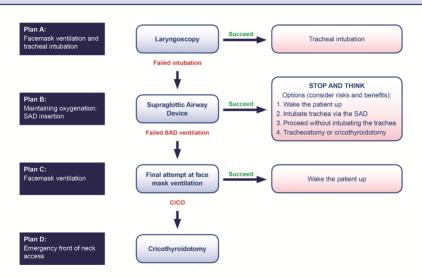
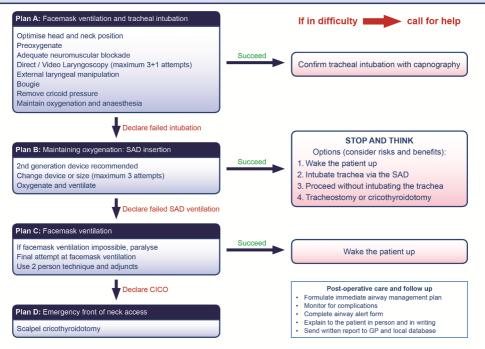


## DAS Difficult intubation guidelines – overview





# Management of unanticipated difficult tracheal intubation in adults



This flowchart forms part of the DAS Guidelines for unanticipated difficult intubation in adults 2015 and should be used in conjunction with the text.



# Failed intubation, failed oxygenation in the paralysed, anaesthetised patient

## **CALL FOR HELP**

Continue 100% O<sub>2</sub>
Declare CICO

## Plan D: Emergency front of neck access

Continue to give oxygen via upper airway Ensure neuromuscular blockade Position patient to extend neck

## Scalpel cricothyroidotomy

Equipment: 1. Scalpel (number 10 blade)

2. Bougie

3. Tube (cuffed 6.0mm ID)

#### Laryngeal handshake to identify cricothyroid membrane

### Palpable cricothyroid membrane

Transverse stab incision through cricothyroid membrane

Turn blade through 90° (sharp edge caudally)

Slide coude tip of bougie along blade into trachea

Railroad lubricated 6.0mm cuffed tracheal tube into trachea

Ventilate, inflate cuff and confirm position with capnography

Secure tube

#### Impalpable cricothyroid membrane

Make an 8-10cm vertical skin incision, caudad to cephalad

Use blunt dissection with fingers of both hands to separate tissues

Identify and stabilise the larynx

Proceed with technique for palpable cricothyroid membrane as above

#### Post-operative care and follow up

- · Postpone surgery unless immediately life threatening
- · Urgent surgical review of cricothyroidotomy site
- · Document and follow up as in main flow chart