Summary box

What is already known on this topic?
- Prehospital delay is the main reason for low reperfusion therapy rates in stroke patients.   - Patient-related factors are the main cause of prehospital delay.   - We need to know more about the predictors for patient-related delay to reduce it, increase reperfusion therapy rates and improve patient outcomes.
What this study adds
- This study shows that knowledge of core symptoms of stroke is important, but this knowledge cannot stand alone.   - Having a bystander at symptom onset and knowledge of ≥ 2 core symptoms was associated with primary EMS contact.   - The most powerful predictor for all outcomes was having a bystander who perceive the situation as very serious. This was associated with primary EMS contact, arrival at a stroke centre within 3 hours and initiation of reperfusion therapy.