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Isotopic evidence for local and non-local individuals buried at the Iron Age cemetery M¨nsingen-Rain, Switzerland

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Both the historical and archaeological records provide evidence for Celtic migrations around 400 BC presumably caused by changing climate conditions but their extent is hitherto unknown. In an ongoing research project, sixteen burial sites from the core and the expansion areas of the Celts are investigated using both archaeological and bioarchaeometric data in order to quantify the extent of Celtic migrations. In this presentation, strontium and oxygen isotope data, there possibilities and difficulties, of the early to middle La Tène cemetery Münsingen-Rain (Switzerland) in the core area are presented to determine the origin of the buried individuals. Münsingen-Rain represents a continuously used cemetery on which probably only a minor selection of the population was buried. The grave inventory corresponds to a large extent to the typical regional standard forms of Switzerland. It probably played an important role as mediation centre between the transalpine and Mediterranean region. The combined archaeological and bioarchaeometric data will allow for new insights in the processes behind mobility and migration in the Iron Age.