

# Craniotome

Instrument to perform [craniotomy](#).

A cranial [drill](#), also known as a craniotome, is a tool for [drilling](#) simple [burr holes](#) ([trepanation](#)) or for creating larger openings in the skull. This exposes the brain and allows operations like [craniotomy](#) and [craniectomy](#) to be done. The [drill](#) itself can be manually or electrically driven, and primarily consists of a hand piece and a drill bit which is a sharp tool that has the form similar to [Archimedes screw](#), this instrument must be inserted into the drill chuck to perform holes and remove materials. The trepanation tool is generally equipped with a clutch which automatically disengages once it touches a softer tissue, thus preventing tears in the [dura](#). For larger openings, the craniotome is a surgical instrument that has replaced manually pulled saw wires in craniotomies from the 1980s.

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