



Letter to the Editor concerning “Evaluating ChatGPT-4.0’s accuracy and potential in idiopathic scoliosis conservative treatment: a preliminary study on clarity, validity, and expert perceptions” by negrini F, et al. (Eur Spine J [2025]: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00586-025-09166-4>)

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Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the recently published article titled “*Evaluating ChatGPT-4.0’s accuracy and potential in idiopathic scoliosis conservative treatment: a preliminary study on clarity, validity, and expert perceptions*” by Negrini et al. The topic is highly relevant, and the study contributes significantly to our understanding of how artificial intelligence (AI), particularly large language models (LLMs), can support conservative scoliosis care and patient education. These results complement previous work on ChatGPT’s clinical utility in orthopedics, including our study published in November 2023, which was among the first to explore its potential for supporting postoperative home care [1].

The Generative Pre-trained Transformer 4 (GPT-4), the fourth model in OpenAI’s GPT series, is a large language model launched on March 14, 2023 [2, 3]. However, we would like to respectfully raise a concern regarding the terminology used throughout the article, specifically the repeated reference to “*ChatGPT-4.0*.” According to OpenAI’s official documentation and public release records,

there is no model officially designated as “ChatGPT-4.0.” [2–4]. The model referred to in the article, reportedly used on December 6, 2024, appears to be GPT-4o, the multimodal model introduced by OpenAI in May 2024, with “o” indicating “omni” capabilities (text, image, audio, video) [3, 4].

Given that ChatGPT-4o was the model active at that time via the ChatGPT Plus interface, the continued use of the non-standard label “ChatGPT-4.0” may unintentionally mislead readers into assuming that a distinct model exists under that name. This could hinder both reproducibility and model transparency in future research, particularly in the rapidly evolving field of AI in healthcare.

We believe that clarity in model designation is essential for academic rigor and longitudinal comparison. Therefore, we kindly suggest that authors and editors refer to OpenAI models using their official names, for example:

- “GPT-4o (used through the ChatGPT interface)” for the model launched in May 2024.
- “GPT-4 (used through the ChatGPT interface)” for the model active between March 2023 and May 2024.

As this naming inconsistency is increasingly observed across studies, we hope this note will contribute to improved clarity and consistency in future scientific publications that reference large language models.

Author contributions All authors wrote and reviewed the manuscript.

Data availability No datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

Declarations

Competing interests The authors declare no competing interests.

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