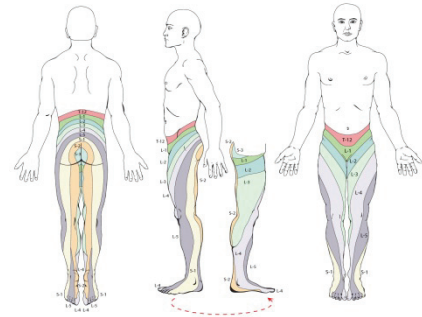


Lumbar Dermatomes: Chemical Radiculitis

- Discs do not have to bulge to cause pain from the nerve root. They can leak chemicals and produce nerve root pain following a dermatomal pattern.
- Dermatomes are regions of altered sensation from irritated or damaged nerve roots.
- Symptoms that follow a dermatome (numbness, tingling or pain) may indicate a pathology that involves the related nerve root. These symptoms can follow the entire dermatome or just part of it.
- When symptoms cover more than one dermatome it may suggest more severe pathology and involvement of more than one nerve root.



1. Sizer PS Jr, Phelps V, Matthijs O. Pain generators of the lumbar spine. *Pain Pract.* 2001;1(3):255-273.
2. Sizer PS Jr, Phelps V, Dedrick G, Matthijs O. Differential diagnosis and management of spinal nerve root-related pain. *Pain Pract.* 2002;2(2):98-121.
3. Kuslich SD, Ulstrom CL, Michael CJ. The tissue origin of low back pain and sciatica: a report of pain response to tissue stimulation during operations on the lumbar spine using local anesthesia. *Orthop. Clin. North Am.* 1991;22(2):181-187.