

Teenage dream back on track after treatment

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy's dreams of being a professional swimmer were almost shattered until he underwent pioneering new treatment.

Jumon Johnson, from Bromley, had Scoliosis — a severe curving of the spine which if left untreated can lead to fatal heart and lung problems.

The teen did not want to undergo the nine-hour operation which would leave him with metal rods in his back as he was afraid it would damage his chances of becoming a top athlete.



BEAMING: Jumon Johnson is on the road to recovery.

After trawling the internet following his diagnosis in May last year, his mother Mandy Johnson, found the Scoliosis SOS clinic which offers alternative treatments for the condition.

After attending four weeks of sessions during December, he has recently got back in the pool.

He said: "Before coming for treatment I felt very self-conscious about my back and I avoided letting anyone see it, especially when I was at school.

"Besides how it looked, the pain was stopping me from progressing in my swimming lessons and my coaches and I often worried if the sport could be making my back worse. I really didn't want to have to give up sport and so am very happy that I found the clinic.

"Now my pain has gone and I feel taller, stronger and more confident. My swimming has improved and I'm aiming to swim professionally one day."

His mother added: "It got to the point where I was absolutely desperate to find something to help my son. He refused to have surgery and there was no way I was going to push him into something I didn't even agree with myself.

"He has come a long way since he was initially diagnosed. I was terrified of him having his spine fused as I had read so much information about how the surgery could go wrong. I am really glad that I pushed to find an alternative treatment as my persistence paid off."