

mastoidectomy and posterior tympanotomy⁽⁴⁾. The area is entered through a retroauricular tympanotomy flap, and the electrode is introduced via a tunnel drilled in the suprameatal region superior to Henle's spine. The suprameatal approach is a simple and safe technique that does not endanger the facial nerve or the chorda tympani⁽⁵⁾.

Since the suprameatal triangle covers the lateral wall of the mastoid air system, the suprameatal triangle is of importance to otologic surgeons during mastoidectomy⁽⁶⁾. The anatomical landmarks especially suprameatal crests on the outer surface of the squamous part of the temporal bone are of clinical importance as they are accepted as landmarks for some surgical approaches⁽⁷⁾.

In vivo, identification of suprameatal triangle is by doing postural incision 0.5cm behind the retroauricular sulcus which is the exact site for operation on living patients in mastoidectomy. By removing the mastoid cortex with electric drill, the exact depth of the sinus plate is clarified. Drilling from suprameatal triangle was done in line of superior border of suprameatal

triangle⁽⁸⁾. The surface marking of the mastoid antrum is the suprameatal triangle (Macewen's triangle) Figure 1⁽⁸⁾.

The boundaries of the triangle are:

Anteriorly: The post-superior border of the bony external auditory canal along with the suprameatal spine of Henle. This spine is prominent landmark for the suprameatal triangle.

a) Superiorly: The supramastoid crest.

b) Posteriorly: a vertical line drawn tangential to the posterior margin of the external canal.

In adult this triangle lies 1.5 cm lateral to the mastoid antrum which the largest air cell in the mastoid bone⁽⁹⁾.

Aim of this study

To measure the depth of the sinus plate that is an indicator for the distance between the site of the mastoidectomy and sigmoid sinus. The assessment of this plate may be used as a mark that possibly point toward avoidance of the bleeding possibility during the surgical mastoidectomy. This study was designed to assess the profitability of using simple parameters that could be obtained from the plan x-ray of the skull.

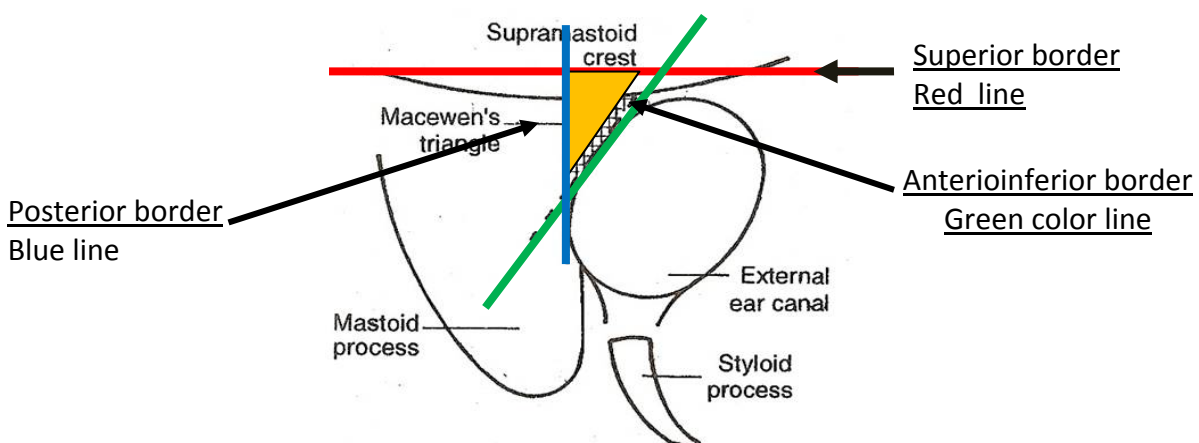


Figure 1: Diagrammatic illustration of suprameatal triangle (Macewen's) triangle⁽³⁾.