

# **Incidence of Carotico-Clinoid Foramen in South Indian Skulls**

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## **Abstract**

The carotico-clinoid foramen (CCF) was first described in 1935 by Keyes as a canal formed by the union of anterior clinoid process on its medial side with the tip of the middle clinoid process as it arises from the tuberculum sella or the lateral wall of the body of sphenoid bone. The CCF has been classified by Keyes into three types based on the degree of ossification as complete, incomplete and contact. The frequency of this bony foramen documented in literature is 4-9%. In the present study two hundred and forty-two macerated skull bases of unknown sex were examined for the incidence of the CCF. A complete CCF was found in 9.92% of the skulls. An incomplete CCF was found in 4.13% of the skulls. The knowledge of the CCF is of utmost importance for a neurosurgeon approaching the internal carotid artery or other skull base surgery.

**Key words:** Anterior clinoid process, carotico-clinoid foramen, internal carotid artery, skull base surgery.