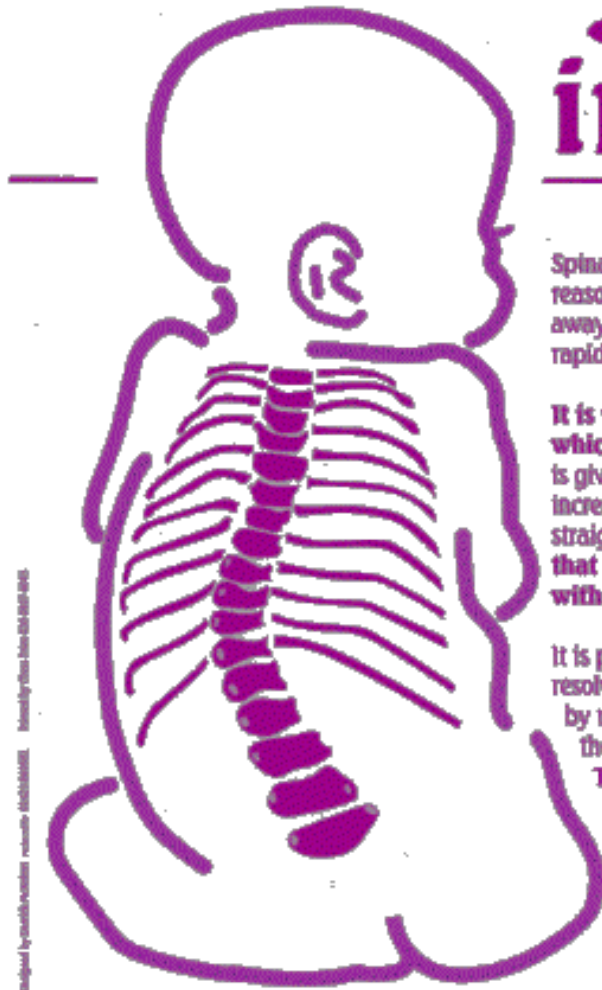




Informational Brochure from [The Scoliosis Association of the U.K.](http://www.scoliosis.org.uk)

Scoliosis in infants



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Spinal curvatures occur in infants for no known reason. While some of these curvatures will go away without treatment, a number will increase rapidly to produce a severe deformity.

It is very important to find out quickly which type of curve is present. If treatment is given at the earliest possible moment even the increasing curvatures can be helped to grow straight, permanently, thereby ensuring that the children can lead a normal life without deformity.

It is possible to tell which curves are likely to resolve spontaneously and which will get worse by measuring, from an X-ray, the angles of the ribs to the vertebra at the centre of the curve. **To confirm the diagnosis, the child must be re-X-rayed after two or three months. ***

*The rib-vertebra angle is the early diagnostic between resolving and progressive infantile scoliosis. P.L.L. PETERS, Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery, 54B, 200-245, 1972

A progressive curve demands immediate treatment (see overleaf)

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An example of a child with progressive infantile scoliosis who was treated early

Figure 1 shows an X-ray of the child aged 13 months taken before plaster jacket treatment was started. By the age of 3 years the spine had responded by growing straight. No further treatment was required.



At the age of six years the routine follow-up X-ray in figure 2 shows that the spine remains straight.



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