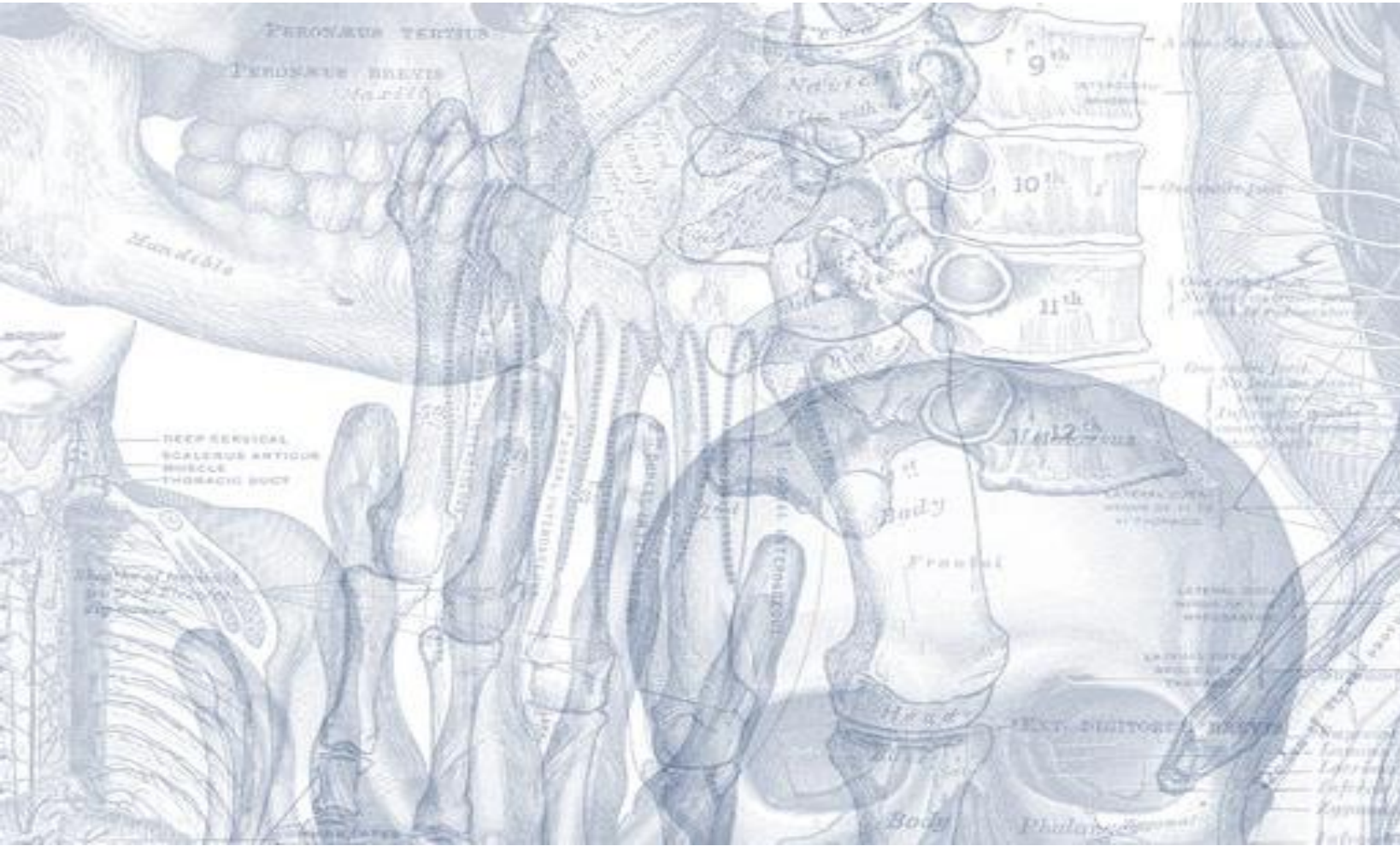


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**MEDICINE**  
KING SAUD UNIVERSITY



# Hand and Wrist

[Editing file](#)

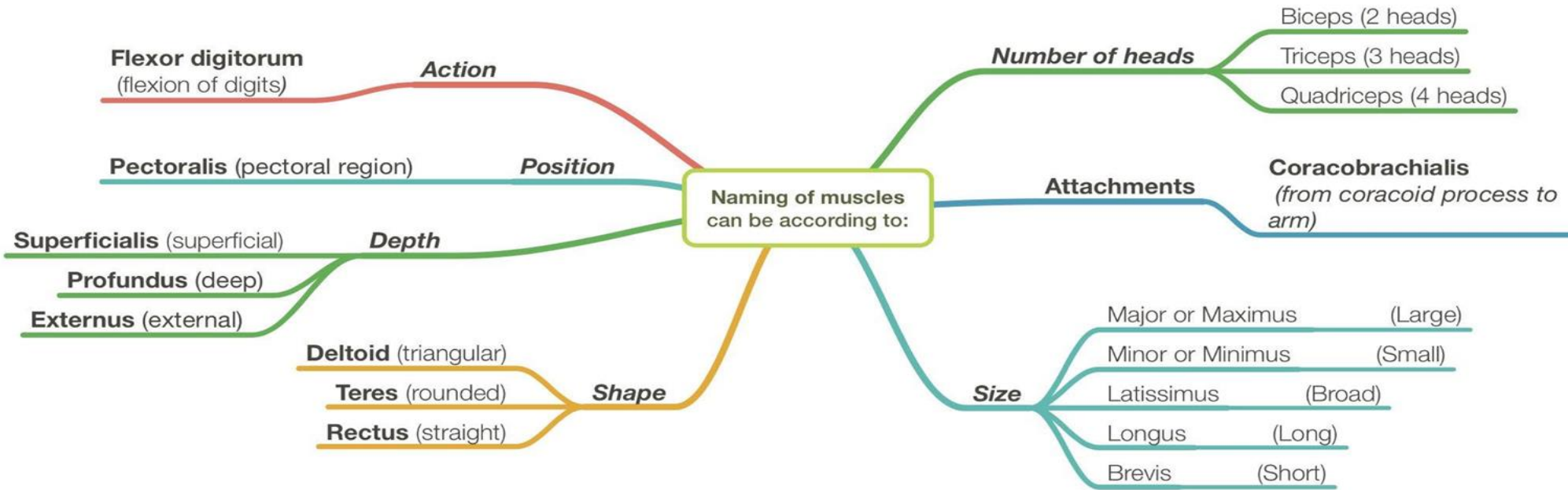
## Color Code

- **Important**
- **Doctors Notes**
- **Notes/Extra explanation**

# *Objectives*

- ✓ Describe the anatomy of the deep fascia of the wrist & hand (flexor & extensor retinacula & palmar aponeurosis).
- ✓ List the structures passing superficial & deep to flexor retinaculum.
- ✓ Describe the anatomy of the insertion of long flexor & extensor tendons.
- ✓ Describe the anatomy of the small muscles of the hand (origin, insertion, action & nerve supply)

# Recall what we took in foundation:

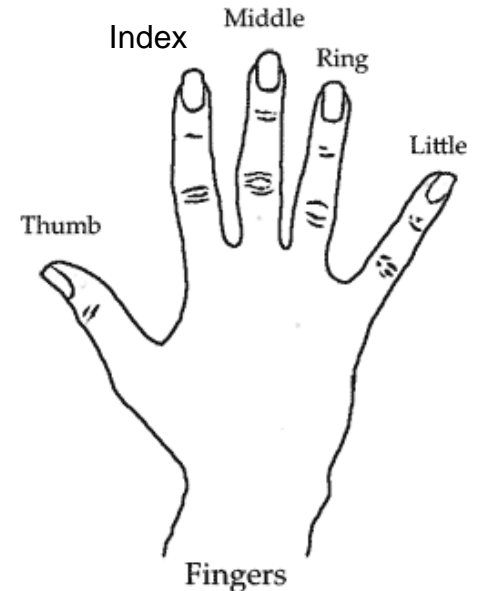


The following pairs always come together (they counter each other so if one is present so is the other)

- Flexor & Extensor (flexor carpi ulnaris & extensor carpi ulnaris)
- Longus & Brevis (extensor carpi radialis longus & extensor carpi radialis brevis)
- Superficialis & Profundus (flexor digitorum superficialis & flexor digitorum profundus)
- Major & Minor (pectoralis major & pectoralis minor)

## The fingers:

- Digitorum = has 4 tendons each attached to a finger
- Pollicis = the thumb
- Indices = index finger السيابه
- Digiti minimi = pinkie





# Retinacula

## Flexor & Extensor Retinacula:

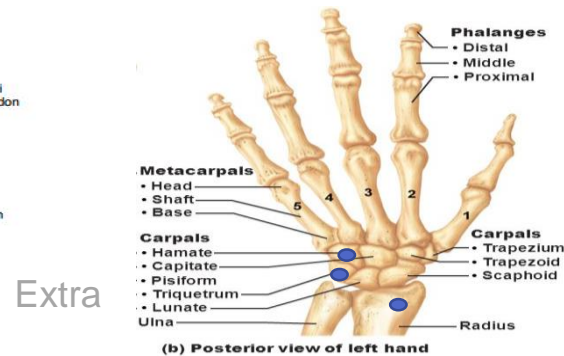
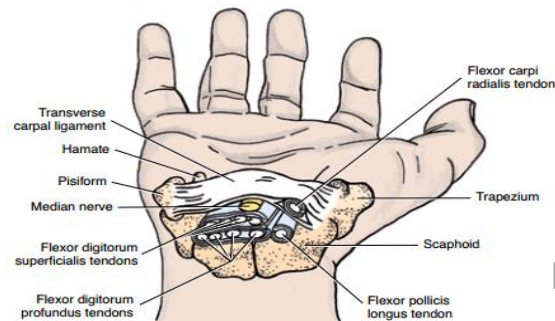
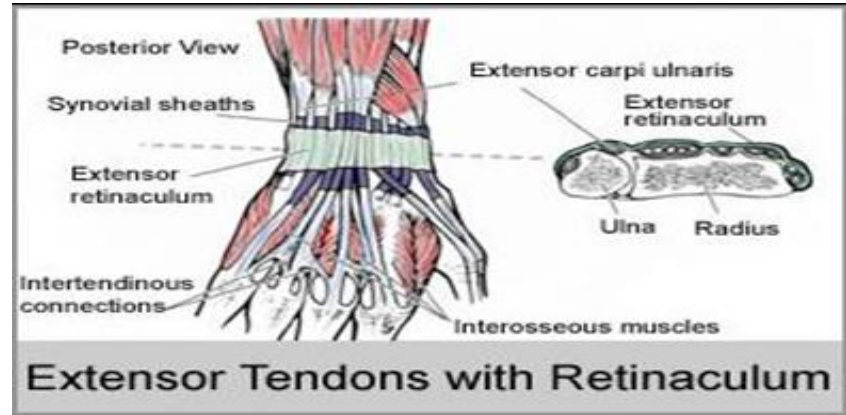
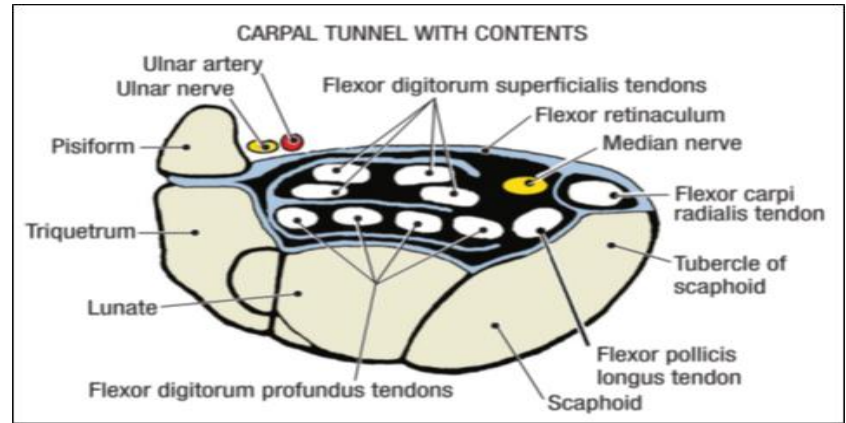
Bands of Deep Fascia at the Wrist

### Function:

Hold the long flexor and extensor tendons at the wrist in position.

### Attachments:

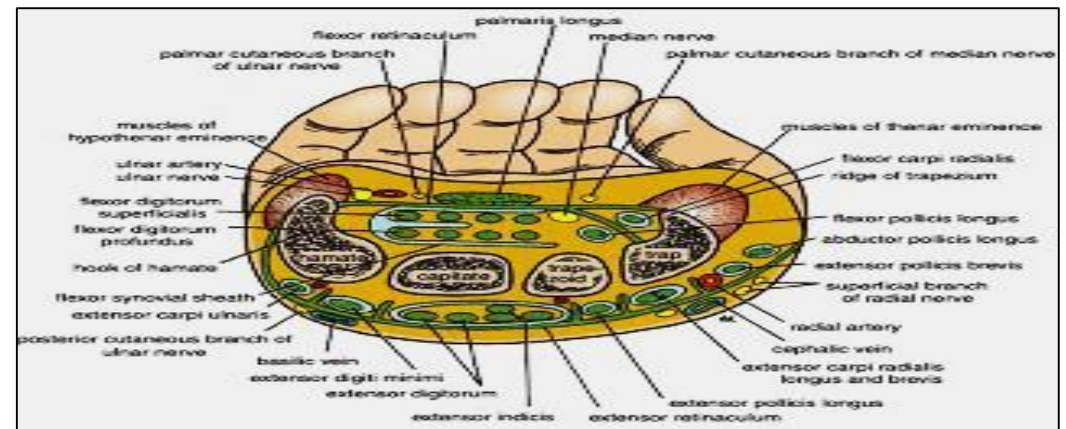
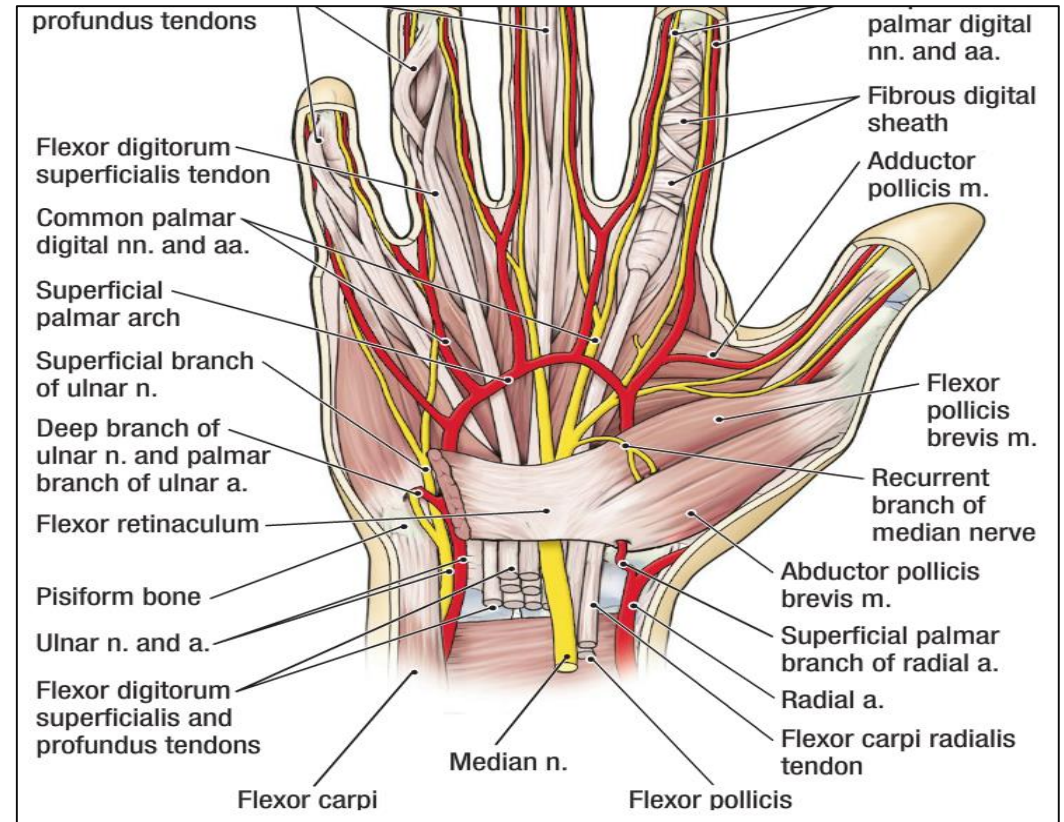
	Medially	Laterally
Flexor retinaculum	Pisiform & Hook of hamate	Tubercle of scaphoid & Trapezium
Extensor retinaculum	Pisiform & Hook of hamate	Distal end of radius



# Structures Superficial to Flexor Retinaculum

## From Medial to Lateral

1. Tendon of **Flexor carpi ulnaris**.
2. Ulnar **nerve**.
3. Ulnar **artery**.
4. Palmar cutaneous branch of **ulnar nerve**.
5. Palmaris longus **tendon**.
6. Palmar cutaneous branch of **median nerve**.



