Unanticipated difficult tracheal intubation - during rapid sequence induction of anaesthesia in non-obstetric adult patient

Plan A: Initial tracheal intubation plan

Pre-oxygenate
Cricoid force: 10N awake → 30N anaesthetised
Direct laryngoscopy - check:
Neck flexion and head extension
Laryngoscopy technique and vector
External laryngeal manipulation -
by laryngoscopist
Vocal cords open and immobile
If poor view:
Reduce cricoid force
Introducer (bougie) - seek clicks or hold-up
and/or Alternative laryngoscope

Plan B not appropriate for this scenario

Difficult Airway Society Guidelines Flowchart 2004 (use with DAS guidelines paper)