

SPHENOPALATINE FOSSA



ROOF

Part of greater wing of sphenoid
Inferior orbital fissure

ANTERIOR

-Posterior wall of maxillary sinus
-Inferior orbital fissure (superiorly)

POSTERIOR

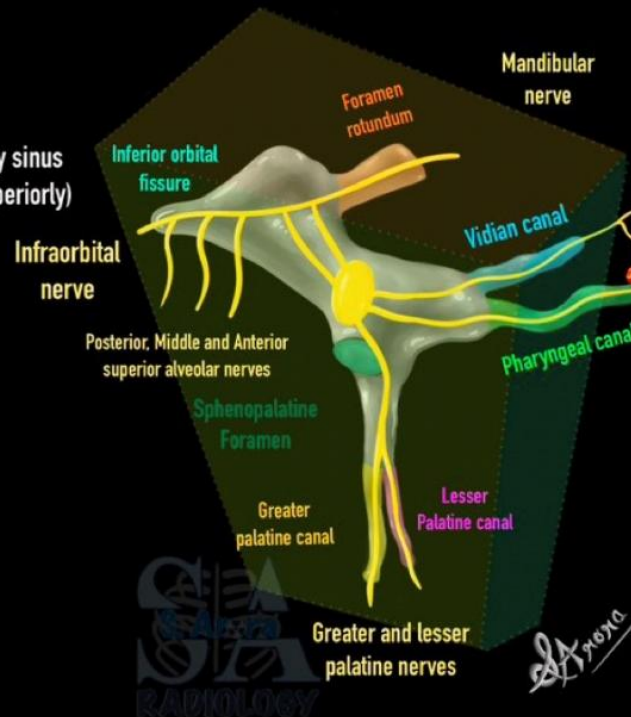
-Pterygoid plates and part of lesser wing of sphenoid bone
- Foramen rotundum, Vidian and palatovaginal canals

MEDIAL

-Sphenopalatine foramen
-Perpendicular plate of palatine bone

LATERAL

Pterygomaxillary fissure



FLOOR

-Pyramidal process of palatine bone
-palatine canals

Pterygopalatine Fossa

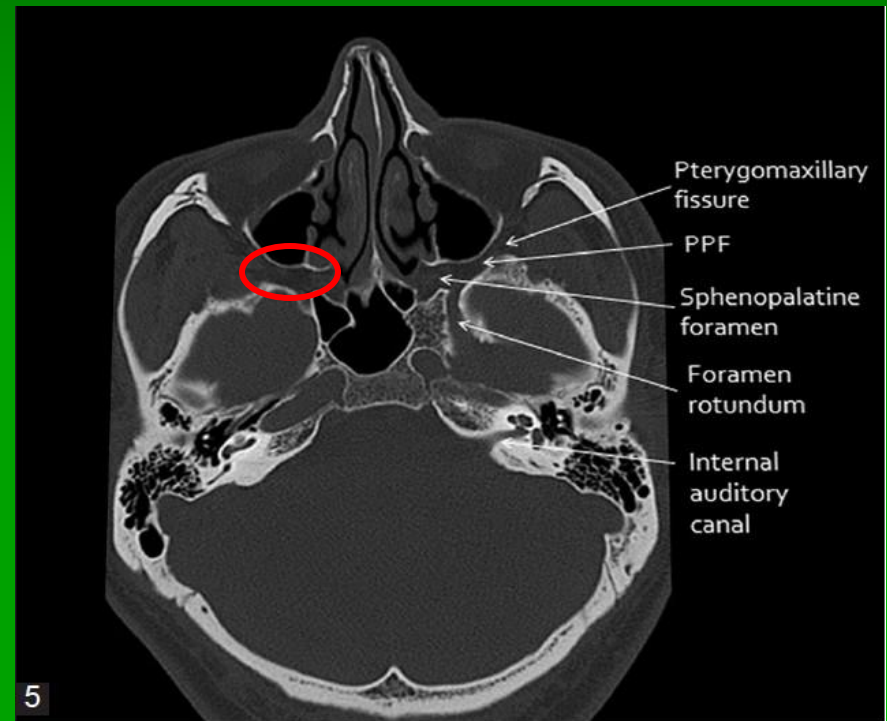
- 3 dimensional box
- Pterygopalatine ganglion
- Maxillary nerve (CNV2) enters via foramen rotundum
- Distal internal maxillary artery enters via pterygomaxillary fissure

