

Journal Review: Spine Deformity

Scope and Focus

* 'Spine Deformity' is the official journal of the 'Scoliosis Research Society (SRS)' * Covers clinical and basic science research in spinal deformities across all ages * Common topics: early-onset scoliosis (EOS), adolescent idiopathic scoliosis, adult deformity, biomechanical modeling, surgical innovation

Editorial and Publishing Info

* Publisher: Springer Nature * Frequency: Bimonthly (6 issues/year) * Hybrid access (subscription + optional open access) * Editors-in-Chief: René Castelein, John Lonstein

Metrics (2024)

- 'Impact Factor': 1.8 (↑ from 1.6 in 2023)
- '5-Year IF': 2.0
- 'SCImago SJR': 0.778 (Q2 in Orthopedics & Sports Medicine)
- 'Median time to first decision': 6 days
- 'Annual article downloads': ~228,600

Strengths

- Affiliated with the SRS – high relevance and endorsement
- Efficient peer review with fast turnaround
- Recognized platform for spine deformity-specific research
- Accepts innovative biomechanical and data science studies
- Annual awards for best papers (e.g., Douglas Burton Award)

Limitations

- Moderate impact compared to top-tier journals (e.g., Spine, The Spine Journal)
- Hybrid publishing may limit access to some articles
- SJR in Q2 – intermediate global research influence

Clinical & Academic Relevance

- Go-to journal for surgeons managing EOS, AIS, and adult deformity
- Frequently publishes outcomes on:
 - Growth-friendly techniques (e.g., MAGEC, Shilla)
 - Vertebral body tethering
 - Navigation and robotic assistance
 - Biomechanical and computational tools

Final Verdict

'Score: 7/10'

A specialty journal with a strong clinical niche in spine deformity. While it doesn't carry the broad impact of leading spine journals, it remains a vital platform for deformity-focused clinical and translational work, especially in early-onset scoliosis.

Bottom Line

Spine Deformity is a respected, efficient, and steadily growing outlet for high-quality scoliosis research. Essential for deformity specialists, especially in pediatric and complex spinal reconstruction contexts.

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