

Date:

Dear

Re:

As you will see, this patient's lingual frenum is excessively short, attached at the tip and excessively restricts the tongue's ranges of movement. In my professional opinion, as a speech-language pathologist, this child's speech development and speech production, as well as his chewing and swallowing proficiency, is directly hampered by his restrictive lingual frenum.

You no doubt have been in contact with this child's parents, as they were recently informed of the need for further examination. I would appreciate your professional opinion of the frenum and your recommendation.

My diagnostic impression is that this child would most certainly benefit from a lingual-frenectomy. Here are my reasons:

1. The child is unable to acquire normal lingual-dental stabilization during speaking and swallowing. Instead of the sides of the tongue anchoring on the inside of the top molars, the tongue is attempting to stabilize against the lingual surfaces of the front teeth. As speech sounds are normally produced with vertical front-tongue and back-tongue movements, his tongue primarily moves horizontally. His speech contacts are severely hampered and impaired.
2. The child's jaw is attempting to compensate for poor lingual range of movement. The jaw remains in a more "closed" position than it should and it occasionally swings to one side or forward during speech attempts. When the jaw moves, so moves the tongue—away from accessible interaction with the top side teeth, alveolar ridge and hard and soft palates.
3. The child is unable to elevate the tongue up to the alveolar ridge and hard palate or retract it back with ease. There is evidence of strain on the tongue and lingual frenum, and the floor of the mouth blanches when the tongue extends.
4. The child is unable to curl the tongue back to dislodge food from the teeth. I am concerned about dental caries and poor hygiene.

I look forward to receiving the results of your examination and your recommendation. I am assured that the best solution will prevail, as we both have the child's interest at heart. I am at your disposal if you would like to discuss this case. Thank you so much for your helpful support.

Sincerely,

Speech-Language Pathologist

Enclosure: Speech-Language Report

Telephone: