

**Author(s):** Patrick Carter, Daniel Wachter, Rockefeller Oteng, Carl Seger, 2009-2010.

**License:** Unless otherwise noted, this material is made available under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License:**  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>

**We have reviewed this material** in accordance with U.S. Copyright Law **and have tried to maximize your ability to use, share, and adapt it.** The citation key on the following slide provides information about how you may share and adapt this material.

Copyright holders of content included in this material should contact [open.michigan@umich.edu](mailto:open.michigan@umich.edu) with any questions, corrections, or clarification regarding the use of content.

For more information about **how to cite** these materials visit <http://open.umich.edu/education/about/terms-of-use>.

Any **medical information** in this material is intended to inform and educate and is **not a tool for self-diagnosis** or a replacement for medical evaluation, advice, diagnosis or treatment by a healthcare professional. Please speak to your physician if you have questions about your medical condition.

**Viewer discretion is advised:** Some medical content is graphic and may not be suitable for all viewers.

# Citation Key

for more information see: <http://open.umich.edu/wiki/CitationPolicy>

## Use + Share + Adapt

{ Content the copyright holder, author, or law permits you to use, share and adapt. }



**Public Domain – Government:** Works that are produced by the U.S. Government. (USC 17 § 105)



**Public Domain – Expired:** Works that are no longer protected due to an expired copyright term.



**Public Domain – Self Dedicated:** Works that a copyright holder has dedicated to the public domain.



**Creative Commons – Zero Waiver**



**Creative Commons – Attribution License**



**Creative Commons – Attribution Share Alike License**



**Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial License**



**Creative Commons – Attribution Noncommercial Share Alike License**



**GNU – Free Documentation License**

## Make Your Own Assessment

{ Content Open.Michigan believes can be used, shared, and adapted because it is ineligible for copyright. }



**Public Domain – Ineligible:** Works that are ineligible for copyright protection in the U.S. (USC 17 § 102(b)) \*laws in your jurisdiction may differ

{ Content Open.Michigan has used under a Fair Use determination. }



**Fair Use:** Use of works that is determined to be Fair consistent with the U.S. Copyright Act. (USC 17 § 107) \*laws in your jurisdiction may differ

Our determination **DOES NOT** mean that all uses of this 3rd-party content are Fair Uses and we **DO NOT** guarantee that your use of the content is Fair.

To use this content you should **do your own independent analysis** to determine whether or not your use will be Fair.

# Advanced Emergency Trauma Course

## Facial Trauma



Presenter: Carl Seger, MD

Written By: Andre Crouch, MD

**Ghana Emergency Medicine Collaborative**

Patrick Carter, MD • Daniel Wachter, MD • Rockefeller Oteng, MD • Carl Seger, MD

# Facial Trauma



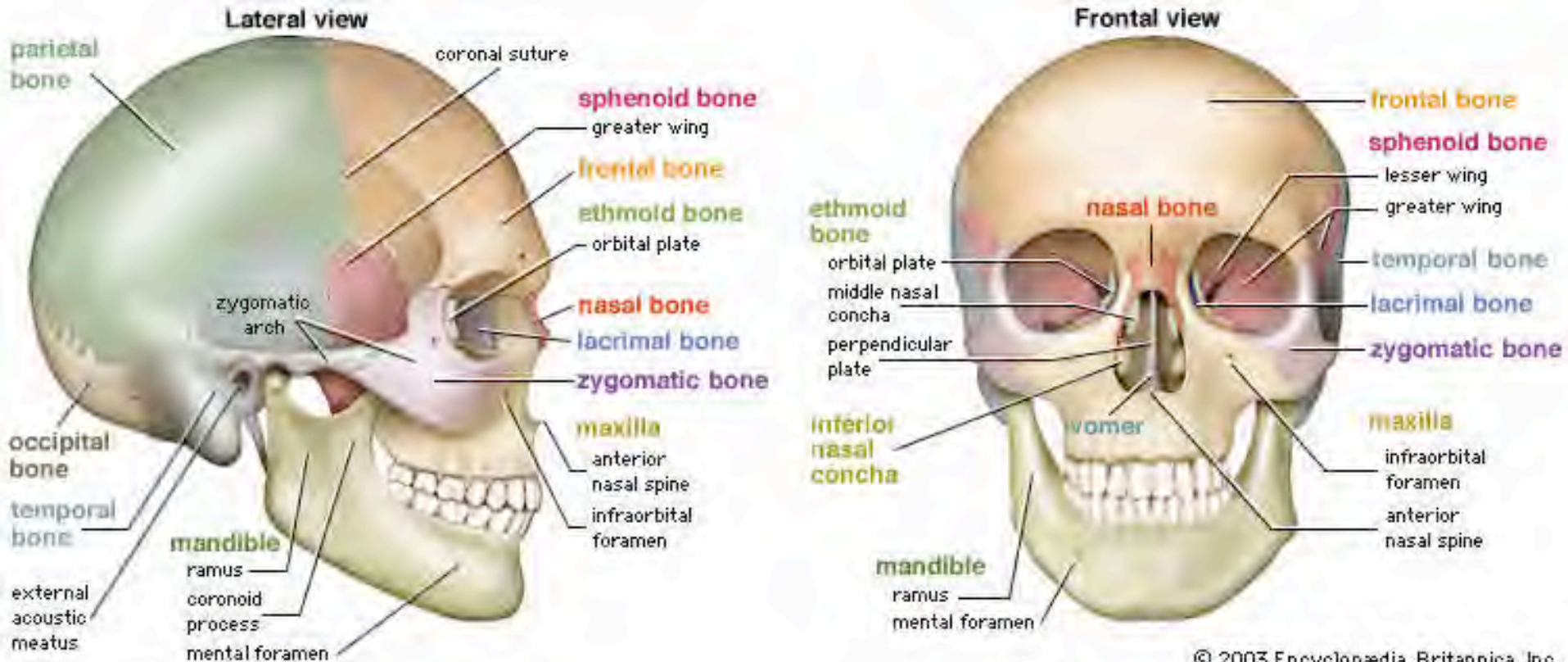
George A. Otis ([Wikipedia](#))

# Facial Trauma - Introduction

- Population at risk
  - Blunt trauma
  - Assault
  - Gun shot wound
  - Domestic violence
- 60% of pts with severe facial injuries have multisystem trauma
  - 20-50% have concurrent brain injury
  - Facial injuries may distract from C-spine injury or other major injury
- Often not life threatening, but has psychological sequelae - 25% may develop PTSD

