The sixth Italian Supplement

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Published online: 29 October 2015
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With this issue, we made 6! This is the sixth Italian Supplement of the *European Spine Journal*. Six as the number of Chinese Dynasties, as the sixfold symmetry of snowflakes, as the atomic number of carbon. In traditional Indian medicine, called Ayurveda, six are the tastes of a human being. In his “La città perfetta”, St. Agostino defined number six as a perfect number: “Six is a number perfect in itself, and not because God created the world in 6 days; quite the opposite is true. God created the world in 6 days because this number is perfect, and would remain perfect even if the work of the 6 days did not exist”.

We obviously do not want to compare this *European Spine Journal* issue to perfection, but we hope that our readers can find interesting ideas and studies to elevate and inspire their daily work on spine. The most outstanding papers produced by the Italian scientific community are enclosed in this supplement. Italian Spine Society is glad to collaborate once more with the *European Spine Journal* to offer the readers a significant effort to improve the knowledge on human spine.

This year, in order to allow every Italian surgeon and researcher in the spinal field to present his work, we did not restrict the submissions to a unique topic, but we wanted to enclose the whole knowledge and all the aspects of spine research. Among the many papers received, we selected those we considered eligible for publication on a prestigious Journal

as the *European Spine Journal* is, trying to cover the greatest part of spinal topics. Cervical and lumbar spine, adult deformity and sagittal balance are the topics mostly represented in this supplement. Cervical disc replacement and sagittal alignment are discussed in an interesting paper. Two studies are dedicated to the backshift of the spinal cord after posterior decompression. Dynamic and hybrid instrumentations of cervical and lumbar spine are analyzed in four different manuscripts. A new scale for lumbar instability is proposed. A monocentric complication rate of posterior osteotomies for sagittal imbalance surgery is provided, and the influence on sagittal alignment of short compared to long fusions is evaluated in another study. The relation between surgery for Scheuermann disease and spinopelvic parameters has been correlated in a newsworthy paper. Very interesting is a manuscript on sagittal balance, Parkinson and body perception. This is a study made on 77 subjects in a field that has to be unveiled as soon as possible, since neurologic disorders combined with sagittal alignment problems are a very demanding issue for spinal surgeons. Minimal invasive surgery (an anatomical study), tumors (very interesting paper on sacral chordomas), biomechanics (fixation options for anteriorly implanted cages and biomechanical evaluation of posterior oblique cages), neuromonitoring (evoked potentials in neuromuscular scoliosis surgery), and new surgical techniques (a paper on a technology for pedicle screws implantation) are also treated, providing interesting studies and innovative ideas.

The Italian scientific community is proud to present this sixth Italian issue of the *European Spine Journal* to all the spinal community. We are sure that the readers will find exciting papers and will enjoy the lecture of this supplement.

Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest None of the authors has any conflict of interest.

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