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Boston Children’s Hospital receives 2016 Behrooz Akbarnia Award for largest study of juvenile scoliosis patients

Research presented at the 2016 International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis

UTRECHT HOLLAND – Physicians at Boston Children’s Hospital were honored with the 2016 Behrooz Akbarnia Award for Best Paper at the 2016 International Congress on Early Onset Scoliosis (ICEOS). Results of the retrospective study found that multiple risk factors are at play when children undergo surgery to treat idiopathic scoliosis (JIS), or scoliosis that does not have a known cause.

The study—which reviewed over 170 children with JIS—showed age, degree of the spine curve, significance of the curve correction in brace, and noncompliance with wearing a prescribed brace, in addition to other influences, are all risk factors that contribute to whether children with JIS will need to undergo surgery to correct their scoliosis.

“Based on previous studies, the consensus is that most children with juvenile idiopathic scoliosis go on to have surgery. Our study is the first to demonstrate that with good compliance and brace maintenance, most juveniles with idiopathic scoliosis DO NOT need surgery.” said Whitaker, former pediatric orthopaedic surgery fellow at Boston Children’s Hospital who is currently practicing at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and first author on the study. “This study emphasizes the importance of brace compliance in the juvenile scoliosis population and hints at some factors that may decrease brace fatigue, such as decreasing brace wear during periods of decreased growth velocity and curve stability.”

The Growing Spine Foundation (GSF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable, non-profit organization aimed at supporting medical education and scientific research to optimize the quality of life of children with Early Onset Scoliosis (EOS). www.growingspine.org.

For the past nine years, an outstanding international faculty has gathered with 130+ pediatric deformity surgeons from all over the world at ICEOS to discuss and debate important issues and advances in the treatment of severe spinal deformities and the growing spine.

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