

# Prehospitale triage pijn op de borst

## *ARTICA randomized trial*

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Arts-onderzoeker Cardiologie



Radboudumc

(Potentiële) belangenverstrengeling	Geen
Voor bijeenkomst mogelijk relevante relaties met bedrijven	•Geen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Sponsoring of onderzoeksgeld</li> <li>•Honorarium of andere (financiële) vergoedingen</li> <li>•Aandeelhouder</li> <li>•Andere relatie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Geen</li> <li>•Geen</li> <li>•Geen</li> <li>•Geen</li> </ul>

Werknemers in de zorg  
voelen steeds meer werkdruk

Spoedafdelingen hebben  
duizenden 'stops' per jaar vanwege  
de druk

Spoedeisende  
spoedafdeling  
bedden. Dan i

nrc>

Stee

dicht is: 'Laatst 1,5 uur tot we iemand kwijt konden'

# Meeste spoedritten voor hartinfarct onnodig: patiënt loopt vaak wel trauma op door rit in ambulance



1V EenVandaag

**Zorgkosten stijgen in 2022: basispakket 2,9% en  
langdurige zorg 4,8%**

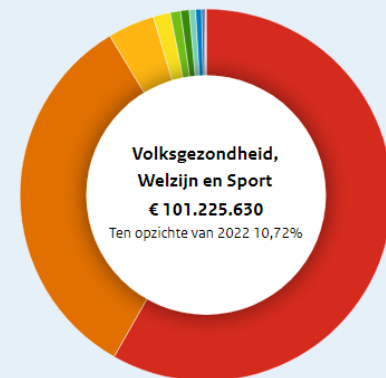
Nieuwsbericht | 28-12-2022 | 09:00

In 2022 stijgen de kosten van het basispakket van de zorgverzekering met 2,9% naar een totaal van € 51,3 miljard. De kosten van de langdurige zorg stijgen met 4,8% naar een totaal van € 29,6 miljard. Dit blijkt uit de nieuwe kwartaalcijfers van Zorginstituut Nederland.



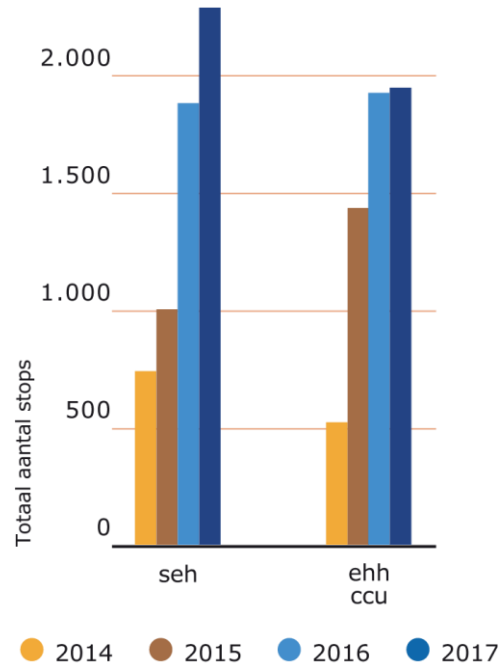
Beeld: ©Zorginstituut Nederland

Alle bedragen x1000



Bron: ministerie van financiën; rijksfinanciën.nl

*Aantal seh-stops 2014-2017*



# Background

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- Chest pain is accountable for 10% of all emergency department (ED) visits<sup>1</sup>
- In the Netherlands: over 200.000 ED visits for chest pain per year<sup>2</sup>
- Healthcare costs: over €246 million per year
- In Europe: over 9 million ED visits for chest pain per year
- 80-90% of chest pain patients do not have a non-ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome (NSTEMI-ACS)<sup>3</sup>

# Background

- 39.3% of chest pain patients in the ED are low-risk patient
- A point-of-care (POC) troponin measurement enables ambulance paramedics to identify low-risk patients at home<sup>2</sup>
- Observed major adverse cardiac events (MACE) incidence was 2.9% in pre-hospital low-risk patients (0.0% death or STEMI)<sup>3</sup>
- No randomized controlled trials investigating pre-hospital rule-out of NSTEMI-ACS with POC troponin



# Objective

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- To assess costs from a healthcare perspective at 30 days of pre-hospital rule-out of NSTEMI ACS, as compared to standard transfer to the ED

## Primary outcome

- Healthcare costs at 30 days

## Secondary outcome

- 30 days MACE prevalence
- 30 days MACE occurrence after rule-out of ACS (pre-hospital rule-out with a low POC troponin concentration or rule-out at the ED)
- 12 months MACE prevalence and cost effectiveness (follow-up ongoing, expected May 2023)

