

during the early phases of any clinical trial, the available data may show that the study drug clearly works better than the control treatment. But often, data available during the first weeks or months of a clinical trial are of a sporadic nature, that is, early indications of remarkable efficacy or unusual toxicity typically disappear

as more and more data are collected. Thus, in the context of a noninferiority trial, where there is an expectation of no difference in efficacy, investigators should refrain from deciding that the study drug is more effective than the active control, where the clinical trial is only partly completed.