Reviewer’s report

Title: Reinstrumentation for Rapid Curve Progression After Implant Removal Following Posterior Instrumented Fusion in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis: A Case Report

Version: 1 Date: 10 June 2013

Reviewer: Toru Maruyama

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I enjoyed reading a case report with significant correction loss after the implant removal in a scoliotic patoent.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. Most of the patients with scoliosis undergo implant removal without significant loss of correction as the authors had experienced before they encountered this case. It is uncertain that their first conclusion, they do not remove implants from scoliotic patients, is justified on the ground of the progression occurred in this single case. Their second conclusion, they need to carefully explain to patients that removal of their implants entails a risk of progressive deformity and to follow-up patients after removal, is reasonable.

2. The authors speculated that the non-union between T11 and T12 was the main cause of correction loss after implant removal. However, loss of correction seems to have involved the whole curve, not only around the T11/12 lesion. Furthermore, kyphotic deformity seems to have progressed beyond the preoperative deformity. Is there any background in this patient to cause progressive kyphoscoliosis. More detailed information about patient’s characteristic will be necessary, such as body height, body weight, BMI, nutrition status, metabolic status, BMC (BMD), muscle histology, and clinical photographs.

Minor Essential Revisions

Page6, line2: the second operation - - - third?

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.