

CHAPTER I I

Common Neurosurgical Techniques

Pterional Approach

Orbitozygomatic Osteotomy

Retrosigmoid Approach

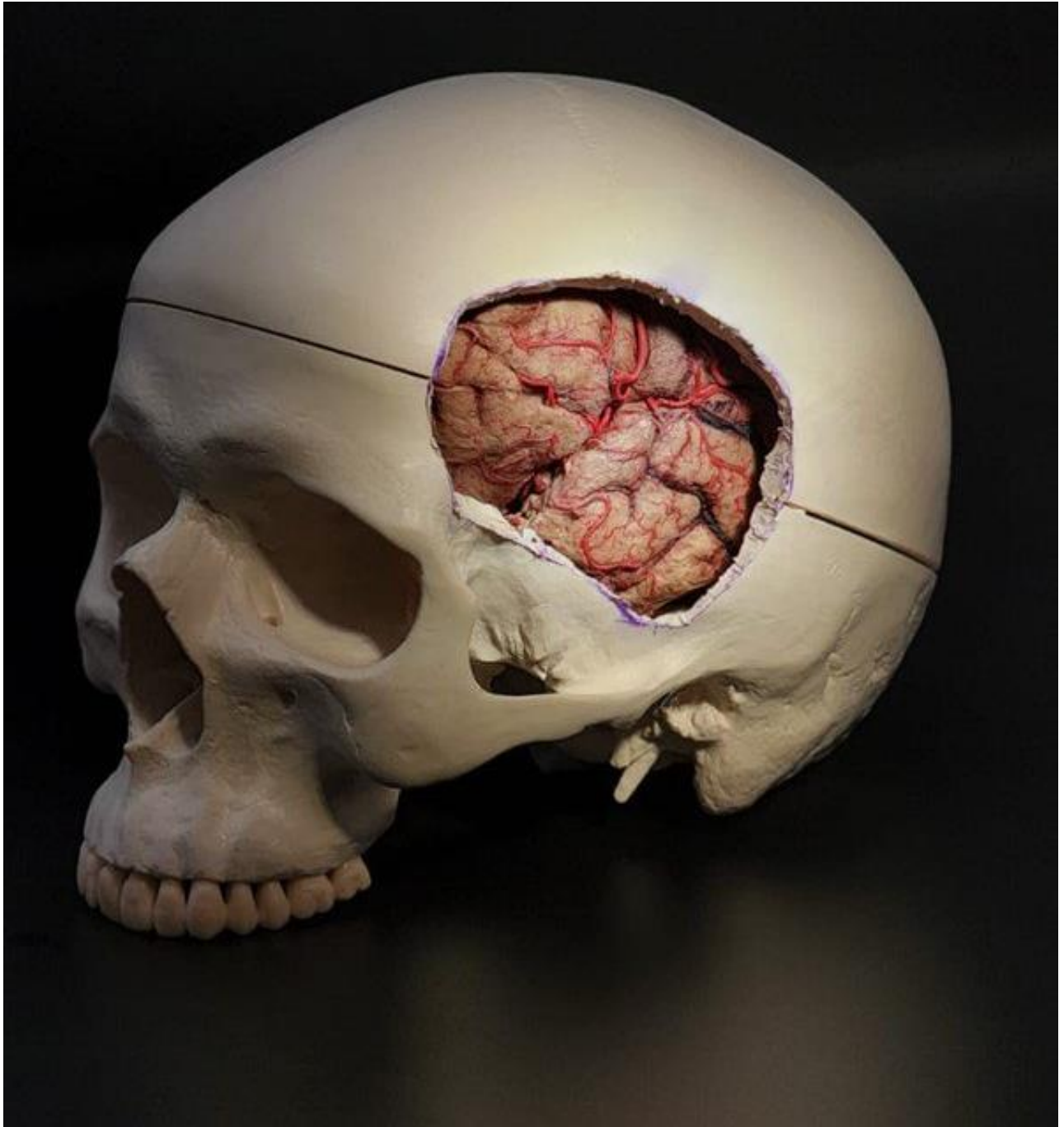
Extradural Subtemporal Transzygomatic Approach

Endoscopic Endonasal Transsphenoidal Approach

Far Lateral Approach

Anterior Cervical Discectomy





Pterional craniotomy exposure

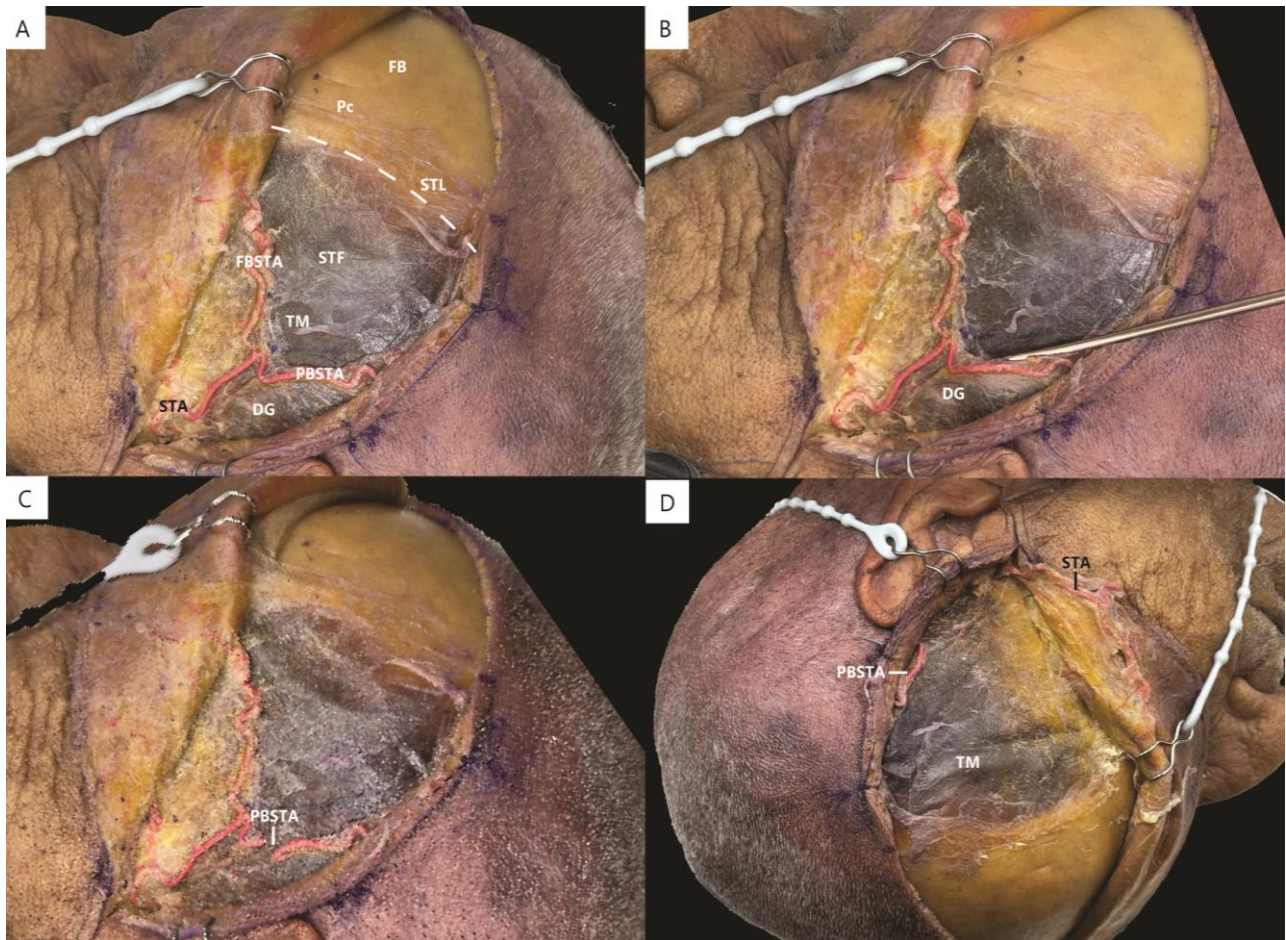




Pterional skin incision (variations)

Starting less than one 1 cm from the tragus, crossing the temporal region to the superior temporal line, it then curves anteriomedially and ends at the midline behind the hair line.





Dissection and preservation of the superficial temporal artery

A- Exposure of the superficial temporal artery frontal and posterior branches. .

B- Exposure of the deep galea containing superficial temporal artery

C- Cutting the parietal branch of the superficial temporal artery.

D- The superficial temporal artery was reflected anterior with the skin after it is being released from its posterior (Parietal branch)

FB = frontal bone

PBSTA = parietal branch of superficial temporal artery

STA = superficial temporal artery

STF = superficial temporal fascia

STL = superior temporal line

Pc = pericranium

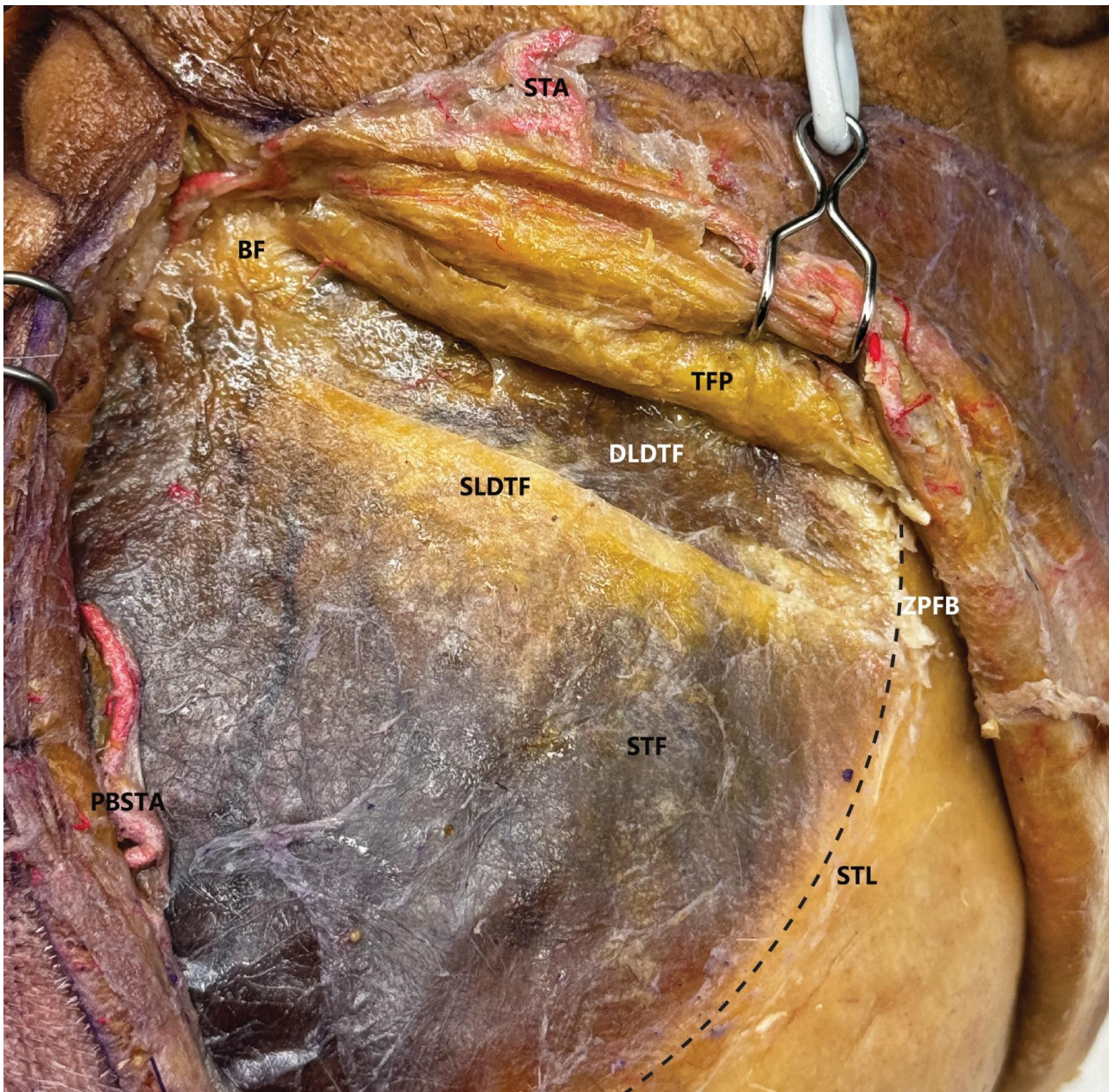
TM = temporalis muscle

FBSTA = frontal branch of superficial temporal artery

DG = deep galea

PBSTA = parietal branch of superficial temporal artery





Demonstration of an interfascial dissection.

1. Identification of the temporal fat pad 1-2 cm superior to the zygomatic arch
2. An incision through the superficial temporal fascia was made parallel to the zygomatic arch and directed posterior to anterior
3. the temporal fat pad was reflected anteriorly over the zygomatic arch.

SLDTF = superficial layer of deep temporal fascia

DLDTF = deep layer of deep temporal fascia

BF = buccal fat

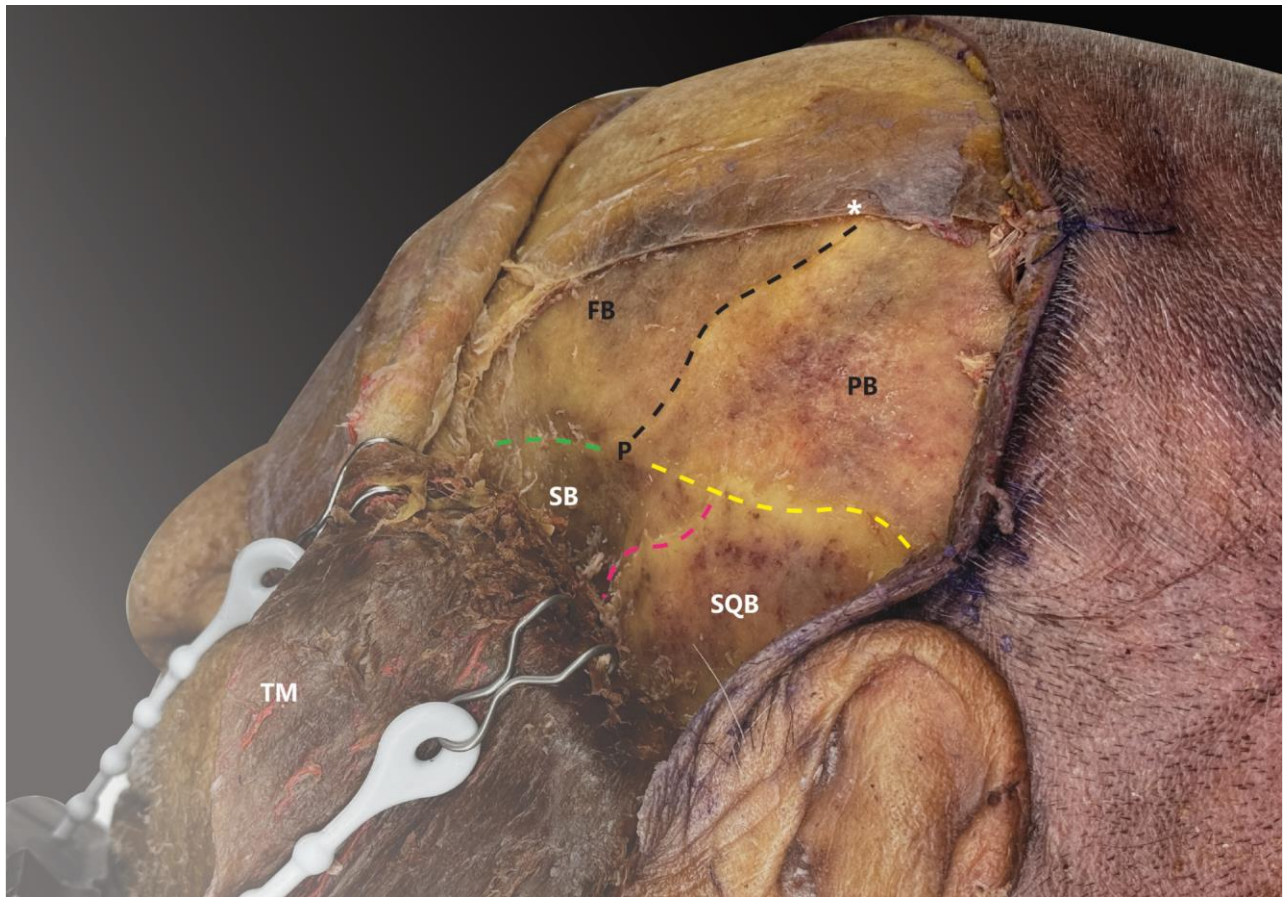
STF = superficial temporal fascia

ZPFB = zygomatic process of frontal bone

PBSTA = parietal branch of superficial temporal artery

TFP = temporal fat pad





Temporalis muscle is detached starting from the zygomatic process anteriorly and over the superior temporal line, leaving a cuff over the superior temporal line (Asterisk).

TM = temporalis muscle

SB = sphenoidal bone

FB = frontal bone

Black dashed line = coronal suture

St = stephanion

Yellow dashed line = squamoparietal suture

PB = parietal bone

Pink dashed line = squamous suture

SQB = squamosal part of the temporal bone

P = pterion





A standard pterional craniotomy (3 burr holes).

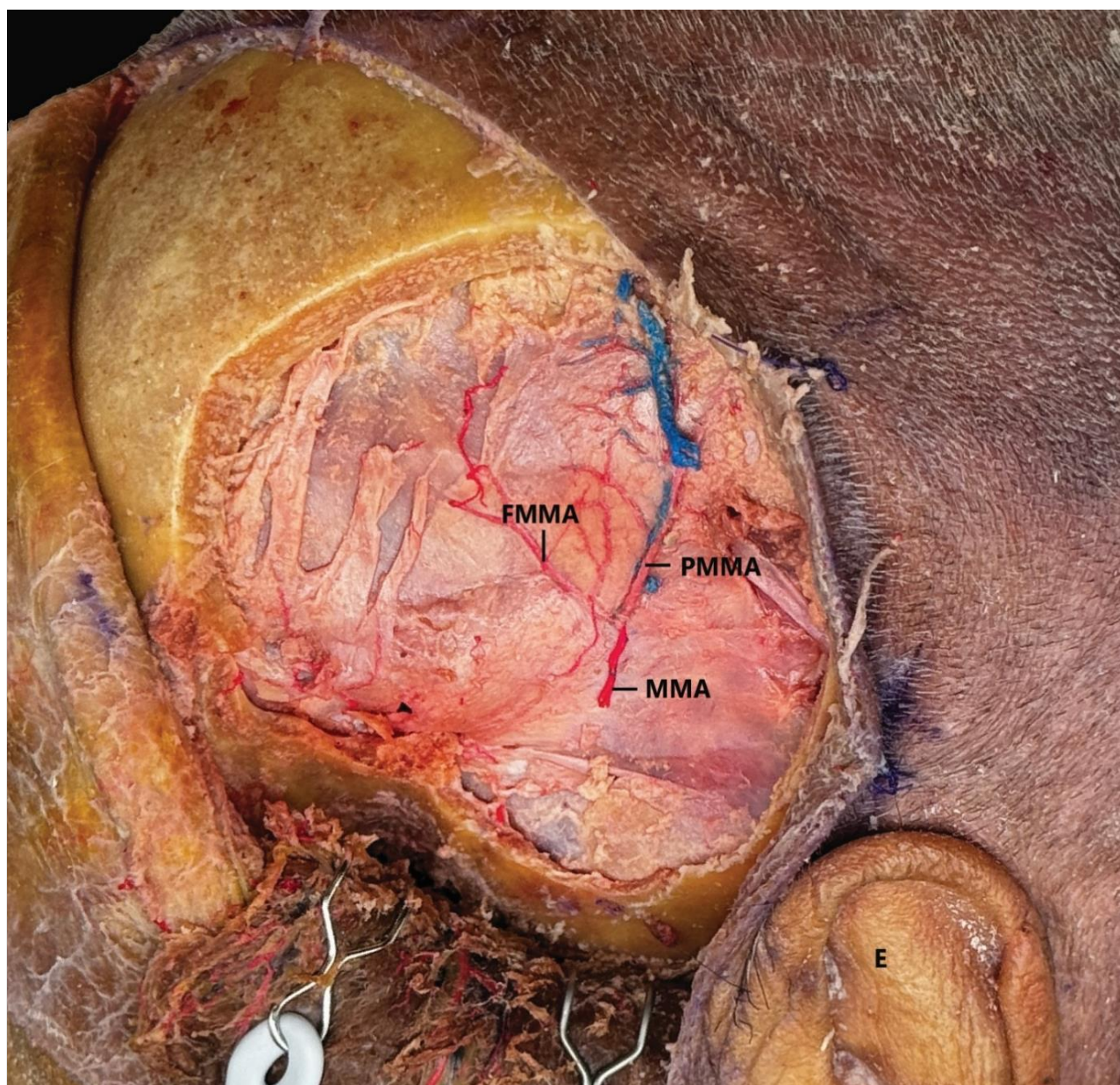
1. Keyhole superior to the frontozygomatic suture, above the anterior portion of the superior temporal line.
2. Second burr hole, over the posterior portion of the superior temporal line.
3. Third burr hole over the squamous part of the temporal bone.

K = keyhole

H2 = second burr hole

H3 = third burr hole





Bone exposure and dura matter with MMA.

MMA = middle meningeal artery
PMMA = parietal branch of middle meningeal artery
FMMA = frontal branch of middle meningeal artery
DM = dura mater





Drilling of the sphenoid wing and expouser of the meningeal-orbital band

MCF = middle cranial fossa
MOB = meningeal-orbital band

SW = sphenoid wing
ACF = anterior cranial fossa





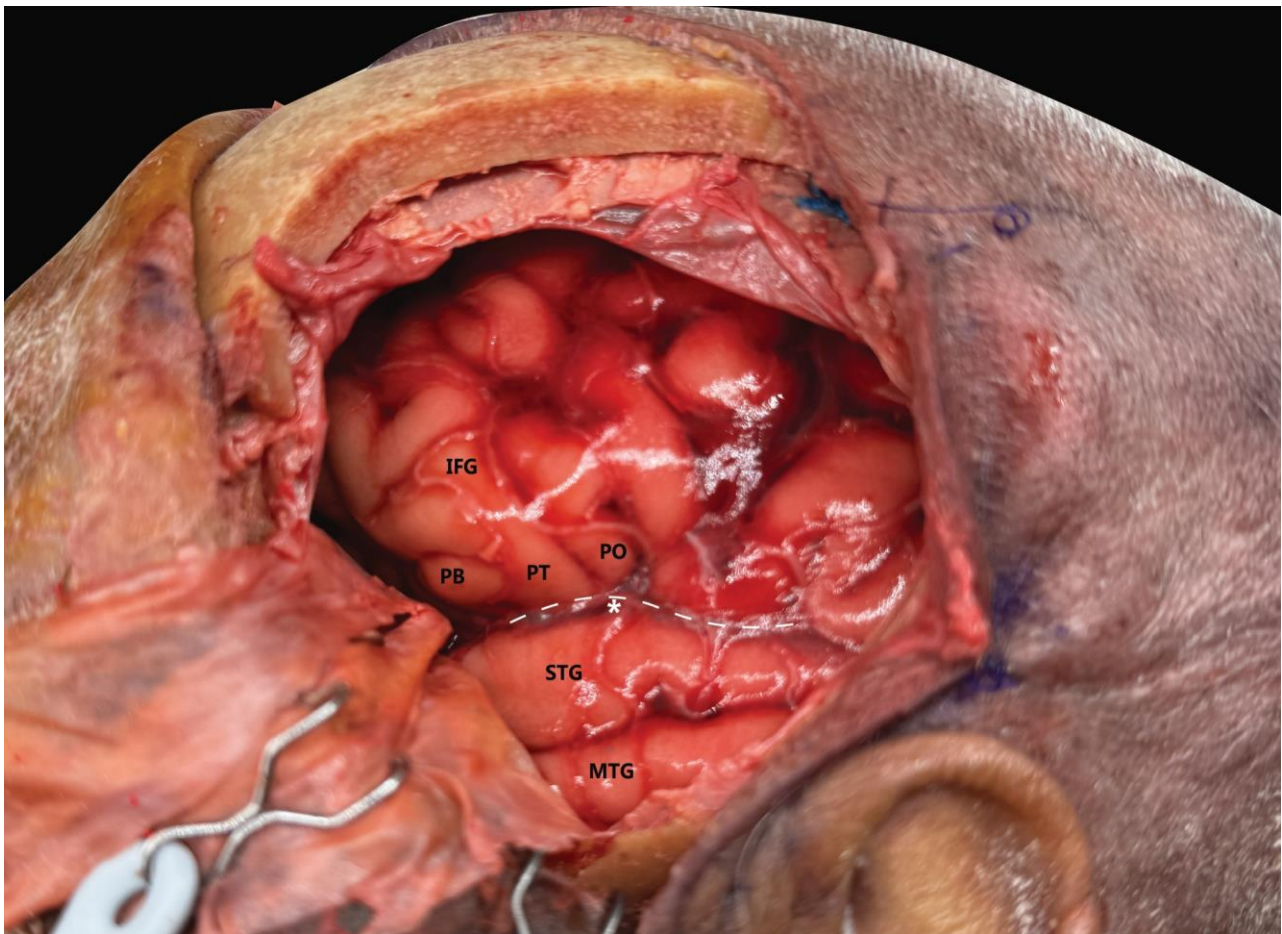
Durotomy

Demonstration of the curvilinear incision of the dura with an additional cut from the frontal burr hole to the lesser wing of the sphenoid, leaving two leaflets of the dura.

D = dura matter
A = arachnoid matter

Yellow dashed line = sylvian fissure
White dashed line = the dural incision



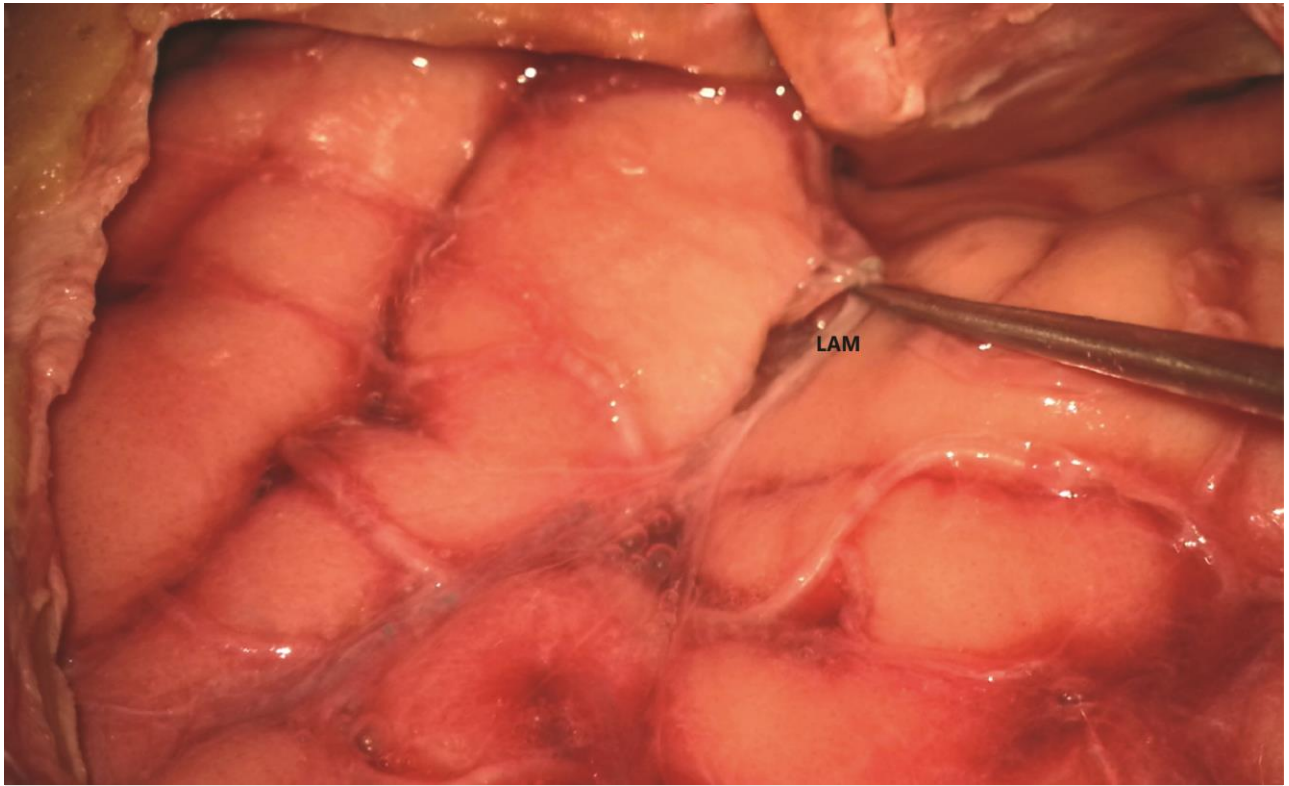


Intradural exposure of the pterional approach

PB = pars orbitalis
PT = pars triangularis
PO = pars opercularis
STG = superior temporal gyrus

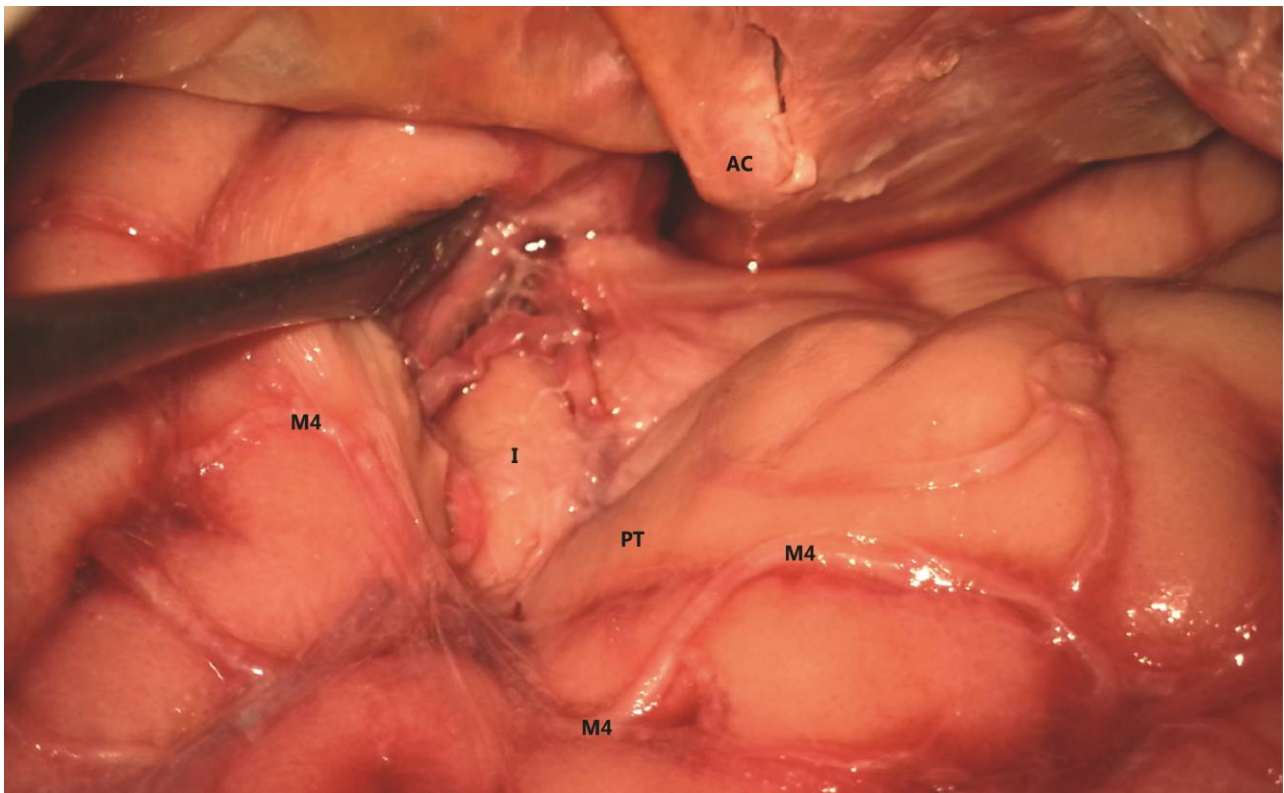
MTG = middle temporal gyrus
IFG = inferior temporal gyrus
White dashed line = lateral membrane of the sylvian fissure
Asterisk = anterior sylvian point





LAM = lateral arachnoid membrane, overlying the superficial compartment of the Sylvain fissure



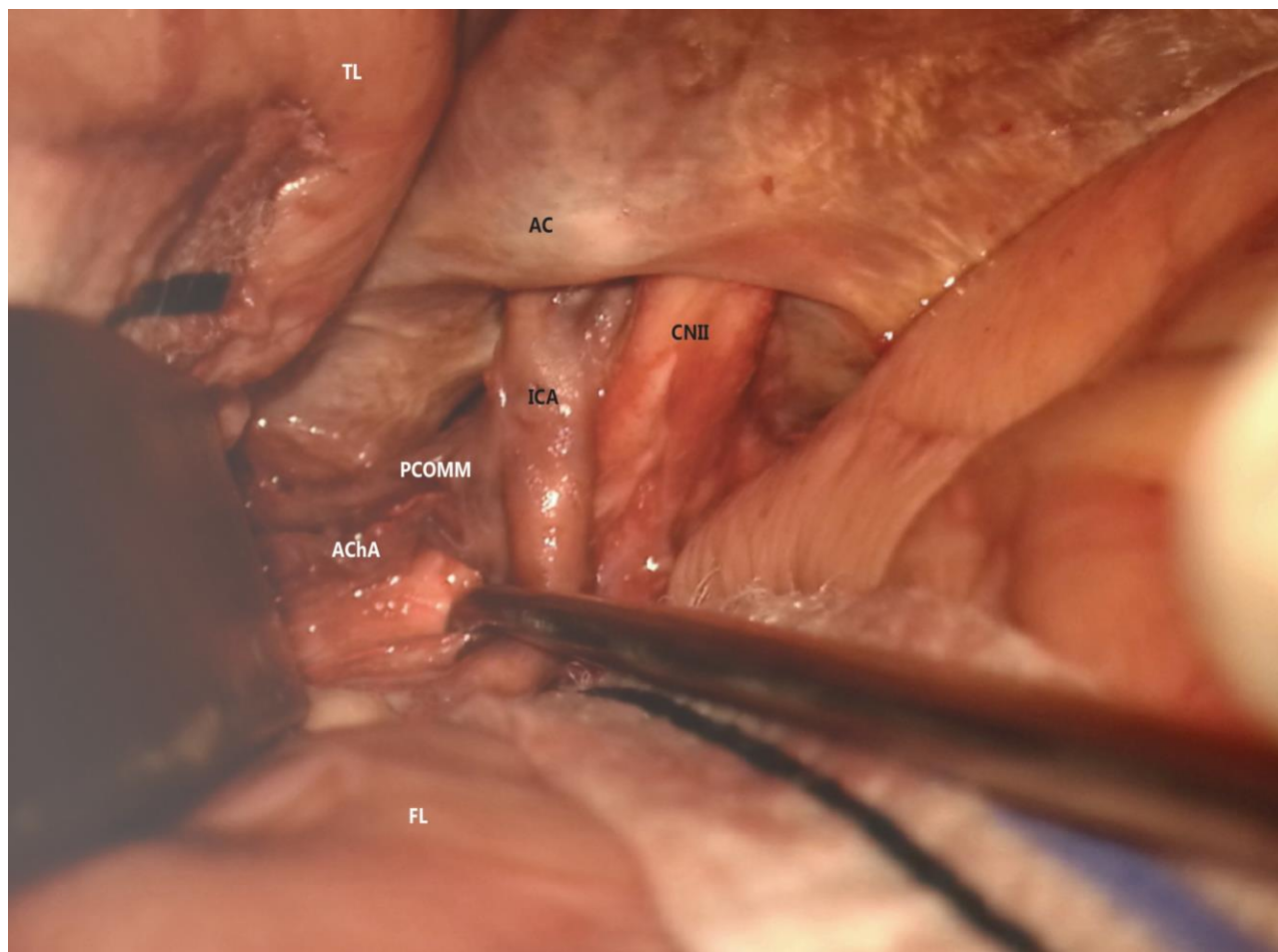


Posterior-medial compartment/insular cleft of sylvain fissure. Intermediate sylvain membrane was dissected.

PT = pars triangularis
MCA = middle cerebral artery
I = insula

AC = anterior clinoid
M4 = cortical segment of middle cerebral artery



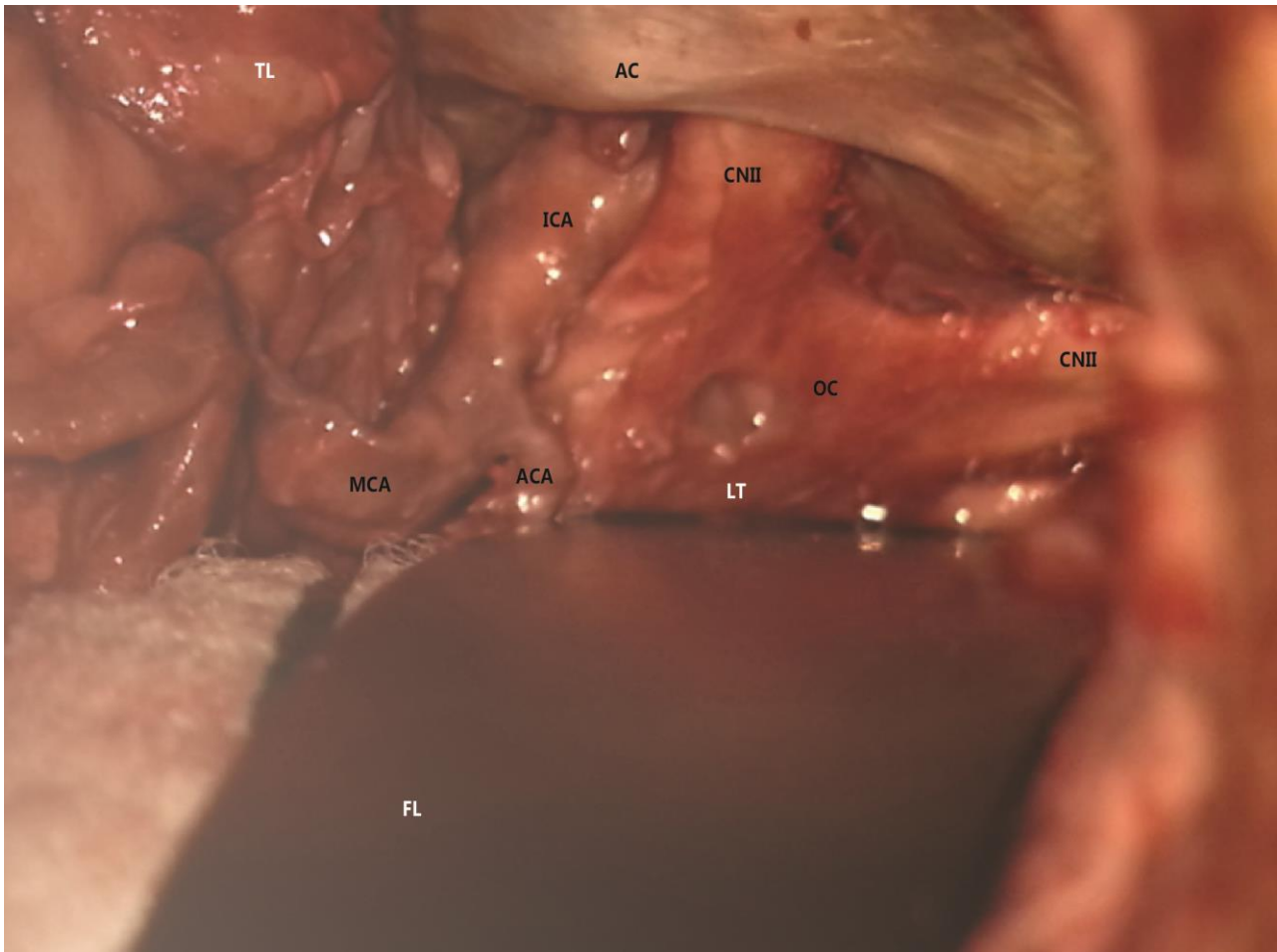


Sylvian dissection

AChA = anterior choroidal artery
PCOMM = Posterior communicating artery
CN II = optic Nerve
AC = anterior clinoid

ICA = internal carotid artery
TL = temporal lobe
FL = frontal lobe

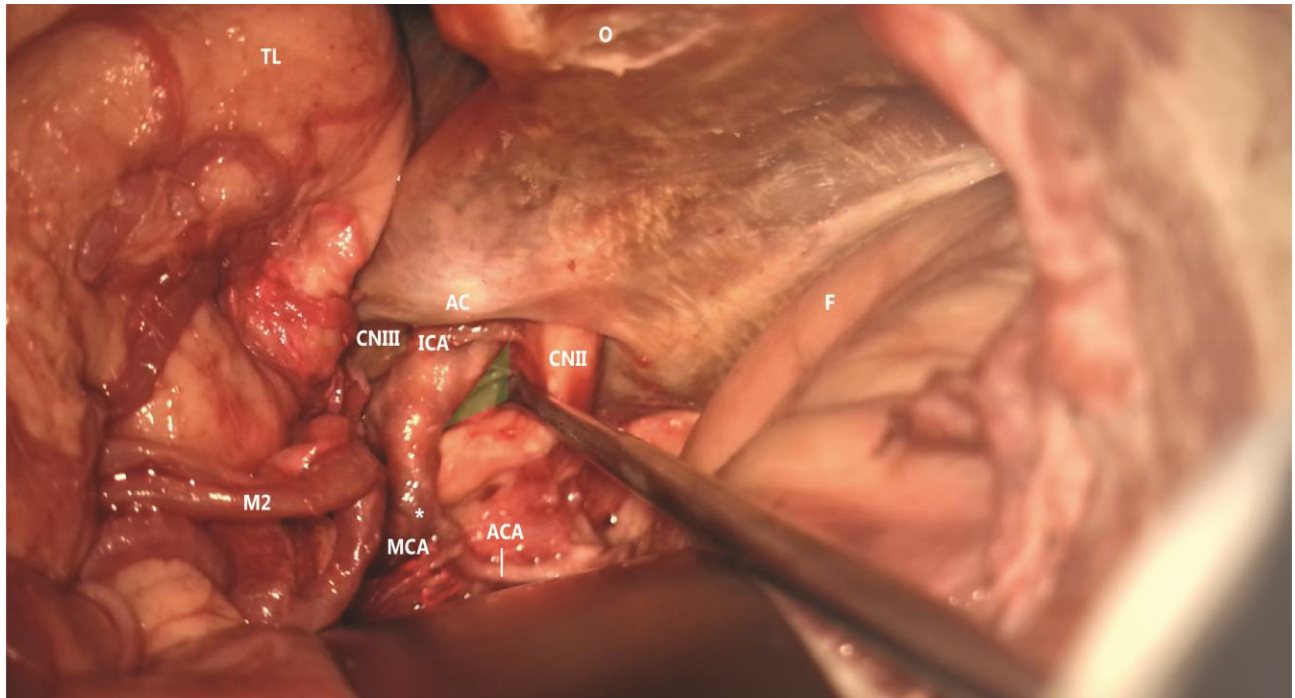




Sylvian dissection surgical view

CN II = optic nerve
AC = anterior clinoid
ICA = internal carotid artery
TL = temporal lobe
OC = optic chiasma
MCA = middle cerebral artery
ACA = anterior cerebral artery
ICA = internal carotid artery
LT = laminated terminalis.





Sylvian dissection surgical view

ACA = anterior carotid artery
 Asterisk = carotid bifurcation
 TL = temporal lobe
 O = orbit
 M2 = insular segment
 Green triangle = optoic-carotid tringle
 CN II = optic nerve
 CN III = oculomotor nerve
 AC = anterior clinoid
 ICA = internal carotid artery
 MCA = middle cerebral artery



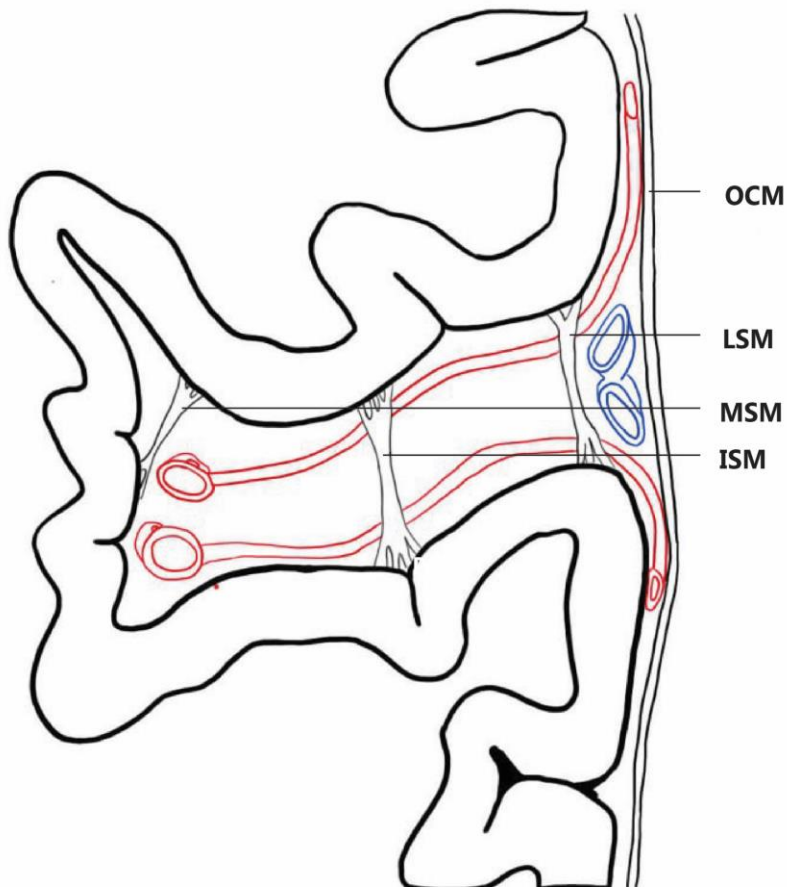
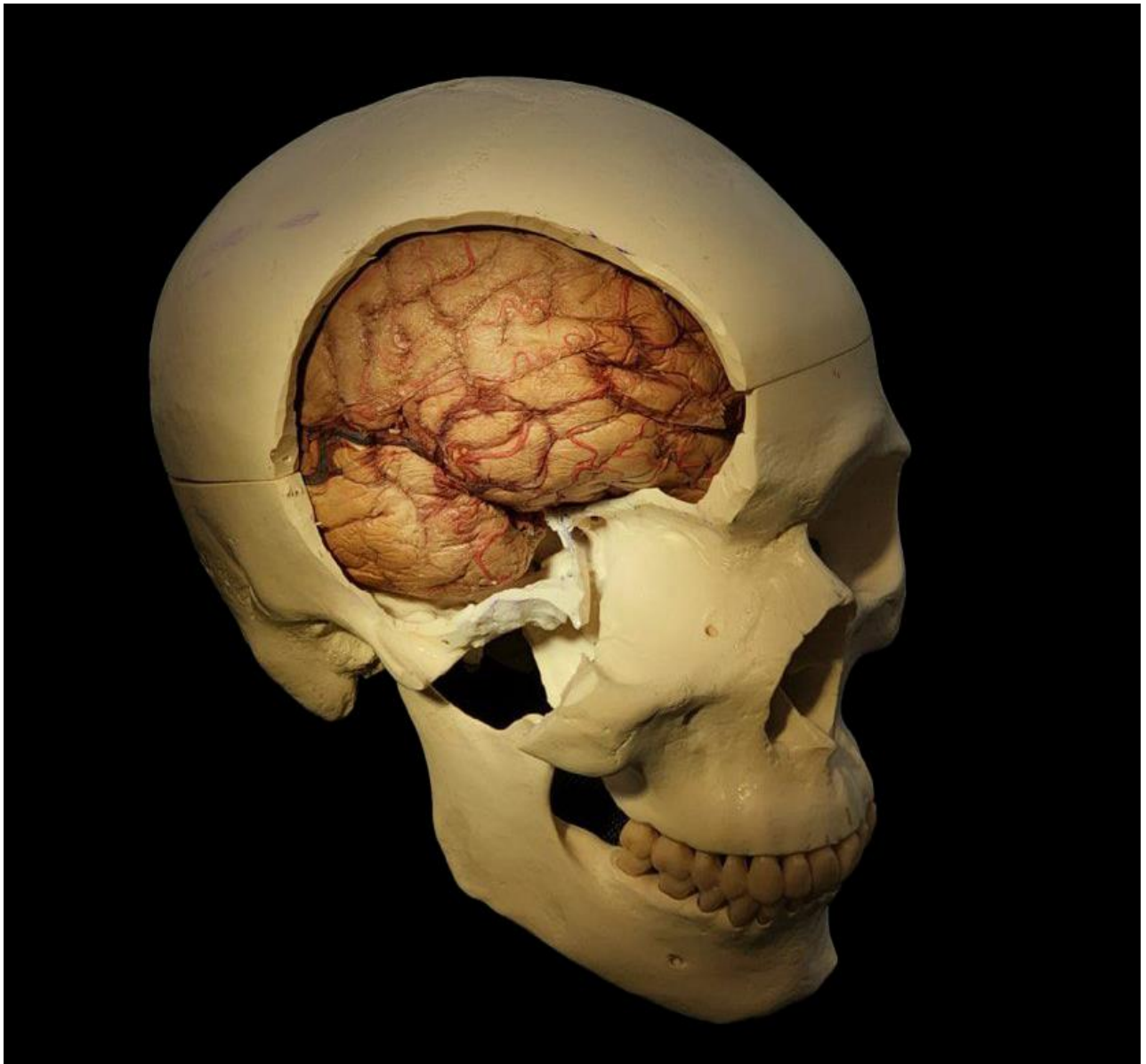


Illustration of sylvian membranes

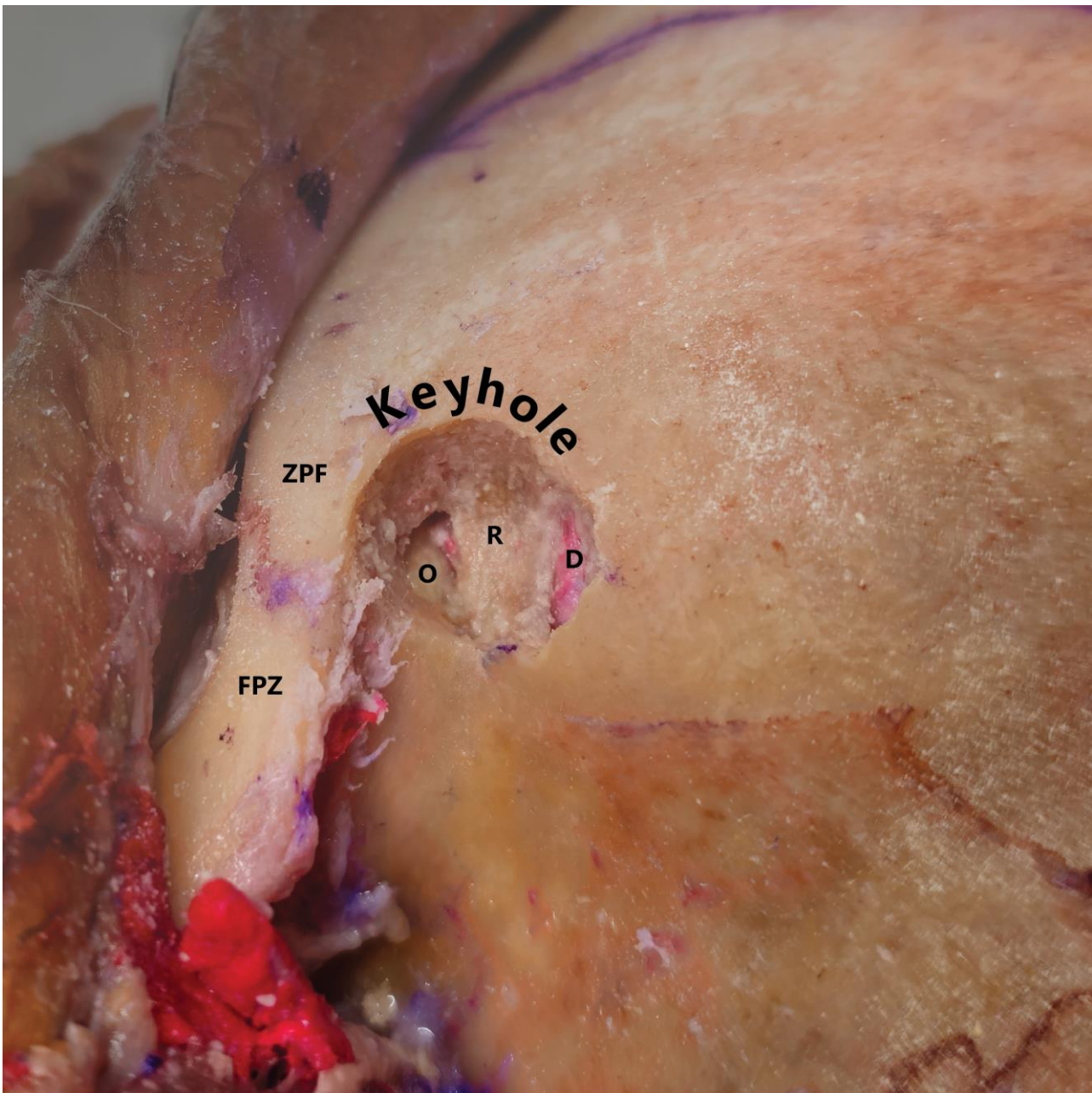
OCM = Outer arachnoid membrane
LSM = Lateral Sylvian membrane
ISM = Intermediate Sylvian membrane
MSM = Medial Sylvian membrane





LAM = lateral arachnoid membrane, overlying the superficial compartment of the Sylvian fissure





McCarty Keyhole

R = roof of orbit

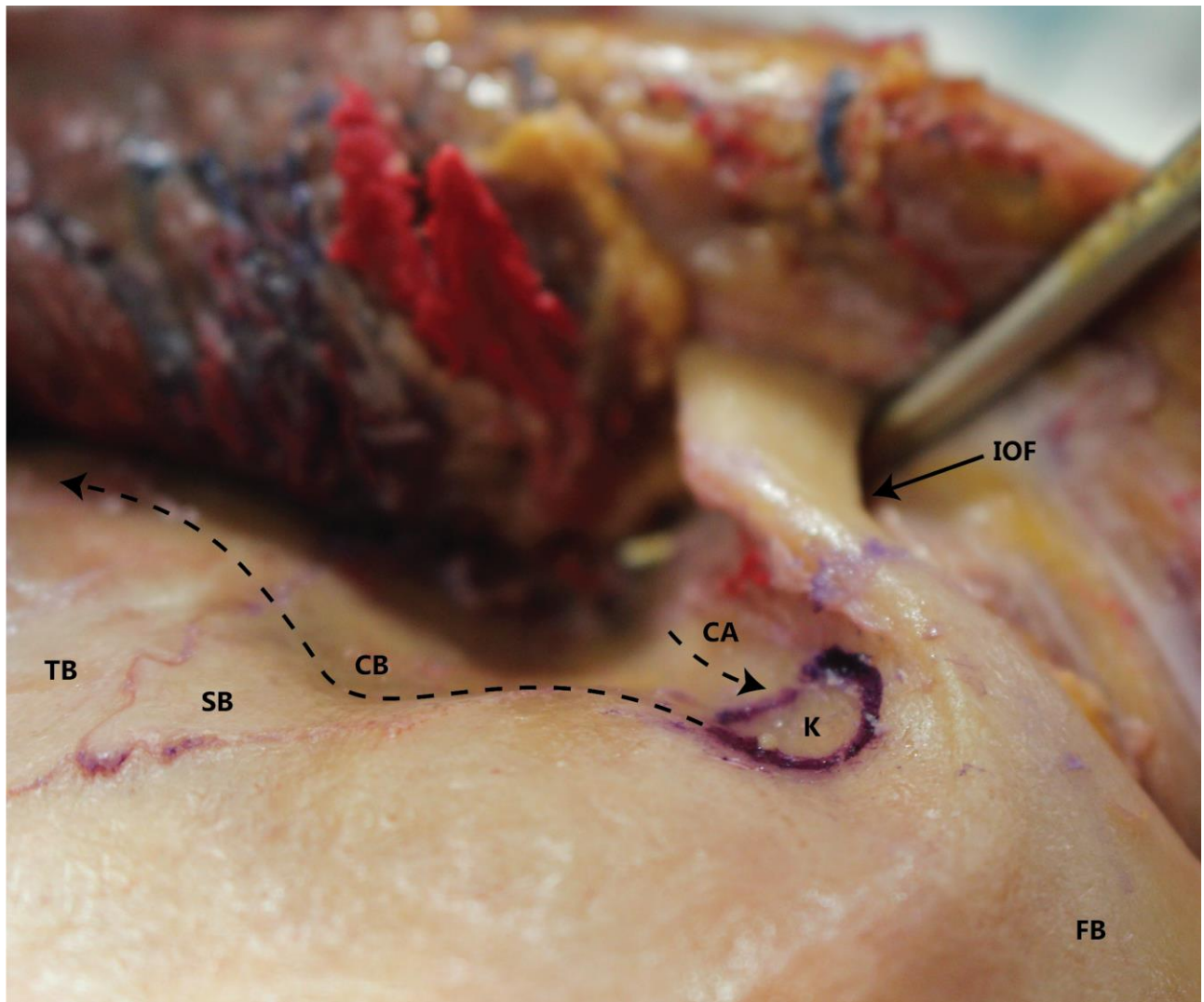
O = orbit

D = frontal dura

ZPF = zygoma part of frontal bone

FPZ = frontal part of zygoma

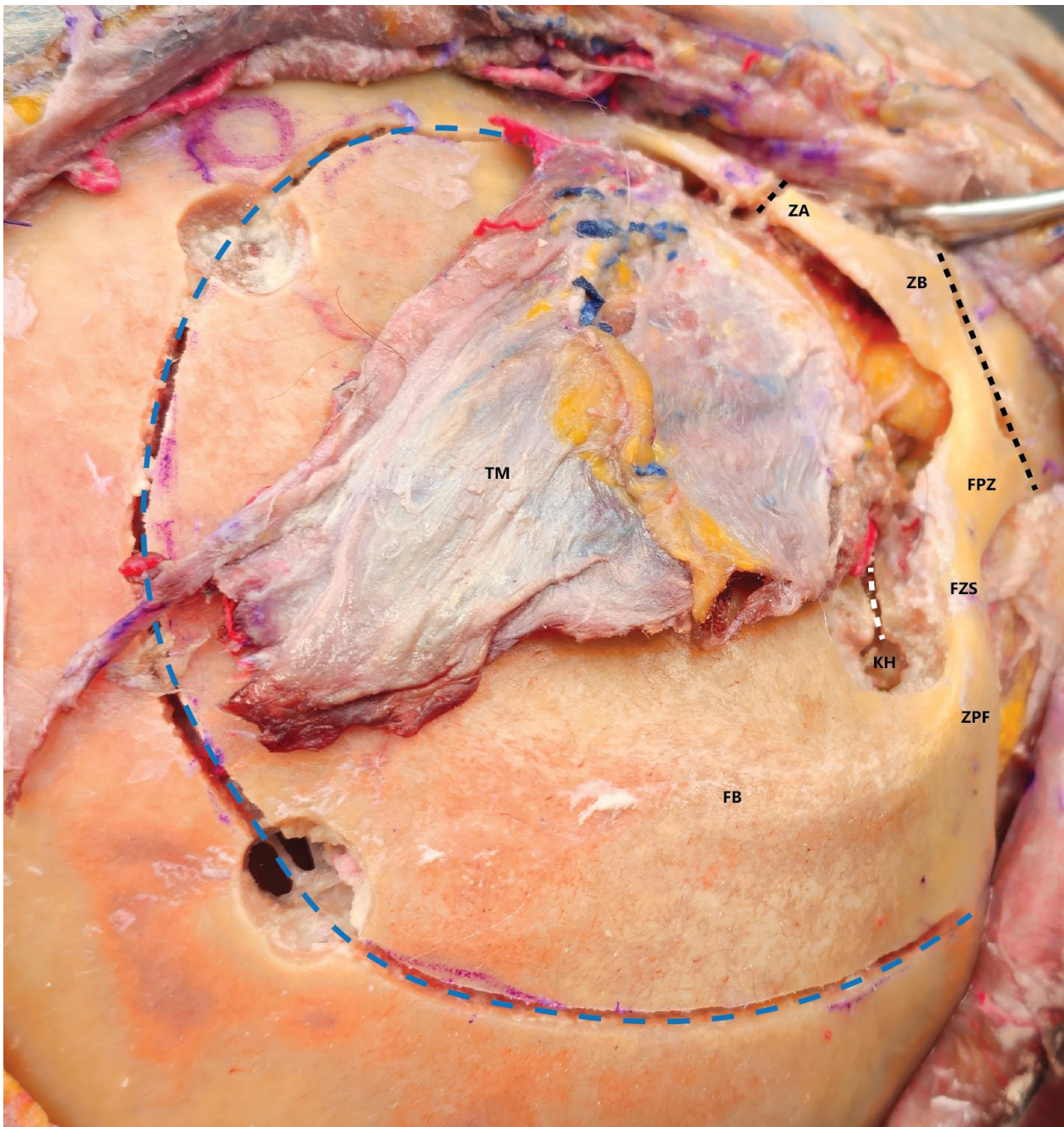




The orbitozygomatic osteotomy

K = MacCarty keyhole
 CA = cut A from the inferior orbital fissure to MacCarty keyhole
 CB = cut B from MacCarty keyhole to the next burr hole
 IOF = inferior orbital fissure (orbital side)
 FB = frontal bone
 SB = sphenoid bone
 TB = temporal bone

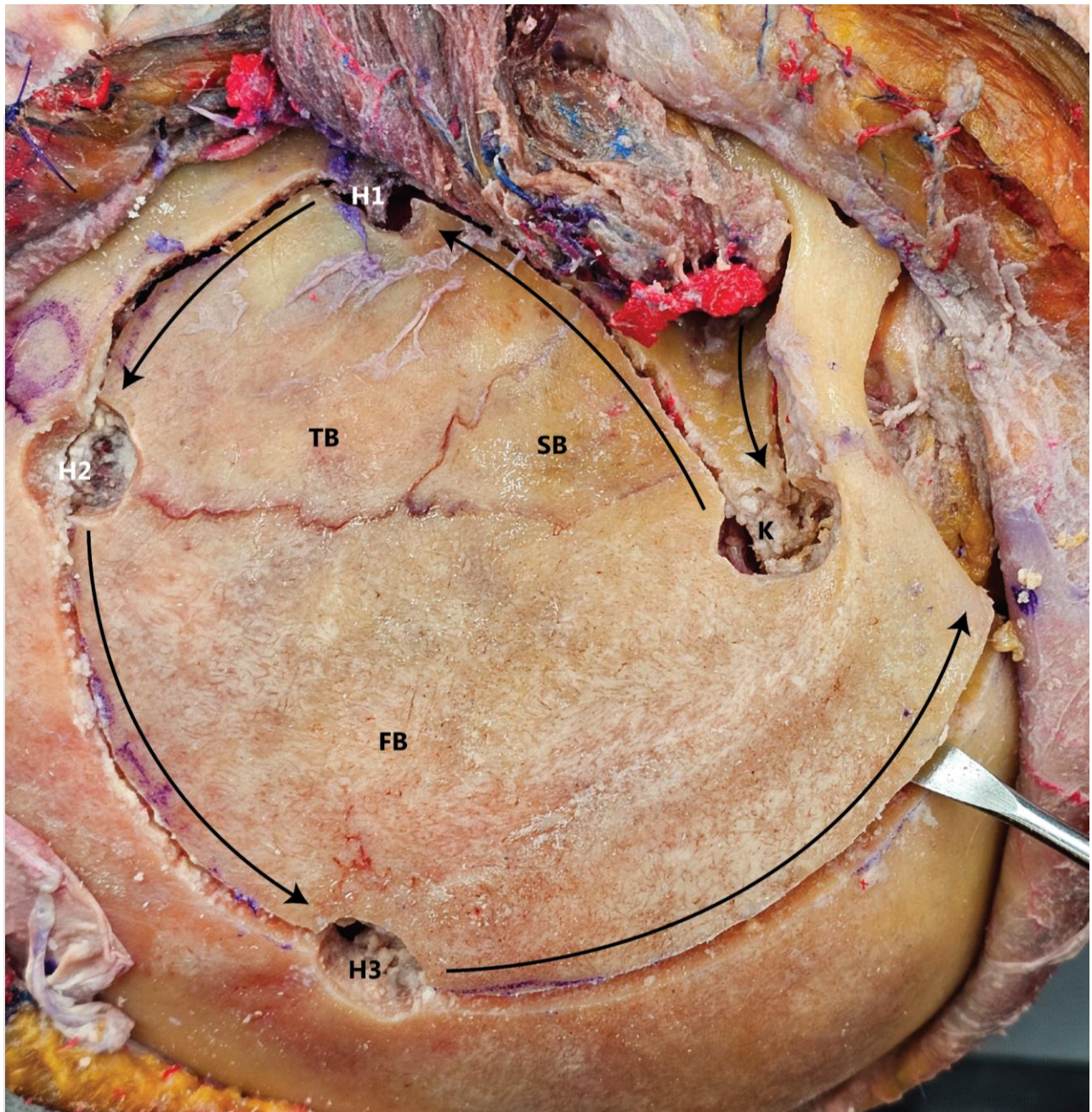




The orbitozygomatic osteotomy

ZPF = zygomatic process of the frontal bone
 FPZ = frontal process of the zygomatic bone
 FZS = frontozygomatic suture
 FB = frontal bone
 KH = keyhole
 TM = temporalis bone
 ZA = zygomatic arch
 ZB = zygomatic bone





The orbitozygomatic osteotomy

K = MacCarty keyhole

FB = frontal bone

TB = temporal bone

SB = sphenoid bone

H1 = first burr hole located above the posterior root of the zygomatic bone

H2 = second burr hole on the temporal bone over the squamous suture

H3 = third burr hole position anterior to the coronal suture





The orbitozygomatic osteotomy

KH = MacCart keyhole

ZPF = zygomatic process of the frontal bone

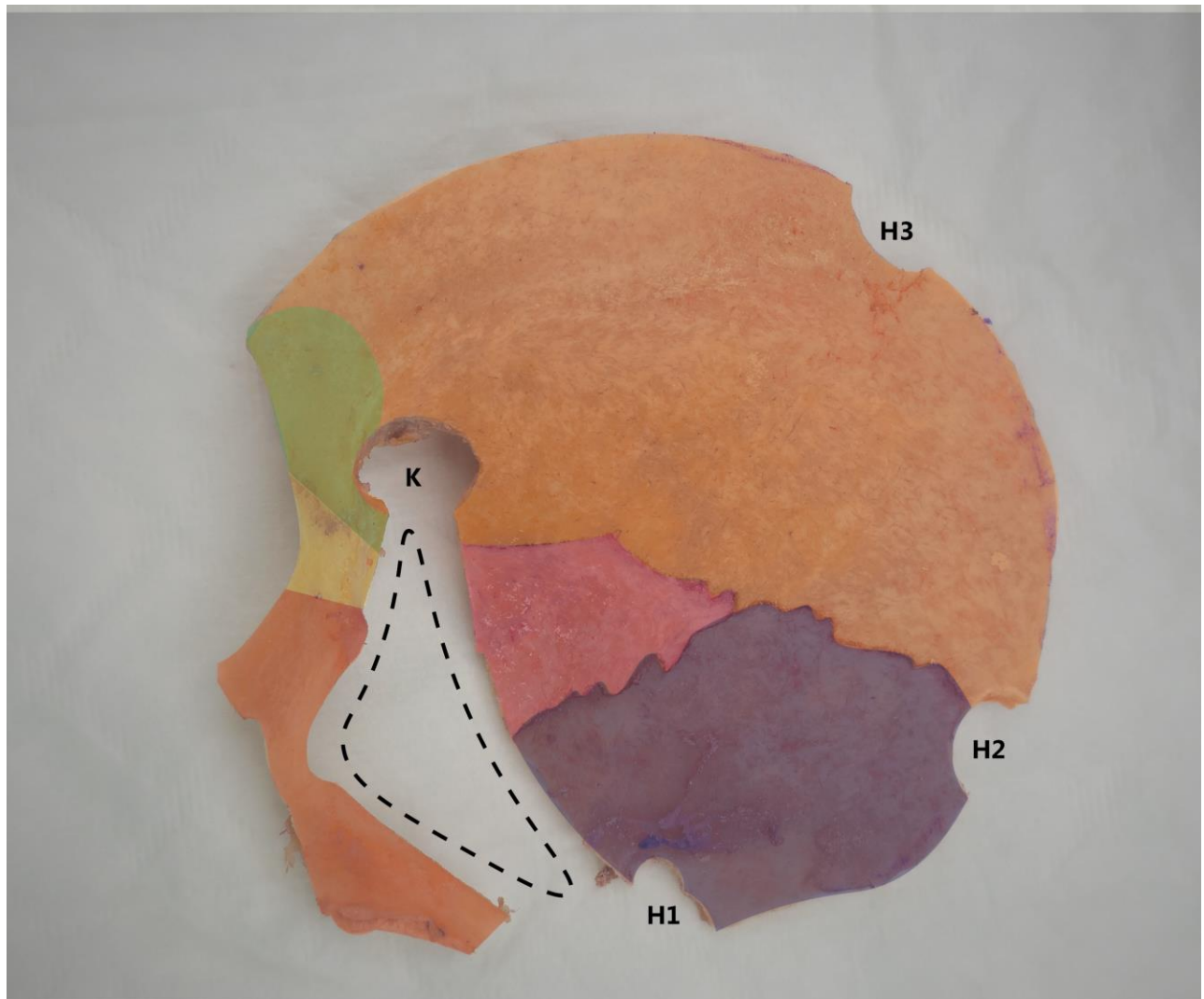
FPZ = frontal process of the zygomatic bone

FZS = frontozygomatic suture

G = globe

ZA = zygomatic arch



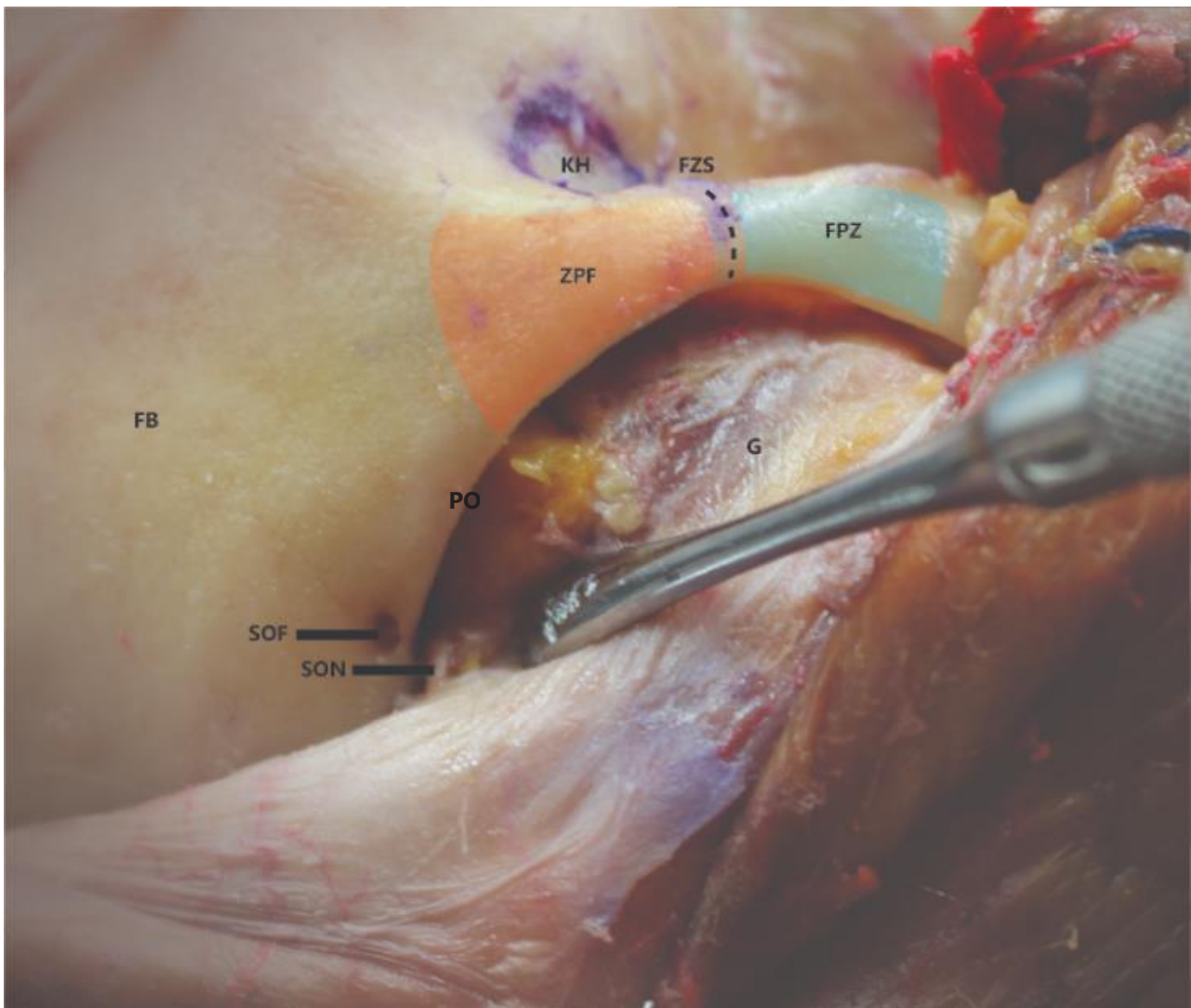


One piece orbitozygomatic osteotomy

Orange area = frontal bone
 Green area = zygomatic process of the frontal bone
 Yellow area = frontal process of the zygomatic bone
 Red are = zygomatic arch

Purple area = temporal bone
 Pink area = sphenoid bone





Supraorbital nerve (SON) was dislocated out of the supraorbital foramina (SOF).

FB = frontal bone

KH = keyhole

ZPF = zygomatic process of the frontal bone

FPZ = frontal process of the zygomatic bone

FZS = frontozygomatic suture

G = globe

PO = preorbital fascia



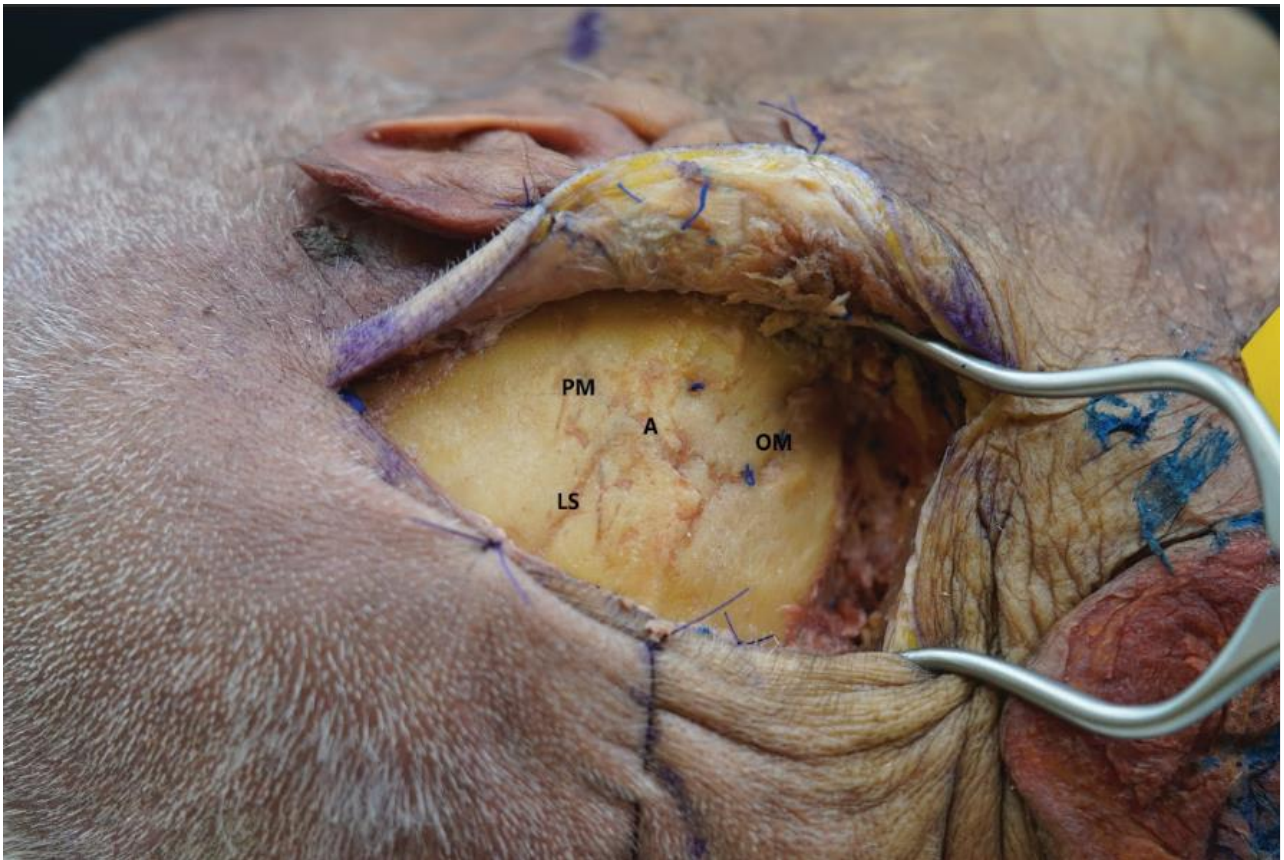


The skin incision is variable. Demonstrated here is a C-shaped incision two finger breadths from the junction of the pinna to the scalp. One third of the incision was located superior to the imaginary zygoma-nion (Z-line) and two thirds of the incision below it. The Z-line is an imaginary line to approximately the location of the transverse sinus. It extends from the root of the zygoma (RZ) to the inion (I). Another demonstrated line is starting posterior to the mastoid and extending superiorly. The intersection of the two lines is an approximation of the transverse sigmoid junction (TSJ).

SS = sigmoid sinus

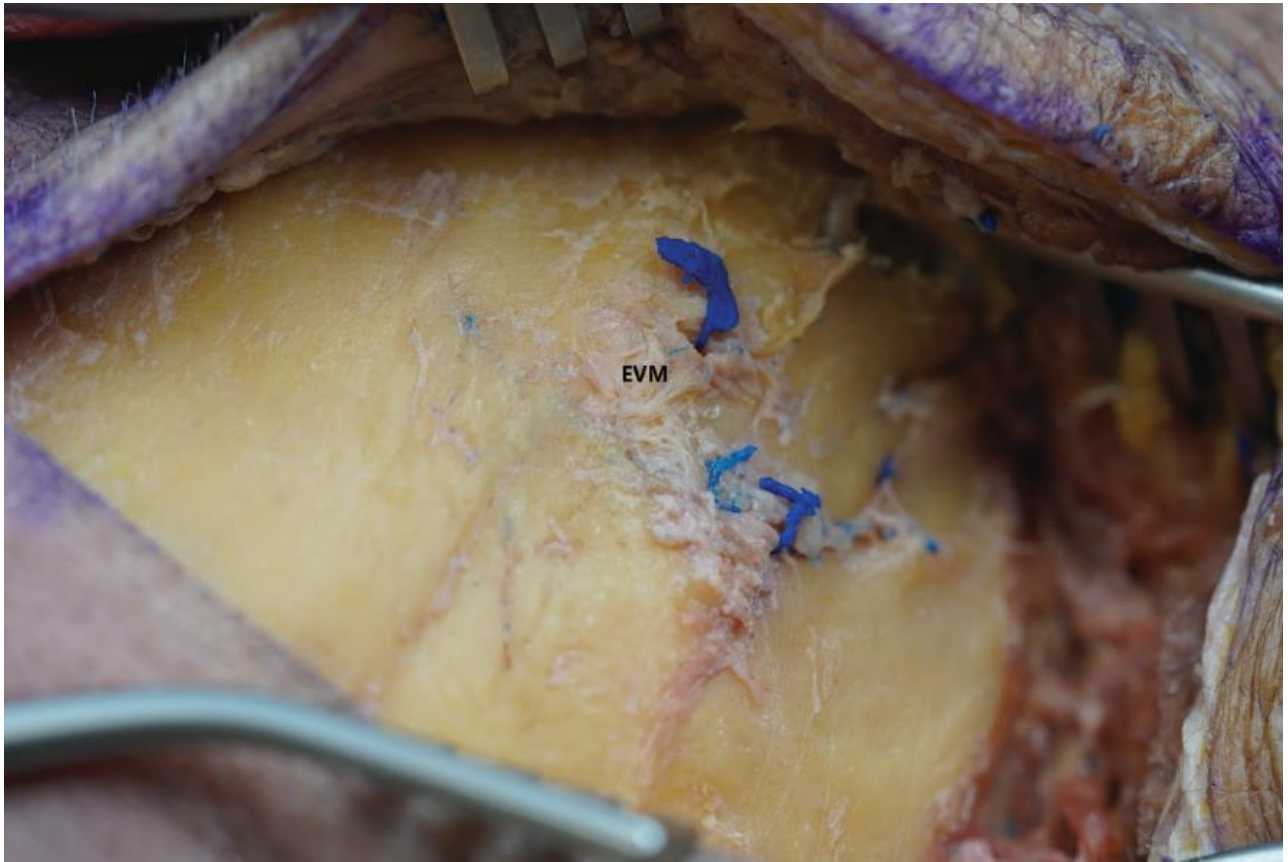
IL = incision line





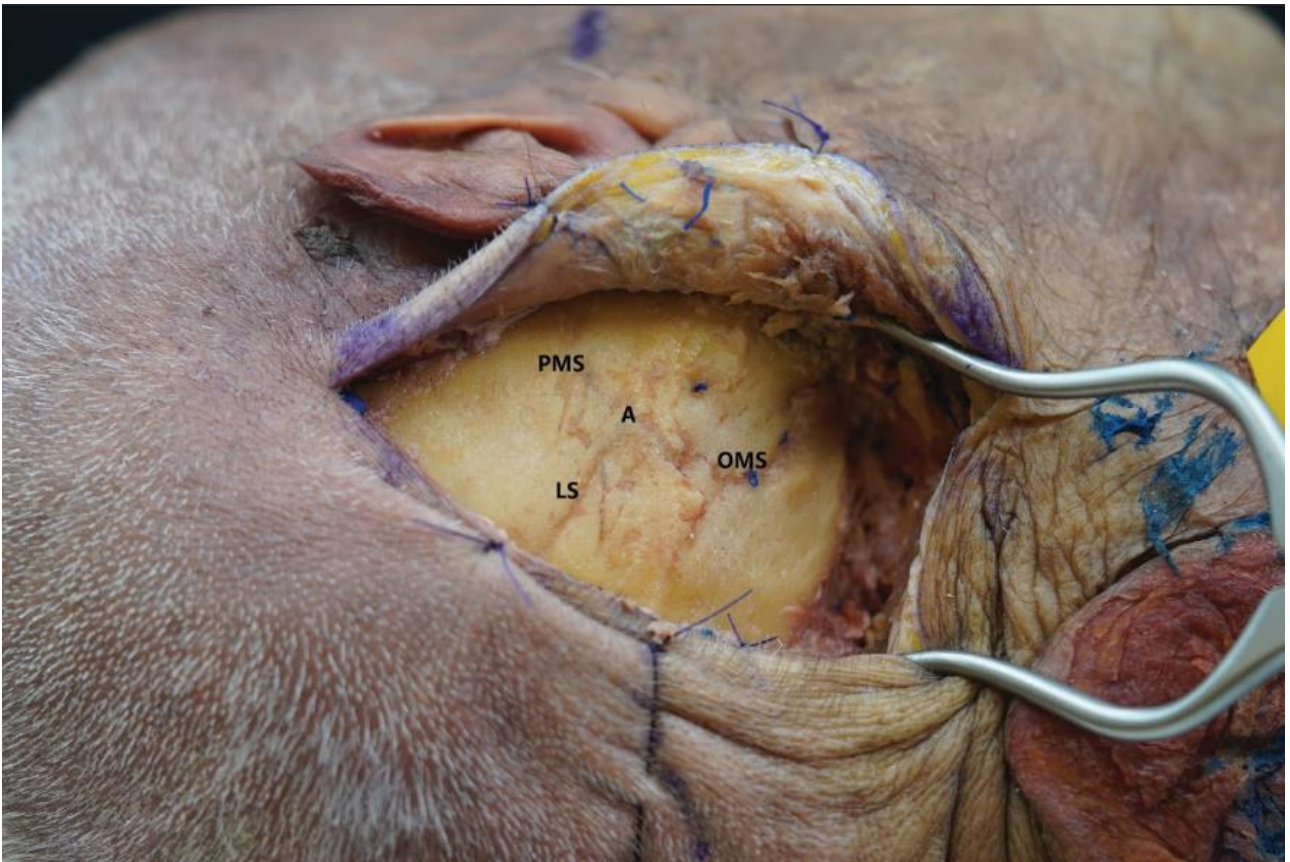
PM = pariatomastoid suture
LS = lambdoid suture
OM = occipitomastoid suture
A = asterion





EMV = emissary vein of mastoid





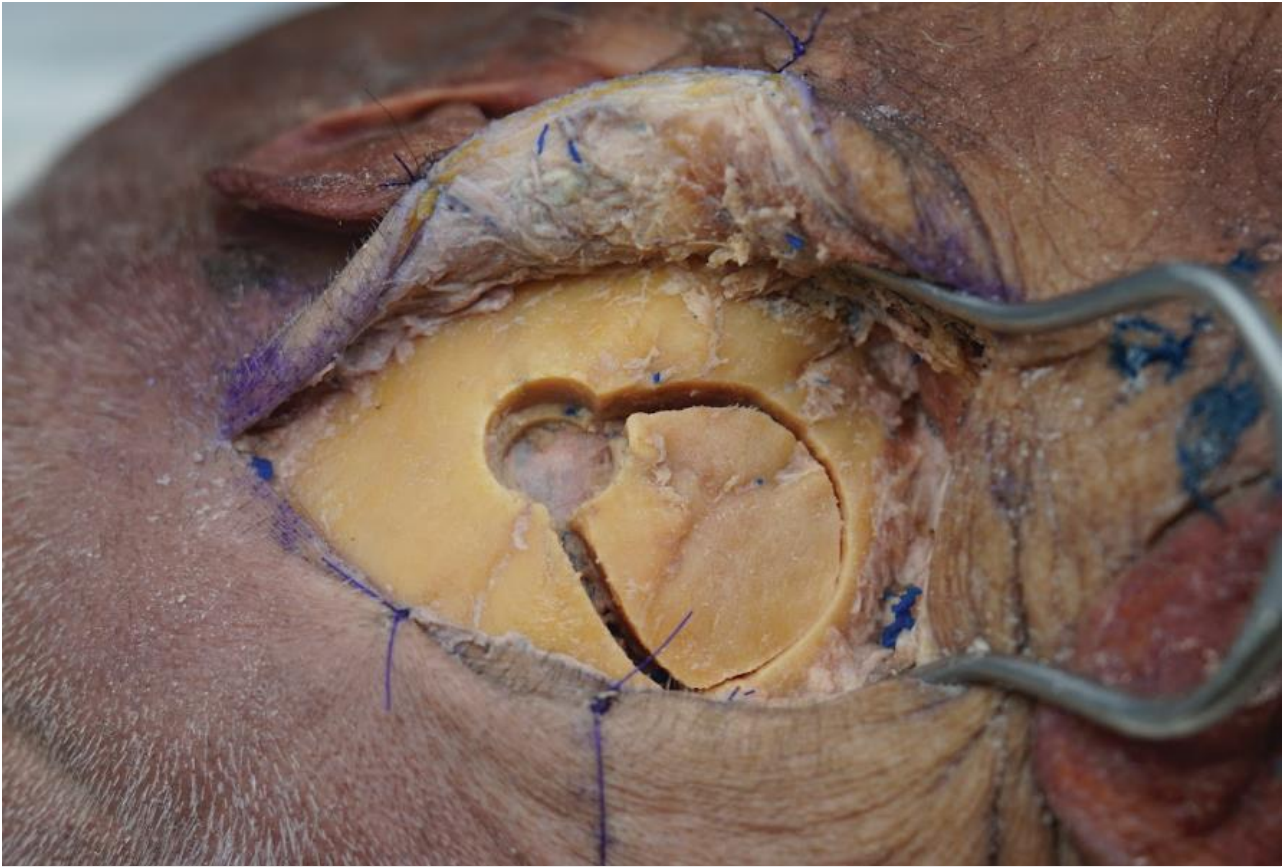
PMS = paraitomastoid suture
OMS = occipitomastoid suture
LS = lambdoid suture
A = asterion





Burr hole was placed over the asterion.





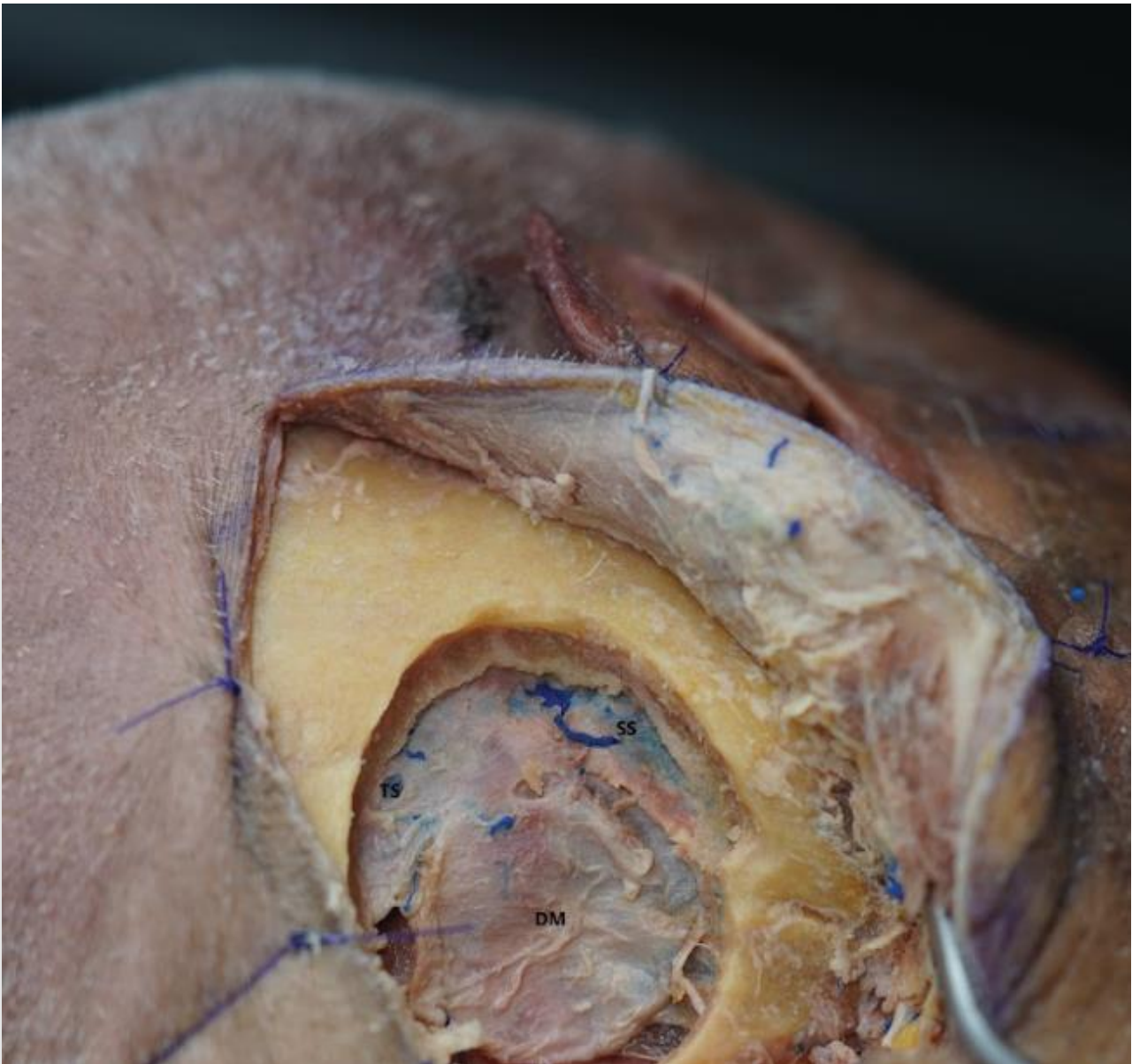
Craniotomy for retrosigmoid approach.





Dura was incised in curvilinear pattern. An additional cut was made to reflect the dura leaflets over the sinuses.





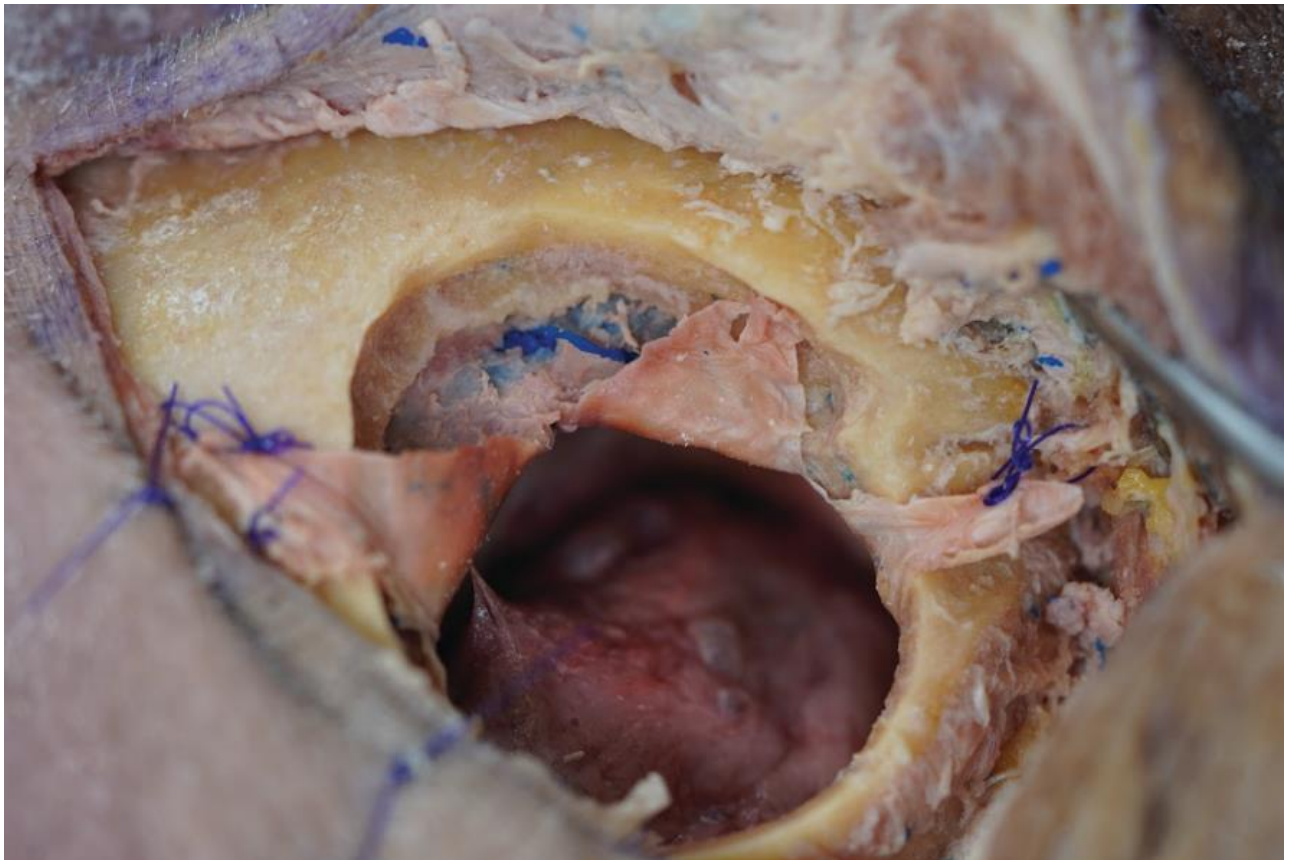
Further drilling was exposed and portion of the sigmoid and transverse sinus is exposed.

SS = sigmoid sinus

DM = dura mater

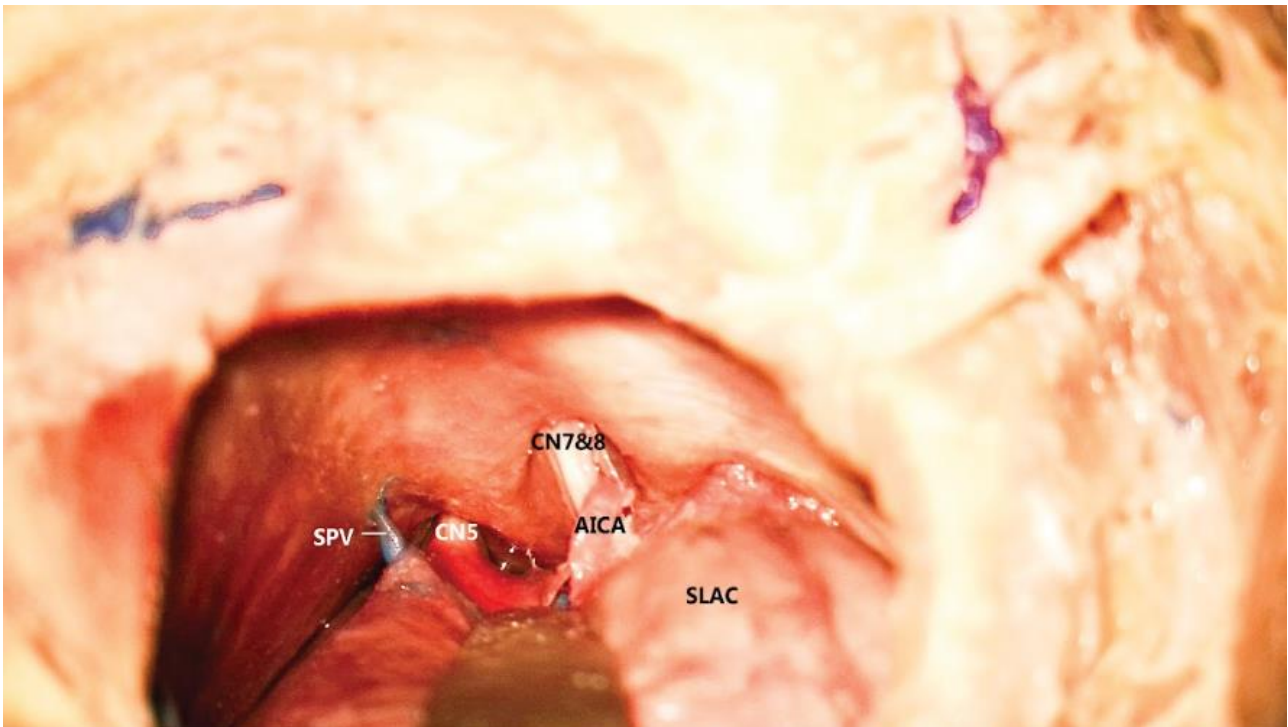
TS = transverse sinus





Intracranial expander of the retrosigmoid approach





Superolateral surface of the cerebellum was retracted and the superior neuro-vascular bundle was exposed.

