Reviewer's report

Title: Development and repeatability of an everyday clinical tool to evaluate aesthetics in scoliosis patients: TRACE (Trunk Aesthetic Clinical Evaluation)

Version: 1 Date: 8 November 2008

Reviewer: Laurel C Blakemore

Reviewer's report:

GENERAL:
Frequent errors in grammar and syntax.

While a tool to assess aesthetic results of scoliosis treatment would certainly be useful, this study has demonstrated the failure of the TRACE tool to do so with acceptable reliability. Therefore I don't think the results support the conclusion that this tool should be put into use.

INTRO: authors should cite references or examples of existing tools for assessing aesthetic results.

Authors should state how many years they mean by "some years."

BACKGROUND: I would strongly disagree that aesthetics is the main goal of surgical treatment.

Which "high cost" tools do the authors mean?

METHODS:
Specify what "many years" is.

RESULTS:
Figures should be clarified.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.