

## Anatomy of the nasopharynx

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**Section:** Head & neck imaging

**Imaging Technique:** MR

**Imaging Technique:** CT

**Authors:** R Sigal, JP Francke

**Patient:** 35 years, male

### Imaging Findings:

Comparison between CT and MR views and specimen

### Discussion:

The nasopharynx is a cavity located behind the ethmoid and nasal cavities through which it communicates via the choanae, under the base of the skull, above the oral cavity and oropharynx. Endoscopic examination allows to visualize the pharyngeal recess of Rosenmuller (filled with adenoids in children and young adults), and the opening of the Eustachian tube. Both structures are separated by the torus tubarius (levator levii palatini muscle). Laterally and posteriorly, the nasopharynx is related to the deep spaces of the suprahyoid neck, particularly, the parapharyngeal, masticator and carotid spaces.

**Differential Diagnosis List:** Anatomy of the nasopharynx

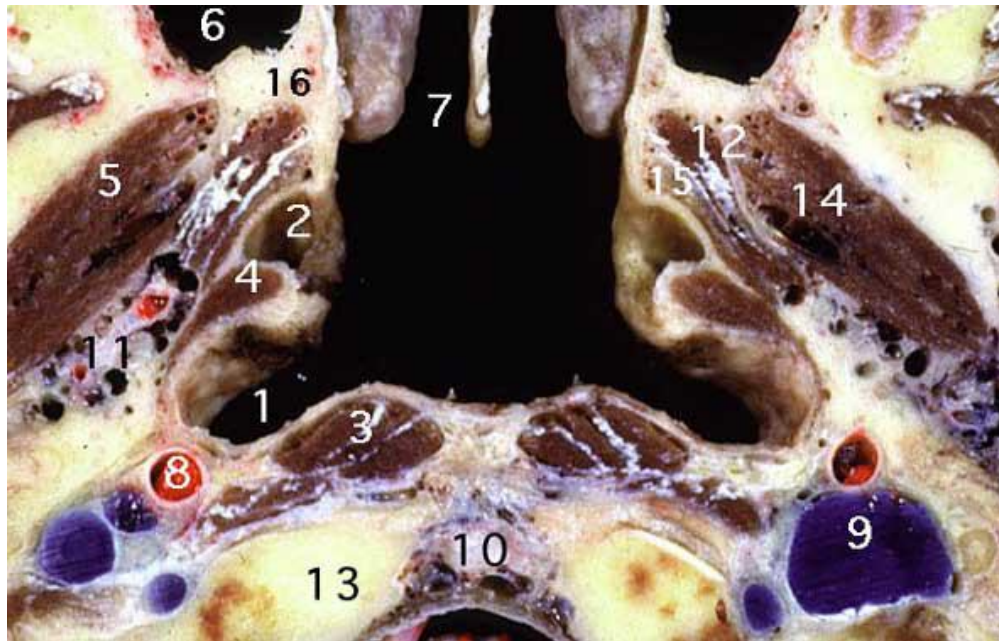
**Final Diagnosis:** Anatomy of the nasopharynx

### References:

Harnsberger HR.(1995)  
Handbook of head and neck imaging.  
2nd ed. St Louis: Mosby.  
Sobotta (1983)  
Human anatomy T1  
Urban & Schwarzenberg  
Baltimore, Munich.

