Median Nerve

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Also see [p. PN5 >>](http://WWW.NEUROSURGERYRESIDENT.NET/PN.%20Peripheral%20Neuropathies/PN5.%20Compressive%20Neuropathies.pdf#Carpal_tunnel_anatomy)

**Median palmar cutaneous nerve** arises from radial side of median nerve approximately 5 cm proximal to TCL and travels superficial to carpal tunnel to provide sensory innervation to thenar eminence.

**Recurrent motor branch** (innervation to opponens pollicis, abductor pollicis brevis, and flexor pollicis brevis) arises from median nerve distal to TCL.

* Lanz classified anatomic variations into three main groups:

extraligamentous (50%)

subligamentous (30%)

transligamentous (20%)

* important anatomic variant is **Riche-Cannieu anastomosis** - innervation of thenar muscles is provided by ulnar nerve.

Bibliography for ch. “Somatic PNS” → follow this [link >>](http://www.neurosurgeryresident.net/A.%20Neuroscience%20Basics%5CA.%20Bibliography.pdf)

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