MACE = ACS, unplanned revascularization or death

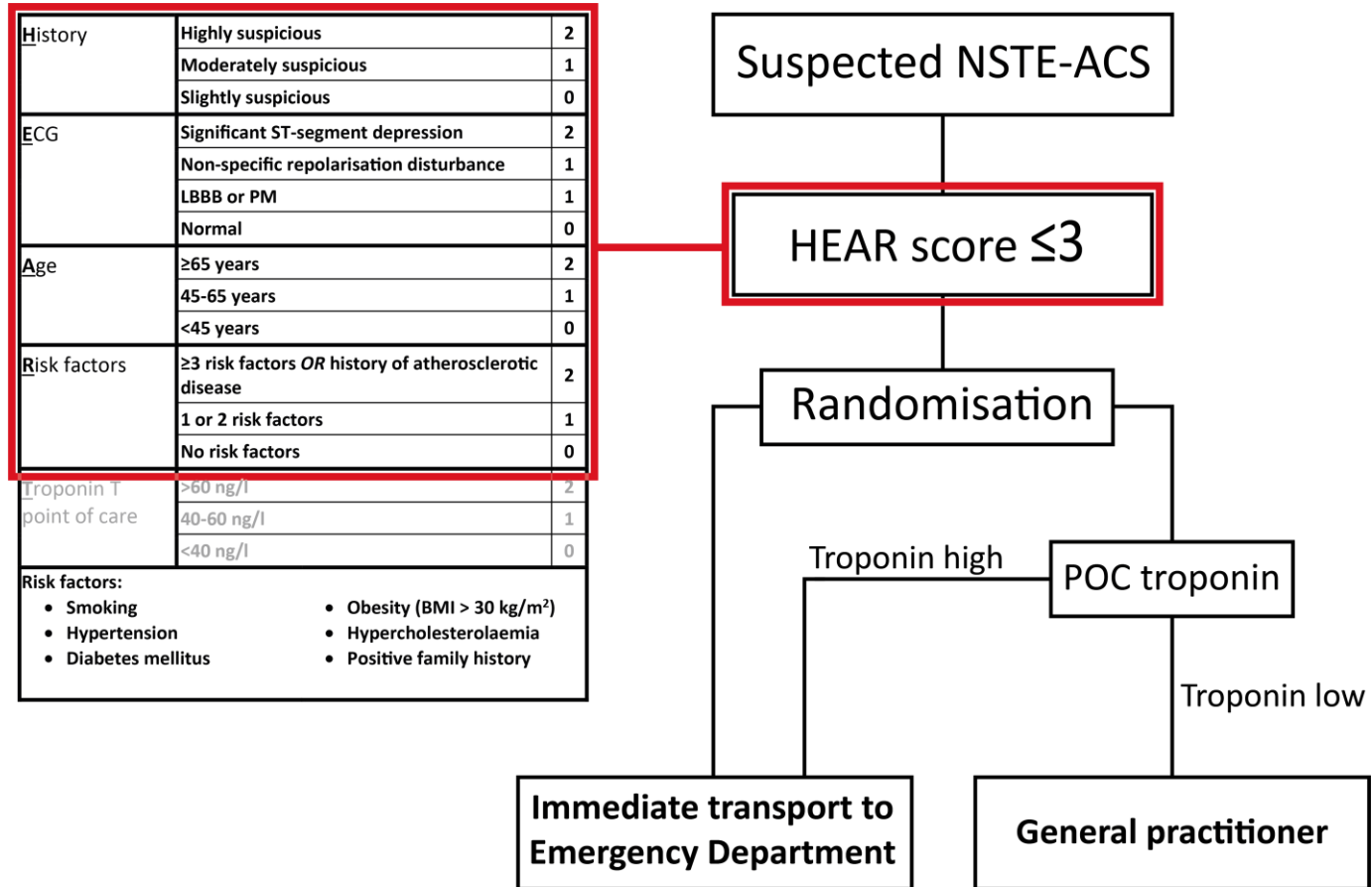
## Sampe size

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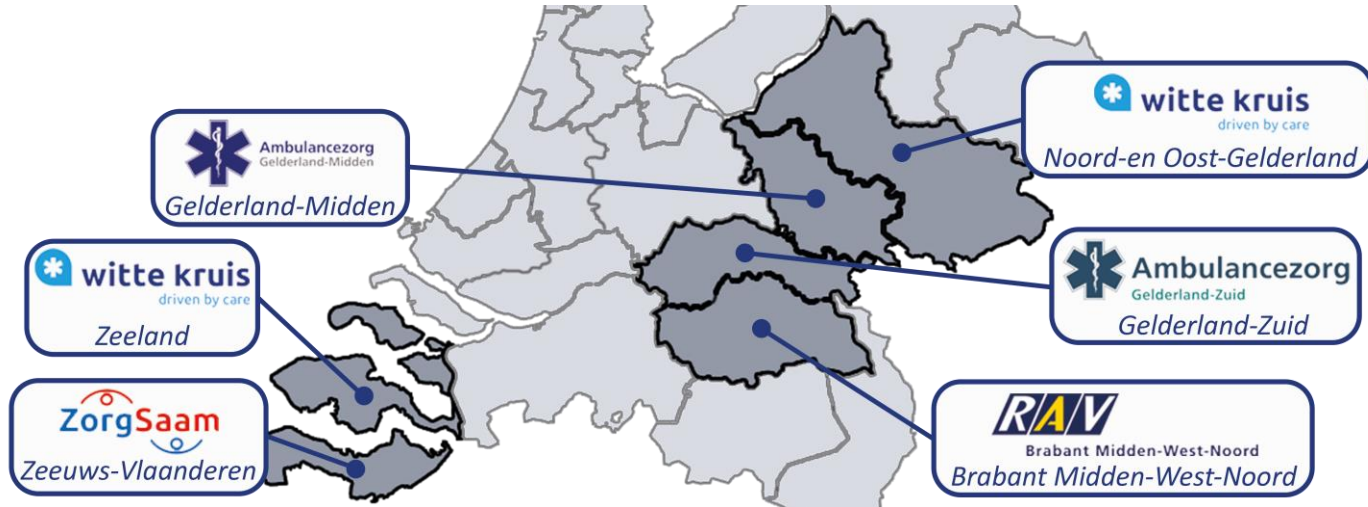
- Estimated mean costs were €1259 with a mean difference of €507: a total of 784 patients would achieve 80% power with an alpha of 0.05
- Sample size was enlarged by 10% to compensate for potential loss to follow-up to a total of 866 patients



# Trial design



# Organization

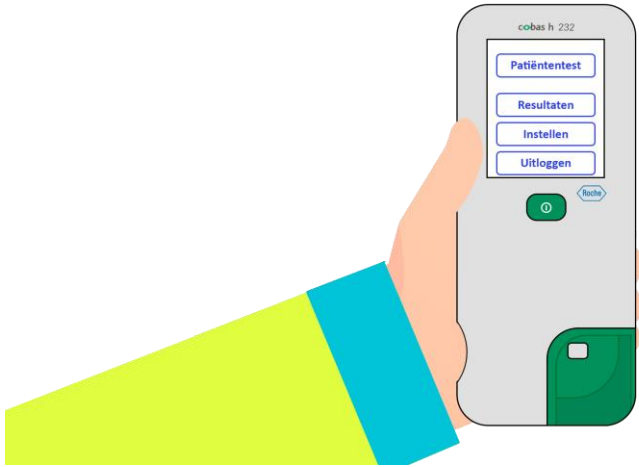


- 112 ambulances

- 2.5 million inhabitants

# Training

A total of 550 ambulance paramedics were trained to perform screening, randomization and the POC troponin measurement

A stylized illustration of a paramedic in a yellow and blue uniform standing next to a large screen. The screen displays the following information:

**ARTICA**  
RANDOMIZED TRIAL

Acute **R**ule out of non ST-segment elevation acute coronary syndrome in the (pre)hospital setting by HEART score assessment and a single point of **CA**re troponin

