

## Enthesial lesions and spondylarthropathies: clinical and paleopathological insights

Carina MARQUES

Centro de Investigação em Antropologia e Saúde,  
Department of Anthropology, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal

anac@ci.uc.pt

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The concept of spondylarthropathies encompasses a group of distinct clinical entities that share a set of common features, such as: inflammation on the axial segment, peripheral arthritis, enthesitis, mucocutaneous inflammatory lesions and genetic predisposition, and a close link to the HLA-B27. Within the musculoskeletal system, the inflammatory processes can induce severe changes on the enthesis and synovial and cartilaginous joints. Therefore, these rheumatologic conditions can be easily recognized as a significant etiological factor on enthesophyte formation. This implicates that skeletal biologist must take into account the influence of rheumatic conditions when inferring human activity patterns from the analysis of enthesial new bone formation. A research performed on 573 adult individuals (314 females and 259 males), from the Identified Skeletal Collection from the Museu Bocage (Museu Nacional de História Natural, Lisboa), dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and that aimed the study of the skeletal manifestation of spondylarthropathies will be the starting point to frame the discussion concerning the expression of enthesitis in spondylarthropathies. This will be complemented by a review of clinical research concerning this issue, as well as, an approach to the limits and constrains of the paleopathological interpretation of these conditions.

**Key-Words:** Rheumatology, paleopathology, 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, Portugal, enthesophyte