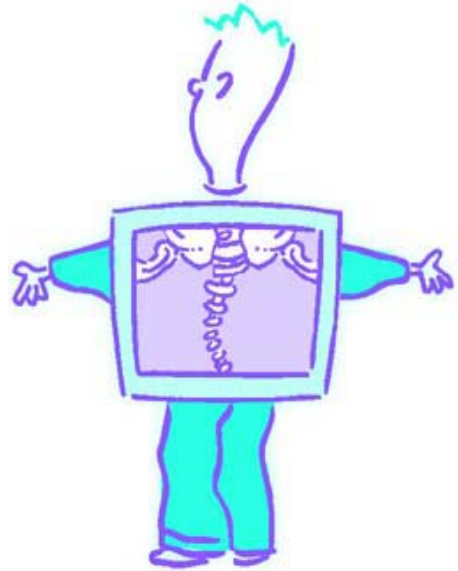


SCOLIOSIS

Scoliosis is a Greek word meaning curvature. In the past scoliosis was not treatable. Today it is controllable if detected early. Normally the spine grows straight, but sometimes for reasons unknown, the spine begins to grow in a curve. The curve may be side-to-side, which is termed scoliosis, or from front to back, termed kyphosis or lordosis.



Scoliosis usually has no symptoms, but occasionally the person will have a prominent shoulder blade, uneven hip or shoulder levels, clothes that do not “hang right”, or back discomfort. If left untreated, the curve may progress and lead to severe cosmetic deformity, chronic pain, cardiac and respiratory problems.

Scoliosis occurs at any age, but is most common in pre and early adolescence. It progresses rapidly until skeletal maturity and then slows down. 2-3% of the population will have scoliosis. Some cases, especially among girls, will be progressive and will eventually require surgery.

Rapid growth of the spine occurs between the ages of 10-15. It is recommended that all children in this age group be screened annually. Your child’s medical provider can perform a scoliosis screening as part of the yearly physical.

Source: National Scoliosis Foundation, Inc

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