

The Cro-Magnon Babies: Morphology and Mortuary Implications of the Cro-Magnon Immature Remains

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1	The Cro-Magnon Babies: Morphology and Mortuary Implications of the Cro-Magnon
2	Immature Remains
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4	
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14	
15	Abstract
16	Although the adult skeletons discovered in 1868 at the Cro-Magnon site (Dordogne,
17	France) have been studied several times, the immature remains known as Cro-Magnon 5 and
18	exhumed at the same time were only analyzed in detail once, some thirty years ago. Since
19	then, doubts have persisted concerning, in particular, the minimum number of immature
20	individuals present in the assemblage. A re-analysis of these immature remains (cranial
21	fragments and long bone diaphyses) documents the presence of three neonates and one older
22	infant in the sample. They are morphologically and metrically similar to recent and Late
23	Pleistocene modern human infants, although the metaphyses of one femur are modestly
24	unusual. They also document an unusual mortuary age profile at Cro-Magnon, with four
25	infants, three older adults, and an additional adult, which raises questions about the manner of
26	selection of individuals deposited in the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter.
27	
28	Keywords: Gravettian; pair-matching; hunter-gatherers; funerary practices; Upper
29	Paleolithic; demographic profile; baby burials
30	
31	Abbreviations ¹

¹ 1: WA: weeks of amenorrhea

32

1. Introduction

33 Since its discovery in March 1868, the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter (Les Eyzies-de-34 Tayac-Sireuil, southwestern France), located on the banks of the Vézère river, acquired 35 considerable celebrity with the discovery of human remains in association with extinct fauna 36 and prehistoric artifacts (Lartet, 1868). These remains were long considered to date from the 37 Aurignacian period (e.g. Broca, 1868; Lartet, 1868; Movius, 1969; Gambier, 1986). New 38 considerations based on the dating of a pierced Littorina shell (Henry-Gambier, 2002), as well 39 as the re-examination of the ornaments and the Gravettian sequence of the site of Abri Pataud, 40 located 300 m downstream, indicate that the remains date to the early phase of the Gravettian, 41 33-31,000 Cal. BP (Henry-Gambier et al., 2013a). This sample represents one of the largest 42 and best-preserved assemblages of human remains of early modern humans in Europe, and 43 thus an invaluable record of past human biology and funerary behavior.

In the original reports, the skeletal remains were identified as those of four adults and
one neonate (Broca, 1868; Lartet, 1868). The ages and sexes of three of the adults have
recently been re-evaluated: two males and one female, all of them being old or very old
(Gambier et al., 2006; Thibeault and Villotte, 2018). A fragment of cranial vault (Broca,
1868, Vallois and Billy 1965) and a few infra-cranial elements represent a fourth adult
(Villotte et al., in prep).

With respect to the immature remains (cranial fragments and long bone diaphyses of very young individuals), they were long considered to belong to a single neonate (Broca, 1868; Lartet, 1868; Vallois and Billy, 1965), known as Cro-Magnon 5 (CM5). In contrast, Gambier (1986) identified three or perhaps four immature individuals, two or three of whom had died during the perinatal period, and one just before the end of the first postnatal year. However, subsequent publications by the same author mention no more than a single immature individual (Henry-Gambier, 2008a; b; Henry-Gambier et al., 2013a).

In the context of new studies on the adult remains, a re-assessment of the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) and ages at death of these immature remains is now warranted, as it may have implications for the paleobiology and funerary behaviors of these early modern humans in Europe. The aim of this paper is therefore: 1) to review the biological characteristics of the remains of CM5 in order to re-assess the MNI and ages at death of these remains, 2) to re-associate the remains of individuals, 3) to evaluate their morphological characteristics, and 4) to highlight the funerary implications of old and very young individuals

characteristics, and 4) to inginight the functary implications of old and very young individuals

64 at the Abri de Cro-Magnon.

66 **2.** Materials

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2.1. The Cro-Magnon Sample

The CM5 remains are curated at the Musée de l'Homme, Museum d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) de Paris, France (inventory number 4252-1868-17-CM). They are represented by 12 bones, including six complete diaphyses, three partial diaphyses and three cranial fragments. Since all have the same entry (4252-1868-17) in the MNHN database, a number was assigned to each according to their arrangement in the box (4252-1 to 4252-12). The alphabetic designations chosen for the some of the infra-cranial bones by Gambier (1986) are provided below under the designation (G:).

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76 **2.2.** *Comparative samples*

77 2.2.1. Recent humans

For the metric analyses, the remains were compared to two pooled samples of recent
human neonatal-infant remains, in addition to available Late Pleistocene remains of the very
young.

81 The first recent human comparative sample consists of 116 neonates from three 82 archaeological collections (Partiot, 2018). Ages at death were estimated between 26 and 48 83 weeks of amenorrhea (WA) based on the maximum intermetaphyseal lengths of the long 84 bones, with the method of Fazekas & Kósa (1978) revised by Sellier (cited in Schmitt & 85 Georges, 2008). This sample includes 54 immature individuals from the 8B-51 Classic Kerma necropolis from the Nile island of Saï $(3380 \pm 25 - 3305 \pm 30 \text{ BP})$ (Murail et al., 2004; 86 Maureille et al., 2006), 27 from the medieval (10th to 12th centuries) French cemetery at 87 88 Blandy-les-Tours (Delattre, 2008), and 35 individuals from a French medieval (13th to 18th 89 centuries) parish cemetery from Provins (Guillon et al., 2002). 90 The second pooled sample includes remains between birth and approximately 1.5

91 postnatal years, courtesy of L.W. Cowgill (N = 128) (Cowgill, 2008, 2010). The individual 92 samples include Point Hope Inuit (Alaska, N = 7), Mistihalj (Serbia, N = 18), Kulubnarti 93 (Sudan, N = 19), California Amerindians (N = 37), Indian Knoll (Kentucky, N = 19), and 94 southern Africans (South Africa, N = 28). All except the last of these are archaeological 95 samples from the earlier Holocene (Indian Knoll) to the Middle Ages (Mistihalj); the southern African sample is an ethically mixed 20th century indigenous Transvaal sample from the Dart 96 97 Collection, University of Witwatersrand with documented ages. Ages-at-death of the 98 archaeological remains were primarily (ca. 80% overall) based on dental development; for 99 those lacking associated dentitions, age-at-death assessments were made using within-sample

100 regressions of age on femur length for individuals <3 years of age (r²: 0.479 – 0.918, mean:

101 0.783; Cowgill, 2008, 2010). The concordance between the age-at-death assessments in

- 102 Cowgill's and Partiot's samples, and in the present study of CM5, is provided by the existing
- 103 high correlation between age and both dental mineralization and long bone growth processes
- 104 in this age group (Sellier et al., 1997; Liversidge et al., 1998).

105 In addition, for the morphological study and, because the bones of CM5 cannot be 106 removed from the museum to be compared directly with a large reference sample, two 107 individuals from the first comparative sample were chosen to permit detailed comparisons 108 with the remains of CM5. The first, S41, came from the 8B-51 necropolis, with an age-at-109 death estimated by the above methods at 44.4±1.9 WA, i.e., ca.1 month after the theoretical 110 full gestation of 40 WA. The second comparative individual, P276, came from the Provins 111 collection. Diaphyseal age-at-death was estimated at 86.4±3.4 WA, i.e., ca.11 post-partum 112 months.

- 113 114

2.2.2. Late Pleistocene Remains

115 In order to provide a Late Pleistocene comparative framework, long bone length and 116 diaphyseal measurements were included (as available) for Late Pleistocene infant remains. 117 The Neandertal sample includes remains from Amud, Dederiveh, La Ferrassie, Kebara, Kiik-118 Koba, Mezmaiskaya, Le Moustier, Saint-Césaire, Sesselfelsgrotte, and Shanidar (metric data 119 from Heim, 1982; Kondo and Dodo, 2002; Rathgeber, 2006; Cowgill et al., 2007; Cowgill, 120 2008; Colombet, 2012; Trinkaus et al., 2016; Weaver et al., 2016). The Upper Paleolithic 121 sample is based on pooled earlier and later remains in order to compensate for small sample 122 sizes and includes remains from Fauroux, Grotte-des-Enfants, Kostenki, Mladeč, Ostuni, Abri 123 Pataud, Romanelli, and Vado all'Arancio (data from: Gambier, 1986; Fabbri, 1987; Henry-124 Gambier, 2001; Trinkaus et al., 2006; Cowgill, 2008; Vacca et al., 2012).

125

126 3. Methods

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3.1. Metric and Non-metric Data Acquisition

128 The metric and non-metric studies follow those of Partiot (2018), partly based on the 129 measurement protocols of Duday and colleagues (1995), Fazekas and Kósa (1978) and 130 Schutkowksi (1987). Measurements were made with a digital plastic calipers (± 0.1 mm), and 131 with a tape measure for diaphyseal circumferences (Appendix A).

- 132
- 133 3.2. Cro-Magnon Age-at-Death Assessment

134 In the absence of dental remains, bone growth and maturation were considered to 135 assess stature and age-at-death estimates. Data on chrono-geographical variation in stature at 136 birth are rare (Leary et al., 2006), although the specimens <3 months of age from Cowgill 137 (2008) are significantly different (Kruskal-Wallis p = 0.011, n = 34) in femur length across 138 the six recent human samples. Yet, given maternal morphological constraints and the 139 similarity of Gravettian and recent human female pelvic dimensions (Verneau, 1906; 140 Matiegka, 1938; Vacca et al., 2012; Chevalier et al., 2016), it is unlikely, however, that the 141 size of Gravettian newborns differed substantially from those of recent individuals. When 142 preservation conditions permitted, age-at-death estimations were made in WA based on the 143 estimated stature from the maximum length of long bones (mean age estimate and 95% 144 confidence interval). The method of Fazekas and Kósa (1978) revised by Sellier (cited in 145 Schmitt and Georges, 2008) was chosen for three reasons. First, the formulae were developed 146 for various long bones, including those preserved for CM5. Second, they can be applied to 147 individuals from the fetal stage up to four years of age (Sellier et al., 1997). Third, they 148 provide confidence intervals. When the maximum length of a long bone was not preserved, 149 age-at-death was estimated by comparing the general size and maturation stage of the element 150 with data from the literature (Cunningham et al., 2016) and by comparison with the skeletal 151 elements of the two comparative individuals, S41 and P276. 152 With regard to the live-birth of individuals, it is difficult to determine if an individual

was stillborn without identifying the neonatal line (Rushton, 1933; Schour, 1936), or by
identifying breastfeeding with isotopic analysis on children over three months of age
(Herrscher, 2013), neither of which can be applied to the Cro-Magnon immature sample.
Therefore, it is only possible to infer this information from the age-at-death and stature
estimates.

158

159 3.3. Re-assessment of the Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)

160 Two types of bone re-associations ("liaisons ostéologiques de second ordre" of Duday, 161 1987) were macroscopically investigated, the first being the association between bilateral 162 pairs of bones from the same anatomical region (e.g. femur-tibia or left tibia-right tibia), and 163 the second being between bones from different anatomical regions (e.g. vault fragment-lower 164 limb diaphysis). However, this approach is limited by the stage of maturation of the bones and 165 the absence of developed epiphyses, and it was thus not possible to rely on articular 166 congruence, as would be possible for adults. Moreover, perinates may differ in their body 167 proportions during fetal and postnatal life (for example, the lengths of the distal as compared

168 to the proximal limb bones), depending on age-at-death and chrono-geographical origins

- 169 (Schultz, 1923; Warren, 1997; Cowgill, 2012). Although a variability of relative bone
- 170 proportions could be a limitation to the re-association between the bones of Cro-Magnon 5,
- 171 data on these variations are, however, rare, and could not be considered for this study.

Therefore, associations were based on two criteria: the first being the age-at-death estimation or overall dimensions of the remains, and, secondly, the morphological similarities between bilateral bones. Staining was not considered as a criterion, as all bones are more or less covered by red ochre. The probability of association between the bones were assessed two-by-two for each of these criteria according to the system of Thibeault and Villotte (2018), with modifications to adapt it to immature individuals:

- Impossible association: overlap between bones or preserved zones of bones from the same
 side, or complete incompatibility of the estimated ages at death.
- 2) Unlikely association: doubtful association because, even if the individuals from whom the
 bones originated are from the same age group (e.g. children who died during the
- perinatal period), one is slightly older than the other based on the comparison of theremains with those of the two comparative individuals.
- 184 3) Possible association: bones are not overlapping, and the age-at-death estimations are
- 185 compatible (the remains belong to individuals from the same age group, without it186 being possible to provide greater precision).
- 187- 4) Probable association: the dimensions of the bones are highly compatible.
- 188 The probability of association between the bones two-by-two was then evaluated through a
- 189 synthesis of all criteria.
- 190

191 3.4. Anthropometric Analysis

Metric comparisons with the comparative sample were limited by the preservation of the remains and, particularly, by taphonomic damage of the metaphyses. The metric comparisons therefore consist of assessments of diaphyseal hypertrophy (robustness) and midshaft proportions. The latter employs sub-periosteal diameters. The former comparisons plotted midshaft polar moment of area against intermetaphyseal length; the polar moments of area were computed by modeling the diaphyses as solid beams from the shaft diameters using standard ellipse formulae (O'Neill and Ruff, 2004).

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200 3.5. Sex determination

There are few reliable methods for the sex determination of infantile skeletons, and none of them can be applied to the CM5 remains owing to incompleteness of the required anatomical parts or the requirements for non-destructive sampling. The method of Braga and colleagues (2019) is based on cochlear shape and that of Stewart et al. (2017) on tooth enamel peptides. aDNA could not be considered due to the rarity of the remains and its destructive requirements (Thibeault and Villotte, 2018).

- 207
- **4. Results**

4.1.

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Preservation

All of the Cro-Magnon immature bones are incomplete, with varying degrees of erosion and trabecular exposure (especially on the metaphyses) (Figs. 1 to 3). They all show visible traces of red ochre in varying quantities on the cortical surfaces and within trabeculae. As with the adult remains, and the evidence for their burial (Lartet, 1868), these infants were therefore likely to have been buried with or adjacent to the adults.

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4.2. Morphological Description

The results are presented by anatomical region. The metric data, ages-at-death and stature estimates based on maximum length are in Appendices A and B.

219 *4.2.1.* Cranial fragments

220 Cro-Magnon 4252-11 is the infero-lateral part of a left hemi-frontal, including about 221 half of the supraorbital margin, the zygomatico-frontal suture and part of the orbital roof 222 (Fig. 1). The orbital roof shows very slight pitting, and there is a marked vascular groove on 223 the ectocranial surface. Neither a foramen nor a supraorbital notch is visible, although it is 224 possible that either of these features was located more medial than the preserved part. The 225 orbital rim is rounded rather than sharply angled and is moderately thick for a very young 226 child, minimally ca.3.5 mm laterally and 4.4 mm at the fronto-zygomatic suture. The overall dimensions of the fragment correspond to those of the hemi-frontal of comparative individual 227 228 P276.

Cro-Magnon 4252-12 is a fragment of the supero-medial part of a left hemi-frontal (Fig. 1). The bone thickness is consistent with that of individual P276, with both the metopic and coronal sutures preserved. The endocranial surface preserves part of the sulcus for the superior sagittal sinus. The inferior portion of the metopic suture is fused and broken, while the superior part is unfused. The angle between the metopic and coronal sutures shows that the anterior fontanelle was present. The metopic suture normally fuses completely by 9 months of age post-partum (Vu et al., 2001), while the angulation of the superior medial edge
of the hemi-frontal fuses in the first months of the second year of life. These observations
support an age-at-death estimate of just before one post-partum year. The open bregmatic
fontanelle is fully compatible with such an age-at-death estimate (Coqueugniot et al., 2004).
The general dimensions of fragment 4252-12 are also compatible with those of 4252-11, and

they could be portions of the same bone.

241 Cro-Magnon 4252-10 comes from a parietal bone, as indicated by the clear parietal eminence (Fig. 1). Several criteria indicate that the fragment is oriented antero-posteriorly 242 243 (and not supero-inferiorly as Gambier, 1986 had considered). The preserved part of the 244 slightly crenellated suture corresponds more to the lambdoidal suture than to the sagittal suture. Similarly, the angle formed by the opposite edge seems to correspond more to that 245 246 observed at the coronal suture. The orientation of the growth centres on the ectocranial 247 surface, as well as the groove of the middle meningeal artery on the endocranial surface, 248 which is vertically oriented, indicate that the fragment comes from a right parietal. Its 249 thickness is consistent with an attribution to an individual who died during the perinatal 250 period.



Figure 1: Cranial fragments of Cro-Magnon 5. 4252-11: hemi-frontal fragment, ectocranial, endocranial and orbital views; 4252.12: hemi-frontal fragment, ectocranial and endocranial views; 4252.10: right parietal fragment, ectocranial and endocranial views.

