Reviewer’s report

Title: A review of the trunk surface metrics used as Scoliosis and other deformities evaluation indices

Version: 4 Date: 24 May 2010

Reviewer: Nicola D’Apuzzo

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Note:
I, the reviewer, am non-expert in the specific medical field of this paper, however I am expert in optical 3D measurement techniques.

Major compulsory revisions:
- In the section “Optical techniques” should be referred also the system developed by Diers Int. GmbH:
  http://www.diers.de/formetric-en/

Minor essential revisions:
- The contents are clear, well reasoned and fluid, however a better integration of the figures with the text of the paper should be achieved. In this regard, many figures are even not cited in the text.

Discretionary revisions:
- In the section “Automatic surface landmark”:
  For a non-expert of scoliosis (like the author of this review) it would be good to have few sentences introducing the used landmarks (e.g. C7, T1, spinous process).
- A suggestion that could make the paper much more clear: redraw in a common figure setup all the figures/images describing the different landmarks, the different coordinate systems and the different scoliosis indeces.

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.