Clinical Importance

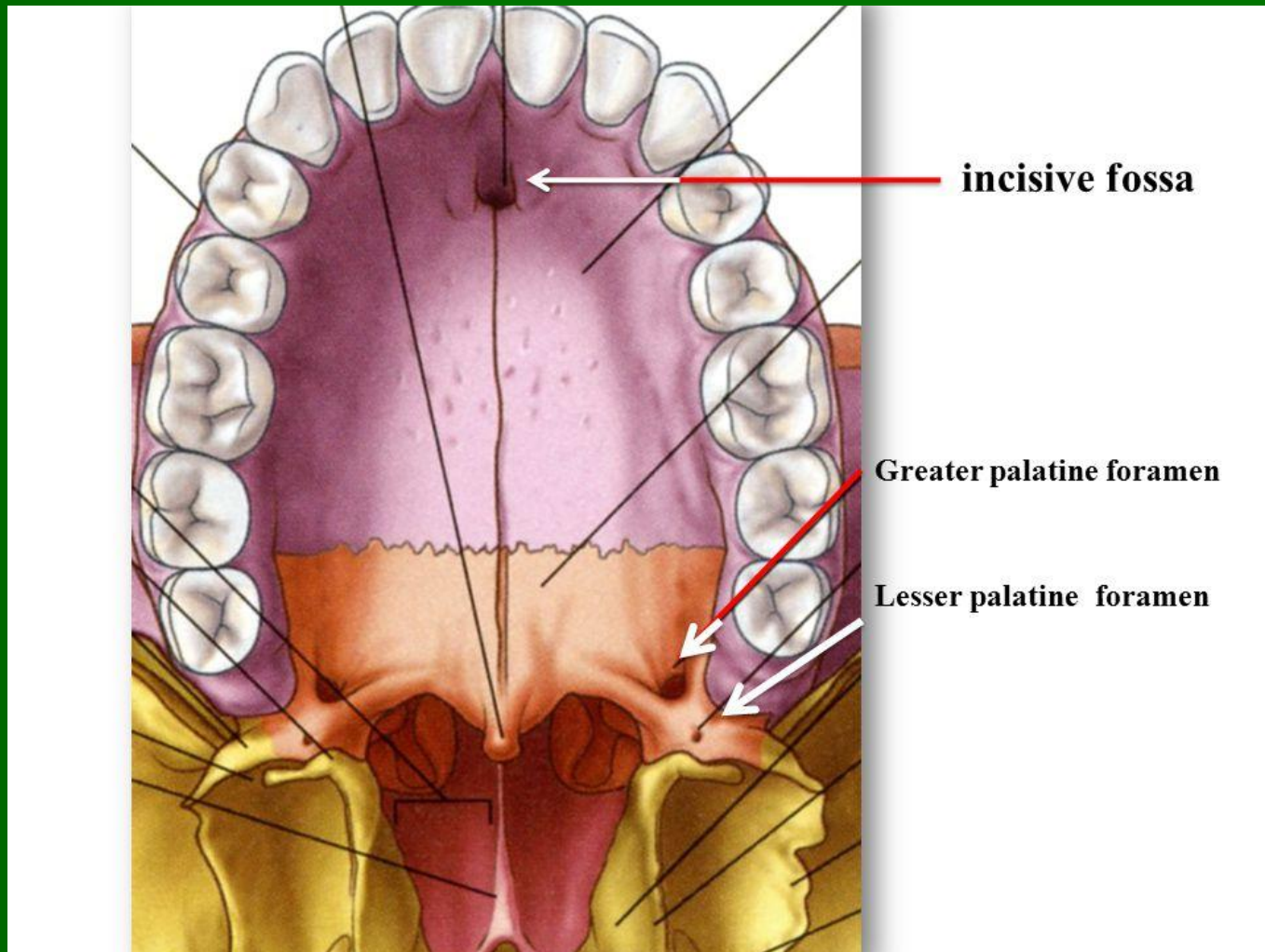
- PF serves as crossroads of deep face **Perineural tumor** from hard-soft palate may follow **palatine nerves** superiorly into PPF
- **Perineural tumor** from cheek skin, maxillary sinus or orbit may follow **infraorbital nerve** to PPF
- PPF tumor may access intracranial compartment via foramen rotundum or vidian canal

