



## EAR, NOSE & THROAT CONSULTANTS OF NEVADA

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PHONE: (702) 792-6700 FAX: (702) 792-7198 [www.entc.com](http://www.entc.com)

### FRENULUM RELEASE/TONGUE TIE

Tongue tie (medically known as ankyloglossia) is a condition where the tip of the tongue is attached too tightly to the inner aspect of the lower jawbone (the mandible). This band of normal tissue that connects these structures is called the lingual frenulum (or frenum). It is estimated that up to 3- 5% of newborns may have a prominent lingual frenulum. The lingual frenulum may be unusually short or thick or both. As a newborn, a tight lingual frenulum may cause difficulties with breast-feeding such as problems with latching, obtaining seal, or pain. As a child ages, ankyloglossia may cause difficulties with speech.

The procedure you are considering for your child is called lingual frenulotomy. It is a minor surgical procedure in which the frenulum is divided allowing the tip of the tongue to move more freely. In newborns, this procedure is often performed in our office, without the need for anesthesia. In older infants and children the procedure is typically performed in the operating room under a brief general anesthetic.

Outcomes: Lingual frenulotomy typically has very good outcomes with immediate improvements in breast-feeding. If performed for speech, speech therapy to retrain tongue motion may be needed.

Risks: As with any surgical procedure, risks exist.

- Bleeding. Little bleeding is expected. Heavy bleeding is rare and if occurs, would need to be controlled in the operating room.
- Re-scarring. This is the main risk, that the divided frenulum would scar back down. This is uncommon, but if was to occur would require a revision procedure done under general anesthesia in the operating room.
- No improvement in the condition. We think your child will likely benefit from division of the frenulum, but we cannot guarantee the outcome.
- Injury to the submandibular salivary ducts. At the bottom of the lingual frenulum drains the ducts of two of our major salivary glands. The procedure is designed to divide the frenulum above these ducts. If these were to be injured, additional treatments, including the possibility of additional surgery may be necessary. This injury is exceedingly rare.

Alternatives: The alternative is not to have the procedure done, and instead wait-and-see approach. This would leave your child in their current condition.

I/we have been given an opportunity to ask questions about my child's condition, alternative forms of treatment, risks of non-treatment, the procedures to be used and the risks and hazards involved.

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#### Northwest Office

7040 Smoke Ranch Road

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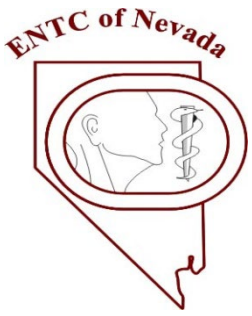
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I/we have sufficient information to give this informed consent. I/we understand every effort will be made to provide a positive outcome, but there are no guarantees.

Patient/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

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