

The Early Middle Age Burials of Andrazza-Forni Di Sopra (Udine): Palaeobiological and Palaeopathological Preliminary Data

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Few sources dating back to the last decade of XIXth century and referring to the excavation campaigns performed by Alexander Wolf, pointed to the village of Andrazza-Forni di Sopra (UD) as a source of archaeological artifacts coming from a Lombard necropolis.

Recent excavation campaigns started in 2008 by the same research group involved in the archaeological project "Alta Valle del Tagliamento", brought to light 21 burials and are still in progress. The graves are, apart from Tomb 1 (a multiple burial of large dimensions, delimited by cobblestones and mortar), simply dug in the ground, lying side by side, with different orientations and sometimes lined by river pebbles (Fig. 1, 2 and 3). Almost all the female burials contained also grave goods and ornaments (*fibulae*, armlets, ear-rings, necklace beads made of glass paste, bone combs, iron knives), dating back to VI-VIIIth century AD.

The human sample is formed by a MNI of 33 subjects coming from Tomb 1 plus 20 individuals in anatomical connexion recovered from the single burials of the cemetery: 18 adults (5 males, 8 females and 5 of undetermined sex) and 2 juveniles (Tab. 1).

TOMB	SEX	AGE
1	MNI: 28 adults; 5 juveniles	
2	F	mature
3	M	25-35
4	F	25-30
5	M	35-45
6	F	25-35
7	F	adult
8	F	16-18
9	?	adult
10	M	35-45
11	M	adult
12	F	adult
13	?	adult

TOMB	SEX	AGE
14	JUVENIS	ca. 7
15	F	18-20
16	F	20-25
17	?	adult
18	?	adult
19	?	adult
20	M	mature
21	JUVENIS	Ca. 6-7

Tab. 1. Tomb, sex and age at death of the subjects recovered in Andrazza cemetery.

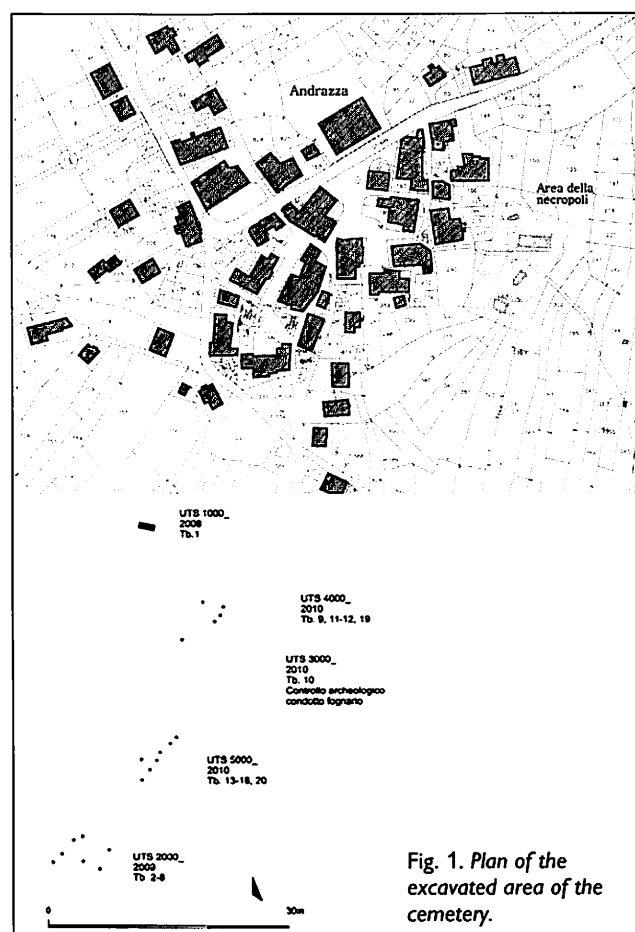


Fig. 1. Plan of the excavated area of the cemetery.



Fig. 2. Tomb 15 and her rich ornaments.



Fig. 3. Tomb 4 and ear-rings still in place.

The bad state of preservation of the remains allowed only few measurements and indices to be compared with samples of the same period. We however calculated the stature for three subjects: 158,5 and 162,0 cm (two females) and 170,9 (a male) and recorded the presence of dental and skeletal pathologies, stress indicators (high occurrence of *cribra orbitalia*) and markers of occupational stress.

Regarding evidence of interpersonal violence and subsequent medical care, we found a rare occurrence of a surgical intervention or attempt of trephination following a cranial trauma, on a fragment of a cranial vault found in Tomb 1 (Fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Specimen from Tomb 1 showing trauma on the cranial vault and traces of surgical procedure.