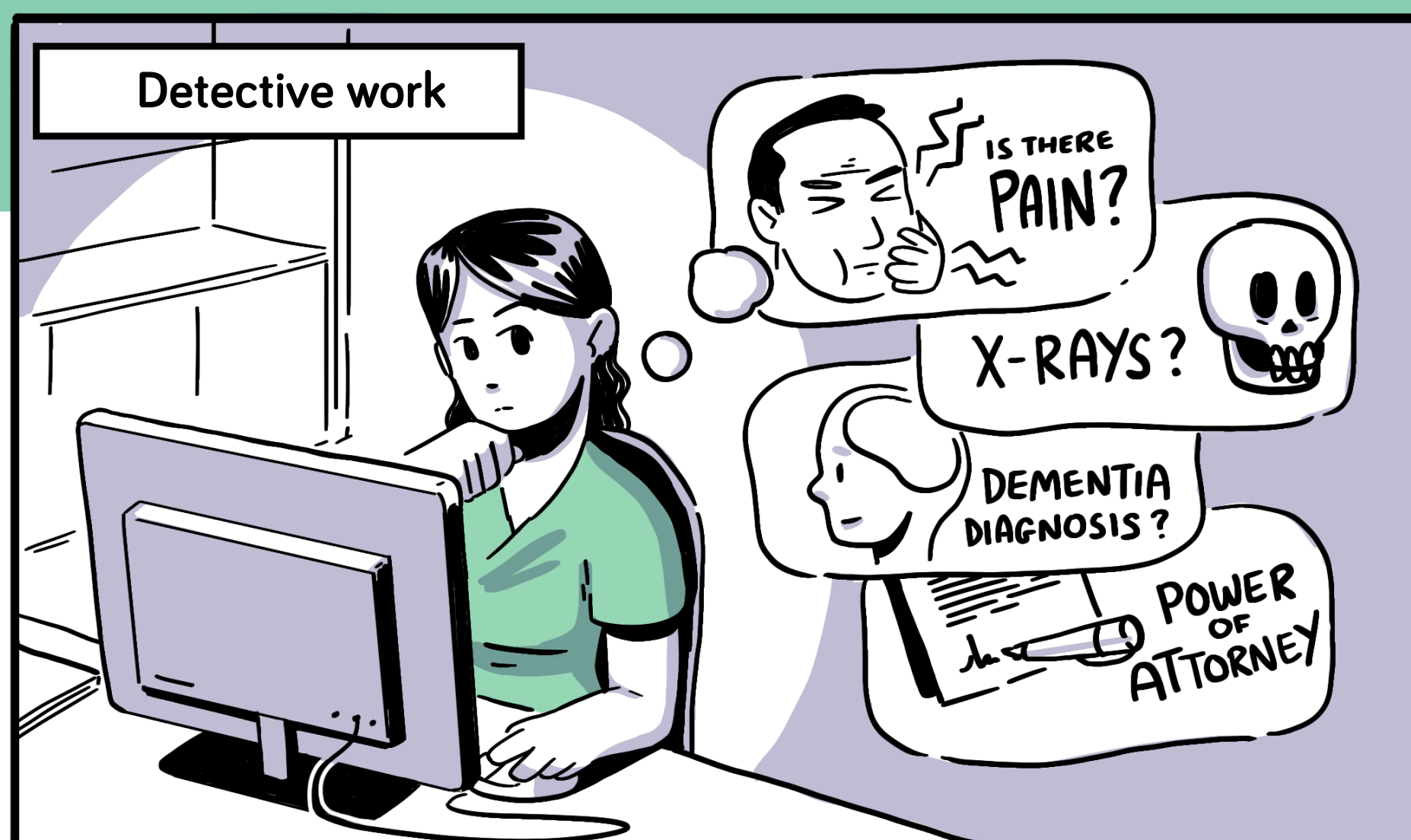
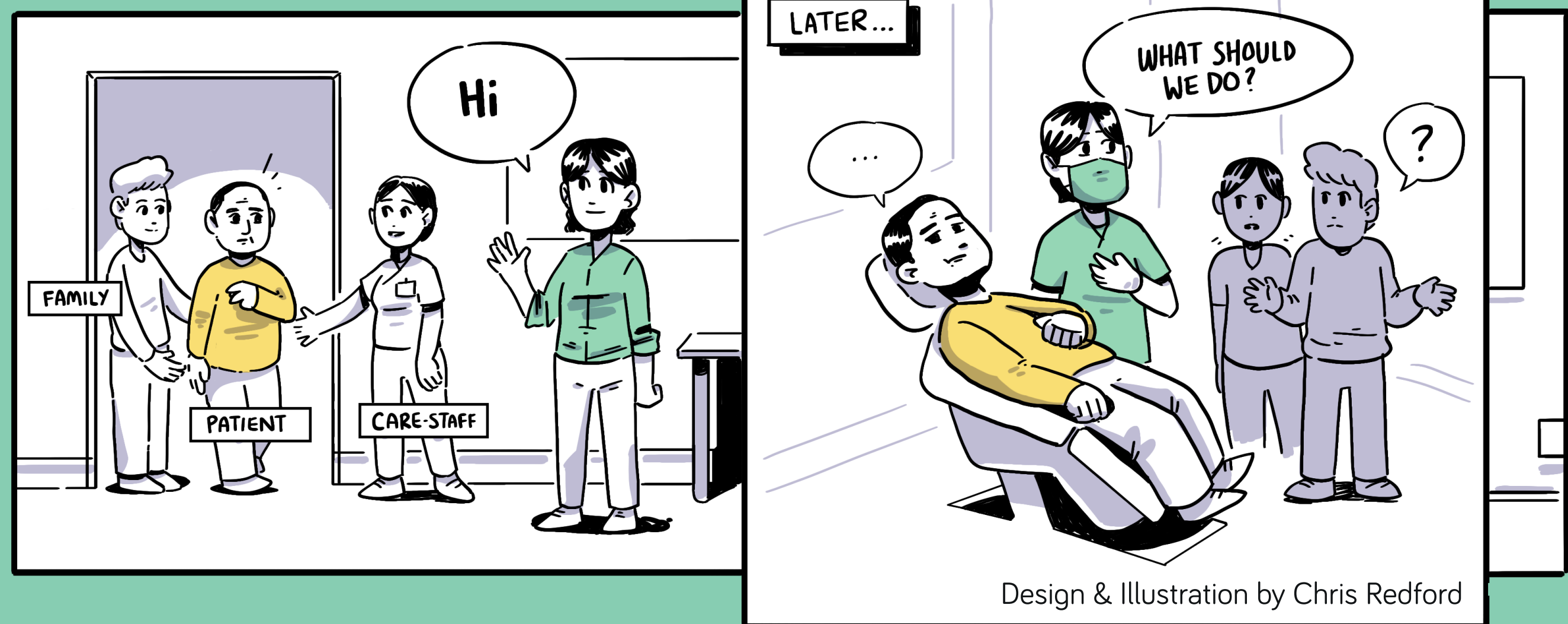