Instructie video voor ambulance verpleegkundigen en chauffeurs

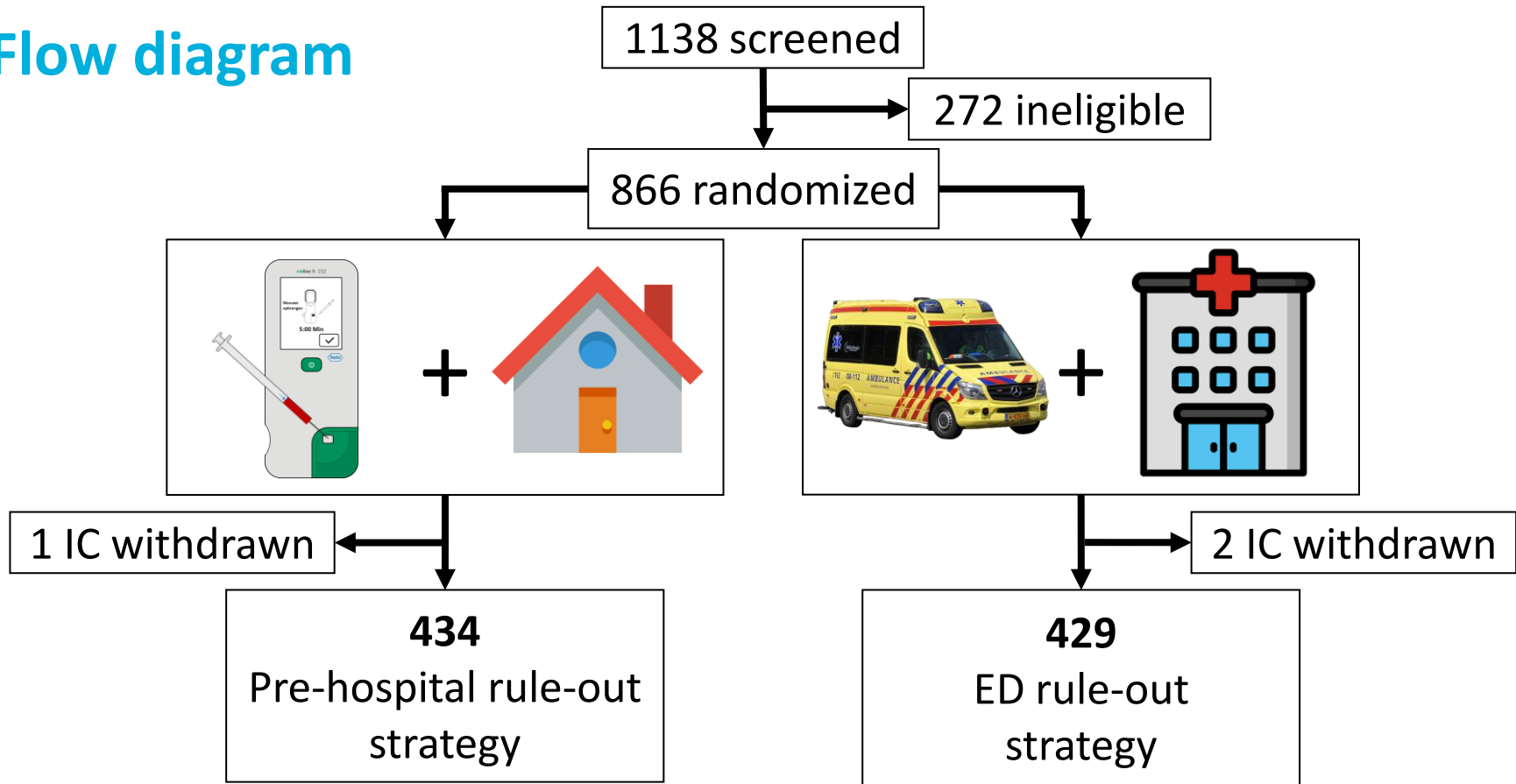
Logos at the bottom of the screen:  
- Radboudumc  
- Ambulancezorg Gelderland-Zuid  
- CWZ een samen ziekenhuis  
- RAV Brabant Midden-West-Noord  
- ZonMw

# Patients

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- Inclusion
  - Age  $\geq 18$  years
  - Suspected NSTEMI-ACS
  - Symptom onset  $> 2$  hours
  - HEAR score  $\leq 3$
  - Provided written informed consent
- Exclusion
  - ST-segment elevation
  - Suspected non-cardiac cause of symptoms requiring ED visit (e.g. aortic dissection or pulmonary embolism)
  - Cardiogenic shock
  - Syncope
  - Acute heart failure
  - Acute heart rhythm- or conduction- disorders
  - Known end-stage renal failure

