



Ear, Nose & Throat Consultants of North Mississippi

John F. Laurenzo, MD • Bradford J. Dye, MD • B. Pearson Windham, MD

Frenulectomy Home Care Instructions

The lingual frenulum is a piece of tissue that connects the tongue to the floor of the mouth. In some children, the frenulum is too tight. This may affect their speech or eating. In newborns, a tight frenulum may interfere with breastfeeding and cause discomfort for the mother. The frenulectomy releases a portion of this connection and will allow the tongue to move more freely.

If the procedure is done in the office, the doctor will “clip” the frenulum releasing the tongue after using a local anesthetic. The surgery will only take a few minutes. Your doctor will decide whether it should be done in the office or in the operation room under general anesthesia.

The maxillary frenulum is a piece of tissue that connects the upper lip with the upper jaw above the front teeth. In some children it separates the two front teeth (the incisors). This may affect the way that the permanent teeth come in. A maxillary frenulectomy releases a portion of this connection and allows a more normal eruption of the permanent (adult) teeth.

What to expect after the procedure:

You may notice some bloody drainage from your child’s mouth.

Your child may have some sutures (stitches) under his tongue if he had a lingual frenulectomy. These will dissolve on their own. No stitches are used when the procedure is done in the office or when the maxillary frenulum is released.

When the procedure is done in the operating room parents are invited to the Post Anesthesia Unit (PACU) shortly after the surgery. If your child received general anesthesia, he/she may have a red or flushed look to his/her face and chest 1-2 hours after surgery. This blotchy, red color is a normal response to the medicine given during surgery.

Most children will be briefly fussy after frenulectomy. Taking liquids may soothe your child, but it may be uncomfortable at first. After the first hour your child will feel much better. A non-aspirin pain reliever may be given if needed.

A slight fever is normal after surgery. Do not take your child’s temperature by mouth until the stitches have dissolved.