



7-9 SKULL FROM BEHIND (NORMA OCCIPITALIS)

Observe:

1. The outline is horseshoe-shaped from the tip of one mastoid process over the vertex to the tip of the other.
2. At the base of the skull, the outline is nearly straight from one mastoid process to the other, except where the occipital condyles project downward. On each side, it crosses two grooves (for the origin of the posterior belly of Digastric laterally, and for the occipital artery medially). Between the condyles is the foramen magnum.
3. The surface is convex. Near the center is the lambda. From it a triradiate suture runs: the sagittal (interparietal) upward in the median plane, and the lambdoid (parietoccipital) inferolaterally to the blunt postero-inferior angles of the parietal bones where it bifurcates.
4. On each side are two inconstant foramina for emissary veins and meningeal arteries: parietal and mastoid foramina.
5. Midway between lambda and foramen magnum is the external occipital protuberance or inion. From it the superior nuchal line curves laterally and crosses the lateral aspect of the mastoid, dividing it into a smooth upper and a rough lower part.
6. The surface below the superior nuchal line is the nuchal plane.