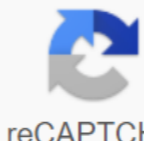




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condyle and provide passage for an important nerve to the tongue. Immediately below the internal acoustic meatus is the large, irregularly shaped jugular foramen (see Figure 6a). Some cranial nerves in the brain come out of the skull through this opening. It is also the exit point through the base of the skull for all the blood returning the venous leaving the brain. The venous structures that carry blood inside the skull form large, curved canals on the inner walls of the posterior cranial fossa, which ends at each jugular foramen. Paranasal sinuses Paranasal sinuses are empty, air-filled spaces located in certain skull bones (Figure 16). All sinuses communicate with the nasal cavity (paranasal = near the nasal cavity) and are lined with the nasal mucosa. They serve to reduce bone mass and thus lighten the skull, and also add resonance to the voice. This second feature is most evident when you have a cold or sinus congestion. They produce swelling of the mucosa and the production of excess mucus, which can obstruct the narrow passages between the sinuses and the nasal cavity, causing the voice to sound different for you and others. This blockage can also allow the sinuses to fill with fluid, with the resulting pressure producing pain and discomfort. Paranasal sinuses are named after the skull bone that each occupies. The frontal sinus is located just above the eyebrows, inside the front bone (see Figure 15). This irregular space can be divided to the median line in bilateral spaces or they can be melted into a single sinus space. The frontal sinus is the anterior most anterior of the paranasal sinuses. Largest is the maxillary sinus. They are mated and located in the right and left, left jaw bones, they occupy the area under the orbits. The maxillary sinuses are most commonly involved during sinus infections. Because their connection to the nasal cavity is located high on their medial wall, they are difficult to drain. The sphenoid sinus is a single sinus, the midline. It is located in the body of the sphenoid bone, only anterior and inferior sella turcica, thus making it the most posterior of the paranasal sinuses. The lateral aspects of the ethmoid bone contain several small spaces separated from very thin bone walls. Each of these spaces is called an ethmoid air cell. They are located on both sides of the ethmoid bone, between the upper nasal cavity and the medial orbit, just behind the upper nasal conchae. Figure 16. Paranasal sinuses. Paranasal sinuses are empty, air-filled spaces named after the skull bone they occupy. The most anterior is the frontal sinus, located in the frontal bone above the eyebrows. The largest are the maxillary sinuses, located in the right and left jaw bones under the orbits. The most posterior is the sphenoid sinus, located in the body of the sphenoid bone, under the Turkish sella. Ethmoid air cells are several small spaces located in the right and left parts of the ethmoid bone, between the medial wall of the orbit and the lateral wall of the upper nasal cavity. The hyoid bone The hyoid bone is an independent bone that does not come into contact with any other bone and is therefore not part of the skull (Figure 17). It is a small U-shaped bone located in the upper neck near the level of the lower mandible, with the U-tips pointing posteriorly. The hyoid serves as the basis for the above tongue and is attached to the larynx below and the posterior pharynx. The hyoid is held in position by a number of small muscles that attach to it, either from above or below. These muscles act to move the hyoid up/down or forward/back. The movements of the hyoid are coordinated with the movements of the tongue, larynx and pharynx during swallowing and speech. Figure 17. Hyoid bone. The hyoid bone is located in the upper neck and does not join any other bone. It provides attachments for muscles that act on the tongue, larynx and pharynx. Pharynx.

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