

Figure 21. Application steps

- I. Phantom application
- II. Choice of the first blade ^(*)
- III. Application of the 1st branch ^(&)
- IV. Application of the 2nd branch [@]
- V. Articulation of the instrument ^(^)
- VI. Verification of the grip ⁽⁺⁾
- VII. Pulling trial
- VIII. Articulation of tractor system (if used)
- IX. Forceps actions ^(#)
- X. Re-application (if necessary)
- XI. De-articulation (reverse movement of insertion)

(*): The blade that will be posterior (or the left one if none of them) should be applied first; exception: Kielland, Kielland- Luikart, and Barton forceps.

(&): The right blade held by the right hand and vice-versa.

@: Use contralateral hand to apply.

(^): The articulation should be easy; otherwise don't lock; verify position of the blades.

(+): The sagittal suture must be perpendicular to the plane of the shanks throughout its length. Ideally the lambdoid fontanel is one inch or less posterior to the plane of the shanks.

(#): If deflexion and/or asynclitism present, **correct them** before pulling. This will decrease the perimeter of the presentation, facilitate delivery, and reduce complications.