

Surface Markings of Nerves of Upper Limb

Axillary Nerve

- **Line:** A short **horizontal line** on the deltoid muscle.
 - **Location:** 2 cm above the midpoint between the **tip of the acromion process** and the **insertion of the deltoid**.
 - **Clinical Note:** Intramuscular injections in the deltoid are given below this line to avoid injury to the **axillary nerve** and **posterior circumflex humeral vessels**.
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Musculocutaneous Nerve

- **Line joining two points:**
 - **Point 1:** Just lateral to the axillary artery, about **3 cm below the coracoid process**.
 - **Point 2:** Midway between the **biceps tendon** and **brachialis muscle** at the elbow.
 - **Course:** Passes downward and laterally between biceps brachii and brachialis, becoming the **lateral cutaneous nerve of the forearm** near the elbow.
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Median Nerve

- **Line:** From **medial side of the brachial artery** in the arm to the **midpoint of the wrist**.

- **Landmarks:** Crosses anterior to the elbow joint (medial to the biceps tendon) and passes through the **carpal tunnel** deep to the flexor retinaculum.
 - **Clinical relevance:** Site of compression in **carpal tunnel syndrome**.
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Ulnar Nerve

- **Line joining three points:**
 - **Point 1:** Behind the **medial epicondyle** of the humerus.
 - **Point 2:** Along medial border of forearm (beneath **flexor carpi ulnaris**).
 - **Point 3:** To the **pisiform bone** at wrist.
 - **Note:** Palpable behind the medial epicondyle (“funny bone”). Runs superficial to the flexor retinaculum.
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Radial Nerve

- **Posterior arm:** From **lower border of teres major** to **lateral epicondyle**, running in the **spiral groove** of humerus.
- **Anterior forearm:** From **lateral epicondyle** to **anatomical snuffbox**, where it divides into superficial and deep branches.
- **Clinical Note:** Injury in spiral groove causes **wrist drop**.