

Assessment Tool for Lingual Frenulum Function (ATLFF)™

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Function Item score: _____

Appearance Item score: _____

Combined Score: _____ / _____

Mothers Name: _____

Baby's name: _____ Baby's age: _____

Date of assessment: _____

FUNCTION ITEMS

Lateralization

- 2 Complete
- 1 Body of tongue but not tongue tip
- 0 None

Lift of tongue

- 2 Tip to mid-mouth
- 1 Only edges to mid mouth
- 0 Tip stays at alveolar ridge **OR** tip rises only to mid-mouth with jaw closure **AND/OR** mid-tongue dimples

Extension of tongue

- 2 Tip over lower lip
- 1 Tip over lower gum only
- 0 Neither of the above **OR** anterior or mid-tongue humps **AND/OR** dimples

Spread of anterior tongue

- 2 Complete
- 1 Moderate **OR** partial
- 0 Little **OR** none

Cupping of tongue

- 2 Entire edge, firm cup
- 1 Side edges only **OR** moderate cup
- 0 Poor **OR** no cup

Peristalsis

- 2 Complete anterior to posterior
- 1 Partial **OR** originating posterior to tip
- 0 None **OR** Reverse peristalsis

Snap back

- 2 None
- 1 Periodic
- 0 Frequent **OR** with each suck

APPEARANCE ITEMS

Appearance of tongue when lifted

- 2 Round **OR** square
- 1 Slight cleft in tip apparent
- 0 Heart shaped

Length of lingual frenulum when tongue lifted

- 2 More than 1 cm **OR** absent frenulum
- 1 1 cm
- 0 Less than 1 cm

Attachment of lingual frenulum to inferior alveolar ridge

- 2 Attached to floor of mouth **OR** well below ridge
- 1 Attached just below ridge
- 0 Attached to ridge

Elasticity of frenulum

- 2 Very elastic (excellent)
- 1 Moderately elastic
- 0 Little **OR** no elasticity

Attachment of lingual frenulum to tongue

- 2 Occupies less than 50% of the tongue underside in the midline
- 1 Occupies 50-75% of the tongue underside in the midline
- 0 Occupies 75-100% of the tongue underside in the midline

ASSESSMENT

14 = Perfect Function score regardless of Appearance Item score. Surgical treatment not recommended.

11 = Acceptable Function score only if Appearance Item score is ≥ 8 .

<11 = Function Score indicates function impaired. Frenotomy should be considered if management fails. Function score of 9-10 **with** an appearance score of 8-9 is considered borderline, all other management strategies should be exhausted before revision. Bodywork is indicated. Frenotomy necessary if Appearance Item score is < 8 **AND** Function Score is <8.