

Original Research

Assessment of spine-to-rib-cage distraction in the treatment of early onset scoliosis

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Early onset scoliosis (EOS) refers to scoliosis that is diagnosed before the age of 10. This condition is characterized by a sideways curvature of the spine that can progress as the child grows. The present study was conducted to evaluate spine-to-rib-cage distraction in the treatment of early onset scoliosis. **Materials & Methods:** 34 patients with early onset scoliosis (EOS) of both genders underwent surgical treatment trial using a growing spine profiler (GSP), which involved a single spine-to-rib growing rod instrumentation. A GSP rod was inserted posteriorly after a staged anterior annulotomy and fusion was performed to treat curves $>60^\circ$ Cobb in the frontal plane or bending $<50\%$. **Results:** Out of 34 patients, males were 20 and females were 14. Pretreatment PA (degree) Cobb's angle was 57.2, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 45.1 and total rod distraction (mm) was 17.4. Lat. Cobb's angle pretreatment PA (degree) was 47.3, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 41.2 and pretreatment sitting height (cm) was 66.2, follow-up sitting height (cm) was 68.5 and spinal growth (cm) was 1.7. The difference was significant ($P < 0.05$). **Conclusion:** In order to treat EOS with a single spine-to-rib growth rod (GSP) in its current form, the implant's design and use must be revised, and a new clinical study must be conducted to ensure its efficacy and safety.

Keywords: Cobb's angle, Early onset scoliosis, rod distraction

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INTRODUCTION

Early onset scoliosis (EOS) refers to scoliosis that is diagnosed before the age of 10. This condition is characterized by a sideways curvature of the spine that can progress as the child grows. EOS can be associated with various underlying conditions, including congenital vertebral anomalies, neuromuscular disorders, or syndromic conditions, although it can also occur idiopathically (without a known cause).¹

The words refer to a variety of posterior spinal instrumentation procedures, including expandable ribs and single or dual growing rods, that share the same objective of correcting progressive deformities without stopping the growth of the spine and lungs.^{2,3} Rod breakage and deep infection in conventional single-growing rods have been reported to occur at rates of 42% and 9%, respectively.⁴ There is a reported 22% implant failure rate and 9% deep infection incidence for dual growing rods that are placed subfascially. The potential to cure complex congenital abnormalities as well as EOS has sparked

renewed enthusiasm with the advent of rib instrumentation via affecting the chest wall as opposed to the spine directly.⁵ Therefore, it was thought that a spinal instrumentation that combined the benefits of spinal and rib distraction would benefit from both approaches by preventing the majority of the growing spine from being violated when treating endodontia serous fractures (EOS).⁶ The present study was conducted to evaluate spine-to-rib-cage distraction in the treatment of early onset scoliosis.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The present study was conducted on 34 patients with early onset scoliosis (EOS) of both genders. All were informed regarding the study and their written consent was obtained.

Data such as name, age, gender etc. was recorded. All patients with progressing EOS underwent surgical treatment trial using a growing spine profiler (GSP), which involved a single spine-to-rib growing rod instrumentation. A GSP rod was inserted posteriorly after a staged anterior annulotomy and fusion was

performed to treat curves >60° Cobb in the frontal plane or bending <50%. The sole method used to address curves that were less severe and stiff was posterior GSP implantation. The planning of GSP

elongation took spinal growth into account. In between elongations, patients were maintained in a brace. Data thus obtained were subjected to statistical analysis. P value < 0.05 was considered significant.

RESULTS

Table I Distribution of patients

Total- 34		
Gender	Males	Females
Number	20	14

Table I shows that out of 34 patients, males were 20 and females were 14.

