Veins and lymphatic drainage patterns of the upper limb

Cephalic vein:
- spends all of its time in subcutaneous tissues
- drains the radial dorsum of hand

Basilic vein:
- is subcutaneous right up until the middle of the biceps; then it dives deep and runs parallel to the brachial artery
- drains the ulnar dorsum of the hand
both merge to form the axillary vein

Median cubital vein:
- communicates between the two in the cubital fossa

Antebrachial vein:
- highly variable
- begins at the dorsum of the thumb
- sometimes divides into a median basilic vein, which joins the basilic vein, and a median cephalic vein, which joins the cephalic vein.

- DRAINAGE OF THE PALM PASSES INTO THE DORSUM OF THE HAND
- Vessels converge mainly on the basilic, but also the cephalic vein

The superficial lymphatics follow the superficial veins, mainly the basilic. The superficial lymphatic system, which follows the deep veins, and this system of lymph vessels terminates at the humeral lymph nodes. The deep system drains all the joints tendons and nerves.