Musculoskeletal System

THE SKULL

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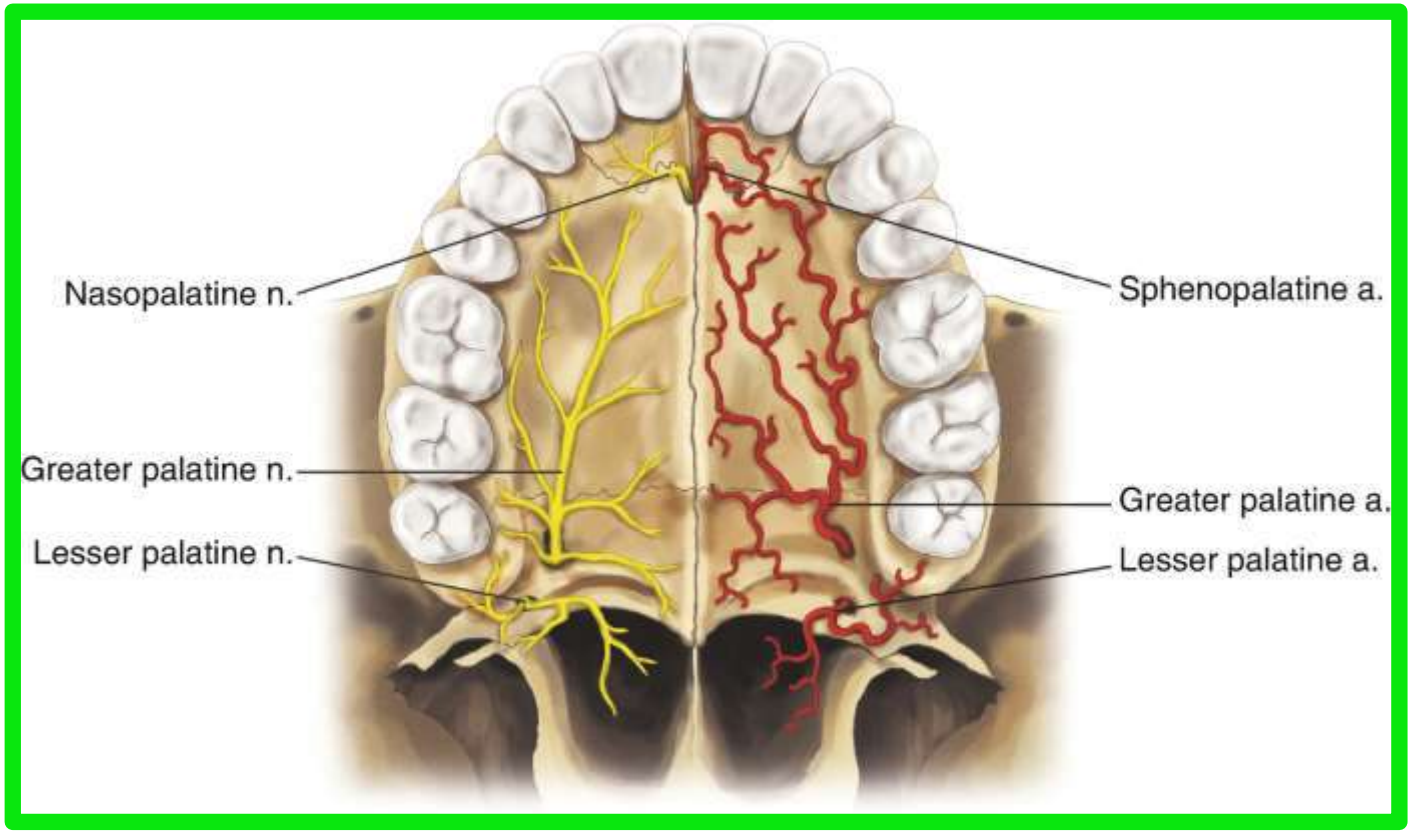
Monday 24 February 2025

Inferior View of the Skull

- ***The palatal processes of the maxillae and the horizontal plates of the palatine bones can be identified.***
- ***In the midline anteriorly is the incisive fossa and foramen.***
- ***Posterolaterally are the greater and lesser palatine foramina***

- ***The Choanae (posterior nasal apertures) are separated from each other by the posterior margin of the Vomer***



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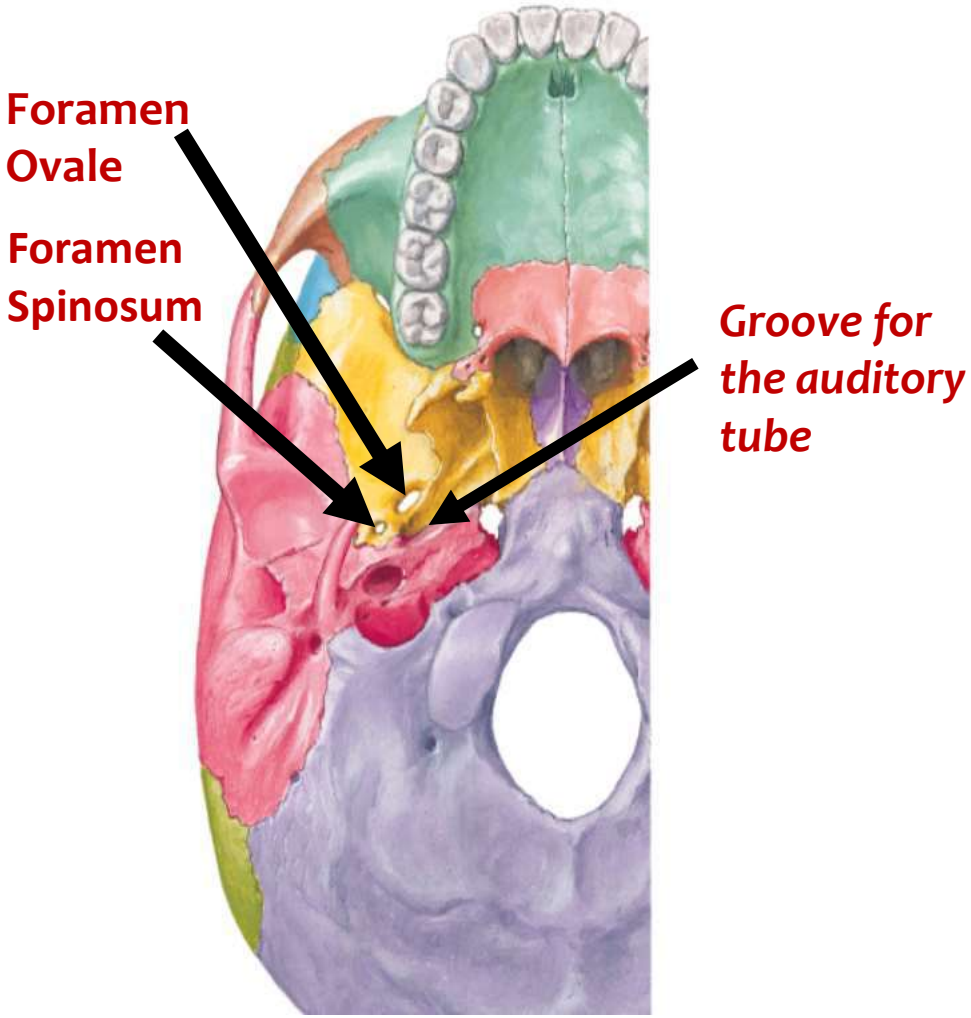
Inferior View of the Skull

- The greater wing of the sphenoid is pierced by the large foramen ovale and the small foramen spinosum.

- in the interval between the greater wing of the sphenoid and the petrous part of the temporal bone, is a groove for the cartilaginous part of the auditory tube.

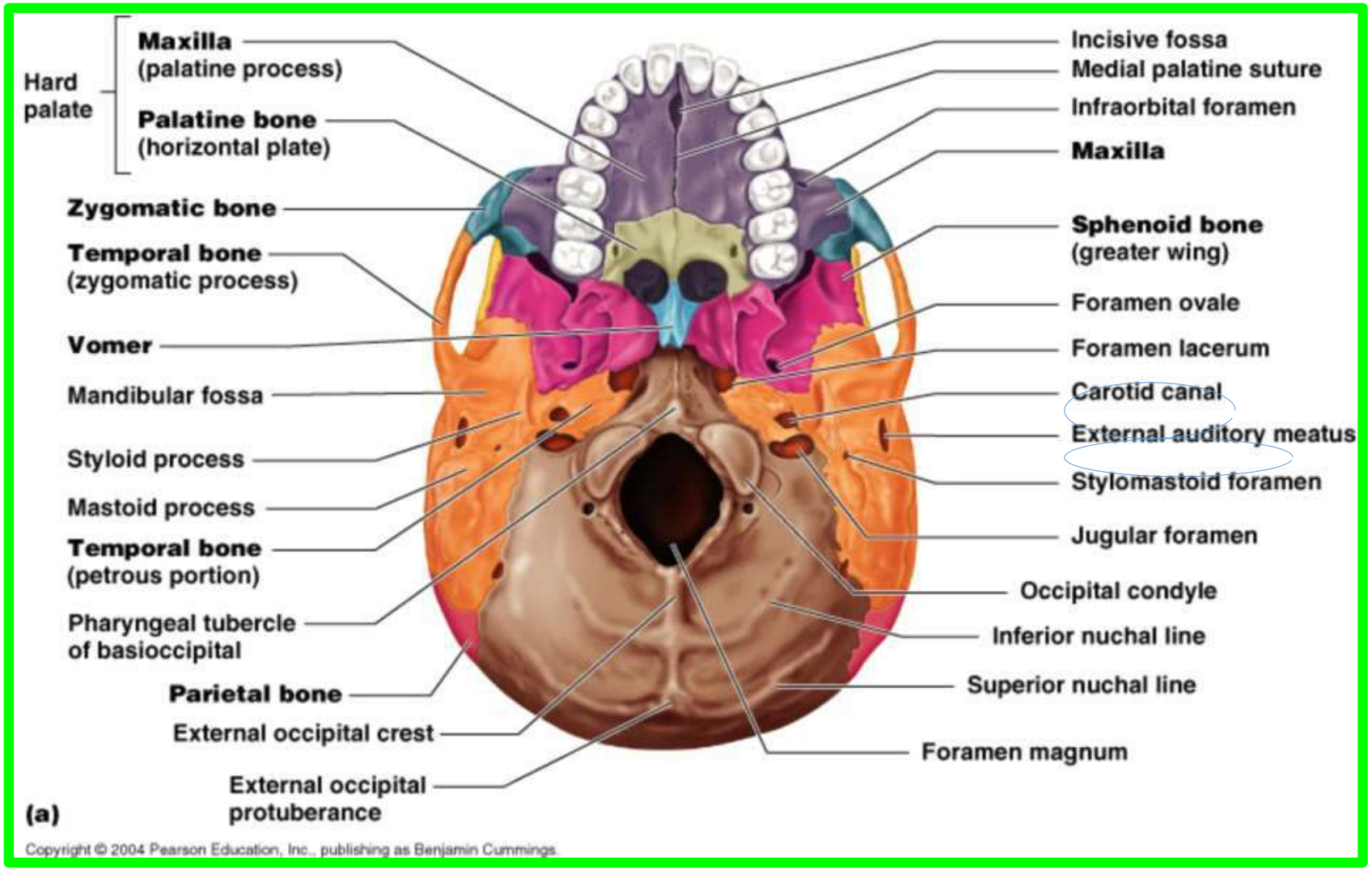
- The opening of the bony part of the tube can be identified



Inferior View of the Skull

✓*The styloid process* of *the temporal bone* projects downward and forward from its inferior aspect.

✓The *opening of the carotid canal* can be seen on the inferior surface of *the petrous part of the temporal bone.*



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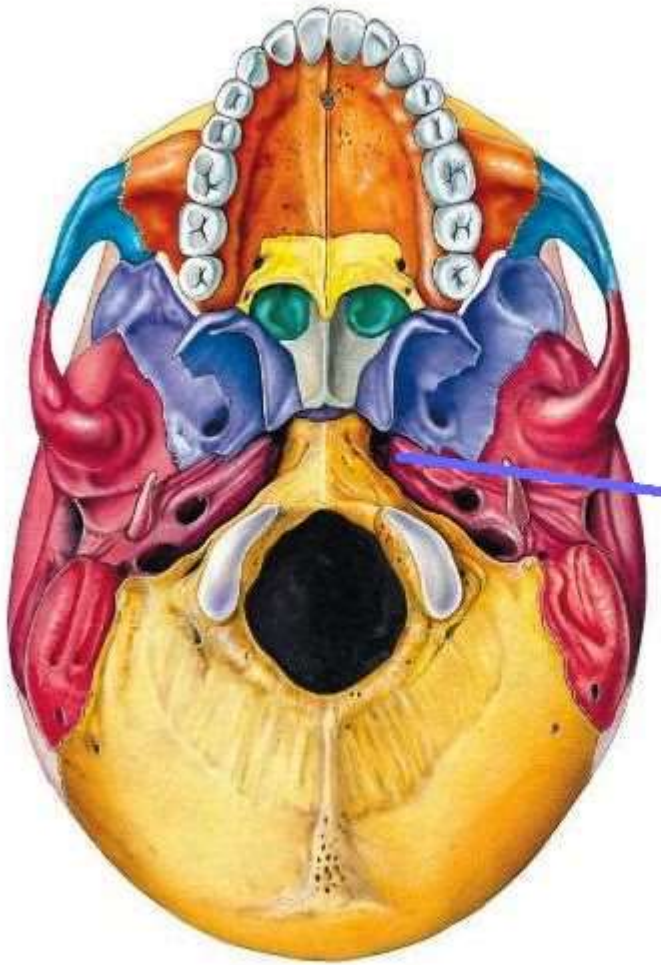
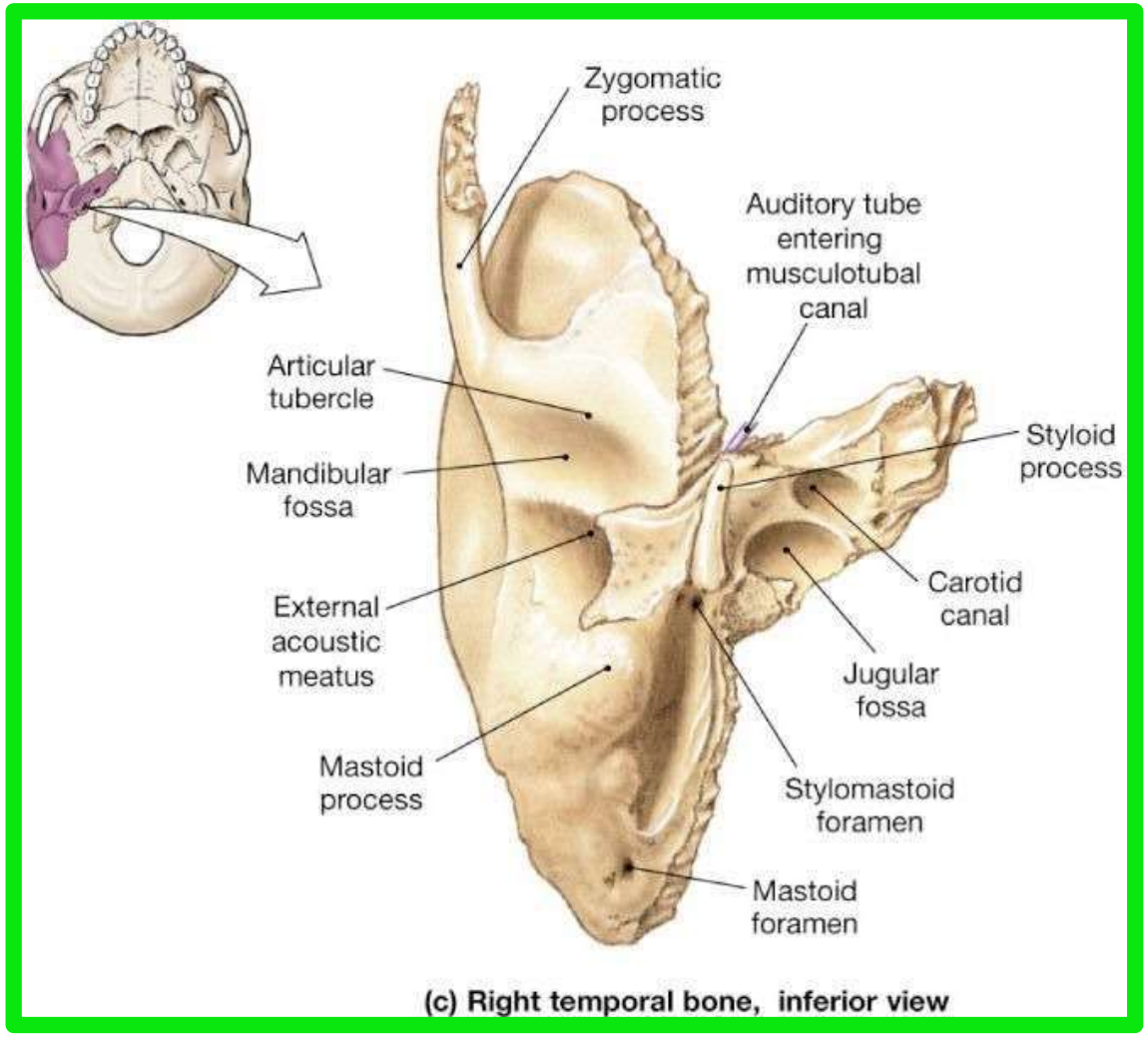
Inferior View of the Skull

✓*The medial end of the petrous part of the temporal bone is irregular and, together with the basilar part of the occipital bone and the greater wing of the sphenoid, forms the foramen lacerum.*



Inferior View of the Skull

✓ *In the interval between the styloid and mastoid processes, the stylomastoid foramen can be seen.*



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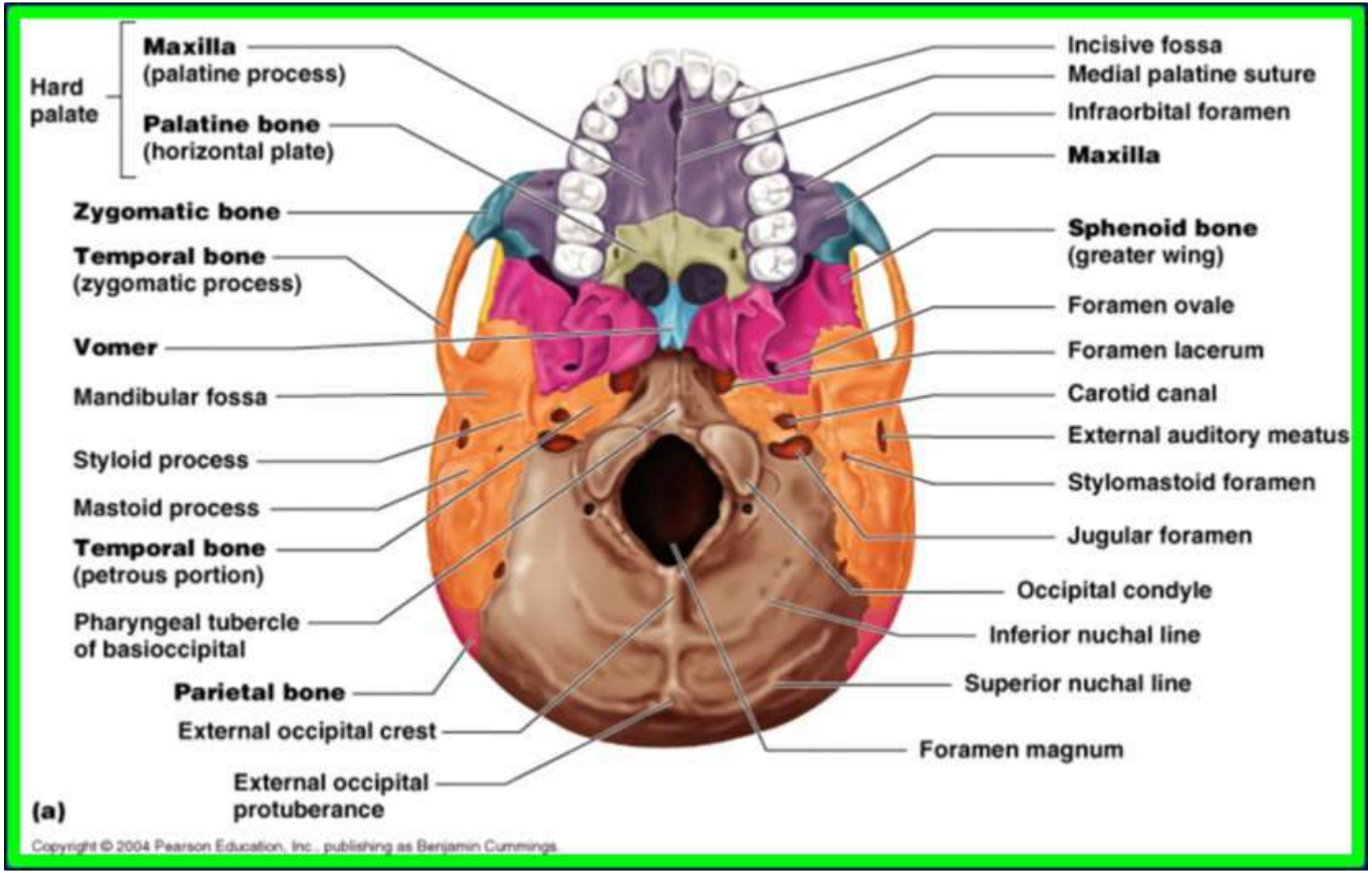
Inferior View of the Skull

✓*Medial to the styloid process, the petrous part of the temporal bone has a deep notch, which, together with a shallower notch on the occipital bone, forms the jugular foramen.*



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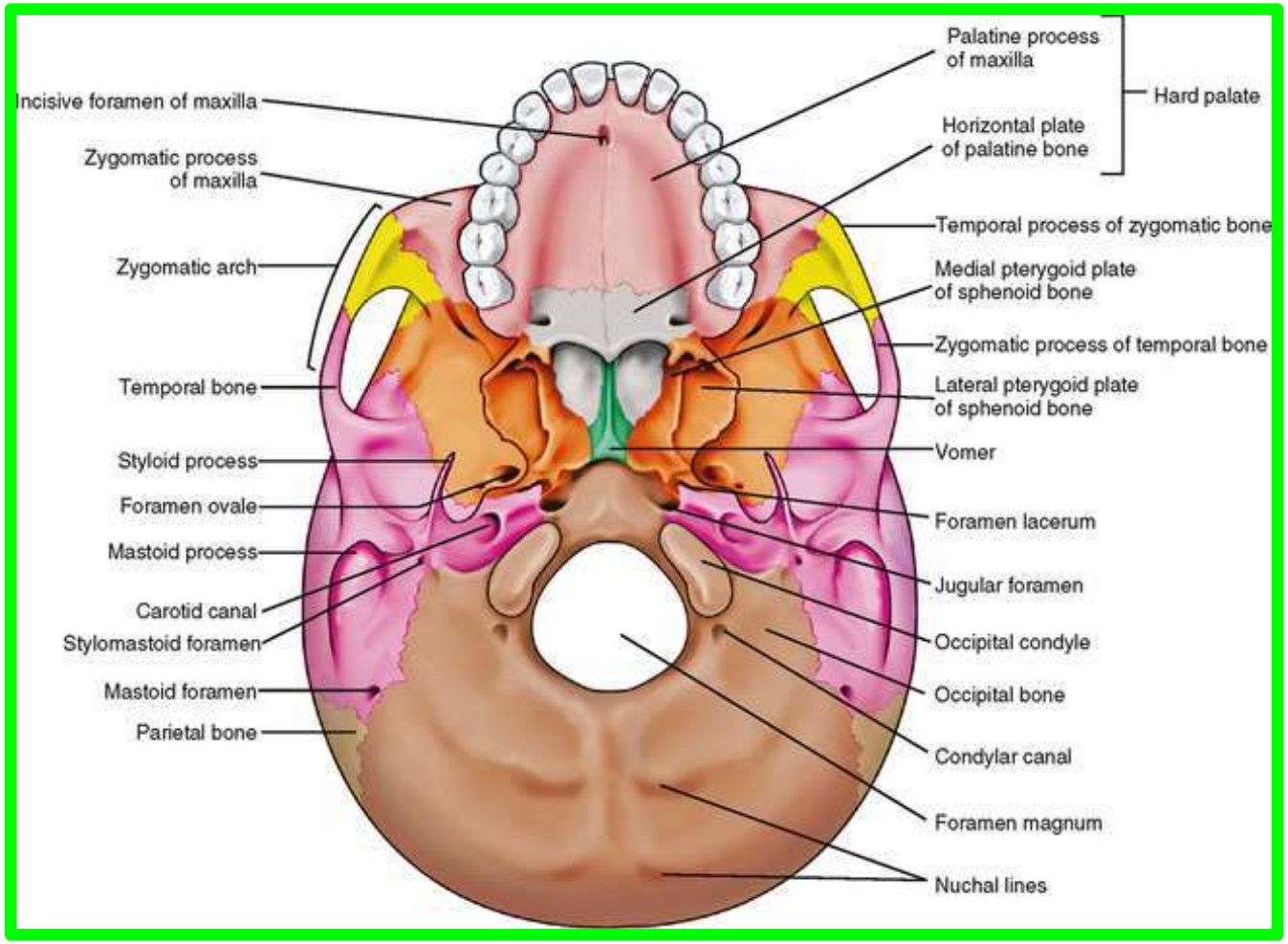
Inferior View of the Skull

✓***The pharyngeal tubercle*** *is a small prominence on the under surface of the basilar part of* ***the occipital bone*** *in the midline.*

✓***The occipital condyles*** *they articulate with the superior aspect of the lateral mass of the first cervical vertebra,* ***the atlas****.*

✓ *Superior to* ***the occipital condyle*** *is the* ***hypoglossal canal*** *for transmission of the hypoglossal nerve*



✓***Posterior to*** ***the foramen magnum*** *in the midline is the external occipital protuberance.*

