

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:

