

# □ Accessory Sphenoidal Septum (ASS)



## □ Definition

The **accessory sphenoidal septum (ASS)** is an additional bony partition within the **sphenoid sinus**, separate from the central sphenoidal septum. It may appear as a ridge or complete wall and varies significantly between individuals.

## □ Anatomical Context

- Located inside the **sphenoid sinus**, below the **sella turcica**.
- Unlike the **main sphenoidal septum**, the ASS:
  - Can be multiple or incomplete.
  - May arise from various sinus walls.
  - Often attaches asymmetrically.
- **Important attachments:**
  - **Optic canal**
  - **Internal carotid artery (ICA)**
  - **Lateral optocrotid recess (LOCR)**

## □ Clinical Relevance

- During **endoscopic transsphenoidal surgery**, the ASS:
  - Can obscure visualization of the **LOCR**.
  - Serves as a **reliable landmark** for locating LOCR when it's not directly visible.
- Recognizing the **ASS ridge** helps avoid injury to:
  - **Optic nerve**
  - **Carotid artery**
- The recent anatomical study (Guo et al., 2025) showed that:
  - In cases where LOCR is indistinct, its position can be inferred using the **ASS ridge** and its prolongation.

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Last update: **2025/04/03 08:08**

