Reviewer’s report

Title: The method of Katharina Schroth - history, principles and current development

Version: 1 Date: 19 August 2011

Reviewer: Theodoros B Grivas

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The publication of historical articles documenting our efforts to understand better and treat scoliosis and other spinal deformities is one of the aims of this journal. It is imperative to remember the history behind our practice to treat this deformity no matter if it is surgical or non surgical. The submission of this article was based on this principal. In the future we intend to solicit the submission of articles for the surgical treatment of scoliosis written by doctors involved in this field.

The Schroth method has been developed and applied in Germany since 1910, exploiting specific postural correction, correction of breath and correction of postural perception. It has been most likely the first systematic effort for the conservative treatment of scoliotic curves using specific exercises. In this article the representative of the third generation of this family, Dr HR Weiss, writes on the history and development of this method, which is used worldwide.

It is very good for the scoliosis journal to have original historical data and documentation. The photographic collection of this historical article is also unique.

The dedication of Catherina Schroth in the conservative scoliosis treatment is inspirational for all of us no matter if we are offering conservative of surgical treatment for this deformity.

The Schroth method was the paradigm for the development of various other methods for the conservative treatment of mild or moderate scoliotic curves in different countries, combined or not with the application of corrective braces.

We strongly believe that the in-depth scientific documentation of this and similar non-operative methods used during growth of scoliotic children and exploiting their remodelling potential, will only benefit this group of patients.

However there is still a long way to accomplish this endeavour but as it is said the “beginning is half of the completion of the goal”. I hope that the readers will enjoy this article which was solicited by the Chief Editor.

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'