

## **A Royal Mystery: Solving King Tut's Death**

– *General Health:*

Judging from his bones, the king was generally in good health. (His internal organs, as is usual for Egyptian mummies, are not present in the body, and thus have not been analyzed). There are no signs of malnutrition or infectious disease during childhood. His teeth are in excellent condition, and he appears to have been well fed and cared for.

– *Size in Life:*

Tutankhamun was approximately 170 cm. (5 and a half feet) tall.

– *Skull Shape:*

Tutankhamun had a very elongated skull.

– *Scoliosis.*

There is a slight bend in the spine, however, the scientists agree this bend most likely reflects the way the mummy was positioned by the embalmers.

– *Fractured Leg?*

The team has noted a fracture of the left lower femur (thighbone), at the level of the epiphyseal plate. There is no obvious evidence for healing (although there may be some present, and masked by the embalming material). Since the associated skin wound would still have been open, this fracture would have had to occur a short time, days at the most, before death.

– *No Fractured Leg?*

Part of the team believes that the above scenario is absolutely not possible. They maintain that the fracture mentioned above can only have been done by Carter's team during extraction of the body from the coffin. They argue that if such a fracture had been suffered in life, there would have been evidence for hemorrhage or hematoma present in the CT scan.

– *Missing Ribs and Sternum:*

The sternum and a large percentage of the front ribs are now missing, evidently along with the much of the front chest wall. The ends of the missing ribs are cleanly cut, clearly by a sharp instrument, but there are no other signs of trauma. This means it was done after his death.

– The "Murder" Theory. The entire team agrees that there is NO evidence for murder present in the skull of Tutankhamun. There is NO area on the back of the skull that indicates a partially healed blow. There are two bone fragments loose in the skull. These cannot possibly have been from an injury from before death, as they would have become stuck in the embalming material.