Reviewer's report

Title: Determination of quality of life in adolescents with idiopathic scoliosis subjected to conservative treatment.

Version: 1 Date: 3 July 2010

Reviewer: Andre THEVENON

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Major Revision:
The design of the study is not clear. I understood that the questionnaires were administered once during the treatment of the scoliosis, but when exactly? The authors describe the population at the beginning of the treatment, they must give us more information at the time of the study (curve measures, duration of the orthotic treatment). It is necessary to ascertain that the children wearing one kind of brace do not differ in age or scoliosis severity, otherwise this should be taken in count in the result analysis.

How can you combine PASB and Lyon brace full time treatment?

How was the Italian translation of the questionnaires validated?

It would be more interesting to look for a correlation between questionnaires and curve severity at the moment of the study than between questionnaires and curve severity at baseline.

Results:
Is the better QoL of boys statistically significant? Could the authors give the p values?

QoL of children wearing a brace seems better in this study than in previous works. Can the authors give an explanation?

Discussion: Are the authors sure that Olafson et al found a gender-related difference of QoL increasing with age? Olafson interviewed 54 consecutive patients admitted for brace treatment before and à. To 3 years after. There must be very few 20 year old patients in this study.

The difference in patterns shown by SRS-22 and the two other questionnaires on treatment satisfaction between the curve type groups is cited in the discussion but not detailed in the results.

the article by Pham et al Determination of the influence of the Chêneau brace on quality of life for adolescent with idiopathic scoliosis. Ann Readapt Med Phys. 2008 Jan;51(1):3-8. would be interesting to discuss, as QoL is assessed by the QLPSD, an other specific QoL tool and it includes a group with part-time orthotic treatment.

Minor Revision:
Discussion, line 6: than rather than then
When writing the SF 36 has been the first instrument employed for QoL evaluation in AIS, the authors should provide a reference.

Bibliography:

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

No