



# *Surgical Decision Making*

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Consultant Shoulder &  
Upper Limb Surgeon*





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## *Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions*



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- Those we can diagnose & treat well



## *Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions*

- Those we can diagnose & treat well
- Those we can diagnose but not treat well



## *Rick Matsen - 3 types of medical conditions*

- Those we can diagnose & treat well
- Those we can diagnose but not treat well
- Those we cannot even diagnose well



*Just a few examples.....*



*“May I refer this 48 year old lady who has left shoulder pain for 12 months. She has had 3 injections which have not improved her symptoms. I think she may benefit from surgical decompression”.*





*“Could I refer this gentleman who has right shoulder pain for 2 years. I have injected him twice with no effect. I organised MR scan which is normal. Could you see him with a view to arthroscopic assessment?”*



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*“Information is not knowledge”*



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*Albert Einstein*



*“May I refer this patient who is currently under the care of Her Majesty. He has a grade III AC joint dislocation after altercation with the police. I think he would be a good surgical candidate for ACJ reconstruction”.*



*“Dear Colleague, could you see this patient who came to me with right shoulder pain for 8 months. He had no injury. On examination I found he had signs of impingement including a positive Hawkin-Kennedy sign. I injected his subacromial space followed by a course of physiotherapy. His symptoms improved for 8 weeks. Unfortunately the symptoms have returned with a vengeance. I wonder whether he would be a surgical candidate?”.*



# *Surgical Decision Making*

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# Surgical Decision Making

History

Non-op measures

Symptoms resolve





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Clinical Examination

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# Surgical Decision Making

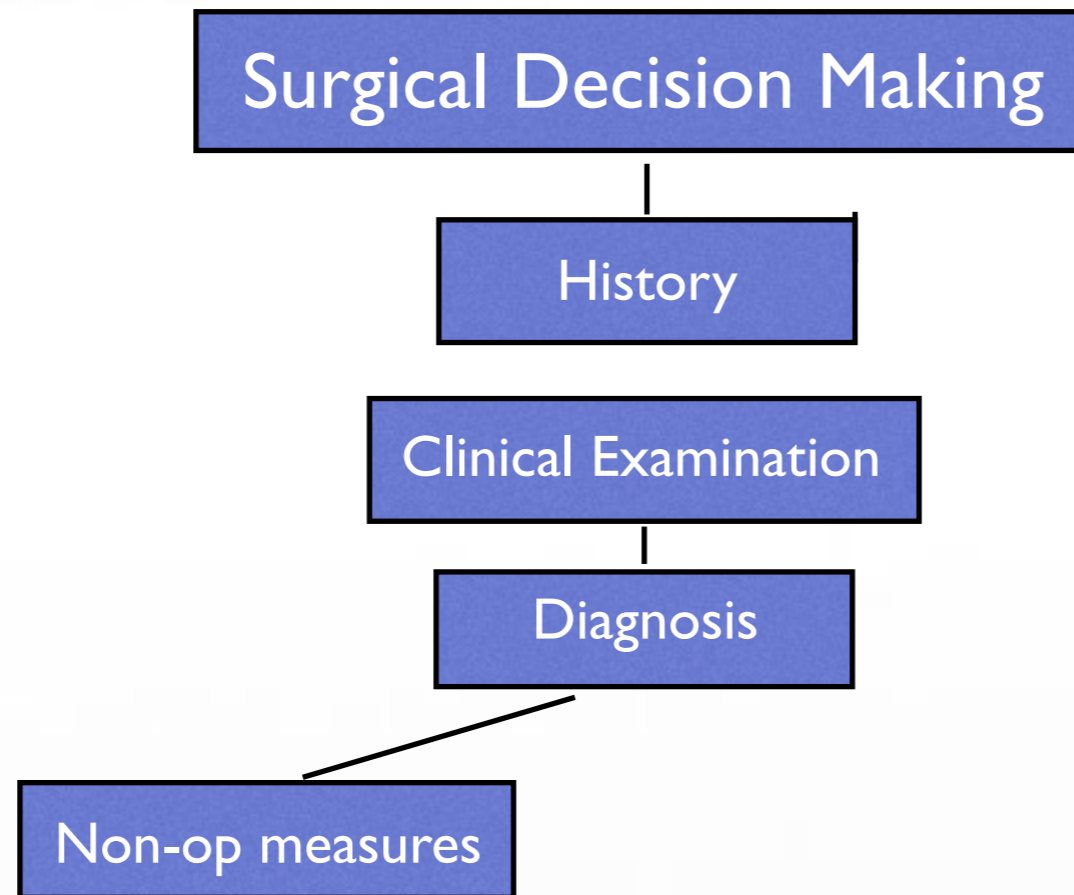
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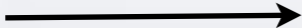
Diagnosis

