

Clermont Ferrand, France

July 22, 2015

Dear Editor,

Dear Reviewers,

Thank you for reviewing our paper “**Serial elongation, derotation and flexion casting for children with early onset scoliosis**” (World Journal of Orthopedics – Ref. 17792).

We’ve appreciated your comments and suggestions and we have replied to your queries (see below).

We hope the changes we had made in response to reviewer concerns significantly improved the manuscript.

We hope that you will consider our revised manuscript for publication in European Spine Journal.

Sincerely,

The Authors of the paper WJO-17792 R1

### **General comments**

a) The English language has been revised by a professional translator in order to match the standards of the Journal. Please see revised manuscript.

Please note that the title has been slightly modified (as per suggestion of professional translator). All changes/modifications have been highlighted in yellow.

b) PMID and DOI have been added to each reference (when available). Please see Reference section revised text.

c) Audio file is provided. Audio file is provided in WMA format. This is the format we can provide you. We hope you will understand.

**Reviewer 1:** Good review article on EDF casting including key components including description of the technique and literature review. A few minor corrections and additions are recommended. First, I would add a sentence in the description of the technique about location of casting in clinic vs OR and what, if any, anesthesia is used. Second, I would consider changing or clarifying the term 'a positive corrective force' as the meaning of this is not well described. If it is known, I would also discuss the learning curve for this technique. Finally, I would include a section on the risks/complications of EDF casting. Second, I would include a section of the risks/complications of EDF casting.

1) Thank you for your positive comment.

The cast can be performed with patient awake or under general anesthesia. We do recommend casting under general anesthesia. This information is now provided in chapter SERIAL-ELONGATION-FLEXION (EDF) – subchapter “Technique”. Please see revised manuscript.

2) The term “positive corrective force” has been clarified throughout the text.

The revised sentence reads as follows:

*Elongation–Derotation–Flexion (EDF) casting is a technique that uses a custom-made thoracolumbar cast based on a three-dimensional correction concept. EDF can control progression of the deformity and—in some cases—coax the initially-curved spine to grow straighter by acting simultaneously in the frontal, sagittal and coronal planes <sup>[8,9]</sup>. In particular, the EDF cast can be used as a “positive” force to influence spinal growth <sup>[9]</sup> as it counteracts the negative effects of the spinal deformity on the future spinal development of the growing organism <sup>[3,8,9]</sup>.*

3) The learning curve relatively steep; the technique is easy to learn and to apply. This information is now provided in chapter SERIAL-ELONGATION-FLEXION (EDF) – subchapter “Technique”. Please see revised manuscript.

4) A new chapter COMPLICATIONS OF EDF CASTING has been added, as well as new references. Please see revised text.