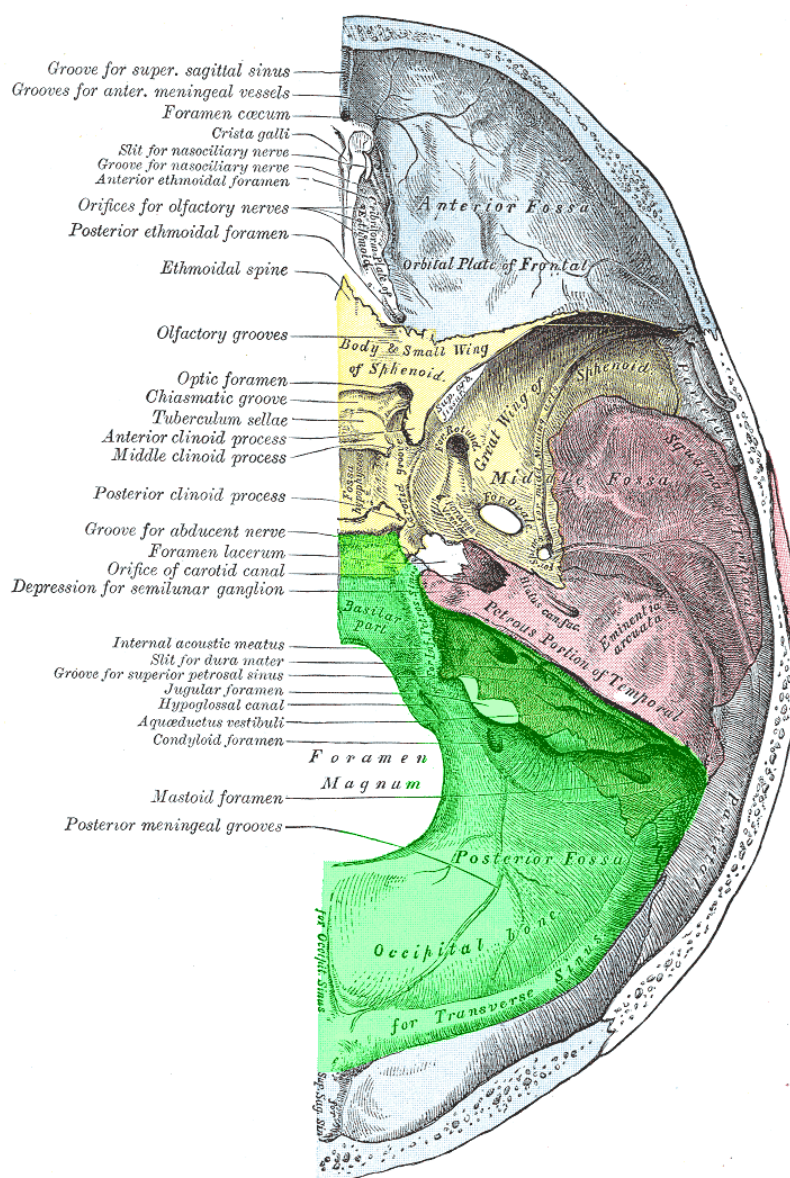


Posterior fossa anatomy

The posterior **cranial fossa** is part of the **intracranial** cavity, located between the **foramen magnum** and **tentorium cerebelli**. It contains the **brainstem** and **cerebellum** and houses part of the **medulla**.



Anteriorly it extends to the apex of the petrous **temporal bone**.

Laterally portions of the squamous temporal and **mastoid** part of the temporal bone form its walls.

Posteriorly it is enclosed by the **occipital bone**. laterally portions of the squamous temporal and **mastoid** part of the temporal bone form its walls.

The region in the upper anterior third of the posterior fossa is a surgically hidden, narrow corridor between the petroclival surface anteriorly and the surface of the **brainstem** posteriorly.

Posterior fossa circulation

Posterior cerebral artery (PCA)

Basilar artery

[Superior cerebellar artery](#) (SCA)

[Anterior inferior cerebellar artery](#) (AICA)

[Posterior inferior cerebellar artery](#) (PICA)

Veins in the posterior fossa

The veins are located on the surface of the cerebellar hemispheres, and generally drain into the adjacent [sigmoid sinus](#) and [transverse sinus](#), with the exception of the [vermian veins](#).

The course of the vein, and its point of connection with the sinus help identify the surface it is running along. For example, the veins coming up from below the transverse sinus and entering the more proximal (with respect to the [torcula](#)) aspect of the sinus must be located on the mesial posterior surface, whereas a similar vein below the transverse sinus and draining into its distal aspect has to be located on the lateral aspect of the inferior surface.

Veins draining into the [superior petrosal sinus](#) or [inferior petrosal sinus](#) must, at some point, run on the anterior surface, since the petrosal sinus is located anterior to the cerebellum.

In the midline, along the vermis, run the [superior vermian vein](#) and [inferior vermian vein](#).

Posterior Fossa Nerves

[Abducens nerve](#)

[Facial nerve](#)

[Vestibulocochlear nerve](#)

[Glossopharyngeal nerve](#)

[Vagus Nerve](#)

[Spinal Accessory Nerve](#).

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=posterior_fossa_anatomy

Last update: **2024/06/07 02:58**

