# nner Spaces

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- Today, FESS has become a mainstay modality for treatment of sinusitis
- Prior to planning treatment, it is necessary to assess the PNS for its anatomy and variants as well as to look at the type of pathology
- PNS-HRCT, performed mainly in the coronal plane is the best technique for this
- 64-slice CT provides exceptional quality PNS-HRCT scans

## PNS-HRCT

Dr. Devang Desai Consultant Radiologist

High resolution CT (HRCT) of the paranasal sinuses (PNS) has a significant and necessary place in the pre-operative assessment of patients prior to endoscopic sinus surgery. It helps in establishing the anatomy of the sinuses (Figs. 1, 2) and its common variants (Fig. 3), as well as sinus and drainage passage pathology (Figs. 4-7).

#### **Technique:**

- Prone position (for visualization of air-fluid levels in sinusitis)
- 2. No gantry tilt
- 3. Multi-slice spiral CT scan performed.
- 4. Volume of oblique coronal images obtained.
- 5. True coronal and axial images are then reconstructed at 1 or 2mm slice thickness with no interslice gap.

6. For additional information, sagittal images may also be obtained from the data

#### **Anatomy and Normal Variants:**

The anatomy (Figs. 1, 2) of the frontal, ethmoid, maxillary and sphenoid sinuses as well as the complex anatomy of the nasal cavity is very well demonstrated on CT. Anatomical variants such as concha bullosa (Fig. 3A), deviated nasal septum (Fig. 3A), pneumatised anterior clinoid process, Haller cells (Fig. 3B), etc. are well visualized.



Fig. 1A



Fig. 1B



Fig. 1C

Fig. 1 (A-C): Normal anatomy of the paranasal sinuses. 1. Frontal sinus, 2. agger nasi, 3. nasal cavity, 4. nasal septum, 5. ethmoid sinuses, 6. middle turbinate, 7. inferior turbinate, 8. maxillary sinus, 9. sphenoid sinus.

The online version is up at http://www.jankharia.com/innerspaces/current.htm



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#### **Pathology**

CT is predominantly used to diagnose sinusitis (Figs. 4, 5) and sinonasal polyposis (Figs. 6, 7), prior to FESS.

#### **Advantages of 64-slice CT over Conventional CT:**

- Faster
- Multiplanar reconstruction capability
- Sharper images
- Lesser artifacts from dental amalgam
- 3D endoscopic sinus images maybe obtained

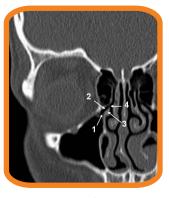


Fig. 2



Fig. 3A



Fig. 3B

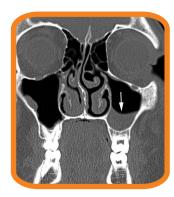
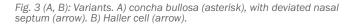


Fig. 4
Fig. 4: Coronal PNS-HRCT image

shows air-fluid level in the left

maxillary sinus (arrow).

Fig 2: Normal anatomy of the osteomeatal unit. 1. maxillary sinus ostium, 2.infundibulum, 3. uncinate process, 4. hiatus semilunaris.



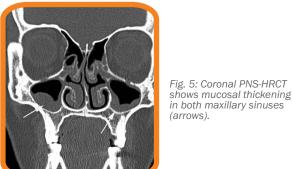


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

Fig. 6: Coronal PNS-HRCT shows a large antrochoanal polyp on the left (arrows).



Fig. 7

Fig. 7: Coronal PNS-HRCT shows extensive sinonasal polyposis (arrows).



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