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

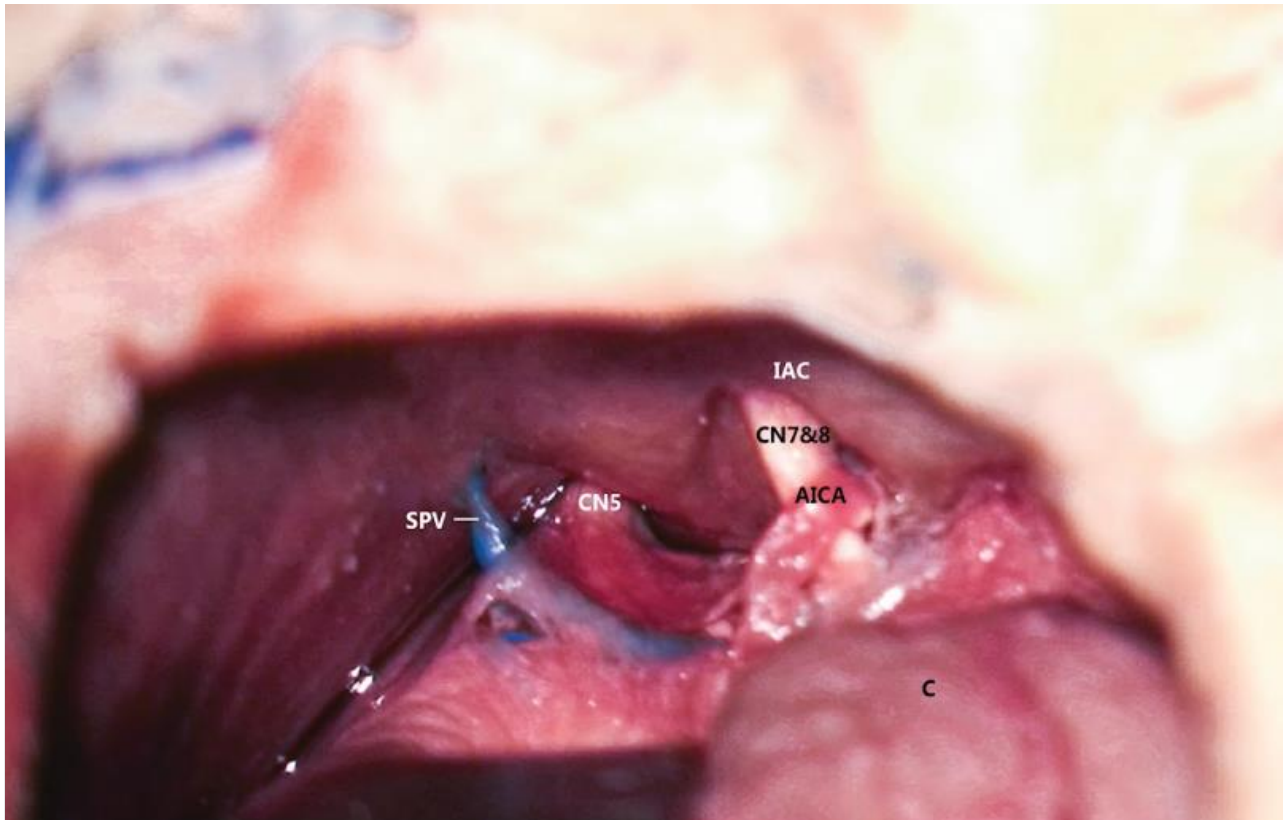
SLAC = superolateral aspect of cerebellum

CNV = trigeminal nerve

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

SPV = superior petrosal vein





Retraction placed over the lateral surface of the cerebellum. Exposure of the superior and mid-portion of the cerebellopontine angle.

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

C = cerebellum

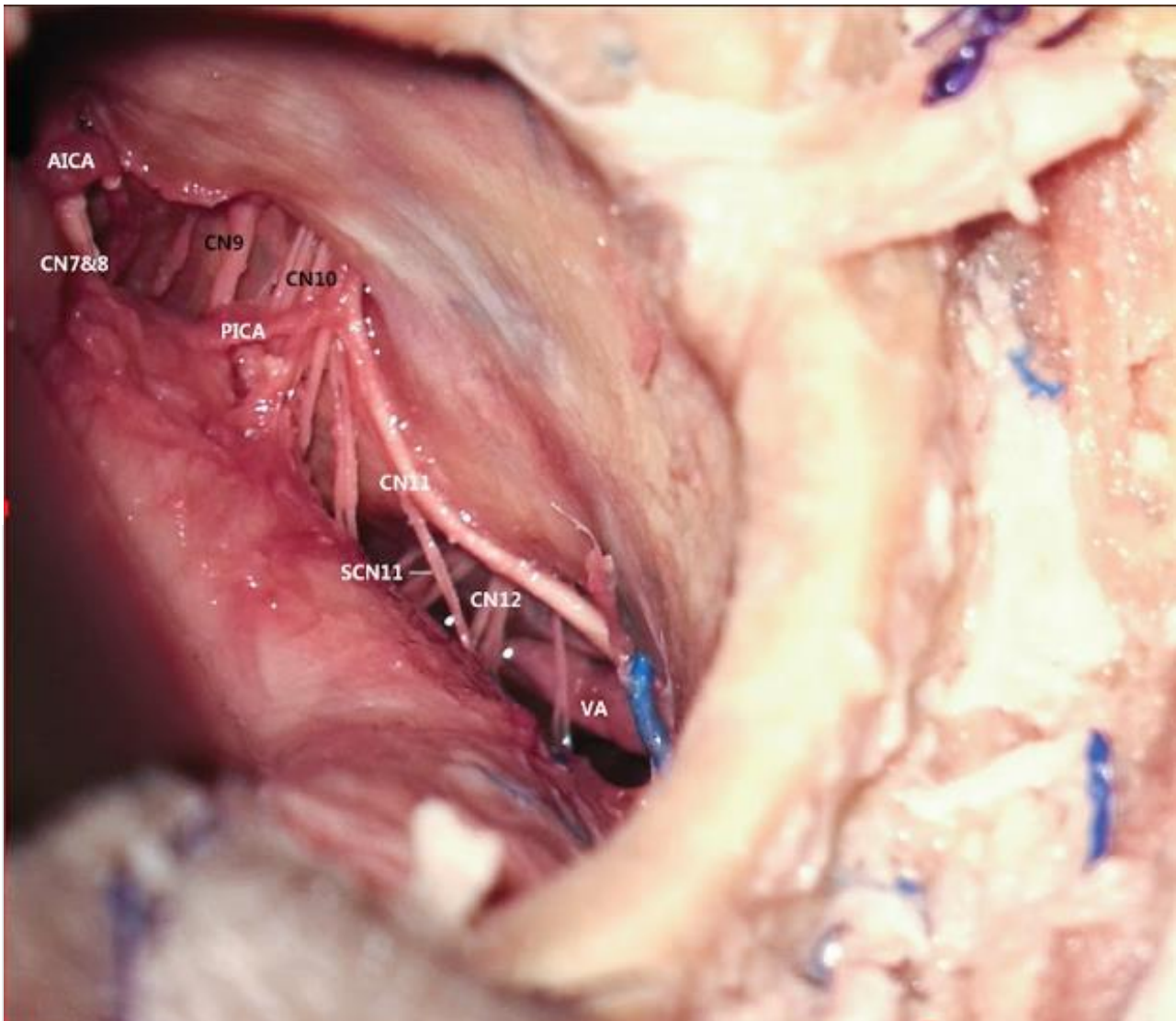
CNV = trigeminal nerve

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

SPV = superior petrosal vein

IAC = internal auditory canal





The inferolateral surface of the cerebellum was retracted to expose the inferior neurovascular bundle of the cerebellopontine angle. Exposing the infralateral portion of the cerebellopontine angle.

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN12 = hypoglossal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

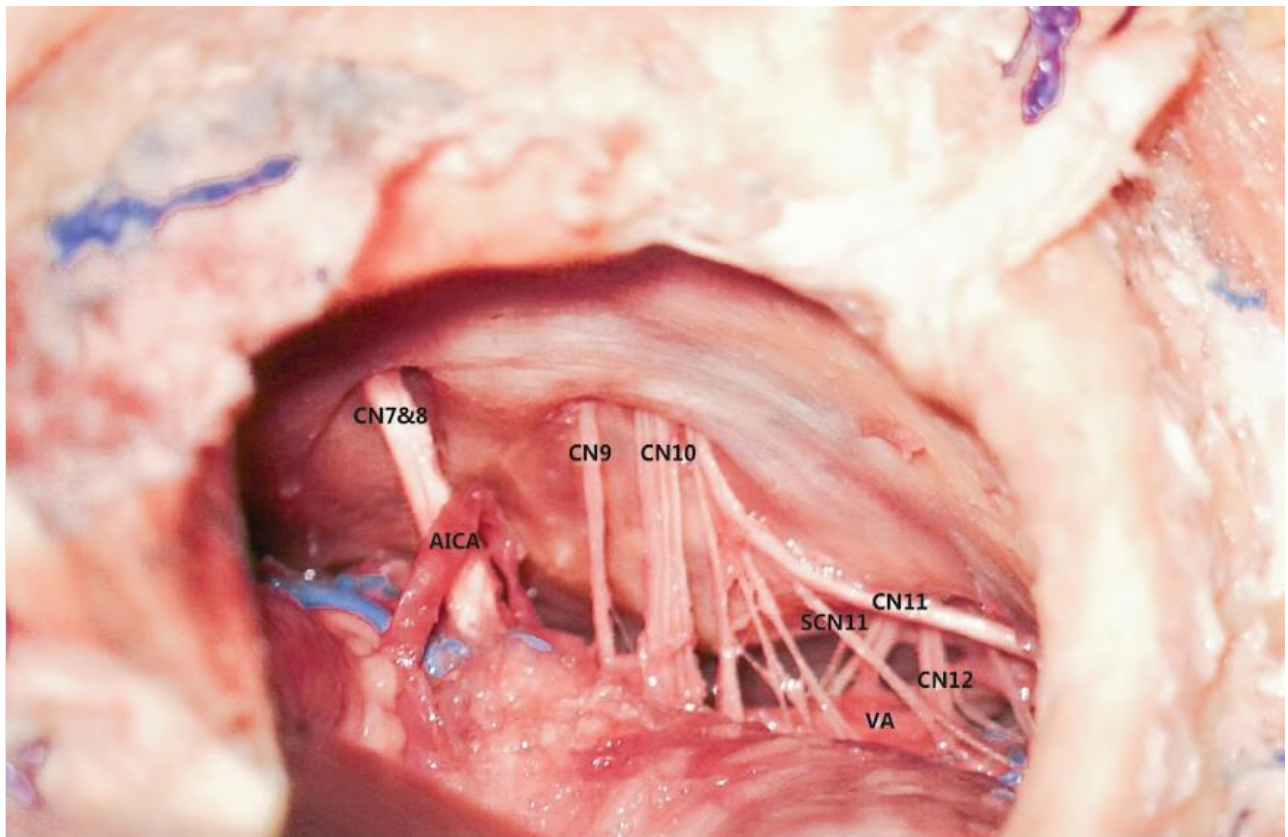
VA = vertebral artery

CN11 = accessory nerve

SCN11 = spinal branch of accessory nerve

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery





The inferolateral surface of the cerebellum was retracted to expose the inferior neurovascular bundle of the cerebellopontine angle. Exposing the infralateral position of the cerebellopontine angle.

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve

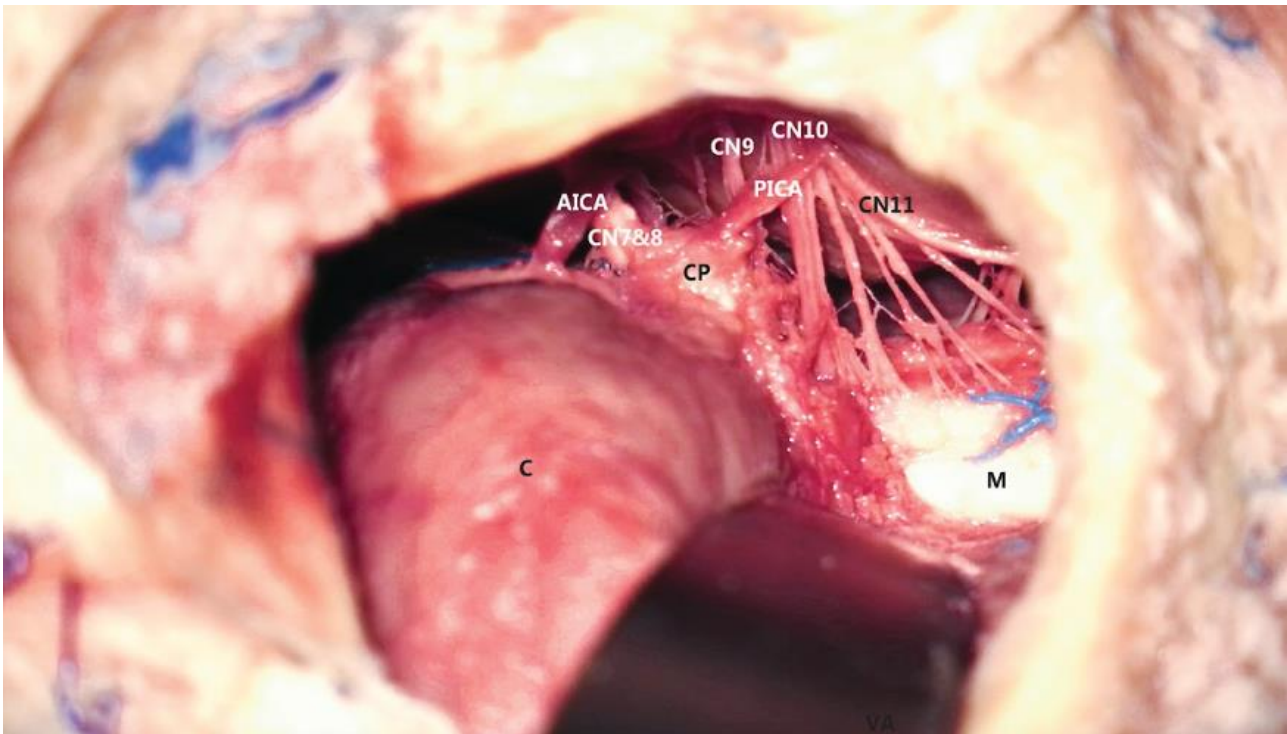
CN12 = hypoglossal nerve

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

VA = vertebral artery

SCN11 = spinal branch of accessory nerve





Exposure of the inferior neurovascular bundle of the cerebellopontine angle.

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN11 = accessory

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

C = cerebellum

CN11 = accessory nerve

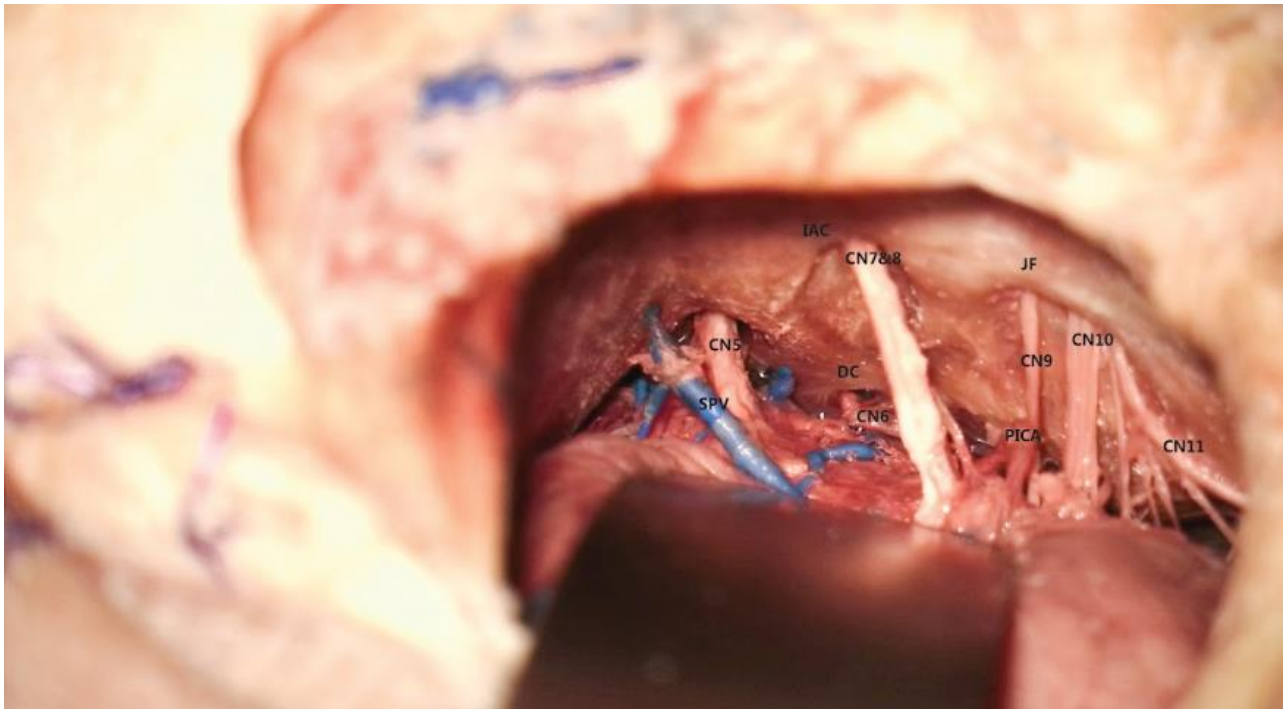
CP = choroid plexus

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

M = medulla





Retraction placed over the lateral surface of the cerebellum. Exposing the inferolateral position of the cerebellopontine angle.

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

CN11 = accessory

SPV = superior petrosal vein

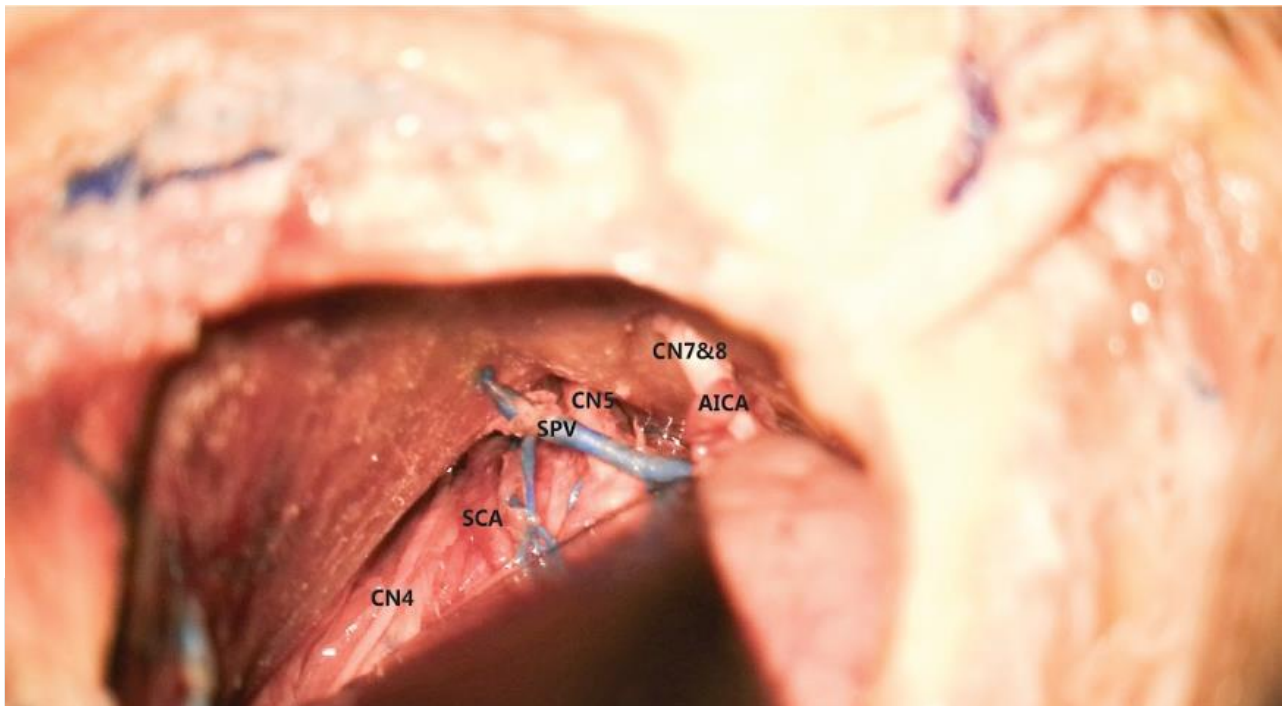
IAC = internal auditory canal

JF = jugular foramen

DC = Dorello's canal

CN6 = Abducent nerve





Exposure of the superior compartment of the cerebellopontine angle.

SCA = superior cerebellar artery

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

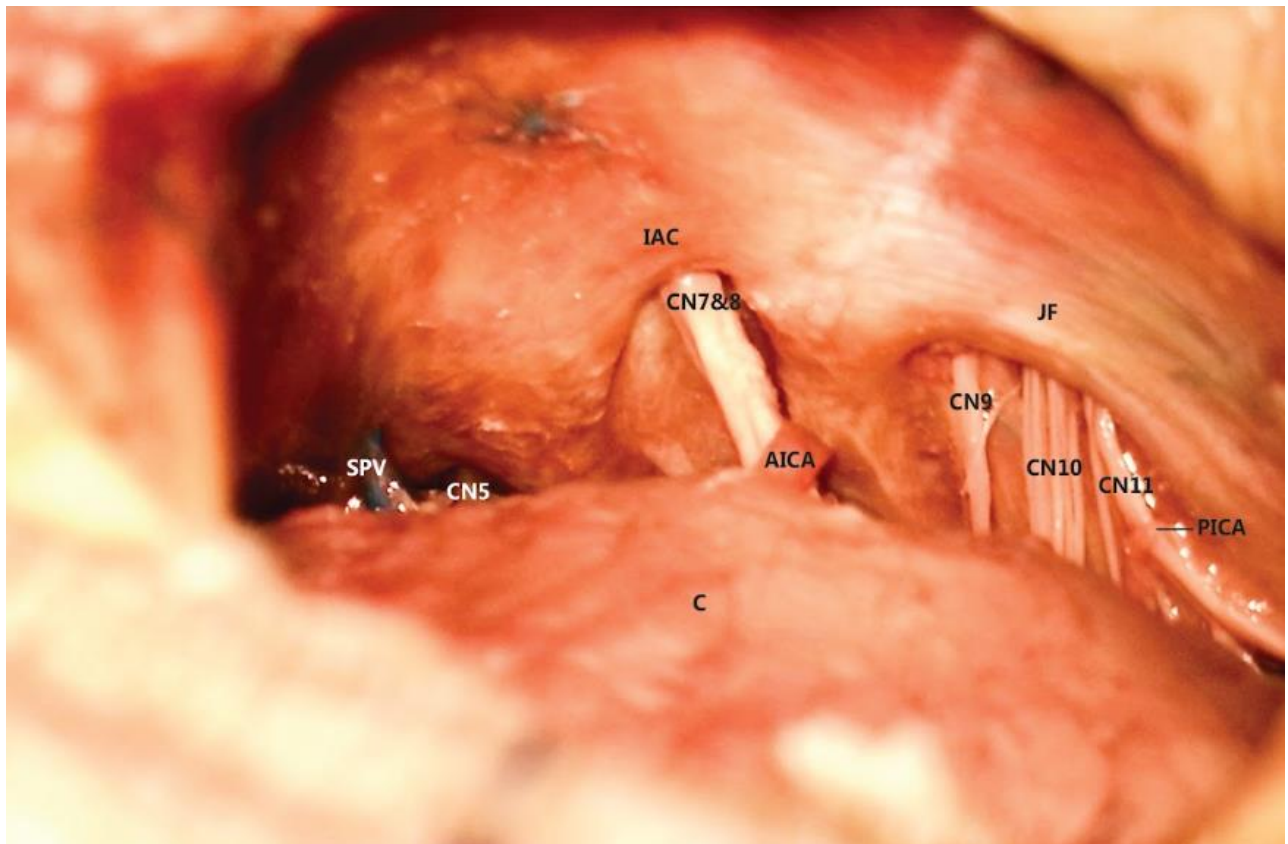
CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

SPV = superior petrosal vein

CN6 = abducens nerve

CN4 = trochlear nerve





Exposure of the superior compartment of the cerebellopontine angle.

IAC = internal auditory canal

C = cerebellum

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

CN5 = Trigeminal nerve

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

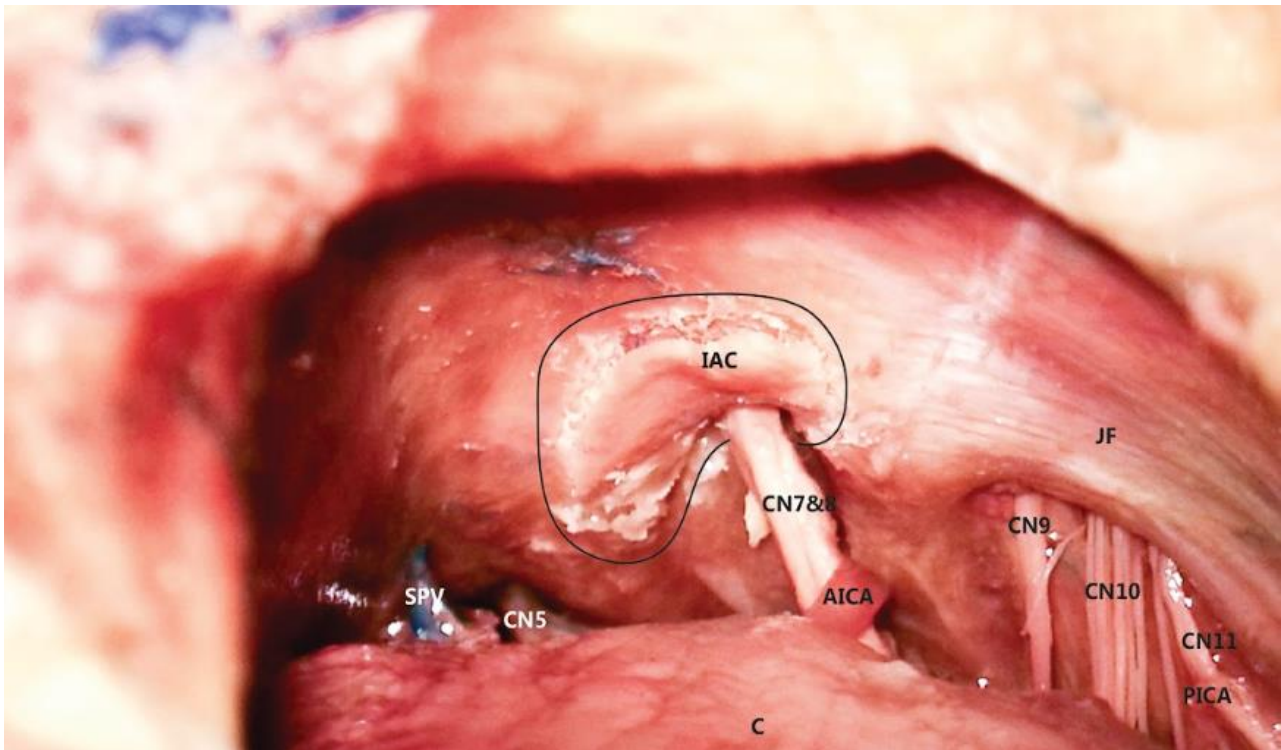
SPV = superior petrosal vein

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve





The dura over the IAC was incised.

IAC = internal auditory canal

C = cerebellum

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

CN5 = Trigeminal nerve

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

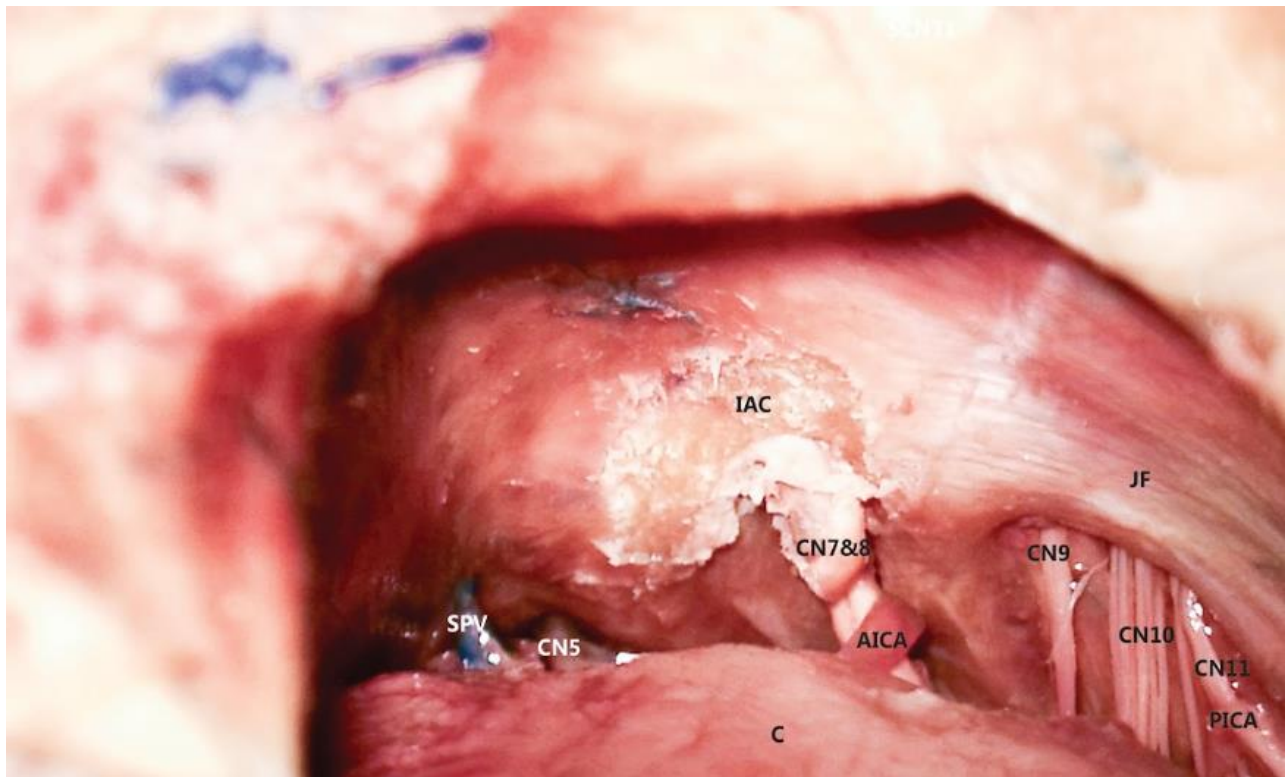
SPV = superior petrosal vein

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve





IAC = internal auditory canal

C = cerebellum

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN7&8 = facial and vestibulocochlear nerves

CN5 = Trigeminal nerve

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

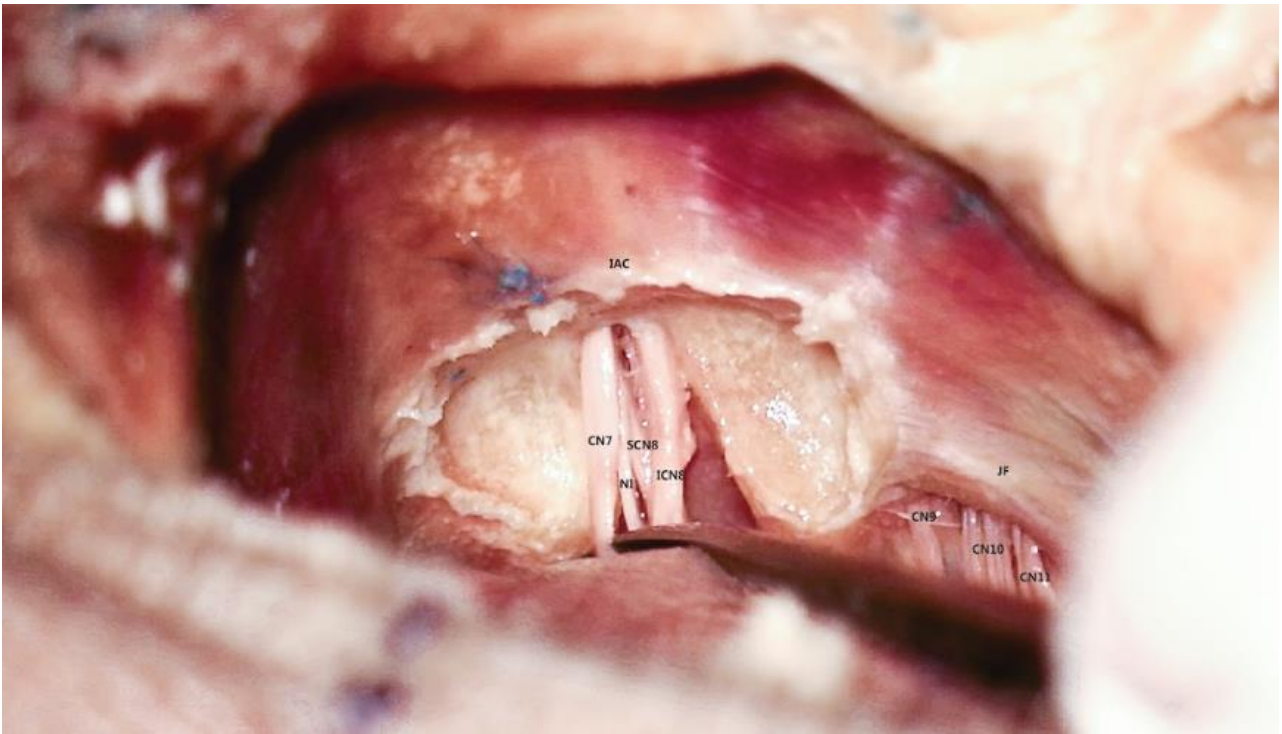
SPV = superior petrosal vein

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve





The posterior wall of the IAC was removed.

IAC = internal auditory canal

CN7 = facial nerve

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve

NI = nervus intermedius

SCN8 = superior vestibular nerve

JF = jugular foramen





The posterior wall of the IAC was drilled.

