Reviewer's report

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

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Reviewer: Josette Bettany-Saltikov

Reviewer's report:

I would like to congratulate you all on this article. I thought this was a very exciting, interesting and original paper which is overall very well written. I would suggest a few minor revisions.

Minor Essential Revisions
- Throughout the document there are a number of places where the word "the" is not necessary. If you let me have a word document of your manuscript I would be very happy to make the small changes for you. Also the aim of the study "was" to rather than "is" to as the study has already been completed.

- I thought the background was a little brief. It would be helpful to have some further discussion of related papers in the field clarifying the gap in the field further. Are there any other papers that have looked specifically at JHM in AIS?

- In the materials and methods section I would suggest two further sub-sections, the first being to include a sub-section called participants or subjects and the second called instrumentation.

- I also strongly recommend that the section on "methods of assessment of generalised hypermobility" which is currently in the discussion section be placed under the sub-section entitled instrumentation together with the table comparing all the different methods of JHM.

- Apart from this there are only some very minor English language improvements that could be made which as I indicated above I would be very happy to help out with. Overall all however I congratulate you on the very good level of English used throughout the paper.

- Finally I have a question for you- you have only highlighted the importance of this paper with regards to PT. Do you think this may have implications for bracing patients as well? I mean if approx 50% of AIS patients have JHM do you think the forces applied with braces need to be adjusted for this group in any way? or perhaps better/worse results may be seen in this group following bracing?

Tables 3 - 5 - may be best to refer to the "study" group as the AIS group as both the experimental and control group are the "study" group.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 I have no competing interests