

Pterygopalatine Fossa

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ننصح ان تكون قراءة الموضوع بتفصيله وللاستزادة
من المعلومات من الكتاب المنهجي

**We advice our students to read this lecture
note in your recommended textbook**

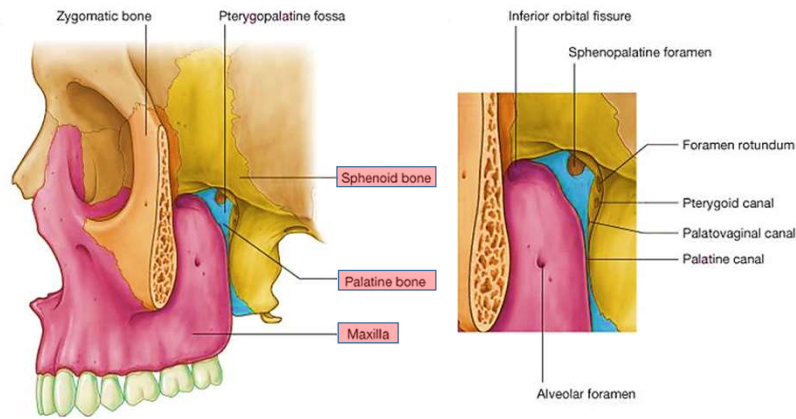
[References that you can depends on:](#)

- [Gray's Anatomy for Students. By: Richard Drake, A. Wayne Vogl, Adam Mitchell](#)
- [Snell's Clinical Anatomy by Regions. By Dr. Lawrence E. Wineski PhD](#)

We are going to discuss the followings:

1. Pterygopalatine fossa - boundaries & contents
2. Gateways of pterygopalatine fossa
3. Maxillary nerve - course & branches
4. Pterygoid venous plexus

Pterygopalatine fossa



It is located between the maxilla, sphenoid and palatine bones, and communicates with other regions of the skull and facial skeleton via several canals and foramina.

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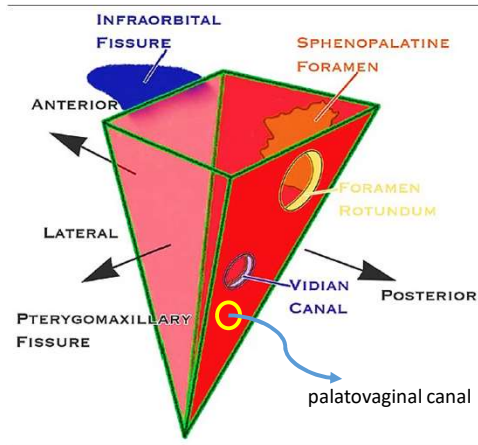
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Pterygopalatine fossa Borders

The borders of the pterygopalatine fossa are formed by the palatine, maxilla and sphenoid bones:

- Anterior: Posterior wall of the maxillary sinus.
- Posterior: Pterygoid process of the sphenoid bone.
- Inferior: Palatine bone and palatine canals.
- Superior: Inferior orbital fissure of the eye.
- Medial: Perpendicular plate of the palatine bone
- Lateral: Pterygomaxillary fissure

Pterygopalatine fossa Gateways



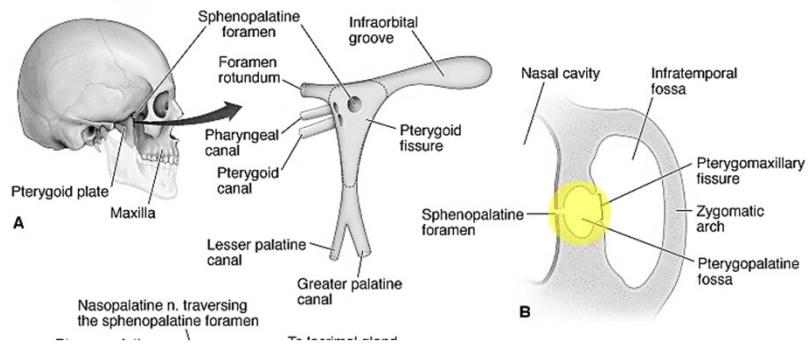
1. foramen rotundum & pterygoid canal
middle cranial fossa
2. palatovaginal canal
nasopharynx
3. palatine canal leads
oral cavity (hard palate)
4. sphenopalatine foramen
nasal cavity
5. pterygomaxillary fissure
infratemporal fossa
6. inferior orbital fissure
orbit

