Reviewer’s report

Title: Neck and back problems in adults with idiopathic scoliosis diagnosed in youth. An observational study of prevalence, change over a mean four year time period and comparison with a control group.

Version: 0 Date: 21 Aug 2016

Reviewer: Fabio Zaina

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper reporting the prevalence of neck and back pain in scoliosis patients.

Some points can be improved.

First of all, it would be interesting to report the results of the regression. Controlling for confounders is really relevant, and only a part of possible confounders have been addressed. Other features could be connected to neck and back pain, for example the sagittal profile. Did the authors collect data also about this? Otherwise this should be listed as a limitation.

The question used to assess neck and back problem doesn't allow to differentiate between acute, subacute and chronic pain. This must be disclosed and discussed, and limits also the comparability with literature data that are cited by the authors. Please discuss also this point.

The main limit, as already discussed, is the low response rate that make it possible a selection bias. I suggest the authors to be more cautious when interpreting their data. Moreover, the control group is really small. It would have been worth to select a larger sample.

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