Author's response to reviews

Title: Minimally Invasive Scoliosis Surgery: An Innovative Technique in Patients with Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis

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Version: 3 Date: 30 June 2011

Author's response to reviews:

Word “saggital” correctly change to “sagittal”

Reviewer: Jeffrey D. Coe

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

This article is much closer to being suitable for publication. Most of my comments are regarding the figures and captions. First, though, I am confused somewhat by the "track changes" features in the copy of the manuscript for review. Some markings make no sense to me. For the next revision, I would like to see the "track changes" version and a version with the changes accepted into the final submitted form.

– Track changes has been removed

One minor grammatical note, "difficult" on line 158 should be "difficulty".

- Corrected to “difficulty”
See below for my comment regarding "custom made".

With regards to the figures, overall they are improved. Nevertheless, a technique article should have unambiguous and clearly labeled and captions figures. In Figure 1, either the illustration should be labeled right or left with regards to the facet or the legend should specify the laterality and (ideally) the level.

- Laterality compass added to figure. Level added to caption

Figure 4 is totally confusing. Each screw and device in this illustration should be labeled and explained thoroughly in the caption. I am especially concerned about anything that is "custom made". If such an instrument is not made available in the standard MIS sets, then this requires major discussion in the text. I am unable to find any comment on this in lines 95-106 in the text or anywhere else for that matter.

- Screw levels are labeled in figure. Caption specifies and explains screws and devices pictured. Screw labels were not added to picture in order to avoid clutter, however were specified in caption. The reduction device pictured is essentially a standard Persuader but it has been enlarged to accommodate the elongated tabs of reduction screw.

Also, the figures of the postoperative radiographs should have Cobb measurements to compare with the pre-operative images and the interval since surgery for these radiographs should be specified.


Lastly, Figure 16 is out of focus and confusing. There are three metallic instruments in this figure. The
authors refer to the suction tip in the caption. I think I know which one it is, but this should be labeled. Also, the laterality should be labeled and anatomic features (for example, I think I see the spinous process) should be labeled as well (arrows for the latter).
- Figure modified and instruments labeled in figure.
- Spinous process is not imaged
- Caption describes suction tip sitting on dura after facet resection

Reviewer's report
Title: Minimally Invasive Scoliosis Surgery in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis: Surgical Technique
Version: 2 Date: 7 April 2011
Reviewer: Arvind Jayaswal
Reviewer's report:
Major Compulsory Revisions
The authors should state the total no. of patients treated so far, their demography, types of curves, Average Cobb’s, their followup etc.
- Paragraph added describing our MIS patient cohort

Minor Essential Revisions
As this is a new technique and there is no long term data: the title should carry as “an evolving technique”
- Since 2 year follow-up data has been obtained, we do not feel this is a necessary modification.