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Pterygopalatine fossa



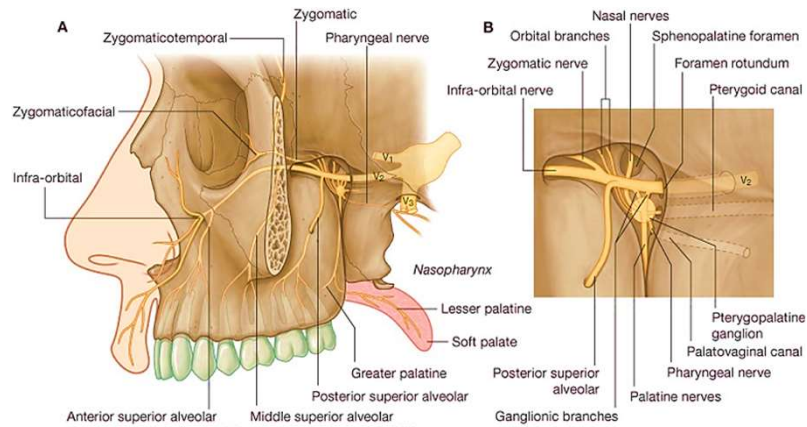
The pterygopalatine fossa is a bilateral, cone-shaped depression extending deep from the infratemporal fossa all the way to the nasal cavity via the sphenopalatine foramen.

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Maxillary Nerve (CN Vb)

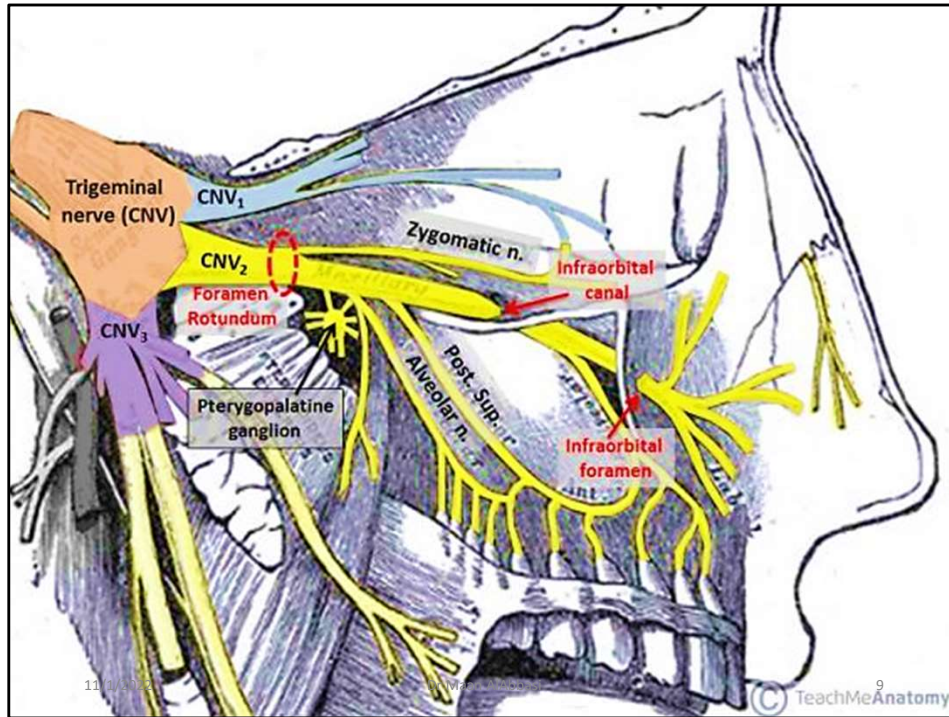


Drake: Gray's Anatomy for Students, 2nd Edition.
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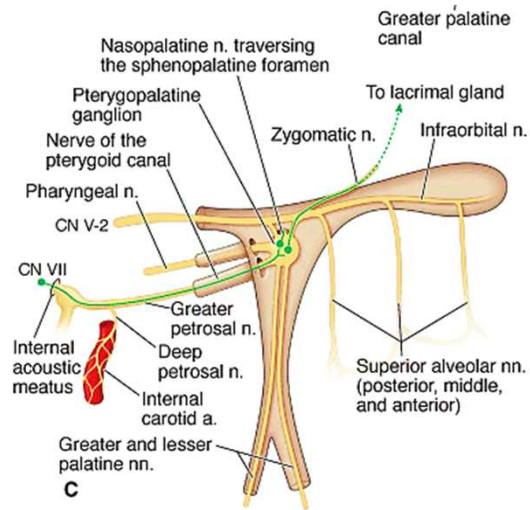
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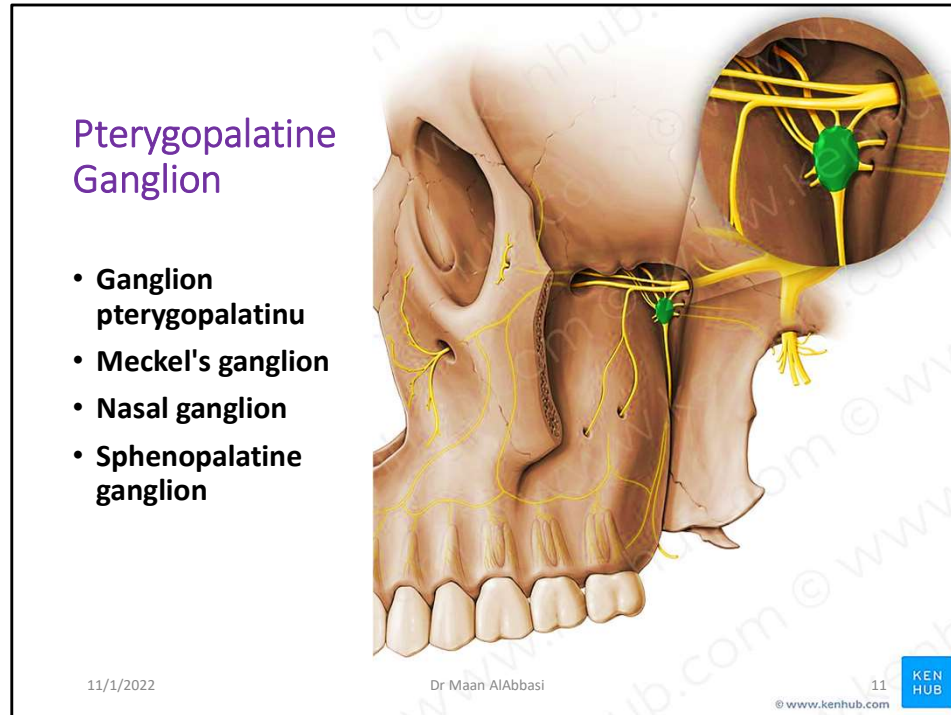
Maxillary Nerve

