

The fifth lumbar dorsal spinal rami pass posteriorly, medial to the medial intertransversarii muscles and divide into medial and lateral branches.

The medial branch of the dorsal ramus of L5 has a similar course and distribution as L1-L4, except that it passes across the ala of sacrum instead of the transverse process. It runs in the groove formed by the junction of the ala and the root of the superior articular process of the sacrum, before hooking medially around the base of the L5/S1 zygapophyseal joint, to which it sends a branch before ending in multifidus.

Lateral branches (L1 to L5) are distributed mainly to the iliocostalis lumborum muscles.

### **Supply**

The medial branches supply the multifidus muscle; the lateral branches supply the erector spinae muscles. The lateral branches of the fifth lumbar dorsal rami do not have cutaneous branches.