**Figure 1**

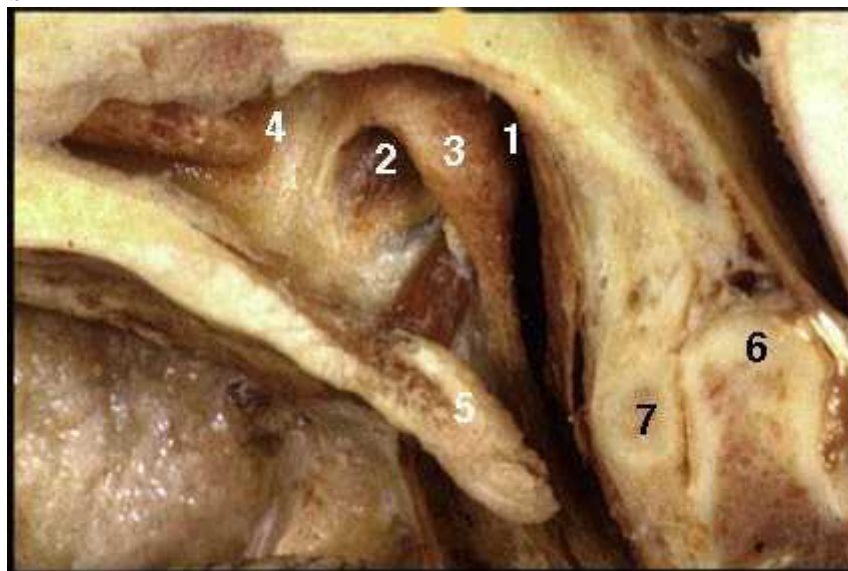
a



**Description:** 1: Lateral pharyngeal recess; 2: Opening of the Eustachian tube; 3: Longus capiti muscle; 4: Levator palatini muscle; 5 and 14: Lateral pterygoid muscle; 6: Maxillary sinus; 7: Choana; 8: Internal carotid artery; 9: Internal jugular vein; 10: Odontoid process; 11: Parapharyngeal space; 12: Medial pterygoid muscle; 13: Lateral mass of C1; 15: Tensor palatini muscle; 16: Pterygoid process

**Origin:**

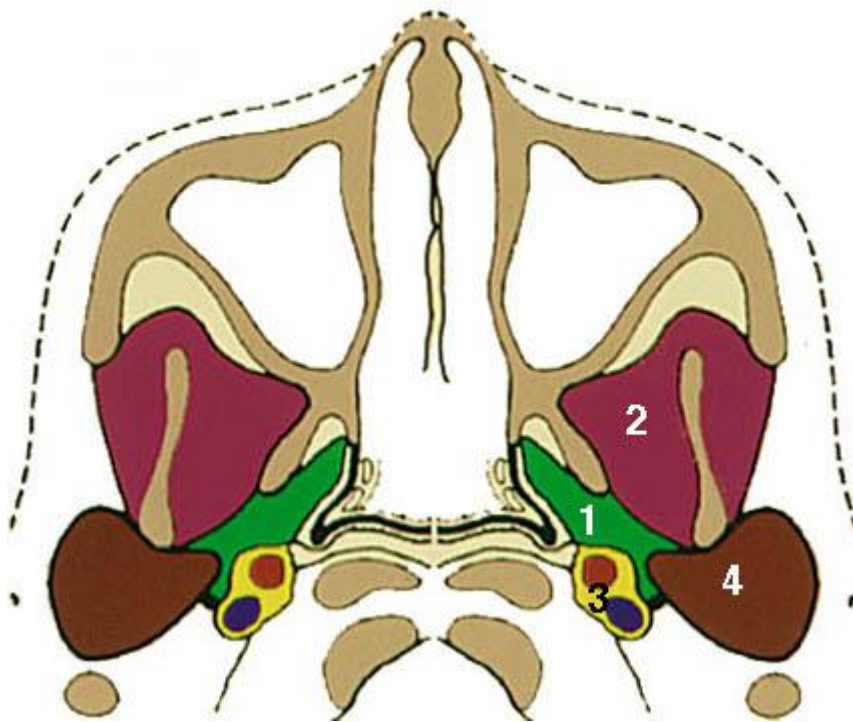
b



**Description:** 1: Lateral pharyngeal recess; 2: Opening of the Eustachian tube; 3: torus tubarius; 4: Choana; 5: soft palate; 6: Odontoid process; 7: atlas

