

Project scope: orthotic bracing for scoliosis in children and young people

17 May 2022

Research question

What is the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness, safety and patient experience of orthotic bracing for the treatment of children and young people (<18 years) with idiopathic scoliosis?

Inclusion criteria

The selection of studies for inclusion in the literature review element of the project will be based on the following criteria:

Population	Children and young people (<18 years) with idiopathic scoliosis
Intervention	Orthotic bracing <i>Types of bracing noted in topic exploration: Boston, Rigo, Cheneau, Milwaukee, Providence, Charleston and plaster cast. Braces can also be rigid, semi-rigid or elastic.</i>
Comparator	No treatment, surgery, different types of brace, other treatments (e.g. scoliosis-specific exercises, physiotherapy, chiropractic treatments, electrical stimulation)
Outcomes	Progression or correction of scoliosis Pulmonary disorders Disability Back pain Quality of life Psychological and cosmetic issues Adverse effects Cost effectiveness Patient views, preferences, etc
Limits	English language Systematic reviews and meta-analyses for clinical effectiveness (<i>There appears to be sufficient secondary evidence based on the topic exploration. We may expand study design limits at a later stage.</i>) Qualitative studies for patient and social aspects

Planned activities

SHTG have agreed on the following activities to support the development of an SHTG Assessment on orthotic bracing in children and young people with idiopathic scoliosis:

1. Evidence review of the published literature on clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness, safety and patient aspects relating to orthotic bracing in children and young people with idiopathic scoliosis.
2. Development of a plain language version of the evidence review.
3. Engagement with clinical experts through peer review.

End products

At the end of the project, SHTG will publish:

- SHTG Assessment
- Plain language summary
- Expert comments from peer review

Timescales (approximate)

Approximately three months, starting in June 2022.