

AI-derived Spine Alignment Scanning for Evaluation of Schroth-Based Three-Dimensional Postural Correction in Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis

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Background

Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS)

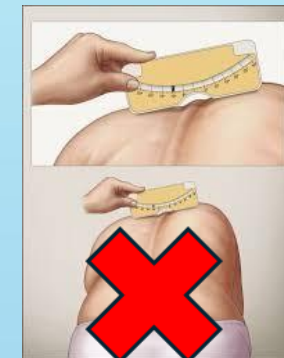
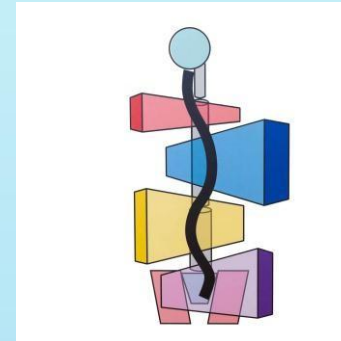
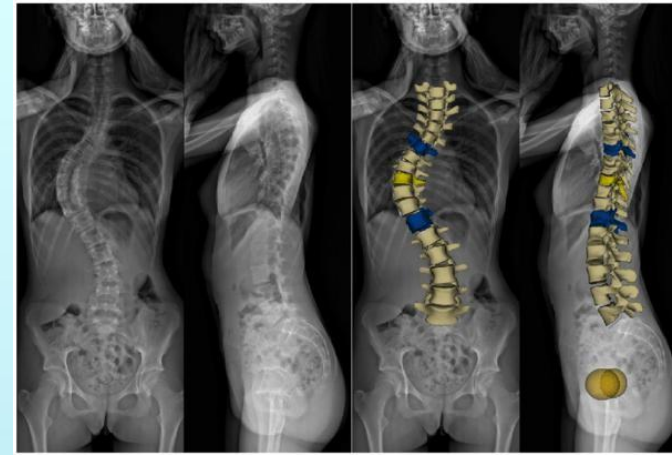
- complex 3D spinal deformity
- often progress during growth

Conservative management

- aims to correct posture, stabilize curve progression, and enhance functional balance
- The **Schroth three-dimensional (3D) correction technique**
- validated physiotherapeutic scoliosis-specific exercise (PSSE)
- emphasizes on **rotational angular breathing** and **targeted muscle activation** to achieve spinal realignment

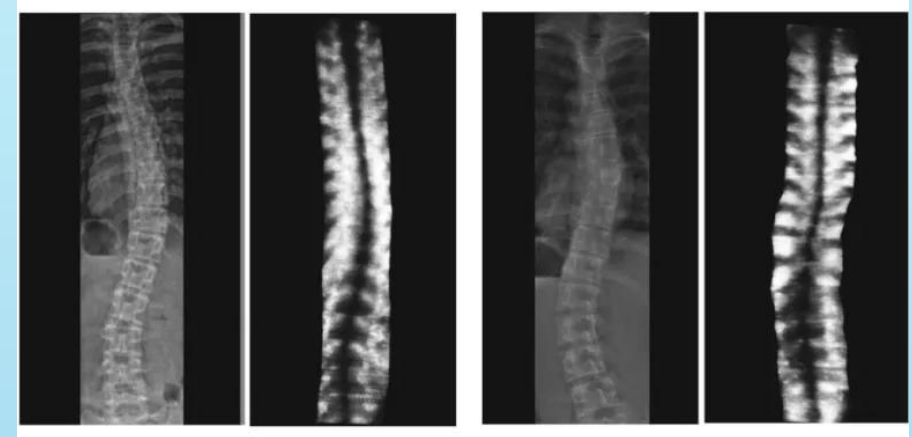
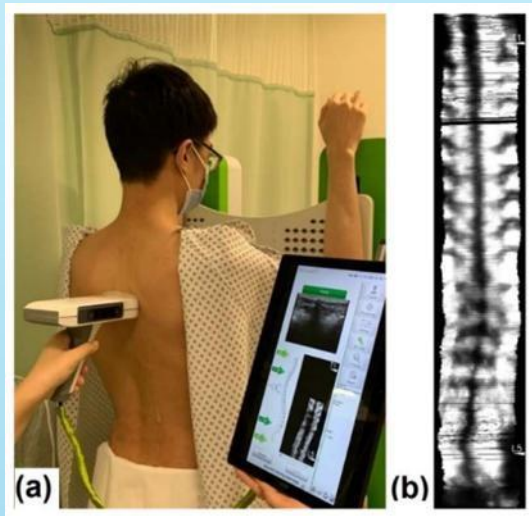
Current Challenges

- EOS Xray less frequent, not feasible for immediate feedback or to facilitate exercise compliance
- Clinical test by ATR not visualized by patient, insufficient to quantify the change from patient's aspect
- **Immediate biomechanical effects ?** inadequately quantified