# Facial Trauma - Anatomy

## ■ Facial Bones

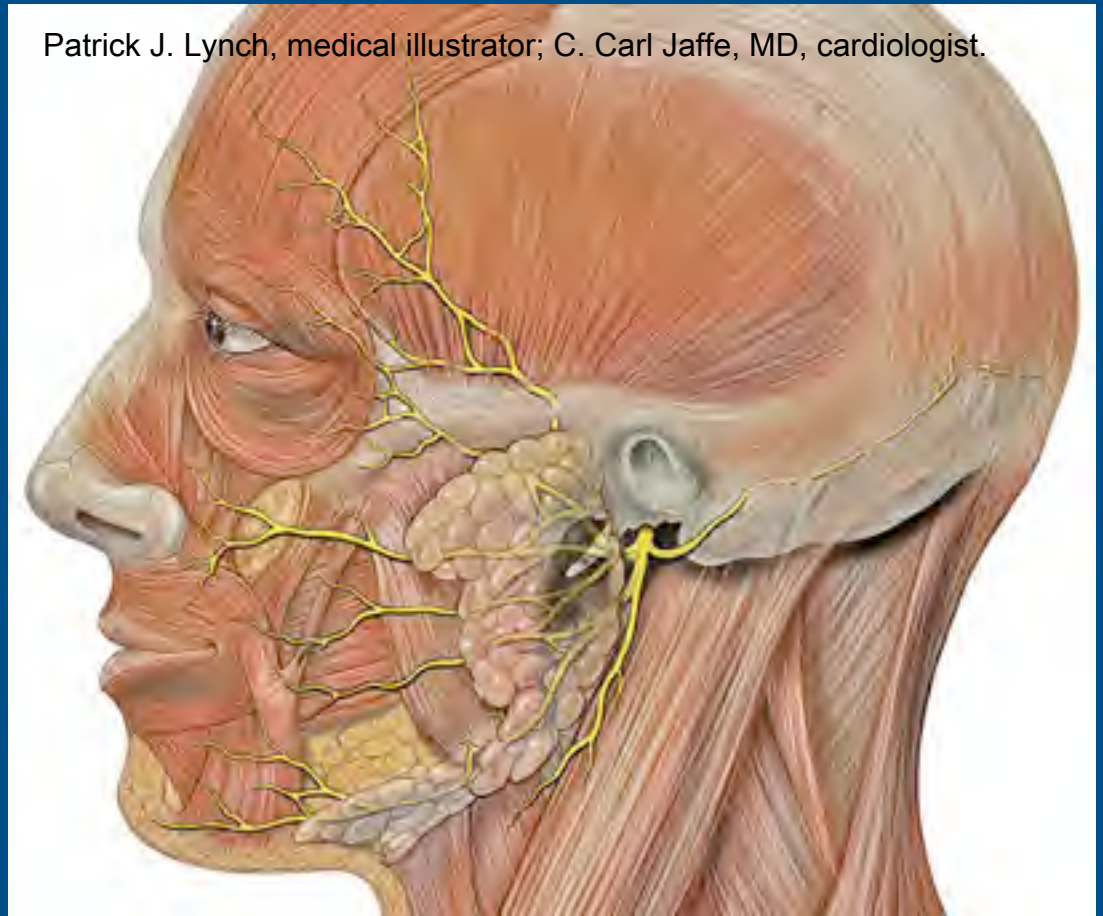


© 2003 Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

# Facial Trauma - Anatomy

- Facial nerves
- Parotid gland

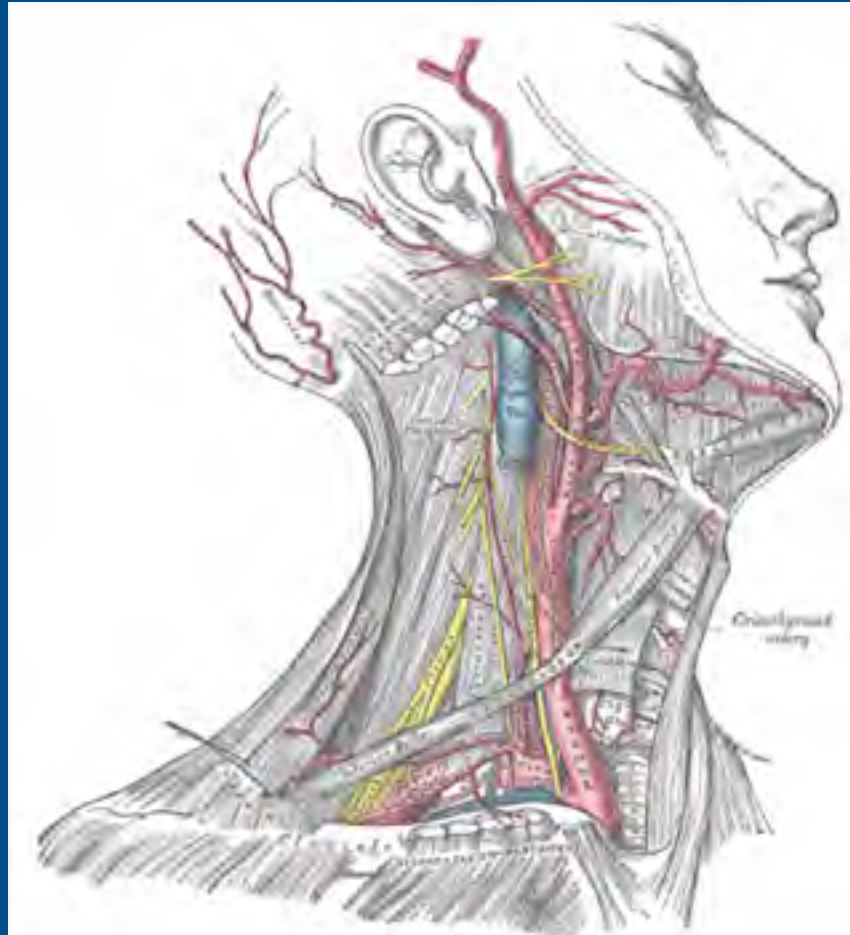
Patrick J. Lynch, medical illustrator; C. Carl Jaffe, MD, cardiologist.



Patrick J. Lynch, ([Wikipedia](#))

# Facial Trauma - Anatomy

- Vascular



PO-ERP

Gray's Anatomy  
([Wikipedia](#))



# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

- ABC' s - emphasis on A and C
- Airway
  - Special considerations:
    - Anatomy distortion - limits devices such as the LMA
    - “Flail” mandible
      - Mandible broken in two locations ==> obstruction
    - TMJ dislocation or fracture - will limit mouth opening
    - Cribriform plate disruption
      - Caution with NG tube placement or nasal intubation
    - Hemorrhage
      - Can obstruct view, may need double suction set up

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

## ■ Airway

- Approach:

- Sometimes the injury makes intubation easier
- Emergent/crash vs. Urgent airway - If it is going to be a challenging airway, take the time to fully prepare.
- RSI vs. The awake look
  - Often tone is the only thing keeping the airway patent
  - Ketamine and nebulized lidocaine for the awake look
- Hemorrhage:
  - Double suction
  - Control posterior nasopharyngeal bleeding with foley

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

## ■ Airway

- Approach:

- LMA? Can be a nice back up

- Anatomy distortion is an issue
    - Mouth opening can also be an issue

- Nasotracheal intubation? Controversial

- Some authors do not recommend this route because of risk of nasocranial intubation or nasal hemorrhage

