

Oldest Evidence Of Breast Cancer Seen In Ancient Egyptian Skeleton

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The Huffington Post | By Macrina Cooper-White Email

Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities

Archaeologists say they may have found the [world's oldest case of breast cancer](#) in a skeleton unearthed recently in Egypt -- a reminder that [cancer is not just a modern disease](#).

The skeleton, believed to be that of an adult woman, was unearthed by Spanish researchers working at the [Qubbet el-Hawa](#) archaeological site west of Aswan, Egypt.



The bones date back 4,200 years and bear signs of "the [typical destructive damages](#) provoked by the extension of a breast cancer as a metastasis in the bones," according to a written statement issued by Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities.

(Story continues below image.)



Archaeologists discover 4,200-year-old skeleton, which shows signs of breast cancer.

Who was this unfortunate woman? Evidence suggests she was an aristocrat who lived on the Nile River island of Elephantine during [Egypt's 6th Dynasty](#).

This isn't the first time researchers have found evidence of cancer in ancient times. Last March, archaeologists discovered a [3,000-year-old skeleton with metastatic cancer in a tomb in modern Sudan](#). And last October, a new MRI analysis of a [Siberian mummy showed the "ice princess" likely suffered from breast cancer](#) 2,500 years ago--and used medical marijuana to cope with the disease.