

# Upper limbs

**L5**

# Objectives

At the end of this lecture  
student must know :

Sensory and motor innervation  
of the upper limbs.

# **Nerves supply of the upper limbs**

**They are all derived from the BP either directly or indirectly, this is true for all except few like trapezius msc. that innervated by 11<sup>th</sup>.cranial accessory nerve.**

**Other example is levator scapulae muscle that is innervated by cervical plexus.**

**There are five mixed nerves :**

**1-anterior :MC,median ,ulnar.**

**2-posterior:Axillary ,radial**

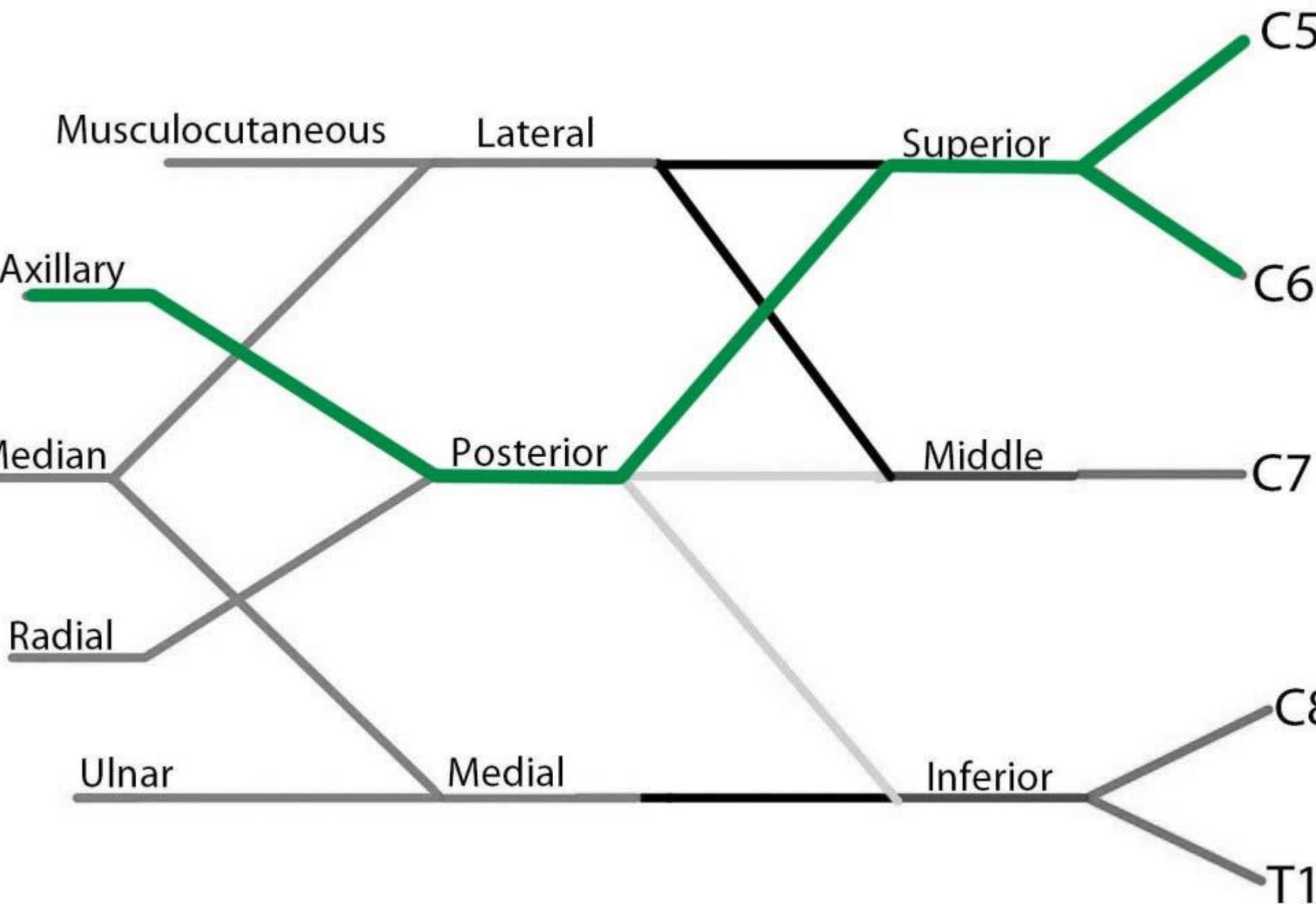
***Both median and ulnar nerves run through the arm without supplying any muscle, they give their first branches to the muscles of the forearm.***

## Nerves of the arm

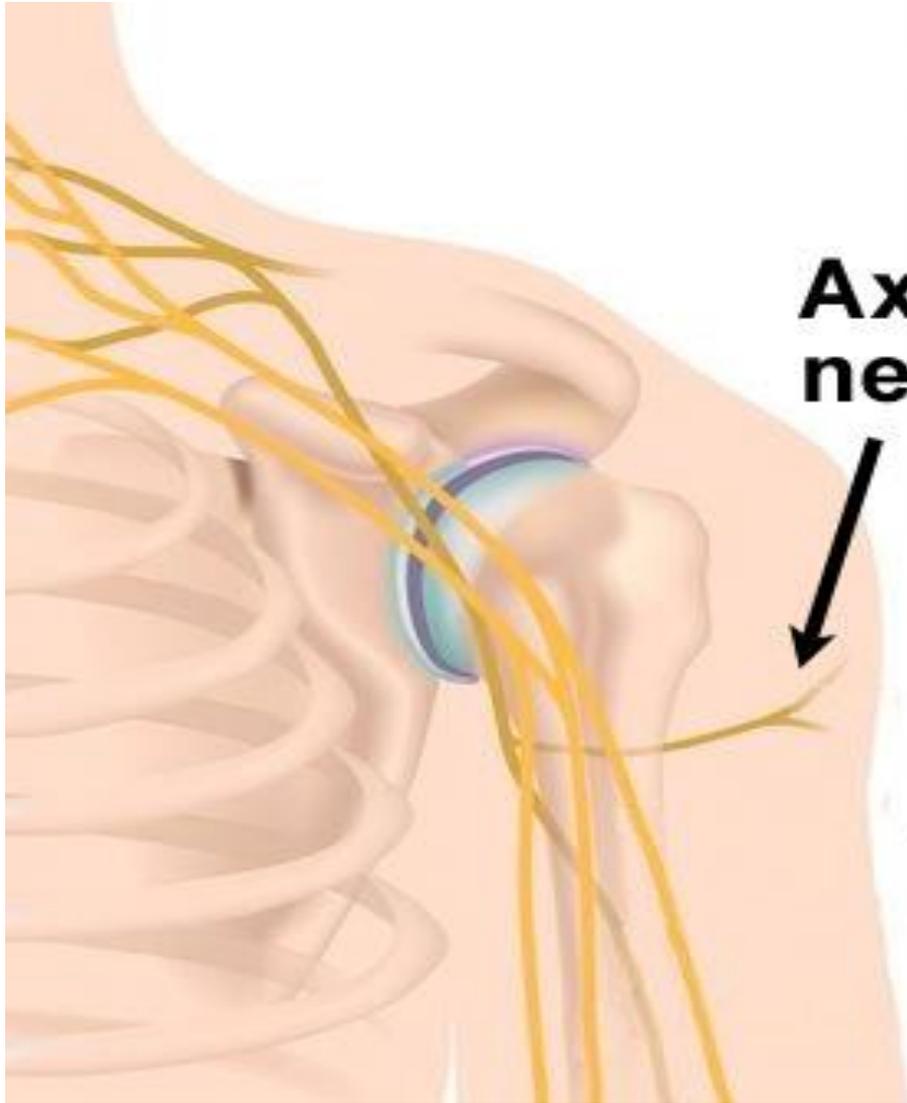
**Four nerves pass through the arm? but only two of them innervate the arm.**

# *Axillary nerve*

It is a terminal branch of the posterior cord of BP exits axilla posteriorly through quadrangular space with post. Circumflex humeral artery it give rise to one branch called sup. Lateral brachial cutaneous nerve and then winds arround surgical neck of humerous.

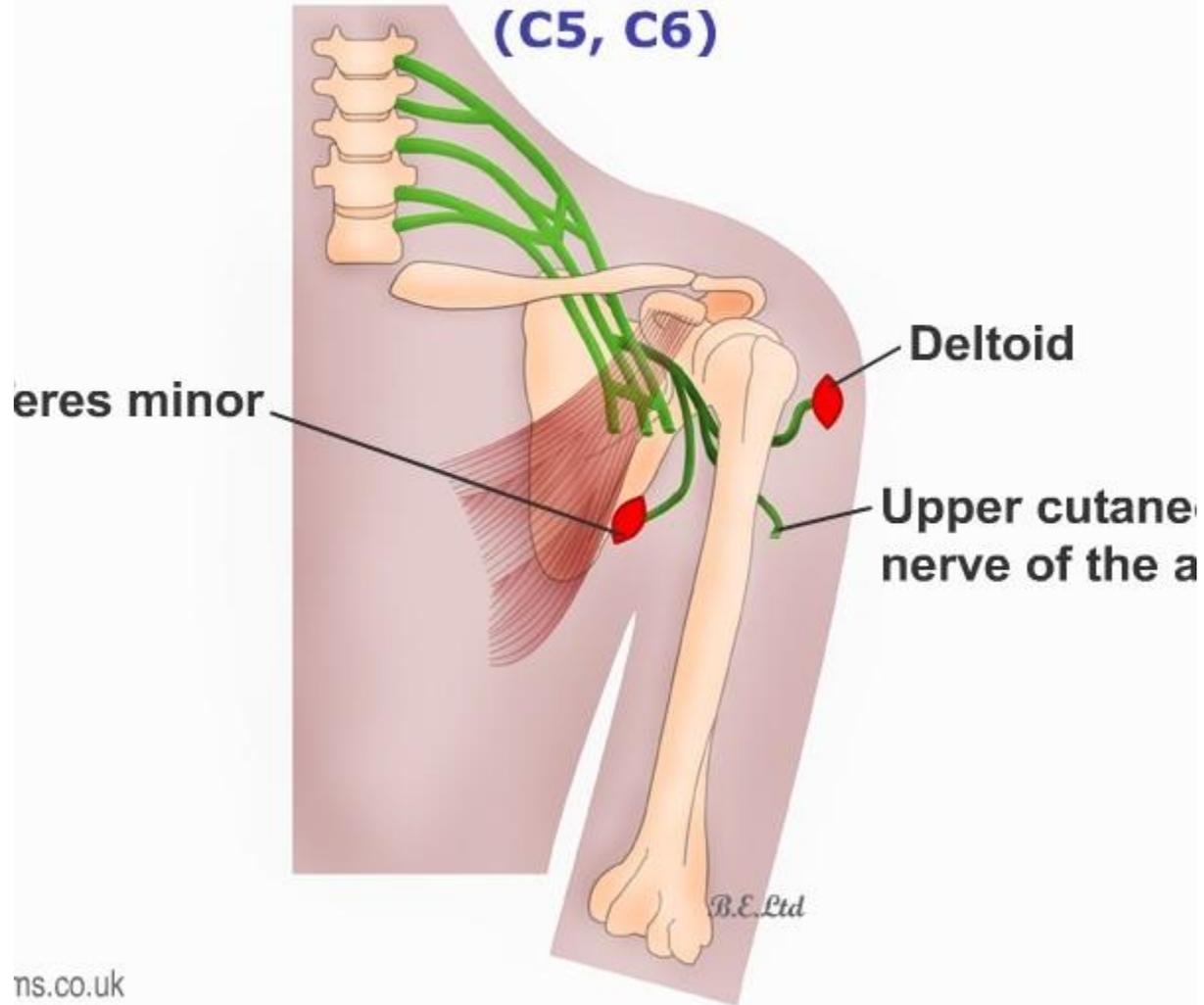


**So it is commonly injured in case •  
of fractured surgical neck.**



**Axillary  
nerve**

# Axillary nerve (C5, C6)



# Radial and Axillary Nerves

## Muscular innervation

## Cutaneous innervation

### Radial nerve

### Axillary nerve

C5  
C6  
C7  
C8  
T1

C5  
C6

Teres minor  
Deltoid

Triceps brachii  
(long head)