IAC = internal auditory canal

C = cerebellum

AICA = anterior inferior cerebellar artery

CN7 = facial nerve

CN9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN10 = vagus nerve

CN11 = accessory nerve

CC = cochlear branch of the facial nerve

NI = nervus intermedius





Craniotomy - skull module

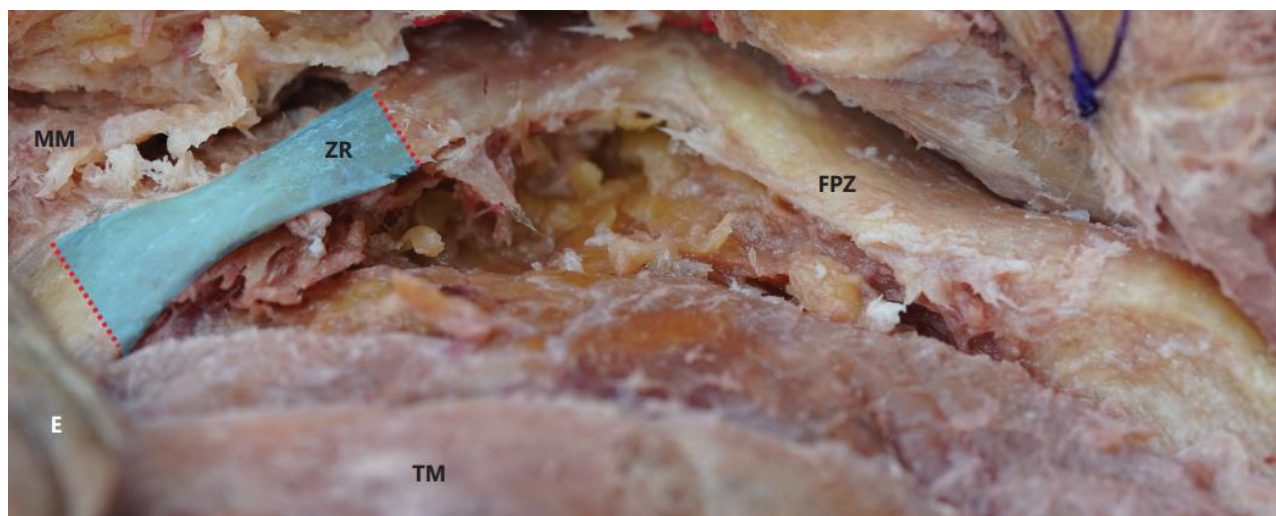
K = keyhole

H2 = second burr hole

Red dashed line = zygomatic cutting

H3 = third burr hole





Zygomatic osteotomy location.

TM = temporalis muscle

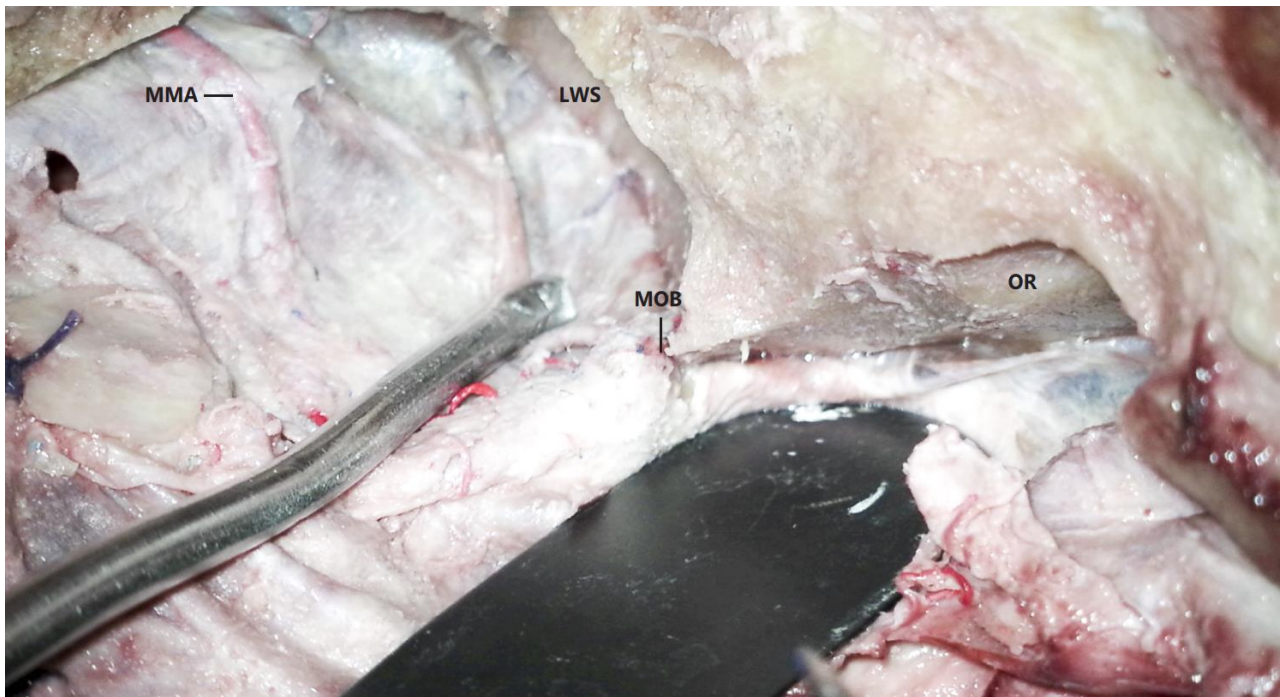
MM = masseter muscle

ZR = zygomatic root

FPZ = frontal process of zygoma

E = ear





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

Orbitotemporal periosteal dissection and superior orbital fissure exposure.

Note the exposed vascular bundle of the meningo-orbital band

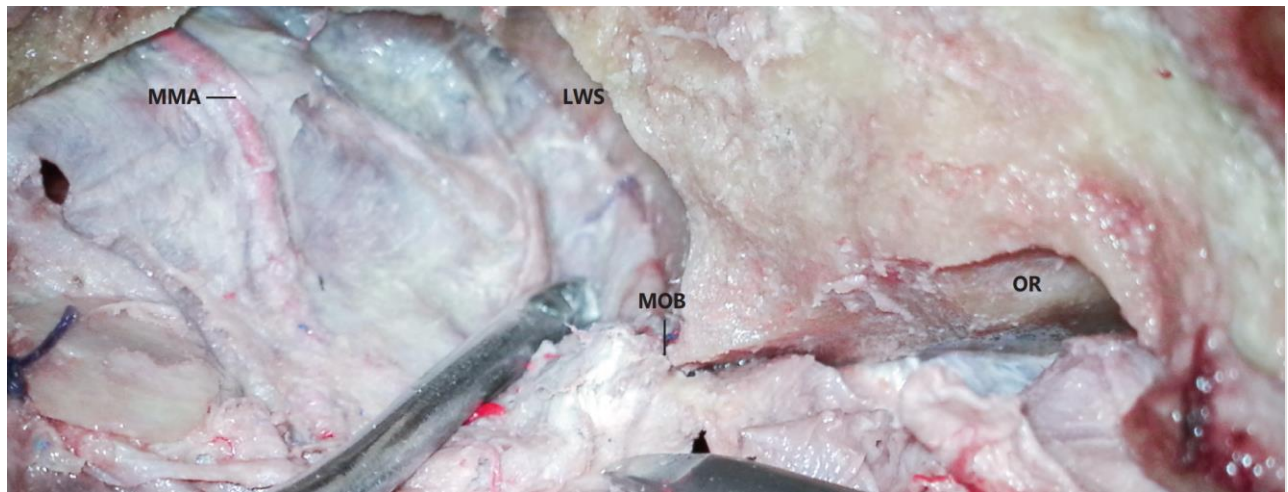
OR = orbital roof

LWS = lesser wing of sphenoid

MOB = meningo-orbital band with the vascular bundle

MMA = middle meningeal artery





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

I. orbitotemporal periosteal dissection and release of the meningo-orbital band and superior orbital suture exposure.

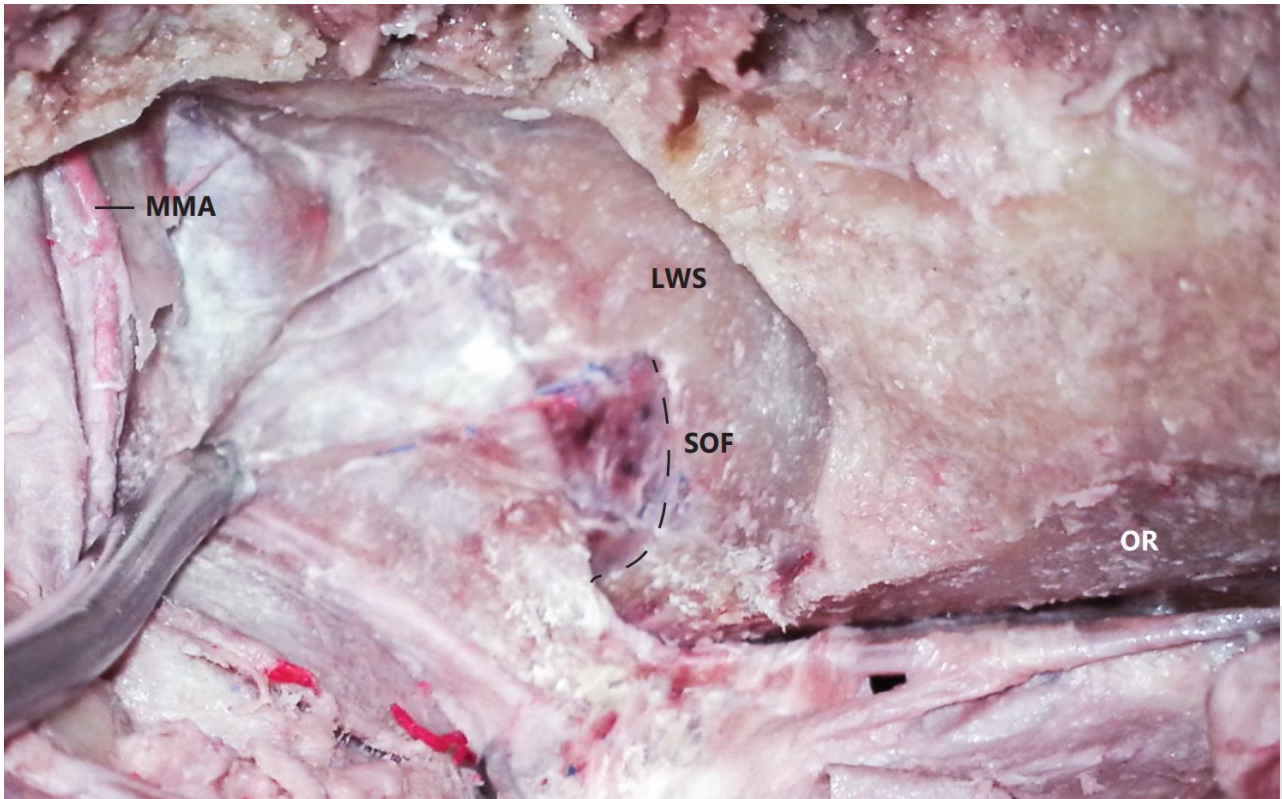
OR = orbital roof

MOB = meningo-orbital band with the vascular bundle

LWS = lesser wing of sphenoid

MMA = middle meningeal artery





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

II. Orbitotemporal periosteal dissection and superior orbital fissure exposure

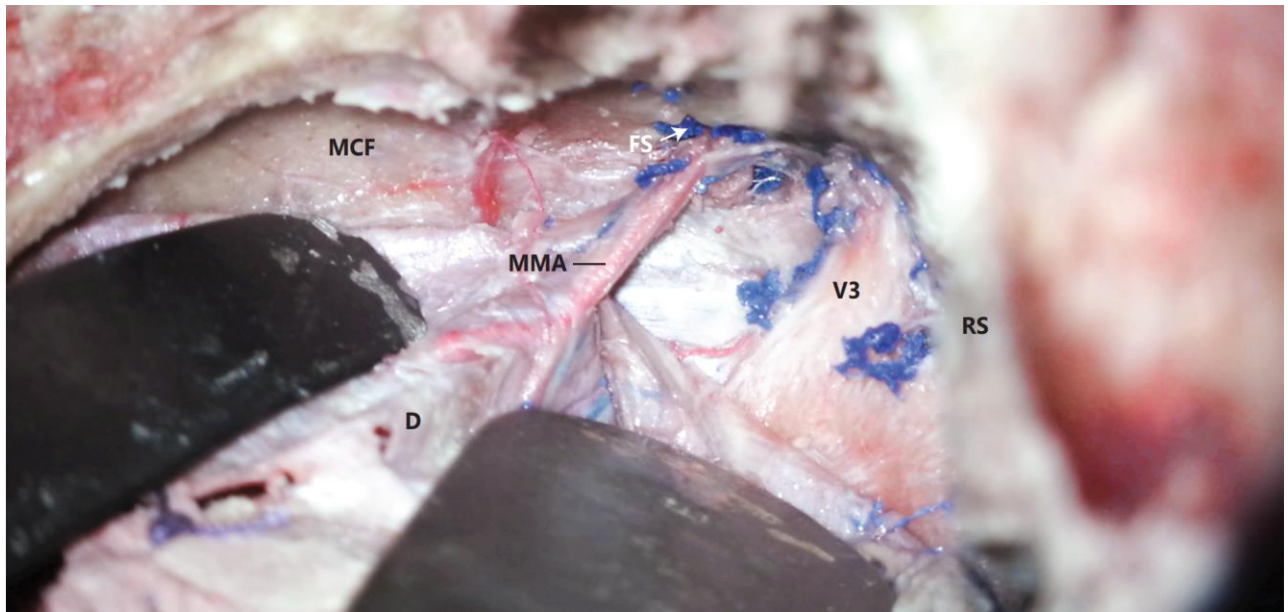
OR = orbital roof

MMA = middle meningeal artery

LWS = lesser wing of sphenoid

SOF = superior orbital fissure



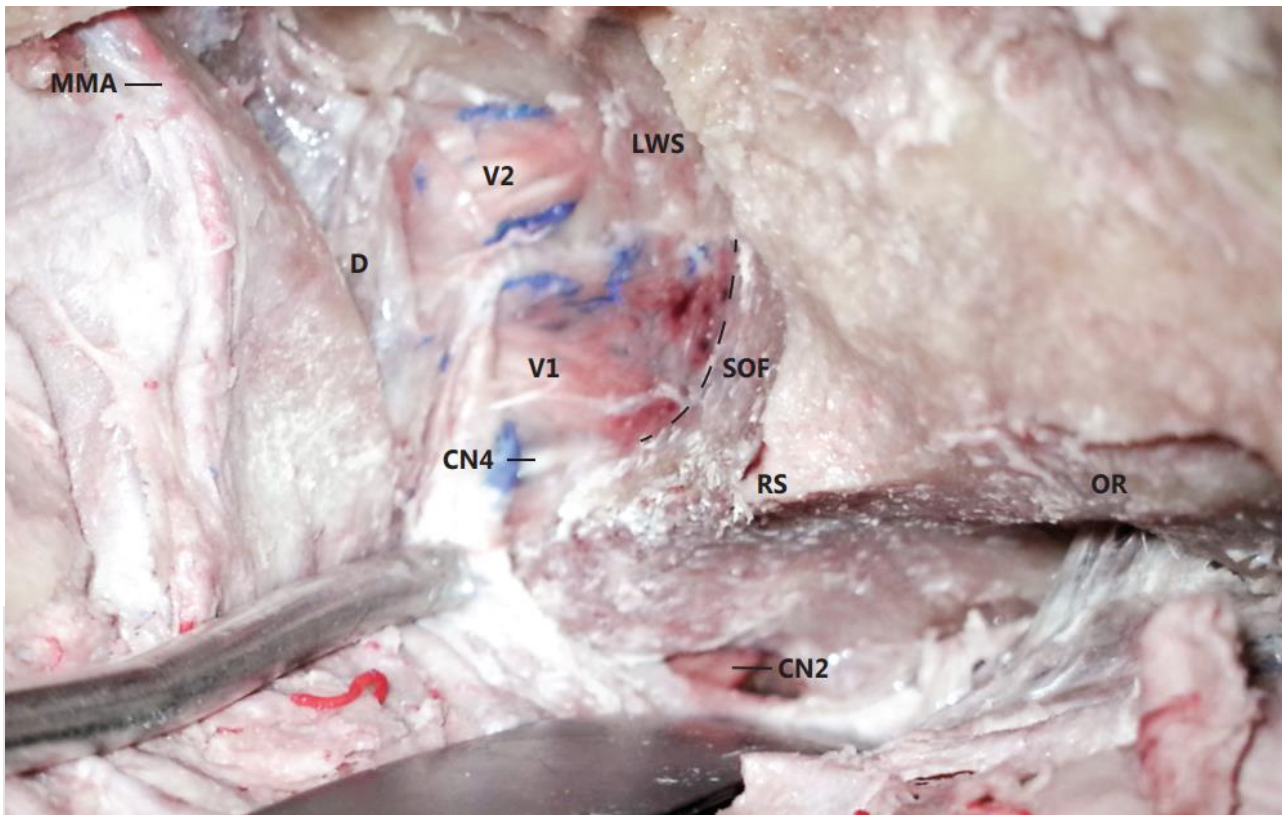


Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.
Orbitotemporal periosteal dissection.

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus
MCF = middle cranial fossa

V3 = mandibular branch of trigeminal schwannoma
RS = ridge of sphenoid
MMA = middle meningeal artery
FS = foramen spinosum





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

III. Orbitotemporal periosteal dissection and optic canal exposure.

SOF = superior orbital fissure

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

CN2 = optic nerve

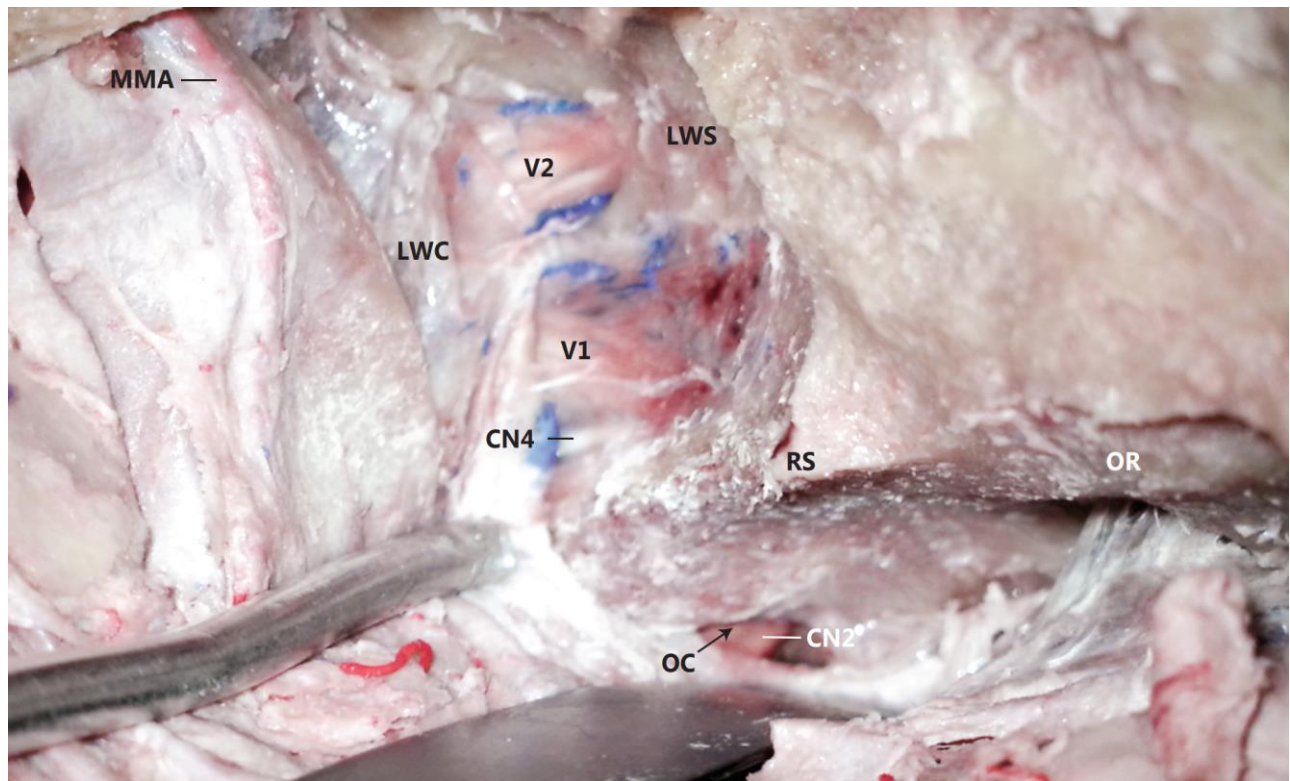
OR = orbital roof

LWS = lesser wing of sphenoid

RS = ridge of sphenoid

MMA = middle meningeal artery





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

III. Orbitotemporal periosteal dissection and optic canal exposure.

LWS = lesser wing of sphenoid
 RS = ridge of sphenoid
 MMA = middle meningeal artery

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve
 V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve
 CN 4 = trochlear nerve
 CN2 = optic nerve
 OR = orbital roof

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus
 SOF = superior orbital fissure
 OC = optical canal



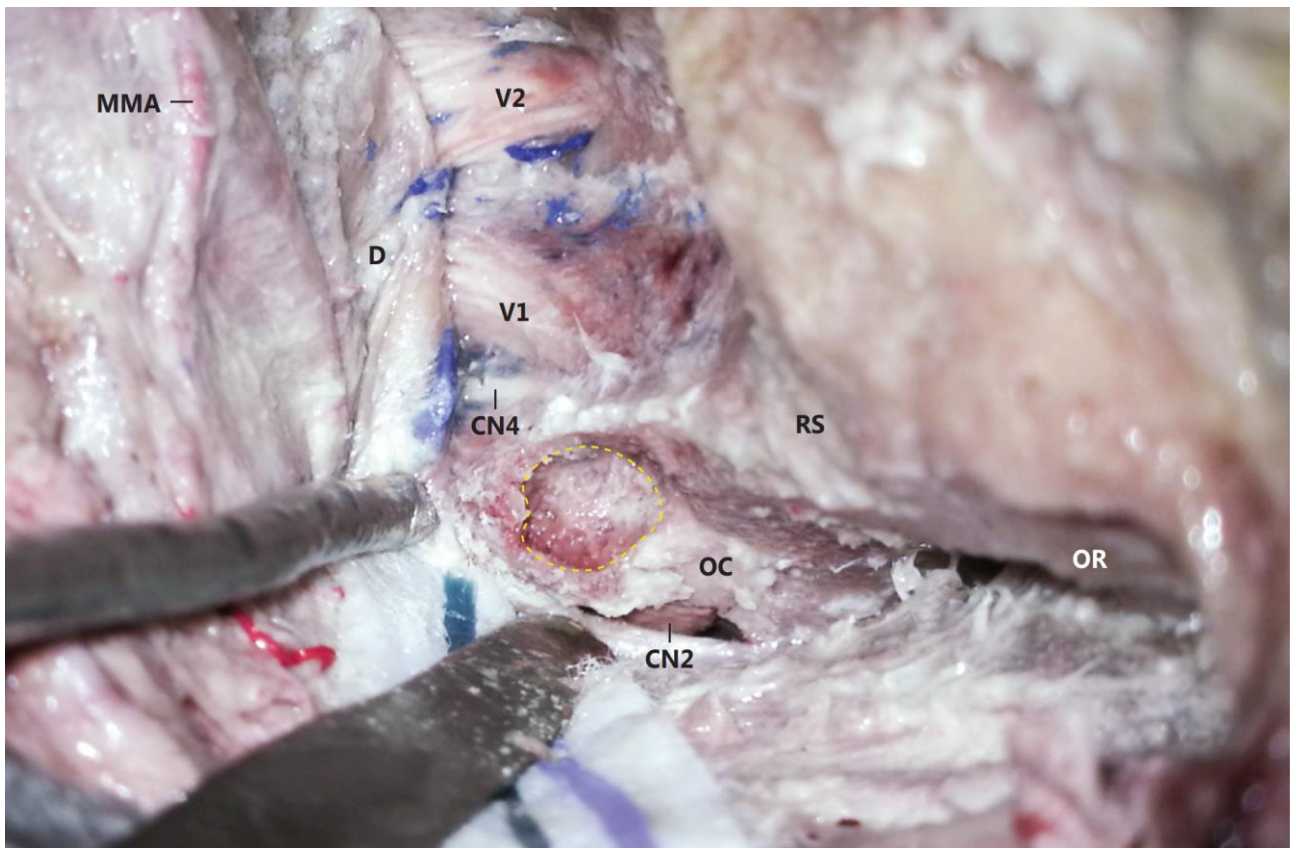


Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.
IV. Enroofing of the optic canal.

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve
CN4 = trochlear nerve

RS = ridge of sphenoid
MMA = middle meningeal artery
D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus
CN2 = optic nerve





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

V. Drilling of the base of anterior clinoid.

OC = optic canal

Black dashed line = foramen rotundum

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

CN2 = optic nerve

OR = orbital roof

RS = ridge of sphenoid

MMA = middle meningeal artery

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus

Yellow dashed line = drilling of anterior clinoid process





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.
 VI. Coring of the clinoid = asterisk

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

OC = optic canal

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

RS = ridge of sphenoid

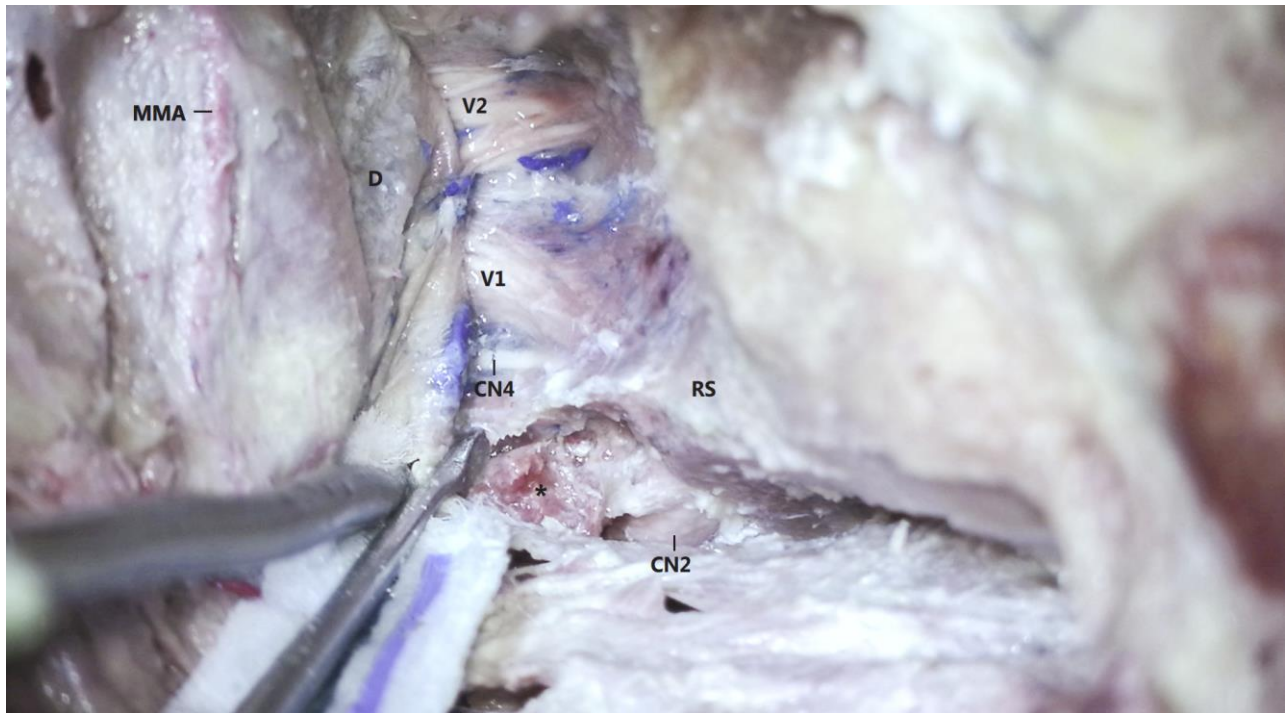
MMA = middle meningeal artery

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

CN2 = optic nerve





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.
VII. Dissection of bone shell = asterisk

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

RS = ridge of sphenoid

MMA = middle meningeal artery

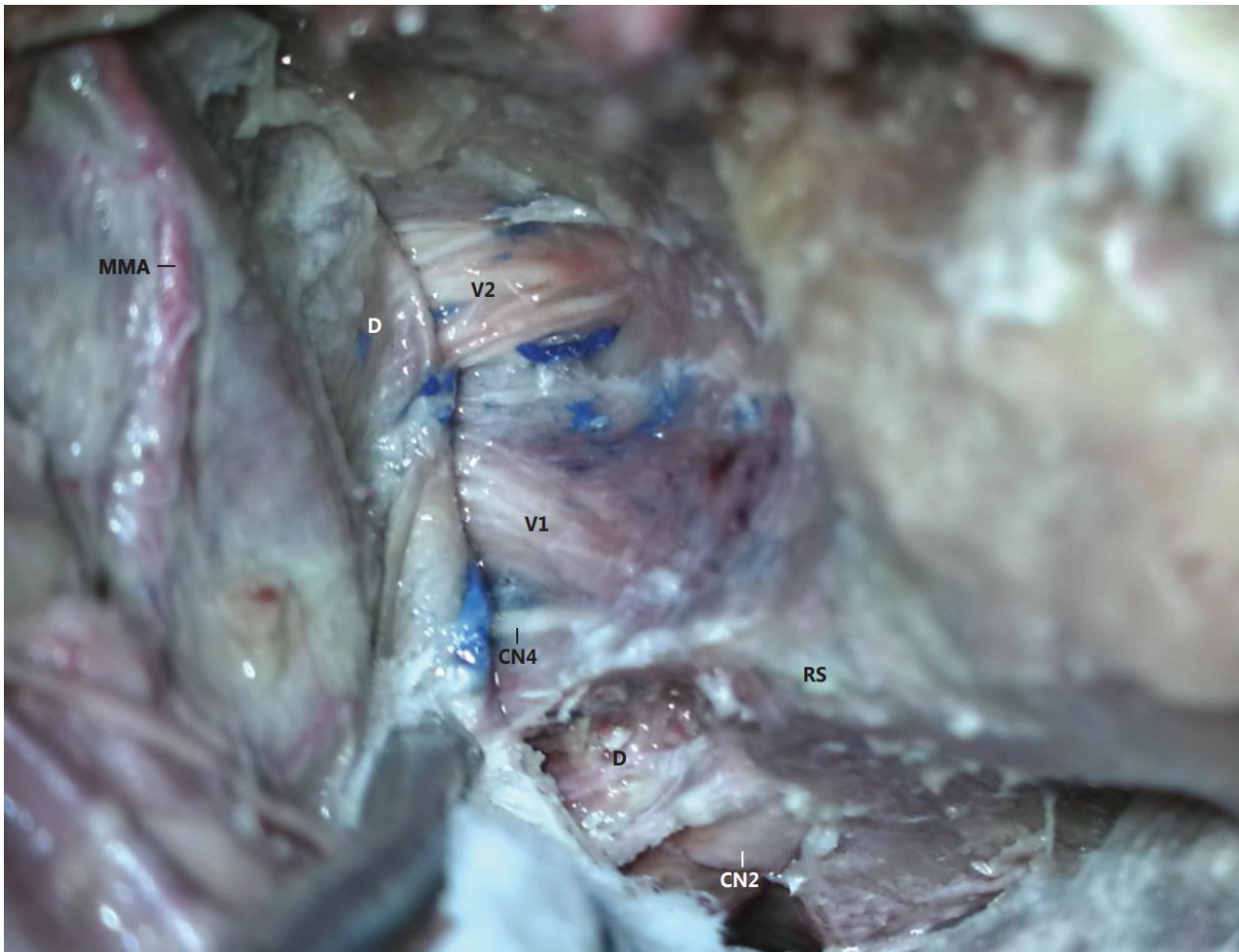
D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

