

Ankyloglossia: To cut or not to cut

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Outline

- **Background**
- **Breast Feeding**
- **Surgical Technique**
- **Case Examples**
- **Testimonials**



Background

Definition: Tight lingual frenulum

Incidence: 0.5/1000

Consequences: Difficulty with breast-feeding, speech articulation, mechanical activities

Importance of Breast Feeding

Benefits to Infant

- Protects against infection
 - Diarrhea
 - H. flu
 - Enhances vaccine response
 - Otitis Media
 - Respiratory Infections

Otitis Media and Diarrhea

TABLE 3. Percentage of Infants 2 to 7 Months of Age Reported as Experiencing Diarrhea or Ear Infection, by Feeding Category in the Preceding Month

Feeding Category (% Breast Milk)	Diarrhea	Ear Infection
Breast milk only (100)	5.4	6.8
High mixed (89–99)	4.8	6.6
Middle mixed (58–88)	6.4	9.4
Low mixed (1–57)	8.5	11.1
Formula only (0)	11.4	13.2

Importance of Breast Feeding

Benefits to Infant

- Protects against illness
 - SIDS
 - GERD
 - MS
 - Dental Health
 - Diabetes



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Breast feeding and respiratory morbidity in infancy:
a birth cohort study

W H Oddy, P D Sly, N H de Klerk, L I Landau, G E Kendall, P G Holt, F J Stanley

Arch Dis Child 2003;**88**:224-228

- Increased risk → 2 or more hospital visits for wheezing, lower respiratory illness

Benefits for Mothers

- **Lowers Breast Cancer**
- **Uterine Cancer**
- **Ovarian Cancer**
- **Emotional Health**
- **Promotes weight loss**
- **Decreases Osteoporosis**

Medical Expense for Wisconsin

- \$4,645,250/yr Acute Otitis Media
- \$437,120/yr Bronchitis
- \$6,699,600/yr Gastroenteritis
- \$262,440/yr Allergies
- \$758,934/yr Asthma
- \$578,500/yr Type I Diabetes (birth -18yrs)
- \$17,070,000/yr Breast Cancer

