorax and abdominal region, a dense, circumscribed solid package is situated on the left side of the body and takes the form of a mummiform figure (Raven et al., 2005; 113). The incision used for embalmment is located on the left ventral side of the individual (Raven et al., 2005).

In regard to the arms and legs or upper and lower extremities, the only pathological feature apparent is osteopenia, which was concluded based on the fact that the bone density as a whole was diminished (Raven et al., 2005). There does not appear to be any structural or joint deformities. However, it was noted that the knee joints were dense, that being said the authors note that this could have been due to the mummification process (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.