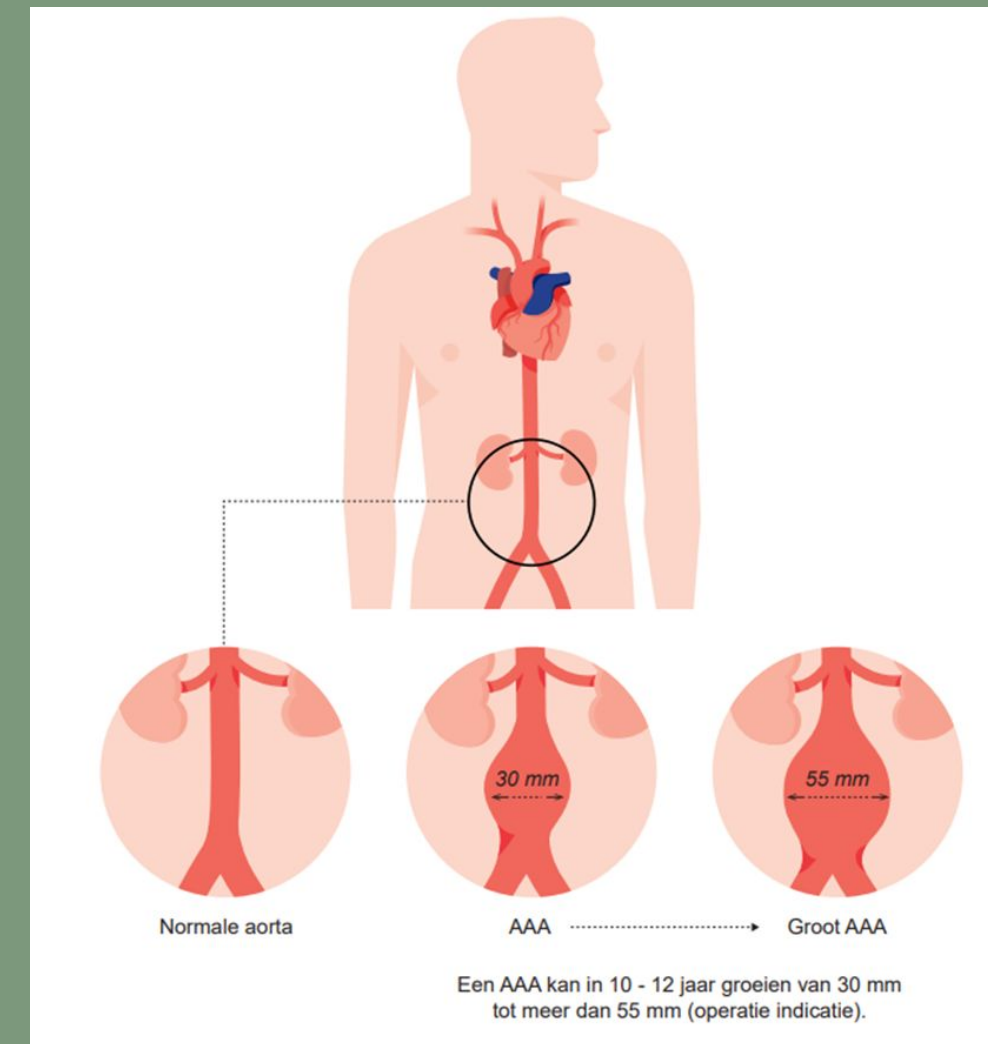


# Chain Chance

Enhancing Early Recognition of Aneurysms  
through a collaborative approach in the  
Healthcare Chain and patients