Triceps brachii  
(medial head)

Triceps brachii  
(lateral head)

Brachioradialis\*

Extensor carpi radialis longus

Extensor carpi radialis brevis

Anconeus

Extensor digitorum  
Extensor digiti minimi  
Extensor carpi ulnaris

Supinator

Abductor pollicis longus  
Extensor pollicis brevis  
Extensor pollicis longus  
Extensor indicis

Anterior view

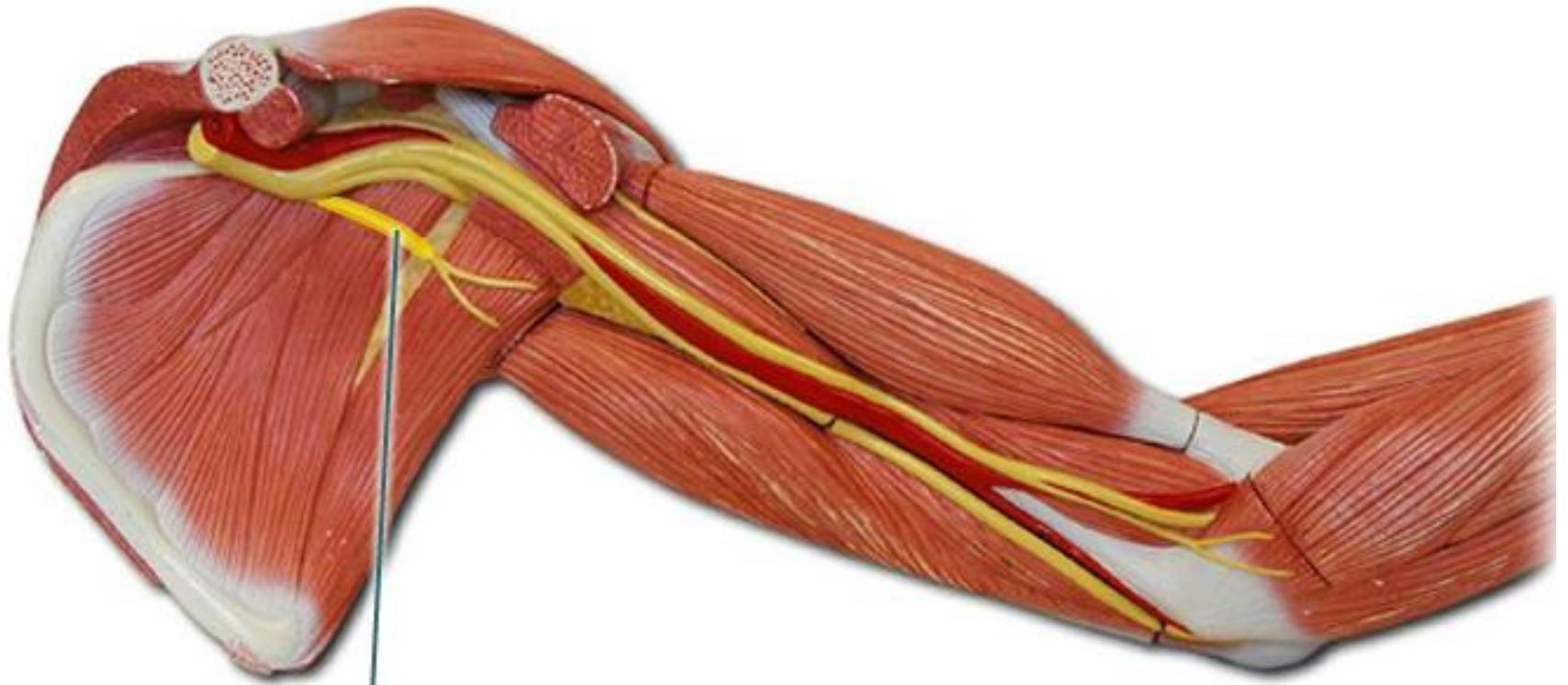
Posterior view



Radial  
nerve

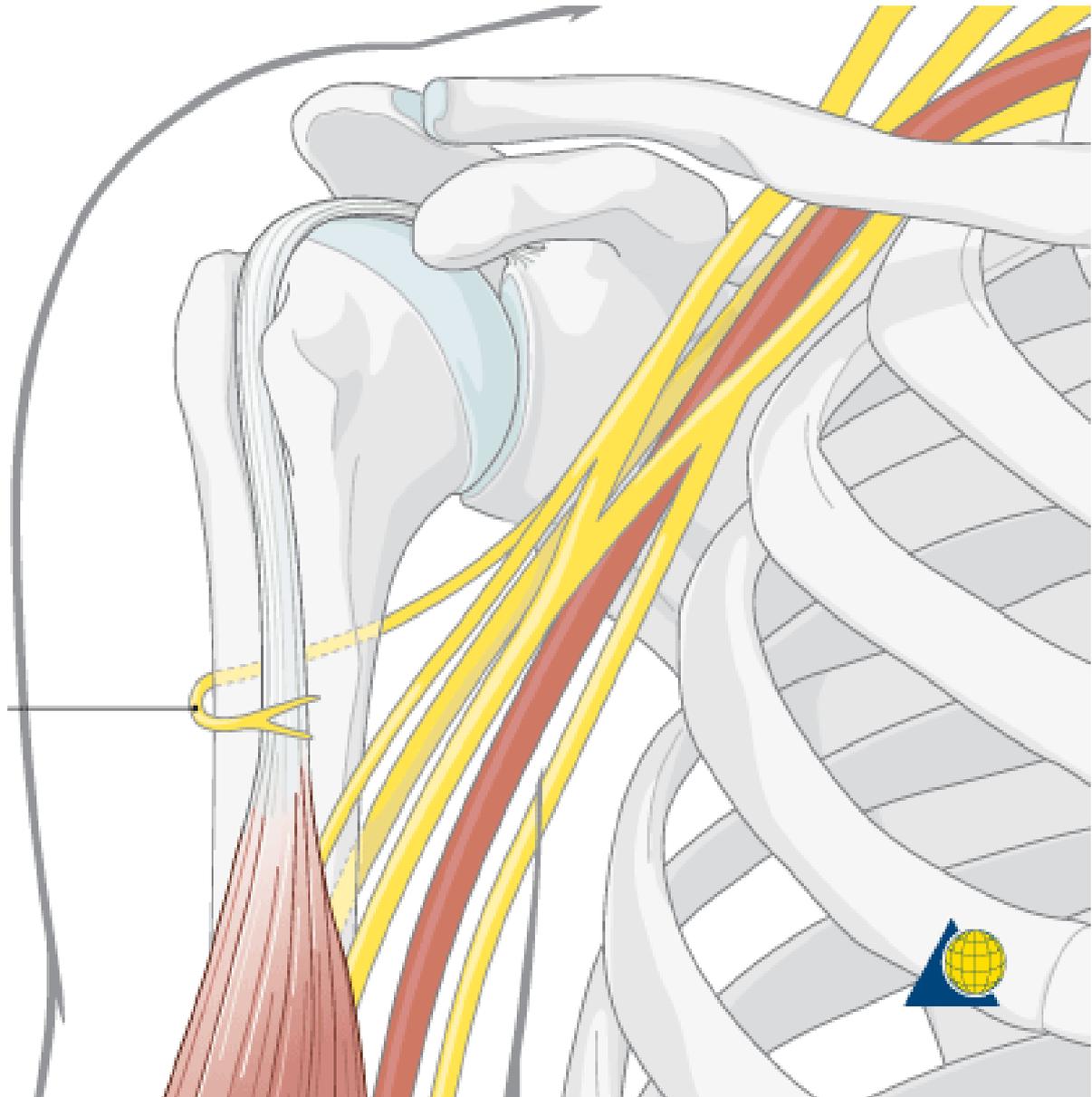
----- Indicates variable contribution

\*Functionally brachioradialis acts as a flexor of the forearm. It develops from the posterior compartment and thus is innervated by a posterior division nerve.



Axillary nerve

Axillary nerve



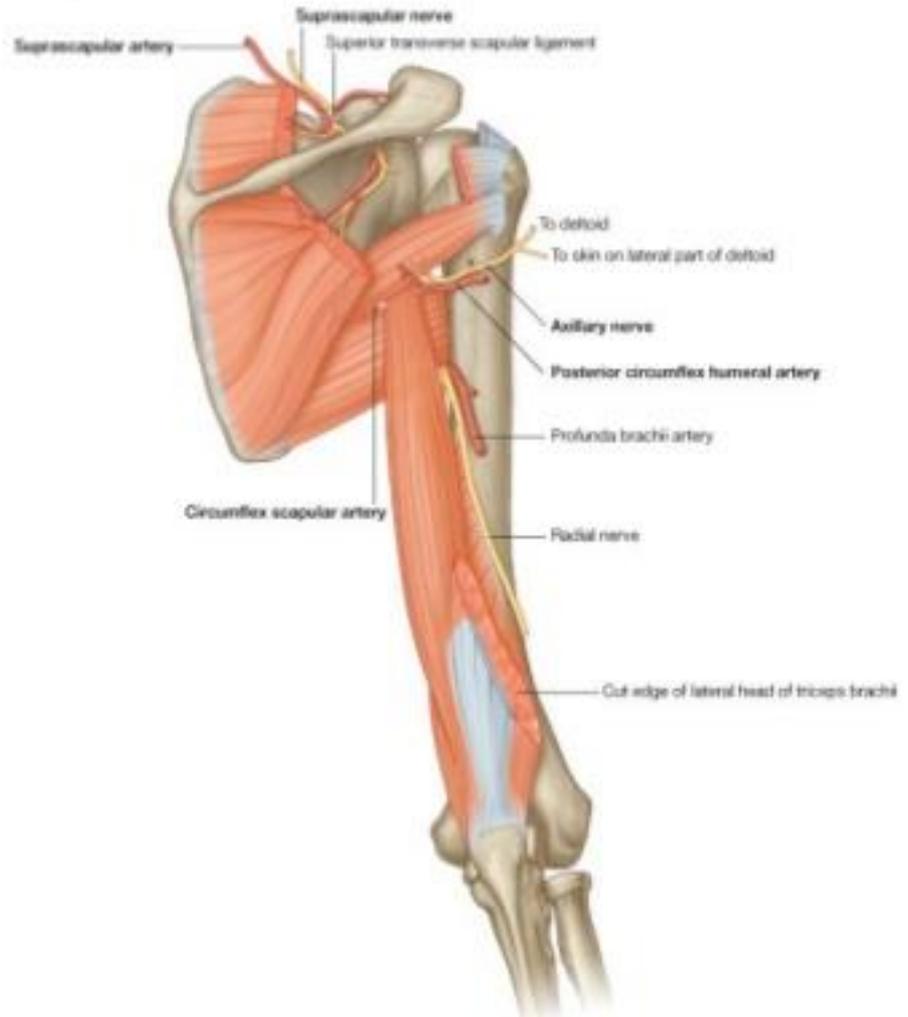


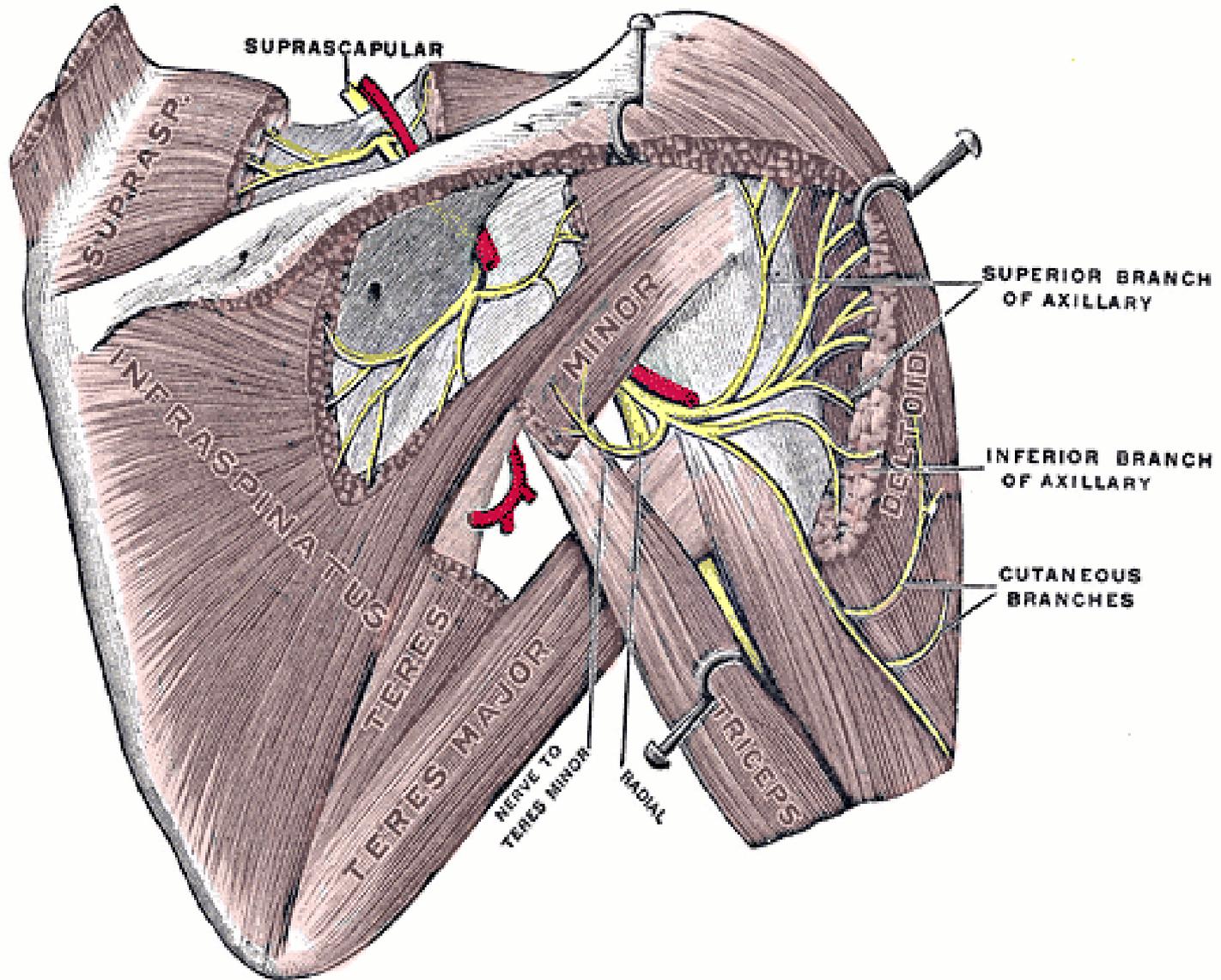
**Axillary Nerve Injury**



# Axillary Nerve

- Arises from the **posterior cord of the brachial plexus** (C5 and 6) in the axilla
- Passes backward, through **quadrangular space** with the posterior circumflex humeral artery
- In close association with **surgical neck of humerus** and capsule of shoulder joint
- It terminates by dividing into anterior and posterior branches

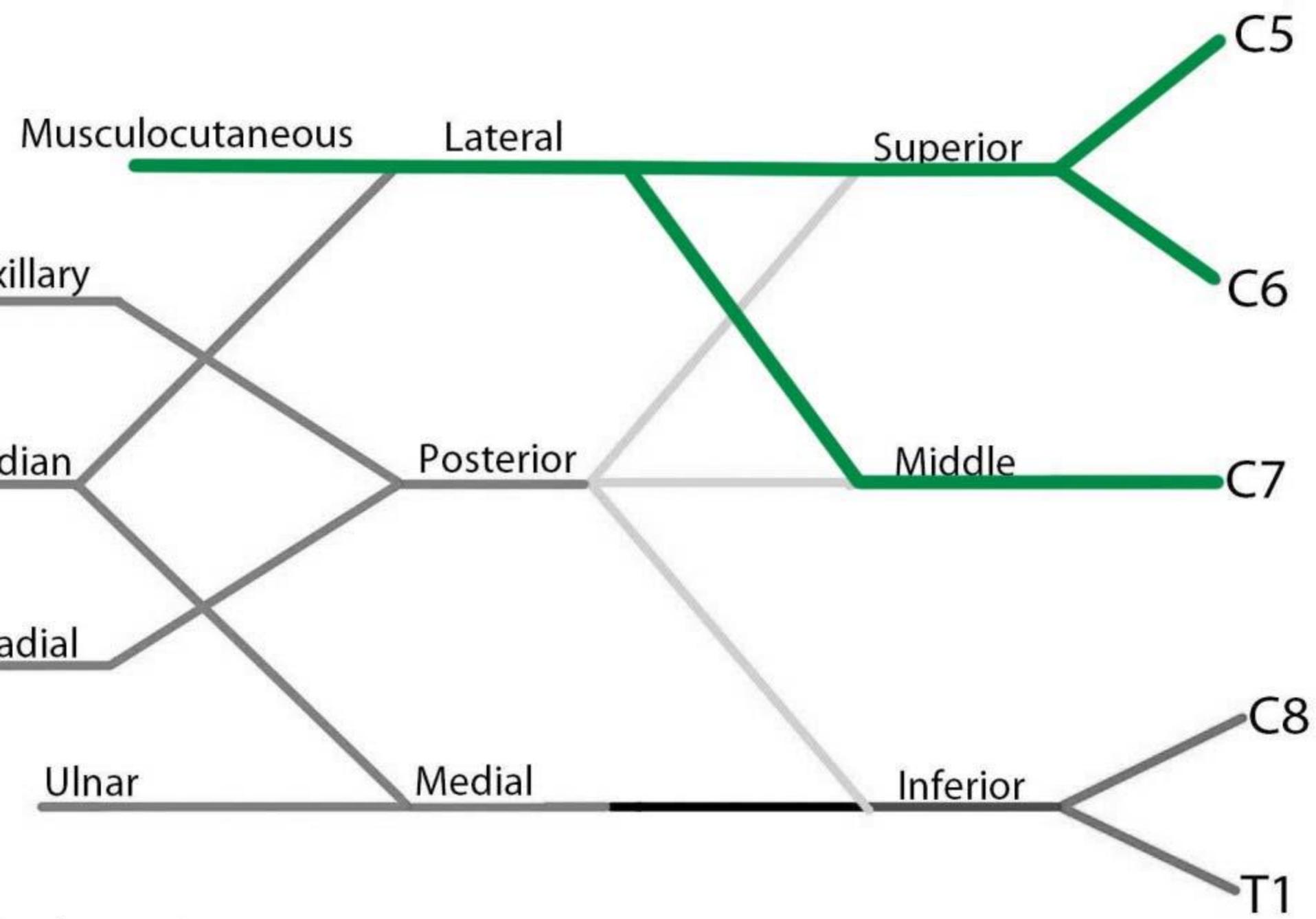




## ***Musculocutaneous***

**Branch of the lateral cord**

**Pierces coracobrachialis msc. And continues distally between biceps and brachialis ,it ends by giving lateral cutaneous nerve of the forearm lateral to biceps msc.**



# Branches of musculocutaneous n.

## The Musculocutaneous Nerve

- Muscles innervated
  - BBC = Biceps, Brachialis, Coracobrachialis
- Motor functions
  - Flexion of the arm at the elbow, supination of the forearm
- Sensory
  - Lateral surface of forearm through lateral antebrachial cutaneous nerve

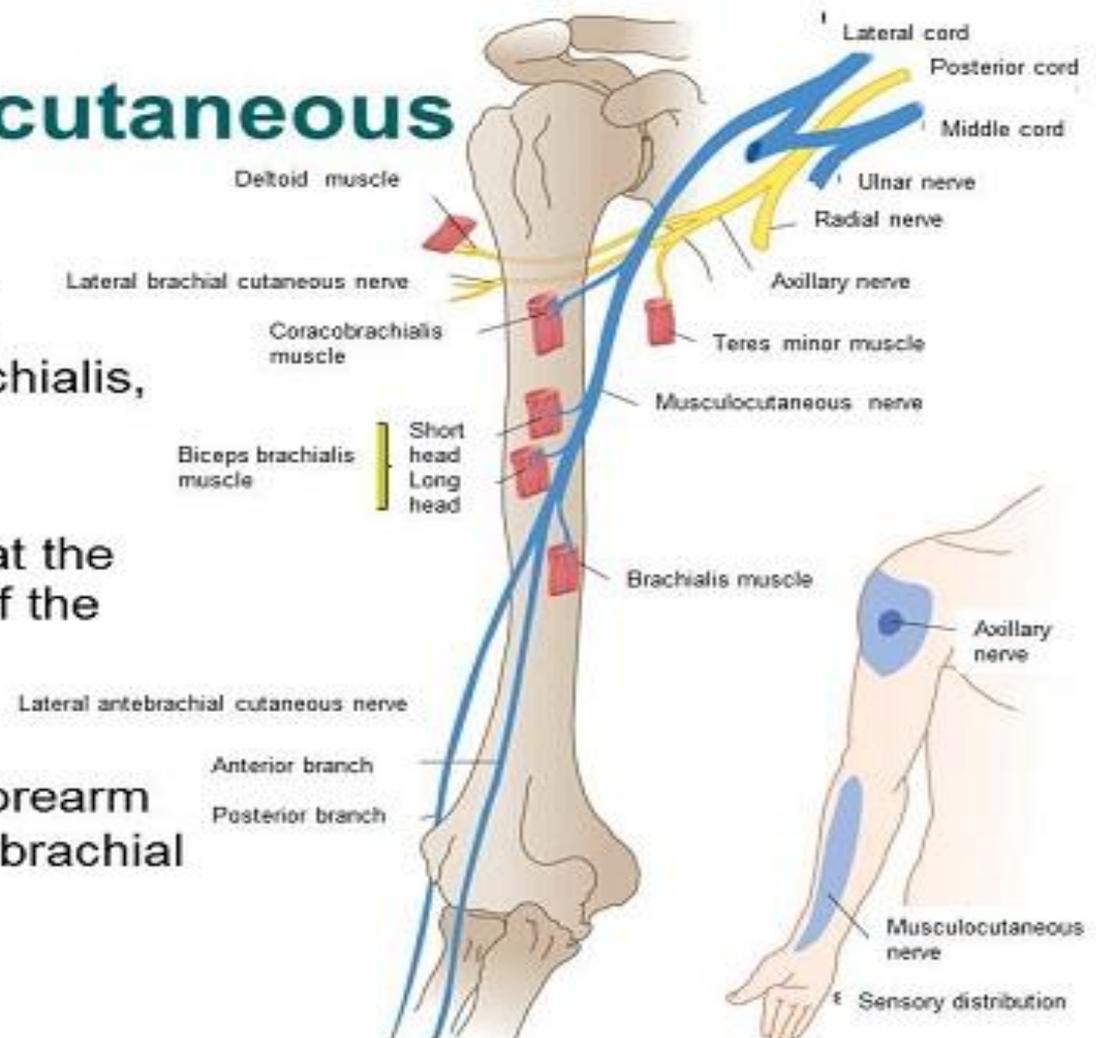
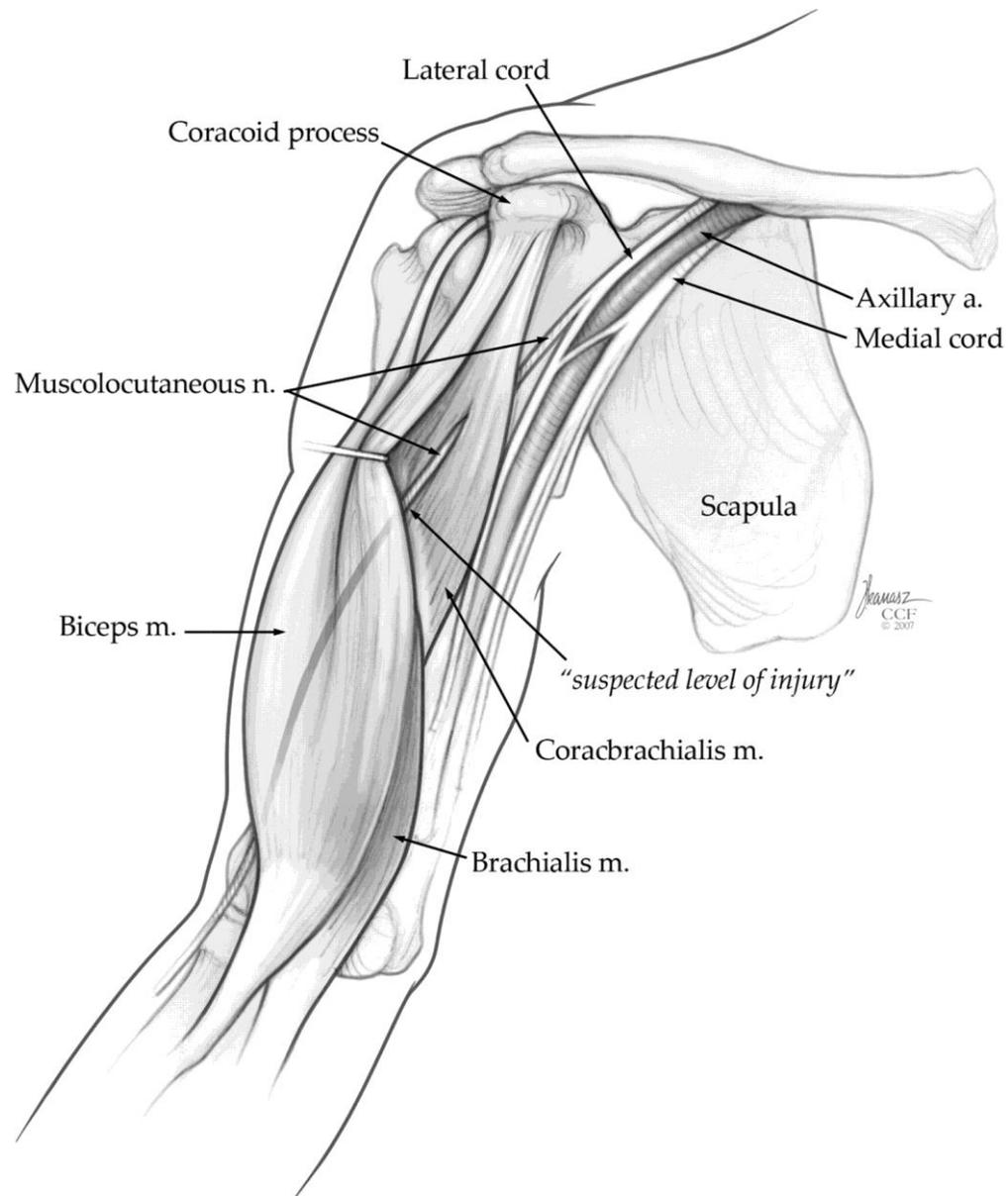