CN2 = optic nerve

OR = orbital roof





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

VIII. Exposure of the dura matter overlying the clinoidal segment of internal carotid artery (ICA).

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

CN2 = optic nerve

OC = optic canal

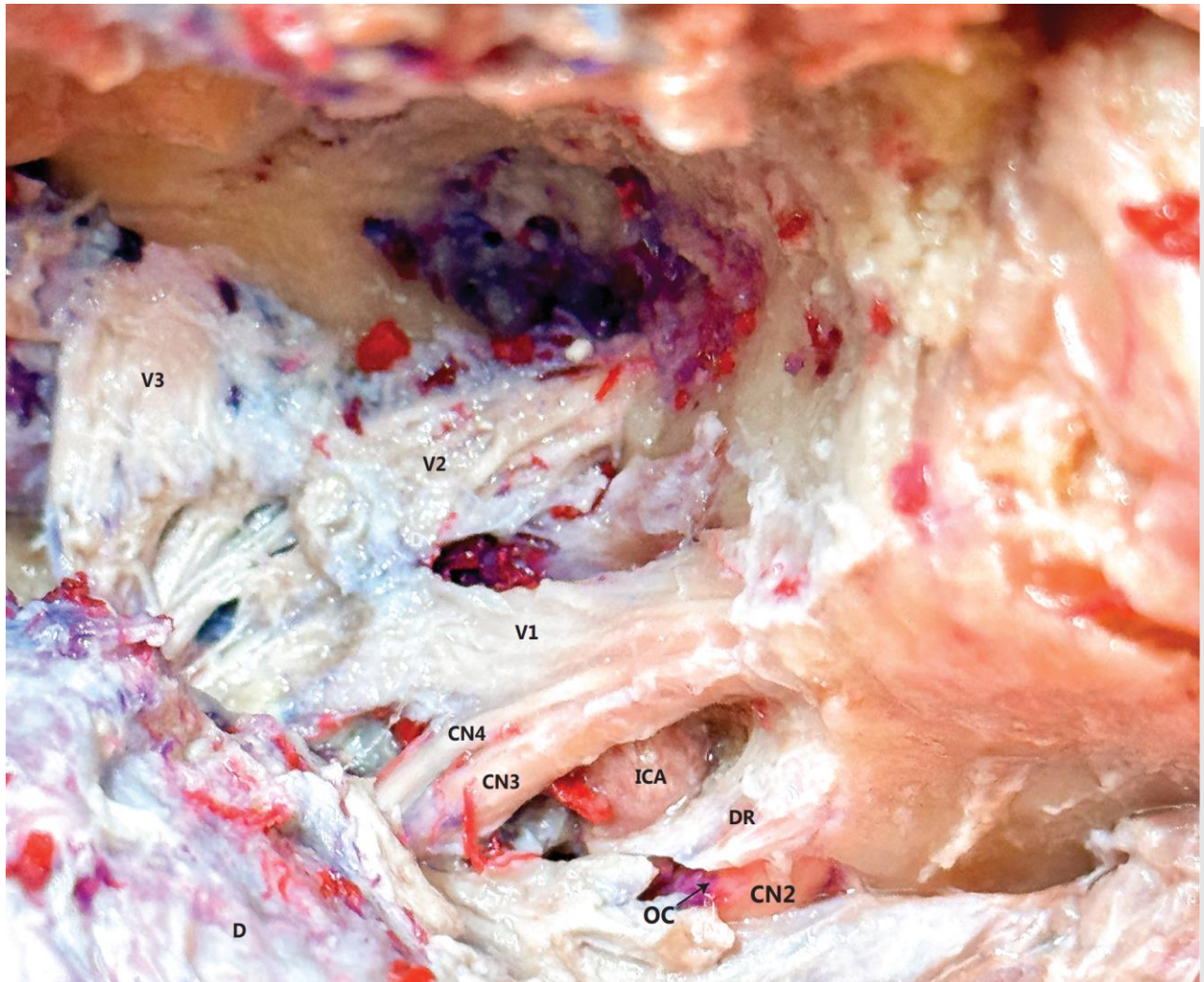
RS = ridge of sphenoid

MMA = middle meningeal artery

D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus

D = dural ring





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.
IX. Exposure of clinoidal segment of ICA

CN3 = oculomotor nerve

CN4 = trochlear nerve

D = dura mater

V1 = ophthalmic branch of trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN2 = optic nerve

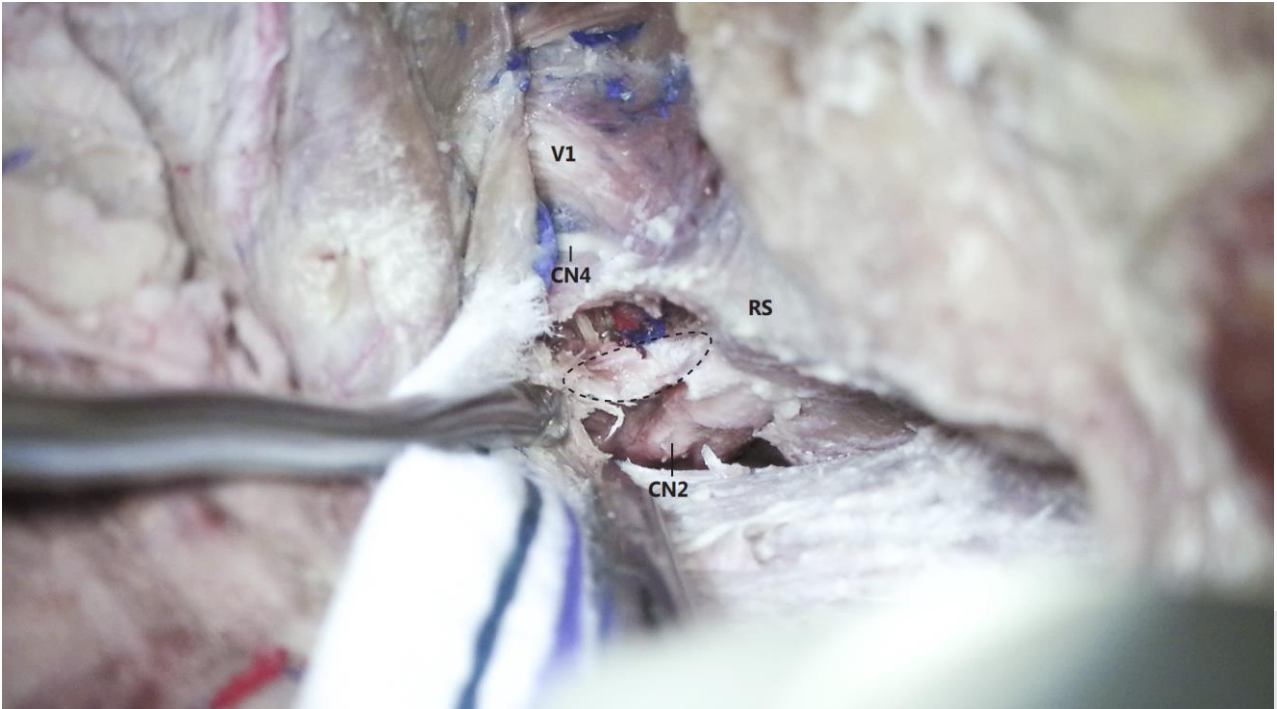
MCF = middle cranial fossa

OC = optic canal

ICA = clinoidal segment of ICA

DR = distal dural ring





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

Black dashed line = dural ring

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN4 = trochlear nerve

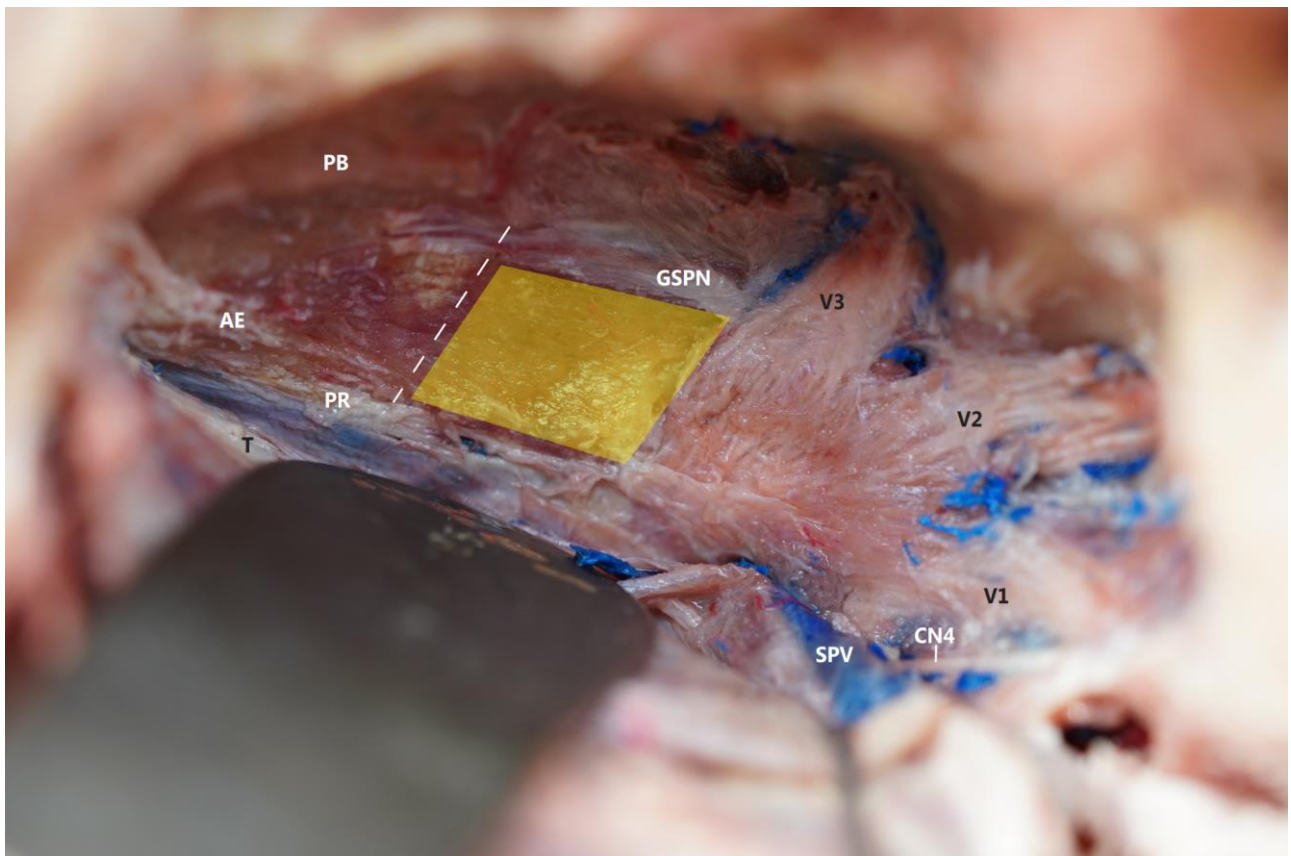
CN2 = optic nerve

OR = orbital roof

OC = optic canal

RS = ridge of sphenoid





Petrosectomy

I. Yellow highlighted area demonstrate the appropriate location of the petrosectomy.

AE = Arcuate eminence

PR = Petrous bone ridge

White dashed line = lateral extent of the petrosectomy

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

PB = petrosal bone

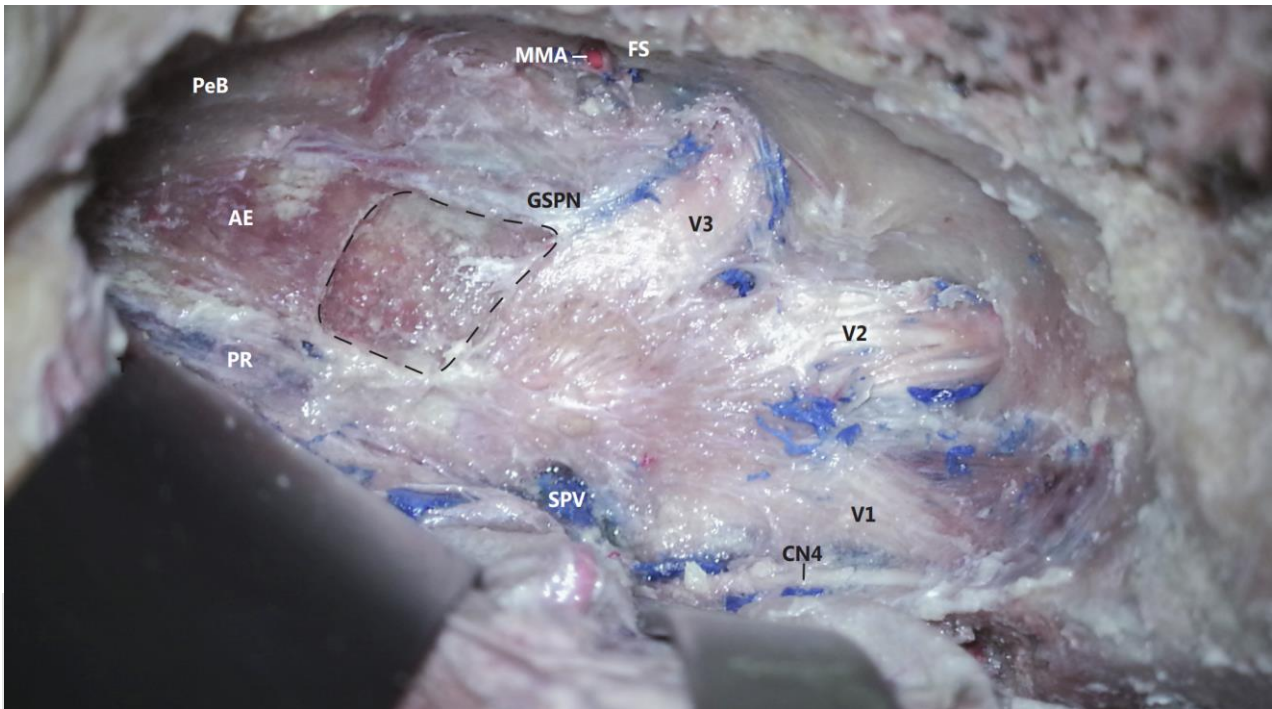
T = tentorium cerebelli

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

SPV = superior petrosal vein

GSPN = greater superficial petrosal nerve





Petrosotomy

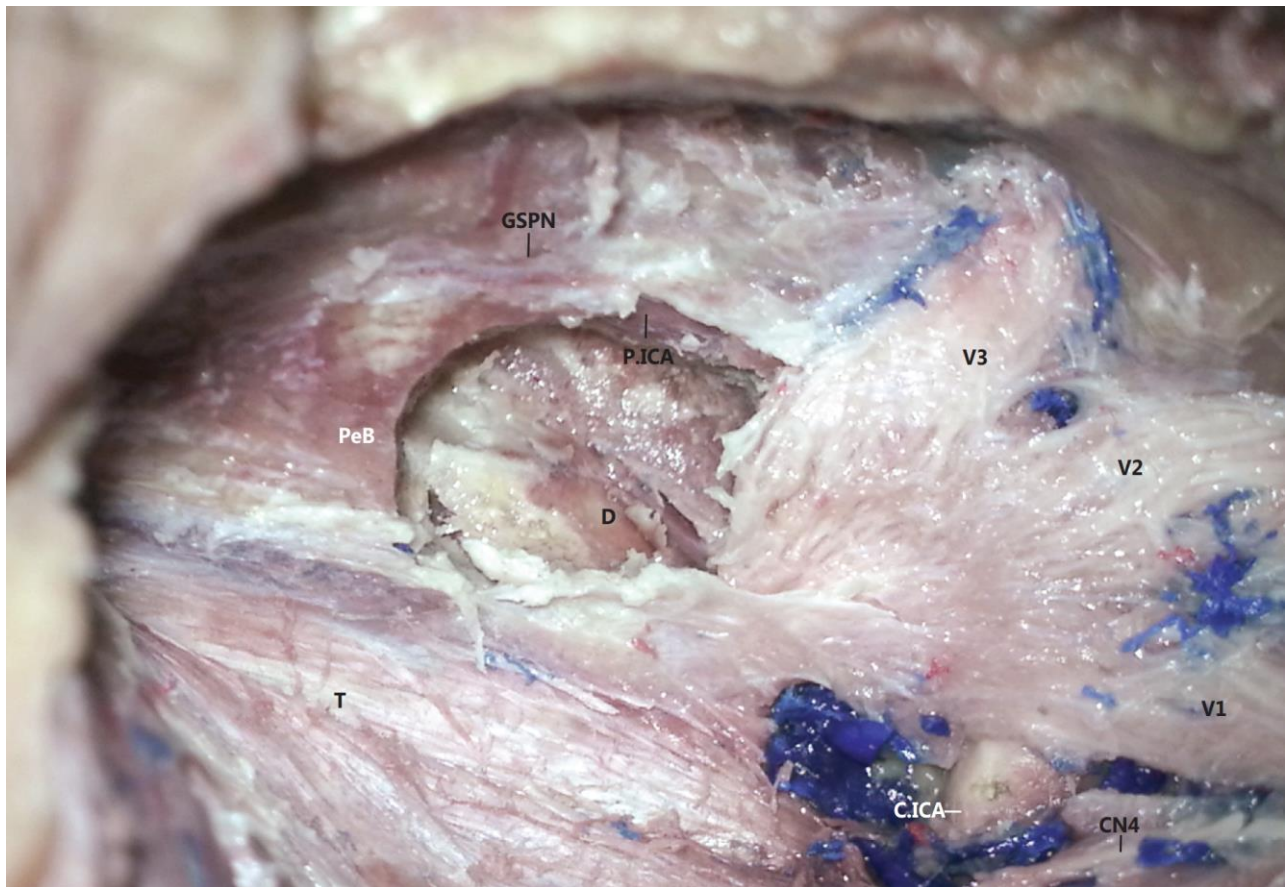
II. Area of drilling marked with black dashed line

AE: Arcuate eminence
PR: Petrous bone ridge
FS: Foramen spinosum

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve
V3 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve
V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve
CN 4 = trochlear nerve
SPV = superior petrosal vein

PeB = petrosal bone
MMA = middle meningeal artery
GSPN = greater superficial petrosal nerve





Petrosectomy

III. Exposure of the dura overlying the posterior fossa.

T = tentorium cerebelli

PB = petrosal bone

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

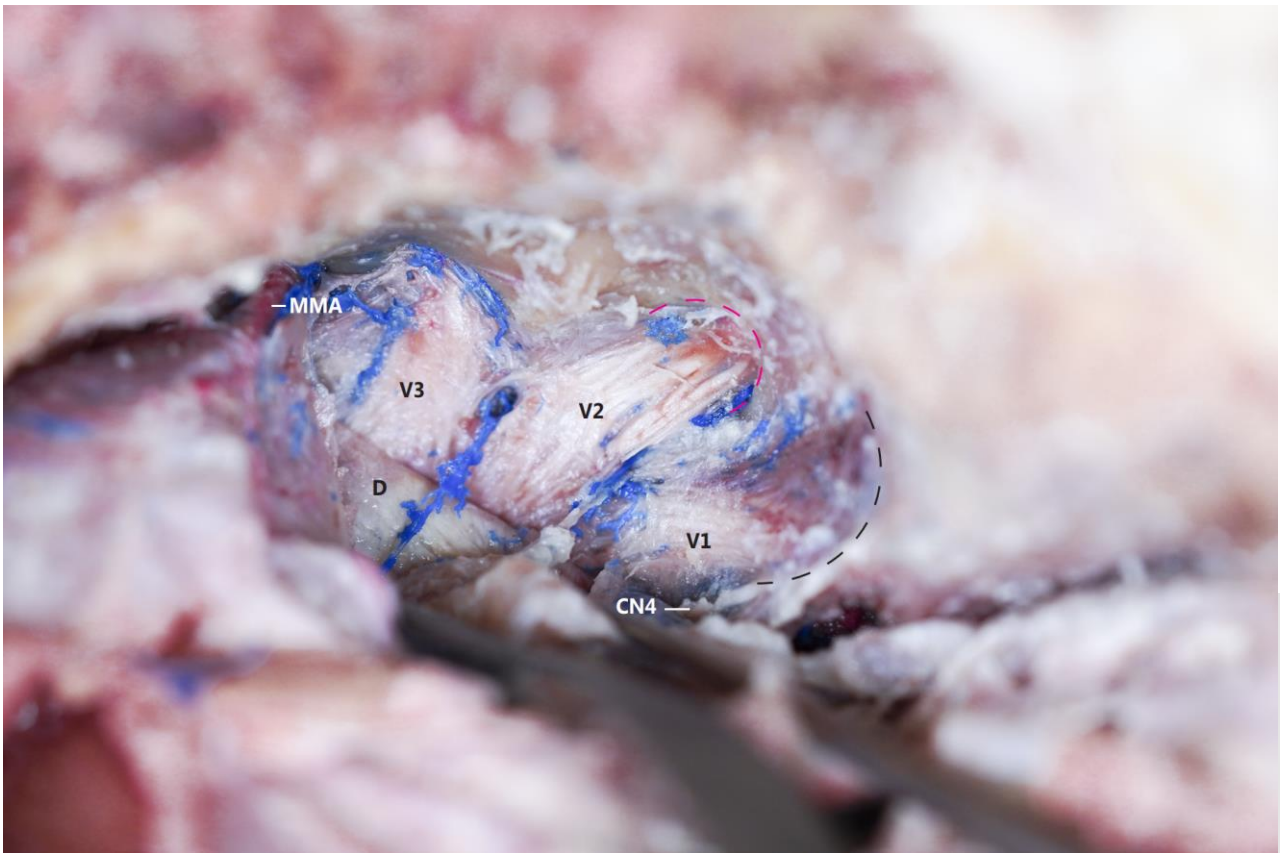
D = dura overlying posterior fossa

GSPN = greater superficial petrosal nerve

C.ICA = cavernous segment of ICA

P.ICA = petrous segment of ICA

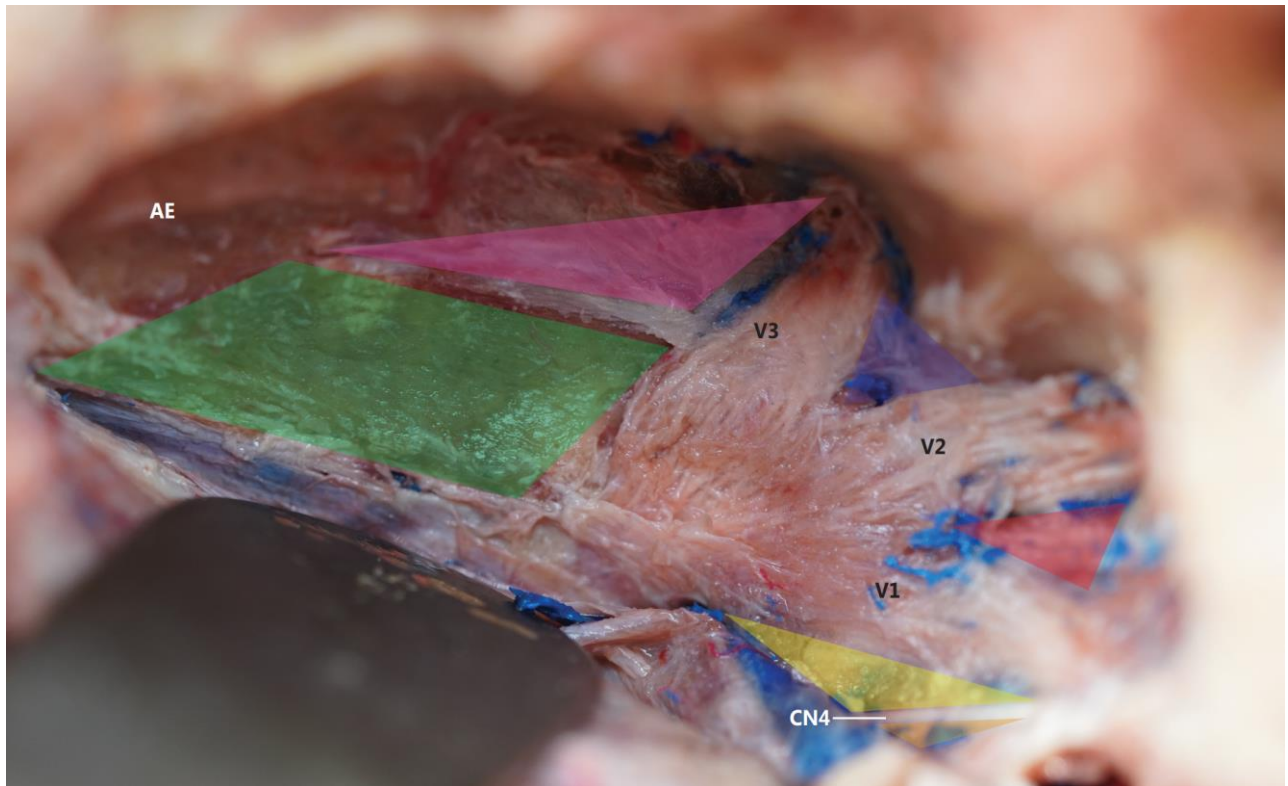




Black dashed line = superior orbital suture
 Pink dashed line = foramen rotundum

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve
 V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve
 V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve
 CN4 = trochlear nerve
 RS = ridge of sphenoid
 D = dura matter overlying lateral wall of cavernous sinus





Supratrochlear triangle = orange shaded area

Anteriolateral triangle = blue shaded area

AE = Arcuate eminence

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

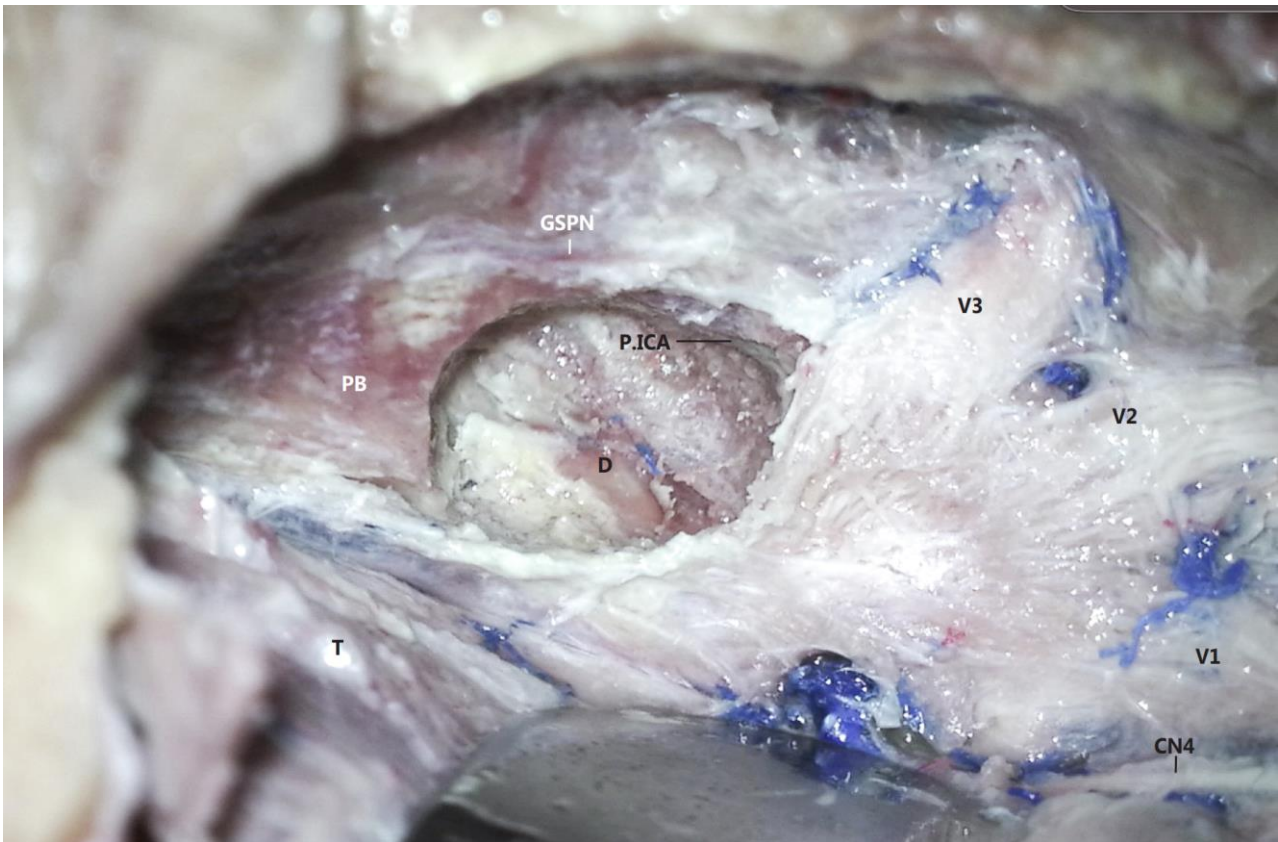
V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

Kawase posteromedial triangle = green shaded area

Glasscock posterolateral triangle = pink shaded area

Infratrochlear triangle = yellow shaded area





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

VIII. Exposure of the dura matter overlying the clinoidal segment of internal carotid artery (ICA).

D = dura overlying posterior fossa

T = tentorium cerebelli

PB = petrous bone

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

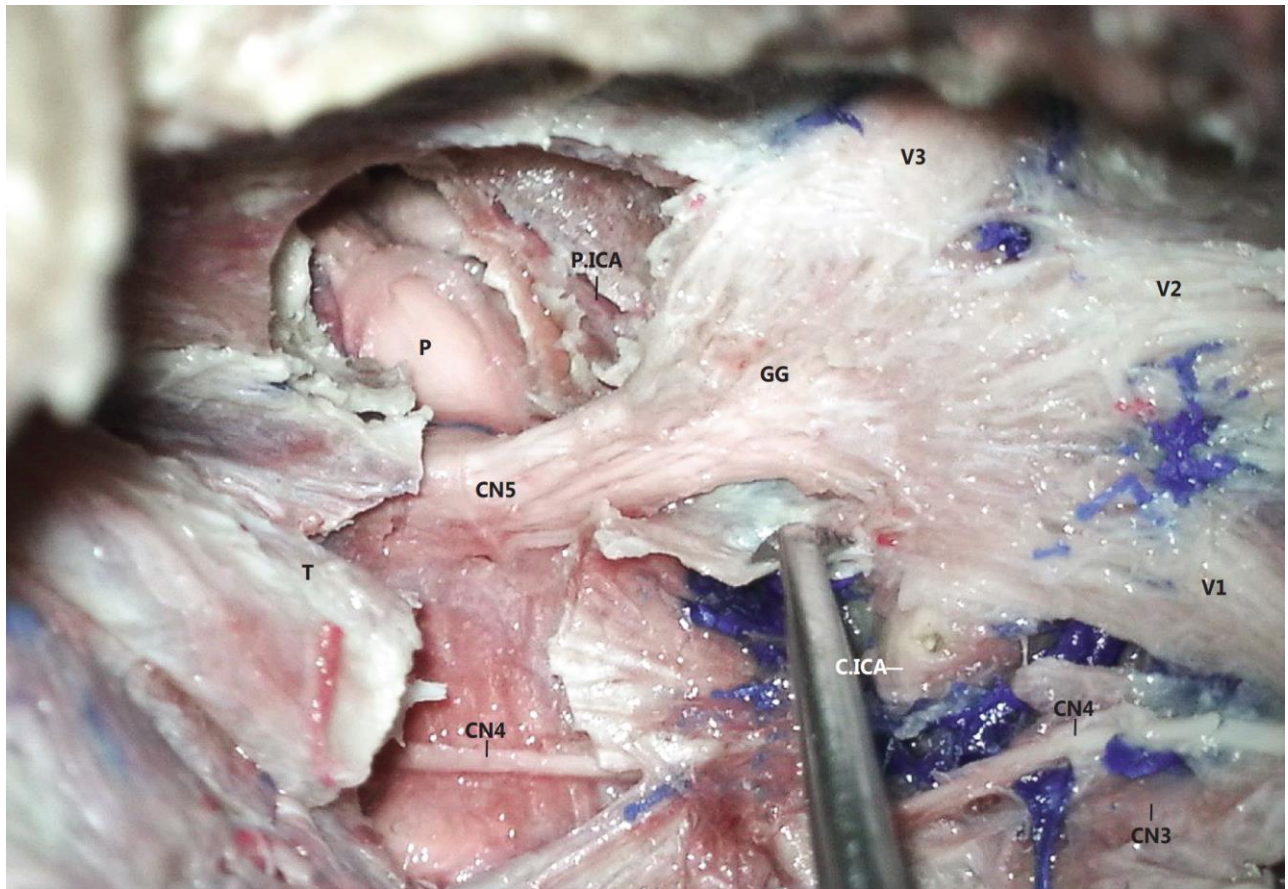
V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

P. ICA = petrous segment of internal carotid artery





Petrosectomy was performed and supra and infratentorial dura were incised.

T = tentorium cerebelli

P = pons

CN5 = trigeminal nerve

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

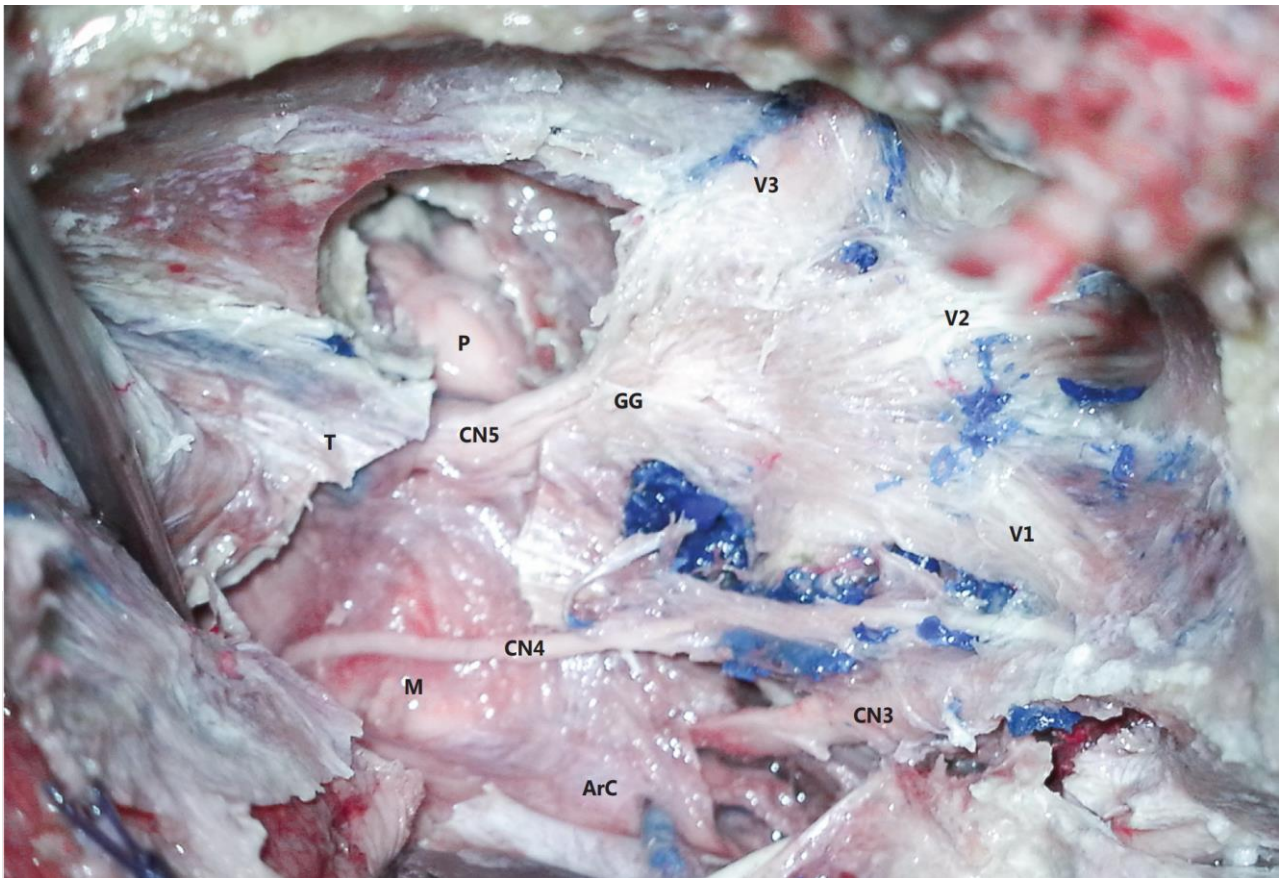
CN3 = oculomotor nerve

GG = gasserian ganglion

C.I.C.A = cavernous segment of ICA

P.I.C.A = petrous segment of ICA





Extradural anterior clinoidectomy.

VIII. Exposure of the dura matter overlying the clinoidal segment of internal carotid artery (ICA).

P = pons

M = midbrain

CN5 = trigeminal nerve

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

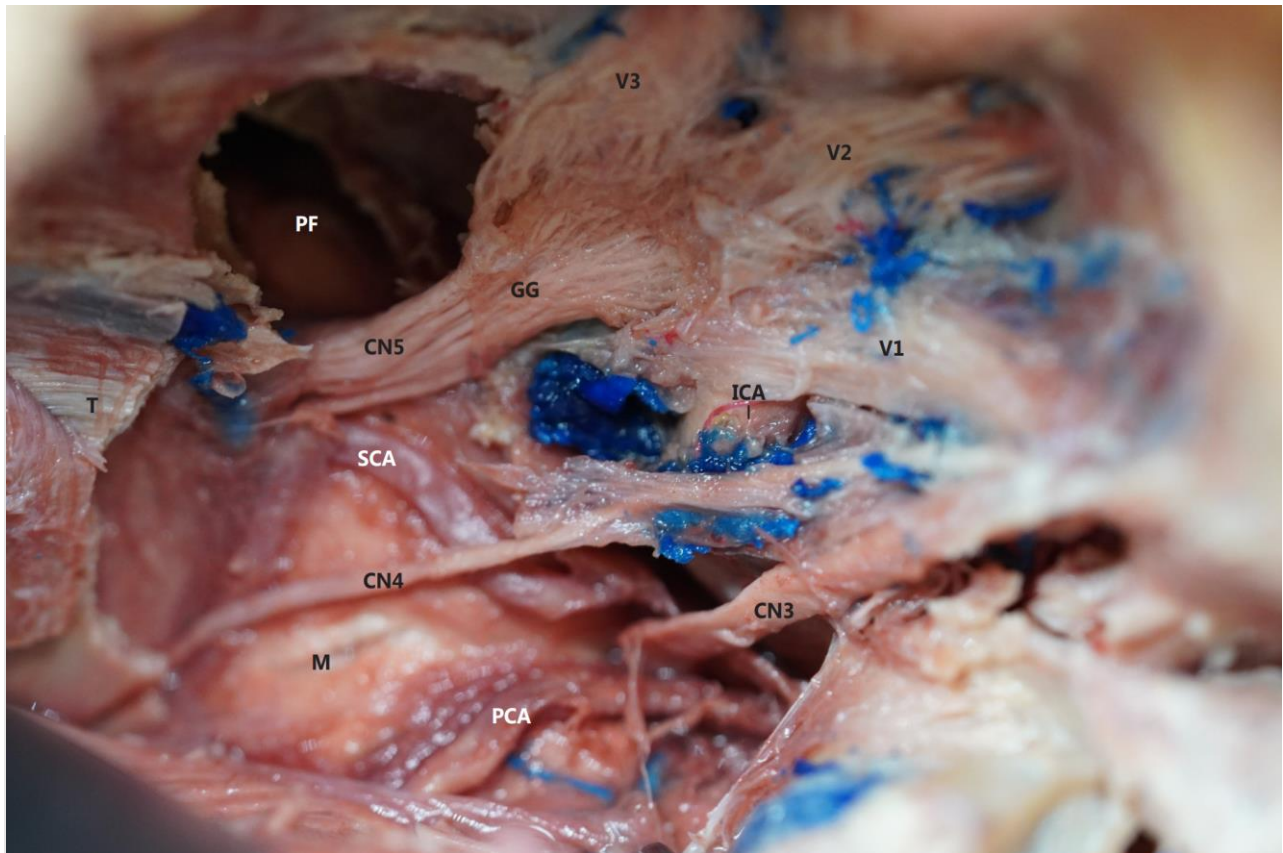
T = tentorium cerebelli

CN3 = oculomotor nerve

GG = gasserian ganglion

ArC = arachnoid layer overlying the midbrain





Extradural Subtemporal Transzygomatic Approach

PCA = posterior cerebral artery

M = midbrain

CN5 = trigeminal nerve

V1 = ophthalmic branch of the trigeminal nerve

V2 = maxillary branch of the trigeminal nerve

V3 = mandibular branch of the trigeminal nerve

CN 4 = trochlear nerve

T = tentorium cerebelli

SCA = superior cerebellar artery

CN4 = trochlear nerve

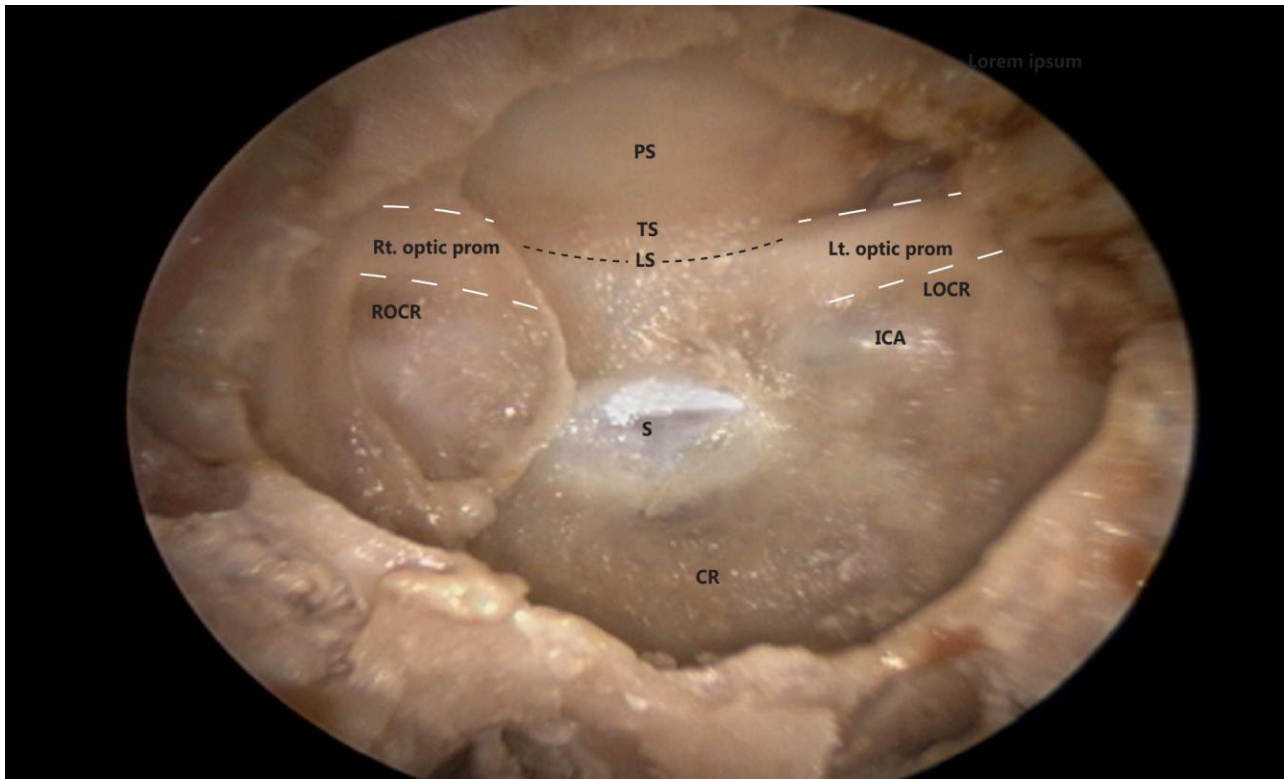
CN3 = oculomotor nerve

GG = gasserian ganglion

ICA = cavernous segment of internal carotid artery

PF = posterior fossa





PS = planum sellae

LS = limbus sphenoidale

TS = tuberculum sellae

ROCR = right lateral optic-carotid recess

LOCR = left lateral optic-carotid recess

S = sella

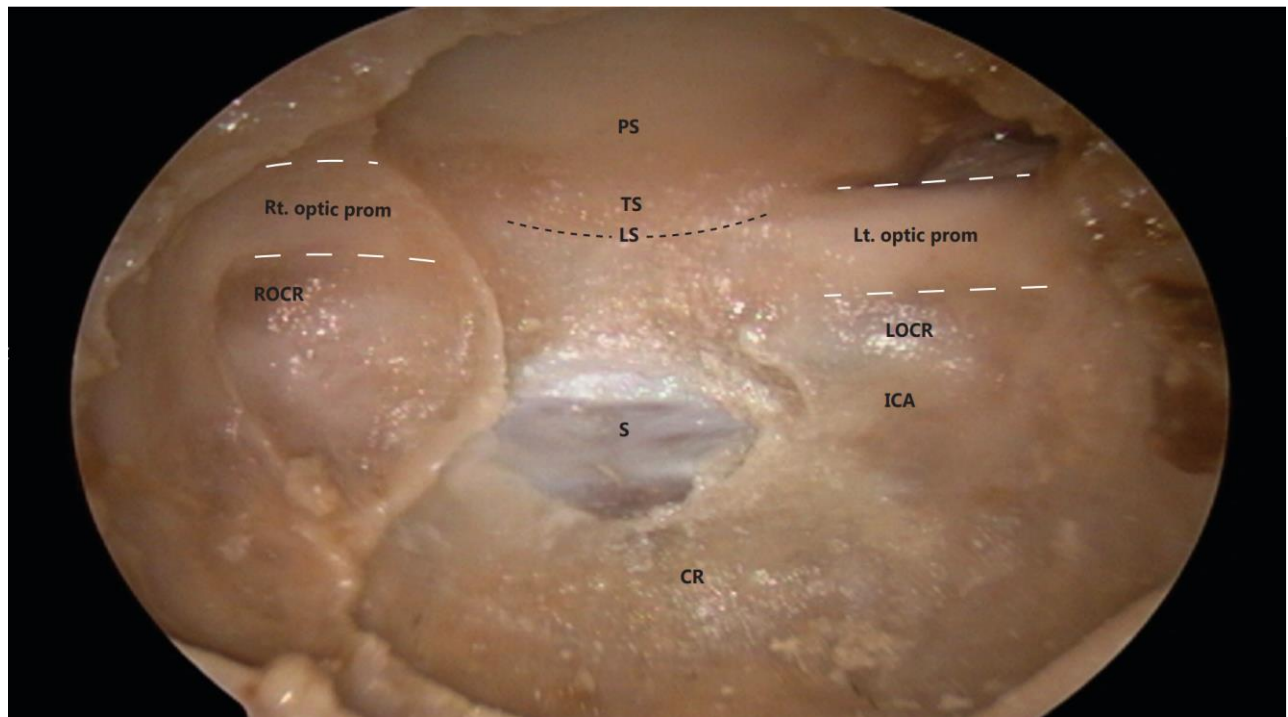
CR = clival recess

ICA = cavernous segment of internal carotid artery

Rt. optic prom = right prominence of optic nerve

Lt. optic prom = left prominence of optic nerve





PS = planum sellae

LS = limbus sphenoidale

TS = tuberculum sellae

ROCR = right lateral optic-carotid recess

CR = clival recess

ICA = cavernous segment of internal carotid artery

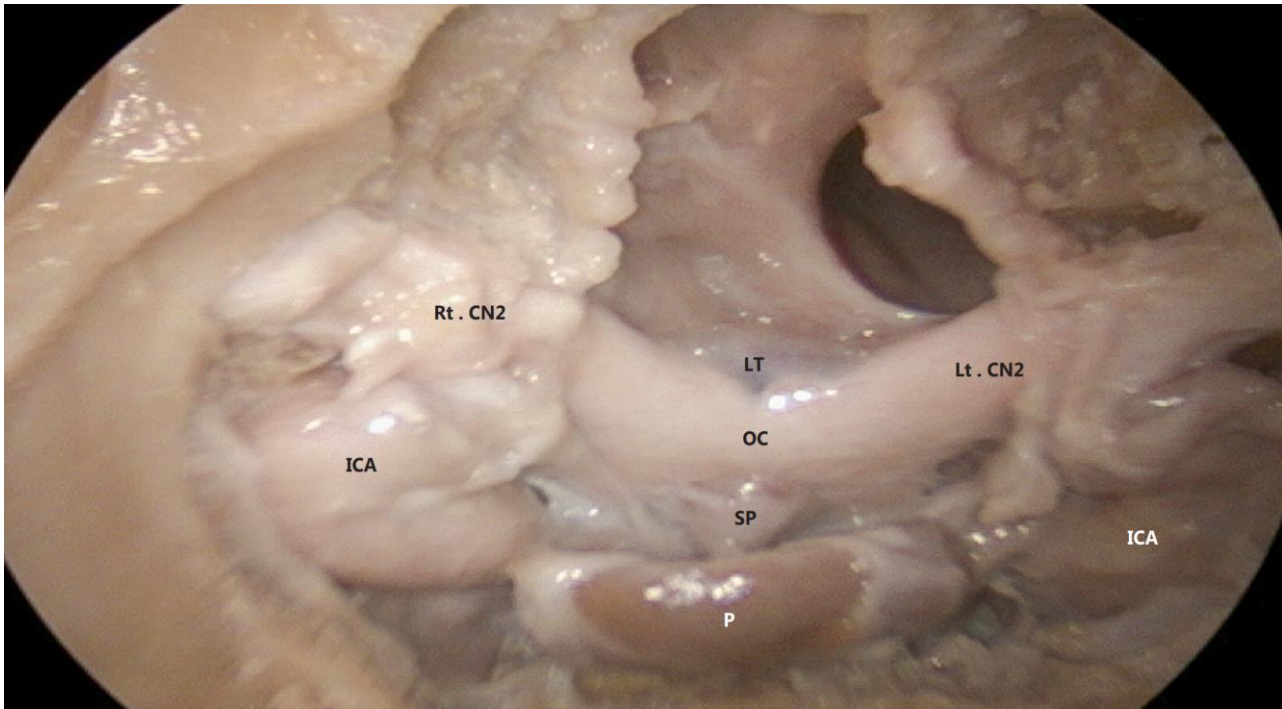
Rt. optic prom = right prominence of optic nerve

LOCR = left lateral optic-carotid recess

S = sella

Lt. optic prom = left prominence of optic nerve

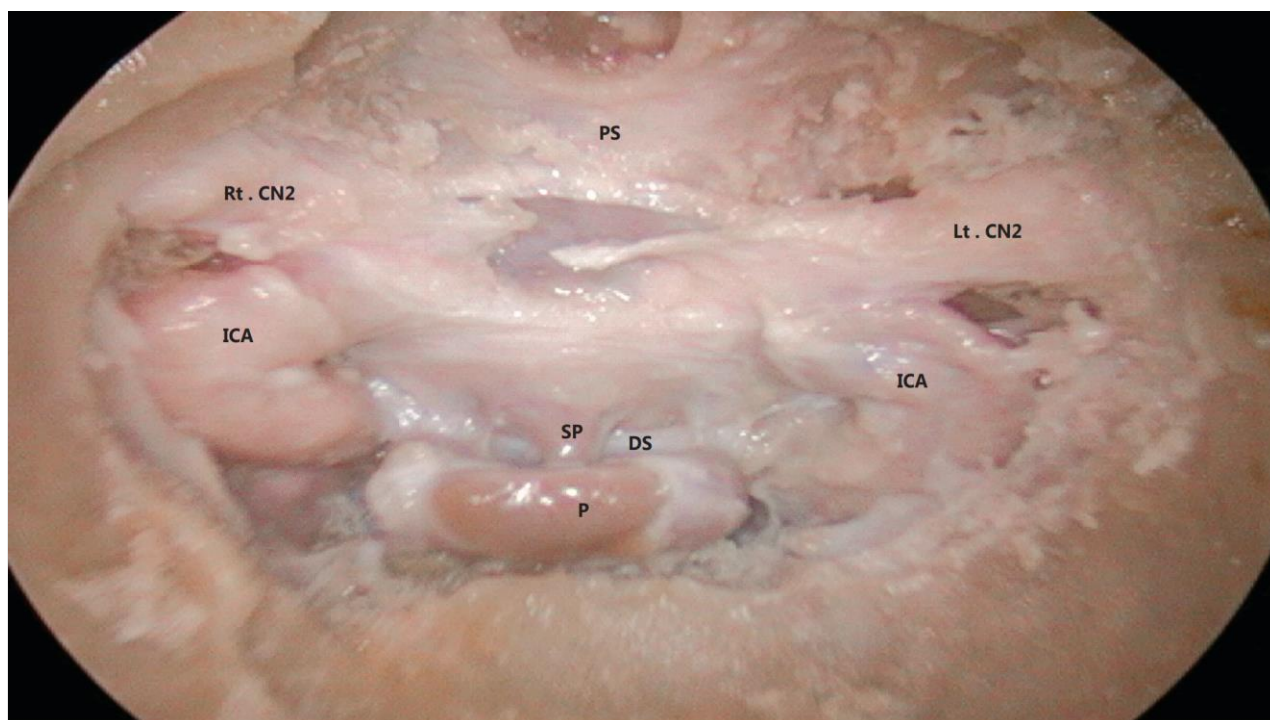




ICA = cavernous segment of internal carotid artery
Rt. CN2 = right optic nerve
Lt. CN2 = left optic nerve

SP = stalk of pituitary
P = pituitary
LT = lamina terminalis
OC = chiasm





PS = planum sellae
DS = diaphragm sellae
ICA = cavernous segment of internal carotid artery

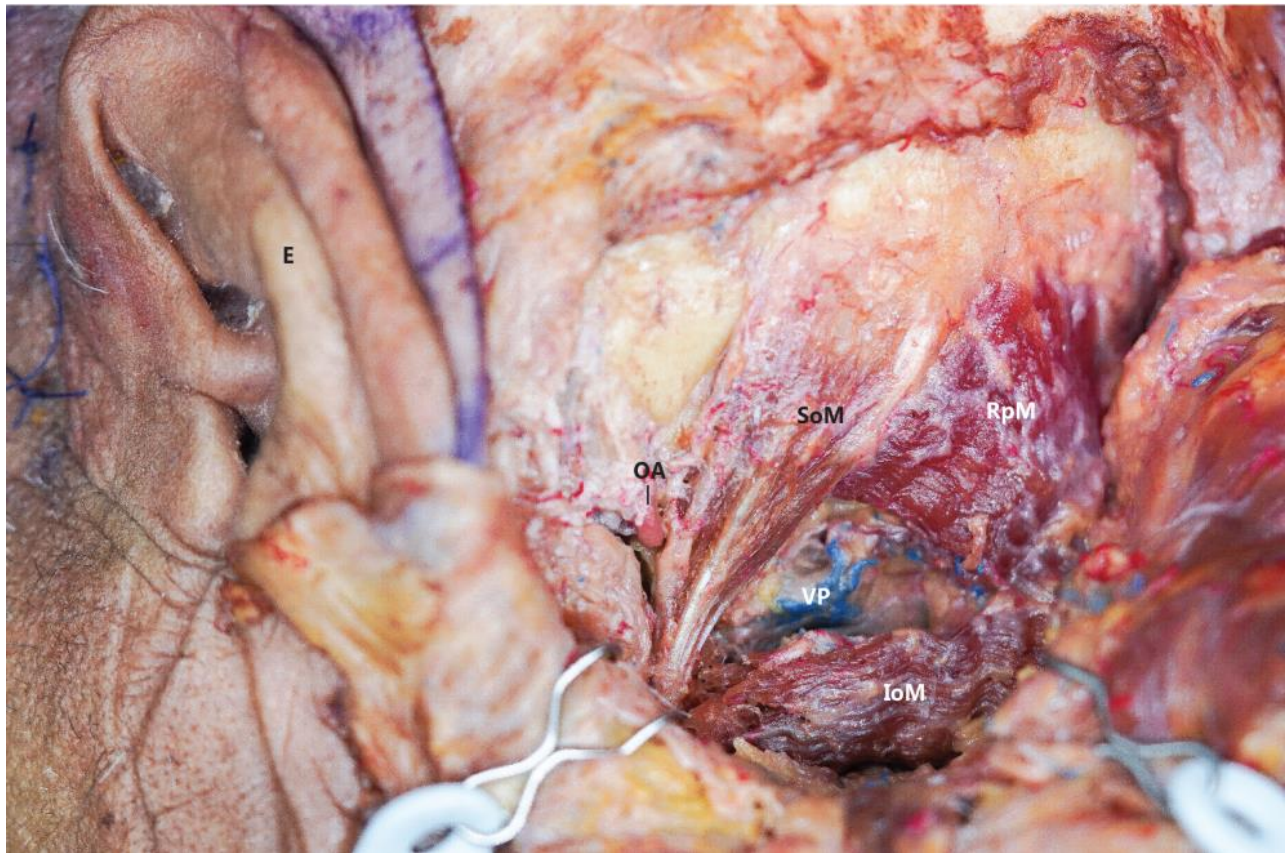
Rt. CN2 = right optic nerve
Lt. CN2 = left optic nerve
SP = stalk of pituitary
P = pituitary





Demonstration of the skin incision variations. The lazy S incision.





The suboccipital triangle is formed by three muscles: the superior oblique, the rectus capitis minor, and the rectus capitis major.

SoM = superior oblique muscle

VP = venous plexus in fat pad

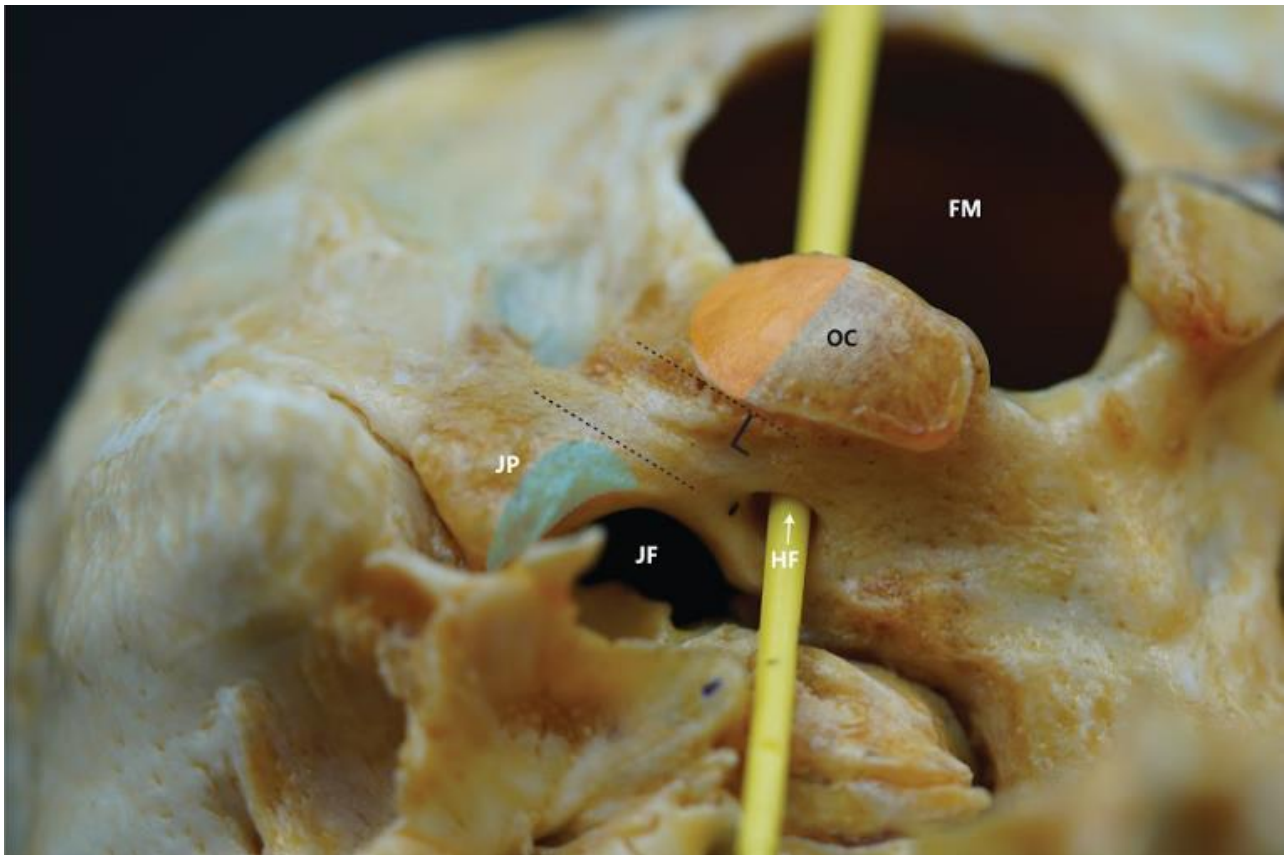
IoM = inferior oblique muscle

OA = occipital artery

RpM = rectus capitis posterior major

E = ear





Demonstration of the following:

The transcodylar = orange highlight

Supracondylar = black dashed line

Paracondylar approaches = blue highlight

FM = foramen magnum

JF = jugular Foramen

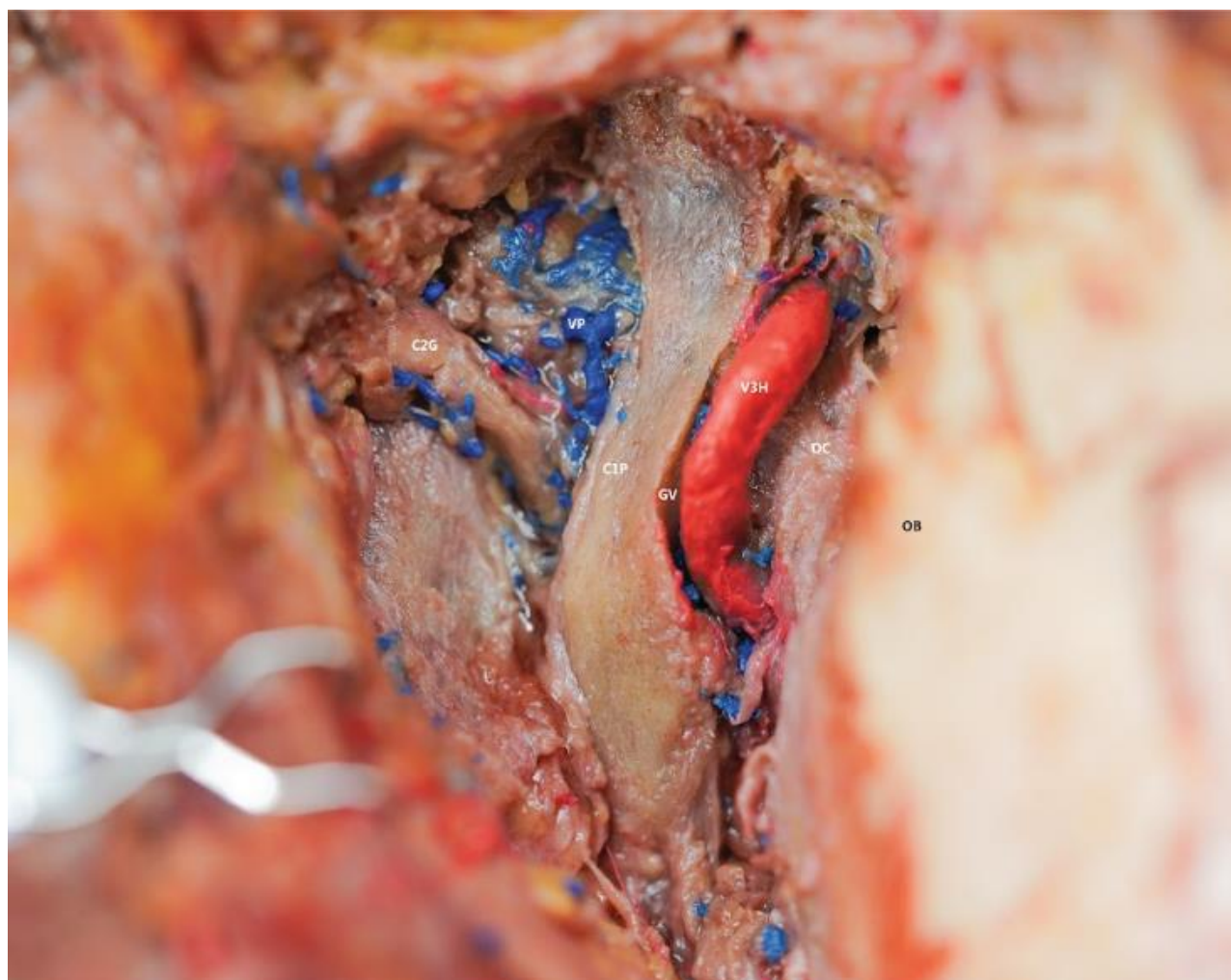
HF = hypoglossal foramen

OC = occipital condyle

JP = jugular process.

