Difficult Airway Trolley (DAT)

What does the ideal DAT look like?

- Top work surface and 4-5 drawers
- Mobile
- Robust
- Stocked in a logical sequence
- Clearly labelled
- Easily cleaned
- Attached documentation
  - DAS/modified local guidelines
  - Checklist for restocking
  - Logbook for daily checking
- Reproducible
**Top of trolley**

- Flexible intubating fibrescope
  - portable scope with battery light source
- portable stack system
  e.g. Storz Tele Pack
- or single use fibrescope
  e.g. Ambu aScope

**Side of trolley**

- Bougies – adult and paediatric
- Aintree Intubation Catheter
- Airway exchange catheter
Drawer 1 – Plan A

- Optimise head position
- Bougie
- Alternative laryngoscope

Contents
- Bougie (ideally on side of trolley)
- Short handle laryngoscope
- McCoy blade and/or straight blade
- Videolaryngoscope
Drawer 2 – Plan B

- LMA
- Followed by fibreoptic tracheal intubation through LMA

Contents
- LMA #3,4,5 &/or 2\textsuperscript{nd} generation device #3,4,5
- Intubating LMA (iLMA) #3,4,5
- Aintree Intubating Catheter (ideally on side of trolley)
- Fibreoptic adjuvants*
Drawer 2 – Plan B

- Fibreoptic adjuvants*
  - Berman/Ovassapien airways
  - Mucosal atomisation devices
  - Fibrescope-compatible angle connector
  - Nasal sponge
  - 4% lignocaine
  - 10% lignocaine
  - Instillagel
  - Co-phenylcaine

(*Alternatively these can be stored in a separate storage box which accompanies the trolley)
Drawer 3 – Plan C

- Bag mask ventilation +/- airway adjuncts
- Supraglottic airway device

Contents
- Facemasks – various sizes
- Oropharyngeal airways – various sizes
- Nasopharyngeal airways – various sizes
- LMA/Proseal LMA - #3,4,5
Drawer 4 – Plan D

• Surgical cricothyroidotomy

Contents
• Large bore cannula device eg. Quicktrach I or II (VBM)
• Scalpel (No. 20 blade)
• Tracheal dilator or tracheal hook
• Bougie
• Cuffed tracheal tube #6 & 7
Drawer 5 – Plan D

• Cannula cricothyroidotomy

Contents
• Kink-resistant jet ventilation cannula
e.g. Ravussin (VBM)
• High &/or low pressure ventilation system
• e.g. Manujet III (VBM)
  Ventrain (Ventinova)
Miscellaneous

• DAS intubation guidelines (laminated)
• Or locally agreed algorithms
• Equipment checklist for re-stocking
• Logbook for daily checking procedures

May also consider:
• Specific extubation aids/equipment eg. Staged Extubation Set (Cook Medical)
• Extubation guidelines (laminated)
Plan vs Strategy

• An airway plan suggests a single approach to management of the airway.

• An airway strategy is a co-ordinated, logical sequence of plans, which aim to achieve good gas exchange and prevention of aspiration.

• Anaesthetists should approach airway management with strategies rather than plans.

• **Difficult Airway Management Strategy (DAMS)**
  • Generic strategy before each list/case
  • Specific strategy before anticipated difficult airway cases

• Reinforces
  • Knowledge
  • Preparation
  • Teamwork
# Suggestions for drawer labels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan A</th>
<th>Initial intubation strategy</th>
<th>Optimise position</th>
<th>Bougie</th>
<th>Alternative laryngoscope</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Optimise position" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Bougie" /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Alternative laryngoscope" /></td>
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<td><strong>Remember to move on if not making progress</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan B</th>
<th>Secondary intubation strategy</th>
<th>LMA device</th>
<th>Fibreoptic intubation</th>
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<tr>
<th>Plan C</th>
<th>Maintain oxygenation</th>
<th>Facemask +/- airway adjunct</th>
<th>LMA device</th>
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<td><img src="image" alt="Maintain oxygenation" /></td>
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Drawer Labels

• The drawer labels can be customised as required to illustrate the particular type of equipment present in the various drawers.

• The specific make and model of equipment should be agreed locally with regular, comprehensive and continued training provided for all relevant staff.

• The examples of equipment given in these guidelines serve only as a guide and should not be considered as absolute recommendations by DAS.
Remember

- A clearly labelled trolley will also serve as a visual guide and prompt one to move along the strategy if not making progress.

- What is most important is providing:
  - the right equipment
  - in the right amount
  - in the right place
  - at the right time

Know what you need - PLAN
Know who you need - COMMUNICATE
Have what you need - PREPARE
Do what you need - TRAIN