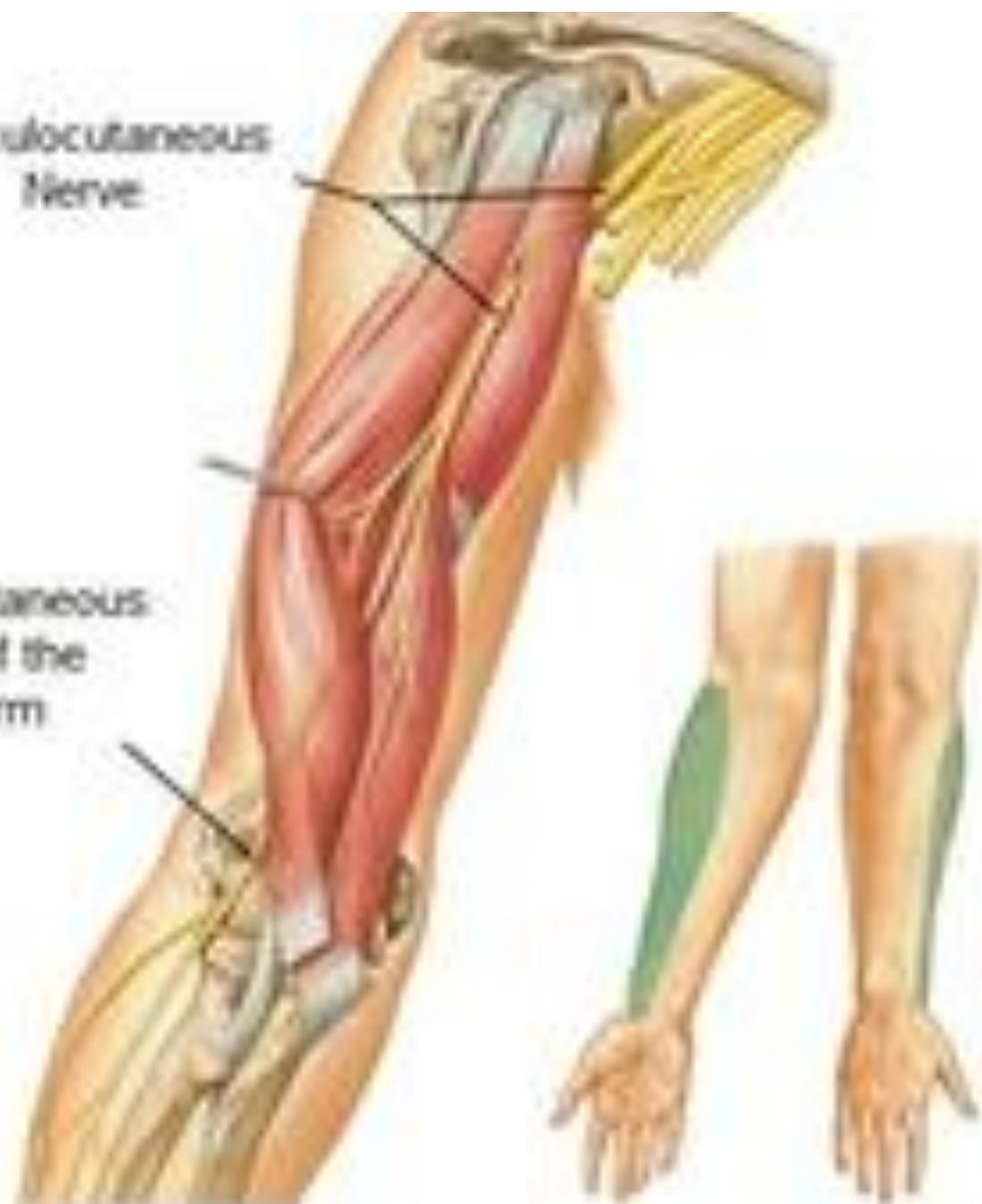
Figure 28-6 . Musculocutaneous (C5, 6) and axillary (C5, 6) nerves. In: Waxman SG. Clinical Neuroanatomy, 26<sup>th</sup> ed. <http://www.accessphysiotherapy.com>. Accessed May 10, 2011.

# Musculocutaneous n.

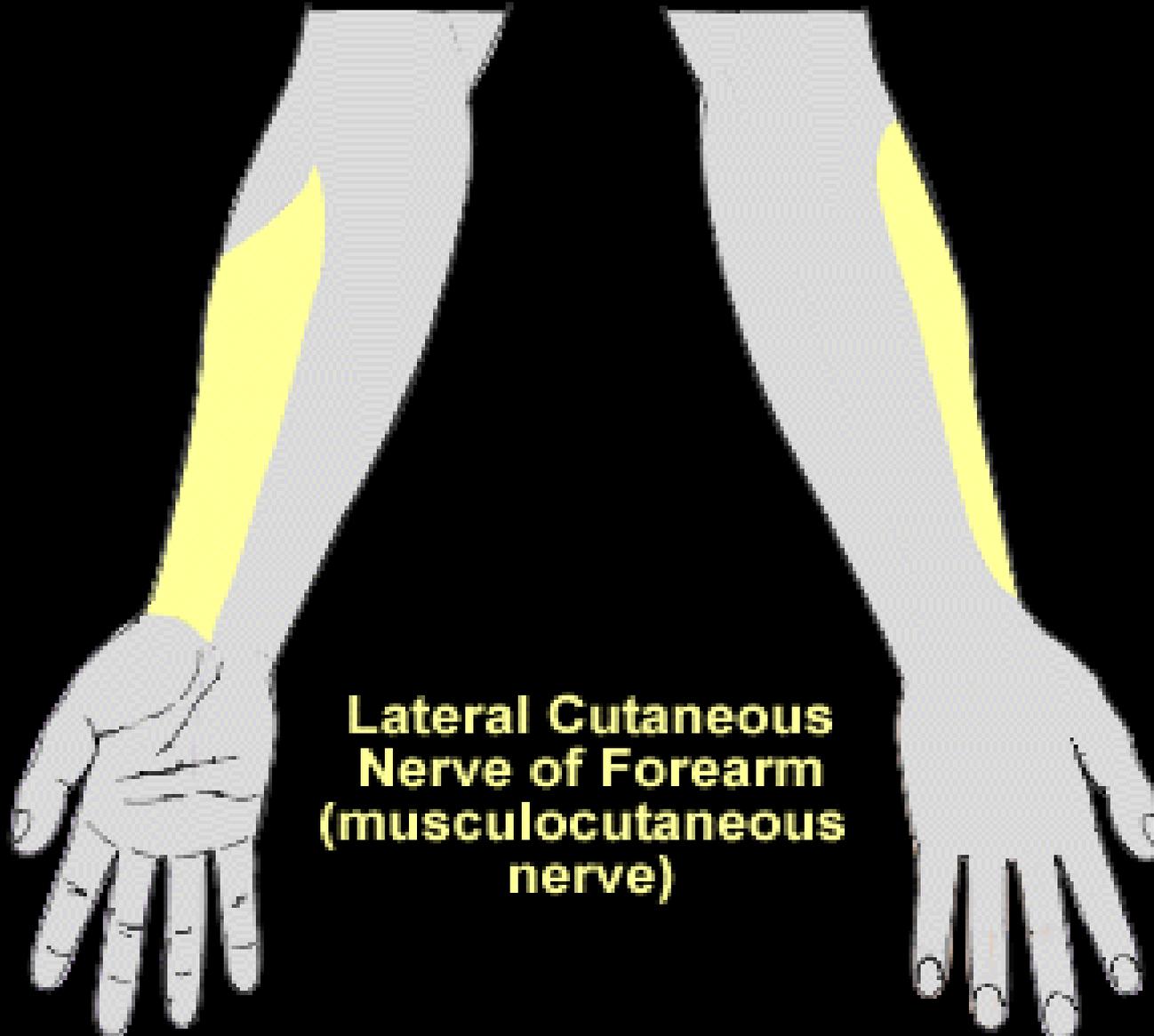


Musculocutaneous  
Nerve

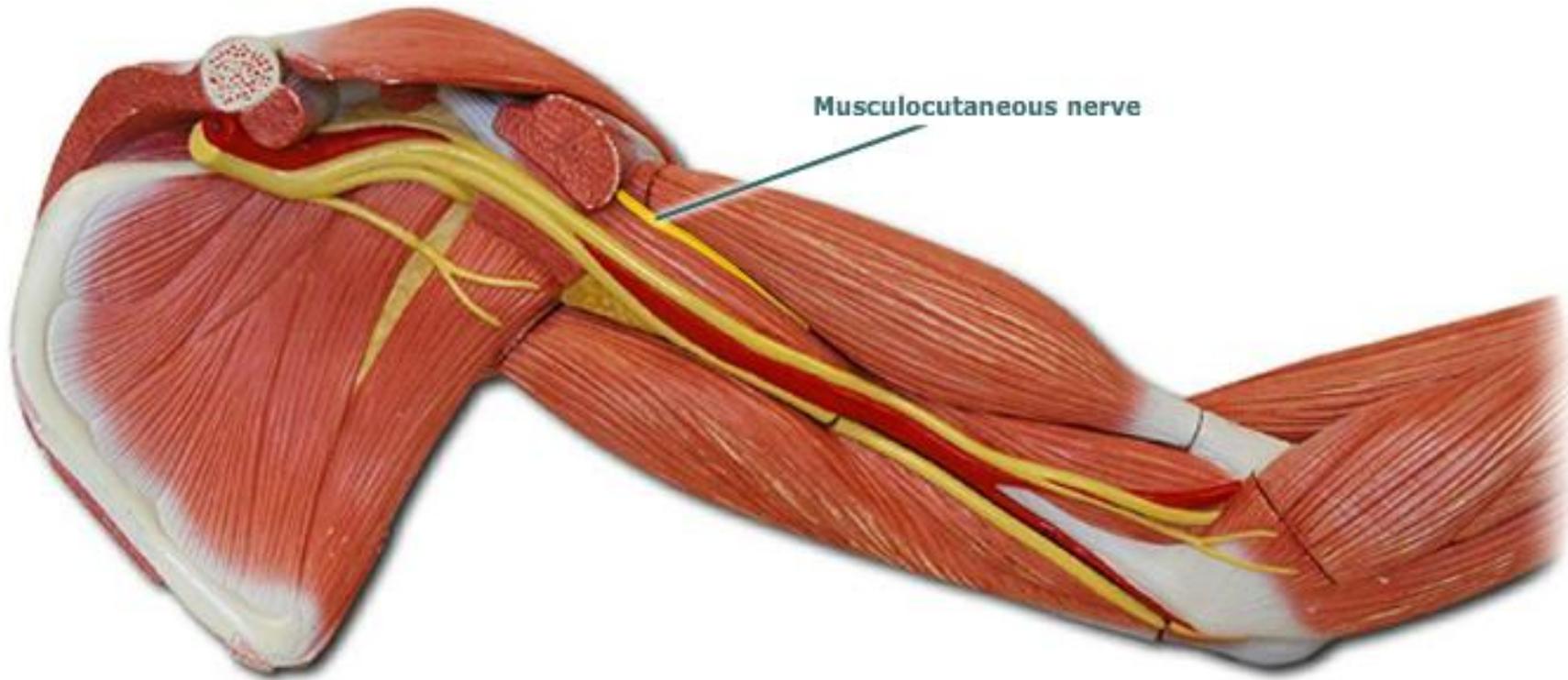
Lateral Cutaneous  
Nerve of the  
Forearm



