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What is a Frenectomy?

A frenectomy is a procedure used to correct a congenital condition in which the lingual (tongue) or labial (upper lip) frenum is too tight, causing restriction in movement that can cause significant difficulty with breastfeeding, and in some instances, other health problems like dental decay, dental spacing, speech difficulties, and digestive issues.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

Mother's Signs:

Painful Feeding- Experiencing repeated cracked or bleeding nipples associated with baby making a “clicking” sound when feeding.

Misshapen Nipples- following nursing may have lip-stick shaped nipples or compression marks associated with pain while nursing.

Breast Pain- experiencing engorgement, blocked ducts, repeated mastitis or a breast abscess

Low Milk Supply- noticeable reduction of milk supply over time due to inadequate milk transfer as a result of the babies ineffective sucking leading to pumping or supplementing baby with formula

Baby's Signs:

Low/Excess Weight Gain- A common sign is the baby isn't gaining adequate weight or is the low end of normal in weight gain.

Unsatisfied Baby- Your baby may remain unsatisfied and may want to constantly feed day and night.

Colic and/or Gassy- Your baby may have unexplained and high pitched outbursts of inconsolable crying. The baby may require being carried in an upright position most of the time since this is the most comfortable positioning.

Reflux- Seen as spit ups with fresh or curdled milk where stomach acids ascend the esophagus into the throat area causing burning and pain to the baby.

What to Expect During the Procedure:

- The actual time of the laser treatment is typically 1-2 minutes.
- For babies under the age of 12 months, a topical numbing cream is applied to the area(s) that will be treated. This medication works very quickly.
- For children 12 months of age or older, numbing cream is applied. In some instances, an injected local anesthetic may be applied for additional anesthesia.
- General anesthesia is not utilized in the office and is almost never needed to perform the procedure.
- You may breastfeed or bottle feed, or soothe your baby in any manner you'd like following the procedure.