

WORLD JOURNAL OF ORTHOPEDICS

ESPS Manuscript NO: 2638 R1

TITLE: Normal and abnormal spine and thoracic cage development

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May 12, 2013

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the revised manuscript in Word format (Man 2638R1 WJO 2013).

The manuscript has been improved according reviewers suggestions. Only most significant references have been included. Therefore 30 references are listed although minimum requested number is 50.

Thank you for publishing our work in *World Journal of Orthopedics*.

Sincerely Yours,

Prof. Federico Canavese, MD PhD



Reviewer 1

Dr. Canavese provided an interesting review regarding relationships between growth of the spine and the thoracic cage development. The authors thoroughly reviewed several concerns about treatment of the growing spine, especially focused on growth of the spine, thoracic cage development, and pulmonary function. Treatment of the growing spine is a challenging area. I agree that a short straight spine, produced by an early arthrodesis is no longer generally accepted or recommendable.

Thank you for your comment.

Reviewer 2

I found this a well written article with valid points. It is an excellent manuscript to provide a comprehensive review of how spinal deformities can affect normal spine and thoracic cage growth. Case examples with radiographs are always appreciated.

Thank you for your comment. Images have been added following reviewer's suggestion.

Reviewer 3

This manuscript has many information, but it is not instructive and educative.

The text has been modified. Please see revised text.

Reviewer 4

Nice article, but several issues 1. english language editing is required. There is awkward language, inappropriate sentence structure. This needs major revision. 2. The structure of the paper with the headings is not conducive to a review article. The authors should revise this paper and not duplicate the results and discussion. I suggest the following structure: abstract, introduction, methods (this can be short), then the substance of the paper. Then a conclusion section to summarize the points.

Thank you for your comments.

1. English has been revised.

2. The structure of the paper has been modified as follows: abstract, introduction, methods, discussion, and conclusion.