

## E-Pearl of the Week

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### **Truncal sensory level with lateral medullary lesions**

A truncal sensory level is most commonly seen with spinal cord lesions. This finding has also been described in lower lateral brainstem lesions. A partial lesion of the lateral spinothalamic tract involving only the far lateral fibers may explain selective involvement of trunk and lower limb. In the presence of other features suggesting brainstem disease, sensory level on the trunk should be recognized as symptomatic of lateral medullary infarction in addition to other sensory variants.

#### **Reference**

Matsumoto S, Okuda B, Imai T, Kameyama M. A sensory level on the trunk in lower lateral brainstem lesions. *Neurology* 1988;38:1515.

Phan TG, Wijdicks FM. A sensory level on the trunk and sparing the face from vertebral artery dissection: how much more subtle can we get? *J. Neurol. Neurosurg. Psychiatry* 1999; 66:691-692.

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