

**Table S1** Search strategies for MEDLINE, Embase, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials

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Database: MEDLINE (Limited to human studies)

Surgical Procedures, Operative.mp. or exp Surgical Procedures, Operative/or Specialties, Surgical.mp. or exp Specialties, Surgical/ or surgery.mp. or Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures.mp. or exp Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures/or (Surgery or Surgeries or Surgeries or Surgical or Operative or Perioperative or Intraoperative or Postoperative or Intervention\* or Invasive).af.

AND

Noninferiority.mp. or Non inferiority.mp. or (Non-inferiority or Noninferiority or Non-inferior or Noninferior).af.

AND

Clinical trial.mp. or exp Clinical Trial/or Randomized Controlled Trial.mp. or exp Randomized Controlled Trial/or Trial.mp. or Trial.af.

Database: Embase (Limited to human studies)

exp Surgery/or Surgery.mp. or Surgical technique.mp. or exp Surgical technique/or Surgical technology.mp. or exp Surgical technology/ or Surgical.mp. or Minimally invasive surgery.mp. or exp Minimally invasive surgery/or (Surgery or Surgeries or Surgeries or Surgical or Operative or Perioperative or Intraoperative or Postoperative or Intervention\* or Invasive).af.

AND

Noninferiority.mp. or Non inferiority.mp. or (Non-inferiority or Noninferiority or Non-inferior or Noninferior).af.

AND

Clinical trial.mp. or exp Clinical trial/or Non-inferiority trial.mp. or exp Non-inferiority trial/or Randomized controlled trial.mp. or exp Randomized controlled trial/or Trial.mp. or Trial.af.

Database: Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Words variations were searched)

