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The Human Remains from the Chalcolithic Cemetery at Palmaḥim (North)

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Most of the burial containers in the Chalcolithic cemetery at Palmaḥim (North) were found empty (see Gorzalczany, this volume). Only in a few of the burial jars, *kurkar* ossuaries and ‘chain’-type burial cells were fragmentary human skeletal remains recovered. The bones were in a very poor state of preservation that did not allow a comprehensive anthropological study, and the burial posture and sex of the deceased could not be ascertained. However, estimation of age at death of most of the individuals was possible by means of tooth-attrition stages (Hillson 1993:176–201). All the remains were examined on-site and then reburied. The results of the detailed anthropological report (see Palmaḥim Anthropological Report A-4350/2005; IAA Archives) are summarized here in Table 1.

The bones from the Palmaḥim (North) cemetery represent at least 14 individuals. The range of age at death is wide; however, no children are represented in this sample, as is characteristic of Chalcolithic cemetery populations (Nagar and Eshed 2001).

Table 1. Results of the Anthropological Analysis

Burial Structure	No. of Individuals	Age Estimation (in years)	Remarks
101	1	15–20	Cist 270 (B2129)
223	2	15–20; 30–40	Jar burial (B2105)
223	1	15–30	Jar burial (B2106)
223	1	15–30	Jar burial (B2107)
223	1	?	Ossuary (B2041)
223	1	40–60	Cist 390
233	1	? (not an infant)	Cist 273
224	1	>30	Main chamber (L224)
224	1	? (not an infant)	Cell 257 in Chain Burial 397
224	1	? (not an infant)	Cell 259 in Chain Burial 397
236	?	?	Cell 250 in Chain Burial 600; non-diagnostic bone fragments
246	1	18–25	Unclear structure
255	1	? (not an infant)	Cist between two structures
275	1	15–25	Cell in Chain Burial 278

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