MEDICAL EDUCATION RESOURCE

Surface Marking of Arteries of Upper Limb

Axillary Artery

- **Position:** Arm abducted to 90°, palm facing upward.
- **Line:** A straight line joining
  - **Point 1:** Midpoint of clavicle.
  - **Point 2:** Lower limit of lateral wall of axilla (where pulsations are felt).
- **Note:** Lies deep to pectoralis minor in its middle part.

Brachial Artery

- **Line:** Join
  - **Point 1:** Lower border of lateral wall of axilla (beginning of brachial artery).
  - **Point 2:** Level of neck of radius, medial to tendon of biceps brachii.
- **Course:** Runs downward and slightly lateral; ends in front of elbow by dividing into radial and ulnar arteries.

Radial Artery

In Forearm:

- **Line joining:**

- **Point 1:** Neck of radius, medial to tendon of biceps.
- **Point 2:** At wrist between anterior border of radius (laterally) and tendon of flexor carpi radialis (medially), where pulse is felt.

- **Course:** Slight lateral convexity.

In Hand:

- **Line joining:**
  - **Point 1:** Just below tip of styloid process of radius.
  - **Point 2:** Proximal end of first intermetacarpal space.
- **Course:** Oblique, downward and backward through anatomical snuffbox, superficial to lateral wrist ligament.

Ulnar Artery

- **Line joining three points:**
  - **Point 1:** Same as radial artery origin (neck of radius, medial to biceps tendon).
  - **Point 2:** Midpoint of line connecting medial epicondyle and pisiform bone.
  - **Point 3:** Pisiform bone (where pulsation may be felt).
- **Course:** Curved with medial convexity; lies beneath flexor carpi ulnaris.

Superficial Palmar Arch

- **Line:** A curve with convexity towards fingers, starting at distal border of fully extended thumb, extending across palm to lateral border of little finger.

- Lies **1 cm distal** to a line across the thenar eminence.

Deep Palmar Arch

- **Line joining:**
    - **Point 1:** Proximal part of first dorsal intermetacarpal space.
    - **Point 2:** Just distal to hook of hamate.
- **Level:** About **1.2 cm proximal** to superficial palmar arch.