Objectives of current study

- To investigate the **real-time effects of Schroth 3D correction technique** on spinal alignment in AIS
- Imaging Technology - **Scolioscan**

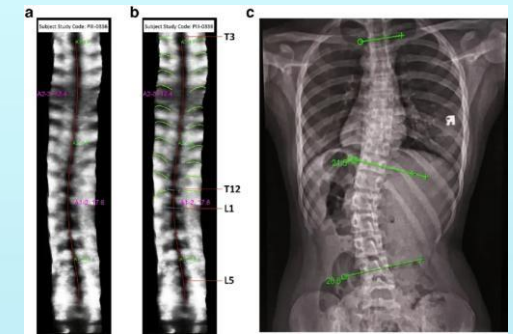


AI-driven Scolioscan US imaging system

- **Instant** and **real-time**
- **AI-assisted**, generate curve angle and 3D spine image
- **Radiation-free** US imaging system
- **Dynamic** and **non-invasive** curve assessment



AI generated 3D spinal image



AI generated curve angle compare to XR Cobb angle

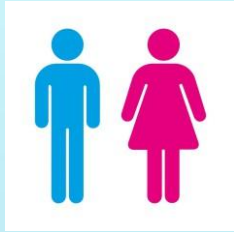


Dynamic and portable
Real-time result

Safe alternative to EOS 👍
Enhance Patient safety 👍
Real time feedback 👍

Methodology

32 Participants



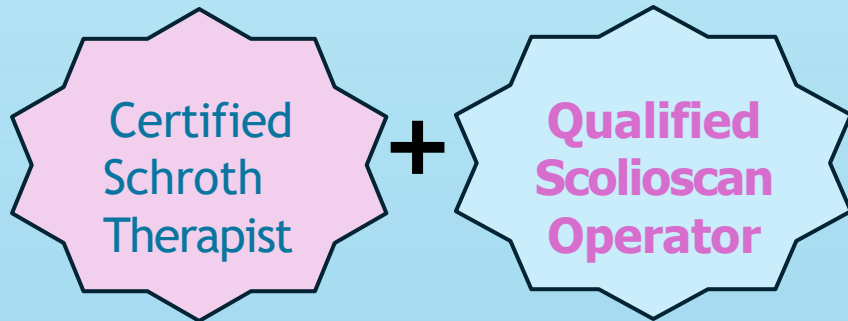
5 M; 27 F
Age 11-22



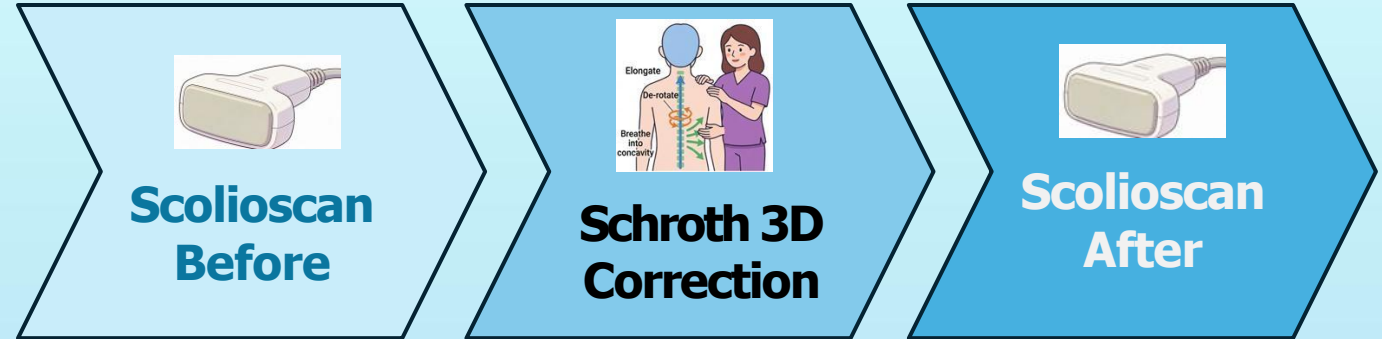
Baseline mean
cobb angle (EOS)
27.59° (SD 10.35°)

4 Therapist

Standardization of Treatment and assessment



Intervention



Real-Time Feedback



Primary Outcomes:
generated by AI-driven scolioscan
Scolioscan Angle
(pre & post changes)