- Consider the double prep:

- Plan A: Endotracheal intubation
    - Plan B: Crash Cricothyroidotomy with the tray opened and neck prepped

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

- Breathing
- Circulation
  - Often the cause of hypotension is elsewhere
    - Don't let the obvious facial injury distract you from other injuries
  - Severe hemorrhage from maxillofacial injuries is rare
    - Be aware of scalp laceration
    - Nasopharyngeal bleed
      - Control anterior or posterior bleeding
      - May manually reduce unstable Le Forte fractures

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

- History: Three key questions
  - Vision changes?
    - Monocular double vision
      - Lens disruption, or corneal or retinal injury
    - Binocular double vision
      - Dysfunction of extraocular muscles or nerves
    - Pain w/ movement = injury to orbit or globe
  - Facial numbness
    - Trigeminal branch nerve injury
  - Malocclusion
    - Fracture or dislocation

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

## ■ Physical Exam

### • Inspection

- Facial elongation (“Donkey Face”) associated with high grade Le Forte fractures
- Facial asymmetry - neural involvement
- Ecchymosis - Raccoon’s eyes or Battle’s sign

### • Palpation

- Assess for tenderness, crepitus or subcutaneous air
- Intraoral exam for zygomatic arch injury and maxillary stability

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

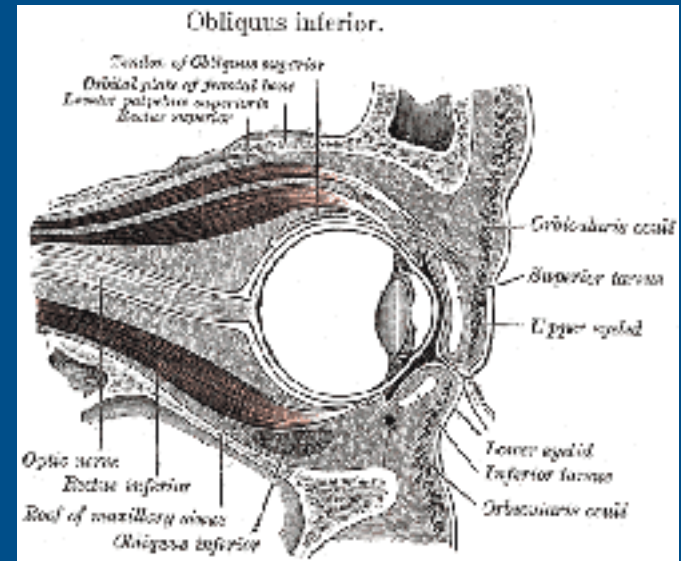
## ■ Physical Exam

### • Orbital examination

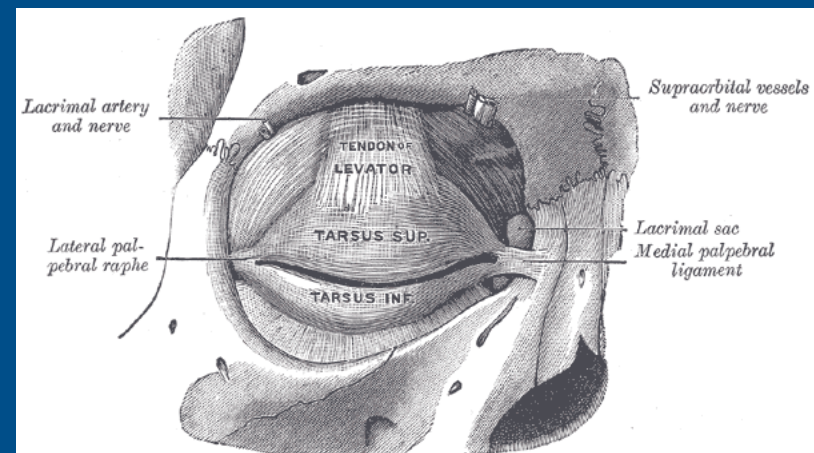
- Done early before swelling
- Pupil reactivity
  - Tear drop pupil associated with globe rupture
  - Marcus Gunn pupil
- Hyphema
- Visual acuity
- EOM
  - Ocular muscle entrapment
  - Ocular nerve injury
  - Pain can be a clue to associated orbit fractures
- Proptosis - consider retrobulbar hematoma

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

- Physical Exam - Orbital Examination
  - Lid Lacerations
    - Medial third of lower eyelid
      - High risk for lacrimal duct involvement
    - Upper and Lower Eyelid
      - Disruption of tarsal plate or cartilaginous plate
    - Eyelid Droop
      - Disruption of levator palpebral muscle



Gray's Anatomy (Wikipedia)



Gray's Anatomy (Wikipedia)



# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

- Physical Exam
  - Nose
    - Septal hematoma
      - Requires immediate evacuation to prevent pressure necrosis of the nasal septum
    - CSF Rhinorrhea
      - Indicates cribriform plate disruption
    - Deformity
      - Indicates nasal bone fracture
  - Ears
    - CSF leak
    - Hemotympanum
    - Battle's sign - indicates basilar skull fracture

# Facial Trauma - Evaluation

## ■ Physical Exam

### • Mandible/Dentition

#### ■ Malocclusion

#### ■ Flail mandible - two separate fracture site

#### ■ TMJ dislocation - typically anterior

#### ■ Tongue blade test

- Patient bites down on tongue blade and it is twisted until it breaks:

- Unable to break tongue blade indicates mandibular fracture

- 95% sensitive; 65% specific for mandibular fracture

#### ■ Loose/chipped teeth

# Facial Trauma - Imaging

- Plain films

- Challenging to read

- Approach

- Asymmetry

- Bony integrity

- Subcutaneous air

- Sinus opacity

- Teardrop sign - orbital fat herniation

# Facial Trauma - Imaging

## ■ Plain films

- Waters or occipital-mental view
  - As sensitive as entire facial series
  - Examines orbital rims and air/fluid levels
- PA or Caldwell view
  - Best for upper facial bones
- Cross table or upright lateral view
  - Not helpful
- Submental-vertex (“jug handle”) view
  - Best to evaluate for zygomatic arch fractures
- Towne view
  - Evaluation of mandibular ramus

