

- **foramen spinosum - the artery is the middle meningeal artery which is the largest of the three (paired) arteries which supply the meninges, the others being the anterior meningeal artery and the posterior meningeal artery**

The jugular foramen lies between the lower border of the petrous part of the temporal bone and the condylar part of the occipital bone. The jugular foramen transmits the following structures: inferior petrosal sinus, sigmoid sinus (becoming the internal jugular vein), **the posterior meningeal artery (at this point, still called the ascending pharyngeal artery)** and the glossopharyngeal, vagus, and accessory nerves.

Bony Opening	Location (Bone)	Contents
Foramen rotundum	Sphenoid	Maxillary nerve (V-2)
Foramen ovale	Sphenoid	Mandibular nerve (V-3)
Foramen magnum	Occipital	Spinal cord, vertebral arteries, and “spinal roots” of the accessory nerve
Foramen spinosum	Sphenoid	Middle meningeal artery
Mental foramen	Mandible	Mental nerve, artery and vein
Greater palatine foramen	Palatine	Greater palatine nerve, artery, and vein
Lesser palatine foramen	Palatine	Lesser palatine nerve, artery, and vein
Incisive foramen	Maxilla	Nasopalatine nerve and branches of the sphenopalatine artery
Jugular foramen	Occipital and temporal	Inferior petrosal sinus, sigmoid sinus (becoming the internal jugular vein), posterior meningeal artery , and glossopharyngeal, vagus and accessory nerves

Remember: The accessory nerve (CN XI) enters the cranial cavity through the foramen magnum, where it immediately joins with the vagus nerve (CN X) and subsequently exits the cranial cavity through the jugular foramen.