

Anatomy & Physiology: Bones—Skull, Fontanel.

STRUCTURE.

- The skull of developing embryo through birth is not fully developed.
- Gaps between skull bones are cartilage and mesenchyme which will be ossified later.
- These gaps are called fontanel (i.e. the "soft spots").
- Anterior fontanel: midline between the two parietal bones and frontal bone. Closes 18-24 months after birth.
- Posterior fontanel: midline between the two parietal bones and the occipital. Closes 2 months after birth.
- Anterolateral fontanel: between the frontal, parietal, occipital, and temporal bones. Closes 3 months after birth.
- Posterolateral fontanel: bilaterally, between the parietal, occipital, and temporal bones. Closes 12 months after birth.

FUNCTION.

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE.

References

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