

The **first lumbar ventral spinal rami** exit the vertebral column through the intervertebral foramina between the pedicles of L1 and L2. They are larger than the ventral rami above and emerge above the transverse processes of L2, where they are connected to adjacent sympathetic ganglia by grey (proximal) and white (distal) rami communicantes.

They pass around the sides of the body of L1 with the lumbar arteries initially behind and then within the psoas major muscles. Within psoas major each **ventral rami** divides into a larger superior part and a smaller inferior part. The superior branches give rise to the iliohypogastric and ilioinguinal nerves, and the inferior branches join with branches from the second lumbar ventral rami to form the genitofemoral nerves. They join with the ventral rami of L2, L3 and L4 to participate in the formation of the lumbar plexus.

### **Supply**

The first lumbar ventral spinal rami supply the quadratus lumborum, internal oblique, cremaster, transversus abdominis and psoas minor muscles. Cutaneous fibers are distributed in the iliohypogastric, ilioinguinal and genitofemoral nerves to supply the skin of the scrotum or mons pubis and suprapubic region as well as skin over the anterior trunk, postero-lateral gluteal region and supero-medial region of the thigh.