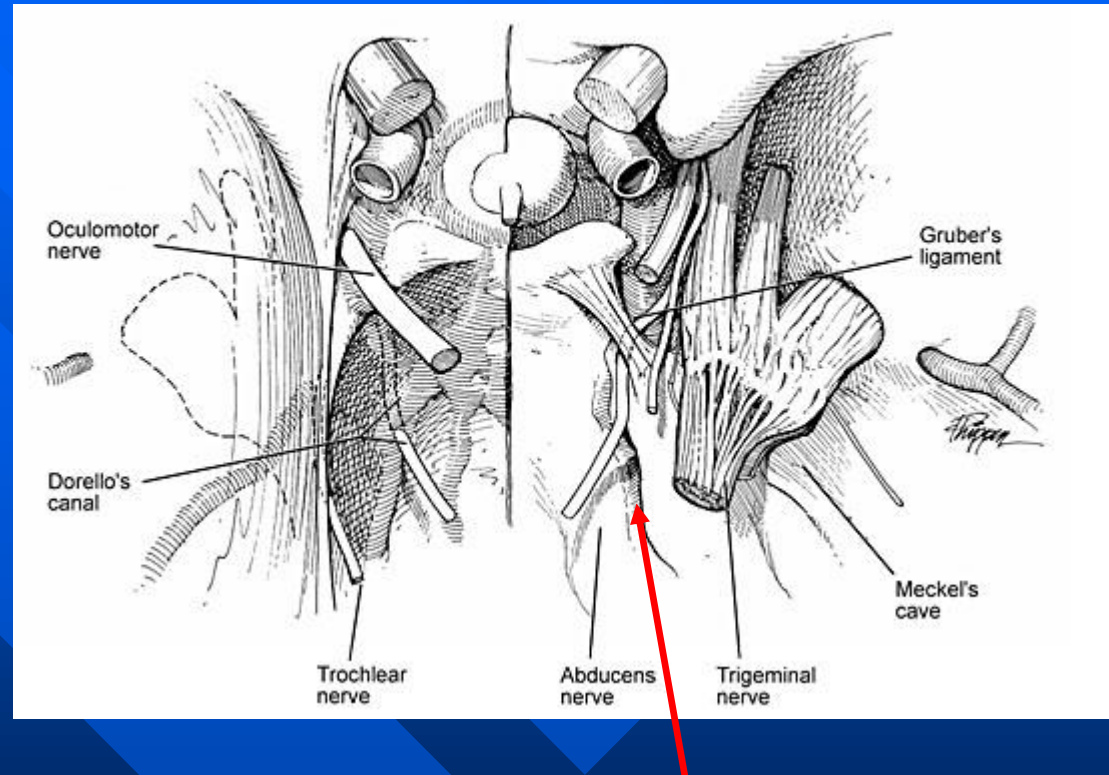


# Apical Petrositis

- Extension of middle ear-mastoid (ME-M) infection into pneumatized petrous apex (PA) with resulting suppurative apical petrositis.
- **Gradenigo syndrome**
  - Acute otomastoiditis, deep facial pain (CNV), & lateral rectus palsy (CNVI)

# Dorello's canal

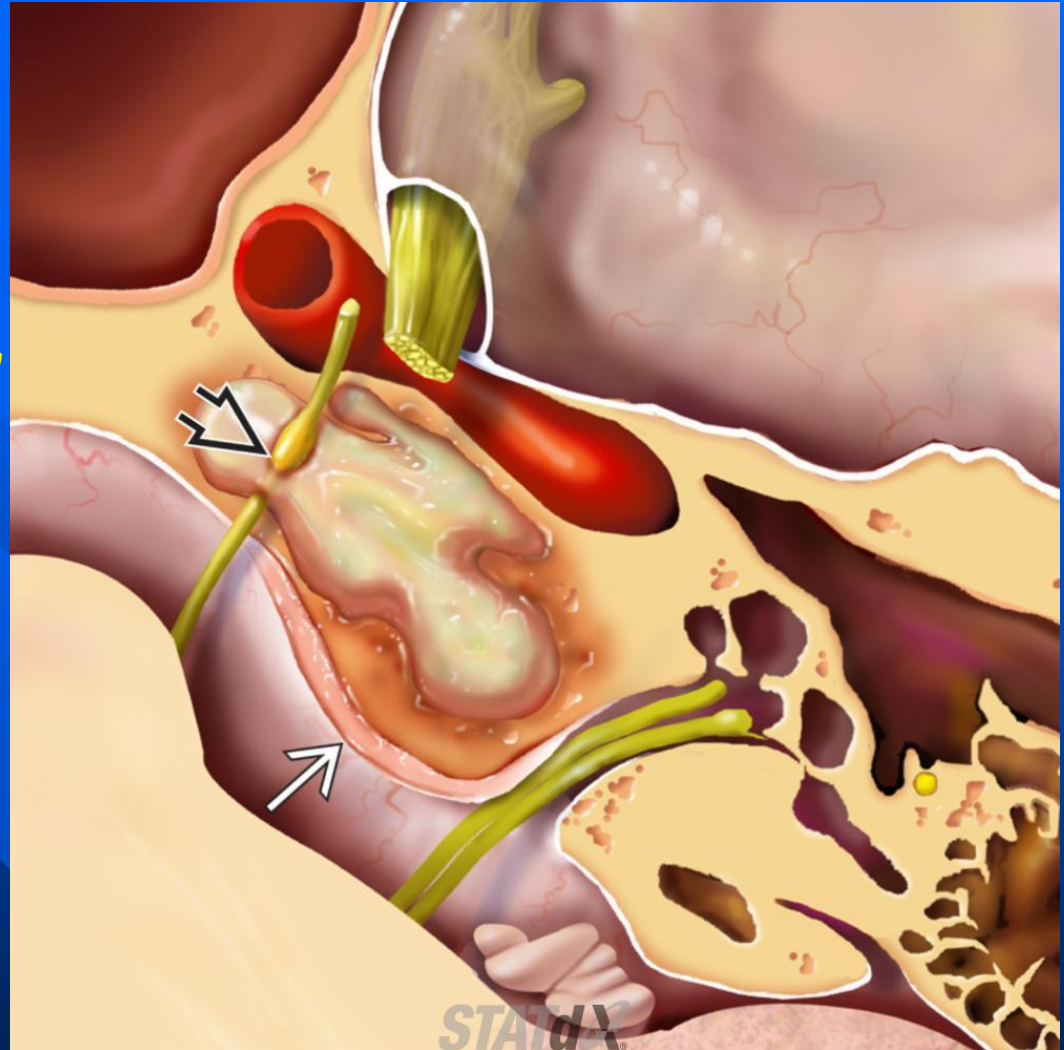
- channels the abducens nerve (CN VI) from the pontine cistern to the cavernous sinus.

