

Acta Neurochir (Wien)

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. 2022 Sep;164(9):2525-2531.

doi: 10.1007/s00701-022-05327-2. Epub 2022 Aug 4.

Combined endoscopic endonasal transpterygoid and sublabial transmaxillary approaches for a large infratemporal fossa trigeminal schwannoma

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- PMID: 35922721
- DOI: [10.1007/s00701-022-05327-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00701-022-05327-2)

Abstract

Background: Trigeminal schwannomas (TSs) with solitary extracranial location are rare, and surgical excision is challenging. In recent years, the endoscopic endonasal transmaxillary transpterygoid approach (EETPA) has been advocated as an effective strategy for TSs in the infratemporal fossa (ITF).

Method: We describe the steps of the EETPA combined with the sublabial transmaxillary approach for the surgical excision of a giant mandibular schwannoma of the ITF. Indications, advantages, and approach-specific complications are also discussed. The main surgical steps are shown in an operative video.

Conclusion: A combined EETPA and sublabial transmaxillary approach represents a safe and effective option for the surgical excision of extracranial TSs.

Keywords: Endoscopic endonasal; Infratemporal fossa; Sublabial; Transmaxillary; Transpterygoid; Trigeminal schwannoma.