Author’s response to reviews

Title: Cervical spine alignment following surgery for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS): a pre-to-post analysis of 81 patients.

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Version: 2 Date: 03 Jan 2019

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Cover Letter

Manuscript Number: BSUR-D-18-00056R1

Title: Cervical spine alignment following surgery for adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS): a pre-to-post analysis of 81 patients.

Dear Professor Henderson,

We are very excited to have been given the opportunity to revise our manuscript, address the reviewer’s comments and resubmit it to BMC Surgery.

Herein, we give a point-by-point response to the revision recommendations.
We want to extend our appreciation for taking the time and effort necessary to provide such insightful guidance.

In case of further queries, we are happy to clarify any further details and look forward to your reply.

Revision recommendations and responses:

1. Please ensure that all figures/tables and supplementary files are cited within the main text (this does not include the declarations). Any items which are not cited may be deleted by our production department upon publication.

COMMENT: Thank you for this direction. Table 6 was not cited within the main text. We cited table 6 in section “Methods” (Line: 161, Page: 8) and reordered other tables as mentioned in the text.

2. Please change the title of your ‘Materials and Methods’ section to ‘Methods’.

RESPONSE: As you recommended, we changed section ‘Materials and Methods’ to ‘Methods’.

3. Please remove the rebuttal letter document from the end of your manuscript file as this is no longer needed in the publication process.

RESPONSE: We removed the rebuttal letter from the main text.

4. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

RESPONSE: Respecting all recommendations, we uploaded the manuscript and all figures as separate files.

Responses to the comments of Reviewer #1
George H. Thompson, MD (Reviewer 1): I read your revised manuscript with significant interest. It has been considerably improved and I have no further questions or concerns that need to be addressed in another revision. My initial concerns have been satisfactorily answered.

RESPONSE: Thank you very much for your kind words. We would also like to thank you for your former comments and your revision recommendations. Your input improved our manuscript significantly.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Akbar, MD