

Morphological variability of pterion in the human skull

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Key words: skull, human, pterion, pteric bone

SUMMARY

The pterion is one of the most interesting bone meeting points in craniofacial osteology and its complex morphology derives from the fact that is the contact point of the facial skeletal elements, skull base and calvarium. Knowledge of its peculiar morphology is mandatory for the pterional approach used in microsurgery and surgery.

The Authors studied 506 adult, human skulls where the pterion was accurately reconstructed on polyethylene sheets. They report their data on the morphological analysis and classify the forms. They focussed their attention on the presence of wormian bones at the level of the sphenoparietal suture, on the peculiar existing morphology and reviewed the literature on these classifications.

The Authors also evaluated the length of the sphenoparietal suture, the minimum gap between the frontal and temporal, the influence of pteric bones on pterion variability and any correlations between measurements and cranial indexes.