Comparison of the Newborn skull to the Adult Human Skull

As a baby grows older their skull goes through a huge change. The neurocranium starts off not as hard as it will be, gaining the ability to shape in whatever way is needed. While their facial cranium, their face, begins to take on unique qualities and changes to look like a mature adult skull. This process takes time but all the changes are very visible.

The neurocranium compared to an adult's is more oval and is substantially bigger than the facial cranium. The newborn's skull has four "horns" two in the front on the frontal bone and two in the back on the parietal bone. These bumps are the thickness that the skull will eventually become. The edges are ridged in between the frontal and the parietal. On top of the skull is the anterior fontanel, which is an opening in the skull that is small and shaped like a diamond. This will close when the child is around two years old. Coming out of the points from the anterior fontanelle are lines or spaces in between the bones, some of these overlap. The advantage of both the spaces in between the bones and the anterior fontanel is room for growth and compression through the birth canal. As a newborn, their neurocranium is 60% of the circumference of an adult's. At two to three it is 90% of an adult's, so most of the growth of the neurocranium happens before the child is three. The adult's skull is more circular and the nose, eyes, and mouth are father apart. The spaces between the bone on the neurocranium come together and become sutures.

The facial cranium or the face of the newborn goes through the most visible change even though it might take longer than the neurocranium. The newborn's face is more "scrunched," except for the orbit which appears bigger. As a newborn, they have no teeth and their mandible is the size of a small pinky finger and is level with the neurocranium. As they grow it will drop down below the skull and become a lot bigger with sharper angles. Their cheekbones and eyebrows will also become take on more definition. The newborn's facial cranium will grow the most in the first two to three years but continues to grow into adolescence when the limbs also grow. Compared to the entire skull the newborn's facial cranium is 1/9 or 11% of the skull, at two to three years it is 1/6 or 17% and by fifteen years it is 1/3 or 33% of the entire skull.

To compare the neurocranium and the facial cranium the neurocranium grows faster but the facial cranium has a big job of creating a fully defined face. It must expand the face, grow in teeth so we can eat. This growing period is a longer amount of time than the neurocranium will take. Though the face takes on the most visible changes. In addition, the neurocranium is just as important as it thickens and changes shape. Together these two parts with all their differences create a newborn and an adult human skull.

In conclusion, the newborn's skull and an adult human skull have the same key components, despite that though they are a lot different. Varying from the overlapping bones to the very structure of the face these two skulls are very different.