Author’s response to reviews

Title: Joint hypermobility in children with idiopathic scoliosis: SOSORT award 2011 winner

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Paper “Joint hypermobility in children with idiopathic scoliosis: SOSORT award 2011 winner” written by Dariusz Czaprowski, Tomasz Kotwicki, Paulina Pawlowska, Lukasz Stolinski was changed according to the following suggestions of the reviewers:

1. The sentence - “The aim of this paper is to assess JHM prevalence in children with idiopathic scoliosis and to analyze the relationship between JHM prevalence and the clinical and radiological parameters of scoliosis. The methods of assessment of generalized joint hypermobility are also described” was changed into “The aim of this paper was to assess JHM prevalence in children with idiopathic scoliosis and to analyze the relationship between JHM prevalence and the clinical and radiological parameters of scoliosis. The methods of assessment of generalized joint hypermobility were also described”

2. In the “Material and Methods” section we have decided to make two sub-sections, the first: “Subjects” and the second: “Instrumentation”.

3. We have done English improvement.

However, we could not agree with all the suggestions found in the reviews.

1. We could not add to the introduction any papers dealing with the frequency of joint hypermobility in children with scoliosis. We have looked for more papers about JHM and scoliosis but could not find any.

2. We have decided that the section “Methods of assessment of generalized hypermobility” should be left in the “Discussion” section. In our opinion, the aim of this section is to present the alternative ways of assessment of joint hypermobility, and inserting it in the “Material and Methods” section could suggest that we have used them in our research.

3. We also agree that the question of the conservative treatment results according to JHM of the patients is very important. In our opinion, this issue requires further discussion. Probably, when characterizing the patients, not only curve location, Cobb angle etc. should be considered, but also the quality of the soft tissue, expressed by joint hypermobility. That is why we found useful to
present various techniques of JHM assessment.

4. We have also decided not to change the description of the tables 3-5. In our opinion, it is better for distinguishing both groups to leave the description unchanged – the control group for assessing children without idiopathic scoliosis.