

Milan, 13-14 January 2005

2nd International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities

1st Consensus Meeting of the

Study group On Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitative Treatment (SOSORT)

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Presentation

The Study group On Scoliosis Orthopaedic and Rehabilitative Treatment (SOSORT) is born in 2004 in Barcelona as a group to foster research and favour the exchange of ideas between researcher and clinicians with expertise on the conservative treatment of spinal deformities. It started because of the international absence of a group interested on these topics, due to the gradual shift of the orthopaedic world toward surgery, involving also the Scientific Societies and Journals of the field, coming together with a greater interest from the world of rehabilitation. Today there is the need of a serious scientific group to develop new research and to have a gymnasium for new ideas: this is SOSORT, initially joined to the Scientific Indexed Journal Paediatric Rehabilitation.

In Barcelona it was chosen to have a Scientific Meeting, devoted to research and original papers every two years. It was also decided that, to increase knowledge in the field and to gradually establish SOSORT, it was necessary to have another kind of meeting, with discussions and focus groups, to exchange ideas and possibly reach consensus. The first “Consensus Meeting” was assigned to Milan in 2005, and I have the honour with my Institute to serve as the host.

In Milan we will have a one day Meeting fully devoted to orthopaedic and rehabilitative treatment of adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, with three main topics:

- therapeutic aims of physical exercise treatment in patients at risk of brace;
- brace action: where to push, and why;
- why we treat ? what we want to obtain and to avoid for our patients.

Works will be organised in a way to openly and thoroughly discuss these topics during the Meeting thanks to a previous preparation: this included the collection of the ideas of all participants through structured abstracts, and their synthesis by the chairmen of each Topic Session in a Summary Document, that have been distributed to participants before the Meeting. Such a Meeting represents something new, but we need new ideas to develop this underrepresented field in which there is a lack of international discussion and consensus.

The day before the Meeting two Committees will work to organize two collaborative multi-centre Randomised Controlled Trials, and to imagine the future of SOSORT. All results of these Committees will be thoroughly discussed during the Business Meeting on the second day and conclusions will then be reached. Finally, we will have some time for a final social dinner that, in my view, is important as the scientific work, to let people freely discuss, exchange ideas, develop researches and, hopefully, friendship.

Milan is the town of fashion and shopping; moreover, just in front of the site of the Meeting is situated S. Maria delle Grazie, with the Leonardo da Vinci’s “Cenacolo”: you can spend some time in one of the most active towns of Europe.

We wait for you in Milan.

Ciao !

Stefano Negrini