

Suprasellar cistern

The suprasellar **cistern** (also known as pentagon of basal cisterns) is a cerebrospinal-fluid filled space located above the **sella turcica**, under the **hypothalamus**. It contains the **optic chiasm**, the **infundibulum** and the **circle of Willis**. It has the shape of a pentagon at the level of the **optic chiasm**, and the shape of a six-point star at the level of cerebral peduncles, frequently likened to the star of David.

Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) pathway studies have revealed that the CSF secreted from the **choroid plexus** of the **ventricles** after egressing from the **fourth ventricle** reaches the basal **suprasellar cistern** and ultimately the **sylvian cisterns**.

Related pathology

It is an important intra-cranial cistern to review on MRI and CT, since it can be obliterated in **uncal herniation** and in cases of severe **intracranial hypertension**. It can also be filled with blood from **subarachnoid hemorrhage**.

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