

Symptoms in Spine Diseases

Irritation, inflammation, compression, or injury to a *nerve root* is called **radiculopathy**. Irritation, inflammation, compression or injury of the *spinal cord* is called **myelopathy**. Irritation, inflammation, compression, or injury to the cauda equina is known as **cauda equina syndrome**.

In radiculopathy, which is injury to a nerve root, there is pain, numbness and/or weakness of the skin and muscles that are specifically innervated by the nerve. In myelopathy, which is injury to the spinal cord, there is pain, numbness, weakness, paralysis, and/or loss of bowel, bladder and sexual function, all below the level of the spinal cord that is affected. In cauda equina syndrome, which means injury to all the nerve roots below L1 (the end of the spinal cord) there is pain, numbness, weakness, paralysis of the legs, and/or loss of bowel, bladder and sexual function also.