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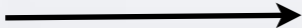
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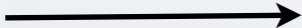
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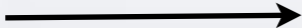
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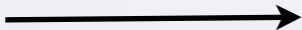
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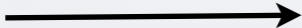
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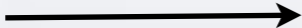
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Non-op measures

Investigations?

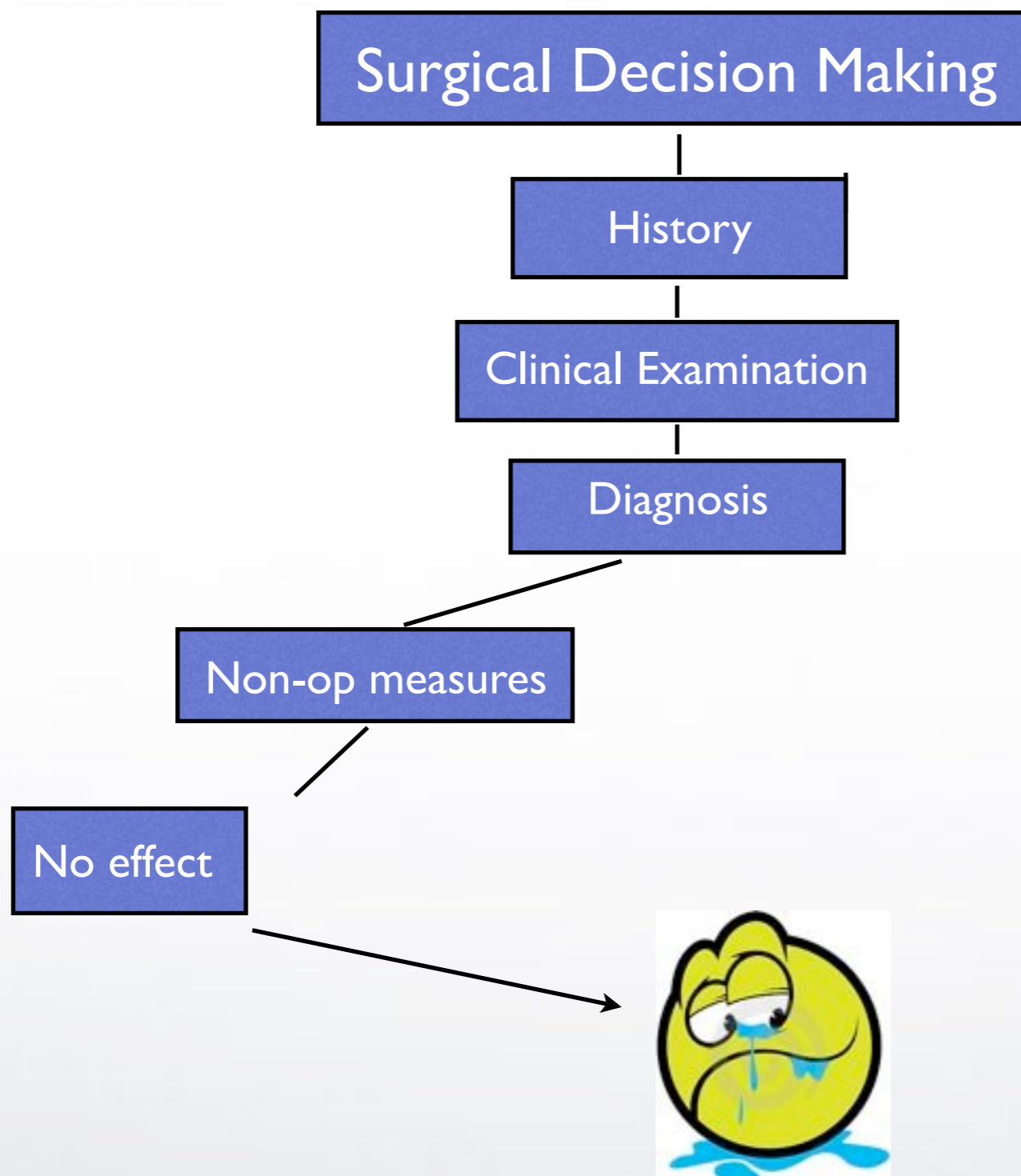
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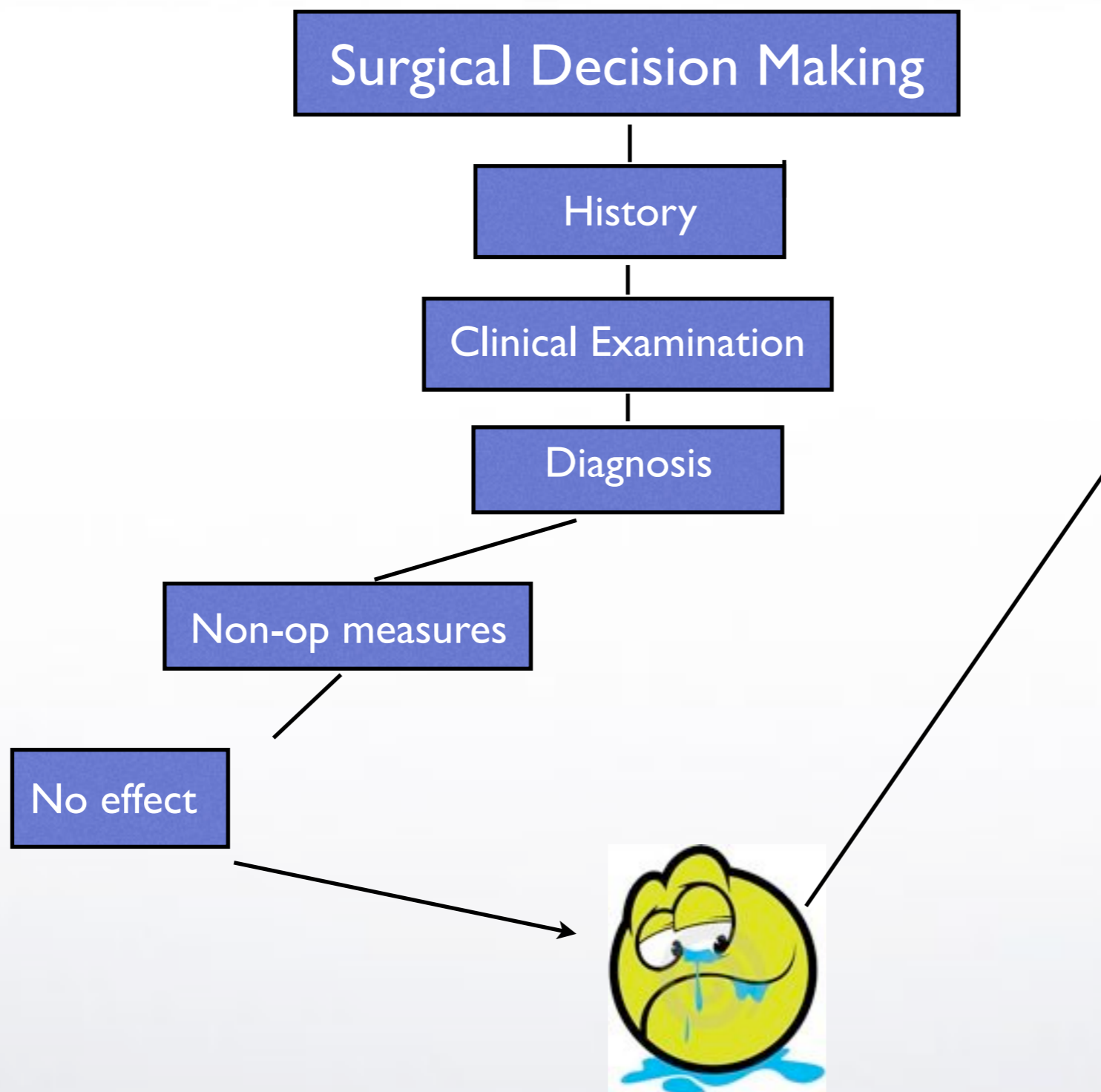
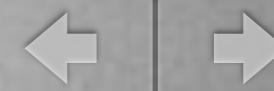
Surgery ?

