

ORAL PRESENTATION

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Controversial Issue Session: Brace treatment in infantile scoliosis: brace treatment problems

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Orthotic treatment of infantile scoliosis represents a challenge:

1. Most of them are progressive
2. Different etiologies
3. Associated diseases
4. Smaller size anatomy
5. Immature rib cage

Types:

1. Braces
 - Do not provide immediate correction
 - Treatment aimed to “hold” the spine and prevent further progression
 - Risk of chest deformity in case of braces constricting the thorax
 - Literature does not support the efficacy of braces in the treatment of infantile scoliosis
 - Poor compliance (Parents)
2. Casts/Braces under traction
 - Provide correction. Sometimes scoliosis can be reversed by early treatment with serial corrective plaster jackets in children with mild curves and at an early age (under age two)
 - Immature rib cage often deforms before significant correction is transmitted to the spine
 - May provoke skin problems
 - They may reduce the deformity but not reverse it
 - Main goal: delay surgery as much as possible
 - Braces under traction diminish cast complications with the same efficacy in the long term

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