

Emerson Hospital Frenulum Clinic: Pre-operative Instructions

Your child's pediatrician or your lactation specialist has recommended an evaluation for possible short frenulum in your child. The frenulum is a small piece of tissue that helps connect the tongue to the floor of the mouth.

When it is short, or attached too close to the tip of the tongue, it can restrict tongue movement significantly. This restriction can make breastfeeding difficult, painful, or both, and in some cases can cause speech problems later in life. A quick and simple procedure can be done to release the frenulum.

When you come to Emerson, you will go to the Clough Birthing Center Entrance where you will be directed to the frenulum clinic. There you will meet Dr. Anne Light or Dr. Flora Pirquet where they will talk to you more about the details of this procedure, and most importantly evaluate your child to determine whether the procedure is needed and can be done safely. You will have ample opportunity to ask questions. If we all agree to go ahead, then the procedure can be done right away. It can also be done at a later date if you prefer.

Before doing the frenulum division, we use a topical anesthetic gel to numb the area under the tongue and give a small amount of "Sweetease," a concentrated sugar solution, to provide comfort and pain control for your baby. The procedure is very quick, taking only seconds, and your baby can then feed right away. We will provide you with further detailed information regarding care after a frenulum division.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our clinic at (978) 287-3003 during regular business hours.



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www.emersonhospital.org