

Vomer

The **lateral walls** are formed primarily by the frontal process of the maxilla, perpendicular plate of the palatine bone, ethmoid bone, the superior, middle and inferior conchae. The **medial wall** or **nasal septum** is formed by the perpendicular plate of the **ethmoid bone**, the **vomer bone**, and the **septal cartilage**. The **rest of the framework** of the nose consists of several plates of cartilage, specifically, the lateral nasal cartilage and the greater and lesser alar cartilage. The cartilage is held together by fibrous connective tissue.

The **nasal cavity** opens on the face through the **nostrils or nares** and communicates with the **nasopharynx** through two posterior openings called the **choanae**. The area below each concha (*superior, middle, and inferior*) is referred to as a **meatus**.

The nasal cavity **receives innervation** from the **olfactory nerve (CN I)** and branches of the **trigeminal nerve (CN V)**. The nasal cavity's **blood supply** is mainly from the **sphenopalatine branch of the maxillary artery**. **The nasal cavity also receives blood from the anterior ethmoidal branch of the ophthalmic artery, the septal branch of the superior labial artery (which is a branch of the facial artery) and the descending palatine branch of the maxillary artery.**

Note: The **nasopalatine nerve** is a parasympathetic and sensory nerve that arises in the **pterygopalatine ganglion**, passes through the **sphenopalatine foramen**, across the roof of the nasal cavity to the nasal septum, and obliquely downward to and through the **incisive canal**, and innervates the glands and mucosa of the nasal septum and the anterior part of the hard palate.

Important: The communication between the **pterygopalatine fossa** and the **nasal cavity** is the **sphenopalatine foramen**. The sphenopalatine artery and the nasopalatine nerve extend through the sphenopalatine foramen.