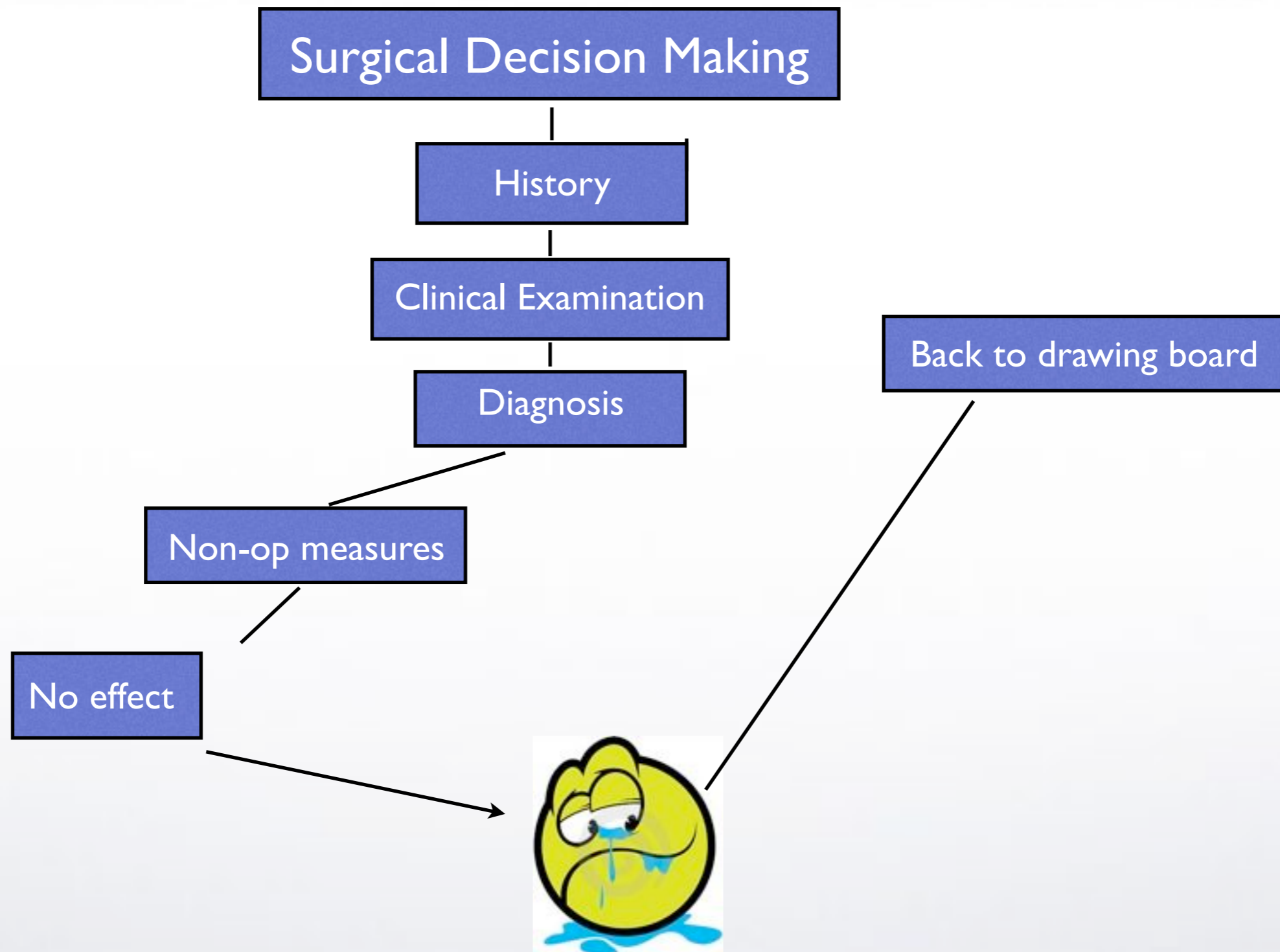




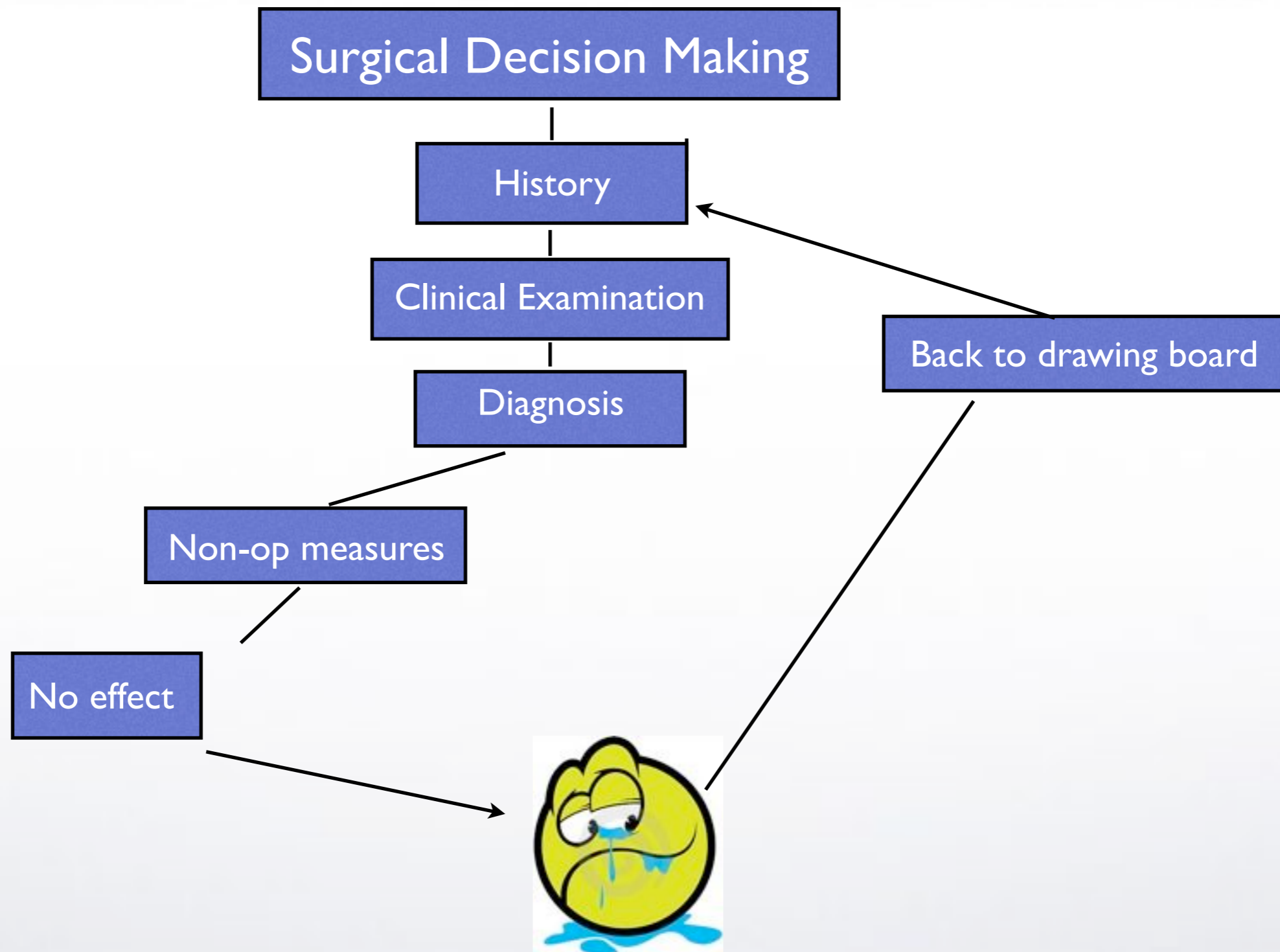
*Failure of Non-Op measures  $\neq$  Surgery*





