Bioarchaeology and Human Health

Archaeology · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which condition is characterized by the presence of porous, spongy bone lesions on the superior surface of the eye orbits, often used in bioarchaeology to indicate chronic nutritional stress or anemia?

A) Cribra orbitalia
B) Porotic hyperostosis
C) Scurvy
D) Rickets

2. What specific skeletal indicator, appearing as transverse lines of increased bone density seen on X-rays of long bones, represents periods of arrested growth during childhood?

A) Harris lines
B) Schmorl's nodes
C) Enamel hypoplasia
D) Osteophytic lipping

3. The paleopathological condition known as 'treponematosis' can be identified in skeletal remains by observing which specific morphological change?

A) Caries sicca
B) Symmetrical pitting of the cranium
C) Enamel fusion
D) Vertebral ankylosis

4. Which form of metabolic bone disease is identified in skeletal remains by the presence of porous, disorganized bone growth on the skull, typically associated with severe iron deficiency during childhood?

A) Porotic hyperostosis
B) Osteoporosis
C) Paget's disease
D) Osteomalacia

5. What is the primary indicator of physiological stress in dental development caused by a temporary cessation of ameloblast activity during tooth formation?

A) Linear enamel hypoplasia
B) Dental calculus accumulation
C) Periodontal abscess
D) Tooth crowding

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6. In bioarchaeology, which skeletal marker is specifically linked to the repetitive, high-stress mechanical loading of the spine often associated with heavy load-bearing?

A) Schmorl's nodes
B) Osteoarthritis of the knees
C) Entheseal changes
D) Spondylolysis

7. What is the diagnostic significance of 'button osteoma' found on the cranium of ancient skeletal remains?

A) Benign tumor
B) Sign of syphilis
C) Nutritional deficiency
D) Indicator of cranial deformation

8. Which bone lesion pattern is most definitively associated with the chronic presence of Mycobacterium tuberculosis in skeletal remains?

A) Pott's disease
B) Harris lines
C) Brevity of the femur
D) Eburnation

9. The presence of 'eburnation' on a joint surface is a pathognomonic sign for which skeletal condition?

A) Advanced osteoarthritis
B) Rheumatoid arthritis
C) Gout
D) Septic arthritis

10. Which specific bone in the human body is most frequently used to estimate sex in skeletal analysis due to the dimorphism of the greater sciatic notch?

A) Pelvis
B) Femur
C) Skull
D) Mandible

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