

LEVEL: LUMBAR I

Lumbar levels can be identified by the nearly equal amount of space taken up by the gray and white matter.

Gray Matter. In this level three horns are present: dorsal (sensory), ventral (motor), and intermediate (preganglionic sympathetic).

White Matter. The increase in the amount of white matter reflects the increasing number of ascending fibers in the dorsal column, the fasciculus gracilis, with some cuneate fibers, and the presence of the corticospinal fibers for the muscles in the thigh, leg, and foot.