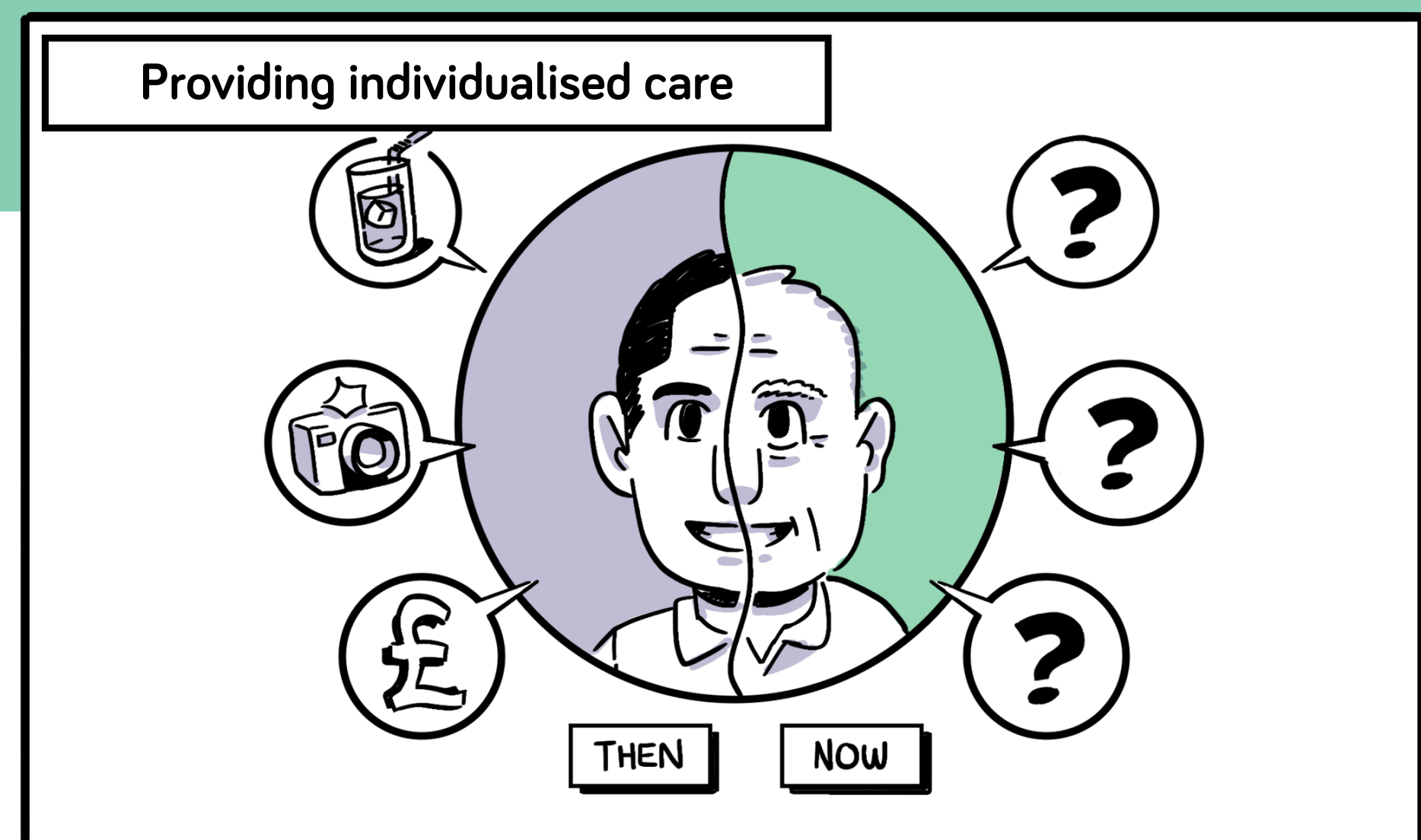


Dental care decision making can be complex for people living with dementia.