Sonja Oomkens

Annelies Visser

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23 may 2025

# AAA ranks 2

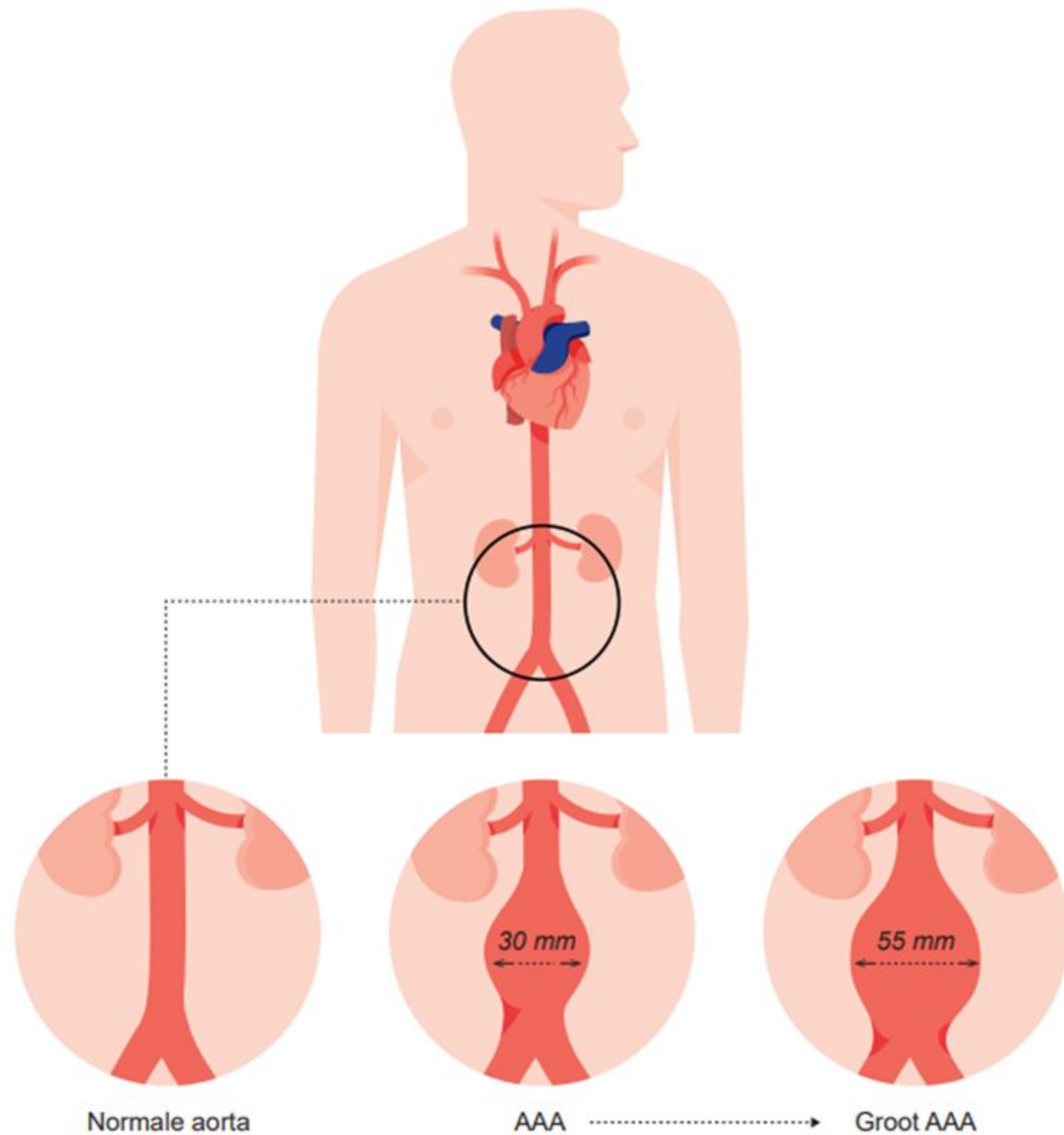
## in the top 6 reported incidents

### Out-of-hours service (GP)

- Impending rupture of an AAA
- Recognition of risks and symptoms are difficult
- Early recognition throughout the care chain

# Abdominal Aneurysm

- |                                     |      |        |
|-------------------------------------|------|--------|
| • Incidence AAA                     | 8-9% |        |
| • Mortality-ruptured AAA            |      | 80-90% |
| • Mortality-on time at the hospital | 25%  |        |



Een AAA kan in 10 - 12 jaar groeien van 30 mm tot meer dan 55 mm (operatie indicatie).