- **\$30,984,432/yr TOTAL HEALTH COST SAVINGS**

History

- Breathing
- Feeding
- Sleeping

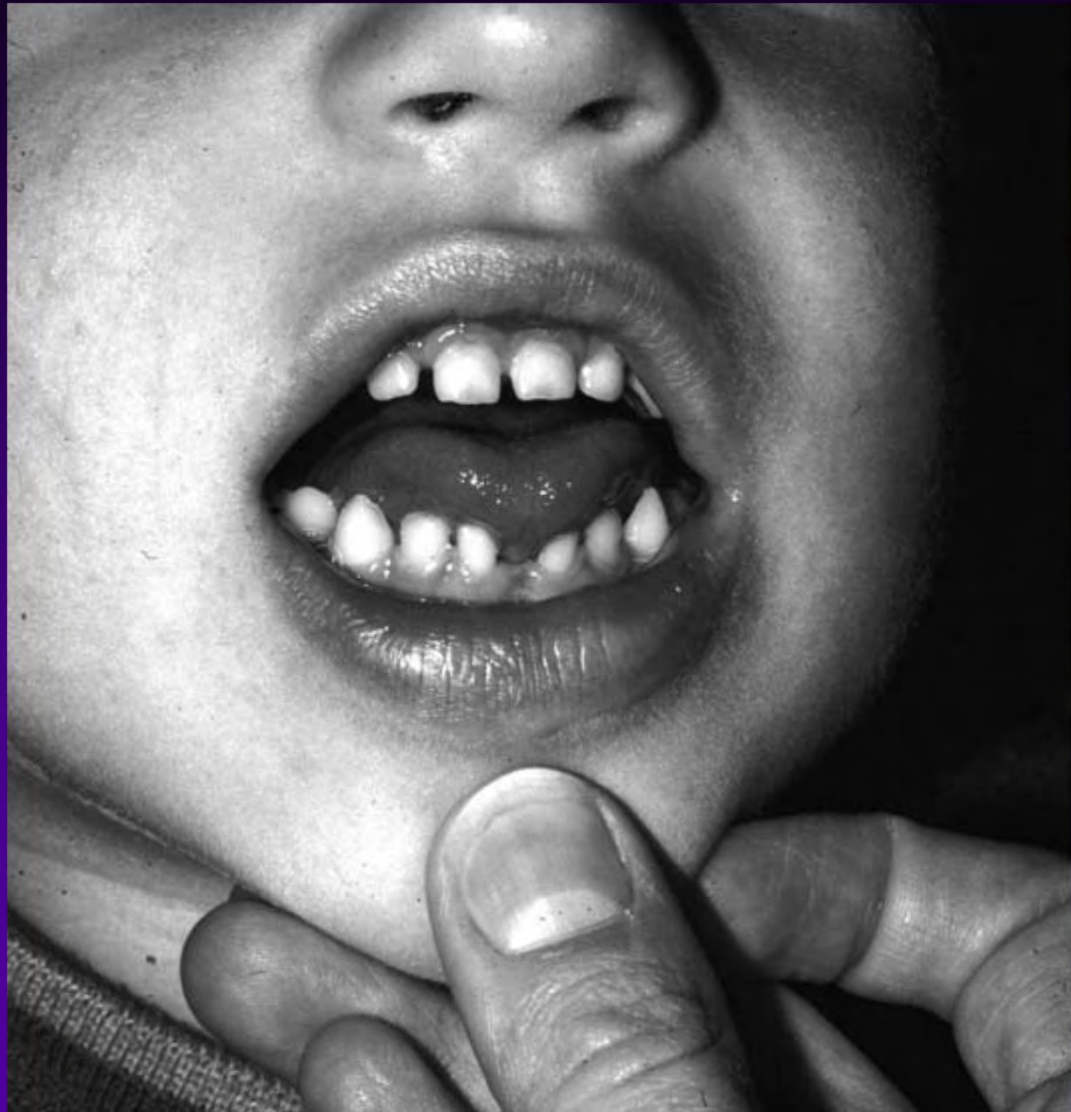












Evidence

To cut or not to cut?

1. **Frenotomy was performed on 35 infants and breastfeeding improved in 83% (No complications)**
2. **At 3 months, 29 of 35 mothers reported improved breastfeeding**
3. **The tightness of the frenulum doesn't correlate with feeding difficulty**

Literature

Ankyloglossia: does it matter?

M. Lauren Lalakea, MD^{a,b}, Anna H. Messner, MD^{a,c,*}

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Tongue Protrusion

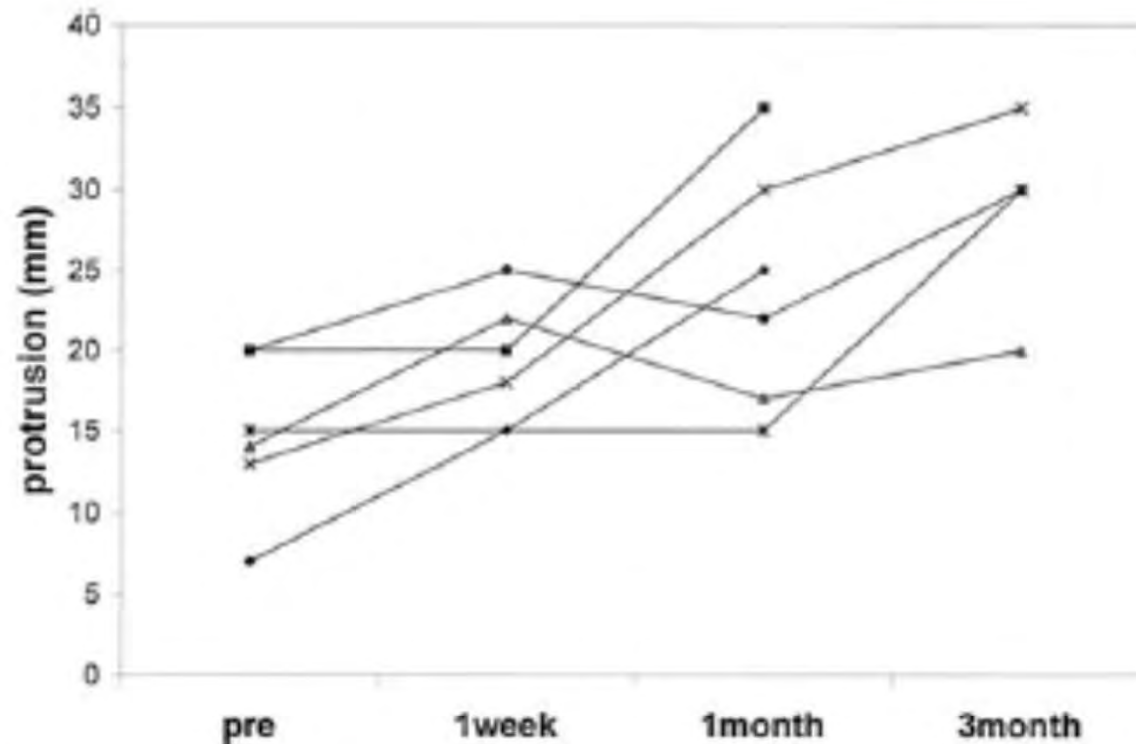


Fig 7. Tongue protrusion values for frenuloplasty patients preoperatively and at 1 week, 1 month, and 3 months postoperatively. Each line represents an individual patient.