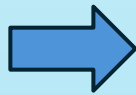
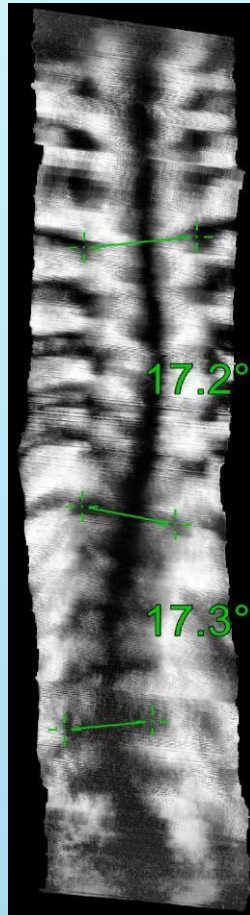
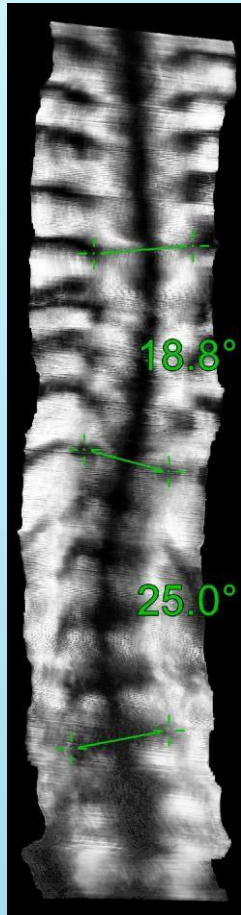


↑ Precision
↑ Patient Engagement

Scolioscan Image

PRE

POST

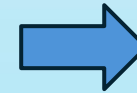
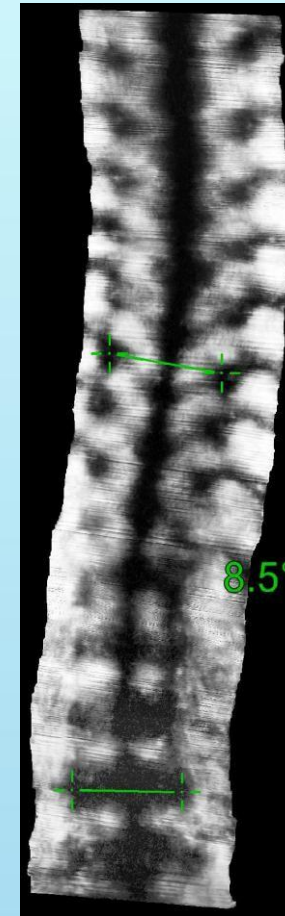
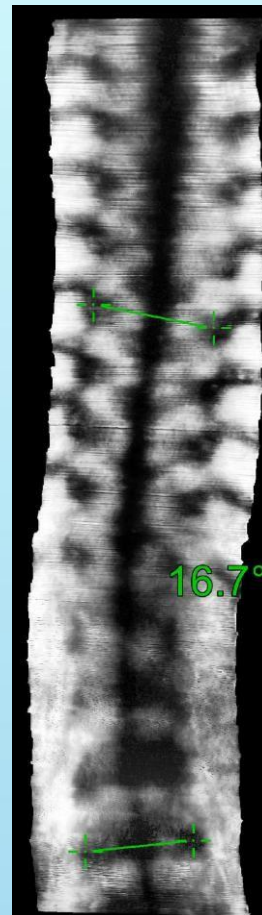