# Carpal Tunnel

## Formed from

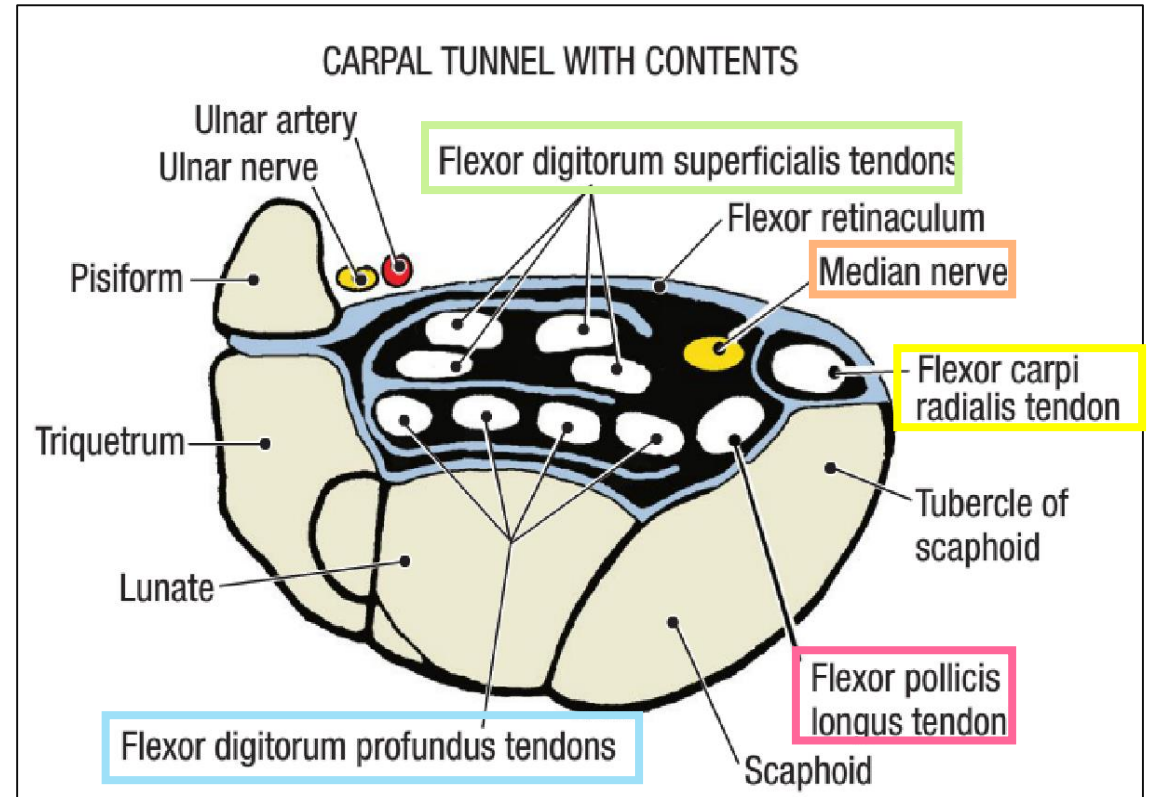
**Concave anterior** surface of the **Carpus**  
(carpal bones) covered by **Flexor Retinaculum**.

## Contents

### From Medial to Lateral

- Tendons of flexor digitorum superficialis & profundus
- Median nerve
- Flexor Pollicis Longus
- (Flexor carpi radialis)

\* Note the flexor carpi radialis is in between brackets because it has a special compartment in the fascia





# Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

## Causes :

- **Compression** of the median nerve within the carpal tunnel.

## Manifestations:

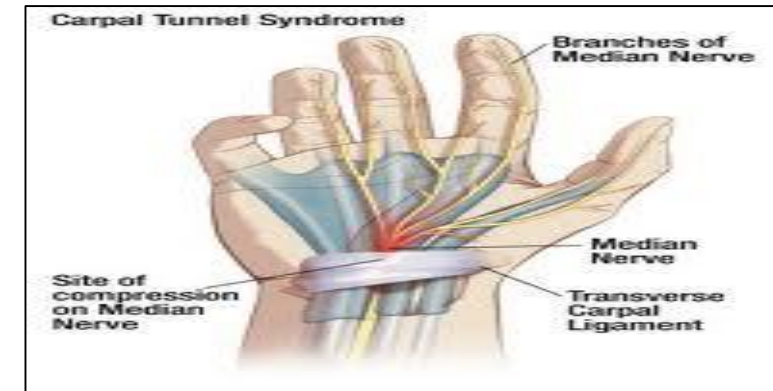
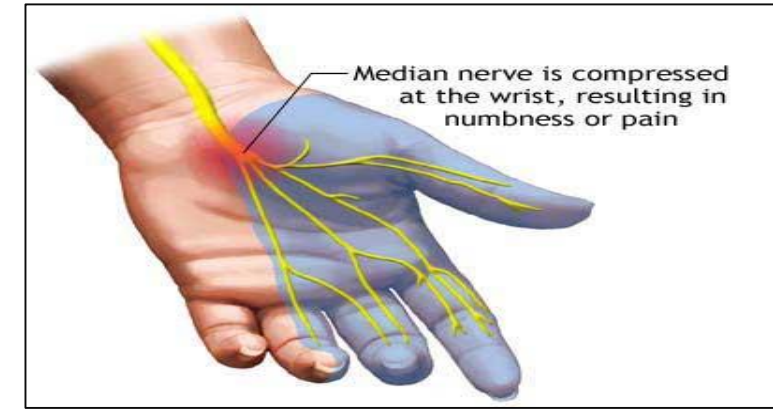
1. Burning pain (pins and needles) in *the lateral three and half fingers*.

**No paresthesia\*** over the **thenar eminence** (because it is supplied by the palmar cutaneous branch of the median which is superficial to the flexor retinaculum)

2. Weakness or atrophy of the thenar muscles (**Ape Hand**).

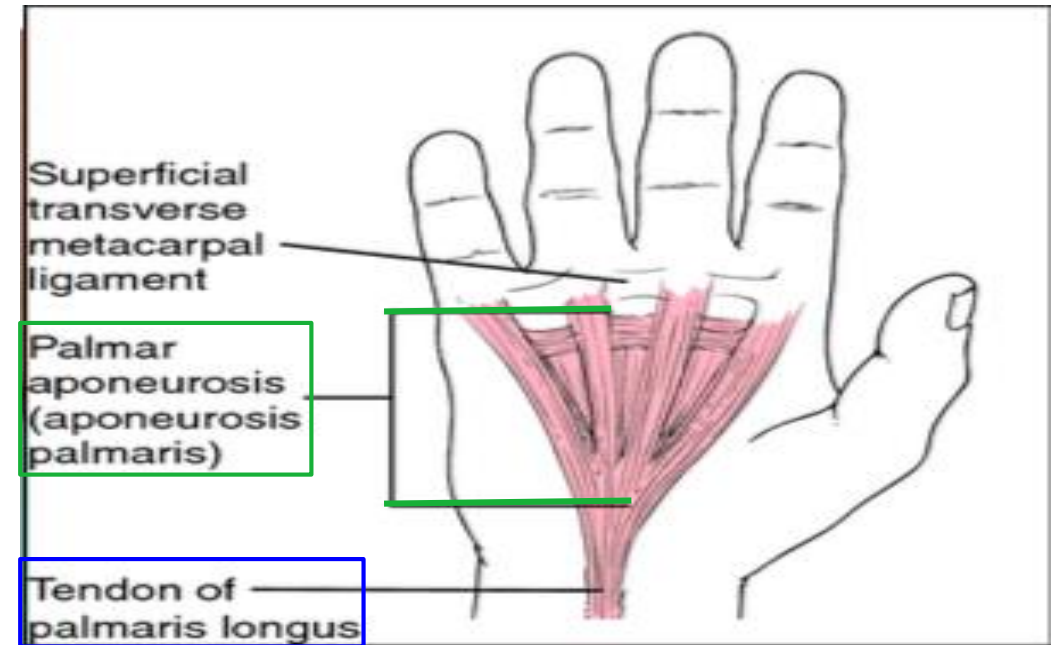
3. Inability to **Oppose** the thumb.

\*Paresthesia: a sensation of pricking, tingling, or creeping on the skin usually associated with injury or irritation of a sensory nerve or nerve root



# Palmar Aponeurosis:

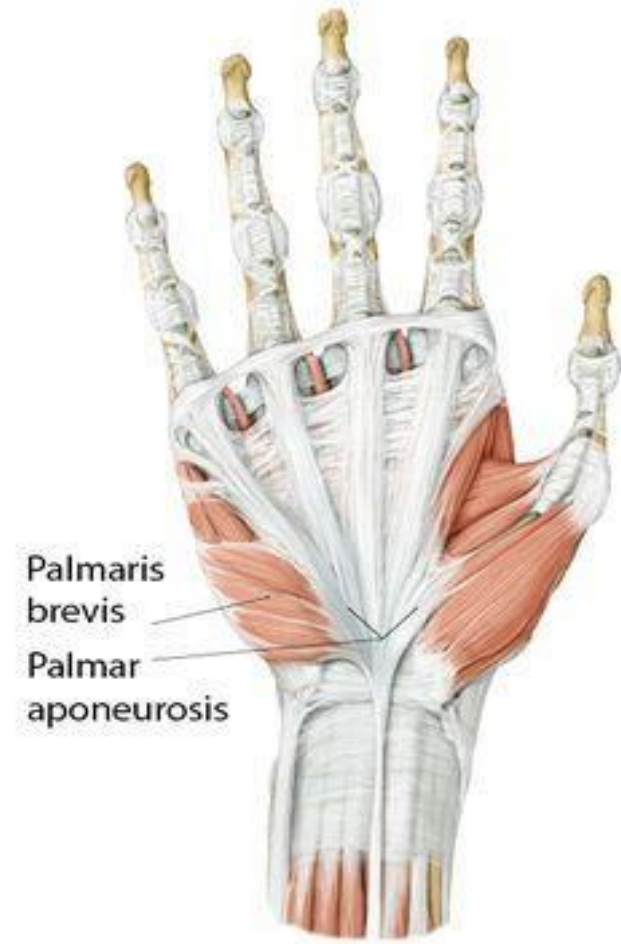
- The thickened deep fascia of the palm.
- It is triangular in shape, occupies the central area of the palm.
- It has:
  - **Apex:** attached to the distal border of flexor retinaculum and receives the **insertion** of palmaris longus tendon.
  - **Base:** divides at the bases of the fingers into four slips that pass into the fingers.
- Function:
  1. Firmly attached to the overlying skin and improves the grip (it's deeply concave and not superficial in order to hold stuff easily)
  2. Protects the underlying tendons, vessels & nerves.
  3. Gives origin to **palmaris brevis muscle**.





