Frequency of Somatic Dysfunction in Infants With a Diagnosis of Tongue Tie: A Retrospective Chart Review

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Introduction
The recent increase in breastfeeding has brought an increased awareness of potential causes for breastfeeding difficulties. Many parents are choosing frenulectomy or laser revision for their infants with tongue tie. This study aims to identify somatic dysfunctions commonly found in infants with tongue ties as a first step in distinguishing infants with feeding issues caused by somatic dysfunction from infants with feeding issues directly related to tongue tie. It is our hypothesis that infants with tongue tie and feeding issues will have a high incidence of cranial base dysfunction.

Methods
A retrospective chart review was performed on 48 charts of infants diagnosed with tongue tie who had been seen from June 2012 to January 2017 at a multispecialty practice. Thirty-one charts were excluded and 17 charts are reviewed here.

Results
Of the 17 infants with tongue tie, 14 (76.4%) had difficulties with latching and 6 (35.3%) had difficulty with suck or coordination of suck. All of the infants (100%) had occipital condylar dysfunction, 16 (94.1%) had restriction of at least one cranial suture, 16 (94.1%) had atlantooccipital joint (OA) dysfunction and 4 (23.5%) had dysfunction at the sphenobasilar synchondrosis.

Conclusions
All of the infants with tongue tie had somatic dysfunction at the cranial base. This raises the question of whether or not the feeding issues were directly related to the tongue tie or to the somatic dysfunction or a combination of both. This study was limited by sample size and limited diversity of patient sampling. Further studies are necessary.