Reviewer's report

Title: A shallow chest correlates with the aortic position in the normal spine: Features resembling those observed in structural scoliosis

Version: 16 Date: 24 August 2014

Reviewer: Richard Burwell

Reviewer's report:

Comment:
The 18 patients with right and left convex curves should be declared along with their levels in the Methods section. Was there anything unusual about the shallow chest or aortic position compared with patients having right curves?

Response:
We thank the Reviewer for this pertinent comment. We could not find anything unusual about the shallow chest or aortic position compared with the patients having right curves. We added the following sentence in the Method section:

…..A right convex curve was assigned a positive value and a left curve was assigned a negative value. Among the 148 patients, 130 patients had straight to right convex curves, while 18 patients had left convex curves. We could not find anything unusual about the shallow chest or aortic position compared with the patients having right curves

Question

How many were right curves?

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined? Yes
2. Are the methods appropriate and well described and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work? Yes
3. Are the data sound and well controlled? Yes
4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition? Yes
5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data? Yes with one exception, see above
6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? Yes
7. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

Recommend invite response and resubmit

R G Burwell

19 August 2014
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