

## Arteries of the Arm

The **AXILLARY ARTERY** begins at the border of the 1<sup>st</sup> rib as a continuation of the subclavian artery

The **FIRST PART** stretches between the 1<sup>st</sup> rib and the medial border of pectoralis minor.

It has only one branch – the **superior thoracic artery**

The **SECOND PART** lies under the pectoralis minor; it has 2 branches:

- The **Thoracoacromial artery**
- The **Lateral Thoracic artery**

The **THIRD PART** stretches from the lateral border of pectoralis minor to the inferior border of Teres Major; it has 3 branches:

- The **Anterior circumflex humeral artery**
- The **Posterior circumflex humeral artery**
- The **Subscapular artery**

**Posterior circumflex humeral artery**

Travels through the quadrangular space together with the axillary nerve. It's the larger of the two.

**Anterior circumflex humeral artery**

Passes laterally deep to the coracobrachialis and the biceps brachii

**Profunda Brachii- deep artery of the arm**

Passes through the lateral triangular space (with the radial nerve) into the posterior compartment of the arm. It is the largest branch of the Brachial artery

Under the bicipital aponeurosis, the brachial artery divides into the **Radial and Ulnar arteries**

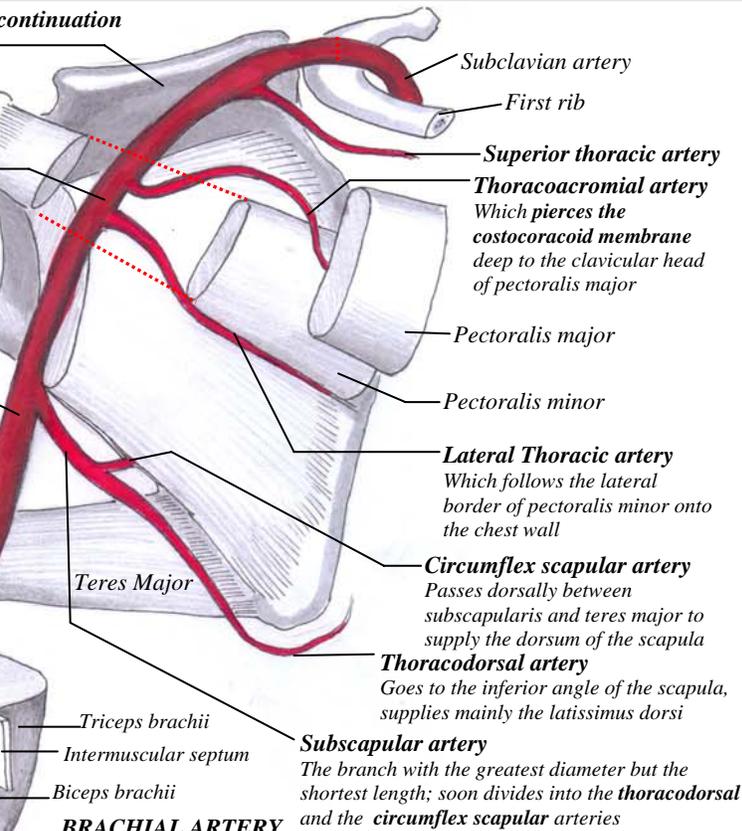
**Radial Artery**

Travels down the arm under the brachioradialis, along with the radial nerve. Lies lateral to the flexor carpi radialis tendon. Gives a recurrent branch.

Flexor carpi radialis tendon

Brachioradialis

The **Radial Artery** winds around dorsally, crosses the floor of the anatomical snuffbox and pierces the 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal interossei to enter the palm between the two heads of adductor pollicis.



**BRACHIAL ARTERY**

Travels from the edge of Teres Major to the cubital fossa, on top of the medial intermuscular septum. Has 3 main branches:

**Deep artery of the arm**

**Superior ulnar collateral artery**

which accompanies the ulnar nerve down the arm

**Inferior ulnar collateral artery** which arises 5cm proximal to the elbow crease, and anastomoses with the recurrent branches of the ulnar artery

**Ulnar Artery**

Gives some recurrent branches, and then travels down the arm under the superficial muscles of the forearm (deep to the pronator teres, palmaris longus, and flexor digitorum superficialis)

**Common interosseous artery** is very short, because it bifurcates immediately

**Anterior interosseous artery** travels down the arm along the interosseous membrane, and when it reaches **pronator quadratus**, it pierces the interosseous membrane and becomes dorsal (where it joins the dorsal carpal arch)

**Posterior interosseous artery** travels down the arm along the interosseous membrane, and anastomoses with the anterior interosseous artery when they meet.

Superficial group of forearm flexors

**Palmar carpal arch:** anastomosis of the palmar carpal branches of the ulnar and radial arteries

**Dorsal carpal arch:** anastomosis of the dorsal carpal branches of the ulnar and radial arteries

**Deep palmar arch:** the more proximal arch  
- A continuation of the radial artery

**Superficial palmar arch:** the more distal arch  
- A continuation of the ulnar artery