

Variations in the Form of the Inferior Orbital Fissure

S. Nikolova, D. Toneva

*Department of Anthropology and Anatomy, Institute of Experimental Morphology,
Pathology and Anthropology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia*

The inferior orbital fissure is a gaping cleft which extends from the temporal fossae to the orbital cavity through which the orbit communicates with the temporal, infratemporal, and pterygopalatine fossae. The outline of the IOF could be linear, narrow, moderate or wide or it may have the form of a narrow or moderate slit with a greatly enlarged lateral extremity. So, the aim of the present study was to investigate the outline of the IOF and to assess the sexual and bilateral differences of its distribution.

It was found that the outline of the IOF most commonly ranged from a narrow to a moderately wide slit as the rounded IOF was relatively rare. In most of the cases the rounded IOF was observed bilaterally, as the unilateral rounded IOF was found in few cases only on the left side. There were no significant bilateral or intergroup differences.

Key words: inferior orbital fissure; sphenomaxillary fissure; cranial series.