

Scoliosis sufferers struggling with rigid braces and hard choices finally have a better, more comfortable solution

Spine-thrilling news

By DR. MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

YOUR spine helps hold your body upright. Without it, you couldn't walk, run, or play sports. A healthy spine should run straight down the middle from your neck to your low back.

The trouble for someone with scoliosis is that the spine curves from side to side.

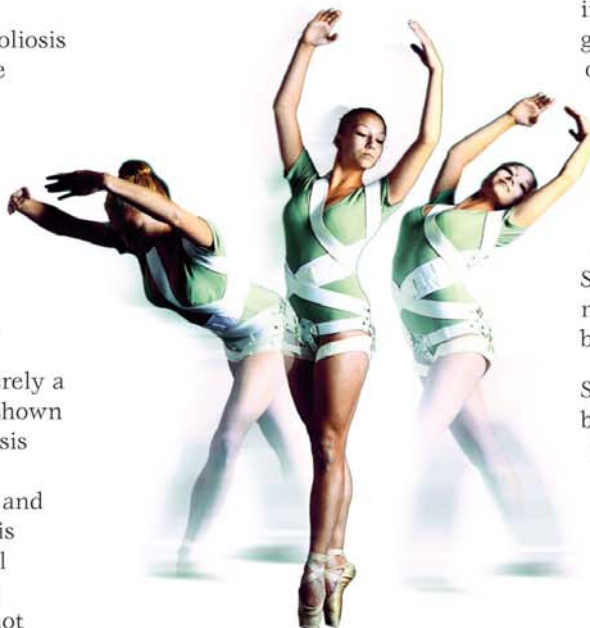
Scoliosis affects more than 3 per cent of North Americans and is one of the leading orthopedic problems in children. It is also one of the most complicated disorders to correct.

Although once believed to be merely a cosmetic concern, research has shown that further progression of scoliosis results in back pain, cardiac conditions, respiratory problems and infertility. Suffering from scoliosis does not only alter one's physical appearance, it also impacts one's overall health and well-being if not properly addressed.

While many treatments have been shown to help stabilize scoliosis, one must ask which option is the least invasive and most effective for your child. Currently, the primary options available for stabilizing scoliosis are physiotherapy, hard braces and surgery.

Although physiotherapy is non-invasive, the efficacy of scoliosis stabilization remains questionable. Hard braces are uncomfortable and rigid, while surgery is utterly invasive. In most cases, before surgery is even warranted, a wait and watch approach is usually implemented. This entails waiting to see what degree the scoliosis progresses to, and when severe enough surgery is performed.

Simply put, sitting back and waiting is a gamble and chances are the house will win. This is not a proactive solution. Scoliosis surgery is one of the most dangerous surgeries performed today with complications ranging from infections, numbness, chronic pain and paralysis.



The SpineCor system is much more flexible than the commonly used hard shell contraptions used to stop the progression of scoliosis, and allows children to perform sports and recreational activities without frustration.

These ineffective and invasive methods of care prompted two Montreal orthopedic surgeons to develop a bracing system that is proactive, comfortable and effective. Known as SpineCor, it was developed by Dr. Charles Rivard, former head of orthopedic surgery at the University of Montreal, and Dr. Christine Coillard, a pediatric orthopedic surgeon who studied the biomechanics of the spine.

After spending most of their lives

surgically correcting children's scoliosis they were determined to find a non-invasive, non-surgical solution. After 15 years in the making, SpineCor has become a leader in scoliosis stabilization and correction with an 89% success rate.

SpineCor has made advancements in over 20 countries worldwide. This ground-breaking bracing system continues to evolve in Canada as more and more parents learn of its effectiveness. The system is used in two of the most prestigious children's orthopedic hospitals in the United States, Johns Hopkins Hospital and Shriners' Hospital for Children, for not only its high stabilization rate but for scoliosis correction.

SpineCor is different from all other braces. Braces such as the Boston, Milwaukee and the Charleston are hard shell contraptions that are only used to stop the progression of scoliosis with no correction achieved. They are stiff, rigid, uncomfortable and noticeable under clothing. These are the reasons why children refuse to wear these types of braces altogether.

On the other hand, SpineCor is comfortable and flexible and allows children to perform everyday activities without frustration or irritation. Children are able to move freely and perform sports and recreational activities.

SpineCor is easy to put on and take off, and easy to clean. It can be worn underneath clothing without being noticed, allowing your child to live a normal life without anyone ever knowing they are wearing a brace. **W**

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