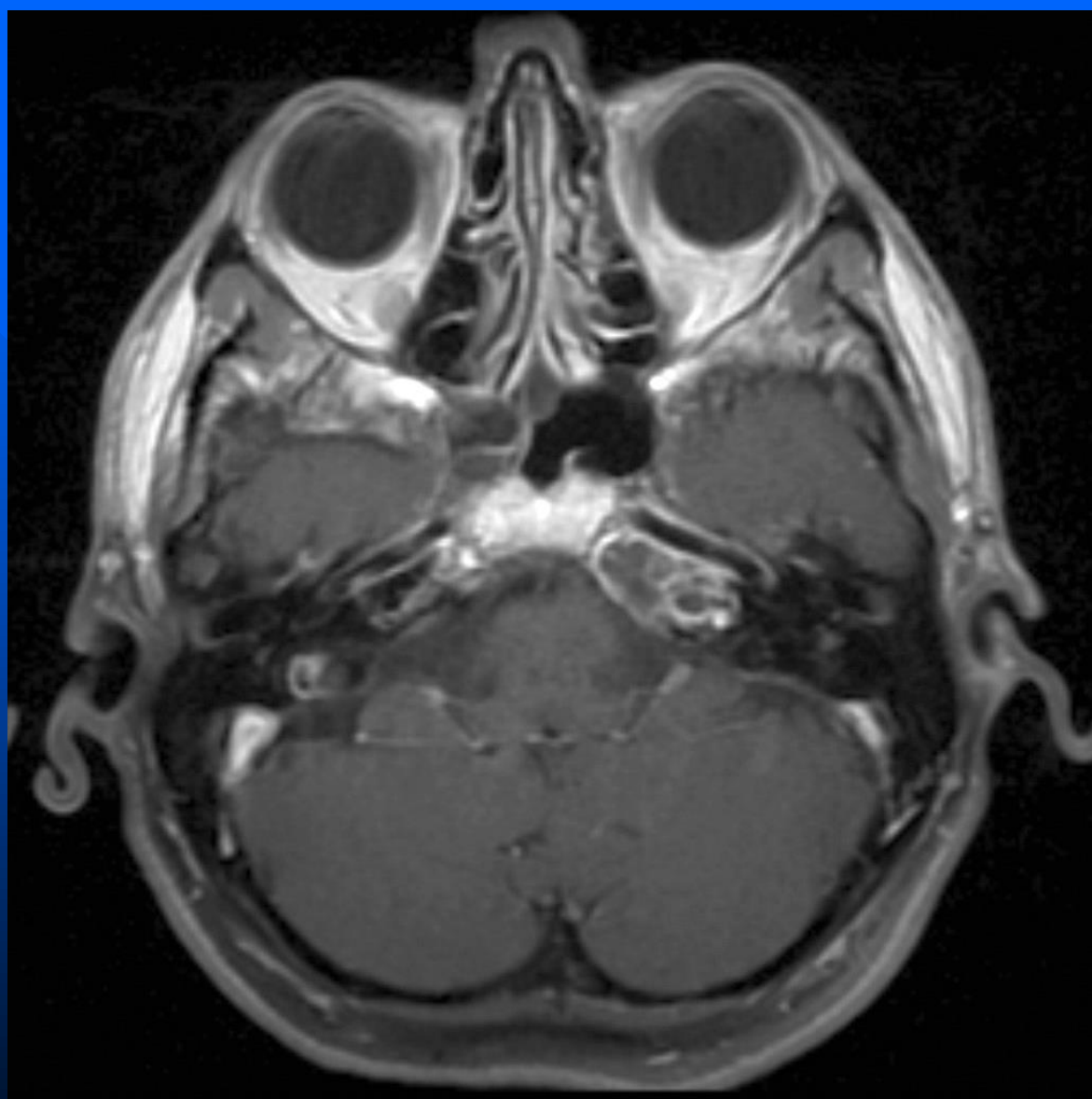


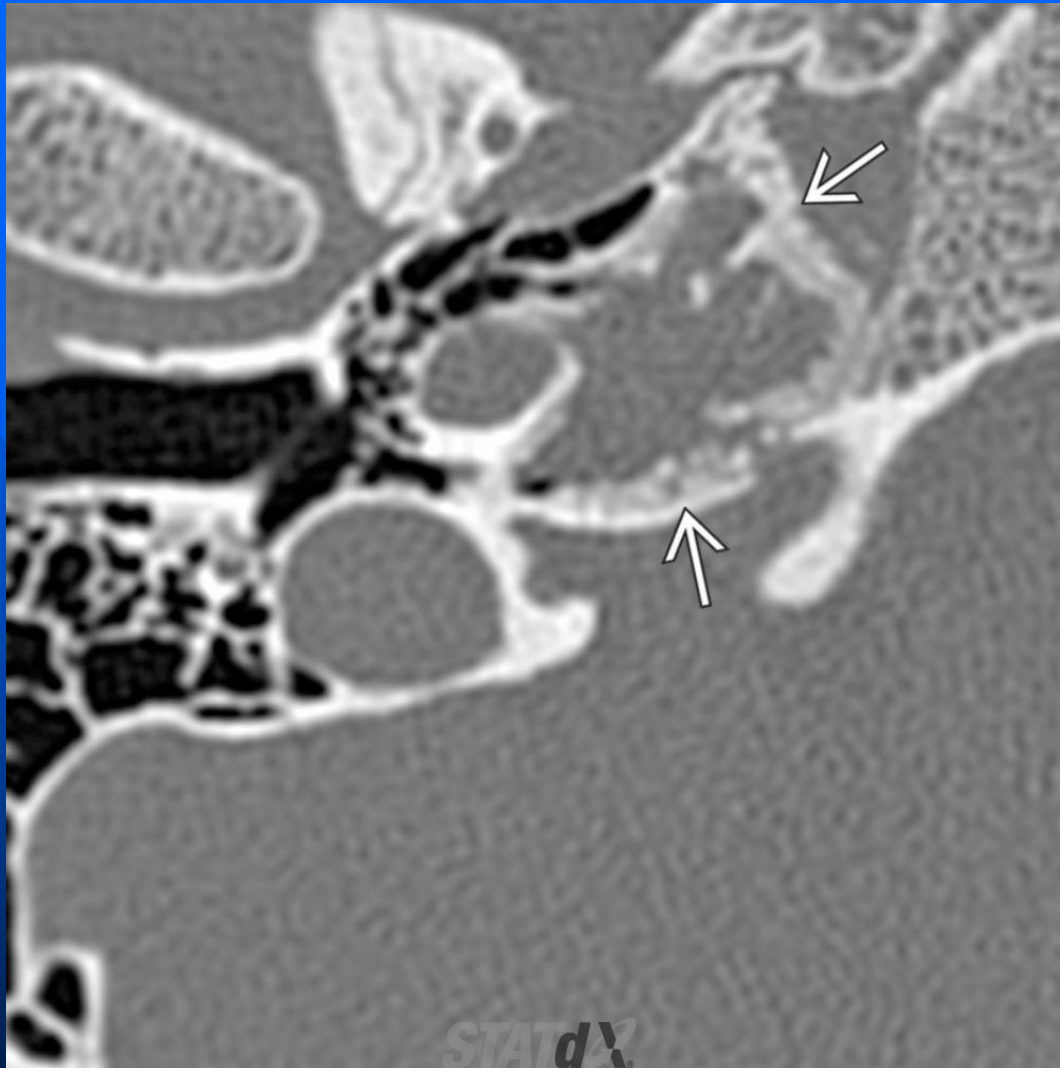
Dorello's canal

Axial graphic of the left petrous apex (PA) shows "confluent apical petrositis" with PA abscess formation.

Pus surrounds the 6th cranial nerve (CN) (black open arrow) & associated inflammation thickens adjacent meninges (white solid arrow).







Axial bone CT in same patient, now with new severe headache 2 years after initial diagnosis of trapped fluid, shows loss of PA trabeculae & cortical thickening (white solid arrow). The presumptive imaging diagnosis of superinfection of trapped fluid was made, & symptoms responded to antibiotics.



# Trapped Fluid



Axial bone CT in the same patient shows opacified air cells in the left petrous apex (white solid arrow) without evidence for expansion or trabecular loss. The diagnosis of trapped fluid was made with no follow-up recommended.