Reviewer’s report

**Title:** A shallow chest correlates with right thoracic curvature in the normal spine: Features resembling those observed in structural scoliosis

**Version:** 11  **Date:** 1 August 2014

**Reviewer:** Manabu Ito

**Reviewer’s report:**

Minor Essential Revisions

The authors provided adequate responses to the reviewers. But still the result is not convincing to me as to the relation between shallow chest, rib cage rotation, aortic shift to the left and the progression of right thoracic scoliosis in their subjects. Only thing that the authors can conclude is that “A shallow chest and the aortic position are correlated with rib cage rotation and right thoracic scoliosis in patients without idiopathic scoliosis. This relationship may be one of the causative factors of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, but requires further cross sectional clinical studies of both normal subjects and AIS patients with less invasive measures.”

The authors mentioned the use of animal models for future investigation in the last sentence, but I think it is too far from the content of this manuscript. There is a huge leap in this manuscript between this human study and experimental animal studies with other species. Since it is a pure clinical study, it is better to stay focus on human clinical issues in their conclusion. There are a lot to do in further clinical studies before conclusion. Due to this reason, the last sentence should be deleted.

**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.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'