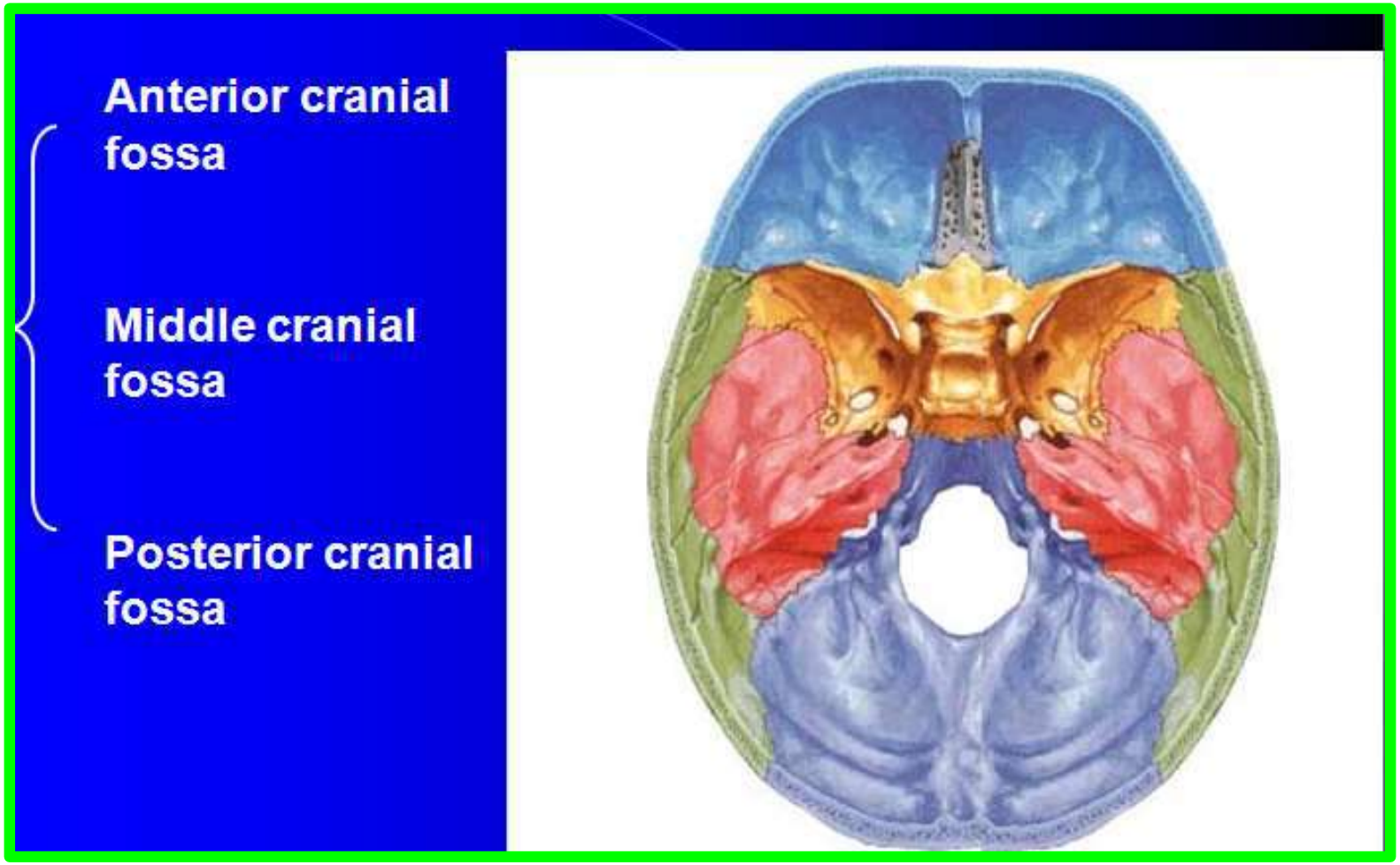
Base of the skull

The interior of the base of the skull is divided into three cranial fossae:

- *ANTERIOR, MIDDLE, AND POSTERIOR.*

❖*The anterior cranial fossa is separated from the middle cranial fossa by the lesser wing of the sphenoid,*

❖*and the middle cranial fossa is separated from the posterior cranial fossa by the petrous part of the temporal bone*



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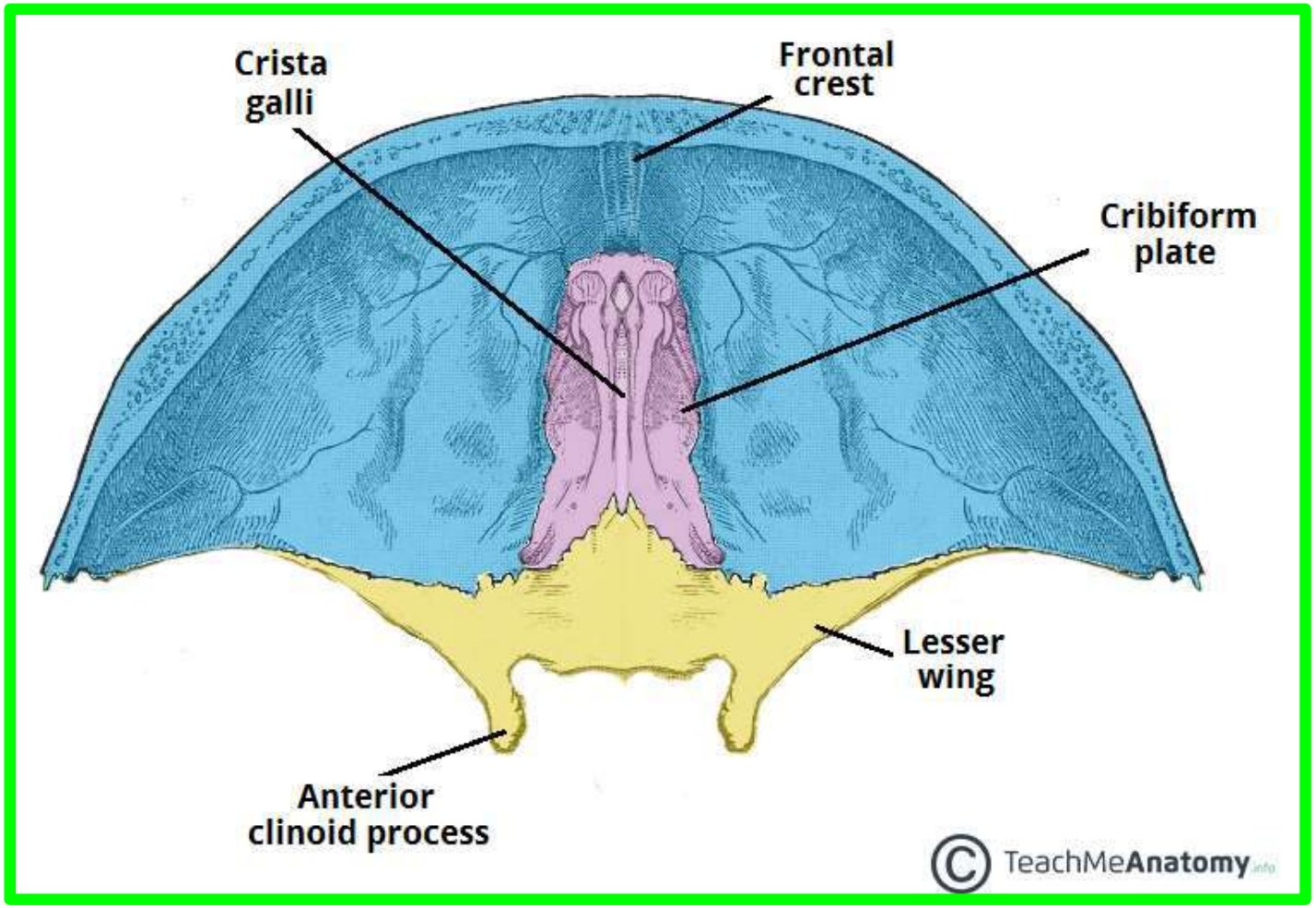
Anterior Cranial Fossa

❑*The anterior cranial fossa lodges the frontal lobes of the cerebral hemispheres*

✓ *It is bounded anteriorly by the inner surface of the frontal bone, and in the midline is a crest for the attachment of the falx cerebri.*

✓ *Its posterior boundary is the sharp lesser wing of the sphenoid*

✓*The medial end of the lesser wing of the sphenoid forms the anterior clinoid process on each side, which gives attachment to the tentorium cerebelli*



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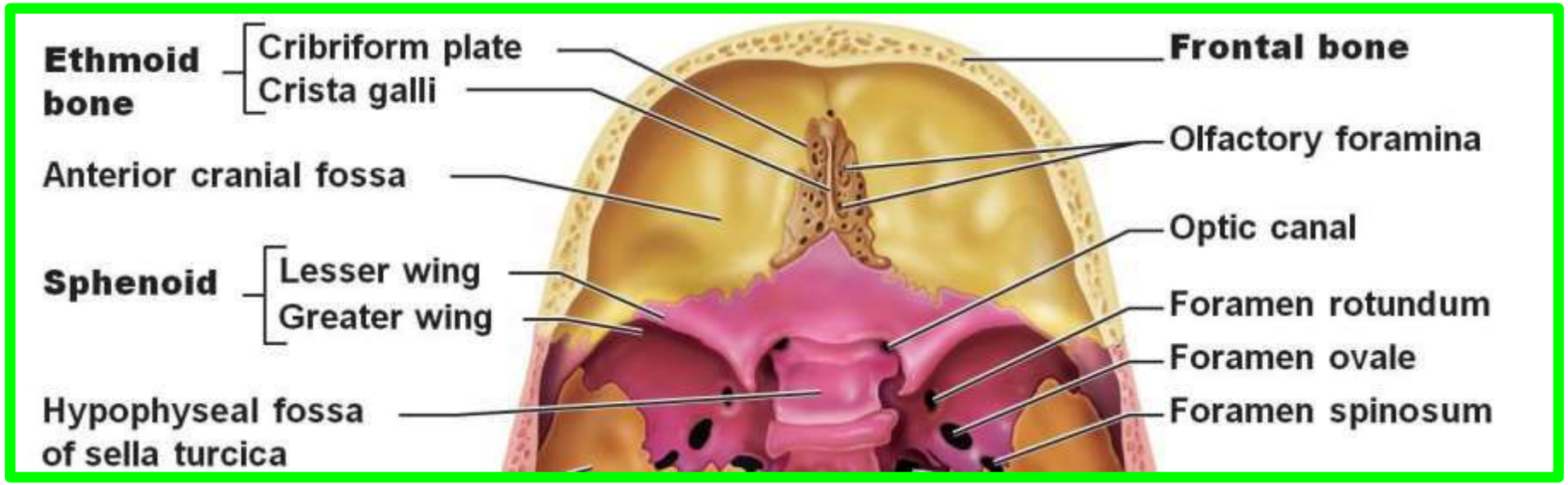
Anterior Cranial Fossa

✓*The floor of the fossa is formed by the orbital plates of the frontal bone laterally and by the cribriform plate of the ethmoid medially*

✓*The crista galli is a sharp upward projection of the ethmoid bone in the midline for the attachment of the falx cerebri.*

✓ *There is slit in the cribriform plate for the passage of the anterior ethmoid nerve into the nasal cavity.*

✓*The upper surface of the cribriform plate supports the olfactory bulbs, and the small perforations in the cribriform plate are for the olfactory nerves.*

