

## UPPER LUMBAR DISC EXTRUSION PRESENTING AS GROIN PAIN

The L1 nerve receives sensory fibres from the inguinal region, pubis, scrotum/labia, and the upper medial thigh.

L1 radiculopathy can present with groin pain which may mimic renal colic. An area of cutaneous hyperaesthesia may also be present in the inguinal region.

As its motor fibres are to abdominal ( and cremasteric ) muscles only, an L1 radiculopathy does not cause leg weakness, although the cremaster reflex may be diminished.

The case below emphasizes the need to image the upper lumbar region in a patient with right groin pain.

Right oblique T1 image (below left) shows disc material within the right L1/2 neural foramen, compressing the right L1 nerve root (arrow).

This is confirmed on axial T1 scan (large arrow right). The left L1 nerve root is clearly seen within its foramen (small arrow).



