LINGUAL FRENULUM PROTOCOL FOR INFANTS
Martinelli, 2015

HISTORY

Name: __________________________
Examination Date: __/__/______ Birth: __/__/______ Age: _____ Gender: M ( ) F ( )
Mother's name: __________________________
Father's name: __________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ ZIP: __________
Phone: home ( ) office ( ) cell ( )
email: __________________________

Family history (any lingual frenulum alteration)
( ) no ( ) yes ( )
Who: __________________________ What: ________________________________________

Other health problems
( ) no ( ) yes What: ______________________________________________________

Breastfeeding:
- Interval between feedings: ( ) 2hours or more (0) ( ) 1hour or less (2)
- fatigue during feeding? ( ) no (0) ( ) yes (1)
- sucks a little and sleeps? ( ) no (0) ( ) yes (1)
- slips off nipple? ( ) no (0) ( ) yes (1)
- chews nipple? ( ) no (0) ( ) yes (2)

History total scores: Best result= 0 Worst result= 8
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CLINICAL EXAMINATION (video for future analysis suggested)

PART I – ANATOMO-FUNCTIONAL EVALUATION

1. Lip posture at rest
   ( ) closed (0)   ( ) half-open (1)   ( ) open (1)

2. Tongue posture during crying
   ( ) midline (0)   ( ) elevated (0)
   ( ) midline with lateral elevation (2)   ( ) apex of the tongue down with tongue lateral elevation (2)

3. Shape of the apex of the tongue when elevated during crying or during elevation maneuver
   ( ) round (0)   ( ) V-shaped (2)   ( ) heart-shaped (3)
4. Lingual Frenulum

( ) visible  ( ) not visible  ( ) visible with maneuver*

*Maneuver: elevate and push back the tongue. If the frenulum is not visible, go to PART II (Non-nutritive sucking and nutritive sucking evaluations)

4.1. Frenulum thickness

( ) thin (0)  ( ) thick (2)

4.2. Frenulum attachment to the tongue

( ) midline (0)  ( ) between midline and apex (2)  ( ) apex (3)

4.3. Frenulum attachment to the floor of the mouth

( ) visible from the sublingual caruncles (0)  ( ) visible from the inferior alveolar crest (1)

Anatomo-functional evaluation total score (items 1, 2, 3 and 4): Best result=0 Worst result=12

When the score of items 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the anatomo-functional evaluation is equal or greater than 7, the interference of the frenulum with the movements of the tongue may be considered. Release of lingual frenulum is indicated.
# Lingual Frenulum Protocol for Infants

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## Part II – Evaluation of Non-Nutritive Sucking and Nutritive Sucking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Non-nutritive sucking (little finger sucking wearing gloves)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1. Tongue movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) adequate: coordinated movement (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) inadequate: restricted tongue anteriorization, uncoordinated movements and sucking delay (1)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Nutritive sucking during breastfeeding (when breastfeeding starts, observe infant sucking during five minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Sucking Rhythm (observe groups of sucking and pauses)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) several suckings in a row followed by short pauses (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) a few suckings followed by long pauses (1)</td>
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<tr>
<th>2.2. Coordination among sucking/swallowing/breathing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( ) adequate (0) (balance between feeding efficiency and sucking, swallowing and breathing functions without stress)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) inadequate (1) (cough, choking, dyspnea, regurgitation, hiccup, swallowing noises)</td>
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<tr>
<th>2.3. Nipple chewing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( ) no (0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( ) yes (1)</td>
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<tr>
<th>2.4. Clicking during sucking</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( ) no (0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>( ) yes (1)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Non-nutritive sucking and nutritive sucking total score: Best result= 0  worst= 5

### History and clinical examination total scores: Best result= 0  Worst result= 25

Sum of the CLINICAL EXAMINATION scores (anatomic-functional evaluation and non-nutritive sucking and nutritive sucking): Scores 0 - 8: there is no interference of lingual frenulum with tongue movements ( ) Scores 9 or more: there is interference of the lingual frenulum with tongue movements ( ) Release of lingual frenulum is indicated.

Sum of HISTORY and CLINICAL EXAMINATION scores Scores 0 -12: there is no interference of lingual frenulum with tongue movements ( ) Scores 13 or more: there is interference of the lingual frenulum with tongue movements ( ) Release of lingual frenulum is indicated.