# Palmaris Brevis:

Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
Flexor retinaculum (FR) & Palmar aponeurosis (PA)	Skin of the palm	Ulnar nerve (superficial branch)	Corrugation* of skin to improve grip.



(the contractions appear on the skin since it's a superficial muscle)

corrugation\*:shaped into alternate ridges and groove

# Short Muscles of Thumb & Little Finger: (explained in the next slide)

It includes the Thenar eminence and Hypothenar eminence. Each one is further divided into 3 types of muscles.

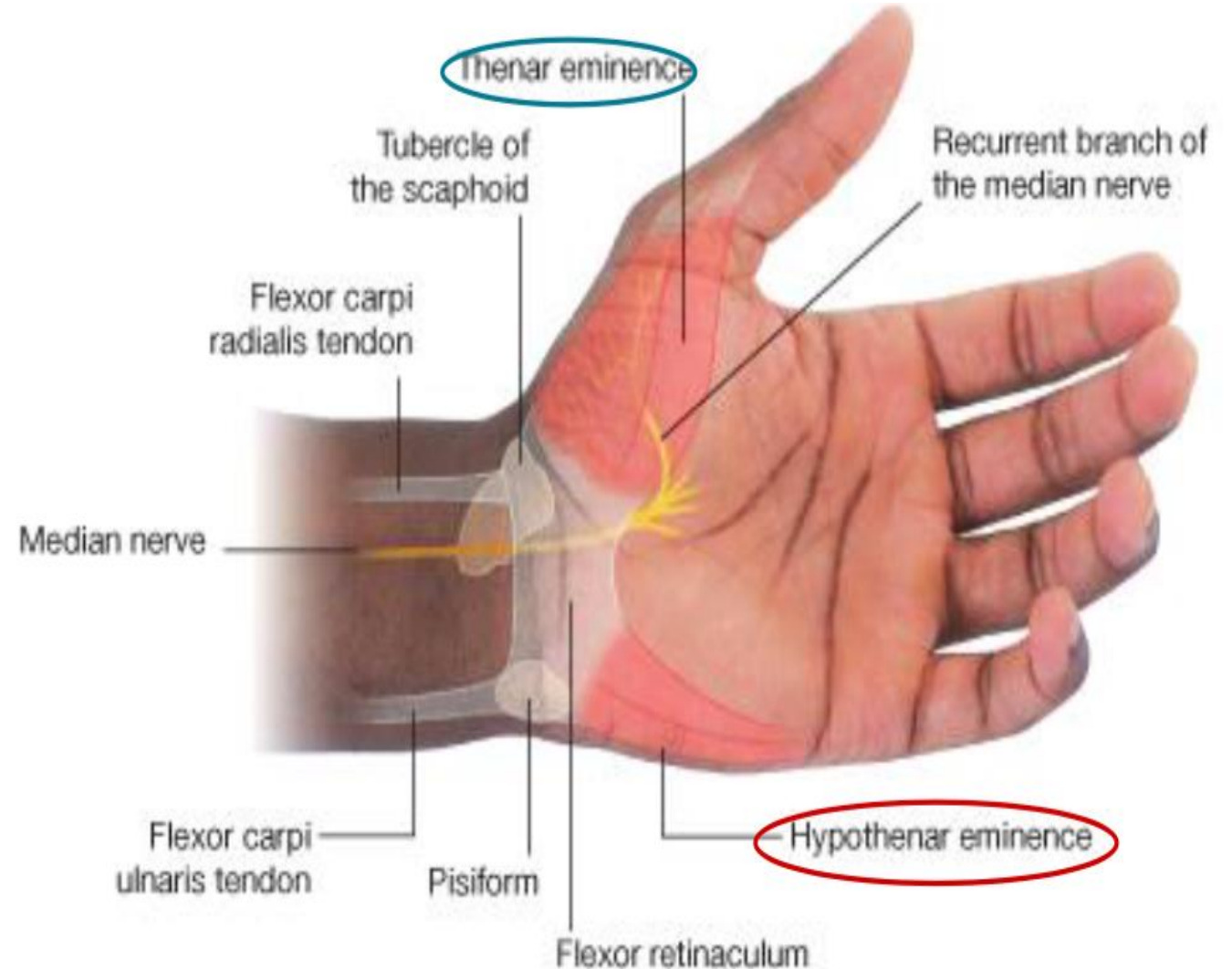
Can be remembered using the mnemonic, "A OF A OF A" for:

(thenar muscles)

- ❖ Abductor pollicis brevis
- ❖ Opponens pollicis
- ❖ Flexor pollicis brevis
- ❖ Adductor pollicis

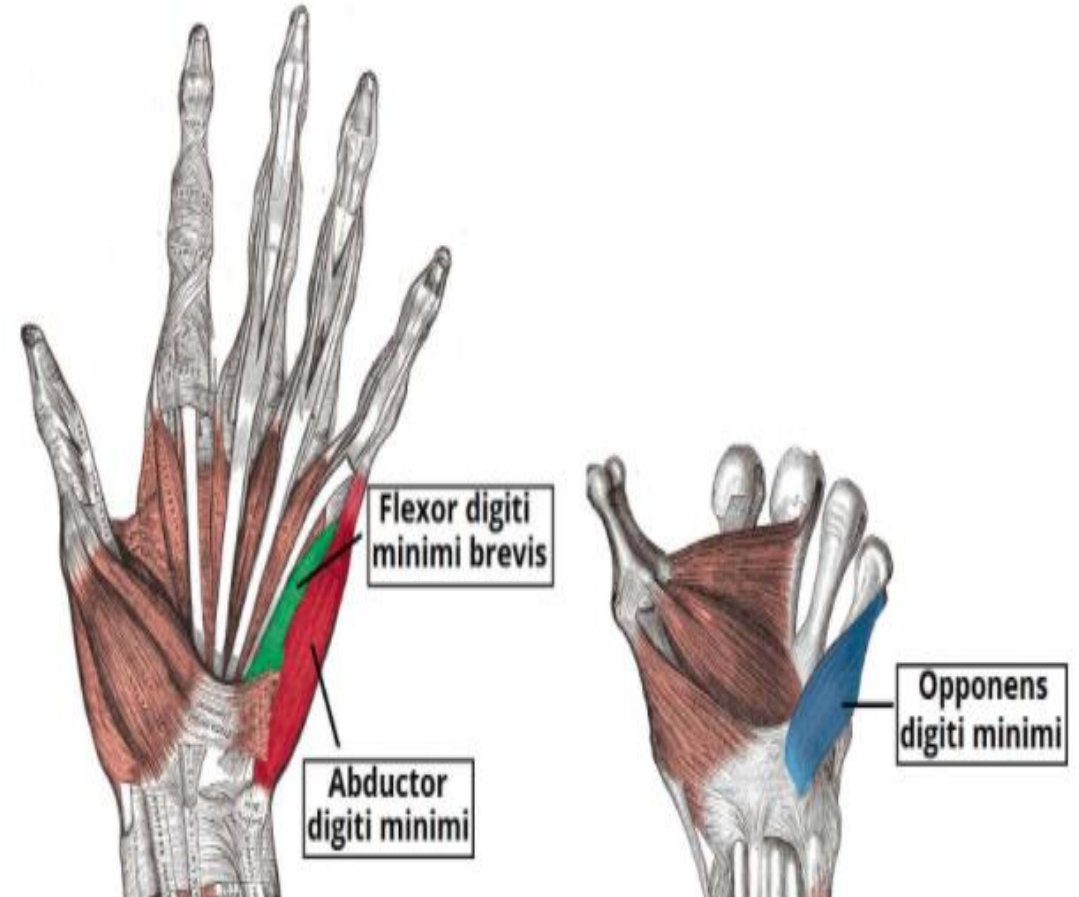
(Hypothenar muscles)

