Reviewer's report

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

Version: 3 Date: 30 July 2007

Reviewer: Marc Asher

Reviewer's report:

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)

Abstract; second sentence. Suggest changing - - - However, there is a multitude of disorders - - - to However, there are many disorders - - .

Abstract/Conclusions; Second sentence. Suggest changing - - pathology consists an essential part of clinical - - to - - - pathology is an essential part of the clinical - - .

Introduction; first paragraph; third sentence. Suggest changing - - - However there is a multitude of disorders - - - to - - - However, There are many disorders - - - .

Table 1. Suggest changing - - - From "The Pediatric - - - to Adapted from "The Pediatric - - - .

Table 2. Correct spelling of Orther to Other

Table 2. Delete empty right-hand column.

Case 1. At least this reviewer doesn't know the implication of - - (dopa-nonresponsive). A one or two sentence clearification would probably be appreciated by many readers.

Case 4. Correct spelling of Cace to Case.

Case 4. Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6, which are of Case 4, are not cited in the text. In addition, citing the figures as 3 A, B, C and D, with appropriate editing of the caption is recommended.

Case 6; line 4; ending - - chest deformity (Fig. 3). - - - This is actually Figure 7 in
the current version of the manuscript. Also, Figure 8 is not cited in the text. Citing the two figures as 4 A and B, with appropriate editing of the caption is recommended.

Cases 7, 8; Paragraph 2; Line 4. The reference is to (Fig.5); however, the sequence in the current edition of the Legends with the manuscript is Fig. 9. Fig. 5 appears to be correct so the Legends listing needs editing.

Case 9; Line 4. Reference is made to (Fig. 4), however the sequence in the current edition of the Legends with the manuscript is Fig. 10. This should be Fig 6., if the current manuscript is followed. Legend Figures 11 and 12 also go with case 9, but are not cited in the text. It is recommend that these Figures be consolidated, and in the current edition of the manuscript they would be Figure 6 A, B and C. The figure captions would have to appropriately edied.

Case 11; Line 7. Reference is made to Figure 1. However in the Legends list it appears to Figure 13. In the current manuscript, assuming consolidation of the figures for each patient as recommended, the new numbering would appear to be Figure 7.

Cases 12, 13; Paragraph 2; Line 2. Reference is made to (Fig.7), however in the current Legends list this appears to be Figure 14. In the current manuscript, assuming consolidation of the figures for each patient, the new numbering would appear to be Figure 8.

Legend figure 15 is not referred to in the manuscript text and should be. It would appear to be set to become Figure 8 B.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

Case 4, second sentence. Suggest re-wording as - - Pulmonary function was marked deteriorated so - - seeems awkward.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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