

## PALEOPATOLOGIA

### CRANIAL INJURIES FROM 6TH CENTURY IN ALBA (CUNEO)

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**Introduction.** Archaeological excavations carried out between 2007 and 2011 in the Cathedral of San Lorenzo (Alba, CN) have unearthed about 350 burials.

**Materials and Method.** Based on stratigraphic evidences and archaeological data it was possible to make a good chronological contextualization of anthropological material from 6th to 18th centuries, according to the different phases of use of the cemetery.

**Discussion.** The beginning of the cemetery use is documented by 16 tombs dated to the 6th century. Among these burials, one of the oldest (T 276) contains two male skeletons, placed in front of the entrance of the church. The typology of the tomb and its position, in a privileged place, suggest the hypothesis that it was destined to important persons in the society of that time. The younger individual (around 30-35 years old) shows signs of three dramatic unhealed perimortem cranial injuries to the left parietal and occipital bones explained as interpersonal violence in hand-to-hand combat. Sword has penetrated the bone in all its thickness with three different trajectories.

**Conclusions.** Side, direction and position of the wounds suggest that the person was struck while lying face down on the ground.