Acutely severe  
abdominal and/or  
back pain

Not explainable by  
another cause



Vegetative  
symptoms; sweating,  
vomiting, unsteady  
walking

Which may quickly  
subside after onset



Male patients over  
the age of 60



Symptoms can be  
intermittent and  
nonspecific

# Chain Chance AAA

3x

Nijmegen



2x

Groningen

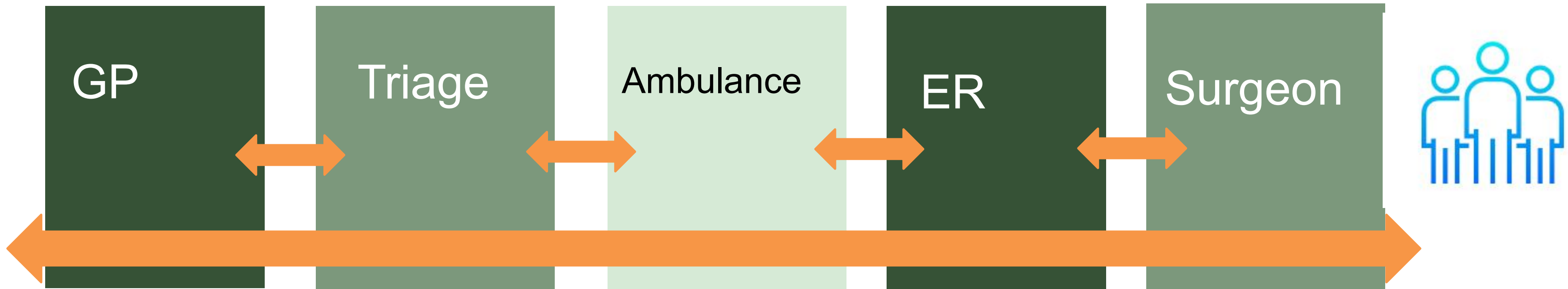


1x

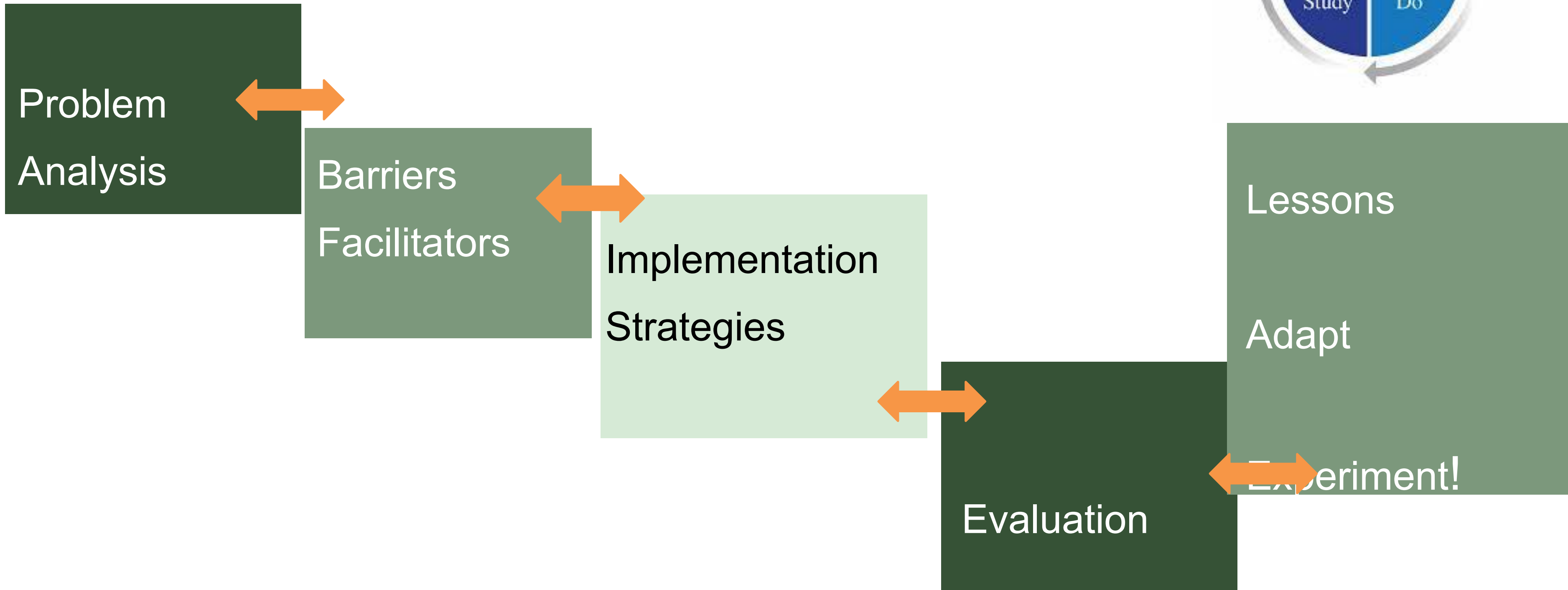
Rotterdam



# Chain



# Action research



# Interventions

Trainings and knowledge  