- ❖ Opponens digiti minimi
- ❖ Flexor digiti minimi
- ❖ Abductor digiti minimi



# Short Muscles of Thumb & Little Finger:

Hypothenar Eminence				
Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
<b>Abductor digiti minimi</b>	Pisiform	Base of proximal phalanx	All by deep branch of ulnar nerve	Abduction
<b>Flexor digiti minimi</b>	Flexor retinaculum			Flexion
<b>Opponens digiti minimi</b>	Flexor retinaculum			Palmar surface of 5th metacarpal

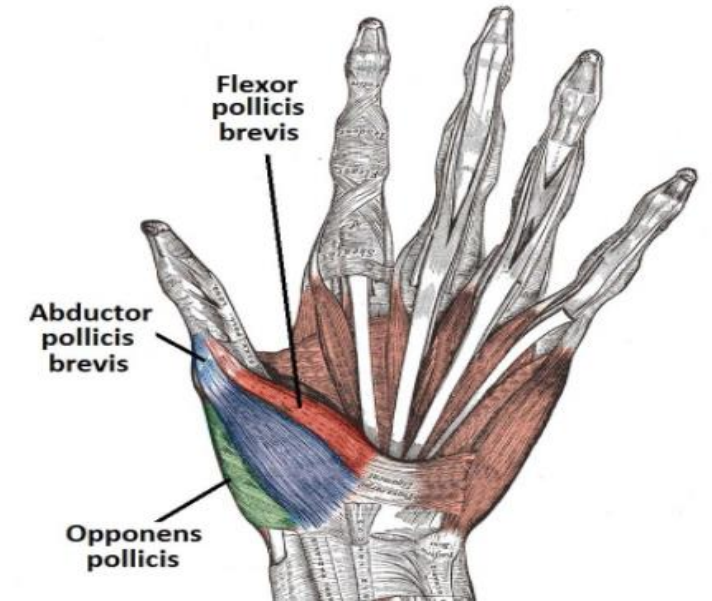




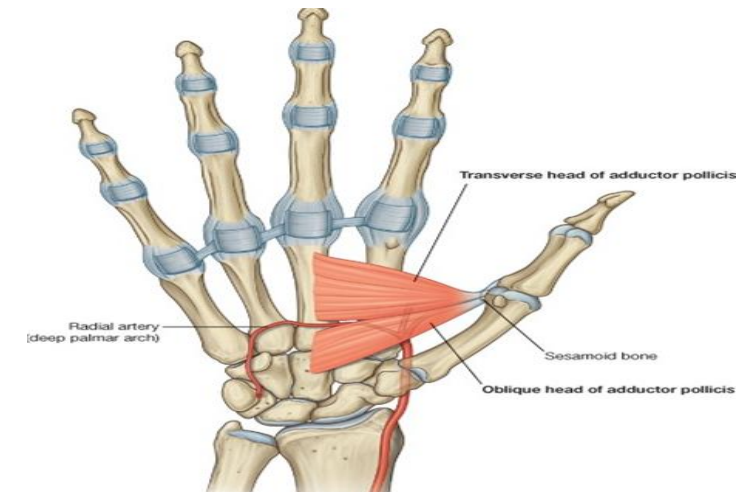
# Short Muscles of Thumb & Little Finger:

## Thenar Eminence

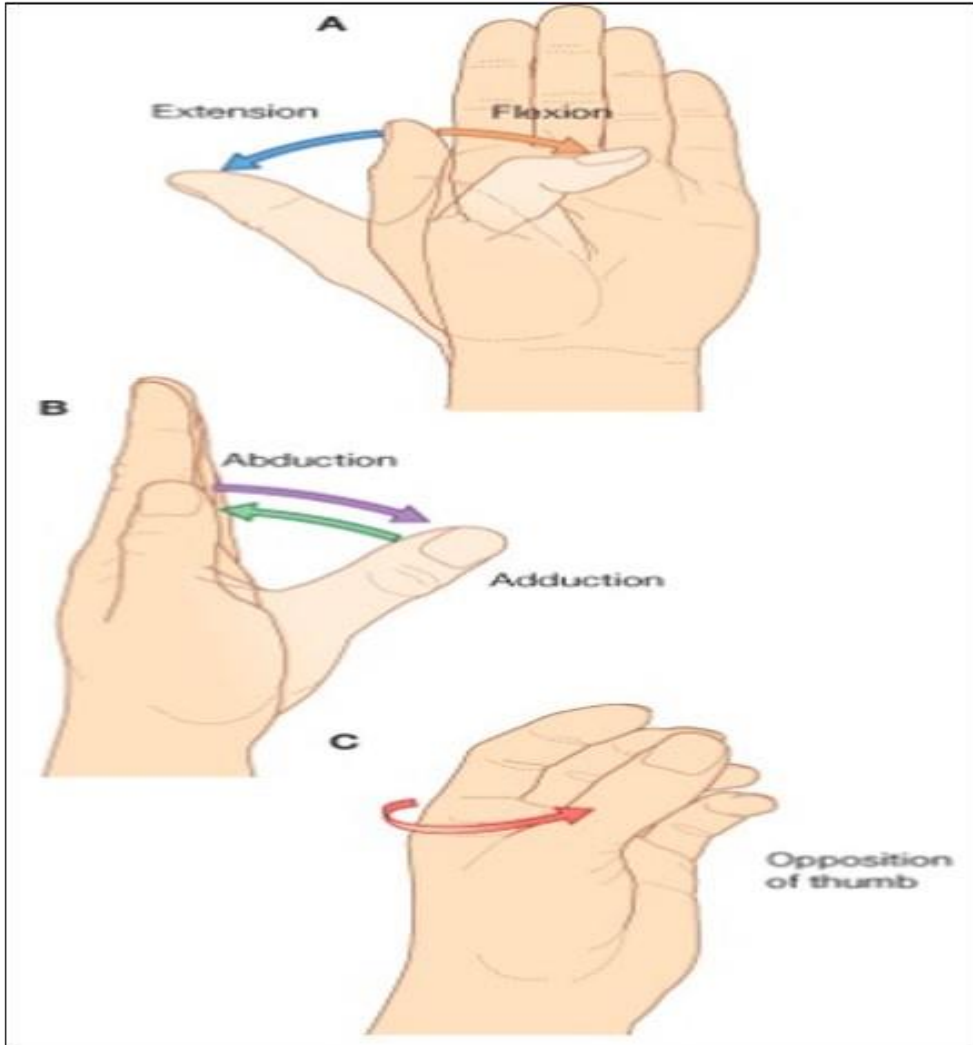
Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
<b>Abductor pollicis brevis</b>	Flexor retinaculum, Scaphoid and trapezium	Base of proximal phalanx	All supplied by median nerve	Abduction
Flexor pollicis brevis	Flexor retinaculum			Flexion
Opponens pollicis	Flexor retinaculum			Lateral part of 1st metacarpal



	Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
<b>Adductor Pollicis</b> (also on the thumb but not part of the thenar)	<b>Oblique head:</b> Anterior bases of 2nd & 3rd metacarpal. <b>Transverse head :</b> 3rd metacarpal.	Medial side of base of <b>proximal phalanx</b> of thumb.	<b>Deep</b> branch of <b>Ulnar</b> nerve.	<b>Adduction</b>



# Movements of the Thumb



Abduction Adduction Extension Flexion Opposition Reposition

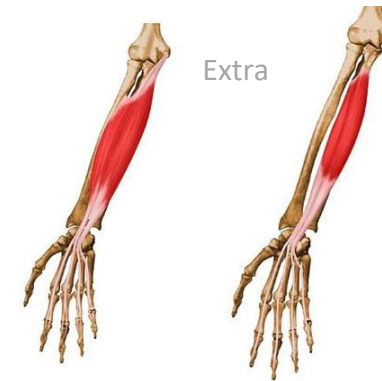
# Insertion of Flexor Digitorum Superficialis & Profundus

## Flexor Digitorum Superficialis

- 1- Each tendon **Divides** into two halves & pass around the Profundus Tendon.
- 2- The two halves **Meet** on the posterior aspect of Profundus tendon (partial decussation of fibres).
- 3- **Reunion** (اتحاد من جديد) of the two halves.
- 4- **Further Division into two slips** attached to the Borders of **Middle Phalanx**.

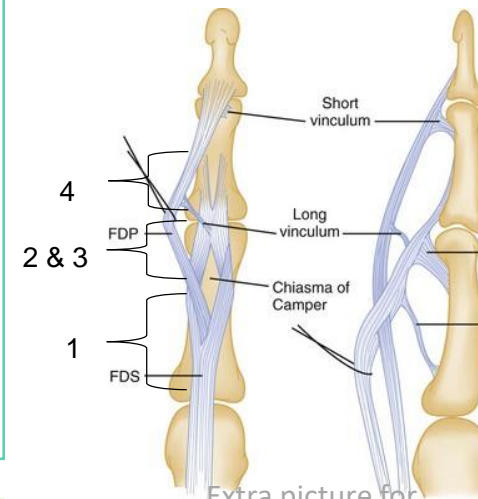
## Flexor digitorum Profundus :

Inserted into the Base of the **Distal Phalanx**.