If the posterior one third of the occipital condyle was removed, the anterolateral portion of the foramen magnum will be accessed. If the supracondylar above the hypoglossal canal was drilled the lower lateral edge of the clivus will be exposed. The jugular tubercle can be accessed if the supracondylar portion below the hypoglossal canal was removed. The paracondylar approach gives access to the jugular bulb





Far Lateral Approach

V3H = horizontal branch of vertebral artery

OB = occipital bone

C1P = posterior arch of C1 vertebra

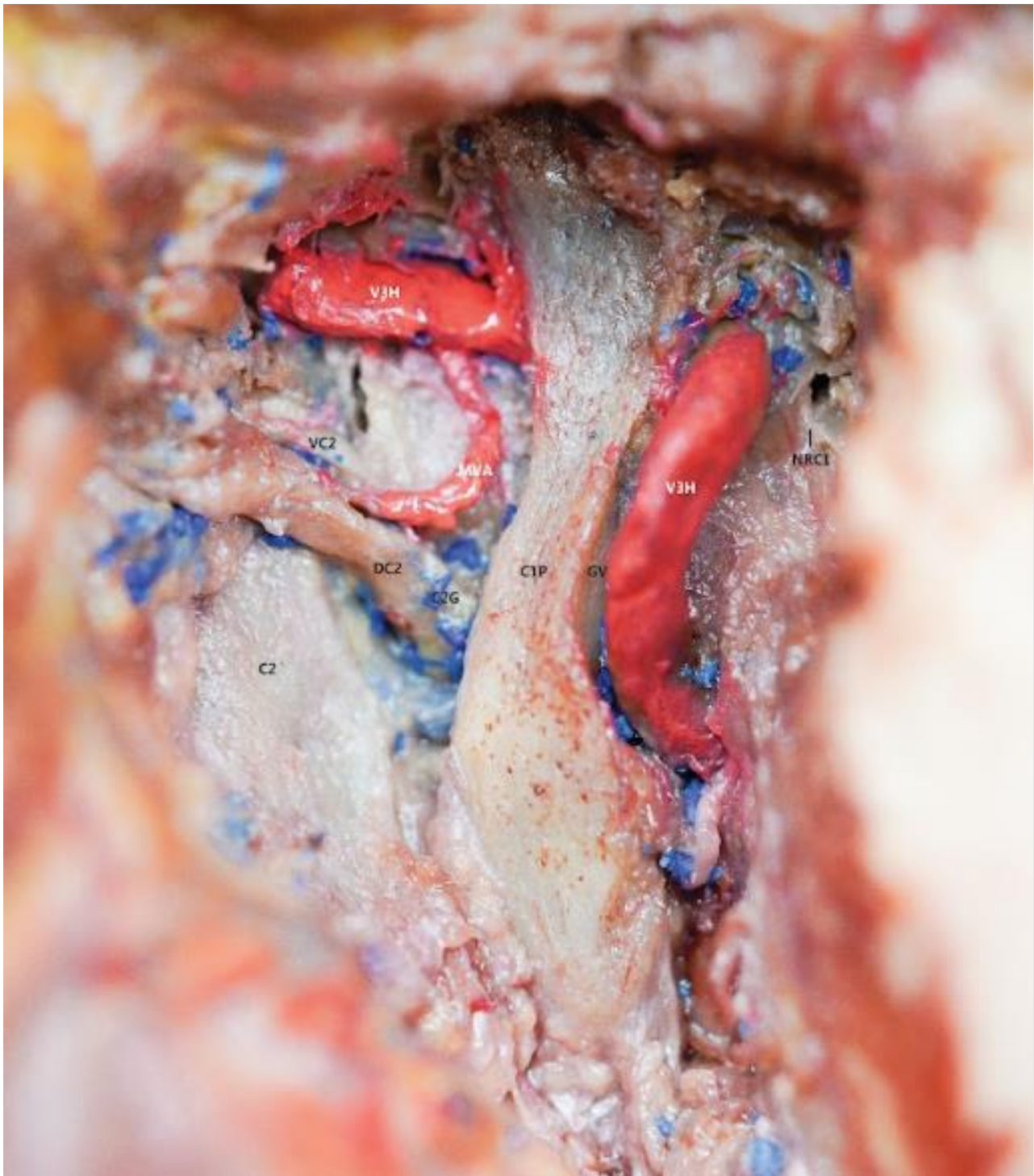
GV = groove of vertebral artery

OC = occipital condyle

C2G = C2 vertebra ganglion

VP = venous plexus





V3H = horizontal branch of vertebral artery

C1P = posterior arch of C1 vertebra

GV = groove of vertebral artery

C2G = C2 vertebra ganglion

NRC1 = nerve root of C1

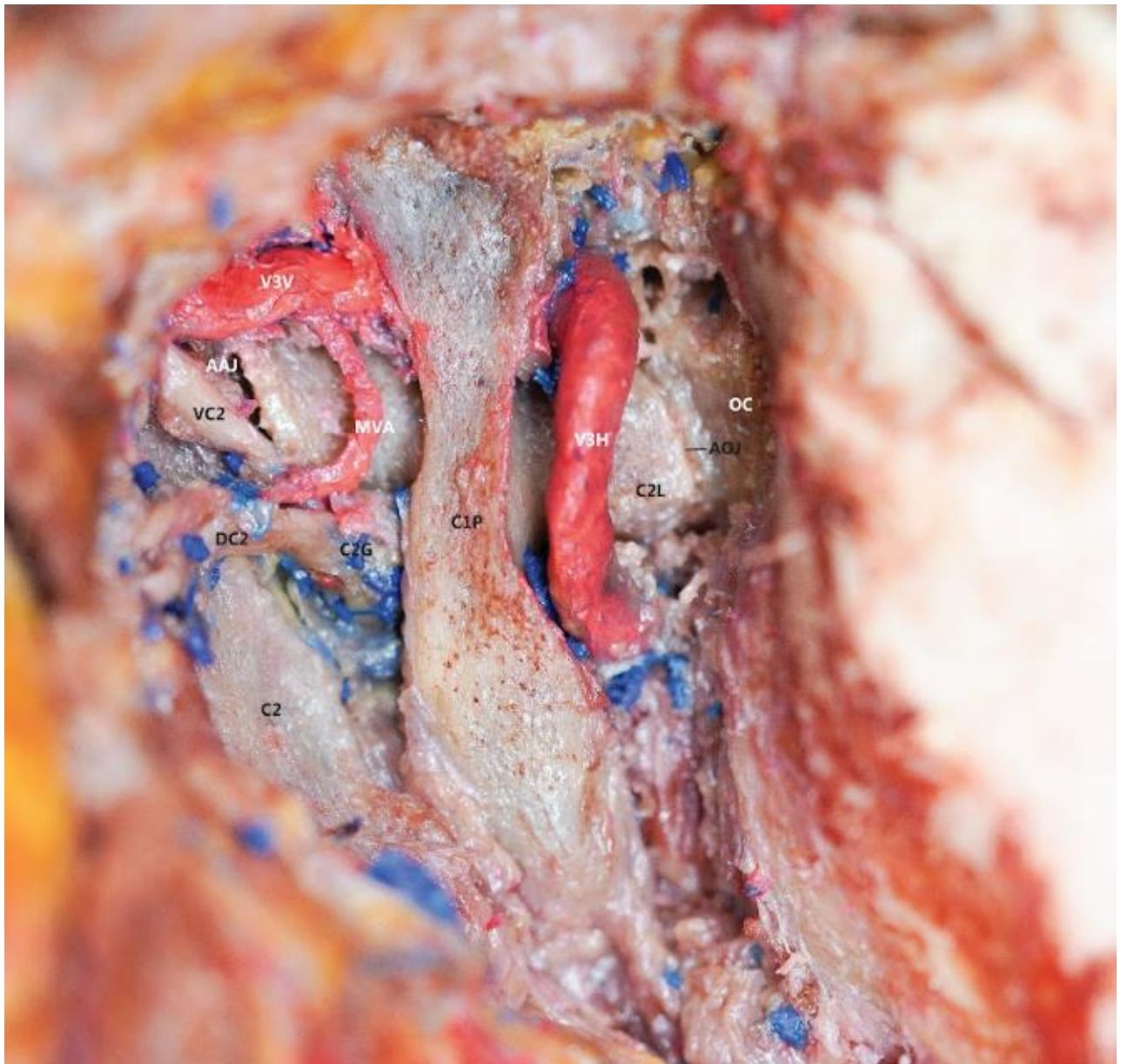
DC2 = dorsal ramus of C2

VC2 = ventral ramus of C2

MVA = muscular branch of vertebral artery

C2 = C2 vertebra





V3H = horizontal branch of vertebral artery

C1P = posterior arch of C1 vertebra

C2G = C2 vertebra ganglion

DC2 = dorsal ramus of C2

VC2 = ventral ramus of C2

MVA = muscular branch of vertebral artery

C2 = C2 vertebra

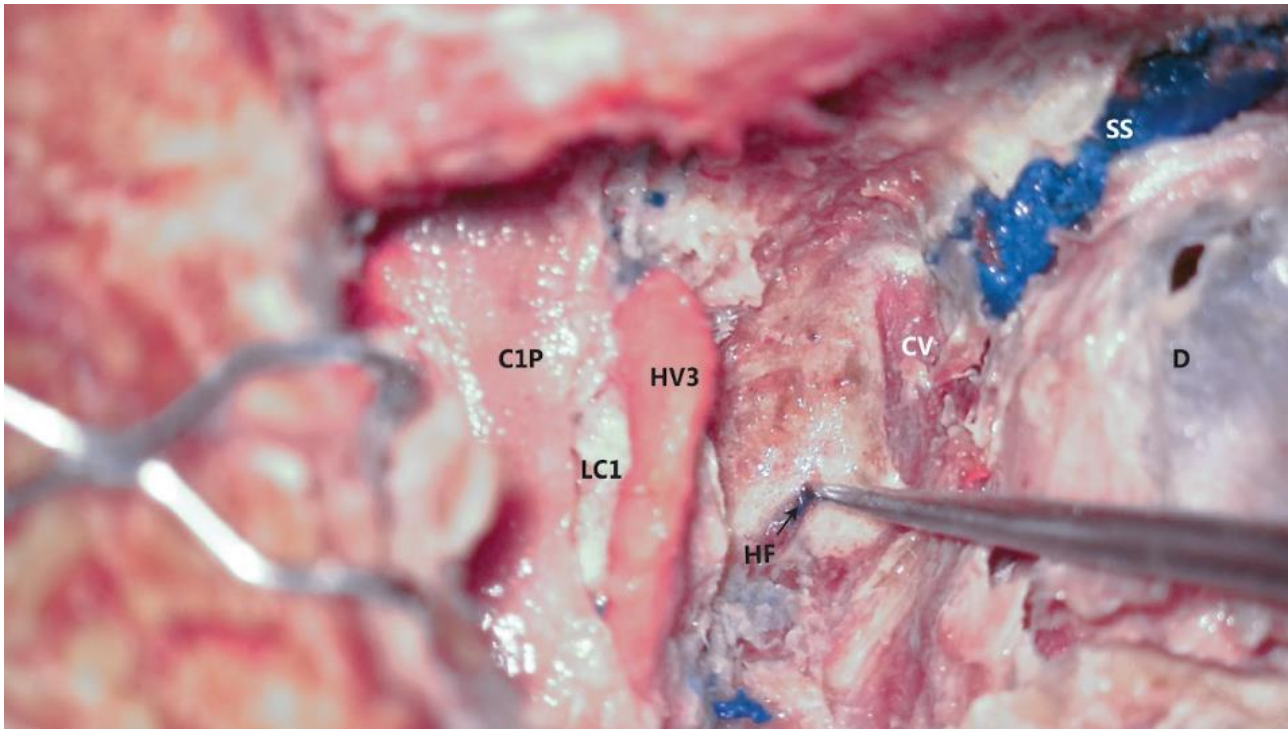
OC = occipital condyle

C2L = lateral mass of C2

AAJ = atlantoaxial joint

AOJ = atlantooccipital joint





Exposure of the hypoglossal canal.

V3H = horizontal branch of vertebral artery

D = dura matter

HF = Hypoglossal foramen

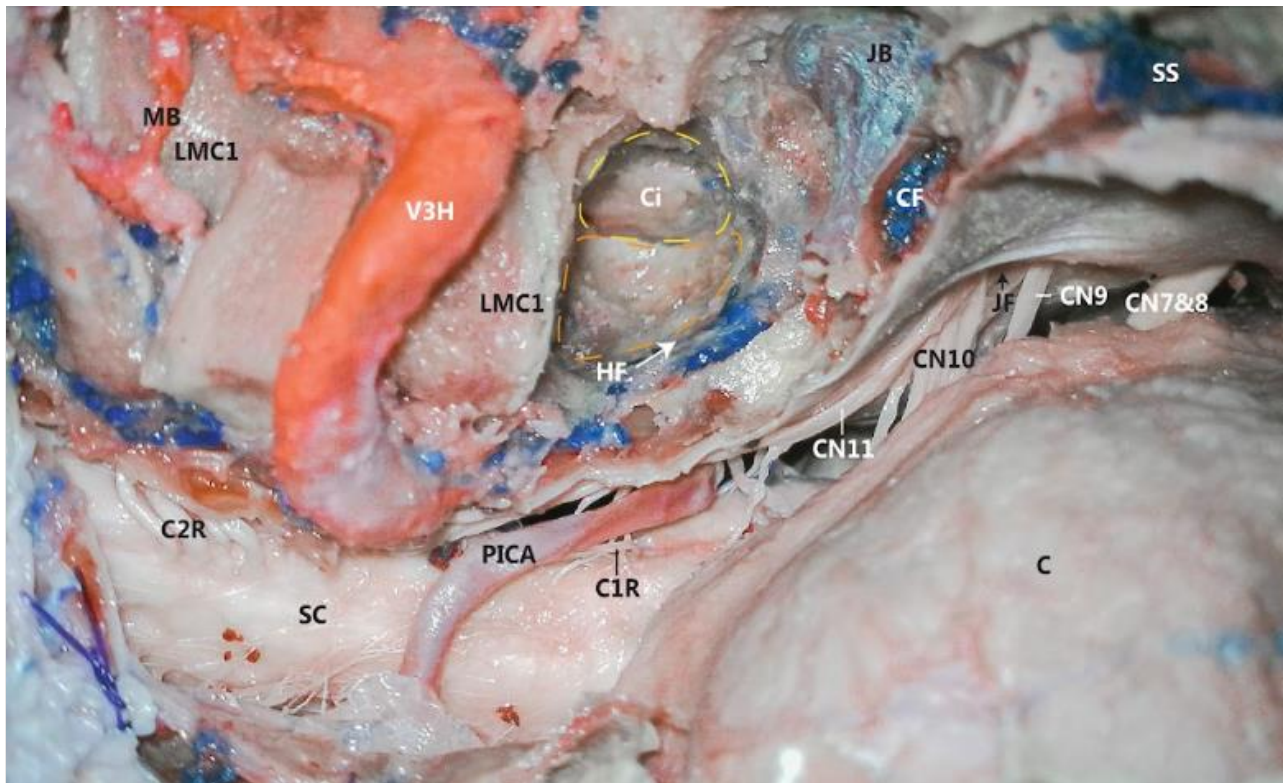
C1P = posterior arch of C1 vertebra

SS = sigmoid sinus

LC1 = lateral mass of C1 vertebra

CV = condylar vein





Intradural exposure of the far lateral approach with supracondylar exposure (orange dashed lines) of the clivus (yellow dashed lines) and jugular bulb.

V3H = vertebral artery horizontal segment

LMC1 = lateral mass of C1 vertebra

Ci = clivus

HF = hypoglossal foramen

CF = condylar foramen

JB = jugular bulb

SS = sigmoid sinus

Orange dashed line = supracondylar exposure below hypoglossal canal

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery anterior and lateral medullary segments

C2R = C2 rootlets

SC = spinal cord

C1R = C1 rootlets

JF = jugular foramen

CN 11 = spinal accessory nerve

CN 10 = vagus nerve

C = cerebellum

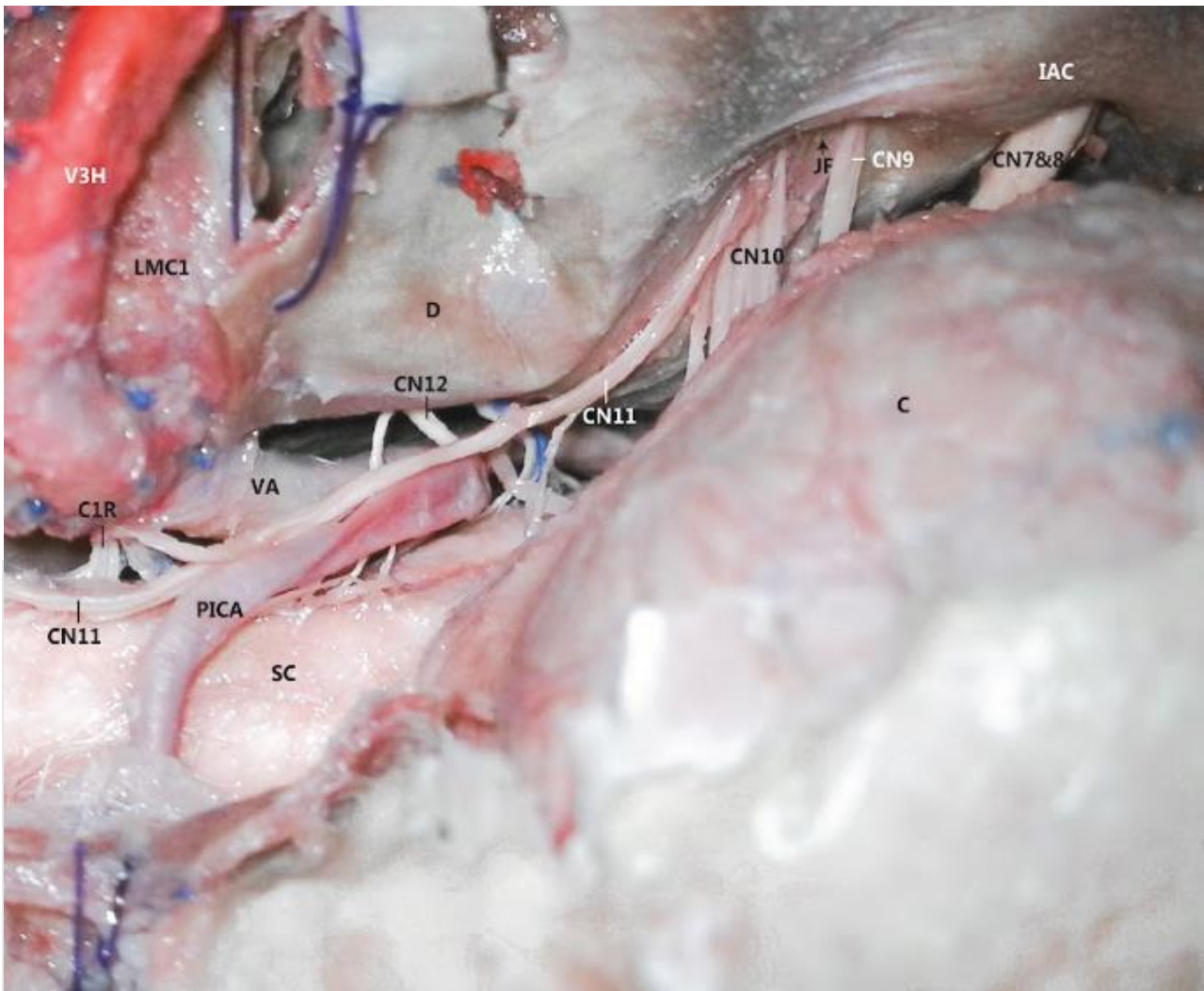
MB = muscular branch

Black dashed line demonstrates the removed posterior process of C1

CN 9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN 7 & 8 = vestibulocochlear and facial nerve complex





Intradural exposure of far lateral approach

V3H = vertebral artery horizontal segment

LMC1 = lateral mass of C1 vertebra

IAC = internal auditory canal

PICA = posterior inferior cerebellar artery

JF = jugular foramen

SC = spinal cord

D = dura mater

C1R = C1 rootlets

CN 11 = spinal accessory nerve

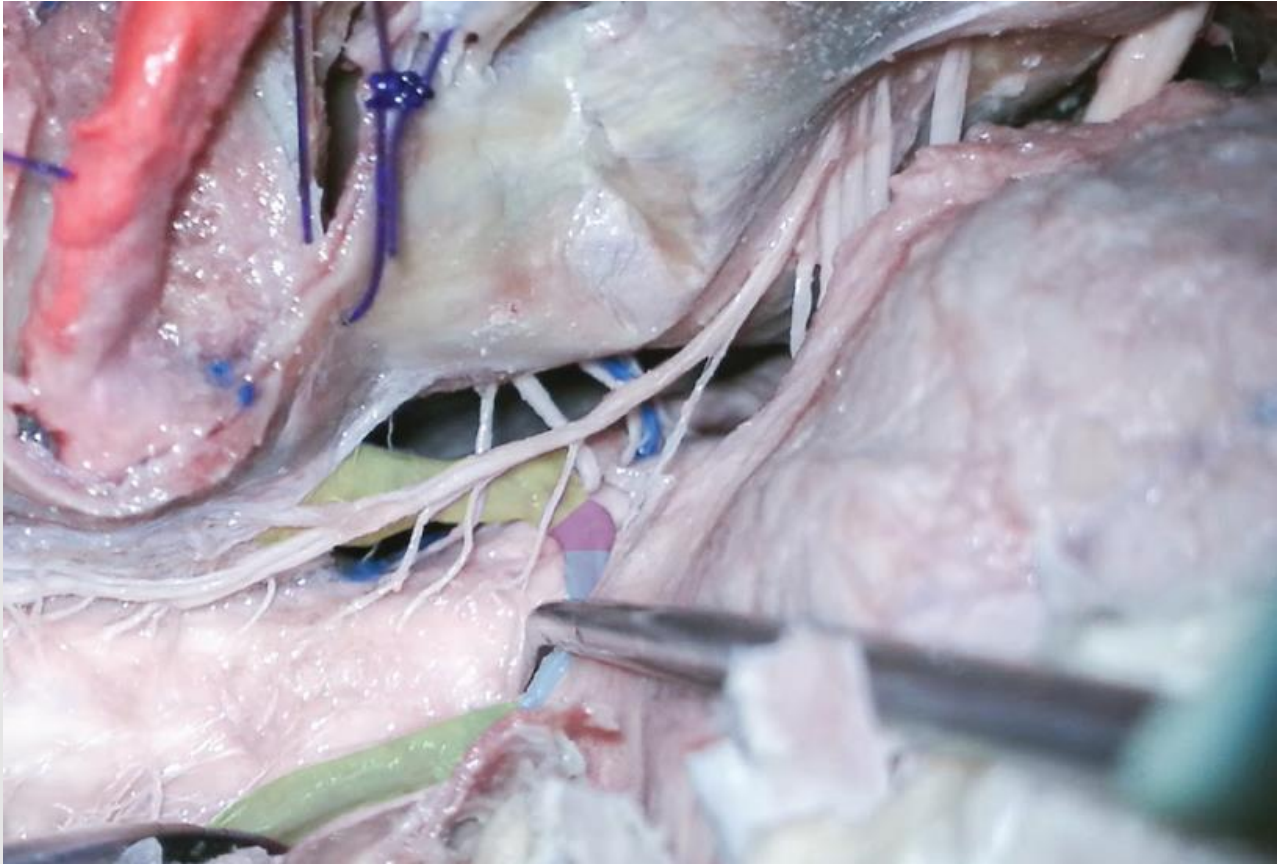
CN 10 = vagus nerve

CN 9 = glossopharyngeal nerve

CN 7 & 8 = vestibulocochlear and facial nerve complex

C = cerebellum





Intradural exposure of far lateral approach

Purple shaded area = anterior medullary segment of PICA

Blue shaded area = lateral medullary segment of PICA

Green shaded area = tonsillomedullary segment of PICA

Yellow shaded area = intradural segment of vertebral artery





Patient positioning: supine with neck slightly extended. Skin incision: 3-5 cm oblique over the skin crease.

LSI = lateral margin of the skin Incision

TSI = transverse skin incision.

MI = midline at the level of thyroid cartilage (medial margin of skin incision)

ASCM = anteriorborder of sternocleidomastoid

DL = distance to lateral incision





Subcutaneous dissection & platysma muscle exposure.

PyM = Platysma muscle
SC = subcutaneous tissue





Anterior cervical discectomy of C5-C6. Platysma muscle incision & retraction.

Asterisk = fascia covering the platysma muscle.





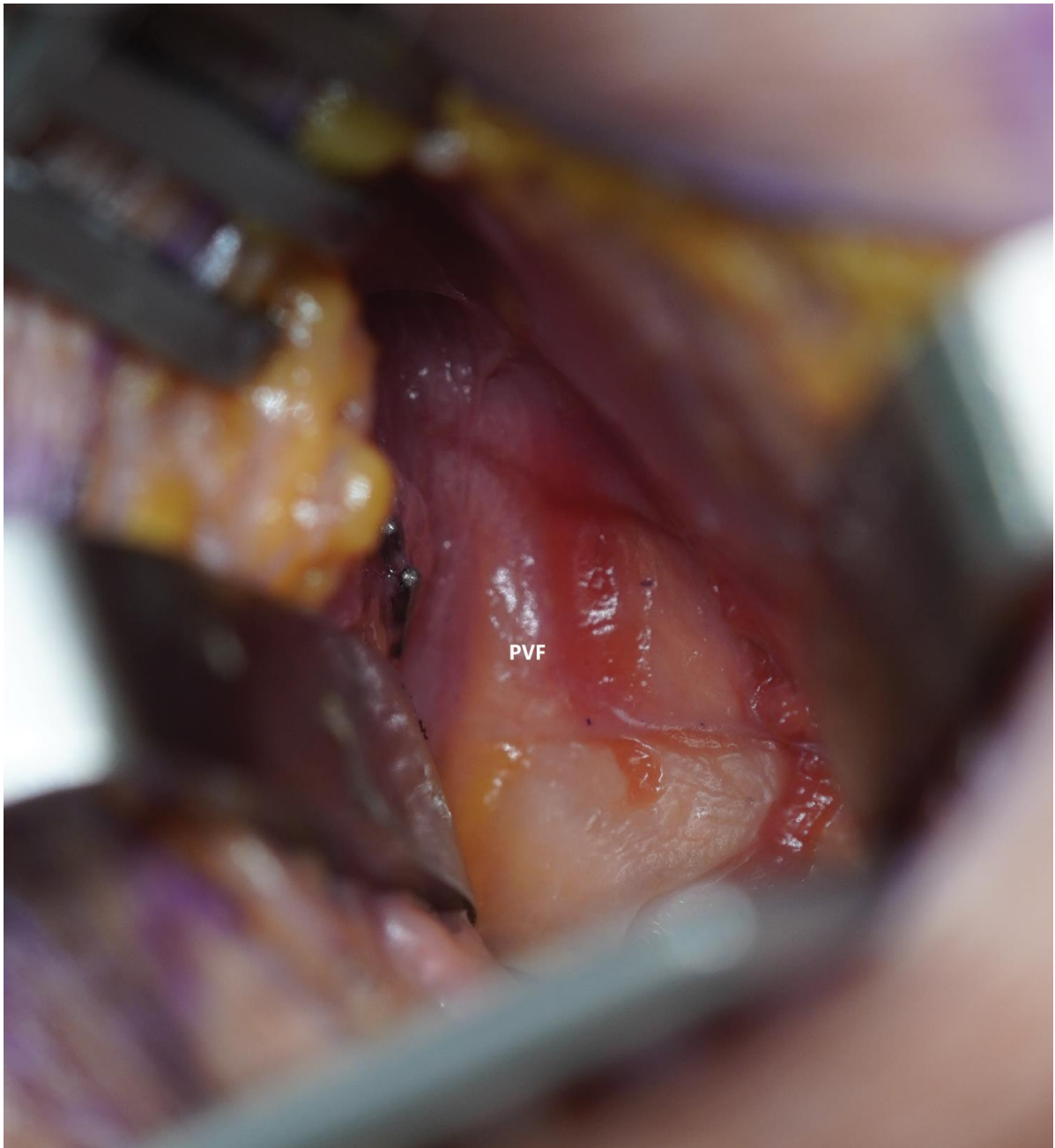
Sharp dissection in the plane between the sternocleidomastoid and omohyoid muscle.

SCM = sternocleidomastoid muscle

OhM = omohyoid muscle

White arrow = shows the plane of dissection.

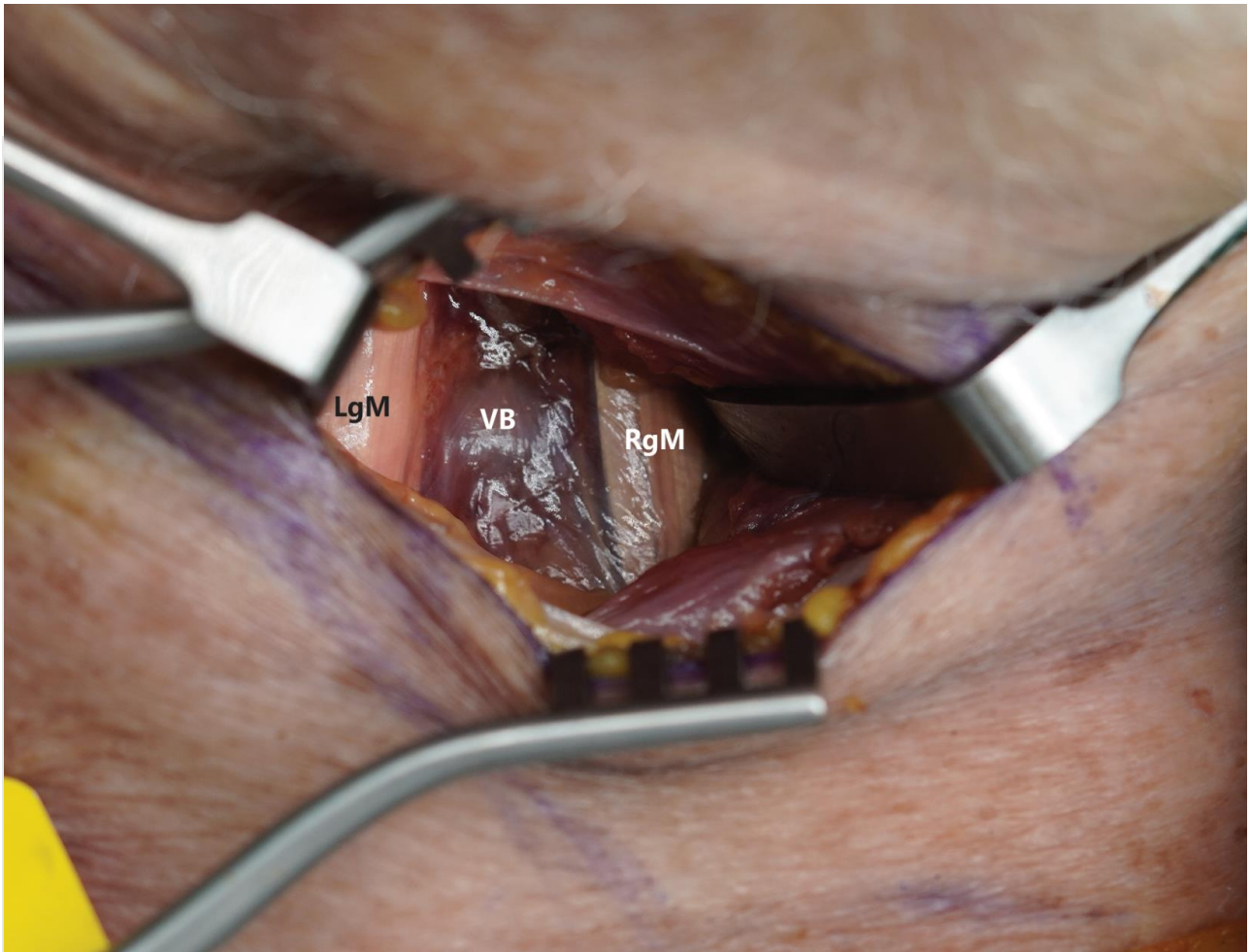




Carotid sheath (carotid artery, jugular vein, vagus nerve) retracted laterally, trachea and esophagus retracted medially.

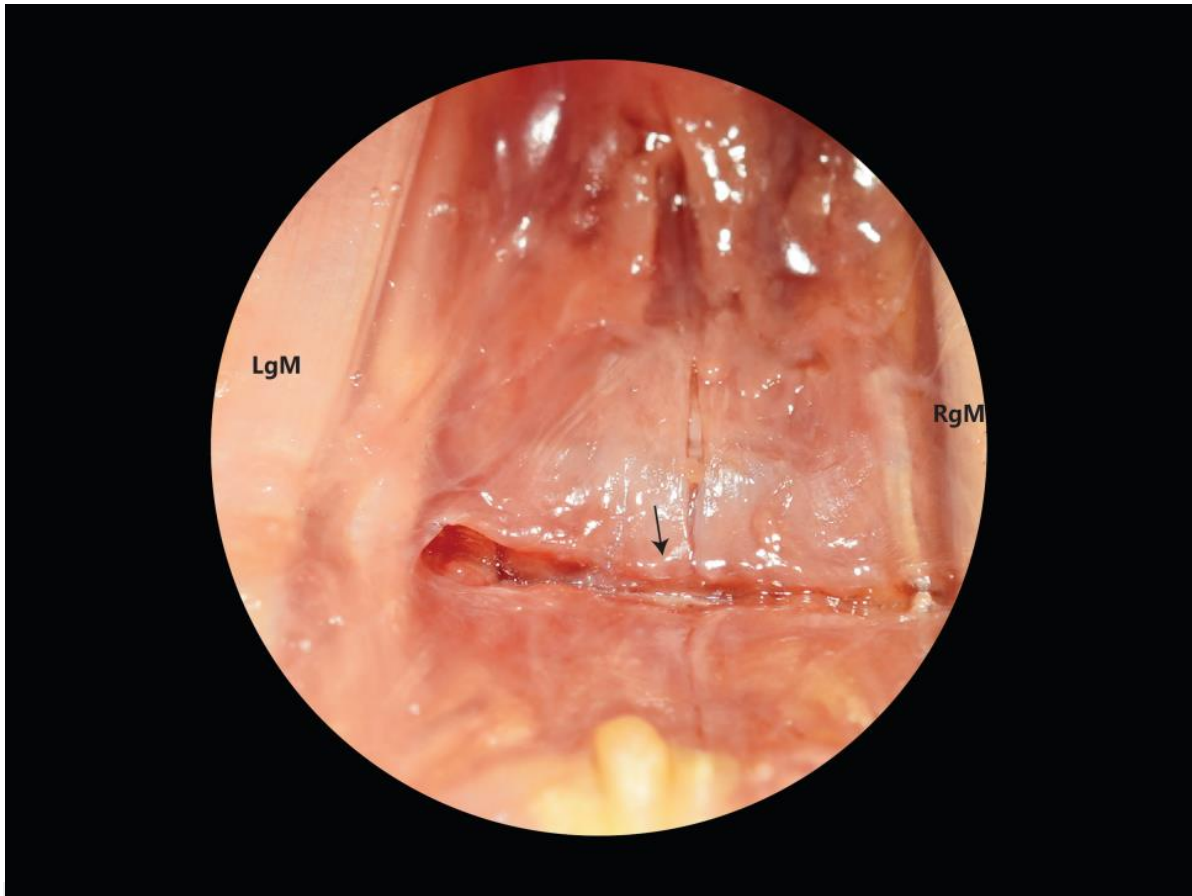
PVF = paravertebral fascia.





RgM = right longus colli muscle
LgM = left longus colli muscle
VB = vertebral body.

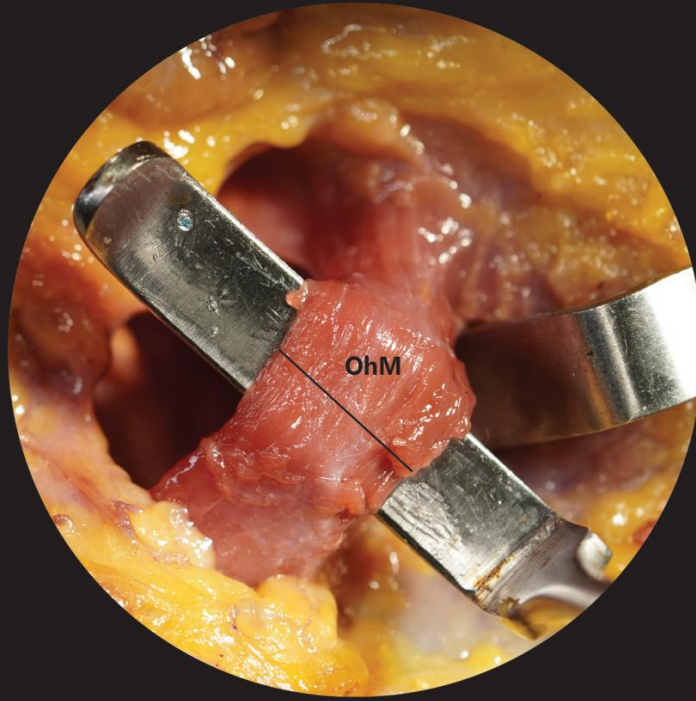




Anterior longitudinal Ligament (ALL) incision at the C5-C6 intervertebral space.

RgM = right longus colli muscle
LgM = left longus colli muscle.





Omohyoid muscle (OhM) can be isolated and cut for further exposure as demonstrated.





The disc is meticulously removed and cleaned out from the intervertebral space, including the posterior longitudinal ligament if necessary.

DS = intravertebral disc space

C5 = C5 vertebra

C6 = C6 vertebra

US = uncinat process

EP = end plate of C6

White dashed line = Luschka's joint.



