Reviewer's report

Title: Preoperative assessment and evaluation of instrumentation strategies for the treatment of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis: computer simulation and optimization

Version: 4 Date: 7 November 2012

Reviewer: Clayton Adam

Reviewer's report:

The authors are thanked for addressing my comments in detail in the revised manuscript.

I have two further minor discretionary revisions

1. Page 12 of the revised manuscript, line 4 "difference" should be "different"
2. In the same paragraph, suggest removing the newly added sentences beginning with 'It should be brought to the attention of clinicians..." and replacing with "This study demonstrates the degree of variability among clinicians with regard to what constitutes desirable correction objectives. Although an optimal instrumentation strategy can be identified for a particular set of correction objectives, perhaps the most challenging aspect is to ensure that the correction objectives are well tailored to each individual patient's particular deformity."

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

No competing interests