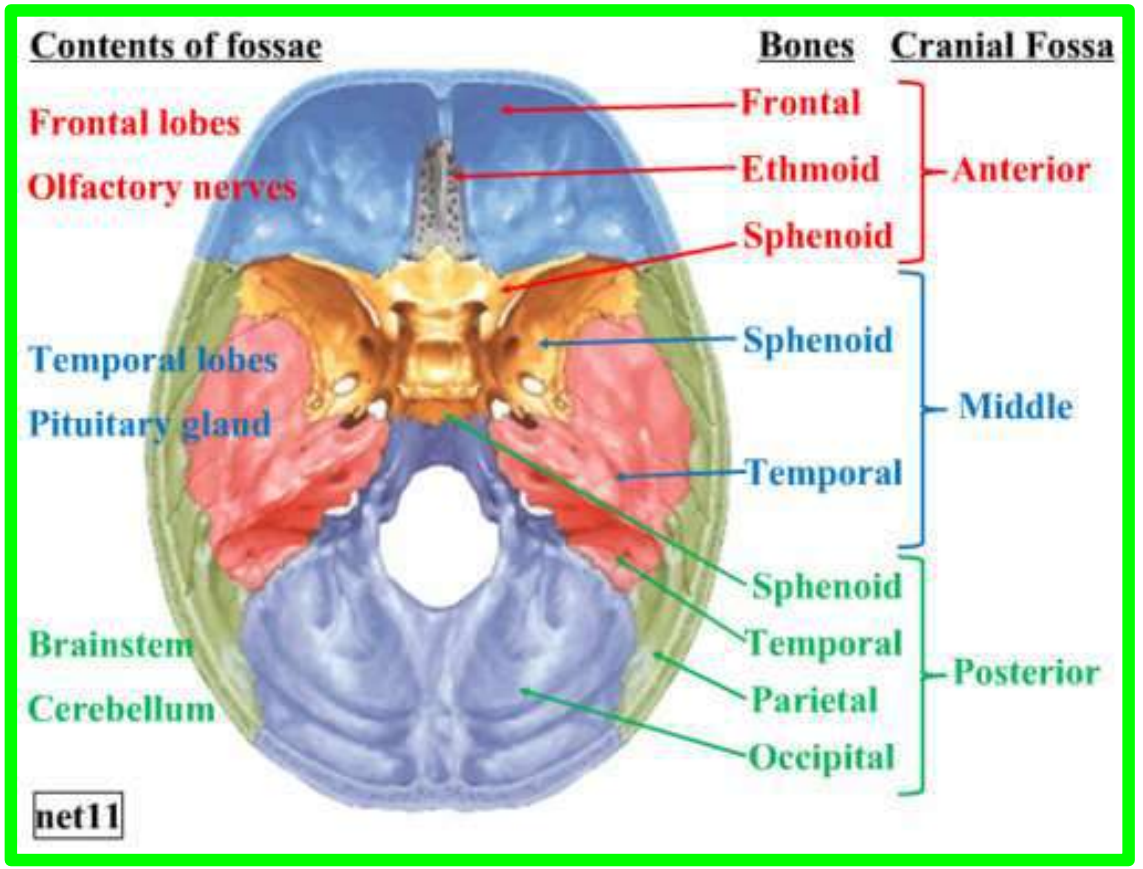


Middle Cranial Fossa

❑*The median raised part is formed by the body of the sphenoid, and the expanded lateral parts form concavities on either side, which lodge the temporal lobes of the cerebral hemispheres.*

It is bounded
anteriorly by the lesser wings of the sphenoid
posteriorly by the superior borders of the petrous parts of the temporal bones.

Laterally lie the squamous parts of the temporal bones, the greater wings of the sphenoid, and the parietal bones



❑*The floor of each lateral part of the middle cranial fossa is formed by the greater wing of the sphenoid and the squamous and petrous parts of the temporal bone.*

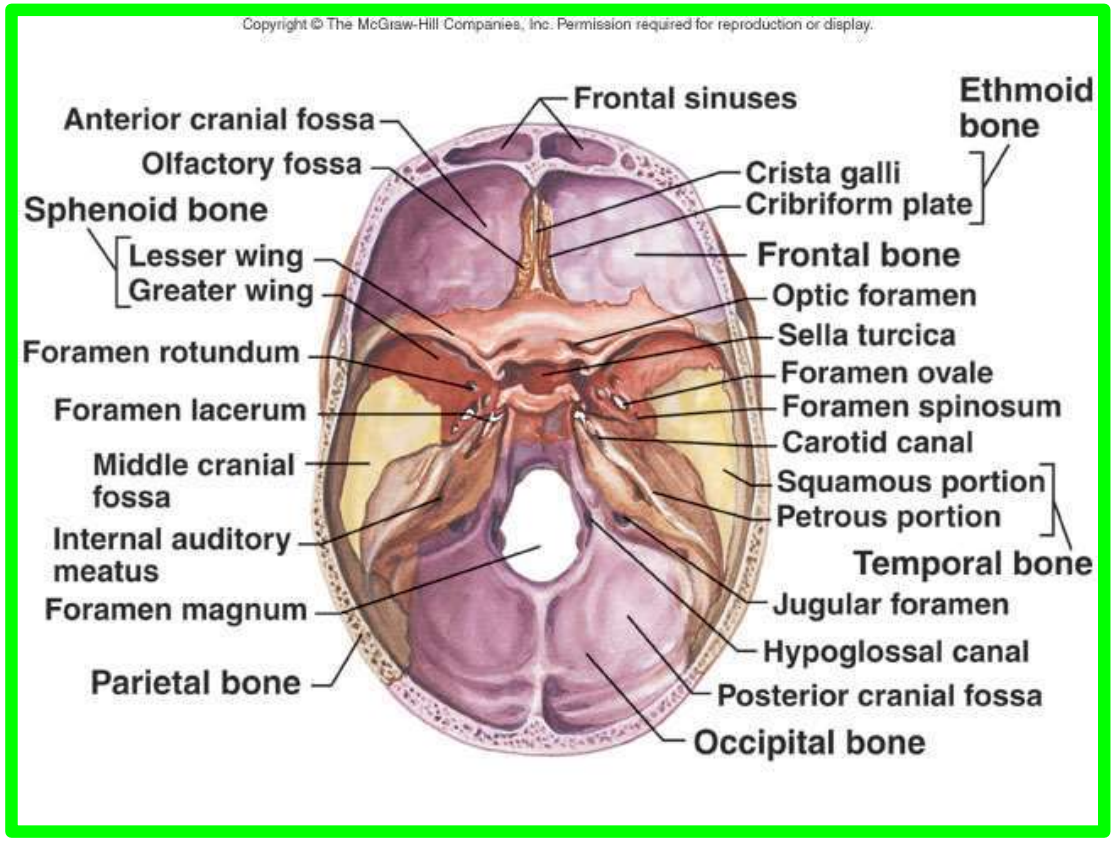
Posterior Cranial Fossa

It is deep and lodges the parts of the cerebellum, pons, and medulla oblongata.

❖*Anteriorly, the fossa is bounded by the superior border of the petrous part of the temporal bone,*

❖*posteriorly it is bounded by the internal surface of the squamous part of the occipital bone*

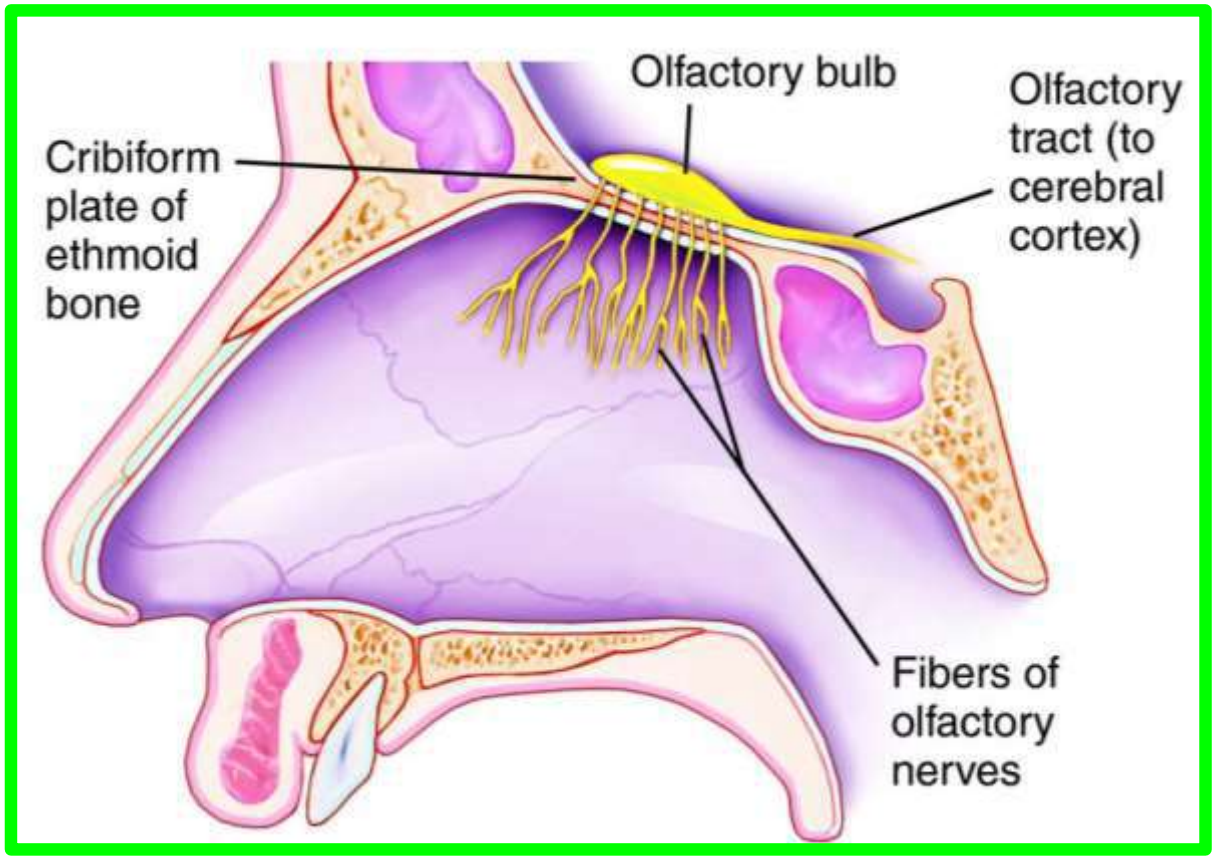
❖*The floor of the posterior fossa is formed by the basilar, condylar, and squamous parts of the occipital bone and the mastoid part of the temporal bone.*



