

1 Brachial plexus

Formed by the ventral rami of **C5 to T1**. Order: Roots, Trunks, Divisions, Cords, Branches **(Randy Travis Drinks Cold Beer)**.

Part	Key branches
Roots	Dorsal scapular (C5); long thoracic (C5–C7) to serratus anterior
Upper trunk	Suprascapular (C5, C6); nerve to subclavius
Lateral cord	Lateral pectoral, musculocutaneous, lateral root of median
Medial cord	Medial pectoral, medial cutaneous nerves of arm and forearm, ulnar, medial root of median
Posterior cord	Upper and lower subscapular, thoracodorsal, axillary, radial

Nerve injuries

Injury	Roots / site	Classic sign
Erb's palsy	C5, C6 (upper trunk, Erb's point)	Waiter's tip: arm adducted, medially rotated; forearm extended and pronated
Klumpke's palsy	C8, T1 (lower trunk)	Claw hand of all fingers; Horner syndrome if T1 involved
Long thoracic nerve	Serratus anterior	Winging of scapula
Axillary nerve	Surgical neck of humerus fracture; shoulder dislocation	Weak abduction; sensory loss over regimental badge area
Radial nerve	Spiral groove (midshaft humerus fracture)	Wrist drop; triceps usually spared
Ulnar nerve	Medial epicondyle	Claw hand of ring and little fingers; Froment's sign
Median nerve, elbow	Supracondylar fracture	Hand of benediction on trying to make a fist
Median nerve, wrist	Carpal tunnel	Ape thumb, thenar wasting
Musculocutaneous	Rare	Weak elbow flexion and supination

Exam one-liners

- Erb's point is where the C5 and C6 roots join to form the upper trunk.



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