

FRENULECTOMY CARE



What is tongue tie? What is lip tie?

The lingual frenulum is the small band of tissue underneath the tongue. When this restricts the normal movement of the tongue, this is called “tongue tie” or ankyloglossia. Sometimes a similar band can restrict the upper lip, called the labial frenulum. This is called a “lip tie”.

What problems can tongue or lip tie cause?

Infants with tongue and/or lip tie can have problems breastfeeding, including difficulty with latch issues, maternal pain, and poor weight gain. Older children may have speech issues if this is not addressed.

What is a frenulectomy?

If the lingual or labial frenulum is causing problems, sometimes it is released or cut in a procedure called a frenulectomy. The doctor uses local anesthetic to numb the area and then clips the band to release it. This can be done in the office or in the operating room based on a discussion between Dr. Whitley and the family.

What to expect after the procedure?

Most parents report several hours of fussiness after the procedure. You may see a small amount of bleeding but this usually will stop while you are in the office. If this is persistent a small amount of gauze soaked in ice water or Afrin can be used to hold firm pressure on the wound to rapidly stop the bleeding. The area may appear gray or whitish, which can be temporary staining from the medicine used during the procedure (silver nitrate). The body will coat the wound in a whitish layer, the mouth version of a scab. This usually sloughs off after a week or so and the healing is near complete.

Stretches

Dr. Whitley will instruct you on the stretches in the office after the procedure. Do these twice daily for 30 days after the procedure to help the wound heal and prevent wound tightening and scarring.

Will my child experience pain after the procedure?

Most parents of infants report mild irritability for a few hours to a day. Older children tell us the pain is very mild. Typically, no pain medications are needed but if your child seems to have pain or is very irritable, a dose of infant acetaminophen (Tylenol) is acceptable.

Weight:	6-9 lbs.	9-11 lbs.	11-15 lbs.	15-20 lbs.
Dose:	1.25 mL	1.5 mL	2 mL	2.5 mL

* above doses are infant Tylenol and should be given every 4-6 hours as needed

When should I call the office?

- Your child is having persistent or concerning bleeding
- Your child is not eating or swallowing or appears dehydrated
- There is severe swelling of the tongue or lips. Some swelling, especially the upper lip, is normal after this procedure
- Fever over 101.5 in the 24-48 hours after the procedure

**IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY CALL 911 OR GO TO CLOSEST ER
CALL US 770-691-9000 WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS**