Table 2: Functions of the nerves commonly affected by a lumbar disc herniation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spinal nerve root</th>
<th>Sensory area</th>
<th>Major motor function</th>
<th>Reflex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>Medial knee</td>
<td>Knee extension</td>
<td>Knee jerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L4</td>
<td>Medial foot</td>
<td>Knee extension; ankle inversion,</td>
<td>Knee jerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>extension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L5</td>
<td>First web space</td>
<td>Hip abduction, ankle extension,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>great toe extension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S1</td>
<td>Lateral border of foot</td>
<td>Ankle flexion</td>
<td>Ankle jerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>Posterior thigh and calf</td>
<td>Ankle flexion</td>
<td>Ankle jerk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3-5</td>
<td>Perianal area</td>
<td>Sphincters</td>
<td>Bulbocavernosus, anal wink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>