sessions



Pre hospital ultrasounds





# Interventions



Trainings and knowledge  
sessions



Pre hospital ultrasounds

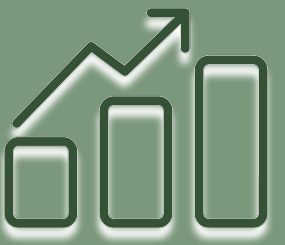


Cross-sectoral work  
agreements



Toolbox and Podcast

# Results

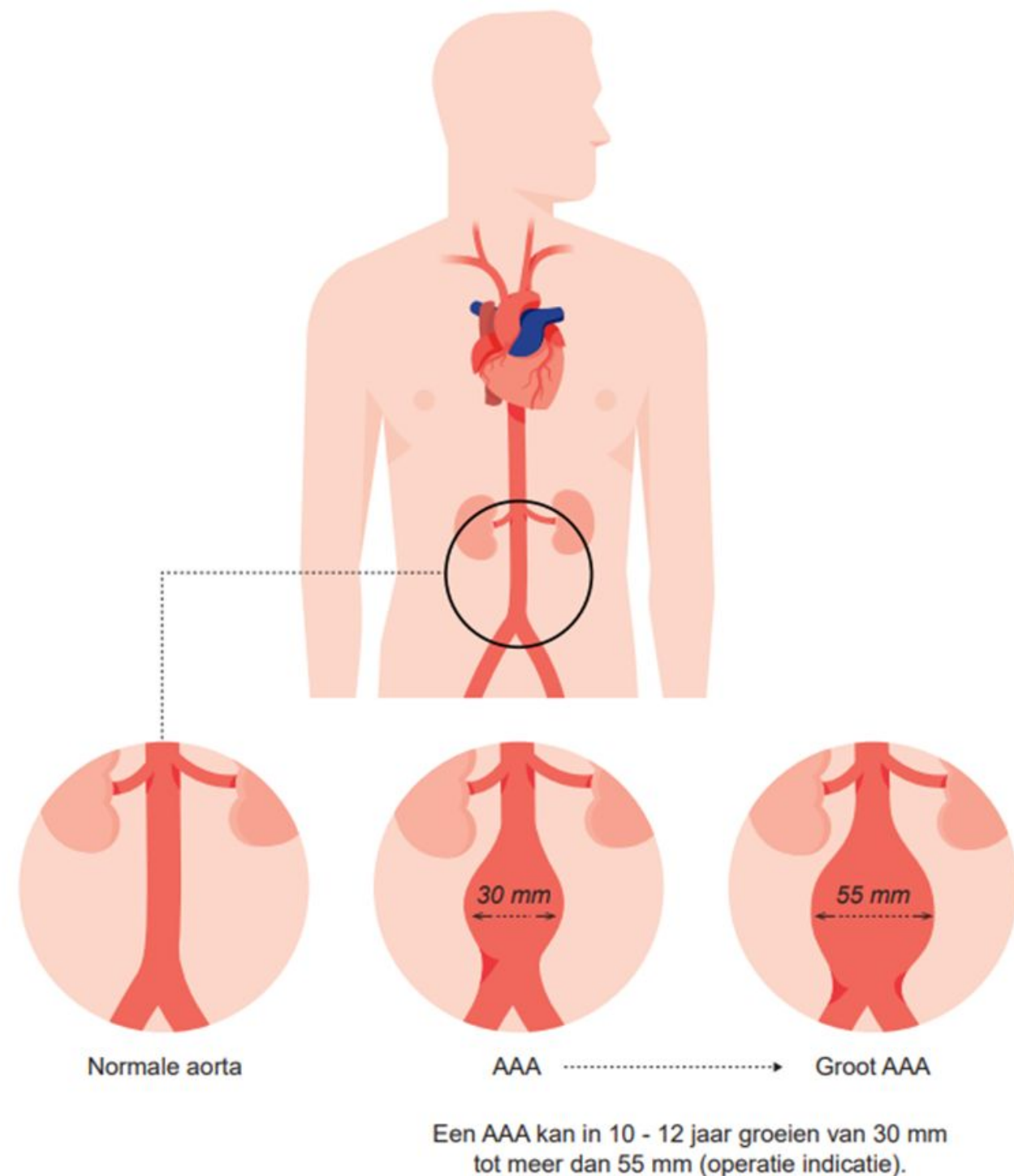


Training rated 4.5/5 on average

- ✓ The cross-sectional work agreement
- ✓ Patient story
- ✓ Repeated training
- ✓ Training in the chain

Use of ultrasound at the ER: Imaging for 100% of the presenting complaints

- A toolbox to spread this knowledge
- ✓ Visual support with infographic for increased understanding across the chain



"Patient referred by GP for diverticulitis with B transport. I asked the patient about her symptoms early on, and everything sounded familiar from the podcast. I requested an ultrasound immediately in the emergency department because I had a high suspicion of an aneurysm... and indeed, it was correct.

