

## Reasons to Refer a Patient for Frenulum Division

There are two principal reasons to refer a baby for frenulum division: difficulty feeding (principally breastfeeding) and/or anticipated later speech difficulties due to problems with articulation associated with the inability to protrude the tip of the tongue beyond the teeth.

The most important consideration for referral is your clinical judgment:

- Does the child's mother report difficulties with pain or discomfort with breastfeeding?
- Does the baby have difficulties with staying latched on at the breast?
- Does the baby take feeds within a reasonable time span?
- Has the baby's weight gain been inadequate?
- Has a lactation consultant noted these difficulties?
- Is there a family history of short frenulum or speech difficulties requiring frenulum surgery?

It is not necessary to be absolutely sure whether a particular child will need the procedure. Before proceeding with a frenulum division we examine the baby carefully, speak at length with the parents and score the baby using the Hazelbaker assessment tool. The procedure will only be performed for sound clinical reasons.



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