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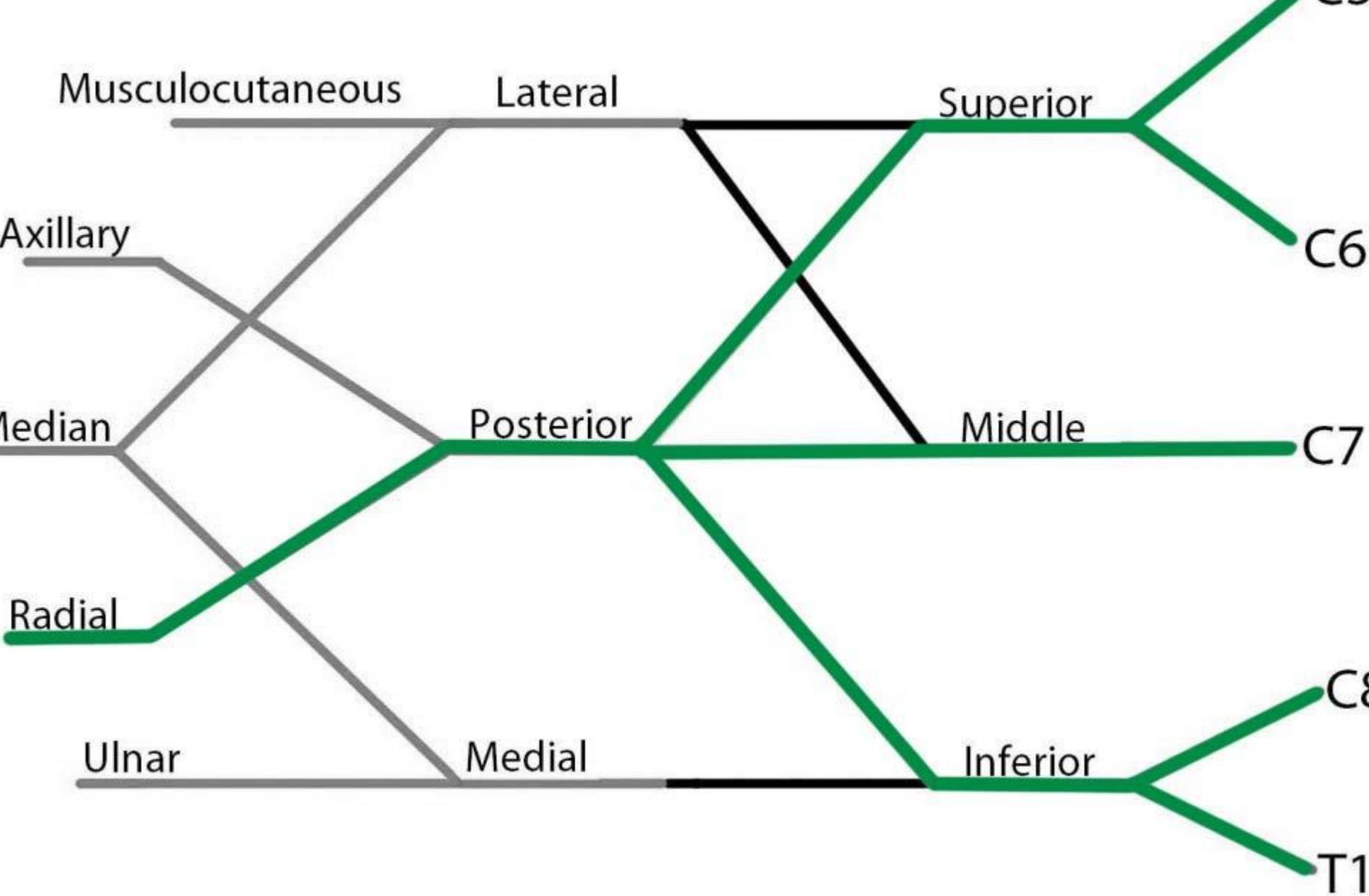
**Lateral Cutaneous  
Nerve of Forearm  
(musculocutaneous  
nerve)**



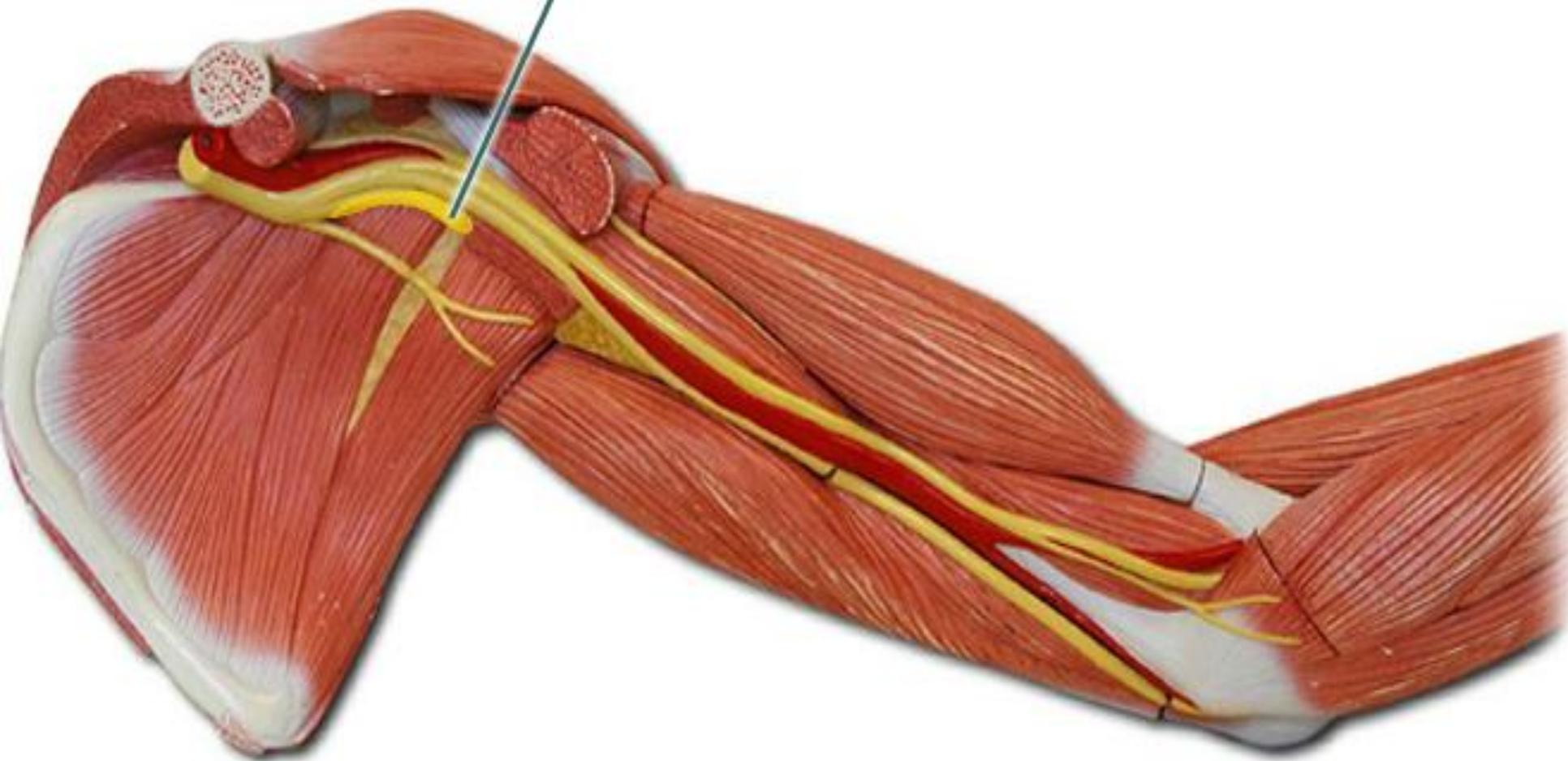
Musculocutaneous nerve

## ***Radial nerve***

**Passes obliquely across back of humerus to innervate triceps msc.  
At the level of lateral epicondyle it divided into superficial and deep branches.**



name it



# Branches of radial n.

- Branches in the axilla:
- Muscular branches.
- Posterior cutaneous n. of arm.
  
- Branches in the spiral groove:
- Muscular branches.
- Lower lateral cutaneous n. of arm.
- Posterior cutaneous n. of forearm.
  
- Branches in the anterior compartment of arm:
- Muscular branches.
- Articular branches.

## Path of radial nerve



# Nerves of the forearm

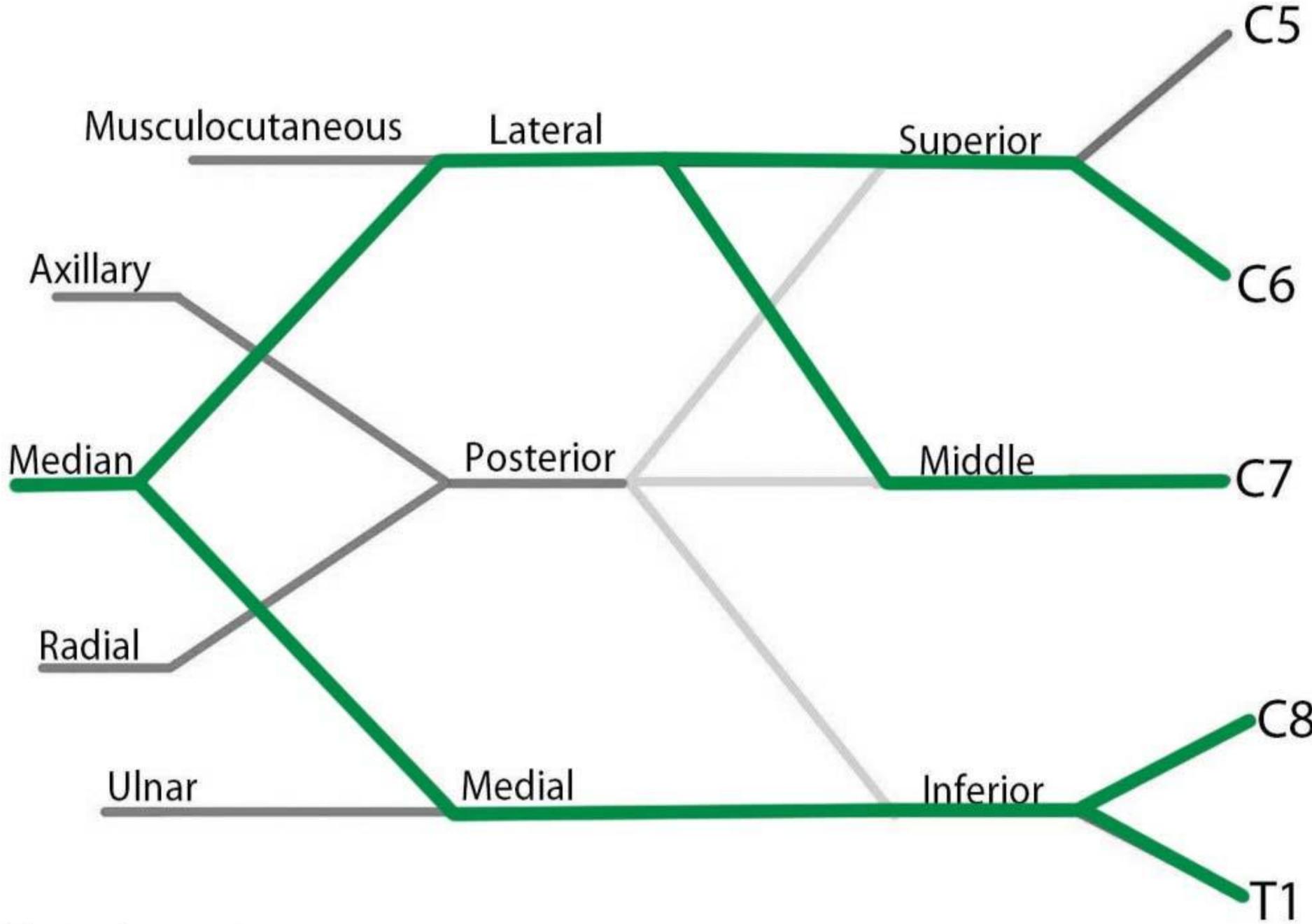
Three nerves → median which is the main nerve, ulnar and radial nerves.

