

# Petrous apex lesion

**Petrous apex lesions** are defined differently by otologists and neurosurgeons. Traditionally, otologists consider petrous apex lesions as those involving bone erosion or the **petrous bone** itself (e.g., congenital cholesteatomas, facial nerve neurinomas, and cholesterol granulomas). Neurosurgeons include other lesions related to the petrous apex; they do not necessarily involve bone erosion (e.g., **petroclival meningiomas**, **trigeminal schwannomas**)

## Differential diagnosis

There is a wide differential diagnosis of petrous apex lesions:

asymmetrical marrow

petrous apex cephalocoele

petrous apicitis

**Petrous bone cholesteatoma.**

cholesterol granuloma: most common cystic appearing lesion

mucocoele of petrous apex

**Petrous apex meningioma.**

Schwannoma

Skull base chondrosarcoma: most common solid lesion

Skull base chordoma: tends to be more midline but can involve the petrous apex

Plasmacytoma

Metastatic lesion

Langerhans cell histiocytosis

Aneurysm of terminal internal carotid artery.

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