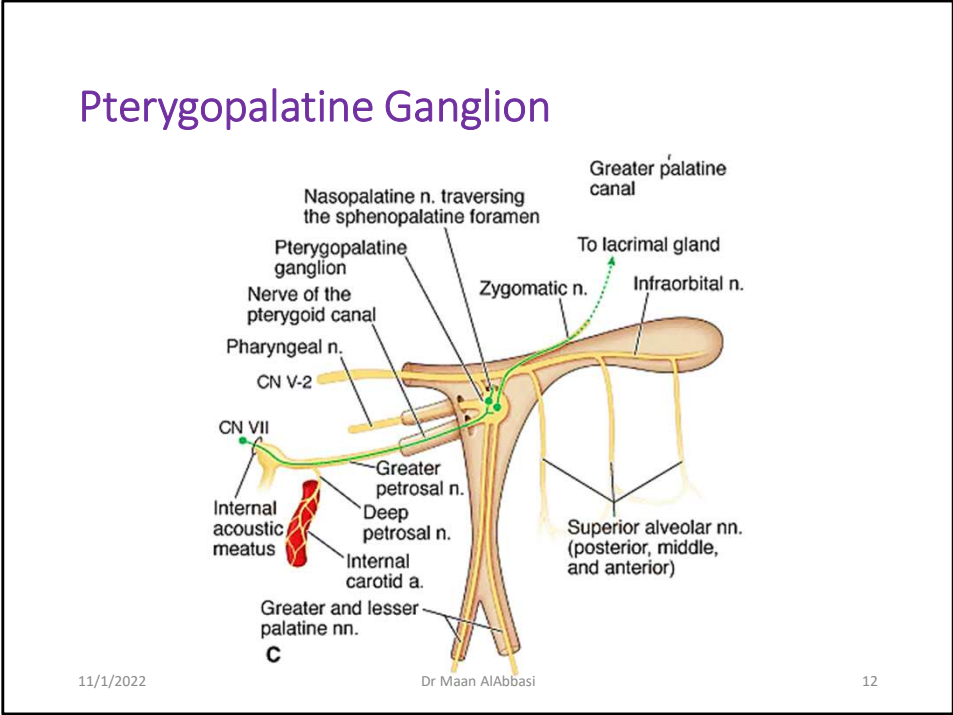


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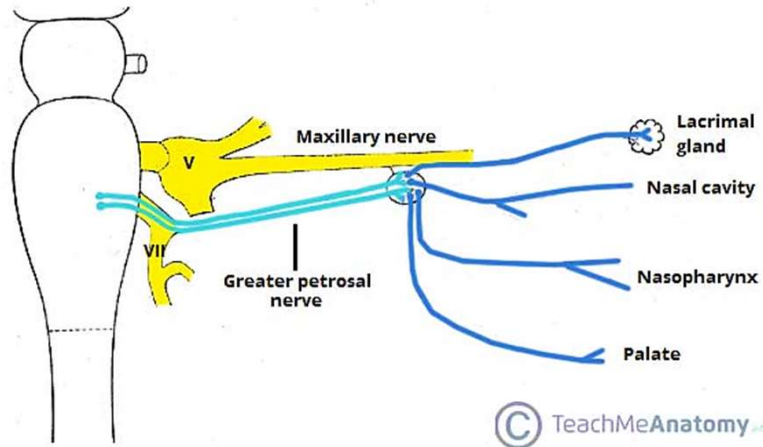
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The pterygopalatine ganglion and its branches.

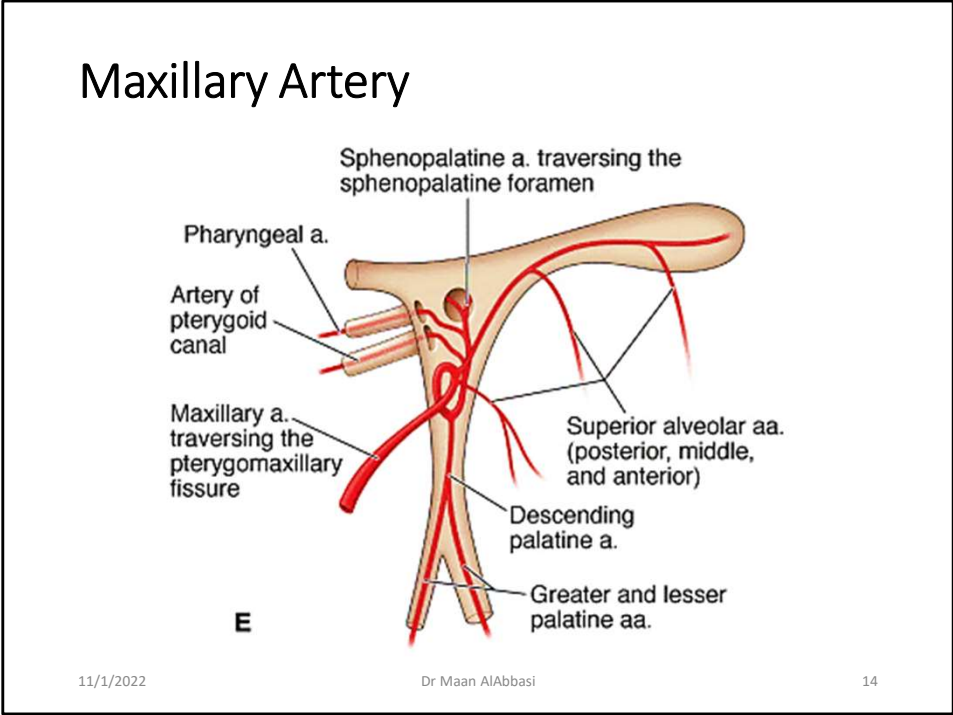


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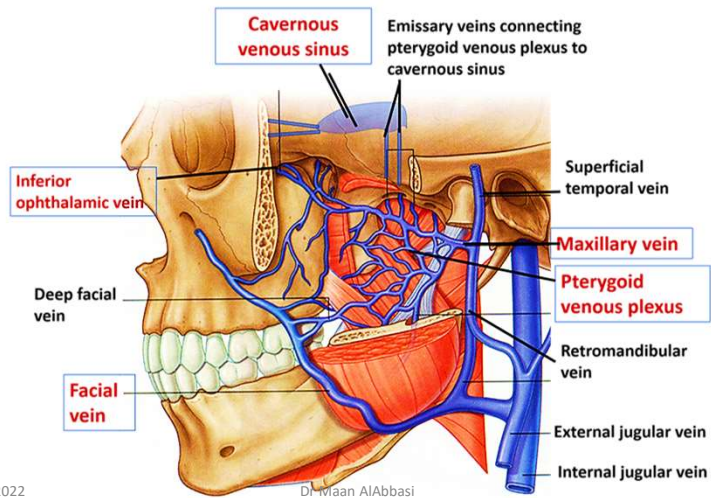
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Pterygoid Venous Plexuses



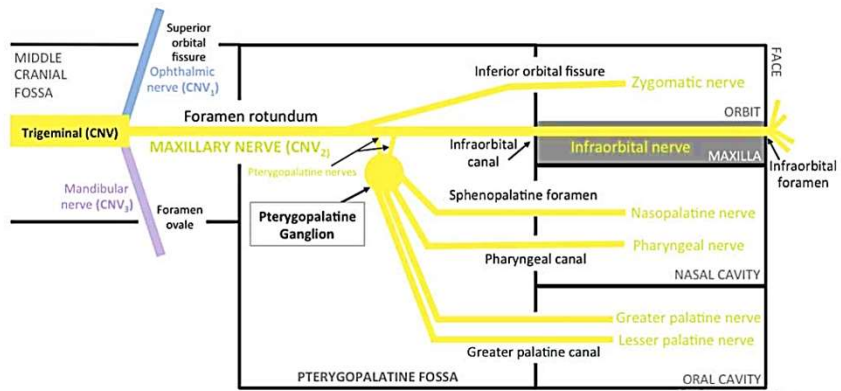
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For Students to Review!

Maxillary Nerve



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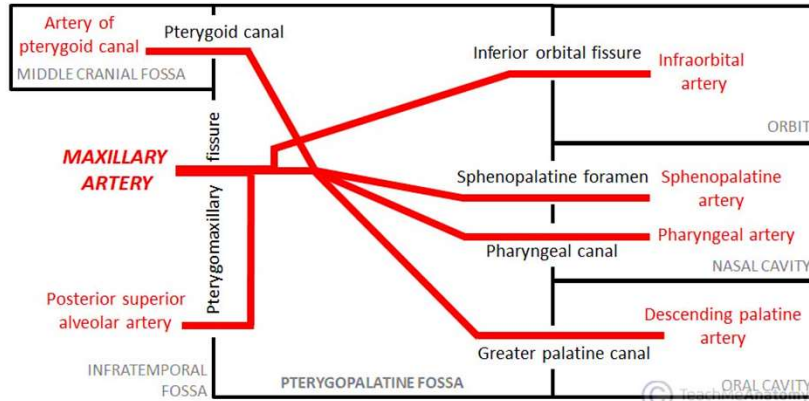
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For Students to Review!

Maxillary Artery



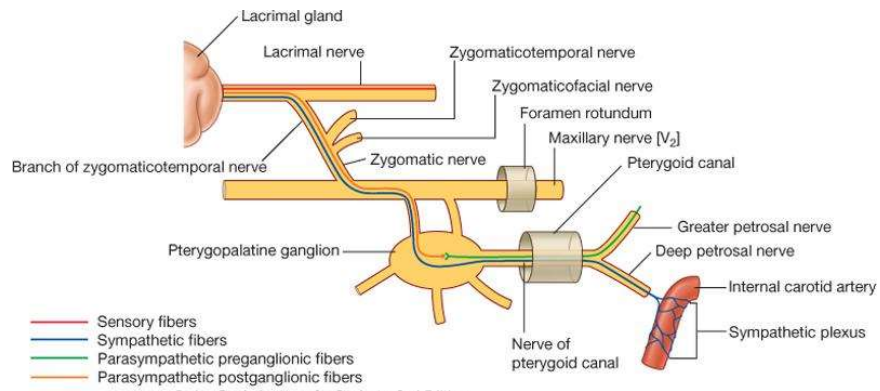
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For Students to Review!

Pterygopalatine ganglion



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