

International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities

Barcelona 23-24 January 2004

Program Chairman

Manuel Rigo, M.D.

International Faculty Members

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Main Topics

Brace treatment: Biomechanics, Primary and End Results, Standard.

Physiotherapy and other: Biomechanics, Definition of Objectives, Results. Psychological and Social Aspects.

Barcelona, September 2003

Dear Colleague and Friend,

It is a great pleasure for me to invite you to the 'International Conference on Conservative Management of Spinal Deformities', that will be held next January 2004 in Barcelona.

The interest for conservative treatment of scoliosis has been increasing during last years, also in countries where such speciality was considered a minor strategy. However there is still a long way to go and an enormous task in front of us.

More than 10 years ago Jean Dubousset wrote: '*Discussion of available braces will elucidate their mechanism of action. The Milwaukee brace effects pressure in the anterior direction, due to the pelvic fixation and the elimination of lumbar lordosis. The Boston brace, and other tiso's, act in the same manner, only to a more detrimental degree. The Lyonnaisse brace, acting mostly with lateral pressure, can only increase the axial plane deviation. A brace, the Cheneau brace (Cheneau, Toulouse, Munster), more closely approximates the detorsion required to effect correction. A newer brace, designed by Henry Graf and Gerald Dauny, or the 3-D brace, was specifically designed for increasing the thoracic kyphosis and for providing detorsion forces*'.

Although the Milwaukee brace has been progressively abandoned for the treatment of AIS in several countries, it is still obstinately used by some orthopedic surgeons. The Boston brace is still nowadays considered the top standard in many countries. Jacques Cheneau introduced new and brilliant ideas on scoliosis correction principles, however the braces manufactured under his name show a poor standard.

In general there is a lack of scientific studies on clinical results or research, and not to mention the new systems like the SpineCor, and others ?

There has been and still are several meetings of professionals concerning the conservative treatment of S.D. Now I'm proposing not only one more but a very "selective" meeting.

The conservative management of spinal deformities has been presented in previous meetings of the main societies, only by meanings of what professionals have produced. It has been obviously not enough. We should share our different experiences and publish and produce more and more, so the actual scepticism can be passed.

The Conference of Conservative Management will be a great opportunity for you to present your knowledge about the standard of bracing in an open discussion.

We should also give consideration to set up a group mainly focused on the conservative management of scoliosis.

At the same time you will have the occasion to spend some of your free time visiting one of the most 'in' cities in the world.

I am looking forward to meet you next January in Barcelona.

Yours sincerely,
Manuel RIGO, M.D.