Reviewer's report

Title: The experience of brace treatment in children/adolescents with scoliosis

Version: 1 Date: 7 February 2006

Reviewer: Theodoros B. Grivas

Reviewer's report:

General

Review of the paper entitled:
“THE EXPERIENCE OF BRACE TREATMENT IN CHILDREN / ADOLESCENTS WITH SCOLIOSIS

Abstract:
Background: Idiopathic scoliosis is a chronic illness with several variations of the Boston braces used for its treatment.
This is inaccurate. There are several different braces and not only variations of one that is the Boston brace.
see http://www.srs.org/professionals/bracing_manuals/

In INTRODUCTION is written that Idiopathic scoliosis is a chronic illness, a progressive structural deformity of the spine, starting in late childhood.
This is inaccurate. Idiopathic scoliosis, starts not only in late childhood, but only one variety of it. It is better to mention the three types of scoliosis according to the age at presentation, that is infantile, childhood and adolescent idiopathic scoliosis.
Also ... Today, several variations of the Boston brace are used for scoliosis treatment [4,5,6]. ...
It is better to write Today, several types of braces are used for scoliosis treatment [4,5,6]. ...

It is also written ... Regarding the quality of life of children and teenagers with scoliosis, Reichel and Schanz [14] argue that scoliosis can be a risk factor for psychological impairment, particularly in patients undergoing brace treatment.

The quality of life is referring not only to psychological aspects of brace treatment, but also to several other domains. See SRS 22 form or BrQ at the:
http://www.proqolid.org/autlist/G.html
http://www.proqolid.org/public/brq.html
also see citation

This issue must also be discussed in the discussion section of the paper.

In the section
THE SAMPLE
It is written: ... The participants had to meet the following characteristics: ...
It it better to write ... The participants had to meet the following inclusive criteria: ...

In the section
CONCLUSIONS
It is written: …Furthermore, as it becomes clear from the results, scoliosis children/adolescents have unmet needs for care. Orthopaedic doctors, other health professional, and policy makers should take a closer look at the needs of those clients of the Greek National Health System and try to find a way to address those needs. It would be very constructive and positive for the authors to recommend to Orthopaedic doctors, health professional, and policy makers some advices on the way to address these needs. Therefore, this paper will be stronger by not only analyzing one problem but also providing a solution of the above-mentioned drawback of the Greek NHS.

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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)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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.