

Editorial

This special issue is on scoliosis, a three-dimensional deformity of the spine that occurs when the spine becomes abnormally rotated and curved sideways. It can affect children at birth as well as adolescents and can be deforming and debilitating in some cases. This condition is commonly seen in the outpatient department, and most of the parents notice it during the child's pubertal stage. For unknown reasons, this deformity in the majority of cases affects young girls. This can cause quite a disfiguring appearance, low self-esteem, repercussions in later adult life, such as marriage proposals, and the hunchback stigma. Patients are from lower socio-economic classes, and the stigma attached to such a condition can affect the whole family. These patients need a lot of counseling, information about informed consent and gradual realization that an appropriate operation by a skilled and trained team can improve the quality of life to that child and their family (case report).



Impact of deformity correction surgery: A 15-year-old girl (in blue) with scoliosis deformity from a low socioeconomic background showing preoperative and postoperative X-rays as well as clinical images. She is now as tall as her older sister as well as more confident and does not have the worry of scoliosis progressing as she gets older.

There is always a fear of spinal surgery and economic issues, but luckily, here at the Postgraduate Institute (PGI) of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh, India, since last 3 years, the Department of Orthopedics has a tie-up with a team of British surgeons who have been assisting in setting up a scoliosis clinic/team that operates on these children. Over this period, the team of PGI and British surgeons has operated around 30 deserving children and seen hundreds in clinics. This is a charitable venture with the team of surgeons getting support from two charitable

organizations called “Prof DS Grewal Memorial Orthopaedics Society” and “Spine Aid, UK.” This noble venture has also been captured on a documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMdQVPI7sZ0>.



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