

Oral presentation

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Repeatability of different methods to collect in everyday clinics the sagittal profile of patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis

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Objective

Assessing the repeatability of different methods to collect in everyday clinics the sagittal profile of patients with adolescent idiopathic scoliosis to identify the best one to be used.

Study design

We performed two studies. In the first one, in a medical setting, 61 patients were consecutively evaluated by two examiners (inter-observers), while one performed a second time the evaluation after 5 minutes (intra-observer); the evaluations included: sagittal and frontal distances from the plumbline of C7, sagittal distance of T12 and L3, D'Oswaldo's Arcometer measurement. In the second study, in a physiotherapist setting, the sagittal distances (cervical, C7, thoracic, lumbar, sacral) have been evaluated consecutively using two different tools to identify verticality: a plumbline or a laser. Repeatability has been evaluated according to Bland and Altman, so to identify the limits of variation clinically significant.

Results of the first study

See Table 1.

Results of the second study

We verified that the usage of the laser in a physiotherapist setting reduced the errors due to positioning of the plumbline and movements of the hands during measurement of multiple data.

Conclusion

These results give the limits during measurements in a clinical setting of parameter that are routinely collected by some clinicians. 1 cm. is the minimum change to be considered clinically significant between two examinations for C7, while this is 1.5 for T12 and L3, but only when measurements are taken always by the same treating physicians.

Table 1: Results of the first study.

Parameter	Intra-observer	Inter-observer
Sagittal distance of C7 from the plumbline (cm.)	0.9	1.7
Sagittal distance of D12 from the plumbline (cm.)	1.3	1.9
Sagittal distance of L3 from the plumbline (cm.)	1.2	2.2
D'Oswaldo Arcometer (calculated ° Cobb)	7	15
ATR (°)	1.4	
Height of the hump (mm.)	2.1	
Frontal distance of C7 from the plumbline (cm.)	1.1	