

Table 7-1. Major Foramina, Canals, Fissures, and Fossae in the Lateral Aspect of the Skull

<i>Opening</i>	<i>Bone</i>	<i>Contents</i>
External acoustic meatus	Temporal	
Mastoid foramen	Temporal and occipital	Mastoid emissary vein
Zygomaticotemporal foramen	Zygomatic	Zygomaticotemporal nerve
Pterygomaxillary fissure	Sphenoid and maxillary	Maxillary artery, vein, and nerve branches
Pterygopalatine fossa	Sphenoid and palatine	Pterygopalatine ganglion
Inferior orbital fissure	Sphenoid, maxillary, and palatine	Maxillary nerve, branches from pterygopalatine ganglion, maxillary artery and vein
Posterior superior alveolar foramen	Maxillary	Posterior superior alveolar nerves and vessels
Temporal fossa	Temporal	Temporalis muscle
Infratemporal fossa	Temporal and sphenoid	Muscles of mastication, maxillary mandibular nerve, artery, and pterygoid venous plexus