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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Osteological and Biomolecular Evidence of a 7000-Ye Case of Hypertrophic Pulmonary Osteopathy Secon Tuberculosis from Neolithic Hungary

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Abstract

Seventy-one individuals from the late Neolithic population of the 70 Hódmez 🛛 vásárhely-Gorzsa were examined for their skeletal palae revealed numerous cases of infections and non-specific stress ind adults, metabolic diseases in juveniles, and evidence of trauma and in adults. Several cases showed potential signs of tuberculosis, pau the individual HGO-53. This is an important finding that has significa understanding of this community. The aim of the present study was evidence to confirm this diagnosis. HGO-53 was a young male with hypertrophic pulmonary osteopathy (HPO), revealing rib changes a vertebral bodies. The initial macroscopic diagnosis of HPO seconda confirmed by analysis of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex specif biomarkers and corroborated by ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis. This known classical case of HPO on an adult human skeleton and is on palaeopathological and palaeomicrobiological tuberculosis cases

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Introduction

Hypertrophic Osteoarthropathy (HOA), also known as Marie-Bambe periosteal phenomenon characterised by the symmetrical (diffuse of new bone mainly on the shaft of the long bones. The reaction car (new bone with sharply defined edges distinguishable from the und surface form that covers the entire bone with no visible edge. It is e primary pathology and is usually encountered in its secondary forn Hypertrophic Pulmonary Osteopathy (HPO). Today, its most commointrathoracic cancer and chronic intrathoracic infection [1], [2]. How tuberculosis would have been a more likely cause. Only a few case diagnosis have been reported in the archaeological record. In one tuberculosis (TB) was successfully identified as the possible primar [3]. In their study, Webb and Thomas [4] associated HOA/HPO partic untreated pulmonary tuberculosis. In their recent study of a Portugpre-antibiotic era, Assis and colleagues [5] found a strong statistica HOA/HPO and tuberculosis in the skeletal remains.

HPO is a rare find in the archaeological record. The oldest docume include a Merovingian skeleton from the site of Les Rues des Vigne AD500 to 700 [6], and a medieval 40–50 year-old male from Czarna Poland) [7]. In a collection of one thousand individuals from Pre-His] presented with HOA/HPO [8]: a young female from a Maya site from 300 to 900) and a young adult male from the Ticoman site from the BC to AD 100). Most recently in the Middle East, the skeletal remains infant recovered from the underwater Neolithic site of Atlit-Yam, Isra BP, were described as showing evidence of HOA, in addition to *Myc* aDNA and mycolic cell wall biomarkers [9].

Tuberculosis is a disease of infancy, young adults and the elderly. I restrict the diagnosis of tuberculosis in palaeopathological cases to diagnostic criteria for TB, as skeletal changes may have differed in tuberculosis pathology includes vertebral fusion and collapse lead knee joint ankylosis, hip joint destruction, cold abscess on the sacri endocranial TB. Other osseous change probably related to tubercu periostitis, hypervascularization, diffuse symmetrical periostitis (HP changes such as *serpens endocrania symmetrica* (SES) and abnorma impressions [11]. Rib changes may include sharply demarcated lyti periostitis on the ventral side of the ribs, possibly caused by adjace Most rib changes are associated with individuals suffering from pul in the left chest, and although those lesions cannot be considered a non-si pulmonary disease, with tuberculosis as the most likely cause [12],

hyperostoses, such as *cribra orbitalia* and *cribra cranii*, are general deficiency anemia, which can develop from the interaction of sever weaning practices, diet, hygiene, parasites and infectious diseases associated with tuberculosis.

The Atlit-Yam study [9] provides the earliest biomolecular evidence humans. Both DNA and lipid biomarkers analyses confirmed that th and the 12-month old infant were infected with a human lineage of *tuberculosis* complex. The osteological pathological evidence was v female. In the infant, it consisted of endocranial changes (SES) and bones, consistent with tuberculosis. Although the periostitis was de is no evidence of symmetry of lesions. Prior to this study, the oldest tuberculosis came from Neolithic Europe. A 15-year old juvenile and from Liguria, Italy, dating from the Middle Neolithic in the first half of were both diagnosed on the basis of spinal osteolytic lesions [14], | case originated from Zlota, Poland, based on the spine of a Neolithi Tuberculosis has also been confirmed previously by DNA analyses Egyptian skeletons (3500-2650 BC), both with bony changes [17] an Hungary, Pott's disease in an adult male, dating from the Late Neolit (5th millennium BC) was discovered recently at the site of Alsónyéknot yet been confirmed by molecular biomarkers, but the morpholo unequivocally indicate an advanced stage of vertebral tuberculosis possible tuberculosis cases have been discovered recently from th Vészt^I-Mágor, Hungary, associated with archaeological material fr [20]. Palaeomicrobial analysis of the dental pulp region in the teeth confirmed the presence of *M. tuberculosis* aDNA [21].