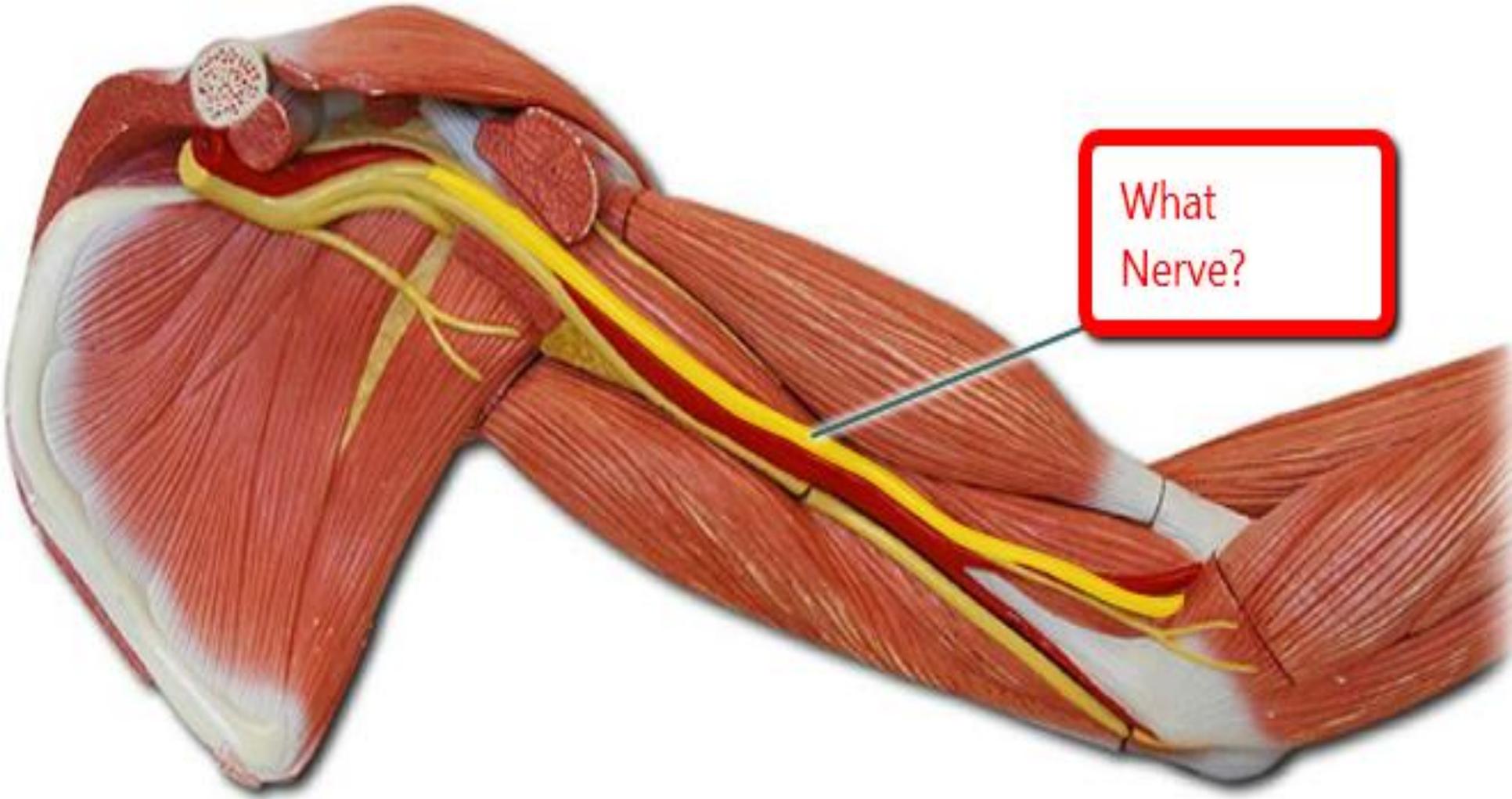
The radial n. appears in the cubital region but it soon enters the posterior compartment to supply the extensor msc.s .

So anterior aspect of the forearm only two nerves (median and ulnar).

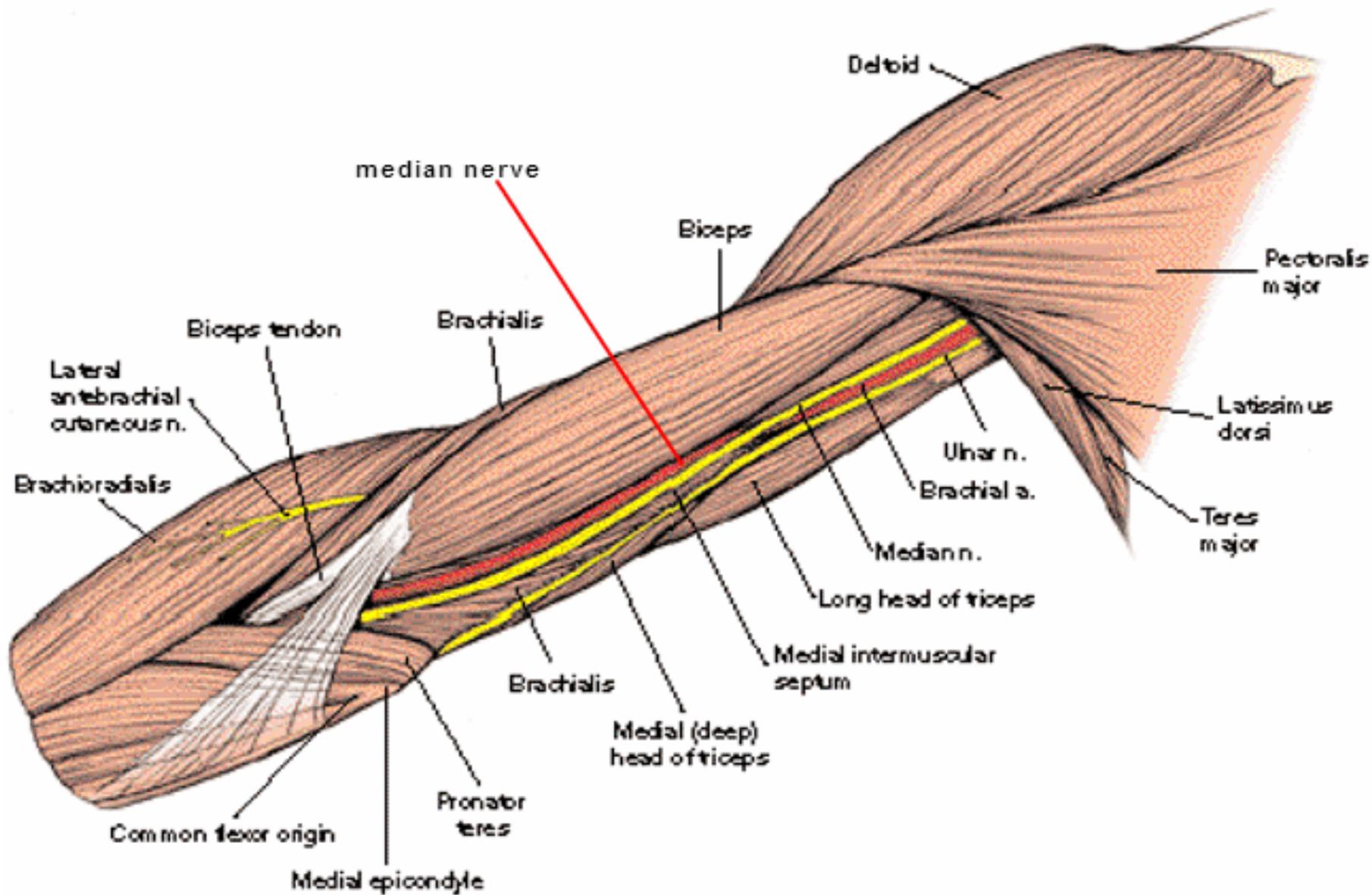
## **Median n.**

**Enters cubital fossa medial to the brachial artery and pass between heads of pronator teres deep to palmaris longus tendon msc.and pass to the hand deep to the flexor retinaculum together with nine tendons through carpal tunnel.**