# Flow diagram



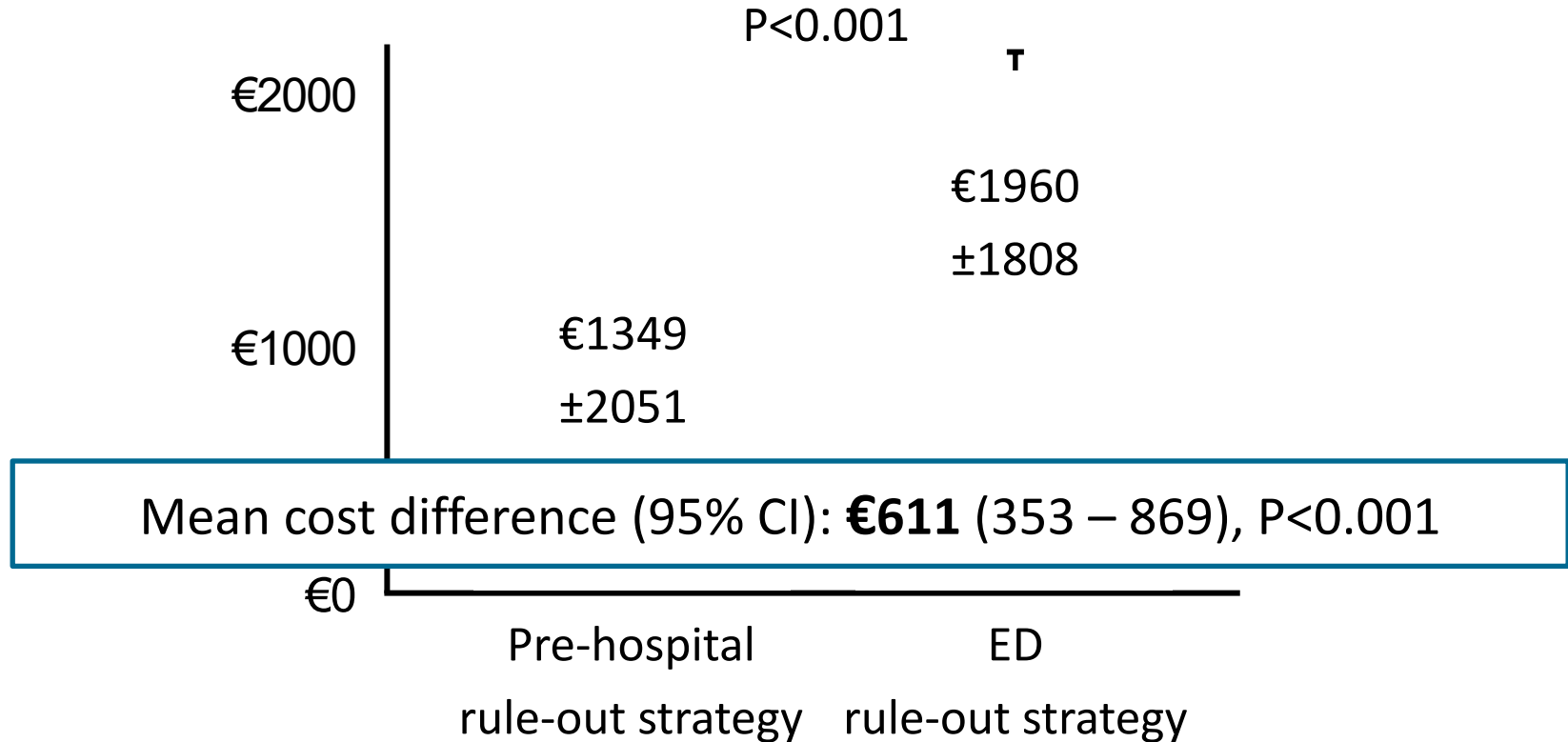
# Baseline

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	Pre-hospital rule-out strategy (n=434)	ED rule-out strategy (n=429)
Age, years (SD)	53.7 (13.1)	53.2 (12.5)
Female sex	247 (56.9%)	248 (57.8%)
HEAR score (SD)	2.4 (0.7)	2.4 (0.8)
History of atherosclerotic disease	34 (7.8%)	23 (5.4%)
Hypertension	85 (19.6%)	71 (16.6%)
Diabetes mellitus	22 (5.1%)	14 (3.3%)
Current smoking	112 (25.8%)	110 (25.6%)
Hypercholesterolemia	37 (8.5%)	35 (8.2%)
Family history positive	155 (35.7%)	152 (35.4%)
BMI $\geq 30$ kg/m <sup>2</sup>	86 (19.8%)	80 (18.6%)

