

Superior sagittal sinus

The **dural venous sinuses** are endothelial-lined spaces between the periosteal and meningeal layers of the dura. Large veins from the surface of the brain empty into these sinuses and most of the blood from the brain ultimately drains through them into the **internal jugular veins**.

- The **superior sagittal sinus** lies in the convex attached border of the falx cerebri. It begins at the crista galli and ends near the internal occipital protuberance at the **confluence of sinuses**, a meeting place of the superior sagittal, straight, occipital, and transverse sinuses.
- The **inferior sagittal sinus** is much smaller than the superior sagittal sinus. It runs in the inferior concave free border of the falx cerebri and ends in the straight sinus.
- The **straight sinus** is formed by the union of the inferior sagittal sinus with the **great cerebral vein**. It runs inferoposteriorly along the line of attachment of the falx cerebri to the tentorium cerebelli, where it joins the confluence of sinuses.
- The **cavernous sinuses** are found on either side of the body of the sphenoid bone in middle cranial fossae. These sinuses receive blood from the sphenoparietal sinuses that are located underneath the free edges of the lesser wings of the sphenoid bone. Blood also drains into the cavernous sinuses via the superior and inferior ophthalmic veins. The cavernous sinuses drain posteroinferiorly through the superior and inferior petrosal sinuses and emissary veins to the basilar and pterygoid plexuses.
- The **superior petrosal sinuses** are located in the edge of the tentorium cerebelli on the ridge of the petrous part of the temporal bone. These sinuses drain into the transverse sinuses.
- The **inferior petrosal sinuses** are found at the base of the petrous part of the temporal bone in the posterior cranial fossae where these sinuses empty into the internal jugular vein.
- The **basilar sinus** interconnects with inferior petrosal sinuses and the internal vertebral plexus.
- The **transverse sinuses** extend laterally from the confluence of sinuses in the tentorium cerebelli. The transverse sinuses travel ventrally to become the sigmoid sinuses of each side.
- The **sigmoid sinuses** bend into an S-shaped curve and continue into the internal jugular vein through the jugular foramen.
- The **occipital sinus** is located in the posterior attached border of the falx cerebelli. This sinus communicates superiorly with the confluence of sinuses and inferiorly with the internal vertebral plexus.