

**Formation of median nerve by three roots and its relation with axillary artery
– a case report**

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The knowledge of anatomical variations of the peripheral nerves in the upper limb may be of immense clinical help. During routine dissection of a 55 year old male cadaver in the Department of Anatomy, Jaffna an anomalous median nerve with regard to its formation and relation with axillary artery was observed in the left upper limb. The median nerve was formed by the fusion of three equal sized roots, one from medial and two from lateral cords of brachial plexus. Both lateral roots originated in the axilla crossed over the axillary artery at different levels. The upper lateral root, which was the additional root was in close contact with the second part of the axillary artery and crossed over the vessel to unite with the medial root. The common stem thus formed descended medial to the axillary artery. The lower lateral root, which had an oblique course over the third part of the axillary artery, joined the common stem to form the medial nerve. Median nerve descended in the arm medial to the brachial artery up to cubital fossa. The distribution of the anomalous median nerve was normal in forearm and palm. Origin and course of other branches originating from the brachial plexus were normal. Therefore, knowledge of the variations in the nerve formation and course are useful for the clinicians during surgery to prevent accidental injuries and for differential diagnosis of uncommon clinical conditions which permits correct interpretation of clinical neurophysiology.

Key words: Anatomical variation, axillary artery, brachial plexus, lateral cord, median nerve