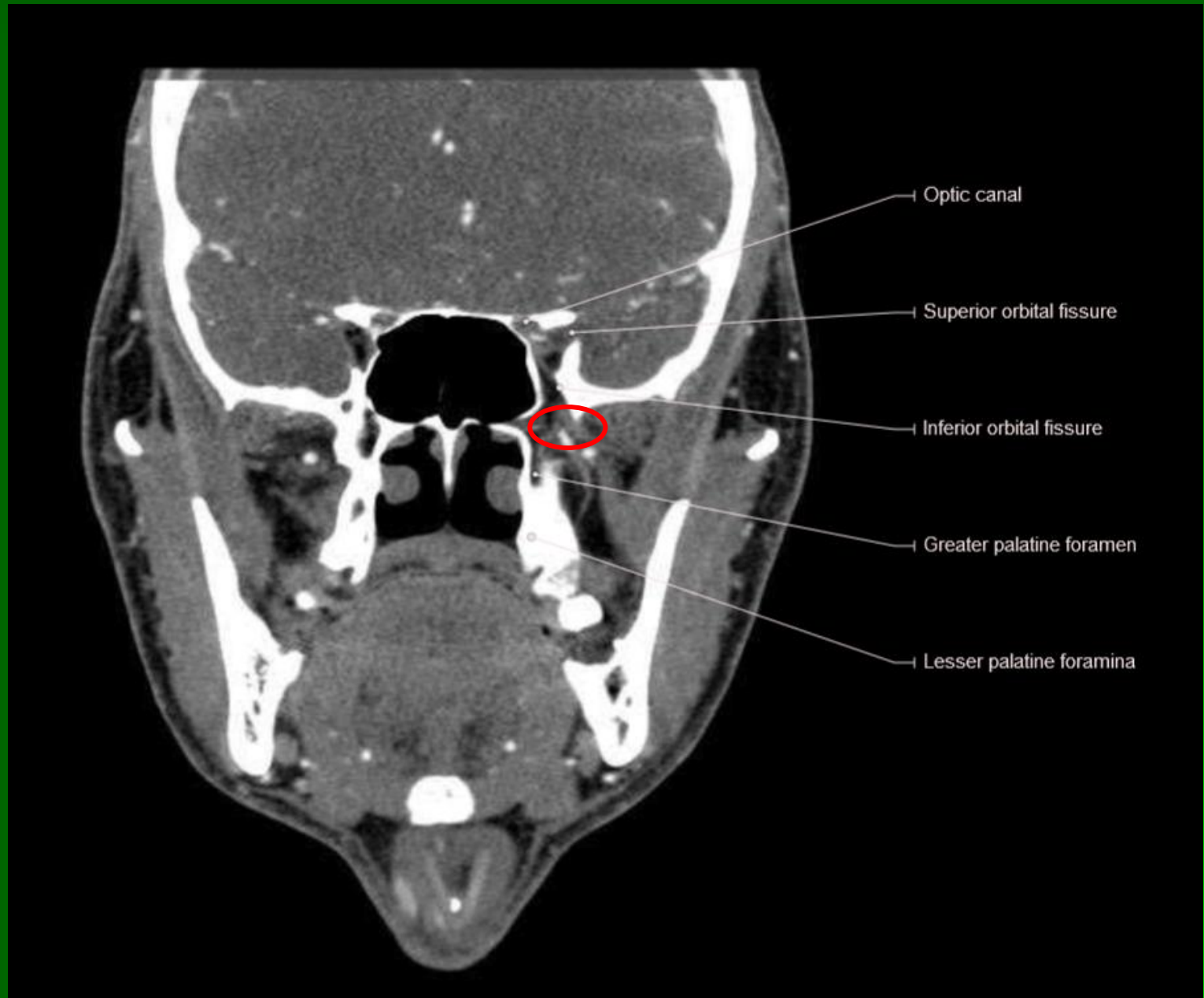
Pterygopalatine fossa

- All communicate with Pterygopalatine fossa
 - Foramen Rotundum
 - Vidian canal
 - Greater and lesser palatine foramen
 - Inferior orbital fissure

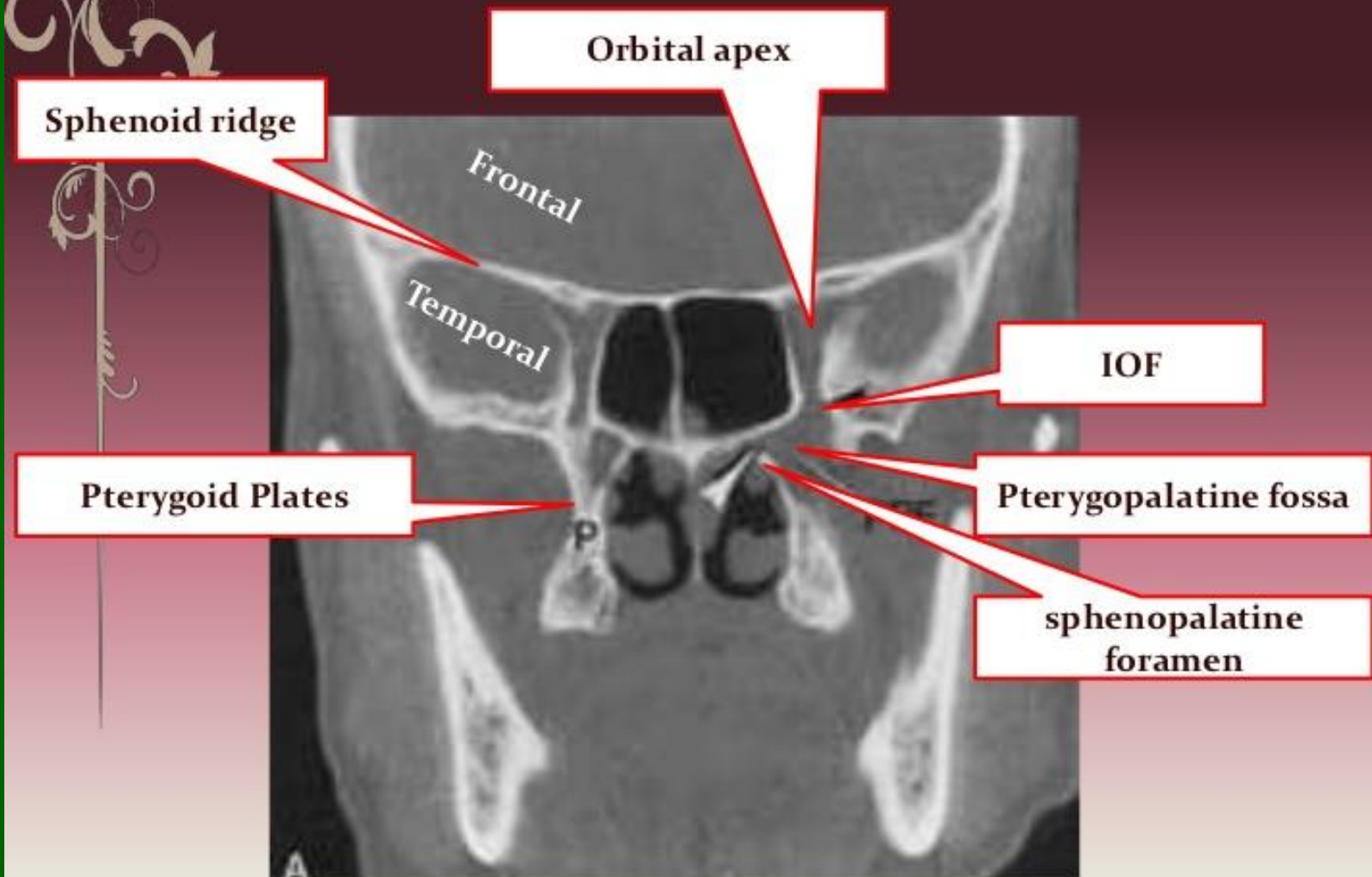


Greater and lesser palatine foramen

