**ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN ANCIENT MUMMIES**

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Atherosclerosis is an ancient disease. Autopsy studies of mummies from different geographical locations have demonstrated the presence of calcified lesions in almost all arterial beds. These lesions were notably found in the famed mummies of Egyptian Pharaohs and also in mummies discovered in Latin America, Alaska, and Europe. Early studies performed about a century ago used invasive dissection and autopsy methods to study mummy arteries. More recent studies have utilized non-invasive and non-destructive state-of-art CT scans to detect calcification as a sign of advanced atherosclerotic lesions. However, arterial calcification is usually a manifestation of more advanced stages of atherosclerosis and might not be present in early stages of atherosclerosis. More novel techniques such as near-infrared spectroscopy can further identify the presence of cholesterol-rich plaques in earlier stages of atherosclerosis in ancient mummy samples. Cardiovascular risk factor in ancient world included lack of physical activity in elite and rich groups, exposure to smoke from fires, and chronic infections with subsequent inflammatory responses. It appears that both genetic and environmental factors could contribute to cardiovascular disease in antiquity as well as in modern ages.