Reviewer's report

Title: Indications for conservative management of scoliosis (guidelines)

Version: 1 Date: 5 January 2006

Reviewer: Ewa Elenberg

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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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)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Page 3: Would change "....For conservative management the classification by Lehnert-Schroth (functional three-curve and functional four-curve scoliosis) seems important", would change the word "seems" to "appears"
Page 3: Under Aims of conservative management: "...For brace construction and application the Ringo classification seems helpful", would change the word "seems" to "is"
Page 3: Under Aims of conservative management: "...Improvement of vital capacity as well as pain treatment is...", would change to: "...Improvement of vital capacity as well as pain control is...",
Page 3: Under Aims of conservative management: "...the prediction of the end result of brace treatment seems possible", would change to: "...the prediction of the end result of brace treatment is possible".
Page 3: Under 1. "Children (no signs of maturity) 6-10 (12) years of age", would change to "Children 6 - 12 years of age with no signs of maturity"
Page 4. under II c. "...16-23 hours [low risk]." It is not clear per what time frame? per day?. I suggest to change it to: "...16-23 hours per day [low risk]."
Page 4. under II d. "...23 hours [high risk]." It is not clear per what time frame? per day?. I suggest to change it to: "...23 hours per day [high risk]."
Page 4. under IIIc. "...brace (part time, about 16 hours are sufficient". It is not clear per what time frame? per day?. I suggest to change it to: "...brace (part time, about 16 hours per day are sufficient".
Page 4: under VI. "...when a-vailable" should be corrected to "...when available"
Page 4: Consider reviewing he spelling of "out patient", by US dictionary it should be spelled "outpatient"
Page 4: Consider reviewing the spelling of "wheel-chair", by US dictionary it should be spelled "wheelchair"
Page 5. under Definitions: "Scoliosis Intensive Rehabilitation programme (SIR): 3 - 5 week intensive programme". I suggest to change it to: "Scoliosis Intensive Rehabilitation programme (SIR): 3 - 5 weeks of intensive programme".

What next?: Accept after discretionary revisions
Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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'