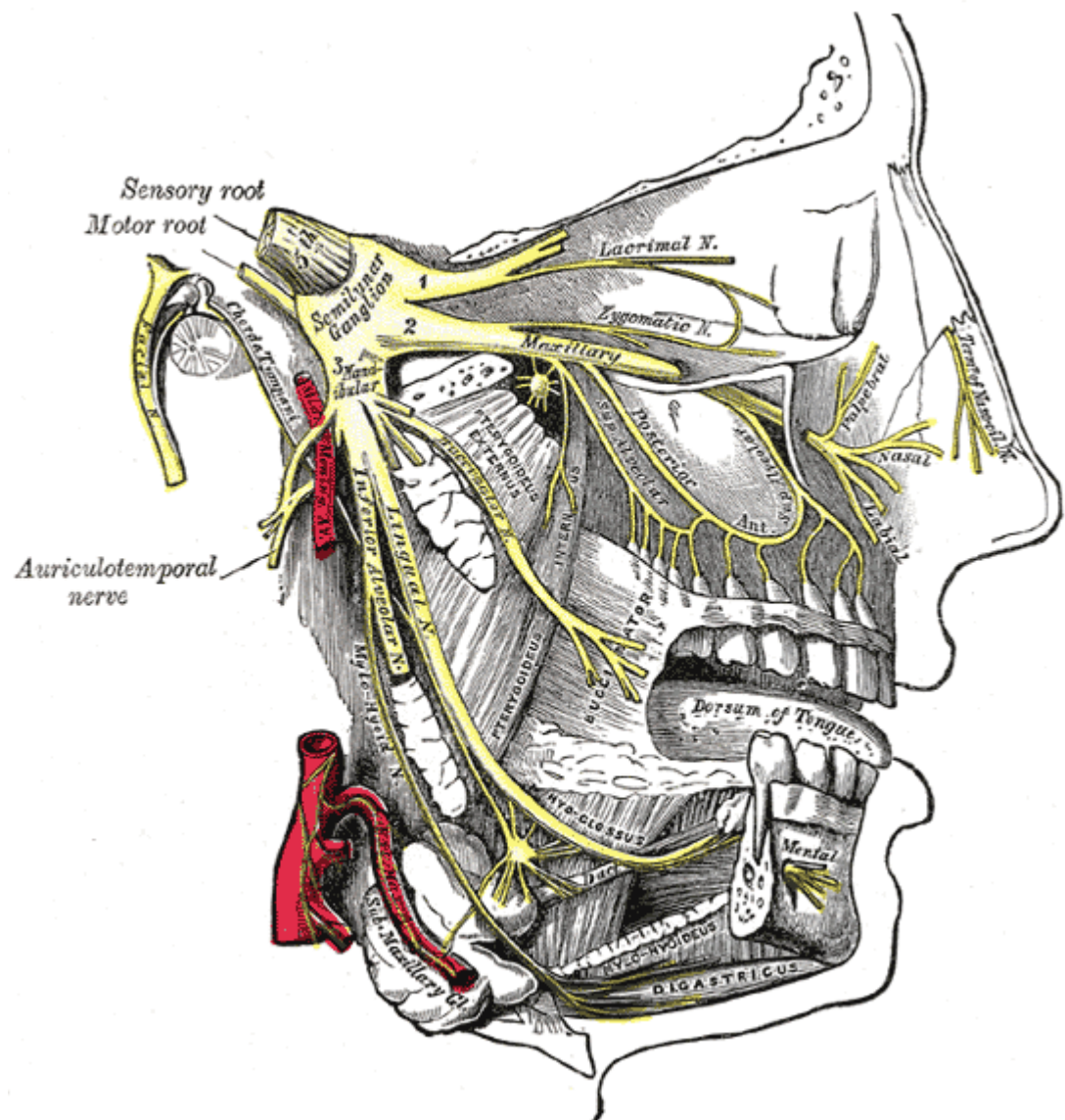


Gasserian ganglion



The trigeminal ganglion (or Gasserian ganglion, or semilunar ganglion, or Gasser's ganglion) is a sensory ganglion of the [trigeminal nerve](#) (CN V) that occupies a cavity ([Meckel's cave](#)) in the dura mater, covering the trigeminal impression near the apex of the petrous part of the [temporal bone](#).

Blockade of the Gasserian ganglion or its branches is an effective analgesic procedure for [trigeminal neuralgia](#), traditionally performed using fluoroscopy or CT imaging. Ultrasonography allows point of care and real-time visualization of needle placement within the surrounding anatomical structures.

Approaches

Traditionally, a [pterional approach](#) is utilized to access the [Meckel cave](#). Depending on the tumor location, extradural dissection of the Gasserian ganglion can be performed. An [endoscopic endonasal approach](#) could potentially avoid a [craniotomy](#) in these cases.

An endoscopic endonasal approach as well as a lateral approach to the Meckel cave on six anatomic specimens, to access the Meckel cave endoscopically, a complete sphenoidectomy and maxillary antrostomy followed by a transpterygoid approach was performed. For lateral access, a pterional craniotomy with extradural dissection was performed.

The endoscopic endonasal approach allowed adequate access to the Gasserian ganglion. All the relevant anatomy was identified without difficulty. Both approaches allowed for a similar exposure, but the endonasal approach avoided brain retraction and improved anteromedial exposure of the Gasserian ganglion ¹⁾.

1)

Van Rompaey J, Bush C, Khabbaz E, Vender J, Panizza B, Solares CA. What is the Best Route to the Meckel Cave? Anatomical Comparison between the Endoscopic Endonasal Approach and a Lateral Approach. J Neurol Surg B Skull Base. 2013 Dec;74(6):331-6. doi: 10.1055/s-0033-1342989. Epub 2013 Apr 5. PubMed PMID: 24436933.

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