Reviewer's report

Title: Towards enhanced clinical care: development of an online information and support resource for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis patients considering surgery

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Reviewer: Nachiappan Chockalingam

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General Comments:

This paper as indicated by the authors a part of a larger trial, has tried to address the gap in terms of online support resources. The main aim seems to focus on the development of online information and support resource for patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis considering surgery.

As I understand it, this manuscript reports on the results of the first phase where the user-based needs were assessed using focus groups made of health care providers.

As the authors point out there is a paucity of quality resources which will help the patient and their parents/ carers to make informed decision on surgery and this study will no doubt contribute to fill this gap.

One of the main criticisms of this manuscript is the sample size; however given the nature of the condition and the research study, this paper will form a useful first step for others to follow.

Minor Essential Revisions:

The authors indicate that they would like to achieve a professionally moderated online support system. I think the manuscript would benefit from a short discussion on procedures followed in various parts of the world and how the authors would achieve their aim.

The manuscript will also benefit from a clear, sign posted discussion on how the proposed website will maintain the quality and the relevance of the content.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'