- 254
- 255 *4.2.2.* Upper limb remains

256 The upper limb is represented by two humeral sections, 4252-1 and 4252-8 (Fig. 2). 257 CM 4252-1 is a largely complete bone lacking the epiphyses and the proximal metaphysis. 258 The lateral part of the distal metaphysis is broken. In posterior view the right pillar is wider 259 than the left one, and the right proximal margin is straighter than the slope of the left one, 260 indicating that it is a right humerus. The distal metaphyseal surface is partially preserved. The 261 piece does not have any particular characteristics, except for a very marked vascular imprint 262 on the distal third of the diaphysis anteriorly, supero-lateral to the coronoid fossa. The general 263 dimensions of the bone are similar to, or very slightly smaller than, those of the right humerus 264 of comparative individual P276. Therefore, bone 4252-1 belongs to an individual who died 265 shortly before the end of the first year of post-natal life.

The presence of the inter-tubercular sulcus and the slight antero-posterior flattening of the inferior part of 4252-8 indicates that it is the proximal third of a right humeral diaphysis (Fig. 2). It shows a nutrient foramen anteriorly, whereas this foramen is usually present on the medial side, as is the case for comparative individual S41. Based on its general dimensions, this fragment appears to belong to an individual who died during the perinatal period, but was slightly older than comparative individual S41.



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Figure 2: Upper limb remains of Cro-Magnon 5, anterior and posterior views. 4252.1:
diaphyseal and distal portion of a right humeral diaphysis; 4252.8: proximal fragment of the
right humeral diaphysis.

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4.2.3. Lower limb remains

Three femoral diaphyses, Cro-Magnon 4252-9 (G: c), 4252-2 (G: b) and 4252-5 (G: d), are present (Fig. 3). CM 4252-9 is the proximal third of a left femoral diaphysis of an individual who died during the perinatal period based on its general dimensions, at the same age or slightly after the age-at-death estimate of comparative individual S41. The metaphyseal region is heavily eroded, although a small part of the surface of the lesser trochanter can still be identified. The *linea aspera* is well defined.

4252-2 is an almost entirely preserved left femoral diaphysis with slight taphonomic alterations of its proximal and distal ends. The *linea aspera* is well defined on the posterior surface. The diaphysis has a normal antero-posterior curvature. Based on its maximum length, diaphysis 4252-2 derives from an individual who died around 42.6 ± 1.8 WA.

The morphology of femur 4252-5 raises more questions, as Gambier (1986) queried its identification as a human bone. In agreement with Gambier (1986), there is no non-human faunal species to which bone 4252-5 corresponds. The shape of the proximal and distal ends, the very partial preservation of the lesser trochanter metaphysis and especially the marked 292 presence of the *linea aspera* indicate that it is indeed a human left femoral diaphysis. It shows 293 proximal and distal erosion, to which is added alteration of the postero-medial portion of the 294 distal metaphysis. However, both the proximal and distal ends appear slightly antero-295 posteriorly flattened and flared compared to the estimated maximum length, even if this is 296 difficult to assess metrically due to erosion. The antero-posterior curvature is reduced, but the 297 distal curvature of the lateral margin is marked. This diaphysis also appears to be slightly 298 thicker compared to its maximum length. The lesser trochanter is also in a slightly more 299 lateral position compared to the comparative individual S41. Even if the distal and proximal 300 alterations prevent a reliable age-at-death estimate from the diaphyseal length, this femoral 301 diaphysis comes from an individual who died during the perinatal period.

Four tibial diaphyses, Cro-Magnon 4252-3 (G: g), 4252-6 (G: e), 4252-4 (G: f) and
 4252-7 (G: h), are present (Fig. 3). Two of them, 4252-3 and 4252-6, are left tibiae and two,

304 4252-4 and 4252-7, are right tibiae. Their antero-posterior curvatures are normal and the

305 anterior borders are well marked. All belong to individuals who died during the perinatal

306 period based on size. They have pronounced erosion of their proximal and distal ends. All

307 diaphyseal age-at-death assessments are therefore low estimations, with the exception of tibia

308 4252-4, for which a few square millimetres of the proximal metaphyseal surface are

309 preserved. This makes it possible to assess its age-at-death at 46.3±1.9 WA. The overall

dimensions of tibiae 4252-3 and 4252-4 are slightly larger than those of comparative

311 individual S41, while those of diaphyses 4252-6 and 4252-7 appear slightly smaller.



312 Figure 3: Lower limb remains of Cro-Magnon 5 in anterior and posterior views. 4252-9:

313 proximal fragment of the left femoral diaphysis; 4252-2 and 4252.5: left femoral diaphyses;

- 314 4252-3 and 4252-6: left tibial diaphyses; 4252-4 and 4252-7: right tibial diaphyses.
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- 316

4.3. Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) and Suggested Re-associations

The presence of three left femora belonging to individuals who died during the perinatal period, as well as the humeral diaphysis and cranial fragments belonging to at least one individual who died late in the first post-natal year, produces an MNI of four. Following the protocol for assessing the probability of bone associations, 32 two-by-two associations were considered "impossible", 14 as "unlikely", 11 as "possible" and 9 as "probable" (Table 1). The association of each bone to one of these individuals is presented in Table 2 and the probable associations in Figure 4.

- 324
- 325

	0	0	4	–	1		0	0	10	4.4	40
	2	3	4	5	6	/	8	9	10	11	12
1	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	PR	PR
2		U	U	I	PR	PR	U	I	PO	I	I
3			PR	U	I	U	PR	PR	PO	I	I
4				U	U	I	PO	PO	PO	I	I
5					U	U	U	I	PO	I	I
6						PR	U	U	PO	I	I
7							U	U	PO	I	I
8								PO	PO	I	I
9									PO		I
10											I
11											PR

- Table 1: Re-association probabilities between the remains of Cro-Magnon 5, I: impossible, U: unlikely, PO: possible, PR: probable.
- 328
- 329

Individual	Number	Gambier (1986)	Element	Age at death		
	1252 1	1	Right humeral			
	4232-1	/	fragment			
Cro-Magnon	4252 11	1	Hemi-frontal	just under one-year old		
5-1	4232-11	/	fragment			
	4252 12	1	Hemi-frontal			
	4232-12	/	fragment			
	1252 2	~	Left tibial			
Cro-Magnon	4252-3 g		diaphysis	46.3 WA		
5-2	1252 1	f	Right tibial	(44.4-48.2 WA)		
	4232-4	1	diaphysis			

	4252-8	b	Right humeral diaphysis	
	4252-9	с	Left femoral	
			diaphysis	
	1252-6	Α	Left tibial	
	4232-0	C	diaphysis	
Cro-Magnon	1252 7	h	Right tibial	42.6 WA
5-3	4232-7	11	diaphysis	(40.8-44.4 WA)
	1252 2	h	Left femoral	
	4232-2	U	diaphysis	
Cro-Magnon	4252 5	ł	Left femoral	Naamata
5-4	4252-5	a	diaphysis	Ineonate

- 330 Table 2: Suggested associations between the remains of Cro-Magnon 5 and estimated ages-at-
- death with confidence intervals. WA: weeks of amenorrhea (mean; 95% CI).
- 332





 334
 Figure 4: Suggested re-associations of the Cro-Magnon immature remains. CM5-1:

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 4252-1, -11 and -12; CM5-2: 4252-3, -4, -8 and -9; CM5-3: 4252-2, -6 and -7; CM5-4: 4252

 336
 5.

- 337 According to Gambier (1986), one individual is represented by tibiae 4252-4 (G: f)
- 338 and 4252-6 (G: e) and femur 4252-2 (G: b), the second by tibiae 4252-3 (G: g) and 4252-7
- 339 (G: h) and femur 4252-9 (G: c). These associations appear unlikely because tibia 4252-4 (G:
- f) is slightly larger than tibia 4252-6 (G: e), and because tibia 4252-3 (G: g) seems slightly
- 341 larger than tibia 4252-7 (G: h). Similarly, femur 4252-9 (G: c) and tibia 4252-4 (G: f) appear
- to be slightly larger than the femur and the tibia of the comparative individual S41, whereas
- tibia 4252-7 (G: h) and femur 4252-2 (G: b) appear slightly smaller than the ones of S41,
- 344 which makes the respective associations between femur 4252-9 (G: c) and tibia 4252-7 (G: h),
- 345 and tibia 4252-4 (G: f) and femur 4252-2 (G: b) unlikely.
- 346 Although relative bone proportions may sometimes vary among populations (Schultz, 1923),
- 347 the matching of bones between the upper and the lower limbs, as well as of the proximal and
- 348 distal lower limb bones of Cro-Magnon 5, is compatible with the currently available data.
- 349 Brachial and crural indices are, for example, largely similar for infants across Cowgill's
- 350 (2012) samples, except for the low Inuit crural indices, and humero-femoral, brachial, inter-
- 351 membral and crural indices do not exhibit population-based differences across Partiot's
- 352 (2018) sample. Considering the age-at-death assessments, there is no doubt that the oldest
- 353 individual, CM5-1, survived at least several months after birth. There are no available data on
- 354 variations in size at birth of Gravettian children by which to assess the three perinatal
- 355 individuals. Nevertheless, according to WHO data (2006), the birth length of babies in current
- 356 global populations at the 97th percentile ranges between 46.5 and 53 cm for boys, and 45.5
- and 52.5 cm for girls. As the length of CM5-2 is estimated at around 55.5 ± 1.6 cm based on
- right tibia 4252-4 (cf. Appendix B), it is probable that this individual survived a few days,
- 359 maybe even a few weeks after birth, although the large statures for Mid Upper Paleolithic
- adults (Trinkaus et al., 2014), including those from Cro-Magnon (Thibeault and Villotte,
- 361 2018), may imply that neonates were longer than their modern counterparts. As the length at
- birth of CM5-3 is estimated at around 52.4±1.6 cm based on left femur 4252-2 (cf. Appendix
- B), it is also possible that this individual survived at least a few days after birth. No
- 364 conclusion can be made for CM5-4 because s/he may have been stillborn or died shortly after365 birth, even if born prematurely.
- 366
- 367

4.4. Diaphyseal Comparisons

The comparisons of the midshaft perpendicular diameters for the femora and tibiae (Fig. 5), place the two most complete Cro-Magnon long bones well within the ranges of variation of the recent human and Late Pleistocene infant remains. They have relatively large

- antero-posterior diameters but remain unexceptional relative to both those of Late Pleistoceneand recent human infants.
- The comparison of femoral midshaft polar moments of area versus lengths (Fig. 6) places all of the Late Pleistocene infant femora (including CM 4252-2) solidly within the recent human variation. The same pattern holds for the tibiae, although the Late Pleistocene remains (including CM 4252-6) cluster along the more robust side of the recent human
- distribution (Fig. 6).



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Figure 5. Bivariate plots of perpendicular midshaft sub-periosteal diameters for the
femur (A) and tibia (B). The recent human and Late Pleistocene samples include infants
from late fetal age to ca. 1.5 years postnatal.



Figure 6. Bivariate plots of the ln midshaft polar moment of area versus ln
intermetaphyseal length for the femur (A) and tibia (B).

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383

5. Discussion

388 5.1. Morphological considerations

389 *5.1.1.* Morphometric characteristics

390 The morphological features of all of the Cro-Magnon infantile remains (except 4252-5 391 - see below) place them comfortably within the ranges of variation of recent human infants, in terms of discrete features and (for the cranial remains) patterns of maturation. Only the 392 393 lateral orbital rim thickness of 4252-11 implies a modestly more robust cranium. The long 394 bone midshaft proportions are unexceptional for a Late Pleistocene or recent human infant 395 (Fig. 5; Appendix I). The midshaft rigidities of these Cro-Magnon femora and tibiae, relative 396 to their intermetaphyseal lengths, are similar to those of both recent humans and other Late 397 Pleistocene archaic and early modern humans. As previously noted by Cowgill (2010; see 398 also Trinkaus et al., 2016), and contra Vlček (1973) and Weaver et al. (2016), there are no 399 meaningful differences between these remains with respect to perinatal or infantile femoral or 400 tibial hypertrophy.

401 402

5.1.2. The case of the CM 4252-5 femur

403 Although the CM 4252-5 femur is similar to other Late Pleistocene and recent human 404 infantile femora in its metric proportions (Appendix I), the alterations of the metaphyses make 405 it difficult to draw conclusions about the rest of its characteristics. Features such as the robust 406 appearance and the apparent slight widening of the proximal and distal ends raise questions
407 regarding its deviation from the normal variability of this age group, or even the existence of
408 a discrete bone dysplasia.

409 A thicker and shorter diaphysis can be a sign of achondroplastic dwarfism, one of the 410 most common types of skeletal dysplasia identified in neonates (Lewis, 2017). Its skeletal 411 manifestations, as in an archaeological case from Brownslade, Wales, UK (Sables, 2008), are 412 clearly discernible (Harris, 1933; Lewis, 2017). Similarly, the skeletal features of 413 thanatophoric dwarfism, which usually results in death in utero, show an extreme shortening 414 and broadening of the long bones (Lewis, 2017). Hence, neither of these etiologies is 415 consistent with the appearance of the CM 4252-5 femur. A flattened femoral head and a more 416 lateral position of the lesser trochanter are also features of congenital hip dysplasia in children 417 (Mitchell and Redfern, 2008). However, these criteria are not compatible with the age group 418 to which CM 4252-5 belongs, as they appear progressively during fusion of the elements 419 (Lewis, 2017). The youngest archaeological individual for whom this diagnosis has been 420 proposed has an estimated age-at-death of 6 months post-partum (Mays, 2007). Therefore, 421 none of the etiologies mentioned appears to be compatible with the morphology of femur 422 CM4252-5.

423 However, this question remains of interest considering the abundance of 424 developmental anomalies in the Pleistocene fossil record (Trinkaus, 2018), to the point that 425 they may indicate a high level of inbreeding (Wu et al., 2013; Ríos et al., 2015; Sparacello et 426 al., 2018; Trinkaus, 2018). If the individual to whom CM 4252-5 belonged had abnormalities 427 evident to the social group, as was the case for Cro-Magnon 1 whose skeletal lesions indicate 428 a systemic and rare disease (Dastugue, 1967; Thillaud, 1985; Charlier et al., 2018; Ruggieri et 429 al., 2018; Thibeault and Villotte, 2018), this condition may have played an important role in 430 group behavior towards him/her, and particularly after his/her death. As previously noted 431 (Oliva, 1996; Formicola 2007; Trinkaus et al., 2014), Gravettian burials contain an unusually 432 high number of individuals with both developmental and degenerative conditions.

433 434

5.2. Mortuary considerations

435 *5.2.1. Baby burials*

In 1986, Gambier concluded that at least three very young individuals were buried at Cro-Magnon. Her article received little attention and, interestingly, she mentioned only one immature individual at Cro-Magnon in later publications (Henry-Gambier, 2008a; b; Henry-Gambier et al., 2013b). The present study confirms that the CM 4252-5 femur cannot be 440 attributed to a non-human faunal species, and that four individuals are present (CM5-1 to

441 CM5-4, Fig. 4). CM5-1 died at the end of the first year of life, whereas the others died during

442 the perinatal period *sensu lato*.

Several of the criteria normally used to confirm intentional deposition of human
remains permits the identification of the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter as a funerary site (HenryGambier, 2008a, b). It is nonetheless not possible to know - due to the lack of detailed
recording during the 1868 excavations (Lartet, 1968) - if the burials were deposited
simultaneously or successively (Henry-Gambier, 2008a, b).

Burials of young immature individuals are not unusual in the MUP funerary landscape (Table 3, Fig. 7). For instance, two elaborate Gravettian burials, one containing two allegedly twin neonates who died between 9 and 10 lunar months, embedded in red ochre and overlaid with a mammoth scapula, and one of an infant who died around 3 post-partum months, were found at Krems-Wachtberg (Einwögerer et al., 2006), and further east at Mal'ta a young infant and a modestly older child were buried with extensive grave goods (Gerasimov, 1935).

- 454
- 455

Reference	Country	Site	Ν	Age-at-death
Henry-Gambier et al., 2013b; Villotte et al., 2015	France	Abri Pataud	3	Two infants who died around 4.5 and 7.5 postnatal months, one child who died between 4 and 7 years of age
Onoratini et al., 1996; Henry-Gambier, 2008b	France	Le Figuier 1	1	One child who died between 2 and 4 years of age
Zilhão and Trinkaus, 2002	Portugal	Lagar Velho	1	An individual who died between 4 and 5 years of age
Einwögerer et al 2006	Austria	Krems-Wachtberg	3	2 neonates and one infant who died around 3 postnatal months
Wilczyński et al., 2016	Poland	Borsuka	1	One child who died between 1 and 2 years of age
Velemínská et al., 2008	Czech Republic	Předmostí	5	Three individuals who died before the age of one year, one between 2 and 3 years of age and one around 4 years of age
Svoboda, 2016; Trinkaus et al., 2000	Czech Republic	Dolní Věstonice	2	Child (DV 4) burial, and possible burial (DV 36) of an infant \approx 1 year old
Sinitsyn, 2004; Henry- Gambier, 2008b	Russia	Kostenski	3	One neonate, one child who died between 6-7 years of age and one who died between 9-10 years of age
Gerasimov, 1935; Alexeev, 1998	Russia	Malt'a 1	2	One child who died between 3 and 4 years of age and one infant
Trinkaus et al., 2014	Russia	Sunghir	1	One male ≈ 10 years old, buried with an early adolescent

Table 3: Burials of pre-adolescent immature individuals in the Mid Upper Paleolithic (MUP)

457 funerary landscape.



458

Figure 7. Percentage age distributions for Gravettian (Mid Upper Paleolithic; MUP) burials. MUP sample without the Cro-Magnon remains (n = 68), MUP sample with the Cro-Magnon remains (n = 75), and pooled recent human archaeological sample (data from Trinkaus, 1995). See Appendices C and D.

463

464 As with Krems-Wachtberg and other Gravettian burials of immature individuals 465 (Henry-Gambier, 2008b), all of the immature bones from Cro-Magnon exhibit red ochre of 466 variable thicknesses on the cortical surface or within the trabeculae. This is true for many 467 Cro-Magnon adult bones as well (Henry-Gambier, 2008a; Thibeault and Villotte, 2018). In 468 any case, it is evident that the children in Cro-Magnon were treated in a similar way to the 469 adults, which is consistent with other Paleolithic sites. These infants therefore had a social 470 existence, even if they did not have the same capacity to aid the survival of the group as did 471 older children.



In the broader context of Gravettian burials, the burials from Cro-Magnon fill out an overall mortuary age profile that is unusual, primarily for its dearth of infants and older adults and its abundance of adolescents and younger adults (Fig. 7). The addition of the four infants and three older adults from Cro-Magnon to the Gravettian sample reduces the differences with the expected pattern. The relatively small percentage of infants can be attributed in part to poor preservation of fragile bones, but the abundance of buried adolescents remains an anomaly for the Gravettian mortuary age distribution.

481 At the same time, the association of immature and adult individuals in the same 482 archaeological layers or even in the same burials is not uncommon (i.e., Formicola and 483 Buzhilova, 2004; Henry-Gambier, 2008b). However, in these cases, the immature individuals 484 are usually adolescents of more than ten years of age at death (e.g., Barma Grande, Paglicci 485 and Sunghir (Mezzena and Cesnola, 1989; Formicola, 1990; Trinkaus and Buzhilova, 2018)). 486 At only three Gravettian sites (Abri Pataud, Dolní Věstonice II and Předmostí) are both adults 487 and infants known, in each case found with older immature individuals and, for the latter two 488 cases, with both young and older adults (Svoboda, 2016; Velemínská et al, 2008; Henry-489 Gambier et al., 2013b). The demographic profile observed at the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter, 490 with the association of elderly adults and very young children (under one year of age) thus 491 appears unusual for the Gravettian, and suggests selective funerary practices, perhaps related 492 to perceptions of similar levels of vulnerability.

493 The presence of at least one adult, and possibly one infant, displaying visible signs of 494 disease (Charlier et al., 2018), reinforces this hypothesis, as has been suggested for the burial 495 of other Gravettian impaired individuals (Oliva, 1996; Formicola, 2007). An additional 496 intriguing aspect, which could be coincidental, is that the number of children is of the same 497 order as the number of adults at Cro-Magnon. This aspect, added to the perception of 498 vulnerability, may provide insight into funerary practices, the full extent of which remains to 499 be fully understood. Some of the practices documented in the hunter-gatherer ethnographic 500 record indicate special care given to infants who have not yet acquired autonomy. For 501 example, in some Native Australian groups, the corpses of deceased infants and very young 502 children were preserved and carried by the mother until an adult male died and the child could 503 be buried beside him (Littleton and Allen, 2007). Although it is currently not possible to 504 substantiate practices of this kind, the hypothesis of a delay between infant death and burial in 505 MUP populations remains intriguing.

506

507 **6.** Conclusion

508 The re-analysis of Cro-Magnon 5 remains confirms Gambier's (1986) conclusions 509 regarding the MNI of these immature individuals: they include at least four immature 510 individuals who died before one year of age. The results of the present study place the 511 remains within the morphological variability of the comparative age group, and most of the 512 bones fit comfortably within the expected variation of the comparative archaeological 513 samples. Only the CM 4252-5 femur appears modestly unusual in its metaphyses. Moreover, 514 this study highlights the unusual nature of the demographic profile of the site in its Gravettian 515 context. The burial of newborns and infants with adults, most of whom were elderly, adds to 516 the mortuary variability of the Mid Upper Paleolithic. Whatever the specific interpretations of 517 this evidence, this study confirms the important contribution of the immature human remains 518 from the Cro-Magnon rock-shelter, which remains a key site for the study of the paleobiology 519 and funerary practices of the Upper Paleolithic.

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535

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542 9. Declarations of interest

- 543 None.
- 544

545 **10. Data Availability Statements**

546 The recent remains of the comparative sample are preserved at the CNRS UMR 5199 PACEA 547 (Allée Geoffroy Saint Hilaire, CS 50023 33615 PESSAC CEDEX France). The CM5 remains 548 are available with authorization of the Museum d'Histoire naturelle de Paris (Musée de 549 l'Homme, France).

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Appendix A. Metric data of the remains of Cro-Magnon 5 (CM5) and of the comparative
individuals (CI) P276 and S41. no: not observable; (x): data acquired on a slightly eroded
bone. For each element, the probable Cro-Magnon 5 associated "individual" is provided (see
Table 2).

Magging out of humani	Bones of	Bones of CM5				
Measurements of numeri	4252-1	4252-8	P276	S41		
Probable CM5 individual	5-1 Rt	5-2 Rt				
Maximum diameter at midshaft	(8.9)	(6.7)	10.7	5.2		
Minimum diameter at midshaft	(8.1)	(5.5)	9.4	4.2		
Width of the olecranon fossa	(14.8)	no	13.7	9.5		

Magging on the off form and	I	5	CI	
Measurements of Temora	4252-9	4252-2	4252-5	S41
Probable CM5 individual	5-2 Lt	5-3 Lt	5-4 Lt	
Maximum intermetaphyseal length	no	(75.3)	(62.5)	77.8
Perimeter at midshaft	no	21.0	(18.0)	17.0
Antero-posterior diameter at midshaft	(6.3)	6.1	5.1	5.2
Transverse diameter at midshaft	(7.0)	6.6	6.0	5.4
Maximum proximal diameter	(17.1)	(17.1)	15.3)	17.7
Proximal diameter perpendicular to the maximum proximal diameter	(10.8)	(12.5)	(8.6)	11.9
Transverse distal diameter	no	(19.6)	(12.2)	21.2
Antero-posterior distal diameter	no	(9.4)	(8.7)	12.3
Length between proximal end and nutrient foramen	no	(33.0)	no	38.7

