Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 22 July 2010

Reviewer: Ewa Misterska

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REPORT version 2nd

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

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The authors have addressed all of the reviewer’s comments. As we mentioned before, the adaptation and validation process of the questionnaires used for evaluation of HRQoL is essential. If the authors used the validated version of Italian SRS-22, they should mention that in the Methods section, with appropriate citation (Monticone M, Carabalona R, Negrini S. Reliability of the Scoliosis Research Society-22 Patient Questionnaire (Italian version) in mild adolescent vertebral deformities. Eura Medicophys. 2004;40:191-7).

Moreover, if they performed the translation and initial validation of Italian versions of BSSQ-Brace and BQ, and then decided to use these versions in this study, they should mention the details (such as description of the translation procedure, and initial values of the internal consistency etc.) in the Methods section. However, in our opinion, even if the validation process was in the initial phase only, the sample size of 10 patients is definitely too small to enable the appropriate statistical analyses.

We feel this manuscript has merit for publication. It is up to date and covers many interesting aspects of QoL in patients with AIS treated conservatively. The discussion and conclusions are well balanced and adequately supported by the data. However, we believe that it still needs major compulsory revision. We ask the authors to increase the sample size to the amount that will enable the adaptation and proper psychometric evaluation of Italian versions of BSSQ-Brace and BQ and to describe the details in the Methods section, not only in the cover
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:
We declare that we have no competing interests.