

# ABSTRACT

Breast feeding is very important part of mother's and child's life. Quantitatively and qualitatively optimized breast milk gives a real chance to survive and for proper development of child in its crucial moments of life. The main aim of this study is to reconstruct weaning process in population of Sanok (Podkarpackie voivodeship) from XV to XVIII century (388 individuals). In this dissertation child breastfeeding and weaning process are analyzed by using indirect method based on paleodemography, human growth patterns, frequency of linear enamel hypoplasia (LEH) and direct method like stable isotope analysis of human skeleton.

Paleodemographic research were conducted as first, which revealed that the research sample is relatively complete and the population was characterized by a good biological condition. Conclusions about good living conditions were confirmed by the analysis of long bone growth carried out on 208 bones of children and juveniles. Both, macroscopic analysis of LEH (Goodman and Rose method and Reid and Dean method) as well as microscopic examination (scanning electron microscope) indicated that within the analyzed group, weaning occurred between 1.6 and 2.5 years of age. In the case of paleodemographic studies, weaning was determined for the age of 2 - 3 years, in the method of long bone growth curves, this time was to be from 2 to 4 years old.

The analysis of stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes showed that the beginning of weaning occurred approximately 1 year and weaning was completed between 2 and 2.5 years of age. In the present research it has been shown that if the studied population is characterized by a good biological condition, determining the time of weaning process can be successfully based on use of indirect methods.

*Key words:* Sanok, weaning, enamel hypoplasia, isotopes, paleodemography.

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