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pseudoclaudication

[-klŏ'dikā'shən]

painful cramps that are not caused by peripheral artery disease but rather by spinal, neurologic, or orthopedic disorders, such as spinal stenosis, diabetic neuropathy, or arthritis.

Mosby's Medical Dictionary, 8th edition. © 2009, Elsevier.

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pseudoclaudication unilateral limb discomfort caused by spinal nerve root/s irritation; characterized by pain, numbness or weakness (radiating distally from buttock to thigh/lower leg) exacerbated by walking or standing, associated sensory and motor dysfunction, reduction/loss of limb tendon reflexes, but no vascular abnormality; symptoms are induced by elevation of affected limb, i.e. by hip flexion with knee in full extension (Table 1 and Table 2)

Table 1: Characteristics of spinal nerve root damage affecting the leg

Nerve root	Sensory deficit	Motor deficit	Tendon reflex response
Fourth lumbar (L4)	Medial aspects of the lower leg, malleolus, foot	Quadriceps femoris (loss of active knee extension)	Reduced knee jerk Normal ankle jerk
Fifth lumbar (L5)	Anterolateral aspect of the lower leg and dorsum of foot	Extensor hallucis longus (loss of active 1 MTPJ dorsiflexion)	Normal knee jerk Normal ankle jerk
First sacral (S1)	Posterolateral aspect of lower leg	Triceps surae and plantar foot (loss of active ankle plantarflexion and knee flexion)	Normal knee jerk Reduced ankle jerk

1 MTPJ, first metatarsophalangeal joint.

Table 2: Percussion responses

Tendon stretch excited by percussion	Spinal nerve roots stimulated	Reflex response elicited
Biceps brachialis	C5-C6	Flexion of forearm at elbow
Triceps brachialis	C7-C8	Extension of forearm at elbow
Patellar	L3-L4	Knee joint extension
Achilles	S1-S2	Ankle joint plantarflexion

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