

Table 7-6. Major Foramina, Canals, Fissures, and Fossae in the Interior Aspect of the Skull

<i>Opening</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Contents</i>
Anterior Cranial Fossa	Frontal, ethmoid, and sphenoid	Frontal lobes
Anterior and posterior ethmoid foramina	Ethmoid	Anterior and posterior ethmoid nerves and vessels
Foramina in cribriform palate	Ethmoid	Cranial nerve I rootlets (olfactory filaments)
Middle Cranial Fossa	Sphenoid, temporal, and parietal	Temporal lobe, pituitary gland
Optic canal	Sphenoid	Cranial nerve II, ophthalmic artery
Carotid canal	Sphenoid	Internal carotid artery and plexus
Foramen rotundum	Sphenoid	Cranial nerve V ₂
Foramen ovale	Sphenoid	Cranial nerve V ₃ , accessory meningeal artery
Foramen spinosum	Sphenoid	Middle meningeal artery
Foramen lacerum	Sphenoid and temporal	Emissary vein, end of internal carotid artery
Posterior Cranial Fossa	Sphenoid, occipital, temporal, and parietal	Cerebellum, pons, medulla
Internal acoustic meatus	Temporal	Cranial nerves VII and VIII
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, and vertebral artery