

Table 7-5. Major Foramina, Canals, Fissures, and Fossae in the Inferior Aspect of the Skull

<i>Opening</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Incisive foramen	Maxillary	Nasopalatine nerve, greater palatine vessels
Greater and lesser palatine foramina and canals	Palatine and maxillary	Greater and lesser palatine nerves and vessels
Foramen ovale	Sphenoid	Cranial nerve V ₃ , accessory meningeal artery
Foramen spinosum	Sphenoid	Middle meningeal artery and meningeal ramus
Stylomastoid foramen	Temporal	Cranial nerve VII and stylomastoid artery
Mastoid foramen	Temporal and occipital	Emissary vein
Foramen lacerum	Sphenoid and temporal	Emissary vein, medial end of internal carotid artery
Carotid canal	Temporal	Internal carotid artery, carotid sympathetic plexus
Jugular foramen	Occipital and temporal	Internal jugular vein; cranial nerves IX, X, and XI
Hypoglossal canal (anterior condylar canal)	Occipital	Cranial nerve XII
Posterior condylar canal	Occipital	Emissary vein
Foramen magnum	Occipital	Medulla, spinal cord, vertebral arteries, cranial nerve XI, spinal root
Sphenopalatine foramen	Sphenoid and palatine	Sphenopalatine artery and vein Posterior superior nasal nerve
Pterygoid canal	Sphenoid	Vidian nerve (nerve of the pterygoid canal), pterygoid artery