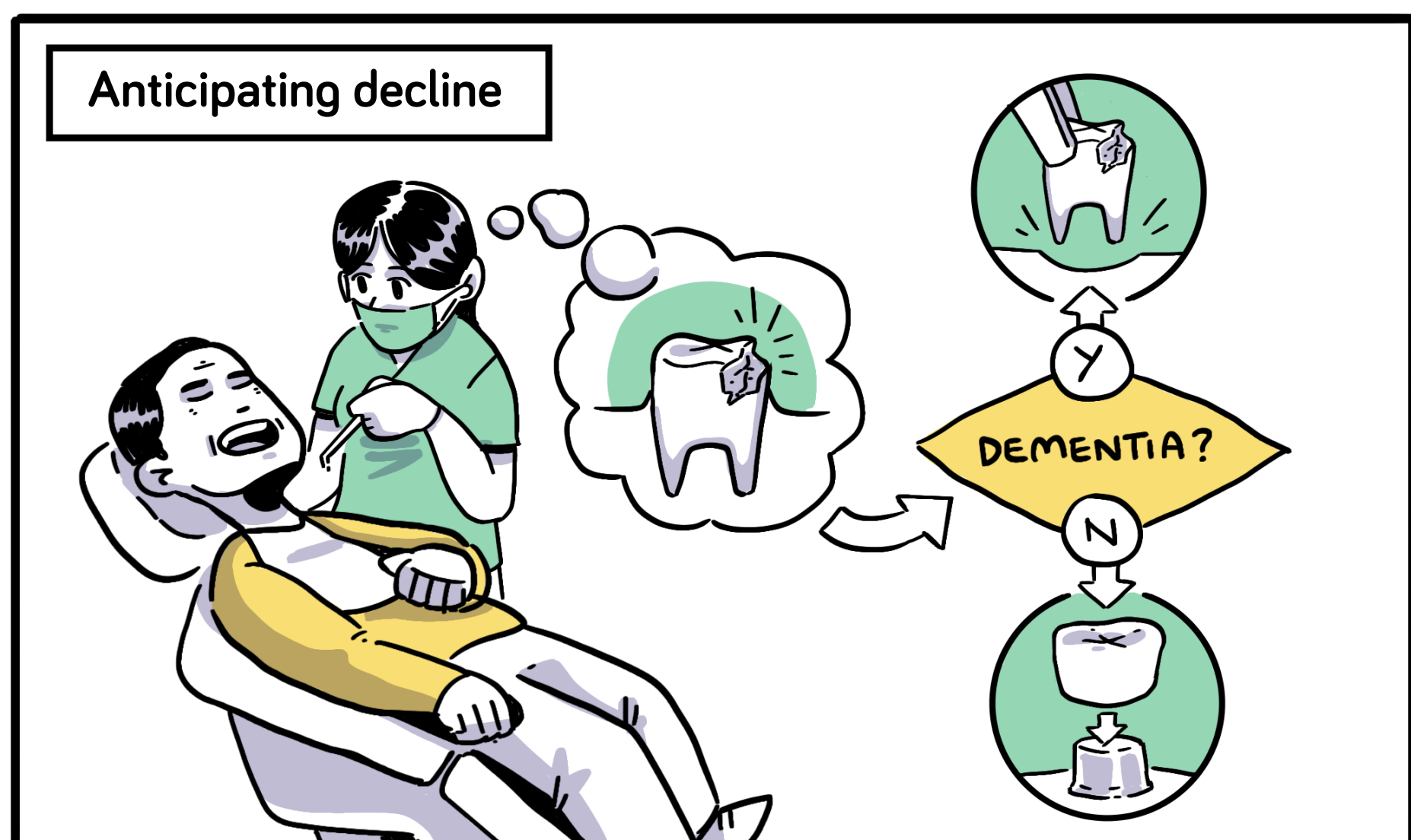
This research interviewed 22 dentists to explore how they approach dental treatment decision making with or for people living with dementia. Here's what we found:



