

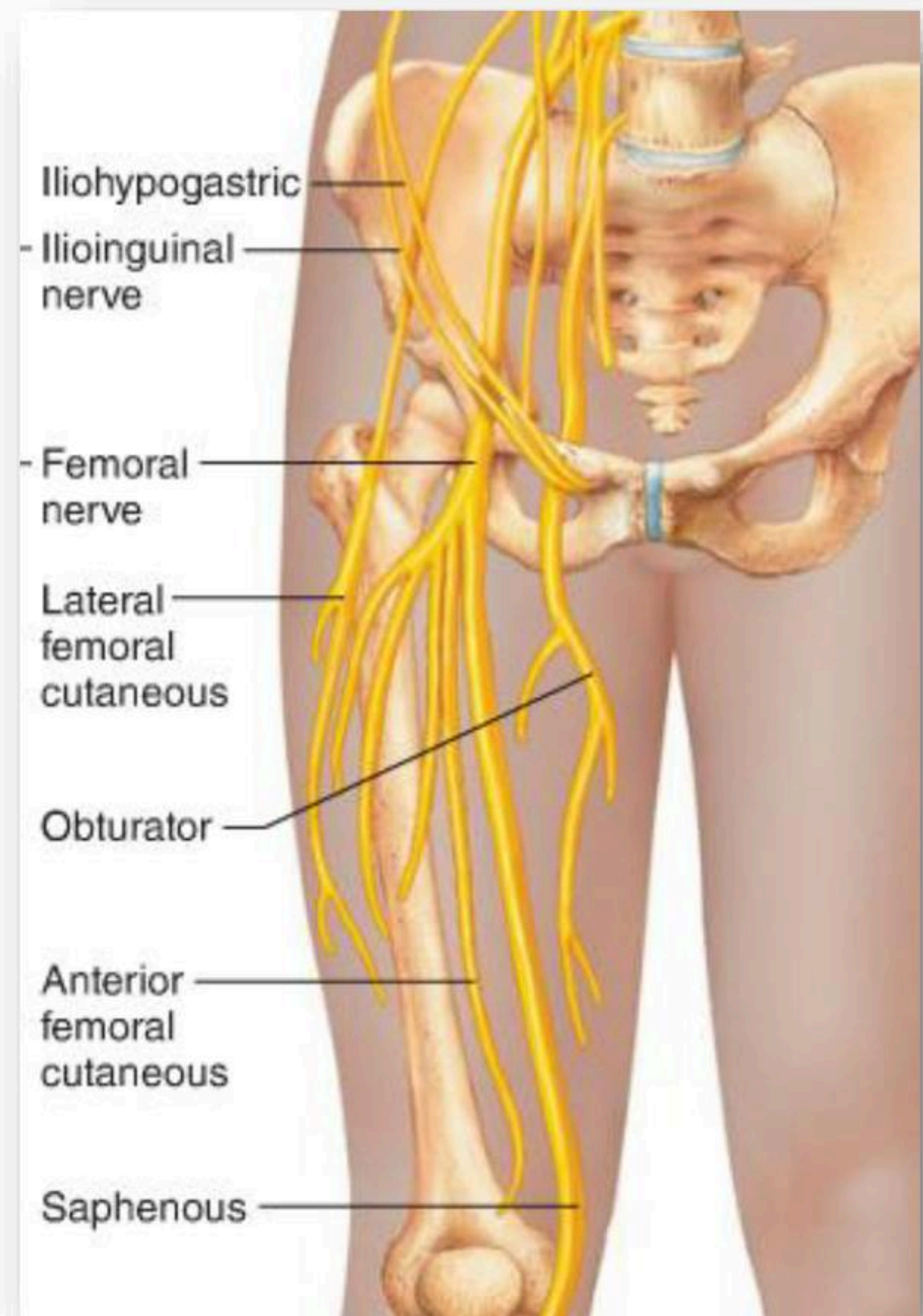
Femoral Nerve

Muscles Innervated

Iliacus
Pectineus (also innervated by obturator nerve)
Sartorius
Rectus femoris
Vastus lateralis
Vastus intermedius
Vastus medialis

Femoral Nerve

Nerve roots exit spinal cord at L2 - L4
Largest nerve in the lumbar plexus
Terminates as the femoral nerve becomes the saphenous nerve in the distal thigh



Femoral Nerve Pathway:

After exiting the spinal cord between L2, L3, and L4, the femoral nerve travels inferiorly before going through the center of psoas major. Then, it travels lateral to the inferior psoas before being sandwiched between iliacus and psoas major. From there, the femoral nerve runs underneath the inguinal ligament and into the anterior thigh.

As it enters the anterior thigh, the femoral nerve divides into an anterior and posterior division. It continues to branch until it becomes the saphenous nerve.

Nerves have two functions, motor and sensory. Motor nerves innervate muscles and tell their tissues what to do. Sensory nerves sense stimuli and give messages to the central nervous system. The saphenous nerve is a sensory nerve that picks up stimuli from the medial lower leg and foot.