The present study was based on human skeletal remains from the of Hódmez 🛛 vásárhely-Gorzsa in the South of Hungary. Macroscopi widespread symmetrical periostitis on the long bones and the ribs of indicating a case of HPO. The strong association with tuberculosis, made further biomolecular studies of this 7000 year-old skeleton in the presence of tuberculosis at the Tisza Culture site. As noted abord etection of aDNA and lipid biomarkers can offer confirmation of th tuberculosis in archaeological material, so there was good expecta biomarkers in HGO-53. In addition, the mycocerosic and mycolipeni biomarkers appear to be more stable, and can thus offer conclusiv demonstrated in a very ancient, 17,000 year-old bison metacarpal

Archaeological Background

The Late Neolithic Tell settlement of Hódmez 🛛 vásárhely-Gorzsa is k Hungary, about 15 miles North East of Szeged and 9 miles South W Hódmez 🗠 vásárhely in the Tisza-Maros angle (Fig. 1). It had been on surrounded by streams and marshes, and was occupied through s starting from the Early Tisza culture. Only two percent of the site has date. The site was initially investigated by Gazdapusztai between 1 [25], [26], and excavations were undertaken by Horváth between 1 [29], [30].



Figure 1. Location of the site.

The Late Neolithic Tell settlement of Hódmez Dvásárhely-Gorzsa, South of Hungary, about 15 miles North East of Szeged and 9 mi Hódmez Dvásárhely in the Tisza-Maros angle. Inset shows gene location.

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The settlement phase of the Tisza Culture occurred during the first millennium BC, with an occupation time span of at least 300 years. F of twenty samples from the site date this settlement to 4970 - 4594 4850 - 4550 cal BC [34], [35] with a 68.3% confidence interval. These recalibrated by Masson (unpublished PhD Thesis, 2013, University (calibration curve IntCal04 for Northern Hemisphere [36] in the datin 4.1 [37]. The original uncalibrated dates by Hertelendi & Horváth [35] ranging from 4932 to 4602 BC with 95.4% confidence interval after I occupation span fits with overall ranges for the Tisza culture [34], [5 Late Neolithic [38], 4970–4490 BC and 4970–4380 BC respectively. I recalibrations, Yerkes and colleagues [39] utilised 107 Late Neolithi a range of dates from 5021 to 4402 BC for the whole period.

The human skeletal remains recovered from Hódmez Dvásárhely-G the collection of the Biological Anthropology Department of the Univ loan from the Móra Ferenc Múzeum in Szeged. No permits were rec described study, which complied with all relevant regulations. Acce granted by both Móra Ferenc Múzeum and the Biological Anthropol University of Szeged. Seventy-one individuals were recovered in to Neolithic) Culture, including 56 who had been buried in graves with the partial remains of a further possible fifteen recovered from pits, as stray finds. Juveniles accounted for a third of the remains. Of the sex could be determined, two-thirds were female. Pathological anal indicate that this population had been mostly non-violent, leading a life, prone to infections and with a high rate of dental disease [40].

Unfortunately, there are no published maps of the site, and there is currently available on the location of the graves and other remains settlement and to each other. However, recent radiocarbon analysis C-14 Lab in Debrecen, Hungary (AMS Lab code DeA-2485.1.1), on bo HGO-53 confirmed that this individual dated back to the start of the with a calibrated age range of 4780–4715 BC with 1 sigma, based o age of 5872±32 BP and the intcal09.14c calibration data set [41].

Materials and Methods

Morphological Analysis

The remains of HGO-53, the skeleton from grave 64, were very frag thousand fragments, though his skeleton was mostly complete. The carried out macroscopically at the Biological Anthropology Departn University. The palaeopathological analysis based on macromorph [42], [43] was undertaken at the same laboratory.

Sex was estimated based on several morphological methods. Both indicated that this individual was a male. Bone dimensions also refl individual. Skeletal and dental development aged this individual to old. Stature was estimated based on long bone lengths to 165 cm ± S1 for full details of the methodologies used in estimating age, sex.

