

Visited 03/26/2015

# Straight leg raise

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **straight leg raise**, also called **Lasègue's sign**, **Lasègue test** or **Lazarević's sign**, is a test done during the physical examination to determine whether a patient with low back pain has an underlying herniated disk, often located at L5 (fifth lumbar spinal nerve).

## Contents

- 1 Technique
- 2 Interpretation
- 3 Lasègue's sign
- 4 See also
- 5 References

## Technique

With the patient lying down on his or her back on an examination table or exam floor, the examiner lifts the patient's leg while the knee is straight.

A variation is to lift the leg while the patient is sitting.<sup>[1]</sup> However, this reduces the sensitivity of the test.<sup>[2]</sup>

In order to make this test more specific, the ankle can be dorsiflexed and the cervical spine flexed. This increases the stretching of the nerve root and dura.

## Interpretation

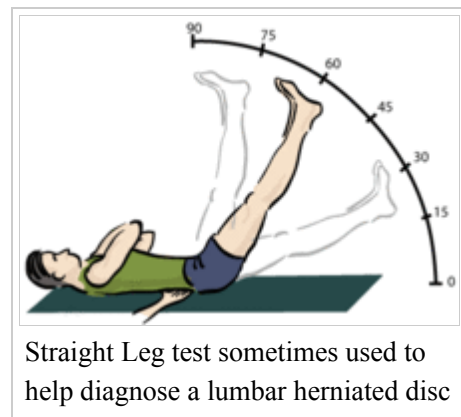
If the patient experiences sciatic pain when the straight leg is at an angle of between 30 and 70 degrees, then the test is positive and a herniated disc is likely to be the cause of the pain.<sup>[3]</sup>

A meta-analysis reported the accuracy as:<sup>[4]</sup>

- sensitivity 91%
- specificity 26%

If raising the opposite leg causes pain (cross or contralateral straight leg raising):

- sensitivity 29%
- specificity 88%



Visited 03/26/2015

## Lasègue's sign

Lasègue's sign was named after Charles Lasègue (1816-1883).<sup>[5]</sup> In 1864 Lasègue described the signs of developing low back pain while straightening the knee when the leg has already been lifted. In 1880 Serbian doctor Laza Lazarević described the straight leg raise test as it is used today, so the sign is often named **Lazarević's sign** in Serbia and some other countries.<sup>[6]</sup>

## See also

- Femoral nerve stretch test

## References

1. Waddell G, McCulloch JA, Kummel E, Venner RM (1980). "Nonorganic physical signs in low-back pain". *Spine* **5** (2): 117–25. doi:10.1097/00007632-198003000-00005 (https://dx.doi.org/10.1097%2F00007632-198003000-00005). PMID 6446157 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/6446157).
2. Rabin A, Gerszten PC, Karausky P, Bunker CH, Potter DM, Welch WC (2007). "The sensitivity of the seated straight-leg raise test compared with the supine straight-leg raise test in patients presenting with magnetic resonance imaging evidence of lumbar nerve root compression". *Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation* **88** (7): 840–3. doi:10.1016/j.apmr.2007.04.016 (https://dx.doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.apmr.2007.04.016). PMID 17601462 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17601462).
3. Speed C (2004). "Low back pain" (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC406328). *BMJ* **328** (7448): 1119–21. doi:10.1136/bmj.328.7448.1119 (https://dx.doi.org/10.1136%2Fbmj.328.7448.1119). PMC 406328 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC406328). PMID 15130982 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15130982).
4. Devillé WL, van der Windt DA, Dzaferagić A, Bezemer PD, Bouter LM (2000). "The test of Lasègue: systematic review of the accuracy in diagnosing herniated discs". *Spine* **25** (9): 1140–7. doi:10.1097/00007632-200005010-00016 (https://dx.doi.org/10.1097%2F00007632-200005010-00016). PMID 10788860 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10788860).
5. http://www.whonamedit.com/synd.cfm/2468.html
6. Lazarevićev znak (http://www.inet.hr/~fruzic/zdravlje/knjiga/Lazaricev%20znak.htm) (**Croatian**)

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Straight\_leg\_raise&oldid=644762321"

Categories: Symptoms and signs: Nervous system | Medical signs | Musculoskeletal examination

- 
- This page was last modified on 29 January 2015, at 22:44.
  - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.