Reviewer's report

Title: Rare Causes of Scoliosis and Spine Deformity: Experience and Particular Features

Version: 1 Date: 12 April 2007

Reviewer: Marc Asher

Reviewer's report:

General

1. It would be instructive to know the total number of patients operated for spinal deformity during the 10 year period of the study. This would give an idea of the rarity of the 9 operated patients in the series.

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

1. This would be better organized as an instructional course lecture than a series of case reports. To do that the discussion of the condition should be presented with the patient(s). The sequence could be the patients history, physical and laboratory studies; followed by a description of the disorder, what the management options are and, based on the available literature supplemented by the authors experience, what the known pitfalls are; the rationale for the management provided and a description of it; follow-up including problems, length and status; and any anticipated future problems.

2. The figure legends don't match the Figure numbers; 7 legends and 11 figures.

3. The legend for figure 2 cites the patient as having marked kyphosis. However, the illustrations suggest this is not a true kyphosis but rather an apparent kyphosis really due to transverse plane angulation rather than sagittal plane angulation.

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

1. There was a time when the brands of spinal implants were listed. However, the current practice in most referred journals is to use a generic description unless the point is directly related to the particular implants, such as unique characteristics of them (e.g., the reverse total shoulder prosthesis), survivorship analysis (e.g., total joints), or complications (e.g., late operative site pain).

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable