

from the waist down, together with paralysis and hyperactive reflexes in the legs, indicates transection of the spinal cord (see Table 17-6, pp. 522-523).

A knowledge of dermatomes also aids in localizing neurologic lesions. A dermatome is the band of skin innervated by the sensory nerve root of a single spinal segment. Dermatome patterns are mapped in the next two figures. Their levels are considerably more variable than the diagrams suggest, and dermatomes overlap each other. The sensory nerves from each side of the body overlap slightly across the midline.