Tongue Elevation

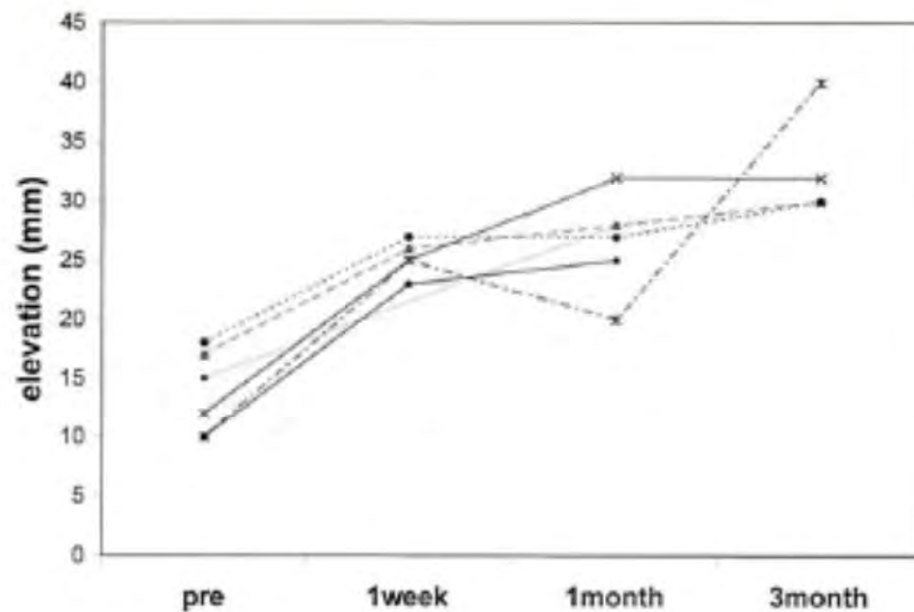
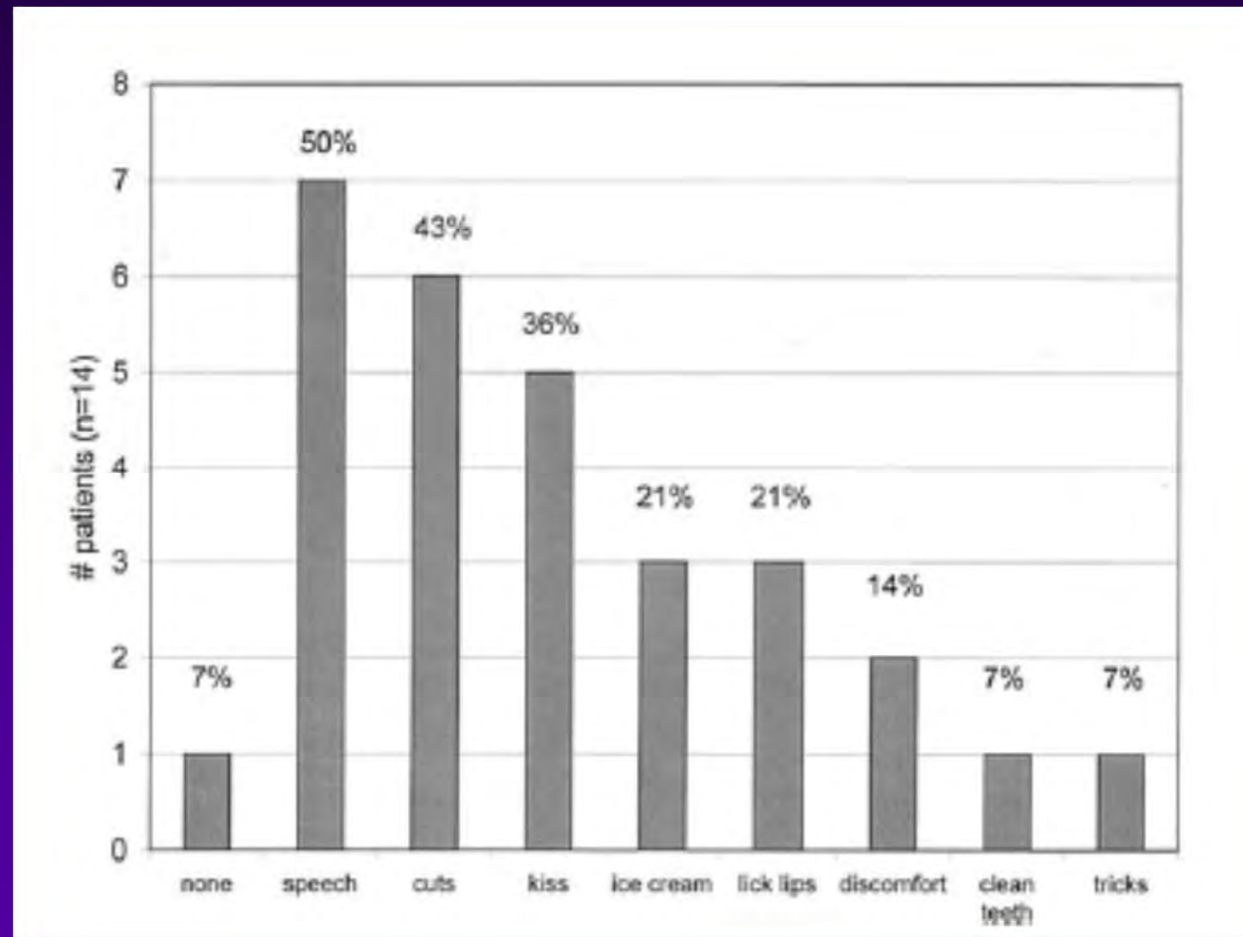


Fig 8. Tongue elevation values for frenuloplasty patients preoperatively and at 1 week, 1 month, and 3 months postoperatively. Each line represents an individual patient.

Functional Complaints



Post Frenuloplasty

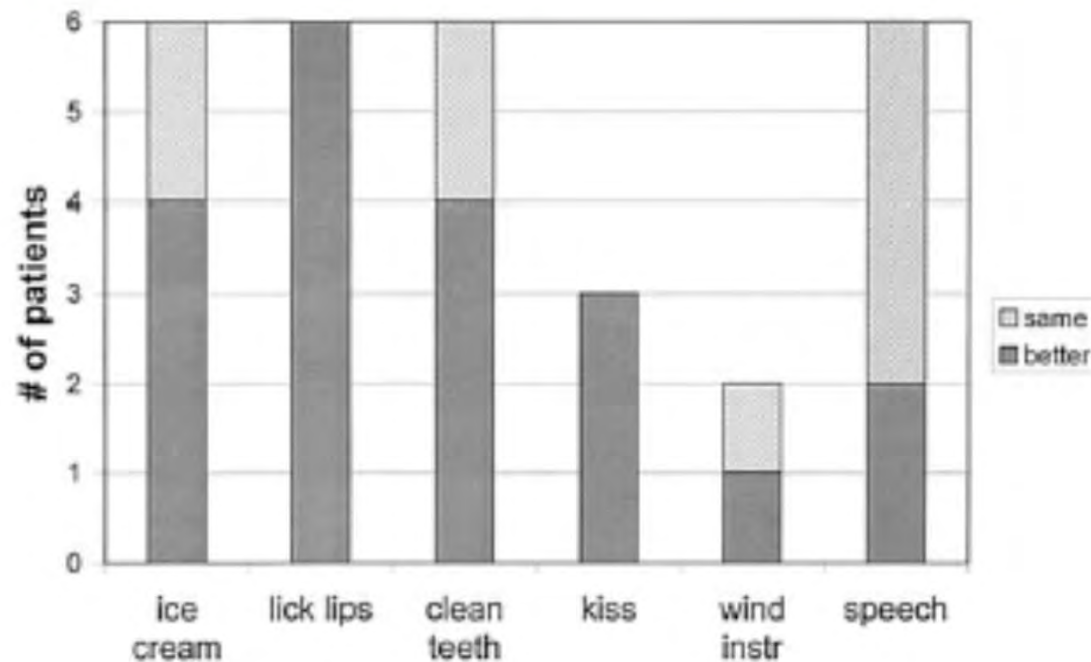


Fig 5. Subjective gains in tongue function at 1 month postfrenuloplasty. Kissing and ability to play a wind instrument were applicable to only 3 and 2 patients, respectively.

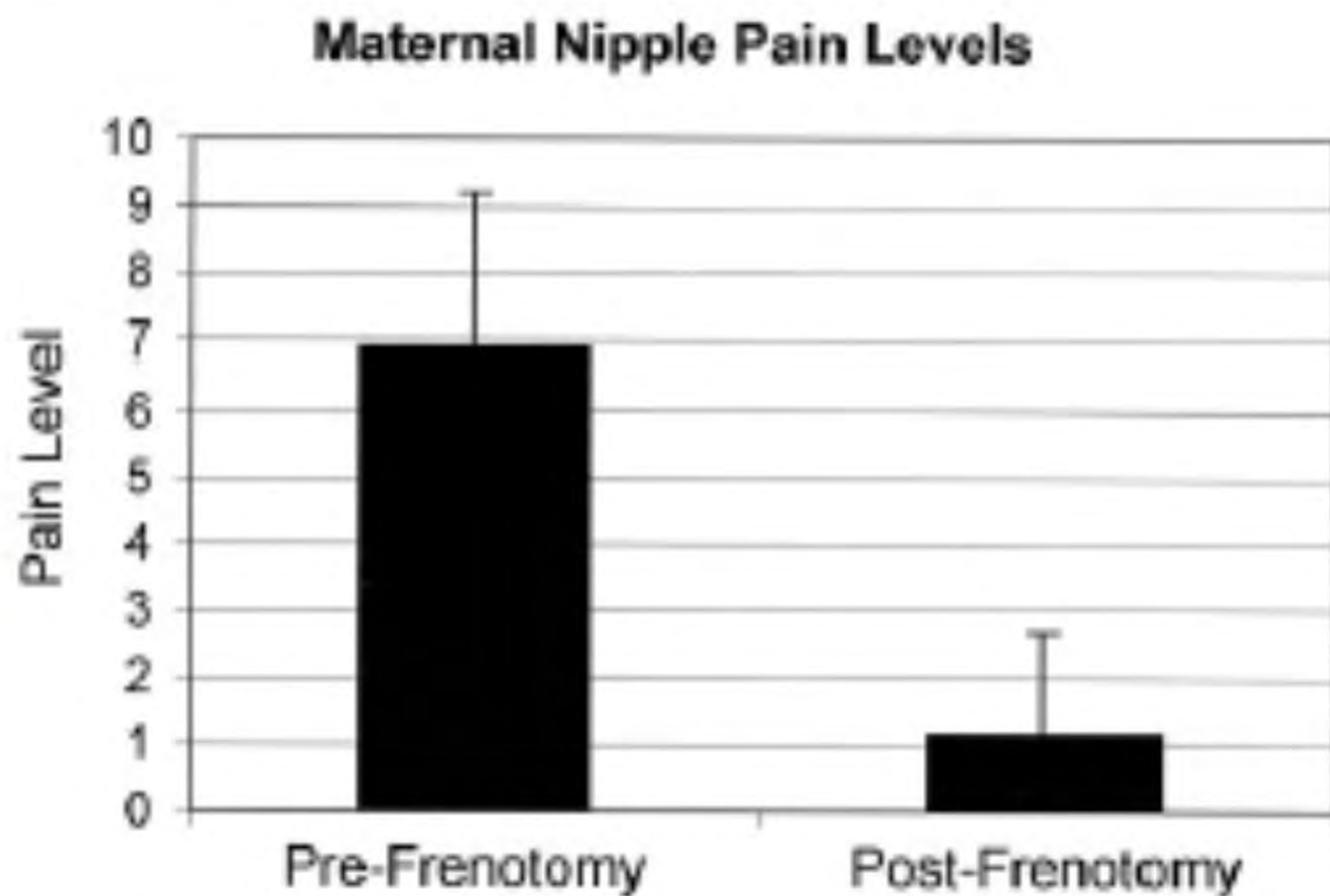
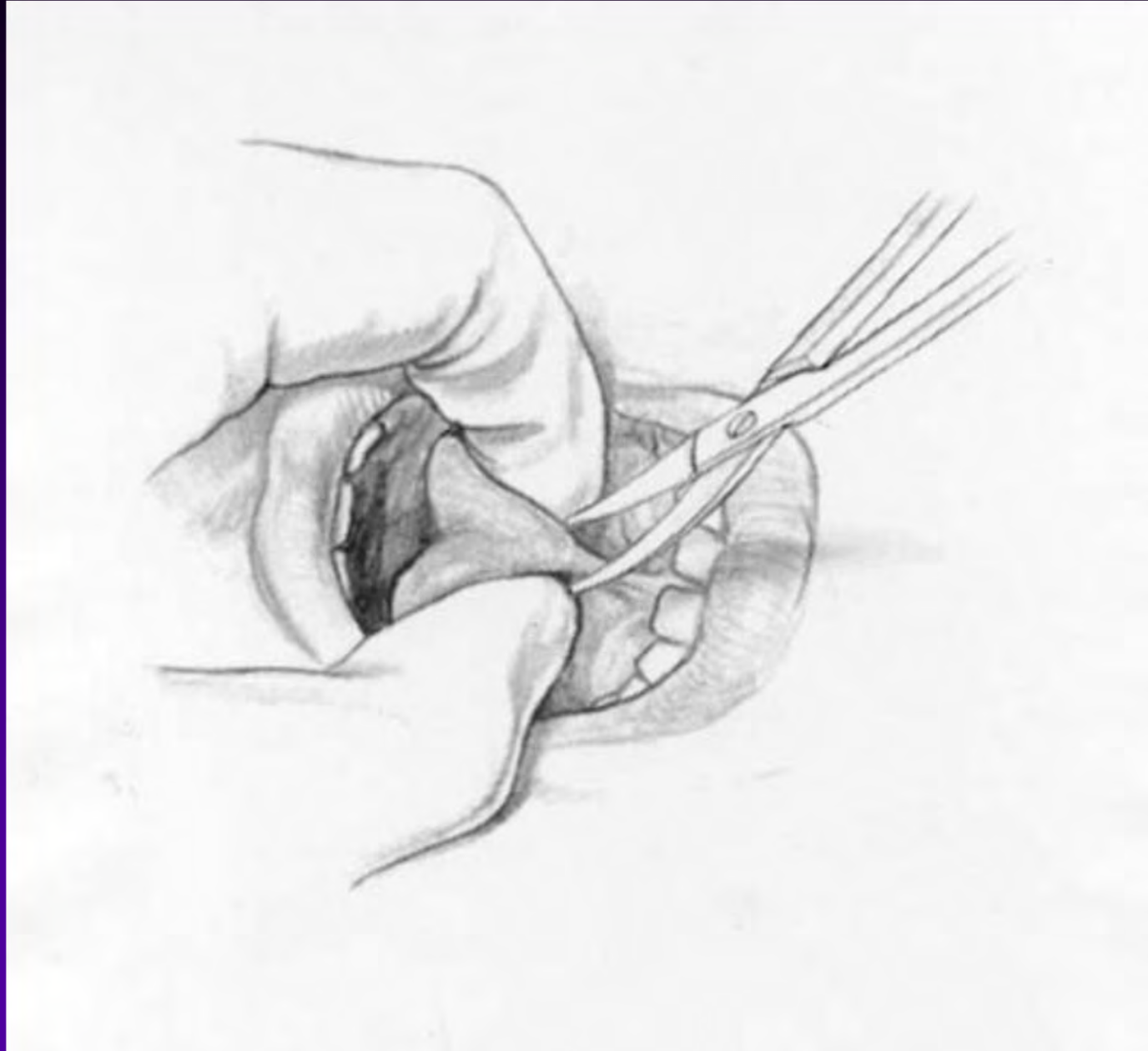


Fig 3. Maternal nipple pain before and after the frenuloplasty. Pain levels decreased significantly after the procedure.