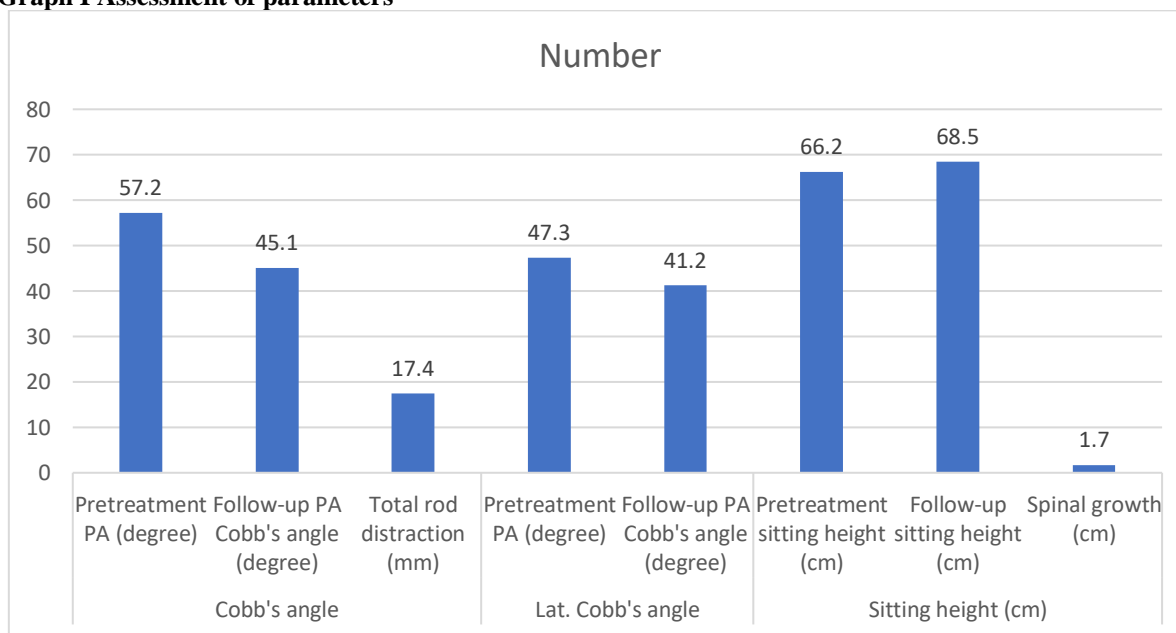
Table II Assessment of parameters

Parameters	Variables	Number	P value
Cobb's angle	Pretreatment PA (degree)	57.2	0.02
	Follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree)	45.1	
	Total rod distraction (mm)	17.4	
Lat. Cobb's angle	Pretreatment PA (degree)	47.3	0.05
	Follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree)	41.2	
Sitting height (cm)	Pretreatment sitting height (cm)	66.2	0.05
	Follow-up sitting height (cm)	68.5	
	Spinal growth (cm)	1.7	

Table II shows that pretreatment PA (degree) Cobb's angle was 57.2, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 45.1 and total rod distraction (mm) was 17.4. Lat. Cobb's angle pretreatment PA (degree) was 47.3, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 41.2 and pretreatment sitting height (cm) was 66.2, follow-up sitting height (cm) was 68.5 and spinal growth (cm) was 1.7.

The difference was significant (P < 0.05).

Graph I Assessment of parameters



DISCUSSION

In early onset scoliosis (EOS), accurate measurement of the spinal curvature is critical for diagnosis, monitoring progression, and guiding treatment decisions.^{7,8} The standard method for measuring the curvature in EOS is the Cobb angle, which is determined using radiographic imaging (X-rays).⁹ On an anteroposterior (AP) spinal X-ray, the end vertebrae of the curve are identified. These are the

vertebrae at the top and bottom of the curve that are most tilted towards the concavity of the curve.^{10,11} Draw a line parallel to the superior endplate of the upper end vertebra and another line parallel to the inferior endplate of the lower end vertebra. Draw perpendicular lines from each of the two lines drawn. The Cobb angle is the angle where the two perpendicular lines intersect. This angle quantifies the degree of spinal curvature.¹²

We found that out of 34 patients, males were 20 and females were 14. Teli et al¹³ in their study a total of 22 patients affected by progressive EOS resistant to cast and/or brace treatment were enrolled into a trial of surgical treatment with a single spine-to-rib growing rod instrumentation growing spine profiler (GSP). Curves $>60^\circ$ Cobb in the frontal plane or bending $<50\%$ were addressed with staged anterior annulotomy and fusion and posterior implantation of a GSP rod. Less severe and rigid curves were treated with posterior implantation of GSP only. The elongation of GSP was planned according to spinal growth. Patients were kept in a brace between elongations. A total of 20 patients were available to follow-up with complete data. The mean follow up is 4.1 years. Mean age at time of initial surgery was 5 years (3–8). Nine patients had staged antero-posterior surgeries, 11 posterior only surgeries. Mean spinal growth was 1.9 cm (1.5–2.3) or 0.5 cm per year. Mean coronal Cobb's angle correction was from 56° to 45° . Major complications affected 40% of patients and included rod failure in 6/20 and crankshaft in 5/20 (all in the anteroposterior surgery group).

We observed that pretreatment PA (degree) Cobb's angle was 57.2, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 45.1 and total rod distraction (mm) was 17.4. Lat. Cobb's angle pretreatment PA (degree) was 47.3, follow-up PA Cobb's angle (degree) was 41.2 and pretreatment sitting height (cm) was 66.2, follow-up sitting height (cm) was 68.5 and spinal growth (cm) was 1.7. Akbarnia et al¹⁴ determined the safety and effectiveness of the previously described dual growing rod technique in achieving and maintaining scoliosis correction while allowing spinal growth. The mean scoliosis improved from 82 degrees (range, 50 degrees-130 degrees) to 38 degrees (range, 13 degrees-66 degrees) after initial surgery and was 36 degrees (range, 4 degrees-53 degrees) at the last follow-up or post-final fusion. T1-S1 length increased from 23.01 (range, 13.80-31.20) to 28.00 cm (range, 19.50-35.50) after initial surgery and to 32.65 cm (range, 25.60-41.00) at last follow-up or post-final fusion with an average T1-S1 length increase of 1.21 cm per year (range, 0.13-2.59). Seven patients reached final fusion. The space available for lung ratio in patients with thoracic curves improved from 0.87 (range, 0.7-1.1) to 1.0 (range, 0.79-1.23, $P = 0.01$). During the treatment period, complications occurred in 11 of the 23 patients (48%), and they had a total of 13 complications. Four of these patients (17%) had unplanned procedures. Following final fusion, 2 patients required extensions of their fusions because of curve progression and lumbosacral pain.

The shortcoming of the study is small sample size.

CONCLUSION

Authors found that in order to treat EOS with a single spine-to-rib growth rod (GSP) in its current form, the implant's design and use must be revised, and a new

clinical study must be conducted to ensure its efficacy and safety.

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