# Facial Trauma - Waters view

## ■ Structures to identify

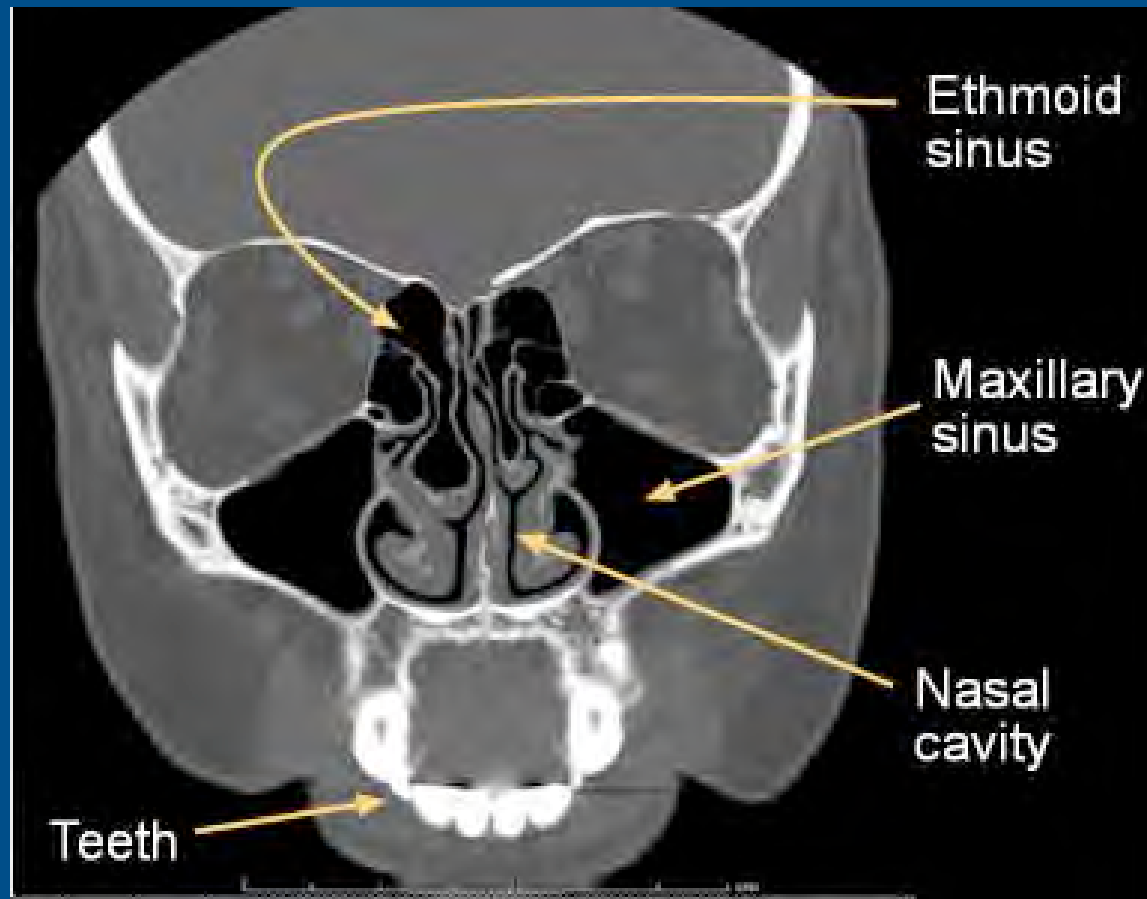
- Frontal sinus
- Maxillary sinus
- Ethmoid sinus
- Nasal septum
- Orbital rim
- Zygoma
- Zygomatic arch



# Facial Trauma - Imaging

## ■ CT

- Considered by some to be one of the two most important advancements in the last 20 years.
- Helps guide surgical management



PD-IRL

[RadiologyInfo.org](http://RadiologyInfo.org)

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

## ■ Frontal skull injuries

- Thick part of skull - if injured here likely has injury elsewhere
- Anterior aspect of sinus
  - Pain control
  - Surgery if depressed defect
  - Outpatient treatment if isolated
- Posterior aspect of sinus
  - Concern for CSF leak/risk of meningitis
  - Neurosurgical consultation and admission
  - IV antibiotics - benefit questionable
    - Consider 1st gen cephalosporin or other coverage for sinus pathogens

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

- Orbital injuries
  - Blowout fractures
    - Physical Exam
      - Enophthalmos or sunken globe - indication for surgery
      - Infraorbital anesthesia - infraorbital nerve contusion or injury
      - Diplopia of upward gaze - inferior rectus entrapment
      - Step off deformity or subcutaneous emphysema
      - Visual impairment - compromise of optic nerve
    - Imaging
      - CT or plain films
    - Treatment
      - Surgery
        - Indicated w/ enophthalmos or diplopia
        - Severity of fracture seen on CT scan - varies with different surgeons
      - IV antibiotics - 1st or 2nd gen cephalosporin
      - Don't blow your nose



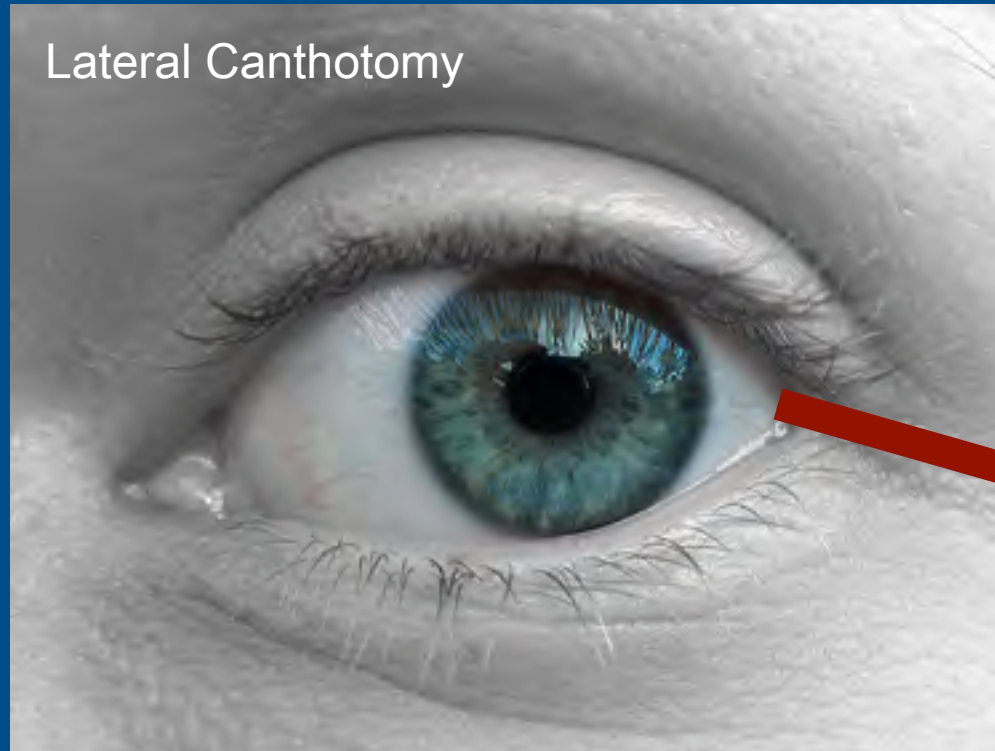
# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Procedures: Lateral Canthotomy
  - Indications
    - Retrobulbar hemorrhage
    - Acute vision loss, proptosis, elevated IOP >40 mmHg
      - Irreversible vision loss in 90-120 minutes
  - Contraindications
    - Suspected globe rupture
    - Irregular pupil shape
    - Hyphema

