

# The role of sensory parameters in predicting clinical outcome after lumbar discectomy

ACTRN12614001070628

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**Status** RECRUITING  
**Sponsor** Dr Brigitte Tampin  
**Enrollment** 160 participants

## Plain Language Summary

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This study is looking at whether the sensitivity of nerves to touch, temperature, and pressure before back surgery can predict how much pain a person will feel after surgery. Some people continue to have significant pain after lumbar disc surgery, and doctors want to understand why. If we can identify who is at risk before surgery, we may be able to tailor their care better and improve their recovery.

You may be eligible if:

- You are between 18 and 65 years old
- You have leg pain (sciatica) that has lasted more than 3 months
- You have been diagnosed with a lumbar disc pressing on a nerve (lumbar radiculopathy)
- Your scan shows nerve root compression matching your symptoms
- You are on the waiting list for lumbar disc surgery (discectomy)

You may NOT be eligible if:

- You have diabetes or vascular disease
- You have a thyroid disorder or other neurological or psychiatric condition
- You have had previous lumbar spine surgery
- You cannot complete questionnaires in English

Talk to your doctor about whether this trial might be right for you.

## Key Eligibility Criteria

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### Inclusion (1)

- Age 18 to 65 years; symptom duration of > 3 months; clinical diagnosis of lumbar radiculopathy (defined as conduction block along a spinal nerve or nerve root, manifesting clinically with dermatomal sensory loss or myotomal weakness or reflex changes) and leg pain in L5 or S1 dermatomal distribution; demonstrable clinically relevant abnormality on imaging studies indicating nerve root compression at the relevant spinal level; person listed on the elective neurosurgery surgery waitlist for the procedure of lumbar discectomy.

### Exclusion (1)

- diabetes and vascular disease, thyroid disorder, other neurological or psychiatric disease; previous lumbar surgery; a history of any disorders that potentially might affect the sensation in the hand (negative control site) to be tested and an insufficient level of English to understand and fill out the questionnaires

## Locations (1 total)

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Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital - Nedlands, WA, Australia

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<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12614001070628>

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