Reviewer’s report

Title: The effect of compliance to a Rigo System Cheneau brace and a specific exercise programme on idiopathic scoliosis curvature. A comparative study. SOSORT 2014 Award winner.

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2014

Reviewer: Theodoros Grivas

Reviewer’s report:

This submission is the 2014 SOSORT first award winner. Among more than 80 submissions was top scored.

The aim of this study was to determine the effect of compliance to a widely used brace and a scoliosis specific exercise program for the treatment of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis and to compare the Quality of Life (QoL) and psychological traits of compliant and non compliant subjects.

The methods used to implement the study are suitable, the number and the age of included to the study children are also appropriate.

The produced results was the outcome of sound statistical analysis and analytically presented. The authors came to the conclusion, that good compliance of the RSC brace and a specific exercise regime resulted in a significant improvement in curvatures, poor compliance resulted in progression/deterioration. A poorer QoL in the non compliant group possibly was caused by personality traits of the group, being more emotionally immature and unstable.

This study interestingly presents soundly derived results of non-operative treatment for AIS children treated with a combination of brace and exercises. There is paucity of similar studies in the literature. The publication of this article will enrich the knowledge on this demanding topic.

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'