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A picture paints a thousand words – Enhancing patient education on breast radiotherapy.

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## Introduction

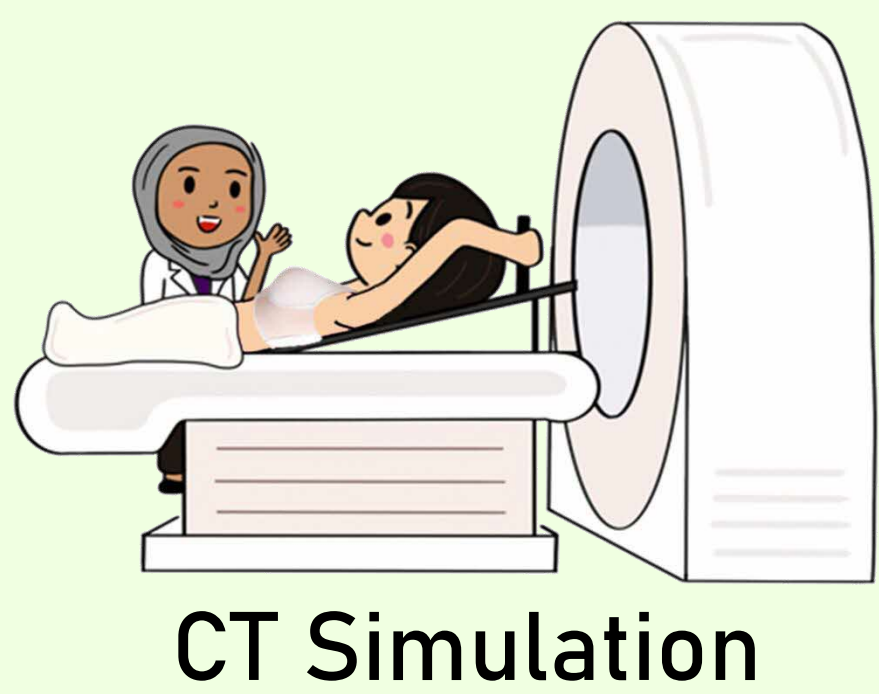
The radiotherapy process involves reproducing patients' position that was achieved during their CT Simulation procedure.

Problem: Patients may not realise the importance of the CT Simulation procedure to ensure treatment setup reproducibility due to lack of knowledge and understanding.

## Aim

To enhance the current verbal patient education conducted prior to CT Simulation by assessing patients' understanding and its impact on treatment setup reproducibility.

## Methodology



CT Simulation



1<sup>st</sup> day radiotherapy

### Part 1



Verbal briefing (n=36)

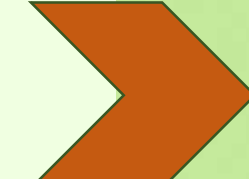
### Part 2



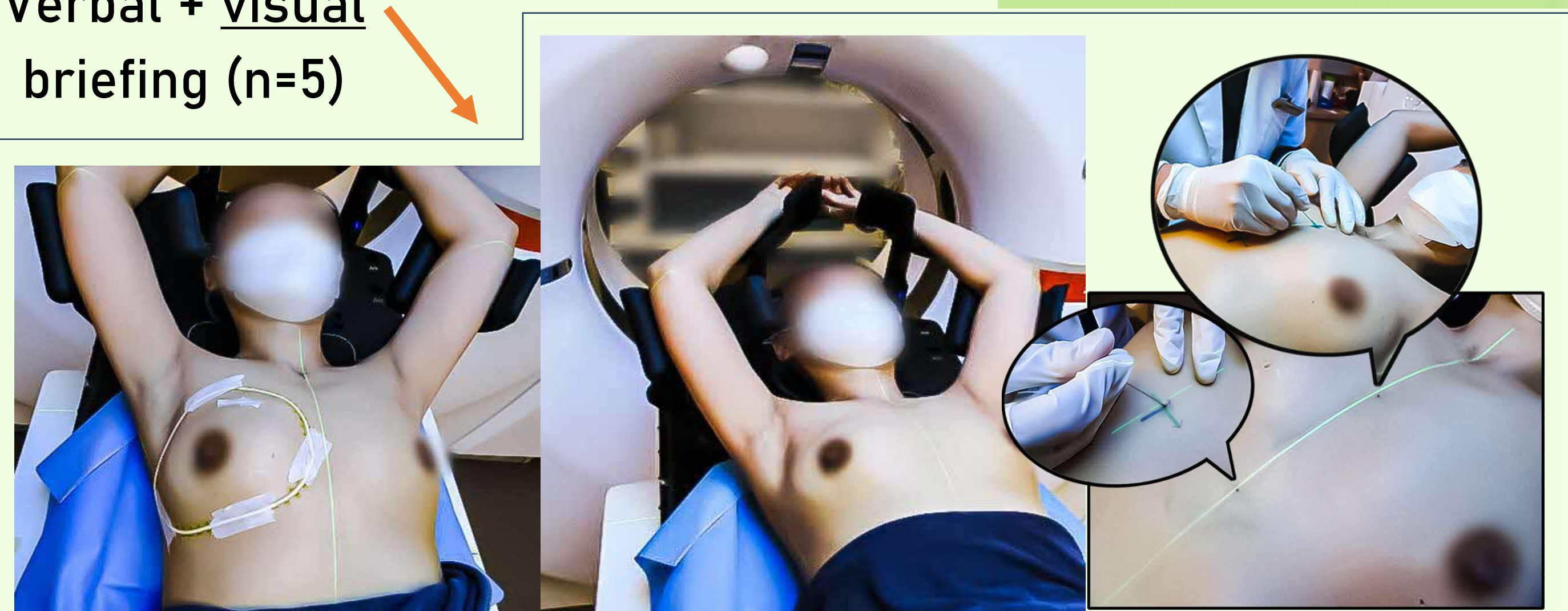
Verbal + visual briefing (n=5)



