

Paleoradiology and N.D.T. by X-rays - Visual abstracts about Radiology and the past: secrets unveiled /
Paleorradiologia e A.N.D. por Raios-X — Abstractos Visuais sobre Radiologia e o Passado

“Ancient Egyptian Mummy with “A Good Companion at Table”: Trichinellosis”

“Múmia Egípcia Antiga com “Um Bom Companheiro à Mesa”: Triquinelose”

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Adapted from: Lisbon Mummy Project in Google Arts & Culture

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VISUAL ABSTRACTS about RADIOLOGY and the PAST: secrets unveiled

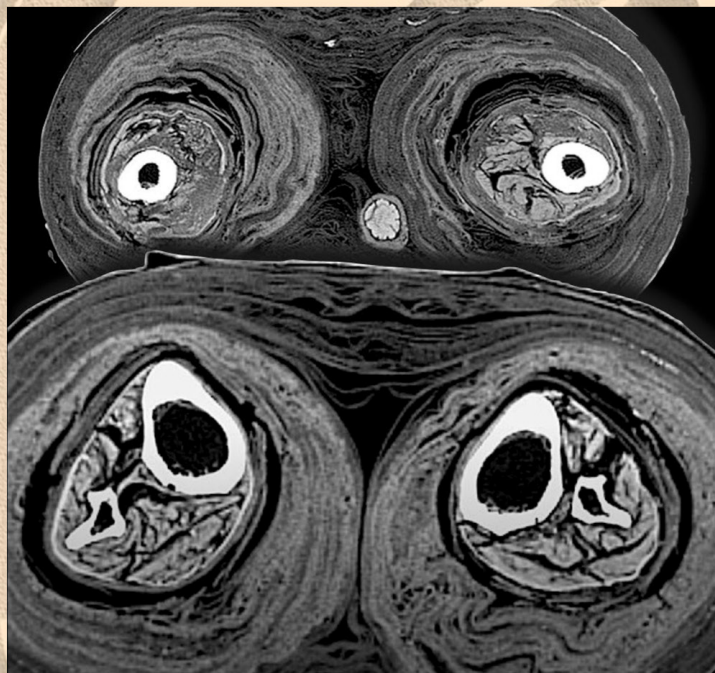
SPRMN — Section of Paleoradiology e N.D.T. by X-Rays (case nº3)

Ancient Egyptian mummy with “a good companion at table”: Trichinellosis

The mummy is **Sukhetsahor**. It is housed in the Lisbon National Archaeology Museum and is from the Early Ptolemaic Period (250-200 BC), which makes it approximately 2,200 years old. Sukhetsahor was a man and lived longer than usual, until 51/60 years.



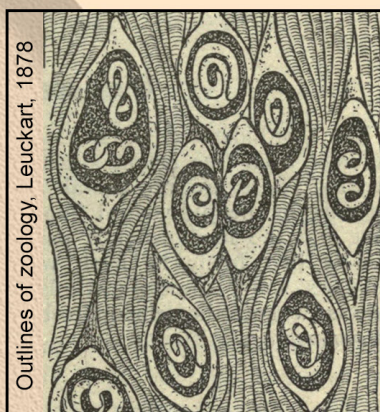
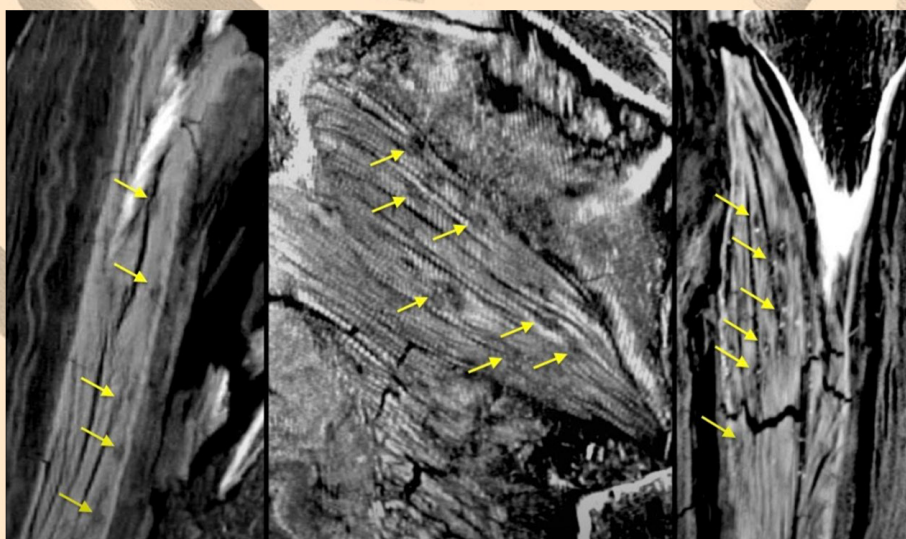
“a good companion at table” is... a **Parasite**.
(etymological greek origin meaning).
An invader in search of food for survival.



The rarity of this mummy muscle preservation, depicted at CT scans (< left: legs and thighs), allowed a unique evaluation of its fibers, leading to the discovery of an exceptional pattern.

As shown by CT multiplanar oblique views, his arms, gluteal and legs muscles have several small oval hypodense or calcified spots (> right: yellow arrows).

This pattern strongly suggests the parasitic disease known as Trichinellosis (drawing below) caused by eating undercooked, contaminated pork.



Accordingly, we can infer that Sukhetsahor ingested pork meat and suffered from this condition. It would be the oldest noninvasive identification of the muscular form of this parasitosis and the first radiologically discovered in an Egyptian mummy.

(extract from “Lisbon Mummy Project” in Google Arts & Culture)