Ankyloglossia and its Importance in Sustained Breastfeeding

Chelsea Fathauer¹, Danielle Tingley², Sarah Burgin³

¹IU School of Medicine; ²Eskinazi Speech and Language Pathology; ³Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Otolaryngology

Ankyloglossia, commonly known as tongue-tie, is reported to affect 7% of infants and can impact ability to breastfeed. A comprehensive review of literature was taken which included an assessment of which diagnostic tools are most accurate in determining ankyloglossia associated with difficult breastfeeding. It was noted that there was not a standardized approach to identifying and treating ankyloglossia in breastfed infants. Based on this review, a multidisciplinary team was established to develop a team for a holistic assessment of breastfeeding. It included LATCH, Coryllos Scale, and IBFAT as the most useful evaluation tools and developed a prospective assessment in infants with ankyloglossia. This study is in the early data collection phase. The goal of this study is to fill an important gap in the knowledge of the impact of ankyloglossia in sustained breastfeeding.