Author's response to reviews

Title: Correlation between compliance and brace treatment in juvenile and adolescent idiopathic scoliosis. SOSORT 2014 award winner.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer #Jean Claude de Mauroy

Minor Essential Revisions

- P2 522 patients whit a definite.
  *We have change in: ...522 patients with definite outcome...
- P4 discontinuation.
  *We have change in: ...discontinuation. ...
- P5 always with in the presence of parents
  *We have change in: ...always in the presence of parents...
- Italian abbreviation in the text and English in the table IAS / AIS IJS / JIS
  *We have change IAS in AIS and IJS in JIS both in the text and in the table

Reviewer #Toru Maruyama

Major Compulsory Revisions

- I can't understand the definition of the incomplete B and C patients. Were they the patients who did not wear their brace for a month or 2 months in the summer every year? In the other seasons of the year did they wear brace as prescribed?
  *In the text we said “The Compliance to treatment was defined as complete (brace worn as prescribed), incomplete A (brace removed for 1 month), incomplete B (brace removed for 2 months), incomplete C (brace removed during school hours), and incomplete D (brace worn overnight only),”, only in the discussion we have underlined that the months of non compliance were often in the summer but this did not affect the definition of the two subgroups.
- On the table 3 AIS section, although the difference in complete group seems greatest, it is not statistically significant, whereas other groups with smaller difference are significant. Are the p-values correct?
  *There was a mistake in the layout of table 2 and 3. We amend it in the these new tables: we have added a column with the differences between t5 and baseline for each level of compliance (we have tested the differences using the paired t test and we specify it in the methods section); furthermore we have reported the differences between compliance in the next column, using the complete compliance as reference.
- On the figure 2 and 3, adesione 0-4 mean compliance complete and incomplete A to D?.
  *We have change the table from adesione to complete, incomplete A etc..

Minor Essential Revisions
In the abstract, "In the intention-to-treat analysis, the rate of treatment success was 2.1% among patients with definite outcome and 12.1% among those with drop-out. Treatment compliance showed significant interactions with time." Not "treatment success" but "surgical treatment"?

We have change in: … the rate of surgical treatment …