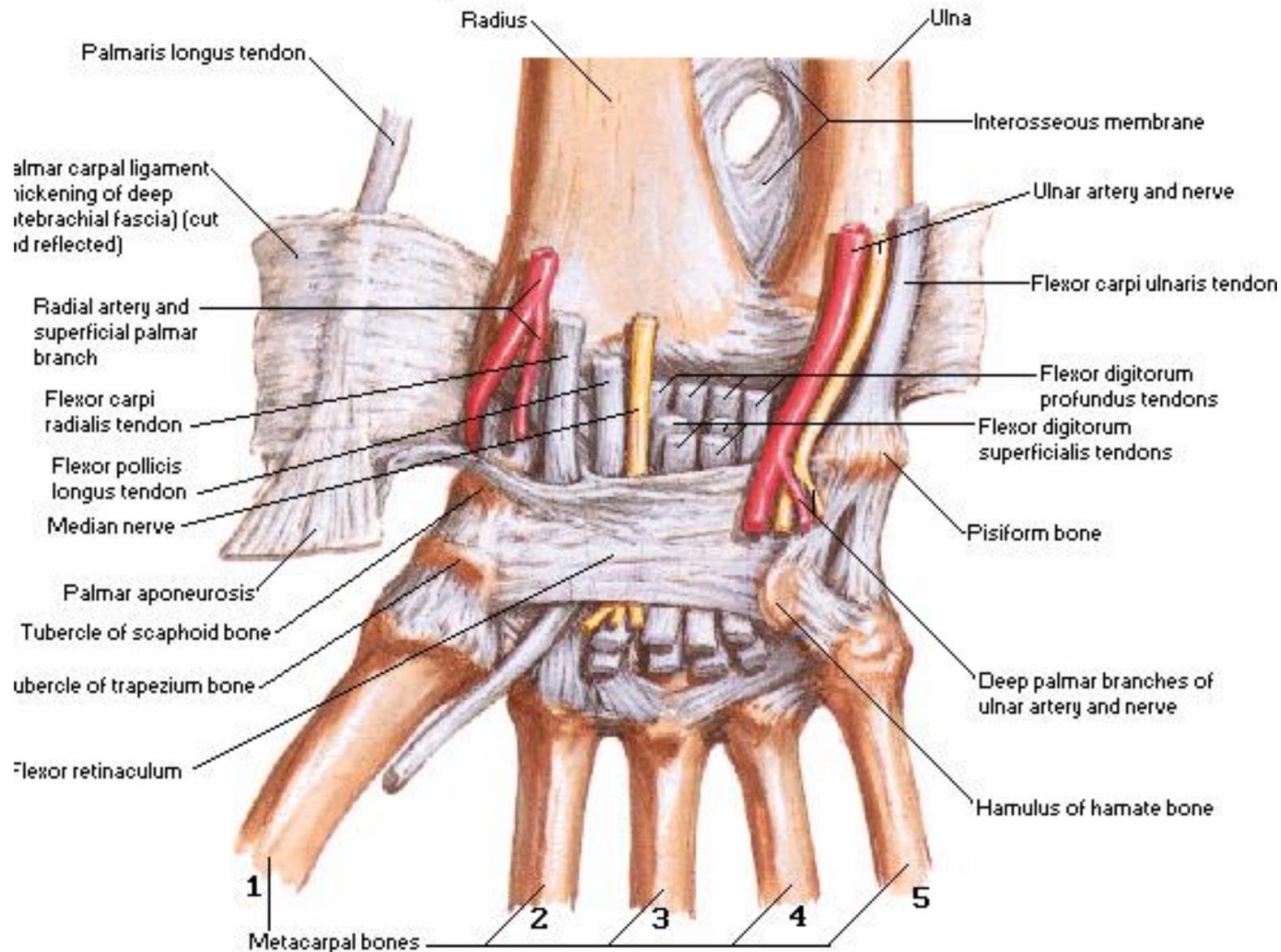


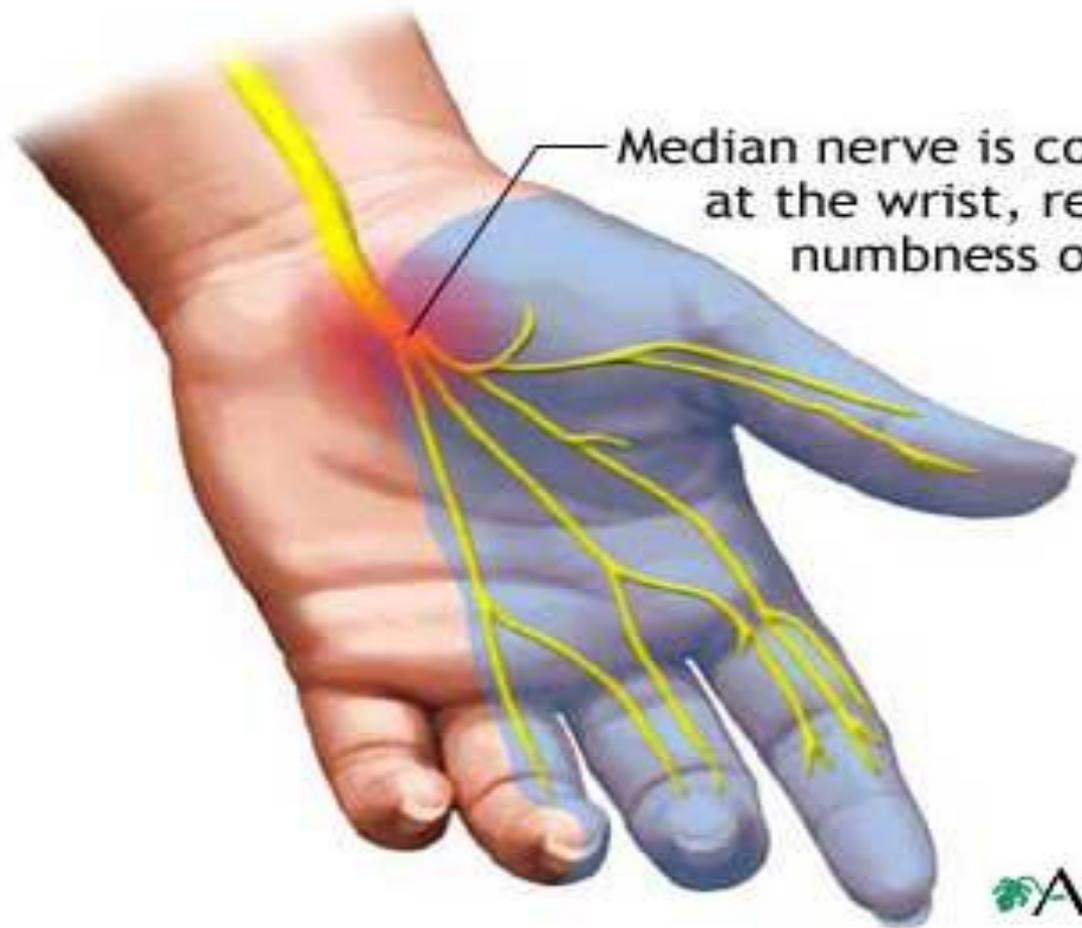


What  
Nerve?



# Carpal Tunnel - Palmar View

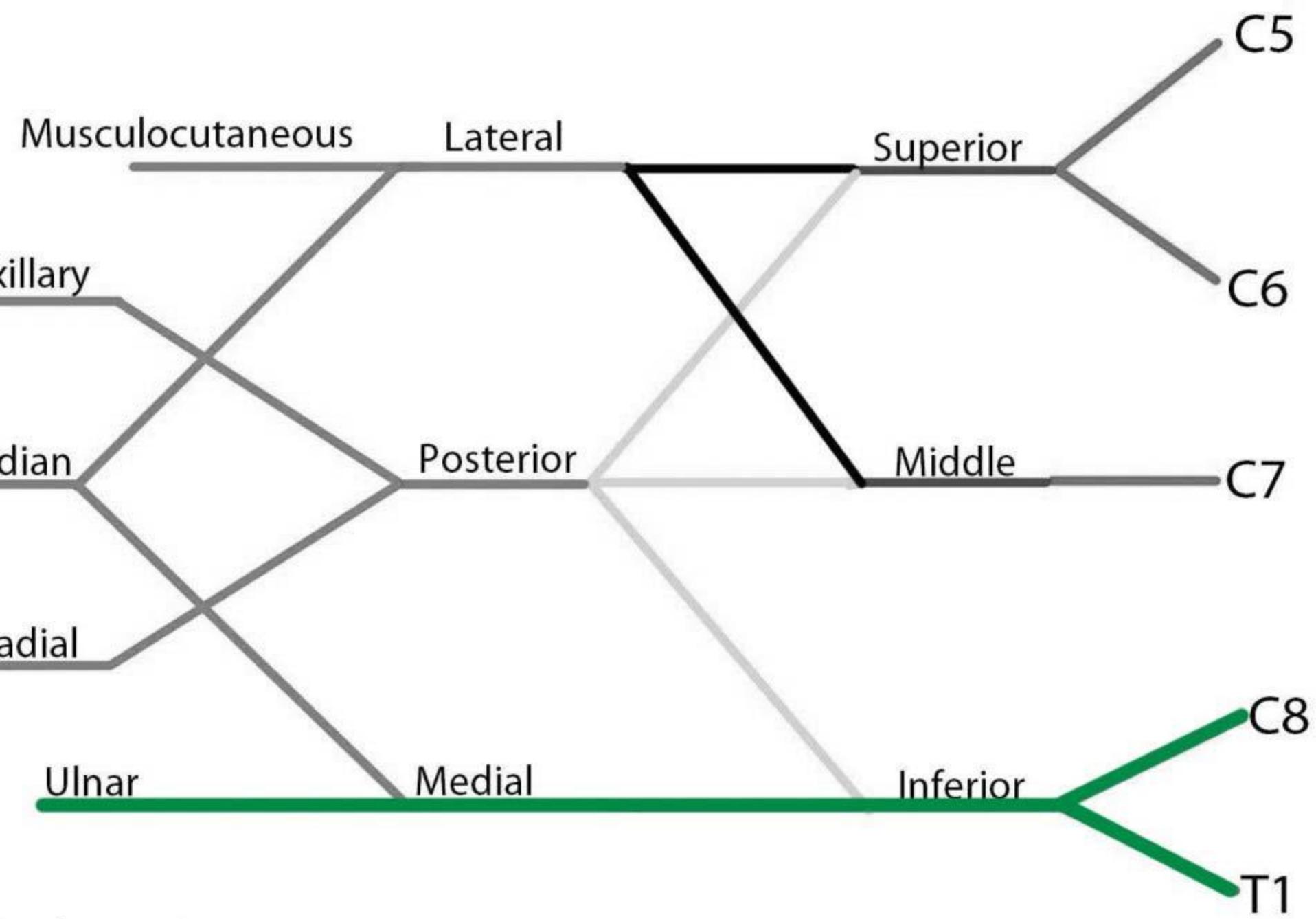


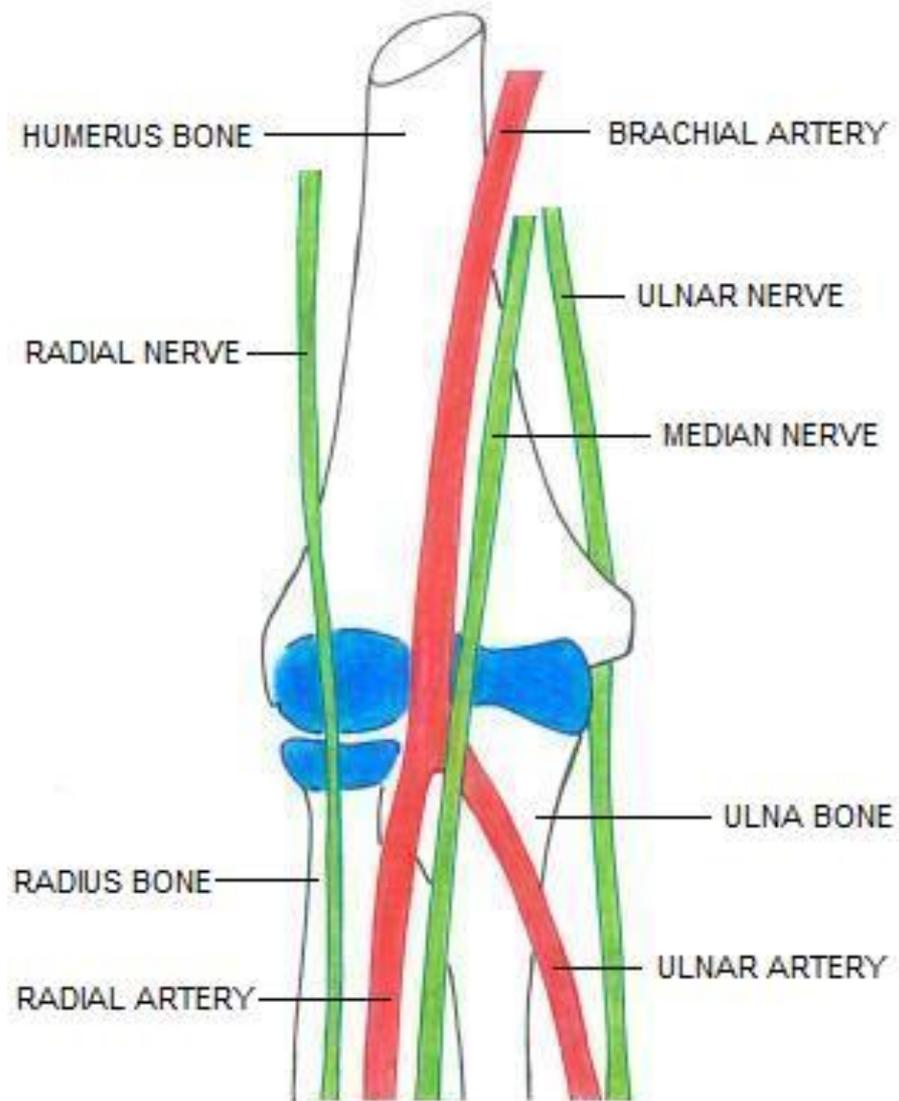


Median nerve is compressed at the wrist, resulting in numbness or pain

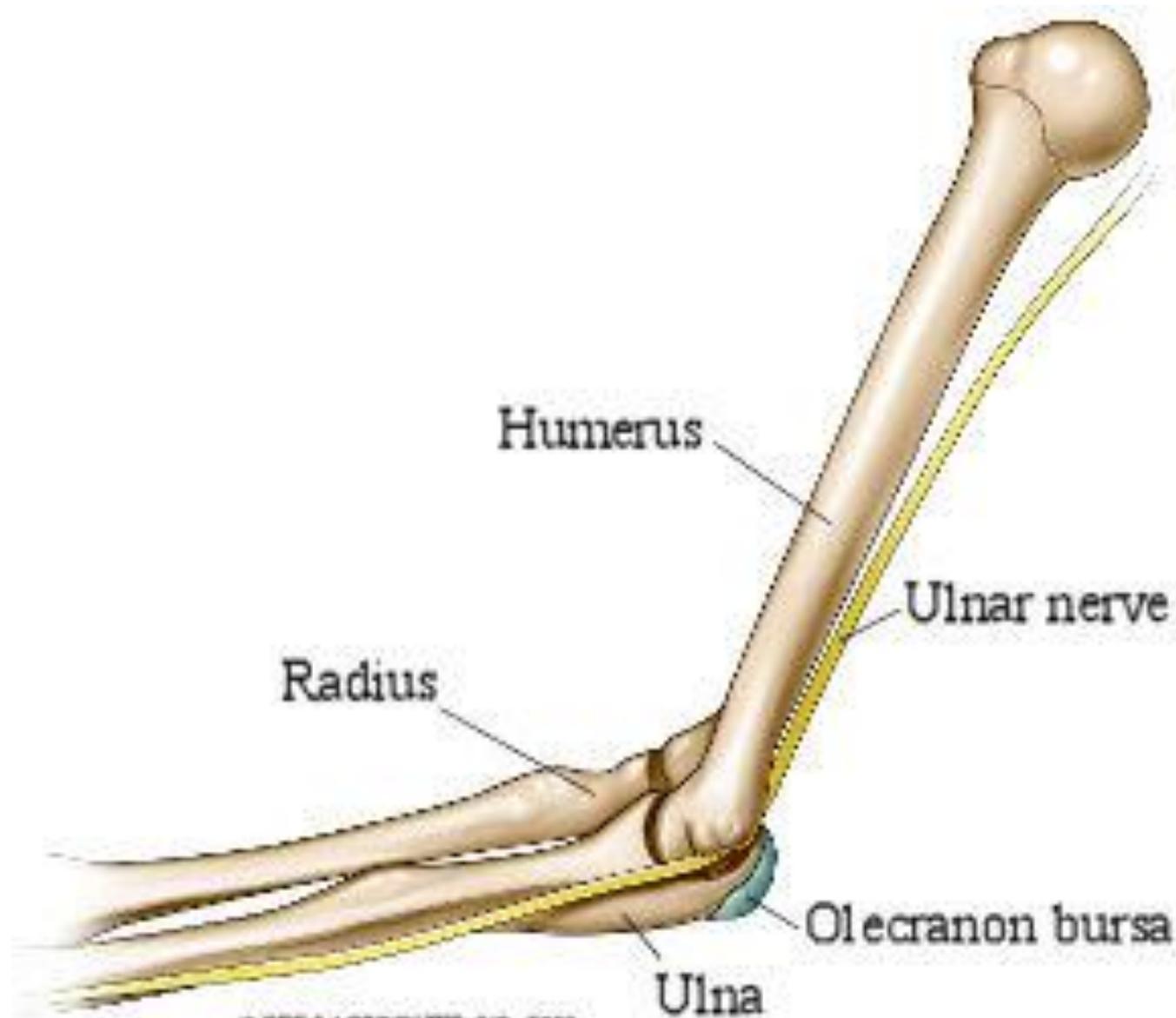
## **Ulnar nerve**

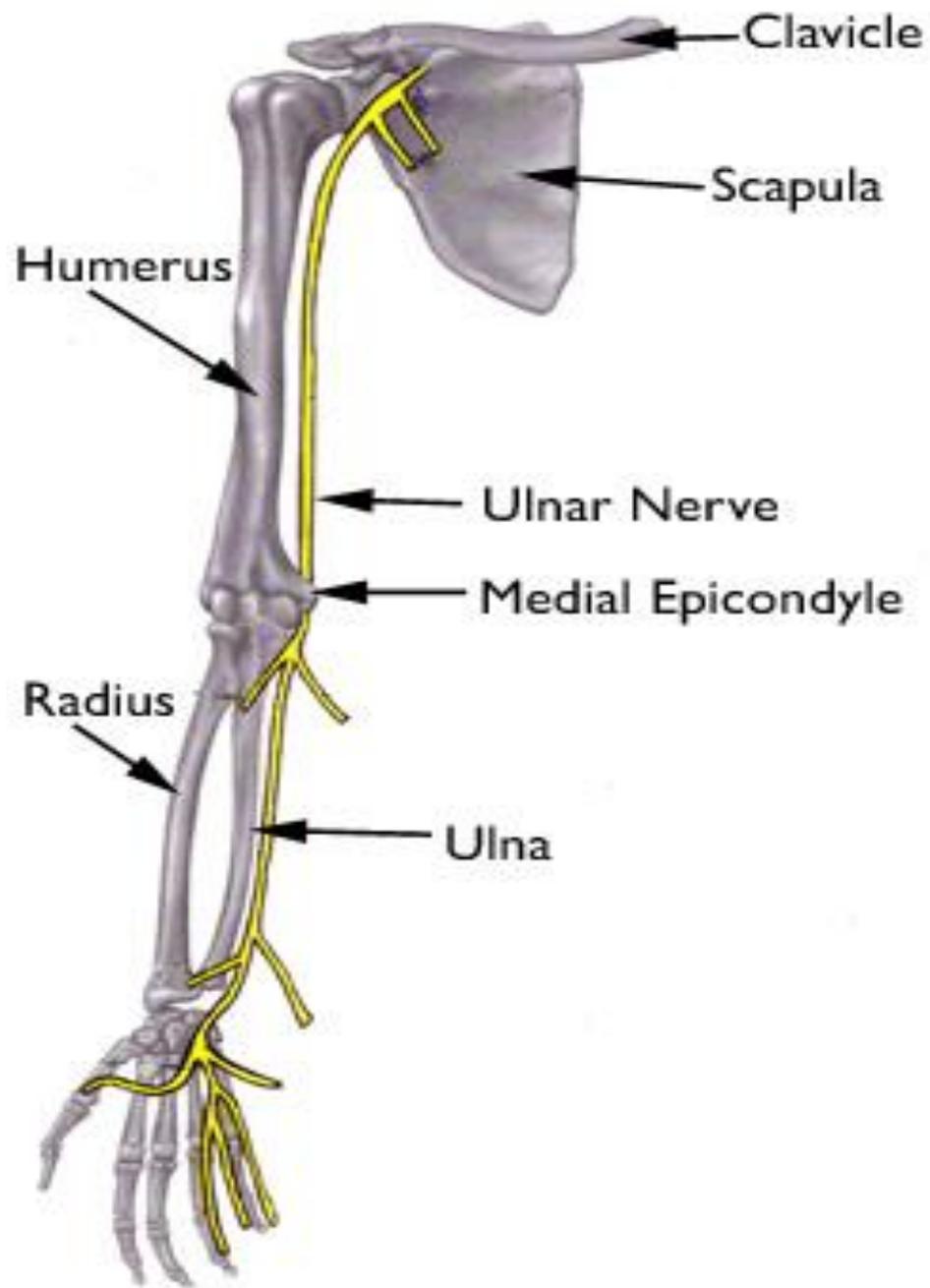
**From behind the medial epicondyle of humerus it enters the forearm between heads of FCU and FDP muscles and superficial to the wrist pass superficial to flexor retinaculum and enters the hand between pisiform and hook of hamate.**

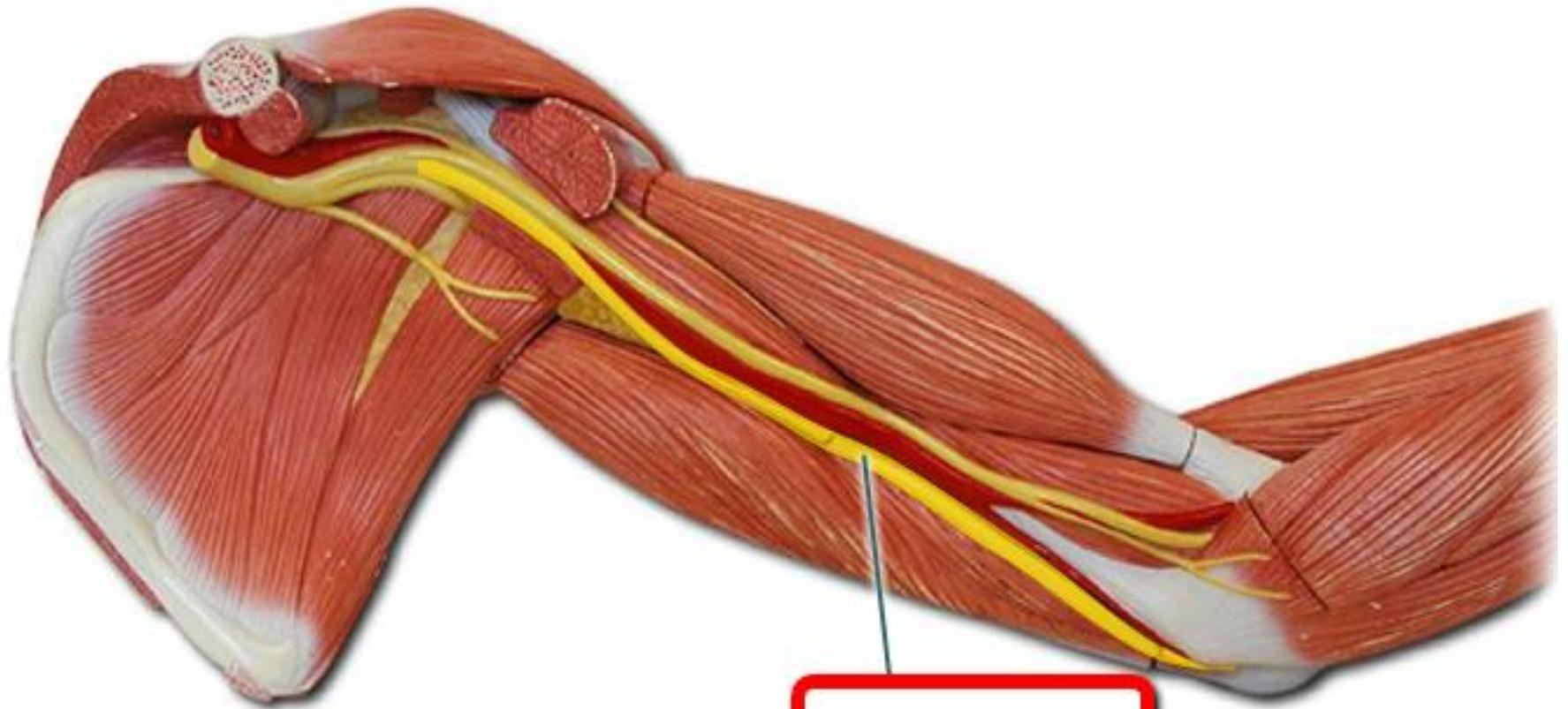




NERVES & ARTERIES AROUND ELBOW JOINT

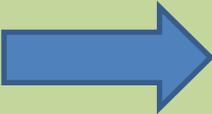






Which Nerve?

# *Cutaneous innervation of the forearm*

1\* **Lateral cut.n. of the forearm**  
from 

**Musculocutaneous n.**

**2\* Medial cut.n. of the forearm  
from** 

**The medial cord of brachial plexus  
(independent)**

**3\*Posterior cut.n. of the forearm  
from** 

**From the radial nerve .**

(memory device++like BP)

## Posterior cutaneous n. of the forearm.



# *Cutaneous innervation of the arm*

**1\*Posterior cut.n. of the arm :**

**Branch of radial nerve .**

**2\*Superior lateral cut.n. of the arm:**

**Branch of axillary nerve.**

**3\* Inferior lateral cut.n.of the arm:  
Branch of radial nerve.**

**4\* Medial cut.n.of the arm:  
Branch of medial cord of BP.**

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