M. Tuberculosis aDNA Analysis

The recommended protocols for aDNA were followed. Approximatel powder was taken from each sample of a rib, tibia and vertebra. The as described previously [9], [44]. PCR was used to amplify any DNA of the multicopy IS *6110* and IS *1081* regions of the *M. tuberculosis* cor was examined initially by agarose gel electrophoresis [45]. Subseq were used on a Real-Time platform, to enable the detection of DNA melt analysis. Sequencing was attempted after extraction of DNA from Document S2 for full details of the methodologies used in the aDNA

Lipid Biomarker Analysis

Lipid biomarkers from a rib sample of HGO-53 (556 mg) were extrac fractionated, as described previously [9], [23]. See Document S3 for methodologies used in the lipid biomarker analysis.

Results

Macroscopic Analysis

Pathology was observed on the skull, thorax, shoulder, upper limbs and feet of HGO-53 (Fig. 2). Light *cribra orbitalia* and *cribra cranii* wer and a small area of periostitis was visible on the mandible. Cavitatic fragments of vertebral bodies. Active diffuse periostitis with severe ventral surface of the heads of left ribs was observed, although nor right ribs. Unsided fragments of ribs also showed active diffuse per lesion accompanied by reactive surface new bone formation in one bones presented evidence of widespread active periostitis with wo mostly along their shafts and strikingly symmetrical both on the upp the lower limbs (Fig. 5). Signs of periostitis were also visible on the for sides. See Document S1 for a detailed description of HGO-53 skelet figure 6 for the radiographs of a rib fragment and a fragment of fibu clearly showing the new bone formation along both shafts.



Figure 2. HGO-53 - Location of periostitis.

The strikingly symmetrical diffuse periostitis on the bones of this revealed by the morphological analyses is a characteristic sign Hypertrophic Osteoarthropathy (HOA).

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Figure 3. HGO-53– Ribs.

Active diffuse periostitis with extensive bone formation visible o https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.g003



Figure 4. HGO-53– Upper Limbs.

Active diffuse periostitis on distal end of the ulna. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.g004





Figure 6. HGO-53– Radiographs.

"Appliqué" periostitis on a fragment of rib (A) and a fragment of f https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.g006

The strikingly symmetrical diffuse "appliqué" periostitis on the bone male revealed by the morphological analyses is a characteristic sig Pulmonary Osteopathy (HPO). This strongly indicates that this indivi a chronic pulmonary disease. In addition, the analysis revealed dis ribs of the left chest, cavitations in the vertebral bodies and signs o Considering all of this evidence, together with the association of HP (especially in its severe untreated form), and the age of this young individual had pulmonary tuberculosis. Based solely on the patholo can be stated with certainty is that HGO-53 is one of the earliest cas pulmonary disease in the archaeological record. Due to the antiqui and the importance this case has for palaeopathology, it was decid biomolecular analyses.

aDNA Analysis

DNA was recovered from HGO-53 but was very unstable, due to the

skeletal remains. The sample of vertebra from HGO-53 was positive specific for *M. tuberculosis* IS *1081*, with an amplicon of 113 bp (Docu appropriate size were excised from gels and a DNA purification pro However, sequencing was unsuccessful. The DNA extractions were examined on the Real-time platform. Again the vertebral sample wa shown by melt analysis (Document S4). However, no positive result primers for IS *6110*. The tibia and rib samples were negative.

Lipid Biomarkers Analysis

Reverse phase HPLC of the pyrenebutyrate- pentafluorobenzyl (PB fractions indicated the presence of long-chain mycolic acids in the HGO-53 (Fig. 7). The rather weak profile correlated with the standar *tuberculosis*. However, normal phase HPLC of the total mycolate frac peak for \blacksquare -mycolates, indicating that any methoxy- or ketomycolate (data not shown). In contrast, the NI-CI GC-MS profiles (Fig. 8) of myc mycolipenic acids provided confirmation of tuberculosis. The mycorrecognisable by their appearance as double peaks following racer mycolipenates (Fig. 8, m/z 407) are clear single peaks as they are u [46].



Figure 7. HGO-53– Profile of total mycolic acids.

Reverse phase fluorescence HPLC of pyrenebutyric acid derivation pentafluorobenzyl esters of total mycolic acids from HGO-53 and *tuberculosis*.

