Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of Cheneau brace treatment for idiopathic scoliosis: prospective study in 79 patients followed to skeletal maturity

Version: 1 Date: 2 September 2010

Reviewer: Jens Ivar Brox

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
My main concern is the poor compliance, whatever reasons. Thus, the title should be changed: Poor compliance for Cheneau Brace and in-patient physiotherapy for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, but acceptable results in compliers.

The poor compliance should be described in the abstract and better discussed. The authors should be encouraged to conduct randomised trial in order to evaluate whether the poor compliance is due to the brace, in physiotherapy, the treatment strategy at their hospital, or to the health care system in Poland.

The article is easy to understand, but still warrants copy edit to improve the english style.

Minor Compulsory Revisions:
Health consequences are emphasized, but still long-term evaluation after bracing report that the prognosis is very good in most patients in terms of health related quality of life. These studies should be referred for a more balanced description (Danielson et al and lange et al).

Describe Risser sign and the size of the major curve at bracing. In my opinion this is more informal than just a reference to SOSORT and SRS criteria.

No measure of health-related quality of life was used. Particularly, because the authors mention that the orthosis was unwillingly accepted (page 6) a specific questionnaire for bracing or the SRS-22 would have improved the study.

Also 6 pictures of the brace are not recommended.

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: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.