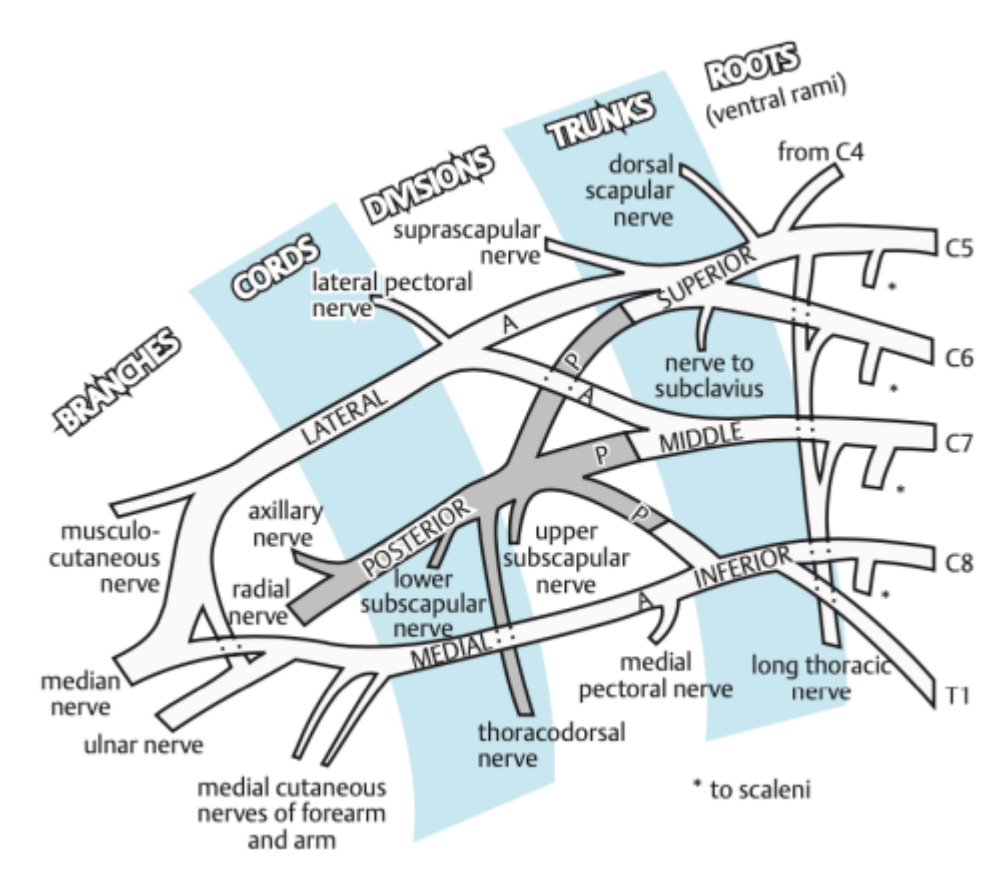


Brachial plexus



Schematic diagram of the brachial plexus. (By permission: Churchill Livingstone, Edinburgh, 1973, R. Warwick & P. Williams: Gray's Anatomy 35th Edition © Longman Group UK Limited.)

The brachial **plexus** is a network of **nerves**, running from the spine, formed by the anterior rami of the lower four cervical nerves and first thoracic nerve (C5-C8, T1). The brachial plexus passes through the cervico-axillary canal in the neck to reach the axilla (armpit region), and into the arm including the hand, innervating these regions.

Nerves arising from the brachial plexus

Radial nerve (C5-8)

Radial nerve (and its branches) innervate the extensors of arm and forearm:

- ↴ triceps (all 3 heads)
- ↴ anconeus
- ↴ brachioradialis
- ↴ extensor carpi radialis longus & brevis (latter originates ≈ at terminal branch)

- ↴ supinator (originates near the terminal branch)
- ↴ continues into forearm as posterior interosseous nerve (C7, C8)
- ↴ extensor carpi ulnaris
- ↴ extensor digitorum
- ↴ extensor digiti minimi
- ↴ extensor pollicis brevis & longus
- ↴ abductor pollicis longus
- ↴ extensor indicis

Brachial plexus injury

see [Brachial plexus injury](#)

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