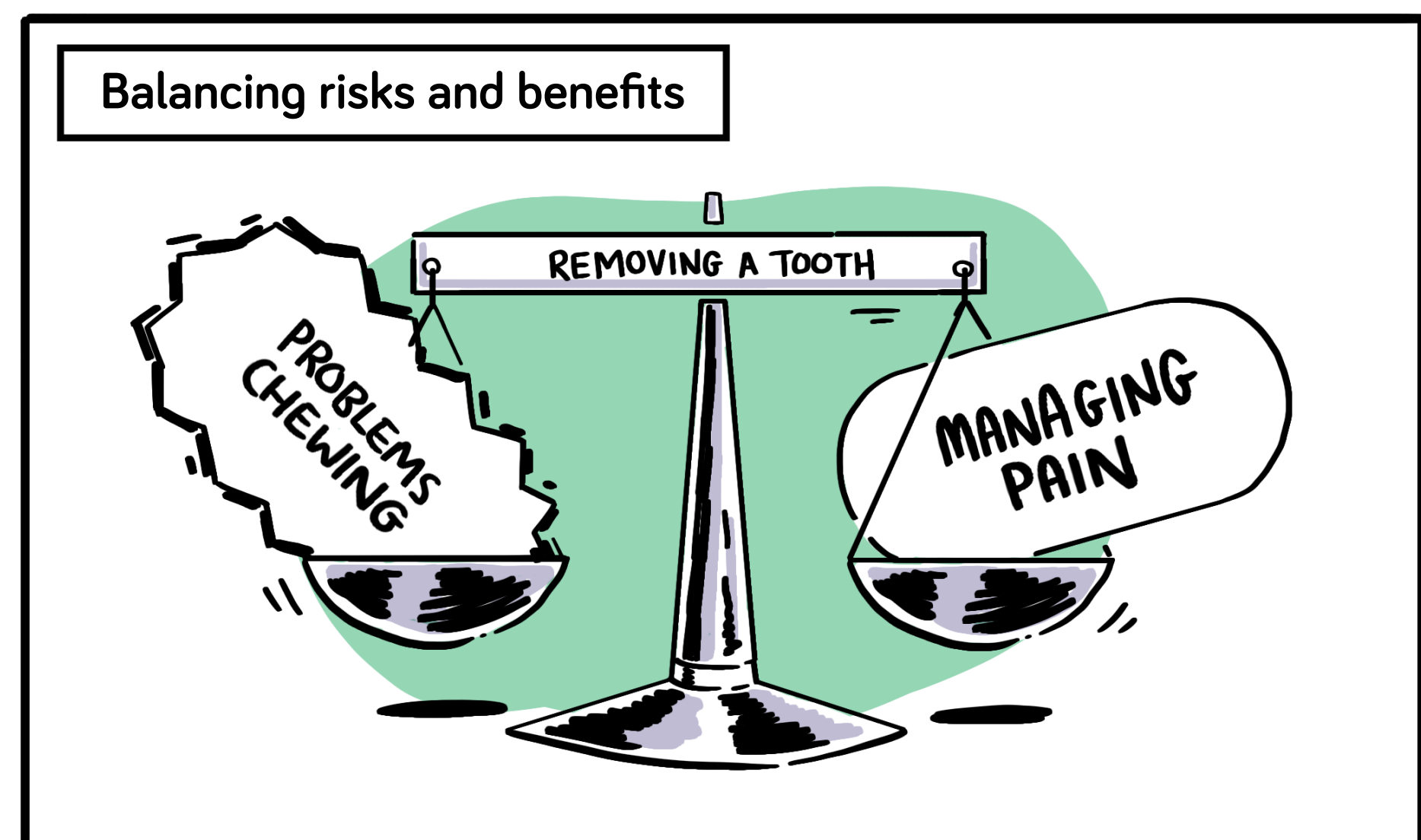
Information can be hard to track down. Dentists said that family and carers may not know the information dentists need to support decisions about dental care.