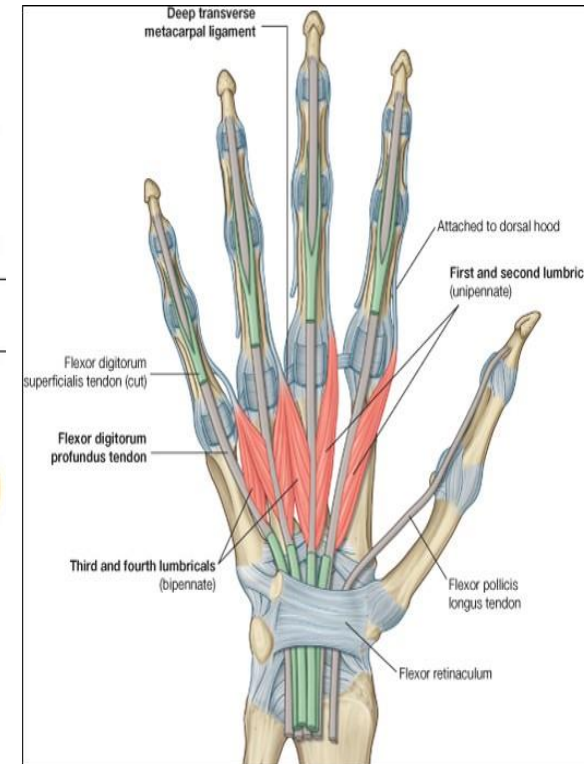


Flexor digitorum superficialis:

Flexor digitorum profundus:



Extra picture for understanding





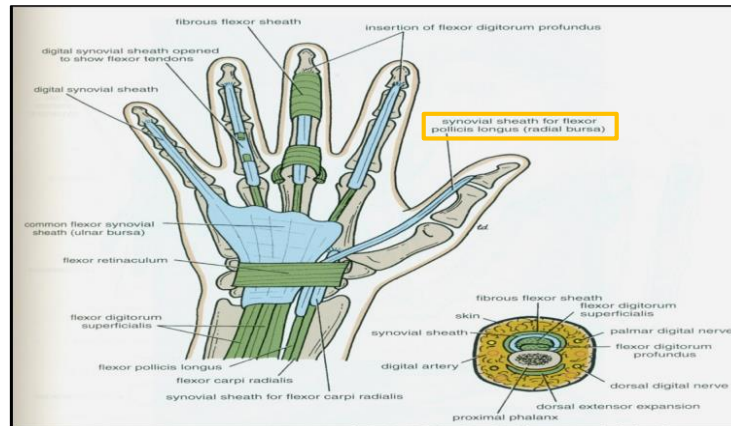
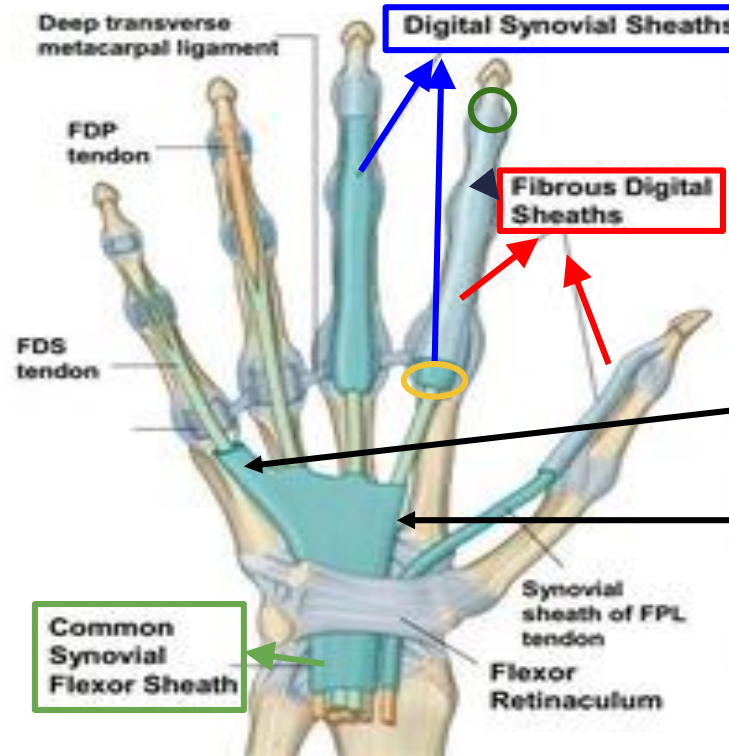
# Fibrous Flexor (Digital) & Synovial Flexor Sheaths:

## Fibrous flexor sheaths:

- Fibrous flexor is a **strong fibrous sheath** which covers <sup>1</sup> the anterior surface of the fingers and attached to the sides of the phalanges.
- Its proximal end is **opened**.
- Its distal end is **closed**.
- The sheath with the anterior surface of the phalanges & the interphalangeal joints form an **osteofibrous blind tunnel** <sup>2</sup> for the long flexor tendons of fingers.

<sup>1</sup> Both kinds of sheath covers the tendon to protect it.

<sup>2</sup> like a cave ( opened from one side and closed from another )



## Synovial flexor sheaths:

- A** - Common synovial sheath (ulnar bursa).
  - Cover tendons of flexor digitorum superficialis and profundus.
  - The medial part of it **extends distally** (without interruption) on tendons of the little finger. (covers the whole finger)
  - The lateral part **stops** on the middle of the palm. (doesn't cover the 3 middle fingers)
  - The distal ends of the long flexor tendons to **(index, middle and ring) fingers** is digital synovial sheaths. (not the ulnar bursa).
- B** - Flexor pollicis longus tendon of the thumb has its own synovial sheath (radial bursa).

## Function of synovial sheaths:

They allow the long tendons to move smoothly with a **minimum of friction** beneath the flexor retinaculum and the fibrous flexor sheaths.

Each finger has a tendon covered by (fibrous flexor sheath) to protect it and between the tendon and the fibrous sheath there are synovial sheaths to reduce friction.

# Muscles of the hand

## Lumbricals (4 muscles)

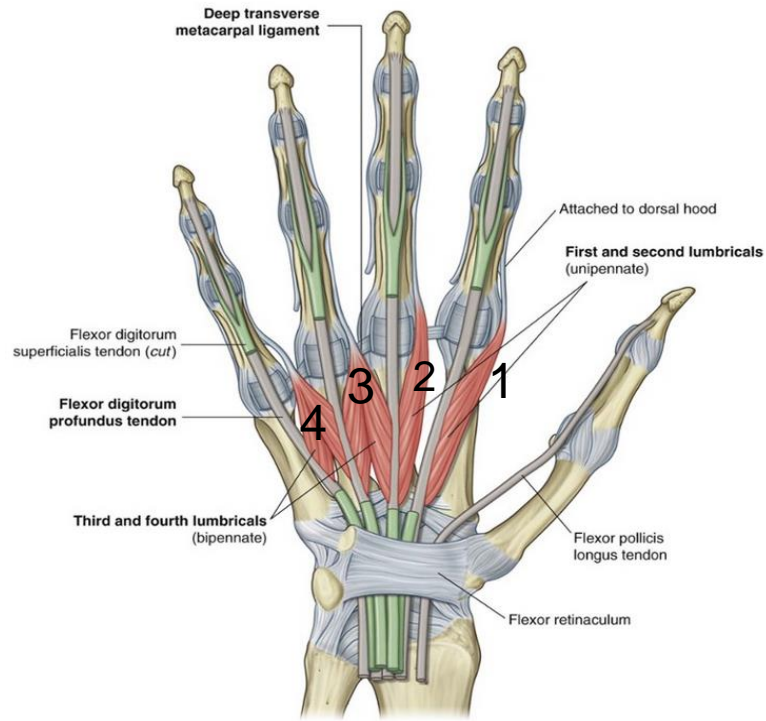


FIG. 7.104 Lumbrical muscles.

## Palmar interossei (4 muscles)

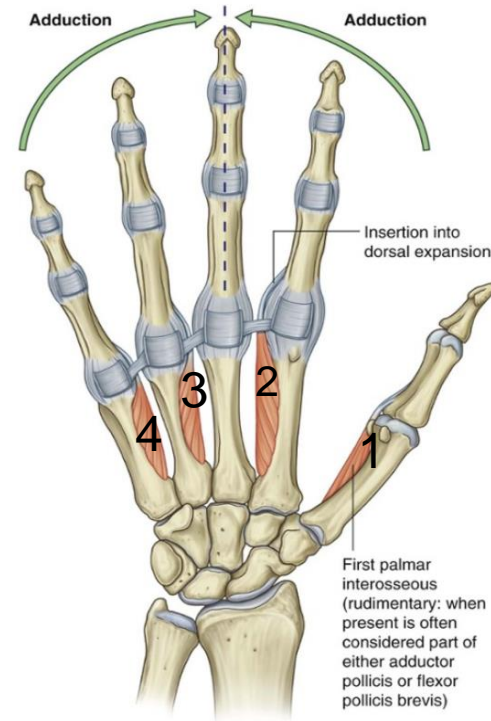


FIG. 7.101 Palmar interossei (palmar view).