# Primary outcome

Mean healthcare costs at 30 days



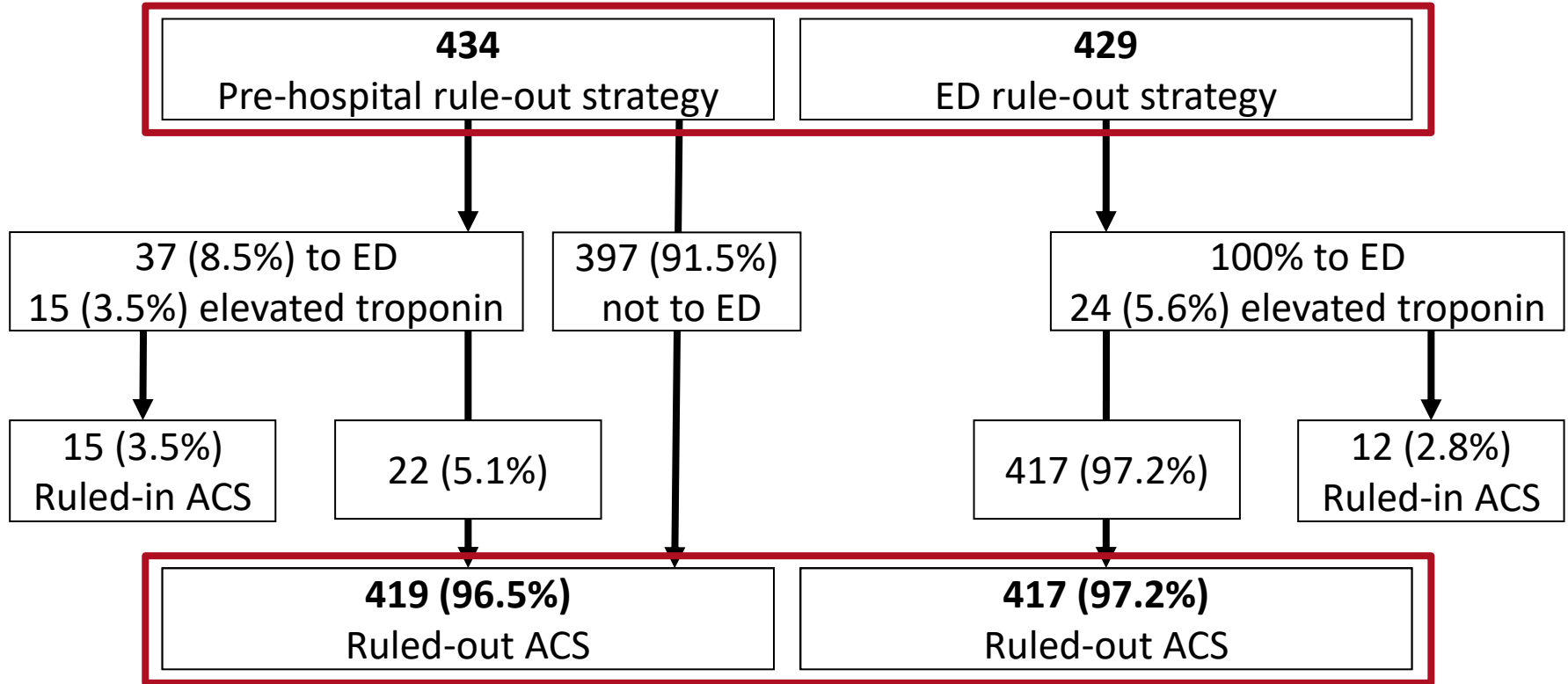
# Healthcare resource use

	Pre-hospital rule-out strategy (n=434)	ED rule-out strategy (n=429)	P-value
1 additional ambulance transport	24 (5.5%)	10 (2.3%)	0.02
≥2 additional ambulance transports	2 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	0.16
1 ED visit	59 (13.6%)	411 (95.8%)	<0.001
≥2 ED visits	5 (1.2%)	18 (4.2%)	0.006
1 GP consultation	338 (77.9%)	132 (30.8%)	<0.001
≥2 GP consultations	96 (22.1%)	31 (7.2%)	<0.001
Outpatient clinic visit	54 (12.4%)	46 (10.7%)	0.43
CT	12 (2.8%)	17 (4.0%)	0.33
Echocardiography	54 (12.4%)	44 (10.3%)	0.31
Treadmill	41 (9.4%)	52 (12.1%)	0.21
CAG	20 (4.6%)	20 (4.7%)	0.97
PCI	13 (3.0%)	12 (2.8%)	0.86
CABG	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	0.99
Hospitalization	32 (7.4%)	42 (9.8%)	0.21



# Ruled out ACS

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## Safety: Intention to treat

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	Pre-hospital rule-out n=434	ED rule-out n=429	P-value
MACE	17 (3.9%)	16 (3.7%)	0.89
ACS	17 (3.9%)	15 (3.5%)	0.74
Unplanned revascularisation	12 (2.8%)	13 (3.0%)	0.82
Death (all cause)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	0.31

