

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 505
VERSION: 3**

SUBJECT/TITLE: 102-DIFFICULT INTUBATION

POLICY: Procedure for Difficult Intubation

PURPOSE: THE ANESTHESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT CONFORMS TO THE ASA GUIDELINES FOR DIFFICULT INTUBATION

DEPARTMENTS: ANESTHESIOLOGY

DEFINITIONS: A difficult airway is defined as the clinical situation in which a conventionally trained Anesthesiologist experiences difficulty with face mask ventilation of the upper airway, difficulty with tracheal intubation, or both. The difficult airway represents a complex interaction between patient factors and the clinical setting.

PROCEDURE: The Anesthesiology Department conforms to the ASA guidelines for difficult intubations.

All clinicians will have a working knowledge of the current ASA guidelines. (This is available in publications and online at the ASA website: *Practice Guidelines for Management of the Difficult Airway*, An Updated Report by the American Society of Anesthesiologists Task Force on Management of the Difficult Airway).

References: Practice Guidelines for Management of the Difficult Airway	
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