## Dorsal interossei (4 muscles)

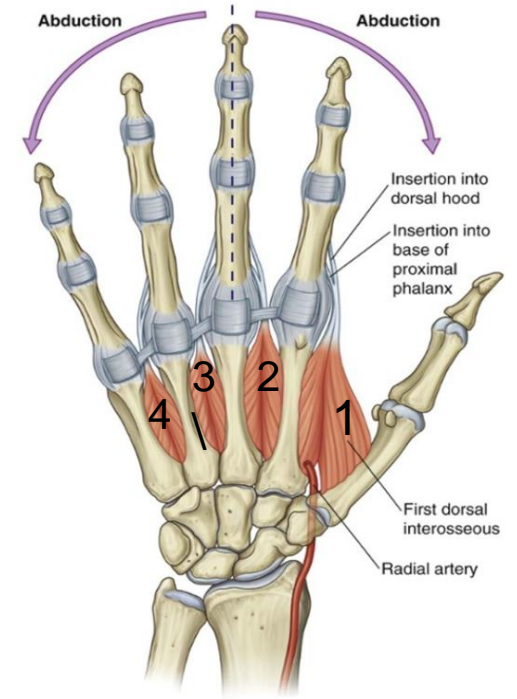
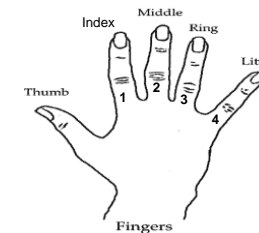
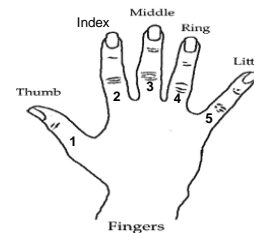


FIG. 7.100 Dorsal interossei (palmar view).

Note: you have to differentiate between numbering according to the metacarpals and numbering the digits



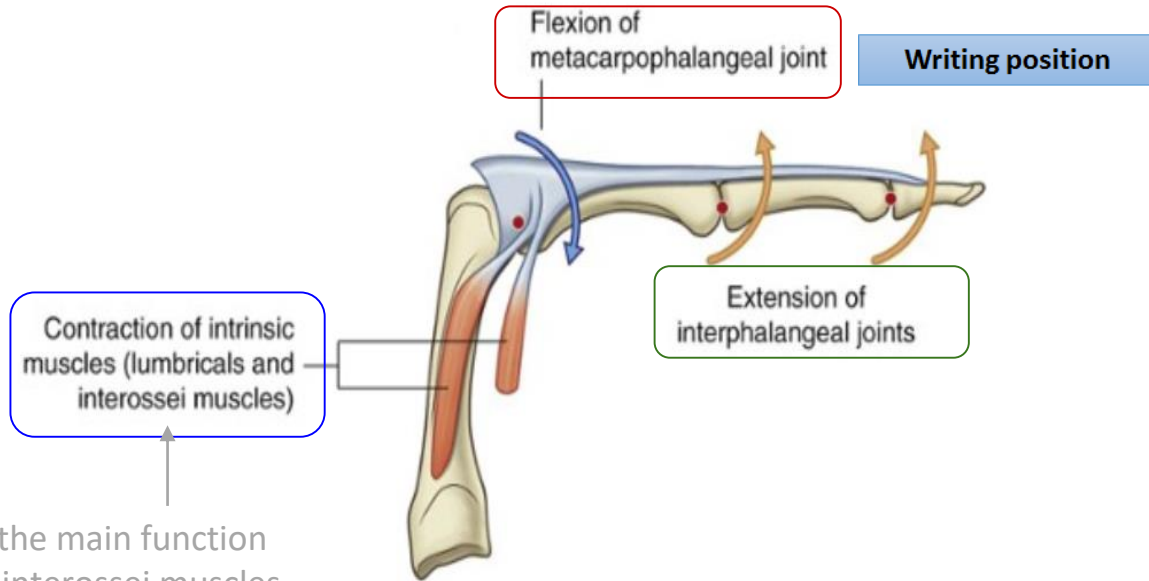
# Muscles of the hand

Muscle	Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
Lumbricals (4 muscles)	Tendons of flexor digitorum profundus	Extensor expansion of medial four fingers.	Lateral two <b>1st &amp; 2nd</b> by recurrent/digital branch of the <b>median nerve</b> Medial two <b>3rd &amp; 4th</b> by the deep branch of the <b>ulnar nerve</b> .	<u>Flex</u> metacarpophalangeal joints and <u>extend</u> interphalangeal joints of fingers <b>Except thumb</b>
Palmar interossei (4 muscles)	<u>1<sup>st</sup></u> : Base of 1 <sup>st</sup> metacarpal. <u>Other three</u> : Ant. Surface of Shafts of 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> metacarpals.*	Proximal phalanges of thumb ,index, ring, & little fingers and Extensor expansion	Deep branch of <b>ulnar nerve</b>	<u>Adduction</u> of fingers toward center of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one.
Dorsal interossei (4 muscles)	Contiguous sides of shafts of Metacarpals <small>Contiguous: adjacent, sharing a common border</small>	Proximal Phalanges of index, ring ,middle finger & Extensors	Deep branch of <b>ulnar nerve</b>	<u>Abduction</u> of fingers away from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one.

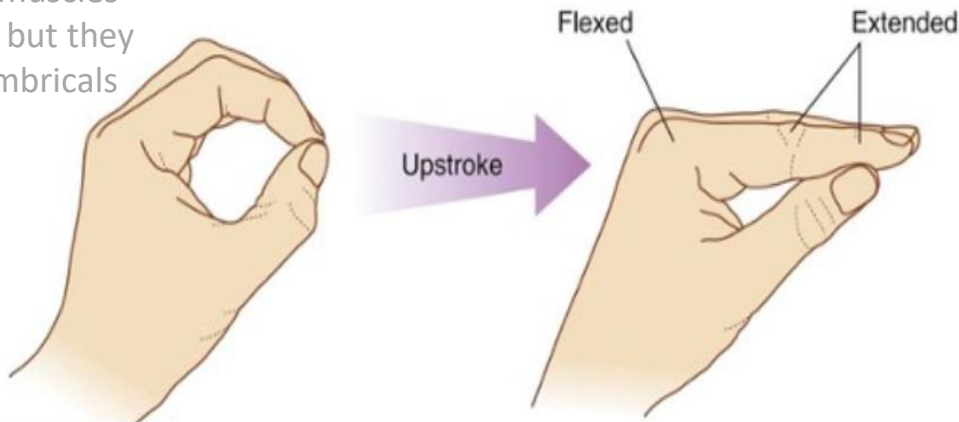
\* The 3<sup>rd</sup> metacarpal doesn't have palmer interossei because it is the axis (does not adduct)



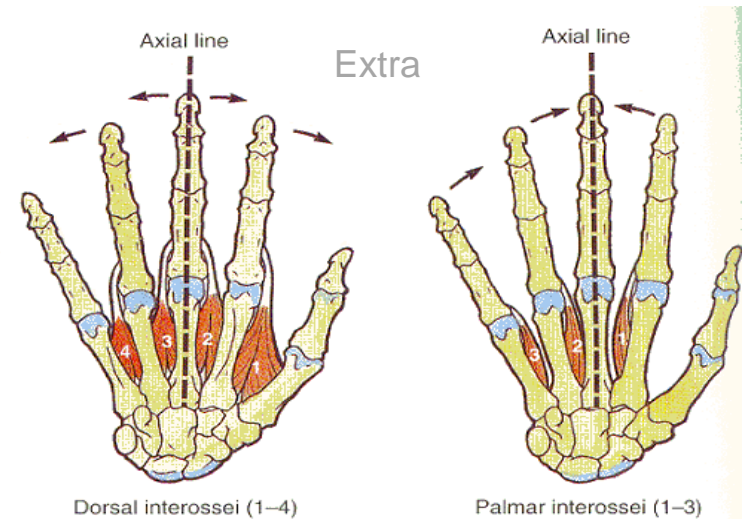
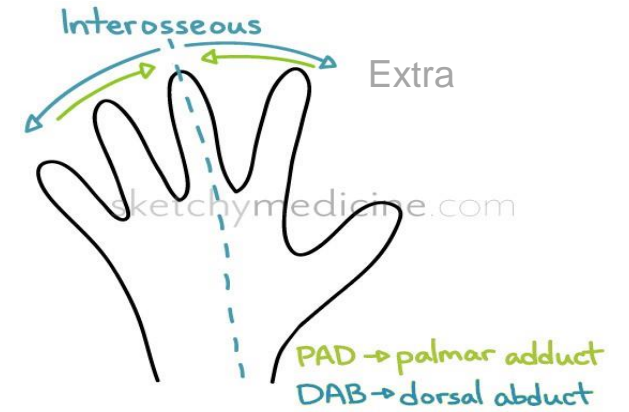
# Action of Lumbricals & Interossei



