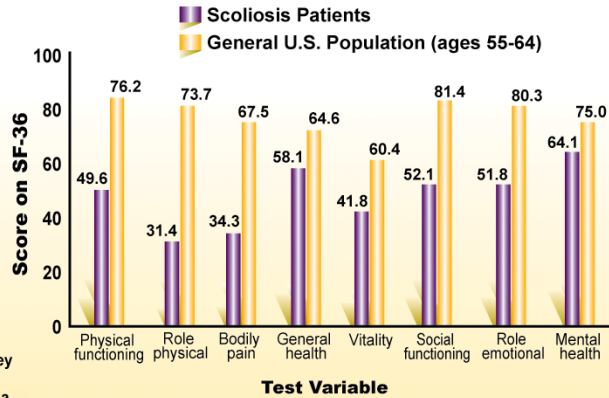


Adult Scoliosis: Taking Its Toll

A study involving 49 patients with adult scoliosis (average age: 63; Cobb angle greater than 10 degrees) found that average SF-36 scores were significantly lower in seven of eight categories than the general U.S. population in the same age group (55-64 years)*:

* Similar disparities were noted when comparing this group with the general population (all ages) and the general population with comorbid conditions (back pain/sciatica and hypertension).



SOURCE: Schwab F, Dubey A, Pagala M, Gamez L, Farcy JP. Adult scoliosis: a health assessment analysis by SF-36. *Spine* 2003;28(6):602-606.

The authors note: "It is our conclusion that adult scoliosis is becoming a medical condition of significant impact, affecting the fastest-growing segment of our society to a previously unrecognized degree."