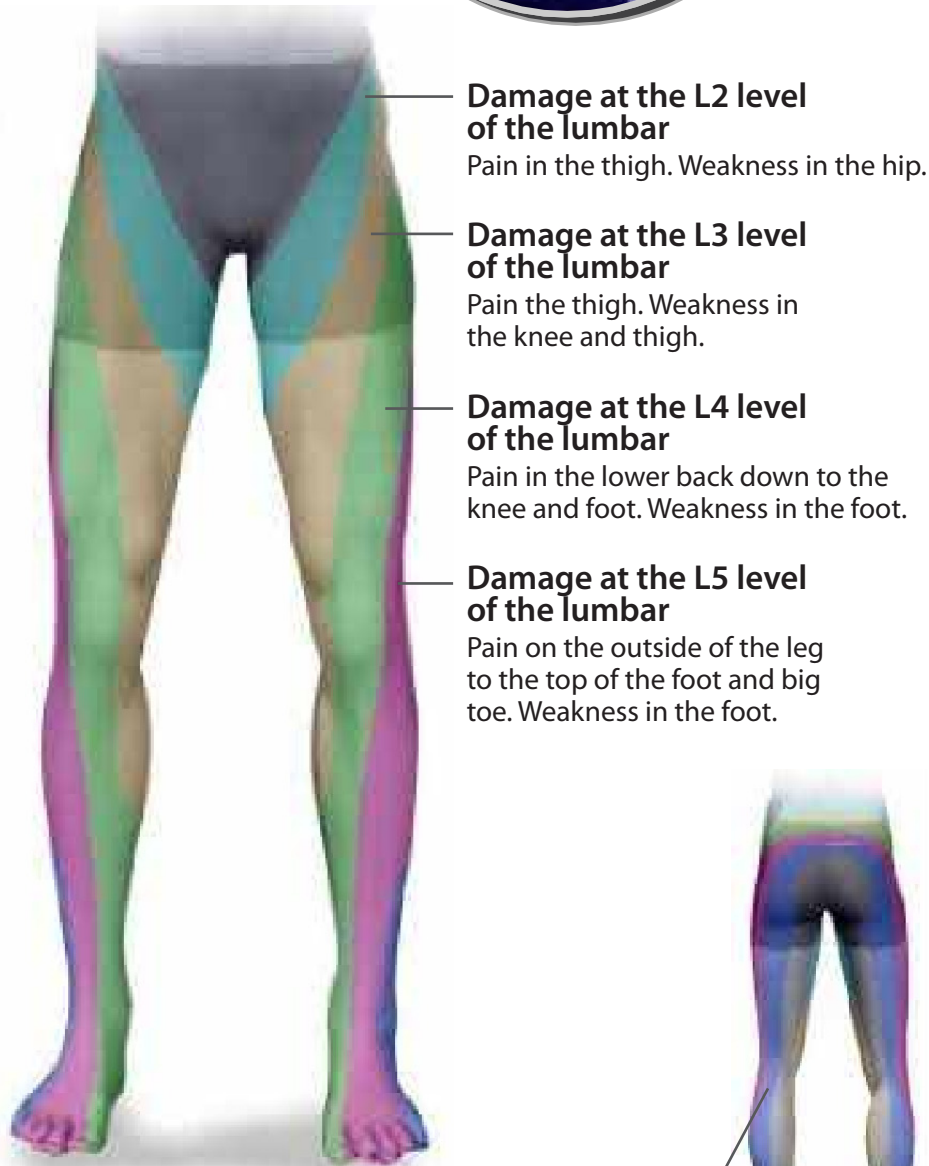
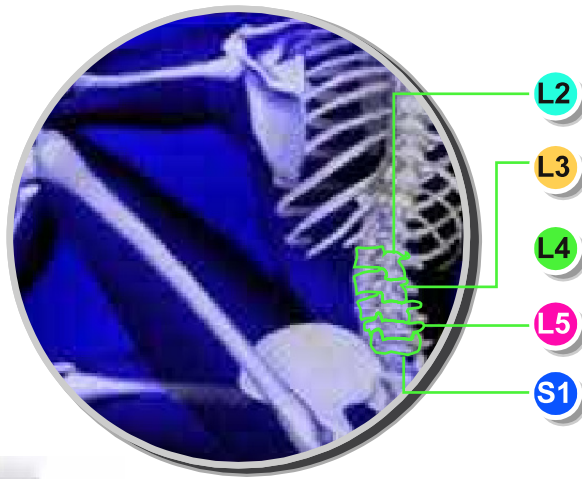


Lumbar Radiculopathy (Sciatica)



Damage at the L2 level of the lumbar
Pain in the thigh. Weakness in the hip.

Damage at the L3 level of the lumbar
Pain the thigh. Weakness in the knee and thigh.

Damage at the L4 level of the lumbar
Pain in the lower back down to the knee and foot. Weakness in the foot.

Damage at the L5 level of the lumbar
Pain on the outside of the leg to the top of the foot and big toe. Weakness in the foot.

Damage at the S1 level of the spine
Pain in the back of the calf to the outside of the foot and little toe. Weakness in the calf.



Overview

The spinal cord branches out to all parts of the body. The part of a nerve that connects to the spinal cord is called a nerve root. If one of these roots is injured or pinched - pain, weakness, numbness or tingling may be felt in the part of the body served by that nerve.

Herniated Disc

When a spinal disc ruptures, it may press on a nerve root.

Degenerative Disc Disease

If a spinal disc weakens, vertebral bones above and below may touch, pinching nearby nerve roots. Bony spurs may press on the nerves.

Symptoms

The nerve roots leaving the lower back serve the legs. When a lumbar root is injured - pain, weakness, numbness or tingling may be felt in the buttocks, leg or foot. This pain is usually called sciatica.