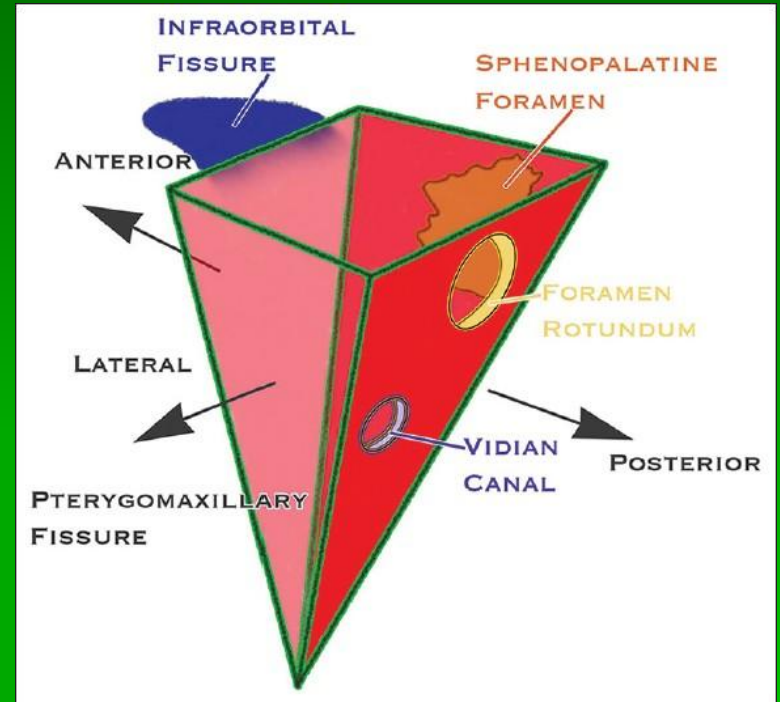
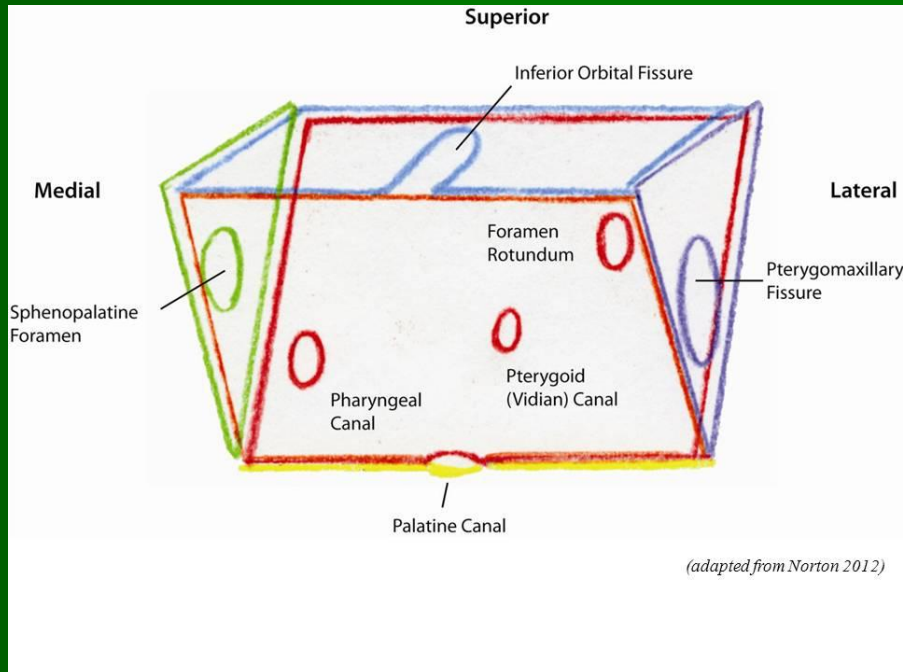