Note: the main function of the interossei muscles is abd/adduction but they also assist the lumbricals



Note: Reverse the writing position and you get the claw hand (extension of metacarpophalangeal & flexion of interphalangeal)



# Extensor Expansion

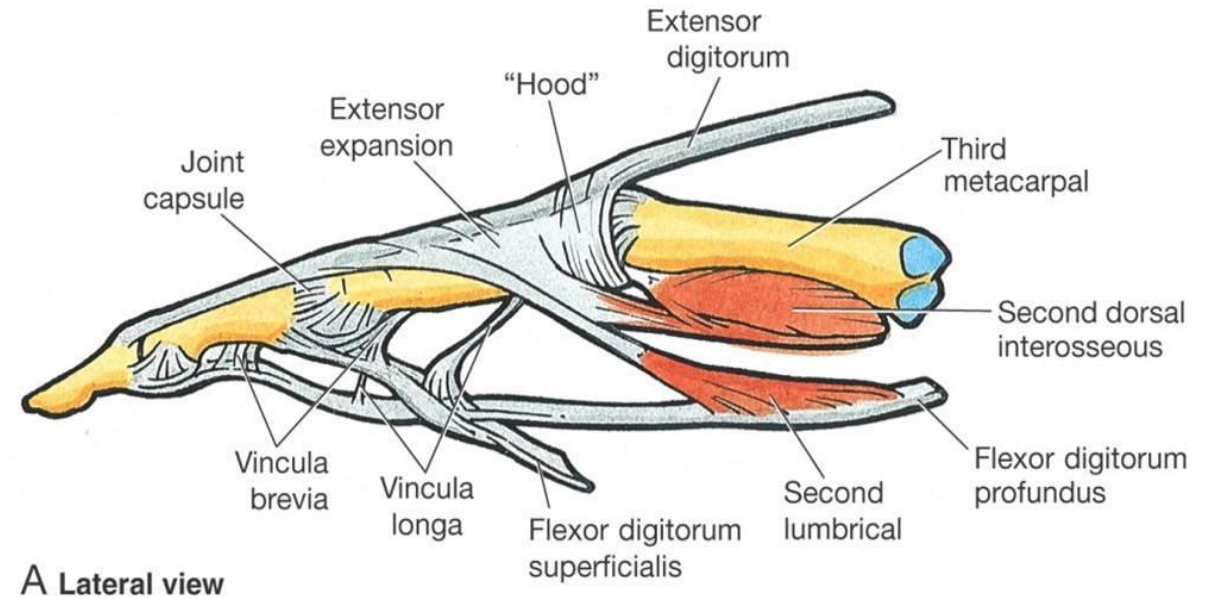
Formed from the expansion of the tendon of the extensor digitorum at the PIJ (proximal interphalangeal joint).

The tendon split into three parts:

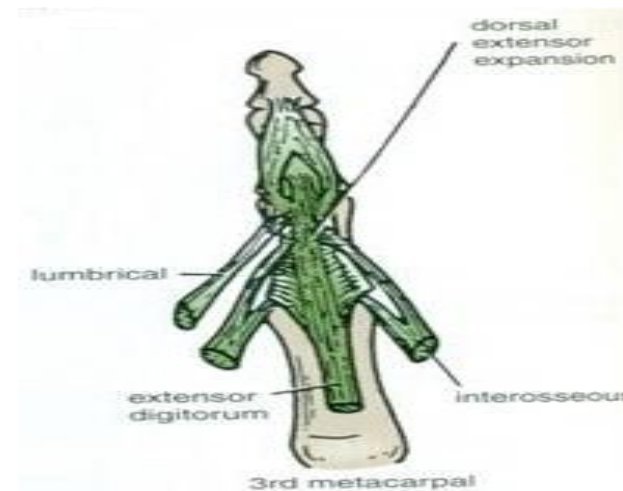
- One Central: inserted into the base of **Middle phalanx**.
- Two laterals: inserted into the base of the **Distal phalanx**.

The Expansion Receives the insertions of:

1. Corresponding **Interosseous muscle** (on each side).
2. **Lumbrical muscle** (on the lateral side).



A Lateral view



# Summary

## Hand and wrist

	Name	Origin	Insertion	Nerve supply	Action
Hypothenar eminence.	Abductor Digiti Minimi.	Pisiform.	Base of proximal phalanx.	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Abduction.
	Flexor Digiti Minimi.	Flexor retinacula.	Base of proximal phalanx.	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Flexion.
	Opponens Digiti minimi	Flexor retinaculum	Palmer surface of 5 <sup>th</sup> metacarpal	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Pulls the 5 <sup>th</sup> metacarpal forward (Cup the palm).
Thenar Eminence	Abductor Pollicis Brevis.	FR + Scaphoid and trapezium.	Base of proximal phalanx of 1 <sup>st</sup> digit.	Median nerve.	Abduction.
	Flexor Pollicis Brevis.	Flexor Retinaculum.	Base of proximal phalanx of 1 <sup>st</sup> digit.	Median nerve.	Flexion.
	Opponens Pollicis.	Flexor retinaculum (+Trapezium)	Lateral part of 1 <sup>ST</sup> metacarpal.	Median nerve.	Opposition.
	Palmaris Brevis.	FR + Palmaris aponeurosis.	Skin of palm.	Ulnar nerve (superficial branch).	Corrugation of skin to improve grip.
	Adductor Pollicis oblique.	Anterior base of 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> metacarpal.	Medial base of proximal phalanx of thumb.	Deep branch of ulnar.	Adduction.
	Adductor Pollicis transverse.	3 <sup>rd</sup> metacarpal.	Medial base of proximal phalanx of thumb.	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Adduction.
	Lumbrical muscles	Tendons of flexor digitorum profundus.	Extensor expansion of medial four fingers.	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> (median) 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> (deep ulnar branch).	-Flexion of metacarpophalangeal joints -Extension of interphalangeal joints.
Palmar interossei	1 <sup>st</sup> : Base of 1 <sup>st</sup> metacarpal. Other three: Anterior surface of shafts of 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> metacarpals.	Proximal phalanges of thumb, index, ring, & little fingers and Extensor expansion	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Adduction of fingers toward center of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one.	
Dorsal interossei	Contiguous sides of shafts of Metacarpals.	Proximal Phalange of index, ring, mid finger & EX.	Deep branch of ulnar nerve.	Abduction of fingers away from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one.	



# Questions

**1- The hypothenar muscles are supplied by:**

- A- Median nerve
- B- Superficial branch of the ulnar nerve
- C- Musculocutaneous nerve
- D- Deep branch of the ulnar nerve

**2- The palmar aponeurosis gives origin to the palmaris longus muscle**

- A- True
- B- False

**3-There are two other muscles in the palm that are not lumbricals or interossei and do not fit in the hypothenar or thenar compartments:**

- A- Abductor pollicis & Opponens pollicis
- B- Opponens digiti minimi & flexor digiti minimi
- C-Adductor Pollicis & Palmaris Brevis

**4- which end of fibrous flexor sheath is opened ?**

- A- proximal end
- B- distal end
- C- none of them
- D- both of them

**5- the function of synovial sheaths is:**

- A- to protect the bone
- B- Hold the long flexor and extensor tendons at the wrist in position.
- C- minimum friction
- D- flexion of the wrist

**6- The lateral two lumbrical muscles are supplied by :**

- A-Deep branch of ulnar nerve
- B-digital branches of the median nerve
- C-Superficial branch of the ulnar nerve
- D-axillary nerve

**7- The insertion of Dorsal interossei is in :**

- A-Proximal Phalanges of index, ring ,middle finger & Extensors
- B- distal phalanges of index, ring, middle finger & Extensors
- C-Base of proximal phalanx
- D- Lateral part of 1sr metacarpal

**8- What is the origin of Adductor Pollicis ?**

- A- Flexor retinaculum.
- B- Pisiform.
- C- Flexor retinaculum Scaphoid and trapezium.
- D- Anterior base of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> metacarpals.

**9- The 2 halves of tendon of Flexor digiti superficialis will meet on :**

- A- Anterior aspect of Profundus tendon. 1-D
- B- Posterior aspect of Profundus tendon. 2-B
- C- Anterior aspect of superficialis tendon. 3-C
- D- Posterior aspect of superficialis tendon. 4- A

- 5- C
- 6- B
- 7- A
- 8- D
- 9- B

# Questions

10- A boy injured his median nerve and as a result there was a wasting in the thenar muscles. List the muscles affected and the action of each one.

11- A patient presented with burning pain in the lateral three and half fingers and inability to oppose the thumb. What is the most likely diagnosis? Which nerve is affected?

12- List 4 structures superficial to the flexor retinaculum.

Answers:

10- 1) abductor pollicis brevis (abduction)

2) flexor pollicis brevis (flexion)

3) opponens pollicis (opposition)

11- Carpal tunnel syndrome. The median nerve is compressed.

12- 1) ulnar nerve

2) ulnar artery

3) palmar cutaneous branch of ulnar nerve

