

## ABSTRACT

*Cribra orbitalia* represents one of the most frequent bone pathologies in skeletal remains of past populations. This lesion is characterised by porous, furrowed even trabecular disruption on the outer table of the compact bone on the orbital roof. Although the origin of *cribra orbitalia* is linked to marrow hyperplasia as a consequence of iron deficiency anemia, even other causes are not ruled out. Both occurrences *cribra orbitalia* alone and coincidence with other signs of diseases have been recorded. Research of this study applies to *cribra orbitalia* as a long-term stress indicator on the skeleton and a symptom of specific diseases or anemic syndroms. Skeletal remains from Czech medieval sites with presence of *cribra orbitalia* as well as whole graveyard from Oškobrh were analysed. Macroscopical investigation did not demonstrate periodic coincidence of *cribra orbitalia* and specific bone signs of the diseases. However, the following bone changes have been observed: *hyperostosis porotica*, increased vascularization, supranasal porosity, inflammatory-hemorrhagic reaction on the endocranium which can in terms of differential diagnosis help to clarify the nature and/or cause of the origin of *cribra orbitalia*. Comparison of the population from Oškobrh with other medieval graveyards showed that frequency of occurrence of *cribra orbitalia* belongs among the higher ones, in both non-adults and adults. Gained results can serve as a comparison with other studies and it can account for etiology of *cribra orbitalia*.

**KEY WORDS:** *cribra orbitalia*; iron deficiency anemia; bone pathologies; differential diagnosis; Middle Ages