SURGICAL ANATOMY OF THE TEMPORAL BONE

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The temporal bone is made up of the squamous, mastoid, petrous, and tympanic parts. It articulates with the occipital, parietal, sphenoid, and zygomatic bones. It contributes to the lateral wall and base of the skull and forms part of the middle and posterior cranial fossae. The squamous part of the bone makes up the major part of the lateral surface of the bone. Above the level of the zygomatic process, the vertical portion of the squamous bone extends upwards to cover part of the temporal lobe of the brain. The zygomatic process is actually part of the squamous portion of the bone. It originates anterior to the external auditory canal at the level of the junction of the vertical and horizontal parts of the squamous bone. The root of the zygomatic process manifests an initial swelling, the posterior zygomatic tubercle. Traced anteriorly the root thins out to form the glenoid fossa for the articulation of the head of the mandible then thickens again to form the anterior zygomatic tubercle. The zygomatic process then thins out and flattens as it separates from the squamous bone and ends by articulation with the zygomatic bone. Posterior to the external auditory canal, the zygomatic process can be traced as a somewhat faint line, the supramastoid crest, indicating the level of the middle cranial fossa. The squamous bone then extends inferiorly in its retromeatal portion forming the flattened lateral part of the mastoid process. The squamous part of the temporal bone forms also the superior, and the upper parts of both the anterior and posterior walls of the bony external auditory canal with the spine of henle seen on the posterosuperior border of the canal. The gutter shaped tympanic bone forms the inferior wall and major parts of the anterior and posterior walls of the bony external auditory canal. Two sutures between elemental