

Anatomy & Physiology: Bones—Skull, Ethmoid Bone.

STRUCTURE.

- Forms part of the anterior cranial floor and is a slender bone "wedged" midsagittally between the orbits (forms the medial wall of the orbits); transversely between the frontal and sphenoid bones; and posterior to the nasal bones thus forming part of the nasal septum and the nasal side walls.
- The name "ethmoid" means a sieve, sponge-like.
- Cribriform plate: forms the roof of the nasal cavity and contains the olfactory foramina where scents/smells get transmitted to the brain.
- Crista galli: superior to the cribriform plate, triangular shaped. It is an important landmark because it is an attachment point for membranes separating the two halves of the brain.
- Perpendicular plate: inferior to the cribriform plate, and forms the upper part of the nasal septum.
- The ethmoid contains 3-18 "air spaces". These are called the ethmoidal sinuses.

FUNCTION.

- Superior and middle nasal concha: scroll-like formations on either side of the ethmoid. The concha increase surface area and helps "swirl" the air (create currents); warm and moisten the air; and helps to "clean" the air as foreign particles might stick to the mucous.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

References

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