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.