Reviewer's report

Title: Single nucleotide polymorphism rs708567 in IL-17RC gene is associated with a susceptibility to and curve severity of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis in a Chinese Han population: a case-control study

Version: 1 Date: 10 May 2012

Reviewer: David Hunter

Reviewer's report:

This is an important replication of a previously identified polymorphism implicated in AIS.
The locus for rs708567 has not been identified in previous linkage studies-what are the implications of this.
In the methods section please explain what the Risser sign is.
Please also describe the patient sample-where do they come from, are they consecutive clinic attendees is this tertiary referral?
Please explain how many were excluded as there curve was too great.
What is the diagnostic performance of the Adam bending test and please state the false negative rate and discuss the implications for case ascertainment bias.
The rationale provided for implying a role of IL-17R in the etiopathogenesis of AIS is intuitively questionable. Is there a more robust scientific rationale?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.