DIFFICULT AIRWAY ALGORITHM

1. Assess the likelihood and clinical impact of basic management problems:
   - Difficulty with patient cooperation or consent
   - Difficult mask ventilation
   - Difficult supraglottic airway placement
   - Difficult laryngoscopy
   - Difficult intubation
   - Difficult surgical airway access

2. Actively pursue opportunities to deliver supplemental oxygen throughout the process of difficult airway management.

3. Consider the relative merits and feasibility of basic management choices:
   - Awake intubation vs. intubation after induction of general anesthesia
   - Non-invasive technique vs. invasive techniques for the initial approach to intubation
   - Video-assisted laryngoscopy as an initial approach to intubation
   - Preservation vs. ablation of spontaneous ventilation

4. Develop primary and alternative strategies:

   **AWAKE INTUBATION**
   - Airway approached by Noninvasive intubation
   - Invasive Airway Access\(^{(b)}\)
     - Succeed\(^{*}\)
     - Cancel Case
     - FAIL
     - Consider feasibility of other options\(^{(a)}\)
     - Invasive airway access\(^{(b)}\)

   **INTUBATION AFTER INDUCTION OF GENERAL ANESTHESIA**
   - Initial intubation attempts successful\(^{*}\)
   - Initial intubation Attempts UNSUCCESSFUL
     - FROM THIS POINT ONWARDS CONSIDER:
       1. Calling for help.
       2. Returning to spontaneous ventilation.
       3. Awakening the patient.

   **FACE MASK VENTILATION ADEQUATE**
   - Nonemergency Pathway
     - Ventilation adequate, intubation unsuccessful
     - Alternative approaches to intubation\(^{(c)}\)
       - Successful Intubation\(^{*}\)
       - FAIL after multiple attempts
         - Invasive airway access\(^{(b)}\)
         - Consider feasibility of other options\(^{(a)}\)

   **FACE MASK VENTILATION NOT ADEQUATE**
   - Emergency Pathway
     - Ventilation not adequate, intubation unsuccessful
     - Call for help
       - Emergency noninvasive airway ventilation\(^{(e)}\)
       - Successful ventilation\(^{*}\)
       - FAIL
         - Emergency invasive airway access\(^{(b)}\)