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An anthropological investigation into the facial preservation of ceremonial tsantsa and commercial shrunken heads

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Appendix 14

Skull removal incisions and sutures (shrunken head collection)

Table A14-1: Recordings on skull removal incisions and suture techniques performed on each shrunken head

(*V-PMB, vertical incision from posterior median to neck base, *V-VB –vertical incision from vertex to neck base, *MTS – multifilament twisted string).

Head ID	Processor origin	Location	Suture material	Suture technique	Width of sutures	Consistency	Notes
A95789	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A121104	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision. L side overlaps R moderately at scalp.
A642550	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642560	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed at neck - reveals opening in scalp possibly from pressure at occiput.
E165119B0	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E403395-0	Ceremonial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A38099	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Discreet at neck, stretched with distortion at scalp.
A61492	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.

Head ID	Processor origin	Location	Suture material	Suture technique	Width of sutures	Consistency	Notes
A63428	Commercial	Miscellaneous: 1) *V-PMB. 2) Posterior R ear, across R jaw line, vertical from mental to anterior medial neck base.	*MTS – fine black thread. Discreet layer of pitch, wide surface area.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly seals anterior incision, posterior has minor opening.
A63429	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Incision loosely sealed at neck. Superior of incisions is tighter, causing the skin to fold in.
A68229	Commercial	Miscellaneous: Vertical L lateral incision - from superior of L ear close to vertex, to L lateral neck base.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch, wide surface area.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A68231	Commercial	2 vertical lateral incisions - from each posterior ear to neck base.	*MTS – fine black thread. Discreet layer of pitch.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A97275	Commercial	*V-PMB - gentle zigzag incision line.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Inconsistent.	Skin is stretched and distorted by incision.
A102935	Commercial	Miscellaneous: R anterior oblique of neck base twists up and around R inferior border of jaw line, branching to posterior R ear (ending level to central anterior of ear), and anterior R ear (ending level to most superior point of the ear's upper helix). 2 vertical incisions similarly mark the temporal regions of the anterior scalp.	*MTS – thin vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch. Birds of paradise feathers applied.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision. Incision disguised by pitch and birds of paradise feathers lining jaw line.
A109084	Commercial	*V-PMB – twisted, L oblique orientation to neck base.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision. Hair caught in stitches.

Head ID	Processor origin	Location	Suture material	Suture technique	Width of sutures	Consistency	Notes
A119820	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A130409	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A190320	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A221683	Commercial	Miscellaneous: Inferior R ear lobe to medial anterior neck base.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string. Thick layer of pitch, wide surface area - reflective.	Not clear.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A230414	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Minor opening at nape and vertex.
A642477	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642549	Commercial	2 vertical lateral incisions - from each posterior ear (level to superior point of ear) to neck base.	* MTS – fine black thread. Discreet layer of pitch – distinctly worn.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed at neck - reveals opening in scalp, level to ears.
A642556	Commercial	2 vertical lateral incisions - from each posterior ear (level to superior point of ear) to neck base.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642557	Commercial	*V-PMB - L oblique orientation.	*MTS – fine black thread.	Worn - no longer visible.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642564	Commercial	*V-PMB - twisted L oblique orientation to neck base.	* MTS – fine black thread.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642565	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
378202	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed at neck - reveals opening in scalp.
CONTROL 400206	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E326930-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.

Head ID	Processor origin	Location	Suture material	Suture technique	Width of sutures	Consistency	Notes
E358641-0	Commercial	2 vertical lateral incisions - from each posterior ear (level to upper helix) to neck base.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch - partial coverage.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Discreet at neck, stretched with moderate distortion at scalp. Tightly sealed incision.
E358642-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E378203-0	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E378892	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS – fine black thread.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E382592-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string. Discreet layer of pitch.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E387845-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E397131-0	Commercial	Miscellaneous: Transverse cut across forehead from ear to ear.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string. Thick layer of pitch.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E411333-0	Commercial	*V-PMB - ears positioned to the posterior of head (possible result of a posterior scalp section removal).	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
N387872-0	Commercial	*V-VB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
P387657-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
P387659-0	Commercial	*V-PMB – twisted L oblique orientation to neck base.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
P387660-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS – fine black thread.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
P387661-0	Commercial	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A36675	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A41122	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A44058	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A95788	Ambiguous	*SV-OB - L oblique orientation.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A121091	Ambiguous						No incisions evident.

Head ID	Processor origin	Location	Suture material	Suture technique	Width of sutures	Consistency	Notes
A155039	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision. Skin folds in medially moderately.
A161722	Ambiguous						No incisions evident.
A191643	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A233681	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642548	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642551	Ambiguous	*V-PMB - starts inferior to occiput.	*MTS - thin vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball at base. Mainly *Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642552	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642553	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642554	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642555	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642558	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string. Thick layer of pitch, wide surface area.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642559	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Discreet.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision. Incision folds medially into head.
A642561	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642562	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Baseball.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
A642563	Ambiguous	*V-PMB - twisted left oblique orientation.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E039500	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Consistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
E315111-0	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.
Elgin1	Ambiguous	*V-PMB.	*MTS - vegetable fibre string.	*Cont.O.	Wide.	Inconsistent.	Tightly sealed incision.