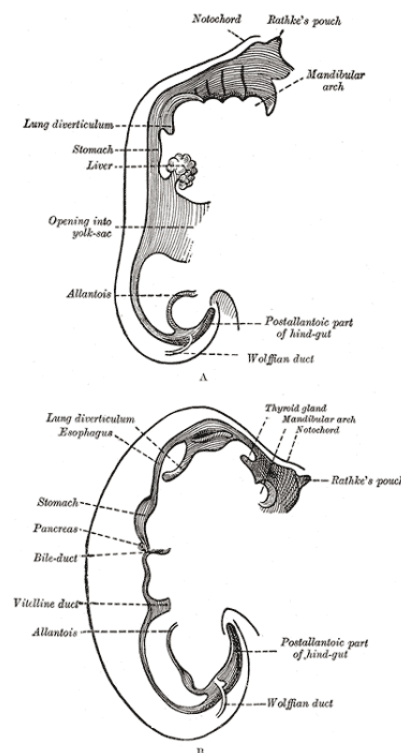


Rathke pouch



Martin Heinrich Rathke first described in 1839 the embryonic structure, now known as **Rathke pouch**, from which the anterior lobe of the **pituitary gland** develops ¹⁾

Also known as **hypophyseal diverticulum**, is an ectodermal outpouching of stomodeum (primitive oral cavity lined by ectoderm) which forms at approximately 3-4 weeks gestation and goes on to form the **adenohypophysis** of the **pituitary gland**.

Craniopharyngiomas frequently grow from remnants of the **Rathke pouch**, which is located on the cisternal surface of the **hypothalamic region**. These lesions can also extend elsewhere in the infundibulohypophyseal axis.

¹⁾

Ueber die Entstehung der Glandula pituitaria. Archiv für Anatomie, Physiologie und wissenschaftliche Medicin, Berlin, 1838: 482-485.

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