Faccia, K.J. and R.C. Williams

2007 Schmorl's Nodes: Clinical Significance and Implications for Bioarchaeological Record. International Journal of Osteoarchaeology 18(2008):28-44.

Faccia and William's research looks at the potential for the presence of Schmorl's node in the vertebra as a cause of back pain. They argued this research was important in understanding how the presence of Schmorl's notes in the archaeological record may increase one's understanding of the impact of back pain on archaeological population's lives and productivity. They hypothesized that Schmorl's nodes are capable of causing pain and the degree of pain is related to the physical characteristics, location, and amount of nodes.

Their sample size included 33 modern patients with chronic back pain and with known evidence of Schmorl's nodes. Their data included questionnaires on demographics/socioeconomic information as well as pain related questions. They also collected data from these patient's medical charts, MRI's and diagnostic image reports. They used descriptive analysis to look at socio-demographic information regarding quality of life, number and position of nodes, and pain. They also used statistical analysis with logistic regression models in order to assess location, depth, area, and number of Schmorl's nodes in relation to pain.

The only portion of the hypothesis that was supported with statistically significant findings including that the pain is correlated with Schmorl's nodes located in the central back and that the presence of osteophytes with Schmorl's nodes could potential increase pain level. While this study did find two statistically significant correlations, their research would be more compelling if they compared this research with back pain without nodes samples, and no back pain sample populations.