Author's response to reviews

Title: Towards an understanding of the information and support needs of surgical adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients: a qualitative analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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To The Scoliosis Editorial Team:

Thank you very much for your careful review of the manuscript entitled, *Towards an understanding of the information and support needs of surgical adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients: a qualitative analysis* (MS: 6819345512585212).

The authors have read the reviewer’s feedback and comments and integrated suggested revisions into the paper. Please find the reviewer’s comments and suggestions below accompanied by our responses.

Sincerely,

Radha MacCulloch
Sandra Donaldson
David Nicholas
Joyce Nyhof-Young
Ross Hetherington
Doina Lupea
James G Wright
Reviewer 1 Report:

Comment 1: The conclusion could have had more synthesis of the findings, but given the nature of the article, I believe more synthesis would be redundant.

Response: Thank you very much for your feedback.

Comment 2: Since the sample size was small, the conclusion paragraph could have addressed the issue that a larger sample may be needed before the design of the website. Again, I believe the authors covered this in the second paragraph articulating the limitations of the study.

Response: Thank you very much for your feedback.

Reviewer 2 Report:

Comment 1: The question is: "Are the patients aware of the fact (was the information provided by the surgeon?) that the progression they will not necessarily experience does not have any impact on general health? The other question is: "Are the patients aware of the fact that the ribhump in most cases will return?" As to my believe it should be essential to give the patients every information possible. This is why I’d like to refer the authors to the paper by Martha Hawes and Joe O’Brien: What can patients expect...The patients should also be aware of the fact that scientifically surgery for AIS is discussed controversially (See our debate article in Patients safety in surgery) With the two references discussed I’d be absolutely satisfied with this paper!

Response: Thank you very much for your feedback. Both suggested references have been cited within the paper. Please refer to the Background section of the revised manuscript (page 4).