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The superior cerebral veins, numbering eight to twelve, drain the superior, lateral, and medial surfaces of the hemispheres. They are predominantly found in the sulci between the gyri, but can also be found running across the gyri.

Individually they drain into the superior sagittal sinus. The anterior veins run at near right angles to the sinus while the posterior and larger veins are directed at oblique angles, opening into the sinus in a direction opposed to the current (anterior to posterior) of the blood contained within it.

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