("Surgery"):ti,ab,kw OR ("noninferiority"):ti,ab,kw

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Table S2 Summary of extracted characteristics of 347 full reports of non-inferiority trials												
Author	Year	Surgical specialty	Follow-up Time(month)	Protocol Published	Margin	$\alpha$	$\beta$	Sample Size	Funding type	Conflicts of Interest	Conference Presentation	
Schiele (1)	2003	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.400	0.05	0.2	260	Industry	NR	NR	
Nelson (2)	2004	Digestive	36	NR	1.230	0.09	0.19	2000	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Yadav (3)	2004	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.149	NA	NA	1200	Industry	NR	NR	
Dibra (4)	2005	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.879	0.05	0.2	198	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Hacke (5)	2006	Cardiovascular	1	YES	1.500	0.05	0.2	1900	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Kitchener (6)	2006	Urogenital	24	YES	1.231	0.05	0.2	290	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Mas (7)	2006	Cardiovascular	1	NR	1.357	0.05	0.2	878	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Mehilli (8)	2006	Cardiovascular	6	NR	NA	0.05	0.1	292	NA	NR	YES	
Mehilli (9)	2006	Cardiovascular	6	YES	NA	0.05	0.2	360	NA	YES	NR	
Wright (10)	2006	Cardiovascular	3	NR	1.214	NA	NA	650	Industry	YES	NR	
Turco (11)	2007	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.526	NA	0.2	1480	Industry	YES	NR	
Barber (12)	2008	Urogenital	12	NR	1.833	0.05	0.2	164	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Chevalier (13)	2008	Cardiovascular	9	NR	3.107	0.05	0.01	400	Industry	YES	NR	
Krucoff (14)	2008	Cardiovascular	8	NR	1.526	NA	0.1	1500	Industry	YES	NR	
Ormiston (15)	2008	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.257	NA	0.11	750	Industry	NR	NR	
Stone (16)	2008	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.585	0.05	0.11	990	Industry	NR	NR	
Szeimies (17)	2008	Other	3	NR	1.200	0.025	0.1	168	Industry	YES	YES	
Turco (18)	2008	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.238	NA	0.2	210	Industry	YES	NR	
Windecker (19)	2008	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.500	0.05	0.1	1700	Industry	YES	NR	
Bonjour (20)	2009	Digestive	36	NR	1.28	0.025	0.2	1200	Industry	YES	NR	
Byrne (21)	2009	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.300	0.05	0.2	2474	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Chevalier (22)	2009	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.066	0.025	0.1	692	Industry	NR	NR	
Holmes (23)	2009	Cardiovascular	12	NR	2.000	0.05	0.2	600	Industry	NR	NR	
Murray (24)	2009	Orthopedic	24	YES	1.154	0.05	0.2	204	NA	YES	NR	
Puskas (25)	2009	Cardiovascular	9	YES	1.133	0.05	0.2	316	Industry	YES	NR	
Saltzman (26)	2009	Orthopedic	24	NR	1.231	0.05	0.2	201	Industry	YES	NR	
Serruys (27)	2009	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.500	0.05	0.2	1734	Industry	NR	NR	
Thiele (28)	2009	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.667	0.05	0.2	130	Industry	YES	NR	
Verhaye (29)	2009	Cardiovascular	6	YES	4.268	0.025	0.05	225	Industry	YES	NR	
Cortese (30)	2010	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.400	0.025	0.2	80	NA	YES	NR	
Darai (31)	2010	Digestive	6	NR	10.380	0.025	0.1	52	NA	NR	NR	
Kapur (32)	2010	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.300	0.05	0.2	600	Industry	NR	NR	
Kereiakes (33)	2010	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.513	NA	0.2	1200	Industry	YES	NR	
Leon (34)	2010	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.500	0.05	0.16	1392	Industry	YES	NR	
Nix (35)	2010	Urogenital	NA	NR	4.268	0.05	0.2	40	NA	NR	NR	
Ormiston (36)	2010	Cardiovascular	6	YES	2.239	0.025	0.1	310	Industry	NR	NR	
Park (37)	2010	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.833	0.025	0.1	950	Industry	YES	NR	
Serruys (38)	2010	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.438	0.05	0.1	2300	Industry	YES	NR	
Serruys (39)	2010	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.066	0.05	0.2	180	Industry	NR	NR	
Stone (40)	2010	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.378	0.025	0.1	3504	Industry	YES	NR	
Vergat (41)	2010	Urogenital	36	NR	1.250	0.025	0.2	704	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Amat i Tardiu (42)	2011	Urogenital	12	NR	1.200	0.05	0.2	116	NA	NR	NR	
Boudriot (43)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.667	0.05	0.2	200	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Delamarter (44)	2011	Orthopedic	24	NR	1.172	0.05	0.2	216	Industry	YES	NR	
Elit (45)	2011	Urogenital	18	YES	10.000	0.05	0.15	800	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Giuliano (46)	2011	Thoracic and breast	60	NR	1.300	0.05	0.1	1900	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Klomp (47)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.500	0.05	0.1	1240	Industry	YES	YES	
Lee (48)	2011	Cardiovascular	8	YES	2.066	0.05	0.2	100	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Massberg (49)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.300	0.05	0.2	2783	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Park (50)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.538	0.05	0.2	572	Industry	NR	YES	
Park (51)	2011	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.459	0.05	0.1	986	Industry	NR	NR	
Park (52)	2011	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.612	0.05	0.2	450	Industry	NR	NR	
Pilgrim (53)	2011	Cardiovascular	6	YES	1.807	0.05	0.2	234	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Roos (54)	2011	Other	12	NR	1.250	0.05	0.2	200	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Smith (55)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.234	0.05	0.15	650	Industry	NR	NR	
Stone (56)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.638	0.05	0.11	1454	NA	NR	NR	
Van Poppel (57)	2011	Urogenital	60	NR	1.300	0.05	0.2	1300	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Vons (58)	2011	Digestive	1	NR	6.000	0.025	0.2	200	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Worthington-Kirsch (59)	2011	Urogenital	12	NR	NA	NA	0.1	44	Industry	NR	NR	
