Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgical complications in neuromuscular scoliosis operated with posterior-only approach using pedicle screw fixation.

Version: 2 Date: 10 January 2009

Reviewer: George H. H Thompson

Reviewer’s report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS

Your revised manuscript is significantly improved and you have recognized the increased complication rate associated with a thoracoplasty. However, I still have major concerns. These include:

(1). I continue to feel strongly that those patients who had a thoracoplasty and iliac fixation should be excluded. They would make an excellent separate study that can be compared to this study. Both these variables are associated with increased operative time, blood loss and complications. They, therefore, distort the results in your two study groups.

(2). I would also recommend that all adult patients be excluded as it is well-known they are more difficult to treat and have higher rates of complications than children and adolescents. Including them produces another potential, although less severe, distortion of your results. They, too, could be the focus of yet another study. Knowing the results of your two study groups, excluding adult patients and those who had a thoracoplasty and iliac fixation, would be extremely interesting and establish the results by which other studies can be compared.

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.