Arteries, Veins & Lymphatics in the Upper Limb - An Overview

**ARTERIAL SUPPLY OF UPPER LIMB**

**Other branches:**
- Muscular
- Nutrient
- Ulnar collateral

All arteries accompanied by venae committantes

**Left hand**

**DEEP PALMAR ARCH**
From radial artery. Communicates with superficial arch
Branches:
- Princeps pollicis
- Radialis indicis
- 3 palmar metacarpal
- 3 perforating branches

**SUPERFICIAL PALMAR ARCH**
From ulnar artery. Communicates with deep arch
Branches:
- Palmar digital arteries & communicating branches with metacarpal arteries of deep arch

Deep palmar arch
1cm (finger's breadth) proximal to superficial arch
Radial artery
Ulnar artery

Superficial palmar arch at level of base of outstretched thumb
SUPERFICIAL VEINS AND PULSES IN UPPER LIMB

Cephalic vein
Pierces the clavipectoral fascia at upper end of the deltopectoral groove to enter axillary vein

Radial artery
Pulse. Lateral to the tendon of flexor carpi radialis

Brachial artery
Pulse. In the cubital fossa, lateral to the median nerve

Basilic vein
Pierces the fascia in the medial mid arm to join the venae comitantes which together, at the inferior border of teres major, become the axillary vein

Commencement of the basilic vein (medial side)

Commencement of the cephalic vein (lateral side)

Dorsal venous arch

LYMPHATIC DRAINAGE IN UPPER LIMB

Anterior

Deep lymphatics

Superficial lymphatics

Lymphatics from palm of hand and anterior forearm follow basilic vein to lymph nodes in the cubital fossa and then pass deep, to follow the deep veins to the lateral axillary and then central nodes

Posterior

Lymphatics from dorsum of hand, posterior forearm and posterior arm follow cephalic vein to supraclavicular or infraclavicular lymph nodes
UPPER LIMB LYMPH NODES

Infracavicular
Central
Lateral
Subclavian lymph trunk
Apical
Anterior
Posterior
Supratrochlear

Mnemonic for axillary lymph nodes:
A - Anterior
P - Posterior
I - Infracavicular
C - Central
A - Apical
L - Lateral

75% of lymphatics from the breast drain to axillary nodes. Others to internal thoracic, abdominal nodes or to other breast