Reviewer's report

Title: Vital capacity evolution in patients treated with the CMCR brace. Statistical analysis among 321 scoliotic patients

Version: 2 Date: 5 April 2011

Reviewer: Josette Bettany-Saltikov

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revision
Minor Essential Revisions

On page 4 paragraphs 2 and 3 need to be placed in the materials and methods section under a separate heading called "instrumentation" as this is describing the specific type of brace.

On pg 5 under the section "statistical analysis" could you please specify the types of statistical analyses undertaken with the rationale. Can you also clarify if the data was normally distributed as this is required when conducting parametric statistics?

Can you please clarify what is the difference (pg 6) between FVC before brace treatment and FVC at the beginning of brace treatment?

Discretionary Revisions

In the abstract it would be worth having a couple of lines to give the background of the study. Providing an operational definition of what the authors mean by "theoretical" value would be very helpful.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'