

Quick guide to comprehensive airway assessment (ASK)

The following combination can be used as a guide to airway assessment:

- History: previous difficult airway, anaesthesia alert card
- Common sense: BOSS BIT (Swedish mnemonic)
- BMI, obstructive sleep apnoea, irradiation, syndromes, bleeding, infection, tumour
- Clinical examination:
 - Mouth opening (in cm, or normal)
 - Thyromental distance (in cm, or normal)
 - Neck circumference (in cm)

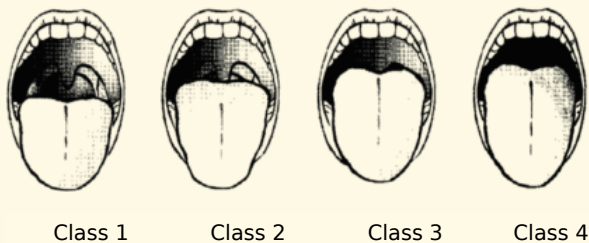


Figure 2. Mallampati airway assessment.

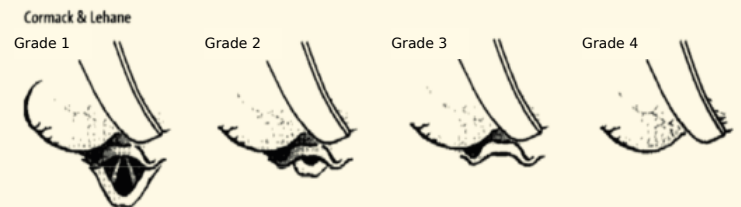


Figure 1. Cormack-Lehane grading of difficulty at direct laryngoscopy.

Mallampati and Cormack-Lehane. Assessment of intubation difficulty. Grades I-IV.

