

• maxillary artery

- The **sphenopalatine artery**, a branch of the **maxillary artery**, supplies most of the blood of the nasal mucosa.
- It enters by the **sphenopalatine foramen** and sends branches to the posterior regions of the lateral wall and to the nasal septum.
- After the **greater palatine artery** emerges from the greater palatine foramen it courses anteriorly and passes through the **incisive foramen** where it anastomoses with the posterior septal branch of the sphenopalatine artery to supply the anterior nasal septum.
- The **anterior and posterior ethmoidal arteries**, branches of the **ophthalmic artery**, supply the anterosuperior part of the mucosa of the lateral wall of the nasal cavity and nasal septum.
- Three branches of the **facial artery** (superior labial, ascending palatine, and lateral nasal) also supply the anterior parts of the nasal mucosa.

Remember:

1. The **ophthalmic artery** is a branch of the **internal carotid artery**.
2. The **maxillary artery** and the **superficial temporal artery** are the terminal branches of the external carotid artery.
3. The **pterygopalatine fossa** is a cone-shaped paired depression deep to the infra-temporal fossa. The pterygopalatine fossa is located between the pterygoid process and the maxillary tuberosity, close to the apex of the orbit. This fossa contains the maxillary artery and nerve and their branches arising here, including the infraorbital and sphenopalatine arteries, the maxillary division of the trigeminal nerve and branches, and the pterygopalatine ganglion. The pterygopalatine fossa **communicates** laterally with the infratemporal fossa through the **pterygomaxillary fissure**, medially with the nasal cavity through the **sphenopalatine foramen**, superiorly with the skull through the **foramen rotundum**, and anteriorly with the orbit through the **inferior orbital fissure**.