Management of Unanticipated Difficult Tracheal Intubation

2025

DAS AirBite: Plan D – Emergency Front of Neck Airway (15-minute teaching session for all airway managers)

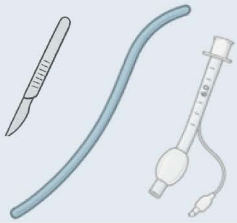
Background and content:

Activities:

1. Review and discuss the Plan D algorithm
2. Perform Emergency Front of Neck Access (eFONA) on manikin
3. Discuss ongoing management after eFONA

Equipment required:

- eFONA manikin
- Scalpel (size 10), Bougie
- Endotracheal tube 6.0 mm
- 20ml syringe, AmbuBag



Intended Learning Objectives:

Learners should be able to:

1. Describe and discuss the key steps of Plan D in the DAS algorithm
2. Demonstrate the technique(s) for eFONA
3. Describe the ongoing management of a patient after successful eFONA
4. Understand why the longitudintal incision approach is recommended as the default eFONA technique
5. Describe action steps if unsuccessful in eFONA attempt

1. Plan D algorithm review

What's new in Plan D in the 2025 algorithm?

- Optimising for Plan D: Ensure help present, maximal neck extension, full neuromuscular blockade, suction available
- Longitudinal incision advocated as the default eFONA technique – other approaches depend on manual /ultrasound assessment of the cricothyroid membrane
- Consideration for management of unsuccessful eFONA
- Recognition of psychological impact of eFONA

3. Post eFONA management

What ongoing management is required after eFONA?

1. Stabilisation of patient
2. Exclude bronchial intubation and pneumothorax
3. Review by a suitable surgeon to determine the most appropriate next steps for airway management
4. Significant psychological impact on those involved in eFONA → debriefing and signposting those involved to support services

2. eFONA skill workshop – 'Vertical incision'

1. **Faculty demonstration** of eFONA technique on manikin.
2. **Learners** to then perform eFONA on manikin.

Further discussion points:

Why longituditinal incision as default?

- Choice in an emergency hinders performance
- Ease of CTM identification

Action steps if unsuccessful eFONA?

- Extend longitudinal incision
- Continue blunt dissection to CTM
- Change operator or patient position
- Change operator
- Use smaller ETT

Follow up activities:

1. Signpost learners to DAS website for full guideline, algorithms and educational videos
2. Consider reviewing other DAS educational materials including AirDrills for low fidelity simulation, and AirSim scenarios for high fidelity simulation.

Feedback here: