PALEORADIOLOGICAL STUDIES OF CASES OF POTT'S DISEASE

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Two human thoracolumbar spine remains showing angular kyphosis have been investigated within the framework of a new collaboration between the University of Szeged and the Health Center of the University of Kaposvár.

Both skeletons come from medieval Hungary; one of them was recovered from the skeletal material of Szeged Castle and the other one from the cemetery of Nyárlőrinc. Both cases show serious bone deformities; on account of a chronic pathological process, several vertebral bodies have been destroyed and have collapsed resulting in a gibbus.

Due to the specific character of the lesions, a preliminary diagnosis of TB could be rendered probable even after macroscopic observation. Protein analysis is in progress. As for the spine from Nyárlőrinc, the diagnosis of TB was confirmed by molecular biological test too.

X-ray analysis and CT-imaging have been carried out. The radiological picture is consistent with the characteristics of Pott's disease in both samples. A comparative paleoradiological analysis has helped our diagnosis.

The support of the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund, OTKA N^{O} 78555, 61155 and TÁMOP-4.2.2/B-10/1-2010-0012 is greatly acknowledged.