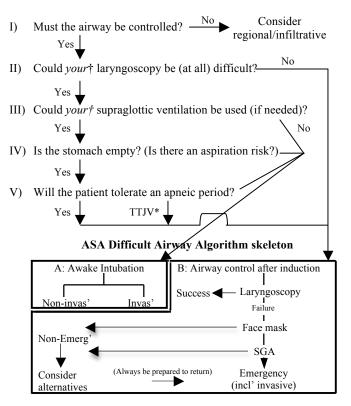# The Airway Approach Algorithm[1]

The AAA is a preoperative exercise to help guide entrance into a root point of the ASA Airway Algorithm

I) Must the airway be controlled? — No → Consider regional/infiltrative

Yes ↓

II) Could *your*† laryngoscopy be (at all) difficult? —— No

Yes ↓

III) Could *your†* supraglottic ventilation be used (if needed)?

Yes ↓   No

IV) Is the stomach empty? (Is there an aspiration risk?) ——

Yes ↓

V) Will the patient tolerate an apneic period?

Yes ↓   TTJV* ↓

ASA Difficult Airway Algorithm skeleton

A: Awake Intubation	B: Airway control after induction
Non-invas' Invas'	Success ← Laryngoscopy

Failure

Face mask ←

Non-Emerg'

SGA ←

Consider alternatives   (Always be prepared to return) →   Emergency (incl' invasive)

† "*your*" laryngoscopy may be direct, video-indirect or other. "*your*" ventilation may be face mask, SGA or other. *Consider feasibility of TTJV

[1]Rosenblatt, The Airway Approach Algorithm, JCA, 2004:16:312-316

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Contact me for a free DVD or written description of the Airway Approach Algorithm