Trials stopped early for benefit: a methodological suspense story

On average, trials stopped early for benefit will overestimate treatment effects. In 2005, our group published a systematic review suggesting that overestimates were large, common, and dangerous. We subsequently published an article suggesting stopping early for benefit was unethical. A world class statistician, Steve Goodman, published a response suggesting we were misguided. In another article, we noted that systematic review authors neglected the problem and suggested this was problematic. Steve Goodman published a commentary telling us we had it all wrong. The back and forth continued through further publications, a debate at the 2010 Cochrane Colloquium, a subsequent publication, and a dinner with the Cochrane Risk of Bias group at the 2011 Colloquium.