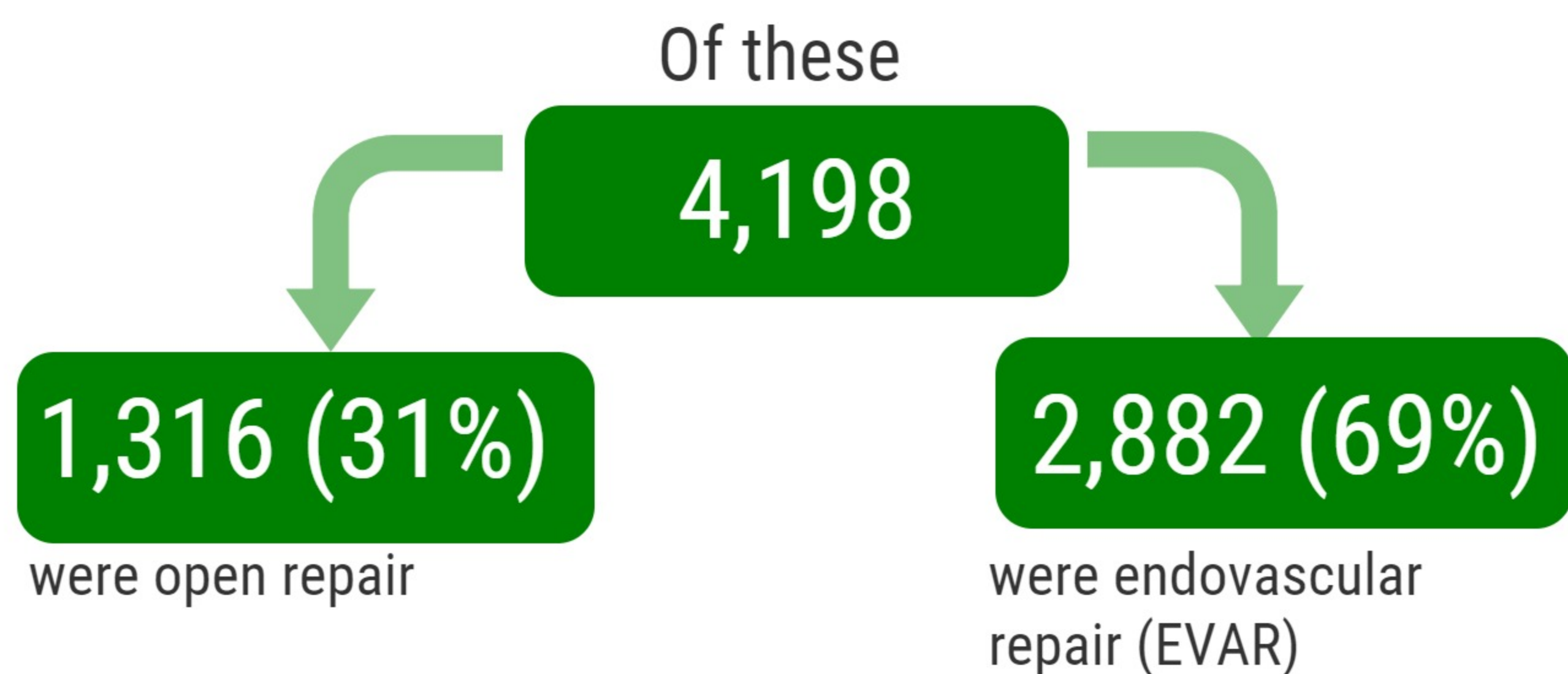


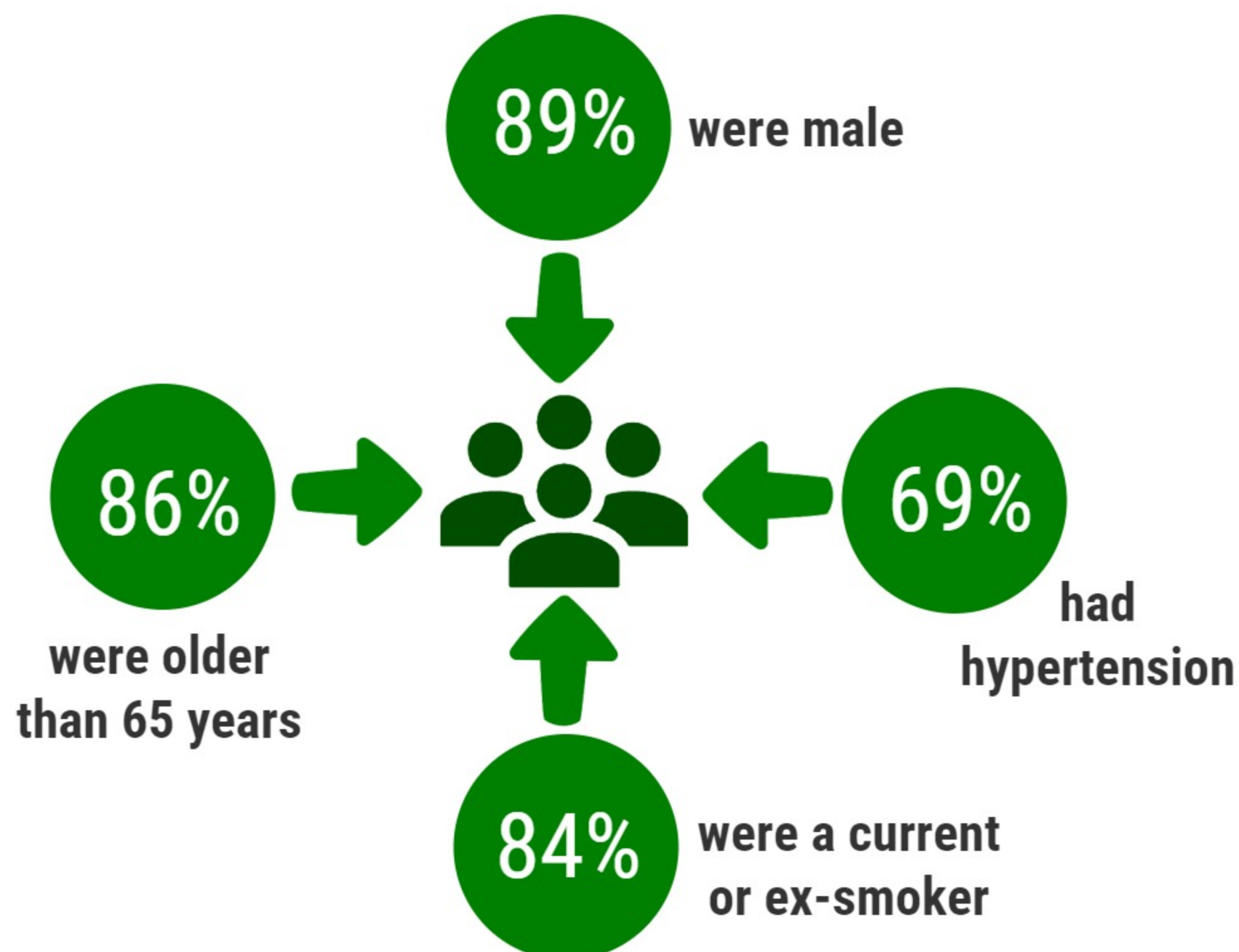
# Elective repair of infra-renal abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)

AAA is an abnormal expansion of the aorta. If left untreated, it may enlarge and rupture causing fatal internal bleeding. An infra-renal aneurysm occurs below the level of the renal (kidney) arteries within the aorta.

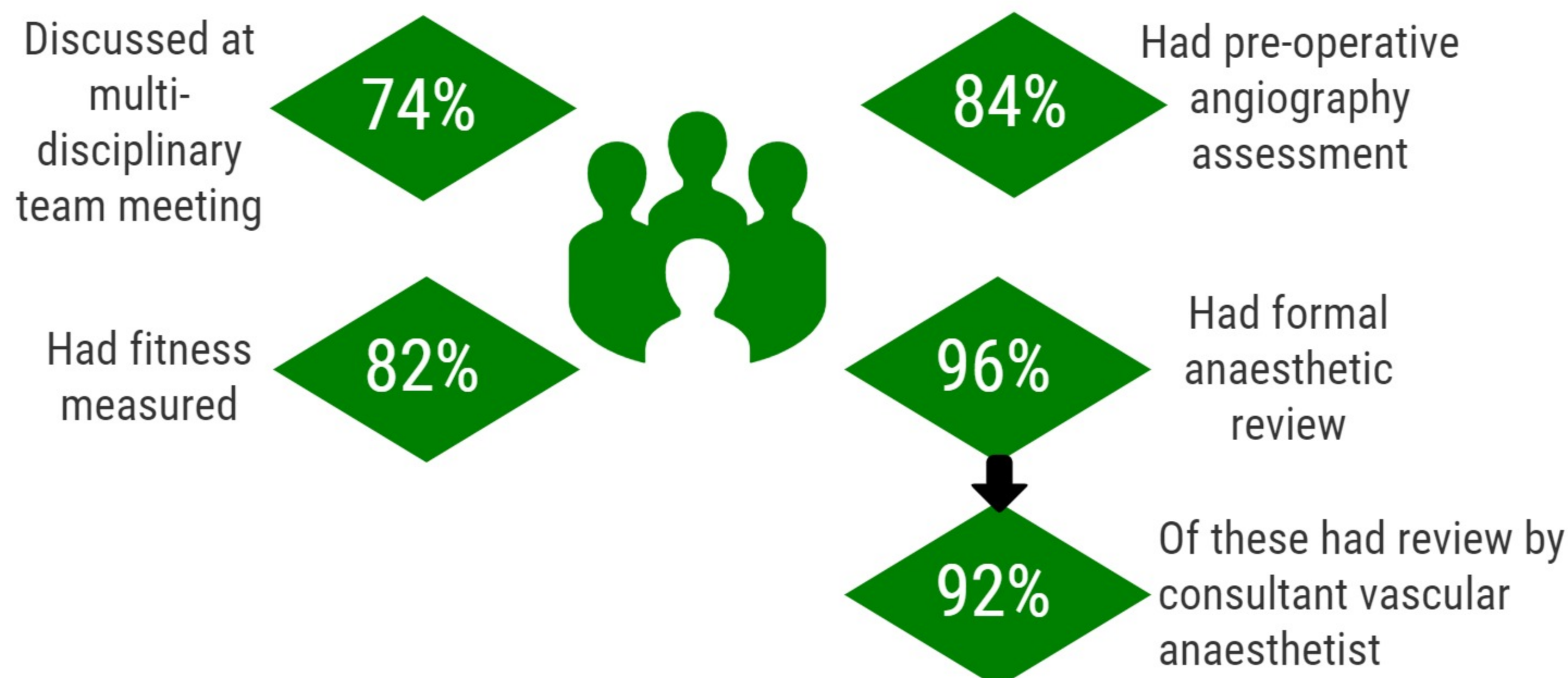
There were 4,198 elective infra-renal AAA repairs submitted to the NVR in 2015, which is approximately 86% of all procedures carried out in the UK.



## Which people had surgery?



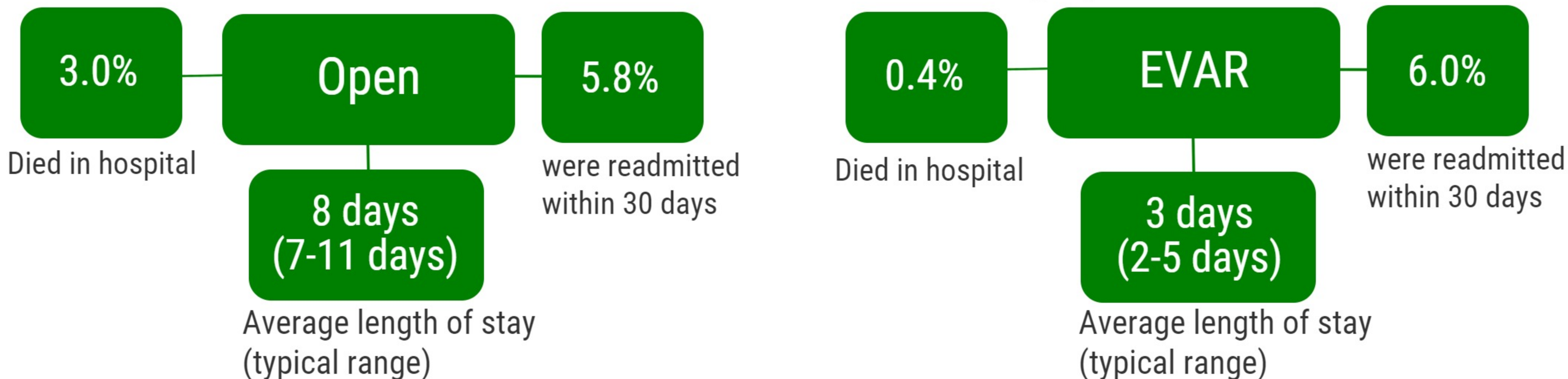
## How were patients assessed?



Most patients waited 65 days between vascular assessment and AAA repair

However for 29/78 vascular units, 25% of patients waited more than 120 days

## Patient outcomes after surgery



## Recommendations

Vascular units are encouraged to adopt the care pathway and standards outlined in the Vascular Society's AAA quality improvement programme. This can be accessed at the Vascular Society's website. A clinical lead should be nominated to monitor and report on the adoption of the pathway and this should be reflected in their job planning.

There is wide variation in the time patients take from vascular assessment to elective AAA repair. Time to surgery from diagnosis to surgery for patient with aortic aneurysms. The National AAA Screening Programme has set a target of 8 weeks and, for non-complex aneurysms, this should be a target for all units for both screen and non screen detected AAA.