Reviewer’s report

Title: Spine deformities in patients with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, type IV - late results of surgical treatment

Version: 1 Date: 4 May 2010

Reviewer: paul D sponseller

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Minor essential revisions:

Pages 2/3: How was the diagnosis of EDS confirmed?

Page 4: The blood loss figures were quite reasonable. Did the authors (surgeons) have suggestions which allowed them to achieve this? Did they use antifibrinolytic agents?

Also, osteopenia is sometimes associated with EDS. Did the authors observe this and do they have any suggestions for this?

Page 4: The apical vertebral rotation listed here was expressed in millimeters; this should be apical vertebral translation

Page 5: what is meant by “slightly lordotic or plane”?

Page 5/6: Please discuss complications such as infection, loss of fixation, pain (even if such complications were not seen, so that the reader will know it has been covered).

Did the authors have any patients with type I EDS? These patients seem to have greater levels of vascular fragility

Do you recommend that surgery be performed at a smaller degree of curvature?

Concluding comments:

I thought this article was well written and gives surgeons a warning of some of the difficulties that they may face in caring for these patients.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I receive educational support and royalties from dePuy Spine.