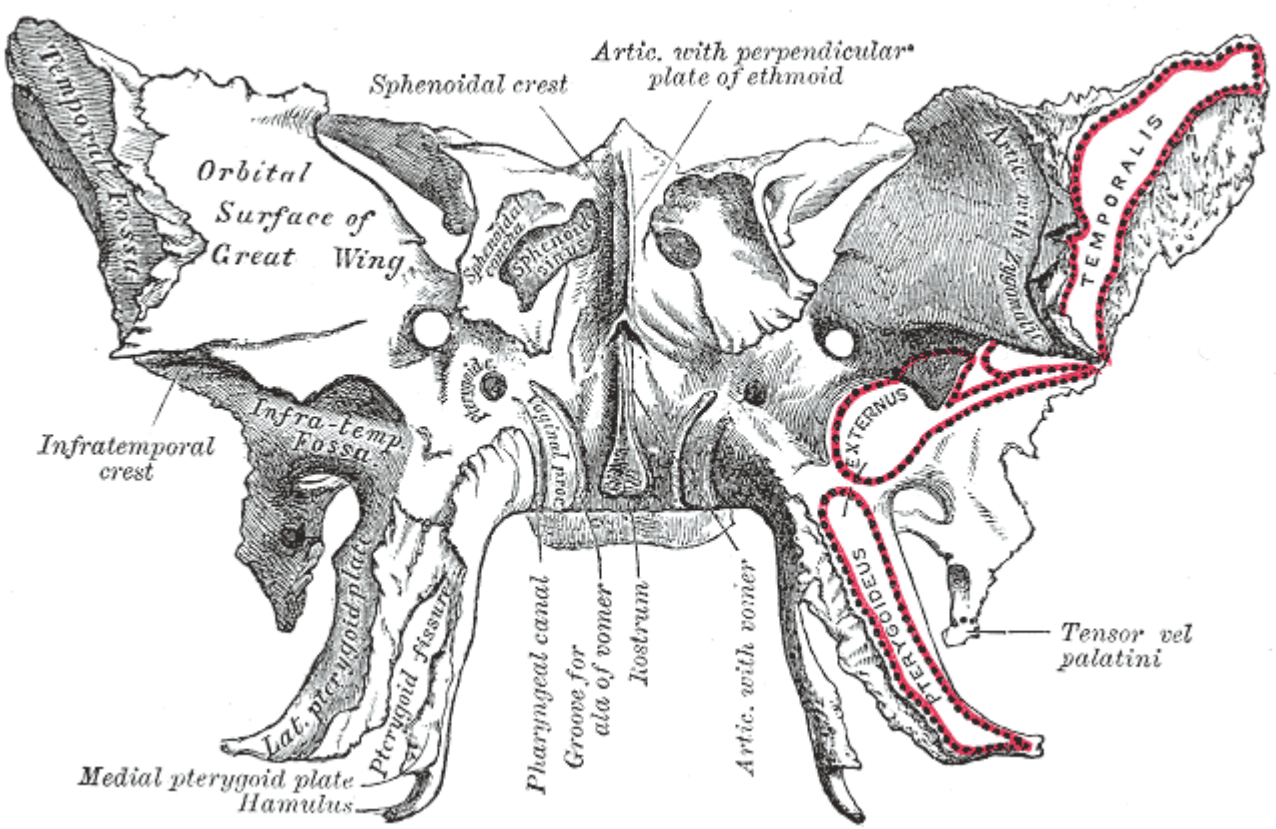
# Pterygoid process




Complete or partial removal of the pterygoid process provides lateral extension of the endonasal corridor necessary to approach the Meckel cave, infrapetrous skull base, and medial infratemporal fossa.

Eight endoscopic transpterygoid approaches were performed in fresh cadaveric specimens. In all dissections the vidian nerve and the periosteal sac enclosing the pterygopalatine fossa were preserved.

Pinheiro-Neto et al. transposed the pterygopalatine fossa to approach the Meckel cave, infrapetrous skull base, and medial infratemporal region, preserving the neurovascular structures inside the pterygopalatine fossa in all specimens.

Its an alternative technique that is both feasible and desirable. The transposition requires no additional technical skills but requires comprehensive knowledge of its anatomy. The anatomical preservation of the neurovascular structures is potentially beneficial to the quality of life of patients. Clinical studies are necessary to prove the real benefits of this technique [1)].

1)

Pinheiro-Neto CD, Fernandez-Miranda JC, Prevedello DM, Carrau RL, Gardner PA, Snyderman CH. Transposition of the Pterygopalatine Fossa during Endoscopic Endonasal Transpterygoid Approaches. J Neurol Surg B Skull Base. 2013 Oct;74(5):266-70. doi: 10.1055/s-0033-1347367. Epub 2013 Jun 17. PubMed PMID: 24436922.