

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

BMJ Paediatrics Open publishes all reviews undertaken for accepted manuscripts. Reviewers are asked to complete a checklist review form and are provided with free text boxes to elaborate on their assessment. These free text comments are reproduced below.

ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Surgical Management of Neuromuscular Scoliosis in Paediatric Patients: Experiences from a Tertiary Centre Multidisciplinary Team
AUTHORS	Khan, Anas; Khan, Faris; Chinnery, Lucy; Loveridge, Jake; Zhang, James; Polychronakis, Theofilos

VERSION 1 - REVIEW

REVIEWER NAME	<i>Woojin Cho</i>
REVIEWER AFFILIATION	None disclosed
REVIEWER CONFLICT OF INTEREST	N/A
DATE REVIEW RETURNED	13-Apr-2024

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>Authors performed an excellent case collection of NMS, and reported the result of their management using MDT. Unfortunately, the way it was presented is very poor, so major revision will be needed for publication.</p> <p>The title does not represent the study well. Please change the title. How about "Management in Paediatric Neuromuscular Scoliosis Patients: Experiences from a Tertiary Centre Multidisciplinary Team"</p> <p>The abstract and the manuscript need to be read by a senior author to improve the quality. Let me address some issues to help. Authors compared 2 groups: op vs. non-op, but there is no description for that. In the table 1, what was the p-value generated from? I guess between 2 groups, but it is not clear.</p> <p>Please describe the members of MDT, and each member's roll. In the abstract, please spell out NIV. Please clarify 24 declined by MDT, not by patients or their family.</p> <p>Please create an algorithm to show the management as a figure.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer: 1

Woojin Cho

Comments to the Author

Authors performed an excellent case collection of NMS, and reported the result of their management using MDT. Unfortunately, the way it was presented is very poor, so major revision will be needed for publication. - Thank you for the comments, the article has been reviewed and reworded in several places for clarity

The title does not represent the study well. Please change the title. How about "Management in Paediatric Neuromuscular Scoliosis Patients: Experiences from a Tertiary Centre Multidisciplinary Team" – Thank you for your suggestion, we have amended the title accordingly

The abstract and the manuscript need to be read by a senior author to improve the quality. Let me address some issues to help. Authors compared 2 groups: op vs. non-op, but there is no description for that. In the table 1, what was the p-value generated from? I guess between 2 groups, but it is not clear. – This has been amended in the figure label.

Please describe the members of MDT, and each member's roll. Thank you for the comments, the members of our centres MDT have been described in the methods (lines 113-121)

In the abstract, please spell out NIV. – This has been ammended

Please clarify 24 declined by MDT, not by patients or their family. – This has been clarified in our results where we have discussed in greater detail the MDT decision making process (lines 121–127)

Please create an algorithm to show the management as a figure. – Thank you for comments, unfortunately management of these complex patients is patient specialist and based on several factors, it would be impossible to summarise management in an algorithm as there are simply too many considerations – age, curve progression, symptoms, anaesthetic/medical/surgical risk, baseline function, purpose of surgery (pain control vs restore function), patient and family wishes.

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER NAME	<i>Woojin Cho</i>
REVIEWER AFFILIATION	None disclosed
REVIEWER CONFLICT OF INTEREST	N/A
DATE REVIEW RETURNED	17-Dec-2024

GENERAL COMMENTS	Authors addressed all my comments successfully. Now it read much better. One last thing, please explain the reason why only 48 patients underwent surgery while 60 were recommended for surgery. Did the patients or their parents refuse? Or are there any other reasons? Excellent job!
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