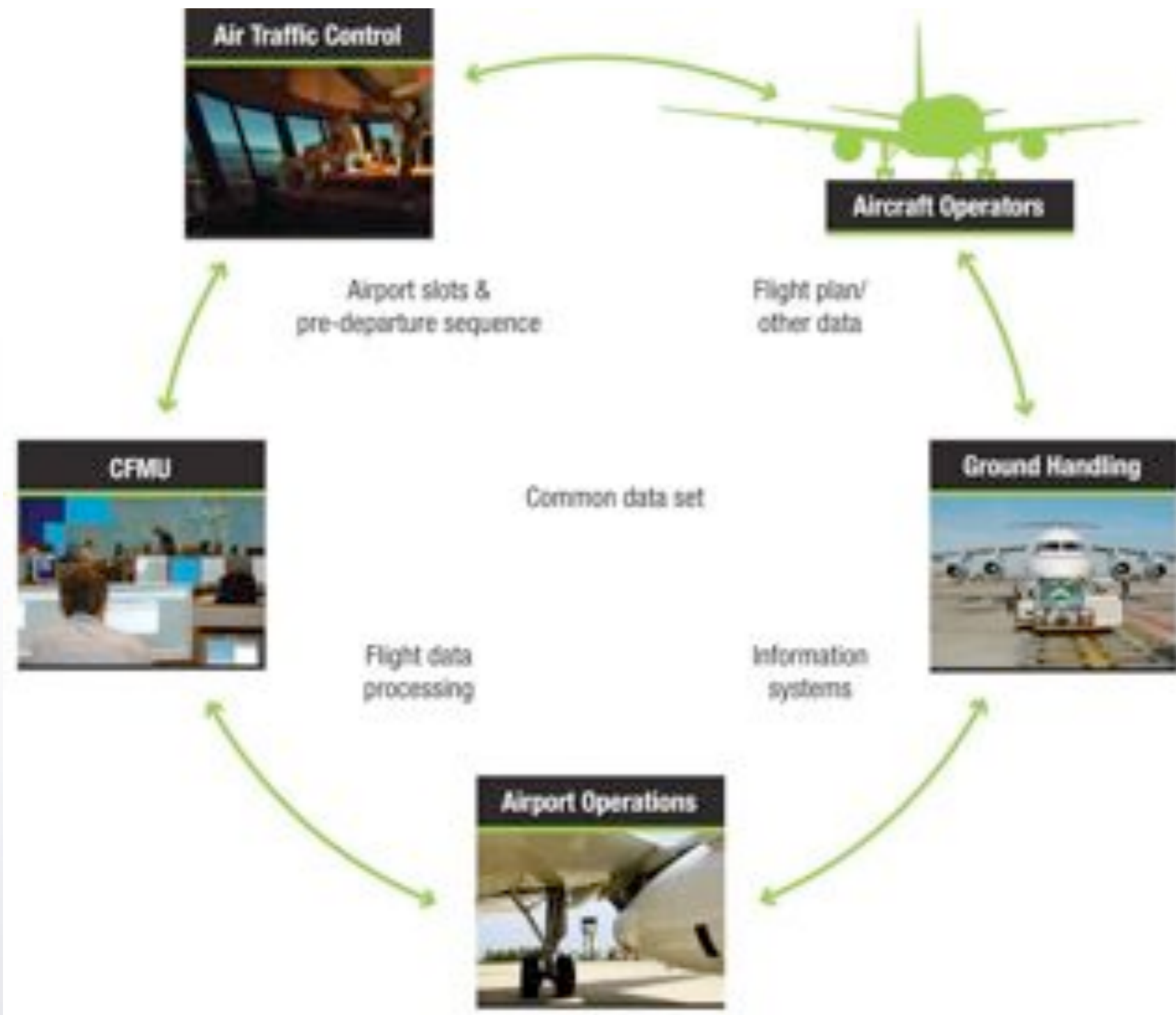








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# Airport Collaborative Decision Making



# *Essential Prerequisites*



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**Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors**



## *Essential Prerequisites*

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills



## *Essential Prerequisites*

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
- Recognition of problem



## *Essential Prerequisites*

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
- Recognition of problem
- Judgement





## *Essential Prerequisites*

Combined process that requires patient & surgeon factors

- Skills
- Recognition of problem
- Judgement
- Effective implementation



# *Essential Prerequisites*



## *Essential Prerequisites*

- Surgical skills
- Surgeon's limitations
- “What works best in my hands”



# *Optimising treatment*

- Outcome probabilities
- Personal preference
- “Demand-match” approach



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- *Judgement comes with experience*



- *Judgement comes with experience*
- *Experience comes with a series of bad judgement*





*Thank you*

*Any Questions ?*