Anatomical Basis of the Zygomatic-Transmandibular Approach: Operative Video

Gerardo Guinto^{1,2} Eli Hernandez² David Gallardo-Ceja² Francisco Gallegos-Hernandez³
Norma Arechiga⁴ Gerardo Guinto-Nishimura⁵

¹Department of Neurosurgery, Centro Medico ABC, Mexico DF, Mexico

²Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital Angeles del Pedregal, Mexico DF, Mexico

³Department of Head and Neck Surgery, Centro Medico ABC, Mexico DF, Mexico

⁴Department of Neurology, Centro Medico ABC, Mexico DF, Mexico

⁵Department of Neurosurgery, Instituto Nacional de Neurología y Neurocirugía Manuel Velasco Suarez, Mexico DF, Mexico

Address for correspondence Gerardo Guinto, MD, Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital Angeles del Pedregal, Mexico DF 10700, Mexico (e-mail: gguinto@prodigy.net.mx).

J Neurol Surg B Skull Base 2022;83(suppl S3):e646–e647.

Abstract

Keywords

- infratemporal fossa
- parapharyngeal space
- skull base surgery
- trigeminal schwannoma
- zygomatic-transmandibular approach

Tumor growth in infratemporal fossa (ITF) and parapharyngeal space (PPS) is generally slow and generates very few clinical manifestations, so it is not uncommon for tumors to reach large dimensions at the time of diagnosis, making necessary to perform ample approaches. In zygomatic-transmandibular approach (ZTMA), the access of the ITF and PPS is obtained by a combination of a pterional craniotomy plus a zygomatic-mandibular osteotomy. Tumor excision is achieved by its initial dissection from all of the neurovascular structures of the middle fossa by the neurosurgical team and the final resection by the head and neck team from below. In the first part of this video, we present a brief anatomical–surgical description of the ITF and PPS and in the second part, we show case of a trigeminal schwannoma that could be successfully removed through a ZTMA. Using this approach, an ample and safe exposure of the ITF and PPS is achieved, without affecting the chewing or facial nerve function and with excellent cosmetic results, so it can be considered as a reliable surgical option, particularly in cases of giant tumors that affect these regions (► **Figs. 1 and 2**).

The link to the video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/oxVFhzT8HsQ>.

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received
September 11, 2020
accepted after revision
January 9, 2021
published online
May 3, 2021

DOI <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0041-1727125>.
ISSN 2193-6331.

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Fig. 1 Contrast enhanced preoperative magnetic resonance imaging T1-weighted (left column), in axial (above) and coronal (below) view, compared with the postoperative result (right column) in the same axial (above) and coronal (below) views.

Fig. 2 Basic steps of the zygomatic-transmandibular approach. (A) Exposure of the lateral craniofacial region. (B) Pterional craniotomy plus zygomatic osteotomy (which may or may not include the orbital rim) and a subsigmoid vertical mandibular osteotomy. (C) The posterior half of the ascending ramus of the mandible is rotated as a hinge, so that the tumor is released from the middle cranial fossa and extracted from below.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.