

III MEETING NAZIONALE

Gruppo Italiano di Paleopatologia



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Supracondylar process of the humerus in children. Cases from the 15th-18th century in Settimo Vittone (Piedmont)

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Six single burials and several dislocated bones dated to the period between the 15th and the 18th century were discovered under the floor of the Baptistery of San Giovanni Battista (Settimo Vittone, Turin) during an archaeological excavation undertaken by the Soprintendenza Archeologica, Belle Arti e Paesaggio per la Città Metropolitana di Torino in 2014. The minimum number of individuals recovered is 81 (55 non adults, 26 adults).

In the present study we describe and discuss 5 cases of

supracondylar process in infant and perinatal humeri. The supracondylar processes, either prominent (5 mm long) or extremely rudimentary (1 mm long) appear as a hook-like bony spine of variable size that project distally from the anteromedial surface of the humerus. The outgrowth of bone is oriented towards the distal end above the medial epicondyle. Only in one case the process occurs bilaterally.

In the scientific literature this lesion, also called supra-epitrochlear process, epicondylar process, epicondylic process or supratrochlear spur, is considered a normal anatomical variation.

The high occurrence of the process is striking and it may suggest a family relationship among the individuals buried.

References

- Lordan J, Rauh P, Spinner RJ. *The Clinical Anatomy of the Supracondylar Spur and the Ligament of Struthers*. *Clinical Anatomy* 2005;18:548-51.
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- Shivaleela C, Suresh BS, Kumar GV, et al. *Morphological study of the supracondylar process of the humerus and its clinical implications*. *J Clin Diagn Res* 2014;8:1-3.