Reviewer’s report

Title: Cotrel-Dubousset instrumentation for the correction of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. Long-term results with an unexpected high revision rate.

Version: 1 Date: 7 March 2012

Reviewer: Lawrence Lenke

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What type of bone graft was used for the fusions? It is a bit confusing as it says that at the time of the empiric data collection, after an average period of 14.3 years post surgery, it was attempted to contact the patients via telephone…it was only possible to assess 14 out of 40 patients (35%). So can the authors detail exactly how long of a radiographic and clinical follow-up for most of these patients?

I am very surprised by the high infection rate early on, which was listed as 25%. Can I assume these were all chronic indolent late infections from skin flora? In addition, I am a little surprised of the 20% implant removal rate for late operative site pain (LOSP). Do the authors have any thoughts as to why these patients experienced pain? For the SRS scores, was there a statistical significance in the patients with instrumentation still in place versus those with removal? If so, would you please list the p values? In addition, were the late infections or LOSP patients correlated with crosslinks at all? We’ve seen that anecdotally increase with chronic infections over crosslinks in our patients recently.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.