Surgical Technique

- **Operating Room vs. Clinic**
 - Secure the child
 - Open the mouth with tongue blade
 - Use fine scissors or electrocautery
 - Groove director placed under the tongue
 - Band is cut
 - Stitches are placed (optional)

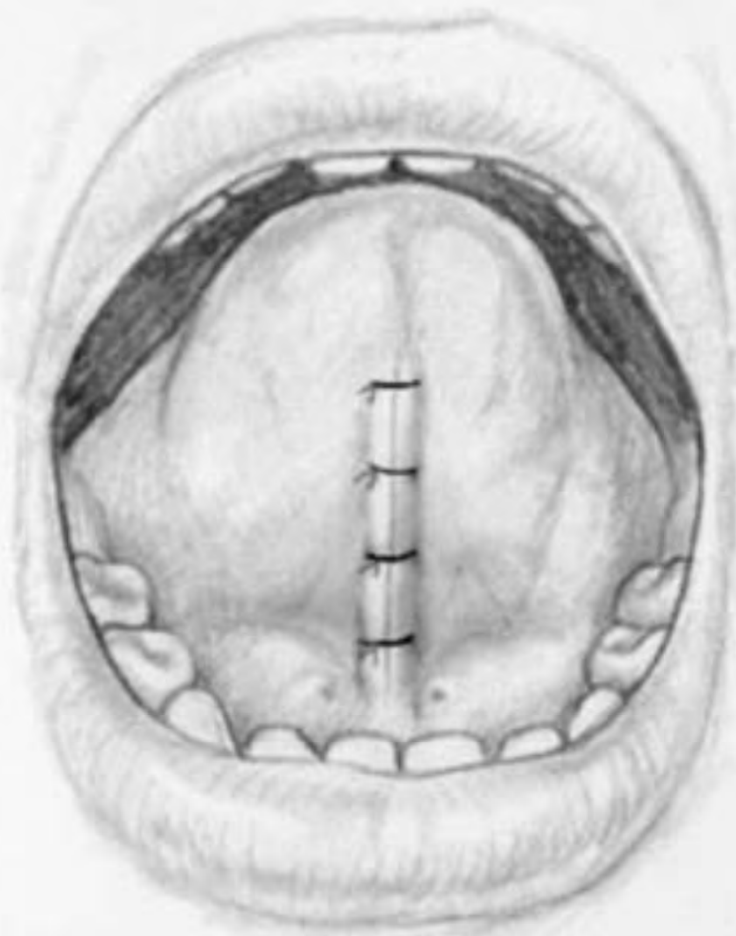




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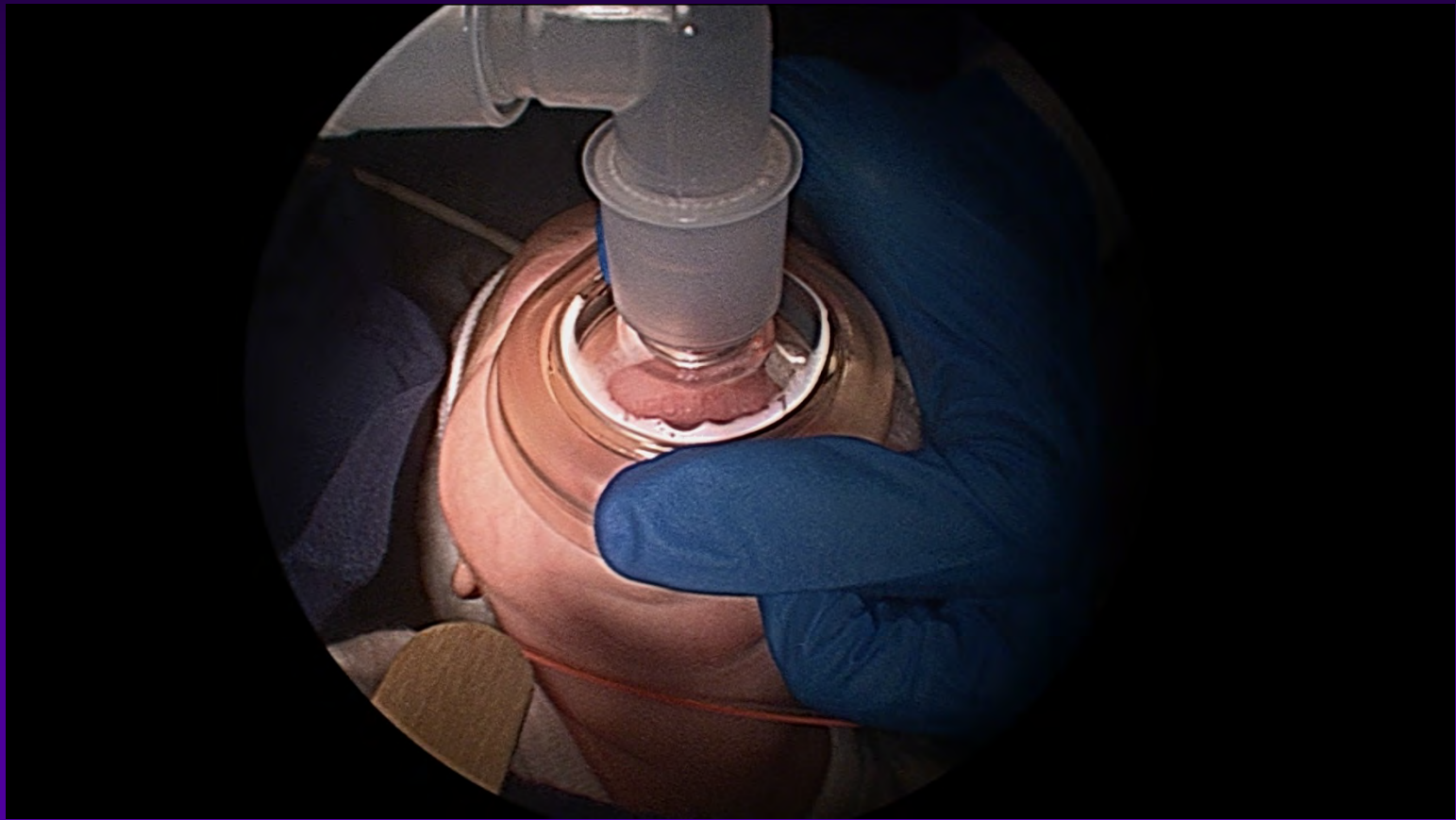
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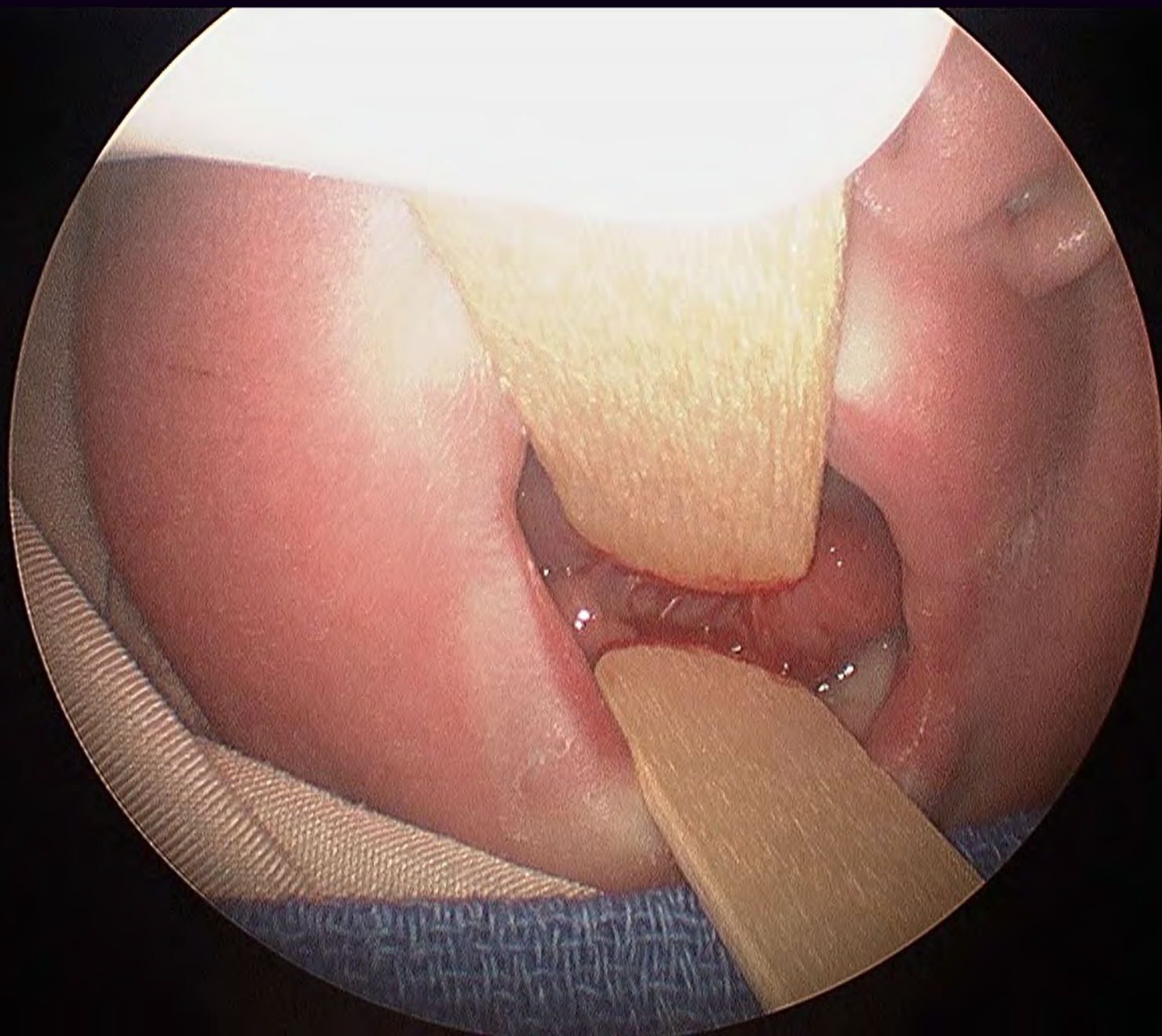
Case Examples

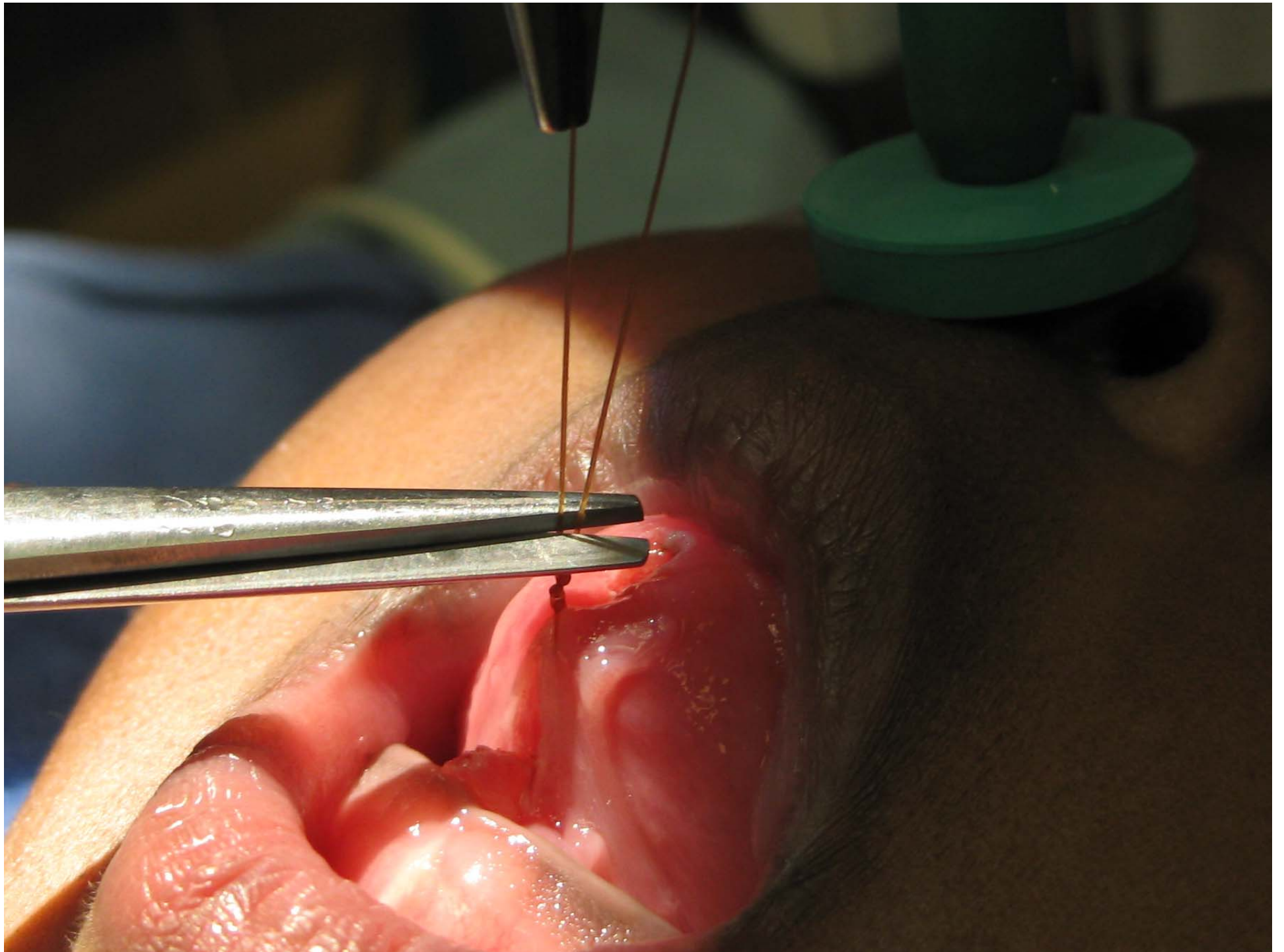
- **Frenotomy vs. Frenuloplasty**













Post- Frenulectomy Care

- **Pacifier with sucrose**
- **Breast Feeding**
- **Baby Tylenol**
- **No antibiotics**

Complications

- Infection
- Bleeding
- Scarring

Conclusion

Mothers of infants with any degree of tongue-tie who have trouble breastfeeding despite lactation support often report immediate improvement after frenotomy