Maaguramanta aftikiaa		CI			
Measurements of tiblae	4252-3	4252-6	4252-4	4252-7	S41
Probable CM5 individual	5-2 Lt	5-3 Lt	5-2 Rt	5-3 Rt	
Maximum intermetaphyseal length	(67.8)	(62.9)	(71.2)	(63.2)	68.8
Perimeter at midshaft	(19.5)	(20.0)	(20.5)	(21.0)	19.0
Antero-posterior diameter at midshaft	7.0	(7.0)	(6.9)	(6.9)	6.7
Transverse diameter at midshaft	5.8	(5.7)	(6.4)	(5.9)	5.3
Antero-posterior diameter at nutrient foramen	8.2	8.2	(8.3)	no	7.3
Transverse diameter at nutrient foramen	7.2	6.7	7.3	no	6.0
Maximum proximal diameter	no	(13.9)	no	no	14.8
Sagittal proximal diameter	no	(11.3)	no	no	11.8
Length between the proximal end and the nutrient foramen	(20.0)	(19.4	(22.0)	no	22.5

811 Appendix B. Ages-at-death and stature assessments with confidence intervals of the 812 individuals of Cro-Magnon 5 and of the comparative individuals S41 and P276 based on the 813 method of Fazekas and Kosa (1978) revised by Sellier (Schmitt and Georges, 2008). R: right 814 side; L: left side.

S.	N	Bone	Side	Probable association	Reliability of the assessment	Length (mm)	Stature at death (cm)	Age at death (lunar months)	Age at death (weeks of amenorrhea)
Cro-Magnon	4252- 2	Femoral diaphysis	L	CM5-3	Reliable assessment	75.3	52.4 (50.8-53.9)	10.6 (10.2-11.1)	42.6 (40.8-44.4)
	4252- 4	Tibial diaphysis	R	CM5-2	Reliable assessment	71.1	55.5 (54-57.1)	11.6 (11.1-12.1)	46.3 (44.4-48.2)
	4252- 3	Tibial diaphysis	L	CM5-2	Underestimated assessment	68	53.4 (51.8-54.9)	10.9 (10.5-11.4)	43.7 (41.9-45.5)
	4252- 5	Femoral diaphysis	L	CM5-4	Very underestimated assessment	62.5	44.4 (42.8-46)	8.6 (8.3-9)	34.5 (33.1-36)
	4252- 6	Tibial diaphysis	L	CM5-3	Very low assessment	62.9	49.8 (48.2-51.3)	9.9 (9.5-10.4)	39.7 (38.1-41.4)
arative iduals	S41	Femoral diaphysis	L	/	Reliable assessment	77.8	53.9 (52.4-55.5)	11.1 (10.6-11.6)	44.4 (42.5-46.2)
comp: indiv	P276	Humeral diaphysis	R	/	Reliable assessment	105.2	80.8 (79.3-82.3)	21.6 (20.8-22.5)	86.4 (83.1-89.8)

822 Appendix C. The distribution of Gravettian/Mid Upper Paleolithic burials by age interval.

	Infant	Child	Juvenile	Adolescent	Young Adult	Older Adult
Age range (yrs)	0-1	2-5	6-11	12-18	20-40	40+
Cro-Magnon	4					3
Arene Candide				1		
Baousso da Torre				1	2	
Barma Grande				2	2	
Borsuka	1					
Brno-Francouská						1
Caviglione					1	
Dolni Věstonice	1	1		1	3	1
Le Figuier		1				
Grotte des Enfants				1	1	1
Kostenki	1		2	1		
Krems-Wachtburg	3					
Lagar Velho		1				
Mal'ta	1	1				
Mittlere Klause					1	
Ostuni ¹				1	1	
Paglicci		1		2	2	
Pataud	2	1			1	
Paviland					1	
Pavlov					1	
Předmostí	3	2	4	1	5	1
Sunghir			1	1		2
Veneri-Parabita						2
Totals	12	8	7	12	21	8
Totals w/ Cro-Magnon	16	8	7	12	21	11

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^{825 &}lt;sup>1</sup> Not included is the Ostuni 1b third trimester fetus, found within the abdominal area of Ostuni 1.

828 Appendix 4. The recent human comparative paleodemographic data. The recent human 829 distribution is the average of the age interval percentages for eight archaeological samples, 830 aged by the same general techniques as the Gravettian remains. They provide a general 831 reference for the Gravettian distribution. Details are tabulated in Trinkaus (1995). The 832 percentages are:

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	Infant	Child	Juven- ile	Adoles -cent	Young Adult	Older Adult	n	reference
Libben	17.5	13.2	9.1	14.4	31.8	14.0	1289	Lovejoy et al., 1977
MO-1	50.8	12.4	5.6	4.0	15.3	11.9	177	Palkovich, 1981
MO-2	29.7	12.0	6.4	12.4	20.9	18.5	249	Owsley and Bass, 1979
Larson	40.9	15.1	7.7	7.2	19.5	9.5	621	Owsley and Bass, 1979
Ayalán	25.0	13.3	4.7	6.5	26.0	24.5	384	Ubelaker, 1981
OGSE-80	14.6	9.9	6.8	5.2	39.1	24.5	192	Ubelaker, 1980
Teotihuaca n	39.3	5.3	4.9	12.1	23.8	14.6	206	Storey, 1992
Cedar Grove	27.8	13.9	6.3	8.9	24.1	19.0	79	Rose and Santeford, 1985

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Credit Author Statement

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