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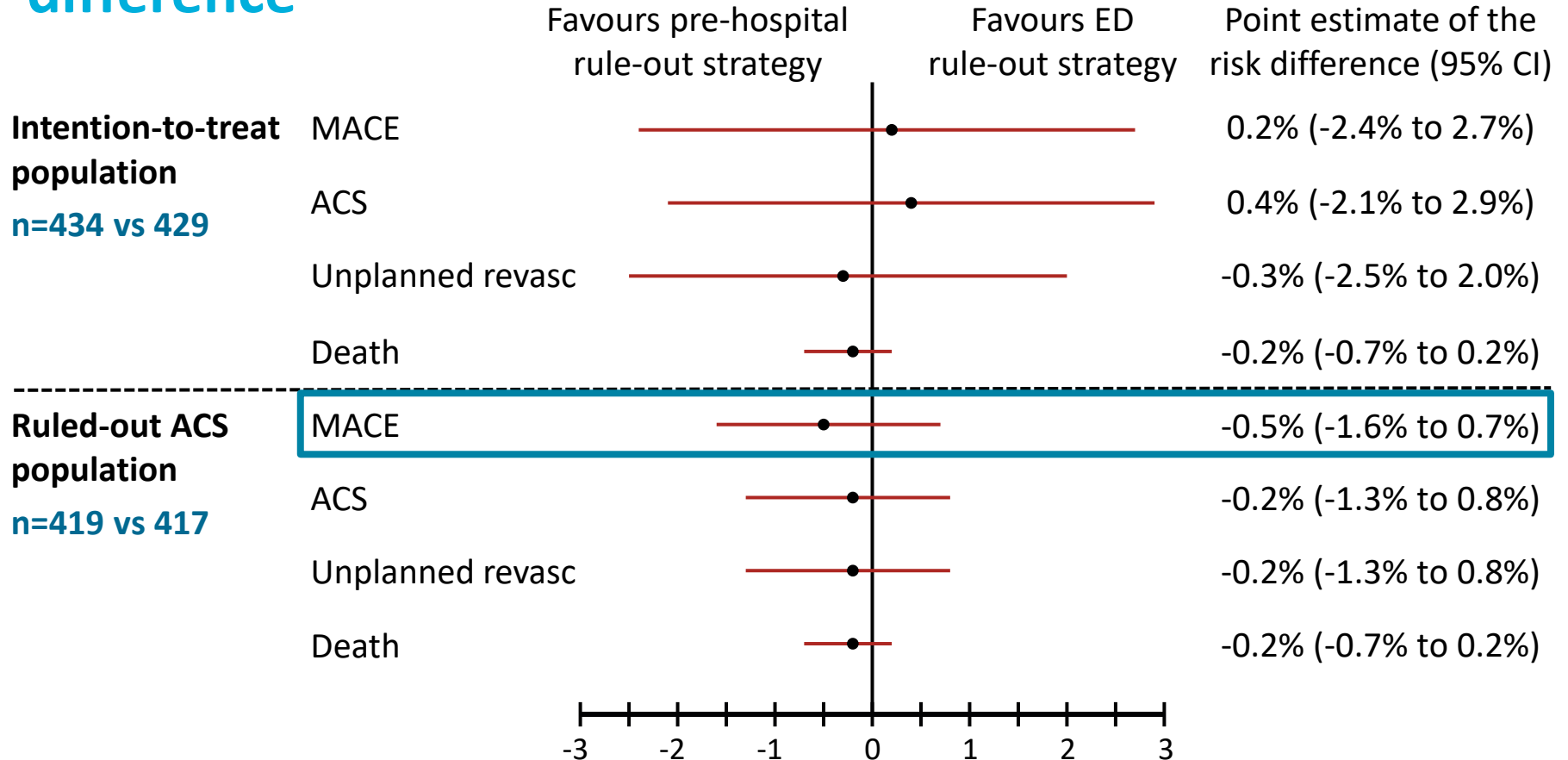
## Safety: Ruled-out ACS

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	Pre-hospital rule-out n=419 (97%)	ED rule-out n=417 (97%)	P-value
MACE	2 (0.5%)	4 (1.0%)	0.41
ACS	2 (0.5%)	3 (0.7%)	0.65
Unplanned revascularisation	2 (0.5%)	3 (0.7%)	0.65
Death (all cause)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.2%)	0.32

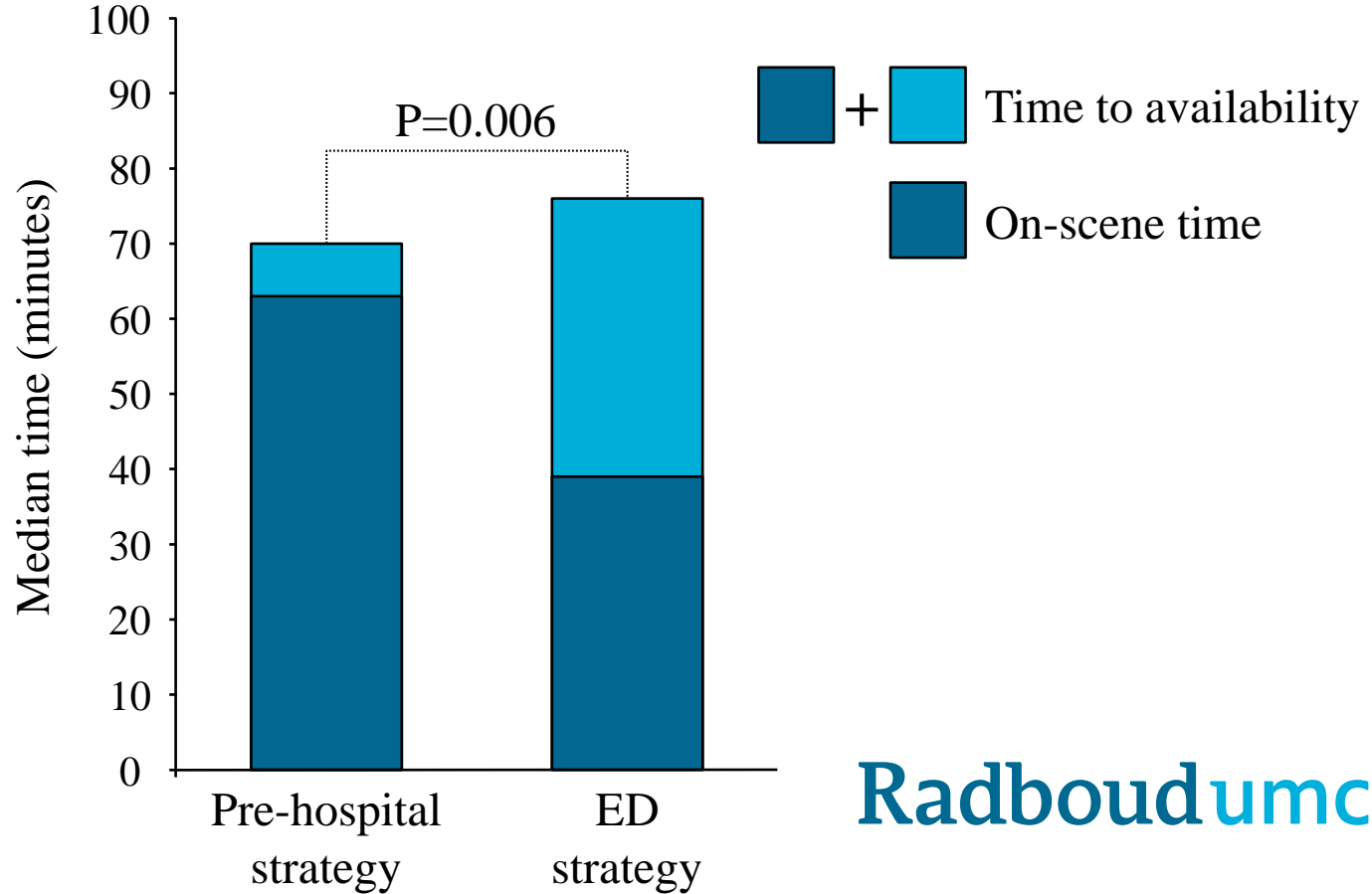
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# 30-day safety: risk difference



# Time to availability

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# Conclusions

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- Pre-hospital rule-out of NSTEMI-ACS resulted in a significant reduction of healthcare costs in the first 30 days (- € 611)
- MACE at 30 days was low in both groups (3.9% vs 3.7%, P=0.89)
- MACE at 30 days in patients with pre-hospital ruled-out ACS was very low and similar to that in the patients with ruled-out ACS at the ED (<1.0%)
- Ambulances in the pre-hospital rule-out group are quickly available for new emergency calls

# Implications

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- Implementation in current practice
  - Very low risk of MACE (0.5%) and no mortality observed in the pre-hospital ruled-out ACS population
  - Immediate reduction in healthcare costs and ED overcrowding
  - Close monitoring in a registry and systematic training of ambulance paramedics
- New multicenter randomized non-inferiority trial



Thank you for your attention



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