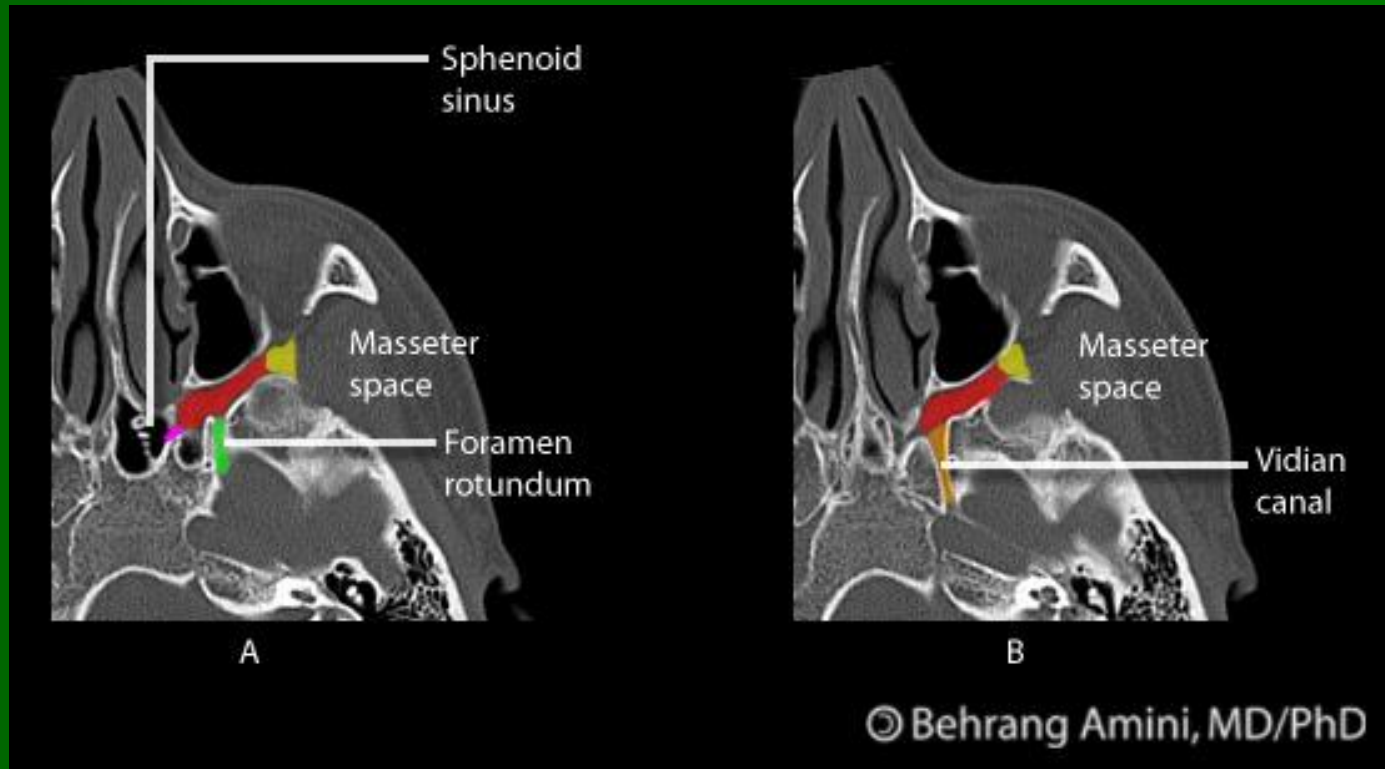
Pterygopalatine Fossa



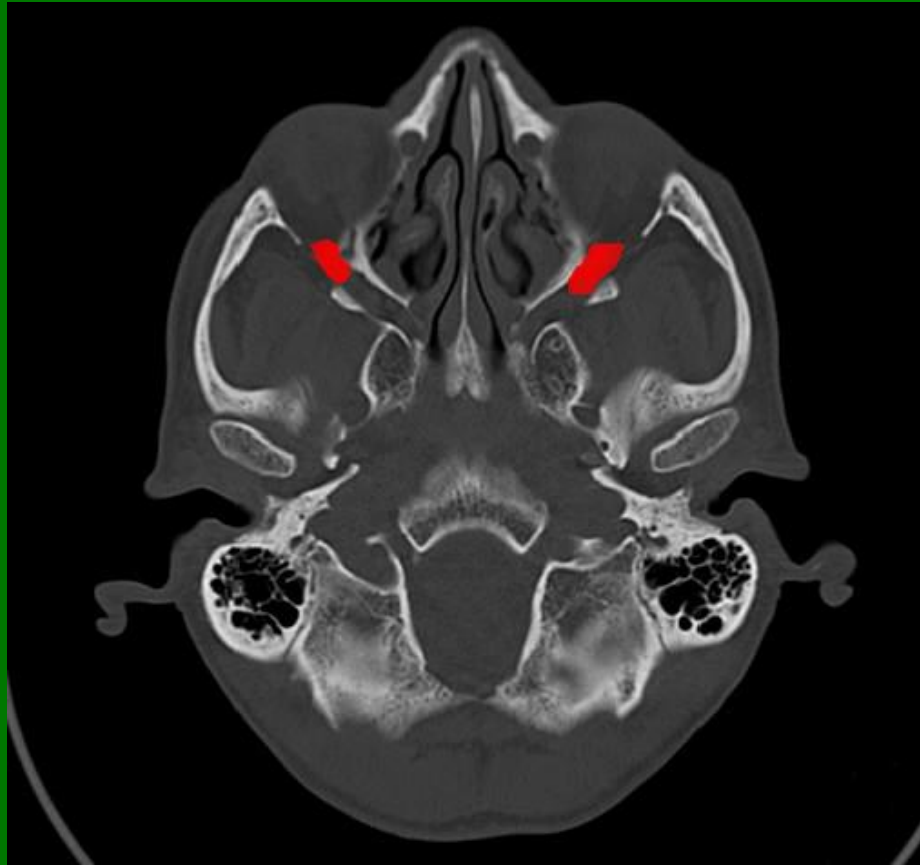
Pterygopalatine Fossa



