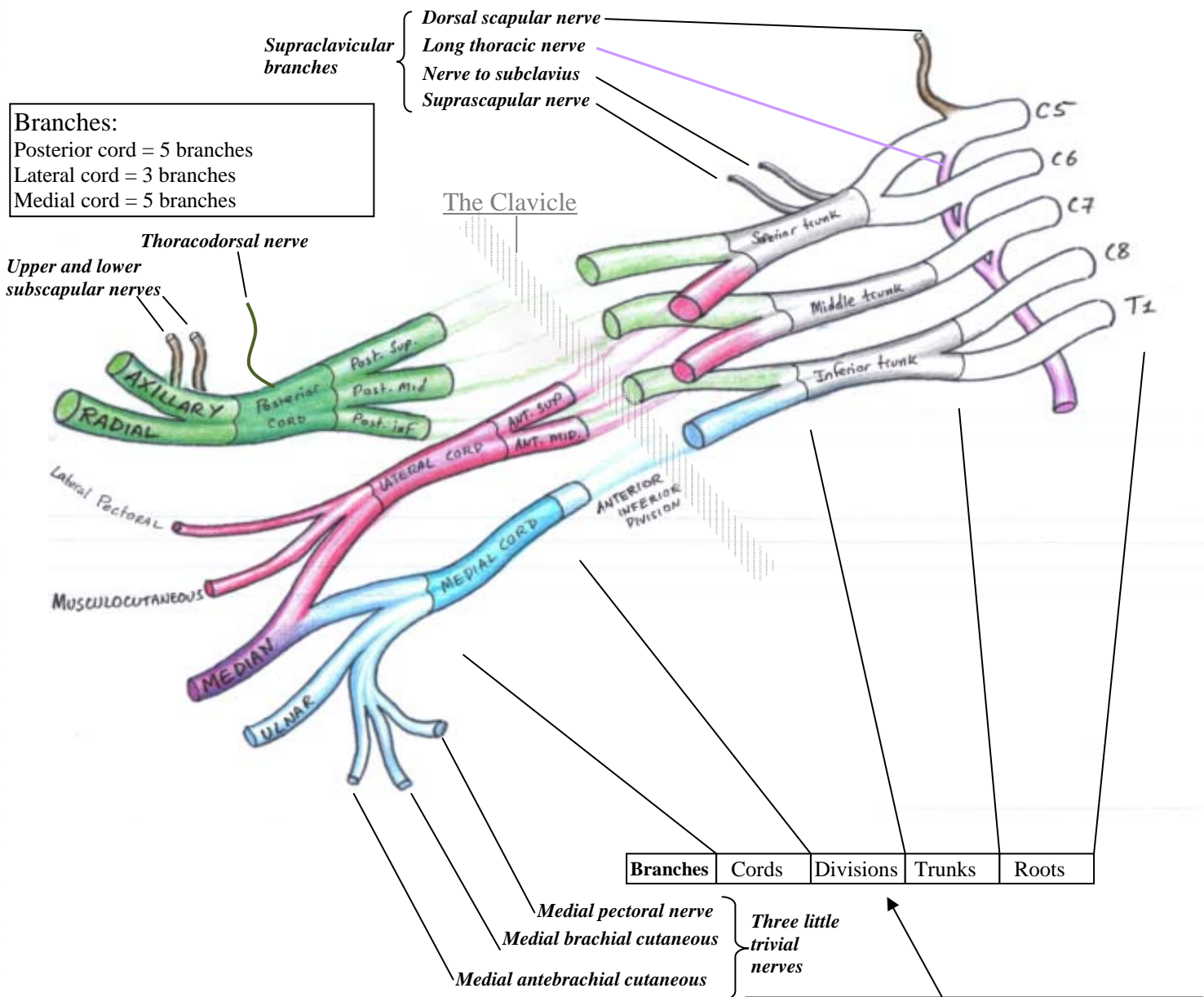


STRUCTURE OF THE BRACHIAL PLEXUS, and the consequences of injuries thereto



Injuries of the Brachial Plexus:

Superior parts: C5, C6: Erb-Duchenne Palsy

- caused by an increased angle between neck and shoulder, eg. falling on your head.
- Causes "Waiter's Tip" position, where the limb hangs limp in a medially rotated position
- Deltoid, biceps, brachialis and brachioradialis are paralysed. Lateral arm loses sensation

Compression of the Cords

- Caused by prolonged hyperabduction, eg. painting the ceiling; cords get pinched between coracoid process and pectoralis minor tendon
- Causes pain radiating down the arm, hand numbness, hand weakness, and erythema

Inferior parts: C8, T1: Klumpke Paralysis

- caused when the arm is suddenly pulled superiorly, eg. when you grab something while falling vertically down
- short muscles of the hand are affected, and you get a "claw hand"