Reviewer's report

Title: Natural course of scoliosis in proximal spinal muscular atrophy type II and IIIa. Descriptive clinical study with retrospective data collection of 126 patients

Version: 2 Date: 13 July 2013

Reviewer: Susan Iannaccone

Reviewer's report:

1. Major revisions:
   Please use the classification system put forward by the ENMC: type I, II and III. Your classification is not in agreement with that used by SMA researchers.
   The study population is not well described. The authors should state how many SMA patients in the same age group (?1-20 years) did NOT have scoliosis and how many had surgery and so were not included in this study.
   The authors need to remember that they are presenting CROSS SECTIONAL data, not longitudinal data. Therefore, they cannot conclude that every SMA patient in these categories would experience "progression" as they describe it.

2. Minor revisions:
   In terms of writing style, on page 6, 3rd paragraph from top, are you talking about all patients from 0-4 yrs or only 4 year olds? You must be more precise about age groups.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.