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A Morphometric Study of Foramen Ovale and Foramen Spinosum of the Human Sphenoid Bone in the Southern Nigerian Population.

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ABSTRACT

A morphometric study of foramina ovale and spinosum of the human sphenoid bone was carried out using 87 dry adult human skulls gotten from the cadavers in the laboratories of the Department of Anatomy of University of Port Harcourt, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Nnewi Campus, Okofia, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Niger Delta University, Amassoma, Abia State University, Uturu, University of Calabar, all in the Southern Nigeria. Measurements were done by using a pair of dividers to span across the anteroposterior (length) and transverse (width) margins of the foramina and then transferred to a meter rule for the readings to be taken.

The lengths of right and left foramen ovale were 5.0mm – 9.5mm and 5.0mm – 9.0mm respectively. The mean of the lengths of the right foramen ovale was 7.01±0.10mm while that of the lengths of the left foramen ovale was 6.89± 0.09mm. The widths of both right and left foramen ovale were 2.0mm - 5.0mm. The mean of the widths of the right foramen ovale was 3.37± 0.07mm while that of the left foramen ovale was 3.33±0.07mm. There was no significant difference between the mean of the length and width of the right and left foramen

ovale. The length of right and left foramen spinosum was 1.5mm - 3.5mm and 1.0mm - 4.0mm respectively.
The mean of the length of the right foramen spinosum was 2.34 ±0.05mm while that of the left was 2.36±0.05mm.The width of both right and left foramen spinosum was 1.0mm to 2.0mm. The mean of the widths of the right foramen spinosum was 1.66±0.03mm while that of the left foramen spinosum was 1.61±0.03mm. There was no significant difference between the mean of the length and width of the right and left foramen spinosum.
This study is aimed at determining the variations in size of the foramen ovale and foramen spinosum in the southern Nigerian population.
Key words: Foramen Ovale, Spinosum, Human Sphenoid, Southern Nigeria.