

Editor's Speak

(Pterygopalatine and Infratemporal Fossae)

This issue has been dedicated to the pterygopalatine and infratemporal fossae, both of which pose a challenge to the surgeon, not merely by virtue of the important anatomical structures traversing them, but also their complex anatomical communications with vital areas, such as the orbit and the cranial cavity. Added to the above is the fact that the surgical access to these areas is complicated, and the trajectory followed usually maneuvers around vital structures that need to be preserved. It is thus not surprising, that the 'ideal' approach is under much debate!

This issue has focused on certain important anatomical aspects with regard to their radiological understanding. There is also some emphasis on inflammatory conditions and subsequently on the management of benign tumors encroaching upon or arising from this area. With the advance in nasal endoscopic technology and expertise, it is gradually gaining popularity as the approach of choice for sinonasal tumors, especially benign ones, where 'surgical margins' can be easily achieved. The 'traditional' or 'external' approaches will be dealt with in detail, in another issue, although they have been briefly mentioned here as well.

The choice of surgical approach notwithstanding, and the type of pathology being secondary, the key to a successful surgical outcome lies in tailor-making the approach after giving careful thought to the structures involved in the pathology to be treated, and those that need to be preserved. Surgical expertise and comfort, coupled with a sound interpretation of the radiology, plays a vital role in preventing complications of grave magnitude.

We encourage our readers to contribute case reports of pathologies involving these areas, with the difficulties encountered in their management, so as to share their experience with the readers and help us to arrive at a better understanding of this interesting but complex anatomical area.



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