

Middle cranial fossa approach

The [middle fossa](#) approach, as popularized by [William Fouts House](#), provides excellent exposure to the [internal auditory canal](#) (IAC) for the removal of small [vestibular schwannoma](#) with the potential for hearing preservation. The anterior extension of this approach described by Kawase ([Kawase approach](#)) enhances the surgical exposure provided by this route to the upper [clivus](#) and petrous apex.

The surgical technique for the middle fossa approach which includes an anterior-to-posterior elevation of middle fossa dura starting from the [foramen ovale](#) and uses the angle between the [internal auditory meatus](#) IAM and the long axis of the [greater superficial petrosal nerve](#) (GSPN) to localize the meatus from above may be an alternative to previously proposed surgical methods ¹⁾.

[Lateral transzygomatic middle fossa approach](#)

Indications

[Tegmen tympani defect](#)

[Middle Fossa Approach for vestibular schwannoma](#) ²⁾.

[Middle Fossa Approach for Facial Nerve Schwannoma.](#)

Videos

The Middle Fossa Approach and Extended Middle Fossa Approach 1

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<html><iframe width="420" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/OLgkej1u3kw"
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The Middle Fossa Approach and Extended Middle Fossa Approach 2

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frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe></html>
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The Middle Fossa Approach and Extended Middle Fossa Approach 3

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<html><iframe width="420" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/yDD33SvcOpE"
frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe></html>
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¹⁾

Tanriover N, Sanus GZ, Ulu MO, Tanriverdi T, Akar Z, Rubino PA, Rhoton AL Jr. Middle fossa approach: microsurgical anatomy and surgical technique from the neurosurgical perspective. Surg Neurol. 2009 May;71(5):586-96; discussion 596. doi: 10.1016/j.surneu.2008.04.009. Epub 2008 Jul 9. PubMed PMID: 18617228.

²⁾

Colletti V, Fiorino F. Is the middle fossa approach the treatment of choice for intracanalicular vestibular schwannoma? Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 2005 Mar;132(3):459-66. PubMed PMID:

15746862.

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