Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 27 May 2010

Reviewer: robert W gaines

Reviewer's report:

i have completed my review.

the paper is an excellent series of a very difficult problem.

the manuscript is a useful contribution to the world literature.

i think the paper would be better if it was submitted in a different format.

since the series was collected over 20 years, the operative techniques definitely changed during that time.

therefore, the "percentage approach" used to demonstrate the results is really useless, and inappropriate.

i would suggest that the authors be invited to create one or more TABLES in which they would include all the measurements of the patients deformities which they regard as clinically significant.

in addition, each patient should have a "composite xray/photo" which would indicate the problem the patient faced, and the success or lack of success of surgical management, and what was attempted to help these patients.

when these Tables and composite xray/photograph illustrations are created and included in the revised manuscript, i think that technique of illustrating the quality of treatment will be much more obvious to a sophisticated reader than the "percentage approach" which is currently the framework for the manuscript.

this material is important and is submitted by a very sophisticated group of surgeons. i know them, and have visited the hospital on two occasions.

this material is important for future patients with Ehler's Danlos Type 4 spinal deformity. i hope the authors choose to make these rearrangements.

Dr RW Gaines

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'