The method of burial in which the body is ossified then reburied is called reburial. In the early Yayoi period (B.C. 3C ~ A.D. 1C) in eastern Japan, the jar reburial grave, using large jars as cinerary urns, became widespread. The origins of this should be examined, going back to the reburial of the Jōmon period.

Reburial in the Later and Final Jōmon period (B.C. 2000 ~ 300) was spread over a relatively wide area, from the southern Tōhoku District to the Kinki District, though there was little in the way of a universal method of burial. Examples of reburial methods are as follows: bone-gathering burial, in which bones were gathered together; ceramic coffin burial, in which bones were placed in ceramic jars; board-type bone gathering burial, in which bones were broken and assembled into a square board; and bone-burning burial, in which bones were burned and buried. Reburials in the Later and Final Jōmon period are not uniform at all.

Reburial in the Final Jōmon period (B.C. 1000 ~ 300) in the Central Highland is characterized by bone-burning burial, in which a large number of bodies were dealt with at a time. This type of burial spread into the Hokuriku District, and was also transmitted to the Ise Bay Area and the Kinki District. On the other hand, the bone-gathering burial of the Ise Bay Area might have asserted some influence on reburials in the Central Highland. As to how the bones were dealt with at reburials, the reburial of all the bones, which was prevalent in the Later Jōmon period, and the tendency to place importance on the skull, were carried over to the beginning and first half of the Final Jōmon period. Later, on the other hand, the reburial of some bones, and the practice of breaking bones, that dated back to the Middle Jōmon period (B.C. 3000 ~ 2000), were spread over a relatively wide area. In this way, the manner in which bones were handled changed, the early Final Jōmon period being the period of transition.

In the Kinki District in the middle of the Final Jōmon period, ceramic coffin burials, connected with partial reburial were carried out. If the ceramic coffin reburial is regarded as a partial-bone reburial, the bone-burning can be looked on as the disposal of the remaining ashes. A double structure can be supposed, wherein the necessity of breaking bones increased, and at the same time, measures were taken to conserve a part of the bones. In the inland region from the Kinki District to the Central Highland, where various forms of burial and reciprocally-influential relationships can be observed, the ceramic coffin reburial and bone-burning burial, though examples are few, continued to the end of the Final Jōmon period, while the bone-gathering burial declined in the middle of the Final Jōmon period. This is an important phenomenon to be considered regarding the establishment of the jar-reburial grave in the Yayoi period.