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Selected ion monitoring NI-CI GC-MS of mycolipenic and mycoce

pentafluorobenzyl fractions from HGO-53 and standard *M. tuber* 407 ion is for C₂₇ mycolipenate; ions at m/z 395, 409, 437, 451 ar mycocerosates. The intensities of the mycocerosate and mycoli brackets, are normalized to that (100) of the major C₃₂ mycocero 53 profiles, the peaks with retention times 19.63, 21.46, 26.32, ar correspond to 26, 27, 29 and 32 carbon straight-chain acids, res https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.g008

Discussion

The DNA analysis was undertaken in the former Department of Mec University College London, which has considerable experience of w study tuberculosis in the past [44], [47], [48], [49], [50]. It is well-know stable molecule and degrades with age [49], although the success⁻ Atlit-Yam remains [9] demonstrates the importance of local environin the site. Clearly, the Hódmez Dvásárhely-Gorzsa site was not espec aDNA preservation, so no confirmatory analysis was possible. The *M. tuberculosis* complex aDNA in the IS *1081* region, but not that of ISC chance but may also be influenced by copy number. There are six of every member of the *M. tuberculosis* complex. However, the copy nubetween strains and today may even be absent, although not in Eu range is from 1 to 24 copies per cell in human *M. tuberculosis* but *M*. copy number (1–5). It is possible that the infection was caused by *N* the DNA preservation was too poor to enable this to be determined literature human tuberculosis caused by *M. bovis* is extremely rare

As an alternative to aDNA biomarkers for ancient tuberculosis, Gerr [52], [53] introduced the complementary use of mycolic acids. These biomarkers do not suffer as much from contamination problems, as used involve no amplification. This now established technique has several times to ensure maximum potential [9], [23]. Redman and cc demonstrated that mycocerosic and mycolipenic acid biomarkers a indicators of tuberculosis in ancient remains. All these classes of lip totally distinct from anything found in mammalian tissue and they p for members of the *M. tuberculosis* complex.

Reverse phase HPLC of the total mycolic acid fraction (Fig. 7) provide in the same region as that for the *M. tuberculosis* standard. Although the HGO-53 extract correlated with those in the standard, it is appaid egradation had taken place. The total mycolate profile (Fig. 7) is ar composite of the three characteristic —, methoxy- and ketomycolic characteristic of *M. tuberculosis*, which can be separated by normal However, the small amount of material recovered from the reverse total mycolates from HGO-53 only provided a small signal for — -myc phase HPLC (data not shown). This preferential diagenetic decay of methoxy and ketomycolates is in accordance with previous finding 17,000 year old bison specimen [23]. The mycolate analysis indicate presence, but it is not conclusive for members of the M. tuberculosis

A much more definitive diagnosis of tuberculosis infection was prov MS investigation of mycocerosic and mycolipenic acid profiles (Fig. good correlation of the extract from HGO-53 and standard material. C_{32} mycocerosate and the C_{27} mycolipenate are very characteristic [22], [23], [46], [54]. The mycocerosic acids are components of exce stable phthiocerol dimycocerosate waxes [54], which might be exp diagenesis better than more highly functionalised mycolic acids. Sil extent, the C_{27} mycolipenate is a constituent of relatively apolar pel glycolipids [54], which again are relatively hydrophobic.

The lipid biomarker profiles of extracts of the 7000 year old HGO-55 those recorded for a 17,000 year old extinct bison metacarpal from Wyoming. Both examples had weak traces of mycolic acids, showin It is apparent that the mycocerosate and mycolipenate biomarker for more resistant to diagenesis than the mycolic acids. However, the mycocerosate/mycolipenate profiles for HGO-53 (Fig. 8) are relative for Natural Trap Bison [23]. For HGO-53, relatively high proportions c chain C₂₆, C₂₇, C₂₉, and C₃₀ fatty acids (Fig. 8) are indicative of the v extract. It should also be noted that the 556 mg HGO-53 sample is n (13 mg) used for the ancient bison. Indications are, therefore, that the mycolipenic acids are particularly robust biomarkers, with potential tuberculosis of great antiquity.

Conclusions

This study presents a new case of HPO to enrich the sparse archae disease, particularly in prehistoric times. This case is the earliest oc developed HPO on an adult human skeleton to date, confirming the pathology already in Neolithic Europe. With the successful combina scientific methods, including morphological observations and palae analyses, we were also able to conclusively verify the presence of *tuberculosis* complex in Neolithic Europe, as early as 7000 years age

Supporting Information

Document S1.

Detailed results of HGO-53 macroscopic analysis. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.s001 (PDF)

Document S2.

Detailed information on the aDNA methodologies. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.s002 (PDF)

Document S3.

Detailed information on the lipid biomarker analysis. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.s003 (PDF)

Document S4.

Results of aDNA analysis - gels and melt. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0078252.s004 (PDF)

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Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: HDD GSB DEM. Performe HDD OY-CL HHTW IDB. Analyzed the data: MM EM GP HDD GSB IDB C the paper: MM HDD DEM OY-CL HHTW. Performed the osteological a study: MM. Provided macromorphological diagnosis: MM EM GP.

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