❖*The roof of the fossa is formed by a fold of dura, the tentorium cerebelli*

Summary of the More Important Openings in the Base of the Skull and the Structures That Pass Through Them

Opening in Skull	Bone of Skull	Structures Transmitted
Anterior Cranial Fossa		
Perforations in cribriform plate	Ethmoid	Olfactory nerves



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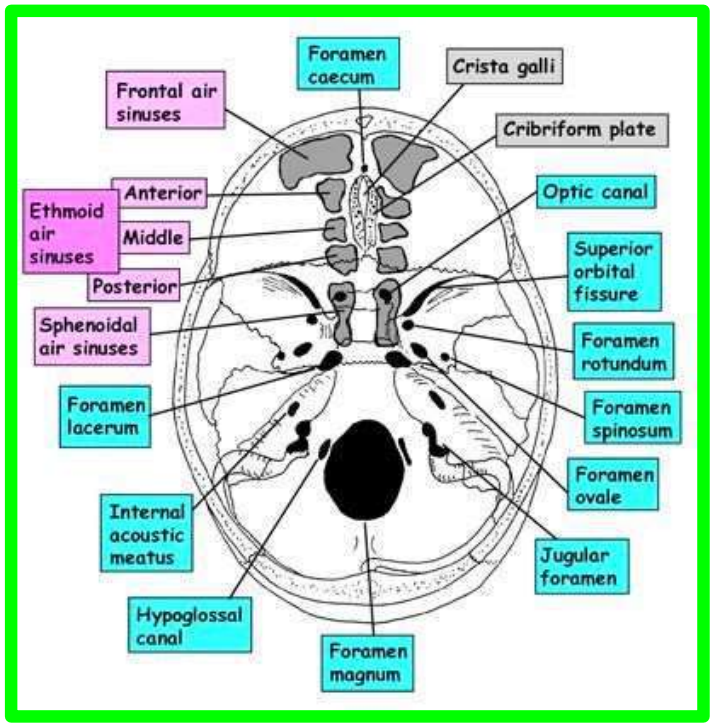
Summary of the More Important Openings in the Base of the Skull and the Structures That Pass Through Them

Opening in Skull	Bone of Skull	Structures Transmitted
Middle Cranial Fossa		
Optic canal	Lesser wing of sphenoid	Optic N, ophthalmic A
Superior orbital fissure	Between lesser and greater	Lacrimal, frontal, trochlear nerves



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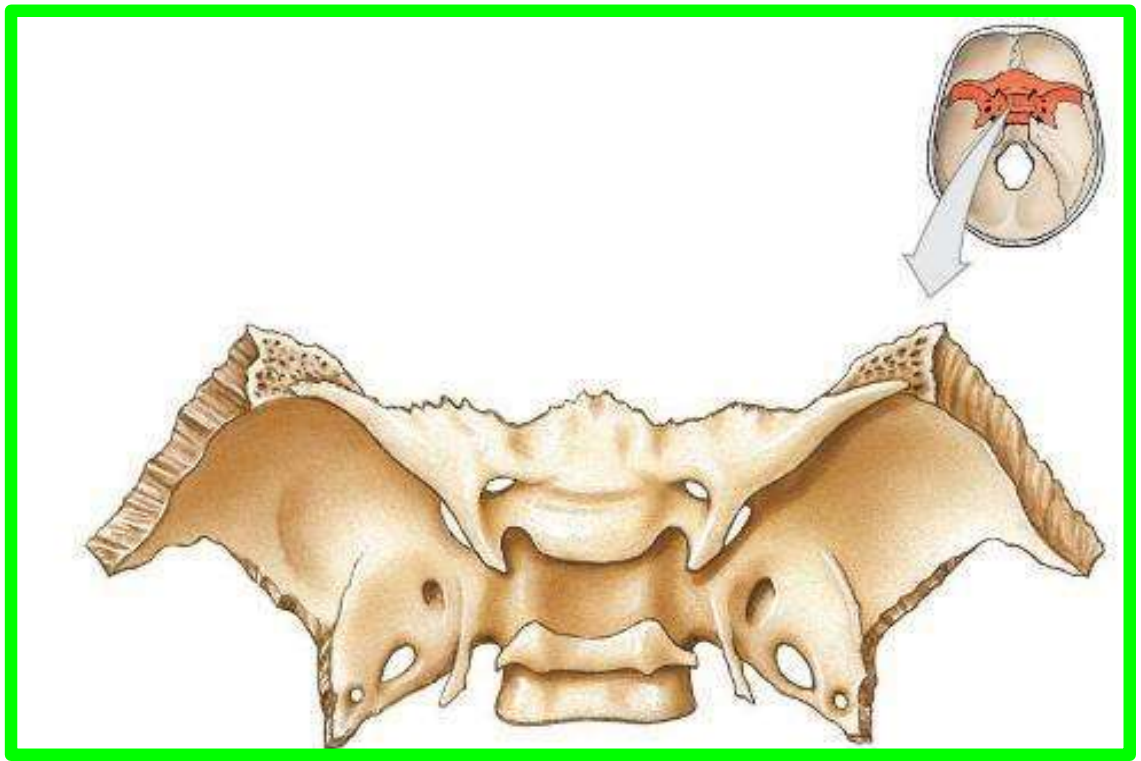

Summary of the More Important Openings in the Base of the Skull and the Structures That Pass Through Them

Opening in Skull	Bone of Skull	Structures Transmitted
Foramen rotundum	Greater wing of sphenoid	Maxillary division of the trigeminal N.
Foramen ovale	Greater wing of sphenoid	Mandibular division of the trigeminal N., lesser petrosal N.
Foramen spinosum	Greater wing of sphenoid	Middle meningeal artery
Foramen lacerum	Between petrous part of temporal and sphenoid	obliterated

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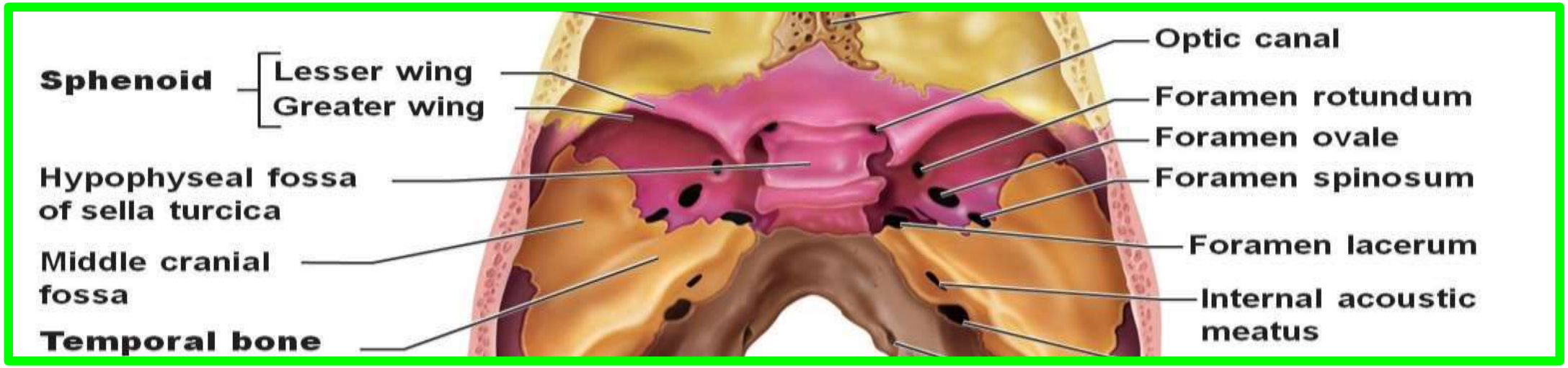
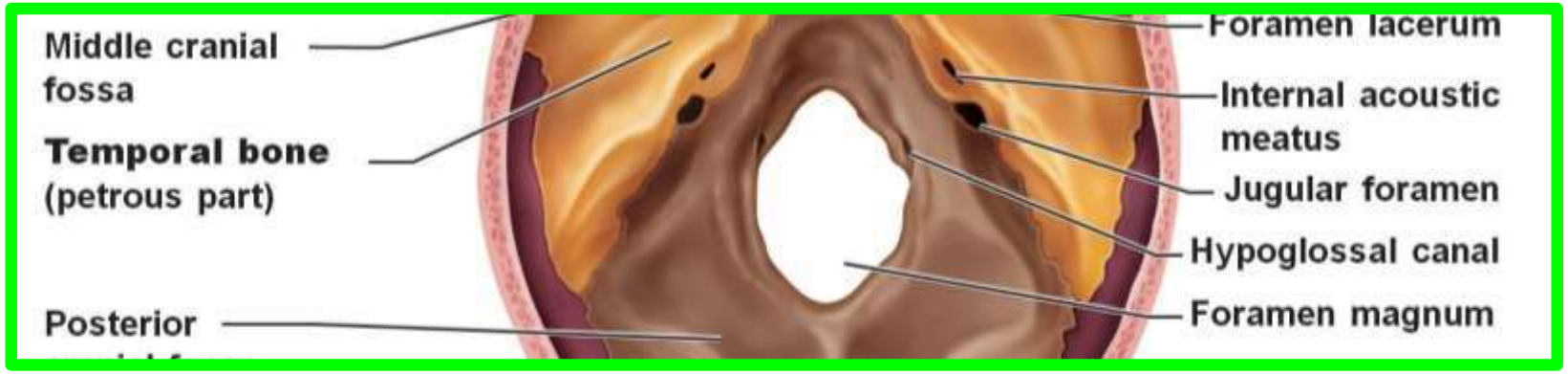


