

## **Paleopathological Patterns of Degenerative Arthropathy: Prevalence of Limb-Joint Osteoarthritis in Joseon People Skeletons**

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**ABSTRACT** This study was performed to assess degenerative osteoarthritis (OA) in human skeletons from 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century Joseon tombs of South Korea. The researchers performed anthropological examinations of OA in selected limb joints of Joseon skeletons and considered possible reasons for the revealed aspects of OA by focusing on lifestyle or occupational activity during that time. A total of 140 skeletons unearthed from Joseon tombs were evaluated and any pathological lesions in the articular surfaces of limb joints were carefully examined by gross inspection. Most of joints correlated linear degenerative changes over time, however, OA prevalence of knee joints was much higher in middle-aged group. The prevalence of OA at limb joints revealed in this study provides insights into the mobility patterns of pre-modern Korean people. Knowledge of OA in pre-modern samples will enrich our understanding of the developmental interactions that provide the basis of the disciplines of epidemiology and demography.