

# Facts to Remember – Cutaneous Nerves, Superficial Veins & Lymphatic Drainage

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### Cutaneous Nerves

- All skin of upper limb supplied by **branches of brachial plexus**, except upper shoulder region (C3–C4 supraclavicular nerves).
- **C5** dermatome ? lateral arm.
- **C6** dermatome ? thumb.
- **C7** dermatome ? middle finger.
- **C8** dermatome ? little finger.
- **T1** dermatome ? medial forearm & arm.
- **Axillary nerve** ? skin over regimental badge area.
- **Radial nerve** ? posterior arm, forearm, dorsum of hand (lateral 3½ proximal phalanges).
- **Median nerve** ? palmar surface of lateral 3½ digits.
- **Ulnar nerve** ? palmar & dorsal surfaces of medial 1½ digits.

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## Superficial Veins

- Originate from **dorsal venous arch** of hand.
- **Cephalic vein** ? lateral side ? drains into axillary vein.
- **Basilic vein** ? medial side ? joins brachial veins to form axillary vein.
- **Median cubital vein** ? connects cephalic and basilic at cubital fossa ? preferred site for **venipuncture**.
- **Cephalic vein** used for **cardiac catheterization** (into right atrium).
- **Basilic vein** preferred for **long-term IV cannulation**.

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## Lymphatic Drainage

- **Superficial lymphatics** ? follow superficial veins.
  - Along cephalic vein ? directly to **apical axillary nodes**.
  - Along basilic vein ? to **supratrochlear nodes** ? **humeral axillary nodes**.
- **Deep lymphatics** ? follow deep veins ? drain into humeral axillary nodes.
- **Axillary lymph nodes** ? five groups (pectoral, subscapular, humeral, central, apical).
- Final drainage ? **subclavian lymph trunk** ? **thoracic duct (left) / right lymphatic duct (right)**.
- **Supratrochlear nodes** enlarge in infections of hand/forearm.

- **Axillary nodes** are first involved in carcinoma breast (especially pectoral group).
- **Lymphedema** occurs after axillary clearance (e.g., mastectomy).