Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 13 May 2018

Reviewer: George H. Thompson

Overall I felt your study was well-written but difficult to comprehend. I read it on several occasions before preparing this review. I feel that its major strengths is that it provides qualitative data regarding the preoperative and postoperative radiographic measurements in patients with AIS, particularly in the cervical spine. These results will serve as a resource for future research on this topic. However, I have several concerns that will need to be addressed in a revision. These include:

1. Each of your radiographic measurements needs a brief description of their significance and their range of normal values. Many of these are not well-known and this information will help the reader understand why they were chosen. It would also make your manuscript easier to understand.

2. You stated and referenced that many patients have neck symptoms postoperatively. Where you referring primarily to adult patients? In my experience neck symptoms, preoperatively or postoperatively, in patients with AIS is rare. Can you add information if any of your study patients had or were having neck symptoms? This would add clinical relevance to your study.

3. Finally, your study needs a control group to determine the true significance of your findings. Concerns regarding radiation exposure are important but not having a control group of non-AIS, asymptomatic patients is problematic. You have demonstrated a wide range of radiographic measurements in your AIS patients. Is this similar or distinctly different from the normal population?

Reviewer's report: Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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

No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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