

Frenectomy

Adjunctive Periodontal Procedures Successful Orthodontic Treatment



“Changing the World, One Smile at a Time...”

What is a frenum?

The term “frenum” refers to a little piece of soft tissue that is located in certain areas of the mouth. This soft tissue connects the lips, cheeks or tongue to the gum area. The two frenum areas that can effect orthodontic treatment are located between the two upper front teeth (labial frenum) and under the tongue (lingual frenum). Sometimes these areas need to be corrected due to their shape, size or location.

What is a frenectomy?

A frenectomy is a minor surgical procedure that removes or repositions a portion of the frenum tissue. It is done under local anesthesia. The periodontist or oral surgeon usually performs the procedure under Dr. Newhart’s directions.

Who needs a frenectomy and when?

A frenectomy is usually performed for one of three reasons. The first is for patients who have a lot of spacing between their upper two front teeth. Depending on the anatomy of the patient’s frenum, there may be excess fibrotic tissue in the area that will prevent space closure or cause the space to open up after it has been closed.

The second condition that needs correction is when the labial frenum is positioned near the edge of the gum tissue in a way that produces tension that without correction will lead to recession or loss of gum in that area.

The third reason for a frenectomy is to correct a condition known as high lingual frenum attachment (tongue tied). In this condition, the frenum is positioned in a way that does not allow complete movement of the tongue. This condition may affect speech, swallowing and eating. Patients often adapt somewhat to this condition since they were born with it, but Dr. Newhart recommends correction to allow normal tongue function for optimal quality of life.



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AFTER

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