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Use of 980 nm diode laser for lingual frenectomy: a case report

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Introduction: Frenum is a soft tissue fold attaching buccal, labial mucosa and tongue to the jaw bones. Ankyloglossia or tongue tie refers to a congenital abnormality with a short attachment of lingual frenum resulting in limited mobility of the tongue. Patients with ankyloglossia present with multiple problems ranging from feeding difficulties in infants to difficulty in speech and social problems to the patients. Tongue movement is limited and this impairs the correct pronunciation of words. Conventionally this condition was corrected by surgically incising the mucosa and the fibrous bands followed by suturing the soft tissue. Lasers have emerged as an effective tool and allow us to give incision with high precision and achieve complete hemostasis. Lasers improve patients comfort by minimizing the need for stitches. This article presents a successful case of frenectomy of an adult patient with ankyloglossia.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to show the application of diode laser for frenectomy procedure and evaluate the healing phase.

Procedure: A 30years old male patient reported with a complaint of difficulty in speech. On examination, he had a very short lingual frenal attachment. Lingual frenectomy was planned and a 980nm Diode laser was used at 1.5-Watt power settings and lingual frenum was excised. The immediate evaluation was done and the patient was followed up during the healing phase.

Results: Lingual frenectomy was completed in a minimal time and under topical anesthesia. There was excellent hemostasis and no suturing was required.

Conclusion: Diode laser proved superior to the conventional surgical incision. There was minimal morbidity and immediate hemostasis was obtained thus proving effective for this procedure. An important level of patient comfort and excellent healing postoperatively makes Diode laser an effective tool for this procedure.

Biography

Dr Quratul Ain Zafar has been a brilliant student throughout her school and college life at Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. She actively participated in debates and extracurricular activities. She graduated from Riphah Int. University and achieved her BDS degree with flying colors. Later she joined private practice and honed her professional skills. She has attended many national and International conferences and seminars. She became a member of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI) in 2015. She is an active member and volunteer at Pakistan Association of Women Dentists (PAWD). Currently she is pursuing her Masters degree in Conservative Dentistry and Endodontics (MDS) at Islamabad Medical and Dental College, Islamabad, Pakistan. She is also working on many research projects to bring innovation into the field of Endodontics. She is also CEO at Signature Smiles Dental Clinic Islamabad.

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