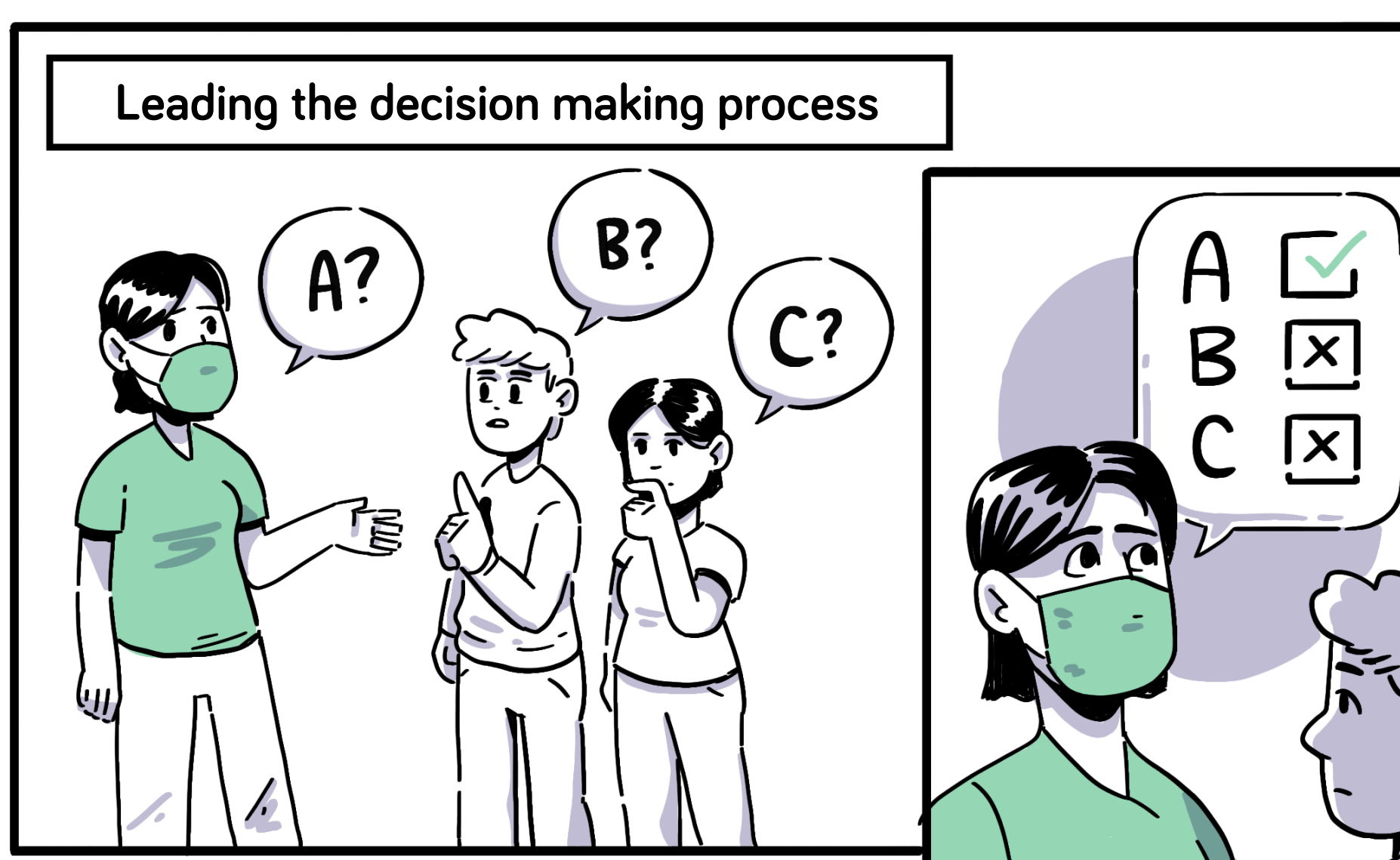
Dentists said they want to provide individualised care. They said that they focussed heavily on patients' past preferences and less on what they might want now.