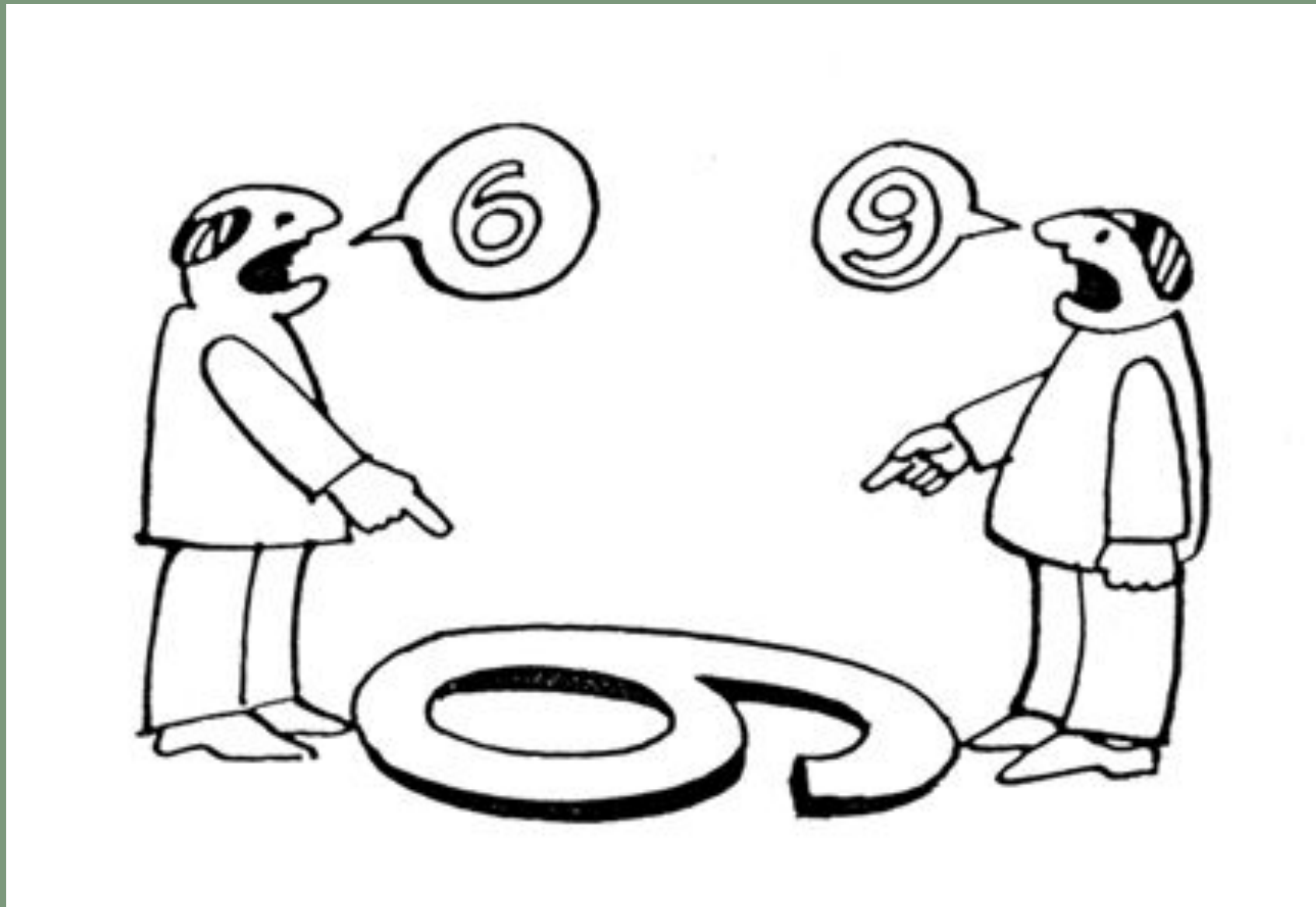
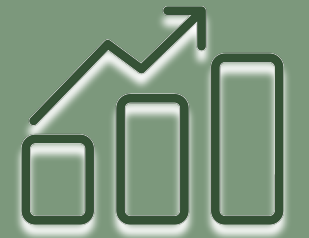
So thank you on behalf of the patient! 👍

Best, Elise, Ambulance Nurse"

✓ Increased awareness



# Results chain approach



The chain approach is evaluated as a success factor:

- ✓ Fostering understanding
- ✓ System perspective
- ✓ Innovative, supported interventions

Preconditions for chain approach:

- ✓ Projectleader
- ✓ Time & Planning
- ✓ Patient-centered
- ✓ Mandate & Approval

# Lessons for patient safety



Collaboration = key to safer care

Incremental improvement (small steps) is motivating and feasible

Patient representatives added valuable perspective

Knowledge retention requires national support structures



# What can you do? ✨



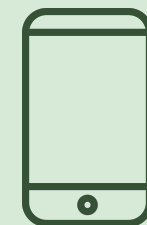
Promote collaboration  
and training in your region



Intergrade knowledge into  
triage systems



Join national and regional  
workgroups



Use the Toolbox  
and Podcast

# Want to learn more or get involved?

## Together, we can make healthcare safer!



### E-mail

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[a.visser@amsterdamumc.nl](mailto:a.visser@amsterdamumc.nl)

### Toolbox

<https://www.impulse-institute.nl/ketenkans/>