

Tongue Tie and Lip Tie Laser Surgery

Tongue tie occurs when the band of skin tissue (frenulum) that connects the tongue to the floor of the mouth is abnormally short, tight, or thick, resulting in restricted movement of the tongue. Lip tie is a similar condition involving the band of tissue that connects the upper lip to the gum.

The benefits of may positively affect your child's health including increasing the ability to breastfeed successfully and prevent possible dental problems associated with these anomalies.

Tongue tie and lip tie often occur together and, due to their restriction of the tongue and/or lip, typically become evident when an infant experiences difficulty with breastfeeding. Laser tongue tie or lip tie release can improve your baby's efficiency in breastfeeding and allow for a less painful nursing experience for the mother.



Benefits of Tongue Tie and Lip Tie Laser Surgery with a Laser

Lasers essentially vaporizes the affected tissue rather than cutting the frenulum with a steel scalpel. During the quick the area around the tongue tie may be numbed with an analgesic gel, and the specialized laser will be used to make a small incision, thereby releasing the tension.

The laser sterilizes the area (which may results in less risk of infection) and stimulates healing through bio-regeneration. Laser energy seals the blood vessels so there is very little or no bleeding. The entire tongue tie/lip tie laser surgery procedure typically takes only a few minutes.

Benefits of laser surgery for tongue tie/lip tie include:

- No general anesthetic
- No stitches
- little post-operative swelling or pain for most babies
- Safe
- High success rate

Tongue tie and lip tie may affect dental and jaw development, laser release surgery may improve:

- Breathing
- Chewing
- Digestion
- Swallowing

Breastfeeding Benefits from Tongue Tie and Lip Tie Laser procedure

Studies using ultrasound have found that babies who are tongue-tied use different, less effective movements while nursing than babies who are not tongue-tied. The tongue-tied motions can also be the cause of significant pain and damage to the mother's nipple.

Tongue tie and lip tie laser surgery may:

- Enhance your baby's ability to nurse
- Help alleviate breast pain during nursing
- Result in more successful breastfeeding
- Allow adequate stimulation to promote milk production
- Reduce discouragement while encouraging a positive mother/baby bonding experience
- Ensure that your baby is receiving adequate amounts of milk for proper growth
- Decrease the risk of breast infections
- Alleviate reflux, gassiness, and colic in your baby
- Lessen the frequency of nursing due to baby's ability to be satisfied at each feeding

Dental Benefits of Tongue Tie and Lip Tie Laser Surgery

Laser surgery for tongue tie and lip tie can reduce the risk of future dental problems. A large tongue tie connecting the top lip can contribute to the creation of a gap between your child's top two front teeth known as maxillary midline diastoma.

Some cases of lip tie can cause residual milk to pool under the baby's lip, resulting in decay in the newly erupting teeth (early childhood caries). Tongue tie or lip tie that attach too closely to the gums can pull the gums away from the teeth. This pulling back of the gums can cause dental health problems and, in severe cases, tooth loss. Palatal development can be affected by tongue tie or lip tie, as well.

Laser procedure for tongue and lip tie can be used to prevent these potential dental complications that can occur in conjunction with tongue tie or lip tie. Laser surgery can also be beneficial in overcoming speech impairment associated with tongue tie/lip tie.

What to Expect after Tongue Tie/Lip Tie Laser Surgery

Tongue tie and lip tie laser surgery is a relatively simple and quick procedure. Your baby can nurse as soon as he/she desires to do so after the surgery, however, it may take 30-45 minutes for any numbing medication to wear off.

Most babies show an immediate improvement in breastfeeding, although you should not be alarmed if your baby is hesitant the first day while he/she learns a new breastfeeding technique. Some mothers follow up with a lactation consultant for advice on the new nursing method.