Xu (60)	2011	Cardiovascular	8	NR	2.200	0.025	0.1	256	NA	YES	NR	
Yeung (61)	2011	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.508	0.05	0.13	800	Industry	NR	NR	
Ahn (62)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.612	0.05	0.2	350	Industry	YES	NR	
Bae (63)	2012	Orthopedic	24	NR	NA	NA	0.1	207	NA	NR	NR	
Barber (64)	2012	Urogenital	12	NR	1.171	0.05	0.2	254	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Carrie (65)	2012	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.787	0.025	0.2	250	NA	NR	NR	
Fairman (66)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	YES	2.250	0.05	0.2	300	Industry	NR	NR	
Fujita (67)	2012	Digestive	60	NR	1.500	0.05	0.2	464	NA	YES	NR	
Gray (68)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.766	0.05	NA	1680	Industry	NR	NR	
Grube (69)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	NA	0.05	0.11	324	Industry	NR	NR	
Hofma (70)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.750	0.025	0.2	600	Industry	YES	NR	
Jang (71)	2012	Digestive	NA	YES	1.188	0.05	0.2	52	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Jensen (72)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.192	0.05	0.2	2678	Industry	YES	NR	
Kadota (73)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.45	0.05	NA	287	NA	YES	NR	
Karjalainen (74)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.543	0.05	0.1	800	Industry	NR	NR	
Katsanos (75)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	NR	2.500	0.05	0.2	40	NA	NR	NR	
Kimura (76)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.493	0.025	0.05	3000	Industry	NR	NR	
Lath (77)	2012	Cardiovascular	6	NR	2.477	0.025	0.2	154	Industry	YES	YES	
Lefebvre (78)	2012	Digestive	36	NR	1.430	0.05	0.1	270	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Lukacs (79)	2012	Urogenital	12	NR	3.351	0.05	0.1	176	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Meredith (80)	2012	Cardiovascular	6	NR	NA	0.05	0.15	156	Industry	YES	NR	
Park (81)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.364	0.05	0.2	144	NA	NR	NR	
Saver (82)	2012	Cardiovascular	NA	NR	1.227	0.025	0.2	174	Industry	YES	NR	
Shadig (83)	2012	Cardiovascular	24	NR	1.333	0.05	0.2	460	Non-industry	YES	NR	
von Birgelen (84)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.350	0.05	0.2	1380	Industry	NR	NR	
Walker (85)	2012	Urogenital	36	NR	1.400	0.025	0.1	2550	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Xu (86)	2012	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.477	0.025	0.1	180	Industry	NR	NR	
Yang (87)	2012	Urogenital	6	YES	1.145	0.05	0.2	93	NA	NR	NR	
Yang (88)	2012	Urogenital	12	NR	1.144	0.05	0.2	93	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Zhang (89)	2012	Cardiovascular	12	NR	3.000	0.05	0.2	118	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Bastani (90)	2013	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.118	0.05	0.2	150	Non-industry	NR	YES	
Bianchi-Ferraro (91)	2013	Urogenital	12	NR	1.200	0.05	0.2	100	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Byrne (92)	2013	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.200	0.05	0.2	204	Non-industry	YES	YES	
Galimberti (93)	2013	Thoracic and breast	60	YES	1.250	0.1	0.1	960	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Gao (94)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.777	0.025	0.2	368	Industry	NR	NR	
Hahalia (95)	2013	Cardiovascular	2	YES	1.341	0.025	0.1	2172	NA	NR	NR	
Haude (96)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	YES	1.983	0.05	0.1	144	Industry	YES	NR	
Jacobs (97)	2013	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.300	0.05	0.15	3690	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Listro (98)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	NR	2.000	0.05	0.2	346	NA	NR	YES	
Moreno (99)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	YES	2.239	0.05	0.1	176	Industry	NR	NR	
Natsuaki (100)	2013	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.493	0.025	0.1	3000	Industry	YES	NR	
Ribichini (101)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.508	0.05	0.1	162	Industry	NR	NR	
Rothmund (102)	2013	Urogenital	9	YES	4.268	0.05	0.2	60	Industry	YES	NR	
Seo (103)	2013	Cardiovascular	9	NR	1.625	0.05	0.2	915	Industry	YES	NR	
Smith (104)	2013	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.421	0.05	0.1	2550	Industry	YES	NR	
Sung (105)	2013	Other	6	YES	4.268	0.05	0.2	40	NA	YES	NR	
Tommaselli (106)	2013	Urogenital	36	NR	1.224	0.05	0.2	128	NA	NR	YES	
Von Vilsteren (107)	2013	Digestive	2	YES	1.426	0.025	0.2	82	NA	YES	NR	
Adams (108)	2014	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.375	0.05	0.2	710	Industry	NR	NR	
Aigumuller (109)	2014	Urogenital	3	NR	1.143	NA	0.2	396	Non-industry	YES	YES	
Alienza (110)	2014	Cardiovascular	6	NR	1.941	0.05	0.1	230	Industry	YES	NR	
Bachmann (111)	2014	Urogenital	6	NR	1.298	0.025	0.2	226	Industry	NR	NR	
Bath-Hexall (112)	2014	Other	36	NR	1.149	0.01	0.2	740	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Bikhazi (113)	2014	Other	12	NR	NA	0.025	0.1	72	Industry	NR	NR	
Chen (114)	2014	Urogenital	12	YES	2.316	0.025	0.2	152	NA	NR	NR	
Djehdian (115)	2014	Urogenital	12	YES	1.200	0.05	0.2	100	Non-industry	NR	NR	
Donker (116)	2014	Thoracic and breast	60	NR	2.000	0.05	0.2	2600	Industry	YES	YES	
Han (117)	2014	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.446	0.025	0.1	2631	Industry	YES	NR	
Hisey (118)	2014	Orthopedic	24	NR	1.154	0.05	NA	222	NA	NR	NR	
Jeong (119)	2014	Digestive	36	NR	1.600	0.025	0.15	306	Non-industry	YES	NR	
Kim (120)	2014	Cardiovascular	12	NR	1.092	0.05	0.2	388	NA	NR	NR	
Lee (121)	2014	Cardiovascular	9	YES	1.691	0.05	0.2	360	Industry	YES	NR	
McDougal (122)	2014	Cardiovascular	12	YES	1.500	0.05	0.13	500	Industry	YES	NR	
Minguez (123)	2014	Cardiovascular	9	NR	NA	0.025	0.1	108	Industry	YES	NR	
Nelson (124)	2014	Cardiovascular	1	YES	1.143	0.025	0.2	88	Industry	YES	NR	
Park (125)	2014	Cardiovascular	12	YES</								

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