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Lateral cantholysis:
  - Inject 1 mL of 1% lidocaine w/ epinephrine into the lateral canthus
  - Use a straight hemostat to crimp the skin of the lateral corner down to orbital rim
  - Use scissor to make 1-2 cm incision extending laterally
  - If pressure still elevated retract inferior lid downward to visualize lateral canthus tendon
  - Dissect the inferior crux of the lateral canthus tendon and cut it

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries



Thauran ([Flickr](#))

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

## ■ Zygoma injuries

- 2 fracture patterns

- Arch - most common

- Tripod - most severe

- Involves: Zygomatic arch, maxillary sinus, and lateral orbital wall

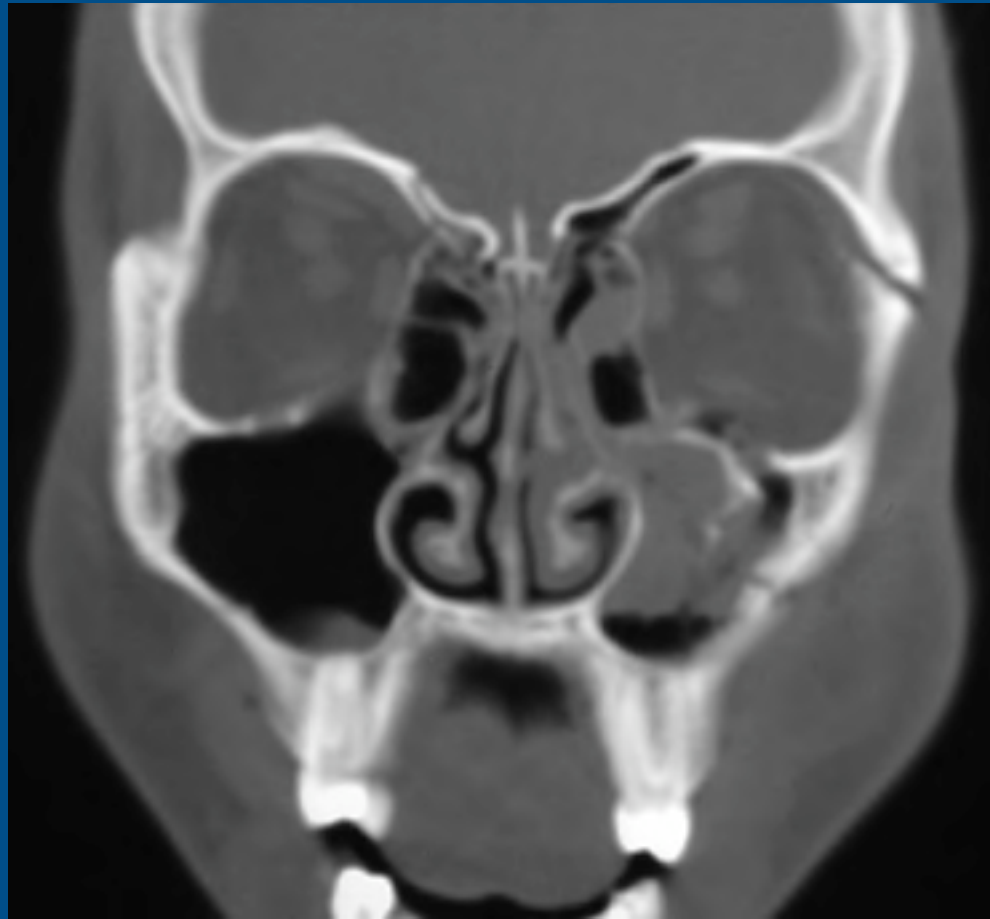
- Be aware of entrapment and vision changes

- Treatment:

- Arch - pain control as an out patient

- Tripod - Admission for ORIF and antibiotics

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

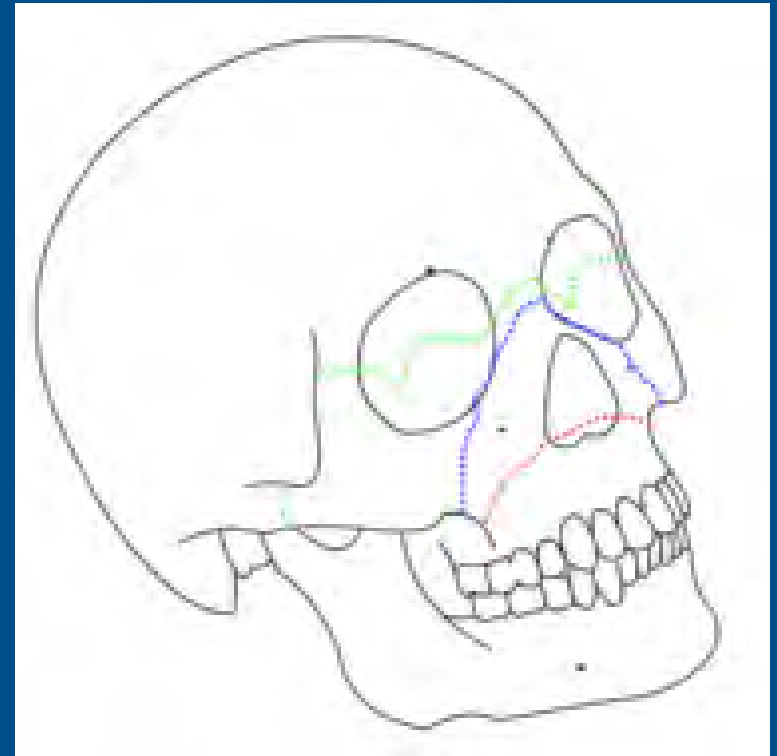


PD-1111

MedScape

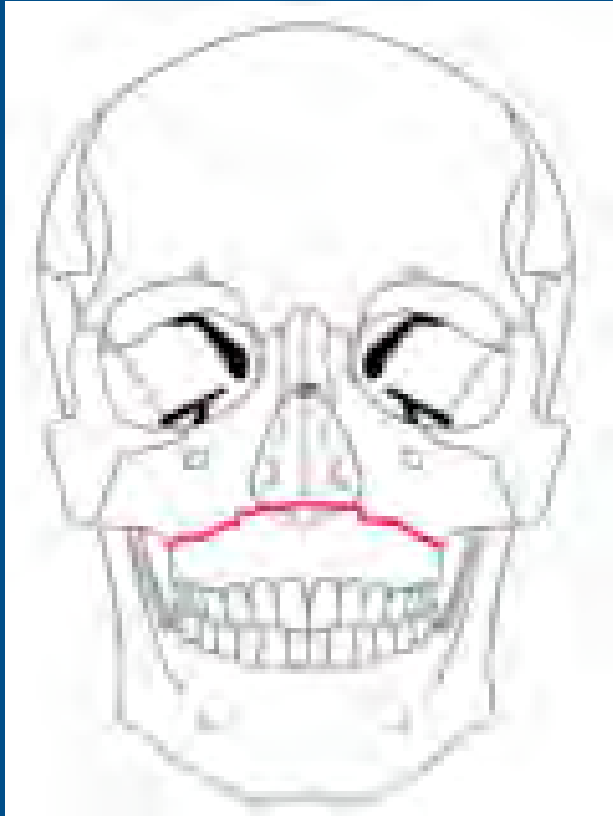
# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Maxillary fractures
  - High energy
    - Usually associated with other injuries
  - Le Forte I - Transverse
  - Le Forte II - Pyramidal
  - Le Forte III - Craniofacial dislocation



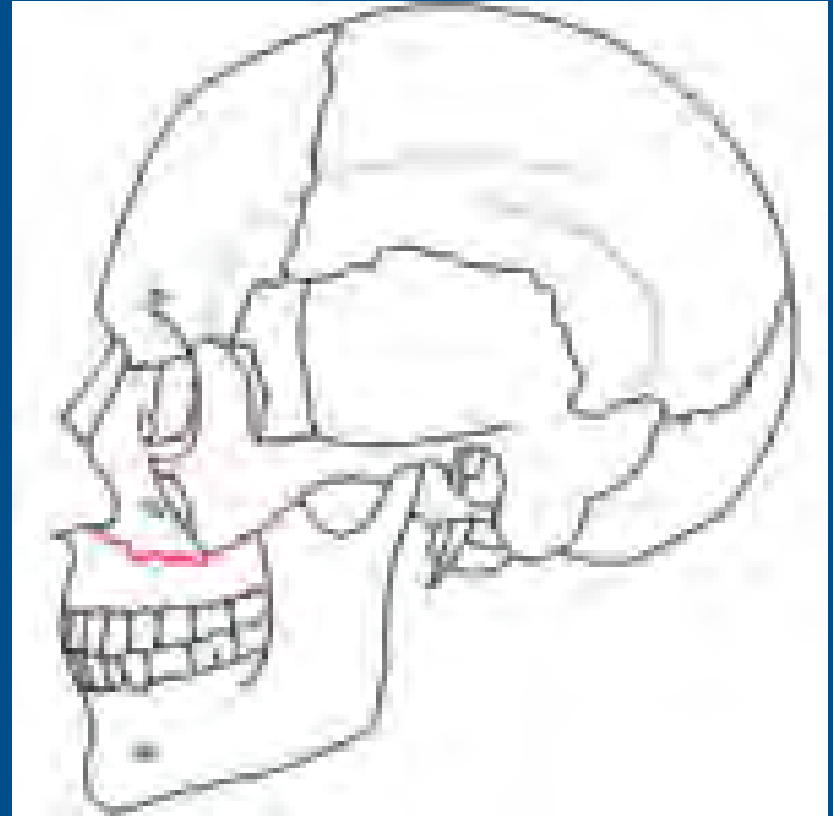
Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries



PD-IWEL

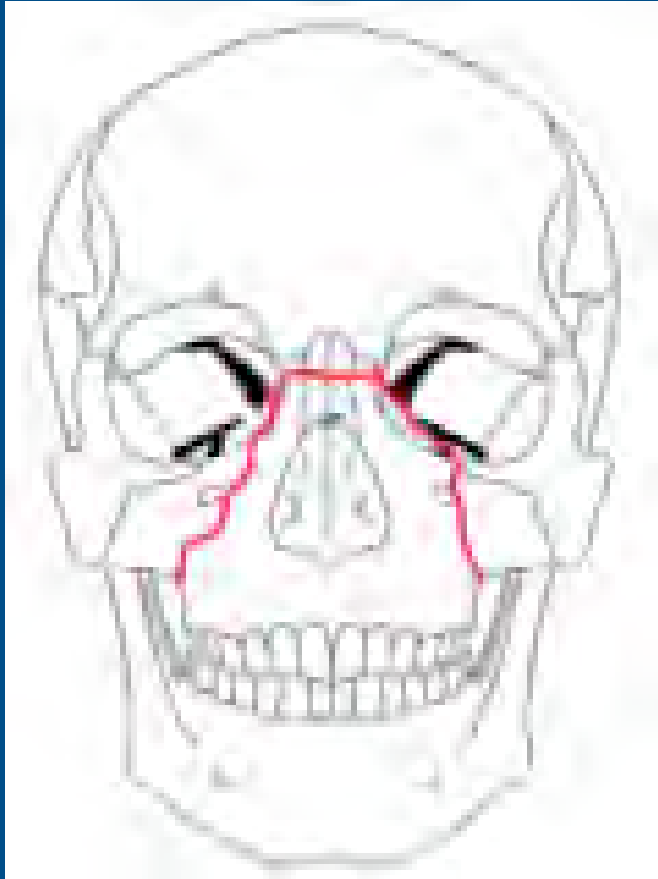
Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))



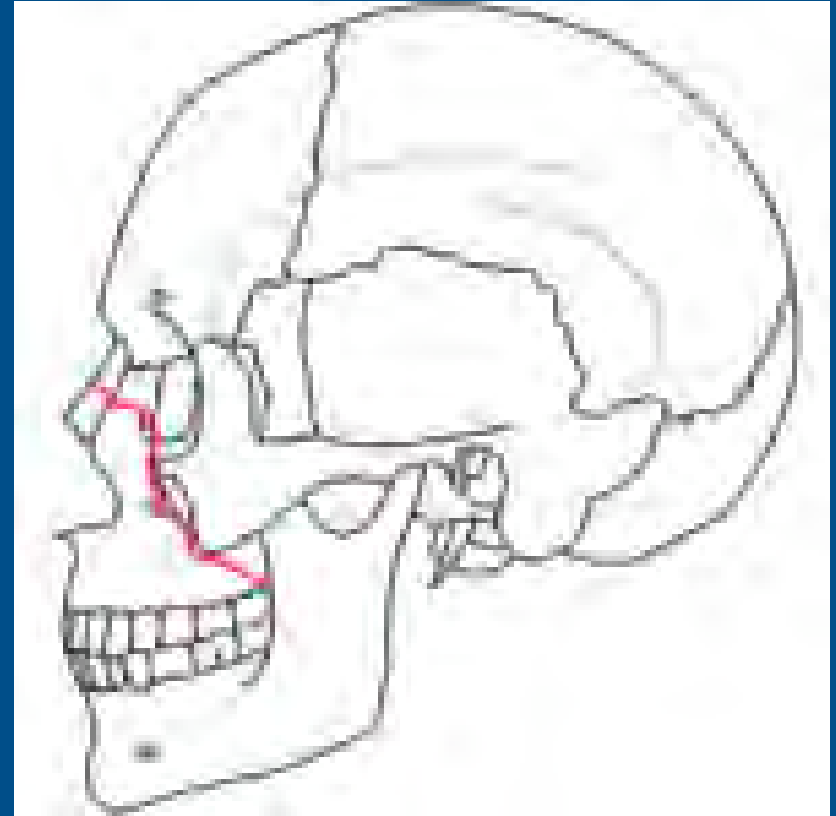
PD-IWEL

Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries



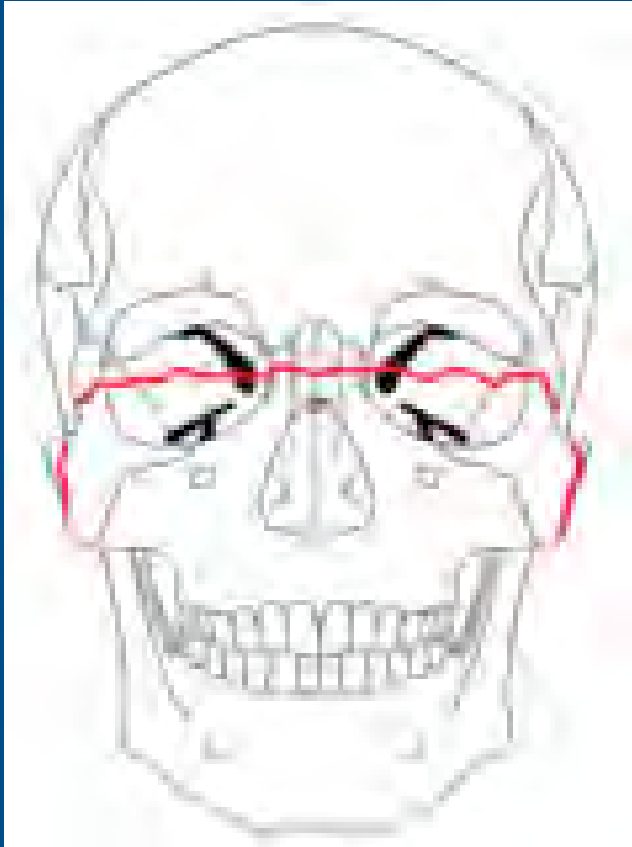
 Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))



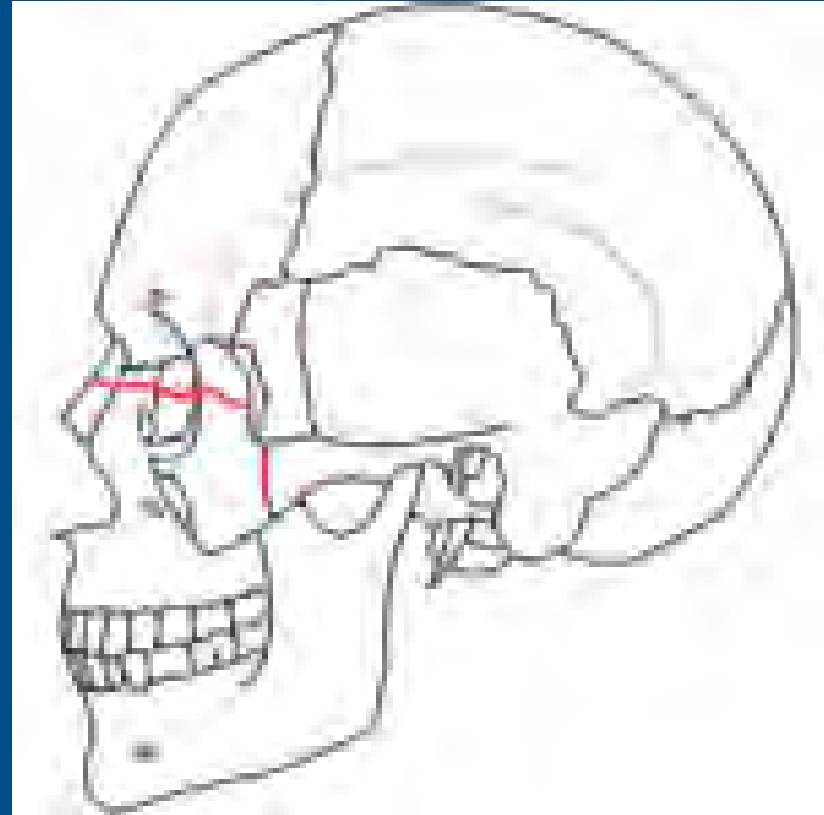
 Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))



# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries



 Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))



 Le Fort fracture of skull ([Wikipedia](#))

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Maxillary fractures

- Treatment

- Le Forte II and III - admission for stabilization and management
- Antibiotics commonly given even though efficacy has not been proven
- Be aware of visual deficits

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Mandibular fractures
  - Common mechanism is assault or fall onto chin
  - Often fracture in multiple locations
  - Intraoral laceration indicates open fracture
  - Ecchymosis under tongue is sensitive for mandibular fracture

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Mandibular fractures
  - Treatment
    - If open - admission and IV antibiotics
      - 1st gen cephalosporin, PCN, or clindamycin
    - If closed
      - May consider out patient care with consultation
    - Surgical intervention depending on the degree of displacement.
    - Barton bandage

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

- TMJ dislocation
  - Anterior dislocation most common
    - Can occur with impact as little as a yawn
    - Posterior, lateral, and superior also possible
      - Usually associated with other injuries
  - Present with acute pain, tragus pain, malocclusion, and palpable defect

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

## ■ TMJ dislocation

### • Treatment

#### ■ Anesthesia

- Conscious sedation
- Local: 2 mL of 2% lidocaine in the preauricular depression anterior to the tragus

#### ■ Protect the thumbs - tongue depressor or gauze

#### ■ Thumbs apply downward and backward pressure to the occlusal surface of the mandibular molars

#### ■ Post reduction care:

- Soft diet
- Don't open mouth wider than 2 cm for 2 weeks

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

## ■ Nasal fractures

- Most common facial fracture
- Always asses for septal hematoma
- Treatment:
  - Hemostasis
  - Drain septal hematoma if present
  - Surgical intervention only if cosmetic defect exists after swelling subsides.

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

## ■ Scalp Lacerations

- Close the galea w/ 4-0 nylon
- Close the muscle w/ 4-0 braided absorbable suture
- Close the skin w/ staples or 4-0 nylon
- Hemostasis is key - can have life threatening blood loss from scalp hematoma
- Do not shave head
- Remove staples in 7-10 days