Summary of the More Important Openings in the Base of the Skull and the Structures That Pass Through Them

Opening in Skull	Bone of Skull	Structures Transmitted
Posterior Cranial Fossa		
Foramen magnum	Occipital	Medulla oblongata
Hypoglossal canal	Occipital	Hypoglossal nerve
Jugular foramen	Between temporal and occipital	Glossopharyngeal, vagus, and accessory nerves; sigmoid sinus becomes internal jugular vein
Internal acoustic	Petrous part of temporal	Vestibulocochlear and facial Nerves



Neonatal Skull

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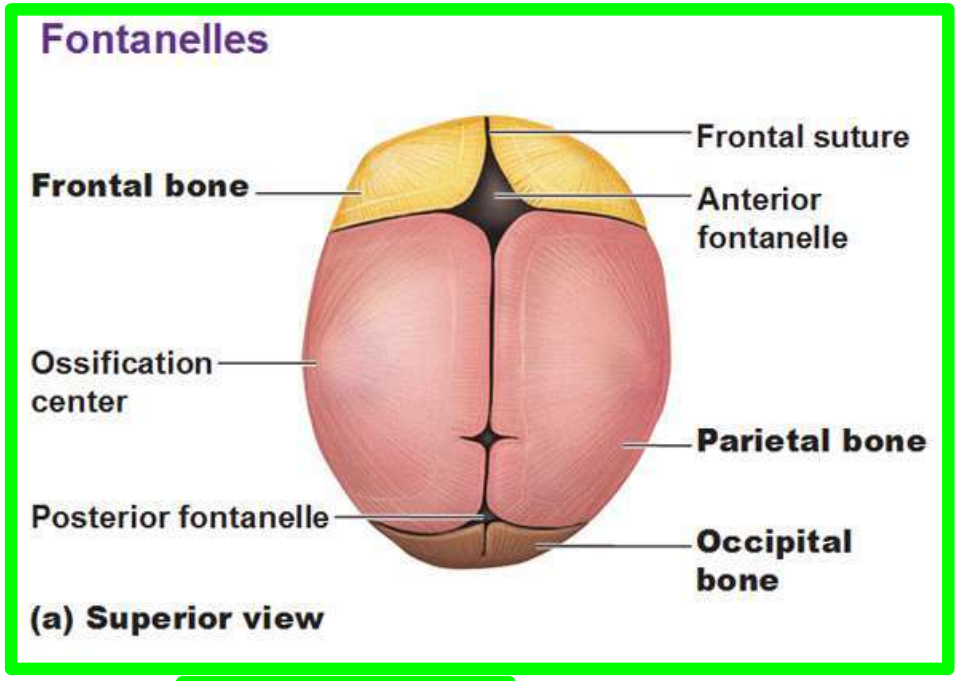
The bones of the vault of neonate are separated by unossified membranous intervals called fontanelles

Clinically, the anterior and posterior fontanelles are most important and are easily examined in the midline of the vault.

✓*The anterior fontanelle is diamond shaped and lies between the two halves of the frontal bone in front and the two parietal bones behind*

✓*The fibrous membrane forming the floor of the anterior fontanelle is replaced by bone and is closed by 18 months of age.*

✓*The posterior fontanelle is triangular and lies between the two parietal bones in front and the occipital bone behind. By the end of the 1st year, the fontanelle is usually closed and can no longer be palpated.*



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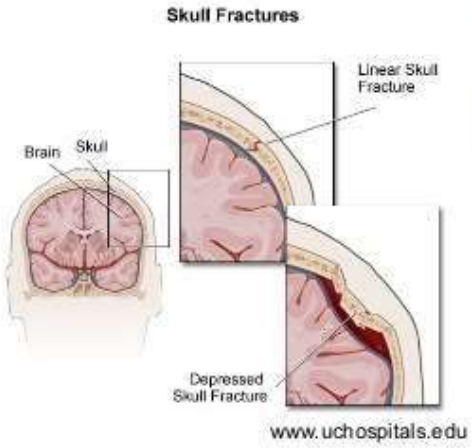
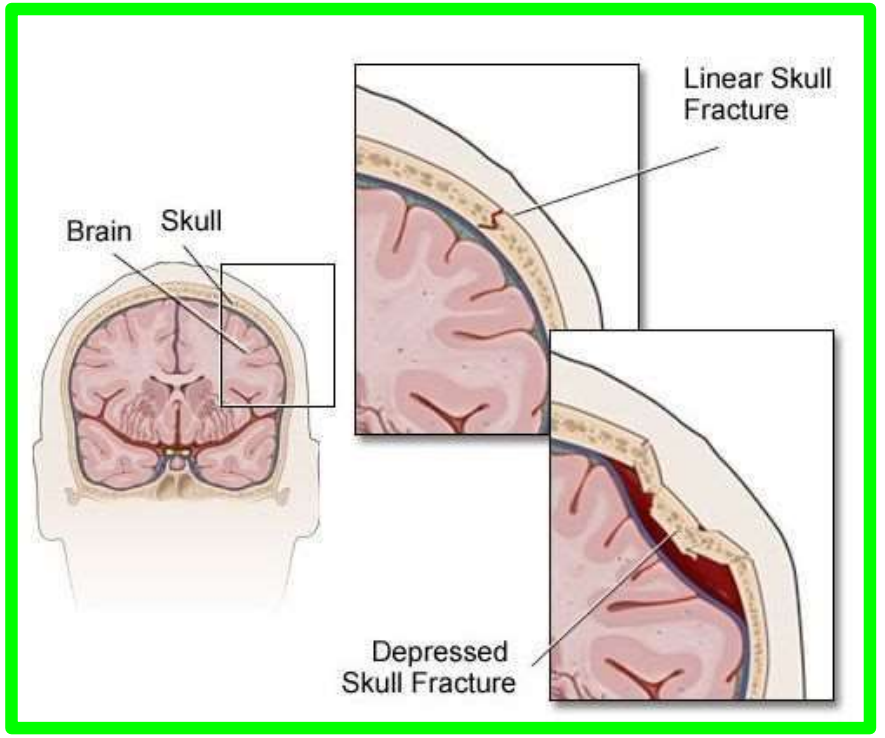
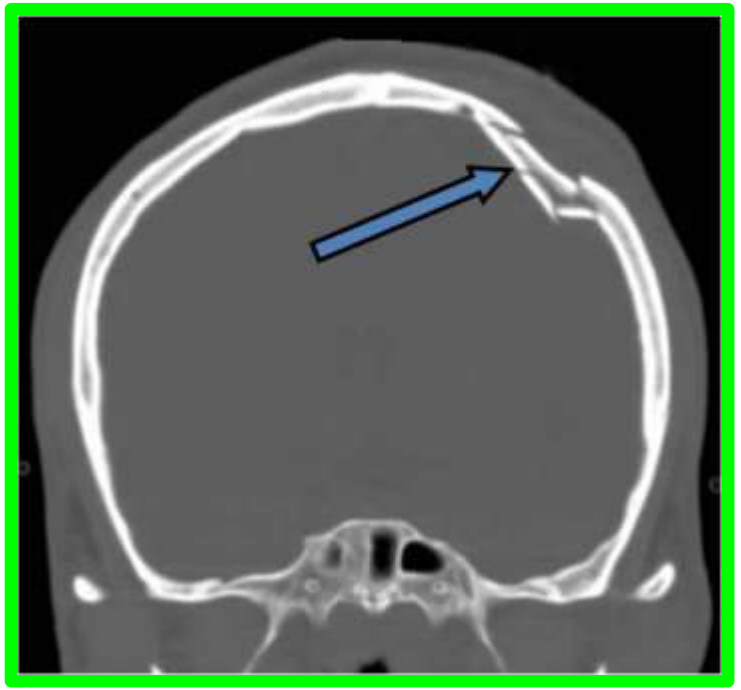
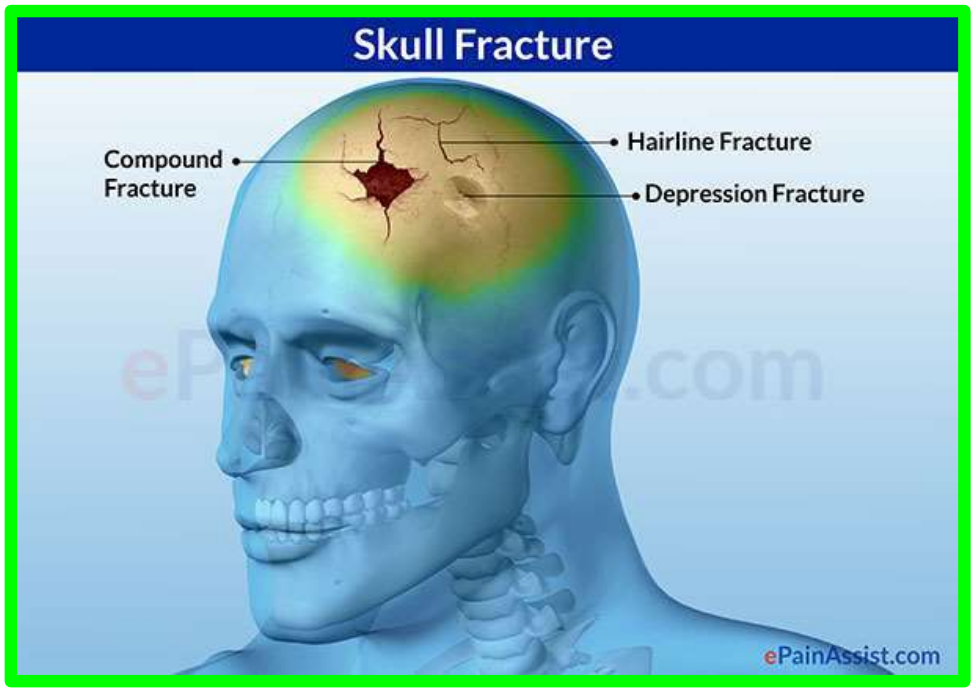
Types of Skull Fracture

