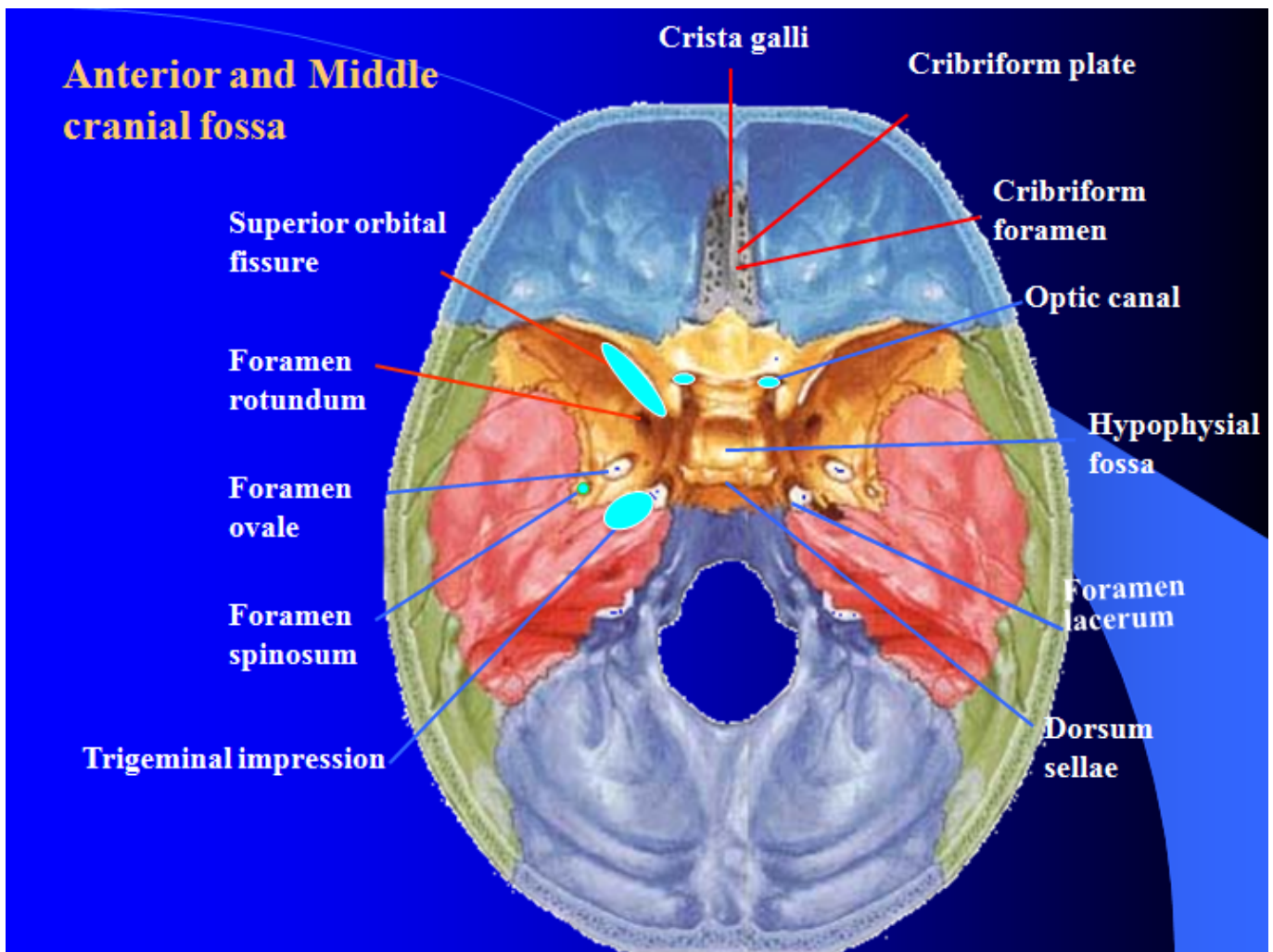


Middle cranial fossa



The middle cranial fossa, is narrow medially and widens laterally to the sides of the skull. It is separated from the posterior fossa by the [clivus](#) and the petrous crest.

It is bounded in front by the posterior margins of the lesser wings of the sphenoid bone, the [anterior clinoid processes](#), and the ridge forming the anterior margin of the chiasmatic groove; behind, by the superior angles of the petrous portions of the temporal bones and the dorsum sellae; laterally by the temporal squamæ, sphenoidal angles of the parietals, and greater wings of the sphenoid. It is traversed by the squamosal, sphenoparietal, sphenosquamosal, and sphenopetrosal sutures.

It houses the [temporal lobes](#) of the brain.

It transmits numerous important vessels and nerves, in particular the second division of the trigeminal nerve through the foramen rotundum and the third division of the trigeminal nerve through the foramen ovale, both of which are contained within the greater wing of the sphenoid bone. Near the junction of the greater wing of the sphenoid and the petrous portion of the temporal bone is the foramen spinosum that transmits the [middle meningeal artery](#).

[Middle cranial fossa meningioma](#)

Middle cranial fossa approach

Middle cranial fossa approach.

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