Reviewer’s report

Title: Radiographic characteristics in congenital scoliosis associated with split cord malformation: a retrospective study of 266 surgical cases

Version: 0 Date: 17 May 2017

Reviewer: Fabio Zaina

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting paper reporting information about congenital scoliosis.

There are some point that can be improved to give more information to the reader

There are discrepancies between the study question and the protocol. In the study question its stated that the aim is to report about abnormalities in congenital scoliosis. Then in the methods there is subgrouping with comparisons among between congenital scoliosis and emicords. This point should be clarified, giving more details in the study question. It's also necessary to define group 1 and group 2, adding more details.

The paragraph describing the included patients should be moved to the results. Only the inclusion criteria should be reported in the methods. Moreover, it would be important to report the total number of patients record assessed to find the 266 included subjects.

In the Radiographical mearurement paragraph, two subjects are described. Also this part should be moved to the results.

The discussion is quite long. I suggest to work on it and be more focused on the comparison of the present findings with previous literature.

It's helpful in the introduction report data about the prevalence of congenital scoliosis, which is quite rare with respect of idiopathic, and not frequent as stated by the authors.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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