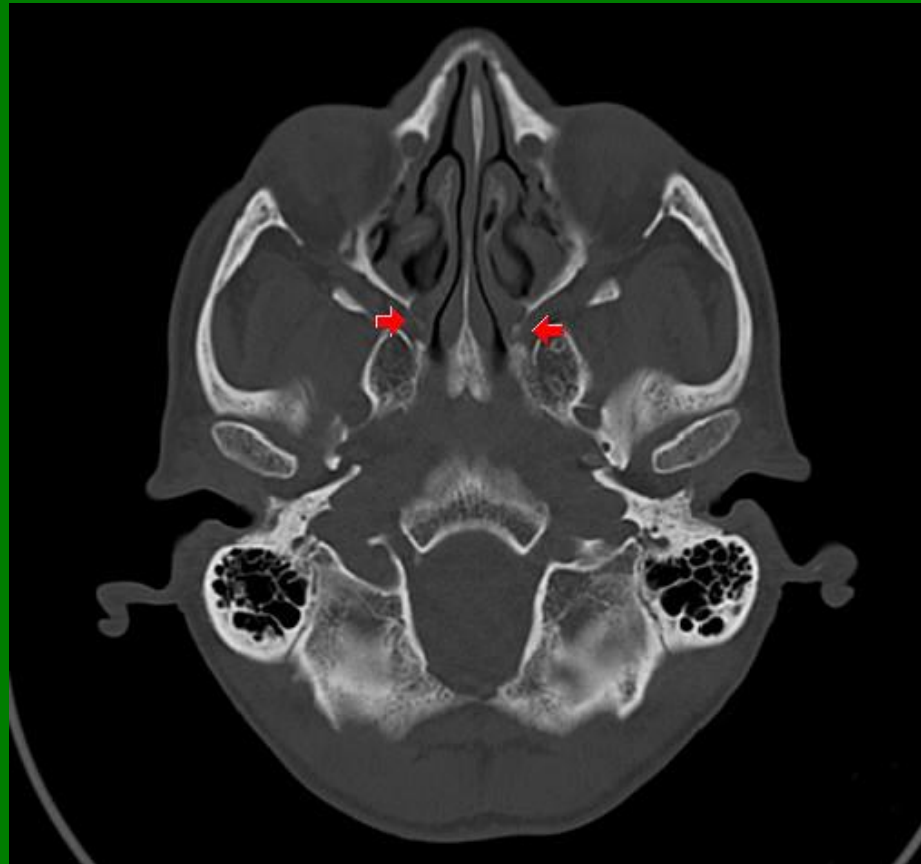
Pterygopalatine Fossa



Inferior orbital fissure



Pterygopalatine fossa



Sphenopalatine foramen

