Reviewer's report

Title: Study of trunk asymmetry in normal children and adolescent

Version: 4 Date: 24 October 2006

Reviewer: Tomasz Kotwicki

Reviewer's report:

General
The type of study presented by the authors is important because concerns a great number of healthy children and adolescents. This type of analysis enables defining the normal limits of various parameters. The authors respect the Bunnell’s indications for a critical value of 7 degrees of the angle of trunk rotation in the scoliosis screening. Their own research is coherent and gives interesting values of trunk asymmetry. The results argument for use of the sitting position in scoliosis screening. This seems to be a valuable contribution of the paper.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
None

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

In the Methods section “seven degrees or more” should be used instead of “more than 7 degrees”. Otherwise the 7 degrees ATR children are not included in any group. Also the suitable algebraic symbols should be used in the legends for tables 3 and 4.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.