ANKYLOGLOSSIA

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What is ankyloglossia?

- A congenital anomaly of a short, tight, or thick lingual frenulum
- It can restrict the mobility of the apex of the tongue
- Also known as "tongue-tie"



Causes of ankyloglossia

- Occurs during fetus development, before the baby is born
- During fetus development in the mother, the frenulum does not separate from the floor of the mouth or thin out before birth and instead, remains attached to the bottom of the tongue





Impacts of ankyloglossia

- Can affect a child's speech articulation
- Newborns may have difficulty latching, suckling, or suctioning during breastfeeding
- Can affect the position of the mandible
- Misalignment of the teeth, which can lead to malocclusion
- Limited side-to-side movement of the tongue







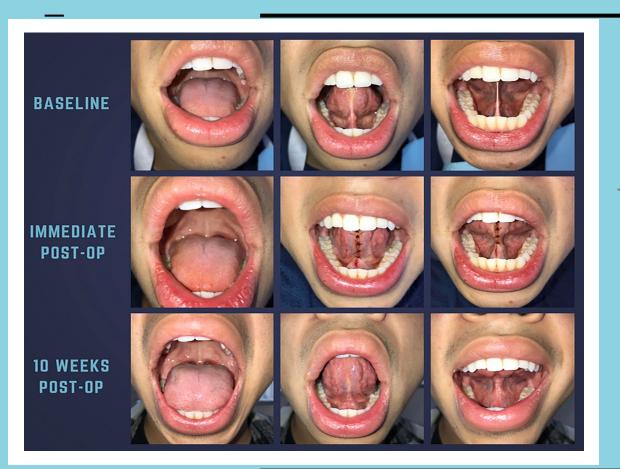












Solution to ankyloglossia

Frenotomy - a surgical procedure to release the tongue by removing the frenulum with surgical scissors, scalpel, or a laser



Role of the dental team

- Educate the patient regarding their conditions and potential effects if left untreated
- Understand the patient, answer their questions, and address their concerns
- Devise a treatment plan together and take action to promote the patient's overall oral healthcare

References

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