

## **Osteochondroma in a Skeleton from an 11th Century Croatian Cemetery**

Mario Šlaus, Dubravko Orlić<sup>1</sup>, Marko Peèina<sup>1</sup>

We present a case of a well-preserved bone tumor in a skeleton from a Croatian skeletal series dated to the 11th century AD. The tumor is located on the anterior side of the neck of the right femur. The gross morphology of the tumor – a round, lumpy, cauliflower-like appearance with a fairly smooth external surface – is consistent with osteochondroma. The diagnosis is supported by x-ray and CAT-scan findings, which show thickened trabeculae and an internal structure of cancellous bone interspersed with areas of dense compact bone. Comparison with x-rays from a patient surgically treated in 1999 for an osteochondroma with the same localization shows that the characteristics of the tumor have remained unchanged from the 11th century.

**Key words:** *chondrosteoma; Croatia; history of medicine, medieval; osteochondroma; paleopathology*

Mario Šlaus  
Department of Archeology  
Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
A. Kovaèiæa 5  
10 000 Zagreb, Croatia  
[mšlaus@hazu.hr](mailto:mšlaus@hazu.hr)