

In the clinic

Dermatomes and myotomes

A knowledge of dermatomes and myotomes is absolutely fundamental to carrying out a neurological examination. A typical dermatome map is shown in Fig. 1.39.

Clinically, a dermatome is that area of skin supplied by a single nerve or spinal cord level. A myotome is that

region of skeletal muscle innervated by a single nerve or spinal cord level. Most individual muscles of the body are innervated by more than one spinal cord level, so the evaluation of myotomes is usually accomplished by testing movements of joints or muscle groups.

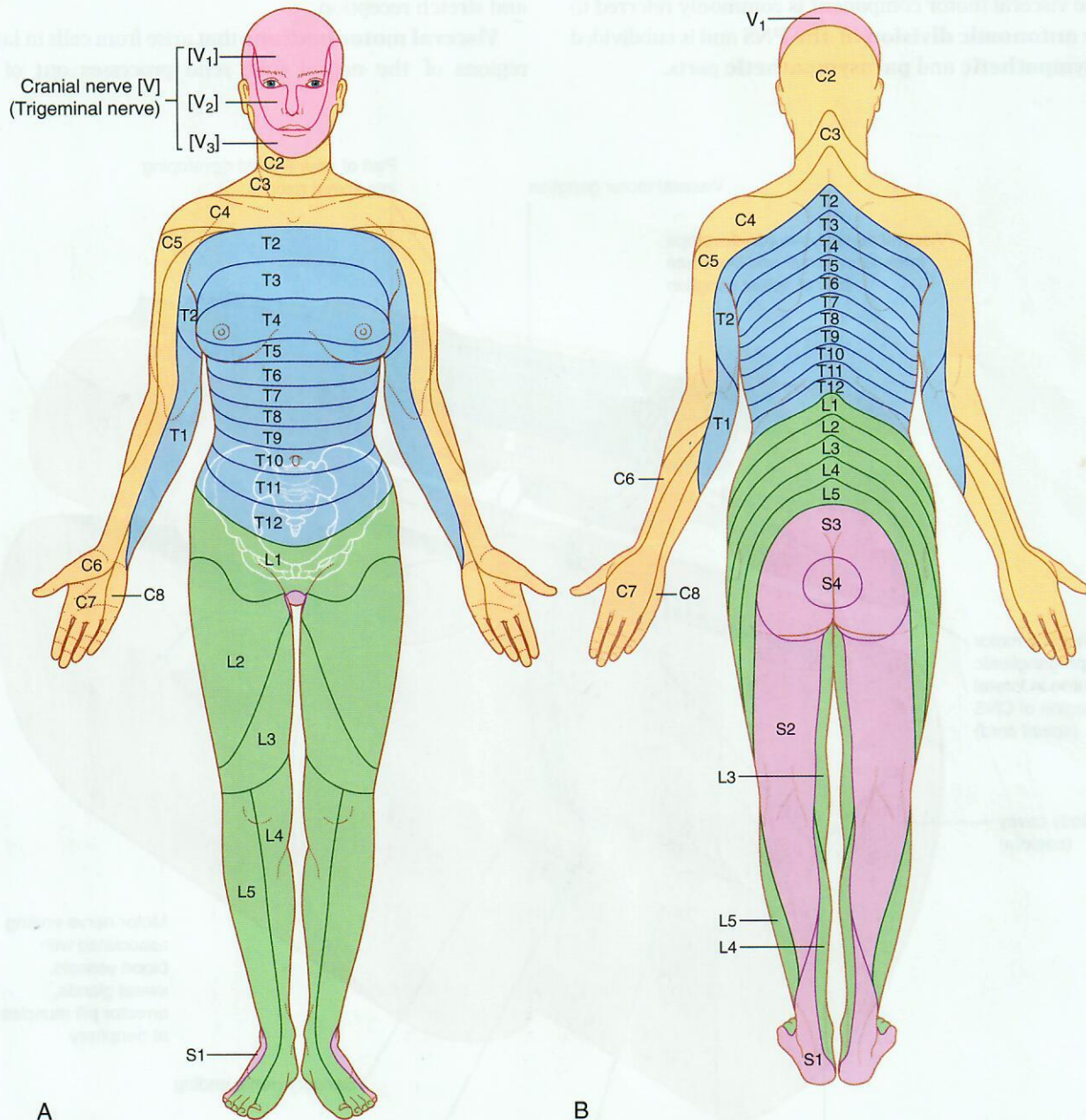


Fig. 1.39 Dermatomes. A. Anterior view. B. Posterior view.