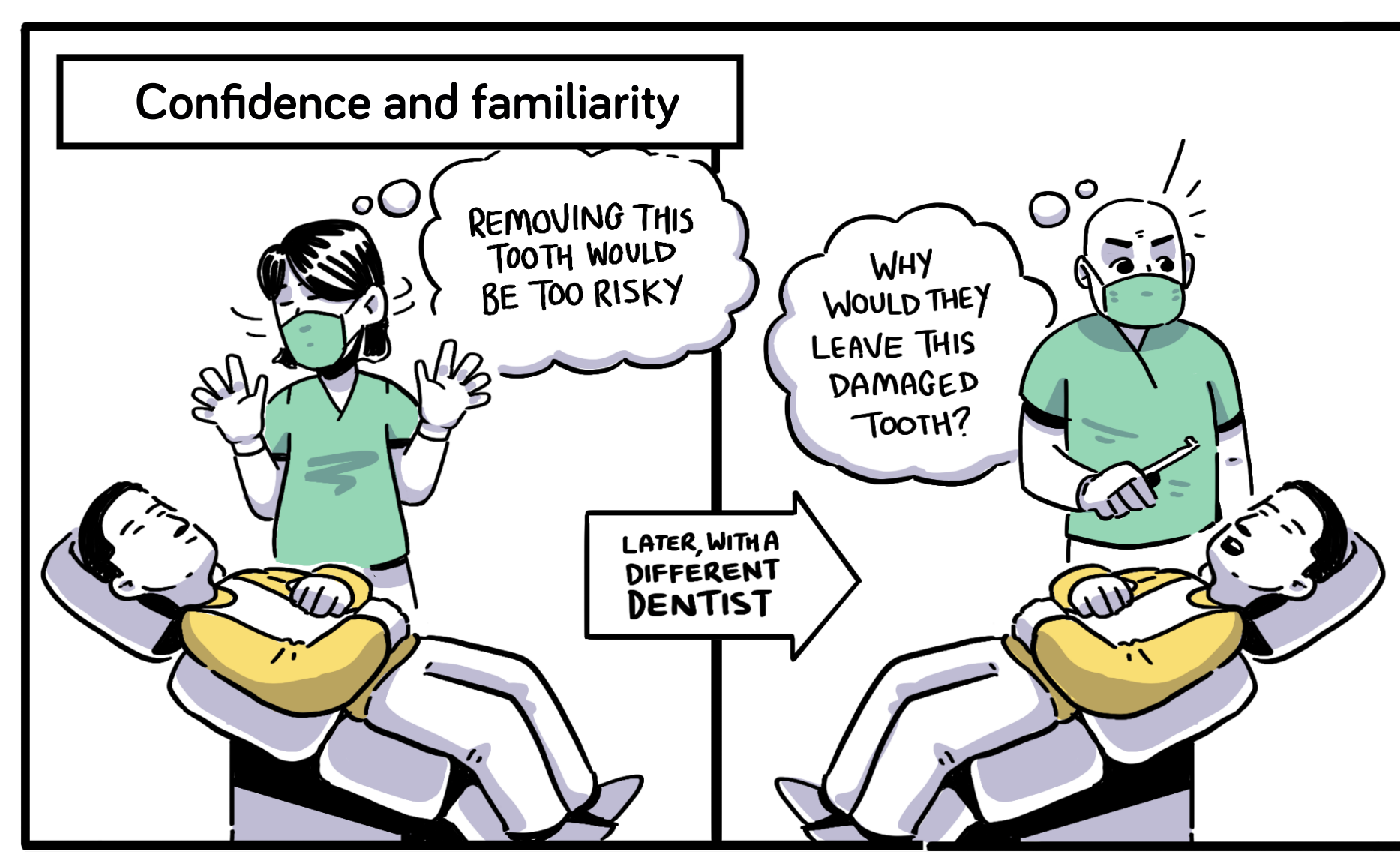
Dentists said they change their approach to dental care based on how patients might cope with treatment as dementia progresses.



Dentists described planning care that provides a benefit to patients and minimises harm. They focused more on medical risks and benefits than psychological or social factors.



Dentists described involving family members in care decisions but that this didn't change the treatment they proposed.



Dentists said they feel they should be providing some form of treatment. Many described how they are uncomfortable leaving untreated dental issues, even if these issues don't bother patients.