Self-administered quantitative questionnaire to assess level of understanding



Treatment positioning errors verified using x-ray images with reference to CT Simulation position

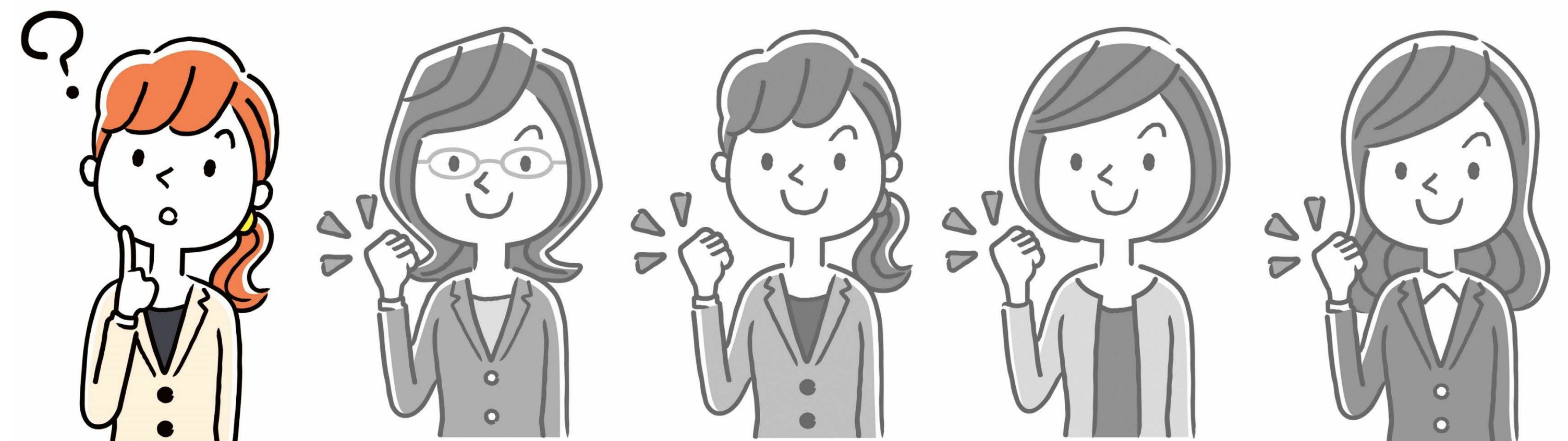


## Result

Part 1: 36 patients were recruited. 22.2% (n=8) indicated that they did not understand the CT Simulation briefing and 19.4% (n=7) felt unfamiliar with the CT Simulation procedure despite the briefing. 41.7% (n=15) of the patients recorded setup error  $\geq 0.5$ cm.

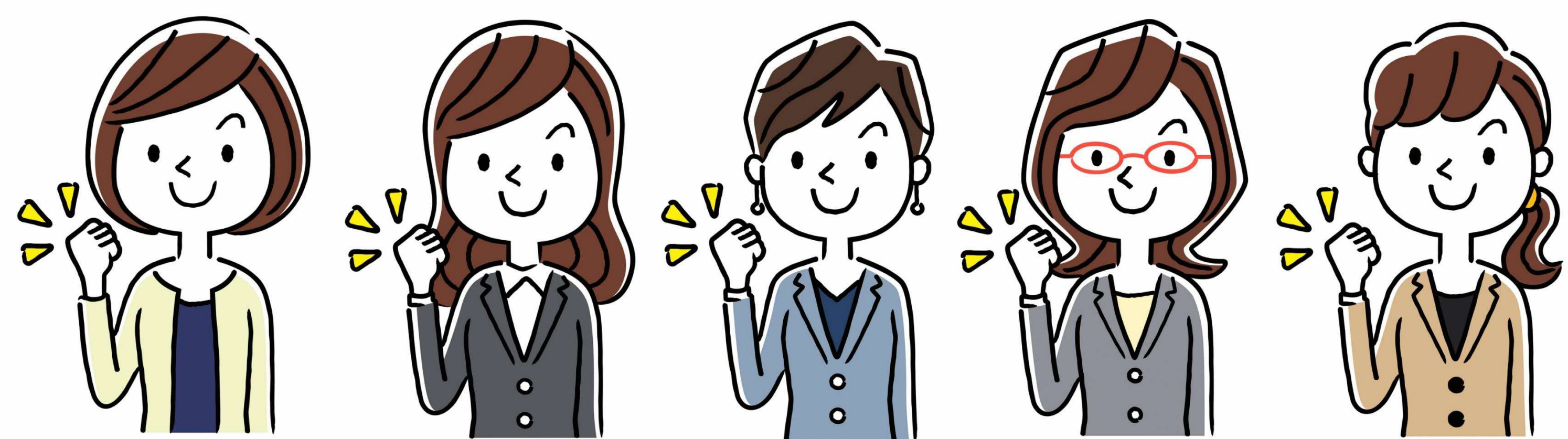


Did not understand CT Simulation briefing



Unfamiliar with CT Simulation procedure despite the briefing

Part 2: All the five patients agreed that the pictures help them to process the information and understand the procedure better. All recorded setup errors were  $< 0.5$ cm.



## PDSA

This quality improvement project has been formulated using the PDSA model.



## Conclusion

This initiative to introduce visual aids to supplement the current CT Simulation briefing procedure provides promising results in terms of enhancing patients' knowledge and understanding on radiotherapy. Initial findings suggest an improvement in treatment setup reproducibility following this intervention.