**Origin:**

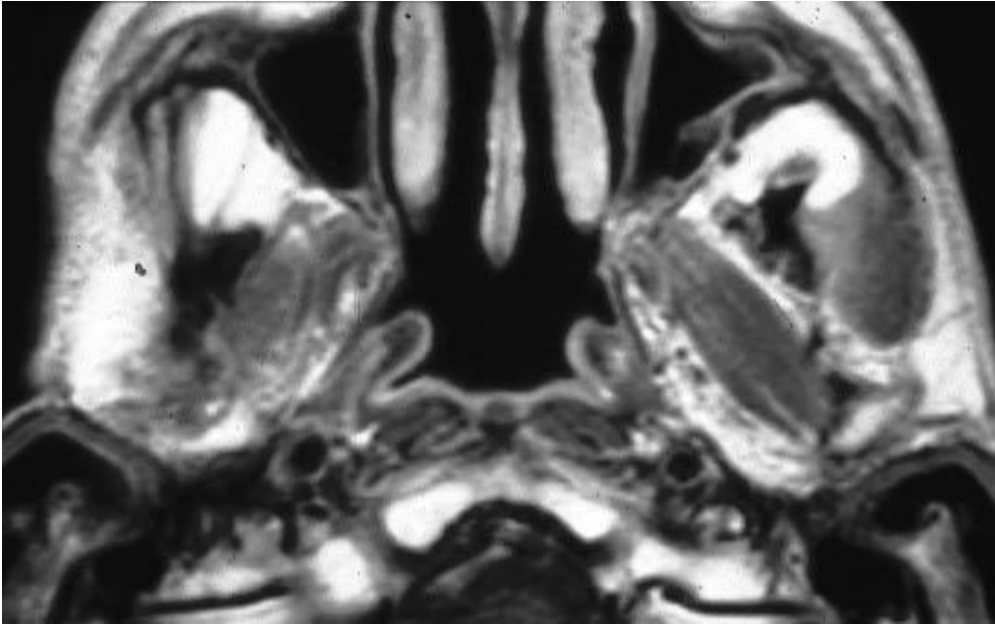
c



**Description:** 1: Parapharyngeal space; 2: Masticator space; 3: Carotid space; 4: Parotid space **Origin:**

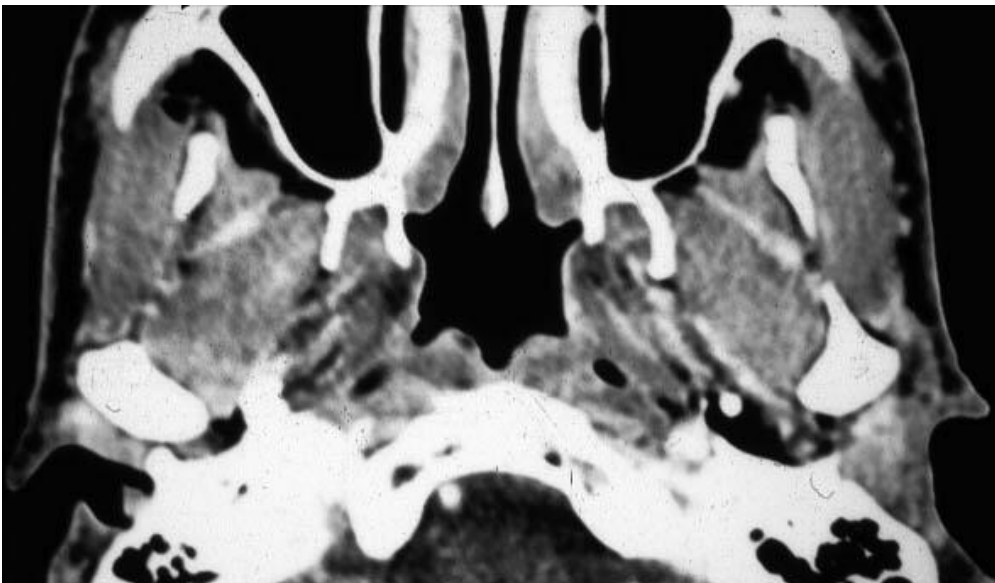
**Figure 2**

**a**



**Description:** Gd injection T1 weighted axial view **Origin:**

**b**



**Description:** Post contrast CT axial view **Origin:**