- Linear fracture
  - a/w EDH, SDH
- Depressed fracture
  - a/w focal parenchymal lesions
- Skull base fracture
- Open head injuries
  - Knife, firearm
  - Laceration of dura









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Basilar Skull Fracture

- The most common type involves the temporal bone
- Commonly associated with a tear in the dura leading to a CSF leak
- Classic signs and symptoms are often absent on initial presentation but will develop gradually over the first hours of evaluation
- Raccoon Eyes are caused by bleeding from a fracture site in the anterior portion of the skull base

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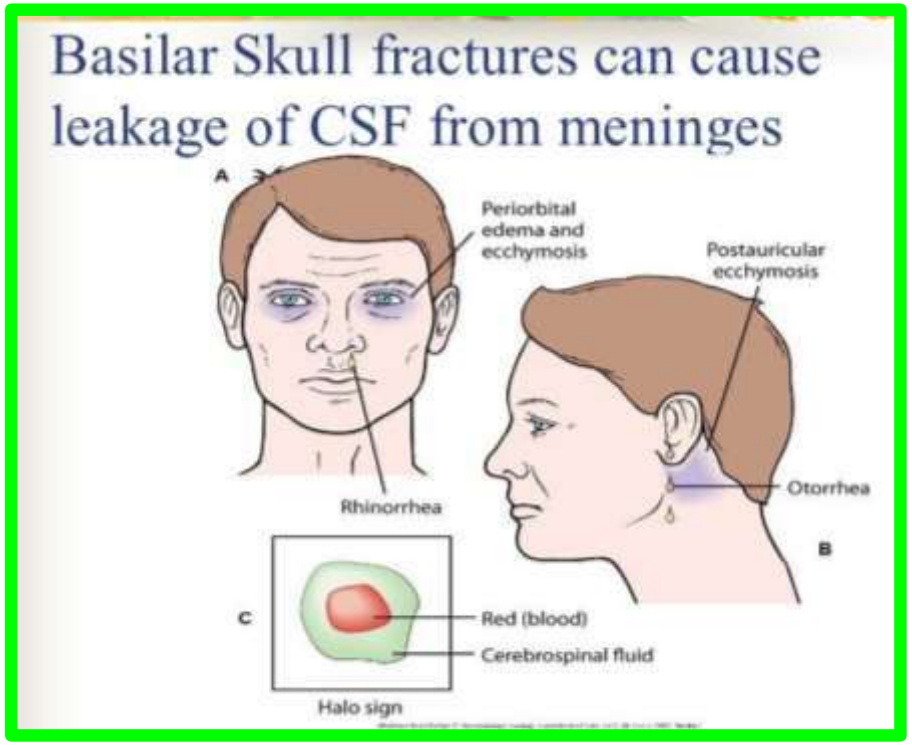
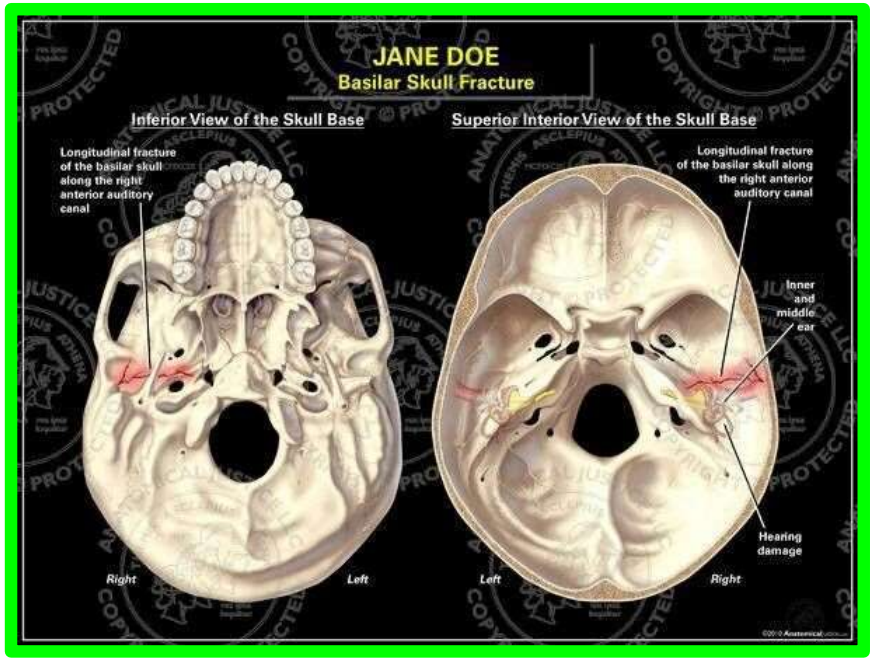
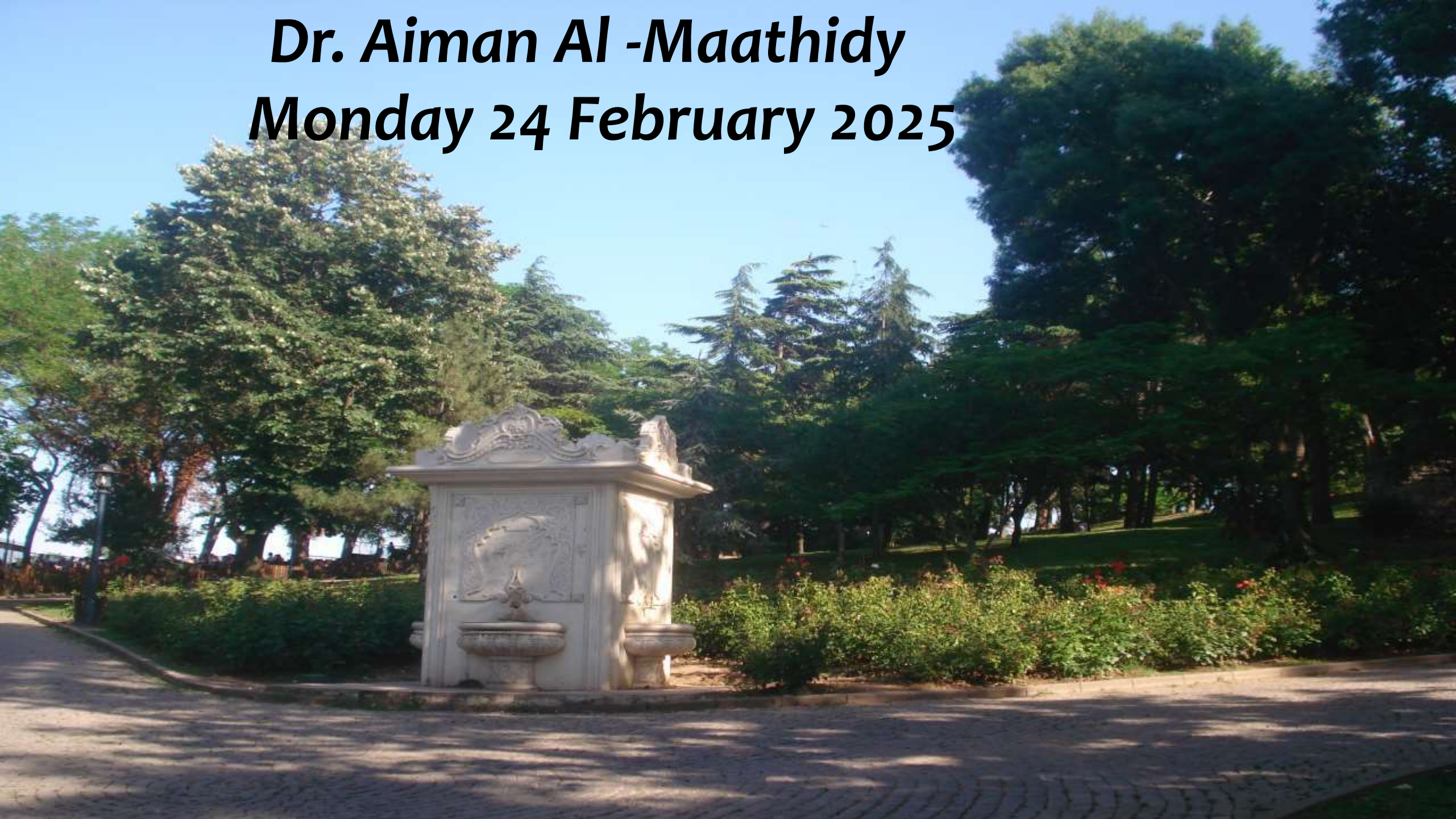


"RACCOON EYES"

Periorbital ecchymosis is a sign of a basal skull fracture. Blood tracks along the periosteum and can collect in soft tissues of the orbital lid.

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