

The ventrolateral skull base can be divided into two segments: the upper lateral and lower lateral skull base. The upper lateral skull base includes the cavernous sinus and the orbit, while the lower lateral skull base includes the petrous apex, Meckel's cave, parapharyngeal space, infratemporal fossa, etc. To gain access to the upper lateral skull base, a simple opening of the ethmoid sinus provides sufficient exposure of this area. To reach the lower lateral skull base, a transpterygoid approach, following ethmoidectomy, is a key procedure providing wide exposure of this area. Understanding of surgical anatomy is mandatory for treating ventrolateral skull base lesions via EEA. An appropriate, less-invasive approach should be applied depending on the size, location, and type of lesion ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Oyama K, Tahara S, Hirohata T, Ishii Y, Prevedello DM, Carrau RL, Froelich S, Teramoto A, Morita A, Matsuno A. Surgical Anatomy for the Endoscopic Endonasal Approach to the Ventrolateral Skull Base. *Neurol Med Chir (Tokyo)*. 2017 Aug 25. doi: 10.2176/nmc.ra.2017-0039. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 28845040.

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