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MEDIAN NERVE

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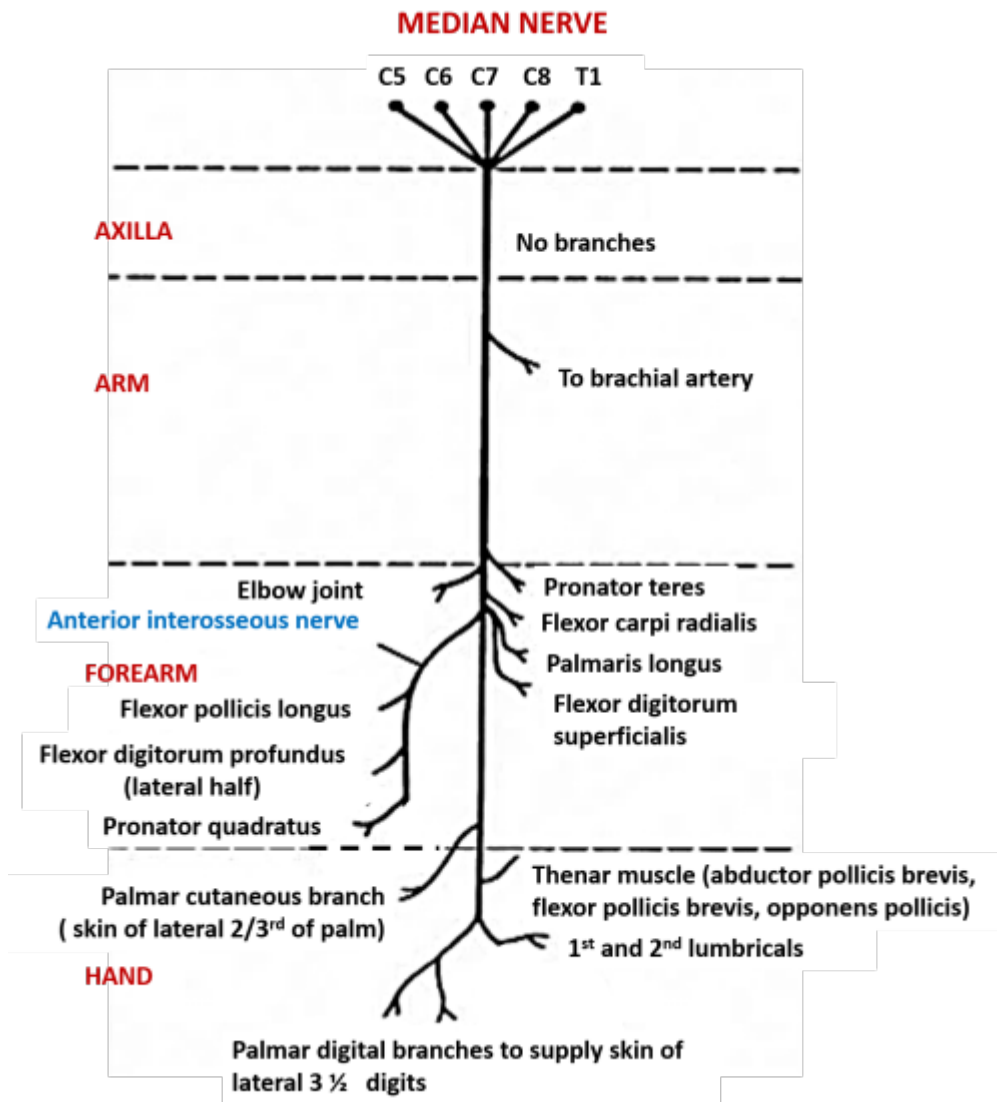
FORMED: from two 'heads' in axilla, anterior to 3rd part of axillary artery. Crosses artery, usually anteriorly, from lateral to medial to lie medial to brachial artery in cubital fossa.

PASSES: under biceps & onto or medial to brachialis, then between two heads of pronator teres & under fibrous arch of flexor digitorum superficialis with ulnar artery. Under flexor digitorum superficialis, emerging from its lateral border to lie between tendons of flexor carpi radialis and palmaris longus. Passes deep to flexor retinaculum to reach palm of hand.

BRANCHES IN FOREARM: to flexor carpi radialis, palmaris longus & flexor digitorum superficialis. Via its anterior interosseous branch to flexor pollicis longus, half flexor digitorum profundus & pronator quadratus. Joint branches to elbow, wrist, superior & inferior radio-ulnar.

BRANCHES IN HAND: **Sensory:** Palmar cutaneous branch leaves the median nerve above the wrist & runs superficial to the flexor retinaculum to supply lateral palm skin. Main nerve in hand supplies palmar skin & dorsal nail beds of lateral 3 & half digits. **Motor:** lateral 2 lumbricals, abductor pollicis brevis, opponens pollicis & usually flexor pollicis brevis

For an illustration, see page 120 in the book - Instant Anatomy, by R H Whitaker & N R Borley. 4th edition. Wiley-Blackwell 2010



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