Reviewer's report

Title: Conservative treatment of idiopathic scoliosis according to FITS concept: presentation of the method and preliminary radiological and clinical results respecting SOSORT and SRS criteria.

Version: 1 Date: 9 July 2011

Reviewer: Mònica Villagrassa

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1.- Is essential to rewrite the information in the correct section. Expose the hypothesis of the study and its objectives. Material, Method and results seems to be mixed, so please clarify them. Its not complicated cause you have all written, its just to copy paste most of them.

e.g.:

a) Table 1 is part of the results obtain from descriptive statistics and is not part of the material. In fact in this table you could be more clear writing what you are refering, in the cobb angle or menarche columns, to mean values, and in Risser to frequency..

b) This also happens in Table 2 (specify that they are mean values)

c) I recomend you to clarify better in Method what is statistics and what is treatment methodology. Statistics will be the last described in this section, please explain in them also how you manage the descriptive statistics and if you are gonna use graphics which are you gonna use (bars, pie...).

d) I will add also how you collect data form patients and parents refered to bracing hours in the methodology section.

2.- In Results section, you are explaining them but not the fact that some of them are not significant, so take care on the conclusions. If you see the sample calculated in those that are not significant you could realize that the small n could be the reason....but you should write it in this section... and later in the discussion you can write that is necessary to increase the sample in the future.

3.- Remember that conclusions depens on the original hipothesis and its objectives....

4.- In Marta and Barbara x-ray I can’t meassure the upper curve...because the upper limit vertebra in not included (to me is not T5). Although I’m measuring them by pictures I recommend you to check the measurements in lumbar curve of Marta, where I measure a bigger difference, however in Barbara I meassure less difference, in fact the first x-ray you have writen on the picture 32 what is
more accurate to my measure. The same with Aleksandra where the first x-ray in the lumbar you measure more degrees than I.

Minor Essential Revisions:

1.- I recommend the author to review spelling mistakes or incorrect English expressions appearing through the paper. Here I expose some of them with the page where I find them:

Stabilizing p.2 (in principle 6 of the concept)
Breathing with concavities p.3 (in principle 7), is this “with” correct?
Asymmetry of the lines of shoulders...p3 (in principle 8), what about...asymmetry of shoulders’ lines?
Improvement p.3 (in principle 9)
Correction p.3 (in principle 10)

Casierthe ??? corrective shift p. 6. Sorry I don’t know what you wanna say with this..

In correction when releasing muscles of deep frontal line can have an impact ??? p. 7. Sounds rare....

In p. 10 I will add an introductional sentence for the second pattern description for the neutral position of the extremities.

2.- I recommend to homogenize some expressions such: In our opinion or in my clinical practice; chose always in singular or plural, or another expression less subjective...as happens at the end of p. 10 where you express: in those cases we believe..

3.- Tables used in result sections have no indication of the measure used (degrees, cm or mm???)

4.- I recommend not to use the name of the patients and to erase their face on the pictures.

5.- Add the ethics used.

Discretionary Revisions:

1- To use an abbreviation index to help the reader. On the other hand, you are using the following initials: ASIS in pag 6, without giving its meaning...

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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 interest