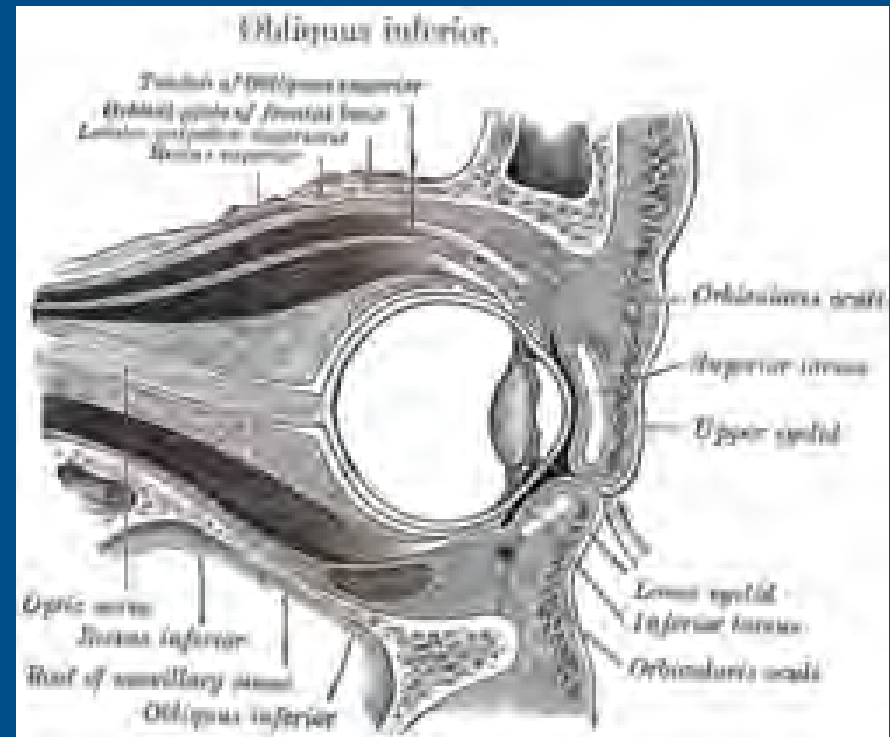


# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Forehead and eyebrow lacerations
  - Extra caution to align the eyebrows and skin tension lines for cosmetic repair
  - Use 6-0 nylon for the skin, or
  - 6-0 fast absorbing gut in children
  - 6-0 absorbable braided suture such as vicryl can be used for a deep layer to wounds under tension
  - Do not shave eyebrows
  - Remove sutures in 5 days

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Eyelid lacerations
  - Be especially aware of following injuries
    - Inner surface of lid
    - Lid margins
    - Lacrimal duct
    - Ptosis
    - Extension into the tarsal plate
  - Any of the above specialty assistance recommended



Gray's Anatomy (Wikipedia)

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

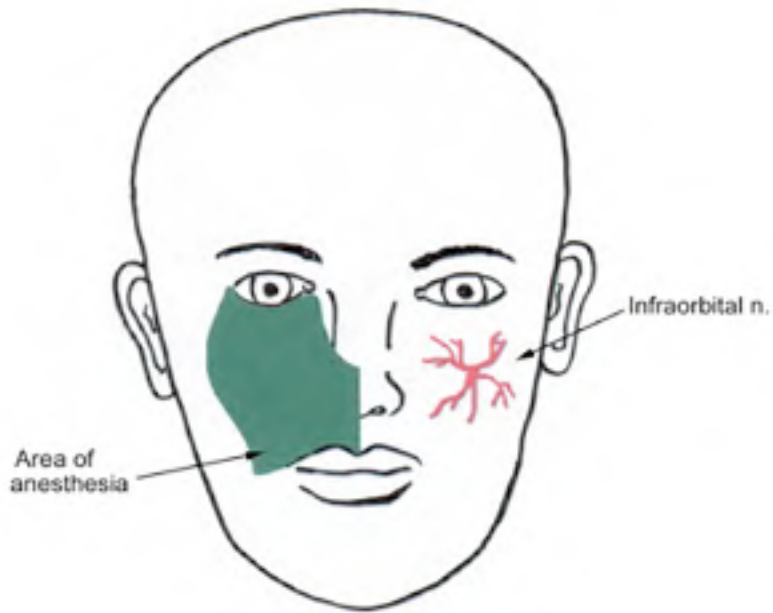
- Lips and oral mucosa
  - Line up the vermillion border!
  - 6-0 nylon for the skin
  - 5-0 plain gut for the mucosa
  - 4-0 braided absorbable (vicryl) for the muscle
  - Remove sutures from skin in 5 days
  - Only repair oral mucosa if it is gaping - at risk of food getting caught
  - Be aware of potential damage to parotid duct or facial nerve

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Regional anesthesia: Infraorbital Block
  - Locate the infraorbital foramen
    - Approx 1 cm below the orbital rim
    - In line with the pupil
  - Insert the needle via the superior labial sulcus at the apex of the canine fossa
  - Inject approx 2 cm of anesthetic near, but not within, the foramen

# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Regional anesthesia: Infraorbital Block

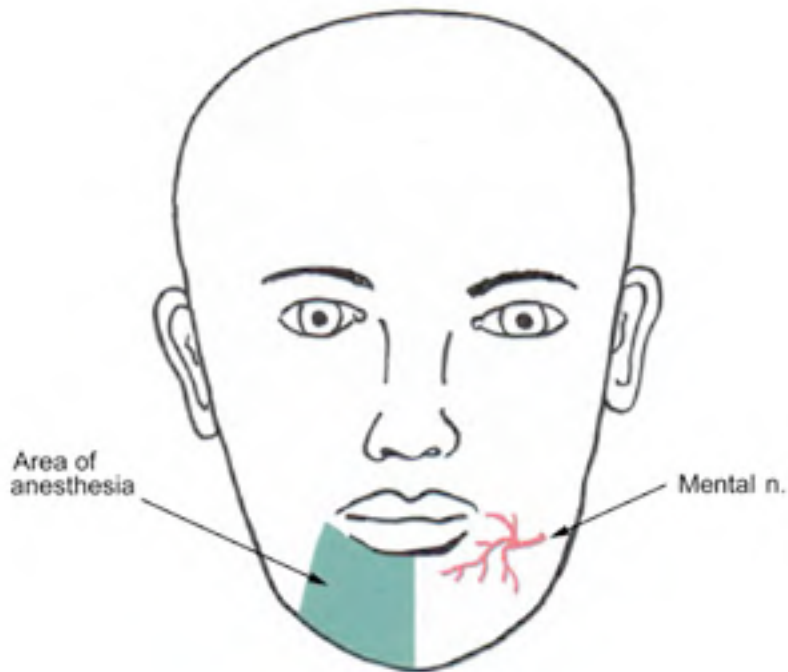


# Facial Trauma - Specific Injuries

- Regional anesthesia: Mental Block
  - Locate the mental foramen - in line with the pupil
  - Insert the needle via the inferior labial sulcus at the apex of the first bicuspid
  - Inject approx 2 mL of anesthetic
  - Note: topical anesthetic can be used prior to insertion of needle

# Facial Trauma -Specific Injuries

- Regional anesthesia: Mental Block



# Questions?



 BY-NC-SA

Dkscully ([flickr](#))



# References

- Hasan N, Colucciello SA. Maxillofacial Trauma. *In* Tintinalli JE, *et al*, editor. Emergency Medicine: A Comprehensive Study Guide, sixth ed. 2004. The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc, New York. 1583-1589.
- Burton JH, Armellina N. *In* Adams JG, *et al*, Emergency Medicine, first ed. 2008. Saunders, Philadelphia. 783-796.