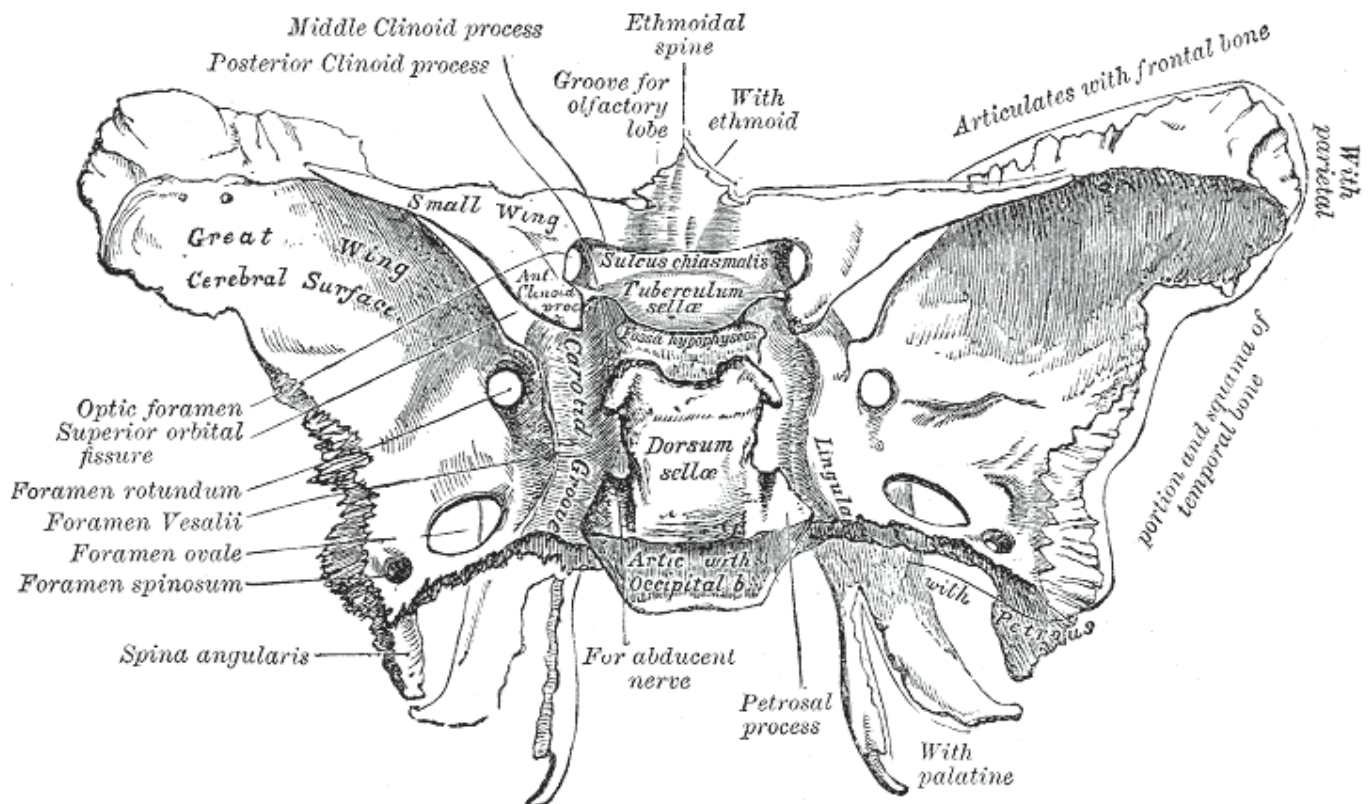


Sphenoidal emissary foramen



the great wings of the sphenoid bone, medial to the **foramen ovale**, a small aperture, the **sphenoidal emissary foramen**, may occasionally be seen (it is often absent) opposite the root of the **pterygoid process**. When present, it opens below near the scaphoid fossa. Vesalius was the first to describe and illustrate this foramen, and it thus sometimes bears the name of **foramen Vesalii** (meaning foramen of Vesalius). Other names include foramen venosum and canaliculus sphenoidalis.

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