

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:

