

Hazelbaker Assessment Tool for Lingual Frenulum Function (1998 version)

Appearance Items

Appearance of tongue when lifted	1: 1 cm
2: Round OR square	0: Less than 1 cm
1: Slight cleft in tip apparent	Attachment of lingual frenulum to tongue:
0: Heart-shaped	2: Posterior to tip
Elasticity of frenulum	1: At tip
2: Very elastic (excellent)	0: Notched tip
1: Moderately elastic	Attachment of lingual frenulum to inferior alveolar ridge
0: Little OR no elasticity	2: Attached to floor of mouth OR well below ridge
Length of lingual frenulum when tongue lifted	1: Attached just below ridge
2: More than 1 cm OR embedded in tongue	0: Attached at ridge

Function Items

Lateralization	1: Moderate OR partial
2: Complete	0: Little OR none
1: Body of tongue but not tongue tip	Cupping
0: None	2: Entire edge, firm cup
Lift of tongue	1: Side edges only, moderate cup
2: Tip to mid-mouth	0: Poor OR no cup
1: Only edges to mid-mouth	Peristalsis:
0: Tip stays at alveolar ridge or rises to mid-mouth only with jaw closure	2: Complete, anterior to posterior (originates at the tip)
Extension of tongue:	1: Partial: originating posterior to tip
2: Tip over lower lip	0: None OR reverse peristalsis
1: Tip over lower gum only	Snapback
0: Neither of above, OR anterior or mid-tongue humps	2: None
Spread of anterior tongue	1: Periodic
2: Complete	0: Frequent OR with each suck

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14 = Perfect score (regardless of Appearance Item score)

11 = Acceptable if Appearance Item score is 10

<11 = Function impaired. Frenotomy should be considered if management fails. Frenotomy necessary if Appearance Item score is <8.