Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 3 April 2009

Reviewer: Hans-Rudolf Weiss

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting article and although to me it stays the responsibility of the surgeon to individually address the queries in the individual case, a homepage providing redundant information surely is helpful.

What emerged for the paper is:

"In general, the possibility of future progression should they not proceed with surgery ultimately influenced participants' decision to undergo surgery."

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?

"Further, teens identified a desired change in appearance and a wish to “look all the more normal” as influencing their decision. These adolescents valued being able to make the decision independently, but with the support of others, and they wanted to know how others were diagnosed and came to their decisions to have surgery."

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 controversely (See our debate article in Patients safety in surgery)

With the two references discussed I’d be absolutely satisfied with this paper!

Please regard my input as "minor, but essential".

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**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.