

Freneotomy: Does Your Child Need One?

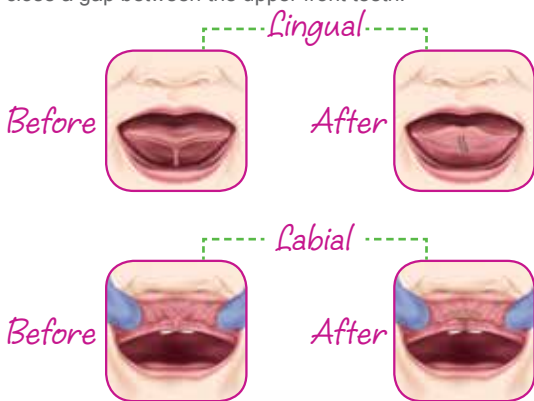
Why Some Children Need a Freneotomy

A frenum is a muscular attachment between two tissues. There are two frena in the mouth that can sometimes cause problems for children. The lingual frenum connects the tongue to the floor of the mouth. If the lingual frenum runs all the way to the tip of the tongue, it can cause the child to be "tongue-tied." A restrictive lingual frenum is a common occurrence in young children and can create difficulty eating, swallowing and speaking.

The second type is a maxillary labial frenum which attaches the upper lip to the gums just above the upper two front teeth. A prominent maxillary labial frenum can cause a large gap between the upper two front teeth. Treatment is not immediately necessary unless the frenum is causing pain to the upper lips and gums. Treatment should be delayed until the upper permanent teeth have come in and braces have been used to treat the condition first. If the teeth drift apart after braces have moved them together, then a frenectomy may be considered.

What is a Freneotomy?

A freneotomy is the removal of all or part of the frenum, which is a thin band of tissue found in various parts of the human body. It is a common surgical procedure in dental and orthodontic practices and patients rarely experience complications. A lingual freneotomy increases the range of motion of the tongue and will allow the child to position the tongue normally in the palate. This can help with chewing, swallowing and speech. The maxillary labial freneotomy is performed to remove the frenum between the upper lip and gums to close a gap between the upper front teeth.



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Benefits of Laser Frenectomy

- Better range of motion for tongue
- Helps with eating, swallowing and speaking
- Helps close gap between upper teeth
- Little discomfort
- Safe procedure – no known complications
- Laser surgery is quick - only takes minutes to perform
- No need for sedation or operating room

Financial & Insurance Information

You will need to pay Tuscon Smiles Pediatric Dentistry up front for the procedure. Since all insurance policies are different, we will need to review your policy to determine if a frenectomy would be covered. If so, we will provide you with a claim form to send to your insurance provider for reimbursement. The reimbursement process generally takes about 60 days.

If you have any questions regarding payment or the procedure or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at **(520) 544-4171**.



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