

- **Have you seen any voice changes or complications in the years after a frenulotomy?**
I am not aware of anything of this nature being reported. Certainly, a late frenulotomy might result in a speech impediment, as the brain has trained the tongue to form sounds with restriction. Speech therapy might be required to improve specific sounds after release.
- **Are buccal ties treated in the UK?**
No. Buccal ties are not recognised as being an issue. I have never come across these to affect feeding. It seems to be something that has originated in America and is very interventionalist. There are many more things I would be looking at over and above 'buccal tie'.
- **Have you seen tongue tie in association with the end of the tongue not being joined together centrally?**
I have seen many 'heart-shaped' tongues. This might improve to a degree after release, but sometimes it has affected the way the tongue has formed.
- **Is it correct that there's a link between tongue tie and folic acid supplements in pregnancy?**
This has been put forward as a possibility, but as yet no research has been produced to substantiate this. We discuss these theories on the course. It is thought that there may be a link between how folic acid is absorbed and the MTHFR gene mutation
- **What's your opinion of laser frenulotomy, being performed by some dentists?**
I have no problem with the release being performed by skilled clinicians. There is the potential for more tissue damage due to the depth of the laser. Dentists usually only treat older infants and children. In the U.K. frenulotomy is provided to assist with feeding difficulties. It is unlikely that a dentist has the knowledge to assess feeding in an infant. However, I have no personal issue with an anterior tongue-tie being divided to prevent future issues. This is a point of debate.
- **What's your advice on support groups for mothers with breastfeeding difficulties?**
Most areas have Infant feeding Teams that can be accessed via the health visitor - these are for really specific feeding issues. The parents need to push for this referral. There are also free groups in most areas which can be found [here](#). If someone is really struggling though and has not received the support they need, I would recommend an IBCLC or IFC as many health professionals are not trained to a high enough level.