18.8°
25.0°

17.2°
17.3°

PRE

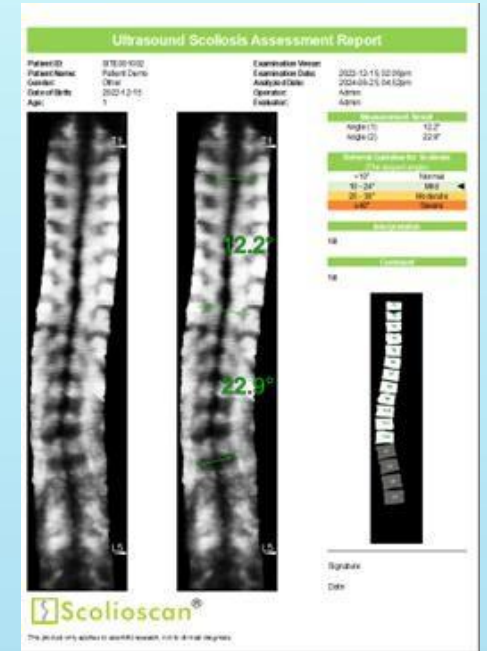
POST



16.7°

8.5°

Report

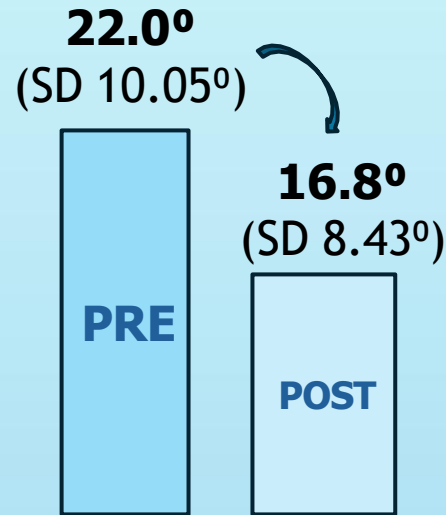


Results


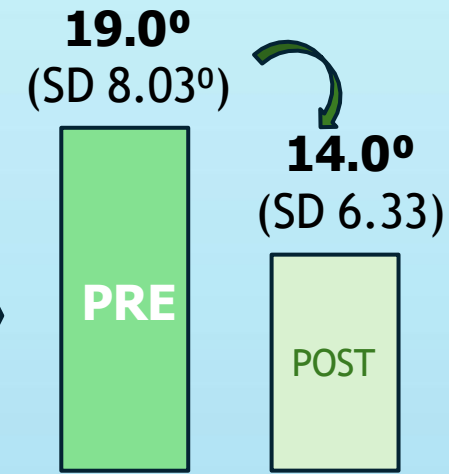
Primary Outcomes: *generated by AI-driven scolioscan*
Scolioscan Angle (pre & post changes)

<Thoracic Scolioscan Angle Changes>


<Lumbar Scolioscan Angle Changes>




**Statistical
Significance
Immediate
Improvement by
Schroth 3D postural
correction technique**



Mean
Reduction
5.22°
(p<0.001)



Mean
Reduction
5.03°
(p<0.001)



Conclusion

Schroth-Based 3D Postural Correction Technique

- Immediate alignment significant effectiveness



AI-enhanced Scolioscan

- safe, objective dynamic tool



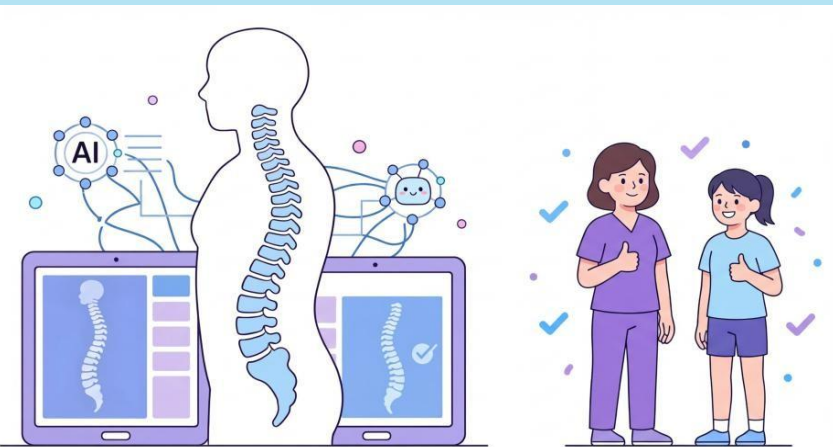
Integrating Scolioscan into PSSE practice

- optimizing therapeutic outcomes and precision
- Enhance therapy compliance



Future Direction

- Prospective long-term reassessment
 - **Sustainability** of self-directed postural correction and awareness
- **Empower Patient**
 - Adherence Independence through PSSE
- Promote **lasting functional benefits**
 - Promote carry-over effect on ADL for optimizing functions



Team Members

Physiotherapy Department | PWH

1. **Mr. Alan TSUI** Department Manager (Physiotherapy)
2. **Ms. Angelina YEUNG** Consultant Physiotherapist
3. **Ms. Toby TANG** Senior Physiotherapist
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PolyU Associate Professor
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6. **Mr. Dominic LEUNG** Advanced Practice Physiotherapist
7. **Ms. Didi CHAN** Advanced Practice Physiotherapist
8. **Ms. Jenny CHAN** Advanced Practice Physiotherapist



International Schroth Three-dimensional Scoliosis Therapy (ISST)

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1. **Prof. Jack CHENG** Emeritus Professor
2. **Dr. Alec HUNG** Consultant Orthopedist
3. **Dr. Adam LAU** Clinical Assistant Professor
4. **Dr. T P LAM** Clinical Professional Consultant

Reference

- Lai, K.K.-L.; Lee, T.T.-Y.; Lee, M.K.-S.; Hui, J.C.-H.; Zheng, Y.-P. Validation of Scolioscan Air-Portable Radiation-Free Three-Dimensional Ultrasound Imaging Assessment System for Scoliosis. *Sensors* 2021, 21, 2858.
- Zheng YP, Lee TT, Lai KK, Yip BH, Zhou GQ, Jiang WW, Cheung JC, Wong MS, Ng BK, Cheng JC, Lam TP. A reliability and validity study for Scolioscan: a radiation-free scoliosis assessment system using 3D ultrasound imaging. *Scoliosis Spinal Disord.* 2016 May 31;11:13.
- <https://www.scolioscan.com/zh-hant/>