

Managing The Difficult Airway

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Today's Goal: Improve effectiveness in managing patients with a difficult airway

Why is EVERY prehospital airway considered a difficult airway?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

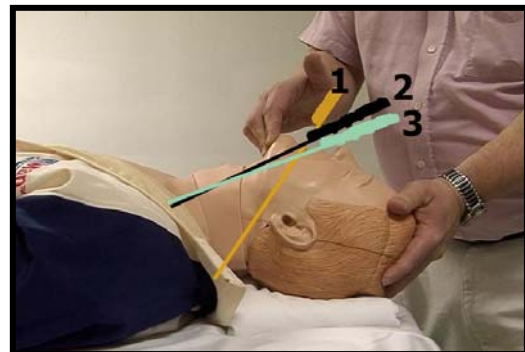
Can you think of other reasons?

- _____

What is the overall goal of airway management in the critical patient?

Identify the three axes in the picture:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____



Visualization of the vocal cords during laryngoscopy depends on _____

_____.

How is the airway assessed for difficulty?

Physical Features:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____ and _____
- Oral cavity features:
 - _____
 - _____
- Spine features:
 - _____
 - _____

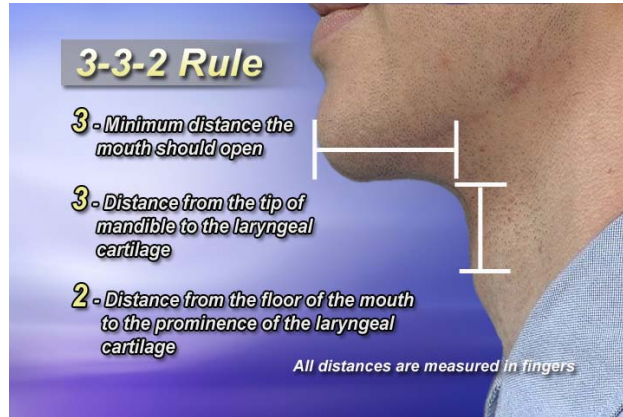
Medical Conditions:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

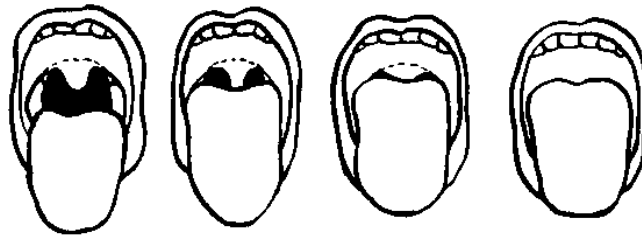
Traumatic Injuries:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The 3-3-2 Rule uses the width of a finger to measure certain airway features. What does each part of the rule measure?



Mallampati Score: Please label the Mallampati Classes below



Class: _____ _____ _____ _____

What are the tools used to manage the airway?

- The basic tools that should be used during every airway procedure are:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

- The other tools I have in my toolbox for either difficult or rescue airway management include:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Supraglottic airway devices:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - Surgical airway techniques:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

What should providers who use Rapid Sequence Intubation (RSI) consider when faced with a potential difficult airway?

- Risks of RSI:
 - _____
 - _____
- _____
- _____

Rapid Sequence Airway

Consider “Rapid Sequence Airway” (RSA), a concept described in: Braude D, Richards M. Rapid sequence airway (RSA) – a novel approach to prehospital airway management. Prehospital Emergency Care 2007 11(4):250-252. In this approach, the primary airway in the paralyzed and sedated patient is a supraglottic airway.

Suggested Difficult Airway Algorithm

The benefits of using an algorithmic approach to airway management include:

- Methodical approach
- Mental checklist
- Pre-programmed approach
- Reduce reaction time

