Reviewer's report

Title: Scoliosis Research Society Members Attitudes Towards Physical Therapy and Scoliosis Specific Exercises for Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis

Version: 1 Date: 11 April 2015

Reviewer: Stefano Negrini

Reviewer's report:

Good paper worth publishing, but some adjustments are needed

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. We don’t know the total number of people involved in the survey, and consequently also the rate of respondents
2. Discussion should discuss the results and not mainly repeat them. You can resume in one sentence the main results, but then you should compare with the other papers published in the literature, and state strengths and limitations of your study
3. In the abstract report the percentages and not the absolute numbers
4. In the conclusion of the abstract you state that over half of the respondents use SSE: it did not appear from your data. Can you please explain?
5. It's not clear to this reviewer if there was any overlap between the PT prescribers and the SSE prescribers. If yes, can you please describe it? In any case, knowing the number of respondents that prescribed SSE or PT is highly relevant

Minor Essential Revisions

6. The SOSORT Guidelines suggest to use the term PSSE (Physiotherapeutic Scoliosis Specific Exercises) and not SSE: can you please justify your choice, or change throughout the paper?

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore). Also Bettany Saltikov (Eur J Phys Rehabil Med 2014) reported this point

7. There are at least two very important papers highly relevant to this topic that have not been cited: the 2005 SOSORT Consensus on exercises (Weiss et al, Scoliosis 2006), and the Cochrane review (co-published also in Spine) (Romano et al, Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2012; Spine 2013).

8. Surprisingly, the most important characteristics of PSSE (self-correction and spinal stabilisation) as defined by the SOSORT Consensus, that differentiate PSSEs from normal PT, are not cited

9. There are two more RCTs published in the literature about exercises that are worth publishing: Li 2005 and Kuru 2015. In fact, while Monticone used SEAS
(Negrini et al, Eur Spine J 2014 - Letter to the editor), Kuru used Schroth and Li asymmetrical exercises

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare to have stocks of ISICO (Italian Scientific Spine Institute) and that I teach SEAS Exercises Approach