

Sciatic Nerve Program Transcript

This is a diagram of the sciatic nerve. The nerve arises from the ventral rami of L4 through S3. Like the femoral and obturator nerves, it runs in the pelvis. And then it goes posteriorly into the posterior thigh. From the posterior thigh, it goes to the knee, where it divides into its two main components—the tibial nerve and the common fibular nerve.

In the case of the sciatic nerve, the location of the lesion is important. If the lesion is at the spinal nerve, then it will affect structures at the pelvis and through the entire lower limb. If the lesion is in the posterior thigh, then it will affect the muscles and sensation in the posterior thigh and down into the leg and the foot but not the structures innervated in the pelvis. If the lesion is at the level of the knee, then it will affect structures in the leg and foot but not structures in the thigh and pelvis.